

DERWENT VALLEY COUNCIL  
YOUTH PARTICIPATION POLICY



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<b>Signed by:</b> Stephen Mackey General Manager	 19/02/2004

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## **INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to recognise the importance of young people and to respond to their diverse needs.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Derwent Valley Council knows young people are an asset to the community and recognises their importance as members of the community.

Youth are the community's future, and Council is committed to putting in place processes and structures that encourage young people to participate in community development and decision-making.

## **SCOPE**

- To express Council's commitment to young people as important members of the community
- To assist the young people of Derwent Valley to become more involved in their community and to help them become more productive members of the local community
- To build bridges of understanding and co-operation between the young people of Derwent Valley and the general community
- To identify gaps within existing services and work with service providers in filling those gaps.
- To define Council's role in relation to youth issues

## **POLICY PROVISIONS**

In respecting the individual, and valuing differences and diversity, Council will:

- Build community pride within young people, and strengthen their relationships with other parts of the community.
- Involve young people in civic ceremonies.
- Identify and support processes that encourage student participation in community activities.

- Encourage community groups and youth service providers to include youth delegates in their groups.
- Develop ways in which the contribution of young people can be promoted and recognised within the local and wider community.
- Develop strategies that contribute to the safety of both young people and the broader community.
- Create opportunities for young people to increase their knowledge of and skills in community participation and leadership.

In building processes and relationships that enable communication and participation to gain unity and find common ground on issues, Council will:

- Provide information to young people in ways that are appropriate to their ages and interests.
- Consult with young people in relation to issues that affect them and the broader community.
- Build sustainable structures and processes for participation by young people throughout the municipality in Council and community activities.
- Ensure that young people participate in Council's strategic planning processes, and that other stakeholders consider the ideas and suggestions made by young people.
- Work with D'FAT as a Special Committee of Council to support activities that meet the identified needs of young people.
- Work collaboratively with local schools on issues that affect young people.
- Work cooperatively with organisations to provide and promote a range of recreational, legal, employment and health services for young people.
- Develop and contribute to partnerships with the Government, business and community sectors to provide training, employment and educational opportunities for young people.

Valuing tolerance, fairness and equity for all sections of the community, Council will:

- Work in ways that ensure fair and equitable consultation with, and representation by, diverse groups of young people, these groups include, but are not limited to, indigenous young people, young people with disabilities, multiculturally diverse young people, and young people in perceive 'different' groups.
- Convene and facilitate regular forums of organisations providing services to young people on the Derwent Valley.
- Advocate and represent the views and needs of young people in the Derwent Valley by participating in external forums and consultation processes regarding young people.