

## Youth Engagement and Participation

Young people make significant and valuable contributions to the Tasmanian community and are often enthusiastic and dedicated to participation in community activities and opportunities to be active citizens. The issues and interests of young people are important to political change and they often have the most to gain from policy reform. Young people are now creating their own spaces where they are engaging in political participation and community events, outside the old avenues of doing so. Young people are now also taking a leadership role in many different ways. In recent years there has been an increase in youth led or youth focused organisations that are focused on engaging young people in social action and active citizenship, suggesting that young people want to be included in communities but perhaps are not given the opportunities to engage so they create their own avenues. Opportunities to engage and get involved need to be presented to young people in a way that interests them or that are easily accessible.

Young people have the right to participate in and contribute to all aspects of community life and to have their voices heard, particularly in decision making that impacts them. It is important that activities that provide young people with the opportunity to build skills, gain support, create support networks and learn leadership skills are promoted and supported in order to ensure maximum youth engagement and participation. Initiating youth participation needs to be done in collaboration with young people in a respectful and culturally appropriate way which will allow young people to engage in communities and active citizenship opportunities in their own way using their own skills and interests.

### *YNOT is committed to:*

- Advocating for young people to be engaged in decision making processes that affect them.
- Advocating for governments, public sectors and communities to liaise with young people on youth specific policy and political action.
- Promote engagement of young people and assist them in becoming engaged in ways that interest them.



- Empowering young people to proactively engage with all levels of government process.
- Promoting the investment of education programs that raise awareness of political activity and decision making processes.

### *Future Vision*

A Tasmania accepting and welcoming of young people's opinions, ideas and values in which engaging in community events and active citizenship is encouraged and supported. Increased education on these issues will be implemented to support and assist young people in Tasmania to become active within their communities and have their ideas heard.