

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People

2016 - 2019



REFERENCE

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INDEX

| | |
|--|----|
| Index | 1 |
| Minister's message | 2 |
| Advocate's foreword | 3 |
| Key statistics of children and young people in NSW | 4 |
| Process of developing the Strategic Plan for Children and Young People | 6 |
| Results summary from consultations with children and young people in NSW | 8 |
| Guiding principles | 10 |
| Poverty and deprivation | 11 |

NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People

| | |
|---|----|
| Summary - goals, objectives, what government is doing, indicators | 12 |
| Safe | 14 |
| Connect | 16 |
| Respect | 18 |
| Opportunity | 20 |
| Wellbeing | 22 |
| Voice | 24 |
| Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning | 26 |

Annexure

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Detailed findings | 28 |
| All initiatives | 32 |
| References for infographics | 44 |

Minister's message

The Hon. John Ajaka, MLC

Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism



The NSW Government prides itself on leading the way in its steadfast commitment to children and young people and that commitment has led to the development of the first legislated for three-year whole-of-government Strategic Plan for Children and Young People.

The Plan's goal is for children and young people in NSW to be safe, connected, respected, healthy and well, with opportunities to thrive and have their voice heard in their communities. It is aligned with government priorities for children and young people, including Premier's and State Priorities, and other government plans relevant to children and young people.

A significant proportion of the NSW Government's investment, legislative activity and service provision are intended to support and enhance the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people. These include schools, technical and further education, family and community services, juvenile justice, and maternal, child and youth health services. Children and young people are also heavy users of public transport and public facilities, and benefit disproportionately from healthy, connected, safe and accessible built and social environments.

However, in the extensive consultations conducted by the Advocate with more than 4,000 children and young people to inform the themes and directions of the Plan, children and young people were often not aware of the services and supports offered by government or of the government's legislative responsibilities that impact on their lives.

This Plan bridges a communication gap between the NSW Government and children and young people. It captures relevant government priorities and initiatives and presents them under goals and objectives that children and young

people themselves see as relevant and meaningful to their lives.

It provides a common set of agreed objectives and indicators against which NSW Government policies and services for children and young people can be aligned. Over time, this is expected to lead to more effective and efficient investment across program and portfolio boundaries and better outcomes for children and young people.

Included in the Plan are six guiding principles that will inform implementation of the Plan: Innovation; Localisation; Collaboration; Prevention; Transitions; and Addressing Disadvantage.

The engagement of children and young people in the Strategic Plan does not end with its development. Children and young people will be part of task groups who will have an ongoing role in monitoring and evaluating outcomes associated with the Strategic Plan over the three-year period.

Although this is a three-year plan, we can be assured that the benefits of the implementation of the Strategic Plan will be apparent for many years to come.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John Ajaka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'A'.

John Ajaka, MLC
Minister responsible for Youth

Advocate's foreword



Andrew Johnson

**Advocate for Children
and Young People**

The children and young people of New South Wales were the first to have a say on what is Australia's first legislated Strategic Plan for Children and Young People and must be the first to be thanked for the amazing input they provided to make this Plan a reality. More than 4,000 children and young people were engaged in consultations to inform the themes and directions of the Plan, and over another 1,000 provided feedback as the Plan progressed.

We placed great emphasis on ensuring that the voices of those who may not normally have an opportunity to have a say were included. Children and young people doing it tough, including those who experience homelessness, live with disability or mental illness, are young parents, living in out-of-home-care, or who are caught up in the juvenile justice system, were involved in consultations.

Of course reaching this number of children and young people is not possible without the overwhelming support of the hundreds of government, non-government and civil society organisations who ensured the children and young people they work with had their say on the Plan. I offer my sincere thanks to every organisation involved in this great effort. Many of these same organisations were also consulted on the themes and directions of the Plan through a series of regional forums across the State, with over 500 service providers providing expert and invaluable input.

NSW Government departments and agencies have been ready to adopt the framework that emerged from the consultations. This reflects in large part the support of all departmental secretaries in establishing an Interdepartmental Advisory Group of senior officers who provided guidance during the Plan's development, and I thank each member of the group for their contribution.

The Plan signals important cultural change across the NSW Government. It is not just about programs and initiatives but about doing the things we do better – for, with and on behalf of children and young people.

The NSW Government already invests heavily in programs and services for children and young people. The Plan includes a representative overview of the breadth of this work, situated in a broader narrative and shared sense of direction towards the outcomes we all want for children and young people in NSW.

The new commitments in the Plan centre on my office working with others to guide culture change across the NSW Government and across the community so that engaging children and young people in the decisions that affect their lives becomes common practice. The process of developing this Plan has been a clear demonstration of how this can be done and the benefits of doing so. The Plan comes with thirty indicators (five under each of the six themes) to measure progress, and my office will work with the responsible agencies to monitor these.

We will prepare progress reports mid-way through the Plan and at the end of the Plan period which will include an assessment of progress against indicators, any new initiatives or investments that have occurred during the life of the Plan that contribute to achieving the Plan's objectives, and recommendations for policy or service reforms in the next three-year strategic plan. These reports will be provided to the NSW Government and to the NSW Parliament.

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People began with children and young people and it will continue with them. Their engagement and feedback will be central to monitoring and evaluating the Plan, and perhaps more importantly in learning how we can work together to make NSW a better State for children and young people over the next three years and into the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Johnson
Advocate for Children and Young People

Key statistics of children and young people in NSW

As at June 2013

2,370,175 aged 0-24 in NSW¹



8% of 4-15 year olds in 2013-14 were at risk of developing a clinically significant behavioural problem⁴



In 2013-14 **14%** of 4-17 year olds³

in Australia had experienced a mental health disorder in the previous 12 months

In 2015 **22%** 5-16 year olds and **30%** 16-24 year olds were **overweight or obese**²



14% of 12-17 year old school students in 2011 experienced high levels of psychological distress in last six months⁵

39%

of 12-17 year old school students who felt unhappy, sad or depressed **did not talk to anyone about how they were feeling**⁸



6% of live-born infants in 2014 were below a healthy weight at birth **<2,500 grams**¹⁰



The NSW infant mortality rate in 2014 was **3 per 1,000 infants**¹¹ down from **5 per 1,000 in 2000**¹¹

of children and young people lived at home⁶

of families with 0-15 year olds in 2007-08⁷

92% lived in homes with healthy family functioning

In 2014

18,192 in out-of-home care⁹

55% of these lived with a relative or kin⁹

Between 2005-2014 the number of children in out-of-home care almost doubled¹²

+97%

In 2011

11.6% of 0-24 year olds in NSW were born outside Australia¹³

From Jan 2014 - Jan 2015

14,165 children who had migrated to live in Australia **settled in NSW**¹⁵

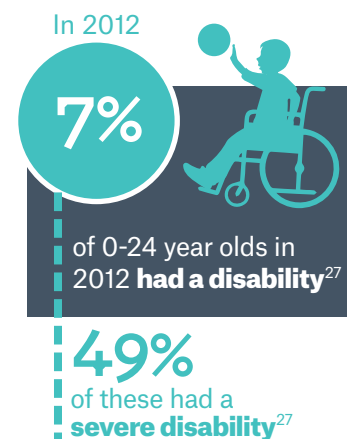
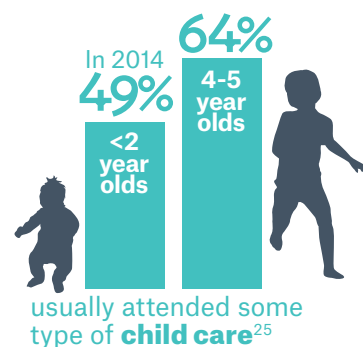
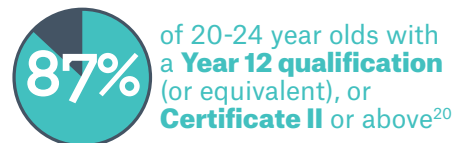
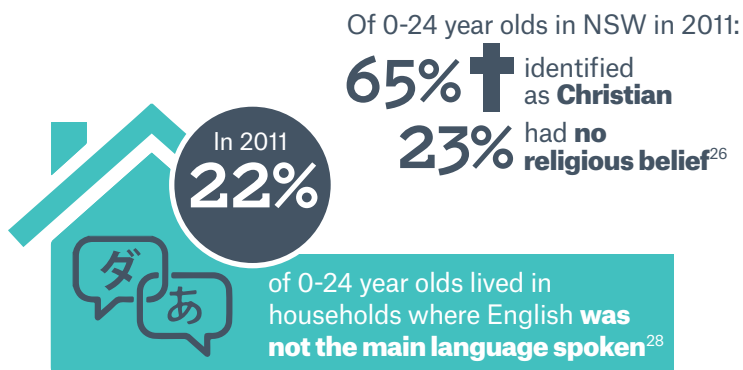
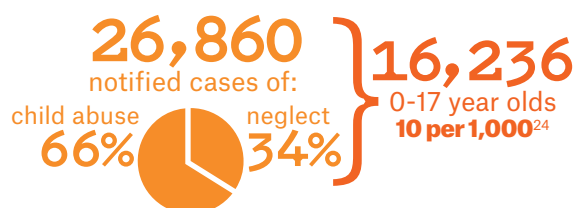
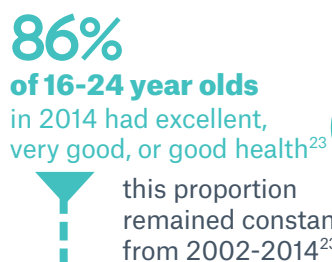
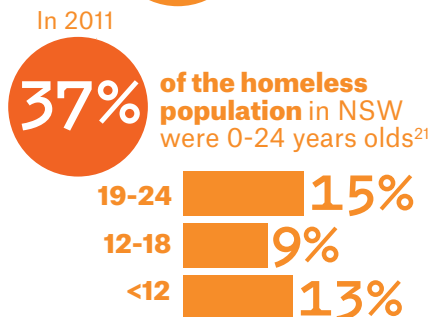
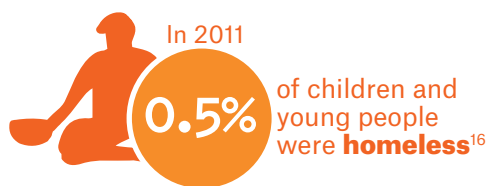


4.3%

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander¹⁴

In 2011 **95,969** of the 2.2 Million 0-24 year olds in NSW were

Sources for the above information can be found on page 44



Process of developing the Strategic Plan for Children and Young People

The Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014 requires the Advocate to prepare, in consultation with Minister Ajaka, a three-year Strategic Plan for Children and Young People (the Plan). The Plan is the first whole-of-government plan in Australia that is focused on all children and young people aged 0-24 years.

The office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) consulted more than 4,000 children and young people across NSW in 2015 to ensure that they were able to set the themes and direction of the Plan.

A series of questions was developed for the consultations. The questions were piloted with children and young people and were refined into four open-ended questions: What is working well? What is not working well? What are the top priorities for the NSW Government to focus on? What are the qualities of a good society for children and young people?

The consultations employed different methodologies of consulting with children and young people, including group consultations in schools, preschools, youth services, clubs and events and young people themselves were trained to facilitate group consultations. In addition individual online surveys and postcards were used to involve more children and young people. The Advocate listened to feedback from over 2,000 children and young people.

The themes of the Plan were derived from analysis of the four questions with particular reference to the answers to 'what makes a good society for children and young people.'

Over 500 people who work with and for children and young people were also consulted in co-design forums around NSW which included NGOs and government representatives from Departments and local government. In order to bring the voices of children and young people directly into the room each of these consultations incorporated a video of children and young people from the local area capturing their key ideas and concerns. The regional consultations consistently agreed with the key themes identified by children and young people. In addition they highlighted managing times of transition, making sure all population groups are supported, strong and joined up services, and the importance of working with the strengths and characteristics of local communities. These were instrumental in framing the guiding principles.

Government strategies and plans for children and young people in Australia and internationally were reviewed

to identify key themes and priorities and innovative and successful practices. This included a comprehensive analysis of NSW Government strategies to ensure the Plan aligned with the direction and focus of the NSW Government and to maximise opportunities for enhanced collaboration. Official data was also analysed to identify the key trends affecting children and young people.

ACYP formed an Interdepartmental Advisory Group (IDAG) of representatives from all state government cluster agencies to provide oversight and guidance on the Plan. This IDAG endorsed the themes of the Plan which had been developed by children and young people and provided advice on the Plan's goal and objectives. Guiding principles to support implementation of the Plan were developed in collaboration with the IDAG, drawing heavily upon the feedback from consultations. Following this process a further series of targeted consultation was undertaken to check that the goal, objectives and guiding principles resonated with children and young people and the non-government sector.

The IDAG provided information on the activities underway and in development across NSW as they related to the six themes identified by children and young people. This enabled the breadth of the NSW Government's work for children and young people to be brought together in one place. This process brought together a number of initiatives that directly address the themes identified by children and young people. It also enabled gaps to be identified and for initiatives to be developed to target these areas including MyLocal – a web portal to provide information about local facilities and activities for children and young people, and development of a Quality Assessors program to provide training and support for young people to evaluate and provide feedback on the services they use.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning are key elements to ensure progress can be tracked and successes built upon. In consultation with the IDAG, five indicators were selected to monitor progress on each of the Plan's six goals, making 30 indicators in total. A wide range of sources was drawn upon to ensure the indicators selected covered key issues within each of the themes, and were supported where possible by existing and robust data. Sources for these indicators included the Premier's and State Priorities, other performance indicators in use by NSW Government agencies, key national indicators, and international indicators such as those used in children and youth strategies from other jurisdictions and the Sustainable Development Goals. New indicators were developed where gaps existed, such as measuring how children and young people's voices are supported in decision-making.

Following the development process the Plan was taken to Cabinet. The endorsement of the Plan by Cabinet demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to the Plan and to improving the lives of all children and young people in NSW.



