

2023 George Town Youth Voice Collection

Youth Survey Results



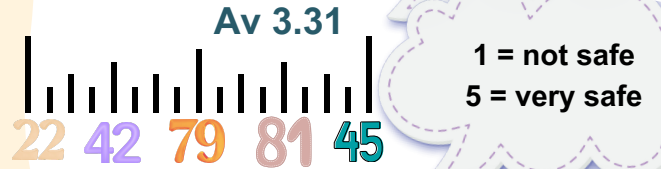
Youth Voice Collection

Questions asked of Youth in George Town

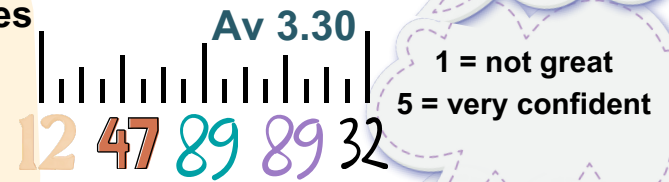
Q1. Is George Town inclusive?



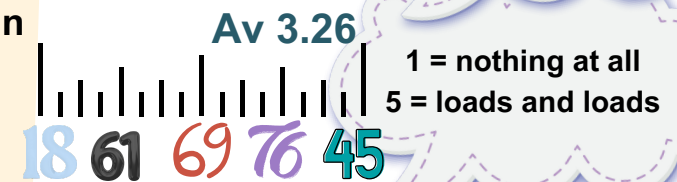
Q2. How safe do you feel in George Town?



Q3. How do you feel about work opportunities in George Town?



Q4. Is there enough for young people to do in George Town?



Q5. The most important thing for George Town youth is.....

Port Dalrymple School

Discussion points varied from safety to having more youth activities and indoor spaces made available for youth. Having free access to the pool seemed like a big priority.

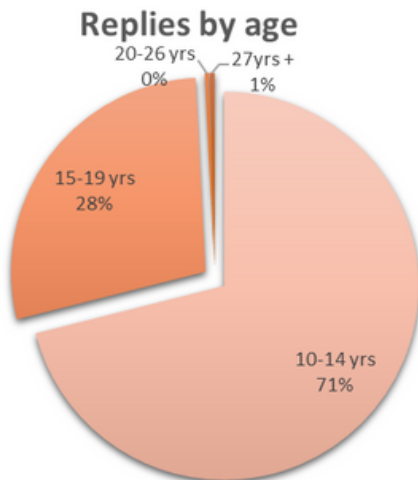
Star of the Sea Catholic College

Discussion points around the would you rather board showed preference of a live music event over a skate comp, outdoor gym equipment.

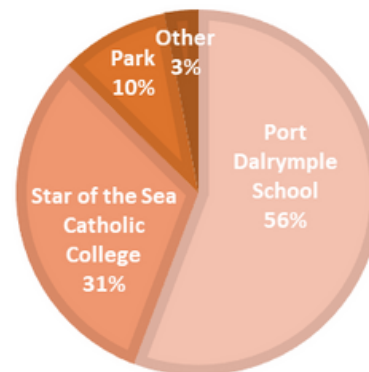
■ Port Dalrymple School ■ Star of the Sea Catholic College ■ Park ■ Other

#269 survey responses

PARTICIPANTS



■ 10-14 yrs ■ 15-19 yrs ■ 20-26 yrs ■ 27yrs +



Home schooled, schooled outside area or not attending school was not captured.



Youth Voice Collection

Q1. Is George Town Inclusive?

Things to do: Young people talked about having things to do contributing to inclusivity in GT. Example, the skate park, playground equipment, basketball courts, sporting clubs, swimming, mountain biking, after school activities, events, games, friendly competitions, library groups, public council meetings. Some young people highlighted cost, ticket and membership requirements as obstacles to getting involved in some activities. Some young people also said there are not enough non-sporting activities, particular for young people who enjoy gaming.

Good schools: A few young people talked about good schools contributing to GT being an inclusive community.

Acceptance: Some young people described George Town as a community that embraces diversity, including cultural, racial, gender and sexual diversity. However, some young people felt racism is an issue.

Connection:/Belonging: Young people talked about feeling connected to people and the community as contributing to feeling included. For example, knowing and being known by a lot of people and stores around George Town, having strong relationships with friends and family, joining in activities, feeling a sense of belonging. One person shared they don't do much in the community but feel part of the community.

Themes that arose:

Things to do
Way of being
Connection/Belonging
Good Schools
Involvement
Acceptance

Way of being: Young people referred to people in the community who are helpful, happy, friendly and nice contributing to GT feeling inclusive. Many young people commented on their being lots of good people in GT.

Involvement: Young people talked about involvement contributing to feeling included in the community. Several young people talked about not being involved in the community for a variety of reasons, including not going out, not living in George Town, and not going to school.

This is what young people said:

'Don't get discriminated against.'
'Community open to ideas.'
'George Town has evolved over the years to accept others.'
'All different people come here and all are appreciated.'



***'George Town has evolved over the years
to accept others.'***

Youth Voice Collection

Q1.
continued

This is what young people said:

- 'Some people are friendly and inclusive, while others are not.'
- 'Some are inclusive and some ignore how other people feel and don't bother helping.'
- 'Sometimes fair and sometimes unfair'
- 'Let you join in sometimes'
- 'Some people are not but most people are.'
- 'Depends on the area and the people you encounter.'
- 'A lot of work to do.'

This is what young people said:

- 'I know I have a choice to have a voice for the community.'
- 'We get choice in George Town.'
- 'I feel like I don't get much say I guess.'
- 'Helpful if they had more ways to show the town what is happening.'

Communication and having a voice:

A few young people talked about strong communication across community and having a say as being important to George Town being an inclusive community.

This is what young people said:

- 'I feel safer here than in other places.'
- 'It can be a little unsafe.'
- 'Some people bully me.'

Safety: Several young people mentioned safety as being important to a community feeling inclusive. Some said they felt safe, while others reported feeling unsafe.

Several young people mentioned bullying, groups being unkind, feeling left out and young people only being nice to their friends.



Youth Voice Collection

Q2. How safe do you feel in George Town?

Way of being: Young people talked about people being kind, trusting, nice, respectful, helpful, and good all contributing to making them feel safe.

This is what some young people said:

- 'Because I can tell my family or friends if I don't feel safe.'
- 'I feel safe with my family here in George Town.'
- 'I feel safe because I know alot of people here.'
- 'It's a safe place to be and we know lots of people.'
- 'I feel safe because I have some family just down the road so if I miss the bus I've got somewhere to go to.'
- 'I feel safe because I always have someone to look out for me.'
- 'Because with my family and friends I feel safe comfortable.'
- 'I feel safe because I always have someone to look out for me.'
- 'I feel very safe because I know everyone.'
- 'It feels safe with my mum.'

Supported & connected:

Feeling supported by and connected to people around them, was a strong contributing factor to young people saying they feel safe in George Town. Having strong relationships with family and friends and knowing a lot of people in their community, all contributed to young people feeling safe.

Both safe & unsafe: Several youth respondents reported feeling George Town felt safe but also acknowledged that it can be unsafe, suggesting that things can be done to make it safer. They reported some areas feeling safer than others. Some also acknowledged there are good people doing good things and there are also people doing bad things.

This is what some young people said:

- 'I feel fairly safe but there could be more done to keep George Town safe.'
- 'It can be dodgy but most of the time its good.'
- 'I'd say for the most part George Town is safe, with the exception of a few areas.'
- 'There are some bad people but there are also lots of good people.'
- 'Though it is relatively safe, it isn't fully safe.'
- 'Has some nicer areas but definitely some bad areas with some bad people.'
- 'I feel safe in George Town because most people are respectful of your space and cautions, but there are some people who break in and steal things.'
- 'It's very safe other than a couple of misfortunes events.'
- 'George Town is mostly safe other than a few people.'
- 'It's a decently peaceful town, but I watched someone get arrested one time inside the Dinos.'
- 'I think GT is currently safe however every now and then you might see a sketchy looking dude near the park.'

Safe: A sizeable number of young people reported feeling safe in George Town.



'George Town is mostly safe other than a few people.'

