

7.2 MONASH YOUNG PERSONS REFERENCE GROUP (MYPRG) (BH: YTH15)

Responsible Committee: Monash Young Persons Reference Group

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Notes the resignation of Mr Shlok Thakur, Ms Sarah Lim, Ms Sharon Zhang, Melissa Liberatore and Ms Aanchal Arora as members from the Monash Young Persons Reference Group and acknowledges their contributions to the City of Monash.*
2. *Endorses the appointment of Ms Rosie Tu, Ms Natalia Kelly-Gerreyn, Mr Martin Li and Mr Darren Zhang to the Monash Young Persons Reference Group.*
3. *Notes the achievements of the MYPRG for 2017.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to highlight the current work of the Monash Young Persons Reference Group (MYPRG) and to seek Council's endorsement of the resignation of five young people Mr Shlok Thakur, Ms Sarah Lim, Ms Sharon Zhang, Melissa Liberatore and Ms Aanchal Arora from the MYPRG; and the appointment of four new members Ms Rosie Tu, Ms Natalia Kelly-Gerreyn, Mr Martin Li and Mr Darren Zhang.

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 2017

The MYPRG have met monthly during 2017. This provides both an opportunity for Council and other organisations to consult with them 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 2017, the MYPRG have undertaken the following:

- a) Provided feedback for the Monash Sports and Active Recreation Strategy;
- b) Presented at Glendal Primary School Leadership Day to seventy-five (75) students;

- c) Facilitated two (2) community consultations, “Conversations with YOUth”, with one in held in Glen Waverley and the other in Oakleigh. Young people were consulted on what local issues were important to them (in a similar style to Council’s “Listening Posts”);
- d) Actively supported the *headspace* advocacy through postcards; group photos and social media. Provided feedback to council that was included in the correspondence between the Mayor and the Federal Minister of Health;
- e) Provided feedback on the 2017 Draft Council Budget;
- f) Surveyed and discussed sustainable practices with cafes on Kingsway, Glen Waverley;
- g) Provided feedback for Council’s Draft Open Space Strategy; and
- h) Attended the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting in November to obtain a better understanding of how other council advisory groups operate and to hear what current environmental projects the Environmental Advisory Committee are currently working on.

The current focus for MYPRG are:

- a) Environment and recycling; and
- b) Mental health concerns of young people and in particular continued advocacy for improved mental health services in Monash.

The 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, the MYPRG continually seek membership from young people aged 14-25 who live, go to school or work in the City of Monash. Ms Rosie Tu, Ms Natalia Kelly-Gerreyn, Mr Martin Li and Mr Darren Zhang successfully completed their application for MYPRG and are seeking appointment into the group.

As a result of the resignations and appointments in this report, the group will have seventeen (17) of the maximum twenty-one (21) endorsed members as per the Terms of Reference. This includes the two current Councillors attending being Cr. Josh Fergeus and Cr Shane McCluskey. A further three (3) places are currently available for new MYPRG members in 2018.

CONCLUSION

The MYPRG continues to represent young people’s views and provides the opportunity to include young people in Council’s consultation processes. In addition, it enables Council to raise the profile of the positive achievements and contributions made by young people within the Monash community.