Media Release

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**Shire of Ashburton Youth Strategy engagement begins**

The Shire of Ashburton is developing a new Youth Strategy in partnership with the Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA).

The aim of this Strategy is to better understand what is important to young people across the Shire and identify what is needed to enhance each town and ensure it is the best place for young people to live, work and play over the next few years.

Over the coming months, YACWA will engage with:

* Young people aged 12 to 25 who live, work, study, volunteer or spend time in the Shire of Ashburton;
* Parents and caregivers of young people;
* Groups and organisations (including businesses) that work with or have a connection to young people; and
* Shire staff and elected members

In the initial stages of engagement, YACWA is looking for eight young people aged 16 to 25, who live, work, study and in Onslow, Tom Price, Paraburdoo and Pannawonica to be peer researchers.

Shire of Ashburton President Kerry White said developing the Youth Strategy provided a unique opportunity to engage with the youth in the Shire.

“The development of a Youth Strategy provides the opportunity for the Shire to engage with youth across all towns and understand how we can aid each community in the provision of events, services and initiatives that reach the demographic,” she said.

“I encourage anyone aged 16-25 who would like to help shape the future of our community to apply for the opportunity to become a peer researcher.”

Peer researchers will aid in the design a youth survey, conduct vox pop interviews, take part in youth workshops and provide advice on how to promote all of these to their cohort. All selected peer researchers will be provided with full training

To apply for the opportunity to be a peer researcher on behalf of YACWA, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/PRAshburton](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PRAshburton)

For more information, contact Partnerships Relations Officer Elaine Olsen via Elaine.Olsen@ashburton.wa.gov.au