

# YOUTH PARTICIPATION STRUCTURES IN IRELAND

- DCEDIY has overall responsibility for ensuring that children and young people have a say in matters that affect them.
- **Comhairle na nÓg** (youth councils), established 2002, are child and youth councils (12 – 17 years) that operate in each of the 31 Local Authority areas across Ireland.
- **Dáil na nÓg**, established 2001, is a biennial national youth parliament for young people (12 – 17 years), with 200 delegates elected through local Comhairlí.
  - Each Comhairle na nÓg (youth council) elects representatives to the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive to take action at a national level on young people's vote at Dáil na nÓg.
- **Seanad na nÓg** (youth senate) was held for the first time on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 to mark the centenary of the Seanad.
- **The National Youth Assembly of Ireland**, established 2022, is an overarching structure to allow young people consider issues of national importance and to feed their views into Government policy.

# YOUTH PARTICIPATION STRUCTURES IN IRELAND

2.5m budget from Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY)

The National Participation Office (NPO), established within DCEDIY is funded through a Participation Services Contract with Foróige (NGO), manages and coordinates the activities of the youth participation structures.

The NPO is made up of a team of youth participation officers to support and guide the operation of Comhairle na nÓg, to develop Comhairle na nÓg and other structures and to facilitate consultations with children and young people.

# COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Comhairle na nÓg are child and youth councils, ages 12 to 17 years of age

The recognised national structure for youth participation in Ireland

Based in the 31 local authorities in Ireland

Gives children and young people a voice in local and national policy and services

Funded by DCEDIY and managed by Local Authorities

Comhairle na nÓg National Executive representative group for each Comhairle na nÓg

Dáil na nÓg biennial national youth parliament

Seanad na nÓg national youth senate

# NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY OF IRELAND

- Established 2022
- Involves Comhairle na nÓg, NGOs and youth organisations, ages 12 to 24
- Consists of up to 4 assemblies per year:
- National Youth Assembly on Climate – annual forum to feed into Ireland’s Climate Action Plan
- National Rural Youth Assembly – annual forum to feed into work programme of Rural Development Strategy
- National Youth Assembly on Artificial Intelligence – held in 2022
- National Youth Assembly on Youth Policy Framework – under development



# NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

DCEDIY supports other Government Departments and agencies to seek the views of children and young people through Comhairle na nÓg.