

# RUN FOR IT



## 2023/24 Manifesto



# Our campaigns



## Getting young community leaders elected to local government

In the 2020 Victorian local government elections, Run For It supported 72 people under 35 to run for council. The majority of these people were first-time candidates and from underrepresented backgrounds. 19 (over 25%) of these young people were elected, radically increasing the representation of young people on Victorian local governments. In 2021, we offered the same support program for young candidates running in NSW and in 2022, we grew also to support candidates in the South Australian and Tasmanian local government elections. Some of the successful candidates we have supported so far include:



**Councillor Angelica Panopoulos** was elected to Merri-Bek Council in 2020 and has since been elected Mayor ran in the Victorian state election.



**Councillor HY William Chan** was elected to city of Sydney in 2021 and has been a steadfast advocate for local climate action.



**Councillor Mekayla Cochran** is a Gomerioi woman elected to Moree Plains Shire in 2021 and has become a leading advocate for

In 2023/24, we're campaigning to elect more young people in the next round of local government elections in Victoria, New South Wales & Queensland. We plan to significantly expand our previous impact and double the number of young people on councils across these three states.

This means electing at least **69** young people across over 280 council areas across Victoria, New South Wales & Queensland. Achieving this goal would mean that at least 25% of councils have someone under 35 on them, as opposed to the current figure of only 12.5%

## Running workshops to increase the number of young people voting and actively engaging in our democracy.

Throughout 2022, Run For It delivered school and community-based workshops for hundreds of young people aged 16-21. These workshops teach young people how to get involved with community advocacy and their local democracy and also assist new voters to become familiar with the electoral process.

In 2023/24, we will continue to deliver workshops on civic participation, with a focus on communities where youth issues of representation and diversity at the local government level are particularly acute. This includes locations such as regional and rural communities, climate-impacted geographies, multicultural communities and lower socio-economic communities.

### Make It 16 Australia

In 2023/24 Run For It has received philanthropic funding to lead a coalition of organisations such as the Foundation for Young Australians, The Human Rights Law Centre and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition to campaign for a lowering of the federal voting age to 16. We believe that this change will:

**Give young people a say in their future.** From elections to referendums, young people currently don't have a say in government policies and decisions that affect them and future generations.

**Strengthen our democracy.** Political participation, enrolment and compulsory voting will all be strengthened and grow by adding roughly 600,000 politically engaged 16- and 17-year-old Australians to the electoral roll with voting rights.

**Improve education.** Create more informed and educated voters, and encourage our schools to provide strong and meaningful civics education.

**Make it**  
 **16**

*You can learn more about the campaign to lower the voting age, and sign the petition to Make It 16 at [makeit16.au](https://makeit16.au)*





## **Who we are:**

*A youth-led, independent, non-partisan political organisation working to create a stronger democracy and a better kind of politics for future generations.*

## **What we do:**

*At Run For It, we believe that for the dial to be shifted on the issues that young people care about in Australia, we need to start changing the politics and elect bold, brave and diverse young advocates.*

**For more information or to discuss funding or partnership opportunities contact Run For It's National Director, Ed Krutsch at 0402548832 or at [ed@run4it.org](mailto:ed@run4it.org)**

