Contents

Building Australia's
best regional community

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OUR VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

Bundaberg Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land, and recognises the cultural diversity of our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We are committed to creating innovative opportunities by building stronger relationships, mutual respect and encouraging cultural practices that strengthen and support harmony between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community.

Council values the input from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in decision-making processes at a local level and encourages their active participation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTION

We would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the community, businesses, community sector and Council staff who contributed to the consultation process and the development of this strategy.

Executive summary

Local communities grow stronger and flourish when people are able to have a say and contribute to change, as the spirit of a community evolves. People need to have a say in their future, to bring strong connections to their community and town, to be safe and to be supported to make good personal choices about their own health, leisure, culture and wellbeing.

This strategy outlines Bundaberg Regional Council's commitment to priorities for community development in the Region. This strategy will help to positively shape the future, building on existing community strengths, helping to bring together services and people to look at solutions to local challenges and make the most of the opportunities available in the Region.

This strategy builds from a solid foundation and is focused on delivering a grassroots, community-led and place-activated approach to community development. In some cases, the community needs are predictable based on factors such as the growing population; but in other instances, they are unpredictable. This strategy provides the framework to be responsive to both the unpredictable and the predictable. It is practical and measurable.

Bundaberg Regional Council has a vision to build Australia's best regional community by focusing on the values of customer focus, respect and pride in its teamwork, leadership, sustainability and innovation.[1] This strategy has been developed in consultation with the Region's community sector, key stakeholders and the community at large to provide a clear direction heading into the future. It also draws relevance and context from key Council Strategies including Bundaberg Region 2031.[2] It looks at the Region holistically, beyond the key community sectors, with the intention to create a sense of community for the whole Bundaberg Region, for the locals to enable advocacy for themselves and others.

Left: Kepnock Boys, Community Development Conference Bundaberg.
Right: Flourish Family Fun Day rides

OUR APPROACH

Community development strategy

PURPOSE

This Community Development Strategy outlines Bundaberg Regional Council's priorities for community development in the Region. This strategy is designed to create and encourage a community where everyone contributes, matters and belongs. The aspiration is to better connect the community sector, people and communities. This includes helping to respond and adapt to changes, such as socio economic or population variances, and using local opportunities both in real time and online.

PROMISE

The strategy will enable Council to build upon existing community strengths and respond to a range of gaps, constraints and opportunities. It will help to positively shape the future, by bringing together services and people to lead change, to motivate and engage via solutions to local challenges that make the most of the Region's opportunities.

PLANNED APPROACH

The Community Development Strategy builds on and aligns with a number of current Bundaberg Region Plans, including: Bundaberg Region 2031, Corporate Plan 2019 - 2023, and is underpinned by the: Social Development Action Plan 2014 - 2017, Youth Development Action Plan 2018 - 2021, Bundaberg Regional Council Economic Development Strategy 2014 - 2024, Bundaberg Regional Council Arts and Culture Strategy 2019 - 2023, Bundaberg Regional Council Sport and Recreation Strategy 2018 - 2021, Operational Plan 2019 - 2020 and Bundaberg Intelligent Community Strategy.

The Bundaberg Region 2031 Report identifies four key areas for community and the future of Bundaberg;[2]

COMMUNITY

ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMY

GOVERNANCE
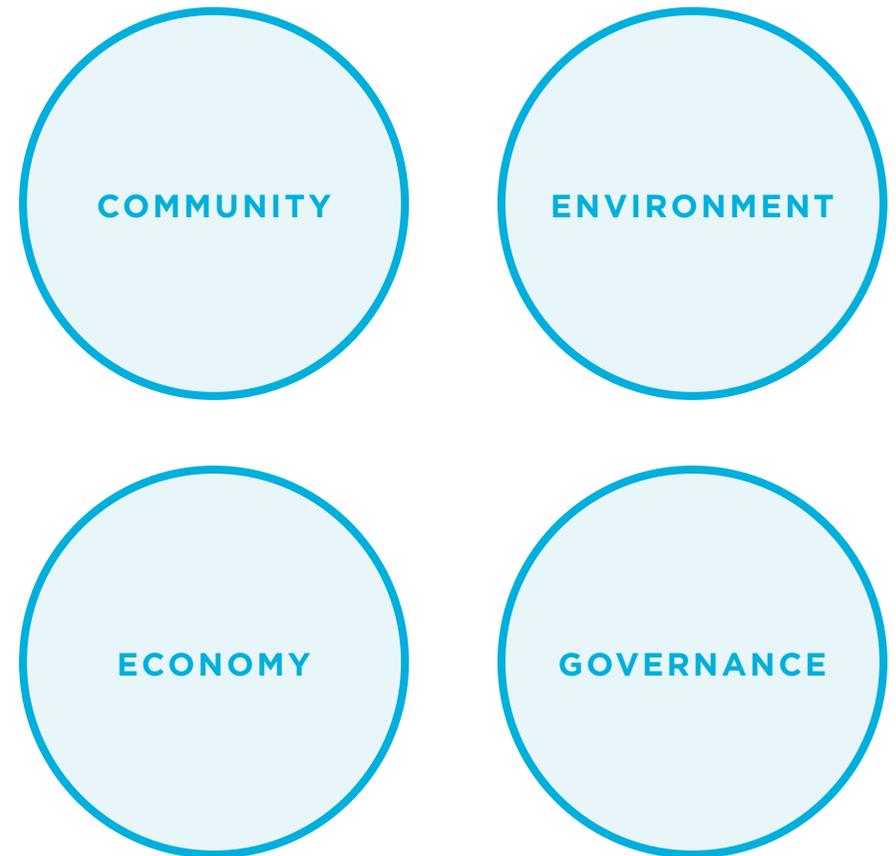
When developing Bundaberg Region 2031, the following fundamentals were used to drive thoughts, feelings and behaviours:

