

7.2 MONASH YOUNG PERSONS REFERENCE GROUP (MYPRG)

Responsible Committee: Monash Young Persons Reference Group

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1) *Notes the resignation of Mr Philip Liberatore, Ms Jennifer Wong, Mr Mark Chen, Ms Prashanti Rajendram, Ms Rosie Tu, Mr Martin Li and Mr Darren Zhang as members from the Monash Young Persons Reference Group and formally acknowledges their contributions to the City of Monash.*
- 2) *Endorses the appointment of Ms Rosita Chau, Ms Cheryl Ou, Ms Shriya Gupta, Ms Rawa Khan, Ms Evonne Lu, Ms Neha Satishkumar, Mr Devendra Singh, Mr Siddhant Tandon, Ms Laura Wang, Mr Darren Chee, Ms Miranpal Nagra, Ms Maria Saribalas and Mr Tim Ziguras to the Monash Young Persons Reference Group.*
- 3) *Notes the achievements of the MYPRG for 2018.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to highlight the current work of the Monash Young Persons Reference Group (MYPRG) and to advise Council of the resignation of seven young people - Mr Philip Liberatore, Ms Jennifer Wong, Mr Mark Chen, Ms Prashanti Rajendram, Ms Rosie Tu, Mr Martin Li and Mr Darren Zhang from the MYPRG; and to endorse the appointment of thirteen new members Ms Rosita Chau, Ms Cheryl Ou, Ms Shriya Gupta, Ms Rawa Khan, Ms Evonne Lu, Ms Neha Satishkumar, Mr Devendra Singh, Mr Siddhant Tandon, Ms Laura Wang, Mr Darren Chee, Ms Miranpal Nagra, Ms Maria Saribalas and Mr Tim Ziguras.

BACKGROUND

In 2006, a proposal was put forward by one of Monash's young people, Sankaran Kasynathan to enhance Council's official recognition of young people's views. On 18 July 2006, Council endorsed the recommendation that Council "Establishes a young person's advisory committee, to be called the Young Persons Reference Group." The MYPRG has met monthly since March 2007. The advisory committee has two broad objectives as follows:

- a) To function as a consultation panel of young people that provides input into the development of Council policy and planning frameworks; and
- b) To act as a conduit for the positive promotion of young people's ideas and achievements.

DISCUSSION***Achievements for 2018***

MYPRG met monthly during 2018. The meetings provided both an opportunity for Council and other organisations to consult with it on various topics, as well as an opportunity for the members to develop their skills and have a voice about the issues important to the young people in Monash.

In 2018, MYPRG achieved the following:

- a) The 2017 MYPRG Chairperson, along with the Mayor and the Director of Community Development and Services, met in Canberra with an advisor to the Honourable Greg Hunt MP to advocate for improved youth mental health services in Monash;
- b) Actively supported the headspace advocacy through writing letters to the Honourable Julia Banks MP and other Federal Liberal candidates seeking bipartisan support for a headspace in Monash;
- c) Provided feedback to Council on what was required for Monash to be a Child and Young People Friendly City;
- d) Facilitated a Health & Wellbeing Movie night;
- e) Shortlisted nominees for the Sir John Monash Youth Leadership Award;
- f) Organised a reunion dinner for past members of MYPRG with 50 people attending the evening;
- g) A finalist in the Sustainable Cities Award for the Single Use Coffee Cups Project. MYPRG worked in collaboration with the Monash Sustainability team to promote and educate Glen Waverley traders on the benefits of eliminating single use coffee cups.

The current focus areas for MYPRG are:

- a) Environment and Recycling;
- b) Youth Mental Health; and
- c) Employment and Training.

MYPRG will build on their understanding and knowledge of these focus areas and explore opportunities of how they can raise awareness, support advocacy campaigns and/or partner with organisations to create change in the Monash community.

Members for endorsement or reappointment

To fill vacancies, MYPRG continually seek membership from young people aged 15–25 who live, go to school, or work in the City of Monash. Ms Rosita Chau, Ms Cheryl Ou, Ms Shriya Gupta, Ms Rawa Khan, Ms Evonne Lu, Ms Neha Satishkumar, Mr Devendra Singh, Mr Siddhant Tandon, Ms Laura Wang, Mr Darren Chee and Mr Tim Ziguras successfully completed their application for MYPRG and are seeking appointment to the group.

As a result of the resignations and proposed appointments identified this report, the group will have met its maximum nineteen (19) endorsed members of young

people in accordance with the Terms of Reference. The two Councillors who are currently attending, Cr. Rebecca Paterson and Cr Shane McCluskey increase the total representation to the maximum of 21 members in MYPRG.

As a result all vacancies are considered filled for 2019.

CONCLUSION

The MYPRG continues to represent young people's views and by including young people in Council's consultation processes.

MYPRD directly and positively raises the profile of young people within the Monash community and provides a platform for young people to contribute to the well-being of theirs and our community.