



YOUTH COUNCILLOR - POSITION DESCRIPTION

CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO

The City of Greater Bendigo's vision is *"Greater Bendigo celebrates our diverse community. We are welcoming, sustainable and prosperous. Walking hand-in-hand with the traditional custodians of this land. Building on our rich heritage for a bright and happy future"*.

The City aspires to deliver this vision by being a values-driven organisation that is guided by six values: *We Lead, We Learn, We Contribute, We Care, We Respond, and We Respect*. These values underpin the way all Councillors, staff, volunteers and Youth Councillors conduct themselves.

YOUTH COUNCIL: PURPOSE

The City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council is an advisory and advocacy committee whose role is to represent the voice of young people who live, work and study in the City of Greater Bendigo (the City). The City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council is an important mechanism for consultation with young people and for providing advice to the City of Greater Bendigo Council and City staff on implementation and review of the City's *Explore, Engage, Empower - Young People in Greater Bendigo* (Youth Strategy) and broader policy and strategy development.

YOUTH COUNCIL: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of the Youth Council are to:

- Provide opportunities for young people to have their say and influence Council policies, plans and strategies.
- Promote young people as valuable citizens who make a positive contribution to the community.
- Provide opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills.
- Provide the opportunity for Councillors to meet, hear and learn from young people.
- Provide opportunities for young people to consult with the wider community.

The objectives of the Youth Council are to:

- Represent and promote the voice of young people in the City;
- Provide a platform for young people to advocate on priorities that are important to their lives;

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- Advise the City of Greater Bendigo Council on current and emerging issues affecting young people;
- Provide opportunities for young people to influence youth-focused programs and projects delivered by the City;
- Provide a mechanism for young people to oversee the implementation of the Youth Strategy;
- Identify services gaps and opportunities for improved cooperation, coordination, and advice and feedback to young people and partnerships that will improve outcomes for young people;
- Provide opportunities for young people to have a say in the management of the YO Bendigo youth facility;
- Build a sense of civic pride about young people in the community;
- Provide opportunities for young people to be engaged in civic activities and events;
- Include young people from diverse backgrounds in decision-making processes;
- Strengthen professional development opportunities for young people; and
- Develop young people's confidence and leadership skills.

POSITION OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the position of Youth Councillor are to:

- Ensure all Youth Council briefings and meetings are conducted in an inclusive, effective and professional manner;
- Ensure that all decisions made by Youth Council are made collectively;
- Ensure that Youth Council and its Working Groups adhere to the Youth Council Terms of Reference and City policies;
- Ensure the City's six values of *We Lead, We Learn, We Contribute, We Care, We Respond, and We Respect* are imbedded in the culture of Youth Council;
- Ensure that the overall direction of the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council is in accordance with the City's Community/Council Plan and Youth Strategy;
- Ensure Youth Council and the City of Greater Bendigo is represented in public in a professional manner;
- Ensure that Youth Council has a professional relationship with the Mayor, Councillors, City Managers and officers;
- Ensure that the Youth Council identifies priorities concerning young people;

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- Ensure that the Youth Council provides current and accurate advice to Council and City staff regarding priorities concerning young people; and
- Ensure that Youth Council advocates about priorities concerning young people.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

The key responsibilities and duties of a Youth Councillor are to:

- Work collectively to identify and nominate priorities that are important to young people;
- Provide advice to Council and City staff on issues concerning young people;
- Provide a voice for and advocate on behalf of all young people in Greater Bendigo;
- Participate in activities that provide a platform for young people to address priorities and emerging issues impacting their lives;
- Participate in the development of policies, strategies and plans that improve outcomes for young people in the community;
- Provide written submissions and feedback to City of Greater Bendigo Council on policies, plans and strategies that impact young people;
- Participate in City reference groups, advisory committees and steering committees (when requested);
- Oversee the delivery of Explore, Engage, Empower – Young People in Greater Bendigo (City of Greater Bendigo Youth Strategy);
- Provide advice on the youth programs provided by the City including activities in the YO Bendigo youth facility;
- Chair Youth Council Working Groups when requested;
- Attend community events and civic functions as a City representative (when requested); and
- Participate in media opportunities when appropriate and requested.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The position of Youth Councillor is a voluntary position. All Youth Councillors are registered as a City of Greater Bendigo volunteer in the City's Better Impact Volunteer Management system.

Youth Councillors will be supported with their responsibilities and duties by the Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayors and Engaged Communities officers.