



Youth Policy Manual

The participation of young people in Australian society is fundamental to our future as a nation. Working for and with young people is crucial to the nation's economic and social wellbeing.

Defence is uniquely positioned to support whole-of-Government youth policy. We have strong community ties brought about through our national presence, high community profile, custodianship of Australian history and culture, and commitment to the values and principles that have shaped our nation. It is in Defence's interests to engage proactively with youth, to enable us to attract the right people, with the right skills, behaviours and attitudes to secure Australia and its interests into the future, and to contribute to an Australian society that is interested in and informed about Defence.

Engagement with youth brings important responsibilities, including the obligation to ensure that youth safety and wellbeing is paramount. It is also incumbent on Defence to ensure that Defence youth activities are delivered in a coordinated, coherent and well governed manner to maximise outcomes for both participants and Defence, and to ensure the effective use of resources; that the Australian Government's important commitments to Human Rights in the delivery of youth activities are maintained; that Defence youth activities are inclusive, regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and disability; and, that Defence youth activities align with good practice youth development principles.

Defence is therefore committed to providing a range of safe, challenging, high quality and contemporary youth engagement and development activities in metropolitan and regional areas across Australia.

This Youth Policy Manual (YOUTHPOLMAN) provides the policy and procedures that govern and inform Defence's engagement with youth—including the Australian Defence Force Cadets (ADF Cadets). YOUTHPOLMAN assembles prime source policy and governance guidance in a single reference point on youth policy, ADF Cadets and the conduct of Defence youth engagement and development programs for all Defence personnel, ADF Cadets members, Defence Approved Helpers and volunteers.

