We hear YOUth – facilitator briefing notes

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| **1. Project Title**  City of Greater Bendigo Youth Strategy Evaluation – Focus Group Facilitation |
| **2. Description**  The City of Greater Bendigo (the City) is in the early stages of evaluating the *Explore Engage Empower: Young People in Greater Bendigo Youth Strategy 2017 – 2021* and have identified an opportunity to partner with and engage the participants in the We Hear YOUth peer interviewers’ program as focus group facilitators as part of this process.  The City is aiming to complete the evaluation by the end of July, and is looking to hold 3 focus group sessions with groups of internal stakeholders (young volunteers from the FReeZA, Ambedo, and Youth Council programs), in addition to a number (TBD) of focus group sessions with external stakeholders (e.g. youth groups run by partner organisations, school SRCs). |
| **3. Goal of the focus groups**  The goal of the evaluation is to measure the impact of the existing youth strategy, including the programs run under that strategy (aka FReeZA, Ambedo, and Youth Council), and beginning to gather data to inform the next strategy. The focus groups sessions with these internal stakeholders will also include some questions evaluating those specific programs.  The City is inviting the We Heart YOUth program participants to facilitate these focus groups as a practical training opportunity as part of their course. |
| **4. Background of the youth strategy**  Developed and adopted in 2017, Explore, Engage, Empower: Young People in Greater Bendigo (2017-2021) provides the strategic direction of the Engaged Communities YO Bendigo team to provide a range of programs to young people in Greater Bendigo.  The major elements of the Youth Strategy are the:  **Vision:**  Young people in Greater Bendigo are heard, valued, connected and inspired so that they make the most of life’s opportunities  **Principles:**  Explore – We explore opportunities with young people that increase inclusion and connection.  Engage – We engage with young people to ensure their needs and opinions are heard and valued.  Empower – We empower and inspire young people to shape the world they live in.  **Goals:**   * Provide opportunities for young people to have their say * Promote young people as valuable citizens who make a positive contribution to the community * Provide innovative opportunities for young people to develop new skills * Increase collaboration with education providers, industry, and community to enhance employment opportunities * Deliver inclusive accessible events and programs for all the community * Increase collaboration to strengthen partnerships, networks, and advocacy in priority areas * - Create spaces that are inclusive, safe, and welcoming for all the community |
| **5. Overview of Evaluation Plan**  The evaluation plan has been developed to focus on process and outcome evaluation of the youth strategy 2017-2021. This will be achieved by asking three overarching questions:   * What did we do? * How well did we do it? * And what change did we produce?   Monitoring of all actions, which assess the process evaluation, has already commenced and is reported in progress reports. Outcome evaluation will assess the overall change produced by the implementation of the strategy, methods used to gather this data include stakeholder survey, stakeholder focus groups, YO Bendigo records, and where appropriate official datasets. The key indicators to be measured in this evaluation process are aligned to each of the seven goals listed above. The indicators are:   * Young people having a say * Awareness and acceptance of young people’s contribution * Opportunities to develop new skills * Collaboration * Youth employment opportunities and pathways * Accessibility and inclusiveness of events/activities * Partnerships and networks * Advocacy * Perceptions of safety and belonging     Question 1: What did we do? Identifies the outputs of implementing the youth strategy  Tools used to gather the necessary information: Youth strategy progress reports, attendance and participation records for events, activities, programs etc., attendance records of stakeholder meetings, program steering committee meetings etc.  Question 2: How well did we do it? Assess the quality of outputs when implementing the youth strategy.  Data required to answer this question: measure stakeholder perceptions of the quality of implementation, stakeholder expectations/satisfaction, stakeholder perceptions of appropriateness of strategy, and perceptions of what work/didn’t work  Tools used to gather this information: stakeholder survey, supported with additional small focus groups with agency representatives, partners, young people, and Youth Councillors  Question 3: What change did we produce? Assess if we achieved the goals of the Youth Strategy  Evidence required: the outcomes of the Youth Strategy will be assessed by identifying key indicators for each of the strategy’s seven goals as listed above.  Tools used to gather this information: stakeholder survey, supported with additional small focus groups with agency representatives, partners, young people, and Youth Councillors |
| **6. Survey findings**  TBC |
| **7: Focus groups**  Existing internal stakeholder groups   * YO Media Team (Ambedo) * YO Events Team (FReeZa) * Youth Councillors   Existing external stakeholder groups   * Access EPIC group * Headspace reference group   Potential focus group questions |