

NEEDS ASSESMENT FOR

YOUNG PEOPLE (12-24 YEARS)

IN THE MANLY LGA

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1.0 DEFINITION

The Department of Local Government identifies the target group of youth in their Social and Community Planning Guidelines to mean any person aged between 12 and 24 years of age.

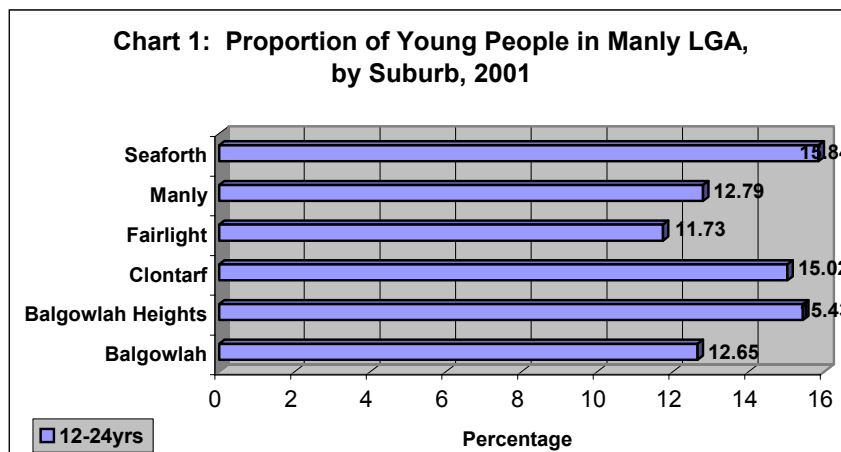
2.0 DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2001 Census, there are 5048 young people, aged 12-24 years in Manly LGA, which is 13.43 % of the total Manly population. Table 1 shows that in comparison to the Northern Beaches (15.15%) and Sydney (17.71%), Manly LGA has a smaller proportion of those aged 12-24 years.

Table 1: Number of Young People 12-24 years in Manly, Northern Beaches and Sydney, 2001						
	Manly		Northern Beaches		Sydney	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
12 years	340	0.90	2425	1.11	52986	1.33
13	316	0.84	2404	1.10	52187	1.31
14	317	0.84	2503	1.14	51467	1.29
15	330	0.88	2458	1.12	53033	1.33
16	307	0.82	2435	1.11	53554	1.34
17	321	0.85	2580	1.18	53532	1.34
12-17 yrs	1931	5.14	14805	6.75	316759	7.92
18	355	0.94	2552	1.16	55002	1.38
19	401	1.07	2671	1.22	55878	1.40
20	413	1.10	2673	1.22	56665	1.42
21	447	1.19	2584	1.18	55330	1.38
22	501	1.33	2667	1.22	55333	1.38
23	462	1.23	2563	1.17	55914	1.40
24	538	1.43	2688	1.23	56985	1.43
18-24 yrs	3117	8.29	18398	8.39	391107	9.78
Total	5048	13.43	33203	15.15	707866	17.71

Chart 1 compares Manly's proportion of young people (12-24 years), by suburb (of the total suburb's population), with following trends evident:

- Balgowlah Heights, Clontarf and Seaforth have the highest percentage of young people, with over 15% of the total population.
- Seaforth has the lowest proportion of young people with 11.73 %.



- Even though Clontarf has the lowest number of young people in comparison to other suburbs, it has the third highest proportion of youth.
- Also, whilst Manly has the highest number of youth, it has the third lowest proportion of young people in comparison to other suburbs.

Table 2: Number of Young People by Suburb					
	12-13 years	14-17 years	18-21 years	22-24 years	Total
Balgowlah	115	206	245	226	792
Balgowlah Heights	99	171	145	74	489
Clontarf	50	81	64	55	250
Fairlight	60	167	206	209	642
Manly	146	324	638	801	1909
Seaforth	186	326	318	136	966
Total	656	1275	1616	1501	5048

Chart 2 indicates that:

- The 12-13 and 14-17 year age groups seem to be most represented in Seaforth, Clontarf and Balgowlah Heights.
- The 18-21 year age group seems to be most represented in Seaforth, Manly and Balgowlah Heights.
- Manly has the highest proportion of the 22-24 year age group, but the lowest proportion of the 12-13 year age group.

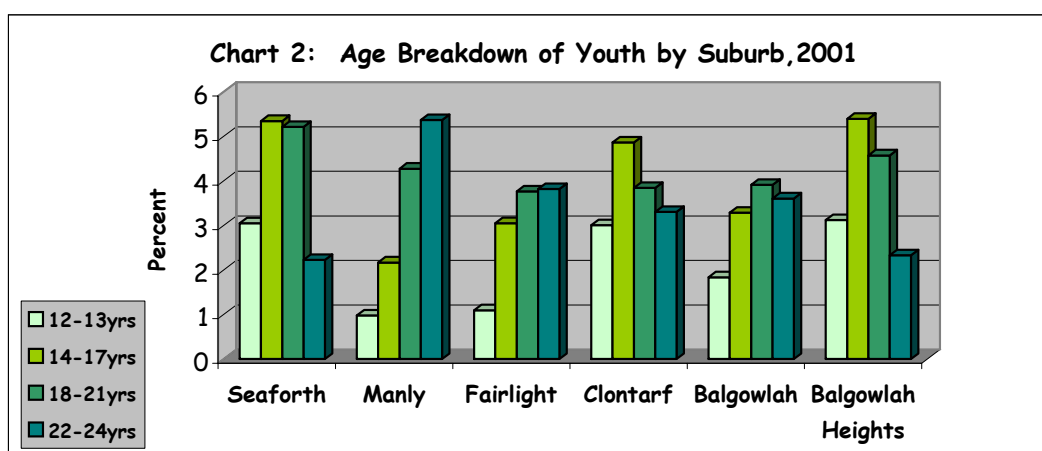


Chart 3 and Table 3 reflect the changes over time, in the proportion of young people in Manly LGA:

- There has been a dramatic decline in the proportion of young people, aged 12-24 years in the Manly LGA. The total population in this age group has declined by 3.4% from 1991 to 2001, as seen in the previous Graph.
- Even though the total population of Manly LGA has increased, the proportion of this age group has declined.

