

Youth Policy

Policy Reference Number	5979844
Responsible Department	Community Connections
Related Policies	Community Plan, Community Grants; Children and Vulnerable Persons; Volunteers
Related Procedures	
Date of Initial Adoption	07 November 2006
Last Reviewed by Council	16 May 2023

1. Purpose

To outline Council's commitment to a Child and Youth Friendly City where young people are valued as active and engaged citizens of the Community, their rights are recognised, their voices are heard and their wellbeing is supported.

2. Introduction

Council Staff engaged with young people to inform this Policy through the Campbelltown Youth Survey, Youth Advisory Committee and other consultation opportunities.

The Policy is also informed by research undertaken and shared by other relevant youth stakeholders including local schools, the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia and the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

3. Power to Make the Policy

This Policy is made as provided for by Section 6 and Section 7 of the Local Government Act 1999.

4. Strategic Plan Link

This Policy has the following link to Council's Strategic Plan 2024:

- Supporting our Community (Goal 1)

4. Principles

Young people value:

- Having a voice and being heard
- Relationships with friends and family
- Their freedom and independence
- The environment and sustainability
- Their mental and physical health and well-being
- Feeling safe
- Access to public spaces which are welcoming for young people

Young People most need support with:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Skill development and knowledge building
- Career and future decision making

Council values:

- Young people as active, capable and competent citizens in the Community
- Young people having a voice and participating in decision making
- Young people developing their independence, identity and future planning
- Young people as diverse individuals with unique identities, backgrounds and experiences
- The importance of play and recreation opportunities for young people
- Long term planning which is fundamental to building a youth friendly Community
- A whole-of-Council and whole-of-Community approach to building a Community that is friendly and welcoming for young people
- Community development as an approach incorporating social justice, strengths based, grass roots development
- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child to underpin Child and Youth Friendly Campbelltown.

5. Definitions

Child Friendly City:

A Child Friendly City defined by UNICEF 2010 states 'It is a city where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programs and decisions. It is, as a result, a city that is fit for all.'

Youth:

A person aged between 12 and 25 years

Sub categories: 12 - 17 years
 18+ years

Campbelltown Youth:

Council's Youth Program

Sub categories:

YAC

Youth Advisory Committee (a Council committee including young people and Elected Members to advise Council on issues relating to young people).

Youth Crew

A Council program in which young people volunteer their time and knowledge to support the development and implementation of youth initiatives and programs.

6. Policy

Council will:

6.1 Develop, maintain and implement a Youth Plan

Working with YAC, Youth Crew, young people and organisations to bring all ideas and actions together.

6.2 Value young people in decision making

Council will create space and opportunities for young people to shape and influence Council decisions that affect them. Council will use creative age-appropriate ways to do this and promise to listen to all ideas.

6.3 Provide quality public places and spaces (both indoor and outdoor)

Council will provide quality public spaces that provide for, are accessible and welcoming for young people.

Where barriers exist for young people accessing public spaces, Council will seek to remove or minimise barriers and improve accessibility for young people.

6.4 Provide activities (programs, services and events)

Council will provide activities through the Campbelltown Youth program, Campbelltown Library, The ARC Campbelltown and school holiday programs. Council will listen to ideas and suggestions from young people for new activities.

6.5 Provide opportunities for development and learning

Council:

- Recognises that young people are at a time in their lives where they are experiencing significant change, learning, growth and identity development as they transition from childhood to adolescence and young adulthood.
- Will provide opportunities for development and learning to support young people to be active and engaged citizens now and into the future.
- Provides opportunities to participate in volunteering and work experience programs as well as access to grant and sponsorship programs.

6.6 Advocate for young people

Council will support young people to advocate for issues important to them and where appropriate, advocate with or on their behalf.

6.7 Partnerships and collaboration

Council will seek to partner, collaborate and gather information from relevant community groups and organisations including but not limited to local schools, neighbouring Councils and other youth services.

6.8 Celebrate young people/ positive profile

Council will play an active role in promoting a positive image and profile of young people.

Council will support the category of Campbelltown's Young Citizen of the Year as part of the annual National Australia Day award program and support the annual NAIDOC youth award.

6.9 Access

Council acknowledges that young people may be disadvantaged in accessing programs, opportunities and events for example cost, transport, level of ability and confidence.

Where barriers exist for young people to access programs, services and events that are not youth-specific, Council will seek to remove or minimise barriers and improve accessibility for young people.

7. Review & Evaluation

Within six months of each new Council term Council will review this policy. Following this initial review this policy will be reviewed annually by staff with minor administrative adjustments being approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

8. Availability of the Policy

Copies of this Policy will be available at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and at Council's website www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au.