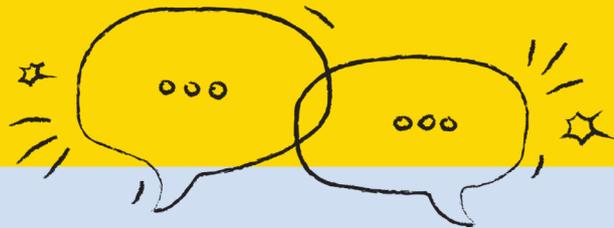


YOUTH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

This mini-guide outlines core skills young people need to meaningfully engage with government in policy processes. Developing these skills will enhance their confidence to effectively participate in workshops, consultations, and discussions with government representatives.



1. COMMUNICATION

Effective group engagement and government communication.

- **Verbal communication:** Participating confidently in discussions and consultations.
- **Understanding government processes:** Becoming familiar with how government and policy development works.
- **Collaborative communication:** Building teamwork and fostering inclusive group discussions.
- **Cultural competency:** Engaging respectfully with people from diverse backgrounds.

How to provide support:

- Conduct group workshops to practice speaking in formal settings.
- Offer briefings on government structures and processes for context.
- Ensure materials are in plain language, free from jargon.
- Schedule sessions on cultural competency and inclusive communication.

2. CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING

Analysing policy contexts and proposing practical solutions.

- **Policy context understanding:** Developing familiarity with key policy issues.
- **Simple and realistic solutions:** Identifying realistic approaches to policy challenges.
- **Advocacy vs. activism:** Recognising the differences in approaching government engagement.

How to provide support:

- Present complex policy topics as infographics or visuals for easy comprehension.
- Share reading materials in advance to give young people time to prepare.
- Facilitate problem-solving exercises that relate to real-world policy scenarios.

3. LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Representing perspectives effectively in policy engagements.

- **Effective advocacy:** Communicating viewpoints constructively in government contexts.
- **Collaborative leadership:** Working as part of a team to achieve shared goals.
- **Ethical engagement:** Upholding integrity and sensitivity in public discussions.

How to provide support:

- Organise workshops on advocacy techniques and influencing policy.
- Provide opportunities for young people to practice presenting to government officials.
- Connect youth with networks and support systems in government engagement.

4. TIME MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION

Balancing responsibilities and being prepared for engagements.

- **Meeting preparation:** Reviewing materials and preparing contributions for consultations.
- **Setting goals:** Identifying personal objectives and expectations for engagement.
- **Balancing responsibilities:** Managing academic, work, and engagement commitments.

How to provide support:

- Share meeting times, agendas, and preparation materials in advance.
- Set clear timelines for project phases to help young people stay organised.
- Offer reminders for key deadlines and encourage time management tools.

5. EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND RESILIENCE

Understanding personal triggers and building resilience.

- **Self-awareness:** Recognising emotional responses during discussions.
- **Resilience:** Coping with challenges that can happen during policy engagement.
- **Empathy:** Appreciating the perspectives of other participants.

How to provide support:

- Host mental health and resilience workshops to promote wellbeing.
- Establish peer support networks for shared experiences and advice.
- Clearly set expectations for engagement and provide consistent feedback loops.

OTHER PRACTICAL SUPPORTS FOR ACCESSIBLE ENGAGEMENT

- **Meeting times:** Schedule sessions at times convenient for young people, such as afternoons or weekends.
- **Advance notice:** Provide early notice of meetings, agendas, and reading materials.
- **Plain language:** Use accessible language in all materials, and avoid complex jargon.
- **Youth-friendly technology:** Use technology that supports youth engagement, such as virtual polling or interactive platforms like Miro.