



### 3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

#### 3.5 YOUTH

##### 3.5.1 Youth Policy Principals

### Policy Aim

The aim of the Shire of Manjimup Youth Policy is:

“To acknowledge and support young people as valued members of the community by ensuring Council processes are inclusive of young people.”

### Philosophy

The Shire of Manjimup recognises that it has a major role in creating and developing a strong, cohesive community where people support each other and work together to achieve their desired quality of community life. The identification and satisfaction of young people’s needs are seen by Council as critical to the development of a strong healthy community and an important investment in the Shire’s future. The fulfilment of young people’s potential and recognition of their valuable contributions to the community will ensure the community will have future leaders and solid foundations to develop.

### Youth Policy Principles

Council’s role and participation in Youth Affairs will be guided by the following principles.

Council will support services, programs and facilities for young people, which are:

- **Planned and Coordinated** – Council recognises services to the community are best delivered in a holistic, coordinated manner and that any council planning processes such as recreation planning must consider the needs of young people.
- **Efficient and Accountable** – Council will support services for young people

that are delivered in an effective, competitive and accountable way.

- **Participative** – Council recognises the importance of young people being involved in the design, development and management of services and facilities that will be utilised by them. Council encourages the contribution of young people in the decision-making processes.
- **Accessible** – Council wishes to ensure that young people have access to the range of services and facilities offered in the community.
- **Collaborative Partnerships** – Council recognises and encourages the collaborative efforts of individuals and agencies working in partnership to address youth issues.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of the Shire of Manjimup**

The Shire of Manjimup is currently involved in a variety of roles in youth affairs. It is important to clarify such roles for not only the Council but also the broader community and other spheres of Government.

- **Service Provision** – The direct involvement of Council, independently or in partnership, in the provision and delivery of services, projects and facilities for young people, (For example the Youth Resource Centre).
- **Planning** – This role involves the Council independently or in collaboration with other stakeholders, in developing a planning framework for identifying local needs, setting priorities and developing strategies to meet these needs, (For example the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan Shire of Manjimup).
- **Coordination** - This role requires Council to work in a leadership role with community groups and service providers to ensure the efficient use of resources to satisfy the community's needs. This approach seeks to avoid duplication of effort and resources. (For example Westrail Redevelopment Project).

- **Support** – Council can aid community organisation in becoming established by providing advice and information, access to funds, buildings, equipment and endorsing funding applications through letters of support.
- **Advocacy** – Advocacy on behalf of young people involves supporting their concerns, raising important issues to the attention of decision makers and lobbying for resources to be allocated. For young people it can also mean promoting young people in a positive light and challenging the negative stereotyping of young people in the community.

By including the above roles into the Shire of Manjimup's involvement in youth affairs, Council ensures a greater control and influence in ensuring the needs of young people are met. Consequently young people will have a greater say in the provision and management of services that are responsive to their needs.

## Youth Policy Content

### Recreation and Leisure

#### Policy Aim;

“To support and encourage the provision of a diverse range of structured and casual leisure and recreation options which can be accessed by young people.”

#### Issues;

The Shire of Manjimup;

- Recognises that young people gain significant personal and social benefit from participation in organised and casual sporting and other leisure pursuits.
- Understands that young people enjoy passive recreation to socialise and interact with peers.
- Recognises that young people often require physical and mental challenges to satisfy their developmental needs.
- Recognises that young people have specific recreation and leisure needs.

- Comprehend that young people are a user group of public spaces.

**Objectives;**

- Advocate and support diverse range of affordable and responsive programs, services and events in which young people can participate.
- Support the development and management of facilities and public space that are appealing and meet the diverse needs of young people.
- Understand and recognise the unique and specific needs of young people.
- Support groups developing new leisure and recreation opportunities for young people.

**Strategies;**

- Assist other organisations to apply for funding which will directly benefit young people by the provision of statistical information, letters of support, professional advice and practical assistance.
- Produce a directory of possible leisure and recreation programs and groups operating in the Shire of Manjimup for young people.
- Coordinate and promote existing recreation and leisure activities for young people.
- Actively encourage the use of existing recreation facilities by young people.

**Culture and the Arts**

**Policy Aim;**

“To support and encourage young people to explore and celebrate their cultural heritage and identity, to further develop their own forms of expression and contribution to cultural programs, arts projects and public events.”

**Issues;**

The Shire of Manjimup;

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

3.5 YOUTH

3.5.1 Youth Policy Principals

- Recognises that young people are entitled to participate in the cultural life of the community and should be included in policy and project development.
- Recognises that cultural expression is an important vehicle for young people to express themselves.

**Objectives;**

- Advocate opportunities for the expression and celebration of cultural diversity.
- Identify opportunities for cultural expression and ensure that creative participation opportunities relevant to young people are provided.
- Plan for the contribution of young people in Culture and Arts policies, plans and programs in the Shire of Manjimup.
- Coordinate access for young people to information about Culture and Arts opportunities available in the Shire of Manjimup.
- Support Cultural and Arts programs including application to funding bodies provided by community groups attempting to explore and promote the creative talent of young people.
- Encourage and promote entertainment and concerts that appeal to young people.

