

MINUTES OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 16 March 2022
Location: Council Chambers, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 10:06am

The following members were present:

Clr Paul Ell
Clr Patricia White
Clr Moo D'Ath (remotely)
Bridget Raftery – Vincentia High School - Chairperson (remotely)
Shoalhaven High School – Emily McNeil; Maddison Harris; Dylan Hollier; Georgia Henderson
Vincentia High School – Bridget Raftery; Saphira Webber; Jaymee-Lee Joines (remotely)
Ulladulla High School – Ebony Wellman (remotely)
Bomaderry High School – Caleb Shaw (remotely)
Ms St Johns the Evangelist Catholic High School – Yasmin Lingard; Georgia Coleman
Sophie Weller
Ms Sophie Phillips – representing the Hon Fiona Phillips - MP
Ms Veronica Burt-Leonard

Others Present:

Ms Janet Atkins – Nowra Youth Centre (remotely)
Mr Michael Paine - Manager - Community Connections
Ms Carly McWalters – Team Leader – Community Capacity Building
Ms Jessica Richardson – Community Capacity Builder
Ms Kirsty Vezinias – Community Capacity – Student Placement

The chairperson gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Mayor Findley, Clr Norris, Clr Gray and Clr Christen.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Youth Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 1 September 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Janet Atkins – Nowra Youth Centre – YA22.5 – Nowra Youth Centre Bus – Request for Financial Support for Running Costs - significant pecuniary interest – she works for the Nowra Youth Centre – is not a voting member of the Youth Advisory Committee - will remain in the meeting (remotely) but will not take part in the discussion or vote.

PRESENTATIONS

YA22.1	City Lifestyles Presentation - Overview of the Youth Advisory Committee	HPERM Ref: D22/101801
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Jessica Richardson – Community Capacity Builder - made a presentation to the Committee, covering the following items:

- *Overview of the Committee*
- *Terms of Reference*
- *Strategic Plan*
- *Relevant Policies and Procedures*

YA22.2	Presentation - Governance - Brief Induction	HPERM Ref: D22/101797
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Brooke Aldous -Senior Governance Officer – made a presentation to the Committee, covering the following items:

- *Code of Conduct*
- *Code of Meeting Practice*
- *Delegations*
- *Declaration of Interests*

YA22.3	Open Round Table Discussion - Mental Health and Wellbeing in Young People in the Shoalhaven	HPERM Ref: D22/91395
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We would like to take the opportunity to check in with members to see how everyone is arriving today.

Prompt questions:

- The ever changing learning situations (online / in person) due to recent floods as well as the COVID-19 pandemic
- Drugs & alcohol use:
 - Substance abuse and/or experimenting with drugs and alcohol due to stress and uncertainty, particularly amongst Senior students;
 - Pressure to try it.
- Impact on University students:
 - Leaving high school and having to adjust to online learning with Uni.
 - Very isolating with no opportunity to socialise or make new friends or connections.
 - Not having options to learn in the best way for you personally due to online learning.
- Expectations and pressure that are placed on young people in relation to schooling and socialising including expectations that young people place on themselves.

REPORTS

YA22.4 Come Together Through Community, 2022 NSW Youth Council Conference

HPERM Ref:
D21/320280

Veronica Burt-Leonard and Bridget Raftery provided a brief update on their attendance at the NSW Youth Council Conference 2022. The key points noted were:

- The Conference was a lot of fun
- Very action based in relation to planning and how to get funding for events
- There was a strong focus on mental health in particular Mental Health First Aid
- Opportunity to speak to other likeminded people from across the State
- Highly recommend future attendance to members of the Youth Advisory Committee

Jessica Richardson – Community Capacity Builder - acknowledged and thanked Veronica & Bridget for their attendance at the Conference. Jessica Richardson also provided an overview on the Conference. The three themes for the Conference were:

1. Social Media for good
2. Mental Health
3. Sustainable Life

Jessica Richardson – Community Capacity Builder - advised that Bridget and Veronica would like the opportunity to have more conversations with the Youth Advisory Committee and their peers to share actionable ideas on how Council may be able to provide youth programs for youth development. Based on this feedback Council staff are exploring opportunities for youth-led action and will involve the YAC members in future project planning.

Examples of actionable ideas that the Youth Advisory Committee may seek to support include:

1. Mental Health First Aid Courses for young people in the Shoalhaven
2. Clothes swap and community wardrobe pop-ups to encourage sustainable purchasing

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Youth Advisory Committee

1. Receive this report regarding the Shoalhaven Youth Advisory Committee's representation at the NSW Youth Council Conference 2022.
2. Support the allocations of funds (\$604.91) to cover the cost of two Committee Members and a support Council staff member attending the NSW Youth Council Conference from the Youth Advisory Committee budget.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Youth Advisory Committee

1. Receive this report regarding the Shoalhaven Youth Advisory Committee's representation at the NSW Youth Council Conference 2022.
2. Support the allocations of funds (\$604.91) to cover the cost of two Committee Members and a support Council staff member attending the NSW Youth Council Conference from the Youth Advisory Committee budget.

CARRIED

YA22.5 Nowra Youth Centre Bus - Request for Financial Support for Running Costs**HPERM Ref:
D21/355580**

Janet Atkins – Nowra Youth Centre – declared a significant pecuniary interest – works for the Nowra Youth Centre – is not a voting member of the Youth Advisory Committee - will remain in the meeting (remotely) to answer any questions relating to the item.

