YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

2021-2024





VICTORIA

REGIONAL SPORT Barkly Square 25-

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Regional Sport Victoria acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we live, work, and play. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present. We acknowledge that they have been custodians for many centuries and continue to perform age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation, and renewal. We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of regional and rural Victoria.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DIVERSITY

We acknowledge that our programs and community events will be respectful, accessible, and inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, culturally and linguistically diverse and newly arrived young people, young people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex+ young people.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE

We acknowledge all young people who live, work, and play in regional and rural Victoria. We pay respect to their contribution to our communities and commit to providing a safe and supportive environment for them to collaborate, learn and grow. We acknowledge that physical activity reduces by half in adolescents during the ages of 12-17 years and we will continue to work together with young people to provide more inclusive opportunities for participation in sport and active recreation in regional and rural Victoria.

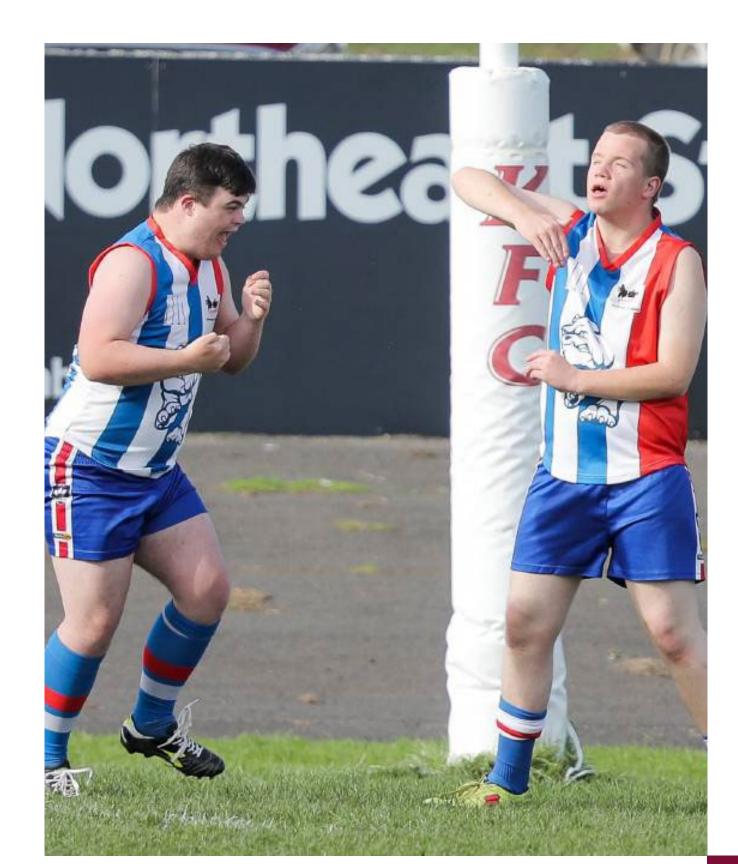


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FOREWORD

THE VOICE OF RSV

It is with great pleasure that I present Regional Sport Victoria's (RSV) Youth Engagement Strategic Framework 2021-2024. This framework identifies actions that RSV and the nine Regional Sports Assemblies (RSAs) can support to effectively acknowledge, engage, and empower young regional Victorians, and to promote lifelong engagement with sport and active recreation.

This framework represents RSV's commitment to actively involving young people in planning and decision making and aims to reinforce the objectives of the RSA Network Youth Charter.

I wish to acknowledge all the young people who contributed to this framework. Your insights have been invaluable, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and many other young people to shape the future of sport and active recreation in regional Victoria.

Felicity Williams Chair of Regional Sport Victoria

THE VOICE OF THE RSVYAC

As young people from regional Victoria dedicated to the involvement of youth in sport, it meant a great deal to each of the Regional Sport Victoria Youth Advisory Committee Members to help shape a brighter future in sport across Regional Victoria. Our dream for young people is for them to not only feel welcome to play, but also to have direct involvement in committees, and to have a voice in making decisions that affect them.

Sport and active recreation is a major component of the lives of so many young people, and it is our dream to make sure that clubs are a place of happiness, commitment, and inclusivity. We hope that the future is a place where sports are for all abilities, all genders, and all ages. As Regional Sport Victoria's Youth Advisory Committee it is our passion to promote youth influence in sport and to inspire others to do the same.