Youth Voice Collection

Q2. Continued

This is what some young people said about feeling SAFE in George Town:

- 'Don't see suspicious people much.'
- 'Not much criminal activity.'
- 'I feel safe here because its not scary.'
- 'It is safe.'
- 'It's a decently peaceful town.'
- 'I personally feel pretty safe.'
- 'Because George Town just feels like such a safe place to be in all the time.'
- 'I feel safe at school and in George Town because I know a lot of people.'
- 'During my time in George Town, I've never had moment where I felt greatly unsafe.'
- 'Not sure, just feel overly safe.'
- 'I dont feel like i have to be scared so i feel safe.'
- 'There are cameras.'
- 'Because there is cops and cameras everywhere.'
- 'We have good police and we have a lot of police.'
- 'There are cameras and people are nice.'
- 'Because I'm not doing drugs with anyone.'
- 'Because if you dont get involved than you wont get hurt.'
- 'Because I haven't been in any trouble or had anything bad happen to me.'
- 'Feel safe in the city.'
- 'I feel safe when in the town.'

Time of day: Some young people indicated they felt safe during the day in George Town but not at night, particularly in certain areas.

- 'It's fairly safe but at night it can be a bit weird as there are other people walking around and there aren't many lights in certain areas.'
- 'Not at night and in some certain areas.'
- 'I don't feel unsafe always but sometimes walking in certain areas I feel uneasy.'
- 'There is a section of GT that makes it uncomfortable.'

Violence and feeling threatened or scared: Several young people talk about things that make them feel threatened or scared in George Town.

For some it was things they hear about that make them feel unsafe, such as robberies and other crimes.

For others it is things they see, such as people screaming, vandalism, 'sketchy people'. For some it was things they have experienced, such as their house being broken into, being held at gun point, and bullying.

Some talked about specific violent acts, including knives at school, people being beaten up, and break-ins.

Drugs and alcohol: An overwhelming number of young people referenced drug and alcohol use as contributing to feelings of safety in George Town. They referred to druggies, junkies, crackheads, drunks, eshay's as making them feel unsafe.

This is what some young people said:

- 'Too many druggies.'
- 'There is heaps of drugs.'
- 'There's a lot of crackheads.'
- 'I hear about drugies and death.'
- 'There's a lot of drugys n drunks here.'
- 'I don't feel safe to much because the eshays.'

Youth Voice Collection

Q2. Continued

This is what some young people said about NOT feeling SAFE in George Town:

- 'Because people can kidnap you.'
- 'Its george town.'
- 'There is bad people here.'
- 'Someone broke into my house.'
- 'Someone got held by a gun.'
- 'My backyard got broken into.'
- 'Because you never know what could happen in george town.'
- 'Some kids only go to the park to make trouble, because some people do not care about how they treat them self and others.'
- 'I've had many bad encounters with people who vandalise or bully down my street a lot of people yell.'
- 'Because alot of people like to pick on people.'
- 'Sometimes i hear people screaming at night no big deal.'
- 'I see older kids and they frighten me.'
- 'There are alot of creepy people and drunkies of a night.'
- 'I sometimes don't feel safe in George Town because there's a chance that I'll be robbed.'
- 'Safe and not safe because of what happened to people here and how it affected me and others.'
- 'Kids are screaming slurs and other stuff on the streets.'
- 'There's broken glass everywhere on the streets.'
- 'Some people will threaten to break into homes, beat you up and steal.'
- 'Theirs a lot of violence, got to keep knives out of high school kids apart from fishing.'
- 'A lot of crime happens in george town and it worries me.'
- ' There has been a murder here before.'
- 'There are a few challenges that this town has, occasional break ins and things like that but they are delt with right away.'
- 'I Lock the doors for safety and go to bed.'
- 'If I feel like I'm getting watched, I just hide under my blanket.'
- 'Sometimes but i was bullied a lot in grad. 1 up to grade 3.'
- 'I don't feel very safe because I am not treated very well by most people I have come across in school.'

Homelessness, Tourism, and Growth:

A minority but important voice mentioned the following as contributing to their sense of safety in George Town.

One person said that people who are homeless, living on the streets, makes them feel unsafe.

Another said the increase in tourism makes them feel unsafe.

Another mentioned population growth as impacting on safety.

