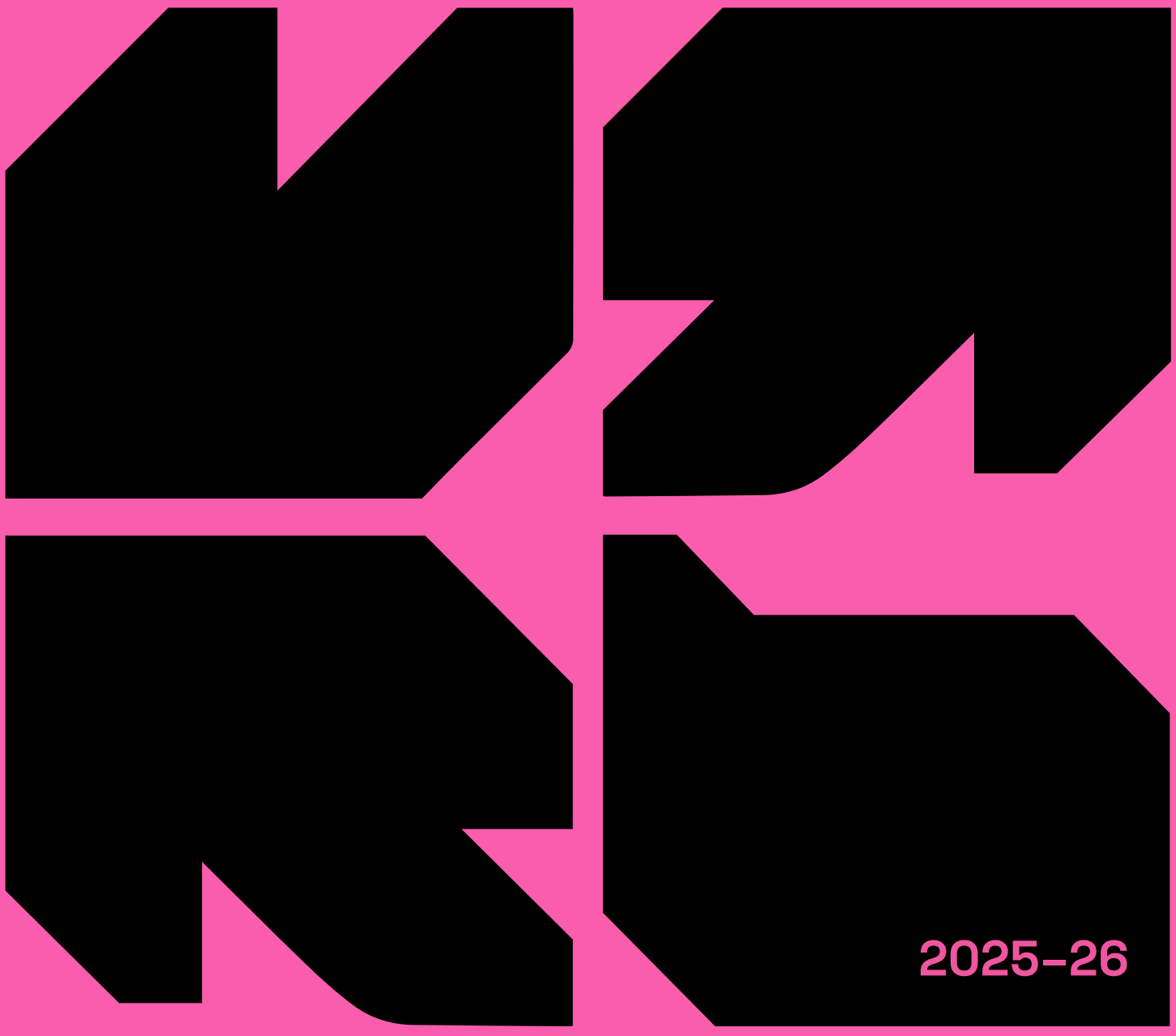
Australian Government

OFFICE FOR YOUTH

ENGAGE!

Impacts and insights



2025–26



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The document must be attributed as *Engage! Impacts and insights*.

Use of the Coat of Arms

The terms under which the Coat of Arms can be used are detailed on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website at **pmc.gov.au/government/commonwealth-coat-arms**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia where we gather, live, work and stand. We acknowledge all Traditional Custodians, their Elders past and present, and we pay our respects to their continuing connection to their culture, community, land, sea, water and skies.

We extend this respect to all First Nations young people and acknowledge the importance of First Nations young people having a strong connection to their culture and Country. We also recognise and support the right of First Nations young people to self-determination and to share decision-making with the Australian Government.



Image: Artwork developed through engagement with the 2024 First Nations Education Youth Advisory Group (YAG) to inform the First Nations Education Policy.

Created during a workshop facilitated by artist Mr Trevor Eastwood of Dalmarri, a descendant of the Ngamba people from the Barwon River region on Kamiloroi Country, the artwork depicts a thriving student navigating and connecting culture and education across Australia's culturally rich and diverse landscapes.


OFFICE FOR YOUTH
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CONTENTS

Acknowledgement of Country	**1**
A message from the Minister for Youth	**4**
A message from the Youth Steering Committee	**5**
A year in review	**6**
Introduction	**9**
Strategy at a glance: actions to impacts	**10**
Priority 1: We will recognise and listen to young people	12
Action 1.1 - Collaborate with young people	12
Action 1.2 - Recognising young people	22
Measuring our progress	24
Priority 2: We will empower young people to advocate and engage with government	**28**
Action 2.1 - Connecting with young people	28
Action 2.2 - Empowering young people	31
Measuring our progress	34
Priority 3: We will support government to work with young people	**38**
Action 3.1 - Listening to young people	38
Action 3.2 - Building Australian government capacity	40
Measuring our progress	42
Lessons and next steps	**47**
Definitions	**48**

Image (Left): Young people at the 2026 National Youth Forum taking a picture at the media wall.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR YOUTH

As Minister for Youth, I am pleased to introduce the second Annual Report on the *Engage!* strategy. Through *Engage!*, the Australian Government is providing opportunities to empower young people and have young voices inform government decision-making.

Over the past year, young people have had a stronger voice in government decision-making. Their advice has shaped work across areas including mental health, climate change, creative industries, and First Nations priorities. We are also working across government to make sure engaging young people is embedded in how policies and programs are developed.

We have heard from over 2,700 young people who told us that meaningful engagement matters, and that they want government to listen to, value and act on their experiences when making decisions that affect their lives.

Listening to young people has led to 70 per cent of young people feeling they influenced a government policy or program and 92 per cent reporting a positive experience at a government event or program.

We have resourced 5 Youth Advisory Groups with more than 50 young people participating and working with government. We are engaging with young people and we are giving them a platform to be heard.

We have empowered young people to advocate and engage with government resulting in the development of a *Youth Water Security Statement*, the inclusion of youth perspectives in the drafting and implementation planning of the *National Model of Care* and empowering First Nations youth to influence the *Youth and Emerging Leadership Program* at the 2025 Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Summit.

Engage! is supporting government agencies to work with young people by building capability through training, resources and practical support, to strengthen their understanding of young people's views.

I acknowledge the young people who have contributed through the Youth Steering Committee, Youth Advisory Groups and other engagement opportunities. When government listens to young people early and meaningfully, policies and programs are stronger.

Thank you to every young person who has taken the time to share their experience, ideas and hopes for the future. Your voices are helping shape better decisions for young people across Australia. I look forward to continuing this work together and building on the progress outlined in this report.

Senator the Hon Dr Jess Walsh
Minister for Youth

Image (Top): The Minister Youth, Senator the Hon Dr Jess Walsh.

A MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEE



The past year for the Youth Steering Committee (the Committee) has nurtured the skill and passion of each member, granting members the opportunity to create real change and to speak on the issues that matter most to young people from their communities on a national level.

The Committee represents a diverse range of perspectives shaped by culture, identity and location. From regional Western Australia to northern New South Wales and Tasmania, the Committee have one key thing in common – a passion for bridging the gap between young people and government decision-making. We have had many opportunities to hold meaningful discussions with key decision-makers and policymakers, including through a lunch with the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Hon Sam Mostyn AC, two meetings with the Minister for Youth, Senator the Hon Dr Jess Walsh, and through events including Youth Meets Parliament Week and the National Youth Forum. It is through these conversations and these forums, that real and genuine change is made.

We recognise and thank every young person who contributed this year through consultations, surveys, workshops, forums, advisory groups and community conversations. Their willingness to share honestly has helped strengthen the quality of advice provided to government and has reinforced the importance of active engagement and accountability to young Australians.

Looking ahead, we are excited for a new vision to come to life - increasing accountability of government via purposeful engagement with young people and not only involving them in decision-making but truly taking on their ideas and passions for a better Australia.

We thank the Office for Youth, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), the Minister for Youth, along with all the government agencies that continue to create opportunities for young people to be heard. The decisions made today will shape the lives of young people for years to come, and young people must continue to have a real role in making those decisions.

Members:

- Azuki, SA
- Caleb, NSW
- Charlotte, ACT
- Issy, QLD
- Izabella, WA
- Jaida, NSW
- Jet, TAS
- Joel, NT
- Max, QLD
- Nathaniel, SA
- Rachel, VIC
- Ruben, WA
- Tracey, NT
- Zane, VIC

Image (Top): 2026 Youth Steering Committee members with Senator the Hon Dr Jess Walsh.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Here is a snapshot of some of the key achievements over the last year!

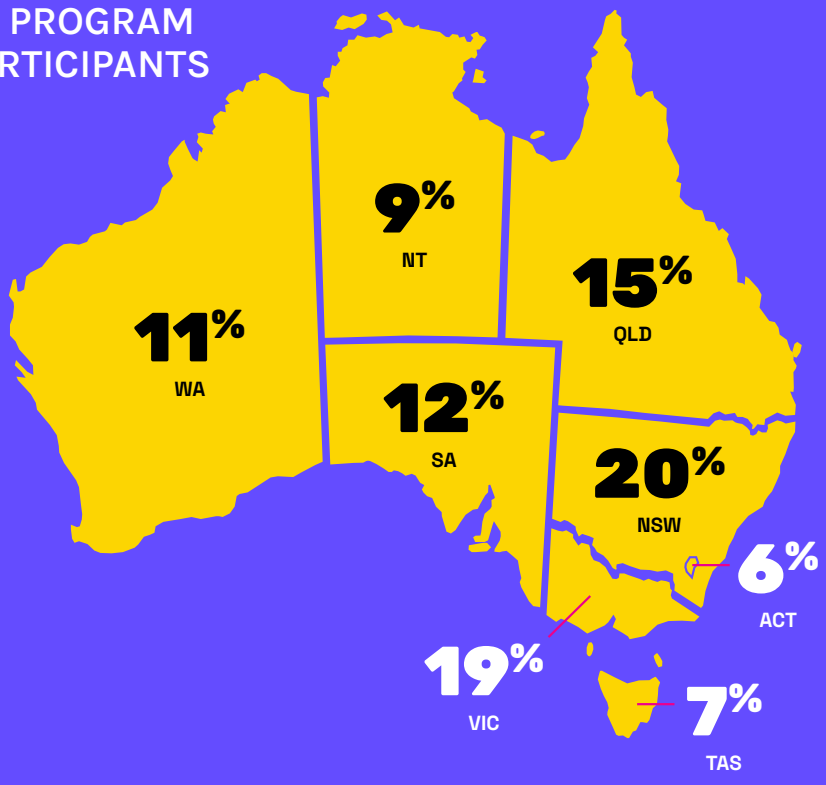
ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

127 young people engaged in Office for Youth programs

Demographic breakdown of program participants

27%	20%	50%	31%	37%
First Nations	with disability	from Regional, Rural and Remote areas	LGBTIQ+	Culturally and/or Linguistically Diverse

STATE/TERRITORY BREAKDOWN OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



2,333 young people responded to the 2025 National Youth Survey

306 young people participated in consultations

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES ENGAGED

Through a quarterly working group, 20 Australian Government departments and agencies engaged with the Office for Youth to consider youth initiatives and policies.

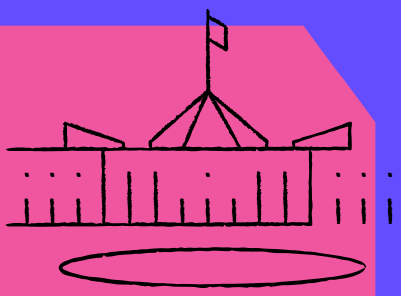
The Office for Youth also worked directly with 10 Australian Government departments and agencies through our programs over the last year:

- **Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies**
- **Australian Sports Commission**
- **Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water**
- **Department of Education**
- **Department of Employment and Workplace Relations**
- **Department of Health, Disability and Ageing**
- **Department of Home Affairs**
- **Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**
- **Department of Social Services**
- **National Mental Health Commission**

KEY STRATEGY ACTION UPDATES



2025 NATIONAL YOUTH SURVEY



YOUTH MEETS PARLIAMENT WEEK





INTRODUCTION

Now at its two-year mark, *Engage!* has gained momentum in transforming how government works with young people. The strategy is opening practical pathways for young Australians to contribute to the decisions that shape their lives.

Throughout 2025–26, the Office for Youth, with the support of the Youth Steering Committee, has continued to turn the strategy's commitments into action. This annual report reflects progress across the 9 measures of *Engage!*. It highlights key achievements under the strategy and demonstrates how youth perspectives are influencing real policy and program outcomes.

Image (Left): Young people talking at the 2026 National Youth Forum in Canberra.

STRATEGY AT A GLANCE:

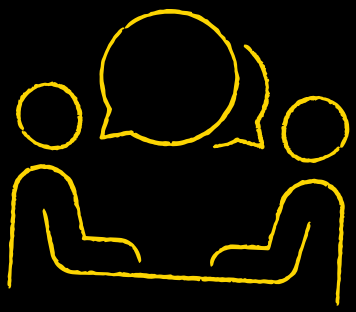
ACTIONS TO IMPACTS

VISION:

Young people are empowered, valued, and contribute to government decision-making.







PRIORITIES

1. WE WILL RECOGNISE AND LISTEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE

ACTION AREAS / INITIATIVES

1.1 COLLABORATING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Initiatives

- National Youth Forum
- Youth Advisory Groups
- Youth Steering Committee

1.2 RECOGNISING YOUNG PEOPLE

Initiatives

- National Youth Week
- Young Australian of the Year Awards (funding and support)

MEASURES

- Percentage of program participants who felt they influenced a government policy or program.
- Percentage of young people who report a positive experience at a government event or program.
- Percentage of program participants who feel they are recognised for their contributions in the community.

2. WE WILL EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE TO ADVOCATE AND ENGAGE WITH GOVERNMENT

2.1 CONNECTING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Initiatives

- Digital Youth Hub
- Social media

2.2 EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

Initiatives

- First Nations youth engagement grant
- Regional, Rural and Remote youth engagement grant

- Percentage of young people who engage with the Digital Youth Hub and social media channels.
- Percentage of young people who were able to access the government information they needed on the Digital Youth Hub.
- Percentage of First Nations young people and underrepresented young people participating in a program who feel more confident to engage with the government.

