

Community Consultation Report

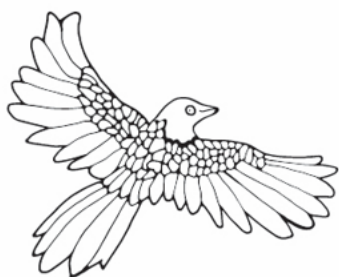
Biennial Youth Program Survey 2026

June 2026



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Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which Moonee Valley is located – the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation; and we pay respects to their Spirits, Ancestors, Elders and their community members past and present.

Council also extends this respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who call Moonee Valley home.

Artwork by Wurundjeri artist, the late Judy Nicholson

1 Summary

1.1 Introduction

Council conducted its Biennial Youth Survey 2026 to better understand young people's interests, concerns and needs in Moonee Valley. This will inform decision making to help make our events, programs and services more relevant, engaging, useful and accessible for Moonee Valley youth.

Between 6 April and 17 May 2026, Council invited young people aged 12-25 who live, work, play or go to school in Moonee Valley to share their thoughts relevant to youth programs and services. Council will use findings from this consultation to design youth programs to better meet young people's needs.

1.2 Engagement strategies

Young people could share their ideas about Council youth programming by:

- Completing an online survey (Appendix 6.1) via the project Your Say page (Appendix 6.2), or in hard copy at school
- Attending one of 12 in-person pop-up events (Appendix 6.3)
- Recording an audio message via a Speak Pipe tool on the Your Say page
- Contacting Council via phone or in writing.

1.3 Key findings

Key findings from the consultation are summarised below.

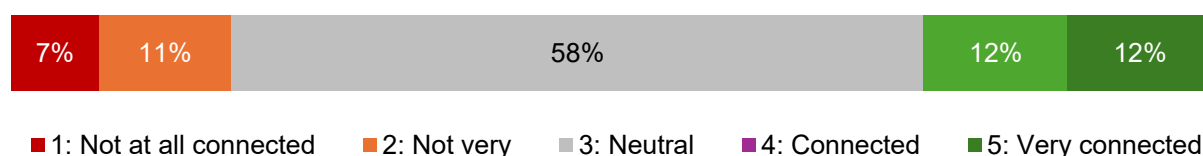
Participant demographics

- A total of 780 young people participated in the consultation.
- Most respondents were aged 12-15, living in Moonee Valley and completing their secondary school education at a local secondary college.
- Slightly more respondents identified as female (47%) compared with male (45%), with small numbers of respondents preferring not to specify (3%), self-describe (2%) or identify as non-binary (2%).
- 44% of respondents said they use one or more of 50 different languages other than English at home.
- Between two and six per cent of participants identified with one or more of Council's communities of focus (as summarised in Table 5).

Participant feedback

- The **most common interests** among participants were Hanging out with friends/socialising (n¹=376), followed by Sports, fitness and recreation (n=321), and Games (board games, video games, tabletop) (n=292).
- The **most common issues of concern** among participants were School or study pressures (n=331), followed by Cost of living, housing and employment (n=326), and Mental health and well-being (n=303).
- The **most common activities/events participants would most likely attend** were Social meetups (games, crafts, hangouts) (n=391), followed by Arts, music or cultural events (n=348), and Health, fitness or well-being activities (n=298).
- The **most common features participants look for when attending local activities and events** were Socialising with friends (n=380), followed by Learning new skills (n=210), and Meeting people with similar interests (n=194).
- The **most common ways participants hear about events or activities in the community** were Posters or flyers (n=312), followed by Social media (n=308), and Word of mouth (n=279).
- The **most common places participants regularly visit in Moonee Valley** were Shopping centres (n=188), followed by Parks and outdoor spaces (n=107), and Libraries (n=58).
- The **most common barriers to participating in youth programs** were Lack of time or interest (n=359), followed by Transport or accessibility (n=190), and Cost or financial difficulty (n=185).
- When asked about their **level of connection with the local community**, 58% of participants indicated they feel neutral about this, with 24% feeling either connected or very connected and 18% feeling either not very or not at all connected:

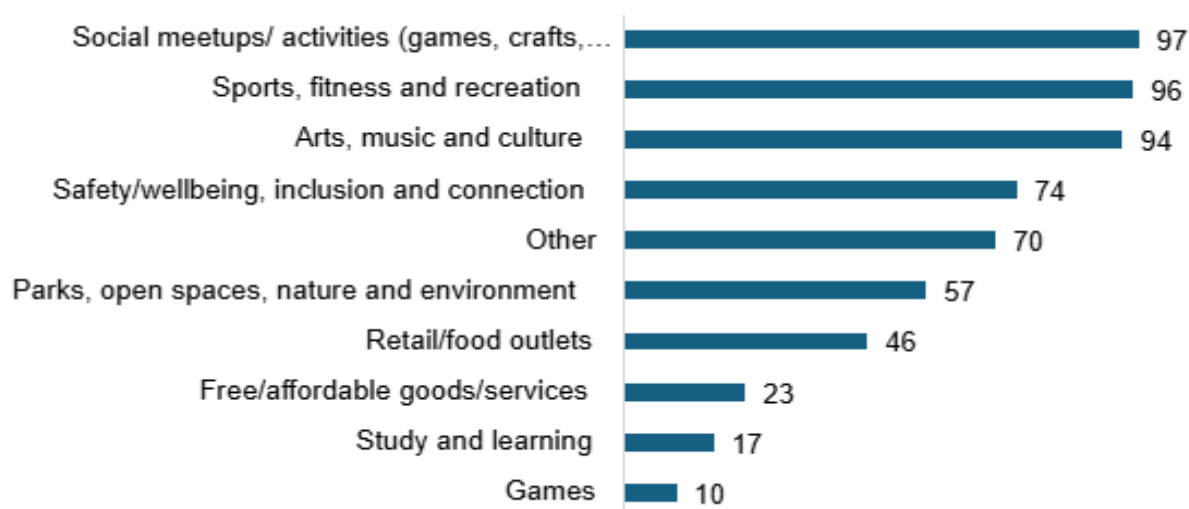
Figure 1. Participant level of community connection



- When participants were asked what their **ideal community** would include, 10 themes were identified among free text responses. The most common themes were Social meetups/activities (games, crafts, hangouts) (n=97), followed by Sports, fitness and recreation (n=96) and Arts, music and culture (n=94).

¹ When referring to data in this report, 'n' represents the number of people who responded to a particular question or prompt.

Figure 2. Participants' ideal community: Key themes



2 Engagement questions

Survey participants were invited to respond to the questions below. The first seven questions were multiple choice (select all responses that apply from 6-8 listed options, or 'Other': Write in):

1. What are your interests?
2. What issues are you most concerned about?
3. What kinds of activities/events would you most likely attend?
4. What do you look for when attending local activities and events?
5. How do you hear about events or activities in the community?
6. What places do you regularly visit in Moonee Valley?
7. What would prevent you from participating in youth programs?
8. How connected do you feel to the local community? (Choose from 1: Not at all connected to 5: Very connected)
9. My ideal community would include (e.g. music gigs for young people, more skate parks, places to meet new people) - Write in.
10. Is there anything else you'd like us to know? - Write in.

Survey participants were also asked questions about their demographic characteristics, as outlined in Section 3.4 below.

Pop-up participants were invited to respond to questions 2,3, 5, 7 and 8 above, by using age group identifiable stickers or pom poms to indicate their preferred responses to each question. Images of the pop-up questions printed on hard copy posters are provided at Appendix 6.4.

3 Methodology

3.1 Communication

Participants were informed about the engagement project via the Your Say page, social media posts (Appendix 6.5), a poster and postcard (Appendix 6.6). Four local schools were also invited to participate via email, to encourage student survey completion within class.

3.2 Participation

The table below provides information about consultation participation.

Table 1. Consultation participation

Consultation strategy	Engagement Type	Participation
Your Say website	Page views	329
	Page visits	300
	Unique visitors	204
	Project followers	2
Survey	Survey responses	519
Pop-up events (x12)	Interactive surveys	261
	Face to face engagement	305
Social media	Facebook/Instagram reach	1,631
		Total respondents: 780

3.3 Theming framework

Based on a sample of 30 free text responses to the qualitative engagement questions about this consultation, a framework was developed to code participants' feedback against key themes. Some comments were assigned more than one code to reflect multiple themes identified within the one comment. The framework was refined throughout the coding process, with identified themes summarised in Section 4.

