# Peer Researcher Information

The Shire of Ashburton is developing a new **Youth Strategy**. The aim of this Strategy is to better understand what is important to young people and identify what we need to do to make the communities where you live, work and play, the best places possible for young people over the next few years.

We want to talk with lots of young people to find out what actions to focus on and we want other young people to help us with this. We are looking for **eight young people** aged **16 to 25**, who live, work, study, or attend organisations in the Shire to be peer researchers. We ideally want to select **two young people** from each of the **four Towns**: Onslow, Pannawonica, Paraburdoo and Tom Price.

## What you will do as a peer researcher

As a **peer researcher**, you will **help us design a youth survey,** vox pop **interviews** and **youth workshops** and give us advice on how to promote all of these to young people. You will go out into the community and each **survey young people aged 12 to 25** and conduct a small number of ‘vox pop’ style **interviews**. We will provide you with training on how to do this.

It is a unique opportunity to develop your experience and skills as a **changemaker** in your local community, as well as help the Shire understand the issues that are important to young people.

## Your commitment

As a peer researcher you will need to **commit** to each phase of the project including training, co-design, survey delivery, interviews, and debriefing. There are **three key sessions** you will need to attend (listed below), and the fourth session is optional:

* Training & co-design session (in person) – Saturday 10th September, 10am to 4pm
* Training & co-design session (online) – Wednesday 14th September 5pm to 7.30pm
* Consultation de-brief (online) – Wednesday 19th October, 5pm – 7.30pm
* Final young changemaker workshop – week of 7th November (TBD) - optional

The survey and vox pop delivery phase will run from **15th September to the 16th October** and you will need to gather **30 surveys** from young people in that time and hold **two to three interviews**.

The aim is to run the **first training session** in person in Tom Price and travel and accommodation will be provided to you. However, we will aim to be as **flexible as possible**, should things arise that mean you need to participate online (i.e. needing to isolate, being a close contact etc.)

## What do you receive as peer researcher?

As a peer researcher you **will receive $600 for your work** if you attend all training sessions, deliver the full number of surveys and interviews. You will be paid $200 on delivery of the first 15 surveys, $200 for the next 15 surveys and $200 after you hold the interviews and attend the de-brief session. If you can’t deliver all the surveys, or attend the final session, then this will be adjusted accordingly.

We will provide you with **training on a variety of topics**, including safe and effective consultation, managing difficult discussions and confidentiality. You will receive food and drinks at all of the training sessions. We can also provide a certificate of at the end of your work, and you are able to list this role on your resume.

## Who is eligible to be a peer researcher?

To be eligible you must meet all the following criteria:

* Be between 16 and 25 years old (when you apply)
* Live, work, study, volunteer or attend organisations in the Shire of Ashburton
* Have an interest in issues that face young people and a willingness to share ideas
* Be able to confidently communicate with young people from a variety of backgrounds
* Be able to commit to all the training sessions and deliver surveys/interviews in the timeframe outlined above
* Be willing to apply for a Working with Children Check if you are aged 18 or over (the application fee will be paid for, and we will help you with this process)
* Have parent/guardian consent to participate if you are under the age of 18

## How to apply

To apply to be a peer researcher, you must complete the application form and email it to lianda@yacwa.org.au or complete the form at the survey link by **Sunday 28 August.**

**You can have someone help you fill out the application** (such as a youth worker, teacher, coach, elder, family member).

The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) are running this process on behalf of the Shire of Ashburton. If you have any questions, please contact Lianda Gibson on 9227 5440 or email lianda@yacwa.org.au. Lianda can also take your application over the phone it that’s easier for you.

*\* Please note, you will be advised by Friday 2nd September if you have been successful, and you will need to be available for the first training session on Saturday 10th September.*

## ‘Nothing about us without us’

We want the peer research team to be representative of young people who represent the **diversity of young people** in the Shire of Ashburton community and have a range of contacts and networks. We strongly encourage applications from people of colour, those who identify as LGBTIQA+, people living with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally diverse, refugee and migrant backgrounds to apply.