

2023 Stakeholder Survey Results



Stakeholder Survey Results

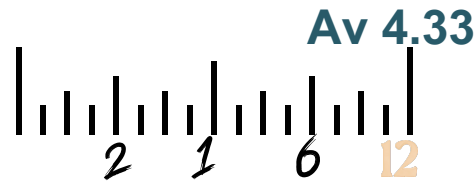
Questions to our Stakeholders

Q1. How familiar are you with the Our Futures Project?



1 = not familiar at all
5 = very familiar of all that they do

Q2. Do you feel confident in the Future Impact Group in partnership with George Town Council to deliver outcomes for youth in George Town?



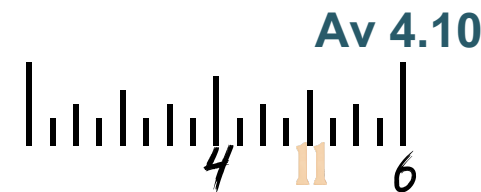
1 = not confident at all
5 = very confident in what they are doing

Q3. Does the Our Futures Project add value to the George Town community?



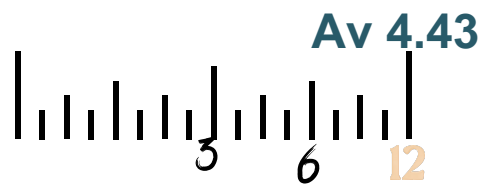
1 = not at all
5 = the project is adding a lot of value to George Town

Q4. As a result of the Our Futures Project, are you more aware of issues that affect youth in George Town?



1 = I'm none the wiser
5 = they have helped me become a lot more aware of youth issues

Q5. Since being involved in the Our Futures Project, are you more likely to involve youth in decision making processes?

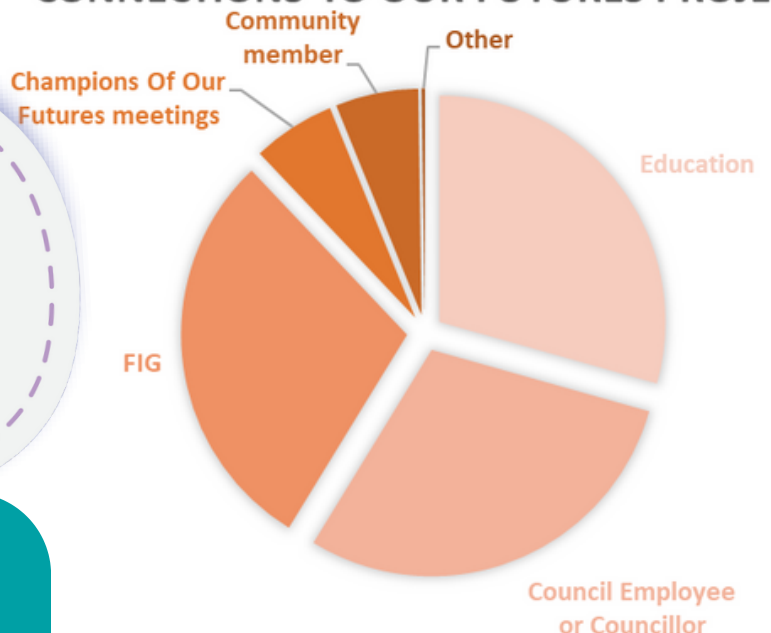


1 = not at all
5 = absolutely I'll involve youth more

An overwhelming majority of respondents said they are more likely to involve youth in decision making processes since being involved in the Our Futures Project.

“Results and responses by our young people are being widely shared and the process is transparent.”

CONNECTIONS TO OUR FUTURES PROJECT



Stakeholder Survey Results

Q1. How familiar are you with the Our Futures Project?
18 responses
Av 4.24

A majority of respondents said they are very familiar with the project. Those who were very familiar have been involved as part of Council, the Future Impact Group, community champions and schools.

This is what some of the stakeholders said:

- 'Interested in the Our Futures Project and work for Council.'
- 'Member of FIG group and community member and engaged with what the groups purpose, outcomes and aims are.'
- 'I have had direct involvement with this project by promoting, attending and supporting some of the initiatives.'
- 'Supporting students through the school to be part of the project.'
- 'I'm a champion.'

Others reported having a **general understanding** of the project. This provides interesting and useful data as the Our Futures Project designs to increase involvement across the community.

A number of respondents attributed strong familiarity with the project to **clear and engaging communication channels**, including email, verbally through conversations and presence in the community, and at events and in schools.

