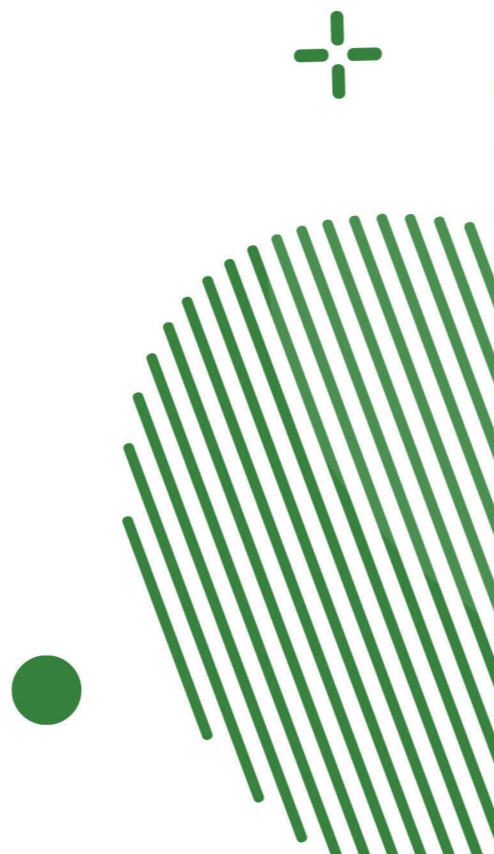




Litchfield Council

Youth Strategy
and Action Plan
2022-2025



Litchfield Council

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LITCHFIELD
COUNCIL



Introduction

WHAT

The Litchfield Council Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025 has been developed to guide Council on how it will support members of the Litchfield municipality aged 12-25 years to grow and develop through advocacy, empowerment, and connection to build a strong, vibrant community.

Litchfield prides itself on the unique rural lifestyle offered, the strength of community and the great natural resources available. This Strategy will ensure young people are able to enjoy the benefits of a rural lifestyle as well achieve outcomes equal to their urban counterparts.

WHY

Young people represent nearly 18% of the population of Litchfield, with their parents and carers making up an additional 30%. Recognising the unique needs of this demographic will ensure a vibrant and inclusive community, which benefits everyone and helps to achieve Council's vision of "The best place to live in the Top End".

This Strategy is about working together to support the young people and ensure they have equal access to opportunities to live, work, study and play in Litchfield.

HOW

This Strategy's Action Plan will acknowledge the work already done by Council, to facilitate future growth as well as outline how existing resources and partnerships can be enhanced to improve outcomes. As a result, Litchfield Council becomes an attractive funding recipient for Territory and Federal grant opportunities to increase service delivery in the youth space.

Objectives

This strategy has the following objectives:

- 1 Enhance opportunities for young people to live, work, study and play in Litchfield.
- 2 Encourage young people to develop skills and capacity to contribute to the Litchfield community.
- 3 Provide young people the opportunity to have a voice in local decision-making and planning.
- 4 Reduce barriers faced by young people to enjoying the rural lifestyle and achieving their goals.



Action Plan

OUTCOME	LITCHFIELD COUNCIL'S ROLE	ACTIONS
Objective 1: Enhance opportunities for young people to live, work, play and study in Litchfield		
Litchfield is a vibrant and dynamic place to live with everything young people need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with government and non-government organisations who deliver services to young people in Litchfield to increase reach and impact. Support Litchfield sporting and community organisations to deliver programs and events for young people through Community Initiative Grants and Annual Council Grants. Invest in Recreation Reserves to provide facilities for young people to be active and connect with their community. Partner with neighboring councils. Allocate funding for Youth Week event each year. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote activities delivered by public/NGO service providers in the municipality. > 30 young people participate in Youth Week Activities funded by council. Increase activities offered in conjunction with Darwin/Palmerston Council. Fund > 5 projects or events yearly which benefit young people held at Litchfield Recreation Reserves through Council's grant scheme.
Litchfield's Young People are engaged with Education or Employment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate connection between local stakeholders to enable sharing of information and resources which improve outcomes in the municipality. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate Litchfield Employment and Education Forum.
Objective 2: Encourage young people to develop skills and capacity to contribute to the Litchfield Community		
Litchfield's Young people have opportunities to develop skills and capacity to contribute, in a safe environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support young people to develop their education and employment opportunities through Council. Implement Child Safe policy relating to all Council activities, service providers and affiliates . Provide Youth Development Grants for State, National and International representative opportunities, or training for young people. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Council to maintain current traineeship/ internship program. Include the condition of holding a child safe policy into all relevant grant applications, employment, and service contracts. Youth Development Grants offered of up to \$500 to offset travel/enrolment costs for sport, recreation, and training opportunities for a minimum of 9 young people. Wi-Fi and public access computers available at the library and identify public access Wi-Fi opportunities at Council Reserves. Taminmin Community Library to deliver support to young people in job seeking and resume writing.
Litchfield's Young people are recognised for their contributions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grow outcomes relating to the Litchfield Young Citizen of the Year Award. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase Young Citizen of the Year Nominations. Work with Litchfield community and sporting groups to identify and acknowledge the outstanding work of young people in their organisations.
Objective 3: Provide Young People with the opportunity to have a voice in local decision making and planning		
Litchfield's Young people are consulted in local decision making and represented at local, state, and federal youth groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage young people in public consultation processes through their schools, sporting clubs and community organisations. Identify channels for communication between young people and Council. Advocate for Litchfield to be represented - in its own right (not as an extension of Palmerston) on regional and state advisory groups. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Litchfield Representative NT Youth Round Table. Encourage Litchfield representation in the NT Youth Voices project. Improved communication between young people and Council.
Objective 4: Reduce barriers faced by young people to enjoying the rural lifestyle and achieving their goals		
Litchfield's young people have equitable access to services and support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for the availability of State and Federal Funding to address young people's physical, mental wellbeing and social needs. Represent Litchfield on advisory groups and networks. Work with Territory Government to establish safer connectivity between public transport and nearby facilities, including shared paths. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Attend 80% annual PARYS meetings. Invite State and Federal Stakeholders to Litchfield Youth Strategy Launch. Develop an active watch list of strategic funding opportunities . Progress active transport networks as part of the Shared Path Plan.