

LITCHFIELD  
COUNCIL

DRAFT YOUTH  
POLICY

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COUNCIL

Community effort is essential



# ABOUT THE POLICY

## WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?

This Policy outlines Council's commitment to foster youth participation and empowerment and highlights the significance of youth and the youth sector in Litchfield.

## WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY?

This Policy applies to Councillors, staff, consultants and contractors responsible for engaging with young people aged between 10 and 25 years within the Litchfield Municipality for or on behalf of Litchfield Council.

## DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

Council means Litchfield Council.

Engagement means any process that involves the public in problem solving or decision making and uses public input to make better decisions.

## ASSOCIATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Community Engagement Strategy 2017-2021

Community Engagement Action Plan 2017 – 2021

COR02 Community Engagement Policy

## REFERENCES AND LEGISLATION

Nil



# THE POLICY

This Policy will provide Council with a framework to demonstrate the commitment to the development and support of young people in Litchfield.

## 4.1 PROMOTE OF POSITIVE PROFILE OF YOUTH

4.1.1 Council will play an active role in promoting a positive image of youth, which may include Council publications, media releases in both print and electronic media.

4.1.2 Council will support the nomination and selection of Litchfield's Young Citizen of the Year as part of the annual Australia Day Award Program.

## 4.2 ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

4.2.1 Council will explore options for young people to be involved in purposeful engagement. Where possible, youth will be given the opportunity to take on valued roles to actively participate in addressing relevant issues with the ability to influence real outcomes.

## 4.3 PROMOTE ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT

4.3.1 Council will represent the youth of Litchfield at network meetings such as the Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network (PARYS) and others as appropriate

4.3.2 Where appropriate Council will advocate to reduce barriers in accessing services, programs, opportunities and events for youth. This may include advocating for the expansion of services to the Litchfield Municipality. Council acknowledges young people may experience barriers such as cost, transport and distance.

4.3.3 Council will represent the youth of Litchfield through relevant engagement processes with the Northern Territory and Federal Government.

## 4.4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.4.1 Councillors will; advocate the interests of youth to governments, act as a responsible partner in government by considering the needs of the young people in the Litchfield community and fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in community engagement with young people.

4.4.2 The Chief Executive Officer will; lead the organisation to further embed a culture that strives for and supports the positive profile of youth including opportunities for youth to be involved in purposeful engagement and ensure Council is providing adequate ability to implement the Youth Policy.

# HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

In November 2018, Litchfield Council released a Youth Policy Discussion Paper to involve the community, in particular senior school students, local police and youth service providers, in the development of the draft Youth Policy.

The draft Youth Policy has been endorsed by Council for public consultation from Thursday 21 February, closing Thursday 7 March 2019.

You have helped us develop the draft Policy and we want to know if we are on the right track.

Feedback can be provided on the draft Youth Policy in the following ways:

1. Comment on the forum at [yoursay.litchfield.nt.gov.au](https://yoursay.litchfield.nt.gov.au)
2. Email Council at [council@litchfield.nt.gov.au](mailto:council@litchfield.nt.gov.au)

## WHAT'S NEXT?

After the consultation period closes, Council will consider all feedback for the development of the Youth Policy to be presented to Council for adoption at the March 2019 Council Meeting.

A launch for the Youth Policy will then be held during Youth Week in April 2019.