This is what some of the stakeholders said:

- 'Have a general understanding of what they do but not up to date with all the aspects.'
- 'I feel I have a general overview of project but would struggle to explain specifics to others.'
- 'I keep up to date on social media and online, but don't feel like an expert or across the whole project and all the good it is doing.'
- 'I am pretty sure but not 100% over all the activities.'

This is what some of the stakeholders said:

- 'Clear communication from Andy on events and plans.'
- 'Excellent communication on emails so always know what's happening.'
- 'Andy is very present in all community, events and schools. "Also **creates opportunities for the community to be involved.**"'
- 'Have met with Andy Beeston to discuss the program.'



'I've been following, supporting and networking with FIG over the past year.'

Stakeholder Survey Results

Q2. Do you feel confident in the Future Impact Group in partnership with George Town Council to deliver outcomes for youth in George Town?

18 Responses
Av 4.33

A large majority of respondents reported feeling confident that the Future Impact Group in partnership with George Town Council will deliver outcomes for youth in George Town. This was attributed to the following themes:

Already noticing change

- 'Has already had a very positive influence in the town and on our young people.'

Strong leadership

- 'With Andy at the helm and expertise in guiding youth leaders, it is a partnership for success.'
- 'Project Officer has excellent experience and background.'

Strong partnerships and collaboration

- 'It is an awesome team and the funding allows to build momentum over several years to create.'
- 'It seems people are starting to get on the same page, which is a good sign.'

Committed to engaging, hearing and involving youth

- 'Because the voices of our youth are the driving factor within this project.'
- 'They are a great crew who focus on bringing the youth voice to the council.'

Community owned approach and design

- 'The Seagull to Chips is living by its motto at seizing opportunities. You can sense the positive movement and great community work that is happening. Extremely confident in these young people and projects.'
- 'There is a systematic approach to developing and implementing the project. Buy in from the youth is growing.'
- 'The program is well designed to achieve great outcomes.'

Time due to 5 year funding cycle

- 'The program is for five years allowing sufficient time for lasting impact.'

A couple of respondents expressed concern about the strong connection to the Council.

- 'Very concerned by the attitude and behavior of the GTC and the lack of understanding of the criticality of what "community" means and their role in that, as opposed to relying on other groups within the community. It should be a core consideration by GTC.'
- 'FIG does not seem motivated to become independent of council .. Incorporated and stand alone entities have great opportunities to deliver programmes without being hamstrung by council governance and decision making.'

NoTinto | BELL BAY ALUMINIUM

George Town Youth Impact Council

One Thousand, Seven Hundred and
Ninety Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents

T-shirts, hats, print promotional
products and outdoor flags

\$1,797.50

#1234567890# 057890# /8765/

'I believe the program is being delivered to the highest quality and has the support of key partners in the community.'

Stakeholder Survey Results

Q3. Does the Our Futures Project add value to the George Town community?
18 responses
Av 4.33

All respondents felt strongly that the Our Futures Project is adding value to the George Town community. The following themes emerged:

Valuing youth

- 'When we value young people, the ripple effects are long lasting. Investing in our youth adds so much value... young people valuing themselves is my favourite part.'

Engaging youth

- 'Have also witnessed young people engaged in the program that wouldn't usually be involved.'
- 'Our futures programme adds value as it recognises new views of our youth which are sometimes not prioritised during community planning opportunities.'
- 'Our youth benefit through co-designed programs that provide alternative pathways than traditional state led programs.'

Building skills and confidence

- 'Improving life skills and general skills for our youth impact the whole community of George Town.'
- 'To see the youth dropping into the Launchpad space to have a chat and spend time with the staff even when a youth program isn't running, to see the growth and confidence grow in the youth and to see them learn new skills and contribute in many new ways in the community.'

Giving youth a voice

- 'I think anytime children's voices are heard, it adds value.'
- 'Youth Voice is very important in the community. This initiative will facilitate that.'
- 'Giving the youth an opportunity to be heard within the community.'
- 'Yes as it gives youth a voice.'

Building community connection, inclusion and ownership

- 'Not being a local stakeholder, hard to comment. However I would believe that having opportunities for young people and improving on community connection and needs is a value to the GT community.'
- 'As you continue to strive forwards through the eyes of the community.'
- 'Inclusive community that is aware of its needs.'
- 'This and other projects would not exist without FIG. FIG is providing a connected bottom up approach to whole of community issues that is greatly needed.'

"Our youth are among the most disadvantaged in Tasmania and need all the support they can get"

Communicating

- 'Just look at the PR and involvement already embraced and growing. Awesome.'
- 'I am heartened by the stories I am hearing and seeing and the enthusiasm of our young people is evident.'



