



Name	COM01 Youth
Policy Type	Council
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Approval Date	19/03/2024
Review Date	18/03/2025

**1. Purpose**

This Policy outlines Council’s commitment to foster youth participation and empowerment and highlights the significance of youth and the youth sector in Litchfield.

**2. Scope**

This policy applies to Councillors, staff, consultants and contractors responsible for engaging with young people, aged between 10 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 process that involves the public in problem solving or decision making and uses public input to make better decisions

**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.

4.3. Promote Access and Development

- 4.3.1. Council will represent the youth of Litchfield at network meetings such as the Palmerston and Rural Youth Services Network (PARYS) and others as appropriate.
- 4.3.2. 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 and distance.
- 4.3.3. Council will represent the youth of Litchfield through relevant engagement processes with the Northern Territory and Federal Government.

4.4. Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.4.1. 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 and fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in community engagement with young people.
- 4.4.2. 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**

Community Engagement Strategy 2017-2021  
 Community Engagement Action Plan 2017 – 2021  
 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.