3. WE WILL SUPPORT GOVERNMENT TO WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

3.1 LISTENING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Initiatives

- National Youth Survey

3.2 BUILDING GOVERNMENT CAPACITY

Initiatives

- Youth Engagement Toolkit (and associated workshops/training)

- Percentage of young people who feel that the Australian Government considers the views of young people.
- Percentage of Australian Government departments and agencies that worked with the Office for Youth and felt supported to engage with young people.
- Percentage of the Australian Public Service who feel confident engaging with young people on the development of policy and programs.

PRIORITIES



PRIORITY 1: WE WILL RECOGNISE AND LISTEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Priority one is about creating real opportunities for young people to share their ideas and experiences. It makes sure their voices are heard and valued when shaping government policies and programs.

The Office for Youth continues to support a range of opportunities for young people to share their perspectives, ideas and experiences with the Australian Government.

ACTION 1.1 - COLLABORATE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM

- The National Youth Forum is an annual event where young people from across Australia come together to share ideas, build skills and influence government decisions.
- The 2026 National Youth Forum was held on Wednesday 25 March at the Canberra Rex Hotel.
- 3 Policy Hackathon streams ran concurrently. This provided young people with an opportunity to work with government agencies and pitch solutions to policy problems. The streams and partner agencies of the 2026 National Youth Forum were:
  - **Designing youth mental health services to reflect the diverse needs of young people** (Department of Health, Disability and Ageing)
  - **Designing research to support real world decisions and trial solutions in real ecosystems** (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water)
  - **Supporting children and young people to attend, participate and undertake education in cultural and creative sectors** (Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts)

- 116 diverse young people from a range of organisations and groups from across Australia participated in the Forum. Youth Steering Committee members emceed the day and ran icebreakers in each stream.
- Other attendees included department and agency representatives, Office for Youth staff, state and territory government representatives, and parents and guardians. The Minister for Youth also attended and provided an opening address.
- Outputs from the hackathon are being used by the Australian Government to inform the development of policies and programs. An update on these outcomes will be given to attendees before the next forum. See outcomes from the 2025 National Youth Forum on the next page!



Image: Young people at the 2026 National Youth Forum.

CASE STUDY

CLOSING THE LOOP: OUTCOMES OF THE 2025 NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM

The 2025 National Youth Forum was held on Wednesday 5 February at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House in Canberra. More than 90 diverse young people aged 13-25 attended the forum and participated in the Policy Hackathon.

The theme for the 2025 National Youth Forum was Regional, Rural and Remote (RRR) young people. This theme was developed by the Youth Steering Committee based on the findings from consultations with young people.

Education

Australian Tertiary Education Commission

- Young people collaborated to analyse key barriers to tertiary education, sharing lived experiences across four themes: access and aspiration, cost, cultural connection and communication.
- Key recommendations included clearer and more streamlined career information systems, stronger financial supports, culturally safe mentorship (especially for First Nations students) and consistent career guidance resources.
- Many ideas were incorporated into the Needs-based Funding and Outreach Funding programs (commenced 1 January 2026). These programs support access, participation, and success through measures like tutoring, pathway programs, community engagement, cultural inclusion and financial assistance.

Emergency Management

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

- The disaster resilience and recovery stream enabled young people to share unique perspectives and practical ideas on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, drawing on their lived experiences and connection.
- The input provided through the forum underscored the importance of ongoing meaningful youth engagement and collaboration, and the importance of ensuring young people are appropriately represented. Young people would be engaged through the NEMA's Charitable, Not-For-Profit and Philanthropic Roundtable, the agency's primary mechanism for sector engagement.



Agriculture

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

- The Future Drought Fund (FDF) presented on the challenges in keeping young people in regional, rural and remote communities, particularly as a result of drought and other climate challenges.
- Ideas were shared with the FDF's Consultative Committee, which provides independent advice on the program and policy direction of the FDF, and were considered in the design of the Strengthening Drought Resilience on Country Grant Opportunity. This grant opportunity asked applicants to include young people when co-designing on the ground activities with communities.



Image: Young people collaborating during the policy hackathon (2026 National Youth Forum).

NATIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATIONS

From August to November 2025, the Office for Youth facilitated 25 consultations at 12 locations across New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Victoria, Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory, as well as online as part of the National Youth Consultations.

We heard from 306 young people on the issues that matter most to them and received feedback to inform our 2026 National Youth Forum and the Digital Youth Hub.

TOP ISSUES

Through the 2025 National Youth Consultations, the top issues for young people were:

1. **Cost of living**
2. **Mental health**
3. **Education and training**
4. **Climate change and the environment**
5. **Employment**



Image: Young people sharing their insights during the 2025 National Youth Consultations.

NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM

We asked young people what they would need to feel confident before, during and after the Forum. Feedback included:

- Clear preparation processes and inclusive engagement to help people understand the day and feel supported.
- Ensure ongoing communication and recognition so participants feel valued and know what happens with their feedback.

DIGITAL YOUTH HUB

We asked young people to look through the Digital Youth Hub and let us know what works and what could be improved.

- The feedback on the Digital Youth Hub was overwhelmingly positive with many young people liking the overall design and colours.
- Things to improve included:
  - A focus on accessibility and usability to make the website easy to understand and inclusive for all users.
  - Engagement through relatable and localised content.

YOUTH ADVISORY GROUPS

- The Youth Advisory Group program partners young people with Australian Government departments and agencies. Members work on the development of policies and programs that affect young people.
- Each group has up to 10 diverse young people aged 16-25. The groups run for a period of up to 2 years.
- The Youth Advisory Groups were established in 2023 and remain a cornerstone of the Office for Youth's programs through *Engage!*.
- Since the launch of *Engage!*, there have been 10 Youth Advisory Groups working on diverse focus areas.
- In 2026, there are 5 Youth Advisory Groups that collaborate with government agencies on Mental Health, Countering Foreign Interference, Sports Participation, First Nations, and Climate Change and Water policy, programs and initiatives.
- The work of the Youth Advisory Groups has allowed the voices, experiences and needs of diverse young people to be represented in government policy and programs. They have also helped to build trust and transparency between young people and government.
- You can learn more about the work of the Youth Advisory Groups (past and present) on the Digital Youth Hub.

Outgoing Youth Advisory Groups in 2026

- **Creative Industries Youth Advisory Group**
  Working partner: Office for the Arts
- **Civic Engagement Youth Advisory Group**
  Working partner: Department of Home Affairs
- **Prevention of Gender-Based Violence Youth Advisory Group**
  Working partner: Department of Social Services
- **First Nations Youth Advisory Group**
  Working partner: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

New Youth Advisory Groups in 2026

- **Countering Foreign Interference Youth Advisory Group**
  Working partner: Department of Home Affairs
- **Sport Participation Youth Advisory Group**
  Working partner: Australian Sports Commission
- **Mental Health Youth Advisory Group**
  Working partner: National Mental Health Commission

Ongoing Youth Advisory Groups in 2026

- **First Nations Youth Advisory Group**
  Working partner: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- **Climate Change and Water Youth Advisory Group**
  Working partner: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

SNAPSHOT OF YOUTH ADVISORY GROUPS ACHIEVEMENTS



Civic Engagement Youth Advisory Group

The Civic Engagement Youth Advisory Group provided advice, insights and perspectives to the Department of Home Affairs on the design of practical civic engagement initiatives to help young people understand their role in democracy.

Key achievements

- The group advised on how to reach young people who are disengaged, disadvantaged or less familiar with democratic processes and provided guidance on designing programs that better respond to the needs of young people.
- Members prepared a written submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters Inquiry into Civics Education, Engagement, and Participation in Australia, with two youth advisers presenting at a public hearing.
- The group's feedback informed national consultations on social cohesion and civic engagement, as well as the creation of a Social Cohesion Youth Reference Group and broader departmental engagement materials.