Parliament enacts legislation to establish the office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP), and for it to develop a three-year whole-of-government Strategic Plan for Children and Young People (Plan): the *Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014*

ACYP hears from over 4,000 children and young people from across NSW



Filmed children and young people to show their voices directly to those who make decisions that affect their lives



Report on the development of the Plan to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People

Seek input and depth from government on how the Plan could complement existing plans

Work closely with non-government organisations who work with children and young people

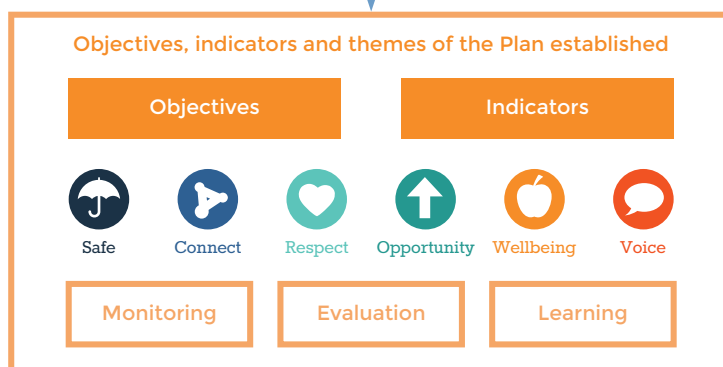
Research local, national and global strategic plans for children and young people

Consult with over 500 representatives from organisations that work with children and young people

Speak with local and state government agencies that make decisions that affect children and young people



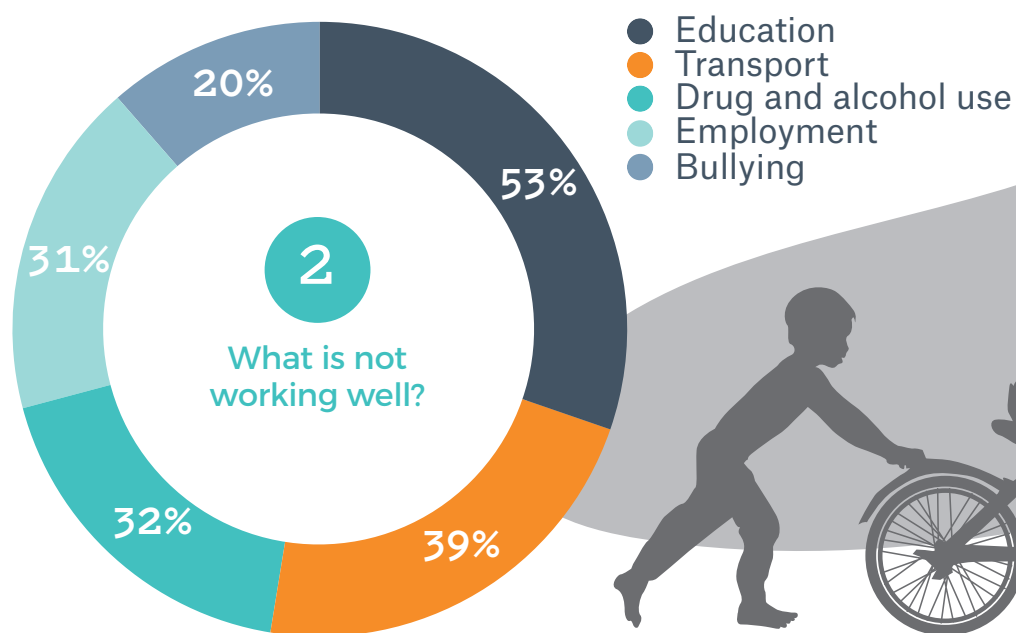
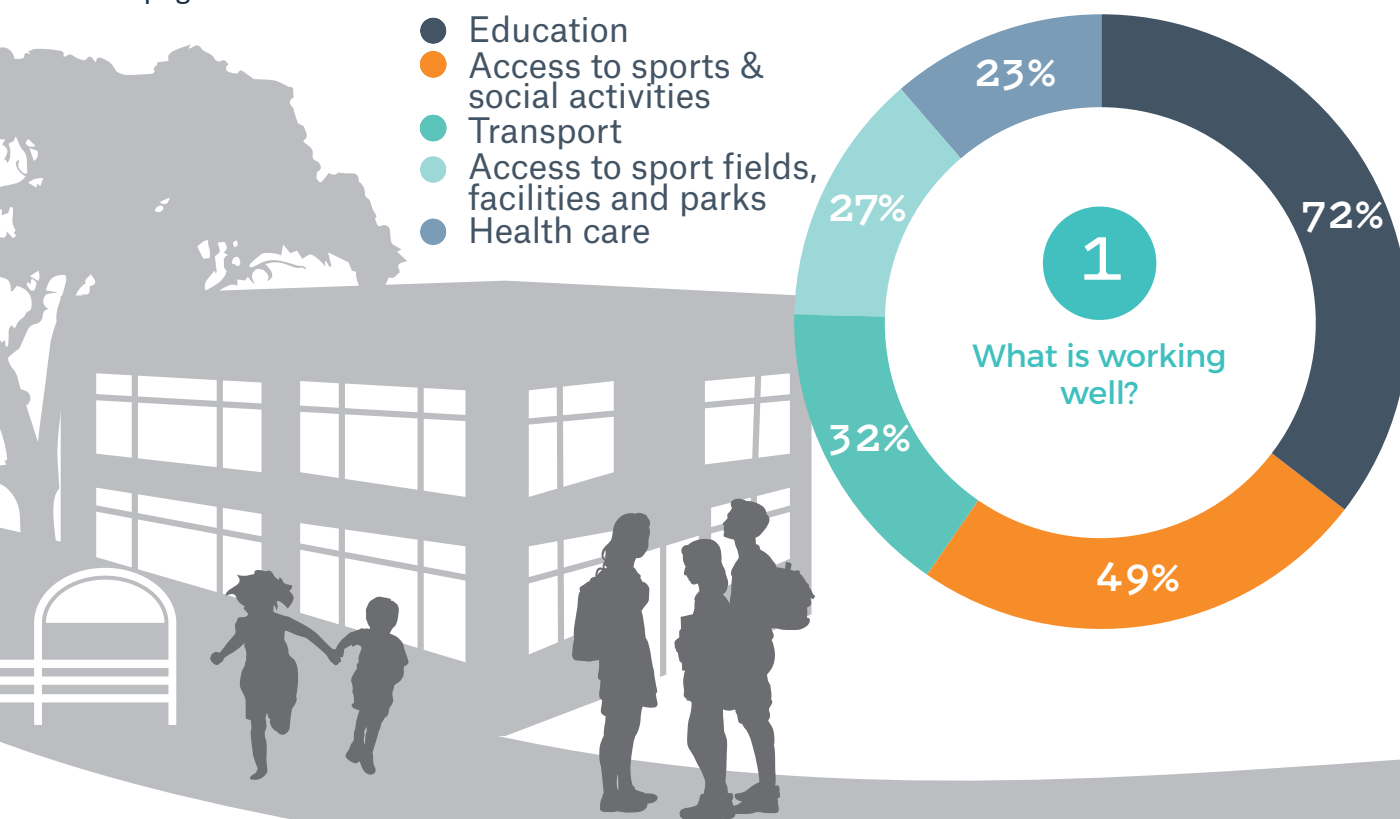
Present to the Hon. John Ajaka, MLC



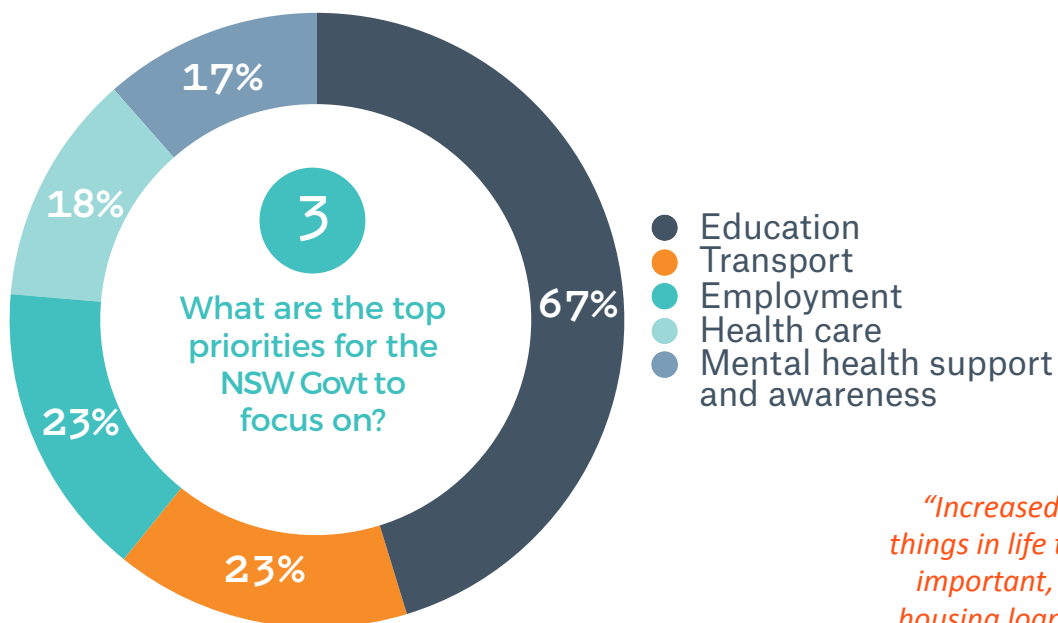
First NSW three-year whole-of-government Strategic Plan for Children and Young People

Results summary from consultations with children and young people in NSW

The below is a summary of the top answers to four questions as answered by more than 4,000 children and young people. They answered the questions reflecting on their lives and the lives of all children and young people in NSW. More detailed findings are in the back of this report on page 27.



Note: Percentage totals do not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.



"Increased education on things in life that are actually important, e.g. taxes and housing loans etc. We never learn the important stuff in school." Female, 11-17yrs



"We need a government that will support and respect younger people. Young people have the ability to do great things." Male, 11-17yrs

- Respect
- Equality
- Safety
- Supportive environments
- Inclusion

Guiding principles



Innovation

Building a culture of innovation requires a shift in focus from traditional ways of doing things to the outcomes we are trying to achieve, flexibility to accommodate new ways of achieving these outcomes, and agility to respond quickly to opportunities and change direction when the evidence shows something is not working. Ultimately it is about doing things better and more effectively.

The Plan will seek to encourage innovation through sharing and fostering policy and service innovations, knowledge and best practice examples to support effective service delivery for children and young people.

Localisation

Localisation harnesses and builds on the strengths, knowledge and opportunities that exist within local communities. It recognises that context matters: different communities will have different priorities, what works in one location may not work in another, and local communities are best placed to design, develop and deliver the solutions that will work for them.

The Plan will support localisation through empowering children and young people to participate in local decision-making processes, and connecting them to opportunities to participate in a range of activities in their communities, both on and offline.

Collaboration

Collaboration is about individuals and organisations working together to achieve shared goals. It enables expertise and learning to be shared to drive greater effectiveness.

A related concept is participatory design (originally co-operative design, now co-design) which is a process that attempts to involve all stakeholders (e.g. employees, partners, customers, citizens, end users, and children and young people) in the design process to help ensure the results meet their needs and are useable.

The Plan was developed using co-design principles and its successful implementation and monitoring will require ongoing collaboration among all those with a stake in the outcomes.

Prevention

Prevention is about focusing efforts on providing children and young people with the best possible start in life, promoting and supporting positive behaviours, and providing them with the skills and support they need to be resilient and make good choices.

It is in the best interests of children and young people to prevent poor outcomes occurring in the first place and there is evidence of some prevention initiatives being cost-effective in improving population health and wellbeing.

The Plan is an opportunity to identify cost-effective ways of delivering better outcomes for children and young people through prevention measures.

Transitions

Transitions refers to stages in children and young people's development and important life changes. These include: physical, social and emotional changes and times in life such as entering school, moving from school to further education and employment, and leaving home and out-of-home-care.

Supportive pathways at these critical times can set children and young people on a positive trajectory and enable them to reach their potential.

Building supportive pathways requires government, service providers, industry, and educational providers to work closely together to ensure children and young people have the information and opportunities they need to plan for and move positively through times of transition, and know where to access help when they need it.

Addressing disadvantage

Disadvantage is a multi-dimensional concept that encompasses poverty, deprivation, and social exclusion. Another related concept is social inclusion which refers to the opportunity to participate in society through employment and access to services; connect with family, friends and the local community; deal with personal crises (e.g. ill health); and be heard.

Current thinking emphasises the importance of a strengths-based approach that empowers and builds upon the strengths within children, young people, families and communities. Specialised approaches are needed to support those with multiple and complex needs to ensure that trauma and disadvantage is not repeated throughout their life.

Poverty and deprivation

Poverty and deprivation are multi-dimensional concepts, encompassing material deprivation ('missing out') and social exclusion ('being left out').¹ It includes the ability to afford basic necessities such as food and housing, exclusion from the minimum acceptable way of life in a person's own society because of a lack of resources, and the role of institutional structures, community attitudes and social practises in creating barriers to a person's participation in the key activities of the society in which they live.²

Poverty and deprivation have their roots in a complex interplay of factors. For this reason, tackling poverty and deprivation requires a concerted effort across all government agencies. The NSW Government is committed to improving the lives of children, young people, families and communities so they can realise their potential and build capabilities in order to break out of poverty and deprivation. For that to be fulfilled it requires a flexible, responsive and integrated response that involves civil society and all levels of government.

The voices of the most disadvantaged children and young people in NSW were integral in shaping the Plan. We consulted with children and young people in a juvenile justice setting, in residential care, as well as homeless children and young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, young parents, and those with disability. While children and young people 'doing it tough' raised similar issues to other children and young people, there were some issues specific to these vulnerable children and young people. Key issues included having a safe home to live in and access to crisis accommodation support, supportive and respectful community service workers, greater support for transitions out of care, access to opportunities to connect, support for disadvantaged children and young people within mainstream schools, and facing discrimination due to their backgrounds, including gaining access to employment. Those with disability were particularly concerned that they have the tools to partake in everyday activities and that they be treated similarly to everyone else.

While the NSW Government Strategic Plan for Children and Young People is for all children and young people in NSW, many of the Plan's themes include a specific focus on children and young people at greater risk of experiencing poor outcomes and facing barriers to reaching their potential. This includes reducing the proportion of children and young people at risk of significant harm and protecting them from domestic violence, ensuring the provision of quality out-of-home-care services, reducing the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable when they start school, improving Aboriginal reading and numeracy rates and reducing the percentage of Aboriginal young people in custody, improving transitions into long-term accommodation for young people who have experienced homelessness, improving support and care for those with mental health problems, and creating enabling and accessible environments for those with disability. The Plan brings together the range of initiatives underway and planned across government to achieve these results.

In addition to a targeted focus towards those experiencing poverty and deprivation, the Plan includes broader population measures which support all children and young people to thrive and prevent poor outcomes occurring in the first place. Increasing early contact with the education system, improving education levels, increasing completions of traineeships and apprenticeships, and job creation are critical levers to support young people to gain access to employment and to achieve financial independence. Initiatives to increase connection to people and place, reduce social exclusion, enable children and young people to have a sense of belonging to their communities, improve health and wellbeing and provide avenues to access support when they need it. Increasing screening for health issues for young children can enable early detection of health problems and early treatment and support.

Children and young people experiencing poverty and deprivation have increased contact with government social service providers, and initiatives to increase the capacity and capability of service providers to respectfully engage with children and young people will be particularly beneficial for these vulnerable groups. Empowering children and young people to have a voice in the decisions that affect them is important for all children and young people. For those experiencing poverty and deprivation it is a critical element to breaking down the barriers to their participation in society. This includes ensuring services are able to meet their needs and aspirations through their involvement in the design, development, delivery and evaluation of the services they use.

