



# NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

## POLICY MANUAL

### YOUTH

**Originated Date:** Adopted 7 May 2001 – Min No. 170/01 (as Policy 24)

**Amended Date/s:** Amended 23 April 2007 – Min No. 113/07  
Reviewed 17 February 2014 – Min No. 42/14  
Reviewed 10 April 2017 – Min. No. 123/17  
Reviewed 19 August 2019 – Min. No. 235/19

**Applicable Legislation:** *Age Discrimination Act 2004 (Cth)*  
*Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (TAS)*  
*Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth)*  
*Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*  
*Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)*  
*Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)*  
*Work Health & Safety Act 2012 (TAS)*  
*Workers Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 1988 (TAS)*

**Objective** Council is committed to developing, supporting and promoting initiatives which positively contribute to the safety and well-being of young people, their families and the communities within the Northern Midlands municipality.

**Administration:** Governance

**Review Cycle/Date:** Biennial review. Next review 2021.

#### 1. SCOPE

All Northern Midlands residents aged 12-25 years (recognising there are varying needs within this age group).

This policy also applies to employees of Northern Midlands Council who have a role to play in the development, support and promotion of youth initiatives within the municipal area.

#### 2. OUTCOMES

As defined in the Northern Midlands Council Strategic Plan 2017-2027, Council is committed to creating Caring, Healthy, Safe Communities – Awareness, education and service:

- Equal access to health, safety and community services;
- Being an advocate for equitable health, education and employment;
- Support networks for youth at risk;
- Support networks assisting victims of domestic violence;
- Foster arts and culture participation at local level;
- Ensuring all abilities sport and exercise facilities available;
- Cater for community members with disabilities.

#### 3. ROLES OF COUNCIL

To ensure Council are working towards achieving the stated mission, they have the following roles:

- Acknowledge and promote the valuable contribution that young people make in our communities;
- Ensure that young people have access to services and activities to promote their health and well-being
- Ensure that the views and needs of young people are considered in Council activities;
- Advocate on behalf of, and with, young people;



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- Provide support for youth by engaging providers such as PCYC and YMCA to facilitate recreation programs within schools across the municipality.

To support and encourage the future education and employment of youth by:

- Providing further Education Bursaries to students within the Northern Midlands who are progressing to education or training beyond Grade 10.
- Working in collaboration with schools to develop and support initiatives that promote education and employment opportunities for young people.

#### **4. STRATEGIES**

Councils Youth Strategy objectives are as follows:

- To ensure that young people's views and needs are considered in Council activities.
- To support young people to have opportunities to participate in activities that support their health and wellbeing.
- To improve access to services and programs for young people.
- To support education and employment opportunities for young people.
- To improve the capacity of communities to support young people.

For further detail pertaining to Councils Youth Strategy, please see Council's Youth Strategy Plan.

Council also regularly review their services and participation to ensure they are meeting the objectives outlined in the Youth Strategy.



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### NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL YOUTH STRATEGY

The 2015 the ABS Census identified that there were approximately 2225 people aged 10-24 residing in the Northern Midlands municipality comprising 17% of the total population.

In 2018 Council undertook a youth survey targeting students in schools across the municipality with 170 participants aged 10-17.

Young people surveyed identified the following as the primary issues for youth in the region:

Bullying, drugs and alcohol, mental health, violence, unemployment, homelessness, smoking, lack of things to do, lack of support, body image, personal safety.

Participants also expressed ideas about how Council may support young people in the future identifying the need for more services, programs and activities in areas of recreation, sport, improvement of access to youth support such as counselling, group programs, camps and other events.

Subsequent liaison with the schools and service providers in the Northern Midlands region has confirmed that these are issues that young people face and there is a considerable lack of service provision in the region to target these key areas.

Council has identified the following objectives to support to young people across the municipality:

#### **Objective 1:**

**To ensure that young people's views and needs are considered in Council activities**

Strategies:

- Employ a Youth Officer to engage with and advocate for the needs of young people with a particular focus on ages 10-18
- Recognise and promote the valuable contribution that young people make in our communities
- Liaise with schools, community and youth support services to identify key priorities and needs for young people
- Maintain a network between Council, young people and the youth sector
- Enable young people to have their say on issues affecting them in their communities through informal consultation, engagement through schools and conducting youth related surveys
- Explore opportunity and interest in the development of local youth advisory committees
- Maintaining a youth related information section on the Council website

#### **Objective 2:**

**To support young people to have opportunities to participate in activities that support their health and well-being**

Strategies:

- Support and facilitate youth specific events and programs, specifically Police and Community Youth Club, YMCA, Northern Midlands Youth Expo 2020, Skate Park League competitions, youth camps, to name just a few.
- Support for existing 'youth spaces' such as the skate parks in Evandale, Perth and Longford and the development of more appropriate spaces and activities for young people
- Liaise with schools to identify student well-being issues and support schools to implement strategies and programs to target these areas



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### **Objective 3:**

#### **Improve access to services and programs for young people**

##### Strategies:

- Liaise with service providers and schools to identify and address service gaps for young people
- Provide support to existing services to ensure these meet the needs of young people
- Engage with city-based service providers to scope their capacity to provide outreach to young people in the municipality
- Representation on the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee
- Representation on the Northern Midlands Interagency Group

### **Objective 4:**

#### **Support education and employment opportunities for young people**

##### Strategies:

- Liaise with schools, higher education institutions and employment service providers to support their provision of services to young people
- Provide funding and support to schools for youth focussed initiatives and programs
- Provision of further education bursaries to students within the Northern Midlands who are progressing to education or training beyond Grade 10
- Support young people's participation in arts, music and cultural activities

### **Objective 5:**

#### **Improve the capacity of communities to support young people**

##### Strategies:

- Work in collaboration with Police, community youth justice, service providers and the wider community to identify and support the needs of young people who are at risk.
- Support and promote programs for parents, teachers, children and youth workers.
- Provision of youth-specific information on the Council website
- Liaise with community groups and services such as service clubs, sporting clubs, charities and support agencies to encourage and maintain their capacity to support young people
- Explore opportunities for youth mentoring initiatives