

**YOUNG
MAYORS**



Mackay Youth Council

2024 Nominee
Information Pack





What is the Young Mayors program?



The Young Mayors program will support people aged 11 to 17 across Mackay to run for election to a brand new Mackay Regional Council Youth Council of 12 members. Elected by their peers, together this Youth Council will nominate roles, set an agenda for their 18 month Term in Office and work with the Mackay 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 Mackay 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 Mackay Regional 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 Youth Council Mayor



The Mackay Youth Council was established in early 2023 to bring together a group of ambitious and diverse young people with the goal of, ultimately, creating tangible and lasting change in the Mackay community. From the entire Mackay region, there were over 20 young people that nominated for the council, united by their determination to make our town the best it possible can be for its young people. We quickly stepped into the campaigning process, running social media campaigns, and rallying our peers! Over 1400 Mackay youth voted for the councillors they wanted to see elected from their area.

From there, we utilised the results of the Mackay Regional Councils 'YOL1000' survey – 1000 conversations with Mackay's young people - to find what young people thought were the most important issues. Once we had our problems identified – lack of third spaces, mental health issues and transport – we created a priority agenda to take on these problems, meeting regularly with community members who provided us with valuable perspectives.

Being a part of the Mackay Youth Council has given me access to so many incredible opportunities, from attending the first annual National Youth Forum in Canberra to being a part Mackay's Youth Week celebrations. I have built my skills and talents in so many areas. I have also gotten to build close relationships with all my fellow councillors, and every person I have I have met along my journey. Being Mackay's first ever Young Mayor has truly been the highlight of my teen years, and it has been my greatest honour and pleasure to serve our community.

To the next Mackay Youth Council, my wish for you all is that you get as much out of this experience as you possibly can – the most for yourself and your community. You get to have a platform to share your unique perspective and experiences and make a change within Mackay – so use it!

Bridget Wright
Young Mayor

Message from the Mayor



Mackay Regional Council, in partnership with the Foundation for Young Australians, is delighted to invite young people in our region to nominate for the second term of Mackay Youth Council.

Since forming in May 2023, Mackay Youth Council has been a critical voice for young people in Mackay, ensuring that their opinions count in the decisions that impact them and the wider community.

The inaugural members established the operational foundations for the youth council, and made important contributions to the community, including representing young people in Mackay at the National Youth Forum in Canberra.

As nominations for the second term open, we look forward to seeing the Mackay Youth Council build on this important work and continue to raise awareness of the issues that are affecting young people in the region.

Mackay Youth Council is such an important voice for young people in our region.

If you want to play a central role in helping to shape the future of our region. If you believe that a voice for our youth is badly needed. If you have a passion for representing people. We want you to nominate to be a Youth Councillor.

We all want the Mackay region to be the best region in Australia to live in. Now is your chance to demonstrate that a key part of being the best region is because our youth have an elected voice.

Greg Williamson
Mayor

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

Representing your community on the Youth Council 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 on 2 Saturdays in September 2024
- Serve a **18 month Term in Office**, from September 2024 to May 2026
- Participate in **fortnightly meetings on a weekday, after school**. See page 8 for meeting information.
- **Work with your Youth Council** to engage with your local community and collaborate on projects.
- **Get involved in activities** led by the Youth Council, and opportunities to work with the Mackay Regional 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 Council is non-partisan and not affiliated with any political party or politician. We ask you to not represent any party or politician and participate as an independent candidate.

We use the Code of Conduct and responses to your questions to decide whether or not nominees are selected to move to the next phase of the program. Read more about our Code of Conduct

Read more about our Code of Conduct at <https://bit.ly/youngmayorscodeconduct>



When and where the youth council meets

Regular Youth Council meetings are held once per fortnight and where possible hybrid (in-person with options to join online) meetings are offered. Meetings are held in a central location.

Meetings are usually 1.5 hours. Project-based (subcommittee) meetings which councillors opt into are additional and depend on the needs of the projects. Youth councillors are expected to commit to their roles for the period of the Term in Office, however we understand that how youth councillors contribute may vary throughout the term with other commitments such as school, work, sports etc.