Georgia Murphy RSVYAC – Gippsland



FOREWORD

THE VOICE OF THE REGIONAL SPORTS ASSEMBLIES

The RSV Youth Engagement Strategic Framework will provide a guide for Valley Sport, as well as Victoria's 8 other RSA's future work in the youth programming space. The framework will support us to build our professional capacity, allowing our team to be better equipped to engage with the youth cohort to design and deliver appropriate physical activity programs across the Goulburn Valley.

We look forward to using the RSV Youth Engagement Strategic Framework to inform future strategic planning and relationship building with stakeholders within the youth development space ensuring we continue to support healthy, active and connected communities in the Goulburn Valley.

David Quinn Executive Officer, Valley Sport



THE VOICE OF VICHEALTH

Acknowledging the experiences of young people, engaging them in identifying meaningful solutions, and empowering them to take action are all crucial steps in keeping young people in Regional Victoria active, healthy and socially connected. Regional Sport Victoria (RSV) is once again leading the way.

By establishing a Youth Advisory Committee, RSV is providing new and evidence-based resources for sport and recreation organisations. Through partnering with youth advocacy groups in the development of this Youth Strategic Framework, young Victorians have been meaningfully engaged in developing new solutions and initiatives to support their own health and wellbeing, and in shaping the future of sport and recreation for Victoria.

The process that has led to this document represents more than a framework. It has provided a safe space where young people can share, connect and be heard. Such commitment by RSV provides a blueprint for us all in how to more effectively acknowledge, engage and empower young Victorians, and as we work towards ensuring all young people can enjoy positive and inclusive experiences when participating in sport and recreation. We are proud to support the work of RSV and its nine Regional Sports Assemblies. Our hope is that this Youth Engagement Strategic Framework will see more young people staying active and connected to their community, now and into the future.

Dr. Sandro Demaio CEO VicHealth

SCOPE OF THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Regional Sport Victoria (RSV) Youth Engagement Strategic Framework has been informed by young people for the young people of regional Victoria. RSV wanted to develop a relevant and meaningful strategy that allowed young people an opportunity to reflect, grow, engage, and share their experiences and hopes for how sport can best support regional Victoria's youth.

This strategic framework represents best practice youth engagement standards and is an aspirational approach for RSA's to aim towards. While not every action will be achievable for RSA's immediately, given appropriate resources and investment RSA's can aim towards more comprehensive youth engagement by implementing the actions outlined in this framework.

Young people play an essential role in the development and participation of youth focused sporting programs. For the purpose of this document a young person is aged 12-17 years and lives, learns, earns, socialises or has a connection with regional and rural Victoria.

Regional Sport Victoria has undertaken a consultation process that has seen the formation of RSV's first ever Youth Advisory Committee as well as the consultation of other youth focused organisations and young people residing in Regional Victoria.



The Role of RSV:

- + Youth consultation and civic engagement.
- + Planning and Advocacy.
- + Developing partnerships with other youth focused organisations.
- + Build the capabilities of the Regional Sports Assemblies.

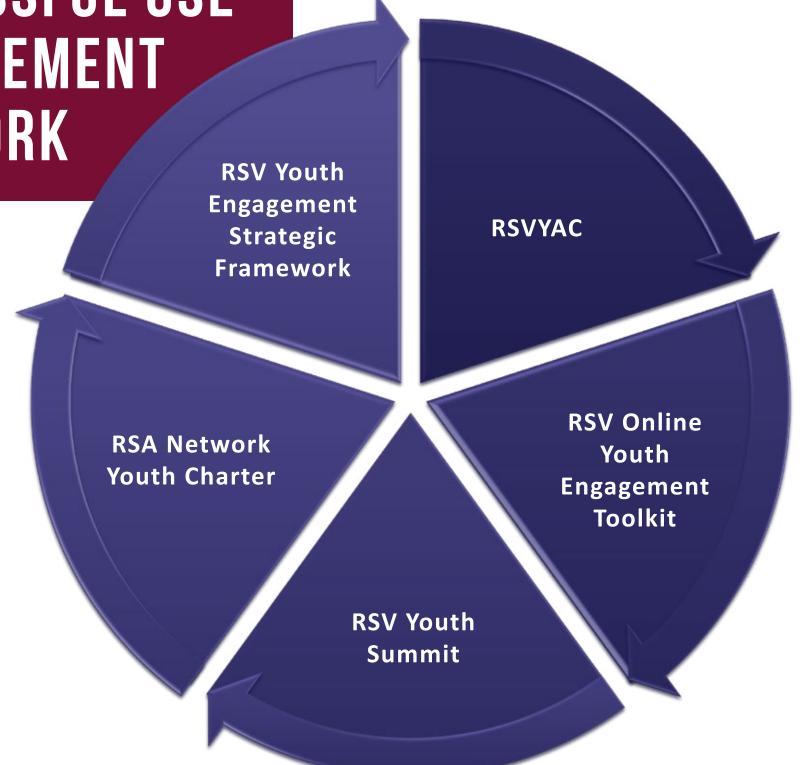
The Role of RSV Member Bodies (RSA's)