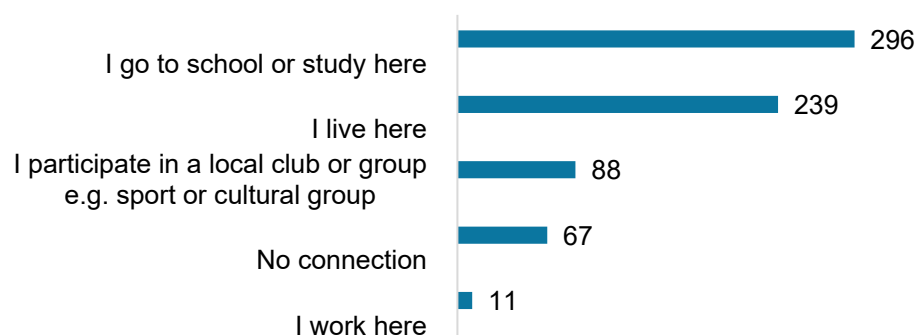
3.4 Survey respondent demographics

3.4.1 Connection to Moonee Valley

Survey respondents were asked to identify their connection to Moonee Valley, with the ability to select multiple responses from the options listed in the graph below. Of those who responded to this question, 296 indicated they go to school or study in Moonee

Valley and 239 live in Moonee Valley, with smaller numbers indicating another, or no connection.

Figure 3. Connection to Moonee Valley

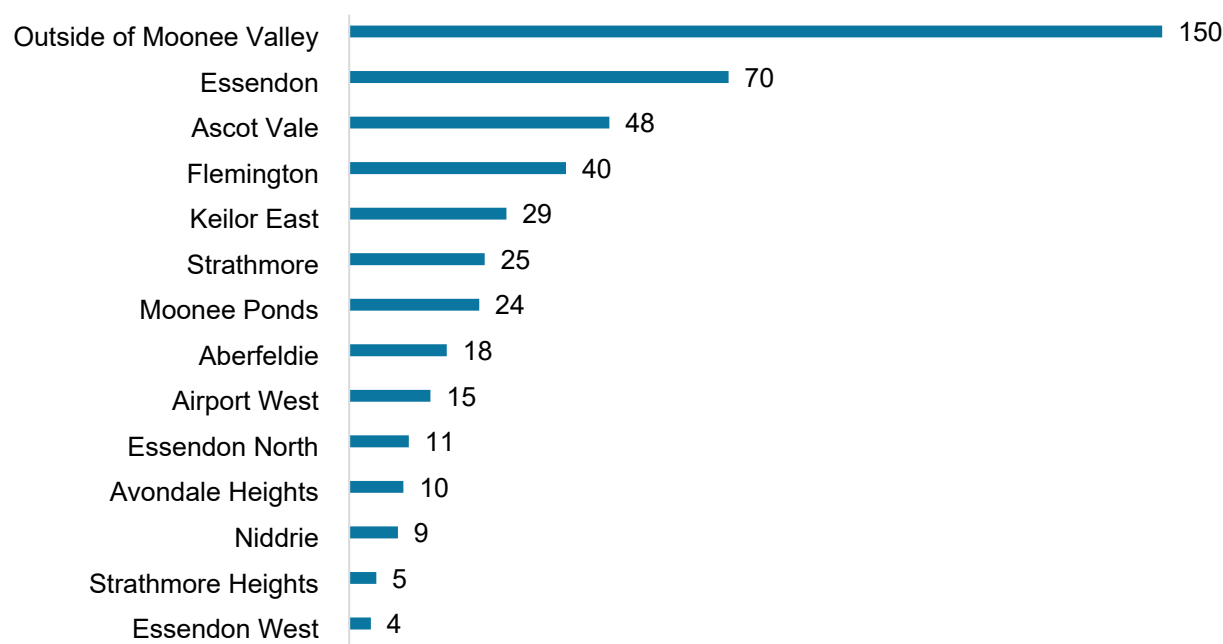


3.4.2 Suburb of residence

Respondents were asked to identify the suburb they live in. Of the 458 respondents to this question, 308 indicated they live in a suburb in Moonee Valley and 150 indicated they live outside of Moonee Valley. Of the Moonee Valley residents, most live in Essendon (n=70), followed by Ascot Vale (n=48) and Flemington (n=40).

Given a large number of young people completed the survey within their (local) school, it stands to reason that a number of respondents don't necessarily live in (but may study in) Moonee Valley. Five of the pop-ups were also held in local shopping centres and likely engaged some young people who visit, but don't live in Moonee Valley.

Figure 4. Suburb of residence



Of the respondents who indicated they live in a suburb outside of Moonee Valley, 47 different suburbs were specified, with the top 10 suburbs listed below.

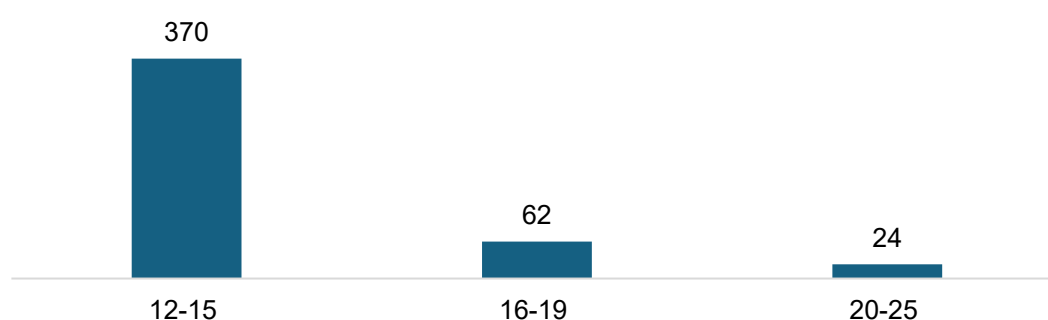
Table 2. Suburbs outside of Moonee Valley

Suburb	No. of respondents
Pascoe Vale South	26
Kensington	24
Pascoe vale	22
Oak Park	12
Braybrook	7
Glenroy	6
Footscray	3
Gowanbrae	3
North Melbourne	3
Sunshine	3

3.4.3 Age

Respondents were asked to identify which age group they belong to. Of the 456 respondents to this question, most were between 12-15 years old (n=370), followed by 16-19 (n=62) and 20-25 (n=24).

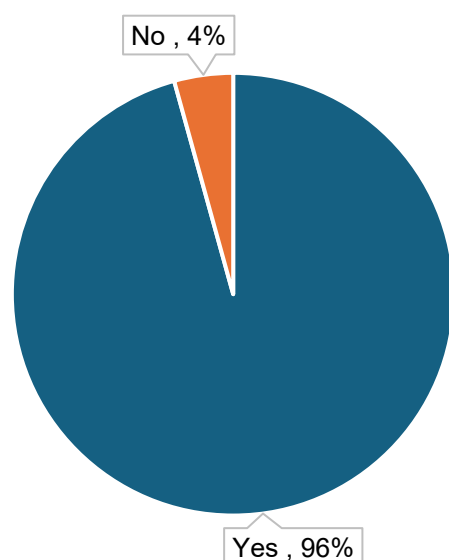
Figure 5. Age



3.4.4 Student status

Participants were asked if they are currently in school or studying. Of the 463 respondents to this question, 96% (n=443) said yes and 4% (n=20) said no.

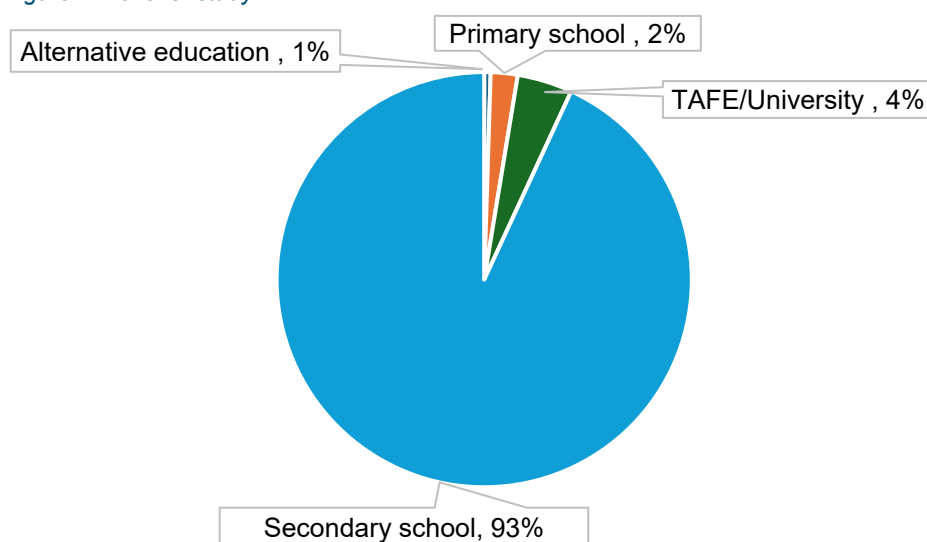
Figure 6. Student status



3.4.5 Level and place of study

Participants were asked which level of study they are currently completing. Of the 439 respondents to this question, 93% (n=409) said they were currently completing secondary school).

