

MINUTES OF YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 2025

Present:	Nihal Bains Angelina Barnsdall Sophie Cattle Josephine Crooker Jiayi Fang Kay Lynn Goh Amelia Hague Matthew Hayes Tyne Jones (Online) Amelie Lim Jack Okill Mishaal Omair
Staff Present:	General Manager, David Marshall Director Community, Janice Bevan Manager of Community Development, Danny Houseas Youth Services Coordinator, Lily Giles Youth Development Officer, Jin Chang
Others Present:	Mayor Cr Christine Kay Councillor Matthew Devlin Councillor Sam Ngai Councillor Alec Taylor (Online)
Apologies:	Kevin Hao Amelia Watson Dena Sedghinezhad

The Meeting commenced at 3:35 PM

WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Lily Giles welcomed attendees and introduced the Councillors, the Mayor, and staff from Council.
- Committee members provided individual introductions.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Committee Members

Youth Forum Feedback Presentation

Presented by: Amelia Hague, Jack Okill, Matthew Hayes, Angelina Barnsdall.

Youth Forum 2025:

- A summary of the Ku-ring-gai Youth Forum, held on Wednesday 26 February at the St Ives Community Centre, was presented.
- A video capturing the perspectives from young participants was shown to provide insights into their experiences and enjoyment of the Forum.

The Committee identified three areas of concern, that were highlighted from the participants.

1. **Mental Health and Wellbeing**
2. **Community Connection and Support**
3. **Accessible Transport and Mobility**

Active Transport:

- The Committee discussed the importance of safe and accessible active transport infrastructure, particularly for young people and those living with disabilities.
- Concerns were raised regarding damaged footpaths and poorly maintained access points, which hinder mobility and access to essential services.
- A local survey was proposed to gather community feedback, identify priority areas for improvement, and inform Council of accessibility challenges through a data-driven approach.

Mental Health and Inclusive Spaces:

- The need for inclusive public environments to support neurodiverse young people was highlighted.
- A proposal was made to retrofit underutilised Council spaces—such as library meeting rooms and community centres—into quiet, low-sensory areas.
- These would feature calming elements and sensory supports to foster community inclusion and wellbeing.

Connect Generations Initiative:

- An intergenerational engagement program was proposed to strengthen connections between young people (ages 6–18) and seniors.
- Monthly events involving games, storytelling, crafts, music, and cooking would promote mutual learning and reduce social isolation.
- The program will be promoted through Council channels and community partners, with an initial pilot event to evaluate community interest and guide future implementation.

Youth Week Recap

Presented by: Lily Giles, Youth Services Coordinator, Ku-ring-gai Council.

- Youth Week events were reviewed, including pop-up Football NSW event, Council's volunteer expo with young barista volunteers, and a series of mural workshops.

- Attending committee members shared positive feedback on the inclusive and creative atmosphere of these events.
- The St Ives Community Centre mural was titled “*Dear Future, with love from Ku-ring-gai’s Youth*” following a group vote.

Election of Chairperson

Facilitated by Lily Giles, Youth Services Coordinator

- An informal election was held for deciding the Committee’s Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons.
- Members gave brief speeches outlining their qualifications and commitment to the role.
- Amelie Lim, Amelia Hague, Matthew Hayes and Angelina Barnsdall were the candidates.
- Following a secret ballot, Angelina Barnsdall was elected Chairperson, and Amelia Hague was elected Deputy Chairperson.

GENERAL BUISNESS

Youth Services Rebranding

- The Committee discussed contributing to the Youth Services rebranding initiative through social media content, particularly on Instagram.
- A meeting with Council’s Communications Team will be scheduled, and a group chat has been established to coordinate social media posts.

Farewell and Transition

- Youth Services Coordinator Lily Giles announced her departure from Council.
- The Committee will move forward with the formation of working groups to lead specific projects.

The Meeting closed at 6:30PM