

# YOUNG MAYORS



## Wollongong

2023 Nominee  
Information Pack





## What is the Young Mayors program?

The Young Mayors program will support people aged 12 to 17 across Wollongong to run for election to a brand new Wollongong Youth Forum of 12 members. Elected by their peers, together this Youth Forum will nominate a Young Mayor, set an agenda for their 12 month Term in Office and work with the Wollongong City Council on specific issues.

With access to training, mentoring and money to run local projects and campaigns, the Youth Forum won't just have a voice - but a platform to take action on the issues that young people in Wollongong truly care about.

It's free for all young people to apply and participate in Young Mayors.

## Who runs the Young Mayors program?

Young Mayors is run by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA), in partnership with Wollongong City Council and other councils around Australia. FYA is a national non-profit organisation that exists to back young people across the country to beat injustice and create long-lasting change for all.

# Message from the Lord Mayor

Young people play a significant role in Wollongong so it's important that their voice is heard and respected. Through this program, young people in our region will have the chance to provide their thoughts and feedback to Wollongong City Council on issues that they care most about. This new initiative will complement other existing opportunities for young people to provide input to Council.

Wollongong will become the first region in New South Wales to democratically elect young people to our own Youth Forum in partnership with the Foundation for Young Australians. I encourage young people to put their hand up, nominate and run for election; and get out and vote! Your contribution matters, and I look forward to seeing your impact on our community.

**Cr Gordon Bradbery AM**  
**Lord Mayor**



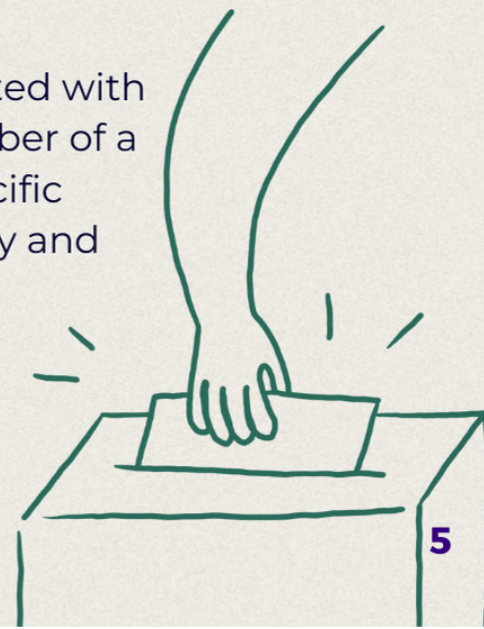
# What you can expect if you're elected to Youth Forum

Representing your community on the Youth Forum is an important responsibility, and will be a whole lot of fun. If you're elected, you will:

- Participate in a 2-day induction, held in September 2023
- Serve a 12 month Term in Office, from October 2023 to September 2024
- Participate in fortnightly meetings on a weekday, after school (snacks/dinner provided, and transport will be available for those who need it). The meetings will be held at the Wollongong Youth Centre (85 Burelli St, Wollongong), with some meetings held online
- Work with your Youth Forum to select a Young Mayor
- Get involved in activities led by the Youth Forum, and opportunities to work with the Wollongong City Council
- Represent your community and celebrate its diversity; share opinions and ideas, learn from others and contribute to creating a better future for your region

The Youth Forum is non-partisan and not affiliated with any political party or ideologies. If you're a member of a political party or subscribe to the views of a specific ideology, we'll ask you to not represent any party and participate as an independent candidate.

Read more about our Code of Conduct at [bit.ly/YoungMayorsCodeConduct](https://bit.ly/YoungMayorsCodeConduct)



