



Policy No. 27- Youth

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OBJECTIVE

Dorset Vision 2032 - An inclusive, thriving and connected community.

The purpose of the Policy is to acknowledge the importance of young people in our community by creating an environment where young people can further develop their skills and contribute to their community by:

- Outlining Councils commitment to young people
- Creating opportunities for young people through meaningful engagement
- Clarifying the role of Council in regard to youth focussed activities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council services utilised by young people.

LEGISLATION AND REFERENCES

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023 (Tas)

OECD Youth Policy Toolkit 2024 - [OECD Youth Policy Toolkit | OECD](#)

Office for Youth: Engage! strategy 2024 - [Engage! strategy - Office for Youth, Australian Government](#)

Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy - [It Takes a Tasmanian Village | Have Your Say - Wellbeing Tasmania](#)

The Nest Wellbeing Framework 2024 - [The Nest Wellbeing Framework - ARACY](#)

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Advocate	To champion or protect the interest of individuals or groups
Apprenticeships or Traineeships	Formal training arrangements that combine work with study for a qualification in a trade or occupation
Child Safe Organisation	An organisation that prioritises the best interests of children and young people
Council	Dorset Council
Council Facilities/Assets	Properties, buildings, and facilities including parks and sporting facilities owned and managed by Council including those used by the public or available for hire
Evidence Based	The process of making decisions based on best available evidence and research

The Nest	An evidence-based framework to enhance the wellbeing of all children and young people
Youth/Young People	The age period between 12 to 25 years of age
Work Experience	Work experience is unpaid on the job training

POLICY CONTEXT

The Tasmanian State Government’s 2021 *Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy – It takes a Tasmanian Village* contains six domains to guide its development and implementation. These domains are derived from *The Nest Wellbeing Framework*, an evidence-based framework for national child and youth wellbeing. This Policy recognises the six domains of *The Nest* and will consider these domains when making decisions that impact young people in our community:

- Healthy – promoting good physical and mental health
- Valued, Loved and Safe – valued in loving secure environments
- Material Basics – access to essentials like food, housing, transport and other essentials
- Learning – effective learning and development opportunities from early childhood through to adult life
- Participating – engaging young people in decision making processes that affect them
- Positive Sense of Identity and Culture – a strong sense of self and belonging including cultural identity and values

Policy 61 - Safeguarding Children and Young People outlines Council’s commitment to creating and maintaining a Child Safe Organisation as well as Council’s responsibilities toward the safeguarding of children and young people in our physical and online environments.

POLICY ACTIONS

PROVIDE	PARTNER	PROMOTE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a case-by-case basis, targeted funding opportunities to support youth activity programs and events that allow young people to celebrate and enjoy being part of the Dorset community • Apprenticeship, traineeship or work experience opportunities with Council • Tertiary scholarships and other development opportunities that promote academic and/or skill development. • Practices within Council support the inclusion and engagement of young people in strategy development or planning for future assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster relationships and partnerships with community stakeholders and different tiers of government to create new opportunities for young people in the Council area • Participate with local organisations, local schools, service providers and employers to support youth benefitting initiatives and opportunities. • Aligned with Council’s plans and strategies, seek external funding opportunities to diversify and enhance the provision of recreational facilities and assets for young people to increase engagement in recreational activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for young people at relevant forums and providing advice to other levels of government • Volunteering opportunities that engage younger people to assist them to be actively involved in our community • Celebrate or acknowledge days of significance for young people • Advocate for stakeholder funding in the provision of Youth Services • Promote new opportunities for young people in the north-east Tasmania region with a targeted focus on surrounding Council municipalities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people the opportunity to participate in artistic and cultural opportunities led by Council • An effective response to the changing needs of young people in our community 		
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RISK ASSESSMENT

This Policy will provide guidance to Council when allocating resources to youth engagement activities, and when seeking to partner with other organisations. This policy will also provide the Dorset Councils young people, wider community, and potential funding partners with a clear statement on the role of Council in supporting youth engagement and participation.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Dorset Council Strategic Plan 2023 – 2032
- Dorset Council Priority Projects Plan 2023-2025
- Policy 39 – Community Consultation and Communications
- Policy 61 - Safeguarding Children and Young People
- Policy 63 – Event Funding
- Tasmanian Government Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy – It takes a Tasmanian Village 2021
- The Nest Wellbeing Framework “What’s in The Nest?” 2024

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every four years from the date of adoption.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Version	Doc Ref	Date Reviewed	Author	Comments
4	DOC/25/15472	N/A	Jayne Miller	New Policy Template Used
4	DOC/25/15472	16 March 2026	Jayne Miller	Policy reviewed post community consultation phase