



# Youth Participation Kit

Resource sheet  
for young people

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## Get Involved!

This publication is designed to give you an idea about how, as a young person, you can get involved and participate in your community. It includes a guide to getting started, details on the different kinds of things you might try, and useful tips along the way.

### Why participate?

Being involved in your community gives you the opportunity to shape your world, now and for the future. As a young person, you can give your perspective, ideas and your creativity to make a difference for everyone, including other young people, organisations and the community at large.

What you can get out of participating:

- a sense of satisfaction and achievement
- make new friends and valuable contacts
- boost your confidence and self esteem
- try new things to discover what you're good at, and the kinds of things you enjoy

- gain great experience that will be useful throughout your career
- provide advice to organisations and have your voice heard
- make a valuable contribution to an organisation's decision-making processes
- learn about organisations and how they work
- feel like you're making a difference in your community.

What your participation can do for the community:

- increase understanding of young people's interests, needs and concerns
- encourage other young people to participate
- demonstrate that young people are important and valuable contributors

- stimulate innovation, change and new ideas
- be part of an 'all hands on deck' approach for community projects, tasks and initiatives
- develop awareness of a particular issue.



### Case Study: Zal Kanga-Parabia

Zal was the winner of the Lotterywest Cultural Endeavours Award at the 2015 WA Youth Awards. As well as being a talented musician and photographer, he also dedicates a lot of time to volunteering—his passion is mentoring other young people. Zal does this through a number of projects including National Youth Week and Home Is Where My Heart Is. More recently he founded the successful Youth Music Program at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre where he singlehandedly mentors musicians, photographers, filmmakers and artists.



“Getting involved with the community is so crucial to my identity. ‘Community’ is defined by the people within it, the people who I spend Friday afternoons with writing music, the people that I spend Saturday nights with taking photographs with in the Stirling Ranges, those people that I work with to create a better outcome in youth music. My friends, family, everything around me is my community, so it seems almost impossible not to be involved! After we realize this we can make a choice to add to the efforts and create a brighter, better more exciting future for us all and the place we live in.”

**Zal Kanga-Parabia**

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