Climate Change and Water Youth Advisory Group

The Climate Change and Water Youth Advisory Group provides advice to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on climate and water policies and programs that affect young people.

Key achievements

- The group developed a *Youth Water Security Statement* emphasising reliable, clean and affordable water for all Australians—including remote, regional and Indigenous communities—along with resilience to droughts, floods and climate change, and fair, sustainable water management for future generations.
- The group contributed ideas to shape the 2025 Water Night theme, "Become a water wise hero." Water Night is an annual event supporting water awareness and conservation. On Water Night, households are challenged to turn off all taps and running water from 5-10pm with the aim of improving water knowledge.

Creative Industries Youth Advisory Group

The Creative Industries Youth Advisory Group provided advice to the Office for the Arts on policies, programs and priorities that affect young Australians. Through its practical insights and lived experience, the group has helped shape government thinking on arts education, participation, wellbeing, creative careers and access to culture.

Key achievements

- The group advised on key initiatives affecting young people under the National Cultural Policy, *Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place*.
- The group developed a key messages paper on arts education, setting out recommendations to better support arts education.
- It also provided advice on creative therapies and the role of the arts in supporting mental health, contributing to policy and pilot program development.
- The group helped shape advice on how to support sustainable creative careers and strengthen young people's engagement in the arts as participants and audiences.

First Nations Youth Advisory Group

The First Nations Youth Advisory Group provided advice to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) on opportunities to strengthen access to First Nations culture. The group also worked with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to provide advice on youth engagement with employment and training resources.

Key achievements

- The group advised AIATSIS on its *Collection Access and Use Policy*, stressing the need for fair physical and digital access so people can use materials regardless of location.
- The group co-designed and facilitated a session on empowering First Nations youth to influence government for the *Youth and Emerging Leadership Program* at the 2025 AIATSIS Summit.
- The group informed the design of the *Your Career* website by sharing insights on digital engagement and how young people explore education and training. The group also emphasised the need for culturally relevant design, better search tools for Indigenous-specific roles, and clearer pathways to First Nations-identified jobs.

Prevention of Gender-Based Violence Youth Advisory Group

The Prevention of Gender-Based Violence Youth Advisory Group provided practical advice to the Department of Social Services on policies, programs and resources aimed at preventing gender-based violence and improving responses for children and young people.

Key achievements

- The group provided feedback on the Adult to Child Conversation Guide, helping strengthen resources that support adults to discuss consent with young people under the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*.
- The group provided advice on the development of a national survey on young people's attitudes to consent and sex education and contributed to the development of the *National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence*.
- The group shared practical insights to improve consent education and develop scenarios to help young people navigate complex consent situations. They informed drafting and implementation planning for the *National Model of Care*, particularly in relation to trust, anonymity, accessibility and young people's experience of service access.
- Feedback informed the design of the national survey on young people's attitudes to consent and sex education.



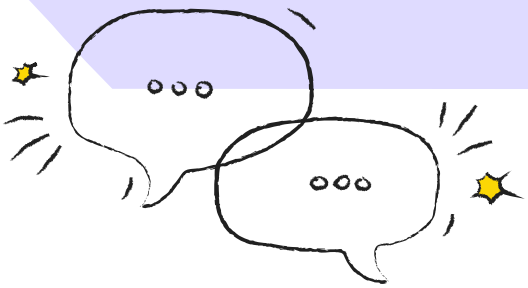
Image: Young people at the 2026 National Youth Forum.

YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEE

- The Youth Steering Committee (the Committee) works with the Office for Youth and the Minister for Youth to deliver *Engage!*. It also provides advice on government policies and programs that impact young people.
- The Committee is made up of 13 young people aged 13-25 from across Australia. Committee members are appointed for a 2-year term, with half of the Committee being replaced every year. The 2025-26 Youth Steering Committee's operations were supported by The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC).
- Since the launch of *Engage!*, the Committee has supported the Office for Youth to deliver and implement key actions of the strategy.
- At their August 2025 meeting in Canberra, members met with the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Hon Sam Mostyn AC, and the Secretary of the Department of Education, Mr Tony Cook PSM to discuss civic engagement and the priorities of young people. They also met with the Department of Education to learn about the next steps for the Anti-Bullying Rapid Review.
- Committee members have provided a submission to parliament responding to factors driving education attainment, have been involved in giving feedback on draft versions of this annual report, and have shared ideas on the implementation and delivery of projects like the National Youth Forum.
- The Youth Steering Committee will play a central role in the development of a new youth strategy, providing advice on design and implementation.
- The Office for Youth will continue to work with the Committee to identify areas where young people can meaningfully have a voice and seek their views on how to improve youth engagement across government.
- You can learn more about the work of the Committee (past and present) on the Digital Youth Hub.

"My favourite [part] about being [in] the Youth Steering Committee has probably been having the opportunity to meet other young people with views that align with mine and having a sense of meaning, like I'm actually doing something important that can help young people in Australia."

- YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER



ACTION 1.2 - RECOGNISING YOUNG PEOPLE

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

Youth Meets Parliament Week

- In 2025-26, the Australian Government reframed National Youth Week into Youth Meets Parliament Week to align with the broader theme of young people coming to Canberra and meeting members of parliament.
- The 2026 Youth Meets Parliament Week ran from 23 to 26 March 2026. The series of events brought together around 100 young people as well as youth advocates, government officials and Ministers to participate in meaningful conversations about programs and policies that affect young people.
- The Minister for Youth, Senator the Hon Dr Jess Walsh, officially opened Youth Meets Parliament Week at a welcome event at Australian Parliament House on 23 March 2026. Youth Advisory Group members, Australian Government agency representatives and parliamentarians attended the event.
  - At the welcome event, young people and Members of Parliament had the opportunity to connect and discuss their Youth Advisory Group topic or key issues with portfolio ministers.
  - The Office for Youth also collected information on each young person's local community. Young people had the opportunity to meet and discuss local issues with their local Senators and Members of Parliament.
- The National Youth Forum was held on 25 March 2026, marking the key event of Youth Meets Parliament Week.
- Throughout the rest of the week, the Youth Advisory Groups and Youth Steering Committee members took part in a range of engagement and advocacy activities, including meetings with the Minister for Youth, portfolio ministers and meetings with partner agencies.

Youth Meets Parliament Week

In 2026 Youth Meets Parliament Week included the following activities:

- Youth Advisory Group meetings with partner agencies
- Youth Steering Committee meetings
- The National Youth Forum
- Meetings with Ministers and Members of Parliament
- First Nations young people meet and greet with First Nations Members of Parliament
- Tours of Australian Parliament House
- Watching the House of Representatives Question Time
- Networking opportunities between young people and parliamentarians

FUNDING FOR THE YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- The Australian Government provides funding and support for the Young Australian of the Year Award category, which recognises the important contributions young people make to Australian society.
- Administered by the National Australia Day Council, the Australian of the Year Awards is the nation's peak award program that celebrates the achievements and contributions of extraordinary Australians.
- The recipients of the 2026 Australian of the Year Awards, including the Young Australian of the Year, were announced by the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia, in Canberra on 25 January 2026.
- Nedd Brockmann was named the 2026 Young Australian of the Year.
  - In 2022, Nedd, a then 23-year-old electrician from Forbes, had a goal to run across Australia and inspire people to do more for themselves and the homeless.
  - Nedd ran from Perth's Cottesloe Beach to Sydney's iconic Bondi Beach, completing a 3,952km journey over 46 days becoming the fastest ever Australian to do so. Nedd raised over $2.6 million from over 37,000 individual contributors.
  - He went on to start Nedd's Uncomfortable Challenge in 2024, and with his team, has raised over $8 million for those experiencing homelessness. He also raises funds for his charity partner, Mobilise, to change lives through innovative programs to reduce the number of people sleeping rough.

