



Kingborough Youth Policy

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Responsible Officer:	Director Environment, Development & Community Services
Strategic Plan Reference:	1.1 A Council that engages with and enables its community

1. POLICY STATEMENTS

- 1.1 Council is committed to the active engagement and participation of young people in all aspects of life within the community.
- 1.2 Council is committed to ensuring that young people are informed and engaged in activities and decision making and are provided with timely feedback.
- 1.3 Council will support young people to participate in the community, and will develop and facilitate processes, structures and partnerships that enable the community, service providers and young people to work together to meet the identified needs of young people.
- 1.4 Council will work to ensure that young people feel a sense of belonging and safety, are included and are able to access the services and facilities they need to fully participate in community life and to ensure that their physical and mental health needs are being met.
- 1.5 Council will contribute to the development of a community where the diversity of young people is accepted and valued, and their contributions are recognised and celebrated.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Social inclusion barriers include personal factors (such as health or homelessness), access factors (such as to transport and health services), and structural factors (such as intergenerational poverty and locational disadvantage). Those groups most at risk include children in low income households; older persons living alone; people with a mental illness; Aboriginal people; gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people; people with a disability; refugees from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women subject to domestic violence and people experiencing addiction (from Prof David Adams *A Social Inclusion Strategy for Tasmania 2009*)

3. OBJECTIVE

- 3.1 The objective of the Kingborough Youth Policy is to underpin the Kingborough Youth Strategy that has been developed to provide direction for Council's activities in relation to young people, demonstrate Council's commitment to the development and support of young people in the Kingborough municipal area, and detail key strategic actions that Council intends to undertake in order to achieve specific outcomes with young people and the community.

4. SCOPE

- 4.1 The policy principles will be applied to all aspects of the delivery of youth services by the Kingborough Council.

5. PROCEDURE (POLICY DETAIL)

- 5.1 The following principles will be applied to all aspects of the delivery of youth services by the Kingborough Council:
 - 5.1.1 **Access** – ensuring young people can obtain needed services.
 - 5.1.2 **Participation and consultation** – providing for young people's involvement and ability to influence decisions being made which affect them and their community.
 - 5.1.3 **Social Inclusion** – ensuring all young people have equal opportunity to be involved and participate, which may include subsidised rate regarding paid programmes, to identified community members experiencing financial hardship.
 - 5.1.4 **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.

- 5.1.5 **Equity** – ensuring equality of outcomes by eliminating discriminatory policies and practices.
- 5.1.6 **Respect** – recognising the absolute dignity of every young person and treating them accordingly.
- 5.1.7 **Communication** – ensuring 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.
- 5.1.8 **Responsiveness** – being sensitive to the needs of young people and providing appropriate and timely responses to these needs.
- 5.1.9 **Effectiveness** – focusing on meeting needs in a results-oriented manner.
- 5.1.10 **Efficiency** – optimising the use of resources to meet the needs of young people.
- 5.1.11 **Building community capacity** – increasing the capacity of individuals and organisations to respond to the current and future needs of their own community.
- 5.1.12 **Confidentiality** – ensuring that all people are in control of any information which is disclosed about them to any other person.
- 5.1.13 **Accountability** – being open to scrutiny and being able to explain and justify all actions undertaken.

6. GUIDELINES

- 6.1 The Kingborough Youth Policy will be implemented by Council's Youth Services staff and other Council staff as required.

7. COMMUNICATION

- 7.1 This policy will be communicated to all staff involved in the delivery of services to young people.

8. LEGISLATION

- 8.1 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948.*
- 8.2 Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - Convention on the Rights of the Child and Declaration of the Rights of the Child.
- 8.3 *Commonwealth Racial Discrimination Act 1975.*
- 8.4 *Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984.*
- 8.5 *Tasmanian Anti Discrimination Act 1998.*
- 8.6 United Nations – World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond.
- 8.7 *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997.*

9. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 Kingborough Youth Strategy –2019 – 2024.
- 9.2 Kingborough Child Safety Policy 2023

10. AUDIENCE

- 10.1 Available to the public.