Figure 7. Level of study



Participants who indicated they are currently studying were asked which school/TAFE/university/other place of study they attend. 382 participants responded to this question and specified 27 different places of study, as listed in the table below. The top three places of study were local secondary schools, which comprised a total of 313 responses.

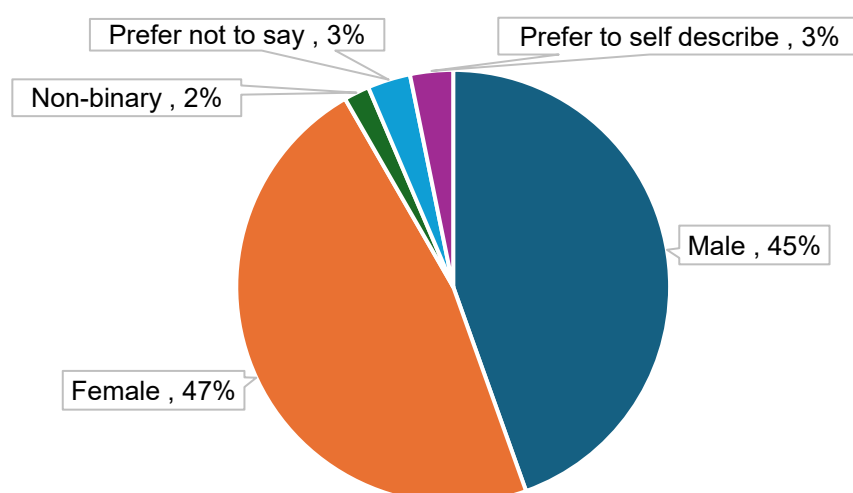
Table 3. Place of study

Place of study	No. of respondents
Buckley Park Secondary College	120
Mt Alexander College	103
Strathmore Secondary College	90
SEDA	13
Victoria University	4
Debney Meadows Primary School	3
Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School	2
Penola Catholic College	2
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	2
St Aloysius College	2
University of Melbourne	2
Australian Catholic University	1
Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors	1
Aitken College	1
Essendon Keilor College	1
Footscray Secondary College	1
Geelong Grammar	1
Kangan Institute	1
Latrobe University	1
Melbourne Polytechnic	1
Melbourne University	1
New Futures Training	1
Overnewton Anglican Community College	1
Rosehill Secondary College	1
Springside West Secondary College	1
St. John Bosco's School Niddrie	1
Sunshine College	1

3.4.6 Gender identity

Respondents were asked their gender identity, with the option to select from the five options depicted in the chart below. Of the 465 respondents to this question, 47% identified as male, 45% identified as female and 8% selected other options.

Figure 8. Gender identity



3.4.7 Language

Participants were asked if they use a language other than English at home. Of the 464 respondents to this question, 44% (n= 206) said yes. These respondents were asked to specify which languages they use, with the option to choose from a list of 10 community languages or specify another language they speak at home. A total of 50 different languages were specified, with the top 19 listed below, including Arabic (n=22), Greek, Vietnamese and Turkish (n=21 each).

Table 4. Language other than English spoken at home

Language	No. of respondents
Arabic	22
Greek	21
Vietnamese	21
Turkish	21
Mandarin	13
Somali	12
Italian	10
Cantonese	9
Hindi	9
German	8
Spanish	7
Macedonian	6
Japanese	4
Oromo	4
Amharic	3
French	3
Telugu	3
Vietnamese	3
Croatian	3

3.4.8 Communities of focus

Respondents were asked whether they identify with a range of different communities of focus, with the ability to select multiple responses from those listed in the table below. Of the respondents to this question, most (n=237) indicated they don't identify with any of the options (by selecting 'none of the above'), with a further 47 indicating they 'prefer not to say'. Of the options selected, the three most common were People living with disability, mental illness, chronic illness, or who are neurodivergent (and/or their carers) (n=47), People who identify as LGBTIQ+ (n=47), and Culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) people (n=37).

Table 5. Communities of focus

Community of focus	No. of respondents
People living with disability, mental illness, chronic illness, or who are neurodivergent (and/or their carers)	47
People who identify as LGBTIQ+	47
Prefer not to say	47
Culturally and racially marginalised (CARM)* people - This includes people who face marginalisation due to their race, cultural background or religion	37
First Peoples - This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	21
People experiencing, or at risk of, family violence	18
People without stable housing or experiencing housing stress	12
People living on low and/or insufficient incomes	12
None of the above	237

*Note, some participants indicated uncertainty about whether the term CARM applies to them, which may have impacted the response rate to this question.

4 Findings

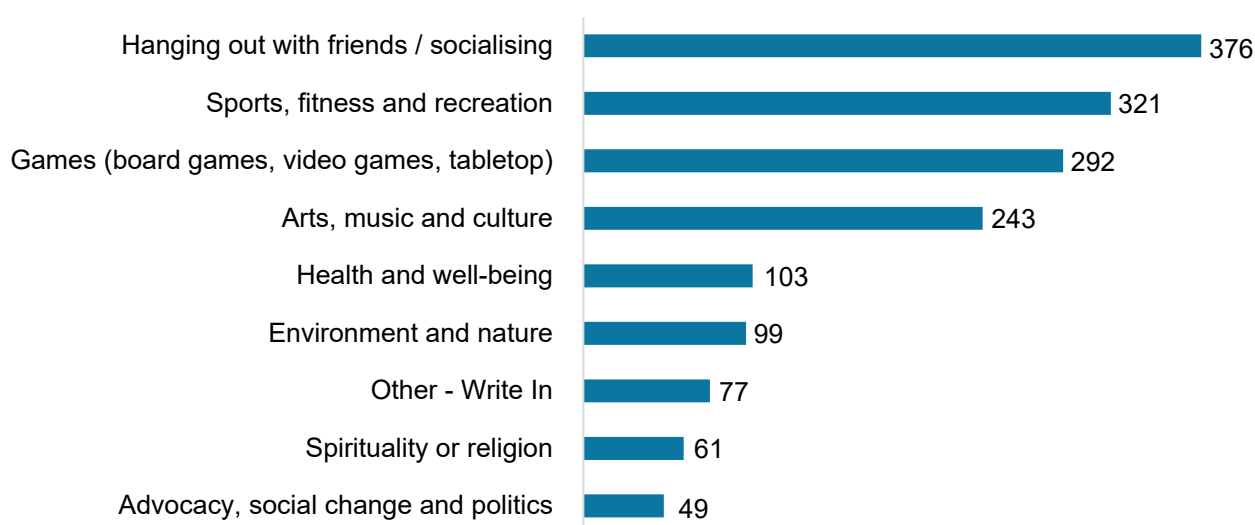
This section presents the consultation findings from the online survey, in-person pop-up events and other forms of feedback as specified below.

4.1 Survey and pop-up events

4.1.1 Participant interests (survey only)

Participants were asked what their interests are with the option to select all that apply from the options in the graph below. Of the respondents to this question, the most common interest was Hanging out with friends/socialising (n=376), followed by Sports, fitness and recreation (n=321), and Games (board games, video games, tabletop) (n=292).

Figure 9. Participant interests



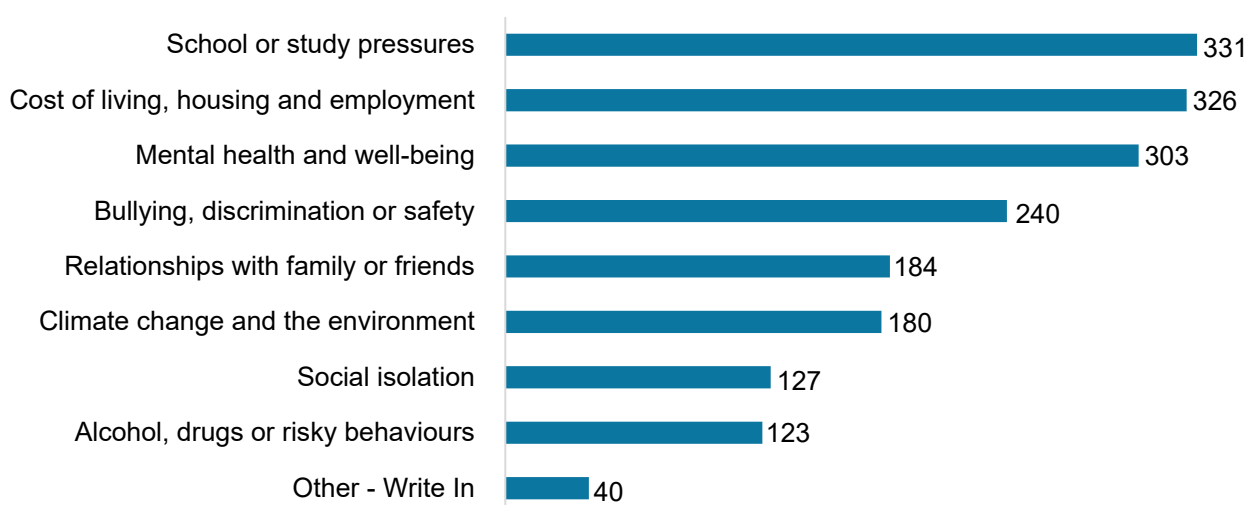
Of the participants who indicated 'Other' interests, the following interests were specified:

- **Learning new things (n=18)** – e.g., specific academic subjects (including maths, science, psychology, philosophy, literature etc), and life skills (law, cooking, business, reading, writing, editing, technology, coding, aviation, generic 'programs').
- **Arts, music and culture (n=12)** – e.g., art, drawing, colouring, music, learning/playing guitar, dance, performance, production, fashion design, pop culture.
- **Other (n=11)** – e.g., praying, 'finding old things', 'collecting', shopping, and unclear responses (e.g. 'idk', 'yes', 'I guess').
- **Sports, fitness and recreation (n=10)** – e.g., cheerleading, motor sport, netball, self-defence, surfing, climbing, camping, swimming, mountain bikes, biking.
- **Games (n=6)** – e.g., Nintendo switch, sim racing, Tik Tok, board games.
- **Movies/TV (n=3)** – e.g., anime, videos, 'binge watching shows...'.
 - **Environment and nature (n=3)** – e.g., beach, animals, dinosaurs.

4.1.2 Participant issues of concern (survey and pop-ups)

Participants were asked what issues they are most concerned about, with the option to select all that apply from the options in the graph below. Of the respondents to this question, the most common issue of concern was School or study pressures (n=331), followed by Cost of living, housing and employment (n=326), and Mental health and well-being (n=303).

Figure 10. Participant issues of concern



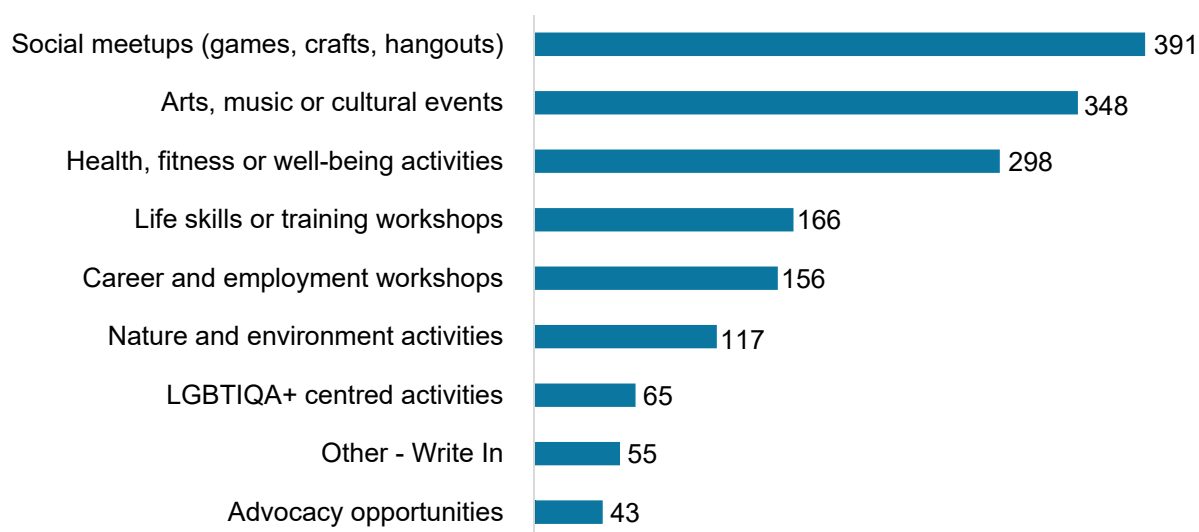
Of the participants who indicated 'Other' issues of concern, the following interests were specified:

- **Other (n=15)** – no or unspecified concerns e.g., 'none', 'nothing', 'don't know', 'yes'.
- **Cost of living, housing and employment (n=6)** – e.g., 'poverty'/cost of living in general, or cost of specific goods, including petrol, electronic games, snacks.
- **Bullying, discrimination or safety (n=4)** – e.g., bullying, 'getting stabbed', 'junkies on the street', 'privacy on the internet'.
- **Mental health/wellbeing (n=3)** – e.g., childhood depression, Hantavirus.
- **Advocacy, social change and politics (n=3)** – e.g., 'the state of our world and politicians', 'government wasting all our money', 'immigration'.
- **School or study pressures (n=1)** – 'homework'.
- **Sports, fitness and recreation (n=1)** – 'lack of mountain bike trails'.
- **Relationships with family or friends (n=1)** – 'family connections/relationships'.

4.1.3 Activities/events participants would most likely attend (survey and pop-ups)

Participants were asked what kinds of activities/events they would most likely attend, with the option to select all that apply from the options in the graph below. Of the respondents to this question, the most common activities/events participants would most likely attend was Social meetups (games, crafts, hangouts) (n=391), followed by Arts, music or cultural events (n=348), and Health, fitness or well-being activities (n=298).

Figure 11. Activities/events participants would most likely attend



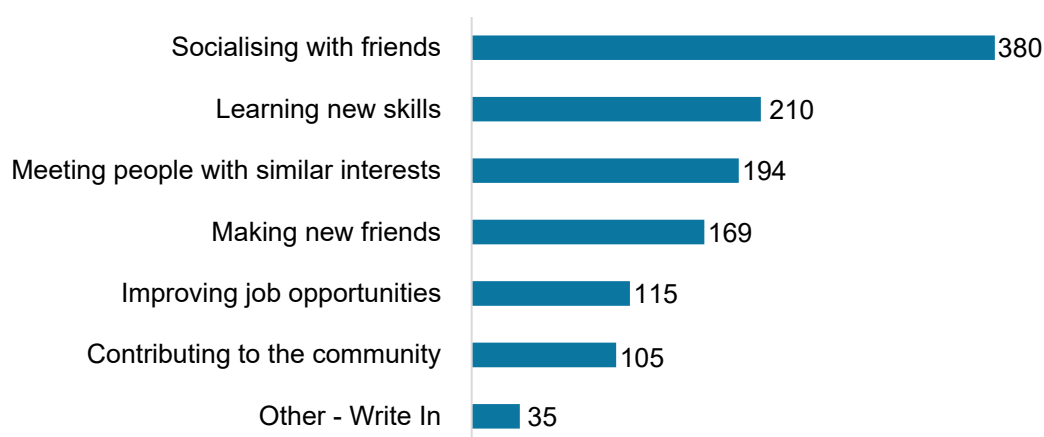
Of the participants who indicated 'Other' activities/events, the following interests were specified:

- **Sports, fitness and recreation (n=18)** – e.g., sport, sporting events/carnivals/games/ activities, basketball, soccer, mountain biking, netball, motorsports, martial arts.
- **Games (n=10)** – e.g., video games/gaming, gaming conventions, sim racing events, 'making a Tik Tok video', pool table, Pokémon cards.
- **Other (n=9)** – e.g., shopping, 'none of the above', 'none of them because I like to stay home', 'not interested', 'nty' [not telling you?].
- **Hanging out with friends/socialising (n=6)** – e.g., friends, family, weddings, parties, birthday parties.
- **Learning new things (n=4)** – e.g., maths, science, literature, 'mental health stuff', 'ADF workshops'.
- **Arts, music and culture (n=3)** – e.g., dance conventions, musicals, painting, anime.

4.1.4 What participants look for when attending local activities/events (survey only)

Participants were asked what they look for when attending local activities and events, with the option to select all that apply from the options in the graph below. Of the respondents to this question, the most common feature participants look for when attending local activities and events was Socialising with friends (n=380), followed by Learning new skills (n=210), and Meeting people with similar interests (n=194).

Figure 12. What participants look for when attending local activities and events



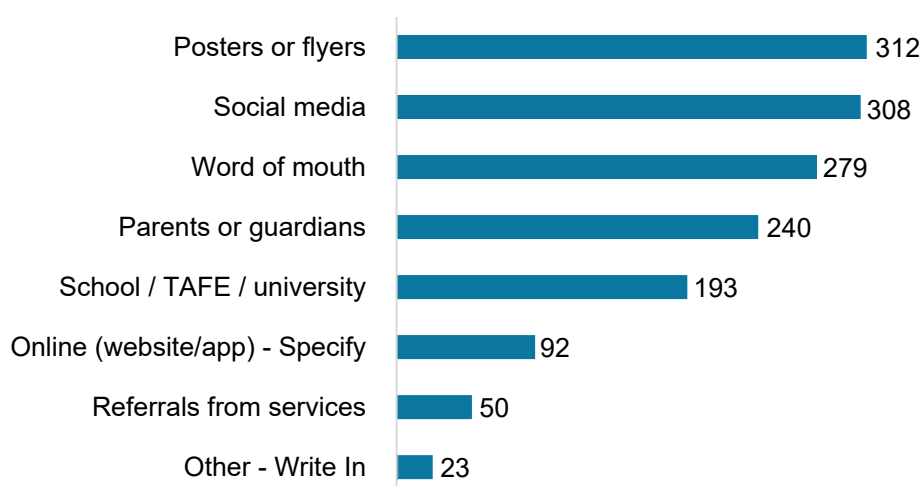
Of the participants who indicated 'Other' things they look for when attending local activities and events, the following features were specified:

- **Other (n=13)** – e.g., 'YS9BAHR' [gaming], 'if I sell the Pokémon and become a reseller I make money' and generic/unspecified/not interested ('getting rid of free time', 'stuff', 'I don't know', 'leaving early', 'none of the above', 'not interested', 'I don't like attending events and I don't really do anything').
- **Fun/enjoyment (n=9)** – e.g., fun, 'having fun', 'just for fun', 'fun games', 'enjoying it/the event', 'rides'.
- **Getting free things/food/merchandise (n=8)** – e.g., 'getting free things and food', 'free food', food, jewellery, 'trinkets' (e.g. from markets/collecting).
- **Sport (n=4)** – e.g., soccer, badminton, sport, 'if its sport I get nervous because I don't like competing in events'.

4.1.5 How participants hear about events or activities in the community (survey and pop-ups)

Participants were asked how they hear about events or activities in the community, with the option to select all that apply from the options in the graph below. Of the respondents to this question, the most common way participants hear about events or activities in the community was Posters or flyers (n=312), followed by Social media (n=308), and Word of mouth (n=279).

Figure 13. How participants hear about events or activities in the community



Of the participants who indicated 'Other' ways they hear about events or activities in the community, the following ways were specified:

Table 6. Other' ways participants hear about events or activities in the community

Other ways participants hear about events or activities	No. of responses
I don't really/never hear about events or activities in the community often	6
Friends	5
Family	2
Email	2
Mail	1
Council/library	1
TV	1
Work	1

Of the participants who indicated they hear about events or activities in the community online, the following online modes were specified:

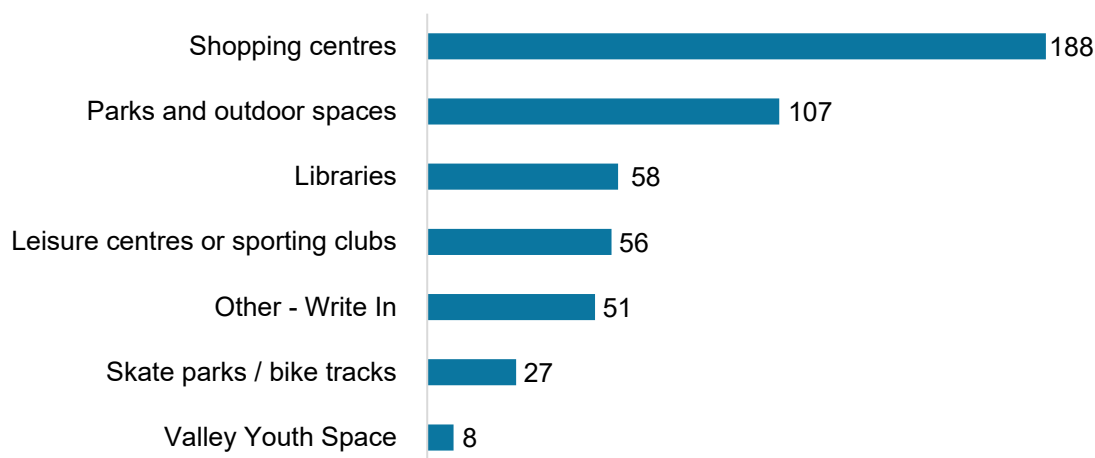
Table 7. Ways participants hear about events or activities online

Ways participants hear about events or activities online	No. of responses
Compass	4
TIKTOK	3
Instagram	3
Facebook without an account	1
YouTube	1
Google	1
Eventbrite	1
News	1
My friends	1
I just look around	1

4.1.6 Places participants regularly visit in Moonee Valley (survey only)

Participants were asked what places they regularly visit in Moonee Valley, with the option to select all that apply from the options in the graph below. Of the respondents to this question, the most common places they regularly visit in Moonee Valley were Shopping centres (n=188), followed by Parks and outdoor spaces (n=107), and Libraries (n=58).

Figure 14. Places participants regularly visit in Moonee Valley



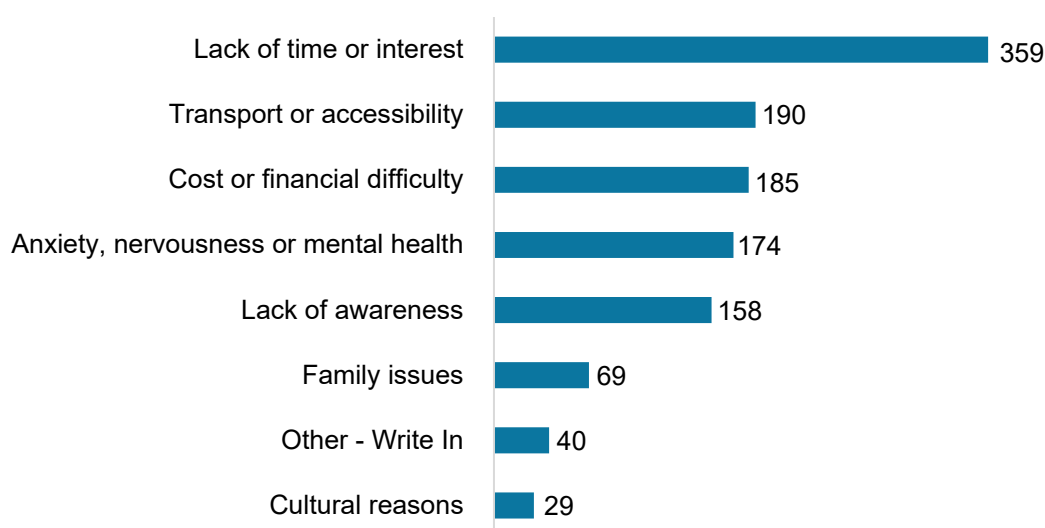
Of the participants who indicated 'Other' places they regularly visit in Moonee Valley, the following places were specified:

- **None (n=17)** – e.g., 'none/none of them', 'none regularly', 'I don't live in/visit Moonee Valley', 'nothing because the activities are bland'.
- **Leisure centres or sporting clubs (n=12)** – e.g., sporting clubs/sports areas/centres, athletics track, soccer pitches, swimming pools, tennis court.
- **Shopping centres/shops (n=10)** – e.g., 'I go to Moonee Ponds to do shopping every Tuesday', 'Moonee Ponds shopping centre, the one with the big W', 'KFC', 'Pokémon'.
- **Parks and outdoor spaces (n=8).**
- **Libraries (n=6).**
- **Other (n=5)** – e.g., 'I don't know', 'yes'.
- **School (n=4).**

4.1.7 Barriers to participating in youth programs (survey and pop-ups)

Participants were asked what would prevent them from participating in youth programs, with the option to select all that apply from the options in the graph below. Of the respondents to this question, the most common barrier was Lack of time or interest (n=359), followed by Transport or accessibility (n=190), and Cost or financial difficulty (n=185).