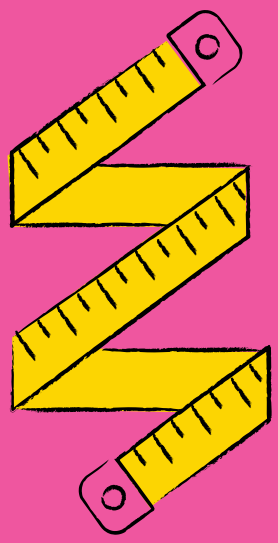


"It's a very cool recognition of hard work towards your goal and what you're trying to do... I never pursued anything like this but to get the recognition means yes, there is a tick in the right direction to say hey, we're doing the right thing."

- NEDD BROCKMANN
2026 YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Image: 2026 Young Australian of the Year, Nedd Brockmann, with Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese MP.

MEASURING OUR PROGRESS



This section presents the 2025-26 results for the three measures under Priority 1.

PERCENTAGE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHO FELT THEY INFLUENCED A GOVERNMENT POLICY OR PROGRAM

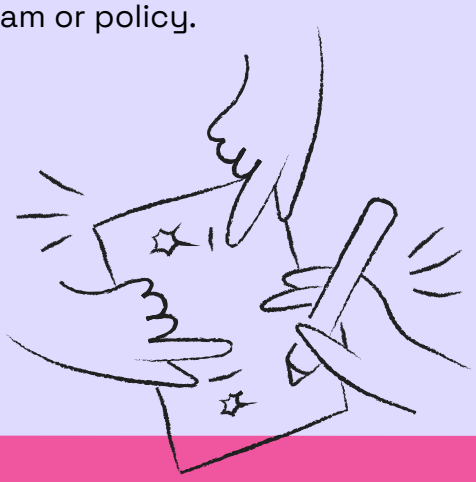
The data for this measure comes from post-program surveys for the following actions:

- National Youth Forum
- Youth Advisory Groups
- Youth Steering Committee.

Participants (young people part of an Office for Youth program) were asked to respond to the following question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Through [*my participation at the National Youth Forum/my Youth Advisory Group/the Youth Steering Committee*], I was able to influence a government program or policy.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



70%

70% of young people felt they influenced a government policy or program.

(UP FROM 59% IN 2024-25)

RESULTS DISCUSSION

Using young people's feedback, we improved on our 2024–25 result of 59%, with more participants reporting that they felt they influenced a government policy or program.

Results should be considered in the context of the different engagement formats across Office for Youth programs. For example, the National Youth Forum is a one-day event, while the Youth Advisory Group program runs over a two-year term and provides ongoing opportunities for young people to work with government departments and agencies.

The Office for Youth will continue to strengthen program design and feedback processes so young people feel recognised, listened to and able to contribute to government decision-making.



Image: Young people at the 2026 National Youth Forum.

PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO REPORT A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE AT A GOVERNMENT EVENT OR PROGRAM

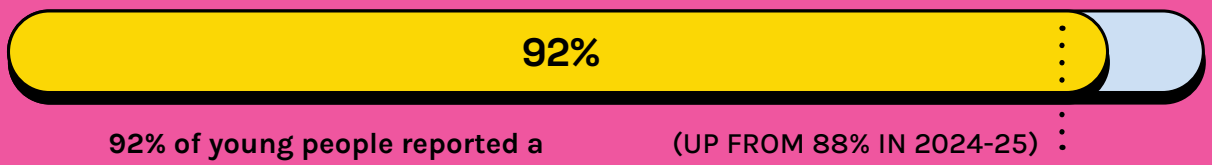
The data for this measure comes from post program surveys for the following actions:

- National Youth Forum
- Youth Advisory Groups
- Youth Steering Committee.

Participants (young people part of an Office for Youth program) were asked to respond to the following question:

How would you rate your experience at/on the [*National Youth Forum/Youth Advisory Group/Youth Steering Committee*].

1. Very Negative
2. Negative
3. Neutral
4. Positive
5. Very Positive



92% of young people reported a positive experience at a government event or program.

(UP FROM 88% IN 2024-25)



PERCENTAGE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHO FEEL THEY ARE RECOGNISED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

The data for this measure comes from pre-program surveys for the following actions:

- Young Australian of the Year state and territory nominees.

Participants (Young Australian of the Year state and territory nominees) were asked to respond to the following question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I feel recognised for my contributions in the community.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



86% of program participants feel they are recognised for their contributions in the community*.

* This is our first time reporting on this measure as data was not available in 2024-25.

"Recognition motivates and empowers young people to continue making a positive difference, showing them that their voices, ideas, and actions do matter. The more we celebrate the positive impact young people are having, the more others will feel inspired to step up, contribute, and create meaningful change themselves."

- 2026 YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR STATE AND TERRITORY NOMINEE

PRIORITIES



PRIORITY 2: WE WILL EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE TO ADVOCATE AND ENGAGE WITH GOVERNMENT

Priority two focuses on helping young people easily find clear, useful information about government programs and services. It also aims to create more opportunities for First Nations and underrepresented young people to build their leadership and advocacy skills.

The Office for Youth is helping young people access information, build confidence and have a stronger voice on the issues that matter to them.

ACTION 2.1 - CONNECTING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

DIGITAL YOUTH HUB

- The Digital Youth Hub was launched on 6 December 2024 and is a dedicated online space for young people to get support and find information on government services.
- The website uses clear, youth-friendly language so young people can easily find and understand the information they need.
- Content is regularly reviewed and updated by Australian Government departments and agencies to ensure young people have access to the most up to date information.

THERE ARE 6 SUBJECT AREAS ON THE DIGITAL YOUTH HUB:

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Provides information on mental and physical health, including healthcare services, online safety, healthy relationships, and support for issues such as alcohol, drugs, smoking and vaping.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Provides information on education pathways, including high school, university, TAFE, international study and STEM education, as well as resources to support educational decision-making.

EMPLOYMENT

Provides information on career planning, job seeking, apprenticeships, traineeships, and workplace rights and responsibilities.

LIFE STUFF

Provides practical information on government services and everyday life topics, including income support, housing, tax, superannuation, voting and financial literacy.

ENVIRONMENT

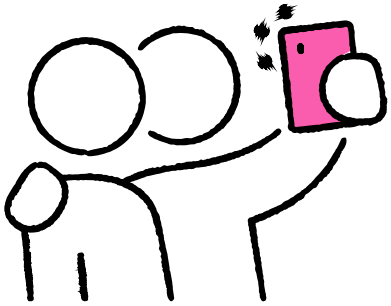
Provides information on climate change, environmental issues, climate action and ways for young people to learn about and engage with environmental topics.

OFFICE FOR YOUTH

Provides information on Office for Youth programs and participants, youth engagement opportunities, the *Engage!* strategy and resources to support participation in government decision-making.

The Office for Youth will continue to collaborate across the Australian Government to enhance the Digital Youth Hub with new, relevant content that reflects the interests and needs of young people.

ENHANCED SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



- The Office for Youth has LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram channels.
- We are working hard to ensure that our channels are visually appealing, written in a youth-friendly voice and share topics that matter to young people.
- We are creating more explainer-style posts that amplify relevant government information and support services of interest to young people. For example, our EOFY (End of Financial Year) tips, developed in collaboration with the ATO (Australian Taxation Office).
- We will continue to work with the Youth Steering Committee to further refine our approach to social media.
- Check out page 34 and 35 of this report to see how much we've increased our social media engagement!

