

Ministerial media release

State's brightest young leaders appointed to Youth Advisory Council

Published: 31 October 2025

Released by: Minister for Youth

The Minns Labor Government is continuing work to put young people at the heart of decision making for issues impacting them with twelve passionate young leaders from across NSW appointed to the 2026 Youth Advisory Council (YAC).

The new Youth Advisory Council will convene its first meeting on the 9th of November and work directly with the Minister for Youth Rose Jackson on issues which are front of mind for young people across the state including mental health, cost of living, and climate change.

The appointment of these young leaders follows the establishment of the first dedicated NSW Office for Youth in August this year.

The Office for Youth is engaging young people on their terms and ensuring their leadership is formally recognised, respected, and integrated into decision-making processes across government.

Each year, a dozen young people between the ages of 12 and 24 will be appointed to the YAC, giving them a platform to have their say on government policies, programs, and legislation concerning young people.

Members of the inaugural Youth Advisory Council represent a diverse range of backgrounds and perspectives including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD members, members living with a disability and members from both regional and metropolitan communities.

The 2026 Members are:

- Fayra Petriaton, Tamworth
- Hafsa Faizan, Leppington
- Daphne Hutchison, Wollondilly
- Amelia Hines, Maitland
- Romone Dunlop, Port Macquarie
- Ahmad Chatah, East Hills
- Lara Ristic, Riverstone
- Nathanael Guo, North Shore
- Chloe Richards, Murray
- Josua Relf, Castle Hill
- Keziah Cameron, Epping
- Thomas Norman, Junee

Minister for Youth Rose Jackson said:

“The Minns Labor Government is committed to listening to young people – it’s why we established the Office for Youth and it’s why the Youth Advisory Council is so important.

“When young people are genuinely empowered to shape the decisions that impact their lives, we can create programs that truly deliver real and relevant outcomes for the next generation of New South Wales.

“I’m excited to work with the new members of the Youth Advisory Council and hear about the issues that are front of mind for them.”

NSW Advocate for Children and Young People, Zoë Robinson said:

“I continue to support the YACs work across the state, ensuring that they are given opportunities to influence policy development.

“Young people deserve a genuine seat at the table when it comes to the policies, laws, and services that shape their world. The YAC serves as a direct connection to government, amplifying young voices and empowering the next generation of leaders to create lasting change across NSW.”

Related ministerial articles

Ministerial statement

27 November 2025

NSW Government acknowledges BOCSAR report showing NSW crime rates among nation’s lowest with more work to do (/ministerial-releases/nsw-government-acknowledges-bocsar-report-showing-nsw-crime-rates-among-nations-lowest-more-work-to-do)

The NSW Government acknowledges new data from the Bureau of Crimes Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) confirming NSW has some of the country’s lowest crime rates.



Ministerial statement

25 November 2025

16 Days of Activism – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (/ministerial-releases/16-days-of-activism-international-day-for-elimination-of-violence-against-women)

This International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Minns Labor Government reaffirms its commitment to primary prevention – to stop the violence before it starts in our communities.



Ministerial media release

24 November 2025

Modular build refuge opens 3.5 months after construction begins (/ministerial-releases/modular-build-refuge-opens-35-months-after-construction-begins)

The Minns Labor Government, in partnership with Women’s Community Shelters, have opened the first women’s refuge built using innovative modular construction methods, three and a half months after works commenced onsite.

