

Young people: active citizenship and belonging

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it is no longer feasible or wise to look at young people as citizens sometime in the future. Citizenship cannot be seen as something one acquires once one has 'grown up'. The challenge is to create the capacity of young people to participate deeply today



Active Citizenship
(formal and informal) – Deep participation in social, political, economic and civic spheres

Sense of belonging with bridging and bonding relationships

Identification of shared challenges, managing different and, shared interest and shared goals

Community cohesion – dynamic and a process

Differences
in
participation
according to
time lived in
Australia

Australian born:

- Volunteering
74%
- Social
discussion
forums e.g.
Social media
70%

**More than 6 years
in Australia:**

- Youth leadership
activities 75%
- Involvement in
their own
cultural
communities'
activities 71%

**Less than 5 years in
Australia:**

- Group recreation
or social activity
71%
- School based
groups 50%
- Volunteering
36%
- Youth leadership
activities 39%

Participation: must be underpinned by safety (physical and psychological) – strong underlying theme

“My family is saying ‘people are exploiting you, they are misusing you’
– if you do volunteering and work without payment. But I continue
volunteering, because I get something out of it - so that is a kind of
payment. Not monetary based, but it is about learning, networks,
having the feeling that I’m contributing and boosting my confidence”
- young Afghan man