INSTAGRAM

776

Instagram followers at launch of *Engage!*

2,674

Instagram followers [August 2026]

NEWSLETTERS

- Along with our socials, our newsletter The Loop keeps Youth Advisory Group and Youth Steering Committee members and OFY program Alumni connected and up to date with the Office for Youth's activities.
- In June 2026, we also launched a monthly newsletter for all subscribers to provide updates on government information impacting young people. Subscribers voted and named the newsletter 'Your FYP (For Young People)'.



Image: Young people at the 2026 National Youth Forum.

ACTION 2.2 - EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT GRANT

- The Regional, Rural and Remote Youth Engagement Grant supports young people in these communities to build advocacy and leadership skills through the ABC Heywire program, which includes the Heywire Competition and Regional Youth Summit.
- Through the competition, young people share their lived experiences with a national audience via ABC storytelling, with winners attending the annual Regional Youth Summit at Australia's Parliament House to develop ideas for positive community change.
- The 2026 summit brought 50 young winners together in Canberra for a week of leadership and development opportunities. They presented their ideas for community improvement to an audience of government representatives and community leaders.
- The 2026 ABC Heywire winners showcased the diversity of young people from regional, rural and remote Australia, sharing stories from LGBTIQ+, First Nations, artistic, farming and mental health advocacy perspectives.
- The 2026 ABC Heywire cohort ensured that a range of young people's voices and experiences were represented:

DEMOGRAPHICS

29% First Nations

26% CALD

23% LGBTIQ+

40% with disability

"My Heywire experience has been nothing short of unreal. The experience, the people, and the events that have altered my perspective on young people across Australia has been amazing."

- 2026 HEYWIRE PARTICIPANT



Image: Heywire participants at Australian Parliament House in 2026.

FIRST NATIONS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT GRANT

- The First Nations youth engagement grant, awarded to the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) in partnership with the National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition (NIYEC), supports First Nations young people to have a strong cultural identity and empowers them to advocate on the issues that matter most to them.
- Over the life of the grant (2024-28) FYA and NIYEC will co-develop and deliver a pilot National Student Congress, with an aim of having a delegation of First Nations members who can share their learning experiences, engage in collective voice initiatives and advocate on education issues that matter to them.
- In August 2025 and 2026, FYA and NIYEC brought a youth delegation to Canberra for their Government Engagement Trip. These trips provided an opportunity for First Nations young people to promote the work they are doing as part of the National Student Congress and to connect directly with Ministers, government officials and decision-makers.
- Since February 2025, approximately 180 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people have been engaged nationally to co-design the Congress model, with the program now progressing into a testing phase through multiple pilot initiatives.
- The First Nations youth engagement grant continues to be grounded in First Nations leadership, collective action and self-determination, supporting young people to connect, share their experiences, and influence education systems at local and national levels.



Image: Youth design group members with the Executive Director, Foundation for Young Australians taking selfies in front of Australian Parliament House in August 2025.

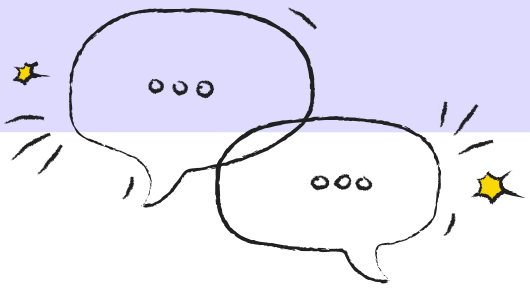


Image: Youth design group members with Uncle Paul House during Welcome to Country as part of the Government engagement trip in August 2025.

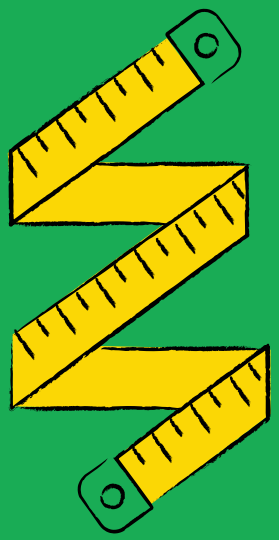
- The 2026 pilot phase is testing three key delivery streams to strengthen youth voice and participation in education reform:
  - Youth-led media through the Congress Student News initiative to amplify young people's perspectives.
  - Policy engagement through youth-led contributions to national First Nations education policy processes.
  - Place-based delivery models partnering with schools to strengthen local networks, collective leadership and community voice.

"Being part of a national network of passionate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people has reminded me that our collective voice is powerful, and that we each have a role to play in creating change."

- NIYEC STUDENT CONGRESS MEMBER



MEASURING OUR PROGRESS



This section presents the 2025–26 results for the three measures under Priority 2.

PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ENGAGE WITH THE DIGITAL YOUTH HUB AND SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

The data for this measure comes from analytics of the Digital Youth Hub website and Office for Youth social media channels.

Digital Youth Hub

We monitor Digital Youth Hub engagement through measures such as user visits and page views. We do this by looking at the number of people visiting the Hub (users) and the number of pages on the Hub they click on (views). This helps us understand what information is most useful and how we can continue to improve the information that we share.

DIGITAL YOUTH HUB ENGAGEMENT

Website Google Analytics from launch of Digital Youth Hub
(1 August 2025 to 1 August 2026)

195,548	73,020
VIEWS	USERS

We have **MORE THAN DOUBLED** our website engagement in the last year!

Social media

The following data represents total followers across Office for Youth social media channels and the percentage of these followers who are young people. It also showcases engagement statistics across Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook.

Instagram is our main social media channel used to engage directly with young people.

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Social media age restrictions

Since 10 December 2025, new social media age restrictions have been in place to help create safer online experiences for young people. Under these changes, many social media platforms are required to prevent Australians under the age of 16 from holding accounts.

The law was created to protect young people from exposure to content that can be harmful to overall health and wellbeing, and features that encourage spending too much time on screens. Restricting access aims to protect young people from these risks.

The Office for Youth is finding more ways to reach young people aged 12–15 outside of social media. This ensures they can continue to access clear and useful information about government programs and services. One way is through our monthly newsletter, which young people can subscribe to on the Digital Youth Hub.

We will also continue to work with stakeholders that support young people aged 12–15 across Australia. This includes youth organisations and state, territory and local governments.

Social media followers breakdown

2,674
Instagram followers
(As of 1 August 2026)

39%
of followers who are young people

596
Facebook followers
(As of 1 August 2026)

15.5%
of followers who are young people

2,279
LinkedIn followers
(As of 1 August 2026)

Percentage data not available for LinkedIn

Social media engagement statistics (all channels)

(1 August 2025 to 1 August 2026)

27,604
Total engagement

10,169
Post likes and reactions

3.89%
Engagement rate

* An engagement rate measures how actively people interact with content. The Office for Youth aims to achieve an engagement rate above 2%, which aligns with the Department of Education's social media strategy 2026–28.

PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WERE ABLE TO ACCESS THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION THEY NEEDED ON THE DIGITAL YOUTH HUB

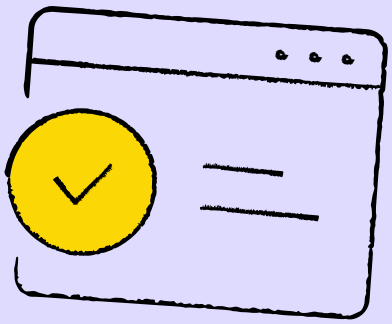
The data for this measure comes from pre-program surveys for the following actions:

- National Youth Forum
- Youth Advisory Groups
- Youth Steering Committee

Participants (young people part of an Office for Youth program) were asked to respond to the following question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I am able to access the information I need on the Digital Youth Hub website.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree





78% of young people were able to access the government information they needed on the Digital Youth Hub.

