



YOUTH STRATEGY

July 2008 – June 2011

Aims of the Youth Strategy

- Demonstrate Council's commitment to the development and support of young people in the Hobart municipal area
- Provide direction for Council's activities in relation to young people
- Provide a framework to assist in prioritising responses to the needs and interests of young people
- Assist in the development of annual Council unit plans designed to achieve specific outcomes with young people and the community
- Communicate Council's direction to Futures Youth Advisory Committee and other young people, the community, service providers, Governments, funding bodies, Council staff and Aldermen, and other key stakeholders

Defining Young People

This Strategy generally applies to all young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years old, who live, study, work in and/or visit the City of Hobart.

The Role of Hobart City Council

A key role for Hobart City Council is to initiate and participate in processes and activities which deliver dynamic, progressive and innovative approaches to identifying and responding to the diverse range of needs and interests of all young people in the Hobart municipal area. Council has the capacity to significantly influence policy makers, organisations and individuals. In some cases Council will be the service provider, but in many cases Council will advocate with and on behalf of young people, as well as support other organisations to access resources to develop and implement programs and activities as part of a capacity building role. The ultimate aim is to develop the City of Hobart as a community and an environment where young people can grow and thrive, and contribute to the further development of the City.

Where does the Youth Strategy fit within Council Planning and Reporting Framework

This Strategy sits under the Hobart City Council Strategic Plan 2008-2013, which sets a five-year program for achieving the vision and direction of Hobart 2025 and provides the whole of Council context to inform Council's actions in relation to the needs and interests of young people. On an annual basis, Council develops an Annual Plan of major initiatives and specific Unit Plans, which detail specific strategies and actions in each Unit of Council. This Strategy is designed to strategically inform the process of forming these plans within Youth Programs. This Strategy has significantly drawn on an extensive consultation and review of Council's Youth Programs undertaken by Community Focus (Janine Combes) in January 2007.

This Strategy is built upon the Mission and Values of Hobart City Council.

In 2025 Hobart will be a City that:

- *offers opportunities for all ages and a city for life*
- **is recognised for its natural beauty and quality of environment**
- **is well governed at a regional and community level**
- **achieves good quality development and urban management**
- **is highly accessible through efficient transport options**
- **builds strong and healthy communities through diversity, participation and empathy**
- **is dynamic, vibrant and culturally expressive**

VALUES

The Council will:

Leadership

Provide effective capital City leadership, integrity and openness in its approach and will advocate the needs and aspirations of the community.

Equity

Ensure equity, consistency and co-operation in its dealings with the community and government.

Community Involvement

Encourage effective democratic involvement by the community in the life of the City through communication, consultation and participation.

Responsiveness

Be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community.

Excellence

Ensure continuous improvement in the delivery of all its services.

Hobart City Council will

Identify the strengths, needs and interests of young people
and effectively and appropriately respond in partnership with young people

by:

1. Consulting with young people
2. Ensuring young people are active partners
3. Representing young people in networks and partnerships
4. Creating access to information relevant to young people
5. Maintaining and developing facilities for young people
6. Facilitating and supporting a range of learning opportunities for young people
7. Developing a range of responses to issues identified by young people

Strategy 1 – Consulting with young people

Priority Actions

- 1.1 Engage Futures Youth Advisory Committee and other young people to identify the needs and interests of young people, and explore possible responses to these needs and interests
- 1.2 Consult pro-actively, broadly and effectively with a diverse range of young people
- 1.3 Use the Futures Youth Advisory Committee website for online forums
- 1.4 Conduct a biennial Youth Forum involving young people, service providers and the broader community to identify the needs and interests of young people and develop effective and appropriate responses
- 1.5 Convene triennial forum to review Council's Youth Strategy and Youth Participation Model
- 1.6 Work with the Futures Youth Advisory Committee and other young people to identify possible environmental programs and activities for young people
- 1.7 Provide feedback to the participants of all consultation processes, on the outcomes of the consultations
- 1.8 Research emerging issues, trends and demographics through consultation with young people

Measure – number and diversity of young people involved in Hobart City Council consultation processes.

