

Youth Engagement Evaluation Framework

Summary report



What is the Youth Engagement Evaluation Framework?

The Framework is made up of four components:

- **Values, principles, and practices**

Describing what quality youth engagement looks like

- **Indicators and evaluation tools**

Detailing how youth engagement can be monitored and outcomes can be captured

- **Appendices A and B**

Supporting resources, and summary of current evidence associated with the implementation, evaluation, and outcomes of youth engagement activities

What is 'youth engagement'?

Youth engagement is defined as any resource, activity, and process within organisations and communities where young people are empowered to share their contributions to influence decisions in a respectful and inclusive environment.

Youth engagement resources, processes, and activities can involve developing partnerships between individuals, organisations, and communities.

Any youth engagement resource, process, or activity should ideally be co-designed with young people, be rights-based and be responsive to what is important for young people and reflect the values and principles detailed in the youth engagement evaluation framework.

To know more about the principles and indicators, please see the [full report](#).



Values and Principles underpinning Youth Engagement



Youth engagement leads to positive change and development



1. Youth engagement experiences are positive and focuses on issues that are important to young people
2. Youth engagement empowers young people and incorporate their contributions to influence decisions
3. Youth engagement supports skill building and career development
4. Youth engagement supports sustained advocacy and civic participation in youth engagement
5. Youth engagement contributes to benefitting the wider community of young people

Youth engagement is accessible and inclusive



6. Youth engagement is accessible for all young people
7. Youth engagement activities acknowledge and celebrate diverse lived experiences

Youth engagement is respectful and equitable



8. Youth engagement is always voluntary
9. Partnerships between adults and young people are reciprocal and equal
10. Youth engagement activities facilitate shared learning and reflection

Youth engagement supports transparency and accountability



13. Youth engagement activities support and enable open communication
14. Youth engagement is always guided by ethical considerations
15. Organisations involved in engaging young people are accountable for sharing how young people's contributions are being used
16. Youth engagement activities need to be monitored and evaluated

"It's not a once-off consultation, it's rounded, and they come back to let us know what happened and ask what they can do better."

(Workshop participant)

Youth engagement is appropriately resourced



11. Youth engagement is appropriately resourced
12. Young people are remunerated accordingly

Where are you at in your practice?

Consider reading through the indicators related to these principles in the [full report](#) from pages 14–27 to select those that best suit you!"

Applying the evaluation framework

For the purposes of this framework, there are three main phases in an evaluation; and the ways that the framework can be used in each of these phases are detailed below.



Evaluation Planning

This is the first step where you think about the purpose and design of your evaluation and research

- Identify the evaluation focus by examining the program activities and intended outcomes
- Develop evaluation question, identify audiences and approach
- Select and apply indicators
- Apply ethics considerations in:
 - conducting youth engagement activities – [The Code of Ethical Practice for the Victorian Youth Sector](#)
 - considerations for evaluating youth engagement – [Ethical considerations in research and evaluation with children and young people](#)



Data Collection and Analysis

This includes the process of gathering stories and data to answer the evaluation questions you have developed

- Data Collection
- Data management and storage
- Data analysis that bring together multiple perspectives
- Synthesis of the results



Reporting

This is about sharing back the findings to those who need to know about it

- Review what the audience needs and information required
- Develop a reporting structure
- Think about who else needs to know about the reports



Please see the full **Appendix B: Review of Youth Engagement Literature** in the [full report](#).

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