Figure 15. Barriers to participating in youth programs



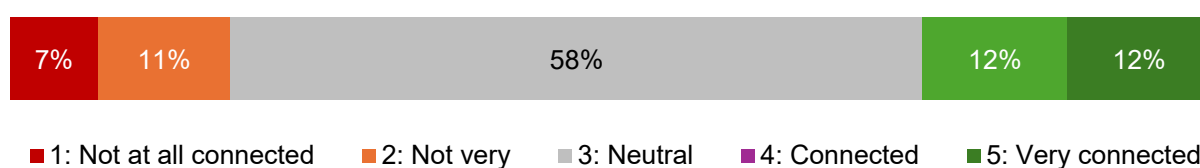
Of the participants who indicated 'Other' barriers to participating in youth programs, the following barriers were specified:

- **Lack of time or interest (n=15)** – e.g., 'not my interest', 'I don't want to', 'lazy', 'it's boring'. '...I just don't like events...', 'studying', '...too busy in my week with sport', 'I'm busy watching anime'
- **Other (n=8)** – e.g., 'nothing', 'everything', 'idk', 'yes'.
- **Transport or accessibility (n=5)** – e.g., 'I'm not in that age group', 'lack of commitment to youth by Moonee Valley', 'lack of facilities, especially for my sport of basketball', 'my mum saying no', 'some midweek daytime events would be great'.
- **Anxiety, nervousness (n=x)** – e.g., 'weird kids', 'gangs', 'other people'.
- **Lack of awareness (n=x)** – e.g., 'lack of information', 'not even sure what's on offer'.

4.1.8 Participant level of community connection (survey and pop-ups)

Participants were asked how connected they feel to the local community, with the option to choose from 1: Not at all connected to 5: Very connected. Of the 633 respondents to this question, most (58%) indicated they feel neutral about this statement (n=365), with 24% (n=152) indicating they feel either connected or very connected (12%, n=76 each) and 18% indicating they feel either not very connected (11%, n=70) or not at all connected (7%, n=46).

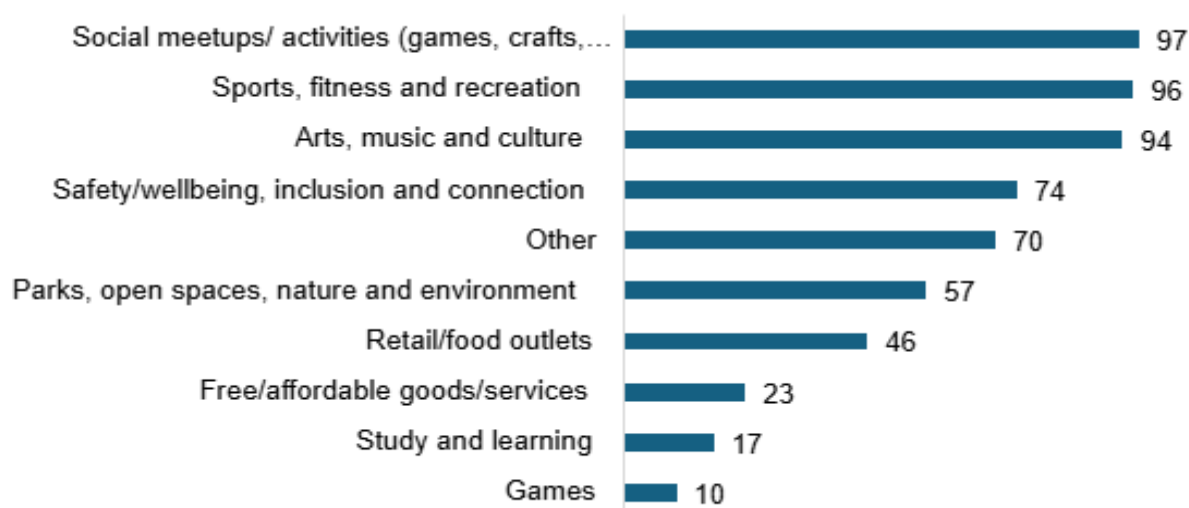
Figure 16. Participant level of community connection



4.1.9 Participants' ideal community (survey only)

Participants were asked what their ideal community would include (e.g. music gigs for young people, more skate parks, places to meet new people), with the option to provide a free text response. Of the 391 respondents to this question, 10 themes were identified, with a total of 585 mentions. As illustrated in the figure below, the theme with the most mentions was Social meetups/activities (games, crafts, hangouts) (n=97), followed by Sports, fitness and recreation (n=96) and Arts, music and culture (n=94).

Figure 17. Participants' ideal community: Key themes



Further information about these themes is summarised below.

- **Social meetups/activities (games, crafts, hangouts) (n=97)** – e.g., ‘places/events to meet new people’, ‘cool drop in spaces’, ‘good hangout spots’, ‘designated teen/chill spaces’, ‘park parties’, ‘A hub for the youth where there is video games etc’, ‘fun activities/having fun’, ‘book clubs, movie nights’, cooking, ‘activities for ... hobbies like cosplay, comics or anime’.
- **Sports, fitness and recreation (n=96)** – e.g., leisure/sports centres, indoor and outdoor gym sessions, fitness groups, soccer, basketball, AFL, netball, skate parks, bike jumps/paths, multi-sports/mini-games events/competitions, sporting equipment, athletics, camps, picnics at botanical gardens, clean recreational areas.
- **Arts, music and culture (n=94)** – e.g., live music/gigs, concerts, open mic’s, festivals, events that are ‘consistent, reliable, popular, exciting, fun’, music groups/competitions, performance/acting opportunities and spaces, dance classes/studios, art installations, art gallery for kids, ‘events with music, art stalls and activities for young people’, literary festivals.
- **Safety/wellbeing, inclusion and connection (n=74)** – e.g., safe/quiet spaces (physical, emotional, virtual), age-appropriate and inclusive activities (young children, teens, young and older adults), activities for diverse interests, individuals, religious and cultural backgrounds, LGBTIQ+, events/groups accessible to marginalised groups, opportunities to bond, socialise, connect (e.g. markets, community events, friends, family), kind, friendly, happy people, socially acceptable behaviour.

- **Other (n=70)** – e.g., ‘not sure’, ‘don’t know’, ‘nothing’, ‘everything’, ‘the same as it is’, ‘[good quality] houses’, ‘liveable’, ‘more [work and volunteer] opportunities for younger people/teens’, ‘animal shelters’.
- **Parks, open spaces, nature and environment (n=57)** – e.g., more/clean/better parks, parks for older kids, parks with artwork [and] benches to sit and socialise on’, places where kids can play, places for picnics, fields, natural spaces/ ‘woods’, green spaces, trees, gardens, nature strips, ‘More nature, less trash ... more nature-related activities [e.g., scouts]’. ‘...trails for people that want to ... go for walks and like nature’, places where you can walk around when feeling stressed’, ‘Greater youth representation in conservation/environment groups’.
- **Retail/food outlets (n=46)** – e.g., shopping centres/places/areas/arcades, ‘more/better shops’, food shops/festivals, farmers/small business markets, ‘places for people to eat’, cafes, dumpling/burger/Chinese restaurants, 24hr convenience stores.
- **Free/affordable goods/services (n=22)** – e.g., ‘Show bags with discount events’, ‘charitable events for young people, e.g. places to get food or water’, ‘more 3rd Spaces [drop-in centres] for teenagers that don't cost money’, affordable housing, music studios/‘fun places’, public dance studios, free concerts/‘stuff’/food/WiFi/board games/sports equipment, ‘indoor places for ... teens to just hang out’, ‘Cheaper alternatives, as going out for food or socialising is completely unaffordable for me’
- **Study and learning (n=17)** – e.g., more/bigger/better libraries, ‘library meetups’, ‘more places to study’, ‘workshops on life (how to do taxes, look for/get a job, group driving classes)’, ‘a place to learn about current issues and protest’, industry led workshops on animation/media skills and careers, ‘improving skills ... around language’, writing workshops, ‘workshops for ... music or gaming with other people’.
- **Games (n=10)** – e.g., Pokémon, game/electronics shops, ‘EB [video] games’, gaming, Tik Tok, board games.

4.1.10 Other feedback (survey only)

Participants were asked if there is anything else they would like Council to know, with the option to provide a free text response. Of the 286 respondents to this question, 9 themes were identified, with a total of 292 mentions, as summarised below.

