

# Councillor Freeman - QoN - Youth Advisory Committee

Tuesday, 26 May 2026  
Council

**Council Member**  
Councillor Eleanor Freeman

Public

**Contact Officer:**  
Jo Podoliak, Director City  
Community

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Councillor Eleanor Freeman will ask the following Question on Notice:**

'The City of Adelaide has a comparatively younger residential population than Greater Adelaide, with almost half of residents (47.1%) aged between 18-34 years old, compared with just 22.8% across Greater Adelaide, as recorded at the 2021 census.

Has the City of Adelaide ever facilitated a Youth Advisory Committee, or equivalent engagement mechanism, focused on amplifying the perspectives of younger residents, workers and visitors in Council decision-making?

If so, what form did this take, when did it operate and what recommendations were delivered?'

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## REPLY

1. The City of Adelaide has previously undertaken a range of initiatives aimed at engaging younger residents, students and visitors.
2. Council endorsed the Youth Strategy and Action Plan (2010–2014) on 8 February 2010. Developed in consultation with young people, the Strategy included 54 actions focused on increasing engagement opportunities, projects, events and initiatives that would attract and support young people within the city.
3. In addition to the Youth Strategy and Action Plan, the City of Adelaide facilitated a Youth Council initiative in 2015 as part of the Council's 175-year celebrations. The initiative provided an opportunity for young people to contribute perspectives and ideas relevant to civic participation, community outcomes and the future direction of the city.
4. While the Youth Council was considered a valuable engagement initiative, it was established as a project-specific activity rather than an ongoing or permanent advisory mechanism. As such, the City of Adelaide has not maintained a standing Youth Council or equivalent formal youth advisory body on a continuous basis.
5. While a formal Youth Council is not currently in place, the City of Adelaide continues to engage with younger members of the community through a range of contemporary engagement approaches. This currently includes collaboration with the Art Gallery of South Australia's Neo Ambassadors (a volunteer committee of young people aged 13 to 17) and event participants which have been an important mechanism for obtaining youth perspectives.
6. The Neo Ambassadors have recently contributed feedback and input into the development of Council strategic work including the Cultural Policy, Teen Collections and spaces within the library, and most recently, the Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy. The Neo Ambassadors have been integral in helping to ensure that the views and aspirations of younger people are reflected in future planning and service delivery.

7. From a broader community engagement perspective, the City of Adelaide does not currently have a standalone or formalised engagement mechanism specifically dedicated to young people. Rather, Council seeks to ensure that its community engagement practices are accessible, inclusive and designed to encourage participation from all demographic groups, including younger residents, workers and visitors.
8. Where appropriate, individual engagement projects may incorporate a specific youth focus or targeted engagement activities to ensure younger perspectives are captured. These approaches are considered on a project-by-project basis depending on the subject matter, community impact and intended outcomes of the engagement process.
9. The Office of the Lord Mayor also made available the use of our civic rooms for meetings of the South Australian Youth Forum in 2023 and 2024.
10. During the period in 2025 when Australia was bidding to host the COP in Adelaide in November this year, it was envisaged that the City of Adelaide would coordinate and host a Youth Town Hall COP for young people between the ages of 13 and 17.
11. Notwithstanding the disappointment of not being awarded hosting rights for this year's COP, discussions are progressing about organising a Youth Climate Change Forum involving local schools in the City of Adelaide. It is envisaged that the Forum would be coordinated in partnership with and run by young people who go to school in our local area.
12. Subject to a successful event, other similar Forums could be developed which focus on topics which are of interest to young people in the 13 to 17 age bracket. Informal discussions about these events are being progressed with the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.
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