

# Council Policy

<h2>YOUTH POLICY</h2>	Date Adopted:	10/08/2022
	Adopted By:	Council
	Review Due:	10/08/2025
	Responsible Officer:	Manager Community Relations
	Directorate:	Community & Corporate Services
	EDRMS No:	D/22/60679

## PURPOSE

Young people are central to the future of Southern Grampians Shire and make significant contributions to community life.

The Southern Grampians Shire Council Youth Policy will guide Council decisions and actions within the scope of the policy. It aims to provide hope and opportunity for the voice of young people to be considered and heard, to enable them to make positive and informed decisions and access Council and community services, supports and facilities for their enjoyment and ongoing development as valued community members/citizens. It also encourages consultation and engagement with young people on matters that relate to or are likely to significantly impact on or affect them.

The purpose of this policy is to outline Council's role in relation to the needs of the young people of the Southern Grampians Shire.

### DEFINITION:

Youth: 12–25 years

## POLICY STATEMENT

Council's vision for Southern Grampians Shire 'to be a growing, inclusive and connected community that fosters sustainability, diversity and innovation' is underpinned by goals and strategies that recognise the role that Council has in supporting young people and their contribution to the community.

Southern Grampians Shire has a strong commitment to the ongoing engagement and support of young people, their ongoing development, health, and wellbeing, creating opportunity for future careers and encouraging active engagement in community and participation in civic life. Southern Grampians Shire respects the diversity of young people, including their social, spiritual, education, environmental, cultural, economic, sporting,

recreational community, and creative pursuits.

Our Youth Policy recognises and is consistent with the Victorian Government Youth Policy: *Building Stronger Youth Engagement in Victoria, June 2016*, which includes three action areas for youth engagement:

- **Amplifying the voice of Victorian youth in government priority setting**

- to capture youth views more systematically on broad government actions and priorities

- **Increasing youth participation in youth-focused policy, program, and service design**

- to actively involve young people in the design of youth-focused services, policies and programs

- **Empowering individual young people in their own care**

- by creating the expectation and building the capability of government and service providers to actively involve young people in decision-making processes that directly affect them.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

The measures which will be undertaken by Council to meet the requirements of this policy will include:

### **Coordination, Contribution and Support of the Youth Services Sector**

This includes convening the Southern Grampians Youth Network; providing support to existing and new programs, services and initiatives addressing identified gaps and needs in youth services; and facilitating and encouraging local organisations providing services for young people to work together in a coordinated and strategic way.

### **Increased Leadership, Educational and Employment Opportunities**

This includes Intern and traineeship programs at Council; support for local educational institutions and their programs; providing support to young people to develop leadership skills and take up volunteer positions; advocating to higher levels of government for improved education and job creation opportunities for young people.

### **Engagement, Advocacy, and Influencing/Impacting Council Decisions**

This includes consulting and engagement of young people when formulating Council strategies and plans and making decisions; advocating to other levels of government on key issues impacting young people in our community; providing opportunities for direct discussions with Councillors; and advocacy for increased programs and facilities for young people.

### **Access to Safe Places and Experiences**

This includes providing appropriate, inclusive places for young people to gather and connect; providing opportunities for young people to network; provision of youth focused activities, events, and cultural programs; access to youth focused resources; and providing community grants to support a wide range of community development and recreational opportunities.

## RESOURCING

Southern Grampians Shire Council will ensure that Council's youth related programs and initiatives are appropriately resourced and costed.

## ASSOCIATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

The Southern Grampians Youth Policy is supported by the following Council Plans:

- Southern Grampians Shire Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25
- Southern Grampians Shire Council Plan 2021 - 25
- Southern Grampians Shire Council Community Engagement Policy 2021

## CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

It is considered that this policy is compatible with the relevant human rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)*.

## GENDER EQUALITY COMPLIANCE

It is considered that this policy is compatible with the relevant gender equality principles identified in the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Is a Gender Impact Assessment required?

- Yes (*legally required for all policies that have a direct and significant impact on the public*)
- No (*please provide an explanation why a Gender Impact Assessment is not required*)

## REFERENCES

- The Victorian Local Government Act 2020
- The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- The Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987
- The Victorian Child Safety Act 2015
- The Victorian Commission for Children and Young People Child Safe Standards

## REVIEW

This Policy may be reviewed every 3 years from its adoption.

**END**