

# Community Connection Session

Wednesday 10 April 2019

Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Wonthaggi

3.00pm to 3.30pm

## I. Presentation Topic: 3.00pm

YMCA YES Youth Hub

### Name of person/s and/or organisation presenting:

Michael Feehan – YMCA

Tawan Spadafori – Student Leader Wonthaggi Secondary College

Chloe – YES Youth Hub Volunteer

### Notes:

Michael gave a brief rundown on how the YES Youth Hub – a dedicated place for young people - came to fruition.

He acknowledged the support of Council through funding and in particular Council Officers Frank Angarane and Janine Temme who have advised them throughout.

Currently the Hub is located in the old CFA building. Planning and building permits have been issued to alter access, particularly for people with disabilities, throughout the building.

For the last six months, with the support of local businesses, the Hub has run workshops for youth in art, sewing, jewellery making, planting, crochet, face painting and braiding and music.

Additional to those creative outlets the Hub is a space for youth to drop in and talk, share ideas, ask advice and seek information on mental health and health issues and be referred to services that can assist them with job searching and housing.

With the introduction of Head Space in the area, the Hub can now focus on arts and recreation, sharing of ideas, mentoring and working in collaboration with other service providers.

A short [video](#) was played showing the recent Intra Liminal Exhibition which was a huge success in conjunction with the Spark It Market; a space for participants to sell their art and craft created at the Hub.

Tawan Spoke to Councillors how much this Hub is needed for the youth of Wonthaggi and surrounds. He stated that adults need to connect with youth and listen to youth on what their concerns are, be it being in a disadvantaged family, lack of jobs, drugs etc.

Michael added that often adults say that kids are resilient and that they will cope with the circumstances they're presented with – this is not necessarily the case, with kids and youth needing to have an outlet to discuss those fears and concerns. The Hub offers that outlet with a lot of disadvantaged youth involved and attending.

Michael added that the long term plan for the Hub is to be self-sustaining but meanwhile Michael said that they are hoping for another year of financial support from Council to continue their work.

Cr Tessari thanks Michael, Tawan and Chloe for the informative update and advised that the Draft Budget will be out soon.

If they have not been successful through the Budget, there would be grant funding that they could apply for.