

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

1 GET INFORMED

Find out who your council members are

- Visit your council's website and familiarise yourself with your local elected members.



Visit your local council

- Reach out to your local council to arrange a visit or attend a council meeting.
- Watch your council meetings online. Some councils record their meetings; you can watch them live or at a later date.

Find out what items are being discussed in the next meeting

- Visit your local council's website, to view the upcoming agenda.
- Sign up for your council newsletters to get regular updates.
- Follow the council on social media to see current highlights.



2 MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Share your initiative, issue or idea

- Visit your council's website and find the email address of your chosen elected member. This could be any of the councillors or the mayor.
- Share your thoughts with one or more elected members via email. If you're not sure who to email, try researching to find out who might share an interest in your topic.
- Bonus! Ask your teacher if you can invite an elected member to your school to hear about initiatives, issues or ideas from your class.

Start a petition

- Think about an initiative, issue or idea you would like to champion.
- Go to your council's website and see if they have a template you can use.
- Write a request and fill out petition form.
- Get your petition out there! You want to get as many names, signatures and addresses as possible of people in your community who support your cause.
- Finalise your petition and submit it to your council.

Give a deputation

- Get familiar with the items in the upcoming meeting from the meeting agenda.
- Ask permission from the mayor to speak at the next meeting – each council has a different process.
- Prepare for your deputation by writing notes on what you would like to say – you will have 5 minutes to speak.
- Present your initiative, issue or idea to the council.

Participate in community consultation

- Find the items that are up for consultation on the council website.
- Research and discuss the item.
- Contribute your opinions to the consultation process.

Join a youth committee

- Many councils have a committee comprised of young people, specifically to discuss items related to young people in your community.
- Find out if your council has a youth committee and information on how to join on your council's website. You may need to apply for the position.
- If your council does not have a youth committee – maybe that's an idea you can champion?

Vote in your council election

- Enrol with the Australian Electoral Commission – you can do this once you turn 16. If you're not an Australian citizen, you might still be able to enrol. Visit your council's website to find out more!
- Find out about the next local government elections. Do you know what year and/or date the next one will happen on?
- Inform yourself about the candidates and issues affecting your council, as the election approaches.
- Vote! Ensure you complete your ballot papers and return them via the post. You must be 18 or older to vote.

Run as a candidate

- Nominate as a candidate for your council at the next local government elections, if you're ready to take on the challenge of being an elected member!
- Find out if you're eligible to nominate and check out the Local Government Association of South Australia and the Electoral Commission of South Australia websites for more information. Remember – you must be 18 or older to nominate.
- Get clear on what you will bring to the role as an elected member, then take your campaign to your community. Good luck!