



# Youth Policy

Version 1

Approval Date: 4 December 2023

Review Date: 1 December 2027

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Responsible GM	Georgia Hills	
Division	Community Health and Wellbeing	
Last Updated (who & when)	Georgia Karavis, Coordinator Social Policy and Inclusion	2023
<b>DOCUMENT HISTORY</b>		
Authority	Date	Description of change
Council	1 October 2018	Update
Council	4 December 2023	Update
References	Refer to Section 8 and 9 of this policy	
Next Review Date	1 December 2027	
Published on website	Yes	
Document Reference	No	

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## 1. Background

Young people of all abilities, sexualities and identities have an important contribution to make to the civic, social, economic, recreational and cultural life of Latrobe City.

Latrobe City has a strong commitment to the ongoing engagement and capacity building of young people, their physical and mental health and wellbeing, creating opportunity for future careers and positive change within the wider community. Latrobe City respects and celebrates the diversity of young people and aims to support their social, educational, environmental, cultural, economic, sporting, recreational community and creative pursuits.

## 2. Objectives

This Youth Policy outlines Latrobe City's commitment to young people aged 12 to 25 years. It provides guidance for the programs, projects, participation and engagement of young people across Latrobe City.

## 3. Scope

This policy covers young people as impacted by Council plans, strategies, programs and projects, including volunteer opportunities.

## 4. Principles of Management

This policy recognises and is consistent with the Victorian Government Youth Strategy 2022-2027: Our Promise, Your Future, which identifies a set of guiding principles and six priority areas:

- Young people are healthy and well.
- Young people are safe and secure.
- Young people achieve their goals through education, training and employment.
- Young people are respected and involved in decisions in their communities.
- Young people are confident and strong in their identity and cultural and are supported in their community.
- Services are coordinated, responsible and accessible.

This policy will guide Council decisions and actions within the scope as defined above. It aims to provide opportunities 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. It also encourages meaningful consultation and engagement with young people on matters that relate to or are likely to significantly impact on or affect them. The functional areas are:

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

This includes convening the Latrobe Youth Network, providing letters of support for funding applications to address identified gaps and needs in youth services; supporting new initiatives.

- **Increased Educational and Employment Opportunities**

This includes delivery of intern programs, work experience placements; provision of training and development opportunities for staff; work preparedness training for young people of all abilities; mentor programs; support for local educational institutions and their programs, including infrastructure development; job creation programs for young people experiencing disadvantage.

- **Engagement, Advocacy and Impacting Council Decisions**

This includes consulting, co-design and engagement with diverse and representative cohorts of young people, including Youth Council when formulating Council strategies and plans, inclusive of investigating the need for a youth specific strategy. Additionally, it includes advocating to other levels of government on key issues relevant to Latrobe's youth community; opportunities for direct discussions with Councillors; and advocacy for increased, impactful and evidence-based programs and facilities for young people.

- **Providing Information, Increasing Leadership Capacity, Volunteerism and Civic Participation**

This includes the annual Youth Council program or relevant youth ambassador program; building capacity and engagement with the service system to increase access; increasing volunteer opportunities across the municipality; participating in civic activities.

- **Access to Safe Places and Experiences**

This includes providing appropriate places for young people to gather and connect; providing opportunities for young people to network; building and maintaining infrastructure for young people; international exchanges in areas such as education, music, and sport; special rates for young people to access Latrobe City services such as recreation and leisure programs; provision of activities, events and programs that are inclusive, accessible and culturally relevant; access to youth focused resources at Latrobe City libraries and service centres; providing community grants to support a wide range of community development and recreational opportunities benefitting young people.

## 5. Accountability and Responsibility

Accountability and responsibility for this policy is outlined below.

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## 5.1. Council

- Responsibility to ensure this Policy is consistent with Latrobe City Council Strategic Direction and other Latrobe City Council Policies.
- Responsibility for the decision to approve this Policy by Council Resolution.

## 5.2. Chief Executive Officer

- Overall responsibility for compliance with this policy.
- Overall responsibility for enforcing accountability.
- Overall responsibility for providing resources.
- Overall responsibility for performance monitoring.

## 5.3. General Manager Community Services

- Responsibility for compliance with this policy.
- Responsibility for enforcing accountability.
- Responsibility for providing resources.
- Responsibility for performance monitoring.

## 5.4. Manager Community Development

- Develop frameworks and procedures in compliance with this policy.
- Enforce responsibilities to achieve compliance with frameworks and procedures.
- Provide appropriate resources for the execution of the frameworks and procedures.

## 5.5. Employees, Contractors and Volunteers

- Participate where required in the development of frameworks and procedures in compliance with this policy.
- Comply with frameworks and procedures developed to achieve compliance with this policy.

## 6. Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed on request of Council, in the event of significant change in the Executive team, significant changes to legislation applicable to the subject matter of the policy or, in any other case, during each Council term (generally four years).

## 7. Definitions

Young people refers to people aged 12 to 25 years, as per the State and Federal Government definitions of youth.

## 8. Related Documents

Latrobe City Council Plan 2022-2025; Living Well Latrobe 2022-25; Latrobe City Community Access and Inclusion Policy; Latrobe City Volunteer Policy; Latrobe City Child Safe Policy; Latrobe City Child Safety and Wellbeing Operational Policy.

## 9. Reference Resources

Victorian Youth Strategy 2022-2027: Our Promise, Your Future

## 10. Appendices

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