



Agenda

Youth Council Meeting
Monday 3 March 2025 at 6pm

You are advised that a Youth Council Meeting will be held on Monday 3 March 2025 at 6pm.

This meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

Youth Councillors

Angelica Banquil

Dean Connelly-Carpenter

Bavleen Kaur

Mustafa Khraim

Zachary Melvaine

Angela Rolevska

Tanya Sharma

Sandy Tran

Emily Tricarico

Elly Watson

Kaynat Virk

Sophie Winter

Officers

Jacinta Stevens

Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Bobbie-Lea Bright

Unit Manager Compliance & Governance

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1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO will open the meeting and welcome everyone in attendance.

1.2 Apologies

Youth Councillor Sandy Tran

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Executive Manager of Council & CEO will read the following statement:

“On behalf of Council, I recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

I would also like to personally acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.”

1.4 Youth Council Charter

A member of the Youth Council will be called upon to read the following statement:

“We the members of the City of Whittlesea Youth Council, commit to advocating for and being the voice of the youth within our municipality. We ensure a safe space for all, to engage in constructive collaboration on matters affecting young people. We aim to empower and foster community connectedness in our youth so they feel valued and supported to achieve their aspirations.”

1.5 Acknowledgements

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting/s

Recommendation

THAT the following Minutes of the preceding Youth Council Meeting as circulated, be confirmed:

- Scheduled Meeting of Youth Council held on 3 February 2025.

4 Officers' Reports

4.1 Youth Mayoral Election 2025-2026

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Councillor Support Officer

Executive Summary

The election of the Youth Mayor will be conducted in accordance with the City of Whittlesea Youth Council Terms of Reference (TOR).

Section 7 of the TOR prescribes that the Youth Council will receive nominations for and vote on a Youth Mayor at the second meeting of the term.

Elections will be, by way of a silent ballot with nominations submitted via an Expression of Interest form prior to the meeting.

The term of the Youth Mayor is for one year.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council conducts the 2025-2026 election via silent ballot for the position of Youth Mayor for a term of one year.

4.2 Deputy Youth Mayor Election 2025-2026

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Councillor Support Officer

Executive Summary

The election of the Deputy Youth Mayor will be conducted in accordance with the City of Whittlesea Youth Council Terms of Reference (TOR).

Section 7 of the TOR prescribes that the Youth Council will receive nominations for and vote on a Deputy Youth Mayor at the second meeting of the term.

Elections will be, by way of a silent ballot with nominations submitted via an Expression of Interest form prior to the meeting.

The term of the Deputy Youth Mayor is for one year and is identical to the term of the Youth Mayor.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council conducts the 2025-2026 election via silent ballot for the position of Deputy Youth Mayor for a term of one year.

4.3 Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor and Youth Councillor Addresses

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Councillor Support Officer

In Attendance: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

The Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO will invite the newly elected Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor to present a two-minute address.

Youth Councillors will then be invited to make a two-minute response to the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor's addresses.

4.4 Career Networking Expo - Youth Council as a Stall Holder

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Youth Development Officer

In Attendance: Youth Development Officer

Executive Summary

Purpose

The Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network (HWLLEN) Career Networking Expo aims to connect young people with representatives from the education, employment, and business sectors, providing them with opportunities to expand their career networks and explore future pathways. The Youth Council will participate as a stallholder, engaging with the public through interactive activities and gathering feedback on key issues affecting young people.

Background

The HWLLEN Career Networking Expo is an established annual event designed to support students in their career exploration by facilitating meaningful connections with industry professionals. Registered school groups attend tailored workshops that enhance their understanding of career networking and equip them with valuable resources. The Youth Council's involvement aligns with their mission to advocate for young people and address emerging trends.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council:

- 1. Ensure the stall attracts and engages a diverse range of young people through interactive and relevant activities.**
- 2. Structure activities to capture useful insights on key challenges faced by young people, such as employment barriers, education pathways, and well-being.**
- 3. Balance engagement with raising awareness about the Youth Council's role and initiatives, ensuring young people know how to get involved.**
- 4. Handle high traffic effectively, ensuring all visitors have a chance to participate while managing materials and information efficiently.**

Background / Key Information

Event Overview

The HWLLEN Career Networking Expo connects young people with representatives from education, employment, and business sectors to explore career pathways and opportunities. The Youth Council will attend as stallholders, engaging attendees through interactive activities and gathering feedback on key youth issues.

Youth Council's Role & Responsibilities

- Engagement Activities: Facilitate conversations and interactive sessions to connect with attendees.
- Feedback Collection: Gather insights on challenges faced by young people, such as employment barriers and education pathways.
- Awareness & Advocacy: Inform attendees about the Youth Council's role and how they can get involved. Promote the application process for the new terms to be served by new Youth Councillors. Promote the upcoming Youth Summit. Provide examples of the types of projects that Youth Council has been involved in to date, as well as the key focus areas the Youth Council identified in 2024 and confirmed in 2025.
- Logistics: Manage stall setup, materials, and time to ensure smooth operation throughout the event.