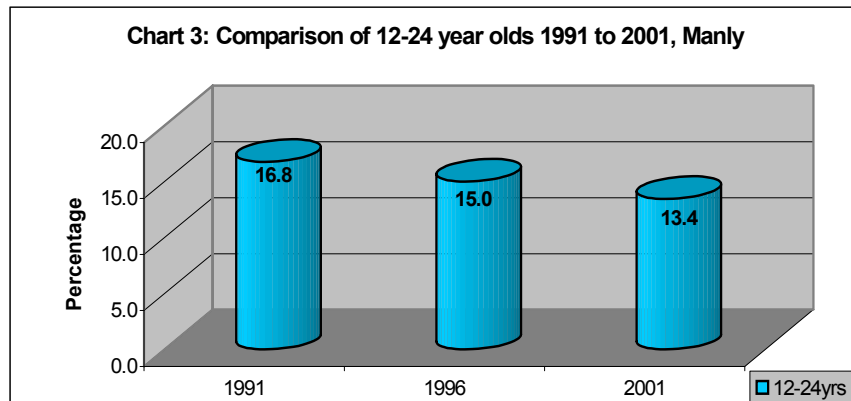
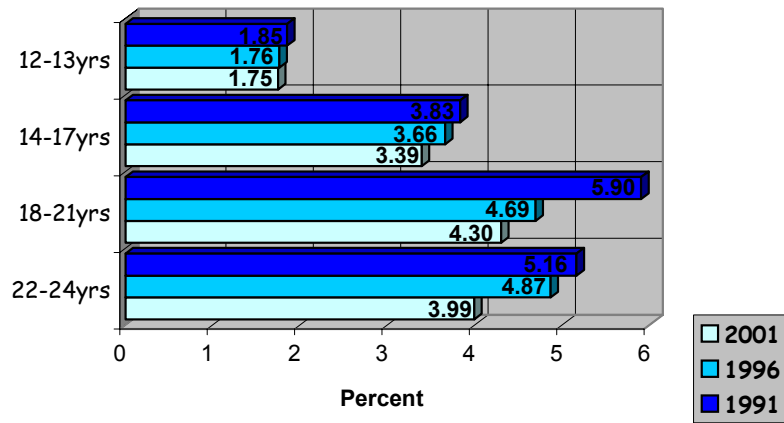


Table 3: Comparison of Youth, Manly LGA - 1991, 1996 and 2001			
	Total Population	Number of 12-24yr olds	Percentage of 12-24yr olds
1991	34895	5845	16.8
1996	36265	5433	15.0
2001	37585	5048	13.4

Chart 4 represents the changes over time, by age breakdown, showing:

- The percentage of young people aged 12-13 years has shown a steady decline, from 1.85% in 1991 to 1.75%.
- The 14-17 year age group has also steadily declined from 3.83% in 1991 to 3.66% in 1996 and further to 3.39% in 2001.
- The 18-21 year age group declined dramatically from 5.9% in 1991 to 4.69% and continued to decline in 2001 to 4.3%. That is a decrease of 1.6% from 1991 to 2001.
- A steady decrease is also shown in the 22-24 year age group, declining from 5.16% in 1991 to 4.87% in 1996, with a continuous decline to 3.99% in 2001.

**Chart 4: Age Breakdown of Youth, Manly
1991, 1996 and 2001**

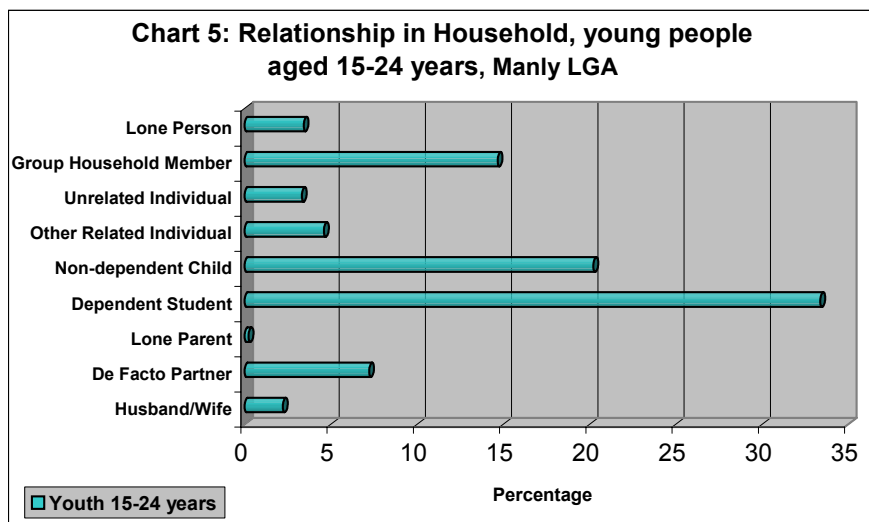


2.1 Household Characteristics

Chart 5 reflects the relationship in the household of young people, as a percentage of the total 12-24 year population:

The dependent student is the most represented relationship with 33.39%, followed by the non-dependent child (20.23%), group household member (14.68%) and de facto partner (7.22%).

Lone parent relationship is least represented with only 0.24%.



2.2 Employment

Of the total 15-19 year age population, 46.62% are in the labour force, and nearly the same amount (43.52%) is not in the labour force. The 20-24 year age group differs significantly from the 15-19 year age group, with 74.46% in the labour force, and only 17.53% not in the labour force.

Of the total number of employed people in the 15-19 year age group, 25.51% is employed full time, and 68.72% part time. This compares to the 20-24 year age group, which has 63.68% employed full time, and 32.84% employed part time.

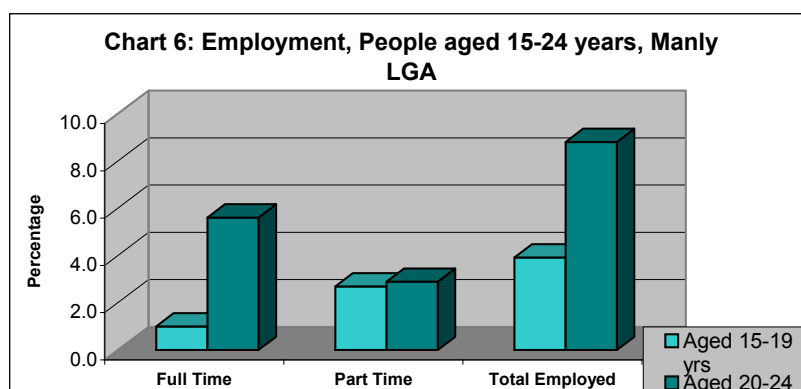
Of the total number of people, aged 15-19 years in the labour force, 91.24 % are employed, and 8.76% are not employed. The 20-24 year age group in the labour force has 93.17% employed, and 6.83% unemployed.

Table 4: Labour Force Status, People Aged 15 - 24 years, Manly LGA¹

	People Aged 15 - 19 years		People Aged 20 - 24 years	
	Persons	% of 15-19 Pop	Persons	% of 20-24 Pop
Employed: Working Full-Time	186	10.85	1043	44.18
Employed: Working Part-Time	501	29.23	538	22.79
Employed: Not Stated	42	2.45	57	2.41
Total Employed	729	42.53	1638	69.38
Unemployed: Looking for Full-Time Work	23	1.34	73	3.09
Unemployed: Looking for Part-Time Work	47	2.74	47	1.99
Total Unemployed	70	4.08	120	5.08
Total in Labour Force	799	46.62	1758	74.46
Not in Labour Force	746	43.52	414	17.53
Not Stated	169	9.86	189	8.01
Total	1784	100.00	2481	100.00

Chart 6 reflects a comparison of the proportion of 15-19 and 20-24 year age groups by labour force status, as the percentage of the total employed population (including not stated):

- The 15-19 year age group makes up 3.9% of the total employed population, with 1% in full time employment, and 2.7% in part time employment.
- This compares significantly to the 20-24 year age group, which makes up 8.8% of the total employed population, with 5.6% employed full time and 2.9% employed part time.

