

What helps us in our journey towards a
Connected and Respectful Tasmania?
What gets in the way? What should we focus on?



What we heard from young people living in Tasmania*

Challenges

Social dynamics:

Groups which feel insular, competitive or unsafe (online and in person) stop young people from showing up and speaking up.

Discrimination: Bias and unfair treatment break trust and belonging. If they expect to be judged or singled out, young people are less likely to attend, share, or seek help.

Community infrastructure and loneliness: The lack of enough youth friendly spaces means young people are limited in safe and affordable ways to connect.

Strengths

Supportive and positive relationships: Safe and encouraging connections with peers and adults, means young people feel welcomed and backed by their community.

Resources and infrastructure: Reliable, accessible (low-cost, easy to get to, approachable) services and tools makes participation easier for young people.

Governance and funding: Practical resources and adults who back youth-led ideas lead to regular activities for young people, stronger relationships and increased sense of belonging.

Priorities

Targeted support for young people: Focus on co-designing accessible and dependable services and supports specifically with young people in mind.

Compassionate communication: Share plain-language, non-judgemental information and listen and speak with respect to foster positive responses.

Inclusion, diversity and equality: Create spaces where identities are respected and welcomed and fairness is prioritised.

*These insights were collected from deep conversations with 102 young people from over 1600 people of all ages and locations across Tasmania in 2025.
www.connectedandrespectful.org.au

The next steps towards a *Connected and Respectful* Tasmania...



What could the future look like?

Imagine a future where more young people join activities, events and groups, and participate in decision making. This increase in the youth voice brings fresh ideas and helps local planning and action genuinely fit youth needs.

Funded and accessible youth specific programs and services run regularly throughout the year, inclusion is imbedded as part of business as usual for services and young people are able to engage through clear and accessible communications.

What if we don't act now?

Ongoing cliques and unsafe group dynamics will push young people to withdraw from activities, speak up less and avoid leadership or co-design opportunities.

Continued discrimination will further erode trust. Young people from diverse backgrounds may disengage further from services and community life.

Limited youth friendly communications and spaces will mean fewer chances to meet, learn and get early help. This may lead to increased isolation, loneliness and poor mental health outcomes.

How can we work together?

We need to work together to create positive and lasting change.

We welcome new partners on this journey towards our vision of a Connected and Respectful Tasmania.

No matter who you are, you can be an important part of this initiative.

To find out about community actions around Tasmania, learn about grants and other supports, or if you are a business or organisation who would like to talk about becoming a partner, you can find out more at www.connectedandrespectful.org.au, or contact us at community@reltas.org.au.