Youth Voice Collection

Q3. How do you feel about work opportunities in George town?

There were a range of diverse responses from young people around work opportunities in George Town.

Many young people felt there were plenty of job opportunities available in George Town, identifying industry jobs, construction, trade, retail, restaurants, real estate, supermarket/Woolworths, cafes, take away shops and hospitality. However, many also felt there were either not enough jobs for young people or the opportunities were limited. A few young people identified additional limitations, including gender, age, diverse needs, and competition.

This is what some young people who felt there were enough or a wide range of job opportunities in George Town said:

- 'Decent amount of opportunities.'
- 'A lot of local shops hire.'
- 'Lots of fun opportunities.'
- 'There are so many opportunities in Georgetown work wise for fourteen-year-olds even at school it can get you into work.'
- 'A lot of shops and good opportunities.'
- A lot of different choice.'

This is what some young people who felt there were a limited range of job opportunities in George Town said:

- 'Not diverse selection of options.'
- 'Not many shops.'
- 'Not enough for students in the town.'
- 'Not many mechanical jobs.'
- There are a good number of shops and restaurants in George Town to get a job at, but if you want to work as something else, then it may not be quite that good
- 'Only retail or trade.'
- 'I feel like there could be better opportunities for people.'
- 'There are a few job opportunities but probably there is NOT something for everyone.'



'There are a few job opportunities but probably there is NOT something for everyone.'

Youth Voice Collection

Q3. Continued

Connected:

Strong connections and supports and knowing people who had jobs played a role in young people feeling there were enough work opportunities in George Town.

This is what some young people said: • Because I know people and family who have had good work opportunities or jobs and also if they didn't have to go far so they could make it to their shift • Because heaps of the people i know have a job and get plenty of work opportunities to do • Everyone is willing to help out • My dad would help me

Some shared other insightful limitations around job opportunities in George Town:

- 'Not many places where you can get a job that is outside of school hours.'
- 'Because in some workplaces you have to have a degree even if you have been doing it for a long time with no degree.'
- 'Autism'
- 'More opportunities for boys.'
- 'I have found it hard to get a job and I think that is because I am a male and most jobs who hire youths focus on hiring females.'
- 'Not many for younger kids.'
- 'There isn't many work opportunities for kids my age (10-14).'
- 'Sometimes you don't get the job you want.'
- 'Sometimes when u get a oppertunity for something theres normally another person who gets the job.'
- 'Hard to get the good jobs.'
- 'Good, but better in other places.'

Youth Voice Collection

Q4. Is there enough for young people to do in George Town?

They identified the following activities and opportunities:

- Places to play sports and be active, such as football, soccer, netball, basketball, gymnastics, fishing, swimming.
- Places to ride scooters, cycle as well as skatepark, pump track.
- Places to play, such as playgrounds and parks
- Hangout spots, events, hub, Memorial Hall
- After school activities

Many young people said, yes there is enough for young people to do in George Town.

