

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is committed to ensuring that the Port Macquarie-Hastings is a community for all and that includes our young people aged 12-25. We want a community that offers everyone a great quality of life and the opportunity to realise their potential as part of a flourishing society.

The Hastings Youth Voice (HYV) as a working group will work together to develop a youth voice within the community and share that voice with Councillors and Council Staff . It will comprise of young people who are from different schools, colleges, universities and other youth based organisations from across the Port Macquarie-Hastings area.

The members of the HYV will have varied areas of interest and will represent the diversity of young people living in the Port Macquarie-Hastings area.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF WORKING GROUP

The key objectives of the Hastings Youth Voice are to:

- identify key youth issues in the Port Macquarie-Hastings area;
- provide reports to Council on key youth issues at least every 6 months
- provide input from a youth perspective into PMHC engagement activities
- promote a positive image of young people and their abilities;
- consult with young people in the community on youth based issues;
- organise and produce youth events/ activities in the region;
- apply for grants and seek sponsorship to generate financial support for youth projects.
- learn how to contribute to civic life through formal meeting and submissions approaches

3.0 OBLIGATIONS OF WORKING GROUP

The Hastings Youth Voice are obliged to:

- Attend HYV meetings and actively contribute
- all agendas and minutes to be organised and distributed by HYV Secretary to all members via email;
- six monthly report to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting on the progress of programs, activities and events being organised and/or delivered in the Port Macquarie- Hastings area.
- annually report to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting detailing the Youth priorities for the Local Government Area to be considered in the Operational Plan and Annual Budget.

A member of the Community Inclusion Team will be available for mentoring and support.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP

3.0 Obligations of Members

The Hastings Youth Voice members shall:

- commit to be an active member of the HYV;

- treat all the members of the HYV with respect and understand that every member has the right to express their opinions and ideas openly;
- comply with this Charter document at all times;
- do their best to represent the young people of the Port Macquarie-Hastings in a professional manner;
- actively participate in activities and projects that the HVY is involved in;
- attend and arrive on time to all HYV meetings where possible and send apologies if they are unable to attend;
- seek permission from the HVY and /or appropriate Council staff prior to engaging with the media on behalf of or as a representative of the HYV;
- promote and share the working of the HYV with their peers
- actively seek input into the workings of the HYV from other youth

4.1 Appointment of Members

- A formal Expression of Interest process will be undertaken across the Local Government Area as a way of determining the independent representatives on the Working Group.
- Members of the Working Group will be representative of diverse interests across the Local Government Area and will, taken collectively, have a broad range of skills and experience;
- Where practicable the membership will represent the geographical spread of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area, and a diverse range of cultural, gender and age groups.

4.2 Member Positions

There will be a maximum of 12 position on the HYV. The below positions will be elected by the HYV members:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary

4.3 Member Tenure

- A review of the Hastings Youth Voice working group will be undertaken every one (1) year to ensure the purpose, membership and operations are appropriate.
- Existing Committee members will be eligible to re-apply for a position and serve additional terms.

5.0 MEETING PRACTICES

5.1 Meeting Frequency

- Meetings will be held monthly (or more regularly if required). Meetings will generally be held at the Port Macquarie Library or accessible location as determined by the HYV.

5.2 Quorum

- The quorum for the HYVWG will be half of the members plus one, when requested plus a minimum of one (1) Council staff member being present.