

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Through My Lens - Youth Photography Competition

Overview

Youth Week celebrates the voices and talents of young people. Photography is a highly accessible art form, particularly for youth who often have access to smartphones or digital cameras.

Through My Lens is a free regional youth photography challenge, to be held during Youth Week 2026, inviting young people to capture the theme “Life Where I Live”. There is no set genre and youth may consider Landscape, Activity (hobby, sport, daily life) or Interesting Neighbourhood Characters (people, pets) for their submission.

Terms and Conditions

Fraser Coast Regional Council invites Fraser Coast youth to enter the 2026 Youth Week photography competition. Open to young people aged 12–25 across the Fraser Coast region, the competition images must reflect the theme “Life Where I Live” and demonstrate a connection to the Fraser Coast region.

1. General

1.1 The Terms and Conditions of this competition, promoted by Fraser Coast Regional Council (Council), apply to all entries.

1.2 Entry into this competition constitutes acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.

1.3 By entering this competition, entrants acknowledge that they have entered into a competition to win the prizes as detailed in these Terms and Conditions.

1.4 Only entries that are received in accordance with these competition Terms and Conditions during the competition period will be eligible for entry.

1.5 The competition is divided into three (3) age groups:

- 12–15 years
- 16–18 years
- 19–25 years

1.6 The competition opens at 8:00am on 11 April 2026 and closes at 5:00pm on 16 April 2026

1.7 A maximum of two (2) image per person may be submitted.

2. Eligibility and Entry Requirements

2.1 Eligible Entrants

2.1.1 Entry is free and open to persons aged 12–25 years who reside within the Fraser Coast Regional Council area at the time of entry.

2.1.2 Entrants must be able to substantiate their locality if requested.

2.1.3 Entrants under the age of 18 must have the consent of a parent or legal guardian.

2.1.4 The competition is open to novice and amateur photographers only. Professional photographers (including individuals who derive primary income from photography services, commercial photography, or hold formal tertiary photography qualifications) are not eligible.

2.1.5 Council employees directly involved in the administration of the competition are not eligible to enter.

2.2 Image Capture Requirements

2.2.1 All images must be captured within the Fraser Coast Region.

2.2.2 Images must be taken during the official competition dates (11–16 April 2026 inclusive)

2.2.3 Images must be the original work of the entrant.

2.2.4 Images must not have been previously published for commercial purposes or have won prizes in other competitions.

2.3 Image Format and Technical Requirements

2.3.1 JPEG or PNG format

2.3.2 Minimum resolution: 2000px on the longest edge

2.3.3 Maximum file size: 20MB

2.3.4 Free of watermarks, signatures, borders, overlays or branding

2.4 Image Integrity and Editing Restrictions

2.4.1 AI-generated or AI-altered images are not permitted.

2.4.2 Entrants must not materially alter photographic content through compositing, adding/removing subjects, generative fill, or synthesised elements.

2.4.3 Basic editing such as cropping, colour correction, exposure adjustment, sharpening and noise reduction is permitted.

2.4.4 Council may request original files and metadata (EXIF data) to verify compliance. Failure to provide original files may result in disqualification.

2.5 Content Restrictions

Entries must not contain:

- Offensive, defamatory, obscene or unlawful material
- Explicit or inappropriate content
- Material inconsistent with Council policies or Social Media Guidelines
- Depictions of unlawful or unsafe conduct

Entrants must not engage in unsafe behaviour when capturing photographs.

2.6 Consent Requirements for Recognisable People

2.6.1 Entrants must obtain informed consent from all identifiable individuals appearing in submitted images.

2.6.2 Where the subject is under 18 years of age, parental or guardian consent is required.

2.6.3 “Recognisable people” includes individuals identifiable through face, posture, clothing or contextual detail.

2.6.4 Where shortlisted or winning images contain identifiable individuals, Council may contact the entrant to facilitate formal media release documentation for marketing and promotional purposes.

Council may refuse to publish any image containing minors if publication is inconsistent with child safety principles.

3. Submission Process

3.1.1 Entries must be submitted via the official SmartyGrants online portal. Entries submitted through other channels will not be accepted.

3.1.2 Incomplete submissions may be deemed ineligible.

3.1.3 Each submission must include:

- Entrant's full name
- Date of birth and selected age group
- Title of image
- Short description (max 100 words)
- Image upload
- Confirmation of ownership and consent

4. Judging and Voting

4.1 Judging Panel

Entries will be assessed by a community arts and/or cultural group appointed by Council. Judges will receive all eligible entries via secure digital access.

4.2 Judging Criteria

Entries will be assessed against:

1. Creativity & Originality
2. Technical Quality
3. Connection to Fraser Coast
4. Emotional Impact
5. Authenticity

Judges will shortlist top 5 entries across each age group.

4.3 People's Choice Award

4.3.1 Shortlisted images will be published on Council's official Facebook page.

4.3.2 Voting will occur via reactions on Council's official post only.

4.3.3 Voting period is Friday, 17 April 2026 5pm to Monday, 20 April 2026, 5pm AEST

4.3.4 Council may remove fraudulent or automated votes and only votes on Council's official post will be counted

4.3.5 Judges' decisions and People's Choice results are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

5. Prizes

5.1.1 For each age group:

First Prize – \$100 Buy Local Gift Card

Runner Up – \$50 Buy Local Gift Card

5.1.2 The winning image may also be featured in a community publication or digital exhibition.

5.1.3 Prizes are not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash

5.1.4 Winners will be notified via Council's official post and email.

5.1.5 Prizes must be claimed within 28 days.

6. Use by Council, Copyright and Intellectual Property

6.1 Entrants retain copyright of their image.

6.2 By entering, entrants grant Fraser Coast Regional Council a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to:

- Publish images on Council websites and social media
- Use images in Youth Week promotional material
- Display images in exhibitions (libraries, community halls, etc.)
- Include images in Council publications and promotional materials

6.3 Images may be cropped or formatted for display purposes.

6.4 Images will be credited to the photographer where reasonably practicable.

6.5 Entrants warrant that their work does not infringe any third-party rights and indemnify Council against claims arising from breach of these Terms.

7. Privacy

Personal information collected will be used solely for the administration of the competition and managed in accordance with *Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)*.

Entrants' names may be published in relation to competition outcomes.

8. Disqualification

Council may disqualify any entry that:

- Does not meet eligibility requirements
- Is inconsistent with these Terms and Conditions
- Is offensive or unlawful
- Demonstrates manipulation of the voting process
- Fails authenticity verification

Council accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage incurred during image capture.

9. Cancellation or Modification

Council reserves the right to cancel, modify or suspend the competition if required to protect its integrity, fairness or lawful operation.

10. Liability

To the maximum extent permitted by law, Fraser Coast Regional Council shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injury suffered in connection with this competition, except where liability cannot be excluded by law.

These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of Queensland.

For More Information

If you have questions or require assistance with your submission, please contact:

Fraser Coast Regional Council

1300 79 49 29

community@frasercoast.qld.gov.au