



Hawkesbury City Council

attachment 1
to
item 30

Young People and Council
Heading in the Same Direction:
Youth Summit Outcomes
- Executive Summary
February 2009

date of meeting: 23 February 2010
location: council chambers
time: 6:30 p.m.

“Young People and Council - Heading In the Same Direction”

Youth Summit Outcomes - Executive Summary

HAWKESBURY

YOUTH SUMMIT

We're a crowd
and we're
Loud

R you
ready 4 us ???

Put your questions
to the council

FREE LUNCH
service expo,
workshops, theatre,
free event, live music.

RSVP - contact Amy on
02 45778849 or abond@psinc.com.au

Tuesday 24th
November 2009

9:00am
until
2:30pm

Hawkesbury
Community
Services
Cnr Brabyn &
Macquarie Str.
Windsor, NSW

tednoffs
FOUNDATION
Empowering youth to overcome odds

peppercorn
community and youth

Bligh Park
Community Services Inc

NORTH RICHMOND
Community Centre Inc



A Working to Strengthen Youth
Services in the Hawkesbury (WYSH)
project. February 2009

1.1 Hawkesbury Youth Summit Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank members of the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency who contributed valuable time and expertise in making the Hawkesbury Youth Summit a success. We would also like to thank the Working to Strengthen Youth Services in the Hawkesbury (WYSH) Coalition. Without the dedication of this group to the process of planning and supporting Young People, this Summit could not have taken place.

Particular thanks to the Mayor, Councillor Bart Bassett for attending the Youth Summit and for fully supporting the process from its commencement. Special thanks to Councillor's Barry Calvert, Christine Paine, Jill Reardon and Leigh Williams for your support and participation through various sessions during the Youth Summit. Most importantly, thank you for attending and showing and acknowledging a commitment to 'bridging the gap' between young people and Council.

Finally, this process was a success due to the enthusiasm, commitment and insight of the young people of the Hawkesbury area. Special thanks to the Youth Summit Planning Group who worked tirelessly on planning the event. Thank you also to all participants of the Summit for coming willing to share your ideas to make positive change.

1.2 Hawkesbury Youth Summit KEY Findings

- 1. There is mutual benefit in the engagement between young people and Council to providing services. This was acknowledged and supported by the participants and Councillors in attendance at the Youth Summit.*
- 2. There is an existing interest young people hold in being involved in Council's decision making processes and Councillors have extended an invitation for them to do so.*
- 3. Young people indicated feeling unsure who to contact within Council and that this has deterred them from endeavoring to make contact.*
- 4. A person to effect and maintain this engagement is vital to ongoing dialogue and service provision.*
- 5. Safety, incorporating personal safety and road safety is a significant issue of concern for Young People in the Hawkesbury.*
- 6. Young people hold misconceptions about Council's role and function, which at times has negatively shaped their views about Council.*

1.3 Hawkesbury Youth Summit KEY Recommendations

This section of the report outlines the overall findings from the Youth Summit after the data from all collection methods were analysed together to form overall KEY findings.

The following recommendations reflect the process to develop the Youth Summit, the feedback from Young People involved in the planning of the Summit and the discussions on the day.

√ Recommendation 1

Given young people expressed their interests in being involved in Council decision making processes if they had a contact person, it is recommended that Council consider funding a youth worker position within Council to act as a channel between young people and Council.

√ Recommendation 2

It is recommended that Council liaises with schools to provide a face to face opportunity for young people to meet with or contact Councilors or a relevant Council representative and for representatives to undertake school visits to educate Young People of Council process.

√ Recommendation 3

In considering Young People's concerns about road safety, it is recommended that existing driver education programs provided by Council continue to be provided and enhanced.

√ Recommendation 4

It is recommended that Council consider the three preferred methods Young People indicated they wish to use in communicating with Council: Youth Events, Facebook and meetings held for Young People by Council. It is recommended council maintain the dialogue by providing the resources to implement some or all of these methods.

1.4 Hawkesbury Youth Summit Methodology & Section Findings

√ Recommendation 5

It is recommended that a Youth Summit be held regularly by Council to continue the dialogue between Council and Young People

This section of the report gives an overview of the main findings from each separate data collection method used to give the reader a broad understanding of the general findings in each area.

The following methods were used to gather data:

- 1. Panel discussion between Young People, Councillors and Council Representatives.*
- 2. Questionnaire in regards to communicating with Council*
- 3. Workshops around particular areas of interest developed by young people.*
- 4. Evaluations undertaken by young people*

1.4.1 Panel Discussion

A panel discussion was held at the Youth Summit, the panel members consisting of Hawkesbury City Councillors and Council Officers, including the Mayor, Executive Manager, Community Partnerships and a representative from the Youth Action and Policy Association (YAPA). The questions were prepared by the Youth Summit Planning Group prior to the event.

Panel Findings.

√ The panel discussion indicated Young People are very interested in being involved in Council decision making processes.

√ there is a strong commitment by Council to working with Young People and an open invitation by Councillors for Young People to be involved.

√ Young People feel unclear about the role, function and responsibility of Council, this at times has negatively shaped their view of Council.

√ Young people do not feel informed and able to contact Council currently and those involved in the Summit are at present not doing so.

√ Young people are facing difficulties due to the lack of transport in the Hawkesbury area. They are also finding the current systems of obtaining information about timetable changes and existing transport systems insufficient.

√ Young people are concerned about the safety of their peers and are socially conscious.

√ Young people attributed anti social behaviour by their peers to a lack of activities in the area.

1.4.2 Questionnaire

To assist Council in identifying ways for Young People to be actively involved in Council's decision making processes, a Questionnaire was developed relating to communicating with Council. Of the 66 participants of the Youth Summit, 35 questionnaires were completed.

Questionnaire Findings.

√ Of the young people who responded, no young people indicated they are currently communicating with Council.

√ The three preferred methods of communicating with Council are: Youth Events, Facebook and meetings held for Young People by Council.

√ Young People did not have a clear understanding of the role of various levels of Government.

√ Young People feel unclear about the role, function and responsibility of Council, this shapes their view of Council.

1.4.3 Workshop

Workshops were held on the day to provide an opportunity for participants to discuss issues of concern to them. The workshops were around four areas, which the Youth Summit Planning group determined to be areas of interest and concern. These areas were Safety, Lack of activities, Transport and Youth Week planning.

Workshop Findings

√ Young people are concerned with their personal safety, around youth centres and shopping centres.

√ Young people are concerned about road safety and their peers and would like to see an increase in driver education in schools.

√ Young People feel unclear about the role, function and responsibility of Council, especially in regards to transport and roads. This has at times, negatively shaped their view about Council.

✓ Young People would like Council's assistance by providing a safe signage system, more lighting and more payphones.

✓ Young people indicated that a transport system to assist them in getting to activities would enable their further involvement in community and social engagement.

✓ There is very limited, or no transport for many young people in the Hawkesbury area.

✓ Young People are for the most part unaware of existing transport schemes they could access.

✓ Young People are interested in planning events and seek Council support, however are unaware of Council's Budget process and how to have input into it.

1.4.4 Evaluation

An evaluation form was developed to identify Young People's views on various aspects of the Summit and to determine if the participants felt it was an effective process. 40 responses were received from participants.

Evaluation Findings.

✓ the Youth Summit was an effective tool for Young People to have their views heard.

✓ Young People would like a Youth Summit to be a regular event and would attend again

✓ Young People enjoyed the variety of the day, with the three most popular aspects being the panel discussion, Playback Theatre and the Workshops.

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