YOUTH ENGAGEMENT METHODS:
WHEN DO THESE WORK BEST AND WHAT IS REQUIRED?

METHOD	WORKS BEST WHEN	COST AND TIME	RESOURCES/MATERIALS REQUIRED	POLICY CYCLE STAGES	EXAMPLES, TOOLS AND FURTHER RESOURCES
Youth steering Committees / boards Young people serve as members with leadership roles alongside policy-makers to make high-level decisions.	Young people can be mentored by experienced members and are provided with the skills and knowledge to contribute meaningfully. Young people can set the terms of reference for the committee/board.	Moderate cost High time	Honorarium / stipend for young people. Training opportunities for young people.	Coordination Decision	**Example:** Youth Steering Committee - Office for Youth, Australian Government
Youth advisory bodies Small-medium group of young people meet regularly to provide advice to decision-makers through structured meetings, workshops, etc	There are sufficient resources to create an ongoing mechanism that allows diverse representation of young people to directly influence policy decision-making. Young people feel able to influence the direction, goals and outputs of the body, and co-design the terms of reference. Young people are given opportunities to co-create outputs.	Moderate cost High time	Honorarium / stipend for young people. Resources to establish and build trust, relationships and regular communication. A range of diverse opportunities/projects for young people to take part in.	Policy analysis Policy instruments Consultation Decision Implementation	**Examples:** Youth Advisory Groups - Office for Youth, Australian Government **Tool:** How to establish and maintain a youth advisory group: mini-guide
Surveys / polls Online surveys or polls can effectively and quickly collect insights from larger numbers of young people.	A range of young people's opinions or feedback are needed quickly and efficiently. Combined alongside more in-depth methods e.g. focus groups, workshops (to gain deeper understanding). Questionnaires have been co-developed and/or tested with young people to ensure accessibility, comprehension and engagement. Short sentences, simple language and visuals to explain terms are used.	Low cost Low time	Online platform e.g. SurveyMonkey, Google Forms, Qualtrics, social media. Tablets for in-situ surveying, e.g. at events or at schools.	Identifying issues Evaluation	**Example:** ACYP's Youth Week Survey **Further resource:** How to create accessible and inclusive surveys

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Interviews / focus groups In-depth one on one interviews, or discussions with small groups of young people.	In-depth insights from young people are required to understand lived experience and perspectives. Online formats are helpful when a series of consultations needs to happen fairly quickly.	Low cost Moderate time	Honorarium for young people e.g. gift vouchers. Platforms/tools for online engagement e.g. Zoom, Miro, Otter AI transcription, video/focus group digital software, or quite, accessible spaces for in-person engagements. Interview / focus group discussion guides. Skilled facilitators	Identifying issues Policy analysis Consultation Evaluation	**Tool:** Consent and participant information materials.
Creative methods Young people express their ideas and experiences through creative writing, art, video, audio, etc.	Understanding young people's experiences which may be hard for them to articulate. Collecting visual assets to capture the attention of decision-makers. Engaging with young people who have creative interests or feel more comfortable to express themselves visually.	Low cost Moderate time	Participation can be acknowledged by including a prize/competition element.	Identifying issues Policy analysis	**Examples:** What Matters writing competition, Postcards to the Advocate of Children and Youth NSW, Young and Resilient Research Centre Hope and Resilience research project
Yarning circles Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people participate in culturally safe sessions, where everyone is on the same level, not be placed in the spotlight and can participate equally.	When developed and led by Indigenous community members, in line with specific cultural protocols. To listen to the authentic stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.	Moderate cost Moderate time	Trusting relationships with Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander community members. Cultural safety knowledge and skills.	Identifying issues Consultation Evaluation	**Further resources:** Koorie Youth Council's youth participation resource for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people , SNAICC Genuine Partnerships training program

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Roundtables / forums / conferences / summits Structured events with large groups of young people to come together and explore and share ideas. Can be delivered in person or online.	Dialogue between young people, experts, practitioners and policymakers is required. When designed and implemented collaboratively with young people, or youth-led. Events can include creative exhibitions to showcase young people's insights and perspectives.	High cost. Moderate time.	Youth appropriate, accessible space and catering. Support for young people to attend e.g. travel reimbursement. Agenda and MC. Guestlist and invites. Presentations, discussions, panels, workshops, photography, visual scribe.	Identifying issues Policy analysis Policy instruments Coordination	**Tool:** Supporting young people to engage in a panel mini-guide **Examples:** Koorie Youth Summit, Create Foundation Youth Forum, UN Summit of the Future virtual events
Co-research / peer research Young people are provided with the research skills to collect evidence to inform / evaluate policy.	Young people have the capacity and interest to build their research skills, and policymakers have resources available to provide training, mentoring and guidance. When collecting evidence about issues impacting young people (open, honest responses often result from peer-led research).	Moderate cost High time	Honorarium / stipend for young people. Research training sessions and materials for young people.	Identifying issues Evaluation	**Example:** Centre for Multicultural Youth's Explore program, Wellbeing, Health & Youth Commission **Further resources:** Co-research Toolkit for Young People, Co-research Toolkit for Adults
Co-design / participatory workshops Young people participate as active contributors/co-designers in the creation of policy.	Young people's expertise is valued and decision-making power is shared. More than one workshop is led and visual methods are used to generate collaborative ideas. Workshops are planned so that they benefit young people and young people are prepared with the skills and knowledge to meaningfully participate.	Moderate cost High time	Honorarium for young people. Physical or digital space. Workshop agenda and materials for activities. Digital engagement tools e.g. Slido (live polls, Q&A), Miro (interactive whiteboard).	Policy instruments Consultation Implementation	**Further resources:** Centre for Digital Thriving's facilitation guide, Orygen Co-designing-with young people fundamentals Participatory Design Guide

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Youth citizens juries / mini publics A panel of young people examine information, over consecutive days, on policy issues and provide recommendations to decision-makers.	When youth insights are required to examine a complex issue. When the remit is designed with young people and led in collaboration with young people (e.g. as trained co-facilitators).	Moderate-high costs Moderate-high time	Agendas, discussion activities and skilled facilitators. Honorarium for young people.	Policy analysis Policy instruments Decision Implementation	**Example:** City of Darebin Young Citizen Jury, VicHealth Staying on Track Youth Jury. **Further resources:** Carson et al. (2018) Reflections on a youth jury, Mosaic Lab's jury recruitment guidance
Youth parliament Program which builds young people's skills to engage with policy development and democratic debate.	When led by or in collaboration with young people. When resources can sustain a long-term program (~ 6 months). When young people have an interest to develop certain skills.	High costs High time	Staff resources to support program. Training sessions and materials for young people. Honorarium / certificate for young people.	Policy analysis Decision	**Example:** 2168 Children's Youth Parliament , The Y Youth Parliament **Further resource:** Children's Parliament evaluation report
Intergenerational town hall Young people, experts and policymakers convene to discuss ideas and commitments. Can include panels, roundtables, plenaries.	Agendas are designed to support productive intergenerational dialogue between young people and policymakers, and power imbalances are addressed.	Moderate costs Moderate time	Speakers, panellists, diverse representatives. Physical or digital venue. Promotional materials. Honorarium for young people.	Identifying issues Consultation Policy analysis Policy instruments Decision	**Example:** Foundations for Tomorrow Intergenerational Town Hall **Further resource:** Our Future Agenda Town Hall facilitation resource kit