

Youth Development and Support

PURPOSE

To encourage young persons to actively participate and be recognised as valued members of their community.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all young people residing or visiting the municipal district of Moira Shire.

DEFINITIONS

Young Person

A person between the ages 12 to 24 years.

POLICY

Vision

Council supports the development of an inclusive community where young people are:

- valued and respected;
- supported through social, educational, cultural and employment opportunities;
- able to live healthy, satisfying lives; and
- able to realise their full potential.

Council will:

- In consultation with community youth representatives, develop a Youth Plan spanning three years that has achievable, measurable and accountable outcomes. This plan will act as a framework to address the priorities of Moira Shire youth and will form part of the Moira Shire Municipal Public Health Plan.
- Resource support services to maximise prevention or intervention at an early stage, of young people at risk and, where appropriate their families.
- In partnership with youth service providers, deliver accessible accountable services to all young people within the Moira Shire regardless of geographic location, ethnicity, disability or gender.
- Advocate to protect the rights of young people.
- Advocate for the provision of quality services and resources for young people.
- Provide accurate information on, and where appropriate develop a network of services, agencies and programs that will increase the skills and well-being of young people and their families.
- Work with the community to assess the adequacy of recreational facilities available to and used by young people in Moira Shire and address any shortfalls identified.

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- Encourage, where appropriate, the involvement of Council employees, community and sporting groups, church organisations, the police and media to actively participate in the development and implementation of youth projects.
- Facilitate the running of Moira Shire Junior Council program to:
 - Act as an advisory body to council by putting forward opinions, ideas and concepts concerning youth.
 - Educate youth on the function and activities of Council, and the role of a councillor.
- Recognise the contribution of young people in Council planning by providing support and ownership of programs and policy through the successful operation of the Junior Council.

RELATED POLICIES

Council Policy Protocol
Achievers Award Program

RELATED LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)
Equal Opportunity Act 1995 (Vic)
Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)

REFERENCES

Moira Shire Council, *Moira Shire Municipal Public Health Plan*
Moira Shire Council, *Moira Shire Youth Services Mapping*
Victorian State Government policies and legislation

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed two years from the date of adoption, with operational amendments as required in accordance with Council's approval.

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