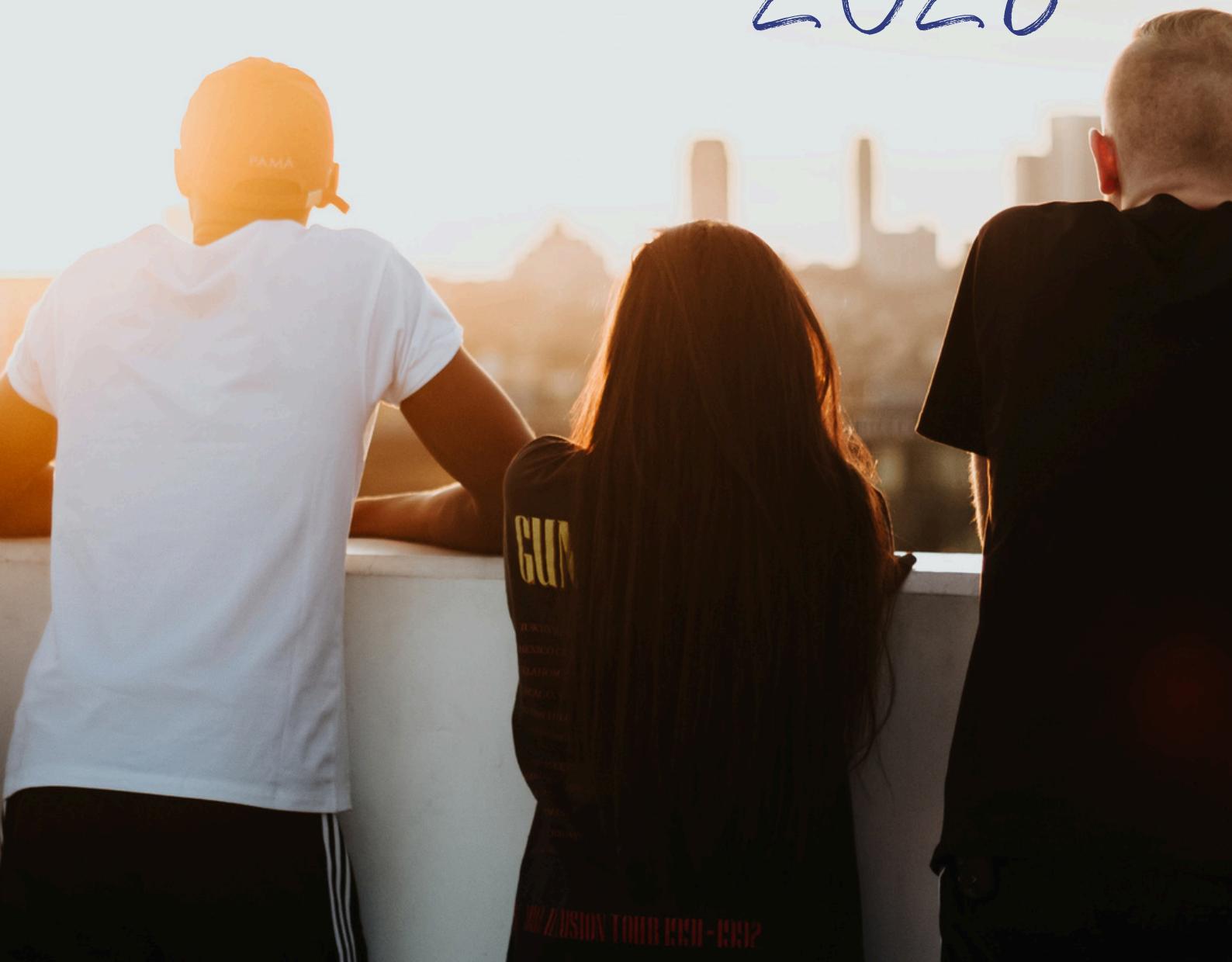




Oasis Central Coast & Hunter

Youth Participation Report 2025



Youth Participation

At Oasis Central Coast and Hunter we value the voice of young people. We love walking alongside young people to help build a stronger community. And we are committed to supporting them to develop the skills and capacity to live healthy and independent lives. We value their input and know that our service should strive to be responsive and evolve to suit the recommendations of young people. We have had multiple opportunities for Youth Participation throughout our service in 2025. This report will outline some key areas including:

1. Service Design
2. Employment and Volunteer Experience
3. Youth Advisory Group (YAG)
4. Future Initiatives 2026

1.

Service Design

Having young people involved in elements of service design is valuable and something we have focused on throughout our service in 2025. Our main focus areas have been through our social programs and vocational training spaces.

Social Programs

Participants at our Drop In program were actively involved in choosing a number of national awareness days to acknowledge and celebrate, including R U OK? Day, Wear It Purple Day, and Homelessness Matters Day.

This year, our School Holiday programs adopted a more adventurous and engaging approach to activities, with a strong focus on providing young people with experiences they may not normally have access to. We placed a greater emphasis on offsite activities rather than onsite sessions, allowing participants to explore new environments, build confidence, and develop skills through real-world experiences. Young people were actively involved in shaping the program by sharing what activities they would like to participate in and creating a collective list of ideas for future events. These ideas were then voted on, ensuring their voices were heard, encouraging engagement, ownership, and excitement within the program. The programs included bushwalking, a boating day, go karting and theatre performances.



