

HELP EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE - JOIN THE LAUNCHPAD BOARD

FAQs: Launchpad Board Expressions of Interest (EOI), due by 28 October 2022



1. What is Launchpad?

Launchpad Youth Community Inc. is on Gadigal and Wangal Land of the Eora Nation. We are a non-government service provider for young people facing homelessness in the inner city and inner west areas of Sydney. NSW Department of Communities and Justice and the City of Sydney Council are included among its funding bodies.

2. What does Launchpad do?

Launchpad strives to prevent youth homelessness and empowers young people to successfully achieve independence.

We provide housing, support, advice and opportunities to youth – including young people with children.

3. I understand Launchpad provides housing and support. How does Launchpad prevent youth homelessness and empower young people to form independence successfully? What is the Launchpad model?

We are person-centred when working with youth to empower young people in determining what they need and how to achieve their goals. We also champion the talents and potential of young people by proactively engaging in local, state and national political processes.

Launchpad advocates to reduce barriers for young people who face homelessness by providing flexible services and partnering with like-minded organisations that deliver counselling and support for trauma and other stressful situations. This includes health, schooling and other personal issues impacting young people's lives.

Launchpad also assists young people to access affordable housing and financial, employment and education advice. In addition, we organise social and recreational events for young people, including leadership and mentoring activities.

4. Why should I join the Launchpad Board? What does it do?

Through Launchpad, you can become involved in helping young people make positive changes in their lives. The Board is responsible for ensuring that Launchpad meets contract obligations to the NSW Department of Communities and Justice and the City of Sydney Council. The Board strategically directs Launchpad, shapes its culture and oversees its performance. This is an opportunity to influence the organisation and its practices to empower young people.

5. Why is Launchpad looking for Board members?

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 12 December 2022 provides an opportunity to appoint a member who identifies as a First Nations person with personal, community or professional interests and skills, including people who have experienced homelessness. This is so the Board can better reflect the community it serves and be effective in its direction of the organisation and its engagement with young people.

6. How many Board members is Launchpad seeking?

One position identified for First Nations people. Our constitution allows for at least seven Board members. Currently there are six Board members as one recently retired. The Board consists of office bearers and ordinary members. Office-bearer positions, such as Treasurer, may become available. Candidates must identify as being an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

7. How will my cultural safety be protected at Launchpad as a First Nations person?

First Nations people are at the centre of everything we do. Almost half of the young people we provide services to identify as being a First Nations person, this is something we want to address through the Board member EOI.

As we strive for the Launchpad Board to reflect the communities it serves, we have First Nations identified Board positions at Launchpad.

The Board's Code of Conduct – which is available online - ensures a culturally safe and respectful space for First Nations people, young clients and their children, Board members and staff. Staff and Board members regularly receive First Nations cultural training and are committed to empowering First Nations people.

8. Who can apply to join the Launchpad Board (First Nations identified role)?

We welcome First Nations people with business management, community engagement, cultural practices, finance, fundraising, youth services, homelessness or housing interests and skills, across a range of age groups. We also encourage First Nations applicants who have faced homelessness to apply.

We also welcome diversity among applicants. Launchpad's young clients are from all walks of life, including First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and LGBTIQ+.

Candidates must identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

You will need to be aged 18+ and have or be willing to obtain a Working with Children Check. This can be done through Service NSW. We can help you if needed.

9. How can I apply if I don't have much work or Board experience?

It doesn't matter if you've not been on a Board before. We're interested in your broader experiences, perspectives, knowledge and networks and how they can influence the organisation, practices and culture at Launchpad.

Your strengths can be personal, voluntary or professional, with some connection to the City of Sydney and Inner West Sydney areas desirable.

10. What are the commitments of a Launchpad Board member? How often does the Board meet and where?

In-person Board meeting attendance is preferred (COVID-19 permitting), usually the third Monday evening of the month at Launchpad offices in Erskineville – with at least 80% attendance by Board members. The Board meets a minimum of 10 times per year, including the Annual General Meeting at the end of the calendar year. This year the Annual General Meeting will be on 12 December 2022 and is a requirement for new Board members to attend.

Each meeting is 1-2 hours with eligibility for sitting fees for each meeting fully attended. Members prepare for each Board meeting and respond to meeting actions.

11. Is this a voluntary or paid Board position? What are sitting fees?

Board members receive a sitting fee of \$200 per meeting they participate in.

12. How do I apply to become a Launchpad Board member? (preferred option)

Please express your interest by 28 October 2022 through our EOI Nomination Form on the website at www.launchpadyouth.org.au/eoi which can be emailed to secretary@launchpadyouth.org.au.

13. Why do I need to express interest/complete an application form?

The Board needs to have a diverse range of experiences and skills to reflect the communities that Launchpad serves. Your responses in the form will help ensure a good balance of interests and representation in the Board member selection process is considered.

14. How do I find out if I was selected or not?

Successful applicants will be invited to be interviewed by Board members. Board member selection will be conducted by Board members. Launchpad will inform applicants of their outcome by 11 November 2022. Interviews will be held the week of 14 November 2022.

15. What happens to the information I give in my EOI form?

Launchpad cares about protecting your privacy and is required by law to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (the Act), including the Australian Policy Principles. We collect and use your personal data for legitimate human resources purposes. We will not disclose your personal information to other external organisations.

16. How can I encourage others to apply to join the Launchpad Board?



EOI information with an electronic flyer is packaged online at www.launchpadyouth.org.au/eoi.

17. When do applications close?

28 October 2022.

18. Have you received my EOI application?

Please check all your email folders. If you emailed a form, you should have received an email acknowledgement.

19. Other questions ...

Please email your enquiry, name and contact details to secretary@launchpadyouth.org.au. A Launchpad staff or Board member will be in touch shortly. Thank you for taking the time to review these FAQs. We look forward to receiving your EOI application by 28 October 2022.