

Policy title	Youth Services
Responsible manager(s)	Divisional Manager, Community Development and Participation
Contact officer(s)	Coordinator, Community Development and Youth
Directorate	Community, Arts and Recreation
Approval date	22 November 2022
Outcome area	2 Our community that welcomes, celebrates, and supports everyone.
Strategy	2.1 Acknowledge our beginnings, embrace our diversity
Delivery program	2.1.4 Provide services and strengthen opportunities to retain and attract youth, supported by the Youth Action Plan
Operational plan	2.1.4.5 Finalise and adopt the Youth Action Plan

Purpose

This policy reflects Council’s commitment to addressing barriers and promoting opportunities for young people aged 12-25 years in this shire, and indicates the types of services provided to young people by Council.

Policy aims

The policy aims to:

- Promote an integrated framework for providing strategic support for local youth development
- Ensure consistency and fairness in the manner in which the Council deals with current and emerging youth issues
- Ensure compliance with legislative requirements under the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*, the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*
- Make council's policies and requirements for youth readily accessible and understandable to the public.

Policy details

1	Application This policy applies to Council’s Youth Services, providing service and support for young people aged 12 -25 years in the Eurobodalla Shire.
2	Legislation Eurobodalla Shire Council will comply with the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 No 51 - NSW Legislation and Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998 in the delivery of youth services.
3	Standards 1. Council will develop and implement a youth action plan in cycles commensurate with local government elections.

3.1	Council will deliver services to young people with regard to the following objectives: Participation & Engagement Council recognises the importance of youth participation and engagement in Council processes, civic activities, active recreation, sports activities and the broader
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	<p>community. Council is committed to positively encouraging young people through participatory leadership processes to empower them to make decisions and actively participate in their community. Furthermore, Council will seek appropriate forms of communication to connect with young people in general.</p> <p>Partnerships, Roles and Collaboration</p> <p>Council recognises the value of the Youth Committee, including their role, and the importance of the retention of youth leaders in the region. Council will endeavour to consult with the Youth Committee and other young people and youth stakeholders within the shire in a timely and appropriate manner on matters that will, or are likely to, impact youth. Council will create effective partnerships with the community and service sector in the development and implementation of programs and initiatives.</p> <p>Planning and Decision Making</p> <p>Council acknowledges the importance of planning for communities and the provision of public, recreational and other facilities that are inclusive of, and addresses the needs of, young people. Council is committed to proactively involving young people and youth stakeholders through consultation and decision-making processes.</p>
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Implementation

Requirements		Responsibility
1	<p>Code of Practice</p> <p>This policy will be implemented by following council’s Integrated planning processes and the Youth Action Plan, which specifies the planned activities, procedures and matters to be considered.</p>	Council officers
2	<p>Staff</p> <p>Under supervision, applicable Council staff will be responsible for ensuring that policies are implemented appropriately within their work area, after they have received relevant training to do so.</p>	Coordinator Community Development and Youth and Youth Development staff
3	<p>Concerns</p> <p>Public concerns communicated to Council regarding this policy will be recorded on Council’s records system and handled in accordance with Council’s Customer Service or Complaints policy. They will be used to analyse the history of concerns and requests and to help determine follow up actions.</p>	Council officers
4	<p>Consultation</p> <p>Consultation regarding this policy will occur as relevant with key stakeholders and may include legislative bodies, other agencies, relevant legislation, industry guidelines, and public comment. Public submissions regarding this policy are invited for consideration during the policy exhibition period.</p>	As required

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 4 years. It may also be reviewed and updated as necessary if legislation requires it; or when council’s functions, structure or activities change; or when technological advances or new systems change the way that council manages Youth Services.

The policy may be revoked at the expiration of twelve months after the declaration of the poll for the next general NSW local government election, unless council revokes it sooner.

Note: The next general local government election is expected to be held in September 2024.

Reviews of the effectiveness of this policy could include the following.

Performance indicator	Data source(s)
Customer Concerns; Customer Feedback Survey Responses	Council Records
Internal or external audit	Audit

Governance

This policy should be read in conjunction with any related legislation, codes of practice, relevant internal policies and plans, and guidelines.

Related legislation and policies

Name	Link
Code of Practice	www.esc.nsw.gov.au
Local Government Act 1993	www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/lga1993182

Related external references

Name	Link
Office of Local Government	www.olg.nsw.gov.au

Change history

Version	Approval date	Approved by	Minute No	File No	Change
1	24 Nov 2009	Council	09/369	E09.3418 E96.0152	Policy commenced
2	10 Sep 2013	Council	13/272	E13.7095 E96.0152	Reviewed and updated
3	25 Jul 2017	Council	17/237	E96.0152	Reviewed
4	22 Nov 2022	Council	22/313	S004- T00060	Reviewed and updated (start of new Council term) Report

Internal use

Responsible manager	Divisional Manager Community and Recreation Development		Approved by	Council
Minute	22/313	Report	GMR22/111	Effective date 22 Nov 2022
File No	S004- T00060	Review date	22 Nov 2022	Pages 3