

Hinchinbrook Shire
Youth Policy
"Helping us - Helping you"

Introduction

An enthusiastic group of young people came together to develop this youth policy. This document will give youth an opportunity to participate and shape their future within the Shire.

Our Vision

Hinchinbrook Shire Council recognises the importance of young people and values their contribution to the community. Young people's ideas will be respected and included in the planning processes of the community. Youth will be consulted, supported and have their needs and services identified as a valuable part of the Shire community.

Commitments

1. Identity and Diversity

In this multicultural nation, young people are a part of a diverse and remarkable generation. It is important to promote youth culture as a positive element of the community. Council recognises and supports cultural identities and the diversity within the community.

Strategies:

Through education and awareness activities:

- Promote a positive image of young people.
- Encourage multiculturalism.
- Acknowledge the diversity of youth and their needs.
- Recognise youth culture.

2. Partnerships

In today's society young people need to build sustainable relationships with local government, businesses, community groups, educational institutions and various other departments. Young people will work towards a strong partnership with the Council in order to strengthen and support youth networks and initiatives.

Strategies:

- Facilitate co-operation between youth, Council and community.
- Establish mutually beneficial partnerships between youth, Council and community.
- Establish and develop youth networks and alliances.
- Foster a sense of enthusiasm and pride for enhanced community spirit.

3. Cultural and Recreational Opportunities

It is beneficial for youth to be involved in the planning of cultural and recreational opportunities. As part of recognition of youth needs and issues Council encourages creative participation by young people. Council will involve youth in community affairs by considering youth specific programs as part of their commitment.

Strategies:

- Investigate transport options for the purpose of access to service needs of young people.
- Encourage youth to make use of existing facilities of the community and raise awareness of availability of recreational and cultural opportunities.
- Investigate and consult with the youth regarding the need for additional facilities.
- Involve and consult youth in design and implementation of cultural and recreational opportunities.
- Recognise resources needed for cultural and recreational opportunities for youth.

4. Participation and Planning

Young people are innovative and enthusiastic. They contribute immensely to this community as interested parties and therefore share responsibility in the processes involved in youth development. The Council is committed to actively encouraging communication between young people and the decision-makers of the community through the consultation process.

Strategies:

- Encourage participation of young people in all aspects concerning youth.
- Actively encourage communication between the youth, community and Council.
- Promote youth involvement in planning, and participation in, community activities.

5. Resources and Support

Resources and support are required to promote positive outcomes for youth.

Strategies:

- support external funding opportunities and youth fundraising activities;
- support submissions for youth specific activities; and
- provide funds in its annual budget for youth programs and activities.