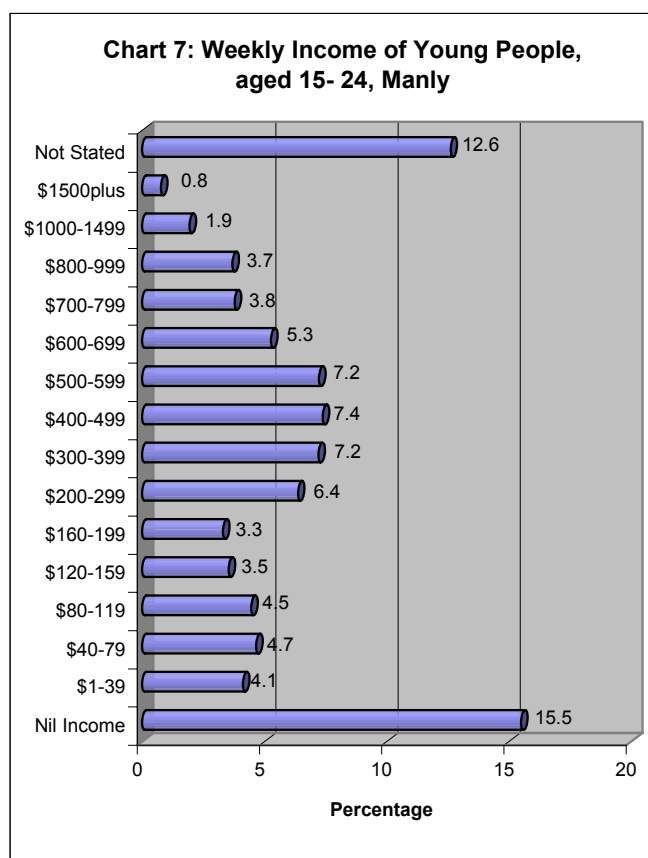


¹ The statistics from ABS on employment are only available from 15 years of age.

2.3 Income

Chart 7 compares the weekly income of Manly's 15-24 year age group (figures on income are available, starting from age 15):

- The highest proportion of people aged 15-24 years have no income at all (15.5%), followed by \$400-499 category (7.4%), \$500-599 and \$300-399 being in the same percentage mark with 7.2%, and \$200-299 (6.4%).
- The lowest proportion of this age group is represented in the \$1000-1499 (1.9%) and \$1500 plus with only 0.8%.



2.4 Demographic Trends:

Over the last decade, Manly has experienced a steady decline in the proportion of young. ABS ² (2000) explains that such changes are related to the increase in the proportion of older people:

"The ageing of the population is further affected by the declining proportion of the population aged 0-14 years, which has the effect of raising the median age. Consequently, the age structure of the population is projected to change noticeably by 2051, with a greater concentration of people aged 50 years and over and small declines in the number of young people" (2000 p. 10).

3.0 CONSULTATION METHOD

Consultation to assess the needs of youth included a range of methods, both qualitative and quantitative:

1. Focus group
2. Surveys of youth
3. Service providers & parents
4. Literature review

3.1 Focus group

A focus group was conducted on 20th October with 29 members of the Manly Youth Council, held at the Youth Centre at Kangaroo Street, Manly. The Sustainability Youth Crew was also invited to attend. Three Council staff were present. 13 were aged 14-16 years, and 16 were aged 17 - 22 years of age. There were 16 males and 13 females present. 4 members indicated they spoke a language other than English at home, including Maori, Portuguese, Tongan and Chinese. The group was split into two groups, comprising of young men and women. The consultation addressed the following questions, after which the groups came together, and were asked to prioritise their top two issues:

1. What is good about living on the Northern Beaches?
2. Now imagine the Northern Beaches in 50 years time...what would you like to see?
3. What are the not so good things about living on the Northern Beaches?
4. What can we do to improve some of these things?
5. Apart from being involved in Youth Council, have you used any other Council services before?
 - a. If yes, tell us about your experience in using these services
 - b. If no, what stops you from using Council services

² Australian Bureau of Statistics (2000) "Population Projections Australia; 1999 to 2101" ISSN 1329-3109.

3.2 Surveys of Youth

Several existing groups were accessed to take part in a survey to assess the needs of youth. Standard questions were used in all surveys (see Appendix A), with slight adaptations, depending on group accessed and return instructions. Open ended questions were deemed most appropriate, to ensure participants were provided the opportunity to discuss openly their concerns.

Surveys were distributed to:

- The Sustainability Youth Crew

Surveys were distributed to members. 3 completed surveys were returned, and were analysed qualitatively.

- Student Representative Council's

20 surveys were sent to Balgowlah Boys School, 20 to St Pauls College and 150 to Stella Maris College for distribution to their Student Representative Council (SRC's). 29 completed surveys were returned from Stella Maris College. All participants were female, and were mostly between 15 and 16 years of age (14, 48.3%) and 13 were between 12 and 14 (44.8%). Only three respondents spoke a language other than English at home (10.4%). The majority lived in Warringah LGA (19, 65.5%) and six (24.1%) lived in Manly LGA. These surveys were analysed using SPSS, with a summary of findings attached as Appendix C.

3.3 Service Providers & Parents

Key service providers in the area were contacted to provide context and crucial input to the issues facing older people in Manly. These included representatives from Northern Sydney Health and the Manly Community Centre.

- Manly Social Plan Implementation Committee (SPIC)

Consultation also occurred through a focused discussion of youth issues at the Manly Social Plan Implementation Committee (SPIC) held in July 2003. Members of the Committee include several local service providers, community representatives, key council staff (planning and community services), and Manly Councillors. Representatives from Northern Sydney Health Promotion and Manly Community Centre took part in the discussion.

- Peninsula Youth Services Inc, Northern Beaches

Manly and Pittwater Councils combined to conduct a survey of youth service providers. A survey of services providers was emailed around to 52 members of the Network prior to the October 2003 meeting (see Appendix B). Members were encouraged to complete the survey and bring it along to the meeting for return. 4

completed surveys were returned, and were analysed qualitatively.

- Parents & Friends Association

13 surveys were sent to the Parents & Friends Association of Stella Maris College for completion by parents at their October 2003 meeting. 4 surveys were returned, and were analysed qualitatively.

- Northern Beaches Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Social Plan consultation

To develop the 2004 Northern Beaches CALD Plan, Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Councils jointly consulted the Indonesian, Serbian and Tibetan community through focus groups, the Northern Beaches Multicultural Network and key service providers. Outcomes relevant to youth have been included in this needs assessment.

