

Monday 17th August, 2020

Massive youth unemployment looms in Bendigo

Council candidate Dave Fagg is calling on the Greater Bendigo Council to prepare for the future of youth employment in the region.

“In March 2019, the Bendigo region had the highest rate of youth unemployment in the state at 18.3 %. Those numbers are only going to rise as the economic consequences of the pandemic hit home.

“There are not only the economic consequences of long-term unemployment of young people, but also the mental health consequences, and the likelihood of more young people leaving Bendigo to look for work.

“I have been speaking with businesses that employ young people, and this is a serious issue. In addition, it is a priority of the Bendigo youth council.”

Mr Fagg had several ideas for council to consider.

1. To ensure existing traineeships and apprenticeships do not fail, he called on council to play a co-ordinating role to ensure TAFE, job agencies, mental health agencies, and employers communicate with each other.
2. To give young people much-needed work experience, council needs to rapidly expand its traineeship program for young people.
3. To equip businesses who do employ young people, council needs to offer free training workshops to businesses, so that supervisors and managers can relate better to young people.

#ends

Mr Fagg is available for media interviews and photo opportunities upon request. Photos are also available on David Fagg’s website at <https://davefagg.com.au/media/>.

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