*'Provides voice for our young people,
learning opportunities and engagement
with schools and leaders.'*

Stakeholder Survey Results

Q4. As a result of the Our Futures Project, are you more aware of issues that affect Youth in George Town?
17 responses
Av 4.10

Youth Council Meetings:
A couple of respondents stated they had some familiarity from attending the Youth Council meetings.

- 'I haven't been part of a regular session, however, they have discussed issues like building community, bullying, employment.'
- 'I attend the Youth Impact Council Meetings.'
- 'Port students report back issues to the school community.'

Existing work: Another said they already had a general understanding from working in the youth space.

Ongoing nature of program: And another said, 'This will become more apparent as the program continues.'

No change: Another respondent said their level of awareness has not changed.

There were a broad range of responses to this question. Many reported that their awareness has and will continue to increase as the project continues.

Listening to our youth

A couple of respondents talked about the importance of the Youth Voice survey results and other activities and conversations happening with young people in understanding the issues most affecting youth in George Town.

- 'Results and responses by our young people are being widely shared and the process is transparent.'
- 'Waiting on the survey results.'
- 'Yes, by listening to the youth we can connect and work on these issues.'
- 'I am aware of the issues facing our youth through data and surveys and program design to address such issues education, employment, engagement etc.'
- 'Young people have found their voice.'
- 'Great to hear more and more from Young people. I am looking forward to data collection results.'
- 'Yes I am. Voices and ideas from Youth council and other'
- 'Word is getting out!'



'Of course, it's the youth sharing what they feel as well as opportunities to improve.'

Stakeholder Survey Results

Q5. Since being involved in the Our Futures Project, are you more likely to involve youth in decision making processes?
20 responses
Av 4.43

An overwhelming majority of respondents said they are more likely to involve youth in decision making processes since being involved in the Our Futures Project.

A majority expressed their strong view that including the youth voice is critical, particularly when making decisions that involve them.

There were a few minority but very important themes that also emerged.

‘Their voice matters.’

- ‘Their voice is necessary in the future planning of the town.’
- ‘Their voices are important and they are the future of our town.’
- ‘It’s the only way to get it right for youth in the community.’
- It’s the way of the future. It’s setting our youth up for success, it’s setting our community up to have heard from the youth and in turn improve the community for our youth and youth into the future. A sustainable resilient model is what’s being developed.’
- ‘Unless we listen to young people, our actions are unlikely to best fit their needs/preferred solutions.’
- ‘Especially around matters that involve them.’

Hearing community voices more broadly

- ‘Yes, although youth voices while being important are not the only voices that need to be heard. There needs to be improved communications for all of community to contribute ideas .. at the end of the day, there is only so much money to go around. If we can find mutually beneficial ideas that provide better amenity and benefit to all, we will grow as a community.’

Knowing how to go about involving young people


- ‘Yes - now I know who to ask for ideas.’
- When possible
- It’s always important to involve young people in matters that impact them. Organisational processes can make this challenging at times.’
- Yes, when I have the opportunity.’

Some said they were already working in this way.

- ‘As I have worked in the youth space for quite some time, the youth voice has always been important to me and will continue to be. This project has reaffirmed the value and importance of youth voice.’
- ‘It hasn’t changed for us, as involving youth in decision-making processes has been a focus for a while now.’
- ‘This is a WPA Strategic Plan priority.’

Knowing how to go about involving young people

- ‘Yes - now I know who to ask for ideas.’

A photograph of two men standing outdoors. The man on the left is older, has a grey beard, and is wearing glasses and a maroon sweater. The man on the right is younger, wearing a dark grey jacket. They are both looking towards the right. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor event or park setting.

'I already thought this, but projects like this are just more evidence of the importance and value of listening and involving young people.'

Analysing, reflecting and learning from the data

What did we learn?

Throughout the year, the Our Futures Project involved young people and partners in design and planning and listened, learned and reflected on the successes and challenges to inform planning for next year. This is some of what they learned.

