



MANSFIELD SHIRE

Mansfield Shire

Youth Charter

www.mansfield.vic.gov.au

Young people. Part of the now. Part of the future.

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Our Principles – what does our community believe in?

- **Safety** – young people being physically and emotionally safe
- **Empowerment** – young people having the knowledge, skills, confidence and support so that they can say and do things for themselves
- **Inclusion** – all young people being included in every aspect of community life
- **Respect** – young peoples approaches, interests, opinions and skills being valued
- **Opportunity** – young people being able to access quality education, training, recreation and social experiences
- **Responsibility** – young people and the community being committed to bring out the best in each other

Our Goals – what do we want to achieve as community?

We want Mansfield Shire to be a community where young people:

- Have access to the services, support and opportunities they need
- Are provided with information, have their say and are listened to
- Play an active part in our solutions
- Have a presence in our groups and events and spaces
- Are celebrated for their achievements and contributions

Our Responsibilities – what do we all need to do?

Council

Lead the way – There are ways that our community can work better with and for young people. Mansfield Shire Council will be a leader in exploring approaches to this.


Take a holistic approach – Young people need to be on the main agenda. Mansfield Shire Council will consider young people in planning decisions and operations for all aspects and at every level of its work.

Develop strong partnerships – Mansfield Shire Council will develop a range of partnerships across the whole community so that everyone is moving together on this. The most successful achievements will come from a whole-of-council whole-of-community approach.

Council and the Community

Understand their reality – Don't make assumptions. A young person's reality is often different to an older person's. Ask them about things that might prevent them from getting involved, making positive decisions or just getting by. Show that you understand and work to overcome these things.

Reserve judgement – Keep the faith. Young people sometimes make bad decisions for a whole range of reasons. They need information and support to make sure the next decision is a good one.



Connect with them – Make a special effort to let young people know what's going on, give them the opportunity to decide what they think and then listen. Support them in coming up with and being part of a solution.

Give them what's good – Young people are watching, listening and learning. They are worth setting a high standard for. Work hard to surround them with quality relationships, quality inspiration and quality opportunities. Invite them into the good stuff you can offer.

Remember it's a mixed bag – We tend to group the members of our community who haven't been on the planet for long as 'young people', but that group is made up of many incredible individuals. Remember this when you're supporting and celebrating them.

Young people

Find out, speak up and act now – Be aware of what's happening around you. Think and talk about it. Work out what you believe in, what you want, what you need. Start moving to make things happen.

Chase some skills – It's a whole lot harder to make things happen if you don't have the basics. Go after an education. Seek out the extra experience and skills you need to do what you want to do.

Supply solutions – It's easy to see what's wrong with our community. It takes a lot more to work out how we can fix it. By coming up with solutions rather than just problems you'll have more power to change things.

Make good choices – We're faced with so many choices each day. Think and be strong enough to make the right ones. Once you've made a choice be responsible for it. Feel proud when it's a positive one and sort stuff out when the choice wasn't so good.

Get connected in your community – Things are a whole lot better when you have people around that you know you can count on. Sometimes they might not be so obvious, but you need to believe that they are there and go out and find community members who you trust and who inspire you and understand you.

All of us

Value what you've got, value what they've got

All people have lots in common – but yes there are lots of differences as well. Young people, older people, people who kick a footy, people who don't have a job, people who listen to hip hop music, people who pray, people who live on a farm..... These differences mean different knowledge, skills, approaches and interests and they can be used to make almost anything possible when we work together. It also means that we can all learn and experience new things along the way. Be aware of and value what each one of us can offer. We need to if our community is going to be everything that it can be.

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Mansfield Shire Youth Charter

What is the Mansfield Shire Youth Charter?

The Mansfield Shire Youth Charter is a set of principles, goals and responsibilities around young people's connection with the community.

Some organisations and groups in our community have their own agreements around youth connection. The Mansfield Shire Youth Charter tries to tie these together and present it to the whole community in a way that allows us to talk about it and have some common understanding of it. The Charter uses language that is meaningful to young people, the broader community and Councillors.

The Mansfield Shire Youth Charter can be the community's starting point to work together.

For the purpose of this Youth Charter, young people are defined as those aged between 10 – 25 years who live, work, study, recreate in or who are significantly attached to Mansfield Shire.

Why do we need a Mansfield Shire Youth Charter?

For young people to be all that they can be now and in the future they need to be included in and supported by our community.

For our community to be all that it can be now and in the future it needs the presence of and input from young people.

There are many things that can stop this from happening. A Youth Charter can help make our community aware of them and how to get past them.

Who can use the Mansfield Shire Youth Charter?

Every member of the Mansfield Shire Community and visitors to our community including:

- Young people
- Businesses
- Parents
- Contractors
- Community groups - such as sports, arts or environmental groups
- People who work directly with young people

Where did the Mansfield Shire Youth Charter come from?

Standards were drawn from State Government frameworks, national guidelines and international conventions on Human Rights.

Local priorities were drawn from past and recent consultation with the community including young people, the Mansfield Youth Service Providers Network and local schools.

Where is the Mansfield Youth Charter going?

Mansfield Shire Council will use the Youth Charter as a basis to develop a Youth Action Plan each financial year.

The Youth Charter is being taken to the whole community so that they can explore it and join us in our commitment to our young people.

This document is available in alternate formats on request from Mansfield Shire Council 5775 8555.

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