

MAYORAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT TASKFORCE

ACTION PLAN

Initiatives to enhance and strengthen education and employment outcomes for young people in the City of Greater Dandenong



BACKGROUND

The Mayoral Youth Employment Taskforce was established in 2017 under the leadership of the City of Greater Dandenong Mayor Jim Memeti, in response to high rates of youth disengagement and unemployment in our community.

It is acknowledged that young people in Greater Dandenong leave school earlier are less likely to attend university, are more often disengaged from employment and education, and are more likely to be unemployed later in life, than those throughout Melbourne.

The Mayoral Youth Employment Taskforce brought together representatives from all levels of government, business and industry, community services and the education sector to advance a collective approach to addressing youth unemployment and disengagement.

A schedule of four taskforce meetings were held between May and October 2017 to prioritise focus areas, identify critical gaps and develop a collective action plan.

MEETING 1

Key focus areas identified:

1. Local economy

Exploring options to maximise young people's connection to local industry and employment opportunities.

2. Pathways from education to employment

Ensuring young people are supported during key transition points from education into employment.

3. Enterprise skills

Enhancing young people's work readiness and skill capabilities.

MEETING 2

Narrowed focus to critical gaps:

1. Parent engagement

Building capacity of parents to support young people in career planning.

2. Bringing young people and industry together

Creating opportunities for young jobseekers and local employers to come together.

3. Early intervention / prevention

Addressing the early signs of youth disengagement.

4. Targeted support for the already disengaged

Intensive support for young people who have become disengaged from education and/or employment.

MEETING 3

The Taskforce reviewed a list of existing and proposed initiatives which could address these critical gaps.

Six initiatives were shortlisted for further consideration and scoping.

MEETING 4

The Taskforce reviewed a project outline for each of the six shortlisted initiatives.

Agreement was reached on the final four initiatives which comprise this action plan.

The work of the Mayoral Youth Employment Taskforce, and the initiatives outlined in this action plan, are an important part of Council's response to addressing youth unemployment and disengagement in the City of Greater Dandenong. Council's ongoing commitment to providing young people with opportunities to work, learn and engage is further outlined in the Youth Strategy Action Plan 2016-2019.

ACTION PLAN [OUR KEY COMMITMENTS]

OBJECTIVE 1 Bringing young people and industry together

Initiatives which promote local industries and job opportunities, and connect young people directly to employers.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	PARTNERS / STAKEHOLDERS	OUTCOME/ INDICATOR
1.1 Trial a local Jobs Fair in Dandenong to connect young job seekers with employers.	Pilot of monthly events April - June 2018	City of Greater Dandenong - Youth & Family Services	SEBN, SEMMA, Chamber of Commerce, multiple employment services	3 events delivered; number of young people attending; number of young people securing employment
1.2 Host a 'meet and greet' event with local employers, targeting young people identified through the On Track process as disengaged after leaving school.	August 2018	City of Greater Dandenong - Youth and Family Services	SE LLEN Employers	1 event delivered; number of young people attending; number of young people securing employment

OBJECTIVE 2 Parent engagement in career planning and pathways

Initiatives which address generational disadvantage, and promote the role of parents and families in providing support and positive modelling of behaviour to young people.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	PARTNERS / STAKEHOLDERS	OUTCOME/ INDICATOR
2.1 Undertake a pilot project with vulnerable families to promote a 'whole of family' approach to improving employment outcomes.	Until 30 June 2019	City of Greater Dandenong - Community Revitalisation Project	CGD Youth and Family Services	Number of career counselling sessions delivered; number of people who secure employment.

OBJECTIVE 3 Early intervention for young people at risk of disengagement

Initiatives which support young people to re-engage with education and employment at the earliest signs of disengagement.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	PARTNERS / STAKEHOLDERS	OUTCOME/ INDICATOR
3.1 Advocate for programs (such as the Navigator program) that support young people's reengagement in education	November 2018 (State Election)	SE LLEN	CGD Youth and Family Services	Additional or ongoing funding secured.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Council wishes to thank the members of the Mayoral Youth Employment Taskforce for their contribution:

- Julian Hill MP, Member for Bruce
- Hon Mark Dreyfus QC, MP, Member for Issacs, represented by Monica Bladier
- Gabrielle Williams MP, Member for Dandenong
- Martin Pakula MP, Member for Keysborough
- Nina Springle MLC, Member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region
- Inga Peulich MLC, Member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region
- Andrew Simmons, CEO South East Local Learning and Employment Network
- Debbie Locco, Area Director Southern Melbourne, Department of Education and Training
- Catherine McGrath, A/Manager Community Participation, Department of Health and Human Services
- Maria Peters, CEO, Chisholm Institute
- Peter Harrison, General Manager South East, AMES Australia
- Todd Hartley, Manager Director, Hilton Manufacturing
- Simon Whiteley, Manager Director Corex Plastics Australia
- Gerry Ryan, Founder, Jayco, represented by Donna Paxton
- Paul Kearsley, Group Manager Greater Dandenong Business, City of Greater Dandenong
- Martin Fidler, Director Community Services, City of Greater Dandenong

ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES

In addition to the key commitments outlined on the previous page, the Mayoral Youth Employment Taskforce has also seen the following outcomes:

Apprenticeships for school finishers pilot project

SE LLEN have commenced a pilot project which will broker a partnership between local schools and businesses, with the aim of securing apprenticeships for year 12 students on the condition that they complete their schooling. It is hoped that this model will ensure young people who are at risk of disengaging in their final year will be supported to identify and secure a viable pathway before becoming disengaged.

Linking education providers and industry

Through the South East Business Network, Council will support the Department of Education and Training's 'Communities of Practice' model by facilitating links between education providers and local industry. The Communities of Practice model involves a commitment from all government secondary schools in Greater Dandenong to work together in identifying strategies to improve student and parent engagement, sharing best practice in careers advice and preparing students for further education and entry into effective and meaningful workforce participation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The City of Greater Dandenong's ongoing commitment to providing young people with opportunities to work, learn and engage is further outlined in the Youth Strategy Action Plan 2016-2019.

For further information about available programs and initiatives for young people, or to download a copy of the Youth Strategy, please visit:

greaterdandenong.com/youthservices