

# STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF ENGAGEMENT

There are many different approaches to youth engagement. Below are some of the strengths and limitations of these approaches.

	ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE	ROLE OF POLICYMAKERS	STRENGTHS	LIMITATIONS
<b>CONSULTATIVE</b>	Participants in consultations led by policymakers, or as advisors/consultants in facilitated youth advisory bodies.	Facilitate and lead one-off consultations (e.g. focus groups, workshops) or longer-term youth advisory bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective to understand young people's lived experience, priorities, concerns and perspectives.</li> <li>• One-off consultations are quick and resource efficient.</li> <li>• Can support young people to feel included and heard.</li> <li>• Supports young people's rights to have a say in issues that affect their lives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can appear tokenistic without genuine action on young people's input or opportunities for young people to determine the direction/create their own outputs.</li> <li>• Can mean only a small number of young people are engaged, which poses challenges for diverse representation.</li> <li>• Long term mechanisms are resource intensive.</li> </ul>
<b>COLLABORATIVE</b>	Facilitate opportunities for ongoing collaboration with young people, providing support and guidance to build young people's skills and capacities to engage in the policymaking process.	Facilitate opportunities for ongoing collaboration with young people, providing support and guidance to build young people's skills and capacities to engage in the policymaking process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can increase the influence of young people in forming policy, by giving them a role to investigate and make recommendations.</li> <li>• Leads to impactful youth-centred policy, that responds directly to the needs and perspectives of young people.</li> <li>• Develops young people's knowledge and skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both young people and policymakers require the skills and capabilities to work collaboratively.</li> <li>• Can require significant resources to start and sustain.</li> <li>• If power dynamics between policymakers and young people aren't addressed, collaborative approaches can easily slide into tokenism.</li> </ul>
<b>YOUTH-LED</b>	Leaders in the design and implementation of consultations, campaigns, programs and research.	Support, enable and strengthen initiatives led by young people and help amplify youth voice and influence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth empowered to influence policy dialogue.</li> <li>• Builds young people's personal and professional skills.</li> <li>• Results in genuinely youth-centred outcomes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If policymakers completely step away, young people can feel unsupported.</li> <li>• Can lead to young people's insights being marginalised from the debates that influence decision-making / young people working in parallel to policy-centred decision-making processes.</li> </ul>