- **Nothing further to add (n=209)** – e.g., ‘no’, ‘not really’, ‘NA’, ‘I don’t know’.
- **Other (n=20)** – a mixture of queries, suggestions/positive feedback about the process, and comments which are inappropriate or beyond scope of this survey. E.g.:
 - *Do you have a Youth Strategy and is there commitment from council to implement this?! ... People want things so please supply*
 - *How can we send Valley Youth suggestions on the things we would like to do or have? ... More of these surveys*
 - *Thanks, I'm grateful to all of you*
 - *Good luck trying to rein the youth of today in. It would be a tough gig, I'd hate to be a parent these days.*
 - *Stop wasting our money*
 - *Get rid of the apartments and Centrelink*
 - *Woke people are annoying.*

- **Sport and recreation (n=20)** – support for specific sports/recreation activities/hobbies/facilities (football, basketball, netball, racing, off-road bike trails/tracks and jumps, yo-yoing venue, parks, winter ice-skating rink).
- **Safety and wellbeing (n=9)** – concern about bullying, busy roads, lack of bike crossings, graffiti, rubbish/glass, community violence, being overweight.
- **Learning and education (n=8)** – seeking life skills, e.g., community work experience, job applications, driving lessons. More academic support, breaks and fun at school and less school hours, schoolwork and homework.
- **Music, art and culture (n=7)** – support for free live music, craft activities, acting programs, anime, musicals, making Tik Tok videos.
- **Barriers/enablers (n=6)** – concerns about survey privacy/repercussions of disclosures, ‘bland’ activities, social discomfort/fear, limited knowledge of the area, ‘make the activities interesting, add posters or flyers to gain attraction’.
- **Games (n=5)** – e.g. Lego, a cheap gaming facility, games ‘pop-ups’, affordable Manga.
- **Inclusion and connection (n=4)** – seeking adolescent access to teenage pool area, singles meeting places, “someone to talk to”, “I feel very welcome in this community”.
- **Food, retail, free merchandise (n=4)** – a bigger shopping centre in Essendon, milkshakes, food ‘pop-ups’, ‘free stuff’.

5 Conclusion

This consultation achieved strong engagement from local young people, particularly among students currently completing secondary school. Participant feedback highlights some clear themes and valuable insights into young people’s interests, preferred activities and ideal community. In particular, this includes socialising, sports and recreation, the arts, and learning new things. Participant feedback also provides valuable information to inform youth programming in light of:

- **Issues young people are most concerned about** (e.g. school or study pressures, cost of living, housing and employment, and mental health and wellbeing)
- **Ways young people hear about youth activities** (e.g. posters or flyers, social media, and word of mouth)
- **Local places young people regularly visit** (e.g. shopping centres, parks and outdoor spaces, libraries)
- **Things that would prevent them from participating** (e.g. lack of time or interest, transport or accessibility, and cost or financial difficulty).

Findings also indicate the potential to increase young people’s community connection, given high levels of ambivalence about this and some limited and absent connection among participants.

6 Appendices

6.1 Survey

Council is running its Youth Survey 2026 to better understand young people's interests, concerns and needs in Moonee Valley. We want to make sure our events, programs and services are relevant, engaging and useful for Moonee Valley youth.

If you are a young person aged 12-25 who lives, works, plays or goes to school in Moonee Valley, we'd love you to share your thoughts in this survey to help us deliver even better youth programs. The survey should take around 4 minutes to complete and closes on 17 May 2026. For more information about this project, visit our [Your Say page](#).

[Privacy Statement]

1) What are your interests? (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Arts, music and culture | ☐ Environment and nature |
| ☐ Sports, fitness and recreation | ☐ Health and well-being |
| ☐ Hanging out with friends / socialising | ☐ Spirituality or religion |
| ☐ Advocacy, social change and politics | ☐ Other - Write In: _____ |
| ☐ Games (board/video games, tabletop) | |

2) What issues are you most concerned about? (select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Cost of living, housing and employment | ☐ School or study pressures |
| ☐ Mental health and well-being | ☐ Bullying, discrimination or safety |
| ☐ Alcohol, drugs or risky behaviours | ☐ Climate change and the environment |
| ☐ Relationships with family or friends | ☐ Social isolation |
| ☐ Other - Write In: _____ | |

3) What kinds of activities/events would you most likely attend?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Arts, music or cultural events | ☐ Social meetups (games, crafts, hangouts) |
| ☐ Health, fitness or well-being activities | ☐ Nature and environment activities |
| ☐ Life skills or training workshops | ☐ Career and employment workshops |
| ☐ Advocacy opportunities | ☐ LGBTIQA+ centred activities |
| ☐ Other - Write In: _____ | |

4) What do you look for when attending local activities and events?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Socialising with friends | ☐ Meeting people with similar interests |
| ☐ Making new friends | ☐ Learning new skills |
| ☐ Improving job opportunities | ☐ Contributing to the community |
| ☐ Other - Write In: _____ | |

5) How do you hear about events or activities in the community?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ☐ Word of mouth | ☐ Social media | ☐ School / TAFE / university |
| ☐ Parents or guardians | ☐ Posters or flyers | ☐ Referrals from services |
| ☐ Online (website/app) -Specify: _____ | ☐ Other - Write In: _____ | |

6) What places do you regularly visit in Moonee Valley?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ Parks and outdoor spaces | ☐ Libraries | ☐ Shopping centres |
| ☐ Leisure centres or sporting clubs | ☐ Skate parks / bike tracks | |
| ☐ Valley Youth Space | ☐ Other - Write In: _____ | |

7) What would prevent you from participating in youth programs?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Transport or accessibility | ☐ Cost or financial difficulty |
| ☐ Lack of time or interest | ☐ Anxiety, nervousness or mental health |
| ☐ Family issues | ☐ Lack of awareness |
| ☐ Cultural reasons | ☐ Other - Write In: _____ |

8) How connected do you feel to the local community? (Choose from 1: Not at all connected to 5: Very connected on the sliding scale below)

1 _____ 3 _____ 5

9) My ideal community would include (e.g. music gigs for young people, more skate parks, places to meet new people): _____

10) Is there anything else you'd like us to know? _____

We collect demographic data to understand the reach of our consultations and measure the diversity of and inclusion in the participation process. Please note these questions are all optional.

11) What is your connection to Moonee Valley? Select all that apply.

- ☐ I live here
- ☐ I go to school or study here
- ☐ I work here
- ☐ I participate in a local club or group e.g. sport or cultural group
- ☐ No connection

12) What suburb do you live in?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ☐ Aberfeldie | ☐ Airport West | ☐ Ascot Vale |
| ☐ Avondale Heights | ☐ Essendon | ☐ Essendon Fields |
| ☐ Essendon North | ☐ Essendon West | ☐ Flemington |
| ☐ Keilor East | ☐ Moonee Ponds | ☐ Niddrie |
| ☐ Strathmore | ☐ Strathmore Heights | ☐ Travancore |
| ☐ Outside of Moonee Valley (if so, write in): _____ | | |

13) To which of the following age groups do you belong?

- ☐ 12-15 ☐ 16-19 ☐ 20-25

14) Are you currently in school or studying? – Yes No

15) Which level of study you are currently completing?

- ☐ Primary school ☐ Secondary school ☐ TAFE/University ☐ Alternative education

16) What school/TAFE/university/other do you attend? _____

17) Do you identify as:

- ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Non-binary ☐ Prefer not to say
☐ Prefer to self-describe: _____

18) Do you use a language other than English at home?

- ☐ No, I only use English at home ☐ Yes, I use other languages at home

19) Please specify which languages you use at home. Select all that apply.

- ☐ Italian ☐ Greek ☐ Vietnamese ☐ Mandarin
☐ Arabic ☐ Cantonese ☐ Spanish ☐ Croatian
☐ Turkish ☐ Hindi ☐ I use other languages at home: _____

20) Do you identify with any of the following communities? Please select all that apply.

We acknowledge that descriptive names and terminology evolve over time and can differ based on individual preferences. We strive to use the most current and respectful language to describe these communities.

- ☐ First Peoples - This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
☐ Culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) people - This includes people who face marginalisation due to their race, cultural background or religion
☐ People living with disability, mental illness, chronic illness, or who are neurodivergent (and/or their carers)
☐ People who identify as LGBTIQ+
☐ People experiencing, or at risk of, family violence
☐ People without stable housing or experiencing housing stress
☐ People living on low and/or insufficient incomes
☐ Prefer not to say
☐ None of the above
-

[Home](#) / [Biennial Youth Program Survey 2026](#)

Council is running its Biennial Youth Survey 2026 to better understand young people's interests, concerns and needs in Moonee Valley. We want to make sure our events, programs and services are relevant, engaging and useful for Moonee Valley youth.

We are inviting all young people aged 12-25 who live, work, play or go to school in Moonee Valley to share their thoughts to help us deliver even better programs in our community. If you are a young person and have an idea for an event, or how we could improve our programs, activities or services, we'd love to hear from you!

We will use this information to help deliver Council programs, activities and events that young people want and need.

