

NATIONAL RURAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2022

KEY MESSAGES

The Programme for Government committed to the establishment of a Youth Assembly, with various modules, for rural young people. In addition, the Department of Rural and Community Development made a commitment in Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 to establish a Rural Youth Assembly to allow young people living in rural Ireland to make an on-going contribution to issues that impact on them and their future.

The National Rural Youth Assembly took place on the 14th July 2022. 38 youth delegates aged 12-24 years from across Ireland attended, representing youth organisations and Comhairle na nÓg (Youth Councils). The delegates attended a preparation session and then took part in a day of discussion. They had seven key messages for the Department of Rural and Community Development to consider. These are outlined below.

INVESTMENT
Government funding for investment in public transport links between rural towns and local communities.

HEALTHCARE
Youth participation on local HSE boards to ensure their voices are heard on healthcare issues.

YOUTH VOICES IN COMMUNITIES
The appointment of a Community Liaison Person to facilitate contact between youth in the community and the action/ Government bodies.

TRANSPORT
More opportunities for young people to engage with officials, T.D.s and Ministers on topics such as public transport.

VOTING AGE
Introduce voting age for 16 year olds in local elections. Publish information on voting systems and how to vote in accessible language. Begin a process for a referendum allowing 16 year olds to vote in all elections (full representation).

HOUSING CRISIS
Calling on the Government of Ireland to provide 100% redress for all houses affected by Pyrite/ Mica before it is dangerous to live in these homes.

CLIMATE JUSTICE
By 2040, we expect the Government to support established farms to achieve a just transition with provision of financial aid for the gradual elimination of unsustainable practices.

