

Media Release

New project to map youth spaces across NSW

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The Office for Youth and Youth Action are partnering on the first statewide mapping of youth spaces across NSW.

Delivered by Youth Action and funded by the NSW Office for Youth, the project will build the first statewide picture of where young people connect, participate and access support.

Youth spaces, including youth hubs, are essential community infrastructure. They provide places for young people to build trusted relationships, develop confidence, participate in their communities and access support before challenges escalate. The project will build an evidence base to inform future planning, policy, and investment, helping ensure more access to places where young people feel they belong.

The research will map **youth spaces, including youth hubs** across metropolitan, regional and remote NSW, exploring their diversity, sustainability, key features and where access gaps exist. It will consider formal, informal and transient spaces to better understand the full range of places that support young people.

The Office for Youth, led by the Advocate for Children and Young People, brings together expertise from across the NSW Government to improve outcomes for children and young people.

As the peak body representing young people and the youth sector in NSW, Youth Action is leading the research and engagement, working with young people, communities and stakeholders across the state to develop practical, evidence-informed recommendations.

Findings and recommendations are expected by the end of 2026.

Quotes attributable to the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People Katherine McKernan:

“This partnership reflects a shared commitment to ensuring decisions about youth spaces are informed by evidence, local context and what matters most to young people and their communities.”

“The findings will strengthen the evidence base for future planning, policy and investment, helping identify what is working well, where gaps exist and the opportunities to better support young people across NSW.”

Quotes attributable to Lauren Stracey, CEO Youth Action:

“Every young person deserves somewhere to belong. We know youth spaces and youth hubs aren't just buildings. They're places where young people build confidence, find trusted adults, connect with their communities and access support before challenges become crises.

“This project will help us recognise the incredible work already happening across NSW while identifying where young people are missing out, so future investment is shaped by evidence, equity and need, not postcode.”

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