

Kimberley Regional Group
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

FEBRUARY 2016

HUNTING AND FISHING
GOING BUSH
PLAYING SPORTS
THE LAND
THE FOOD AND THE PEOPLE

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The four shires in the Kimberley (Broome, Derby/West Kimberley, Halls Creek and Wyndham/East Kimberley) have already demonstrated their individual commitments to supporting young people. This framework seeks to harness their collective experiences into a document that enables a strategic approach across the whole region. By working together we will be able to share knowledge and resources. Ultimately we will be better placed to promote the wellbeing of young people right across the Kimberley.

We recognise there are significant challenges that face many of our young people and advances will only be achieved if we work in partnership with other sections of the community – young people, their families, community agencies, state and federal governments. We also want to acknowledge and celebrate young people's achievements and encourage their participation in our communities.

Through reviewing and documenting our approach to young people others will be able to better understand our strategies for supporting young people and our future priorities for action.

Accordingly, it brings me great pleasure to present the *Kimberley Regional Group Strategic Framework for Young People* – the first of its kind in Western Australia.

Chairperson
Kimberley Regional Group

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WHY HAVE A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) has an ongoing commitment to working with others to build communities that foster the wellbeing of all young people.

By virtue of their age and stage of development young people bring unique perspectives, aspirations and needs that require specific approaches to engaging and supporting them. Young people are our future – giving particular focus to fostering the wellbeing of young people is in everybody's best interest.

While the region has many assets and many of our young people are doing well; our young people face greater challenges than their metropolitan counterparts. Our remote locations pose many difficulties when trying to deliver sustainable support.

The wellbeing of young people is complex. There are a number of different factors that work together to increase the likelihood of young people being happy, healthy contributors to their communities. It is vital that when thinking about promoting outcomes for young people a broader understanding of the complexity of issues is understood.

Only when all parts of the community understand how inter-related factors contribute to young people doing well (or poorly) then the community can then work together to start to identify possible solutions.

It is important that this holistic approach and understanding is documented in strategies that include outcomes and mechanisms for monitoring how we are doing.

The strategic framework for young people (the framework) seeks to bring together the significant body of knowledge that is available for improving outcomes for young people with the already substantial effort and expertise that exists within the region to guide a strengthened regional approach to creating a youth friendly place to live.

Accordingly, this framework outlines a strategic approach to supporting young people through its statement of strategic intent, principles and priorities that provide a common understanding, direction and guidance for our approach. The framework is not intended to be prescriptive – it is designed to be responsive to a dynamic and changing environment.



HOW THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WAS DEVELOPED

The framework was developed through a process of:

- identifying trends and reviewing issues being raised by current research and literature
- using data from surveying young people and others' consultations with young people to understand what they value about their communities and what changes they would like to see
- using data from consultations with community stakeholders about their experiences of how well young people were faring and what the gaps were in supporting them
- meeting with shire councillors and staff members to discuss their role in the youth area and identifying existing programs and initiatives
- conducting a two day workshop with key shire representatives.



OUR REGION

The Kimberley region covers an area of 419 558 square kilometres, which is one sixth of Western Australia's total land area and is almost twice the size of the State of Victoria, and three times that of the United Kingdom. The Kimberley is bordered by the Indian Ocean in the west, the Timor Sea to the north, the Great Sandy and Tanami Deserts to the south, and the Northern Territory to the east.

The Kimberley is located north of the Tropic of Capricorn, so the climate is tropical monsoon, defined by a distinct wet season (November to April) and a dry season (May to October).¹

The region has a culturally diverse population, which reflects the region and its diverse economy with mining, tourism, agriculture, and pearling all major contributors to the economic output of the area.²

There are about 198 Aboriginal communities in the region and many Aboriginal people also live in the towns. There are strong cultural links, with an annual round of traditional ceremonies and some 34 distinct languages spoken, plus the people maintain continuous attachments with the land.³ Nearly one third of the region is comprised of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.⁴

In 2011 the Census revealed that 21 per cent of the regions population were aged between 10-24 years.

