Matilda Houlihan

City of Greater Dandenong

The Collective Applicant FAQs

**What is The Collective?**

The Collective is a group of young leaders who are interested in helping to create more opportunities for youth leadership within the City of Greater Dandenong.

In 2024, the City of Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services hosted the [Youth Leadership Forum](https://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/_flysystem/filerepo/A11536540), where young people told us that they want to see more opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills, meet likeminded people, and showcase their achievements to the whole community. Council committed to young people to take action on their recommendations in 2025 and into the future, including ensuring that young people’s voices are at the centre of what we do. That’s why Council is establishing the Youth Leadership Collective, a project to deliver on these recommendations, guided by The Collective, an appointed group of young people who will help us make sure that our work on this project continues to meet the needs and expectations of young people in our community.

Being a member of The Collective will involve:

* Providing advice and guidance on how we should deliver on the recommendations from the 2024 Youth Leadership Forum, based on your experience and insights as young leaders
* Keeping the project accountable to young people and to the core priorities identified at the forum (youth voice, leadership opportunities & diverse youth representation)
* Contributing to communication and promotional strategies to ensure our projects can reach a wide range of young people in the community
* Shaping the direction of our projects e.g. support us to choose topics for skill-building workshops, help us develop a calendar of youth leadership opportunities, plan a campaign to showcase diverse young leaders, etc.
* Acting as Youth Leadership Ambassadors e.g. appearing in promotional videos/images promoting the projects, acting as peer mentors, etc.

The Collective is *not:*

* A leadership skills development program – the expectation is that members of the Collective already have existing youth leadership skills. You will likely experience personal growth through participating in this group, but the main purpose of the collective is to get advice from young people who already have demonstrated leadership capacity.
* A project delivery group – the main role of members of The Collective is to give advice to Youth Services, who will then do the project work based on The Collective’s expectations and advice. At times, you may choose to contribute directly to the project delivery (e.g. creating social media content, etc.), but this would be as a volunteer – you are not expected to do this but can do so if you wish.

**Who is eligible to join?**

Young people aged 18 – 25 who have a significant connection to Greater Dandenong (i.e. live, study or work) are invited to apply for The Collective. We are looking for a group of up to 10 young people who have demonstrated their interest and expertise in youth leadership. This could include:

* Being a previous participant in a youth leadership program e.g. CGD’s Young Leaders program, CMY’s programs, Headspace Youth Advisory Committee, SMRC’s Youth Advisory Group, your school’s Student Representative Council etc.
* Leading your own project or initiative that has contributed to your community e.g. an arts project, sports program, tutoring or homework group etc.
* Being identified as a potential young leader by staff at an organisation in our community

In your application, you will be asked to describe your experience with youth leadership, why you want to join the group and what skills and strengths you’ll bring to The Collective.

It’s important to note that this group is *not* a leadership skills program. If you are interested in developing your leadership skills, you might want to consider applying for another youth leadership program.

As the City of Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse municipality, we will be selecting a diverse range of people to join The Collective to represent our community.

**What are the benefits of participating?**

Members of the group will be remunerated with a $50 honorarium for every meeting they attend. You will also get to contribute to exciting projects in the community and creating more opportunities for young leaders.

**What time commitment is required?**

Meetings will be held once per month from May 2025 to May 2026. Meetings will run from 6.00pm – 8:00pm and will be held at Dandenong Library. All meeting dates for the group are listed under the “Key Dates” section below.

We understand that it may not be possible for you to attend every meeting – that’s OK, life happens! If you do not attend a meeting, you will not be remunerated for that month. If you miss two or more meetings in a row, we may have a conversation with you about whether you are able to continue participating in the group.

**Key dates**

**Applications close:** Wednesday 30 April 2025, 11:59pm

**Interviews:** DuringApril 2025

**Notification of application outcome:** Early May 2025

**Meeting dates:** (may be subject to change)

**2025**

Wednesday 21 May 2025

Wednesday 18 June 2025

Wednesday 16 July 2025

Wednesday 20 August 2025

Wednesday 17 September 2025

Wednesday 15 October 2025

Wednesday 19 November 2025

**2026**

Wednesday 21 January 2026

Wednesday 18 February 2026

Wednesday 18 March 2026

Wednesday 15 April 2026

Wednesday 20 May 2026

**How to apply**

Please complete the application form via the following the [link](https://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/youth-leadership-collective). Once we receive your application, a member of the Youth Services team will contact you to arrange a phone call and an in-person interview.

If you would like to complete a paper application, or need other help with your application, please contact us by phone or email, or visit our office at 39A Clow St, Dandenong.

**I have another question. Who should I contact?**

For more information or any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Matilda or Venushi in Youth Services at any time:

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| Matilda Houlihan  [matilda.houlihan@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:matilda.houlihan@cgd.vic.gov.au)  0481 119 696 | Venushi Dewundege  [venushi.dewundege@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:venushi.dewundege@cgd.vic.gov.au)  0419 366 051 |

If you are unable to reach Matilda or Venushi, you can contact the Youth Services team via [youthservices@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:youthservices@cgd.vic.gov.au) or 03 8571 1620.