



Name	COM01 Youth
Policy Type	Council
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Approval Date	17/06/2025
Review Date	16/06/2029

1. Purpose

This Policy outlines Council’s commitment to foster youth participation and empowerment and highlights the significance of young people and the youth sector in Litchfield. Council values the contributions, perspectives and potential of young people, aiming to foster inclusive and supportive environments where young people can thrive and have opportunities to shape their communities.

2. Scope

This policy applies to Councillors, staff, consultants and contractors responsible for engaging with young people, aged between 12 and 25 years, within the Litchfield Municipality for or on behalf of Litchfield Council.

3. Definitions

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

Council	Litchfield Council
Engagement	Any processes that involve active, purposeful, and inclusive interaction and advocacy with and for young people, where their voices are sought, considered and represented in shaping Council decisions, services, and community life.
Youth	Young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years.

4. Policy Statement

This policy provides Litchfield Council with a framework to demonstrate the commitment to the development and support of young people in the Municipality.

4.1. Promote a 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.
- 4.2.2. Council will host at least once a year a youth engagement event where young people can have an avenue to provide feedback, share ideas and express their perspectives on issues that matter to them. Insights gained will help inform Council's ongoing commitment and responsiveness in supporting youth wellbeing, aspirations and community involvement. Promote Access and Development
- 4.2.3. Council will represent the youth of Litchfield at network meetings such as the Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network (PARYS) and others as appropriate.
- 4.2.4. 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, distance, disability, and differences in social and cultural backgrounds.
- 4.2.5. Council will support youth in their endeavours through the Youth Development Grant, which aims to empower young people to participate in enriching pursuits that develop their knowledge, confidence and skills to contribute positively to their personal growth and that of the wider Litchfield community.

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

- 4.3.1. 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, fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in community engagement with young people.
- 4.3.2. 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.

5. Associated Documents

Youth Strategy 2022-2025

Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025

COR02 Community Engagement Policy

6. References and Legislation

Nil

7. Review History

Date Reviewed	Description of changes (Inc Decision No. if applicable)
20/03/2019	New policy
19/03/2024	Policy reviewed, minor formatting changes and no content changes. Policy review date amended to one year to allow for a further review.
20/05/2025	Policy reviewed with the following changes: amended definition of engagement, additional information for 4.2 Active Participation, and inclusion of Council's Youth Development Grants at 4.3.