- + Provide participation opportunities to regional and rural Victorian youth.
- + Look for opportunities for the voice of young people to be heard.
- Continue to take opportunities to build their capabilities in youth engagement
- Support partnerships that provide greater opportunity for young people

The RSV Youth Strategy aims to promote health, education, recreation, inclusion, and partnerships which connect young people to sport and active recreation in regional Victoria.

PROCESS FOR SUCCESSFUL USE OF THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This framework is only one aspect of a range of activities which support youth voice and engagement across the network.



RSV YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK SUMMARY

The RSV Youth Engagement Strategic Framework is a collection of actions that Regional Sports Assemblies and RSV can take to ensure young people are acknowledged, engaged and empowered. While Regional Sports Assemblies will not have the capacity to implement all actions, it is acknowledged that through the implementation of aspects of this strategy, Regional Sports Assemblies will in turn have the following impact:

- Increase opportunities for young people to access and participate in program development and participation.
- + Provide comfortable and relevant environments for young people to be heard and acknowledged.
- + Meaningfully engage young people in regional and rural Victoria, by collaborating on consultation opportunities, development opportunities and leadership opportunities in our communities.
- + Form partnerships with agencies and young people that will empower the youth of regional Victoria to feel supported to achieve.

LATROBE UNIVERSITY FINDINGS:

VicHealth defines 'young people' as those aged between 12 and 17 years old. We focus on this age range because it is a critical period for individual development, one that is characterised by important transitions. During this time, young people are developing physically, intellectually, and emotionally, while forming autonomous identities, building independent social networks and initiating intimate relationships. Many are transitioning between primary, secondary, and tertiary education, or from education to work, and navigating shifts away from the family home.

Some young people may experience disadvantage or other challenges that can compromise health and wellbeing. It can be a period of high risk for the development of mental illness among young people, and a time when some young people may experiment with risky drinking, smoking or illicit drug use, become less active or eat more unhealthy food and drinks. Periods of transition offer promising opportunities for better health and wellbeing and can help create healthy patterns that continue into the future. For example, young people's experiences and social norms around gender, sexuality and intimate relationships provide a foundation for relationships in adulthood.

These challenging transitions can affect the participation outcomes for young people, add to this the demands of living in rural and regional areas, travel, work and remoteness of communities, access to after school opportunities can be few and far between. RSV aims to support the regional sports assemblies to continue to bridge these gaps for regional young people in a meaningful manner.

THE RSVYAC - WHO ARE THEY AND WHY DO THEY EXIST?

In 2020 RSV sought to establish a Youth Advisory Committee to support the work of the regional sports assemblies to provide meaningful participation for young people in regional and rural Victoria.