3.4. Literature review

Several relevant sources of literature were reviewed, in conjunction with analysing consultation results. These have been included in the 'Issues' section of this report.

4.0 REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR YOUTH

GAPS:

Youth drug & alcohol worker
Youth detox/rehab service
Youth Crisis Access Point
Entertainment for under 18 year olds
Late night transport
Affordable housing

5.0 CONSULTATION RESULTS:

5.1 Why do young people like Manly?

- Manly Youth Council

Through consultation by focus group with the Manly Youth Council, young people were asked what they felt were the good things about living on the Northern Beaches.

Overwhelmingly, aspects of the natural environment were mentioned, including:

- The Beach
- The bush and National Parks

- Manly Dam

Young people also liked aspects of the lifestyle and community on the Northern Beaches:

- Sense of community
- Friendly people
- Nice place to live
- Less crime than other areas
- Laid back lifestyle
- Good night life

Services and facilities were also mentioned:

- Close proximity to the beach, pubs, transport to the city, shopping mall
- Youth Council is unique, and the best in Sydney
- Variety of shops
- Public transport

5.2 Future Vision

- Through consultation with the Manly Youth Council and surveys of the Sustainability Youth Crew, young people were asked to consider of those things they liked about living on the Northern Beaches, what they would like to still see in 50 years time.

Most respondents named aspects of the natural environment which were important to them, including:

- Maintaining the beach as it is now
- A clean environment
- Maintain bush & vegetation
- Keep it natural
- Maintain heritage sites in Manly (particularly Quarantine Station)
- Cleaner waterways

Others mentioned aspects of lifestyle and community, such as:

- No more residential development
- Not to be overcrowded
- Less commercialised/urbanized
- Keeping it safe
- Entertainment & attractions
- No new trendy art (e.g. public art/sculpture)

Services and facilities were also mentioned:

- Manly Youth Council still here
- Free recreation for under 18 year olds
- No train line (might bring in more visitors)
- Clean public toilets & facilities
- More youth facilities
- More live venues
- Better health facilities

- Efficient public transport, and more of it
- Affordable education
- Increased safety on the roads
- 29 Student Representative Council female prefects from Stella Maris College responded to a survey, the results of which were analysed using SPSS.

Respondents were asked what they liked about living on the northern beaches and what they would still like to see in 50 years time. Responses fell into three main categories, as follows:

- Environment – 50.6%
- Lifestyle and community – 24.1%
- Services and facilities – 25.3%

The 16 subcategories identified were analysed together. It was found that respondents liked and wanted to retain for the future, the following “things” most:

- Beaches and waterways – 27.7%
- Shops/shopping – 12.0%
- Clean environment – 8.4%
- Less high rise and overcrowding – 8.4% (equal third)

“Beaches and waterways” were by far the most liked attribute of the northern beaches, with over a quarter of responses in this one subcategory alone.

5.3 Summary of Issues

The key issues facing young people, arising from consultation have been summarised as:

- Health
- Entertainment & Recreation
- Services & Facilities
- Education
- Development Control
- Safety
- Accommodation

5.4 Consultation sources

As issues have been discussed, the following abbreviations have been used to note their consultation source:

PYS	Peninsula Youth Services Inc surveys
SPIC	Manly Social Plan Implementation Committee
NSHP	Northern Sydney Health Promotion
MYC	Manly Youth Council
PF	Parents & Friends, Stella Maris
SYC	Sustainability Youth Crew
SRC	Student Representative Council surveys

5.5 Needs, Issues and Strategies

ISSUE:	1.0	HEALTH
Need:	1.1	<i>Specialist youth drug and alcohol worker needed locally</i>

Surveys of young students revealed that the majority (17.1%) believed illegal drugs were the major issue facing young people living on the Northern Beaches. Legal drugs (alcohol and tobacco) were rated as the second major issue (11.8%) (SRC). When asked what Council could do to improve these issues, the majority (18.2%) suggested education or awareness programmes, or support/ counseling programmes (10.9%).

The Report of the Chief Health Officer (2002, p. 49) reported that although per capita alcohol consumption has declined in Australia, more young people drink alcohol; drink at an earlier age; and are increasingly adopting high risk drinking patterns. Alcohol misuse is associated with health and social problems affecting young people including depression, suicide, road trauma, assault and other risk behaviours.³

Concern was raised over the lack of a youth specific drug and alcohol worker or service in the Northern Beaches. This issue has come up regularly at Peninsula Youth Services and YAPA (Youth Action & Policy Association) meetings. Manly Drug Education & Counselling Centre (MDECC) has attempted to nominate two of their staff as youth related, however theirs is still a service for all ages, and does not offer detox/rehab services (PYS, SPIC). The Young People and Alcohol Forum held in August 2003 also recommended that there was a need for specialist youth staff who knew about alcohol, e.g. adolescent mental health workers, not generalist counselors.⁴

Suggested strategy:

- ***Support funding applications for a specialist youth drug and alcohol worker for the Northern Beaches***

ISSUE:	1.0	HEALTH
Need:	1.2	<i>Local detox/rehab service for young people</i>

This is an issue which was raised in the 1999 Manly Social Plan, and during consultations for the 2004 Social Plan, PYS and SPIC stated that crisis support for young people was considered to require greater resources. The need for a

³ Public Health Division, NSW Department of Health (2002), The Health of the People of New South Wales - Report of the Chief Health Officer, 2002.

⁴ The Alcohol Summit Coordination Unit, The Cabinet Office NSW, NSW Government (2003) Young People and Alcohol Forum - NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse, August 2003.

detox/rehab facility was indicated, with service providers stating that they were treating an increasing number of young people in detox programs. The lack of a local detox/rehab service is seen as an issue, with these services only available outside of the Northern Beaches. There is a case worker at Fairlight Centre who works with those accessing the Intoxicated Persons Unit, and referrals can be made to the Centre, however this is only for those aged 18 years plus. There was also a stated need for greater networking of Northern Beaches Youth Services with detox facilities in Sydney, eg. Herbert Street and Randwick services. The 2003 NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse began that process. There also needs to be more creative ways to consider rehab. It is important to have Youth specific rehab, with problems arising from mixing youth and adults.

Suggested strategy:

- ***Support funding applications for a youth detox/rehab service on the Northern Beaches***

<i>ISSUE:</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>HEALTH</i>
<i>Need:</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>Provision of crisis access point</i>

This issue was also raised during consultation for the 1999 Manly Social Plan. A crisis access point would provide young people with a facility they could access when in need of help. PYS and SPIC supported the need for a youth friendly place, when dealing with issues of suicide, mental illness and drug and alcohol. At present the NSW Police play a major role in dealing with youth at risk, they often collect and take them to the hospitals. There is still an ongoing need to conduct regular programs for the Police to understand the range of services and protocols, this could be pursued with Narelle Pitt, Community Safety Officer at Manly Police. Burdekin Association has a 24 hour paging system for emergency housing needs.

