

QUEENSLAND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT CHARTER

Listening to the voices of
young Queenslanders

“The Youth Charter is a great idea embedding the government’s commitment to listen to young people in a meaningful and genuine way”

Sara – Youth Workshop participant

“We need more opportunities to better understand how government works”

Jocelyn – Youth Workshop participant

“LGBTIQ+ young people need to be a key priority for government”

Kaiden – Youth Workshop participant

This charter reflects the Queensland Government’s commitment to giving young people a voice and listening to their views in government business. It provides a guide to ensure this engagement is both **genuine** and **meaningful**, enabling young people to help **shape Queensland’s future** by encouraging innovation and community ownership of future government policy. Engagement may be formal, driving systemic policy direction, or more participative, encouraging input into decisions that may impact our state’s future directions.

At its core is an **enduring commitment** to value the contribution of each and every young person, regardless of circumstance or culture. This includes acknowledging that some young people may experience additional barriers to participating fully in the opportunities that our state offers. The voices of our state’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people must shine at all times.

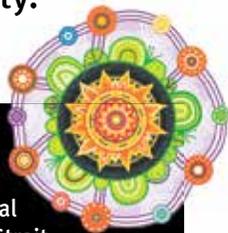


Queensland
Government

Our Commitment

Queensland Government recognises young people have a significant role to play in shaping our economic, social and cultural success, now and in the future. Involving young people in the development of policy, programs and services is the right thing to do, and results in better outcomes for young people and the community.

We respectfully acknowledge the First Nations people in the State of Queensland and the cultural and spiritual connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the land and sea. We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as two unique and diverse people with their own rich and distinct cultures.



Acknowledging diversity we will actively involve, listen to and support young people, and those who work with them, to give young people a voice in our work.

Engaging young people in government business will complement the Queensland Government's Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities objectives for the community.

We will build the capacity of young people to participate and become agents of positive change in their lives and communities by:

- recognising young people are experts on their own life experiences and have a significant amount to offer in relation to issues and future policies that impact them and their communities
- actively demonstrating respect for all young people acknowledging their right to participate in decisions that impact them regardless of their race, religion, culture, language, gender, sexuality, ability, regional, rural or remote locality, or circumstances
- offering young people an opportunity to engage with a range of stakeholders and build positive networks.

“Look for more opportunities to give us structured advisory roles for involvement in policy/project work”

Finn — Youth Workshop participant

We will ensure engagement with young people is meaningful and an integral part of the work we do.

As signatories to the Youth Engagement Charter, all Directors-General and Commissioners and Queensland Government agencies commit to its implementation when developing policy, programs and services.



QUEENSLAND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PANEL
Through the Queensland Youth Engagement Panel (QYEP), 11 young people have been chosen to stand up and represent the voices of young people across Queensland. QYEP members tell us about government and policy objectives that affect them. So far the panel has discussed and provided input on a range of matters including the Queensland Youth Engagement Charter.

Our framework for engagement

“Always be respectful and valuing of young people’s contributions”

Beau – Youth Workshop participant

Empower

Young people are empowered to use their voice and actively participate in decisions that affect their lives and their community.

Be authentic, ethical and valuing of young people. Communicate and be clear about how their contribution will influence government’s decisions

Adopt a principled approach when engaging with young people that is respectful, collaborative and supports continuous improvement through listening, testing, implementing, refining and adjusting engagement processes in response to young people’s input

Provide and promote opportunities and mechanisms for young people to be involved in spaces and through channels, including social media, that are relevant and accessible to them

Provide young people with the age appropriate information they need to understand and evaluate relevant issues and participate in government engagement processes in a meaningful and timely way

Ensure staff undertaking engagement with young people have the relevant skills and attributes to engage appropriately, especially with those who may be experiencing vulnerability

Putting young people front and centre QUEENSLAND YOUTH WEEK

Each year we celebrate young people aged 12–25 and the positive contributions they make to Queensland communities through a dedicated youth week that encompasses a range of activities.

YOUTH E-HUB

The youth eHub is a safe, online environment dedicated to young Queenslanders aged 13–25 for them to share their views on government policy and programs and have their say on what is important to them. Queensland government agencies are encouraged to utilize the e-Hub to bolster their consultation program and include the voices of young people.



Our framework for engagement

Involve

Young people are engaged and involved in policy and program development.

Directly seek input from young people informally and formally, and with support from the sector, in the development of relevant policies, programs and initiatives, respecting relevant cultures, customs and protocols — this may be in groups, face-to-face, social media polls or online surveys

Acknowledge there is no 'one size fits all' engagement mechanism that will work with all young people

Pursue opportunities for young people to collectively prepare age appropriate materials for policies and programs which are intended specifically for a youth audience

Strengthen capacities and capabilities of young people to ensure all young people feel supported to participate and potentially enhance their life skills

Extend opportunities for young people to directly develop and deliver funded projects in areas of interest to them

Value young peoples' lived experiences by taking a 'trauma informed' approach to engagement activities ensuring all participants feel safe to engage where topics may be traumatising

Consider the diverse needs of young people and those that may be experiencing vulnerability to determine any specific needs or supports required to respond to potential barriers to facilitate full engagement



QUEENSLAND YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Queensland Youth Parliament provides a platform for young people to have their say, strengthen their leadership skills and understanding of democratic processes. Youth members are the voice of young people in their electorates, advising politicians and decision-makers across the state.

Our framework for engagement

“Don't forget about young people in remote and discrete communities”
Lucy – Youth Workshop participant

Collaborate

Young people, government and non-government partners actively collaborate to implement appropriate engagement processes and shape responsive policy and initiatives.

Share information on projects, as appropriate, to ensure young people are informed of engagement opportunities and outcomes

Build departmental capacity to actively and appropriately support and engage young people at a level they are comfortable with, especially young people who may be experiencing vulnerability

Collaborate with partners to ensure broader community consultations are inclusive of young people; and young people are appropriately informed of their opportunity to have a say in these as well as youth specific engagement opportunities

Pursue opportunities for young people to take on leadership/champion roles linking with other young people on matters of interest to them

Ensure engagement actively involves opportunities for young people in rural and remote communities

Queensland government to establish strong links and maximise engagement between existing and emerging youth advisory groups and their peer networks



QUEENSLAND INDIGENOUS YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (QIYLP) offers aspiring young leaders who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander the opportunity to participate in a one week residential program in Brisbane. Participants undertake a range of experiences including leadership and professional development workshops, mentoring and networking opportunities and attend parliament workshops. Every young person who attends a QIYLP is a potential future leader, and the experience they gain through the program is designed to help them along that journey.