Indicators in the Plan targeting poverty and deprivation

- 1 Decrease the percentage of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm by 15%
- 2 Reduce the proportion of domestic violence perpetrators re-offending within 12 months by 5%
- 3 Increase the number of out-of-home-care agencies that meet the minimum standards for accreditation as a designated agency on time
- 4 Increase in the number of Aboriginal young people getting and retaining a drivers license
- 5 Increase the number of young people participating in high-quality programs that build community resilience and social cohesion to protect them from violent extremist influences
- 6 Reduce the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census
- 7 Increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy by 30%
- 8 Reduce the percentage of Aboriginal young people in custody
- 9 Increase the proportion of young people who successfully move from Specialist Homelessness Services to long-term accommodation by 10%
- 10 Increase in the number of schools receiving evidence-based specialist mental health early intervention programs for children aged 5-8 years with conduct problems and their families

¹ Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, *ARC Linkage Project: Deprivation and Exclusion among Young People (DEYP): What young people need*, viewed 14 July 2016, <<https://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/research/areas/measures-of-social-inequality-and-wellbeing/deyp/>>

² Daniel Montoya 2014. *Child disadvantage in NSW: recent findings*, NSW Parliamentary Research Service, viewed 14 July 2016, <<http://apo.org.au/node/39661>>



| |  Safe |  Connect |  Respect |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| objectives | <p>children and young people are free from abuse, neglect, violence and serious injury</p> | <p>children and young people have a sense of belonging and connectedness with people and place on and offline</p> | <p>children and young people are treated with respect, demonstrated by supporting and valuing their strengths, diversity and potential</p> |
| what government is doing and will do | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start Safely program provides financial help to eligible clients, including those with children, who have experienced domestic or family violence so that they can secure private rental accommodation Safe Home for Life reforms focus on keeping families together where it is safe to do so and ensure that children have a stable safe environment in which to grow up Heads of Workplace Safety Capability Project – aims to reduce the number of work-related injuries and fatalities to young workers aged 15-24 years, including building the capability of principal contractors to assess and manage the safety and wellbeing of young workers Improving access to the Safe Driver Course for Aboriginal and disadvantaged young learners by providing the course for free <p>NEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase support into early adulthood for young people leaving out-of-home-care (OOHC) Implement the Care Leavers Line – 1800 number and mailbox where those who are in or have left care can find information and advice New funding of \$190 million over four years to reform the child protection and OOHC systems through targeted early intervention and building on Safe Home for Life child protection reforms and \$370 million over four years to fund additional OOHC placements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and deliver healthy built environments, including through active living principles in infrastructure development; designing urban centres and housing to support physical activity and active transport; and providing accessible and adaptable open spaces The 500 Schools Planting Program in Western Sydney Parklands involves school children in environmental restoration programs to help restore parklands vegetation Free entry for young people under 16 to the Australian Museum and the Powerhouse Museum Ensure concessions for NSW public transport networks facilitate participation in school and tertiary education, including VET, apprenticeships and traineeships <p>NEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop MyLocal – a web portal to provide information about local youth facilities and activities and community consultation Implement the Aboriginal Community Land and Infrastructure Program to work with Aboriginal communities across the State to provide necessary infrastructure like roads and communication facilities to enhance connectedness of remote Aboriginal communities Develop a comprehensive package of community cohesion programmes to build community resilience and social cohesion to protect young people from violent extremist influences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment of Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests to enable Aboriginal people and communities across NSW to reclaim, revitalise and maintain their traditional Aboriginal languages Address the educational and social aspirations of Aboriginal children and young people living in a number of complex and diverse communities in NSW through the Connected Communities initiative Service NSW takes a customer-focused approach to delivering transactional services such as drivers' licenses via a one stop shop – online, face to face or by phone Positive Behaviour for Learning, a teaching and learning approach to support the development of skills needed by students to meet NSW Public Schools' high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour <p>NEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Quality Assessors program to train children and young people to review services and provide feedback directly to service providers and government Embed Patchwork as a standard web-based practice tool amongst frontline workers to support coordination of services Address communication barriers and issues regarding access to programs and services for youth victims, witnesses and offenders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds |
| how will we measure success | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease the percentage of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm by 15% ★ 2. Reduce the proportion of domestic violence perpetrators re-offending within 12 months by 5% ★ 3. Reduce the number of work-related injuries and fatalities to young workers aged 15-24 years 4. Reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries among children and young people, particularly in relation to road accidents (including young drivers and passengers, pedestrians and cyclists) and alcohol 5. Increase the number of OOHC agencies that meet the minimum standards for accreditation as a designated agency on time | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the attendance of children and young people at cultural venues and events in NSW by 15% by 2019 2. Increase the percentage of children and young people with disability who have participated in social activities outside their homes 3. Increase in the number of Aboriginal young people getting and retaining a drivers license 4. Increase the number of young people participating in high-quality programs that build community resilience and social cohesion to protect them from violent extremist influences 5. Increase the number of children and young people utilising digital platforms to access information from the NSW Government | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of children and young people participating in Aboriginal language programs 2. Improve customer satisfaction with key government services every year, this term of government ★ 3. Increase in the number of services assessed as child and youth friendly 4. Increase the number of children and young people participating in respectful relationships education programs 5. Increase the number of government and non-government service providers undertaking training on how to proactively and respectfully engage with children and young people |

NSW are safe, connected, with opportunities to thrive their communities.



Opportunity

children and young people have relevant skills for life, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

- Fee-free pre-apprenticeships and pre-traineeships for 2,000 young people supports transition to further training. Fee-free scholarships for 200,000 eligible 15-30 year olds to undertake government-subsidised certificate courses
- Opportunity Hubs enable Aboriginal young people to follow a supported pathway through school and between secondary school and further education, training and employment
- Jobs for NSW supports the creation of new jobs across the State, with thirty percent of the Jobs for NSW fund dedicated to regional job creation
- Increase participation in preschool programs for four and five year old children in the year before school through the new Long Day Care National Partnership Grants Program

NEW

- Committing \$100 million over two years to the new Smart, Skilled and Hired initiative to target areas of high youth unemployment and respond to demand for skilled workers in the construction and disability sectors
- Expansion and development of the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan to reach more students across the state with early, tailored intervention and explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy from kindergarten to Year 12
- Reduce educational achievement gaps between rural and urban schools through the Rural and Remote Education Blueprint for Action

1. Reduce the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census
2. Increase the participation rate of children aged 4-5 years in early childhood education programs
3. Increase the proportion of NSW students in the top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy by 8%, and increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy by 30% ★
4. Increase the proportion of people completing apprenticeships and traineeships to 65% by 2019
5. Create 150,000 new jobs in the four years to March 2019 ★



Wellbeing

children and young people are healthy and well through the provision of affordable, accessible and timely services

- Provide an additional 236 counsellor and psychologist positions and deliver flexible funding for wellbeing services through the Supported Students Successful Students initiative in NSW public schools
- Providing affordable and transitional housing for homeless youth with 72 properties established with the capacity to house 143 young people in Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, and Sydney Metro and 8 new properties in Liverpool
- Healthy Children Initiative programs in primary schools and early childhood services to promote healthy eating and active living

NEW

- Expand Youth on Track to three new areas. This is an early intervention scheme to engage young people and their families in casework and services that are targeted at addressing their offending-related needs
- Committing \$40 million over four years from 2016/17 for youth homelessness initiatives that prioritise young people leaving OOHC with high risk of homelessness
- Committing \$12 million in 2016-17 for new and existing programs for children and adolescents to tackle obesity
- All public schools implement the Wellbeing Framework for Schools during 2015-2016 requiring them to explicitly incorporate strategies for improving student engagement and wellbeing into school planning

1. Reduce the percentage of Aboriginal young people in custody
2. Increase the proportion of young people who successfully move from Specialist Homelessness Services to long-term accommodation by 10% ★
3. Reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by 5% over 10 years ★
4. Improve service levels in hospitals by facilitating 81% of patients through emergency departments within four hours ★
5. Increase in the number of schools receiving evidence-based specialist mental health early intervention programs for children aged 5-8 years with conduct problems and their families



Voice

children and young people are empowered to be involved in the decisions that affect them

- The Tell Them From Me Survey student survey is a measure of student voice that provides schools with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and student experiences of effective teaching practices to inform school priorities
- Supporting children and young people to make a complaint if they are unhappy about the way they have been treated by a NSW Government agency or a community service organisation
- The Youth Opportunities Program and Youth Frontiers Program engage children and young people in their community to lead and participate in a range of community development activities
- Recognition of young volunteers through the Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program

NEW

- Embed participation with children and young people in government consultations
- Youth arts roundtable to provide young people with an opportunity to voice their ideas and plans for improving arts and cultural participation and support
- Through the National Disability Insurance Scheme, children and young people with disability will be empowered to have choice and control over their lives and the supports they receive

1. Increase in the number of youth-led and youth-driven community projects and activities
2. Increase in the proportion of 18-25 year olds enrolled to vote
3. Increase in the number of NSW Government department and agency strategies and plans that have been informed by engagement with children and young people
4. Increased uptake of the Tell Them From Me Survey which supports student voice
5. Increase in the number of volunteers aged 15-24 years

Guiding principles

- Innovation
- Localisation
- Collaboration
- Prevention
- Transitions
- Addressing disadvantage

Key

★ Premier's Priorities



Safe

Children and young people
are free from abuse, neglect,
violence and serious injury.

The sense of security that comes from having a safe community, a safe home and safe relationships is an important first and basic step to enable children and young people to develop to their potential. At the same time, risk taking and learning from challenges is an integral part of being a child and young person. Children and young people, because of their age and stage of development, need special safeguards and care.

Children and young people should be able to feel safe in all spaces- in their home, at school, at work, out and about, and in their community. While children and young people have told us that they generally felt safe in their communities, many felt that there are areas that could be targeted to improve their overall sense of safety. These included: bullying both in and outside school, safety on public transport, domestic and family violence, crime, and drug and alcohol use.

The NSW Government has a broad range of responsibilities

that contributes to creating a safe environment for children and young people to live and grow up in. Child protection services, police and courts protect children and young people from abuse, neglect and violence and support victims of crime, including recognising and responding to the impact of domestic violence on children. The regulation of housing, workplaces and built environments create safe

places for children to live, learn, work and play. Young people are kept safe through the prohibition of illicit drugs and regulation and harm minimisation strategies in relation to alcohol and other drugs. Emergency services such as fire and ambulance respond quickly to emergency situations to keep children and young people safe.

“Access to drugs and alcohol appears to be getting easier. Alongside this, the safety of the community appears to be increasing in risk.”

Female, 18-24yrs

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that children and young people are safe. Major reforms are being undertaken to improve outcomes for children and young people, and provide responsive services to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable.

Objectives

Children and young people are free from abuse, neglect, violence and serious injury.

What is the government doing?

- Start Safely program provides financial help to eligible clients, including those with children, who have experienced domestic or family violence so that they can secure private rental accommodation
- Strengthened penalties for child sexual assault by increasing the maximum penalty from 25 years to life imprisonment for sexual intercourse with a child under 10 and expanding the standard non-parole period scheme to include additional 13 child sexual assault offences
- Piloting special measures in child sexual assault trials to reduce trauma caused to a child when giving evidence. The special measures include pre-recording of a child's evidence and the use of Children's Champions (also known as witness intermediaries) to help children under 18 communicate with the court when giving evidence
- Safe Home for Life reforms focus on keeping families together where it is safe to do so and ensure that children have a stable safe environment in which to grow up
- Two new specialist District Court judges have been appointed to hear child sexual assault cases in order to improve access to justice for alleged child victims and reduce the trauma and stress they experience in court
- Implement the It Stops Here – Standing together to end domestic and family violence in NSW reforms which aims to improve the way government agencies and non-government organisations respond to and prevent domestic and family violence across NSW
- Heads of Workplace Safety Capability Project – aims to reduce the number of work-related injuries and fatalities to young workers aged 15-24 years by building the capability of principal contractors to assess and manage the safety and wellbeing of young workers, building the capabilities of workers, and developing targeted guidance material
- Reforms to protect children and young people from alcohol-related violence and from participating in alcohol-related violence – lock out and 3am cessation of alcohol service in Sydney CBD and Kings Cross and a state-wide 10pm restriction on take away alcohol sales
- NSW Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care – standards have been updated to provide a greater focus on achieving permanency for children and young people
- Children are educated on safe road use through the formal school curriculum as well as age-appropriate media campaigns
- Improving access to the Safe Driver Course for Aboriginal and disadvantaged young learners by providing the course for free
- Working with bicycle user organisations and training providers to promote bike safety and responsible cycling behaviour to young people
- The Year 7 to 10 Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) syllabus includes Domestic Violence identification and prevention
- The Prevention of Domestic Violence Toolkit includes signs and symptoms of abuse, support available, sample activities and Frequently Asked Questions.

What new things will the government do?

- Increase support into early adulthood for young people leaving out-of-home-care to address the high levels of homelessness, unemployment and incarceration and low levels of educational attainment
- Implement the Care Leavers Line – 1800 number and mailbox where those who are in or have left care can find information and advice
- New funding of \$190 million over four years to reform the child protection and out-of-home-care systems through targeted early intervention and building on Safe Home for Life child protection reforms. This includes expansion in evidence-based intensive intervention programs targeting family preservation and restoration
- New funding of \$370 million over four years to meet increased demand for out-of-home-care through funding additional out-of-home-care placements.

How will we measure success?

- 1 Decrease the percentage of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm by 15%
- 2 Reduce the proportion of domestic violence perpetrators re-offending within 12 months by 5%
- 3 Reduce the number of work-related injuries and fatalities to young workers aged 15-24 years
- 4 Reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries among children and young people, particularly in relation to road accidents (including young drivers and passengers, pedestrians and cyclists) and alcohol
- 5 Increase the number of out-of-home-care agencies that meet the minimum standards for accreditation as a designated agency on time.





Connect

Children and young people have a sense of belonging and connectedness with people and place on and offline.

A sense of belonging and connectedness to others is critical to the wellbeing of children and young people. Children and young people told us about the importance of feeling connected to adults as well as to their peers. Through forming positive relationships with each other and with adults, children and young people gain access to valuable networks that build resilience and provide access to information and opportunities. Connections with others also help to build cohesive communities and foster an understanding and appreciation for nature, diversity, culture and heritage.

Sport, arts, culture and other activities are a major avenue for promoting connectedness among children and young people, and access to local parks and playgrounds, good sports fields and venues, sport and recreation and leisure centres, and arts facilities were highly valued by young people. Youth centres, groups and PCYCs were identified as supportive environments that were working well for most children and young people. Connectedness through culture was a dominant theme among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

Children and young people often raised a lack of things to do in their local area as a major issue – this was especially true for children and young people living in rural and regional areas. Young people said they wanted a single

place to go to online that had information about the activities in their local areas. Young people in out-of-home-care reported they were unable to engage in activities that other children and young people take for granted, such as sports of their choice, catching up with friends, visiting family, accessing the internet and going to the movies. For people with disability better access to places such as cinemas and recreation centres was also raised in some discussions.