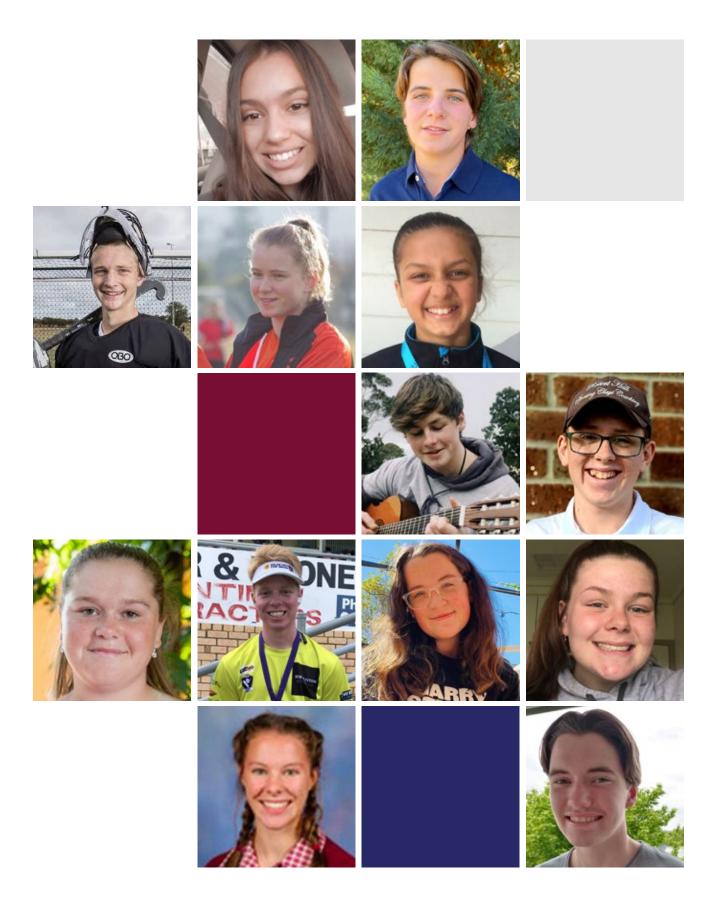
The young people on the YAC represent a diverse range of young people from all nine of the regional sports assembly regions. This diverse group of young people are informing and providing feedback on the development of RSV's Youth Engagement Strategic Framework and an online youth engagement toolkit that will support the work of the Regional Sports Assemblies.

The RSVYAC have also provided feedback on:

- + The influences around their sporting habits.
- + Club development and what young people see as important in local club culture.
- + COVID-19 and the challenges they faced during this time.

The RSVYAC have also codesigned:

- + The Youth Engagement Strategic Framework.
- + The RSA Network Youth Charter.
- + The RSV online youth engagement toolkit.





LETTERS FROM OUR RSV YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Being a 17-year-old male residing in a small country town in the state's north east to being appointed to Regional Sports Victoria's 'Youth Advisory Committee' is something that I'm incredibly proud and humble of but at the same time I am so lucky enough to sit on this committee with another 23 like-minded individuals like myself whom reside all around regional Victoria.

I bring a wealth of experience being in the sporting community, playing many different sports across my junior years from playing football on a Friday night or early Sunday morning to umpiring seniors' football on a Saturday afternoon during the winter to lastly playing cricket and tennis in the summer.

The main reason why I wanted to become a part of this wonderful committee and work with young people right across regional Victoria, is because of the fact that I believe that we need to change the culture around how our sporting clubs, groups, organisations and associations are ran across the state but also provide more opportunities and avenues for more young people to become involved in sport and have a seat around the decision-making processes of how our sporting clubs, groups and associations are ran right across the state not only in regional Victoria but also metropolitan areas of Victoria.

So far in my journey of being on RSVYAC, I've been fortunate enough to have time to reflect on my time being involved in sport and revisiting

all the events that I have shaped my sporting career to this date and the achievements that I have been able to make along the way. But also, I have been involved in a wonderful collaborative project amongst members of RSVYAC by creating a 'I AM POEM' by informing others a little bit about yourself, who surrounds yourself as a person, what you aspire to be beyond school and what your vision is bringing to RSVYAC.

And my vision is that we live in world where young people have the opportunity to be the next leaders of tomorrow and aspire the next generation to become involved in sport and love the sport that they play today.