Successes:

- **Launch of the Advisory Group (now Youth Impact Council)** at the Youth Week event in May was a huge success. 300 youth attended, as well as a range of service providers and others from the community. It was a great day and a turning point for the project. Before then, it was going well and had great involvement from a small group of young people with the Ideas Lab. This event raised awareness among more young people and the rest of the community.
- **Partnerships with schools** have been successful. We've worked with the schools to utilise the student leaders short course which is a 1-day training gleaned from the Seagulls to Chips program targeted to equip student leaders. Twenty grade 6 students from the primary schools participated and fifteen grade 9 students also participated from Star of the Sea.
- **Mock Council Meeting** with Youth Council was incredibly successful. The young people made seven recommendations to council. It gave them an opportunity to speak up and voice what is important to them. It also gave them insight into the local government process.
- **The Seagulls to Chips Program** was a huge success. The youth involved, created a strong community. It gave them space to express themselves, share ideas and contribute to George Town. It also helped build confidence to speak up about their ideas and experiences. It also gave them tools to be effective in the Youth Impact Council.
- The Youth Impact Council participants had a range of **networking opportunities**. They went to Hobart, the Youth Advisory Summit, spoke to a number of politicians and the Governor of Tasmania. They had the opportunity to voice their aspirations for their community on larger scale, beyond the George Town community.
- The **podcasts** increased confidence in public speaking and communication while having fun.
- **Partnerships** have been invaluable to the project. They've held programs in the library and combined activities. They have created a 50 Gems video for the Low Head Community Garden and also held a pizza making event there. The Neighbourhood House has been a strong partner including hosting a silent disco at the Youth Week event. The members of FIG have contributed through their role in and with community. They continue to drop into Launchpad, building relationships with the young people.
- **Engagement** has been key. The Youth Project Officer has been regularly out in community, building relationships and trust with young people, service providers, schools, governments and across the community more broadly.
- **Youth Voice Collection** has been impactful for the young people involved in capturing the voices and administering the surveys and for young people across George Town more broadly, giving them an opportunity to have a say about the things they care about.

Analysing, reflecting and learning from the data

Challenges:

- **Sustainability:** The program is currently dependent on one person, Andy. While Andy partners with others, he is limited to what he can do as a solo worker. Building the team is important for long term sustainability. It's important that measures are in place to ensure the success of this program continues if workers leave.
- **Child safety:** Building the team is also important, from a child safety perspective. At different times, Andy has leaned on the support of FIG staff to be available to support the program. For future safe guarding and strategic development, there needs to be an expansion of the youth services team.
- **A gathering place for young people** is needed for youth. The Launchpad is moving to the ANZAC Drive building, which is a bigger space. We will need to put measures in place to make sure this be an appropriate place for youth to gather.
- It's a **big job for one person**. If community and partners want the program to expand, we need to create a plan for sustainable growth.

What works / George Town Future Recommendations:

- Develop a **Council Youth Strategy** based on the youth voice collection and other community conversations. Work together across services, share resources, etc..
- **Build a youth work team** model beyond one person. Build the capacity of the team to further build the model, placing youth voice and contribution at the centre of youth work in George Town.
- **Embed youth voice** into systems across George Town.
- Invite a **new cohort to participate in Seagulls to Chips and codesign** the program. Partner with schools to bring new youth into this program.
- **Previous Seagulls to Chips participants as mentors** for new youth coming into the program.
- **Retain existing Youth Council members** who would like to continue and **recruit new members**.
- Continue running **Seagulls to Chips short courses in schools** and build on it.
- Build on **partnership with schools** and look at exploring together to build youth leadership.
- Expand **communication and public speaking workshops**, using podcasts and other means identified by youth.
- Create a **dedicated indoor youth space**. A dedicated youth space provides a sense of belonging and safety and a place for youth to gather.
- Complete a risk plan to **ensure youth programs are viable at the ANZAC Drive building**.
- Explore **indoor winter sport opportunities** in George Town.
- Pursue **creative arts** with the youth.
- Incorporate **youth leadership opportunities within schools and clubs**.
- **Explore and build on partnerships across the community**. Who else wants to get involved in supporting youth voice and leadership?
- Explore potential for an **extra youth workers**.
- **Build on what has been done this year**, exploring with the new cohort - What do they care about for their community? What kind of community do they want to live in? Share the things the previous cohort identified? Identify solutions and ideas and incorporate them into the ideas lab.

Our Purpose

We want to live in a community that is inclusive, connected, safe, accessible and free from bullying.

Our Futures Contribution for 2024

- Inviting and incorporating youth voice into government decision making through the Youth Impact Council.
- Involving youth in the programs, providing safe spaces to contribute, share their ideas and be themselves.
- Harmonising youth projects and youth services in and around the George Town municipality.
- Events designed and run by young people with our support.
- Pursuing street art projects to mitigate vandalism and promote community pride.
- Creating leadership opportunities for young people through Seagulls to Chips program including the Student Leaders Short Course.
- Providing creative and physical avenues for young people both indoors and outdoors.
- Creating partnership opportunities between the Youth Impact Council and other community groups. eg. creating 50 gems of George Town videos for local community groups and people.