



# KINGBOROUGH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL POLICY

### *POLICY MANUAL NO. 4.5*

## **Kingborough Youth Policy and Youth Plan 2006 - 2009**

### **Purpose**

The Kingborough Youth Policy and Plan has been developed to:

1. provide direction for Council's activities in relation to young people
2. demonstrate Council's commitment to the development and support of young people in the Kingborough Municipality, and
3. detail strategies that Council intends to undertake in order to achieve specific outcomes with young people and the community.

### **Process of Developing the Youth Policy and Youth Plan**

This Youth Policy and Plan has been developed in the period April to August 2006, and has involved extensive consultation with young people, Kingborough Youth Council, the Kingborough Youth Advisory Group, Kingborough Councillors, Kingborough Council staff, service providers, Government organisations and interested members of the Community.

The development of the Policy has been undertaken by PDF Management Services Pty Ltd, under the guidance of a Steering Committee of Councillor Michelle Higgins; the Principal of Kingston High School, (Helen Gourley); the Acting Manager of Community Programs, Hobart City Council, (Prue de Vries); Manager Community Services, Kingborough Council, (Sue Willey); and Youth Development Officer, Kingborough Council, (Melissa Staples).

### **Description of the Municipality**

Kingborough municipality is an area of approximately 720 square kilometres located south of Hobart which joins the municipalities of Hobart and Huon Valley. The municipality includes 336 kilometres of coastline.

According to the 2001 Census had a population of 27,991 (13,531 males and 14,460 female), of whom 759 were of indigenous origin.

### **Context of the Youth Policy and Youth Plan**

In the 2001 Census, there were 6,416 (23.02% of the population of the Municipality) young people under the age of 15 years, of which 3,161 were female and 3,255 were male. There were also 3,589 (12.87%) aged between 15 and 24 years old, of which 1,698 were female and 1,891 were male.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics have also produces more recent age profiles of the municipality and projected these age group populations to the year 2023. The population of the municipality in 2003 was 27,632, and this was expected to increase to 37,982 in the year 2023.

The data relating to young people is summarised in the table below.

Age Ranges	Population 2003	Projected population 2023	Increase
0 to 4 years	1,827	2,384	557
5 to 9 years	1,918	2,614	696
10 to 14 years	2,208	2,660	452
15 to 19 years	2,245	2,493	248
20 to 24 years	1,496	1,704	208
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,694</b>	<b>11,855</b>	<b>2,161</b>

## Defining Young People

This Youth Policy and Youth Plan applies to young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years old, who live, work and visit the municipality of Kingborough, and aims to provide opportunities for growth and development for all young people.

Some strategies refer to all young people, however, others relate to specific population groups and/or young people with characteristics which make their health and well being vulnerable if support and servicing is not available. Some of these aspects of vulnerability, which may affect young people, include things like personal characteristics or situations, demographics, behavioural issues, health and/or disease, attitudes and/or beliefs, diverse backgrounds, language and literacy, and family backgrounds.

## Ethical and Legislative Framework

The frameworks which have been taken into account in the development of this Youth Policy and Youth Plan include:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 (binding on all UN members)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - Convention on the Rights of the Child and Declaration of the Rights of the Child
- Commonwealth Racial Discrimination Act 1975
- Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984
- Tasmanian Anti Discrimination Act 1998
- United Nations – World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond
- Tasmanian Government – Kingborough municipality Partnership Agreement

## Policy Principles

The principles which underpin this Youth Policy and Youth Plan include:

- Access – ensuring young people can obtain needed services
- Participation and consultation – providing for young people’s involvement and ability to influence decisions being made which affect them and their community
- Inclusiveness – ensuring all young people have equal opportunity to be involved and participate
- Building on diversity – identifying and using the characteristics and qualities of diverse young people to add to the social, environmental and economic well-being of the community

- **Policy Principles (continued)**

- Equity – ensuring equality of outcomes by eliminating discriminatory policies and practices
- Respect – recognising the absolute dignity of every young person and treating them accordingly
- Communication – ensuring that young people know the services that are available and know their rights and responsibilities - and that young people have an opportunity to shape their community and the services they can access within the community
- Responsiveness – being sensitive to the needs of young people and providing appropriate and timely responses to these needs
- Effectiveness – focusing on meeting needs in a results-oriented manner
- Efficiency – optimising the use of resources to meet the needs of young people
- Building community capacity – increasing the capacity of individuals and organisations to respond to the current and future needs of their own community
- Confidentiality – ensuring that all people are in control of any information which is disclosed about them to any other person
- Accountability – being open to scrutiny and being able to explain and justify all actions undertaken.

Approved by Council 23/9/06 – (Minute No C224/12-06)