Key Issues & Themes

Common Youth Challenges - Employment Barriers:

Many young people face difficulties in finding stable employment due to a lack of experience, limited job opportunities, or insufficient skills that employers seek. Additionally, economic factors such as a competitive job market and geographical location may further limit access to employment.

Why It Matters:

Youth unemployment can have a lasting impact on young people's future, affecting their economic stability and long-term career prospects. Identifying the specific barriers faced by youth will help the Youth Council advocate for policies that support job creation, skill development programs, and equitable access to employment opportunities.

Common Youth Challenges - Education and Training Access:

While education is often seen as the key to success, many young people face challenges in accessing quality education and training. This includes financial barriers, limited availability of courses that align with career interests, and a lack of guidance or mentorship to navigate the educational system.

Why It Matters:

Ensuring all youth have access to educational resources and training opportunities is crucial for their success and future employability. This challenge is particularly significant for those from marginalised communities, where access to education may be restricted. Feedback on this topic will help the Youth Council advocate for reforms in educational policies and better funding for vocational programs.

Benefits of Participation

- Enhanced visibility
- Skill development (event management, communication, leadership, public speaking)
- Direct youth engagement.
- Enable attendees to voice their concerns through engaging with the Youth Council, contributing to discussions on youth issues, and learn about available resources and support networks.
- Opportunity to connect with like-minded peers and gain a better understanding of potential career pathways and the steps required to achieve their goals.
- Provide opportunity to assess how well current Youth Council focuses align with real-world youth concerns, ensuring that future initiatives are relevant and impactful.

Implementation Strategy

Communication

Comms team will promote the presence of Youth Council at the Careers Expo through our social media in the lead up to the event.

Critical Dates

Planning day for HWLLEN Careers Expo – 24 February 2025 (4pm @ Edge)

HWLLEN Careers Expo – 18 March 2025

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* officers providing advice to Council are required to disclose any conflict of interest they have in a matter and explain the nature of the conflict.

The Responsible Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Attachments

1. HWLLEN Careers Expo PPT for Youth Council 03 03 202 [4.4.1 - 7 pages]



HWLLEN Careers Expo

WHAT IS IT?

The HWLLEN Career Networking Expo is an established annual event designed to support students in their career exploration by facilitating meaningful connections with industry professionals. Registered school groups attend tailored workshops that enhance their understanding of career networking and equip them with valuable resources.

- **The Youth Council's involvement aligns with their mission to advocate for young people and address emerging trends.**

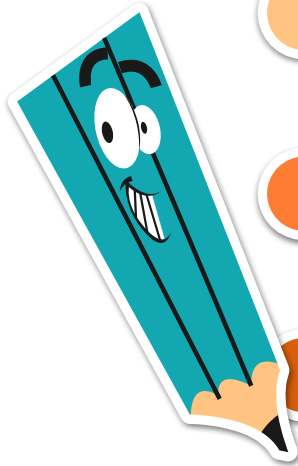


CAREER NETWORKING EXPO
18 MARCH 2025
PLENTY RANGES ARTS & CONVENTION CENTRE, SOUTH MORANG
Career Networking Expo connects representatives from education, employment, and business sectors with young people seeking to expand their career networks and explore pathway options. Workshop sessions for registered school groups enhance students' understanding of career networking and provide resources to boost their engagement. Suitable for students of all ages; school groups must register.

For more information contact our staff: hwllen@hwllen.com.au



Key information



When

18/03/2025

Where

PLENTY RANGES ARTS &
CONVENTION CENTRE, SOUTH
MORANG

Time

9am - 3pm



The role of Youth Council



Engagement

Attract a diverse range of young people to engage with stall activities



Collect feedback

Capture useful insights on key challenges faced by young people,



Awareness & advocacy

Raise awareness about the Youth Council's role and initiatives, ensuring young people know how to get involved

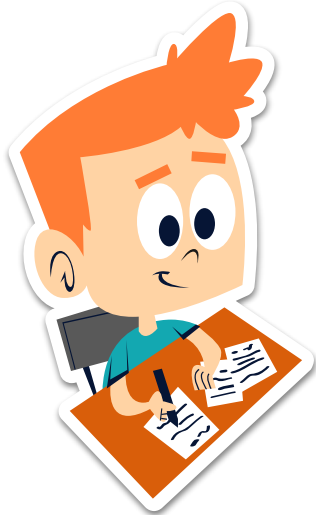


Manage time and resources

Manage traffic, ensure participation, and efficiently handle materials and information.



Why is it important?



Youth Council identified youth education and employment as one of the key focus areas for 2024-2025.

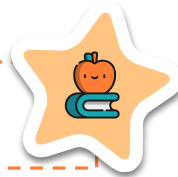
Participation in this Careers Expo aligns with the Youth Council's role as advocates for change in this area to positively impact young people's future, economic stability and long-term career prospects.

The opportunity to gather feedback on this topic (and others) may help the Youth Council frame future initiatives.

Benefits

Visibility

For youth council and the work you do



Skill development

Event management, communication, leadership, public speaking



Youth engagement

Direct voices of youth from our community



Assessment

The opportunity to assess how well current Youth Council focuses align with real-world youth concerns

Expand knowledge

Learn about available resources and support networks.