You can share your ideas about Council youth programming by:

- Completing our survey via the link below, or requesting a hard copy
- Attending one of our in-person pop-up events - coming soon!
- Recording a message via the Speak Pipe tool on this page
- Emailing, calling or writing to us via our contact details below

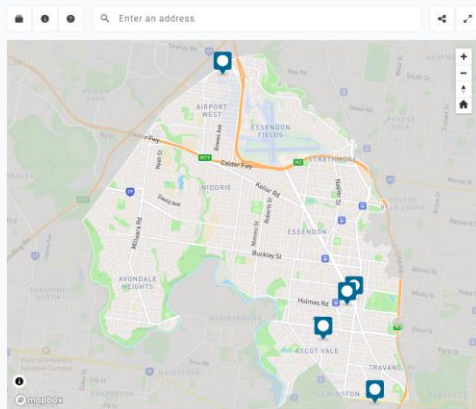
We'd love your input to help create a youth friendly city with events, programs and activities YOU want to see.

[Open survey here](#)

Open

Click on the markers on the map below, or type in an address, to view the location for each of our in-person pop-up events

0 contributions



2 About Valley Youth

- ? What young people can influence via this consultation
- ? How Council will use young people's feedback
- ? What Council already knows about young people's interests
- ? How this survey will add to previous surveys

Click on the link below for more information about events, programs and activities for young people in Moonee Valley.

 [Council's youth webpage](#)

Share your ideas for youth programs and events

is your microphone ready?

Start recording

Record - Listen - Send

6 April 2026

- Consultation opens
- 15 April to 15 May 2026**
- School consultation, and
 - In person pop-up events:
- **Monday 15/4/26**, Westfield Shopping Centre, 2-5pm
 - **Monday 27/04/26**, Sam Merrifield Library, 3-5pm, 4-8.30pm
 - **Friday 01/05/26**, Moonee Ponds Central, 4-8.30pm
 - **Monday 04/05/26**, Sam Merrifield Library, 3-5pm
 - **Wednesday 06/05/26**, Flemington Library, 3-5pm
 - **Thursday 07/05/26**, Moonee Ponds Central, 4-8.30pm
 - **Wednesday 13/05/26**, Ascot Vale Library, 3-5pm
 - **Thursday 14/05/26**, Moonee Ponds Central, 4-8.30pm
 - **Friday 15/05/26**, Sam Merrifield Library, 3-5pm
- 17 May 2026**
- Consultation closes
- Mid-May 2026**
- Council consideration and publication of consultation findings

See loss

If you have any questions or want to learn more about this project, contact us via the details below:

-  Name Community Engagement Team
 Phone 9243 1920
 Email yoursay@mvcc.vic.gov.au
 In writing Moonee Valley City Council
 9 Kellaway Ave
 Moonee Ponds Vic 3039



City of
Moonee Valley

Have questions or want to learn more about a project, contact us below:

- Phone 03 9243 8888
Email yoursay@mvcc.vic.gov.au



6.3 Pop-up Events

Date/time	Venue	Interactive surveys/ Participants
Wednesday 15/4/26, 2-5pm	Westfield Shopping Centre	25 / 52
Friday 17/4/26, 11am-2pm	Westfield Shopping Centre	18 / 24
Monday 27/04/26, 3.30-4.30pm	Sam Merrifield Library	13 / 13
Wednesday 29/04/26, 3.30-4.30pm	Avondale Heights Library	4 / 5
Friday 01/05/26, 4-6.00pm	Moonee Ponds Central	9 / 12
Monday 04/05/26, 3-5pm	Sam Merrifield Library	22 / 29
Wednesday 06/05/26, 3-5pm	Flemington Library	9 / 9
Thursday 07/05/26, 4-6.30pm	Moonee Ponds Central	9 / 9
Thursday 14/05/26, 4-6.30pm	Moonee Ponds Central	19 / 19
Friday 15/05/26, 3-5pm	Sam Merrifield Library	2 / 2
Tuesday 19/05/26	Rosehill Secondary College	10 / 10
Wednesday 20/05/26	Strathmore Secondary College	121 / 121

6.4 Interactive pop-up questions

What are your interests?

This form features eight rounded rectangular boxes arranged in a 4x2 grid. Each box has a small icon and a text label. The boxes are: 1. Arts, music & culture (purple), 2. Environment & nature (teal), 3. Sports, fitness & recreation (light blue), 4. Hanging out with friends/socialising (pink), 5. Health & wellbeing (dark purple), 6. Advocacy, social change & politics (orange), 7. Games (board games, video games, tabletop) (light green), 8. Spirituality or religion (blue).

- Arts, music & culture
- Environment & nature
- Sports, fitness & recreation
- Hanging out with friends/socialising
- Health & wellbeing
- Advocacy, social change & politics
- Games (board games, video games, tabletop)
- Spirituality or religion

What issues are you most concerned about?

This form features eight heart-shaped boxes arranged in a 4x2 grid. Each box has a small icon and a text label. The boxes are: 1. Cost of living, housing and employment (purple), 2. Mental health & wellbeing (light blue), 3. Bullying, discrimination or safety (light green), 4. Alcohol, drugs or risky behaviours (pink), 5. Climate change and the environment (dark purple), 6. Relationships with family or friends (teal), 7. School or study pressures (orange), 8. Social isolation (blue).

- Cost of living, housing and employment
- Mental health & wellbeing
- Bullying, discrimination or safety
- Alcohol, drugs or risky behaviours
- Climate change and the environment
- Relationships with family or friends
- School or study pressures
- Social isolation

What kinds of activities/events would you most likely attend?

This form features eight hexagonal boxes arranged in a 4x2 grid. Each box has a small icon and a text label. The boxes are: 1. Arts, music & cultural events (purple), 2. Social meetups (games, etc) (light green), 3. Health, fitness & wellbeing activities (teal), 4. Nature & environment activities (light blue), 5. Life skills or training workshops (dark purple), 6. Career & employment workshops (orange), 7. Advocacy opportunities (blue), 8. LGBTQIA+ centred activities (pink).

- Arts, music & cultural events
- Social meetups (games, etc)
- Health, fitness & wellbeing activities
- Nature & environment activities
- Life skills or training workshops
- Career & employment workshops
- Advocacy opportunities
- LGBTQIA+ centred activities

How do you hear about events or activities in the community?

This form features eight speech bubble-shaped boxes arranged in a 4x2 grid. Each box has a small icon and a text label. The boxes are: 1. Word of mouth (teal), 2. Social media (light blue), 3. School/DAFE/University (purple), 4. Parents or guardians (orange), 5. Posters or flyers (pink), 6. Referrals from services (light blue), 7. Online (websites/app) (light green).

- Word of mouth
- Social media
- School/DAFE/University
- Parents or guardians
- Posters or flyers
- Referrals from services
- Online (websites/app)



6.5 Social media posts

13 April 2026

Link to Your Say page	Facebook	
 YOURSAY.MVCC.VIC.GOV.AU Youth Program Survey 2026	Clicks	20
	Comments	0
	Impressions	2,248
	Link Clicks	12
	Reach	1,380
	Reactions	4
	Shares	1

7 May 2026

Photo (on Youth Account)	Facebook		Instagram	
	Clicks	NA	Impressions	422
	Comments	NA	Likes	11
	Impressions	NA	Reach	251
	Link Clicks	NA		
	Reach	NA		
	Reactions	NA		
	Shares	NA		

6.6 Engagement postcard and poster

Postcard – Front:



Postcard – Back:

We're running our Biannual Youth Programs Survey, and we want to hear from young people in Moonee Valley!

We're inviting all young people aged 12-25 who live, work, play or go to school in Moonee Valley to share your thoughts and help us deliver even better programs in the future.

It's important we hear what matters to you! Help us create a youth friendly city and tell us what you want to see more of.

Share your feedback on:

- youth events and activities
- holiday programs
- services on offer.

Have your say before 17 May 2026

 yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/bi-annual-youth-program-survey-2026



9243 8888 | mvcc.vic.gov.au

Poster:



Youth Survey

Share your feedback and help us deliver even better events, programs and services for young people.

We're inviting all young people aged 12-25 who live, work, play or go to school in Moonee Valley to share your thoughts and help us deliver even better programs in the future.

It's important we hear what matters to you! Help us create a youth friendly city and tell us what you want to see more of.

Share your feedback on our events, holiday programs, activities and services and shape our youth offering!

Have your say by 17 May 2026



9243 8888 | yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/bi-annual-youth-program-survey-2026



Moonee Valley Language Line

العربية	Arabic	9932 1471	Ελληνικά	Greek	9932 1474	Español	Spanish	9932 1477
廣東話	Cantonese	9932 1472	Italiano	Italian	9932 1475	Türkçe	Turkish	9932 1478
Hrvatski	Croatian	9932 1473	Somali	Somali	9932 1476	Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	9932 1479

All other languages 9932 1480

National Relay Service 13 36 77 or relayservice.com.au