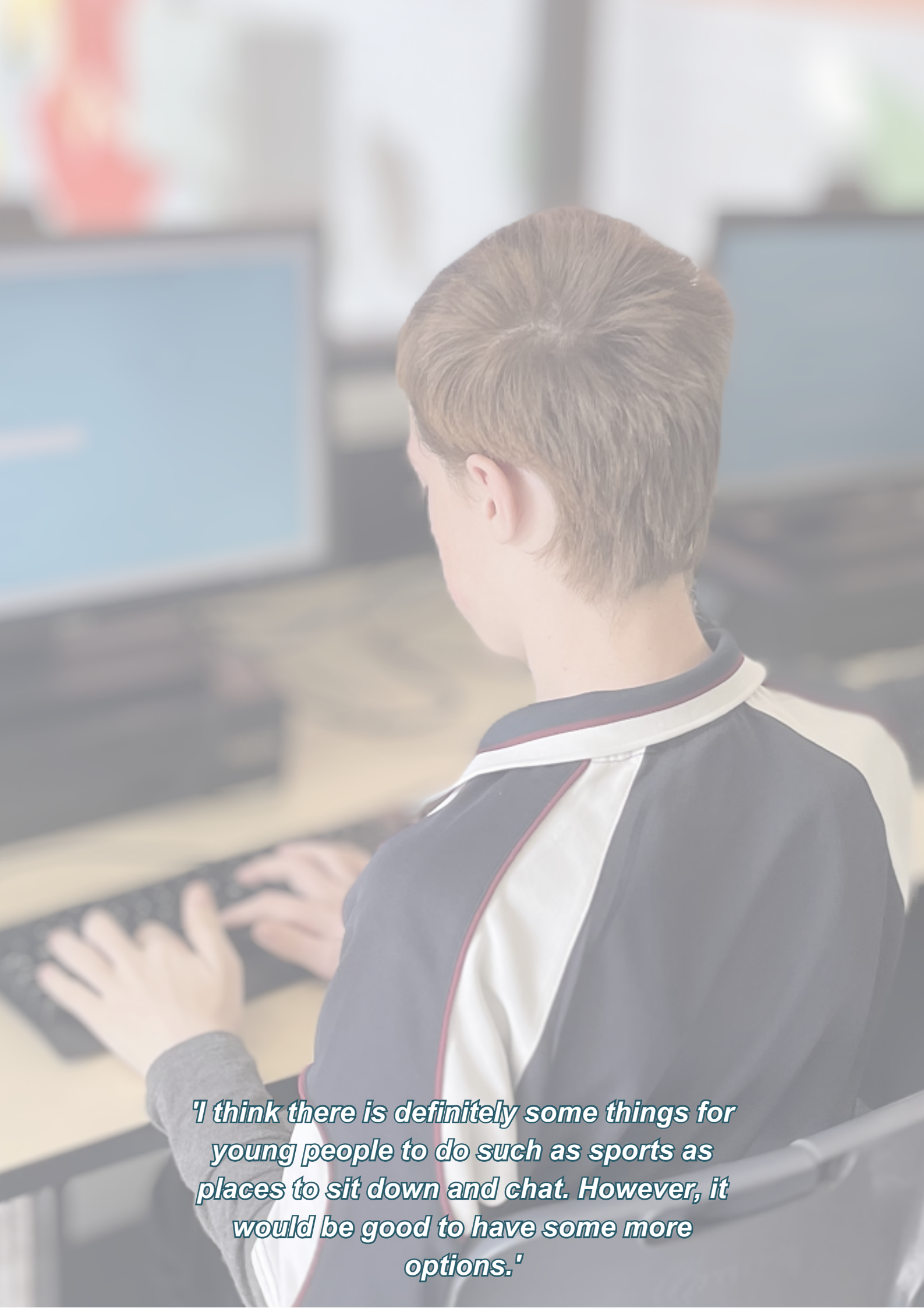
This is what some young people said:

- Heaps, I would say yes because there are alot of places for kids to run around and exercise or chill out because they can play footy soccer basketball or fishing they can also ride around to the shop or where they want.'
- 'Yeah there's plenty of activity's to do for young people in George town because we have a skatepark, a playground , a basketball court and much more as well yes there is because there is many sports like football , soccer, netball, gymnastics and more.'
- 'Because we have a park skatepark and pump track, swimming spots, parks, hangout spots, events, hub and events in the main street.'
- 'There is a lot of things for young people in George town. We have parks, places to ride scooters and bikes also skateboards. Then there are places where after school you can go - a school like south because we leave our fence open but lock our schools doors.'

Some said there are things to do but not enough diverse options, particularly for young people who do not like to play sports.

This is what some young people said:

- 'There mainly only the pump track, park and skate park which can get boring after awhile.'
- 'There's a far few things to do but those thing get very boring after some time, there is but it gets boring after a while as it is the same stuff around.'
- 'Depending on your interests there can either be plenty to do in George Town or very little.'
- 'I think there is definitely some things for young people to do such as sports as places to sit down and chat. However, it would be good to have some more options.'



'I think there is definitely some things for young people to do such as sports as places to sit down and chat. However, it would be good to have some more options.'

Youth Voice Collection

Q4. Continued

Some young people shared their ideas on what they would like to see in George Town.

'There is only a skate park and park. Add like some more shops a cinema (please).'

'More playground equipment.'

'I wish there was more soccer games and stuff, there are plenty of things for kids to do in george town but i think it could do with some more things like laser tag and nerf wars.'

