

Wednesday 26th July 2020

Dave Fagg calls for expanded youth services

Whipstick ward candidate Dave Fagg has called for an expansion of council's youth services, in addition to his recent youth employment proposals. The Long Gully resident has worked with young people for the last 20 years in secondary schools and in the youth sector, in Melbourne and in Bendigo.

"The city's staff do many great things with young people, such as the youth council and the Ambedo magazine. However, I think we should be expanding the City's services to young people."

Mr Fagg pointed to the fact that many local youth services such as Anglicare and Headspace are focussed on young people with a particular need, such as homelessness, drugs and alcohol misuse, and mental health.

"These are fantastic, but Bendigo also needs youth workers who work in a more general sense with a wider group of young people. This is particularly the case given the pressures on young people due to Covid-19."

Mr Fagg called for:

- An expansion of the youth team to enable better engagement with secondary schools.
- An outreach team of youth workers co-ordinated by Council to connect with young people where they spent time, such as skate parks, shopping centres, Hargreaves Mall, and public transport centres.
- An increased selection of free programs and events, which would be shaped by the preferences of young people.

"Currently, the City of Greater Bendigo allocates \$165,000 for wages to the youth services team. At most, that equates to 3 full-time staff. That is not nearly enough to meet the needs of our young people, who make up about 17% of Bendigo's population."

#ends

Mr Fagg is available for media interviews and photo opportunities upon request.

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