



YOUTH POLICY

Policy Number	C46	Department	Sustainable Communities [SCI]
Adoption Date	28 June 2017	Primary Author	Community Strengthening Support Officer
Revision Date	2020/21	Secondary Author	Coordinator Community Strengthening
Revision Cycle	4 years	Reference	D2788817

POLICY OBJECTIVE

Young people of all abilities have an important contribution to make to the civic, social, economic, recreational, and cultural life of South Gippsland. The future wellbeing of the community is assisted by retaining and attracting young people to the district, and by encouraging young people to feel valued as community members. This Policy is designed to support the provision of opportunities for engagement, participation, and inclusion in the wider community by young people.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

[Victorian Government Youth Policy](#) (Building Stronger Youth Engagement in Victoria).

DEFINITIONS

Young people / Youth Defined as aged between 12 and 25 years old.

POLICY STATEMENT

South Gippsland Shire Council provides a key role in youth engagement, participation, and inclusion through:

- Provision of support for “Youth Consultative Networks” established as required through consultation with young people in South Gippsland.
- Advocating for provision of quality services for young people including education, training, social and cultural services, and employment opportunities.
- Promotion of young people as active members of the community through providing opportunities to participate in community programs, initiatives, and decision making processes.
- Providing a leadership role in developing strong partnerships between all stakeholders and provide a sustainable future for young people in South Gippsland Shire.
- Provision of leadership and community engagement skills development opportunities for young people.



RISK ASSESSMENT

This Policy will provide guidance to Council when allocating resources to youth engagement activities, and when seeking to partner with other organisations to develop or provide resources for such activities. This policy will also provide South Gippsland's young people, wider community, and potential funding partners with a clear statement on the role of Council in supporting youth engagement and participation.

IMPLEMENTATION | AUDIT | REVIEW

- The responsibility and implementation of the policy rests with the Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure Directorate.
- This policy will be reviewed and adopted on a 4 year cycle in line with the election of a new Council.
- This policy will be published on Council's website.
- Council will endeavour to engage young people in all aspects of planning that affect young people's lives and provide opportunities to contribute to decision making and the development of policy, programs, and initiatives that affect them and their community through the support of a range of youth networks and committees.
- Council will consult with and listen to the needs, opinions and ideas of young people and provide opportunities for them to participate in their communities.
- Council will assist South Gippsland community organisations to attract young people to participate in the activities they undertake in their communities
- Council will promote and facilitate strong partnerships between young people, and key stakeholders, which provide opportunities for young people to be valued, respected, and involved in social, civic, and economic opportunities, and live a safe and healthy life in South Gippsland.
- Council will consult with and acknowledge the diversity of young people and their needs when making decisions that affect young people.
- Council will support funding submissions and fundraising activities that benefit young people.
- Council will actively seek programs and services which enhance the engagement, participation, and inclusion of young people in the community dependant on availability of funding and budget constraints.
- Council will work with service providers, youth agencies, and community organisations to improve access by young people to relevant information that supports their participation in education, training, health, cultural, recreation, and civic activity.
- Council will develop a Youth Engagement Strategy to guide the implementation activities.



LINKAGES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Young people
Community groups
Local Government
State Government
Federal Government
Youth Affairs Victoria (YACVIC)
YACVIC State-wide Rural Reference Group
Foundation for Young Australians (FYA)
Youth services organisations
Education sector
Sport and recreation groups
Arts and cultural groups
Municipal Health and Wellbeing plan
Community health providers

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- South Gippsland Shire Council – Youth Engagement Toolkit (*Internal Document*)
- [Victorian Government Youth Policy](#) (Building Stronger Youth Engagement in Victoria)