

**YOUNG
MAYORS**

Mackay Youth Council

**2024 Frequently Asked
Questions**



Hello!

Have you read the [Young Mayors Mackay Nominations Information Kit](#) and have a few more questions?

No problem!

Read on for detailed answers to some of our Frequently Asked Questions or contact us at young.mayors.qld@fya.org.au

Key dates

Nominations

24 April 2024 - Nominations open

9 June 2024, 5pm - Nominations close

21 June 2024 - Final list of candidates confirmed

1 July 2024 - Campaign period begins

19 - 23 August 2024 - Elections

25 August 2024 - Announcement of election results

Early September 2024 - Induction

September - Swearing in Ceremony

September 2024 - May 2026 - Term in Office

Nominations workshops and info sessions

Tuesday 14 May, 5:30pm - 6pm Young Mayors 101 | online

Thursday 16 May, 6:30pm - 7:30pm Champions info session (parents and guardians) | online and in-person at the Jubilee Centre

Tuesday 21 May, 5pm - 6:30pm Young Mayors 101 | online & in-person at the Jubilee Centre

Tuesday 28 May, 5:30pm - 6pm Campaigning 101 | online

Campaign workshops

Thursday 4 July, Time TBA - Drop in & get to know each other | Gordon White Library

Tuesday 9 July, 5:30pm - 6:30pm - Being an elected representative | Online

Thursday 11 July, 5:30pm - 6:30pm - Campaigning 101 | Online

Thursday 16 July, 3pm - 6pm - Drop in & campaign support

Tuesday 23 July, 3:30pm - 5pm - Drop in & Meet the Candidates Prep | Gordon White Library

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 here <https://bit.ly/PrintNominations> and emailed to young.mayors.qld@fya.org.au

To help us understand why they want to nominate for the Mackay Youth Council, nominees will be asked 2 questions.

Nominees can respond in writing or by a video or audio.

(We will assess from transcripts, so keep all video and audio submissions simple and without any special effects!)

After nominations close, nominations are de-identified and all applications will be assessed by a panel of FYA and Mackay Regional Council team members.

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.

How are nominees selected?

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

Nominees must also be able to commit to the Term in Office.

If a young person is not selected, where possible we will provide feedback to help them develop a stronger application next time.

What can I expect during the campaigning?

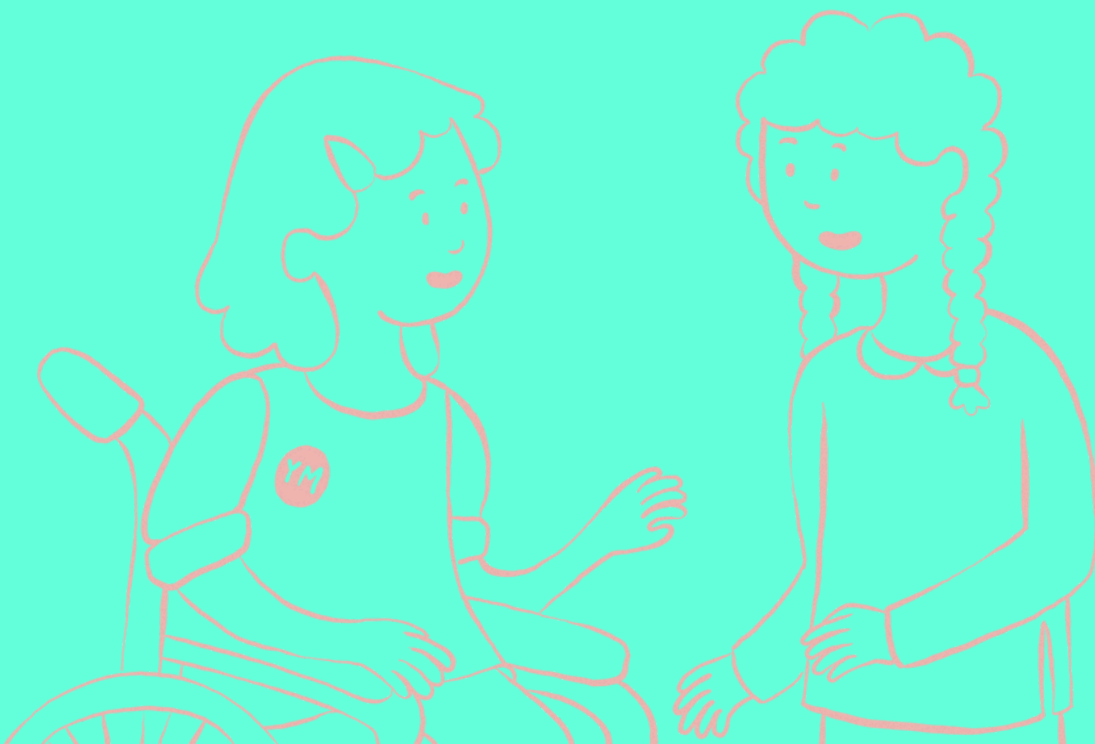
Candidates are encouraged to campaign as much or as little as they would like. Throughout the campaign period they are supported by the Young Mayors Mackay Team. We also encourage them to put together a 'campaign crew' of supporters and champions to help them get their message out, brainstorm ideas and cheer them on throughout the process.

Workshops

There are 4 optional campaign workshops held throughout July to build their skills and develop connections with the other candidates. These run for 1.5-2 hours and are hosted online and in-person. All workshops are after school. In-person workshops are held in a central location and online workshops are recorded.

