



Brimbank
City Council

Dynamic Young Citizens – *junior engagement program*

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Dynamic Young Citizens

– *junior engagement program*

Presentation will cover:

- Background overview
- Why civic engagement & why the middle years
- Program objectives
- Program Model
- Achievements so far

Dynamic Young Citizens

Background overview

Dynamic Young Citizens - How it all Began

The Dynamic Young Citizens project was funded by the Federal Government in 2015 via the Brimbank Communities for Children scheme.

The Smith Family were the Facilitating Partners and the Communities for Children Committee managed the scheme.

Dynamic Young Citizens - How it all Began

The DYC was designed following community consultations to inform the Brimbank Communities for Children Community Strategic Plan (2012-14).

This consultation and research highlighted a range of issues for vulnerable children, including a lack of participation in Council consultation processes.

The DYC was developed in response to these findings and was based on space activation principals.

Dynamic Young Citizens - How it all Began

The DYC funding ended in June 30, 2020 and the Dynamic Young Citizens – *junior engagement program (DYC)* was developed.

The Program is currently in its second year and has a stronger focus on civic engagement processes.

Dynamic Young Citizens - How it all Began

Like the initial program, the DYC continues to work with children in the middle years.





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Why civic engagement & why the middle years?

Young People & Civic Engagement

“Large numbers of non-participating youth have implications for the effectiveness and representativeness of our political system. ...the future viability of the Australian democratic political system may become problematic.”

YOUTH ELECTORAL STUDY, 2004. Murray Print, Centre for Research & Teaching in Civics, University of Sydney, Dr. Larry Saha, Reader in Sociology, ANU, Dr Kathy Edwards as Senior Research Associate, CRTC, University of Sydney.

Young People & Civic Engagement

The national youth (18 to 25 years of age) enrolment rate target is 85%.

As of December 2021 the enrolment rate is at 84.4%

https://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/Enrolment_stats/performance/national-youth.htm

Why the Middle Years?

“The middle years are a distinct development phase in which children and young people can develop protective behaviours or, conversely, start to engage in risk-taking behaviours.”

Why the Middle Years?

“By creating meaningful involvement for children in civic activities and decision-making processes in...Council, (children)are validated; feeling authorised to represent their own ideas, opinions, knowledge and experiences in order to improve their own local community...”



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Objectives

Theories & Frameworks

The DYC is underpinned by the following :

- **Health and Wellbeing frameworks – an exploration of what makes us feel safe to participate in our community**
- **Systems theory – a systems perspective exploring protective factors which impact on our feelings of safety, health and wellbeing**
- **Physical and emotional health - the health and wellbeing of self is the health and wellbeing of our community**

Objectives

- 1. Children understand the role of local government in the health and wellbeing of their community.**
- 2. Brimbank children engage in civic processes.**
- 3. Council, considers children in local planning decisions.**

The DYC objectives align with the Victorian Curriculum of Civics and Citizenship, specific to the following topics:

- **Civic identity**
- **Councils role in the community**
- **Community and civic engagement and participation**



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The Program

Youth Services coordinate's the delivery of the DYC in partnership with the following Units:

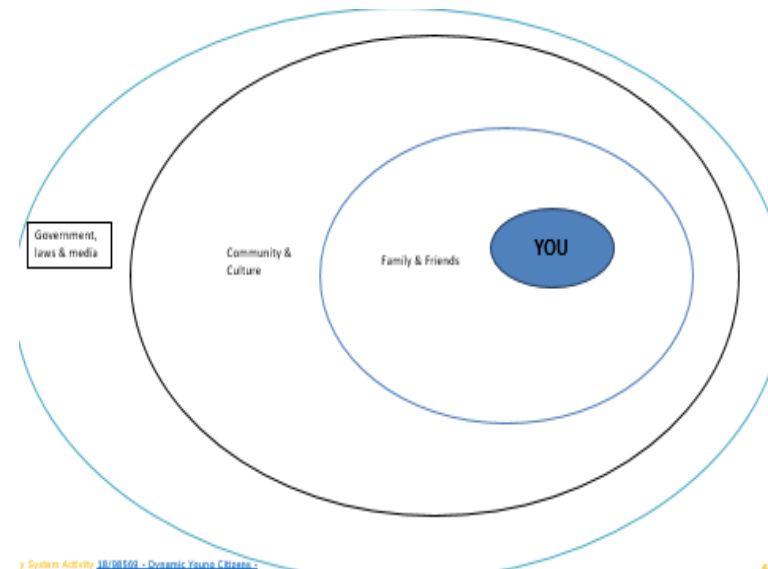
- **Governance**
- **Urban Design**
- **Conservation**
- **Sustainability**

Program Model

- **We can have up to ten schools per school year participate, four students per school.**
- **One session per term**
- **Involve whole classrooms, rather than a select group.**
- **Sessions are held at Council.**

Council's role in the health & Wellbeing of its community

Laying foundations: the link between the personal, community and Council's role in this space:



Areas of Focus: How to Have a Say

Five points of engagement:

1. Have Your Say
2. Report It
3. Ask a question at an Ordinary Council meetings
4. Petition
5. Talk to your Councillor

BRIMBANK YOUTH COUNCIL (12 to 25 years)

- **Representative's of young people in Brimbank**
- **Work on youth-led projects to create positive changes**
- **Meet with Councillors to advocate on behalf of young people**

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Achievements

Partnership Outcomes:

Development of strong partnerships between local primary schools, their communities and Council.

Some Highlights

The DYC has brokered several projects between various Council units and primary schools across Brimbank:

The Urban Design Unit investing in the Albanvale Park space, as requested by the Albanvale Primary School students, mid-2019.

Community Learning & Participation in partnership with Movelle Primary School, partnered to work on a public art project called Geography of Home – ongoing.

Some Highlights

Post and current DYC schools were consulted in the development of the Brimbank Children’s Plan, 2019/24 - 2019.

Six DYC post and current DYC schools (over 400 students) engaged in the “We Are Brimbank” picnic celebrations – 2019.

Post and current DYC schools were consulted in the development of the Brimbank Climate Emergency Strategy 2020/24 - 2019/20.

Some Civic Food for Thought

“It is the objective of civic engagement to look at...great ideas from the micro level and to suggest approaches which might amend the contradictions evidenced in the macro analysis of these ideas.”



Toward a Theory of Civic Engagement, Jerzy Hauptmann, Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Public Administration, Park University International Centre for Civic Engagement, November 2020.