There are four local government authorities in the Kimberley including the:

- Shire of Broome Shire covering an area of 56 000 square kilometres
- Shire of Derby/West Kimberley Shire covering an area of 102 706 square kilometres
- Shire of Halls Creek covering 142 908 square kilometres
- Shire of Wyndham/East Kimberley covering an area of 121 000 square kilometres

¹ Kimberley Regional Group, Kimberley Strategic Community Plan 2014 – 2024

² Department of Regional Development, Kimberley: a regional profile 2014

³ Department of education and Training website, www.det.wa.edu.au/aboriginaleducation/apac/detcms/navigation/regional-websites/kimberley/about-the-region/

⁴ Department of Health, Kimberley regional profile <http://www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/index.php?id=492#c1091>



419,558
SQUARE KILOMETRES

WHO ARE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE?

In the 2011 Census the population of the Kimberley was 34,794.⁵ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people made up 40 per cent of the population. Figure one shows the distribution of the population across the local government areas.

In the 2011 Census there were approximately 7,374 young people aged between 10–24 years living in the Kimberley region or 21 per cent of the total population. More than half of which identified as ATSI.

The following information is a snapshot of the demographic profile of young people in the region.

Figure 1: Kimberley population by local government authority

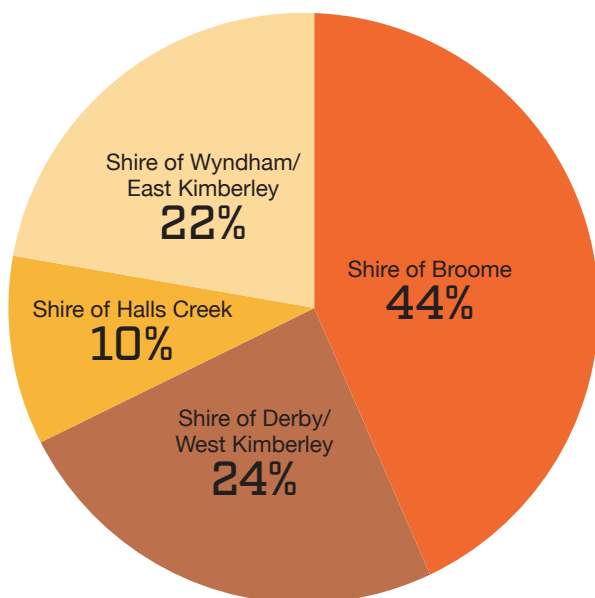


Figure 2: Number of young people by age group by local government authority

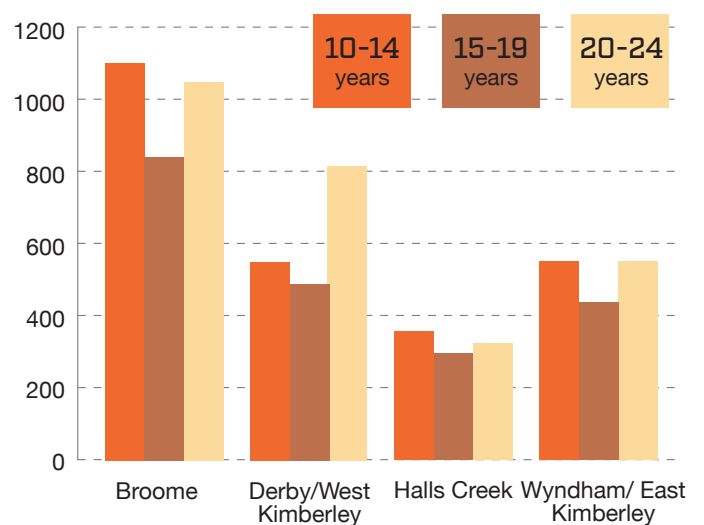
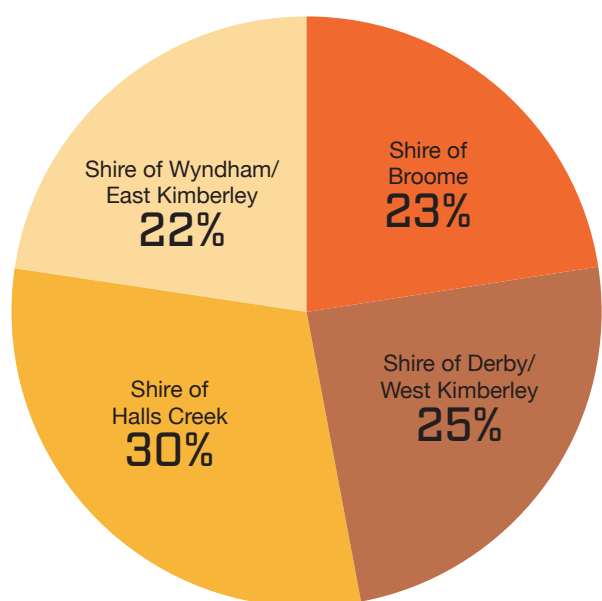