(UP FROM 66% IN 2024-25)

PERCENTAGE OF FIRST NATIONS YOUNG PEOPLE AND UNDERREPRESENTED YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN A PROGRAM WHO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT TO ENGAGE WITH THE GOVERNMENT

The data for this measure comes from pre-program surveys for the following actions:

- First Nations Youth Engagement Grant
- Regional, Rural and Remote Youth Engagement Grant

Youth Engagement Grant Participants (young people part of a Youth Engagement Grant program) were asked to respond to the following question:

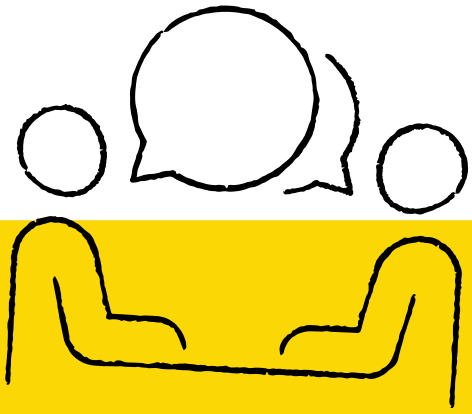
> Through the [*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Congress/ABC Heywire*] program, I feel more confident to engage with the Australian Government.
>
> 1. Strongly Agree
> 2. Agree
> 3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
> 4. Disagree
> 5. Strongly Disagree



75% of First Nations young people and underrepresented young people participating in a program who feel more confident to engage with the government*.

* This is our first time reporting on this measure as data was not available in 2024-25.

PRIORITIES



PRIORITY 3: WE WILL SUPPORT GOVERNMENT TO WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Priority 3 focuses on strengthening how government works with young people. The Office for Youth is supporting this by building capability and confidence across government to deliver meaningful youth engagement. Since the launch of *Engage!*, we've seen solid progress, and this remains a key priority for our work.

We have also continued collaboration across the Australian Government through the Interdepartmental Committee on Youth, helping to align and improve engagement approaches nationally.

ACTION 3.1 - LISTENING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

NATIONAL YOUTH SURVEY

- The National Youth Survey is an annual survey where young people can share the issues that matter most to them and how they would like to be included in government decision-making.
- The survey highlights the importance of *Engage!* and the work of the Office for Youth to create opportunities and strengthen engagement between young people and the Australian Government.
- You can read the 2025 National Youth Survey Summary Report on the Digital Youth Hub to find out more.

Total reponses: **2333** young people

Top issues for young people

1. **Cost of living**
2. **Mental health**
3. **Climate change**
4. **Housing affordability**
5. **Education and training**

98%

of young people think it's important the Australian Government considers their views when making decisions.

- The Office for Youth will use the insights from the survey to guide our programs, events and advice to the Minister for Youth and the Australian Government throughout 2026.
- These findings have already informed the topics for the 2026 National Youth Forum and the focus of 2026 Youth Advisory Groups. Through these opportunities, young people can contribute to solutions on the issues that matter to them.
- We will keep offering a mix of in-person events, online activities and partnerships with the youth sector so that young people can engage in a variety of ways on a variety of topics.



Image: Young people at the 2026 National Youth Forum.

ACTION 3.2 - BUILDING AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAPACITY

RESOURCES AND TRAINING MATERIALS

Youth engagement resources and training materials for the Australian Government will help build the capacity of government to consider young people in policy and program design.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

- The toolkit was published in December 2024 and is hosted on the Digital Youth Hub. It is used by the Office for Youth and other government officials in our capability uplift of the Australian Public Service (APS).
- There are 37 tools and miniguides in the toolkit, used as practical resources to provide support for agencies to undertake youth engagement such as surveys, checklists, questionnaires, and mapping tools.
- The Office for Youth continues to promote the toolkit to Youth Advisory Group partner agencies and to business areas that express interest in engaging young people in the design, delivery or evaluation of government policy and programs.

TRAINING

- The Office for Youth will continue to provide training to Youth Advisory Group partner agencies.
- To support the promotion of the Youth Engagement Toolkit, the Office for Youth will continue to offer advice, training and guidance to agencies interested in engaging young people in policy or program design.

> "Engagement with the Office for Youth directly has been fantastic. They are extremely helpful and supportive in how we can explore meaningful engagement with youth."
>
> **- APS EMPLOYEE**

BUILDING GOVERNMENT CAPACITY SINCE *ENGAGE!*

The Office for Youth works directly with Australian Government departments and agencies to build their capability engaging with young people.

Youth Advisory Council on International Climate Change

The Council gives young people a voice in Australia's international climate work. This includes supporting Australia in its role as Presidency Youth Climate Champion for COP31. In this role, Australia will set the negotiation agenda for the 2026 United Negotiations climate conference. The Council ensures young people's ideas shape these discussions.

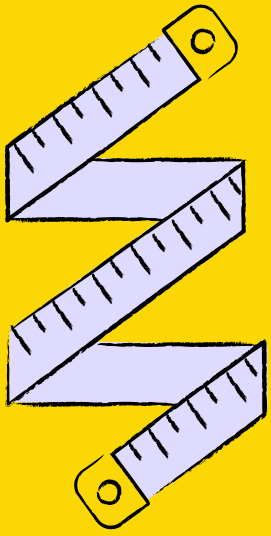
We will also continue to work with stakeholders that support young people aged 12–25 across Australia. This includes youth organisations and state, territory and local governments.

Youth Advisory Council for a Safer Australia

The Council works with the Department of Home Affairs to make sure youth perspectives are incorporated into policies and programs to counter violent extremism. The Office for Youth has supported Home Affairs to codesign a workplan with Council members and since August 2025, members have consulted on the rollout of a national prevention initiatives, discussed violent extremism in the online/gaming context and developed their own proposals. Discussions on these topics have been with state and territory, Commonwealth and international partners.

Supporting these programs enables the Australian Government to consider young people in the design of new policies and programs, building government capacity and ensuring young people's perspectives are heard.

MEASURING OUR PROGRESS



This section presents the 2025-26 results for the three measures under Priority 3.

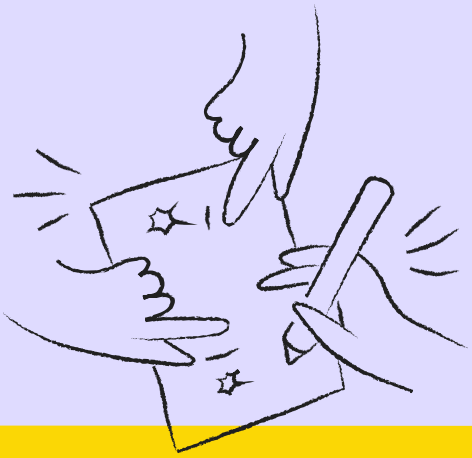
PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FEEL THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE VIEWS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The data for this measure comes from the National Youth Survey.

Participants (young people who took part in the National Youth Survey) were asked to respond to the following question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The Australian Government considers the views of young people when creating a policy or program.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



35%

35% of young people feel that the Australian Government considers the views of young people*.

* In 2024-25, this measure was reported using program participant survey data, as the National Youth Survey had not yet launched. In 2025-26, National Youth Survey data has been used to provide a broader and more accurate measure of young people's views.

RESULTS DISCUSSION

Through the National Youth Survey, we heard young people more broadly do not feel that the Australian Government considers their views. You can read the 2025 National Youth Survey Summary Report on the Digital Youth Hub.

