

YOUNG MAYORS



Cairns

2023 Nominee
Information Pack





What is the Young Mayors program?

The Young Mayors program will support people aged 13 to 17 across Cairns to run for election and form a brand new Cairns Youth Council of 12 members. Elected by their peers, together this Youth Council will nominate a Young Mayor/s, set an agenda for their 18 month Term in Office and work with the Cairns Regional Council on specific issues.

With access to training, mentoring and money to run local projects and campaigns, the Youth Council won't just have a voice - but a platform to take action on the issues that young people in Cairns 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 a pilot program run by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA), in partnership with Cairns Regional Council and other councils around Australia. Young Mayors is supported by the Electoral Commission of Queensland. 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 Mayor



Our youth are a driving force which at some point will shape the destiny of Cairns.

When Cairns Regional Council received almost 1300 responses to the Our Cairns Youth Survey in 2020, we heard why local young people love Cairns and the concerns they held for the region.

They told us they relish the lifestyle, natural areas, and great weather, while their biggest worries were finding a job and having enough money, getting a university placement, taking care of the environment and their mental health.

Council believes local young people can make a significant contribution to Cairns.

We are thrilled to partner with the Foundation for Young Australians to establish the region's inaugural Youth Council, a program that will back young people to learn about and participate in the systems that govern their lives, and influence decisions that impact their community.

By establishing a dedicated Youth Council, we can provide a platform for their voices to be heard and an opportunity to actively participate in the decision-making processes.

The young people of Cairns have unique perspectives, fresh ideas, and a profound understanding of the challenges and aspirations of their generation.

We know there are outstanding ideas just waiting to be harnessed by the elected Youth Council that will ensure Cairns continues to thrive.

Cr Bob Manning OAM
Mayor

What you can expect if you're elected to the Youth Council

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

- Participate in a 2 day induction, held in December 2023 and January 2024
- Serve a 18 month Term in Office, from February 2024 to July 2025
- Participate in fortnightly meetings on a weekday, after school. The meetings will alternate between face-to-face at a council venue in Cairns (snacks/dinner will be provided, and transport will be available for those who need it), and online (support to access online meetings can be provided if needed)
- Work with the other members of the Youth Council to select a Young Mayor/s
- Together with other members of the Youth Council, develop a priority agenda and get involved in activities led by the Youth Council in the community, as well as contribute towards Cairns Regional Council projects and planning
- 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 Council is non-partisan and not affiliated with any political party or ideologies. If you're a member of a political party, aligned with a political representative 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



What you'll get access to

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

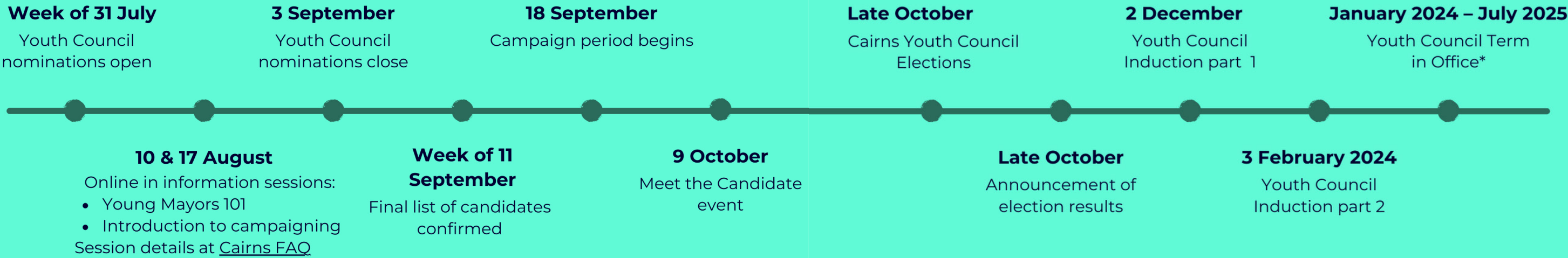
- Online workshops to prepare you for campaigning, led by experts from the Foundation for Young Australians
- A small budget for campaign materials and 10 t-shirts for you and your supporters to promote your campaign
- An opportunity to speak to your constituents at a Meet the Candidates event (this is optional and support to prepare is provided)
- Coaching and well-being support from the Young Mayors Program team throughout your campaign.

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

- Online workshops and training during your induction and throughout your Term in Office
- Support for transport to and from meetings and events, if needed
- Guidance and advice from experts from FYA, the Cairns community and Cairns Regional 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 in the weeks of September 25 and October 2.

To help you run a great campaign we'll be holding online workshops in Messaging and Strategy, Organising and Wellbeing, and prep for the Meet the Candidate Forum. Visit fya.org.au/young-mayors-cairns for the dates and times.

* Youth Council meetings will be held once a fortnight, alternating between in-person at a central location and online.

Who can apply?

Keen to apply? Excellent choice.

To apply, you must meet the following criteria:

- live in the Cairns Regional Council local government area
- aged between 13 and 17 years at the time of nomination
- be able to commit to attending induction days and meetings
- submit your own nomination

We encourage young people with a diversity of lived experience of life in Cairns to nominate, including First Nations people, LGBTQIA+ people, disabled people / people with disability, women and non-binary people, low-income communities, people from diverse cultural backgrounds and people of colour.

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/CairnsNominations

After nominations close, your application will be assessed by a panel of FYA, Cairns Regional Council team members and a young representative from the community. Not everyone who applies will be selected as a candidate to run for election. Candidates will be selected based on their application 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 Council will select a Young Mayor/s.

More information

If you have a question check out Young Mayors Cairns FAQ: bit.ly/CairnsFAQ

For any other questions, or if you'd like support to fill out your nomination form, please email Etuina Suavai at youngmayors@fya.org.au