

Youth Development Worker

The opportunity

If you are passionate about creating opportunities that help young people thrive, this role offers the chance to make a meaningful impact across the Wollongong community.
As a Youth Development Worker, you will design, deliver and evaluate programs that support young people aged 12 to 24, helping them feel connected, heard, valued and included. Working from the Wollongong Youth Centre and across the local government area, you will build strong relationships with young people, schools, community organisations, government agencies, local businesses and other Council teams.

You will also play a key role in developing programs and initiatives that encourage young people to engage with music, arts, culture and creative industries. Through these opportunities, you will help young people build skills, develop connections and actively participate in community life. Your work will support Council's commitment to social inclusion and community development by identifying local needs, delivering meaningful programs and creating welcoming spaces where young people can connect, participate and thrive.

Opportunities available:

- Permanent part-time (20 hours per week) 5 hours per day, 4 days a week. You may be required to work flexible hours.
- Parental Leave Term contract up to two years with the possibility of extension or permanency. Part-time (20 hours per week) 5 hours per day, 4 days a week. You may be required to work flexible hours.
- Permanent full-time (35 hours per week) **(Creative Industries & Live Music)**

This position will play a lead role in Council's Creative Studies and Creative Industries initiatives, supporting young people to explore pathways in music, visual arts, digital media, performance, design and other creative disciplines. Working closely with local artists, creative practitioners, cultural organisations, educational institutions and industry partners, you will develop programs and opportunities that build creative skills, foster self-expression, strengthen industry connections and support young people to pursue further education, training and employment pathways within the creative sector.

Salary from $58.88 up to $69.24 per hour plus superannuation (salary will be assessed based on skills and experience).

Under Part 2, Section 6 of the Child Protection (Working With Children) Act 2012, this position has been designated as requiring a paid Working With Children Check.

Interested?

Click on 'Apply' to complete your online application. You will be prompted through the application to answer the selection criteria as outlined overleaf.

Contact Katie Kapp, Coordinator Youth Services, on (02) 4227 7120 for questions related to the job.

For questions related to submitting your application online, our recruitment process or you require adjustments in the recruitment process, please contact the Talent Acquisition Team on (02) 4227 7065.

Applications close 11:59pm, Sunday 15 November 2026.

wollongong
city of innovation

What you will be doing

You will plan, coordinate, deliver and evaluate programs, projects and activities that respond to the needs and aspirations of young people across Wollongong.

You will:

- Develop and deliver youth programs, events and community initiatives
- Build partnerships with community organisations, government agencies and local stakeholders
- Provide information, support, referral and advocacy for young people
- Identify opportunities that promote participation, inclusion and community connection
- Managing projects from concept through to delivery and evaluation
- Manage and analysing data to inform program planning and continuous improvement
- Contribute to strategic plans, business planning and community development initiatives
- Support a positive and collaborative team culture
- Meet child safety, mandatory reporting and workplace safety obligation

About you

You are an experienced youth or community development professional who understands how to engage young people and turn ideas into meaningful programs and outcomes. You enjoy working collaboratively, building relationships and creating opportunities that have a lasting impact.

You will bring:

- A recognised degree qualification relevant to the role
- Experience in community development, community engagement, social justice, access and equity or a related field
- Knowledge of the youth sector and experience developing programs or initiatives for young people
- Excellent communication, relationship building and stakeholder engagement skills
- Experience working with diverse communities and building inclusive partnerships
- Well developed problem solving, organisation and conflict resolution skills
- A collaborative approach and the ability to contribute positively to a team environment
- Sound understanding of compliance, child safety and workplace health and safety requirements
- A current Class C Driver Licence
- A current NSW Working With Children Check
- A current First Aid Certificate and CPR accreditation
- A commitment to the principles of a child safe organisation and to the care and protection of all children and young people in the community
- A commitment to Council's values of Respect, Integrity, OneTeam, Sustainability and Courage.

Selection Criteria

Wollongong City Council uses a merit-based recruitment process.
To support the panel in assessing your suitability, please respond to the criterion in detail. Your responses should clearly demonstrate how you meet each requirement, using specific examples that highlight your relevant skills, experience, knowledge, and attributes.
Please ensure your answers are authentic and reflect your own experiences. Responses generated by AI or copied from generic sources are discouraged, as they do not provide the depth or relevance needed for effective assessment.
We also encourage you to reflect on how your approach and values align with Wollongong City Council's core values: Respect, Integrity, One Team, Sustainability, and Courage.
The more detail you provide, the better equipped the panel will be to understand your capabilities and alignment with the role and our organisation.

