

NEXT GEN - CHAMBER STRUCTURE

The Next Gen Chamber will operate as a subsidiary group under the Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. While maintaining its own structure and autonomy to address the unique needs of young professionals, it will be accountable to the Chamber's board. This structure ensures alignment with the Chamber's mission while fostering the growth and independence of the Next Gen Chamber.

Integration with the Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- **Accountability and Reporting:**
 - The Next Gen Chamber will report to the Gunnedah Chamber's board on a monthly basis.
 - Reports will include updates on activities, events, membership engagement, financial performance, and key challenges or opportunities.
- **Support and Mentorship:**
 - The Gunnedah Chamber's executive board members and advisors will provide guidance and mentorship to the Young Chamber's leadership team.
 - Mentorship sessions may include strategic planning, governance training, and professional development for Young Chamber leaders.
 - Advisory members from the Gunnedah Chamber will serve as liaisons, ensuring the Young Chamber remains aligned with the broader goals of the Chamber.
- **Resource Sharing:**
 - The Young Chamber will have access to resources from the Gunnedah Chamber, including facilities, marketing channels, and administrative support.
 - Collaborative events and initiatives may be co-hosted to strengthen the connection between the two groups.
- **Representation:**
 - The Young Chamber's President (or an appointed representative) will attend the Gunnedah Chamber's monthly board meetings to ensure alignment and provide updates.
 - The Young Chamber will also be represented at major Chamber events and initiatives, showcasing its contributions and involvement.

Leadership Team

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Communications and Marketing Officer
- General Leadership Members



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Selection Process for Leadership Team

The leadership team of the Young Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be elected annually by members to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and fair representation. This process allows new talent to step into leadership roles while also ensuring continuity in the organisation's strategic direction.

Election Process

- Nomination Period:
 - Members interested in leadership roles must submit a nomination form detailing their experience, skills, and vision for the Young Chamber.
 - Nominations open at least four weeks before the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Nominees must be current financial members of the Young Chamber.
 - Candidates must have been actively involved in Young Chamber events or committees for at least six months prior to nomination.
 - Leadership candidates should demonstrate a commitment to the mission and objectives of the Young Chamber.
- Voting Process:
 - Elections will be conducted via a democratic voting process, with each member entitled to one vote per position.
 - Voting can be done in person at the AGM or via an online secure voting system to allow participation from all members.
- Appointment & Transition:
 - Newly elected leaders will undergo an onboarding and transition period, working alongside outgoing leaders to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities.
 - Each leadership term lasts one year, with the option for re-election for a second term (maximum of two consecutive years in the same role).
- Rotation of Roles:
 - Leadership positions may be rotated periodically to give members opportunities to develop new skills and gain leadership experience.
 - If a leader steps down mid-term, the leadership team may appoint an interim replacement until the next election.

Leadership Team Criteria

To maintain high standards of leadership, candidates for the Young Chamber's leadership team must meet the following criteria:

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1. Professional & Business Engagement

- Must be an active participant in the Gunnedah business community or a young professional committed to the region's economic growth.
- Should have experience in business, leadership, entrepreneurship, or community engagement (this may include running a business, working in a leadership role, or being involved in industry networks).

2. Leadership & Organisational Skills

- Must demonstrate strong leadership qualities, including the ability to motivate and inspire other members.
- Capable of making strategic decisions that align with the goals of the Young Chamber.
- Ability to work collaboratively and communicate effectively with different stakeholders, including the Gunnedah Chamber Board, advisory members, and local business leaders.

3. Commitment to the Young Chamber's Mission

- Should have a clear understanding of the Young Chamber's vision, mission, and objectives.
- Must be dedicated to fostering the growth of young entrepreneurs and professionals in the region.
- Willing to actively contribute to the development of initiatives, events, and advocacy efforts.

4. Governance & Ethical Standards

- Must adhere to the governance policies and ethical guidelines set by the Young Chamber and the Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce.
- Expected to act with integrity, professionalism, and accountability at all times.
- Committed to transparent decision-making and upholding the values of inclusivity and respect within the organisation.

5. Time Commitment & Availability

- Must be available to attend monthly leadership meetings, committee meetings, and key events.
- Able to dedicate sufficient time to the role, including planning initiatives, attending business events, and liaising with members and stakeholders.
- Willing to represent the Young Chamber at networking events, Chamber board meetings, and community engagements

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6. Financial Responsibility (For Treasurer & Leadership Team)

- Candidates for the Treasurer role must have basic knowledge of financial management, budgeting,

Eligibility Criteria for Leadership Team Members

To be eligible for a leadership position within the Young Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, candidates must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Age & Membership

- Aged between 18 and 35 years old at the time of nomination.
- Must be a current financial member of the Young Chamber for at least six months before nomination.
- Must have actively participated in Young Chamber events, committees, or initiatives prior to election.

