

# Youth Services Policy



Acknowledgement of Country ..... 3

**Purpose ..... 3**

**Applicability ..... 3**

**Outcomes ..... 3**

**Definitions ..... 4**

**Policy Statement ..... 4**

    Background..... 5

**Legislation And Supporting Documents ..... 5**

    Relevant Legislation, Regulations and Industry Standards include: ..... 5

    Relevant Council Policies and Procedures include: ..... 6

**Variation And Review ..... 6**

**Appendix A..... 7**

    Document Control/Authorisation ..... 7

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

Glen Innes Severn Council acknowledges and pays respect to the Ngarabul people as the traditional custodians of this land, their elders past, present and emerging and to Torres Strait Islander people and all First Nations people.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework and guidance for the operations and service provision of the Glen Innes Severn Council (Council) Youth Booth.

Council's Youth Services operate out of The Youth Booth and are facilitated by the Youth Services team to:

- Encourage and support young people, and
- Enhance their experiences through improved self-esteem, self-reliance, and social confidence across the Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area (LGA); as outlined in the policy aims.

The Youth Services are funded via:

- Council;
- NSW Department of Communities and Justice; and
- Funding for individual projects from various external sources (for example, Youth Week).

### **Applicability**

This Policy applies to staff and users of Council's youth services within the LGA.

This Policy will be communicated to relevant personnel and monitored by the Manager of Community Services.

### **Outcomes**

The aims of Council's Youth Services are to:

- Maintain a vibrant, modern, safe, supportive and engaging space for youth to visit and interact in a positive manner at The Youth Booth;
- Provide healthy meal options;
- Foster an environment where learning is encouraged through guest speakers and support with homework;
- Promote access to activities and organisations that enhance community involvement and connectedness, and encourage the development of self-esteem, self-reliance and social confidence;
- Facilitate informed access to opportunities and services by providing relevant information to the youth;

- Promote the collaboration of local youth agencies by facilitating Youth Network Meetings, developing partnerships and participating in joint projects;
- Promote health awareness;
- Promote exercise;
- Hear the voice of young people, through the Youth Advisory Committee and Youth Booth members, to gain a better understanding and awareness of the issues relating to youth;
- Work together with local agencies to address, educate and limit youth crime; and
- measure outcomes and report to council annually.

## Definitions

**Mandatory Reporters:** Persons to which section 27 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (NSW) applies. Mandatory Reporters are persons who, in the course of their professional work or other paid employment deliver health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services, or law enforcement, wholly or partly, to children. It also includes people who hold a management position in an organisation, the duties of which include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of, the provision of health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services, or law enforcement, wholly or partly, to children.

**Royal Commission:** Means the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Sexual Abuse (2017). In 2012, Australian Government announced the establishment of the Royal Commission. The report made several recommendations to government and non-government organisations to keep children safe.

**Young Person:** A young person can be defined in a variety of ways depending on the context. For the purpose of this Policy a young person will also be considered in any reference a person aged 12-24.

## Policy Statement

This policy reflects Council's commitment to:

- The Child Safe Standards;
- The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations; and
- The Office of the Children's Guardian's *Principles for Child-Safe Organisations* (2017):
  1. The organisation focuses on what is best for children;
  2. All children are respected and treated fairly;
  3. Children's families and communities are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the organisation; and
  4. Children receive services from skilled and caring adults.

## Background

Council, in alignment with its commitment to enhancing the experiences and growth of young people aged 12 to 24 within the LGA, recognises the importance of providing dedicated services for youth. In this context, the Youth Booth stands as an exemplary model, catering to young people aged 12-24.

Council will actively promote the health, safety and welfare for all children and young people by ensuring the provision of a safe environment for children and young people whilst using Council services or on Council premises, in accordance with the ten Child Safe Standards.

Youth Booth, operating with a focus on activities developed primarily by and for young individuals, offers a secure environment for exploration across a spectrum of social and educational endeavours. The booth's services encompass vocational and educational training, music and entertainment programs, creative arts, as well as projects fostering enterprise and mentoring. These initiatives are meticulously designed not only to support the youth of Glen Innes but also to invest in the cultural capital of the broader Glen Innes Severn community. Through such collaborative efforts, both Council and Youth Booth contribute to the holistic development and well-being of young people in the region.

Council is dedicated to enhancing the lives of young people in the community through a range of services and facilities. These include well-maintained parks and open spaces, sporting fields, a skate park, and the Aquatic Centres, providing recreational opportunities. The Library and Learning Centre offer educational resources, while the support of dedicated Youth Workers ensures personalised assistance. The Youth Booth along with associated services, serves as a safe space for exploration and engagement. The Council also facilitates referrals to specialised services and provides essential information related to Youth Services, fostering a comprehensive approach to youth well-being.

## Legislation And Supporting Documents

### Relevant Legislation, Regulations and Industry Standards include:

- *Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014;*
- *Child Protection (Offenders Prohibition Orders) Act 2004;*
- *Child Protection (Offender Registration) Act 2000;*
- *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012;*
- *Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013;*
- *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998;*
- *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012;*
- *Commission and Children and Young People Act 1998;*
- *Community Welfare Act 1987;*

- *Crimes Act 1900;*
- *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007;*
- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010;*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012;*
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009;*
- *Ombudsman Act 1974; and*
- *Young Offenders Act 1997.*

### **Relevant Council Policies and Procedures include:**

- Child Safe Policy
- Code of Conduct for Council Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisers;
- Code of Conduct for Council Staff;
- Code of Conduct for Councillors;
- Complaints Management Policy;
- Human Resources Policy Statement Register;
- Incident Management and Reportable Incidents Policy for Community Services;
- Media Policy;
- Social Media Policy;
- Privacy Management Plan;
- Risk Management Policy;
- Model Guidelines – Managing and Responding to Threats, Aggressive Behaviour and Violence;
- Volunteer Policy; and
- Workplace Discrimination and Bullying Harassment Policy.

### **Variation And Review**

The Youth Services Policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if deemed necessary, to ensure that it meets the requirements of legislation and the needs of Council. The term of the Policy does not expire on the review date, but will continue in force until superseded, rescinded or varied either by legislation or a new resolution of Council.

## Appendix A

### Document Control/Authorisation

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>		Manager of Community Services (MCS)			
<b>Reviewed By:</b>		Management Executive Team (Manex)			
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5	27/06/2024	10.06/24	Transpose to new template, update policy to align with <i>Children's Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Bill 2021</i>	MCS	Council
	27/02/2020	10.02/20		MCS	Council
3	24/11/2016	21.11/16		MCS	Council
2	28/11/2013	13.11/13		MCS	Council
1	23/09/2010	20.09/10		MCS	Council