

Blue Mountains Youth Council Charter



Table of Contents

1. PURPOSE	3
2. RELATIONSHIP WITH BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL.....	3
3. MEMBERSHIP	4
4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	5
5. MEETINGS	5
6. INSURANCES	6

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Youth Council is to:

- Provide specialist advice to the Council on youth issues and youth policy.
- To involve young people in the community and in the processes of the Council.
- To provide a forum for young people to develop an understanding of the role of local government.
- To assist young people to develop various skills, including leadership, meeting procedures, communication and various administration skills
- To plan and organise cultural, environment, recreation and social activities citywide for young people.
- To lobby and advocate on issues affecting young people.
- To promote positive stories and images of young people.

2. RELATIONSHIP WITH BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL

The relationship of the Blue Mountains Youth Council to Blue Mountains City Council includes:

- The Youth Council people makes recommendations to Blue Mountains City Council on issues relevant to young through advice on policy, DA submissions, social impact assessments and other initiatives.
- Council's Community Outcomes Team will support and resource the Youth Council through its Community Development Staff including administrative support, training, organisation of transport and provision of appropriate supervision at meetings and events.
- An Advisory Committee will support Blue Mountains Youth Council. The Blue Mountains City Council shall nominate two Councillors, along with the Executive Officer or his/her representative, the Youth Services Development Officer, an outside representative of the Youth Services Network and youth representatives (over 18yrs) to be the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee has no voting rights and cannot be office bearers.

Public Statements:

- Public statements on behalf of the Youth Council are authorised by a motion of the Youth Council and supported by the Youth Services Development Officer.
- Any correspondence regarding BMYC must be printed on Council's official letterhead (which may include a Youth Council logo) and approved by the Youth Services Development Officer.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- Membership is open to all young people aged between 12 and 17 years who reside within the Blue Mountains Local Government Area. Any member who turns 18 during their term will be able to remain on the Youth Council for the duration of their term of office.
- Young people over the age of 18 years may be considered for membership at the discretion of the Advisory Committee.
- Membership will consist of maximum of twenty-five people.
- The Youth Council aims to represent a broad range of young people from across the Blue Mountains. Genders must be represented equitably (as far as possible). Young people from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply; including Aboriginal young people, young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, young people of diverse sexuality and young people with a disability.
- If there are vacancies on Youth Council, a place may be offered to a young person outside the formal nomination period at the discretion of the Advisory Committee. In making this decision, the Advisory Committee will consider the gender balance of Youth Council, geographic distribution of Youth Councillors, age range, and access for young people from differing backgrounds and with differing needs.
- Employees of Blue Mountains City Council are not eligible to join Youth Council.

Nominations

- Public nominations will be called for.
- Young people applying for Youth Council must lodge written and signed nomination forms with the Blue Mountains City Council. Each nomination will be accompanied by twenty five signatures of young people aged 12-17 supporting the nomination. Family members are excluded from supporting a candidate's nomination.
- If the number of candidates is equal to the number of members to be appointed the Blue Mountains City Council shall appoint all candidates to the Youth Council.
- If the number of candidates exceeds the number of candidates to be appointed the Advisory Committee will interview each of the applicants and determine which of the candidates are to be appointed to the Youth Council.

Term of Appointment

- Youth Councillors may hold office for two years.
- Youth Councillors may be nominated for further terms until she or he reaches the age of 18.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Youth Councillors shall:

- Actively seek views of young people and relevant issues to be brought to the notice of the Youth Council.
- Actively participate in discussion and decisions that take place at meetings.
- Participate in various working parties and events involving the Youth Council.
- Communicate with the Youth Services Development Officer regarding any issues, absences from meetings or activities involving Youth Council
- Agree to act within the guidelines of the Youth Council as outlined in this Charter.

Resignation of Membership

A member of the Youth Council may resign from membership of the Youth Council by giving notice in writing to the Youth Services Development Officer.

Disciplining of Members

Where a member has persistently and wilfully acted in a way that is not in the interests of the Youth Council they may be suspended or asked to leave by the Advisory Committee. A meeting may be held where the young people has the opportunity to discuss the issue with appropriate members of the Advisory Committee.

Office Bearers

The Youth Council is entitled to appoint a Chairperson. Other positions may be created by the Youth Council as necessary such as Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer, Communications Officer, and Secretary following an appointment process. These positions will be held for a period of one year.

5. MEETINGS

- The Youth Council shall meet approximately once a month.
- The quorum for meetings shall be a simple majority of members.
- The Youth Council shall have planning day/s at the start of each year of their term.
- All Youth Council meetings shall be minuted, and these minutes are to be confirmed in the following Youth Council meeting.
- Discussions during meetings shall be informal, though still keeping to the meeting agenda.

- Outcomes of discussions and decisions of the Youth Council may be made formal through a motion.
- Youth Councillors will show respect towards others and their opinions, keeping meetings friendly and focused on the issues.
- The Youth Council meetings are closed to the public, unless otherwise agreed to by the Youth Council.

6. INSURANCES

The Blue Mountains City Council shall arrange and maintain a portfolio of insurance to cover all possible risks, including a Personal Accident Policy for committee members, a Voluntary Worker's Policy and an Indemnity Policy for committee members.

Adopted October 20, 2009