



# YOUTH COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2024

Early each year the Youth Council is required to establish an annual list of priorities that will guide its strategic direction during that year. The Youth Council have identified three broad priority areas for 2024 that directly relate to young people and have agreed that these three priorities should be standing priorities listed in the Youth Council Terms of Reference 2024. The three priority areas are: **Advocacy**, **Engagement** and **Experience**.

Each priority area has a Working Group with four to six Youth Councillors as members and is chaired by a Youth Councillor who is not a member of the Executive. The role of each Working Group is to explore and develop options for consideration by the Youth Council.

Each Working Group is aligned to the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council's Terms of Reference 2024, specifically its purpose which states that: *"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/or study in the City of Greater Bendigo (the City). Youth Council achieves this by:*

- + *Providing advice to the City of Greater Bendigo Council on plans, strategies, policies and projects so that they better align to the needs of young people;*
- + *Engaging with young people to identify their priorities; and*
- + *Advocating on issues that directly impact young people."*

## Priority One: Advocacy

The Advocacy Working Group encompasses the core function of Youth Council with a focus on current youth issues and the advocacy priorities of Youth Council.

The purpose of the Advocacy Working Group is to explore and develop options and/or recommendations for the Youth Council to consider relating to:

- Amplifying the voice of young people in Greater Bendigo and making sure they are heard;
- The representation of young people and their contributions to the community; and
- Advocacy about the priorities of young people and the issues impacting them.

Contemporary issues concerning young people in Greater Bendigo identified by the Youth Council as important advocacy issues, include but are not limited to support for increased public safety,

support for reducing homelessness amongst young people, support for young people living with a disability, support for the LGBTQIA+ community, support for healthy lifestyles, the climate crisis, improving mental health support, and youth unemployment.

## Priority Two: Engagement

The Engagement Working Group encompasses the planning and development of Youth Council engagement activities with young people and the community.

The purpose of the Engagement Working Group is to explore and develop options and/or recommendations for the Youth Council to consider relating to:

- Engaging with young people in Greater Bendigo to better understand their needs and concerns via listening posts, forums and/or other platforms;
- Engaging with other youth-related stakeholders (such as service providers) in Greater Bendigo to better understand their perspectives; and
- Promoting the Mission Australia Youth Survey in Greater Bendigo.

## Priority Three: Experience

The Experience Working Group encompasses the provision of advice on the activities, training, events and workshops provided by the City through the YO Bendigo facility; and ideas that improve the experience of young people who live, work and/or study in the City of Greater Bendigo.

The purpose of the Experience Working Group is to explore and develop options and/or recommendations for the Youth Council to consider relating to:

- Professional development opportunities for young people such as micro-credentials training;
- Career and education pathways for young people;
- Opportunities for young people to connect with each other through activities and events;
- Personal development opportunities for young people; and
- Advice on promoting the YO Bendigo facility as a safe study/fun space for young people to utilise.