Suggested strategy:

- ***Investigate the need for a crisis access point for youth***

<i>ISSUE:</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>HEALTH</i>
<i>Need:</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>Raise awareness of sexual health issues</i>

Sexual health is an issue of particular concern for young people, with several sexually transmitted diseases (STD) on the increase. Chlamydia is of particular concern, with NSW Health claiming that those most at risk of catching it include young men and women, especially those who are sexually active and having unprotected sex. Whilst symptoms can occur within 2-14 days after infection, a person may have Chlamydia for months or even years without knowing it. If untreated, it can cause serious complications, particularly for women. These include pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility or ectopic pregnancy (NSHP).

Suggested strategy:

- ***Promote safe sex messages throughout Council toilets and facilities***

<i>ISSUE:</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>HEALTH</i>
<i>Need:</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>Address mental health issues & suicide prevention</i>

SPIC reported that the rate of suicide among young people living on the Northern Beaches exceeds the national average, and was believed to be linked to drug and alcohol problems. Manly Youth Services can intervene and refer young people to Queenscliff Community Health Centre. Whilst there was previously a Suicide Prevention Officer in this area, this is no longer the case. There are many issues which are linked to suicide, including sexuality, mental health and family breakdown.

Northern Sydney Health report that more than one in four young people will have a mental health problem or disorder. Young people aged 18-24 years have the highest rate of mental disorders of any adult age group. Common mental health problems among young people include depression and anxiety disorders, first onset psychosis, self harm and suicidal behaviour, eating disorders and disruptive behaviours such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Children and young people with mental health problems are:

- 6 times more likely to think about killing themselves;
- 3 times more likely to have poor or fair physical health;
- 3 times more likely to use alcohol and other drugs;
- 3 times more likely to perform below grade level at school;
- 2 times more likely to report feeling 'very stressed';
- impaired in their ability to do the normal things expected at their age; and
- less likely to obtain work and more likely to remain unemployed.⁵

The Report of the Chief Health Officer (2002, p. 248) reported that the suicide rate in males in general, and young males in particular, has been relatively high for the last 15 years. A sustained effort in suicide prevention is required, whatever changes in rate may be observed from one year to the next. A 'whole-of-government', 'whole-of-community' strategy for suicide prevention is currently being implemented in NSW across local area health services.⁶

Dual diagnosis has been highlighted as a particular issue for concern for young people. This refers to the existence of a mental health concern and problematic use of alcohol or other drugs (or both). Estimates rate between 30% and 90% of clients seen in either mental health services or drug and alcohol services being dually diagnosed. Research has identified a number of problems and concerns

⁵ Northern Sydney Health (December, 1998), Young People's Health – Our Future – Mental Health.

⁶ Public Health Division, NSW Department of Health (2002), The Health of the People of New South Wales - Report of the Chief Health Officer, 2002.

that can arise from young people having a dual diagnosis, these include:

- increased risk of relapse of both conditions
- unstable living arrangements and homelessness;
- stress on the family'
- loss of support networks;
- contact with criminal justice system
- poor physical health
- failure to develop appropriate social skills;
- disrupted motivation
- disruptive behaviour and violence. ⁷

The Young People and Alcohol Forum held in August 2003 recommended that health care needs to be holistic, not just about physical health nor it is just about alcohol but about all parts of young people's lives. The system does not adequately respond to young people with dual diagnosis. ⁸

Suggested strategy:

- ***Continued consultation with young people and service providers to identify current issues***
- ***Support mental health and suicide prevention programmes in partnership with local service providers and Northern Sydney Health.***

<i>ISSUE:</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>HEALTH</i>
<i>Need:</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>Increased support for families with adolescents with a disability</i>

Service providers stated the need for support for adolescent siblings of disabled children, and also for respite services for parents with adolescents with a disability.

Suggested strategy:

- ***Support funding applications to support families with adolescents with a disability***

<i>ISSUE:</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION</i>
<i>Need:</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>Improve entertainment and recreation for young people</i>

This issue was raised by all participants as a concern. Manly Youth Council identified it as the top priority issue facing youth under 18 years of age. They

⁷ Youth Action & Policy Association NSW (YAPA), (date?) Health Fact Sheet – Take action now on dual diagnosis.

⁸ The Alcohol Summit Coordination Unit, The Cabinet Office NSW, NSW Government (2003) Young People and Alcohol Forum - NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse, August 2003.

claimed that most entertainment is geared towards the 20-30 year olds. However, they did acknowledge that previous attempts at organizing entertainment for this age group have not been successful. Youth Council suggested that could consult with under 18 year olds via schools to find out what they really wanted.

Also mentioned by Manly Youth Council, service providers and parents was the lack of venues for under 18 year olds to have a free, regular and safe place to meet for recreation or entertainment.

However, at a SPIC meeting in July 2003, with youth services and local service providers present, there was concern that young people were not currently accessing activities that were available to them. On top of the entertainment services Manly Youth Centre offers, including Kanga's and band nights, it was noted that Clearway Drop In Centre has had very limited young people in attendance on Friday nights. A comprehensive list of the Northern Beaches activities accessible to young people was tabled at the SPIC meeting:

1. Council operated drop in centres at Manly and Frenchs Forest
2. Church based activity centres operating Friday and Sunday evenings
3. Council operated Concerts/Dance parties at least monthly
4. High school dances
5. 5 cinema complexes
6. Sporting associations including cricket, softball, netball, rugby, league, tennis, surf clubs, soccer, etc
7. Internet available free at public libraries
8. Ten Pin Bowling Centre
9. Beaches/surfing/swimming/snorkeling
10. Youth councils/Youth advisory groups
11. Art galleries
12. Putt Putt Golf
13. Several skate bowls and ramps
14. Swimming centres
15. Scouting/Guides/Adventurers
16. Gyms
17. Indoor shopping centres
18. Video/DVD/Gaming hire shops
19. Libraries free borrowing of books, CD's, videos, DVD and magazines
20. Café's and many fast food restaurants
21. Bike riding paths
22. Arcade gaming places
23. Bush regeneration
24. Opportunities to volunteer
25. Using public transport to visit a friends place

It was felt that there are already plenty of entertainment options available; perhaps this information just needs to be disseminated in the correct way.

Suggested strategy:

- ***Manly Youth Council to investigate entertainment needs of under 18 year olds***

through schools in Manly

- ***Investigate ways to raise awareness of entertainment and recreational activities for young people***
- ***Conduct a recreational needs assessment for young people***

ISSUE:	3.0	SERVICES & FACILITIES
Need:	3.1	Raise awareness of services and activities

In line with this issue being raised in the 1999 Manly Social Plan, there is still a lack of awareness among young people regarding the variety of existing services and activities in Manly. SPIC suggested a local young persons meeting point to display information. An accessible area should be identified within the local government area, perhaps in the new Totem shopping centre at Balgowlah.

During 2002, the Youth Action & Policy Association NSW (YAPA) conducted extensive consultations with young people across NSW as part of a project called ACTivate. Young people consulted reported that it is easy to get access to health related information, but that you have to know where to go in the first place. Young people are not always aware of what health services exist and what types of services are available. Young people need more information about these services and they recommend that this information should be presented in interesting ways, not just pamphlets.⁹

The Young People and Alcohol Forum held in August 2003 made several comments regarding services¹⁰, such as:

- Improve young people's knowledge of services by taking young people on school excursions to local services, e.g. rehab, so they meet the workers face to face and therefore feel more comfortable contacting them;
- Have a greater connection between youth services and alcohol treatment services and schools; and
- Young people are more likely to use services where the workers have met the kids at school and so the kids feel like they know them and will ring them.

Suggested strategy:

- ***Investigate location of a youth-specific information display in Manly to promote youth services and activities***
- ***Work closely with local service providers to identify ways of raising awareness of services***

⁹ Youth Action & Policy Association NSW (YAPA), (date?) Health Fact Sheet – Take action now on health.

¹⁰ The Alcohol Summit Coordination Unit, The Cabinet Office NSW, NSW Government (2003) Young People and Alcohol Forum - NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse, August 2003.

ISSUE:	4.0	EDUCATION
Need:	4.1	<i>Need for parenting courses</i>

Manly Youth Services and SPIC believed there was too much pressure on schools to be the only source of information for parents regarding support services for them. There is a need for short parenting courses with increased supervision of parenting practices.

Suggested strategy:

- ***Investigate the need for parenting program training***

ISSUE:	4.0	EDUCATION
Need:	4.2	<i>Reduce the incidence of early school leavers</i>

Manly Youth Services and SPIC pointed to an increasing trend that young people are disengaging from school at an earlier age, often as young as 13 years. There was a feeling that the school system was presently inflexible, and that the schools are not engaging with young people. There was a clear need for more early intervention work with youth in schools.

Suggested strategy:

- ***Develop links with schools in Manly to investigate early intervention for early school leavers***

ISSUE:	5.0	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL
Need:	5.1	<i>Improved management of tourists</i>

Manly Youth Council were particularly concerned about people coming from other areas of Sydney and disrespecting their 'place'. Participants mentioned littering and offensive behaviour by some visitors. They felt there were too many tourists or 'westies' coming to Manly.

Suggested strategy:

- ***Continue involvement in a Sustainable Tourism Strategy for Manly***

ISSUE:	5.0	DEVELOPMENT CONTROL
Need:	5.2	<i>Control development and commercialism</i>

Manly Youth Council was also concerned about the commercialism and overdevelopment of Manly. They felt that the local shops, cafes and fast food outlets were geared towards tourists and not locals, and that shops lacked a broad

variety. The feeling was that Manly's profile had been lowered. At the same time, they perceived a certain snobbishness of the café culture in Manly and an increasing number of 'NIMBY's' moving into the area. Linked to this was a concern about the increase in population and lack of parking and traffic problems in the Manly CBD.

Suggested strategy:

- ***Engage youth as part of consultation for future vision of Manly CBD***

<i>ISSUE:</i>	<i>6.0 SAFETY</i>
<i>Need:</i>	<i>6.1 Improve late night safety</i>

Consultation revealed that parents of young people were concerned about their children's safety when out late at night.

During consultations for ACTivate, young people reported that they often feel more unsafe at night – this was particularly the case for young women. Young people are big users of public transport, and they tend to walk more than older people do. Safety on trains, at stations and bus stops, and on the streets is an important concern for young people.¹¹

During 2002, the Youth Action & Policy Association NSW (YAPA) conducted extensive consultations with young people across NSW as part of a project called ACTivate. They asked what makes young people feel safe, and the responses were:

- Being with friends;
- Supportive relationships with adults;
- Having people they can talk to and turn to for help;
- Fairness – being treated equally
- Being treated with respect;
- Being taken seriously;
- Having their views heard.

YAPA report that it is people aged between 15-24 years who are most likely to be the victim of a crime. In 1999, 10% of all young people experienced a crime against their person, whereas, in the same year only 1% of the elderly population experienced a personal crime.

Council has successfully implemented several safety initiatives through the Crime Prevention Plan and the ongoing support of the Manly Community Safety Committee (see 4.1 above).

Suggested strategy:

- ***Continued involvement in existing safety initiatives, and identification of***

¹¹ Youth Action & Policy Association NSW (YAPA), (date?) Safety & Crime Fact Sheet – Take action now on crime – keep young people safe.

emerging safety issues through the Crime Prevention Plan

<i>ISSUE:</i>	<i>6.0 SAFETY</i>
<i>Need:</i>	<i>6.2 Improve late night transport options</i>

Transport was raised as a concern through most consultations (MYC, PF, SYC). The key area of concern was late night transport, and the lack of bus coverage on the Northern Beaches, particularly for young people to get home after attending youth activities & events in Manly. The feeling was that if they did not live on a main transport route, they potentially faced a long walk home.

Consultation with international language students, particularly those studying at the International School of Tourism at St Patricks, revealed that many students were concerned about the lack of bus transport up Darley Road, particularly at night. Most students had to walk home late at night, and the street had inadequate lighting, adding to their safety concerns.

Ensuring young people have adequate access to public transport, especially late at night, goes some way towards reducing the incidence of motor vehicle crashes, often related to alcohol consumption. The Report of the Chief Health Officer (2002, p. 226-227) reported that the majority of deaths involving a motor vehicle were of males, with the male death rate being 2 to 3 times higher than the female rate. People aged 15-24 years accounted for more than one-quarter of all those hospitalized for injuries due to motor vehicle crashes.

The Young People and Alcohol Forum held in August 2003 recommended that by funding night shuttle services, and increasing public transport and extending hours of public transport, drink driving can be avoided.¹²

The Manly Community Safety Committee has initiated several successful campaigns (identified in the Manly Crime Prevention Plan) relating to late night public transport, including the Manly Liquor Licensing Accord, the Summer Bus, Responsible Service of Alcohol, Drink Check programme and the Safe Party Pack.

Suggested strategy:

- ***Lobby State Transit Authority to improve bus coverage on the Northern Beaches***
- ***Continue to support initiatives of the Manly Community Safety Committee and implement actions from the Manly Crime Prevention Plan, including the late night Summer Bus***

¹² The Alcohol Summit Coordination Unit, The Cabinet Office NSW, NSW Government (2003) Young People and Alcohol Forum - NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse, August 2003.

ISSUE:	6.0	SAFETY
Need:	6.3	<i>Improve attitude of Police towards youth</i>

Consultation with Manly Youth Council revealed young people were concerned about the negative attitude of some police officers to young people.

