



DISCUSSION TOPICS AND STARTERS – NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

Discussion topics and starters include questions designed to:

- test and refine the Strategy including determining whether the vision, goals and core priority areas have broad community support; and
- identify areas of need for young people.

While these discussion topics and starters will need to be tailored to suit the particular group that is being engaged, they provide a basis to support all groups to comment on both the high level aspects of the Strategy (vision, goals and priorities) and the on the ground implementation and actions of the Strategy.

TOPIC ONE: THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

On 3 September 2009, the Prime Minister announced the Government's intention to develop a National Strategy for Young Australians. In the speech announcing this, the Prime Minister identified three reasons for developing a Strategy:

1. one in five Australians are under 25, and make a strong contribution to Australia, our economy, our culture, our sport and our nation;
2. this generation is facing new challenges (changing social and family structures, changing skill requirements etc); and
3. there are specific areas of concern that require transparent national action (e.g. binge drinking, mental health and violence).

DISCUSSION POINTS

- What role do you think the Australian Government should have in supporting young people to develop positively?
- What would you expect to see in a National Strategy?
- How do you think the Government should make a National Strategy happen?
- How do you think the Government should communicate the National Strategy?

TOPIC TWO: THE VISION

The Government's vision is for all young people to grow up safe, healthy, happy and resilient and to have the opportunities and skills they need to learn, work, engage in community life and influence decisions that affect them.

SUPPORTING COMMENTS

- This vision is deliberately universal in nature.
- It is underpinned by the recognition that young people are diverse, with a range of experiences, circumstances and capacities.
- The Government recognises that for its vision to become a reality for all young Australians, action under the Strategy must meet the needs of all young people, including a targeted focus on those who require the most support.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- What do you think is important for young people?
 - How can we make this vision a reality?
 - What are some practical ideas to help communicate this vision to young people?
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TOPIC THREE: THE GOALS

The Government's suggested goals for young people are:

- empowering young people to build their own lives for the future
- enabling young Australians to accept full responsibility of their lives, their actions and their behaviours
- building resilience in young Australians to negotiate the great life challenges that lie ahead
- building a healthier, safer and more productive Australia.

SUPPORTING COMMENTS

The Government views these goals as a more detailed breakdown of the vision – providing more specific outcomes for young people.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- How can we make these goals achievable?
 - What is already happening in your community that helps young people achieve these goals?
 - Is there an area you can identify where young people are not meeting these goals? What can we do to prevent this?
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TOPIC FOUR: CORE PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

The Prime Minister has identified seven core priorities for action under the Strategy:

1. Empowering young Australians in their schools, their institutes of technology and their Universities to shape their own futures.
2. Supporting young Australians within their families.
3. Mobilising young Australians within their communities.
4. Enabling young Australians to participate safely and confidently online.
5. Equipping young Australians with the skills and personal networks they need for employment.
6. Strengthening early intervention with young Australians to help prevent any problems getting worse and to help young people get their lives back on track.
7. Establishing clear cut legal consequences for behaviours that endanger the safety of others.

SUPPORTING COMMENTS

- These core priorities are areas that the Prime Minister states are important for young people.
- The core priorities include settings like families, communities and education where young people live out their life.
- The core priorities also include some important principles like prevention and responsibility that potentially have important impacts on actions in the other priorities.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- What do these core priorities mean to you?
- What do you see as the big issues for you/young people in these areas?
- What do you see as the greatest needs within these areas?
- What do you think should be done for young people within these areas?
- What works for young people in these areas?