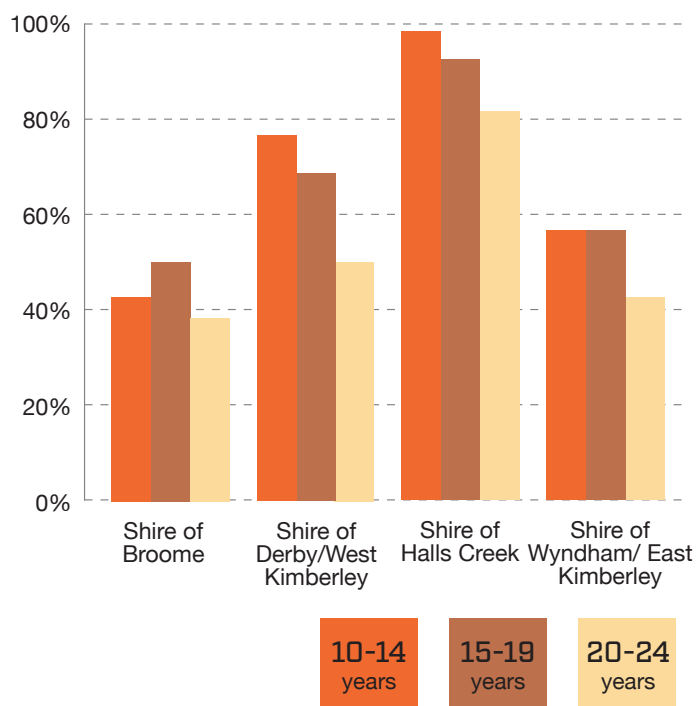
Figure 3: Percentage of young people aged 10-24 by local government authority



⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011 data, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/50804?opendocument&navpos=220

The median age of ATSI people in region was 23 years of age compared to the Kimberley median of 30 years and the state median age of 36. ATSI people make up 2.6 per cent of WA's overall population⁶, whilst in the Kimberley region ATSI people make up 21.2 per cent⁷ of the population.

Figure 4: Percentage of young people who identify as ATSI by age by local government authority



FAMILY COMPOSITION

The following tables show that a large percentage of families are comprised of couple family with children (41.0 per cent) compared to the state (44.9 per cent) and the number of children born by age of parent.

Table 1: Family composition

FAMILY COMPOSITION	KIMBERLEY	WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Couple family without children	33.8%	38.8%
Couple family with children	41.0%	44.9%
One parent family	22.8%	14.5%

There is a significant difference between the Kimberley percentage of one-parent families and that of the rest of the state.

Table 2: Number of children ever born by age of parent (count for girls 15 years and over)

AGE OF PARENT	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	1	2	3	4	5	6+
15-19 years	693	81	10	0	0	0	3
20-24 years	686	247	141	54	8	3	3

⁶ http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/5?opendocument&navpos=220

⁷ http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/LGA52800?opendocument&navpos=220



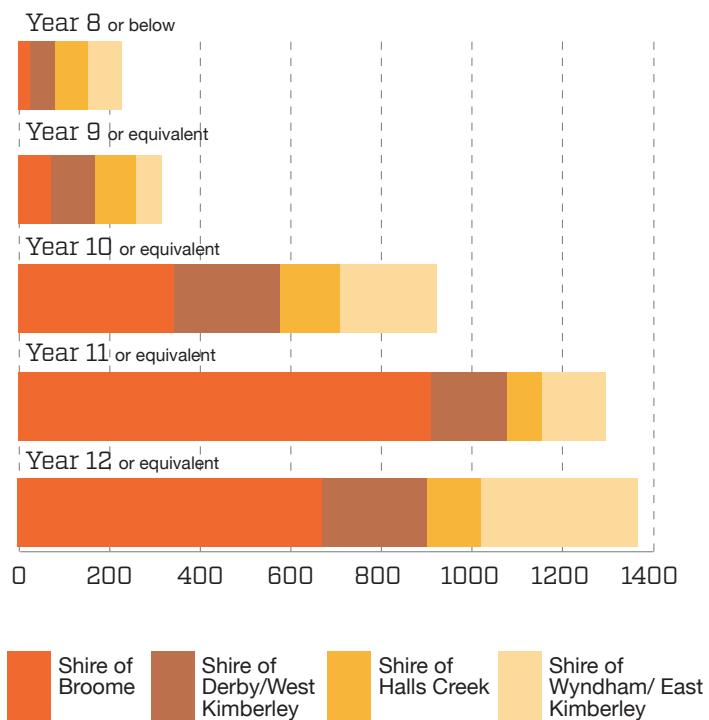
CHILDCARE

- 21 per cent of young people aged 15–24 years provided unpaid care to either their own child/ren and to other child/ren

EDUCATION

The following tables reveal the level of education and qualifications attained by young people aged between 15–24 years in the region.

Figure 5: Highest level of school completed 15–24 years by local government authority



EMPLOYMENT

The following table shows young people over 15 who are employed by various industries in the Kimberley.

Table 3: Industry of employment in the Kimberley by age

INDUSTRY	15–19 YEARS	20–24 YEARS
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	49	116
Mining	5	88
Manufacturing	25	35
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	6	16
Construction	54	131
Wholesale trade	7	14
Retail trade	112	115
Accommodation & food services	75	144
Transport, postal & warehousing	18	77
Information media & telecommunications	12	14
Financial & insurance services	0	12
Rental, hiring & real estate services	4	20
Professional, scientific & technical services	4	5
Administration & support services	27	58
Public administration & safety	33	77
Education & training	37	139
Health care & social assistance	44	121
Arts & recreation services	6	13
Other services	53	124



HOUSEHOLD ARRANGEMENTS

Of those young people aged 15–24 years:

- 10 per cent lived in the family home
- 5 per cent lived in group homes
- 14.5 per cent lived with their partner or spouse
- 4 per cent were lone parents

DISABILITY

- 7.5 per cent of young people aged 15–24 years provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability

VOLUNTEERING

- 10.5 per cent of young people aged 15–24 years volunteer for an organisation or group

SEIFA

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) developed the socio economic indexes for areas (SEIFA), which are a suite of four summary measures created from the 2011 Census information¹. For each index, every geographic area in Australia is given a SEIFA score, which shows relative advantage and disadvantage compared with other areas in Australia.

SEIFA uses a broad definition of relative socio-economic disadvantage in terms of people’s access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society.

The index of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage is a continuum of advantage (high values) to disadvantage (low values). The following table shows the SEIFA scores for the four local government areas in the Kimberley, along with their Australian, Western Australian and decile rankings. The lower the score the higher the level of disadvantage.

Table 4: Rankings on SEIFA index of relative socio economic advantage and disadvantage

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	SCORE	RANK WA	RANK AUSTRALIA	DECILE
Shire of Broome	966	47	284	6
Shire of Derby/ West Kimberley	791	5	32	1
Shire of Halls Creek	671	1	16	1
Shire of Wyndham/East Kimberley	911	16	89	2

WHAT OUR

YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

WHAT THEY LIKE ABOUT WHERE THEY LIVE

Young people told us that the things they liked most about where they live were:

- going bush
- hunting and fishing
- playing sports
- the land
- the food and the people.