Meet the Candidates Forum

Held in the week of 29 July the Meet the Candidates Forum is an opportunity for the candidates to speak to the community about issues that matter to them. It is optional, and young people are supported throughout.



What can I expect during the Term in Office?

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 usually 1.5 hours.

At the beginning of the Term in Office the youth council are asked to provide preferences for time and day, to determine the best time to meet. The schedule of meetings is also reviewed throughout the term in office.

Youth councillors will also be encouraged to attend additional meetings with community, participation in events and some excursions.

Project-based (subcommittee) meetings which councillors opt into are additional and depend on the needs of the projects. It is up to the subcommittees to decide what day and how often these meetings occur.

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.

How does the youth council meet?

Meetings are held at the Jubilee Centre at Mackay Regional Council and are hybrid (online and in-person).

We also recognise that travel and internet availability can be challenging for some young people in Mackay and work with the youth council to find different ways for councillors to contribute meaningfully.

Transport to additional meetings and events is supported where possible. If transport is a barrier to participating, please let us know.

Food is provided for meetings with all dietary requirements catered to.

Communications

Email and MS Teams are used for youth council communications. Text messages are also sent to remind youth councillors of important activities.

MS Teams channels are a space for the youth council to collaborate and plan. FYA and Mackay Regional Council staff monitor all MS Teams communications and attend all meetings (in-person and online).

We ask that parents and carers respect these meetings and online communication channels as safe spaces for the youth council to collaborate freely.

Email addresses are only shared in limited circumstances and FYA and Mackay Regional Council staff are cc'd in all communications.

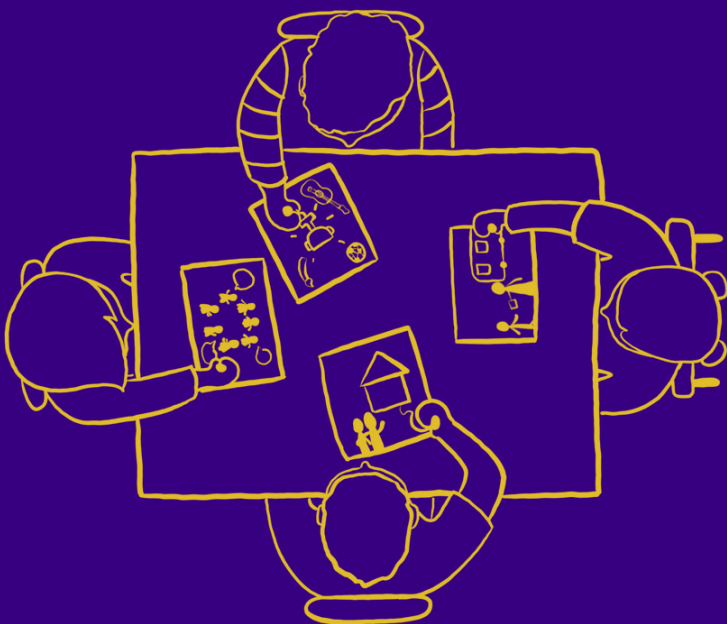
How can parents, family and supporters get involved?

Candidates are supported throughout by the Young Mayors Mackay Team but we also encourage them to put together a 'campaign crew' of supporters and champions to help them get their message out, brainstorm ideas and cheer them on throughout the process.

We keep parents and carers informed of all key activity dates, including additional events, and those that require travel. If a young person has missed some meetings and can't be reached directly, we will reach out to nominated adults.

Are youth councillors paid?

Youth Council members will be paid a quarterly stipend of \$250 to recognise that costs might come up as a part of being involved (eg. transport).



What if I no longer want to be a part of the Youth Council?

If any young person is finding the youth council challenging to be a part of, the Young Mayors Mackay team will work with them to resolve the issue, or address any barriers that may be preventing them from participating.

However we understand that sometimes a program or activity may no longer be of interest and that perhaps the youth council isn't the space for everyone. In this instance, we would work with you to support you to leave the program. Depending how far into the Term in Office, the position held may be left vacant, or the candidate with the next highest number of votes in that region would be invited in.

If a young person disengages from the program by no longer attending meetings or responding to calls and messages, after a reasonable number of attempts we will give a clear deadline for confirming their continued participation.

How does the Code of Conduct apply?

Any young person found breaching the Code of Conduct and/or Rules of Engagement will be contacted by the Young Mayors Team, if it is appropriate to work through the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved, participation in the program may be discontinued.

[You can read the Code of Conduct here.](#)

What safeguarding is in place for young people in the program?

The Young Mayors program works with young people aged 11 to 17 years. We recognise this program puts young people in the public spotlight, and this can create vulnerabilities.

Risk management planning includes, but is not limited to specific actions and support available to keep young people safe, processes to report harm, and clarity on expectations young people can have of each other, partners involved and the general public.

FYA and Mackay Regional Council staff monitor MS Teams communications and attend all meetings (in-person and online). We ask that parents and carers respect these meetings and online communication channels as safe spaces for the youth council to collaborate freely with their peers.

FYA and our partners are required to have Blue Cards / Working With Children Checks and adhere to a comprehensive set of safeguarding policies and legislative requirements. Both FYA Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Mackay Regional Council Policies inform and underpin the program delivery.

Got more questions?

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