**Strategies;**

- To identify Cultural and Arts projects and appropriate funding opportunities specific for young people.
- Liaise with schools, arts practitioners, agencies, government departments and participate in any regional initiatives.
- Include young people in any public events organised by the Shire of Manjimup.
- Provide facilities and opportunities for young people to develop cultural identity and arts projects (for example murals on buildings).

## Participation and Positive Promotion

### Policy Aim;

“To ensure that young people are accepted as community members, participate in Council decisions affecting their lives, are consulted about relevant issues, and benefit from positive promotional activities generated by Council and the community.”

### Issues;

The Shire of Manjimup;

- Recognises that effective ongoing consultation with all sections of the community including youth is a Council priority.
- Acknowledges that young people should be involved in decision and policy making on issues that effect them.
- Identifies that young people are an important and integral part of the community and have a right to be consulted and their views taken seriously.
- Acknowledges that young people have been negatively stereotyped in the community and that ongoing positive promotion is needed to counter this perception.

### Objectives;

- Support processes which will ensure young people are consulted and able to participate in decision making processes and policy development.
- Coordinate opportunities to positively promote young people and their achievements.
- Advocate priority issues and concerns shared by young people to local, state and federal government, non-government agencies and the general community.

### Strategies;

- Conduct consultations in the form of surveys, interviews and forums with

young people and service providers working with young people on a regular basis.

- Conduct and support the Youth Advisory Council and Sub Youth Advisory Council's in the Shire of Manjimup.
- Actively include young people in 'Shire of Manjimup' Policy development.
- Continue to Sponsor the "His Excellency Governor of Western Australia, Lt General John Sanderson AC", Scholarships.
- Celebrate all youth achievements and provide opportunities to acknowledge and promote young people's achievements wherever possible.

## **Employment, Education and Training**

### **Policy Aim;**

"To support the opportunities for young people to participate in employment, education and training and to assist young people to overcome barriers to participation."

### **Issues;**

The Shire of Manjimup;

- Accepts that education and training has many positive benefits and increases a young person's ability to find employment.
- Recognises the distance young people in the Shire of Manjimup have to travel to complete secondary school.
- Acknowledges that it has a role to play in supporting education, training and employment opportunities for young people.

### **Objectives;**

- Support employers, schools and training providers in their provision of opportunities for young people.
- Advocate access for young people to relevant information and assistance relating to employment, education and training options.

- Coordination and support of key service providers and agencies linking young people to employment, education and training opportunities.

**Strategies;**

- Actively provide work experience placement and volunteering opportunities for young people throughout Council's operations.
- Actively support employment, education and training agencies by way of low cost rental premises, work experience etc.
- Assist with the development of 'youth friendly' information regarding services and opportunities for young people.
- Support services which seek to link young people to appropriate employment, education and training opportunities.
- Establish and maintain links between schools and other education services, the community, local industry and the Council.

**Accommodation**

**Policy Aim;**

"To support and encourage the provision of safe, stable, caring and supportive environments for young people, Accommodation being any living, work or casual environment."

**Issues;**

The Shire of Manjimup;

- Supports the maintenance of positive family relationships between young people and their parents/guardian.
- Recognises that many young adults choose to live away from the family home as a natural stage of maturation or because of the need to live near work or educational institutions.

**Objectives;**

- Advocate for and assist agencies which support and promote positive relationships between young people and their families and carers and provide support in times of crisis.
- Coordinate access for young people to relevant information and assistance relating to the accommodation and housing options available to them.
- Support and advocate to Council members, staff and decision makers about the accommodation needs of young people, gaps which may exist in the provision of accommodation and the barriers to access.
- Advocate State agencies to promote accommodation specific for youth.

**Strategies;**

- Provide information on affordable meeting places for community groups and bodies to run family support activities and parenting programs.
- Assist in the coordination between accommodation agencies and young people to promote youth specific programs by holding information seminars.
- Through regular contact with youth compile a database of issues that exist in the provision of accommodation for young people.
- Include the relevant accommodation agencies in the South West in youth network meetings.

**Partnership & Coordination**

**Policy Aim;**

“To improve the coordination and communication between agencies. Service provision for young people will improve through the reduction of duplication, maximising of resources and increasing opportunities for cooperative ventures”

**Issues;**

The Shire of Manjimup;

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

3.5 YOUTH

3.5.1 Youth Policy Principals

- Acknowledges young people are important members of the community and require Council and community resources.
- Recognises that a planned and co-ordinated approach to service delivery is essential.
- Acknowledges that local government is well placed to identify sources of funding and to facilitate, co-ordinate and support funding applications on behalf of the community.

**Objectives;**

- Advocate for the unmet needs of young people.
- Support community organisations with funding applications by providing statistical and research information, letters of support and practical assistance.
- Liaise with funding bodies regularly to identify funding opportunities.
- Support youth orientated organisations with resources.