The value of family and friends, education, culture and activities are consistent themes arising from consultations with young people. Family and friends are viewed as a main source of support.

WHAT THEY WOULD DO TO CREATE A YOUTH FRIENDLY TOWN

If young people could make changes to where they live they would:

- improve the amenity of their towns, such as the provision of more public spaces and better facilities
- provide more educational and employment opportunities
- recognise the importance of culture
- have more things to do.

Reducing alcohol and drug use also features strongly in young people's views as a way of making their communities more youth friendly. The need for better transport was also identified.

WHAT OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES SAY

When we spoke to councillors, service providers and community members their priorities for better supporting young people included the need for:

- more programs available to all young people
- more programs aimed at young people at risk
- better transport options
- more mental health and health services
- expanding on employment options
- more flexible criteria for accessing of services 8–12 year olds falling between service funding models
- more junior sport
- more outlets for culture and arts expression

Community members also identified many challenges that the operating environment presents for delivering effective services to young people.

The need for strong community partnerships, and all parts of the community taking responsibility for working together toward a common goal was another theme.



IMPROVE THE AMENITY
OF THEIR TOWNS,
SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF
MORE PUBLIC SPACES
AND BETTER FACILITIES

WHAT OUR

YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

COMMUNITY PLAN

2014-2024

The Kimberley Strategic Community Plan 2014-2024 was developed by the KRG with direct reference to key stakeholder planning documents, including the four member shire's strategic community plans and thirty one related regional, state and national plans and strategies with direct relevance to the role of local government in the Kimberley region.

OUR VISION

Maintain and enhance the rich diversity and livability of the Kimberley for its people and the world.

OUR MISSION

Working collaboratively for the benefit of people and the land of the Kimberley region.

VALUES

- Equity for the interests of each shire
- Respecting the diversity of people, landscape and culture
- Integrity, openness and trust
- Commitment to Kimberley outcomes
- Working proactively to achieve our collective vision
- Valuing success
- Innovative

STRATEGIC

FRAMEWORK FOR

YOUNG PEOPLE

The framework outlines a strategic approach to supporting young people through its statement of strategic intent, principles and priorities that provide common understanding, direction and guidance for our approach. The framework is designed to be responsive to a dynamic and changing environment.

STRATEGIC INTENT FOR SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

The KRG is committed to developing the Kimberley local governments' capacity to foster youth friendly communities across the region. The intent of this framework is to guide a consistent, coordinated approach to achieving shared outcomes while recognising the differing operating contexts and delivery methods in each shire.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE

We will:

- work in partnership and collaborate with others
- monitor trends
- advocate on behalf of the region

- build capacity – support local governments, communities and youth led initiatives
- improve amenity
- include the voice of young people in decision making
- encourage economic development
- promote accountability within local government.

PRINCIPLES

- Youth engagement
- Cultural relevance and awareness
- Inclusiveness
- Socio economic realities
- Striving for social change
- Diversity of young people
- Accountability
- Sustainability

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Health and wellbeing
- Partnerships, coordination and advocacy
- Education, employment and training
- Crime and safety
- Built and natural environment

KRG STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

STRATEGIC INTENT

To strengthen Kimberley local governments' capacity to foster youth friendly communities across the region using a consistent, coordinated approach to achieving shared outcomes while recognising the differing operating contexts and delivery methods in each shire

PRINCIPLES

Youth
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Socio
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Cultural
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PRIORITIES

Health &
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Partnerships,
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Education,
training &
employment

Crime
& safety

Built &
natural
environment

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

SOCIO ECONOMIC REALITIES

CULTURAL RELEVANCE & AWARENESS

INCLUSIVENESS

STRIVING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

DIVERSITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE

SUSTAINABILITY

ACCOUNTABILITY





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