- **HONESTY AND INTEGRITY**
- **OPEN COMMUNICATION**
- **RESPECT AND TOLERANCE**
- **ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY**
- **COMMON SENSE**
- **TRUST**
- **EMPATHY**

Right (clockwise): Gin Gin, Innes Park, Bundaberg, Childers

BUNDABERG REGION

Population growth

POPULATION
BUNDABERG LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Legend: Estimated population (grey) / Projected population (blue)
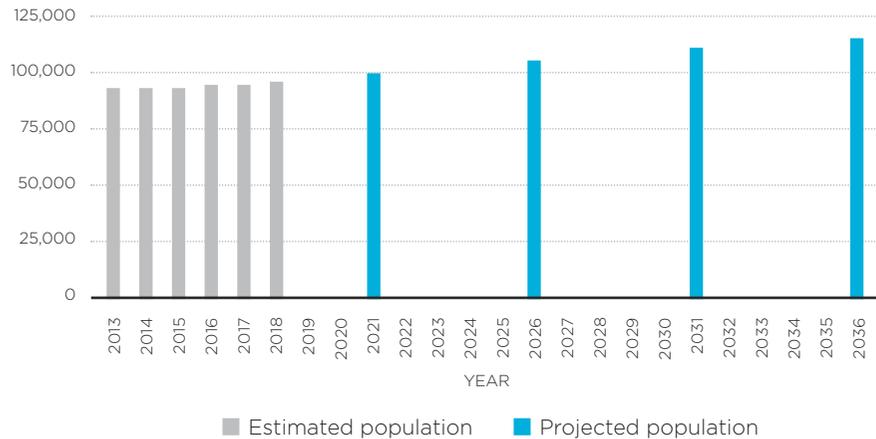
POPULATION BY AGE GROUP
BUNDABERG LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Legend: Estimated (2017) (grey) / Projected (2036) (blue)
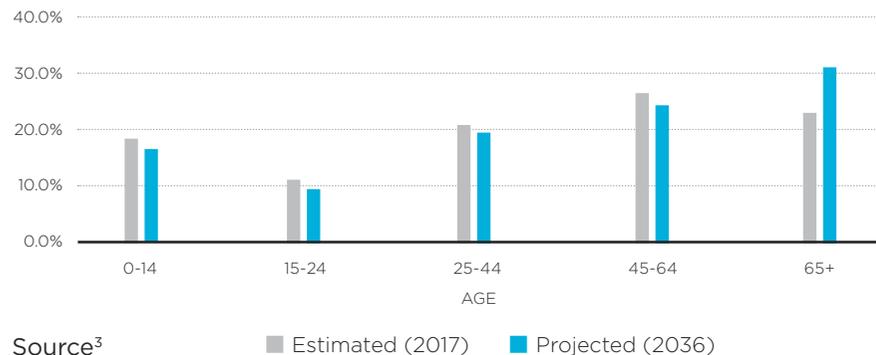
Source[3]

Planning for growth

The Bundaberg Region is a thriving Region on the precipice of significant growth. The 2019/20 budget has earmarked a number of capital works projects with an allocation of $108 million to support the growth and needs of the Region.[4] The Council has identified major priorities and a range of projects that are designed to future-proof the Region's economic prosperity as well as support the community; enabling positive liveability for residents, positive community sentiment and advocacy.[5,6]

SOCIAL LENS

These projects are fundamental to understand and appreciate as part of a broader lens on the community and visitor experience in the Region. Scheduled for delivery across the next 10+ years, each will play an important role in continuing to cement and bring to life the brand of the Bundaberg Region. With the expected significant growth in infrastructure, as well as population and visitors, community development will address identified social gaps and issues in line with the growth.

ECONOMIC LENS

Whilst it is common for projects or initiatives to overlap between economic development and community development, it is important that these functions work together for the benefit of the whole community. Economic development aims to increase the quantity of spend, jobs and population. Community development focuses on improving the quality of the community in terms of health, happiness, wellbeing and security.

Projects often have a primary function with secondary benefits. Collaboration between Council departments is key in projects to ensure positive community outcomes. For example, investment in youth activities is primary for improved wellbeing, engagement and access to services, whilst also recognising that investment will encourage the retention of families and the youth population.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Defining community development

Community development aims to generate outcomes that enable the community to be active, to participate, to engage and to be supported.

Community development is a process which enables communities to develop active, sustainable and supportive environments in which people live, work, play and invest.

Community development is concerned with taking the journey from private concern (in the community) to public action (with the community). Effective community development is about **doing with**, rather than doing for.

Through active participation, community development encourages and supports the identification and overcoming of barriers, which prevent community members from participating in changing the issues that affect their lives.

Left: Community Development Conference Bundaberg.
Above: Roushini Cooking Class Childers

Role of community development in Local Government

Bundaberg Regional Council has a core role as facilitator to build the Bundaberg Region into the best regional community by valuing the residents; partnering and engaging to be a proactive partner; and being inclusive and supportive of community programs, networks, projects and events.

The Community Development team work across Bundaberg, Childers and Gin Gin. They have a role and function to build capacity in positive socio economic initiatives that address gaps and barriers within the community, encourage community participation and empower positive choices and outcomes.

