

	<b>COUNCIL POLICY</b>	
	<b>Youth Policy</b>	
	POLICY NO	050
	DEPARTMENT	Community & Client Services
	PROGRAM	Community Lifestyle
	ADOPTED BY COUNCIL	22 January 2020, Resolution ORD-2020-25

## 1.0 Scope

The Youth Policy of the Mackay Regional Council (MRC) applies to all young people living in the Mackay Region and MRC's operations that may impact on young people and their experience of life in the region.

## 2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide the MRC and its employees in decision making and/or program delivery that affects young people of the region.

## 3.0 Reference

- *Community Services Act 2007 (Queensland)*
- *Community Services Regulation 2008 (Queensland)*
- *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000 (Queensland)*
- *Human Rights Act 2019*
- *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (1990)*
- *Child Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2005*
- Administrative Actions Complaint Policy
- The Mackay Regional Council Corporate Plan
- Community Development Strategy
- Human Services Quality Framework

## 4.0 Definitions

To assist in interpretation the following definitions shall apply:

**Council** shall mean the Mayor and Councillors of Mackay Regional Council.

**Human Rights Complaint** shall mean a complaint about an alleged contravention of section 58-1 by a public entity in relation to an act or decision of the public entity. A human rights complaint will be in accordance with MRC's Administrative Action Complaint Policy.

**MRC** shall mean Mackay Regional Council.

**The region** shall mean the geographic area defined within the local government boundaries of the Mackay Regional Council.

**Youth and young people** shall mean residents of the Mackay region between the ages of 10 and 21

## 5.0 Background

MRC has a long history of delivering youth activities, providing youth related facilities, developing youth programs and working with young people throughout the region. MRC values young people and is committed to ensuring a positive, safe and inclusive experience for all young people living in our region.

Human Rights have been considered when preparing this Policy.

## 6.0 Policy Statement

### 6.1 Governing Principles

MRC acknowledges:

- That young people are active citizens in the community;
- The important role that young people play in the social, economic, environmental and cultural life of the community, now and into the future;
- That young people should be involved in local affairs and in the decision-making process;
- The diversity of strengths, needs, interest, and aspirations of young people given their differing social, economic and cultural backgrounds;
- The central role that skill development and social supports play in enabling young people to participate in community life;
- That it has a leadership role in understanding and responding to the needs of young people, and in representing their interest to other spheres of government and the broader community;
- That a local (and regional where relevant) approach must be taken when addressing the needs of young people.

### 6.2. MRC Supports:

#### 6.2.1 ***A Youth-safe Region***

The MRC will provide and maintain environments, spaces, venues and assemblies that are youth friendly, safe for young people and that invite youth participation and access. MRC promotes a safe community where young people are respected and valued members of our community.

#### 6.2.2 ***Representation***

Young people shall be provided with opportunities to be represented in and to participate in decision-making relevant to their experience of life. These opportunities shall assist young people to make informed decisions regarding their needs and issues and regarding the development of youth facilities, projects and activities.

### 6.2.3 **Consultation & Decision Making**

MRC listens to young people and provides them with avenues to showcase their strengths and voice their concerns, needs, aspirations and vision for their community.

MRC regularly consults with young people through a range of methods including, but not limited to, direct access, working groups, forums, surveys and social media.

### 6.2.4 **Youth projects and activities**

MRC provides a range of opportunities for young people to participate in MRC activities and programs that reflect and celebrate the diverse strengths, interest, needs and cultural backgrounds of young people.

MRC values, supports and promotes projects and activities that are relevant to young people and that support their self determined cultural, social, recreational and community needs.

### 6.2.5 **Youth Celebrations**

MRC recognises and supports events and programs that celebrate and showcase the achievements of young people.

### 6.2.6 **Access**

MRC acknowledges that young people may be disadvantaged in their ability to access programs, opportunities and events. Where appropriate, MRC will remove barriers to young people being able to participate in MRC programs and activities.

## 6.3 Human Rights Complaint

When an individual feel that they are the subject of MRC's failure to act compatibly with human rights, they can make a complaint directly to MRC as per MRC's Administrative Actions Complaint process.

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## 7.0 **Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related documents are amended or replaced.
2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council

Notwithstanding the above, this policy is to be reviewed at intervals of no more than three (3) years.

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Version Control:

Version	Reason / Trigger	Change	Endorsed / Reviewed	Date
2	Review of Policy	Amendments to Policy	Council – Attachment 11.6.9.2	22.01.2020