Connectedness through technology was important to support children and young people's education and learning, and the use of social media was valued for spreading ideas and information. Public transport was seen as important for opening up opportunities for children and young people to connect.

The NSW Government is connecting children and young people from diverse groups to communities and places by funding, providing or promoting activities such as sport and recreation, volunteering, environmental awareness, and the arts. Community projects and activities foster community engagement, build community harmony and social cohesion and celebrate the unique riches of our culturally diverse state. Safe and accessible transport networks including roads, trains, buses, cycleways, and footpaths support children and young people's connection to work, learning and leisure.

"More recreational activities. These places will benefit others, offer more jobs for kids and keep them out of trouble, instead of just sitting at home doing stuff that they shouldn't be doing. Female, 11-17yrs

Objectives

Children and young people have a sense of belonging and connectedness with people and place on and offline.

What is the government doing?

- Cadets programs with the NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW State Emergency Service provide students with an insight into fire safety and prevention and emergency services whilst developing practical life skills, knowledge and a general appreciation of community service and volunteerism
- Plan and deliver healthy built environments, including through incorporating active living principles into infrastructure development; designing urban centres and housing to support physical activity and active transport; and providing accessible and adaptable open spaces
- Create in NSW is the NSW Government's Arts and Cultural Policy Framework and contains actions to support and increase young people's engagement in arts and culture
- The Sydney Living Museums' Unlocking Heritage Program lets NSW primary school students from low socio-economic backgrounds and regional and rural schools experience the state's historic and cultural heritage
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) developed the WilderQuest program to nurture a love of nature in 5 to 12 year olds and convert screen time into outdoor play. WilderQuest teaches and builds enthusiasm for nature through play, rewards and experiences in national parks
- The 500 Schools Planting Program in Western Sydney Parklands involves school children in environmental restoration programs to help restore parklands vegetation
- Assistance is provided for Aboriginal people and other disadvantaged communities to get into and stay in the NSW driver licensing system
- Free entry for young people under 16 to the Australian Museum and the Powerhouse Museum
- Ensure concessions for NSW public transport networks facilitate participation in school and tertiary education, including Vocational Education and Training (VET), apprenticeships and traineeships
- The Community Partnership Action (COMPACT) program assists to protect young people and safeguard social cohesion against extremist hate, violence and division
- Regional Strategies include actions to support children and young people in their local areas, including:
 - developing local strategies to create flexible employment, housing and service delivery that responds to changing markets
 - creating integrated and well connected open space, sporting facilities recreational opportunities
 - long term planning for social infrastructure including schools, community facilities and health services
 - facilitating accessible centres and communities
 - supporting the delivery of greater housing choice in and near centres with existing services and
 - supporting improved public transport.

What new things will the government do?

- Develop MyLocal – a web portal to provide information about local youth facilities and activities and community consultation
- Implement the Aboriginal Community Land and Infrastructure Program to work with Aboriginal communities across the State to provide necessary infrastructure like roads and communication facilities to enhance connectedness of remote Aboriginal communities for faster and more reliable service delivery
- Develop a comprehensive package of community cohesion programs to build community resilience and social cohesion to protect young people from violent extremist influences
- Committing an additional \$15 million in 2016-17 to support the Assisted School Travel Program to assist students with disability travel to and from school.

How will we measure success?

- 1 Increase the attendance of children and young people at cultural venues and events in NSW by 15% by 2019
- 2 Increase the percentage of children and young people with disability who have participated in social activities outside their homes
- 3 Increase in the number of Aboriginal young people getting and retaining a drivers license
- 4 Increase the number of young people participating in high-quality programs that build community resilience and social cohesion to protect them from violent extremist influences
- 5 Increase the number of children and young people utilising digital platforms to access information from the NSW Government.





Respect

Children and young people are treated with respect, demonstrated by supporting and valuing their strengths, diversity and potential.

A common theme throughout the consultations with children and young people was respect. They would like a society with no discrimination or racism, where children and young people of all religions and backgrounds, including those with disability, are made to feel like they belong and have access to the services and supports they need to flourish. Children and young people also want equality for both sexes and for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex (LGBTQI) young people.

Children and young people seek mutual respect from peers and adults alike. Many children and young people said they experience positive and respectful relationships with adults, including parents, teachers, police and youth workers.

Children and young people also told us that not all adults treat them with respect and in some cases can have a negative attitude towards them. They highlighted examples of personal experiences on public transport and of experiencing age discrimination in the work place. Children and young people said their generation feels inhibited by community negativity and a lack of adult belief in their abilities and motivation.

"We should all listen respectfully. It does not matter if you are young or old. Your ideas may be very good and are worth listening to... They don't always have to agree but at least let them be heard." Female, 0-10yrs

Some children and young people live in circumstances which put them at greater risk of experiencing poor outcomes and facing barriers to reaching their potential, with consequences that can impact across their entire life course. Higher risk groups include children and young people living in poverty, in one-parent families, in remote areas, of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, and those with disability. Children and young people 'doing it tough' discussed the trauma of having to re-tell their story each time they approached a new service or refuge,

the difficulties they had accessing basic services such as public libraries when they did not have a permanent address, and feeling they were not being listened to and did not know what was happening to them.

The NSW Government is investing more strategically to make a positive difference in the lives of children and young people, including those who identify as Aboriginal, live in regional and remote communities, are culturally and linguistically diverse, have been or are victims of violence and abuse, are in the juvenile justice system, in out-of-home-care or experiencing homelessness, and those with disability.

Objectives

Children and young people are treated with respect, demonstrated by supporting and valuing their strengths, diversity and potential.

What is the government doing?

- The establishment of Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests to enable Aboriginal people and communities across NSW to reclaim, revitalise and maintain their traditional Aboriginal languages
- Behaviour Code for Students in NSW Public Schools – a comprehensive and inclusive whole-school approach to positive behaviour for learning. Providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for students through a clear understanding of expectations of student behaviour
- Address the educational and social aspirations of Aboriginal children and young people living in a number of complex and diverse communities in NSW through the Connected Communities initiative
- Service NSW takes a customer-focused approach to delivering transactional services such as drivers' licenses via a one stop shop – online, face to face or by phone
- Positive Behaviour for Learning, a teaching and learning approach to support the development of skills needed by students to meet NSW Public Schools' high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour
- Delivering respectful relationships education programs
- The Multicultural Policies and Services Program (MPSP) helps ensure that all members of society are able to access government services and programs by encouraging agencies to embed multicultural planning within their own agency-specific strategic planning
- Roll out of culturally responsive practice training in the non-government organisation (NGO) sector to develop the cultural competence of the NGO workforce
- Address communication barriers and issues regarding access to programs and services for youth victims, witnesses and offenders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

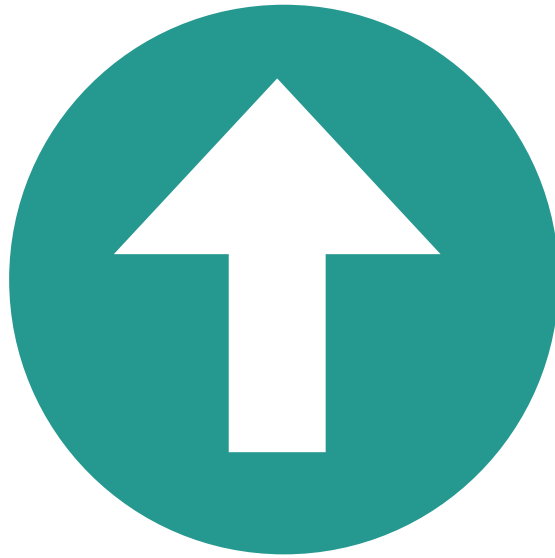
What new things will the government do?

- Improve the capacity of schools and teachers to meet the diverse educational needs of students with disability through the implementation of Every Student, Every School
- Develop a Quality Assessors program to train children and young people to review services and provide feedback directly to service providers and government
- Revolutionise the IT system that FACS caseworkers use by implementing ChildStory to enable children and young people to have access to more information about themselves and their circumstances
- Embed Patchwork as a standard web-based practice tool amongst frontline workers to support practitioners collaborate and coordinate services around vulnerable children and young people
- Enhance government and non-government service provider skills to proactively and respectfully engage with children and young people through targeted training.

How will we measure success?

- 1 Increase the number of children and young people participating in Aboriginal language programs
- 2 Improve customer satisfaction with key government services every year, this term of government
- 3 Increase in the number of services assessed as child and youth friendly
- 4 Increase the number of children and young people participating in respectful relationships education programs
- 5 Increase the number of government and non-government service providers undertaking training on how to proactively and respectfully engage with children and young people.





Opportunity

Children and young people have relevant skills for life, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

Children's learning and development experiences in their early years help them to develop the critical social, emotional, thinking and communication skills they need to give them a great start in life and at school. Parenting skills are fundamental to building children's resilience and positioning them to take advantage of opportunities. Access to high quality early education and care is an important factor to support children to be "school-ready", particularly for children who are developmentally vulnerable and children from disadvantaged backgrounds. With one in five students entering school vulnerable in one or more of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) domains, schools also need to be ready and able to support students to participate, engage and succeed across their school years, regardless of their diverse circumstances and abilities.

Many children and young people spoke favourably about opportunities in NSW for free public education, high quality education, good subject choices and good resources and facilities. However many also reported their opportunities to learn are hampered due to insufficient resources (particularly for public schools and schools

in disadvantaged areas). Children and young people strongly feel that they should all be afforded the same opportunities, whether they are in the public or private education systems. They felt more support is needed in mainstream schools for disadvantaged students. Children and young people also want the opportunity to improve their financial circumstances and learn important life skills to prepare them for adulthood.

Limited work opportunities for young people were a major concern, particularly for young people in rural and regional areas, as were a lack of opportunities for work placements, work experience and apprenticeships, difficulties in gaining employment with no prior experiences and difficulties for students to find casual and part-time work. Unemployment

amongst young people is high, particularly for those aged 15-19 years, and part-time employment is becoming more common. There is a strong causal link between educational attainment and employment experience with employability in adulthood. Supporting children and young people to prepare for these transitions and providing flexible pathways will support improvements to the socio-economic outcomes for children and young people.

"Although I do have a job I believe there is not enough opportunities for teens to get jobs or resources to help find jobs for teens." Male, 11-17yrs

Objectives

Children and young people have relevant skills for life, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

What is the government doing?

- The NSW Transition to School Statement summarises the child's strengths, interests and approaches to learning and suggests ways these can be supported
- Work and Development Orders (WDOs) allow eligible young people to apply to reduce their fines through unpaid work or by attending certain courses or treatment
- Fee-free pre-apprenticeship and pre-traineeship training for 2,000 young people supports school leavers to transition to further training. Fee-free scholarships for 200,000 concession-eligible 15-30 year olds supports them to undertake government-subsidised vocational education and training certificate courses, with priority for disadvantaged young people
- VET can help young people who are disengaged from school by offering a comprehensive focus on applied vocational learning and access to a wide range of vocational pathways in skill shortage areas. This improves options for employment, especially for young people in rural and remote areas
- Opportunity Hubs provide Aboriginal young people with the confidence and knowledge to follow a supported pathway through school and between secondary school and further education, training and employment
- Jobs for NSW supports the creation of new jobs across the State, with thirty percent of the Jobs for NSW fund dedicated to regional job creation
- Significant investment in a NSW Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan supporting schools in some of the state's most disadvantaged communities to target early intervention strategies addressing students' literacy and numeracy needs
- Increase participation in preschool programs for four and five year old children in the year before school through the new Long Day Care National Partnership Grants Program.



What new things will the government do?

- Provide students with opportunities to learn skills for life such as managing finances, writing a resume and raising a family. The review of the PDHPE curriculum may identify opportunities for strengthening the skills children and young people need for life in addition to integrating real life examples into appropriate school courses where applicable
- Expand the Youth Scholarship Program for young people living in social housing or on the NSW Housing Register to complete their HSC or TAFE equivalent
- Provide viable pathways into education, training and employment for young people in regional areas, including through the provision of career mentoring support, work experience, career transition planning and brokering pathways to training and employment
- Reduce the gap in educational achievement between rural and urban schools, through the Rural and Remote Education Blueprint for Action
- Expansion and development of the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan to reach more students across the state with early, tailored intervention and explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy from kindergarten to Year 12
- Committing \$100 million over two years to the new Smart, Skilled and Hired initiative that will target the State's highest areas of youth unemployment and respond to the high demands for skilled workers in the construction and disability sectors through mentoring and incentives for early school leavers and at-risk groups
- Substantial investment in new schools and school upgrades
- A new Sydney School of Entrepreneurship will be established to bring together high performing students from all disciplines to learn, collaborate and experiment as part of their undergraduate degree or TAFE course.

How will we measure success?

- 1 Reduce the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)
- 2 Increase the participation rate of children aged 4-5 years in early childhood education programs
- 3 Increase the proportion of NSW students in the top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy by 8%, and increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy by 30%
- 4 Increase the proportion of people completing apprenticeships and traineeships to 65% by 2019
- 5 Create 150,000 new jobs in the four years to March 2019.





Wellbeing

Children and young people are healthy and well through the provision of affordable, accessible and timely services.

Wellbeing refers to how people feel about their lives. A good society for children and young people is one where our social and economic activities deliver high-levels of sustainable wellbeing for all children and young people and health inequities are reduced.

Wellbeing is underpinned by access to essential services including high quality health care, clean environments, food and water, and safe and secure housing. It can be supported through early intervention, diversion and prevention programs and services working with the families and carers to provide necessary treatment, rehabilitation and services so issues can be addressed sooner.

Children's health and wellbeing is also supported by empowering them with the knowledge and skills to make positive choices which support their own and other's physical and mental health and wellbeing. Health inequities are reduced by providing effective services targeted at improving the life chances of children and young people who are disadvantaged or at risk.

Overall children and young people were positive about general health supports, including Medicare, bulk-billing, free health services, good doctors, vaccination programs and free dental care for children and young people in rural areas. Areas where they would like to see more

support included cheaper and better quality health care, easier access and reduced wait times for health services, and more hospital services for children only. Some young people also raised the cost of private health care and medications, and sexually transmissible infections as important issues to address.

Young people spoke favourably about the support available for those with mental health problems, though some told us that they would like to see greater mental health awareness and support, including information on how they could help their friends going through tough times. Young people also raised the issue of not having supports available after normal business hours and over the weekend.

Access to accommodation and crisis support suited to their needs was also raised by children and young people 'doing it tough'. Children and young people, and most notably those aged

less than 10 years, reported that homelessness was one of the most important areas for the NSW Government to focus on.