**Strategies;**

- Participate in regional structures and forums aimed at the better coordination of services to young people.
- Organize a directory of services available to young people living in the Shire of Manjimup.
- Assist and support other organisations to apply for funding which will directly benefit young people by the provision of statistical information, letters of support, professional advice and practical assistance.
- Facilitate and attend coordination meetings of youth service providers in the Shire of Manjimup and South West Region.
- Coordinate the identification of funding opportunities provided by state and federal funding bodies and monitor shifts in government and funding body policy.
- Maintain support of community grants with youth focus.
- Allocate resources to employ a youth officer part-time in the Shire of Manjimup.
- Allocate resources to existing youth workers in each of the four towns of the

**SHIRE OF MANJIMUP**  
**3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICIES**  
**3.5 YOUTH**  
**3.5.1 Youth Policy Principals**

Shire of Manjimup, to support work in a “hands on” role with young people.

**Health**

**Policy Aim;**

“To ensure awareness of the mainstream health services available to young people and identify and address areas/issues not serviced.”

**Issues;**

The Shire of Manjimup;

- Acknowledges that health needs of young people need to be viewed in a holistic manner embracing physical, emotional, mental and social well being.
- Recognises that community and preventative health strategies and access to quality health care are important for young people.
- Acknowledge that whilst health is primarily a state and federal government responsibility the Shire of Manjimup can assist in bringing youth and service providers together.

**Objectives;**

- Advocate for health issues of importance and concern to young people and lobby state and federal governments.
- Support the available health services and increase the awareness of how and where to access them to young people.
- Acknowledge the importance of having healthy, happy young people for the future of the community.
- Co-ordinate and plan a holistic approach to health promotion for young people (physical, mental and emotional).

**Strategies;**

- Develop and maintain a regional database of health services and support agencies to young people in appropriate formats for them to access.

- Liaise with health professionals, agencies, local governments and state and federal departments and participate in any regional initiatives to ensure that health services and facilities are allocated for young people in the Shire of Manjimup.
- Undertake and support leisure and entertainment programs that encourage the drug and alcohol free message.
- Assist community groups in applying for funding from external bodies to run programs that address the health needs of young people.

## **Transport**

### **Policy Aim;**

“To support the provision of improved and affordable transport options available to young people”

### **Issues;**

The Shire of Manjimup;

- Recognises that transport is of crucial importance in young people being able to interact socially and to access education, employment, health and community services, entertainment and leisure opportunities.
- Accepts that the transport needs of young people should be considered in equal importance with those of any other section of the community.
- Recognises that lack of and infrequent public transport limits opportunities for youth, because of distances in rural areas.

### **Objectives;**

- Support the expansion of the network of cycle ways and dual use paths within the Shire.
- Support the provision of a Community Bus for youth groups etc to use.
- Plan a cooperative use of transport to service the needs of young people.
- Advocate for operators of public and commercial transport to provide safe,

affordable, accessible transport options for young people.

- Advocate for young people to become responsible and safe drivers and passengers while travelling in a motor vehicle.

**Strategies;**

- Promote the use of the “Community Bus” at youth specific activities and events, ensuring youth living outside Manjimup townsites have access to youth events.
- Actively encourage community groups such as ‘Safer WA’ in the endeavour to implement safe driving programmes.
- Develop a plan to facilitate the provision of providing bike paths in areas currently lacking appropriate riding routes.
- Liaise with current transport providers, both public and commercial to identify possible problems with youth accessing services.
- Liaise with youth to ascertain any difficulties with accessing public and commercial transport in the Shire of Manjimup.
- Support the Runaway Bus program.

**Recommendations**

The Shire of Manjimup youth policy and strategic plan is an attempt to document and investigate existing best practice which are occurring within Council, to provide a framework for the clarification of Council's roles and responsibilities in Youth Affairs and to provide clear strategies for action by Councillors and staff.

Several key recommendations have been identified as logical outcomes of the development of this policy and strategy. The recommendations are as follows:

1. That the Shire of Manjimup allocates resources to implement the Youth Policy and Strategic Plan.
2. That the Shire of Manjimup accepts responsibility for the Planning, Coordination and Support role in Youth Affairs.

**3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICIES**

**3.5 YOUTH**

**3.5.1 Youth Policy Principals**

3. That Council adopt an advisory structure consisting of Youth Advisory Council's and Sub Youth Advisory Council's, which will also have responsibility to conduct youth forums and will be supported by staff. It is further recommended that Council allocate resources to these councils.
4. That Council continue attending and supporting the South West Youth Coordination Network.
5. That Council adopt the Youth Policy and Strategic Plan and actively implements the objectives and strategies contained in the document.

**ADOPTED 12 DECMEBER 2002**

**RENUMBERED 25 SEPTEMBER 2003**

**NEXT DUE FOR REVIEW SEPTEMBER 2007**

**The Administration of this Policy is by Community Services Division.**