Networking

Connect with peers, explore careers, and learn steps to succeed.



Next steps...

Careers expo planning meeting

Go to Edge on Monday, (24/02/2023)
4pm - 6pm

Prepare engagement activities

Brainstorm questions/ engagement
survey for youth

Attend Careers expo

8:30am arrival at PRACC for set up before
the 9am Careers expo on 18/03/2025

Where to
from here?



4.5 Youth Council Submission - MPHWP & DAP - Health Priorities

Director/Executive Manager: Director Community Wellbeing

Report Author: Unit Manager Healthy & Inclusive Communities

Key Highlights

The purpose of this report is to note the Youth Council submission provided to the Healthy & Inclusive Communities Team in relation to the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) and the Disability Action Plan (DAP).

Officers' Recommendation

THAT the Youth Council note the feedback provided by all Youth Councillors in collaboration following the February Youth Council Meeting at Attachment 1.

Attachments

1. Completed Submission Form Item 4.1 [4.5.1 - 3 pages]

Youth Council Submission Form



Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan & Disability Action Plan - Health Priorities

SUBMISSION TIMEFRAME:

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan & Disability Action Plan - Health Priorities submissions must be received no later than **5pm on 14 February 2025** and are to be sent to Melanie MacKertich, Councillor Support Officer via the below email:

youthcouncil@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

BACKGROUND:

Details of the submission requirements.

Meeting Date: Monday, 3 February 2025

Agenda Item: 4.1 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan & Disability Action Plan - Health Priorities

Recommendation:

THAT the Youth Council:

1. In collaboration with all Youth Councillors provide feedback to the Councillor Support Officer.
2. Note the feedback will be tabled at the next Youth Council meeting for noting.

Details:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Overview of Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan & Disability Action Plan - Health Priorities
- Inform Youth Council that community consultation has commenced and focus groups are being designed.

SUBMISSION:

Submission for this report / proposal is detailed below:

Feedback for Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan & Disability Action Plan - Health Priorities

As the Youth Council, we welcome the opportunity to provide constructive input on the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan & Disability Action Plan - Health Priorities. We acknowledge the significance of these initiatives for young people in the City of Whittlesea (CoW). By addressing key health and accessibility concerns, these plans contribute to fostering a more inclusive and connected community. The commitment to involving young people in the planning process and considering their specific needs is commendable, demonstrating a forward-thinking approach to public health and community wellbeing.

The Youth Council found the presentation to be informative and well-structured. The alignment of key focus areas with youth priorities, particularly in relation to mental health, accessibility, and social inclusion, was encouraging. The holistic and intersectional approach taken in these plans is essential in ensuring sustainable and meaningful change. The comprehensive scope of the initiatives demonstrates a strong commitment to addressing a wide range of issues, ensuring that various aspects of public health and disability inclusion are considered. The integration of health and disability priorities within the same framework is particularly effective, as it acknowledges the intersectionality between these areas and ensures that solutions are both practical and sustainable. Additionally, the emphasis on community participation and inclusion reflects a commitment to reducing social isolation and fostering greater engagement among individuals with disabilities. The inclusion of youth representation and consultation is another notable strength, as it ensures that the perspectives of young people are valued and incorporated into decision-making processes.

While the plan provides a strong foundation, several areas require further consideration and improvement. There is a need for greater clarity on how the Council intends to support individuals with disabilities in gaining and maintaining employment. Employment opportunities are a key factor in fostering independence and participation, and it would be beneficial to understand the specific strategies that will be implemented to address this issue. Accessibility remains a crucial concern, and while the inclusion of ramps, lifts, and other infrastructure is commendable, there should be a clear framework for monitoring and maintaining these features to ensure their continued functionality and effectiveness. Additionally, young people often face challenges in accessing information about available health services. To address this, the implementation of clearer communication strategies, including online resources, school partnerships, and youth-centered outreach programs, is recommended. It is also important to strengthen youth-focused health initiatives, as the needs of young people differ from those of older populations and should not be overlooked within broader health strategies. Given the City of Whittlesea's aging demographic, youth consultation must remain a priority to ensure that the voices of young people continue to be heard. Ongoing collaboration with youth and organizations supporting individuals with disabilities will help refine and enhance the implementation of these plans.

The Youth Council appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan & Disability Action Plan. We strongly support the objectives outlined and recognize the importance of continued community consultation and collaboration. To further enhance these initiatives, we recommend greater transparency regarding strategies for disability employment support, continued monitoring and enforcement of accessibility measures, enhanced communication efforts to ensure young people are informed about available health services, and dedicated initiatives that cater specifically to youth health needs. Ongoing collaboration with young people and disability-focused organizations will be essential in refining and strengthening these plans. We commend the efforts of the presenters and stakeholders involved in developing these initiatives and look forward to ongoing discussions and developments that prioritize inclusivity, accessibility, and youth engagement.

- 5 Notices of Motion**
No Notices of Motion

- 6 General / Urgent Business**
No Urgent Business

- 7 Closure**