The Young Mayors Mackay Team and the youth council work together to support all councillors to contribute meaningfully. Youth councillors will also be encouraged to attend additional meetings with community, participation in events and some excursions.



What you'll get access to

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

- **Online and in-person workshops** to prepare you for campaigning (transport will be provided)
- 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** through a 'Meet the Candidates community forum' (with support to prepare)
- **Coaching and well-being support** from the Young Mayors Program team throughout your campaign

2024 Key Dates



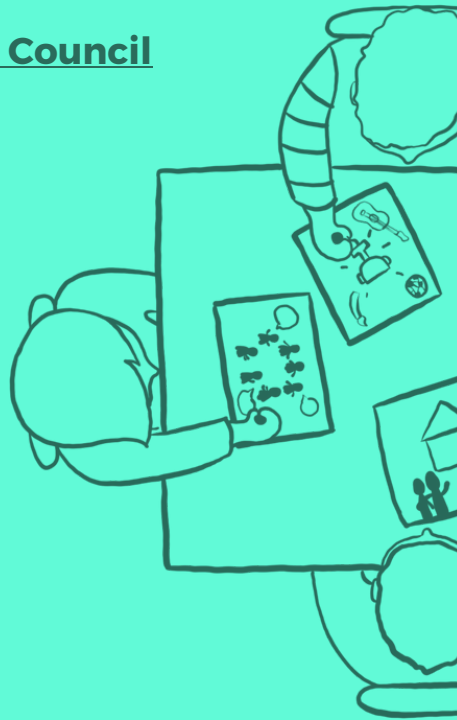
Workshops during Nomination period:

- Young Mayors 101 | in-person | Central location
- Young Mayors 101 | online
- Young Mayors | What to expect from campaigning | online
- Young Mayors | Champions online information session | An opportunity for parents, guardians and carers to ask questions.

Please email Savannah Vella at young_mayors.qld@fya.org.au for details and to register

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, where possible
- **Coaching and mentoring** by experts from Foundation for Young Australians, Mackay Regional Council and community organisations
- The chance to **connect and collaborate with young people** on Youth Councils in other parts of the country.



Early September 2024 **September 2024 – May 2026**

Youth Council
Induction

Youth Council Term
in Office*

25 August 2024

Online announcement of
election results

September 2024

Swearing in ceremony +
Community celebration

*

Workshops during Campaigning period:

- Candidate Meet and Greet | Drop-in
- Being a representative & Building your team | Hybrid online / in person
- Campaigning 101 | Hybrid online / in person
- Campaign support | Drop-in
- Meet the Candidates Prep | Drop-in



We also host an online drop in session once a week during the campaigning period.

Who can apply?

Keen to apply? We're excited to hear! Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- live, work, study and play in the Mackay Regional Council local government area
- Aged between 11 - under 18 years at the time of nomination*
- be able to participate in the Youth Council Induction in 2024 and reasonably expect to be in Mackay throughout 2025.
- understand and agree to the Code of Conduct
- submit your own nomination

*Note: if you are 11, you will need to be high-school age. You do not need to be an Australian citizen to nominate yourself.

The youth council forms an important voice for young people in Mackay, reflective of and celebrating the diverse strengths, interest, needs and cultural backgrounds of young people.

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



What is the nomination process?

To nominate, all you need to do is read and fill out this form <https://bit.ly/OnlineNominations>

A print version can be downloaded <https://bit.ly/PrintNominations> and emailed to young_mayors.qld@fya.org.au

After nominations close, your application will be assessed by a panel of FYA and Mackay Regional Council team members. Candidates are selected based on responses to two questions, and availability to commit to the Induction sessions and Term in Office.

So we can equip candidates with the skills and resources to campaign, final candidate places are limited.

Not everyone who applies will be selected as a candidate to run for election. 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 the youth council is formed, they will identify the type of administrative structure that will best serve their community. For example electing a Mayor/s or identifying key roles.

More information

If you have a question check out Young Mayors Mackay FAQ: fya.org.au/mackay

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