

POLICY NUMBER: 43 (C)

NAME OF POLICY: Youth Policy

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: August 2021

DATE APPROVED: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Manager, Community and Economic Development

REFERENCES: Hepburn Youth Engagement Strategy 2015
Hepburn Shire Youth Strategy 2016-2021
Hepburn Shire Council Plan 2017-2021

Version History			
Change/Review details	Author / reviewer	Date of Release	Approver
First Approved Release	Youth Development Coordinator	August 2005	Victor Szwed
Details of changes made	Jane Barclay/Youth Development Coordinator	June 2011	Kaylene Conrick
Details of changes made	Ellie Beer/Library & Visitor Service Coordinator	September 2017	

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, Hepburn Shire Council undertook an engaged with young people in order to more fully understand their needs and wants. Their views have informed Council's Youth Strategy (2016-2021) and this Youth Policy.

The 2016 Census identifies 2, 058 people aged 10-24 in the Hepburn Shire. Young people aged 15-19 make up 8% of Hepburn's total population.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the whole of Hepburn Shire Council.

DEFINITIONS

Council defines 'young people' as any person aged between 12 and 24 years.

POLICY

Hepburn Shire Council is committed to create communities where young people can and want to work, be part of social and recreation activities, learn and be involved in community life.

Hepburn Shire Council will:

- Facilitate participation that is meaningful to young people
- Collaborate with organisations and the community
- Provide opportunities for young people in projects and programs.

We will do this:

- Through the facilitation of events that are planned and delivered by young people , for young people ;
- By listening to what young people in Hepburn Shire want and need , and acting on it;
- By acknowledging the challenges and seeking solutions;
- Through providing and supporting initiatives and programs that provide local employment and training for young people; and,
- By facilitating access to safe and free spaces for young people to meet, relax and enjoy self directed activities.

In working with young people we will be guided by the following principles:

- Encourage opportunities for learning and participation
- Ensure we are providing a safe environment in our activities and events
- Provide access to information and technology
- Be mindful of the transport issues that young people face in Hepburn Shire
- Promote fairness and acknowledge diversity in young people

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any enquiries about the Youth Policy should be directed to Council's Manager Community and Economic Development.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy will be implemented through the delivery of Hepburn Shire Youth Strategy 2016-2021 and Action Plan.

The policy will be made available on Council's website, alongside the Youth Strategy.

REVIEW

The Youth Policy will be reviewed in 2021 in line with the Youth Strategy, or sooner if required by legislation or organisational changes.

The officer responsible for the review of this policy is the Manager, Community and Economic Development.