

Youth Boards Policy

MC16-CP v2



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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the role, structure and minimum standards for MacDonnell Regional Council's (MRC) Youth Boards.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all MRC staff, Elected Members, Local Authority members and Youth Boards' members.

3. Objectives

This policy aims to:

- provide support for youth leadership across the MRC region;
- define the role, structure and minimum standards for Youth Boards;
- empower young people to actively participate as representatives and engage with their respective Local Authority.

4. Definitions

Youth Board	MRC Youth Boards are committees made up of young people aged 12-25, who represent and advocate for youth in communities across the MacDonnell Region.
Youth Board Member	A young person appointed to be a member of a Youth Board.
Chairperson	An individual elected by Youth Board members to lead and oversee Youth Board meetings.
Local Authority	Local Authorities are established under the <i>Local Government Act</i> as a key mechanism for communities to be engaged in local decision making, planning and policy making. Local Authorities are established in each community in the MacDonnell Region and are made up of elected local community members.

5. Statement

5.1. Background

The strategic operation of Youth Boards is set out by the strategies and key performance indicators in the MRC Regional Plan annually. Youth Boards must operate in alignment with the most current MRC Regional Plan document.

5.2. Role of Youth Boards

- 5.2.1. Youth Boards provide youth with an opportunity to express their opinions on issues affecting young people in their communities and communicate these views to the MRC through their Local Authorities.

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5.2.2 Youth Boards serve as a key mechanism for the MacDonnell Regional Council to foster and develop youth leadership within the region.

5.3. Structure and minimum standards for Youth Boards

5.3.1. Youth Board members must be 12-25 years old;

5.3.2. Each MRC Youth Board must have a permanent Chairperson, preferably at least 16 years of age;

5.3.3. Each Youth Board must select a Chairperson from the members of the Youth Board;

5.3.4. The Youth Board Chairperson is encouraged to attend Local Authority meetings whenever possible to represent the views of the Youth Board;

5.3.5. Youth Boards consist minimum of:

- a) 4 members for small community (Finke, Haasts Bluff, Imanpa, Wallace Rockhole);
- b) 5 members for medium size community (Amoonguna, Areyonga, Docker River, Mt Liebig, Titjikala);
- c) 6 for large communities (Hermannsburg, Kintore, Papunya, Santa Teresa);

5.3.6. Youth Board meetings must be held 2 times per year in each community.

5.4. Staff contributions

To ensure the success of the Youth Boards, all MRC departments are required to actively collaborate and contribute, providing support and resources as needed to foster a cohesive and effective organisational approach. The MRC Governance and Strategy Department will lead the development, coordination, and support of the MRC Youth Boards, including the design and implementation of related procedures and documentation.

6. Policy Details

Replaces Policy No: (if applicable)	MC16-OP
Responsible Directorate/Department:	CEO Office (Governance and Strategy Department)
Approval Date:	25 October 2024
Minutes Reference and Resolution number:	OCM Item # 15.13 – OCM2024-156
Review Cycle:	<i>Review every four (4) years or after changes to relevant legislation or Council policy</i>

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7. Legislation and References

Related Legislation:	<i>The Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019</i>
Related Policies:	MC01-CP Members Policy MC02-CP Meeting Policy MC04-CP Code of Conduct Policy - Members
Associated Documents:	MacDonnell Regional Council's Regional Plan Youth Board Manual

8. Version Control

Version No.	Approval Date	Policy No.	Minutes reference and Resolution number
1.	27 June 2023	MC16-OP	N/A
2.	25 October 2024	MC16-CP	OCM Item # 15.13 – OCM2024-156

CURRENT POLICY