



CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Approval Date: 9 November 2011

Review Date: 10 November 2012

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services

Purpose

Coonamble Shire Council recognises the valuable contributions that young people can make to the community and the importance of Council's involvement in contributing to child and youth development. The purpose of this policy is to provide strategic direction for Council's child and youth development activities.

For the purpose of this policy the definition of child is a person who is under the age of 12 years old and the definition of young person is a person from the age of 12 to 24.

1. Principles

- 1.1 That children and young people are important community members and make positive contributions to their communities.
- 1.2 That children and young people have the right to live in a safe, caring, non discriminatory and equitable community.
- 1.3 That children and young people have the right to participate in decision making that affects their lives.
- 1.4 That children and young people are diverse with a range of personal, educational, recreational and leisure needs.
- 1.5 The importance of whole of community and regional links in provision of child and youth services.

2. Policy Statement

- 2.1 Encourage effective co-ordination of services for young people, including opportunities that provide *diversion*, *participation* and *development* pathways within the following framework:

Diversion – recreational and life skill activities involving “first step” engagement which aims to divert children and young people from anti social behaviour or unhealthy life choices.

Participation - opportunities for children and young people to be involved in making decisions that affect them.

Development – opportunities for children and young people to be involved in broader community participation that builds their ability to be active and valued community members.

- 2.2 Encourage the inclusion of young people in all aspects of community life, value their positive contributions and give positive recognition of their achievements.
- 2.3 Where appropriate, co-operate with local and regional organisations to advocate to State and Federal Governments on behalf of children and young people.
- 2.4 Collaborate with groups and community on initiatives that develop the capacity of children and young people to be connected and resilient citizens.

Related policies

Community Services Policy

3. Legislative Provisions

Local Government Act 1993.

Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW).

Policy Review History

Date	Changes Made	Approved By
October 2011	Policy developed	General Manager

Adopted by Council:
8th February, 2012 – Minute No. 9691