This year, 61% of Office for Youth program participants felt their views were considered, up from 45% in 2024–25. This likely reflects the direct and ongoing opportunities young people have through our programs to work with government and see how their contributions inform policies and programs. The Office for Youth will continue to strengthen these opportunities so young people feel heard and valued.

We will also continue efforts on broader government accountability and ensure that young people's voices are reflected in new policies and programs in other government departments and agencies.



Image: Young people at the 2026 National Youth Forum.

PERCENTAGE OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THAT WORKED WITH THE OFFICE FOR YOUTH AND FELT SUPPORTED TO ENGAGE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The data for this measure comes from post program surveys for the following actions:

- National Youth Forum
- Youth Advisory Groups

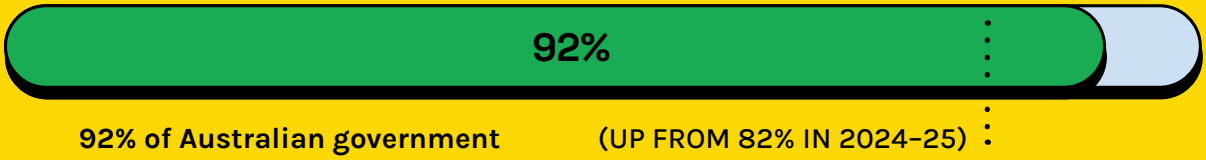
Australian Government departments and agency representatives involved in an Office for Youth program were asked to respond to the following question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The Office for Youth supported my business area to meaningfully engage with young people through/ at [*National Youth Forum/ the Youth Advisory Group/ Youth Steering Committee*].

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree



*Youth Steering Committee data is not available for 2025-26 as the program did not work directly with another Australian Government department or agency.



92% of Australian government departments and agency representatives that worked with the Office for Youth felt supported to engage with young people.

(UP FROM 82% IN 2024-25)

PERCENTAGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE WHO FEEL CONFIDENT ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY AND PROGRAMS.

The Office for Youth ran a Youth Engagement Capability Survey for APS employees between 15 May and 12 June 2026 to better understand youth engagement experiences and capabilities across business areas. This was the first APS-wide Youth Engagement Capability Survey and the results provide an important baseline for understanding current capabilities and measuring progress over time. The findings will help inform the work of the Office for Youth and its capability uplift efforts across the APS.

The data for this measure comes from the APS Youth Engagement Capability Survey.

Participants (APS employees who took part in the survey) were asked to respond to the following question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I feel confident engaging with young people on the development of policy and programs

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree



65% of the Australian Public Service feel confident engaging with young people on the development of policy and programs*.

* This is our first time reporting on this measure as data was not available in 2024-25.

RESULTS DISCUSSION

While the survey does not capture the views of every APS employee, it provides valuable insights into current youth engagement capability across the APS. Out of the 151 respondents to the survey:

- A majority of APS employees report feeling confident engaging with young people, providing a strong foundation to build on through enhanced guidance, systems and support for engagement activities.
- Many respondents recognise opportunities to strengthen their understanding of young people's views and experiences, highlighting the value of continued engagement and connection with young people across policy and program development.
- The results suggest there is scope to further embed young people's perspectives into policies and programs, helping to ensure engagement insights are consistently reflected in decision-making and outcomes.

The Office for Youth will continue to support and strengthen the Australian Government's capability to engage with young people, building on these foundations and driving continuous improvement across the APS.



Image: Young people at the 2026 National Youth Forum

LESSONS AND NEXT STEPS

This year has reaffirmed the value of creating space for young people to take part in decisions that affect them. Over the past year, feedback from young people and partner agencies has been embedded across programs contributing to steady improvements across our measures. More young people feel they can influence government decision-making, and overall experiences engaging with the Australian Government have improved.

Updates to our social media strategy helped broaden our reach and drive greater awareness about whole-of-government initiatives that matter to young people. We have encouraged greater engagement, aiming to build a stronger online presence by communicating government processes in an easy-to-understand way. We will continue to collect feedback to ensure content shared on our social media channels and the Digital Youth Hub is relevant and accessible. With new social media age restrictions in place, we will also prioritise other ways to engage and communicate with young people under 16.

As we deliver the final year of *Engage!*, the focus remains on continuing this momentum. We will focus on keeping programs adaptable and take on feedback through the National Youth Survey, consultations and our youth programs. We will ensure that engagement stays relevant to young people's lives. It also means continuing to showcase opportunities in the Office for Youth so that young people who want to be involved know how to be. We will also work to develop Australian Government youth engagement beyond *Engage!*, with a new youth strategy.

We will continue to focus efforts on 'closing the feedback loop' which will strengthen the connection between young people's perspectives and outcomes for government. We will also expand our work with government to ensure increased accountability and capability, making sure that people's voices are embedded into policy and programs.

Future efforts will continue to build on these foundations with a steady focus on engagement where young people feel empowered, valued and contribute to government decision-making.



Image: Young people working together during the policy hackathon (2026 National Youth Forum).

DEFINITIONS

Advocacy	Taking action to support a cause or issue that is affecting a person or community.
APS Academy	The APS Academy is a hub with learning and development opportunities for APS employees. On the website, APS employees can register for face to face and virtual courses and access a range of eLearning modules.
Australian Public Service	The Australian Public Service (APS) refers to Commonwealth Government departments and agencies. The staff within the APS deliver services, develop policies, and support the Australian Government in serving the public.
Decision-making	The process of making choices about government policies and programs.
Democracy	A system of government where people vote for leaders to make decisions on their behalf.
Departments and agencies	Organisations and groups in the Australian Government responsible for different policies and programs.
End of Financial Year	The end of a 12-month period used for budgeting, reporting, and tax purposes. Australia's reporting period is 1 July to 30 June (for example, 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026).
Engaged	Young people were actively involved, contributing their ideas, experiences, and perspectives.
Government	The Australian Government which is the national government of Australia.
Governor-General	The King's representative in Australia who performs important constitutional and ceremonial duties.
Inclusive	Ensuring everyone is valued and supported to participate, free from discriminatory beliefs, attitudes and practices.
Interdepartmental Committee	A common governance body for cross-agency taskforces, where senior executives from representative agencies may discuss work and provide input on deliverables.
Joint Standing Committee	A group of members from both houses of the Parliament of Australia that examine issues and make recommendations.
LGBTIQ+	An abbreviation which is used to describe lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, queer or any other sexually or gender diverse people.

Lived experience	Personal knowledge about the world gained through direct, first-hand involvement or experience.
Member of Parliament	A Member of Parliament (MP) is an elected representative voted by people who live in a specific geographic area (called an electorate). They serve in the House of Representatives.
Monitoring and evaluation	The ongoing process of tracking progress and assessing the impact of our work to understand what's working, what's not, and how we can improve.
Policies and programs	Plans and activities made by the Australian Government to address different issues or provide support to people.
Portfolio minister	A portfolio minister is a member of parliament who has specific area of responsibility such as health, finance, or youth.
Program participants	Unless another program is stated, the use of the term 'program participants' in this report refers to young people who took part of an Office for Youth program.
Question Time	When members of parliament ask ministers questions in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Question Time gives the opposition and other members of parliament the opportunity to hold the government to account for its actions and to highlight the political issues of the day.
The Secretary	Across the Australian Public Service, the Secretary is the most senior public servant responsible for leading a government department and its work.
Self-determination	The fundamental right of people to shape their own lives.
Strategy; *Engage!*	*Engage!* sets out the Australian Government's vision to ensure all young people across Australia are able to have a say on issues and policies that impact them.
Underrepresented	Groups or individuals who have less presence, voice, or influence compared to others in a particular space or decision-making process.
Young people	Young people who are between the ages of 12–25.


youth.gov.au