



Youth Services Policy

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To guide Council in dealing with all young people aged 12-25 years and also guide Council's development and implementation of programs and activities to address the needs of the LGA's youth and improve outcomes for youth.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

- *Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*
- *Young Offenders Act 1997*
- *Child Protection (Offenders Prohibition Orders) Act 2004*
- *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000*
- *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*
- *Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013*
- *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*
- *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012*

POLICY STATEMENT

1 Background

Council is committed to the health and wellbeing of its youth. Council values the importance of its youth and the value they provide to the community. Council is committed to developing and delivering holistic youth services to the LGA.

This policy has been developed in response to extensive community engagement with young people and external youth and community services in the LGA and will underline the annual youth action plans to be delivered.

2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide Council and its employees in decision making and project delivery that affects young people aged 12-25 in the LGA.

Council recognises the importance of young people to the future of our community and the value of considering young people and facilities for the region. Council is committed to addressing the needs of youth in our community, both directly and indirectly, through collaboration with other agencies and non-government organisations (NGOs). Emphasis will be on building partnerships, developing young people to have a voice and supporting them to become self-sufficient.

3 Scope

This policy applies to all young people aged 12-25 in the Goulburn Mulwaree LGA area and all aspects of Council's delivery of services to young people providing guidance, planning and delivery of services and programs to young people (12-25) who live, work, and play or visit the LGA.

4 Principles

The Youth Services Policy is underpinned by the following four (4) core principles.

Communication

Ensure effective communication and engagement with young people, including genuine and regular communication between Council and young people.

Building Community Capacity

Increase the capacity of young people and youth organisations to respond to the current and future needs of the Goulburn Mulwaree community.

Leadership

Provide leadership opportunities and skills development for young people and represent youth interests at all levels of government and the broader community.

Equity and Inclusiveness

Consider the diverse needs of young people, providing for all ages, abilities and backgrounds across the Goulburn Mulwaree region.

5 Role of Council

In accordance with the Goulburn Mulwaree Council Operational & Delivery Plan 2017 – 2021, Council is committed to;

- Fostering and encouraging positive social behaviours to maintain our safe, healthy and connected community
- Developing and implementing programs for youth to encourage empowerment, resilience and capacity building
- Building social capital and;
- Advocating for the education and training needs of young people in the region

Advocate

Council will advocate the local needs and priority concerns of the LGA's young people to all levels of Australian Government (State and Federal) and within the community services sector.

Youth Development

Council will in partnership provide youth activities and programs to build the capacity and develop the skills of the regions young people. This will include workshops, training, recreation and events.

Partner

Council will partner with young people, service providers, stakeholders and community to support and facilitate collaboration, identify service needs and opportunities for the region's young people.

Community Engagement

Council will collaborate with the youth services sector, young people and the community to identify local needs and concerns of young people and youth stakeholders in the region by facilitating actions, projects and strategies to address identified needs and concerns.

6 Objectives

Participation & Engagement

Council recognises the importance of youth participation and engagement in Council processes, civic activities, active recreation, sports activities and the broader community. Council is committed to positively encouraging young people through participatory leadership processes to empower them to make decisions and actively participate in their community. Furthermore, Council will seek appropriate forms of communication to connect with young people in general.

Partnerships, Roles and Collaboration

Council recognises the value of the Youth Council, including their role, and the importance of the retention of youth leaders in the region. Council will endeavour to consult with the Youth Council and all young people and youth stakeholders within the region in a timely and appropriate manner on matters that will, or are likely to, impact youth. Council will create effective partnerships with the community and service sector in the development and implementation of programs and initiatives.

Planning and Decision Making

Council acknowledges the importance of planning communities and the provision of public, recreational and sporting facilities that are inclusive of, and addresses the needs of, young people. Council is committed to proactively involving young people and youth stakeholders through consultation and decision making processes.

Sport and Recreation

Council will ensure that a range of recreational facilities and affordable, appropriate activities exist for young people, through working in partnership with other tiers of government, young people, stakeholders and the broader community.

Council will investigate initiatives such as sporting camps / programs for young people to enhance their health and wellbeing and actively promote the importance of teamwork, mateship / camaraderie and being part of a sporting community. Possible examples of initiatives may include, but not limited to, clinics for soccer, football, cricket, tennis, dancing and other forms of recreational arts.

Employment, Education and Training

Council is committed to working in partnership with all tiers of government and the community, to encourage the development of employment, education and training opportunities for young people within the region.

Diversity

Council recognises its role and responsibility to consider the diversity of young people and their particular needs when making decisions and considering relevant planning, policy and projects within the community. Council recognises the value of, and will encourage, young people from all backgrounds to participate in the cultural life of the community.

Funding

Council is committed to funding youth services programs through its annual budget to implement the Youth Services Policy and annual action plans. Council will also strive to attract and secure funding for youth development, recreation and participation opportunities for young people across the region.

Services and Strategies

Council is committed to working with young people and youth stakeholders to plan, innovate and support strategies that can improve access, identify gaps and promote a range of youth services within the region including, but not limited to, Education and Employment, Drug and Alcohol, Transport, Housing, Health Services, Sport and Recreation.

Health and Wellbeing

Council recognises the importance of supporting and promoting the health and wellbeing of young people across the LGA and raise awareness of existing services and current health issues for young people.

Crime Prevention

Council recognises that by investing in activities and programs that have a crime prevention outcome, financial savings can be achieved by creating a more connected community. These programs include, but are not limited to, 'Fit for Life', holiday programs, sports clinics, community murals etc.

Safety

Council recognises the need for young people to live in a safe community and will work in partnership with other tiers of government, young people, stakeholders, police and other relevant bodies and the broader community to achieve this aim.



GOULBURN MULWAREE COUNCIL DRAFT YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

Version	Council Meeting Date	Resolution	Adoption Date	Effective From
1	19 February 2019	12.4	27 March 2019	27 March 2019
All policies can be reviewed or revoked by resolution of Council at anytime.				

DIRECTORATE: Corporate & Community Services

BUSINESS UNIT: Property & Community Services