'They should add more skateparks.'

'I feel like we need more fun activities.'

This is what some young people said:

- 'Nothing for us and older people.'
- 'There are lots for young people to do, but the opportunities could be a bit more diversified.'
- 'There is for a younger age but not teens.'
- 'Their is alot for the kids around 12 and younger but their is only a skate park and a sports ground for anyone above, not enough for older kids in the town e.g community disco/ youth gathering.'
- 'There isnt anything good for teens who just want to hang out.'

Some young people said there is a lot to do for younger kids, but not for older teenagers.

Youth Voice Collection

Q5. The most important thing for George Town youth is.....

People

- 'Helpful people.'
- 'Help each other.'
- 'Take care of each other.'
- 'Helping others.'
- 'Nice people.'
- 'Be nice.'
- 'Friendly.'
- 'Respect each other.'
- 'Surround yourself with good people then you'll be good.'
- 'Kind.'
- 'Andy.'

Voice

- 'The voices of young people'
- 'Many people don't want to listen to us because of our age when really'
- 'We have amazing ideas'
- 'Letting the children speak and what their thoughts are about things'
- 'Surveys about how we feel'

Opportunities

- 'Having the ability to grow and secure our futures.'
- 'Good jobs, along with educational/workplace opportunities.'
- 'To participate in youth groups.'
- 'That we are given the opportunity to grow.'
- 'Making more job opportunities and leading youth the best path.'

'Someone who can take care of them or someone to make sure they don't get in any big situations.'

Community connection:

- 'Involvement in the community'
- 'Respect elders'
- 'To feel safe'
- 'Supported and encouraged by all member and peers in the community'
- 'Feel included'
- 'Feeling involved'

Themes that arose:

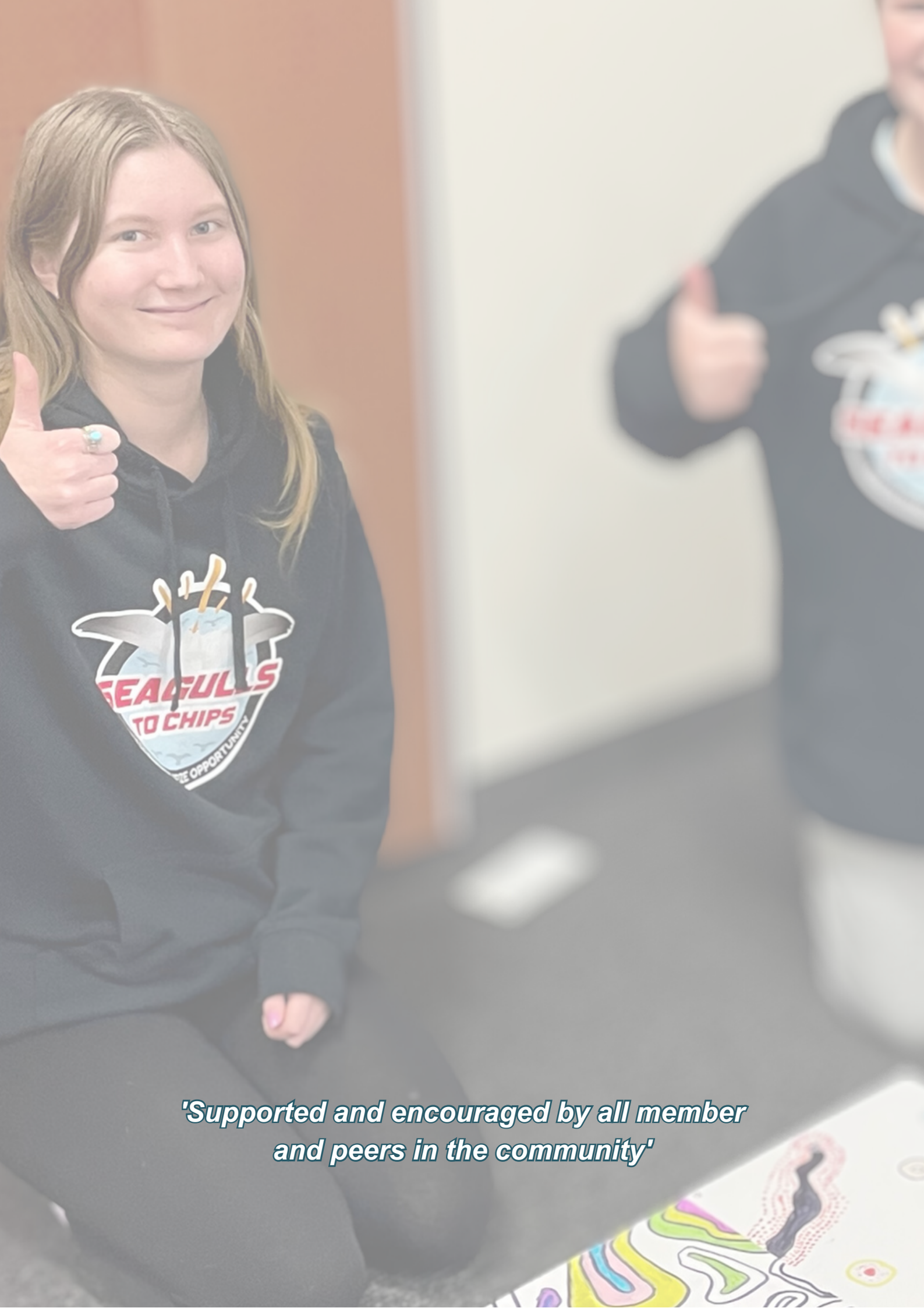
- Friendship
- Family
- People
- Community connection
- Acceptance
- Voice
- Opportunites
- Equal opportunity for kids
- Safety
- Health

