

YOUTH POLICY

Draft for public consultation - March 2024



1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to:

- (a) Outline Derwent Valley Council's commitment to young people.
- (b) Facilitate a strategy approach to Council's support, consideration, or involvement youth focused outcomes.
- (c) Clarify the involvement of Council in youth-focused actions in the Derwent Valley.
- (d) Guide how the Council might work with others on youth-focused actions.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council services utilised by young people

3. LEGISLATION

This policy relates to Council's functions and powers under the:

- Local Government Act 1993

4. DEFINITIONS

The definitions of terms used in this policy are set out below.

Term	Meaning.
Youth or Young People	Refers to people aged 12 to 25 years, as per the State and Australian Government definition of youth

5. POLICY

5.1 POLICY STATEMENT

- The Derwent Valley Council recognises that young people are vital to our community., and their contribution is critical to creating a vibrant, viable and progressive community in the short, medium and long term.
- Young people are the community's future and Derwent Valley Council is committed to ensuring that processes, structures, and opportunities are developed to enable young people to fully participate in our community.

- Derwent Valley Council is committed to consulting and engaging with young people on decisions that directly affect them and ensuring that young people’s wellbeing is at the centre of all decision-making.
- Council will collaborate with service providers, youth supporting organisations and other levels of government to ensure young people in the Derwent Valley have every opportunity to thrive.

5.2 POLICY CONTEXT

This policy is designed to inform Council decisions and actions that concern young people. Its purpose is to ensure that young people have access to opportunities, services, support, and facilities that enable them to participate fully in the community as valued members.

This policy recognises the six domains of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy – It takes a Tasmanian Village, 2021:

- (e) Being loved, safe and valued
- (f) Having material basics
- (g) Being Healthy
- (h) Learning
- (i) Participating
- (j) Having a positive sense of culture and identity

The council has a role to consider these domains when making decisions about outcomes that impact young people in the Derwent Valley.

As a Child and Youth Safe Organisation, the Council operates in accordance with Tasmania’s Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework and the DVC Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

5.3 POLICY PRIORITIES

The priority areas for Council in supporting youth outcomes are:

1. Giving young people a space to have their voices heard.
2. Providing safe, inclusive, and respectful spaces for young people to interact.
3. Ensuring young people’s wellbeing is at the centre of all decision-making.
4. Ensure youth services and organisations work in collaboration with each other and Council to provide the best opportunities for young people.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

YOUTH POLICY

Policy Type Strategic
Doc Code: DVC-POL-066
Version: 0.1
Doc Controller: General Manager

Doc Status
Approved By:
Approved Date:
Next Review Date:

Draft
[approver]
[date of adoption]
[as determined]

- Derwent Valley Council Strategic Plan 2023 – 2033
- DVC Youth Strategy 2024-2027 (draft)
- DVC Community Engagement Framework (2021)
- DVC-POL-064 Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
- Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy – It takes a Tasmanian Village, 2021