Within Council, the Community Development Unit advocates as part of wider council programming and planning, adding value to the community sector to support them in enabling the delivery of community-driven programs.

Bundaberg Regional Council's role is to encourage and enable the connection and sharing of ideas, working with the community by developing partnerships and collaboration towards shared goals.

The process entails organisation, facilitation and action - allowing people to establish ways to create the community they want to live in. It's not just about outcomes such as providing desired services, but also the process in attaining the desired outcomes.[7]

Encouraging contiguous community development involves four factors:

1 **Exposure to, and reflection of, new ideas to engage in action.**

2 **Learning from each other; understanding the need to address a problem in order to develop a better community.**

3 **Organisational growth which is responsive to individual learnings and actions.**

4 **Integration of development in community and of community.**

Development **in** community development pertains to the economic activities that are undertaken in the community that provide the services community members need. While development **of** community pertains to improving the quality of relationships, confidence, enthusiasm and participation of community members in the community development process.[7]

To communicate in an open and respectful manner, the Community Development team plays an integral part and contributes by:

1 **Engaging with community.**

2 **Promoting a planned approach to building a strong, inclusive and connected community.**

3 **Connecting services and people to focus on solutions.**

4 **Linking, forming alliances, collaborating in information and formal settings to advocate change and collective action.**

5 **Keeping up to date, addressing and responding to local, state and national trends across a range of issues, including (but not limited to) social, recreational and health arenas.**

6 **Building capacity of its communities by adding value.**

7 **Strengthening community by better connecting people, building unity, reducing inequality and disadvantage.**

Left: Options Day

The Community Development team's work is driven by:

Social justice
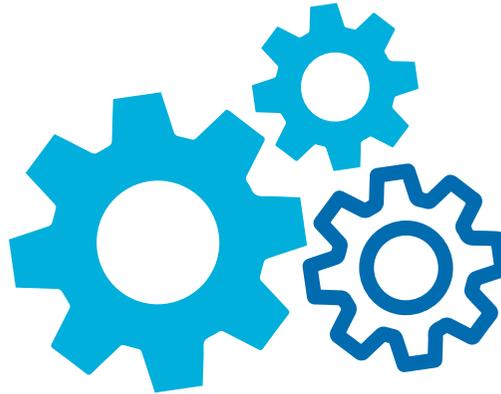
Responsiveness
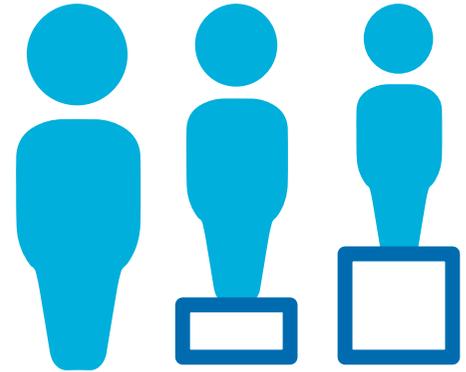
Equity and access
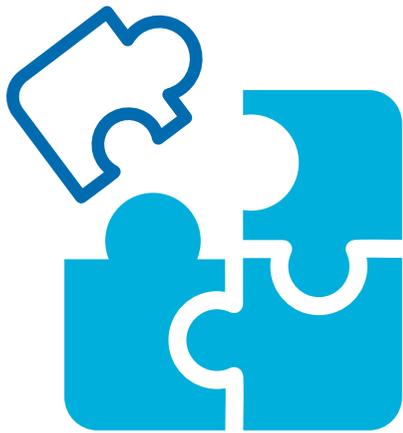
Inclusiveness