Acceptance

- 'Queer youth and more'
- 'Judge free'

Equal opportunity for kids

- 'Learning, educating and involving young people in a variety of different activities.'
- 'Learning and having a go at everything.'



*'Supported and encouraged by all member
and peers in the community'*



Youth Voice Collection

Q5. Continued

Plenty of food and food options, a safe home, and a clean town were all named as being important for young people in George Town.

Several young people shared having fun things to do as being important for youth in George Town.

These are their examples:

waterpark next to playground, horse stable, dirt bike track, playgrounds, shops (clothes and books), sports, cinema, zipline, waterpark, places to play and enjoy, basketball, parks, entertainment, skate park in basketball courts, library, fishing, Fairs Inn Regent Square, bigger and better library, non-sport things to do, have fun, fun games to play and happiness.

Safety

- 'We have a safe, kind and loving community that everyone feels like they belong in. So it's important that we are kind to each other, so we are safe.'
- 'Always get help.'
- 'Help each other.'
- 'People watching them so they can't get hurt.'
- 'Have people watching so they don't get into danger.'
- 'Don't do drugs.'
- 'Safe walking down the street.'
- 'To feel safe and be happy.'

Health

- 'Having places for kids to do what they want exercise and run around for there daily physical activity so they are healthy.'
- 'Lots of exercising equipment and more events focused on kids under 15 and teenagers.'
- 'Basketball that happens every December on the indoor courts- more of this, active, more mental help.'



'Basketball that happens every December on the indoor courts- more of this, active, more mental help.'

"Would you rather?"

'Would You Rather Boards' are an effective way of gathering the thoughts of young people on priorities quickly. They have provided many great conversation starters and also an understanding of what young people see as worth putting their energy into for the future.

In schools we asked:

Skatepark competition or Live music rock challenge
73 compared to 154

Fishing Competition or Learn to Sail Day
158 compared to 58

Indoor youth space or more access to the indoor basketball court
91 compared to 155

Street art vibes or Outdoor gym equipment
81 compared to 157

4 weeks free entry to the pool or plant 300 new trees
180 compared to 60

At the park we asked:

Esports competitions or Free MTB lessons
28 compared to 34

Youth art workshops or Youth dance workshops
55 compared to 14

Free youth events or Free school holiday activities
10 compared to 47

Scuba diving or sky diving
40 compared to 22

More shelters in public spaces or
more creative sculptures in public spaces
34 compared to 31

South George Town Primary School all year 5/6 students participated in the would you rather boards.

Seagulls to Chips members led a session in Regent park and 26 youth participated.