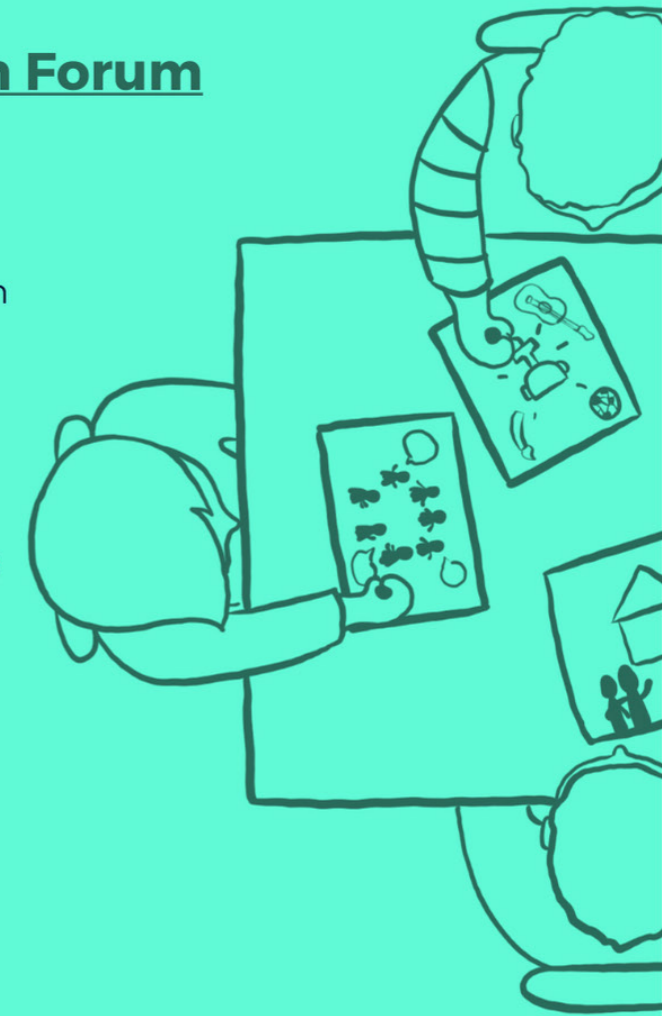
# What you'll get access to

## If you're selected as a candidate to run for election, you'll get access to:

- Online workshops to prepare you for campaigning, led by experts from the Foundation for Young Australians
- A small budget for campaign materials and 10 t-shirts for you and your supporters to promote your campaign
- The opportunity to speak to your constituents at a Town Hall meeting (with support to prepare)
- Coaching and well-being support from the Young Mayors Program team throughout your campaign

## If you're elected to the Youth Forum you'll get access to:

- Online workshops and training during your induction and throughout your Term in Office
- Support for transport to and from The Wollongong Youth Centre, as needed
- Coaching and mentoring by experts from FYA and Wollongong City Council
- The chance to connect and collaborate with young people on Youth Councils in other parts of the country



# 2023 Key Dates



### Campaign How-To Workshops will be held online:

- 1 August - Introduction to Campaigning - Part 1 from 4.00pm - 5.30pm
- 8 August - Introduction to Campaigning - Part 2 from 4.00pm - 5.30pm
- 15 August - Media Training from 4.00pm - 5.30pm

\* Youth Forum meetings will be held once a fortnight in-person at The Wollongong Youth Centre or online



# Who can apply?

**Keen to apply? Excellent choice.**

**To apply, you must meet the following criteria:**

- live in the Wollongong City Council local government area
- aged between 12 and 17 years at the time of nomination
- be able to participate in the Youth Forum induction in 2023
- submit your own nomination

You do not need to be an Australian citizen to nominate yourself.

# What is the nomination process?

To nominate, all you need to do is read and fill out this form:  
[bit.ly/WollongongNominations](https://bit.ly/WollongongNominations)

After nominations close, your application will be assessed by a panel of FYA and WCC team members. Not everyone who applies will be selected as a candidate to run for election. Candidates will be selected based on responses to two questions, and availability to commit to the Term in Office.

If you're not selected, we will provide feedback to help you develop a stronger application if you want to apply again in future years.

Note: Once elected, the Youth Forum will select a Young Mayor.

## More information

If you have a question check out Young Mayors Wollongong FAQ: [bit.ly/Wollongong\\_FAQ](https://bit.ly/Wollongong_FAQ)

For any other questions, or if you'd like support to fill out your nomination form, please email Irene Banda at [youngmayors@fya.org.au](mailto:youngmayors@fya.org.au)