Community ownership
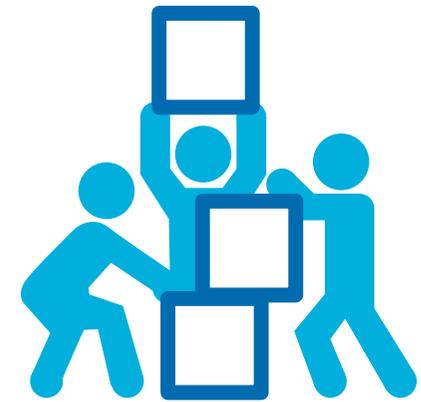
Capacity building

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

COMMUNITY

Programs/events	Venues			Community sector

Needs & requests

Referrals & advice

Intellectual property

Physical property/spaces

Relationships/partnerships

COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Supporter/influencer

Intellectual property

Programs/events

Relationship types

⟷ Service

– – Resources/networks

Sector knowledge
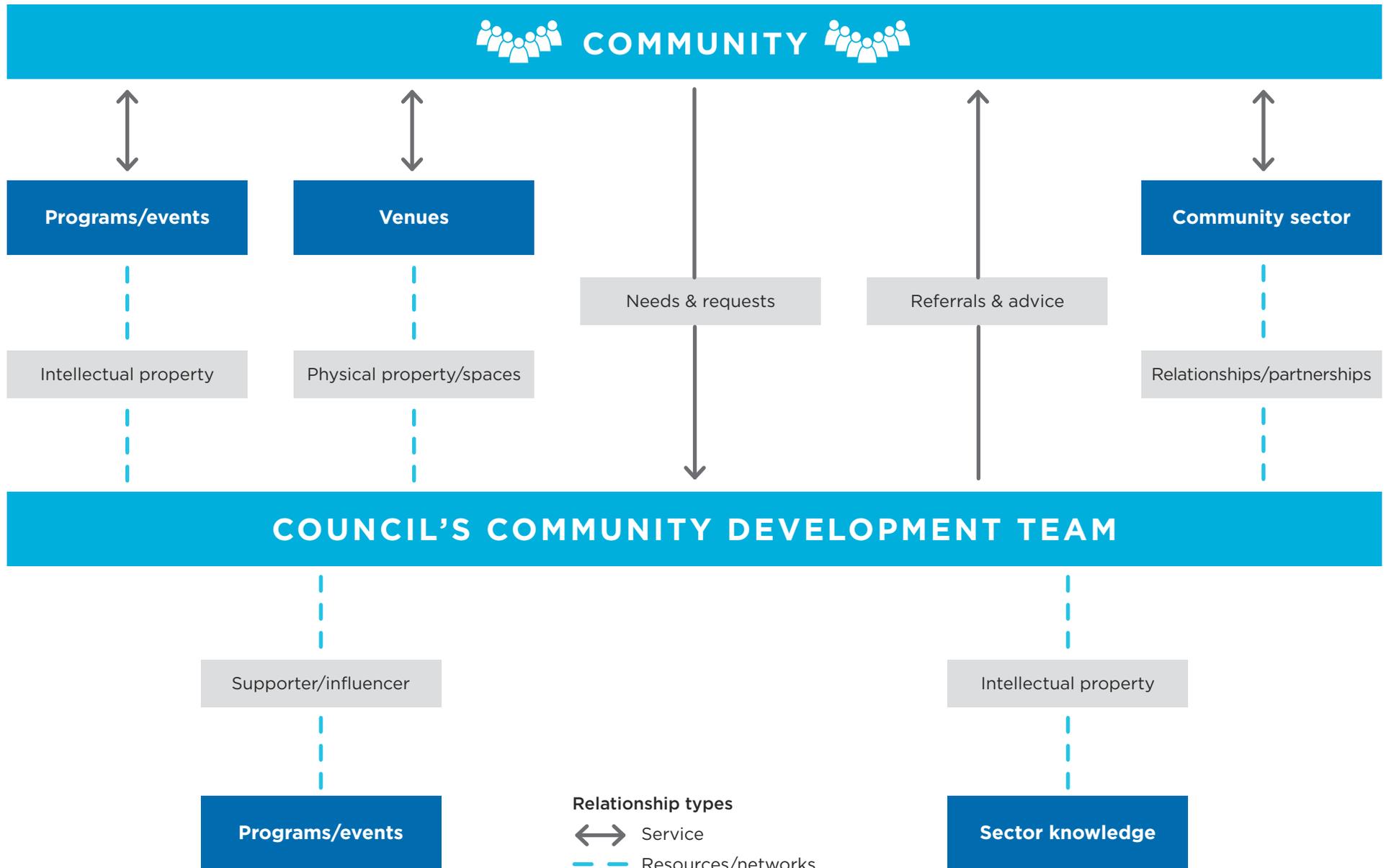
Continued dialogue, connection and collaboration is key to the success of community development in the Bundaberg Region. Council is part of the community development ecosystem and is there to encourage the community sector to exchange knowledge with a clear goal of empowering and enabling the community. Working with the community and community sector to determine how best to organise and shape programming, to enable and empower a stronger, more sustainable and resilient community is a significant part of this.

It's about the community working in partnership. Bundaberg Regional Council will work collaboratively with the community sector and the community as a partner to enable two-way transparency so that they can be responsive to supporting programs and development to address the changing needs of the community.[7]

Community development objectives

The following objectives reflect the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, localised for the Bundaberg Region:[8]

EMPOWER COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY OF INDEPENDENCE

Enabling people within the communities to understand and use their capacity to improve their lives and the sense of community in the Region.

FOSTER A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL HELP IN THE COMMUNITY

Assist members of the community to develop support and communicate with networks within and outside the community.

EMPOWER DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Motivate members of disadvantaged communities or groups to seek appropriate information to assist in creating their own solutions.

ENHANCE COMMUNITY COHESION AND HARMONY

Promote the integration of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities with mainstream society and foster better understanding and cooperation among people from diverse backgrounds.

MOTIVATE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Encourage and provide opportunities for members of the community to participate in activities to improve their quality of life by increasing their knowledge, information and awareness.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Primary sectors

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

SENIORS

MENTAL HEALTH

DISABILITY

YOUTH

FAMILY VIOLENCE

SEXUAL ASSAULT

EDUCATION

HOUSING

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

CULTURAL

Left: Seniors Forum and Expo
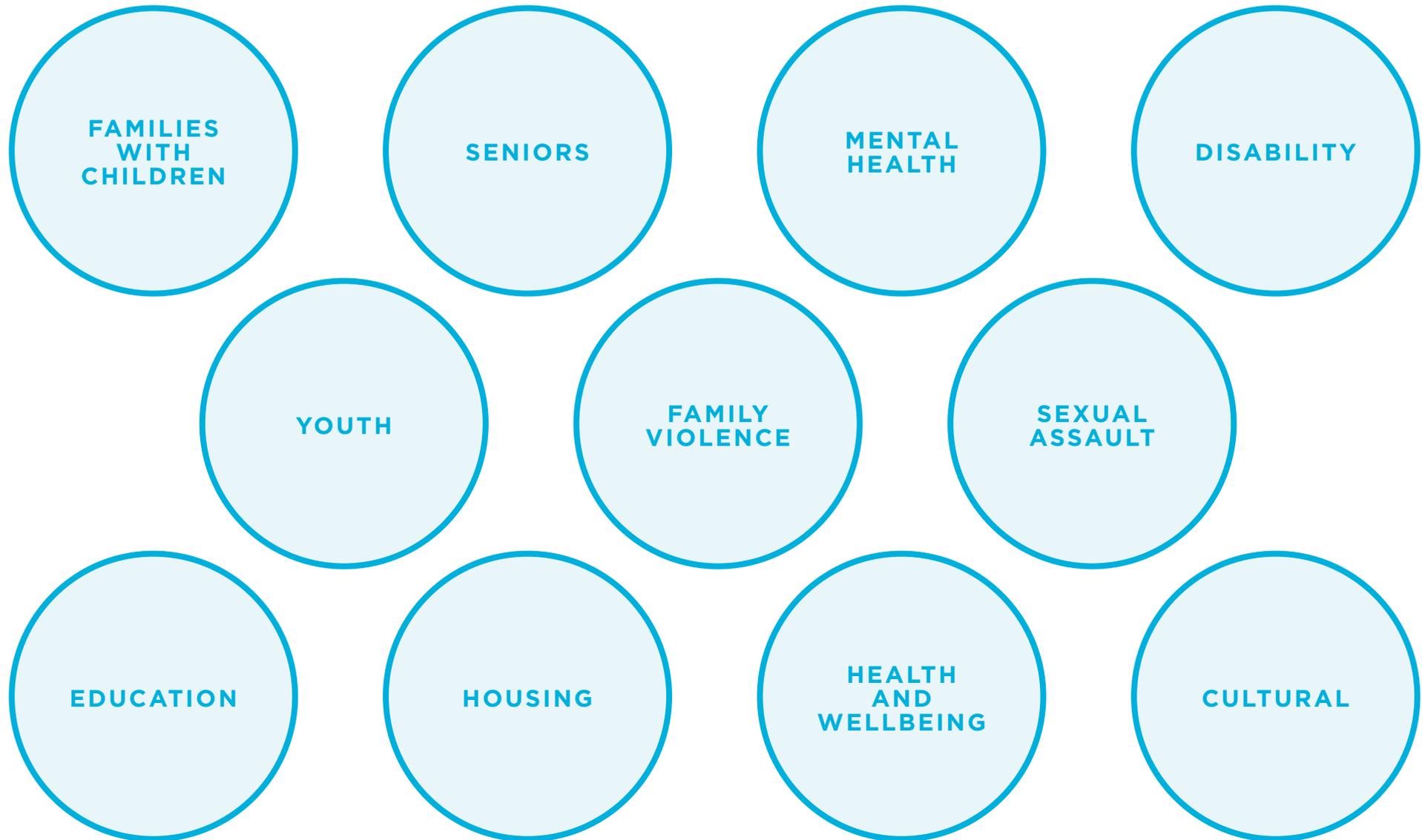
Key priority areas and outcomes

For each of the priority sectors, four key priority areas have been defined. They underpin initiatives and programs that will enhance community outcomes. These priority areas will be delivered in a non-judgemental manner with the utmost transparency to build trust:

INCLUSIVE

PARTICIPATION

ACCESSIBLE

CONNECTIVITY
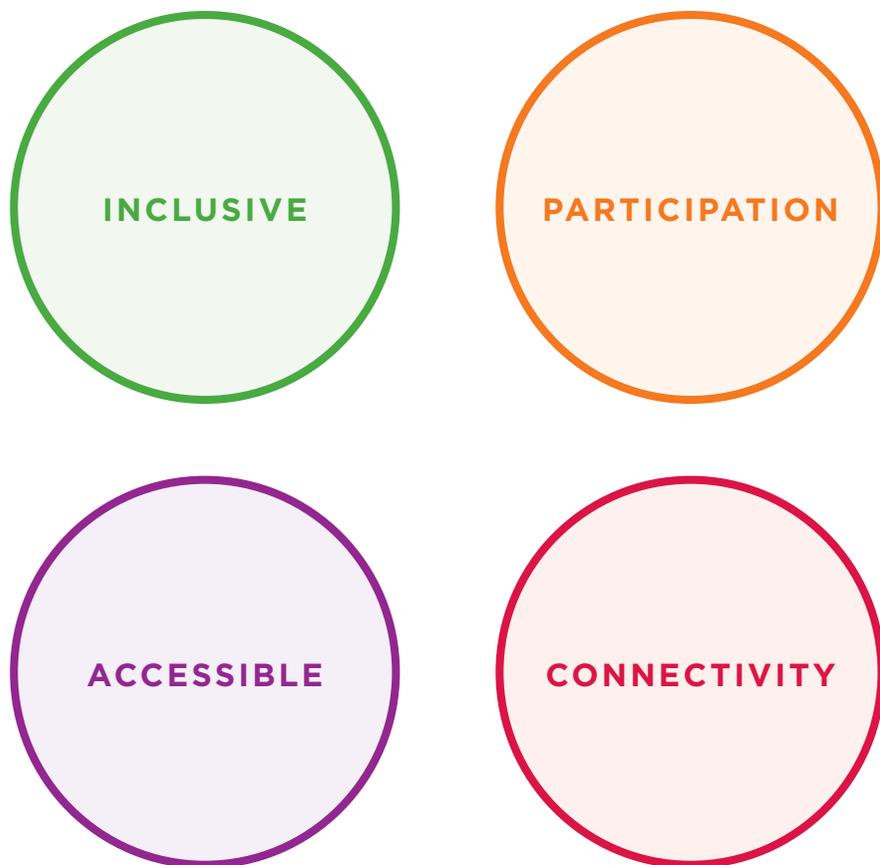
1 A community that is **inclusive**, involved and engaged. We value and respect the contribution of all community members, without bias of age, gender, ability, sexual orientation, ethnicity and cultural background. As a region, we will work collaboratively to achieve positive outcomes for the community.