Early intervention and prevention programs and services are essential to ensuring that the issues that children and young people face can be addressed earlier. At the same time, there is a need for tertiary programs that provide treatment and rehabilitation.

"I believe the support groups, like beyond blue, and head space are working well for younger people, as it seems more and more people are coming out with depression and these organisations help." Male, 18-24yrs

Objectives

Children and young people are healthy and well through the provision of affordable, accessible and timely services.

| What is the government doing? | What new things will the government do? | How will we measure success? |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an additional 236 counsellor and psychologist positions and deliver flexible funding for wellbeing services to help improve students' wellbeing through the Supported Students Successful Students initiative in NSW public schools • Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP) – NGOs funded to deliver support and accommodation models for unaccompanied children and young people aged 12 to 15 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness • Providing affordable and transitional housing for homeless youth with 72 properties established with the capacity to house 143 young people in Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, and Sydney Metro and 8 new properties in Liverpool • Rural Residential Rehabilitation Services – comprehensive treatment program for 13-18 year olds who have alcohol and drug related problems provided in Dubbo and Coffs Harbour • Targeting health services to better treat and protect young people from intentional self-harm, psychosocial disorders and suicidal behaviour • Healthy Children Initiative programs in primary schools and early childhood services to promote healthy eating and active living • 21 Networked Specialist Centres established to directly link the surrounding schools and families with government and non-government specialist health and community services • Providing crime prevention and diversion programs and community services to help young people at risk • Provide a school in each juvenile justice centre across NSW to enable young people to re-engage with learning and/or continue their educational pattern of study while in custody and plan for their transition from custody to the community • Investing significantly in school resourcing reform to address diverse cultural, social and economic factors which can contribute to children and young people experiencing disadvantage in their school education. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committing \$40 million over four years for youth homelessness initiatives that adopt an investment approach and prioritise young people leaving out-of-home-care with high risk of homelessness • Expand the Youth Private Rental Subsidy to additional locations for eligible 16 – 24 year olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to help them to find affordable accommodation, sustain their private rental tenancy, and access educational and employment opportunities • Funding enhancement to youth crisis services to increase intake options for young people and better case management through improved support ratios will provide better paths to independence in the medium to long term which includes young people returning to their families • All public schools implement the new Wellbeing Framework for Schools during 2015-2016 requiring them to explicitly incorporate strategies for improving student engagement and wellbeing into school planning • Targeted Earlier Intervention Reform Program – redesign the service system to ensure that families receive the support they need and do not reach crisis point • Statewide expansion of the schools-based Getting on Track in Time (Got It!) specialist mental health early intervention program for children aged 5-8 years with conduct problems and their families • Expand Youth on Track to three new areas. This program is an early intervention scheme to engage young people and their families in casework and services that are targeted at addressing their offending-related needs • Committing \$12 million in 2016-17 for new and existing programs for children and adolescents to tackle obesity • Committing additional funding to drug and alcohol programs to help young people by intervening early and addressing drug addiction. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Reduce the percentage of Aboriginal young people in custody 2 Increase the proportion of young people who successfully move from Specialist Homelessness Services to long-term accommodation by 10% 3 Reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by 5% over 10 years 4 Improve service levels in hospitals by facilitating 81% of patients through emergency departments within four hours 5 Increase in the number of schools receiving evidence-based specialist mental health early intervention programs for children aged 5-8 years with conduct problems and their families. |





Voice

Children and young people are
empowered to be involved in the
decisions that affect them.

Children and young people have a genuine desire to participate in decision-making processes, and have a valuable contribution to make in the development of policies, programs and services that impact on their lives. Participation is more than just giving young people a say. It is about listening to their views, taking them seriously and wherever feasible, putting their ideas and suggestions into effect. The advantages to organisations and government include better and more responsive service delivery, greater engagement and increasing awareness. Benefits for children and young people include greater confidence, increased connectedness and understanding of their citizenship responsibilities, and improved safety.

Children and young people said they want to have their opinions heard, treated with respect and taken seriously. Some young people raised that government needs to find ways to enable all children and young people to participate and have a say – not just popular kids and high achievers.

The NSW Government provides and contracts a wide range of services and programs specifically targeted towards children and young people across sectors including health, social services, education, and training. Broader government services such as town planning, roads and transport, and public housing also impact on the lives of children and young people. Programs designed for children and young people are much more likely to succeed if children and young people have been involved in the planning, developing and delivery of them.

*“Not just popular kids get a say or
participate - everybody is equal.”*
Female, 11-17yrs

Objectives

Children and young people are empowered to be involved in the decisions that affect them.

What is the government doing?

- Enabling students to have a voice at all levels and providing student leadership opportunities through the Wellbeing Framework for Schools
- The Tell Them From Me Survey student survey is a measure of student voice that provides schools with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and student experiences of effective teaching practices to inform school priorities
- Supporting children and young people to make a complaint if they are unhappy about the way they have been treated by a NSW Government agency or a community service organisation
- The Youth Opportunities Program and Youth Frontiers Program engage children and young people in their community to lead and participate in a range of community development activities
- The online publication The Point Magazine gives young people and communities a voice to address issues impacting on social cohesion
- Recognition of young volunteers through the Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program
- Strategies to target input from children and young people in district and regional planning, including workshops, youth forums and engaging with youth advocacy groups.

What new things will the government do?

- Embed participation with children and young people in government consultations
- Involve children and young people in the design and delivery of services that meet their needs within government and in contracted services, including those with disability and from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Youth arts roundtable to provide young people with an opportunity to voice their ideas and plans for improving arts and cultural participation and support
- Maximise benefits and establish strong links between existing and new youth advisory groups and networks, such as the NSW Youth Advisory Council and the Multicultural Youth Network
- Geography "Lesson Plans" on urban and regional planning for students in Years 7 and 8 will encourage young people to be aware of and understand the natural and built environments in which they live, and give them the knowledge and skills to play an active and positive role in their communities both now and in the future
- Through the National Disability Insurance Scheme, children and young people with disability will be empowered to have choice and control over their lives and the supports they receive
- Implement the second NSW Volunteering Strategy to better recruit, support and recognise volunteers.

How will we measure success?

- 1 Increase in the number of youth-led and youth-driven community projects and activities
- 2 Increase in the proportion of 18-25 year olds enrolled to vote
- 3 Increase in the number of NSW Government department and agency strategies and plans that have been informed by engagement with children and young people
- 4 Increased uptake of the Tell Them From Me Survey which supports student voice
- 5 Increase in the number of volunteers aged 15 to 24 years.



Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning



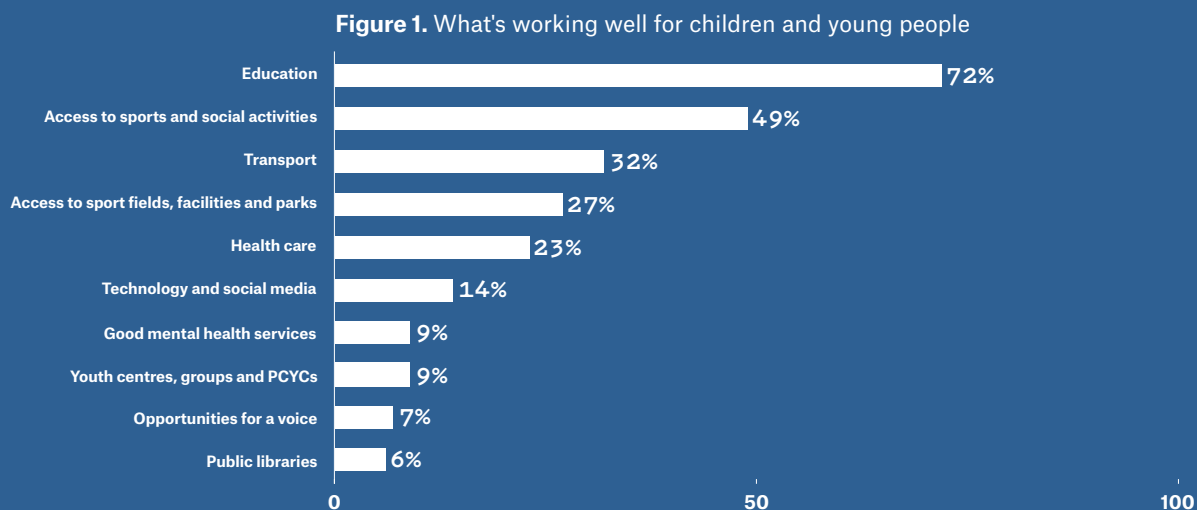


Detailed Findings

1. What's working well for children and young people in NSW?

Overall findings

Figure 1 shows the top 10 areas that children and young people felt were going well for them.



Education was overwhelmingly the most frequently mentioned area, with almost three-quarters (72.5%) of the total sample raising this. In particular, children and young people commented that the following things were working well in education:

- Variety of sports and extra-curricular activities to choose from
- Access to high quality education
- Opportunity to receive free education
- Good subjects available
- Good teacher-student relations
- Good resources and facilities
- Extra support for students (mentoring; homework centres).

Just under half of all children and young people (48.9%) were happy with their access to sports and social activities. Specifically, they liked that there are:

- A wide variety of sports to play, both in and out of school
- Good local sports clubs for weekend sport
- Sports events for children and young people, especially when free
- PCYC organised sport and exercise (rugby league, gymnastics, boxing)
- Opportunities for extra-curricular activities, both in and out of school.

Children and young people also discussed that they like the social aspect to sport and that it promotes a positive lifestyle.

Almost one-third of all children and young people (31.8%) felt that public transport was working well for them; and in particular the:

- Free or concessional travel for students
- Opal card system
- Accessibility of buses in their local areas
- Free shuttle buses in some areas
- Buses just for school students
- Good train system and that it is fast
- Free family travel on Sundays.

Approximately one-quarter of all children and young people raised that access to sports fields, facilities and parks (26.6%) and health care (23.1%) were also working well for them. Children and young people spoke favourably about local parks and playgrounds, good sports fields and venues and local sport and recreation and leisure centres.

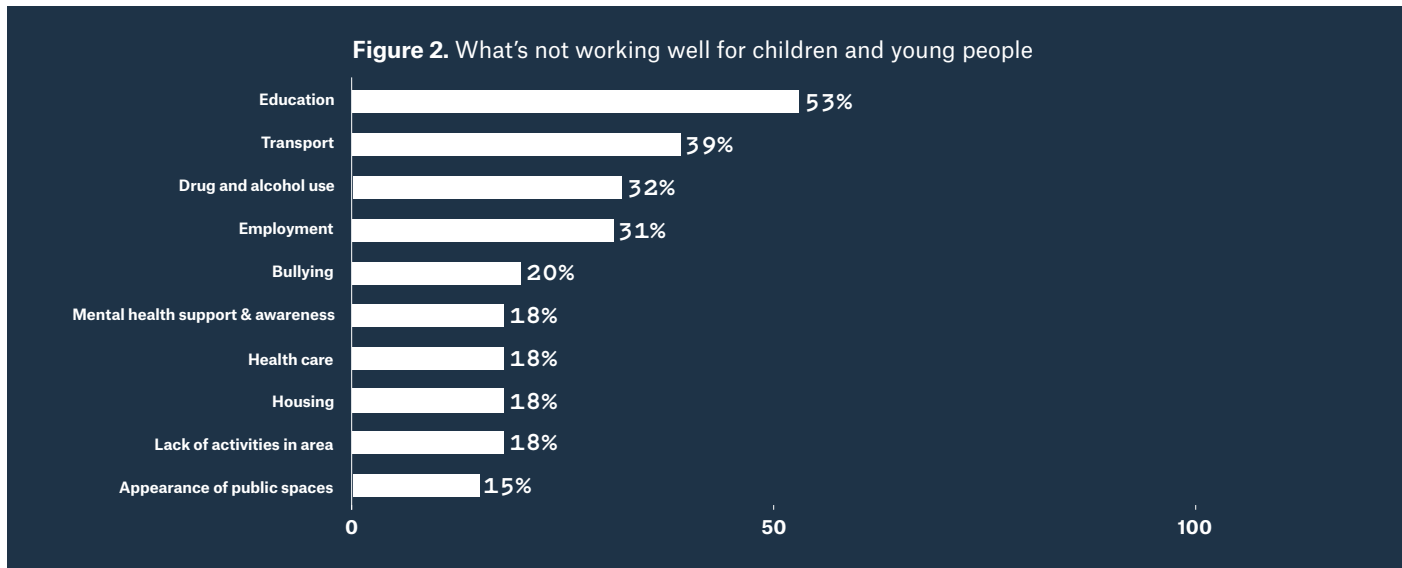
With regards to good health care, children and young people mentioned Medicare, bulk billing and other free health services; good doctors; vaccination programs and free dental care for young people in rural areas.



2. What's not working well for children and young people in NSW?

Overall findings

While education was the number one area identified as working well for children and young people, it was also most frequently reported as not working well for children and young people (53.2%) (Figure 2).



Children and young people raised the following:

- Insufficient resources for public schools, rural schools and schools in disadvantaged areas
- There are not enough schools; class sizes are too big
- Too much pressure: homework; assignments, HSC experience
- Lack of subjects that prepare students for real life
- Inequity between private and public education
- Not enough tutoring/mentoring for students needing extra support
- Teacher quality: inexperienced; not respectful of students
- School hours to be varied (e.g. later start; longer days to have three day weekend).

Almost two in five children and young people (38.5%) would like to see changes to public transport. In particular, they raised that:

- Transport is unreliable: either late or does not arrive
- There is not enough transport in rural areas and some metropolitan areas
- Transport is overcrowded: sometimes children and young people have to wait for the next bus; buses and trains are not frequent enough
- Transport is too expensive
- Bus drivers have negative attitudes towards young people
- Buses and trains are often not clean
- Feeling unsafe on public transport
- There is not enough transport for school students

- Young people should be able to use student passes for travel outside to and from school
- Public transport travel routes should be improved.

Almost one in three children and young people raised drug and alcohol use as an issue (32.1%); closely followed by employment (31.5%). Young people frequently raised that drugs are easily accessible. Children and young people were also concerned about drug and alcohol usage by adults as well as by children and young people, noting that this makes them feel unsafe.

Concerns around employment included:

- Limited work opportunities for young people in general
- Lack of jobs in rural and regional areas
- Lack of opportunities for work placements, experience and apprenticeships
- Difficulty in gaining employment with no prior experience
- Youth and graduate wage is too low
- Difficulty for students (school and university) to find casual or part-time employment.

One in five children and young people raised bullying as a major issue. This included face to face and cyber-bullying. They discussed that not enough is being done in schools to stop bullying behaviour and that bullying programs currently in schools are not working for them.

