

Central Goldfields Youth Council 2022- 23 Priorities Statement

Introduction

The Central Goldfields Youth Council is an advisory and advocacy group, made up of young people who live, work, study, and/or have another strong connection within the Central Goldfields region and whose role is to represent the voice of other young people in the work of Council.

To achieve this, each Youth Council develops a statement of priorities for the duration of their term, which outlines the issues the Youth Council feels are most important for young people in Central Goldfields. The priorities identified by the 2022 – 2023 Youth Council are:

- Education and Aspiration
- Respect, Tolerance, Awareness and Acceptance
- Climate Change and the Environment
- More for Youth to Do
- Youth Hub

The actions the Youth Council wishes to undertake to address these areas of priority are outlined in the Priorities Action Plan.

Priority One: Education and Aspiration

Education and aspiration are essential for young people to be able to strive for better futures, for themselves and the community. They provide a vehicle to build employment, leadership and confidence to reach for goals beyond the everyday.

A healthy and thriving community needs to empower its young people to be successful and capable citizens. To do this, it needs to ensure they have access to quality and equitable education opportunities; and provide equitable pathways to be triumphant in their passions.

Aspiration can help to give life purpose and meaning and encourage young people to strive for their goals. Without aspiration, young people struggle to fully realize their worth and achieve their full potential.

The Central Goldfields Shire Youth Council aims to promote this priority area by:

- Advocating for improved education opportunities for all young people in Central Goldfields, including breaking down barriers to access quality education and skill development opportunities.
- Promoting co-operation across schools in the region to increase everyone's opportunities.
- Creating new opportunities for young people to learn about navigating career pathways and discover what options are available to them.

Priority Two: Respect, Tolerance, Awareness and Acceptance

Everyone has the right to feel safe, comfortable, and included in the community. Young people are passionate about promoting respect and tolerance of diverse groups in the community and are pushing to address issues of stigma and prejudice.

Lack of respect and acceptance of diversity in the community leads to inequity, imbalance, poor community cohesion, and creates a barrier to thriving.

The Youth Council will promote this focus are by:

- Educating community and promoting ways for people to learn about others from different backgrounds and promote acceptance.
- Support community events and initiatives that promote respect, tolerance and acceptance.
- Work towards a more inclusive future.

Priority Three: Climate Change and the Environment

A community cannot succeed where its environment is sick. As a regional and rural community, Central Goldfields is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and degradation of the environment. The Youth Council, as representatives of young people in Central Goldfields, has a particular interest in promoting a healthy environment for our future to grow into and live in.

The Youth Council will promote this focus area by:

- Participating in and promoting restorative efforts to improve the local environment.
- Advocating for a greener, more environmentally friendly, and climate positive region, and the services and facilities to achieve this.

Priority Four: More For Youth To Do

As a small regional community, Central Goldfields currently has a limited variety of activities and spaces that cater for young people in the region. This leads to young people feeling excluded and undervalued in the community; that they do not belong in the space. Lack of activities and welcoming spaces can also lead to flow-on issues such as petty vandalism, anti-social behaviour, and young people feeling unsafe in the community. To properly engage and involve young people in the community in a positive way, the community needs to invest in ways for young people to participate.

The Youth Council will promote this focus area by:

- Collaborating with Central Goldfields Shire Council, and other local youth services, to design and plan inclusive youth-focused events and activities.
- Advocating for new, and more variety in, activities offered to local young people.
- Advocating for more youth-focused events and activities in the region, especially in smaller rural communities.
- Advocating for the establishment of more youth-friendly spaces, and for spaces to be open at times relevant to young people.

Priority Five: Youth Hub

Young people need a dedicated space in Central Goldfields, to gather, access services, and participate in the community of Central Goldfields. Having a dedicated and appropriate space for young people to hold events and activities will also help to promote the other priorities identified by the Youth Council.

The Youth Council will promote this focus area by:

- Advocating for and advising on the development of a dedicated Youth Hub in Central Goldfields.