2 A community that encourages and enables **participation** socially and professionally, valuing both individual and community-centric roles. The community will be supported with tools, resources and opportunities to enable participation and build resourcefulness and resilience.

3 A community that enables safe and **accessible** spaces. A safe, active and healthy lifestyle for all with the provision of spaces that are responsive to the needs of the community.

4 A community that supports each other through **connectivity** to services and information. Understanding the community needs and facilitating the connection with the community sector through referrals, events and content.

Right: Gin Gin NAIDOC Day

Inclusion initiatives

PRIORITY OUTCOME

*A community that is **inclusive**, involved and engaged. We value and respect the contribution of all community members, regardless of age, gender, ability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, cultural background. As a region, we will work collaboratively to achieve positive outcomes for the community.*

Maintain a community engagement model

Encourage participation from relevant community sector and community with regular engagement, advocating for two-way relationship transparency. Contribution and involvement encourages a sense of belonging and empowerment to be part of programs and the positive change that results from this.

Support people who feel isolated to build stronger connections

Advocate for the community to share insights, identifying potential gaps through regular consultation to inform and influence positive change with broader Council and the community sector.

Promote a solutions-based mindset

Encourage the development of community groups with the aim to empower and enable the community to be involved in solution-driving initiatives. Support these community groups through mentorship and advocacy.

Promote inclusion and participation within the community

Encourage both programmed and incidental inclusion and participation opportunities for improved wellbeing in the community.

Action plan

*A community that is **inclusive**, involved and engaged. We value and respect the contribution of all community members, regardless of age, gender, ability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, cultural background. As a region, we will work collaboratively to achieve positive outcomes for the community.*

Maintain a community engagement model

Encourage participation from relevant community sector and community with regular engagement, advocating for two-way relationship transparency. Contribution and involvement encourages a sense of belonging and empowerment to be part of programs and the positive change that results from this.

Actions

1. Facilitate and deliver workshops, programs, projects and activities that address identified gaps and barriers in the community.
2. Collaborate with community partners and encourage participation from diverse groups.
3. Consult with community forums, local community champions and organisations to report back on how Council is tracking and to help inform Council strategies.
4. Strengthen and collaborate with local services and community groups that engage with vulnerable groups in the community.
5. Build a resilient and prepared community through awareness and education.

Support people who feel isolated to build stronger connections

Advocate for the community to share insights, identifying potential gaps through regular consultation to inform and influence positive change with broader Council and the community sector.

Actions

1. Maintain a calendar of significant days, weeks, months with activities, projects and programs that provide opportunities to bring people together.
2. Support initiatives and programs then encourage residents to know their neighbours and local support services.
3. Facilitate culturally appropriate engagement opportunities for vulnerable people in our community.
4. Participate in events and forums, community meetings and networking opportunities to meet with people face-to-face.
5. Encourage people to participate in Council initiatives, by promoting social media and online platforms.

Promote a solutions-based mindset

Encourage the development of community groups with the aim to empower and enable the community to be involved in solution-driving initiatives. Support these community groups through mentorship and advocacy.

Actions

1. Source and promote workshops for groups, clubs and associates that support change
2. Participate in focus groups and public forums to obtain information about underlying issues and solutions within the community.
3. Create pathways for community groups to link and access support services.
4. Embrace innovative channels of communication; community directory, newsletters, social media
5. Support and promote community events which create inclusion, interaction and cohesion through education and involvement.

Promote inclusion and participation within the community

Encourage both programmed and incidental inclusion and participation opportunities for improved wellbeing in the community.

Actions

1. Develop relationships with organisations that provide services to the vulnerable community.
2. Foster relationships with the community to implement inclusive activities that enhance participation.
3. Increase understanding of the value of volunteering through recognition, appreciation and celebration of volunteers.
4. Build strategies that encourage equal access and cultural safety.
5. Support and promote community events which create community inclusion with a focus on wellbeing.

Participation initiatives

PRIORITY OUTCOME

*A community that encourages and enables **participation** socially and professionally, valuing both individual and community-centric roles. The community will be supported with tools, resources and opportunities to enable participation and build resourcefulness and resilience.*

Community sector engagement and participation

Work closely with the community sector to understand their needs and facilitate programs that include education to create solutions to enable the community to connect better.

Pathway programs

Work with education providers and the community sector to facilitate and connect the community with the opportunities available to build knowledge, confidence and independence.

Culture participation

Provide opportunities to celebrate partnerships that contribute to social harmony, pride in diversity and increased social connectedness. In doing so, encourage community-led initiatives that empower the community to take action themselves and respond positively to local initiatives. Enhance these outcomes by facilitating connections with the community sector and the community to improve the provision of services and programs for the community.

Action plan

PRIORITY OUTCOME

*A community that encourages and enables **participation** socially and professionally, valuing both individual and community-centric roles. The community will be supported with tools, resources and opportunities to enable participation and build resourcefulness and resilience.*

Community sector engagement and participation

Work closely with the community sector to understand their needs and facilitate programs to create solutions to gaps and barriers.

Actions

1. Work in partnership with community and service providers to actively encourage participation through community led projects, events and activities.
2. Prioritise affordable participation opportunities to engage community groups and clubs through Community Grants.
3. Focus and promote initiatives that provide a broad impact on Health and Wellbeing.
4. Strengthen linkages and bonds between existing community groups and interest groups.
5. Support and participate in interagency/sector meetings, sharing knowledge and information to work toward collaboratively addressing identified gaps and barriers.