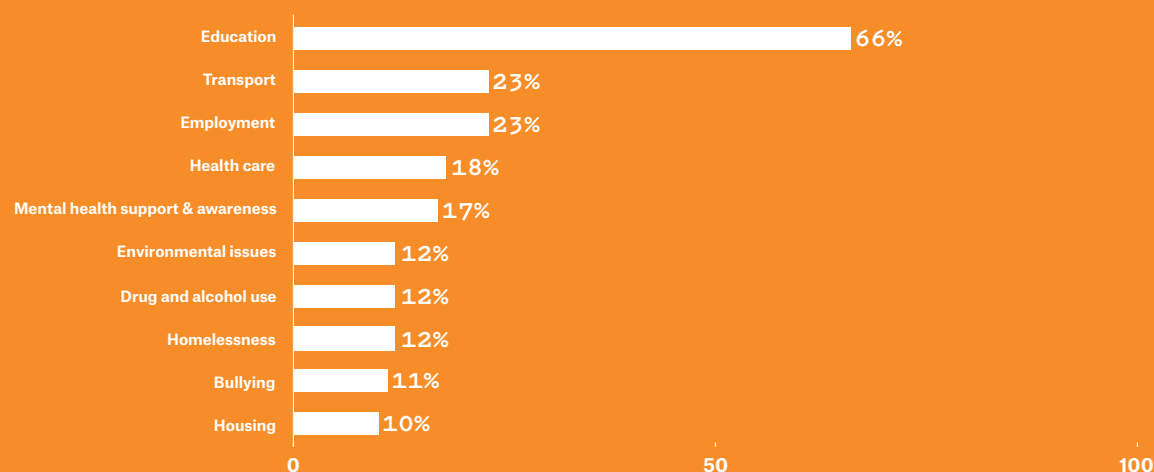
“Bullying is still a major part in schools. There seriously needs to be a crackdown on bullying policies so suicide and self harm rates decrease.”
Male, 11-17yrs

3. What are the top priorities for the NSW Government to focus on for children and young people?

Overall findings

Education was the number one priority raised by the total sample of children and young people (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Top priorities for NSW Government to focus on



Areas they asked the NSW Government to focus on included:

- More resources and funding to schools (including in rural areas)
- Improve the quality of teaching and education
- More life skills education in schools
- Reduce pressure and stress on high school students
- Variable school hours e.g. later start, later finish and three day weekend
- Reduce university fees
- More support for students who are struggling
- Less homework.

Transport was the number two issue children and young people would like the NSW Government to focus on (23.4%), including:

- More frequent buses and trains: including more late night/ early morning and weekend transport
- Reduce costs: all students, including university, should travel for free; all children and young people at school ages should travel for free
- School transport should reach a wider area (better travel routes)
- Public transport to arrive at scheduled times
- Improve transport in rural areas
- Improve security on public transport: more patrols, cameras
- Have student-only carriages on trains.

Employment was raised as a priority by 23.1% of the total sample

of children and young people. Most of the specific issues raised were similar to those raised in the what's not working well discussions. Some additional areas for focus were:

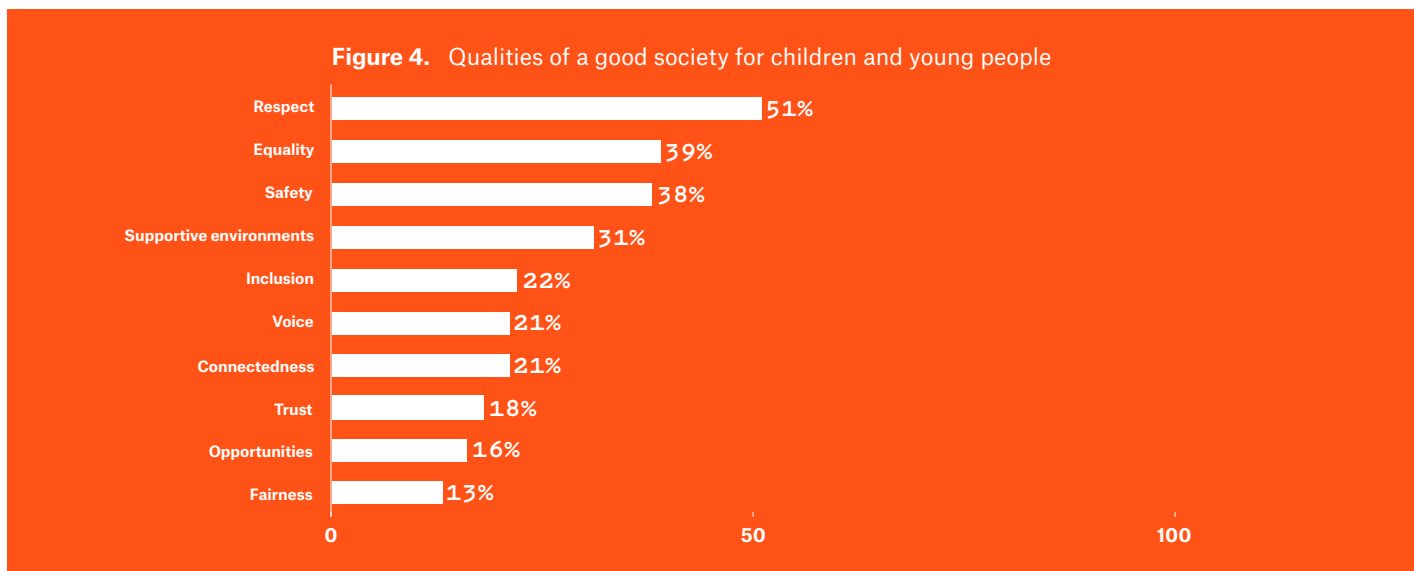
- More access to information: how to get a job; jobs in high demand
- Youth training for employment: more programs to help young people be more employable, more work placements and internships in government departments
- More assistance for young people with no experience to obtain their first job
- Less discrimination against young people in the work place.



4. What are the qualities of a good society for children and young people?

Overall findings

When asked to describe the qualities of a good society for children and young people, the most common response was respect (51.1%) (Figure 4).



Children and young people also desire a society that values equality (39.5%) and safety (37.8%), specifically:

- No crime or violence
- No bullying
- Children playing on the street with no fear of stranger danger
- High security.

Just under one-third of children and young people spoke about the importance of supportive environments (31.1%), and in particular, “helping each other when in need”, feeling “encouraged”, “cared for”, “loved”, “understood” and “people to turn to for advice.”

Around one in five children and young people raised inclusion (21.7%), voice (21.1%) and connectedness (20.5%) as important qualities of a good society to live in:

“A good society for children and young people provides equal opportunities for young people regardless of their background.”

Male, 11-17yrs

“A good society for young people to grow up in is an accepting, multicultural society that accepts and encourages differences.”

Female, 11-17yrs



All initiatives

This section demonstrates the breadth of programs, policies and initiatives provided by the NSW Government for children and young people. A number of the initiatives involve multiple partners and span across more than one of the six key themes of the Plan, and the themes of the Plan are interrelated. For simplicity the initiatives have been aligned with the Plan theme that is considered to be most relevant, and the lead cluster agency has been identified. Initiatives that have been highlighted in the Plan are presented first, followed by a more comprehensive list of the range of initiatives that the NSW Government provides for children and young people.

Safe

Initiatives highlighted in the Plan

- Start Safely program provides financial help to eligible clients, including those with children, who have experienced domestic or family violence so that they can secure private rental accommodation and do not have to return to the violent situation. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Strengthened penalties for child sexual assault by increasing the maximum penalty from 25 years to life imprisonment for sexual intercourse with a child under 10 and expanding the standard non-parole period scheme to include additional 13 child sexual assault offences. [Department of Justice]
- Piloting special measures in child sexual assault trials to reduce trauma caused to a child when giving evidence. The special measures include pre-recording of a child's evidence and the use of Children's Champions (also known as witness intermediaries) to help children communicate with the court when giving evidence. [Department of Justice]
- Safe Home for Life reforms which focus on keeping families together where it is safe to do so and ensure that children and young people have a stable and safe environment in which to grow up. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Two new specialist District Court judges have been appointed to hear child sexual assault cases in order to improve access to justice for alleged child victims and reduce the trauma and stress they experience in court. [Department of Justice]
- Implement the It Stops Here – Standing together to end domestic and family violence in NSW reforms which aims to improve the way government agencies and non-government organisations respond to and prevent domestic and family violence across NSW. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Heads of Workplace Safety Capability Project – aims to reduce the number of work related injuries and fatalities to young workers aged 15-24 years by building the capability of principal contractors to assess and manage young workers, building the capability of workers, and developing targeted guidance material. [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- Reforms to protect children and young people from alcohol-related violence and from participating in alcohol-related violence – lock out and 3am cessation of alcohol service in Sydney CBD & Kings Cross and a state-wide 10pm restriction on take away alcohol sales. [Department

of Justice]

- NSW Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care – standards have been updated to provide a greater focus on achieving permanency for children and young people. [Office of the Children's Guardian]
- Children are educated on safe road use through the formal school curriculum as well as age-appropriate media campaigns. [Department of Transport]
- Improving access to the Safe Driver Course for Aboriginal and disadvantaged young learner drivers by providing the course for free. [Department of Transport]
- Working with bicycle-user organisations and training providers to promote bike safety and responsible cycling behaviour to young people. [Department of Transport]
- The Year 7 to 10 PDHPE syllabus includes DV identification and prevention. [Department of Education]
- The Prevention of Domestic Violence Toolkit includes signs and symptoms of abuse, support available, sample activities and Frequently Asked Questions. [Department of Education]
- Increase support into early adulthood for young people leaving out-of-home-care to address the high levels of homelessness, unemployment and incarceration and low levels of educational attainment. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Implement the Care Leavers Line – 1800-number and mailbox to obtain information and advice for those who are in or have left out-of-home-care. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- New funding of \$190 million over four years to reform the child protection and out-of-home-care systems through targeted early intervention and building on Safe Home for Life child protection reforms. This includes expansion in evidence-based intensive intervention programs targeting family preservation and restoration. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- New funding of \$370 million over four years to meet increased demand for out-of-home-care through funding additional out-of-home-care placements. [Department of Family and Community Services]

Other initiatives

- Review of child sexual assault offences to consolidate and simplify the current legislative framework. [Department of Justice]

- Implement Practice First, a model of child protection service delivery, which aims to increase caseworker time spent with families, reduce the number of children and young people being re-reported as being at risk of significant harm, and make children, families and other agencies part of the decision making process. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Ensure that child-related organisations and employers of children effectively implement child safe policies and practices. [Office of the Children's Guardian]
- Assist organisations that deliver out-of-home-care services to meet child-safe standards for care. [Office of the Children's Guardian]
- Promote safety of children and young people on public transport by continuing to train bus drivers in the safe carriage of school children and in violence prevention and conflict resolution. [Department of Transport]
- Assist young people to get home safely on Friday and Saturday nights by providing late night transport options in the city and Kings Cross. [Department of Transport]
- Continue to improve safety for children travelling in vehicles through testing and rating of child restraints and education about their proper installation and fitting. [Department of Transport]
- Continue to support young novice drivers to become safer drivers by enhancing the NSW Graduated Licensing Scheme (GLS) to align with the approved exemplar GLS model outlined in the Australian Graduated Licensing Scheme Policy Framework. [Department of Transport]
- Introduction of an escalating sanctions regime that applies significant penalties where alcohol is sold to minors on licensed premises to reduce access to alcohol by minors. [Department of Justice]
- Introduction of responsible supervision controls that provide clarity around the standards that apply where parents or guardians decide to allow their children to consume alcohol while recognising the increased risk of harm where minors consume alcohol. [Department of Justice]
- Workplace visits for businesses by a SafeWork NSW officer to work through any areas of concern with young people at the workplace. [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- Provide information and support about work, health and safety and workers compensation regulation to young people with disabilities transitioning from school, with NSW Disability Employment Services and Transition to Work Providers. [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- SafeWork NSW inspectors respond to all incidents involving workers under 18 years old who are transported to hospital via ambulance. [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- Safe internet and social media use by children and young people is the responsibility of all NSW Government agencies who use these mediums to interact with children and young people. It is also the responsibility of Service Providers and the Commonwealth Government, especially the Australian Communications and Media Authority. [All agencies]
- The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines reduce opportunities for crime by using design and place management principles. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Implement a safety campaign to prevent children falling out of windows, which includes the production and promotion of videos that provide simple tips on how to prevent falls from windows and balconies and easy step-by-step instructions on how to install window locks. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- The planning and regulatory system has controls in place to restrict the location of brothels and other restricted premises such as liquor shops ensuring they are located a safe distance from schools and other places designed for children [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Incorporate crime prevention strategies into the Building Code of Australia. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- The Office of Environment and Heritage Child Safe Policy fosters a safe, friendly and positive environment for children by promoting discussion of child safety among staff and volunteers and providing them with child safety training and support. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Deliver a safe and inspiring environment at Taronga and Western Plains Zoos by utilising highly qualified and trained staff and ensuring all facilities and programs are assessed from a risk perspective and involved in ongoing renewal. [Department of Planning and Environment]





outdoor play. WilderQuest teaches and builds enthusiasm for nature through play, rewards and experiences in national parks. [Department of Planning and Environment]

- Increase awareness of violence, abuse and neglect on health over time. [Ministry of Health]
- Improve identification and triage care for those at risk of harm. [Ministry of Health]
- Build capacity to appropriately respond to victims of violence, abuse and neglect. [Ministry of Health]
- Reduce the incidence and health impact of accidents, injuries and self-harm. [Ministry of Health]
- Identify the strengths and risk factors in each family during the antenatal and postnatal period and at 6 months of age and refer families at risk to the multidisciplinary team to determine the appropriate level of care - SAFESTART pathway, Supporting Families Early Policy; and child and family health responses including Sustaining NSW Families program for families at moderate risk of poor outcomes. [Ministry of Health]

Connect

Initiatives highlighted in the Plan

- Cadets programs with the NSW Rural Fire and NSW State Emergency Service provide students with an insight into fire safety and prevention and emergency services whilst developing practical life skills, knowledge and a general appreciation of community service and volunteerism. [Department of Justice]
- Plan and deliver healthy built environments through the incorporation of active living principles into infrastructure development, designing urban centres and housing to support physical activity and active transport, and providing accessible and adaptable open spaces. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Create in NSW is the NSW Government's Arts and Cultural Policy Framework and contains actions to support and increase young people's engagement in arts and culture. [Department of Justice]
- The Sydney Living Museums' Unlocking Heritage Program lets NSW primary school students from low socio-economic backgrounds and regional and rural schools experience the state's historic and cultural heritage. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) developed the WilderQuest program to nurture a love of nature in 5 to 12 year olds and convert screen time into

- The 500 Schools Planting Program in Western Sydney Parklands involves school children in environmental restoration programs to help restore the parklands vegetation. [Department of Planning and Environment]

- Assistance is provided to Aboriginal people and other disadvantaged communities to get into and stay in the NSW driver licensing system. [Department of Transport]