2. Business & Leadership Experience

- Currently holds a leadership role (e.g., manager, executive, team leader) within an organisation or company.
- A business owner or entrepreneur running a business in Gunnedah or surrounding areas.
- A shareholder or director in a company, demonstrating an active role in business decision-making.
- A franchise owner managing a regional or local franchise.
- A co-founder of a startup or small business, actively involved in operations and growth.

3. Industry & Professional Engagement

- A key decision-maker in a not-for-profit, social enterprise, or community organisation.
- A senior employee in a business, taking on responsibilities in strategic planning, operations, or governance.
- A regional industry representative involved in policy, advocacy, or professional associations.
- A consultant, freelancer, or contractor with a proven track record of work in business development, marketing, finance, legal, or other relevant fields.
- A mentor or advisor to young professionals, startups, or industry groups.

4. Community & Advocacy Involvement

- Holds an executive or committee position in another professional association, industry network, or community initiative.



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- Actively involved in business development initiatives, innovation programs, or economic growth projects in the region.
- A speaker, panellist, or workshop facilitator at business or leadership events.
- Has contributed to advocacy efforts, policy discussions, or programs supporting young entrepreneurs and professionals.

5. Skills & Expertise

- Demonstrates strong leadership, governance, and decision-making skills in a professional capacity.
- Has experience in financial management, strategic planning, governance, or marketing.
- Proven ability to represent a business or organisation in public forums, networking events, or business development activities.
- A track record of mentoring or coaching young professionals or small business owners.

Organisational Structure of the Young Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Young Chamber will maintain its own leadership and committee structure to manage day-to-day operations and deliver on its objectives while remaining accountable to the parent organisation.

Leadership Team

- The leadership team will oversee operations and ensure the Young Chamber remains focused on its mission.
 - President:
 - Lead the Young Chamber, set strategic goals, and serve as the primary liaison with the Gunnedah Chamber board.
 - Represent the Young Chamber in community and Chamber-wide events.
 - Vice President:
 - Support the President and take responsibility for specific projects or initiatives.
 - Step in during the President's absence.
 - Secretary:
 - Manage correspondence, meeting minutes, and communications between the Young Chamber and the Gunnedah Chamber board.
 - Treasurer:
 - Oversee financial management, including budgets, sponsorships, and fundraising.
 - Communications and Marketing Officer:
 - Promote Young Chamber events and activities through social media, email campaigns, and local media.



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General Leadership Members:

- Provide support for initiatives, events, and projects, taking on roles as needed.

Committees

- Committees will drive specific initiatives and activities within the Young Chamber. Each committee will report to the leadership team, which will then report to the Gunnedah Chamber board.
 - Events and Networking Committee: Plan and execute social and professional networking events.
 - Membership Engagement Committee: Focus on member recruitment, onboarding, and retention.
 - Professional Development Committee: Organise workshops, training sessions, and mentoring opportunities.
 - Community Engagement Committee: Lead community projects and promote the involvement of young professionals in local initiatives.

Advisory Support

- The Gunnedah Chamber's executive board members and advisors will act as mentors to the Young Chamber's leadership team, providing strategic oversight and guidance.
- Advisory support will also focus on governance, financial management, and event execution

Operational Guidelines

Reporting:

- The Young Chamber will submit a monthly report to the Gunnedah Chamber's board, including:
 - Updates on activities and events.
 - Financial reports.
 - Membership updates.
 - Strategic plans and future initiatives.

Alignment with the Parent Organisation:

- All major decisions and initiatives by the Young Chamber must align with the overarching mission and objectives of the Gunnedah Chamber.
- The Young Chamber will seek approval from the Gunnedah Chamber board for significant projects or expenditures.

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Independence with Oversight:

- While the Young Chamber will operate independently in its day-to-day activities, it will benefit from the strategic guidance and oversight of the Gunnedah Chamber.
- Regular feedback from the Gunnedah Chamber board will ensure the Young Chamber remains on track and effective.

Succession Planning:

- The Young Chamber will work closely with the Gunnedah Chamber to develop succession plans for leadership roles, ensuring continuity and growth.