Clr D'Ath inquired whether the Youth Bus is available for hire in other areas of the Shoalhaven, particularly in the Southern region.

Jessica Richardson – Community Capacity Builder - confirmed that the bus is a resource that can be made available to organisations who collaborate with the Youth Advisory Committee and Council in the Southern region that needed transport support, subject to availability.

Recommendation

That the Youth Advisory Committee

1. Receive this report on the request from the Nowra Youth Centre to reinstate the financial support to cover the running costs of their bus.
2. Propose \$9,361 be allocated from Community Capacity Building Youth Projects and Community Capacity Building Projects, of unspent funds remaining due to the impact of COVID19 on project implementation in 2021/2022, to cover the running costs of the Nowra Youth Centre Bus for 2022.
3. Seek Council consideration to reinstate the Community Capacity Building Original Operating Budget to cover the increasing running costs of the Nowra Youth Centre Bus for 2023 onwards.
4. Propose Council enter into an MOU with the Nowra Youth Centre outlining roles and responsibilities of this funding partnership.

RECOMMENDATION (By consent)

That the Youth Advisory Committee

1. Receive this report on the request from the Nowra Youth Centre to reinstate the financial support to cover the running costs of their bus.
2. Propose \$9,361 of unspent funds remaining due to the impact of COVID19 on project implementation in 2021/2022 be allocated from Community Capacity Building Youth Projects and Community Capacity Building Projects, to cover the running costs of the Nowra Youth Centre Bus for 2022.
3. Seek Council consideration to reinstate the Community Capacity Building Original Operating Budget to cover the increasing running costs of the Nowra Youth Centre Bus for 2023 onwards.
4. Propose Council enter into an MOU with the Nowra Youth Centre outlining roles and responsibilities of this funding partnership.

YA22.6 Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Review

**HPERM Ref:
D22/90044**

Jessica Richardson – Community Capacity Builder - summarised the main proposed changes to the Terms of Reference (see attachment to Agenda):

Jessica Richardson - Community Capacity Builder - also summarised changes to the membership

- The following community members have requested to be removed from the YAC or did not respond to communications requesting they confirm their membership - Pallas Retimana, Hannah Schofield, Sienna Miller, Cassandra O'Carroll, Hannah Johns and Khy Antoniazzo.
- Veronica Burt-Leonard is a continuing community member.

Recommendation

That the Youth Advisory Committee accept the proposed amendments to the Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and submit to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION (By consent)

That:

1. The Youth Advisory Committee accept the proposed amendments to the Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and submit to Council for adoption.
2. Community Connections to extend invitations to the following organisations to encourage a youth representative to attend upcoming YAC meetings:
 - a. Youth representatives from the community and social service sector, including but not limited to Headspace Youth Reference Group, Aboriginal Land Council's Youth Advisory Groups, Disability Service Providers, Care South, Nowra Youth Centre, Mission Australia Ulladulla Youth Centre, Firefly Bay and Basin, Defence Force Cadets, Young Parents Groups.
 - b. Tertiary Education Representatives: University of Wollongong – Shoalhaven Campus, TAFE NSW Nowra and Ulladulla Campus's, Country Universities Centre Southern Shoalhaven
3. Council conduct an EOI process to fill the remaining 5 community member positions:
 - a. A maximum of 6 young people aged between 12 and 25 years from the community with an interest in youth issues in the Shoalhaven, with representation from North Central and South of the Shoalhaven LGA.

YA22.7 Action Table Update - March 2022

**HPERM Ref:
D22/93993**

Discussion took place around Youth Week 2022.

Jessica Richardson – Community Capacity Builder – circulated information and a calendar for Youth Week 2022 and asked any members of the Youth Advisory Committee to nominate as volunteers at the events. This information is attached to these Minutes.

Action – Jessica Richardson to reach out to YAC members to seek volunteers for these events and share promotional material.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Youth Advisory Committee:

1. Accept and receive the Update on Actions report for information.
2. Acknowledge the following actions as completed and be removed from the action table
 - a. YA21.6 - Item 3 - Form a Working Group to discuss topics arising from the planning day

and make recommendations to the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting

- b. YA21.7 - Planning Day - Activities for Young People - Working Group Formation
- c. YA21.8 - Planning Day - Mental Health and Sexual Health - Working Group Formation
- d. YA21.18 - Youth Week 2022 - Initiatives & Activities - Employment Expo - Unions Shoalhaven - Planning Group - Small Grants Program.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Youth Advisory Committee:

- 1. Accept and receive the Update on Actions report for information.
- 2. Acknowledge the following actions as completed and be removed from the action table
 - a. YA21.6 - Item 3 - Form a Working Group to discuss topics arising from the planning day and make recommendations to the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting
 - b. YA21.7 - Planning Day - Activities for Young People - Working Group Formation
 - c. YA21.8 - Planning Day - Mental Health and Sexual Health - Working Group Formation
 - d. YA21.18 - Youth Week 2022 - Initiatives & Activities - Employment Expo - Unions Shoalhaven - Planning Group - Small Grants Program

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

YA22.8 Nomination of Chair for Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 18 May 2022.

No nominations were received for Chairperson for this meeting. Jessica Richardson – Community Capacity Builder – will send a request to YAC members for nomination of Chairperson prior to the meeting on 18 May 2022.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That Community Connections seek nominations for Chairperson for the next meeting, to be held on 18 May 2022.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 11:47am.

Bridget Raftery
CHAIRPERSON