1. Outline your degree qualification and how it relates to the role.

2. Describe your experience working within and alongside the youth services sector. In your response, outline the types of organisations you have worked with, your role in developing or delivering programs, strategies or initiatives, and how your work contributed to social inclusion and positive outcomes for young people.

3. Describe your experience designing, delivering and evaluating programs, projects or initiatives for young people, including your role and the outcomes achieved.

4. Provide an example of how you have created a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for young people. How did you ensure the needs of different individuals or groups were considered?

5. Based on the listed available positions, which role are you most interested in, noting that you may be assessed for all positions listed and will be required to work across the Wollongong Local Government Area, dependent on operational requirements:
    - Permanent full-time
    - Permanent part-time
    - 2-year part-time term parental leave contract
    - All

6. If applying for the Permanent Full-time position **(Creative Industries & Live Music)**: Describe your experience developing, delivering or supporting arts, cultural, music or creative industry programs, projects or initiatives for young people. In your response, outline your role, the partnerships or stakeholders involved, and the outcomes achieved for participants. *(if you're not applying for the permanent position, please just put n/a)*



Why you'll love working here

We're values based, and purpose-led
We care about our community and aim to create an extraordinary Wollongong. This is achieved by working toward the goals in the Our Wollongong Our Future Community Strategic Plan 2035. Our work is guided by our values of Courage, Integrity, Respect, Sustainable and One Team.

Make a difference in your community
You'll be part of a team that makes a positive impact through the services they provide, the infrastructure they build and the community they create.

Be your authentic self
Our strength is the diversity of our people. Council is an inclusive workplace where everyone is welcome, valued and belongs.

Grow capability and opportunity
We'll invest in you to develop the next generation of leaders who'll deliver services, projects and infrastructure that can only be found in large complex organisations.

Create local and industry connections
As part of a large and complex Council in a major city, you'll establish networks with a range of Local Government Industry peers, bodies, associations and organisations.

Career growth and recognition
Reward and recognition, corporate learning opportunities, study assistance, and leadership development programs to help you grow and succeed.

True work-life balance
We know you work hard, and we make sure that effort is rewarded with real flexibility. Our hybrid work options, flex-time, and rostered days off mean you can maintain balance with family and enjoying our coastal lifestyle, while delivering great outcomes for community.

Generous leave provisions
Five weeks of annual leave per year (pro rata) and access to long service leave after just five years.

Health, safety, and wellbeing
We prioritise a safe workplace for everyone, every day, everywhere. Our wellbeing programs support mental, physical and social wellbeing of our people to be at their best and include an Employee Assistance Program, skin and hearing checks and discounted gym memberships.

A vibrant social culture
We have a thriving Social Club hosting a range of fun activities year-round from trivia to happy hour events, themed nights and more. There's a dedicated social space with table tennis, pool table and shared break out areas.



Next steps

How to apply

Click apply and submit your up-to-date resume and answer the selection criteria questions.

Your application will be assessed following the conclusion of the advertising period.

We will keep you informed during the recruitment process to:

- Advise you of your progress through each stage;
- Explain assessments that you need to complete;
- Notify you of the outcome of your application by email or phone, and
- Provide you with feedback on your request.

For assistance in submitting your application, please contact the Talent Acquisition Team on (02) 4227 7065.

More information

- We encourage applications from everyone regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, cultural background, faith, disability or gender identity. People with disability are encouraged to reach out so they can be supported to access adjustments in recruitment processes and in the workplace, to enable them to demonstrate their skills and capabilities to meet the requirements of the job.
- Wollongong Council adheres to the principles of a child safe organisation and is committed to the care and protection of all children and young people in the community.
- Suitable candidates may be placed on an eligibility list for future opportunities in the team, which may include full time, part time, temporary and or casual.
- Suitable candidates are subject to employment screening which includes reference checks, Identity and Medical History Checks, and may also include a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check and Working with Children Check. Employment is subject to clearance of all these checks.

