KING ISLAND COUNCIL

Policy

Youth Policy

Responsible Officer: GENERAL MANAGER

Date: 29 May 2025

Review Date: 29 May 2029

1. Purpose

King Island Council is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive community, where young people feel valued, heard, and empowered. The council is committed to ensuring the social, physical, mental and emotional needs of young people on the island are met, and young people can access the services and facilities they need to fully participate in community life. Council will develop collaborative partnerships with local organisations, schools, and families to strengthen the support network for young people.

This policy provides clear guidance and structure for Council's support for youths.

2. Scope

This policy relates to youths aged 12-25 within the King Island Community, which encompasses the entire geographical area of King Island. The community includes all towns, settlements, and rural areas within the island's boundaries.

3. Policy

King Island Council is dedicated to supporting the youth of our community.

Young people should be actively engaged in decision-making processes and community activities. The Council will consult with the youth when making decisions that directly impact them.

Through deliberate and direct advocacy, the Council is committed to equality and inclusion ensuring that all young people, regardless of their background or circumstance, have equal access to services, opportunities and support.

The wellbeing and safety of young people is paramount. In all goals and activities, the Council provides a safe environment for young people, upholding their rights and dignity and respecting their privacy and confidentiality. The Council will promote that all organisations that involve children and seek to use council facilities are expected to be committed to being a Child Safe Organisation.

Clear and open communication is essential; to support young people to be informed about available services, their rights, and opportunities to participate in community life. The Council will communicate this information to the youth.

The physical, mental, and emotional health of young people will be acknowledged by ensuring they feel valued, connected, and supported within the community. The Council will advocate for access to mental health services and encourage active lifestyles through opportunities such as community sports, recreation, and general wellbeing programs.

Furthermore, youth-led cultural and creative initiatives will be encouraged by providing safe and inclusive spaces for young people to express themselves.

To achieve our goals for young people, the Council recognises that collaboration with families, schools, and King Island community organisations is essential. The Council is committed to encouraging local businesses and organisations to provide education, training and skills building opportunities to support young people now and in the future. The Council will actively engage with these organisations and key stakeholders.

4. Legislation, Terminology and References

Applicable legislation:

4.1 Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 Youth
4.2 Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - Convention on the Rights of the Child and Declaration of the Rights of the Child
4.3 Commonwealth Racial Discrimination Act 1975
4.4 Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984
4.5 Tasmanian Anti Discrimination Act 1998
4.6 United Nations – World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond
4.7 Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997
4.8 Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023

Definitions	
Term	**Meaning**
Youth/Young person	Person aged 12-25
Council	King Island Council
Councillor	An elected member of Council known as a Councillor or Alderman or otherwise meeting the definition of a 'councillor' as defined under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1993 (TAS)
Employee	A person who carries out work for Council as an employee of Council.
General Manager	The general manager of Council as appointed under section 61 of the Local Government Act 1993 (TAS).
Manager/Supervisor	A person at the Workplace who is appointed to a position that has management/supervisory responsibilities for others or their appropriately nominated or authorised delegate.
Policy	Youth Policy
Workplace	A place where work is carried out for Council.

POLICY VERSION AND REVISION INFORMATION

Title:	Youth Policy
Maintained by:	Community Development Manager
Policy Commencement:	29 May 2025
Policy Review:	29 March 2029

Version No	Date	Resolution No	Responsible Officer
1.0	29/5/2025	109/25	Community Development Manager