

The Greens (WA) 2017 policy

Youth

The Greens (WA) believe that:

- young people have the right to live their lives free from violence, harassment, prejudice and discrimination
- young people are valuable members of society and should be recognised and respected for the unique and important perspective they contribute
- young people should be supported in becoming empowered and engaged members of the community and wider society

Aims

The Greens (WA) want:

- young people to be enabled to participate meaningfully in decision-making on policies and programs that affect them (see also The Greens (WA) [Public Participation](#) policy)
- to celebrate the presence of young people in our public spaces
- a Western Australian society that respects and values young people as the capable custodians of our future

Measures

The Greens (WA) will initiate and support legislation and actions that:

- properly resource youth organisations and peak youth agencies and include these groups in government decision making on youth policies and programs
- address the specific physical and mental health needs of young people by providing easily accessible age-appropriate services (see also The Greens (WA) [Mental Health](#) policy)
- introduce optional voting enrolment at the age of 16
- develop public spaces and recreational facilities that are safe, accessible, affordable and that welcome young people
- provide access to appropriate accommodation options for young people, including homelessness services (see also The Greens (WA) [Housing](#) policy)
- improve access to reliable and affordable public transport (see also The Greens (WA) [Transport](#) policy)
- minimise involvement of young people in the criminal justice system by strategies including ensuring access to legal representation and other specialised support where required (see also The Greens (WA) [Justice](#) policy)
- promote justice reinvestment¹ court diversionary programs
- ensure all government-funded service providers are accountable, transparent and provide services without evangelism or discrimination on any grounds
- provide age appropriate education about the diversity of sexuality, sexual relations and reproductive choice and health (see also The Greens (WA) [Sexuality](#) and [Gender Identity](#) policies)

- ensure that recreational, cultural, artistic and sporting activities are affordable and accessible, and sufficiently diverse to address the needs and aspirations of all young people
- provide anti-bullying programs in schools that highlight mediation and restorative practices amongst all members of the school community
- ensure that cost is never a disincentive to undertaking further education or training (see The Greens (WA) [Education](#) policy)
- address high youth unemployment with appropriate training, education, and supportive and accessible transition to employment programs
- improve access to post-secondary and tertiary education for regional, rural and remote youth
- protect the rights of young people at work including the right to fair pay and conditions

(See also [the Australian Greens Children and Young People](#) policy)

Glossary

1. **Justice reinvestment** - taking taxpayer dollars out of prisons and putting them back into communities.

Youth policy ratified by The Greens (WA) in 2017