Strategy 2 – Ensuring young people are active partners

Priority Actions

- 2.1 Identify the strengths and attributes young people bring to the community and empower young people to maximise the ways these strengths and attributes are used in partnership with Council
- 2.2 Actively showcase the positive attributes, contributions and achievements of young people in Council and the community
- 2.3 Develop young people as active citizens by nurturing strong leadership and community participation skills, providing training and skill development and educating them about the roles, responsibilities and processes of local government
- 2.4 Empower and support young people to participate in relevant forums, networks and other youth participation processes, obtain membership of boards and various committees
- 2.5 Ensure a diverse range of young people are engaged with Council activities, including young people at risk, young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and LGBTI young people
- 2.6 Increase the involvement of Futures Youth Advisory Committee and other young people in setting the direction for and the development and coordination of Youth Programs
- 2.7 Advocate with young people in appropriate networks and forums
- 2.8 Encourage and facilitate the meaningful engagement of Futures Youth Advisory Committee and other young people with all Divisions of Council as part of a response to youth issues
- 2.9 Facilitate regular contact, both formally and informally, with Council Aldermen and senior Council staff with Futures Youth Advisory Committee, users of the Youth ARC and other young people
- 2.10 Support the ongoing and further development of the Futures Youth Advisory Committee
- 2.11 Partner with young people to deliver appropriate arts, cultural, entertainment and recreational programs, activities and events
- 2.12 Involve young people in planning for and participating in activities which provide effective environmental outcomes

Measure – number and diversity of young people involved in Youth Programs activities.

Strategy 3– Representing young people in networks and partnerships

Priority Actions

- 3.1 Build networks, partnerships and strategic alliances to advocate for and provide innovative responses to the identified needs and interests of young people
- 3.2 Foster and maintain active relationships within the youth sector and work with other groups and organisations to foster solutions to the needs of young people, for example, Youth Action Priorities, Southern Area Taskforce, Youth Network of Tasmania, Tasmanian Council of Social Services, Local Government Association of Tasmania, and Southern Tasmanian Councils' Authority
- 3.3 Maintain and further develop existing partnerships, including the State Government Office of Children & Youth Affairs, Department of Education, Department of Health & Human Services; and Australian Government Departments of Education Employment & Workplace Relations, Health & Ageing, and Attorney General
- 3.4 Provide input into policies of governments and other key stakeholders regarding the needs and interests of young people
- 3.5 Increase the awareness and acceptance of young people's communication styles and processes by adults and non-youth specific service providers

Measure – number of issues raised by young people considered by Council and actioned by the sector

Strategy 4 – Creating access to information relevant to young people

Priority Actions

- 4.1 Investigate appropriate and effective ways of promoting services and activities that provide assistance and support to young people
- 4.2 Employ innovative ways of providing young people with regular information in areas such as arts, cultural, entertainment and recreational activities and events
- 4.3 Provide information and act as a portal to other programs and activities and events in the City
- 4.4 Include information and links on the issues and interests of young people on the Youth ARC, Futures Youth Advisory Committee, and Council websites and also explore the use of 'my space', 'facebook' and 'blog' as information mechanisms
- 4.5 Provide a range of information and resources on issues and interests of young people at the Youth ARC
- 4.6 Work with other organisations to ensure all Council information is accessible to young people, including those young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- 4.7 Use the media, such as the Pulse Youth Section of the Mercury and Community Service Television advertisements to positively promote issues and the achievements of young people
- 4.8 Investigate appropriate methods of providing information to young people about the awards and funding programs such as the Youth Citizen of the Year awards, Hobart City Council Cultural and Community Grants programs and Hobart City Council scholarships
- 4.9 Inform young people and the community of research findings, and relevant statistics and information about the needs and circumstances of young people
- 4.10 Distribute and promote the Youth Strategy in schools and colleges

Measure – number of young people that identify a Council information source at a Council youth event.

Strategy 5 – Maintaining and developing facilities for young people

Priority Actions

- 5.1 Maintain and further develop the Youth Action Resource Centre as the prime facility for the development and delivery of Council youth programs and activities
- 5.2 Develop the Youth ARC as the hub of entertainment, arts and cultural activities for young people
- 5.3 Maintain the North Hobart Cultural and Skate Park as a regional resource which meet the needs and interests of young people
- 5.4 Facilitate access to a range of entertainment, recreation, arts and cultural facilities and resources that are accessible, affordable and appropriate to meet the needs and interests of young people
- 5.5 Encourage and assist the community to provide programs and activities through existing facilities and resources that meet the needs and interests of young people
- 5.6 Investigate the provision of playgrounds and recreational facilities, which meet the needs of young people, particularly those aged between 12 and 16 years old
- 5.7 Establish 'youth friendly' processes for young people to use Council facilities, (such as using 'plain English' in contracts and hire agreements, and provision of assistance to meet hiring costs where appropriate)

Measure – level of performance of facilities on the annual youth programs satisfaction index.

Strategy 6 – Facilitating and supporting a range of learning opportunities for young people

Priority Actions

- 6.1 Further develop partnerships with the Tasmanian Department of Education that provide educational opportunities, (including alternative educational opportunities) for young people – especially those young people at risk of dropping out of the education system
- 6.2 Assist young people to identify and access employment opportunities within the Hobart City Council and other Councils, including traineeships, apprenticeships, volunteering and work experience opportunities which meet the needs of a diverse range of young people
- 6.3 Foster and facilitate vocational skills placements, mentoring, community service order and community respect order placements, enterprises and traineeships and participation in education and training by young people
- 6.4 Develop and provide appropriate training programs and enterprise activities at the Youth ARC and in the community
- 6.5 Develop connections to a range of education, training and employment programs, such as, Start at TAFE, ALTed, Ed Zone, and programs of Job Network Provider Programs
- 6.6 Assist young people develop skills and access resources to create and operate youth business enterprises through the Youth ARC
- 6.7 Create links with appropriate businesses and organisations to develop employment / volunteer programs and innovative training and enterprise opportunities for young people
- 6.8 Investigate the use of the Hobart City Council Skill Centre at Mornington to facilitate and provide education, training and employment programs and activities

Measure – number of learning opportunities available for young people in Hobart that are supported by Hobart City Council.

Strategy 7 – Developing a range of responses to issues identified by young people

Priority Actions

- 7.1 Develop an annual Unit Plan which responds to the identified needs and interests of young people
- 7.2 Explore and continuously evolve new, innovative and relevant models of service delivery to meet the needs and interests of young people
- 7.3 Encourage, provide and promote participation in arts, cultural, entertainment and recreational programs and activities by a broad range of young people
- 7.4 Showcase young people's unique attributes and contribution to youth art and culture and to the community
- 7.5 Promote youth art and cultural events and provide information in regard to arts and cultural opportunities available to young people on the Youth ARC and Futures Youth Advisory Committee websites
- 7.6 Contribute to the addressing of issues which relate to safety of the community and young people – including safety on buses, in the bus mall, in the Elizabeth Mall, and in parks and playgrounds
- 7.7 Provide opportunities and undertake activities that promote positive interaction between young people and other users of public open spaces, including promoting positive events and activities for young people that occur in public open spaces
- 7.8 Promote awareness and understanding of young people's issues and rights to access public open space within Council and the community
- 7.9 Encourage young people, particularly secondary students, to be involved in their bushland areas
- 7.10 Evaluate and measure performance of responses to the needs and interests of young people through consultation and statistical data

Measure – performance measures identified on the annual Unit Plan.