Youth Councils & Other Models of Engaging Young People in Community

LGAQ Annual Conference 2006
Youth Councils & Other Models of Engaging Young People in Community

**Aim:** To explore different models of young people engaging with their community and Council

**Objectives:**
- Explore the different models of engagement
- Explore the different questions in reaching an engagement strategy for you, your community, your council and young people.
- Explore the benefits, difficulties and challenges of each model

What is Youth Engagement?

Why do we want to engage with young people?
**Process of Engagement:**

Policy development and strategic planning are interrelated with the following model:

1. **A) Stocktake::**
   *What are the needs, desires, objectives and resources of Council, young people and the community?*

2. **B) Method of Engagement::**
   *How will you be engaging young people in your community and who will do it?*

3. **C) Tools for Delivery::**
   *What activities will you use to connect young people with community?*

Operational planning follows the model to plan the implementation of activities to engage young people.
## A) Stocktake of Current Situation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internal</th>
<th>External</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COUNCIL</strong></td>
<td><strong>YOUNG PEOPLE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are Councils needs, objectives, resources, relationships</td>
<td>Who are your community of young people, what are their needs and desires and how do they want to connect with their community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:

**Toowoomba:** ETRF Strategy with DoCs, EQ and local youth services. Community wanted Council to play a coordinated role and facilitate a regional approach to meet the shared needs of all stakeholders.

**Brisbane:** Consultation with community, organisations, young people and Council around youth needs leading to development of Visible Ink spaces.

**Warwick:** Consultation and development of Young Ambassadors Program to develop skills of individuals, mechanisms for Council consultation and develop activities for other young people.
# B) Method of Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Interactive</th>
<th>Indirect</th>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Interactive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Libraries, Art Galleries, Museums, Parks, Lighting, Roads, Skate Ramps, sports fields and stadiums, golf courses, swimming pools, sport centres, halls, camping grounds, caravan parks</td>
<td>Youth councils, advisory groups, youth spaces, visioning with direct input / process to engage young people, school holiday programs</td>
<td>Parents Group, Schoolies, Funding for research, School holiday Program, One off funding to community groups.</td>
<td>Graffiti program, Skate Park management programs, Park Design, targeted visioning, targeted groups for example homelessness, cultural diversity.</td>
<td>Council may ask an existing organisation to work with a group of young people to establish a holiday program that meets their needs and be involved in all stages of the activity’s development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Youth Councils & Other Models of Engaging Young People in Community

C) Tools for Engaging Young People in Community

State Election Tracker (Vibewire/ BCC/ ECQ): www.vibewire.net

*Background:* Need to increase yp’s unbiased election knowledge

*Result:* Website to educate & inform yp about State issues

*Strengths:* suits market/ easily updated/ cost & time effective

*Challenges:* community access to net & long term relationships

Verbyl (Livingstone Shire):

*Background:* Existing youth council identified need

*Result:* Purpose designed library type services exclusively to young people/ access by agencies & yp/ info, referral & support

*Strengths:* Families connected, legitimat way to use space, youth worker and librarian employed

*Challenges:* cost/ keeping it focussed/ managing diversity

LGAQ Annual Conference 2006
Youth Councils & Other Models of Engaging Young People in Community

Tools for Engaging Young People in Community

**Broadsound Shire, Dysart Community Support Group, Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance**

*Background:* Partnership between BMA/ Council to fund p/t YDO

*Result:* Increased programs and funding

*Strengths:* 3 way p’ship = broad community connection/ Corp Social Responsibility harnessed

*Challenges:* working with diverse stakeholders with diff objectives

**Chillout [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au)**

*Background:* A need for U18 recreational holiday activities

*Result:* A program of diverse activities every school holiday

*Strengths:* ease of rollout reaching wide range of young people

*Challenges:* no direct connection/ engagement/ decision making powers for young people

LGAQ Annual Conference 2006
Youth Councils & Other Models of Engaging Young People in Community

Tools for Engaging Young People in Community

Tara Shire Youth Council

Background: Crime and vandalism had been on the increase so Council engaged young people in a partnership

Result: YDO moved from Neighbourhood Centre to Council building to partner Council, police, schools and young people

Strengths: 33 diverse yp: contributed to corporate plan.

Challenges: ensuring Council/ yp relationship meets joint needs.

Stylin Up Festival (BCC and Inala Community Crew)

www.stylinup.com.au

Background: re-engage young Indigenous people in community

Result: Creative arts development program and event

Strengths: direct engagement of participants in planning & delivery

Challenges: expectations & past community management models

LGAQ Annual Conference 2006
Youth Councils & Other Models of Engaging Young People in Community

**Case Study**

**Statistics**
- 3000 young people in a community of 10000 with 2000 under 18 years
- P12 school in the community with 600 leaving to attending outside boarding schools
- High unemployment for under 25’s with limited employment opportunities
- Mainly a farming community and an aging population

**Young People’s view**
- they want to stay in the area but need employment and study options
- Under 18’s particularly want something to do on weekends

**Council’s experience:**
- youth council exists but with limited power to make decisions
- young people were involved in the community festival organising committee
- have offered trainees and apprenticeships and have often been in high demand
- have initiated a school holiday program but expensive to maintain.

**Community Resources:**
- Community centre with Counsellor/ Youth Worker and school with Guidance Officer
- 4 trainees in Council as grounds keepers and admin
- A diversity of small businesses

Using the following process undertake a stocktake, outline method of engagement and draft some tools to connect young people with Council and community

**A) Stocktake::**
What are the needs, desires, objectives and resources of Council, young people and the community?

**B) Method of Engagement::**
Who and how will you be engaging young people in your community?

**C) Tools for Delivery::**
What activities will you use to connect young people with community?
Youth Councils & Other Models of Engaging Young People in Community

Resources and Contacts

**Information**
- Engaging young people: [http://www.lgaq.asn.au](http://www.lgaq.asn.au)

**Grants:**

**Presenter Contacts:**
Rachael Uhr, Local Government Association Qld, [rachael_uhr@lgaq.asn.au](mailto:rachael_uhr@lgaq.asn.au), p: (07) 3000 2238
Ryan Foster Brisbane City Council [Ryan.Foster@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:Ryan.Foster@brisbane.qld.gov.au) p: 0734030136
Kerry O'Connor Brisbane City Council [Kerry.O'Connor@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:Kerry.O'Connor@brisbane.qld.gov.au) p: 0734030138

LGAQ Annual Conference 2006