During 2002, the Youth Action & Policy Association NSW (YAPA) conducted extensive consultations with young people across NSW as part of a project called ACTivate. Many young people reported that they feel safer when police are around and would like to see more police on the streets. Unfortunately, some young people reported that police and security guards – those whose job it is to protect them and provide community safety – actually make them feel less safe. Young people are often the target of repeated police attention – stopping, questioning, searching or moving them on.¹³ Discussions from the 'young people and alcohol forum', included comments that young people see police as important in protecting them and at the same time do not feel police can be approached or be trusted. The forum recommended that there needs to be more opportunities for police officers and young people to engage with each other, perhaps in schools.¹⁴

Suggested strategy:

- ***Youth Council to liaise closely with the YLO of NSW Police to work with and manage young people in public spaces, increasing negotiation and communication skills.***

ISSUE:	7.0	ACCOMMODATION
Need:	7.1	<i>Increase affordable housing options</i>

Affordable housing is a major issue for most groups within our community. The young men of Manly Youth Council, and service providers raised this as a key concern.

Fairlight House (Mission Australia) reported that there remains a need in the Manly area for medium-term housing for men. Once men have been through emergency or crisis accommodation, there is a need to progress to an exit point.

Fairlight House (Mission Australia) have applied for funding for such accommodation through the Office of Community Housing over the last two years (SPIC).

The clients from Fairlight House with mental health issues are difficult to house and help generally. Some of them have behavioural issues and are on medication. Fairlight House has a good relationship with the Adult Mental Health team at

¹³ Youth Action & Policy Association NSW (YAPA), (date?) Safety & Crime Fact Sheet – Take action now on crime – keep young people safe.

¹⁴ The Alcohol Summit Coordination Unit, The Cabinet Office NSW, NSW Government (2003) Young People and Alcohol Forum - NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse, August 2003.

Queenscliff Health Centre, and with their help, they have been able to successfully progress several clients who are now in housing commission homes (SPIC).

When there is a family break-up, often the wife and children will stay in the family home, but the man often has nowhere to go, and potentially ends up in emergency accommodation (e.g. boarding house), if they can find a space (SPIC).

The potential closure of the Eversham Boarding House in Victoria Parade, Manly, is of grave concern, with the possibility of many local men being displaced, often at a time of crisis in their life (SPIC).

Over the past two decades, Manly has lost many of its boarding houses, with the direct effect of diminishing the supply of low-cost accommodation.

The following information was provided through the licensing system which ceased in 1992, and tracks boarding house numbers over the last two decades:

1983 - 88	1984 - 82	1985 - 80	1986 - 74	1987 - 69	1988 - 58
1989 - 55.					

In 1989 these 55 premises provided 1,013 bedspaces.

In April 2003, information collated by Council's Fire Officer identified less than 20 Guest / Boarding Houses.

Suggested strategy:

- ***Council support for funding applications for medium-term accommodation for men based on the Northern Beaches***
- ***Continue to support regional initiatives such as the Manly Warringah LGHIP project***
- ***Develop a policy on the provision and retention of boarding houses for occupation by long term residents disadvantaged by the private rental market***

6.0 SUMMARY OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE			
Issue	Need	Strategy	Responsibility
1.0 Health	1.1 Specialist youth drug and alcohol worker needed locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support funding applications for a specialist youth drug and alcohol worker for the Northern Beaches 	Council's Youth Services/ Community Services Planner
	1.2 Local detox/rehab service for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support funding applications for a youth detox/rehab service on the Northern Beaches 	Council's Youth Services/ Community Services Planner
	1.3 Provision of a crisis access point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the need for a crisis access point for youth 	Council's Youth Services
	1.4 Raise awareness of sexual health issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote safe sex messages throughout Council toilets and facilities 	Council's Community Services Planner
	1.5 Address mental health issues & suicide prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued consultation with young people and service providers to identify current issues Support mental health and suicide prevention programmes in partnership with local service providers and Northern Sydney Health. 	Council's Youth Services
	1.6 Increased support for families with adolescents with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support funding applications to support families with adolescents with a disability 	Council's Youth Services

6.0 SUMMARY OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE			
Issue	Need	Strategy	Responsibility
2.0 Entertainment & Recreation	2.1 Improve entertainment and recreation for young people (IDENTIFIED AS TOP ISSUE BY MANLY YOUTH COUNCIL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate entertainment needs of under 18 year olds through schools in Manly Investigate ways to raise awareness of entertainment and recreational activities for young people Conduct a recreational needs assessment for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manly Youth Council Manly Youth Council/ Youth Services Coordinator Open Space Coordinator
3.0 Services and Facilities	3.1 Raise awareness of services and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate location of a youth-specific information display in Manly to promote youth services and activities Work closely with local service providers to identify ways of raising awareness of services 	Manly Youth Services
4.0 Education	4.1 Need for Parenting courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the need for parenting program training 	Council's Youth Services
	4.2 Reduce the incidence of early school leavers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop links with schools in Manly to investigate early intervention for early school leavers 	Youth Services and Manly Youth Council
5.0 Development Control	5.1 Improved management of tourists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue involvement in a Sustainable Tourism Strategy for Manly 	Council's Manager, Cultural & Information Services

6.0 SUMMARY OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE			
Issue	Need	Strategy	Responsibility
	5.2 Control development and commercialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage youth as part of consultation for future vision of Manly CBD 	Council's Branch Manager, Planning & Strategy
6.0 Safety	6.1 Improve late night safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued involvement in existing safety initiatives, and identification of emerging safety issues through the Crime Prevention Plan 	Council's Crime Prevention Coordinator/ Community Services Planner
	6.2 Improve late night transport options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby State Transit Authority to improve bus coverage on the Northern Beaches Continue to support initiatives of the Manly Community Safety Committee and implement actions from the Manly Crime Prevention Plan, including the late night Summer Bus 	Council's Community Services Planner/ Crime Prevention Coordinator
	6.3 Improve attitude of Police	Close liaison with the YLO of NSW Police to work with and manage young people in public spaces, increasing negotiation and communication skills	Manly Youth Council
7.0 Accommodation	7.1 Increase affordable housing options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for funding applications for medium-term accommodation for men based on the Northern Beaches Continue to support regional initiatives such as the Manly Warringah LGHIP project Develop a policy on the provision and retention of boarding houses for occupation by long term residents disadvantaged by the private rental market 	Council's Community Services Planner/ Branch Manager, Planning & Strategy



MANLY SOCIAL PLAN 2004 - Survey of Young people

We want to know what you like and don't like about living on the Northern Beaches - your views will help us plan and develop youth activities and services in our Area....Speak up and be heard!!

1. What do you like about living on the Northern Beaches – tell us what three things you'd like to still see in 50 years time...

1.

2.

3.

2. What are the three major issues facing young people living on the Northern Beaches?

1.

2.

3.

3. What can Council do to improve these issues?

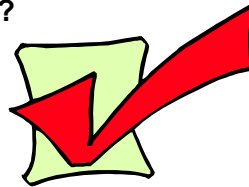
1.

2.

3.

4. Have you used, or are you aware of the following?

- ☐ Links to Learning
- ☐ Manly Adolescent & Family Counselling services
- ☐ Clearway Drop In Centre
- ☐ Manly Youth Council
- ☐ Youth activities & events (eg. Kangaroo Rock concerts & Youth Week Festival)
- ☐ Sustainability Youth Crew
- ☐ Club Friday
- ☐ GL@M (Gays & lesbians at Manly)
- ☐ Skateboard ramp & bowl
- ☐ Manly Library
- ☐ Manly Environment Centre
- ☐ Manly Drug Education Counselling Centre (MDECC)
- ☐ Manly Sexual Health
- ☐ Manly Community Centre
- ☐ Manly RUSH
- ☐ Manly Warringah Youth Support



5. If you haven't used any of the above, was there anything that stopped you from using any of them?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, what?

6. Do you think the Northern Beaches lacks any services for youth?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, what?

7. Do you know where to go to find information on services?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, where do you find it?

How old are you? _____

☐ Female



☐ Male



What suburb do you live in? _____

Are you:

- ☐ At school ☐ At TAFE/University
☐ Unemployed ☐ Working ☐ Other:

Do you speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what language do you speak?

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! YOUR COMMENTS WILL GO TOWARDS DEVELOPING
THE 2004 MANLY SOCIAL PLAN

Appendix 'B'



SOCIAL PLAN 2004 Survey of Youth Service Providers

Manly and Pittwater Council's are currently consulting agencies and young people for both council's **Social Plan** due for completion in 2004. The information gathered will help us to rewrite our five year plan for young plan which will include major issues of concern (identified by the community and services) and strategies that council are capable of implementing or facilitating.

Name of service: _____

Location: _____

1) What area does your service cover?

☐ Northern Beaches ☐ Northern Sydney ☐ NSW ☐ Other

2) Approximately what percentage of your clients are from:

.....% Manly % Warringah% Pittwater

3) What do you see as the top 3 issues for Youth on the Northern Beaches?

Issue 1

Issue 2

Issue 3

4) Can you identify any strategies to address issues you have raised?

5) Is there anything that could be done to allow greater access to services for youth on the Northern Beaches?

6) Any other comments?

Thanks for your time!

Please pass this completed form back to Sue Turner, Pittwater Council at the Peninsula Youth Services Inc meeting on October 8th 2003



Appendix 'C' Survey Results of Student Representative Council of Stella Maris College

Twenty-nine female high school prefects completed this survey (see Appendix A). They were mostly between 15 and 16 years of age (14, 48.3%) and 13 were between 12 and 14 (44.8%).

Only three respondents spoke a language other than English at home (10.4%). The majority lived in Warringah LGA (19, 65.5%) and six (24.1%) lived in Manly LGA.

Question 1:

Respondents were asked what they liked about living on the northern beaches and **what they would still like to see in 50 years time**. Responses fell into three main categories, as follows:

- Environment – 50.6%
- Lifestyle and community – 24.1%
- Services and facilities – 25.3%

The 16 subcategories identified for Q1 were analysed together. It was found that respondents **liked and wanted to retain for the future**, the following “things” most:

- Beaches and waterways – 27.7%
- Shops/shopping – 12.0%
- Clean environment – 8.4%
- Less high rise and overcrowding – 8.4% (equal third)

“Beaches and waterways” were by far the most liked attribute of the northern beaches, with over a quarter of responses in this one subcategory alone.

The 16 subcategories were **cross-tabulated** with respondents’ age group. There was some variation according to age as follows:

- For the **“Open space”** subcategory (which ranked fourth), responses for the 12-14 age group were lower than expected and responses for the 15-16 group were higher than expected, suggesting the older group valued the open spaces somewhat more than the younger group.

(Note: the low number of responses across some subcategories made it difficult to observe differences).

Question 2:

Respondents were asked what the **major issues were facing young people** living on the northern beaches. Responses fell into three main categories, as follows:

- Health, social and safety issues – 73.7% of responses
- Environmental concerns – 19.7%
- Youth activities and facilities – 6.6%

When the 19 subcategories identified for Q2 were analysed together, it was found that respondents’ **top ranked issues** were:

- Drugs – illegal – 17.1% of responses
- Drugs – legal (alcohol, tobacco) – 11.8%
- Peer pressure – 11.8% (equal second)
- Litter and pollution – 10.5%

It is evident that drugs, both legal and illegal, are the main issue for this group.

The 19 subcategories were ***cross-tabulated*** with respondents' age group. There was some variation according to age as follows:

- For the ***“Litter and pollution”*** subcategory (ranked third), responses for the 12-14 age group were higher than expected and responses for the 15-16 group were lower than expected, suggesting the younger group thought this to be a more important issue than the older group.

(Note: the low number of responses across some subcategories made it difficult to observe differences).

Question 3:

Respondents were asked ***what Council could do to improve the issues they raised*** in Q2. Responses fell into three main categories (same as for Q2):

- Health, social and safety issues – 69.1% of responses
- Environmental concerns – 23.6%
- Youth activities and facilities – 7.3%

When the 18 subcategories identified for Q3 were analysed together, it was found that respondents' ***top ranked “improvements”*** for issues raised were:

- Education and awareness programs (for drug, social and health problems) – 18.2%
- More bins/clean ups – 12.7%
- Support & counselling programs (for drug, social and health problems) – 10.9%

The most frequently mentioned “improvement”, “Education/awareness programs” corresponds with three top ranking issues in Q2 (ie. “Drugs – illegal”, “Drugs – legal” and “Peer pressure”). The third ranking “improvement”, “Support/counselling programs”, also corresponds with these issues.

The second ranked “More bins/clean ups” corresponds with the “Litter and pollution” issue ranked third in Q2.

The 18 subcategories were ***cross-tabulated*** with respondents' age group. There were no significant differences found according to age across the subcategories. (Note: the low number of responses across some subcategories made it difficult to observe differences).

Question 4:

Of the 16 services listed on the survey, the ***services that were used most***, or respondents had ***greatest awareness of***, were as follows:

- Manly Library – 79.3%
- Skateboard ramp and bowl – 65.5%
- Manly Youth Council – 51.7%
- Links to learning – 44.8%
- Manly Warringah Youth Support – 41.4%

Question 5:

When asked if they had not used any of the 16 services listed on the survey, ***was there anything had that stopped them:***

- No (0) respondents answered “yes”
- 21 (72.4%) answered “no”

This suggests that there was generally good access to the listed services.

Question 6:

When asked if the northern beaches was ***lacking in any services for youth***, 6 (20.7%) respondents answered “yes” and 18 (62.1%) answered “no”. The following were the services and activities identified as lacking:

- Youth leisure activities – 3 responses
- Youth entertainment – 2
- Youth counselling service – 1

Question 7:

When asked did they know ***where to find information on services***, 10 (34.5%) respondents answered “yes” and 17 (58.6%) answered “no”. The information sources given were:

- Phone book/phone information services – 4 responses
- Library – 2
- Councils – 1
- Friends – 1
- Internet – 1
- School – 1