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**1. PREAMBLE**

**1.1 Background**

The City of Holdfast Bay (the Council) is committed to fostering and promoting the contributions and achievements of young people throughout the community.

Council will evaluate and monitor its approaches to create a healthy and collaborative relationship with young people and is committed to exploring opportunities for young people to become active members and community leaders.

Council supports the rights and associated responsibilities of young people to equal opportunity and equitable distribution of services and resources, taking into consideration those with special needs and from trans-cultural backgrounds.

**1.2 Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide the guiding principles that will set the direction for the Council’s Youth Action Plan in developing programs, services and engagement activities with young people within the Council area.

This policy recognises the significance of young people in the community and promotes opportunities for young people to be actively involved in decision making, Council activities and local and regional community development.

**1.3 Scope**

This policy applies to the Council’s delivery of programs and services for young people within the City of Holdfast Bay; and directs the actions of staff, volunteers and Elected Members.

**1.4 Definitions**

*Health* means a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (World Health Organisation definition).

*HoldUp Youth Committee* means Council’s youth advisory committee.

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*Youth/ Young People* means people between the ages of 12 to 24 years inclusive (noting the United Nations definition of 'youth' is persons between the ages of 15 and 24 inclusive) residing within the City of Holdfast Bay.

*Youth Sector means* organisations, both government and non-government that work with, for and on behalf of youth/ young people.

### 1.5 **Strategic Reference**

Community: Building a healthy, active and resilient community  
Community: Celebrating culture and diversity  
Community: Providing welcoming and accessible facilities  
Community: Fostering an engaged and contributing community  
Placemaking: Creating Lively and Safe Places  
Placemaking: Developing Walkable, Connected Neighbourhoods

## 2. **PRINCIPLES**

### 2.1 Council acknowledges that:

- 2.1.1 It has a leadership role in understanding and responding to the needs of young people, and in representing their interests to other spheres of government and the broader community.
- 2.1.2 Young people are active stakeholders in our community.
- 2.1.3 Young people play an important role in the social, economic, environmental and cultural life of the community, now and into the future.
- 2.1.4 Young people have a right to be involved in local affairs and in the decision making process of matters that affect them.
- 2.1.5 Young people have a diversity of strengths, needs, interests, and aspirations reflective of their differing social, economic and cultural backgrounds.
- 2.1.6 Young people have the right to enjoy social supports, skill development programs and services that enables their active participation in the community.

### 2.2 **Youth Participation and Engagement**

Council will endeavor to:

- 2.2.1 Empower young people to share their views and opinions around issues that may affect their lives including (but not limited to): Council strategic planning; event and program planning; and development of new community facilities, open spaces and public realm.

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- 2.2.2 Continue to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the approaches it uses when consulting with young people.
- 2.2.3 Council will support the participation of young people through: the HoldUp Youth Committee, Your Holdfast, National Youth Week activities, Youth Forums, Focus Groups and digital media.
- 2.2.4 Facilitate the HoldUp Youth Committee with the aim of empowering young people to participate and celebrate youth events and local government and advocate for youth issues and involvement.
- 2.2.5 Provide sufficient resources (subject to approved Council employee roles/ responsibilities and approved budget) to work with and to support the development of young people in our community, their ideas and their endeavours.
- 2.2.6 Investigate the opportunity for a stronger youth involvement in Council meetings and decision making for example: a youth council representative, youth mentoring program support by Elected Members or regular youth deputations/ motions where appropriate.

### 2.3 **Collaboration to Build Capacity**

Council will endeavor to:

- 2.3.1 Work in conjunction with Federal and State Government and non-for-profit youth services to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement and collaboration.
- 2.3.2 Continue to maintain and further develop its relationship with primary and secondary schools and their Student Representative Council's, within our Council area, to improve services for young people.
- 2.3.3 Continue to work in association with community organisations, for example church groups, community centres, recreational facilities, State Government agencies and the private sector to ensure that young people have access to a range of services that meet their needs and interests.
- 2.3.4 Advocate for the representation of youth support services in our community.

### 2.4 **Training and Employment**

Council will endeavor to:

- 2.4.1 Work in partnership with government and non-government employment agencies to support young people to enter and sustain training and employment. This will include; promoting opportunities through local service providers, advocating for the training and

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employment needs of local young people and where gaps are present, facilitating training and pre-employment programs.

2.4.2 Develop links with local industry to encourage job creation and work experience opportunities for young people as well as providing work experience opportunities within Council.

2.4.3 Promote existing local youth enterprises and support development of new youth enterprise.

### 2.5 **Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle and Sustainable Living**

Council will endeavor to:

2.5.1 Create healthy living environments that enable healthy lifestyle choices for young people and the wider community. This includes the development of youth focused open spaces, infrastructure and facilities and provision of affordable healthy food options at Council run facilities and events.

1.1.1 Empower young people to act in ecologically sustainable ways. This may include (but not limited to): youth focused recycling campaigns, development of a Holdfast Bay Youth Environmental Committee to advise Council on environmental issues in our council area and youth focused environmental events.

### 2.6 **Promotion of Inclusivity and being a safe space**

The City of Holdfast Bay will endeavor to:

2.6.1 Work with young people, the community, the youth sector, government agencies and non-government organisations to build a safe community for young people.

2.6.2 Promote safe and positive experiences with emergency services to promote healthy relationships between emergency services and young people.

2.6.3 Provide multiple safe places for young people within our Council. In these safe places young people should feel safe and should be able to communicate safely and openly.

2.6.4 Provide opportunities for mental health awareness and reducing the stigma surrounding mental health within our community.

2.6.5 Actively promote inclusiveness of the LGBTQIA+ community within our Council.

2.6.6 Advocate for safe and welcoming public transport access points and regular and relevant public transport avenues/routes for young people.

### 3. REFERENCES

#### 3.1 Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1999*

#### 3.2 Other References

- “Our Place” 2030 Strategic Plan
- Regional Public Health Plan 2021-2026
- Background Screening & Reporting Procedures
- Tourism Plan 2020
- Youth Action Plan 2018-2023
- South Australia Strategic Plan 2011-2020
- Local Government Association Strategic Plan 2021-2025
- Mission Australia Annual Youth Survey [www.missionaustralia.com.au](http://www.missionaustralia.com.au)
- United Nations ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org)).
- United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth 1995
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Game on – Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing Strategic Plan 2021-2025