Pathway programs

Work with education providers and the community sector to facilitate and connect the community with the opportunities available to build knowledge, confidence and independence.

Actions

1. Encourage awareness of trends in employment and education and maintain close relationships with education providers.
2. Promote pathways for traineeships, student placements and volunteer opportunities.
3. Support providers in attracting sponsorship and funding for community led educational activities and events.
4. Facilitate partnerships with key cultural and community groups.
5. 'Support community groups and agencies, to engage residents of all ages and capabilities, to participate in lifelong learning opportunities

Culture participation

Provide opportunities to celebrate partnerships that contribute to social harmony, pride in diversity and increased social connectedness. In doing so, encourage community-led initiatives that empower the community to take action themselves and respond positively to local initiatives. Enhance these outcomes by facilitating connections with the community sector and the service providers to improve the provision of services and programs for the community.

Actions

1. Work with the Regions' first people to promote the rich cultural heritage of this diverse and unique community.
2. Identify needs and support the delivery of relevant projects, activities and programs with the culturally and linguistically diverse community.
3. Promote safe, non-judgmental multifunctional community spaces for diverse cultural events and activities.
4. Promote cultural awareness and understanding within the community that acknowledges and embraces cultural diversity

Left: Harmony Garden

Accessible initiatives

PRIORITY OUTCOME

*A community that enables safe and **accessible** spaces. A safe, active and healthy lifestyle for all with the provision of spaces that are responsive to the needs of the community.*

Support a coordinated approach to future-proofing the region

Work with the Bundaberg Region Inclusive Community Committee in developing proactive programs to enhance the region's accessibility and educate the community on the services currently provided.

Build community sector responsiveness

Provide accessible space and communication opportunities for the community to respond to gaps and barriers with a localised solution.

Encourage safe, active and healthy lifestyle

Pinpoint accessibility pain points and work with the community sector and industry to create a solution that also encourages business prosperity and builds connectivity.

Action plan

PRIORITY OUTCOME

*A community that enables safe and **accessible** spaces. A safe, active and healthy lifestyle for all with the provision of spaces that are responsive to the needs of the community.*

Support a coordinated approach to future-proofing the region

Work with community and sectors in developing proactive programs to enhance the region's accessibility and educate the community on the services currently provided via networks.

Actions

1. Identify the key stakeholders and encourage network membership from multi sector decision makers.
2. Identify opportunities for networks to engage with the community and to work as a cohesive force for systemic change
3. Promote multi modal network engagement opportunities via email trees, websites, social media platforms, interagency meetings and so forth
4. Plan community led projects, events and activities that meet the needs of the community based on community feedback.
5. Provide information and resources to the community regarding health and lifestyle, safety and wellbeing.

Build community sector responsiveness

Provide accessible space and communication opportunities for the community to respond to gaps and barriers with a localised solution.

Actions

1. Facilitate referral pathway opportunities to encourage the community to use their voice in a safe and non-judgmental environment.
2. Look at opportunities for inclusion of translator or interpreter services at all events.
3. Promote Council as a portal of referral and information to community services and agencies.
4. Work collaboratively with departments and the community sector to provide opportunities that are accessible and support participation of the entire community.

Encourage safe, active and healthy lifestyle

Pinpoint accessibility pain points and work with the community sector and industry to create a solution that also encourages business prosperity and builds connectivity.

Actions

1. Promote and encourage opportunities for the community to utilize Council parks and venues for projects and programs, expos and fun days.
2. Identify new trends and activities in the community to build sustainable education and employment opportunities.
3. Provide and encourage place-based activities that support people of all ages and backgrounds.
4. Use social media, local radio and newsletters to share information with the community about healthy choices in health and wellbeing.
5. Implement flexible processes with a variety of community engagement tools and techniques to ensure maximum participation.

Connectivity initiatives

PRIORITY OUTCOME

*A community that supports each other through **connectivity** to services and information. Understanding the community needs and facilitating the connection with the community sector through referrals, events and content.*

Improve education sharing

Encourage new ways of regular information exchanges on community initiatives. Promote transparency in communication through regular information sessions and events with the community, industry and community sector.

Strengthen community ties with Council representatives

Create an environment for Council representatives to engage more broadly as a team with a cross section of the community. Coordinate regular opportunities, informal in nature, to bring the community and those that represent them together to learn from and discuss opportunities for the future.

Promote a community approach to combating societal issues

Strengthen community ownership and a community-led response to gaps as they are identified. Provide guidance and knowledge sharing, and facilitate connections to encourage proactive problem solving.

Strengthen partnerships which build community capacity

Continue to grow and build on partnerships with social networks, charitable organisations and community outreach agencies from within the Region and outside to build relationships and connections for the community.

Action plan

PRIORITY OUTCOME

*A community that supports each other through **connectivity** to services and information. Understanding the community needs and facilitating the connection with the community sector through referrals, events and content.*

Improve education sharing

Encourage new ways of regular information exchanges on community initiatives. Promote transparency in communication through regular information sessions and events with the community, industry and service providers.

Actions

1. Enhance access to information through promotion of the Bundaberg Regional Council websites, community networks and community education sessions.
2. Actively seek media and promotional opportunities for all community projects, programs and events.
3. Ensure our workforce is trained, developed and supported to competently respond to community needs.
4. Support initiatives and programs that encourage residents to know their neighbours and local support services.
5. Participate in and promote collaboration between community, service providers and industry.