Jack Norris - Aged 17 Kyabram VIC

LETTERS FROM OUR RSV YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

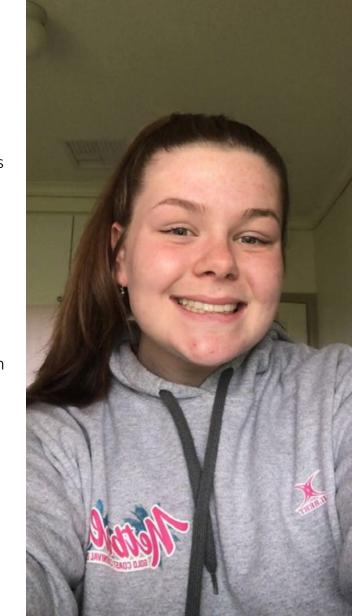
My time with the Regional Sports Victoria Youth Advisory Committee has been an amazing opportunity and I couldn't be more grateful for the experience that I have had. I had first heard about the council through my teacher, who then nominated and pushed me to apply for the position. After filling out an application, I later got an email saying that I had been accepted as a member of the RSVYAC.

Seeing the roles and responsibilities I would have being involved in this committee was really intriguing, as it was my first time being involved in something like this. I soon realised it was quite different to anything I'd done before and, although I was quite eager to get started, I was also nervous as I wasn't 100% sure how the first meeting would go.

Because the meetings were online via zoom, I think that took some of my nerves away and finally getting to see the faces behind all of the emails I had received was really relieving. Getting to meet my fellow committee members was something I was really excited about. Being able to hear their stories and experiences was incredible and having 20 odd other people who could relate to and understand your journey within the sporting environment, is something I am quite lucky to have experienced.

As a part of our first two meetings, we were asked to do a few projects in our spare time. One of which was to create a sport and recreation life map, and another was writing a poem reflecting on our lives in sport. Both of these activities gave me the chance to reflect on my sporting past and all of the pivotal and important sporting moments that shaped where I am today. Being able to share my own timeline and poem, and to see and hear from others was really captivating, especially because we could see just how far we have all come.

I want to lastly make a note on just how amazing this experience has been. Not only have I been given a chance to provide a voice for young people in sport, but I also



get to see how my input will really make a difference towards making an overall better sporting community. This, in my eyes, is one of the most empowering and fulfilling feelings, getting to actually see how your involvement and all of your hard work has really made an impact on others.

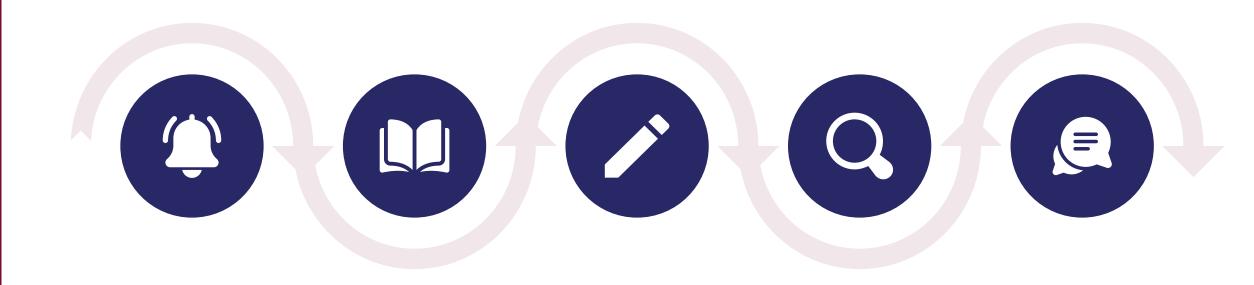
Jade Cass - Aged 17 Malmsbury, Vic

OPPORTUNITIES

Young people want the opportunity to be involved.

COLLABORATION

Youth work should be a collaborative process.



CONSULTED AND INFORMED

Young people want to share their voice to help achieve great things.

SUPPORT

Young people need equitable and inclusive support to be able to achieve.

VISION

Share the results and involve young people in the process.

The foundation of the RSV Youth Engagement Strategic Framework focuses on three guiding principles:

ACKNOWLEDGE ENGAGE & EMPOWER.

These three principles form a guide for RSA's to consider when working with young people in regional and rural Victoria.

The RSV Youth Engagement Strategic Framework action plan offers RSA's an aspirational tool to consider in their work with young people in order to support more meaningful and relevant interactions.

The three guiding principles offer an opportunity for RSA's to pursue innovative opportunities with the support of RSV online toolkit.