- Free entry for people under 16 years old to collecting State Cultural institutions. [Department of Justice]
- Ensure concessions for NSW public transport networks facilitate participation in school and tertiary education, including VET, apprenticeships and traineeships. [Department of Transport]
- The Community Partnership Action (COMPACT) program assists to protect young people and safeguard social cohesion against extremist hate, violence and division. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Regional Strategies include actions to support children and young people in their local areas, including:
 - developing local strategies to create flexible employment, housing and service delivery that responds to changing markets
 - creating integrated and well connected open space, sporting facilities recreational opportunities
 - long term planning for social infrastructure including schools, community facilities and health services
 - facilitating accessible centres and communities
 - supporting the delivery of greater housing choice in and near centres with existing services and
 - supporting improved public transport.
- Develop MyLocal – a web portal to provide information about local youth facilities and activities and community consultation. [Advocate for Children and Young People]
- Implementing the Aboriginal Community Land and Infrastructure Program to work with Aboriginal communities across the State to provide necessary infrastructure like roads and communication facilities to enhance connectedness of remote Aboriginal communities for faster and more reliable service delivery. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Develop a comprehensive package of community cohesion programs to build community resilience and social cohesion to protect young people from violent extremist influences. [Department of Family and Community Services]

- Committing an additional \$15 million in 2016-17 to support the Assisted School Travel Program to assist students with disability travel to and from school. [Department of Education]

Other initiatives

- Sydney Living Museums maintains and opens 12 museums to the public and offers education programs linked closely to the school curriculum to school children from Kindergarten to Year 12, and curated creative programs for families during school holidays. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- The Get Hooked...it's fun to fish program supports primary school students to gain practical skills and knowledge, encourages thinking about sustainable and responsible fishing, effects to habitat and the environment, and how their actions impact the marine environment. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Education programs run by the State Cultural Institutions such as the Sydney Opera House's Digital Creative Learning Program, the Art Gallery of NSW's range of education offerings for primary, secondary and tertiary students, and the learning programs from the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences and the Australian Museum. [Department of Justice]
- Establish a Committee of School Education Leaders including representatives from diverse groups to provide advice to the Countering Violent Extremism Council and the Minister on schools policies. [Department of Education]
- The Unity Grants program brings culturally diverse communities together to promote social cohesion and harmony. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- The Apartment Design Guide, which sets a benchmark for apartment design in Australia, promotes well designed, high quality apartment buildings based in communities surrounded by public transport, shops and services, and open spaces. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- The Standard Instrument Land Use Table has zone designations for areas where community facilities for recreational uses (including playgrounds) are permitted with consent. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- The Social Innovation Council is a non-government organisation (NGO)/government partnership focused on fostering innovation in the procurement of services from the NGO sector and delivery of services to customers. [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- ACYP will work with the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, the National Disability Insurance Agency and other key stakeholders to identify suitable indicators of the level of participation of children and young people with disability in social, community and civic life in NSW. [Advocate for Children and Young People and Department of Family and Community Services]
- Provide Aboriginal communities with alternative transport options that allow access to employment, education, recreation, medical services and social and cultural events. [Department of Transport]
- The Sydney Institute of Marine Science Discovery Centre provides a showcase of its wide range of research projects featuring the estuarine environment of Sydney Harbour and the NSW coastline. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Children and young people can participate in urban parklands community events including the Summer Series at Parramatta Park, as well as to engage with community based programs in the areas of interpretation, education and physical activities and exercise through natural and cultural heritage programs, online teaching resources, open space, sports fields and playgrounds. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Bush school at Centennial Parklands is a unique five week nature play program for children aged between three and five which gives them the chance to reconnect with nature. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Various school excursion experiences are available for primary and secondary students at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney; the Australian Botanic Garden, Mt Annan; the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah and Australian Plantbank. These excursions are linked to the school curriculum and cover a broad range of topics including areas of science, history and mathematics. Virtual excursions are also available for students which are linked to the national curriculum. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Various programs targeted at school aged students at Taronga and Western Plains Zoo include:
 - Taronga ZoosnooZ overnight program allows school aged students to experience an exclusive night tour of the zoos including animal encounters that focus on connections with wildlife and people, and a morning behind-the-scenes experience with the zoo keepers
 - Taronga Zoo Adventures is an educational holiday program where children aged between five and ten are taken on an exciting zoo journey
 - Taronga Project In-situ program works with both primary and secondary students in communities of schools. The young people become the experts on a locally endangered species and become the change agents for driving sustainable behaviour that will help the animal
 - The Zoomobile outreach program targets students who face challenges attending the zoos. These challenges may relate to distance, economic factors, incarceration or health issues. The Zoomobile provides hands-on live animal encounters with curriculum linked, biodiversity themed workshops to students
 - Taronga Dreamnight is provided to children facing health challenges and their families. Participants are

invited after-hours and free of charge for a magical and fun night. All staff volunteer their time and deliver unique and exciting experiences. [Department of Planning and Environment]

- The Sustainable Schools website is a hub of resources and information for school communities interested in protecting their local environment. A wide range of resources are available for schools and their communities in the area of energy, water, waste, biodiversity and nature, climate change, transport and food gardens. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- NPWS provides visitor services and school excursions in national parks to encourage children to spend time in nature. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Urban parklands amenities provide high quality open space, sports fields and playgrounds which enable children and young people to engage in physical activities and exercise. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Promote Youth Source and Youth Point – online directories and apps for Youth Services. [Ministry of Health]
- Promote use of “Who Cares?” – Young Carer’s App. [Ministry of Health]

Respect

Initiatives highlighted in the Plan

- The establishment of Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests enables Aboriginal people and communities across NSW to reclaim, revitalise and maintain their traditional languages. [Department of Education]
- Behaviour Code for Students in NSW Public Schools – a comprehensive and inclusive whole-school approach to positive behaviour for learning. Providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for students through a clear understanding of expectations of student behaviour. [Department of Education]
- Address the educational and social aspirations of Aboriginal children and young people living in a number of complex and diverse communities in NSW through the Connected Communities initiative. [Department of Education]
- Service NSW takes a customer-focused approach to delivering transactional services such as drivers’ licenses via a one stop shop – online, face to face or by phone. [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- Positive Behaviour for Learning, a teaching and learning approach to support the development of skills needed by students to meet NSW Public Schools’ high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour. [Department of Education]

- Delivering respectful relationships education programs. [Department of Education, Department of Justice]
- The Multicultural Policies and Services Program (MPSP) helps ensure that all members of society are able to access government services and programs by encouraging agencies to embed multicultural planning within their own agency-specific strategic planning. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Roll out of culturally responsive practice training in the NGO sector to develop the cultural competence of the NGO workforce. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Address communication barriers and issues regarding access to programs and services for youth victims, witnesses and offenders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. [Department of Justice]
- Improve the capacity of schools and teachers to meet the diverse educational needs of students with disability through the implementation of Every Student, Every School. [Department of Education]
- Develop a Quality Assessors program to train children and young people to review services and provide feedback directly to service providers and government. [Advocate for Children and Young People]
- Revolutionise the IT system that FACS caseworkers use by implementing ChildStory to enable children and young people to have access to more information about themselves and their circumstances. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Embed Patchwork as a standard web-based practice tool amongst frontline workers to support practitioners collaborate and coordinate services around vulnerable children and young people. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Enhance government and non-government service provider skills to proactively and respectfully engage with children and young people through targeted training. [Advocate for Children and Young People]



Other initiatives

- Embed the Aboriginal Cultural Inclusion Framework into organisational policy and program design in partnership with Aboriginal people (including children and young people). [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Provide a range of training options for staff to support students with disability, including training to understand obligations to students under the Disability Standards for Education 2005 and professional learning courses which extend teachers' knowledge and skills in responding to diverse learning and support needs of students with disability. [Department of Education]
- Build relationships and establish effective engagement systems for the future in the NSW disability sector by bringing together key influencers in the sector. [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- Multicultural Plan 2015-2017 – is Better Regulation Division's commitment to ensuring that all our services are easily accessible to people from diverse, linguistic, religious and cultural backgrounds. [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- Customer experience program to be developed (State Insurance Regulatory Division and Safe Work NSW). [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- Better Regulation Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Framework – bringing together the various activities and plans across Better Regulation that communicate/promote the Division's commitment to recognising diversity in all its forms. [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- Stakeholder Engagement Framework – building purposeful and coordinated engagement initiatives across the Better Regulation Division to ensure diversity of input and shared decision making [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- The Taronga Zoo customer service charter ensures that all staff and volunteers treat young people with dignity and respect. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Improve the way services are provided for children and young people with disability (and their families). [Department of Family and Community Services]
- The Supported Students, Successful Students initiative provides additional investment to implement healing and wellbeing services to support Aboriginal students, their families and staff, and assist in building community capacity. There is also additional support for refugee students and their families who have experienced trauma. [Department of Education]
- Deliver best practice care as close to home as possible. [Ministry of Health]
- Deliver integrated, connected healthcare. [Ministry of Health]
- Provide inclusive, family-centred, culturally respectful and

age-appropriate care. [Ministry of Health]

- Promote use of the Youth Friendly Checklist and other tools to improve youth friendliness of health services. [Ministry of Health]
- Youth Health Training Initiative to build capacity among health professionals and others working with young people. [Ministry of Health]
- Build cross-sector workforce capacity and promote greater use of psychosocial assessment for young people using health services. [Ministry of Health]

Opportunity

Initiatives highlighted in the Plan

- The NSW Transition to School Statement summarises the child's strengths, interests and approaches to learning and suggests ways these can be supported. [Department of Education]
- Work and Development Orders (WDOs) allow eligible young people to apply to reduce their fines through unpaid work or by attending certain courses or treatment. [Department of Justice]
- Fee-free pre-apprenticeship and pre-traineeship training for 2,000 young people supports school leavers to transition to further training. Fee-free scholarships for 200,000 concession-eligible 15-30 year olds supports them to undertake government-subsidised vocational education and training certificate courses, with priority for disadvantaged young people. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- VET can help young people who are disengaged from school by offering a comprehensive focus on applied vocational learning and access to a wide range of vocational pathways in skill shortage areas. This improves options for employment, especially for young people in rural and remote areas. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Opportunity Hubs provide Aboriginal young people with the confidence and knowledge to follow a supported pathway through school and between secondary school and further education, training and employment. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Jobs for NSW supports the creation of new jobs across the State, with thirty percent of the Jobs for NSW fund will be dedicated to regional job creation. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Significant investment in a NSW Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan supporting schools in some of the state's most disadvantaged communities to target early intervention strategies addressing students' literacy and numeracy needs. [Department of Education]
- Increase participation in preschool programs for four and five year old children in the year before school through the new Long Day Care National Partnership Grants

Program. [Department of Education]

- Provide students with opportunities to learn skills for life such as managing finances, writing a resume and raising a family. The review of the PDHPE curriculum may identify opportunities for strengthening the skills children and young people need for life in addition to integrating real life examples into appropriate school courses where applicable [The Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES)]
- Expand the Youth Scholarship Program for young people living in social housing or on the NSW Housing Register to complete their HSC or VET equivalent. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Provide viable pathways into education, training and employment for young people in regional areas including through the provision of career mentoring support, work experience, career transition planning and brokering pathways to training and employment. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Reduce the gap in educational achievement between rural and urban schools, through the Rural and Remote Education Blueprint for Action. [Department of Education]
- Expansion and development of the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan to reach more students across the state with early, tailored intervention and explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy from kindergarten to Year 12. [Department of Education]
- Committing \$100 million over two years to the new Smart, Skilled and Hired initiative that will target the State's highest areas of youth unemployment and respond to the high demands for skilled workers in the construction and disability sectors through mentoring and incentives for early school leavers and at-risk groups. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Substantial investment in new schools and school upgrades. [Department of Education]
- A new Sydney School of Entrepreneurship will be established to bring together high performing students from all disciplines to learn, collaborate and experiment as part of their undergraduate degree or TAFE course. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]

Other initiatives

- Up2now is an ongoing learning portfolio website that allows secondary students to record, organise and share evidence of their extracurricular activities to support employer recognition of skills and experience attained through volunteering. [BOSTES]
- Develop industry-based agreements with key industry groups and implement initiatives to improve employment and job retention outcomes for Aboriginal people. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Extend the Jobs Action Plan until 2019, which provides payroll tax rebates to employers to take on additional employees. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- The Small Business Employment Incentive Scheme provides grants to small businesses that do not pay payroll tax for additional employees they take on. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- ACYP working together with the NSW Cross-Border Commissioner to identify and act on opportunities to align legislation, regulation and policies with neighbouring jurisdictions to ensure that government agency and NGO activity and programs more effectively meet the needs of children and young people in border areas.
- Provide supports to help young people with disability gain employment after leaving school. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Small Biz Connect delivers quality small business advice through an extensive network of mobile Small Biz Connect advisors. Through the program a small business can get advice on managing their small business, access to face-to-face support, and assistance to develop key business skills. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- The Jobs of Tomorrow Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for students undertaking specified qualifications in technology and growth jobs. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Increase the profile of agriculture and biosecurity careers in schools. The new program will put agriculture and biosecurity on the learning agenda for the State's primary and secondary school students, and help students consider a future career in agriculture. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Facilitate artists in residency programs to build support for Creative Arts Disciplines. [Arts NSW and Department of Education]
- Peer literacy tutoring course for Year 9 to 11 secondary school students who wish to develop the skills and knowledge to work as a volunteer peer literacy tutor. They support students from Year 5 to 8 in reading as part of a whole-school approach to improving literacy outcomes. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Smart and Skilled reform of the NSW vocational education and training system, providing eligible students with government-subsidised vocational education and training up to and including Certificate III and government funding for higher-level courses (Certificate IV and above) in targeted priority areas. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- VET Programs for Secondary School Students provides a broad range of industry based, Vocational Education

and Training (VET) courses that contribute to their Higher School Certificate (HSC). [Department of Education]

- School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT) for students, which can be completed as part of their HSC. TAFE NSW is one of the external providers delivering the formal training component of this program. [Department of Education and Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Support and fund workplace learning for government school students who enrol in a vocational education and training course as part of their HSC. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- TAFE delivered HSC VET (TVET) courses give students a wide range of curriculum choices and transition to post-school pathways, including nationally recognised qualifications in the Australian Qualifications Framework. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Year 10 equivalent of secondary education – Completion of a VET course approved by the Minister for Education as the equivalent of Year 10 of secondary education. School students are able to transfer to VET after the end of Year 9, for an AQF Certificate II qualification, with approval from the school principal and Institute Director. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Provide school students who are unable to participate in formal school education for social, cultural or other reasons with opportunities to complete their education through VET. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- The Parramatta Park Trust partners with like agencies to provide vocational training opportunities to young people engaged with programs such as the Green Army. These programs provide vocational skills to young people interested in environmental management work. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Provide young people with on the job training for zoo keeping at The Taronga Training Institute, which provides accredited training in animal studies, captive animals and tourism. Taronga conducts careers days and provides traineeships and internships for various roles – ranging from trades to tour guiding and keepers. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Provide work experience opportunities for NSW school students in Years 10, 11 and 12 at Taronga Western Plains Zoo. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Partnership programs at Taronga and Western Plains Zoo aim to improve children's communication and interpersonal skills and self-esteem. Program graduates can enrol in a new Taronga Training Institute course, Certificate I Tourism – Australian Indigenous Culture which has been developed to provide at-risk teenagers with job skills and achievable pathway opportunities for further study and future employment:

- Burbangana – Taronga Zoo – works with the Intensive



Support Services team to support NSW's most disadvantaged and at-risk youth [Department of Family and Community Services]

- Walanmarra – Taronga Western Plains Zoo – focuses on primary aged Aboriginal children in foster care. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Taronga Western Plains Zoo 'Makin' TRACKS' program provides Dubbo's at-risk youth with training and skills in carpentry, animal handling, hospitality and customer service. The program aims to break the cycle of disadvantage and improve learning outcomes. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Streamline the planning and approval processes for child care services to facilitate the delivery of child care centres to ensure families have access to a range of child care services. [Department of Planning and Environment and Department of Education]
- Provide more out of school hours care and co-locating child care services on school sites, which will assist children in their transition through school life by integrating the range of services meeting children's care and educational needs on single locations. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Implement the NSW Carers Strategy 2014-19, including supporting more school aged young carers to successfully transition from school to further education and employment. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Senior Pathways in Secondary Education supports schools to have a teacher trained to work as a Transition Adviser (usually 0.4) to support targeted students in their school to be given additional support to assist them make a quality transition through school and on to further training and employment. [Department of Education]
- Provide careers advisers and the School to Work program and resources to support government schools to provide quality career and transition support for all students. [Department of Education]

- Graduate programs and internships, including:

- The Public Service Commission whole-of-government graduate program seeks to increase the number of talented young people entering the NSW public sector. [Department of Premier and Cabinet]
- The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Graduate Program employs three university graduates on a temporary basis for two years, and has partnered with not-for-profit CareerTrackers for Indigenous internships with undergraduates in science. This provides employment pathways for EPA graduate roles. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Young people can engage with cultural heritage management research programs through periodic urban parklands internships at Parramatta Park. [Department of Planning and Environment]

- Youth Pathways to Employment, Education and Training (PEET) delivers a transition program for young offenders to help address barriers to further study and training. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development and Department of Justice]
- TAFE NSW Institutes provide options for young people to complete their general education in a 'non-school' environment. Students can enrol in these school equivalent programs focusing on language, literacy and numeracy, employability skills to prepare for work or further study. [Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development]
- Transition young people with disability to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Ensure disability specific employment programs are recognised and continue to be supported under the NDIS. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Identify children who need extra support. [Ministry of Health]
- Intervene early to prevent poor health, growth and development for children at risk. [Ministry of Health]
- Engage with young people at risk of poor health or absence from school. [Ministry of Health]

Wellbeing

Initiatives highlighted in the Plan

- Provide an additional 236 counsellor and psychologist positions and deliver flexible funding for wellbeing services to help improve students' wellbeing through the Supported Students Successful Students initiative in NSW public schools. [Department of Education]
- Homeless Youth Assistance Program funds non-government organisations to deliver support and accommodation models for unaccompanied children and young people aged 12 to 15 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Providing affordable and transitional housing for homeless youth with 72 properties established with the capacity to house 143 young people in Coffs Harbour, Kempsey and Port Macquarie, and Sydney Metro and 8 new properties in Liverpool. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Rural Residential Rehabilitation Services – Juvenile Justice funds services in Dubbo and Coffs Harbour to provide comprehensive treatment program for 13-18 year old clients who have alcohol and drug related problems. [Department of Justice]
- Targeting health services to better treat and protect young people from intentional self-harm, psychosocial disorders and suicidal behaviour. [Ministry of Health]
- Healthy Children Initiative programs in primary schools and early childhood services' to promote healthy eating and active living. [Ministry of Health]
- 21 Networked Specialist Centres established to directly link the surrounding schools and families with government and non-government specialist health and community services. [Department of Education]
- Providing crime prevention and diversion programs and community services to help young people at risk. [Department of Justice]
- Provide a school in each juvenile justice centre across NSW to enable young people to re-engage with learning and/or continue their educational pattern of study while in custody and plan for their transition from custody to the community. [Department of Education]
- Investing significantly in school resourcing reform to address diverse cultural, social and economic factors which can contribute to children and young people experiencing disadvantage in their school education. [Department of Education]
- Committing an additional \$40 million over four years for youth homelessness initiatives that adopt an investment approach and prioritise young people leaving out-of-home-care with high risk of homelessness. [Department of Family and Community Services]



of Family and Community Services]

- Expand the Youth Private Rental Subsidy to additional locations for eligible 16 – 24 year olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to help them to find affordable accommodation, sustain their private rental tenancy, and access educational and employment opportunities. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Funding enhancement to youth crisis services to increase intake options for young people and better case management through improved support ratios will provide better paths to independence in the medium to long term which includes young people returning to their families. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- All public schools implement the new Wellbeing Framework for Schools during 2015-2016 requiring them to explicitly incorporate strategies for improving student engagement and wellbeing into school planning. [Department of Education]
- Targeted Earlier Intervention Reform Program – redesign the service system to ensure that families receive the support they need and do not reach crisis point. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Statewide expansion of the schools-based Getting on Track in Time (Got It!) specialist mental health early intervention program for children aged 5-8 years with conduct problems and their families. [Ministry of Health]
- Expand Youth on Track to three new areas. This program is an early intervention scheme to engage young people and their families in casework and services that are targeted at addressing their offending-related needs. [Department of Justice]
- Committing \$12 million in 2016-17 for new and existing programs for children and adolescents to tackle obesity. [Ministry of Health]
- Committing additional funding to drug and alcohol programs to help young people by intervening early and addressing drug addiction. [Ministry of Health]

Other initiatives

- Specialist perinatal and infant mental health services in local health districts. [Ministry of Health]
- Implement the Mums and Kids Matter Program which delivers mental health and tertiary parenting services for mothers with mental illness and their children. [Ministry of Health]
- Additional School-Link Coordinators to support the Department of Education's Networked Specialist Centres. [Ministry of Health]
- Youth Mental Health First Aid training for frontline community-based youth workers. [Ministry of Health]
- Supporting the Healthy Active Lives (HeAL) declaration to ensure physical health needs are prioritised in young people with early psychosis. [Ministry of Health]
- Additional psychosocial support services for young people aged 16-24 with severe mental illness and their families through Youth Community Living Support Services. [Ministry of Health]
- Project Air for Schools will assist school staff to effectively identify, respond, support and refer school students with severe and complex mental health concerns (particularly personality disorder) and manage challenging behaviours including self-harm. [Ministry of Health]
- Work with schools to strengthen the interface between the education supports provided by schools for students whose learning is impacted by disability and specialist disability supports that will be provided through the National Disability Insurance Scheme. [Department of Education]
- NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge – encouraging more NSW students to become involved in sport and physical activity, grow in confidence and enjoy healthier lifestyles. [Department of Education]
- The State Environmental Planning Policy (Affordable Rental Housing) 2009 was introduced to increase the supply and diversity of affordable rental and social housing in the state. It facilitates low cost and affordable housing types such as group homes, fonzie flats, granny flats as well as an increased percentage of social housing in new developments. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- The NSW Data Analytics Centre facilitates data sharing between agencies to inform more efficient, strategic, whole-of-government evidence based decision making. [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- Support validated programs aimed at developing skills and opportunities for young people, including those experiencing homelessness, for example YHunger. [Ministry of Health]
- Improve access to high-quality, woman-centred care from early pregnancy. [Ministry of Health]
- Improve screening, health checks and immunisation rates, including promotion of the Personal Health Record (Blue Book). [Ministry of Health]
- Identify positive indicators of children and young people's wellbeing. [Ministry of Health]
- Improve the availability of healthy food in a range of settings, including sport and recreation centres; mental health facilities and units; healthy eating in school programs and activities; and in Aboriginal communities. [Ministry of Health]
- Counselling Pilot in Juvenile Justice Centres – Victims Services have partnered with Juvenile Justice to deliver counselling services within Juvenile Justice centres aimed at reducing the trauma associated with prior histories of victimisation. [Department of Justice]
- Victims Services delivers a number of evidence-based interventions to reduce trauma and victimisation amongst

children and young people. [Department of Justice]

- The NSW Police Force focuses on reducing the supply and demand of drugs and Police Citizens Youth Clubs works to reduce harm to young drug users. [Department of Justice]
- Implement the Youth Hope program – a pilot of innovative early intervention services including mentoring, to enable more vulnerable children and young people aged 9 - 15 years to stay safely at home, to increase their engagement in education and to be able to access appropriate support and resources. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Environment Protection Authority policies and programs to reduce exposure to air pollution are particularly beneficial for children and young people and people with pre-existing disease who have a higher risk of adverse health impacts from air pollution than the general population. Guidance and regulatory tools are used to manage the community impacts of excessive noise, which been linked to reduced school performance. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- NSW Healthy Eating Active Living Strategy 2013 – 2018. [Ministry of Health]
- NSW Tobacco Strategy 2012 – 2017. [Ministry of Health]
- Drug and alcohol information is available through the YourRoom website, Drug Info at Your Library and the Alcohol and Other Drug Information Service (ADIS). [Ministry of Health]
- Community Drug Action Teams deliver education, information and skills building in local communities. [Ministry of Health]
- Boost community capacity to pursue good health. [Ministry of Health]
- Improve health literacy. [Ministry of Health]
- Act early to help children with chronic health conditions. [Ministry of Health]
- Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Services. [Ministry of Health]
- Building Strong Foundations for Aboriginal Children Families and Communities. [Ministry of Health]
- Universal Early Child Health Services commencing with Universal Health Home Visiting to all families. [Ministry of Health]
- Supporting Families Early Policy and child and family health responses including Sustaining NSW Families Program. [Ministry of Health]
- NSW STI Strategy and NSW HIV strategy. [Ministry of Health]
- Implement and evaluate the NSW Mental Health reforms. [Ministry of Health]
- Improve and promote Link2Home service - statewide

homelessness information and referral telephone service. [Ministry of Health]

- Keeping Health In Mind, Mental Health First Aid, Sticky Stuff and PASH. [Ministry of Health]
- Divert young offenders from custody through a hierarchy of sanctions, including police warnings, cautions and Youth Justice Conferencing (YJC). [Department of Justice]
- Provide Youth Justice Conferencing and implement services and programs that reduce re-offending, increase young offenders' capacity to re-integrate back into their community and provide early intervention to prevent young people becoming entrenched in the justice system. [Department of Justice]
- The Joint Support Program (JSP) helps young people under Juvenile Justice supervision with services such as: crisis accommodation, long term accommodation, family intervention, employer placement and support, and casework support. [Department of Justice]
- The case management process for young people under the supervision of Juvenile Justice is based on a risk needs responsivity model in which the individual needs of the young person are central to the case plan and the intervention. [Department of Justice]
- Out of Home Care Health Pathway Program. [Ministry of Health]

Voice

Initiatives highlighted in the Plan

- Enabling students to have a voice at all levels and providing student leadership opportunities for students through the Wellbeing Framework for Schools. [Department of Education]
- The Tell Them From Me Survey student survey is a measure of student voice that provides schools with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and student experiences of effective teaching practices to inform school priorities. [Department of Education]
- Supporting children and young people to make a complaint if they are unhappy about the way they have been treated by a NSW Government agency or a community service organisation. [Department of Premier and Cabinet]
- The Youth Opportunities Program and Youth Frontiers Program engage children and young people in their community to lead and participate in a range of community development activities. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- The online publication The Point Magazine gives young people and communities a voice on issues impacting on social cohesion. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Recognition of young volunteers



through the Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program. [Department of Family and Community Services]

- Strategies to target input from children and young people in district and regional planning, including workshops, youth forums and engaging with youth advocacy groups. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Embed participation with children and young people in government consultations. [All agencies]
- Involve children and young people in the design and delivery of services that meet their needs within government and in contracted services, including those with disability and from disadvantaged backgrounds [All agencies]
- Youth arts roundtable to provide young people with an opportunity to voice their ideas for improving arts and cultural participation and support. [Department of Justice]
- Maximise benefits and establish strong links between existing and new youth advisory groups and networks, such as the NSW Youth Advisory Council and the Multicultural Youth Network. [Advocate for Children and Young People and Department of Family and Community Services]
- Geography "Lesson Plans" on urban and regional planning for students in Years 7 and 8 will encourage young people to be aware of and understand the natural and built environments in which they live, and give them the knowledge and skills to play an active and positive role in their communities both now and in the future. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Through the National Disability Insurance Scheme, children and young people with disability will be empowered to have choice and control over their lives and the supports they receive. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Implement the second NSW Volunteering Strategy to better recruit, support and recognise volunteers. [Department of Family and Community Services]

Other initiatives

- Through the Local Decision Making program Aboriginal communities will gain more control of government services in their communities, moving along a pathway of self-governance and building management skills, decision making power and authority. [Department of Education]
- Initiatives to engage young people in local decision

making including the Community Consultation Project, the school planning process, and the School Excellence policy. [Department of Education]

- Provide training for teachers to support their obligations to consult with students with disability and their parents/carers about the provision of adjustments to support their access and participation at school. [Department of Education]
- Service Reform – development of a community engagement platform to support consultation with the community. [Department of Finance, Services and Innovation]
- Host the annual multicultural youth symposium IDEATION. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Investigate how engagement with children and young people can be achieved as part of ongoing work on district and regional planning. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Exhibition of draft plans, policies and strategies for the wider community, including children and young people, to provide feedback. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Young people are encouraged to apply for membership on National Parks and Wildlife Service regional advisory committees. These committees provide an important forum for community input into local National Parks and Wildlife Service decision-making, and provide advice on policies, plans and activities such as regional pest management strategies and plans of management. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Convene and support the Multicultural Youth Network and include representation of young people with disabilities. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Convene and support the Young People's Advisory Committee for Youth Week in NSW. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Urban Parklands consultations – Children have the opportunity to be involved in decision making through consultation on facility development such as new playground developments. [Department of Planning and Environment]
- Give young people a voice by reserving two places on the Multicultural NSW Advisory Board for young people under the age of 25 years. [Department of Family and Community Services]
- Schools are encouraged to include student members in their career and transition team. [Department of Education]
- Taronga YATZ (Youth at the Zoo) youth volunteer program develops significant job ready skills that have helped many young people gain employment both inside and outside of Taronga. YATZ members help with a range of activities from animal husbandry, community conservation campaigns, holiday programs, overnight programs and fundraising events. [Department of Planning and Environment]



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Voice



Safe



Connect



Wellbeing



Respect



Opportunity