



# You<sup>th</sup> & DCCEEW

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

## Strategy

The new youth engagement strategy, released in March 2024 by the Australian Government Office for Youth, **'Engage! A strategy to include young people in the decisions we make'** equips government with the tools to recognise and collaborate with young Australians.

The youth engagement strategy is a three-year action plan to provide young people aged 12-25 in Australia with more opportunities to contribute to government decision-making.

The Australian Government Office for Youth will lead the implementation of the strategy's actions and support all Australian Government departments and agencies to build genuine ongoing engagement with young people in Australia.

The strategy will also ensure First Nations young people are empowered to share decision-making with the Australian Government. It respects that First Nations young people have the right to be included in decisions, **particularly those that impact them and their communities.**

We also acknowledge the diverse identities, intersectionality and experiences of young people. The strategy reflects this diversity by providing opportunities for all young people in Australia to be heard, particularly those who are underrepresented in government decision-making.

The Australian Government values young people's ideas and experiences and will ensure young people are provided with more opportunities to help shape the future of our country.

## What we heard

Young people want the government to value their views and to be included in decisions that are important to them.

**78.9%** of young Australians want to be included in government decision-making.

Young people want to be taken seriously when it comes to decision-making and see their views reflected in policies and programs. This is particularly true when it comes to issues that are most important to them.

Young people want the government to be honest with them about how their ideas might be considered. Young people want to feel assured that there will be meaningful outcomes that reflect their views and experiences. They want the government to see working with them as an important step in decision-making and not just a tick-the-box activity.

Images taken professionally by Office for Youth, March 2023



## What we did

Climate change is a global, intergenerational challenge. Engaging directly with young people through the Office for Youth and the Youth Advisory Group model is a great example of the intergenerational dialogue needed to co-design public policy to achieve a prosperous and low-carbon future for Australia and the world.

### Youth Consultation

The Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change and COP28 worked with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to help shape Australia's engagement at the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Youth Advisory Group members contributed to the design of events in the Australian Pavilion and provided advice to the department and Minister for Climate Change and Energy on ways to better engage with young people.

### Youth @ COP

A member of the Youth Advisory Group travelled to attend COP28, participating in youth panel events, observing negotiations and networking with counterparts from across the globe.

The department also sponsored underrepresented groups, including First Nations and youth, to attend and contribute to Australia's inclusive climate engagement at COP28 as part of its International Climate Step-up program.

Engage! outlines an extensive series of methods that the Office for Youth will use to measure whole-of-government youth engagement and satisfaction, which will be used to review the strategy's effectiveness.

### Future work

The Australian Government will again provide targeted financial support for attendance at COP29, with a focus on under-represented groups, including First Nations Australians and youth. We will also be establishing a new formal mechanism to continue to bring youth perspectives to Australia's international engagement on climate change and energy transition, and to boost Australian youth participation in the UNFCCC.



DCCEEW COP28 stock image library



*"Participation of young Australians in climate action is a key part of our transformation..."*  
- Hon Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy



*"Young people need to know that democracy will work for them."*  
- Hon Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy