# How to partner with young people

Partnerships should be based on mutual respect, acknowledging the unique contribution that each person makes



### have clear expectations

about what can and can't happen from the outset, and acknowledge when processes and outcomes may change

#### be flexible

about when and how young people can engage... offer a range of ways young people can participate (e.g. varying commitment levels) to maximise youth participation

#### value experience

including qualifications, lived experience and unique perspectives... recognise individual skills and interests and try to draw on and build on them

### involve more than one young person

where possible and appropriate also aim for diverse representation so that partnerships can reach their full potential

 mutual benefit make sure the young person is benefiting too (e.g. learning new skill)

### reimburse appropriately

depending on the nature and duration of the commitment

**support involvement** different young people will require different support – involve young people because they are the right people, not because of convenience

#### avoid tokenism don't develop something

and then get young people to provide input when it is too late to make meaningful changes

#### provide resources plan for youth involvement and make sure both you and the young people have what you need to enjoy a successful partnership

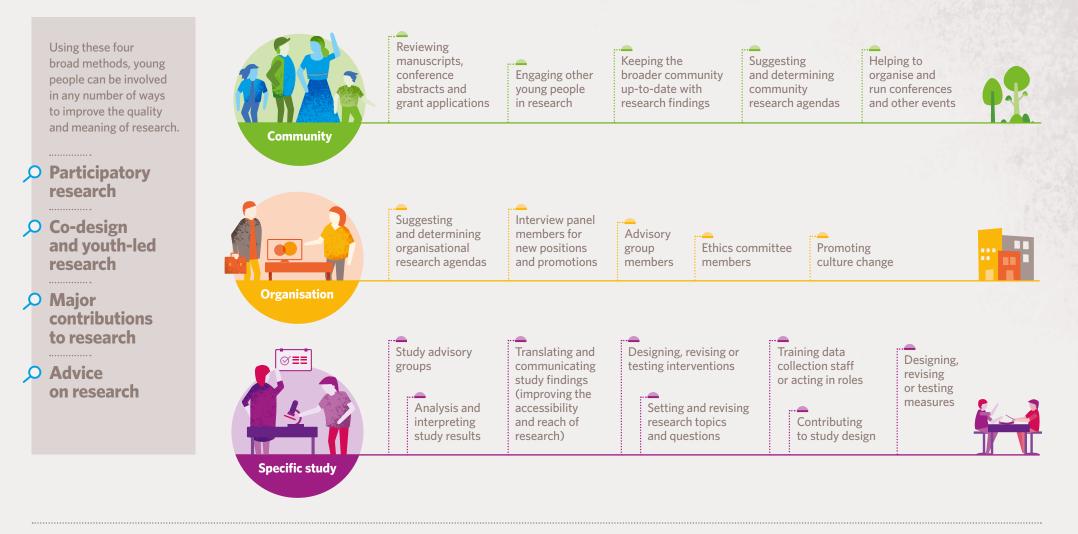
**provide feedback** let the young people know what changed as a result of their involvement and what you were able to achieve together

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# When to partner with young people

Involving young people improves the quality, relevance and success of research





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## Talking points for youth partnerships in research





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