ACKNOWLEDGE

- Acknowledge young people's ideas, voice and contribution
- Celebrate and actively promote diversity and inclusion
- + Acknowledge existing barriers to participation in sport and active recreation



We commit to ensuring young people are considered and acknowledged in all community consultations. We will provide opportunities for young people to have a voice in the decisions that impact on them. We will be direct and clear in our communication and provide honest feedback to support the success of young regional Victorians.

ENGAGE

- Collaborate with and for young people
- Explore new ways of working with young people
- Be open, honest and genuine with young people



We commit to being creative in our approach to youth engagement, to consider using online tools, music or videos as a medium that young people relate to. We will provide an environment that supports the building of supportive working relationships with young people and other members within our communities. We will be open to exploring opportunities to collaborate with other youth focused organisations to provide more opportunities for young people in regional Victoria.

EMPOWER

- Provide pathways for meaningful participation existing governance structures and decisionmaking bodies
- Create new opportunities for young people to actively explore their passion and lead change in their communities
- Support young people to be confident in their interactions with sport and active recreation clubs and the broader community



We commit to ensuring that consultations and programs are held in an environment and at a time that is accommodating for young people and their needs. We will provide opportunities for young people to be involved in leadership opportunities within our organisation and within clubs across regional Victoria. We will support young people to develop their leadership skills and to empower them to be more actively involved.

THE RSA NETWORK YOUTH CHARTER

This charter reflects the Regional Sports Assemblies (RSA's) commitment to empowering the young people of regional Victoria, by enabling their voice and influence regarding decisions made in youth focused sport and active recreation.

It provides three guiding principles to ensure that engagement with young people is genuine and meaningful, providing a safe space for regional youth to help shape the future of sport and active recreation through innovation and collaboration.

Engagement may be formal, driving systematic policy direction or more participative, encouraging input into decisions that may impact our organisation's future direction. This youth charter is a commitment to every young person in regional Victoria regardless of circumstance or culture. We acknowledge the additional barriers to participation that young people may face, and we are committed to finding ways to collaborate to ensure greater access to sport and active recreation.



RSV YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK—WHAT CAN WE DO?

RSV Youth Engagement Strategic Framework

ACKNOWLEDGE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER

'Creating greater impact and participation through collaboration.'



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

FOCUS	ACTION ITEMS	WHO IS ACCOUNTABLE?
ACKNOWLEDGE	 Strengthen and build on processes through use of focus groups and round table discussions when developing/implementing programs to consider the involvement of youth voice. Explore opportunities to provide activities that are low cost/no cost sport and active recreation options for young people from underrepresented communities. 	 RSA's to identify ways to develop and support youth led activities for the purpose of sharing youth voice through their programming through use of the RSV online youth engagement toolkit resources. RSA's to identify underrepresented groups and organisations to support/collaborate with to acknowledge the diversity of young people to provide low cost/no cost sport and active recreation options.
ENGAGE	 Consider a strategic approach for the employment of young people within our organisations. Continue the development and updating of the RSV Youth Engagement Online Toolkit. 	 RSV and RSA's to consider the employment of young people into positions within our organisations and positions of leadership within our organisations. RSV to monitor and update the RSV Youth Engagement Online Toolkit in collaboration with young people to ensure it is relevant for young people and to RSA's.
E M P O W E R	 Provide youth focused case studies to be housed on the RSV Youth Engagement Online Toolkit as a sign of best practice throughout the network. Empower and build the capacity of young people to lead projects and activities. 	 RSA's to provide case studies to RSV representing their commitment to sharing and engaging youth voice through their programming. RSA's to consider ways to support young people through leadership/facilitation opportunities throughout their programming. Provide relevant training and support to ensure the success of young people within our organisations .

RSV YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK—WHAT CAN WE DO?

