



# YOUTH STRATEGY



**2023 – 2027**

**Derwent Valley  
COUNCIL**

## Acknowledgement

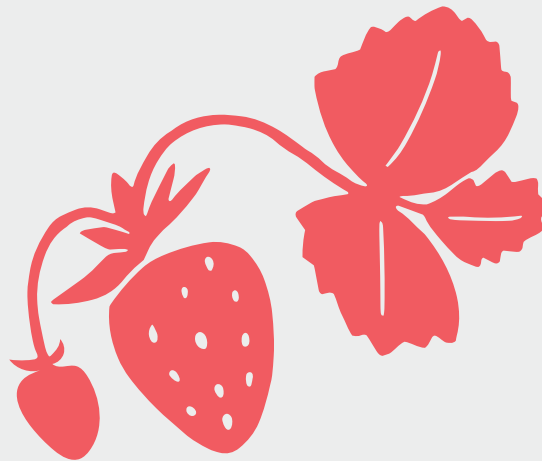
In recognition of the deep history and culture of lutruwitta/Tasmania, we would like to acknowledge the Linawina people, the traditional owners of the land upon which we work.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal communities; all of whom have survived invasion and disposition and continue to maintain their identity and culture.

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# Introduction



Young people are vital to our community, their contribution is critical to creating a vibrant, viable and progressive rural community in the short, medium and long term.

This strategy outlines Derwent Valley Councils commitment to young people. This Youth Strategy outlines what Council will do, and how Council will work with young people, schools, workplaces, parents, service providers and other levels of government to advance for opportunities and increase support for young people in our community.

This document will be supported by an annual Action Plan detailing the opportunities and measurable activity Council will deliver for our young people over the next four years. The plans will have the ability to adopt and respond to changing needs, trends and opportunities.

# How the Youth Strategy was created



## Our Commitment

Young people are at the forefront of this Strategy to ensure they are leading and the champions of activities, events, and programs.

This will be achieved by:

- Giving young people a space to have their voices heard.
- Provide safe, inclusive and respectful spaces for young people to interact.
- Ensure young people's wellbeing is at the centre of all decision making.
- Ensure youth services and organisations work in collaboration to provide the best opportunities for young people.



# Building community capacity

This strategy is focused on building the capacity of our community and of young people. This provides opportunities for young people's voices to not only be heard, but for young people to be empowered to enact change and have a direct impact on their future.

The table below demonstrates the shift when taking a capacity-building approach:

From	To
Council led	Community led
Done for; done to	Done with / together
These are the barriers	These are the opportunities
Council supporting community	Community supporting community
Council being the deliverer/ service provider	Community being the enabler

# Themes



“I want connection to learning and employment pathways”

The Youth Strategy consists of key themes, as identified by young people

Themes include:

- pathways to support **education** and employment pathways
- opportunities to increase personal **wellbeing**
- increase personal and community **safety**
- ensure a **voice** through engagement, and empowerment and
- **leadership** opportunities, both personal, as well as civic duty and creating pride.

To make this happen, Council has a key role in **advocacy and partnerships**, coordination, collaboration, facilitation, and networking.

# Education



“The Youth Strategy consists of key themes, as identified by young people”

## Young people will be:

Action number	Description	DVC Strategic plan reference
1	Supported in after school learning opportunities.	1.3
2	Encouraged, and engage with opportunities to understand and explore pathways to education including: local and regional tertiary options, access to local industry, opportunities to access short courses.	1.3
3	Supported to advocate for the delivery of relevant education and training that meets the needs of their local community.	1.3



# Wellbeing

“There is not much variety of options for young people in the Derwent Valley”



## Young people will be:

Action number	Description	DVC Strategic plan reference
4	Provided with opportunities to lead healthy, well, engaged and active lives.	1.3
5	Recognised, and minority groups of young people will feel supported and empowered within the Derwent Valley community. This will include members of the LGBTQIA+ community; young people living with disability; young migrants, neurodiverse, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander for cultural safety.	1.3
6	Offered opportunities to engage with a wide range of activities and events including arts, culture, music, festivals, social and recreational activities.	1.3
7	Invited to participate in intergenerational activities and projects.	1.2, 1.3

# Safety



“I want to feel safe in my community

**The community will co-design with youth:**

Action number	Description	DVC Strategic plan reference
8	Safe place to live, where young people's diversity and culture is respected and celebrated.	1.2, 1.3
9	To ensure safe, attractive, and clean places in our community for young people to meet with friends and be themselves.	1.1, 1.3
10	To create spaces that offer access to engaging activities, food, and a place that is nice to be in.	1.1, 1.3
11	A commitment to the Child Safe Standards; Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023	1.3, 4.1

# Youth Voice



“We need a pride in identity and place, inclusive, ensuring dignity and choice”

## Young people will:

Action number	Description	DVC Strategic plan reference
12	Provide a lead role in organising youth activities, events, and programs.	1.3
13	Engage in the design of key locations across Derwent Valley to ensure they have safe spaces to socialize, hold events and study.	1.3, 4.5
14	Strengthen and enhance their skills to advocate for matters of importance to young people.	1.3
15	Have access to increased opportunities for training, employment, work experience and volunteering.	1.3
16	Be celebrated in our community for their accomplishments.	1.3

# Leadership



“There needs to be more support for young people”

## Young people will:

Action number	Description	DVC Strategic plan reference
17	Supported to engage in personal leadership opportunities.	1.3
18	Supported to engage in codesign of place and activities that affect them and their peers.	1.3, 4.5
19	Supported to organise and lead events.	1.3

# Advocacy and Partnerships



“We need more community and youth engagement”

## Young people will:

Action number	Description	DVC Strategic plan reference
20	Ensure that youth organisations, services and schools have a shared vision and goals across the Derwent Valley municipality for best outcomes for our youth.	4.6
21	Partner to deliver support services that meet the needs of our youth.	1.3, 4.6
22	Build connections and opportunity within the Derwent Valley community to support its young people.	4.5
23	Youth supporting groups and individuals together to collaborate for better outcomes for young people in our community.	4.6
24	Advocate for the concerns of young people in our community	4.4
25	Seek funding, partnerships and increased support to provide increased opportunities for our youth.	4.6

# Road map

	Year 1 (2024)	Year 2 (2025)	Year 3 (2026)
	Laying the Foundation	Scaffold for Success	Reinforcing the Structure
Priorities	Establish Partnerships	Finding the voice	Empowerment
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborations formed</li> <li>• Formalise Partnerships</li> <li>• Baseline Data</li> <li>• Opportunities identified</li> <li>• Community asset mapping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building capacity</li> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• local projects</li> <li>• School transition</li> <li>• Employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous improvement</li> <li>• Model refinement</li> </ul>





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