Strengthen community ties with Council representatives

Create an environment for Council representatives to engage more broadly as a team with a cross section of the community. Coordinate regular opportunities, informal in nature, to bring the community and those that represent them together, to learn from, and discuss opportunities for the future.

Actions

1. Identify opportunities to integrate Councillors into community initiatives.
2. Provide opportunities for community consultations on current and emerging trends.
3. Identify and deliver community projects in partnership in response to community demand.
4. Positively promote and communicate Council achievements within the community.

Promote a community approach to combating societal issues

Strengthen community ownership and a community-led response to gaps as they are identified. Provide guidance and knowledge sharing, facilitate connections to encourage proactive problem solving.

Actions

1. Advocate needs of the community. Find opportunities to walk with, not lead the community.
2. Develop focus groups to address gaps and barriers, by providing guidance to proactive problem solving.
3. Work in partnership with community and service providers to support initiatives that connect the marginalized and vulnerable to the broad community.
4. Listen to the community and request feedback

Strengthen partnerships which build community capacity

Continue to grow and build on partnerships with social networks, charitable organisations and community outreach agencies to build relationships and connections for the community.

Actions

1. Promote and provide information on pathways for referral that address isolation, participation and connectivity.
2. Connect with small marginalized groups, clubs and educate on resourcing initiatives.
3. Educate and upskill individuals and groups in governance and attracting membership.
4. Identify new or potential partnership opportunities for community led activities, events and programs.
5. Promote funding and sponsorship opportunities by providing a range of workshops.

SUCCESS MEASURES

Success measures

Success measures and drivers can be seen as a collective outcome, re-enforcing the interconnected dynamic of support, service and communication across a range of categories.

1	**Participating**	Can the community sector demonstrate an uptake of service?
2	**Personal growth**	Is community benefiting from the uptake of community sector services?
3	**Sector growth**	Does the community sector have a skilled, dynamic and locally-sourced workforce?
4	**Connection**	Is the community being connected to the right community sector provider?
5	**Educated**	Are clients achieving improved outcomes with connection to services?
6	**Socially connected**	Are residents participating in their community?
7	**Making connections**	Are residents sustaining connection beyond formalised participation?
8	**Informed**	Are people aware and informed of local changes and conditions?
9	**Happy and healthy**	Are people experiencing improved health and wellbeing?
10	**Access to information**	Are information channels consistent and accessible?

Left: Early Years Playgroup Childers

How does your garden grow?

Identified gap or barrier

Source funding

Develop a plan for action

Divvy up the tasks

Open and transparent discussions

Check in

Facilitate a shared view

Opportunities to connect

Celebrate lifestyle

Celebrate community

Celebrate successes and triumphs

Identify skills, interests and resources

Informal and formal discussions

Celebrate!

Lifelong learning

Promote positive and strengths based conflict resolution

Invite partnerships for collaboration

Community feedback

Measure success

Celebrate wellbeing

Celebrate diversity

Identify opportunities to build upon

Who else is impacted?

All inclusive events

Collate feedbacks, sharing data

Meets Community need

Indoor and outdoor activities

Opportunities to consider choices

Safe non-judgemental

Address issues, blocks, and barriers immediately

Conduct event, activity or program

Maintain focus on desired shared outcomes

Accessible information

The Bundaberg Regional Council Community Development team hosts significant annual community events across the region in Bundaberg, Childers & Gin Gin:

- Seniors Forums and Expos
- Disability – Action Days
- Family fun days – including a Welcome Baby Celebration
- Domestic and Family Violence Campaigns
- Youth Month Activities

To meet the needs of our community these events have been developed from listening for gaps and barriers, responding to the demand, and by encouraging participation and partnerships with community organisations.

Council collaborates with community organisations to uncover place based opportunities for sustainable outcomes. As groups gain confidence, access funding, share resources, strengthen their partnerships, learn new skills, and participate, the rewards are broadly cast throughout the Bundaberg Region because of the valuable partnerships developed.

Gaps and barriers change and evolve. Council maintains an open and transparent interest in all things community, listening quietly for the groundswell of community need...and then...Council responds...

APPENDIX

Community consultation

Sparrowly Group Pty Ltd were engaged to consult with the community to work with Council to identify the strategic priorities.

By undertaking a series of face to face interviews with residents and the business community, prioritisation, partnerships, funding and measurement were identified as priorities to develop strong community engagement and positive economic impact.

ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

This strategy has been built with input from community sector and residents from the Region. We spoke with people of different ages, cultural backgrounds (long-term and new residents alike) to find out their priorities, ideas and insights for their community.

CONSULTATION METHODS

1. **Internal Council workshops**
2. **Website survey (12 weeks)**
3. **Community sector workshops**
4. **Community focus groups**
5. **Community sector 1:1 interviews**

Collectively, this has helped design and develop the key themes, areas for action and priorities for the Community Development Strategy.

23
1:1 INTERVIEWS

77
WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

693
SURVEY RESPONSES

CONSULTATION THEMES

It was recommended that anyone attending community consultation (as a resident or sector representative) approach the sessions, not as an individual, but as a civic representative when considering the issues .

Q. Ask participants not what they want personally or what is in their self interest, but what they consider appropriate in their role as citizens or as sector representatives.

Instead of focusing on Council priority sectors, we positioned the conversation across themes and aspects that underpin all priority sectors, producing six core themes for discussion to focus on.

Q. Discuss these themes;

1. **Access and inclusion**
2. **Seniors**
3. **Cultural**
4. **Wellbeing**
5. **Youth**
6. **Families with children**

Left: Community Development Conference Bundaberg

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Right: Childers Mud Play Day

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