RSA/RSV AWARENESS **ACTION ITEMS** WHO IS ACCOUNTABLE? **FOCUS + RSA's** to complete a child safe policy and procedures + Ensure child safe polices and checklist that will be provided by RSV. procedures are up to date within your organisations. + RSV and RSA's to embed the RSA Network Youth Charter into the employee induction processes and to ensure the + Provide young people meaningful signed copy of the RSA Network Youth Charter is visible in opportunities to inform the work of all RSA buildings. RSV and its member bodies. **+ RSV** to continue to provide ongoing training and + Build the capabilities of RSA's to opportunities to the network and through online involve young people in the work that channels such as TEAMS on best practice youth they do. engagement. + Build relationships and provide + RSA's to build on the relationships with RSVYAC members opportunities for RSVYAC members to at the Youth Summit and consider opportunities for their inform the work of the network. voice to continue to be heard throughout the network. **+ RSV** – to continue to engage with youth focused + Collaborate with key partners to build organisations and provide opportunities to collaborate to RSA's capabilities when engaging with/ RSA's. for young people. + RSV to hold a youth led round table internally to consider + Provide young people meaningful how to effectively engage with young people, provide opportunities to inform the work of meaningful opportunities and raise awareness of the RSV and its member bodies. work and opportunities within RSA's.

RSV YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK—WHAT CAN WE DO?

COMMUNITY AWARENESS				
FOCUS	ACTION ITEMS	WHO IS ACCOUNTABLE?	Turnae (1)	
ACKNOWLEDGE	 Position RSV and its network as leaders in the youth sector. Consider opportunities to acknowledge young peoples contributions . 	 + RSV to promote the youth led initiatives of RSA's through social media and channels and website. + RSA's to provide a spotlight on young regional Victorians during youth week each year and to share throughout their networks and social media. 		
ENGAGE	 Consider ways to support SSA's and LGA's to provide meaningful opportunities to young people in regional and rural Victoria. 	 RSA's – to continue to attend youth network meeting through LGA's and opportunities with other youth focused organisations to support and identify opportunities for young people. RSV and RSA's to actively seek opportunities to collaborate with SSA's and share youth voice through a collaborative approach. 	humme!	
E M P O W E R	Support RSV board members and executives to understand youth needs and issues so that they can advocate/lobby for youth needs in sport and active recreation.	 RSV to plan how they can support the election of a young person to the board to offer diversity and youth representation. 		

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WHAT DO WE DO WELL? CASE STUDIES

LOUISE'S JOURNEY:

Read about Louise's journey to share a young person's voice through her club committee and the opportunities this has opened up for her.

Access this story here: Link to the RSV Online Toolkit here

MALLEE REGIONAL SPORTS ASSEMBLIES - ACTIVE YOUTH PROGRAM:

Read about the Mallee Regional Sports Assemblies - Active Youth Program. A youth focused program run in collaboration with young people, local schools and community organisations to provide opportunities to underrepresented youth.

Access this story here: Link to the RSV Online Toolkit here

SPORT NORTH EAST AND THE WANGARATTA YOUTH COUNCIL:

Read about the collaboration between Sport North East and the Wangaratta Youth Council- See how collaborating together can bring more relevance to the work you do.

Access this story here: Link to the RSV Online Toolkit here







RSV ONLINE TOOLKIT

The RSV online youth engagement toolkit is another step in the process that underpins this Youth Engagement Strategic Framework. It will provide RSA's with a platform to Reflect, Share, Learn and Grow in their youth engagement journeys.

The RSV online youth engagement toolkit can be accessed via the Regional Sport Victoria's website at:

wwww.regionalsportvictoria.org.au/

Click on the Youth Engagement Tab to access.





REGIONAL SPORT VICTORIA'S

YOUTH ADVISORY **COMMITTEE 2020-21**



The RSV Youth Advisory Committee

In 2020/2021 Regional Sport Victoria (RSV) undertook a consultation process that has seen the formation of RSV's first ever Youth Advisory Committee as well as the consultation of other youth focused organisations and young people residing in regional Victoria. The implementation of this consultation with our Youth Advisory Committee is a commitment from our member bodies to proactively seek opportunities to provide meaningful participation options to young people in the planning and development of their programs and initiatives.

RSV wants to ensure young people are acknowledged, engaged and empowered using sport and active recreation as a vehicle to provide meaningful and relevant participation opportunities. During the consultation process with the RSVYAC we have learnt:

- · Young people want the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process.
- · Young people want the opportunity to be involved in a meaningful way.
- Young people need equitable and inclusive support to be able to achieve.
- Youth work is a collaborative process.
- It is important to share the results of your consultations and offer opportunities for young people to be involved in seeing the process through.

What did we learn from our consultations?