Vocational Training

Our Training, Education and Employment stream implemented the Youth Outcome Measurement (YOM) Survey with young people throughout our programs. We have received great pre- and post-survey results, and it has provided an opportunity to gain direct feedback from the young people we work alongside.

In addition, Business students played a key role in designing and developing the vocational training survey, ensuring it reflected the lived experiences of students engaged in our service delivery. Working alongside staff, students helped shape the questions to reflect what matters most to them in their training, including learning quality, support, and pathways beyond the program. Their involvement helped ensure the survey was clear, relevant, and easy for students to complete, and also provided them with practical experience in consultation and feedback processes. This approach supports meaningful youth participation and ensures student voice continues to inform improvements to our vocational training programs.

The survey was then implemented across our vocational training courses to gather consistent feedback on the student experience. This has enabled us to capture direct insights from students, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and ensure our training remains relevant, accessible, and responsive. This approach supports meaningful youth participation and ensures student voice continues to inform ongoing improvements to our vocational training programs.



“The course gave me the confidence and skills to apply for the job. as a receptionist”

21 YEAR OLD STUDENT



“Through personal struggle and the support of my course, I’ve gained the tools to help others in their hardest moments.”

25 YEAR OLD STUDENT

2. Employment and Volunteer Experience

Participation Through Employment and Volunteer Experience

Young people were supported to participate through paid employment, and work experience opportunities across our programs. These opportunities enabled young people to apply their skills in real-world settings, contribute meaningfully to service delivery and community activities, and build confidence, responsibility, and work readiness. For some young people, gaining employment also influenced their availability to participate in advisory and group activities, reflecting positive progression and achievement of individual goals.

Partnership with Wyong Christian Community School (WCCS)

WCCS students volunteered their time to assist our service regularly on Thursday's throughout 2025. They contributed to various onsite projects including gardening, sorting and cleaning. Furthermore, Christmas hampers filled with non-perishable items were thoughtfully prepared in collaboration with students and distributed to Casework and Counselling clients across the Central Coast and Hunter throughout December, spreading support and goodwill.

3. Youth Advisory Group (YAG)

Spark Collective

Spark Collective, our Youth Advisory Group, provides a supportive space for young leaders to grow, advocate for the voices of young people, and spark positive change within the Central Coast community. The program focuses on building self-confidence, leadership capability, and practical skills that support young people in their personal and professional development. restarted this year.

The purpose of the Spark Collective Group is to:

- Grow the Voice of Young People in our local community
- Grow Young Peoples leadership skills
- Support Young People with running an event from beginning to end
- Empower Young People to connect with local services and charities



“What makes Spark special is the sense of community. Everyone is so welcoming and supportive, and being involved in various projects this year such as the YouthFest Carnival and Games Night has helped me feel like I’m contributing to something that matters. I come back each time because Spark fills me with gratitude and a sense of belonging.”

17 YEAR OLD SPARK MEMBER

3. Youth Advisory Group (YAG)

Spark Collective

Throughout the year, 10 young people participated in the group and made positive contributions to a range of initiatives. These included supporting a National Youth Week event (YouthFest), participating in a Social Inclusion Project, providing feedback on our Inclusion Model, assisting with the Red Shield Appeal BBQ, and contributing ideas and feedback into our Social Programs. The group also developed practical skills such as meeting facilitation, agenda setting, and minute taking.

Attendance was impacted by young people gaining employment, transport barriers, and staffing changes that affected program momentum and relationship continuity. In response, we are exploring improvements for 2026, including delivering the program from a more accessible offsite location or providing transport support to improve engagement and consistency.

YAG Highlights - 2025

National Youth Week Event

YouthFest was designed and delivered by Spark Collective, with the 2025 theme, “I am... We are the future, and the future is now!”, aligning strongly with the program’s focus on youth leadership and empowerment. Young people led the planning and delivery of a Carnival Day featuring interactive activities, food, games, prizes, local service stalls, and opportunities for young voices to be heard. The event was attended by over 50 community members and was considered a strong success.

Social Inclusion Project

Spark Collective identified social isolation as a key challenge for young people, noting limited opportunities to connect with peers. In response, the group proposed hosting a board games night to encourage social connection. This initiative was developed into a single event held in November, which was successfully delivered and attended by 11 participants. Young people took on leadership roles in planning and facilitating the night, and the positive experience led them to express interest in delivering additional programs in the future.



YAC Highlights - 2025

Central Coast Youth Week Awards

Two young people from Spark Collective were nominated for the Central Coast Youth Week Awards. Both have been involved with the program since its inception. They attended the awards ceremony with their parents and were recognised on stage. During the evening, their parents shared positive feedback, noting significant growth in their confidence and maturity. They highlighted how participation in the program provided valuable opportunities to develop leadership skills and encouraged them to step into greater responsibility.



4. Future Initiatives 2026

In 2026, Oasis Central Coast and Hunter could strengthen our youth participation by continued service planning in consultation with our YAG group.

Other future initiatives our service could look into include:

- Establishing a YAG across both regions
- Creating flexible engagement pathways for young people who face barriers to traditional participation

Furthermore, by prioritising culturally safe, inclusive, and youth-driven approaches, Oasis can continue to empower young people to shape our services that reflect their needs, voices, and aspirations into 2026 and beyond.