

Queensland Youth Strategy

– yourtown's advocacy submission



What is it about?

With so much change since the current 'Queensland Youth Strategy: Building Young Queenslanders for a global future' was released in 2017, the Queensland Government is developing a new Queensland Youth Strategy that considers the needs of today's young Queenslanders (for the purposes of this consultation, young people are aged 12 to 25 years).

Why is it important?

The Strategy will guide how young people, stakeholders and government can work together to ensure Queensland's youth have the support they need to achieve a brighter future.

Some of **yourtown's** key messages:

1. The Queensland Government should adopt a whole-of-government human centred design approach to addressing issues within services and systems as a key principle of youth participation under the new Youth Strategy, and listen and co-lead with those who are experts on youth – young people themselves.

Giving young people a voice, and encouraging their participation does not go far enough. Young people want more than the current strategy's commitment to 'have a say', or 'be an active participant'. They want to help build and co-produce the solutions with government.

2. The Queensland Government should prioritise mechanisms in the Strategy that facilitate the independent, fearless and unmediated voice of young people to be heard, conduct pulse checks on what is happening 'now' with young people, and commit to long term investment in relationships of trust with young people and local communities to deliver effective co-designed solutions that work.

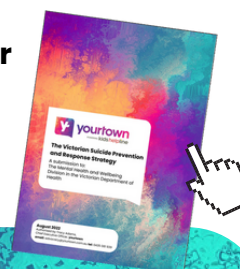
The Strategy needs to be a 'living' strategy, that is flexible and enables constant understanding and tracking of issues that are relevant to young people both 'now' and in the future. A critical component of the Strategy will be the inclusion of mechanisms to regularly check the 'pulse' of what is happening with young people, and issues that may be impacting them. Further, a solid strategy should be truly representative of the vast differences of issues facing young people today across Queensland.

3. The Queensland Government should clearly embed the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations across all portfolios, as a priority under the Strategy.

The Queensland Government's fourth annual progress report Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2021) makes clear that while Queensland Government departments are continuing to commit to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, the approaches to doing so are varied and inconsistent.

4. The Queensland Government commit under the Strategy to updating its Human Services Quality Framework to include a dedicated standard for the delivery of services to young people.

The Human Services Quality Standards do not adequately to consider the nuances and intricacies of service delivery for children and young people.



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