

THE CITY OF  
GREATER GEELONG

# YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL



TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2020

JUNIOR MAYOR – FARZANA  
HUSSAINI

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# Junior Mayor's Message

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## INTRODUCTION

Good evening everyone. I would like to acknowledge the Wadawurrung people, the traditional owners of this land, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, as well as acknowledging all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present this evening. Good evening Mayor Stephanie Asher, Greater Geelong councillors and directors, Youth Council members and the gallery.

## PURPOSE

My name is Farzana Hussaini; I am the Junior Mayor for the Greater City of Geelong and I will outline what the Youth Council has achieved since our term commenced in February and what we would like to achieve by the end of 2020.

Firstly, I would like to introduce my fellow Youth Council members.

Ashley Delaney from Highton in the Kardinia Ward is the Deputy Junior Mayor and would like see action taken in the Geelong community to help young people dealing with mental health issues and see solutions made that will help these people work through their problems.

Banjo Uppill from Armstrong Creek in the Kardinia Ward is passionate about seeing more Aboriginal culture education at schools and more youth lead conversations about healthy living. As a proud Adnyamathanha young person, Banjo thinks it's great to be the first First Nations person on the Youth Council for Geelong.

Carmen MacLeod from Lovey Banks in the Windermere Ward is passionate about mental health, suicide prevention, and public safety.

Fadilah Mahmood from Mount Duneed in the Kardinia Ward wants to see positive changes in the community. Her top three priorities consist of proactively dealing with climate change, mental health and self-imagery.

Hollie Glanvill from Curlewis in the Bellarine Ward is concerned about youth mental health, substance abuse and poverty, and hopes to make a difference in these areas.

Jed Castle from Manifold Heights in the Brownbill Ward is committed to empowering the region's young people. His top three issues for our community are safety, acceptance and loneliness.

Josie Horne from Point Lonsdale in the Bellarine Ward is committed to combating social and geographic barriers that affect young people's ability to access mental services, as well as advocating for timely action to protect our environment.

Elkin Wittenberg from Clifton Springs in the Bellarine Ward is hoping to make improvements in mental health, environment justice and home/community safety.

Logan Chandler from Lara in the Windermere Ward is passionate about mental health, suicide prevention and the environment's wellbeing.

Matty Pisotsky from Bell Park in the Brownbill Ward is committed to making a difference in the areas of the environment, mental illness and safety.

Ruby-Jane Roberts from East Geelong in the Brownbill Ward is committed to making a difference in the community and thinks road safety and safe public transport for kids traveling alone are issues in the greater Geelong area.

And myself, Farzana Hussaini, from Corio in the Windermere Ward. I think the top issues for young people in our region include disengaging from school, underage drinking and family violence.

Before I start my main points, I would like to say this to all young people out there 'speak from the heart'.

## **WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED AT OUR FIRST OFFICIAL YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **The Youth Council Charter**

Myself and my fellow Youth Council members had our first official Youth Council meeting in March. During this meeting we spent time developing our Youth Council Charter. To clarify, a Youth Council Charter is a set of behavioural expectations. The purpose of our charter aims to align the expectations of all the Youth Councillors so that our energy focuses on our priorities. We decided on the behavioural expectations that we as a Committee think need to be included in the charter.

### **Our priorities for 2020**

Onto our priorities for 2020.

Also, at our first meeting, the Youth Council participated in ward-based discussions with the aim of identifying the priorities that are most important to our region's young people for 2020. Once ward-based discussions concluded, we reconvened and presented our priorities to our fellow Youth Councillors. Voting was conducted with the top three priorities for 2020 identified as: mental health and wellbeing, environment and sustainability and safe and accessible communities.

### **Youth Award categories**

Our final task at the first meeting was to provide advice on the existing Geelong Youth Award categories. Youth Council members received background information on the awards and were provided with the list of existing categories and proposed categories developed by the 2019 Geelong Leadership Program participants.

Breaking into ward-based discussions, each group came up with suggested categories for discussion.

The Youth Council chose six categories including:

- Young Educator, aimed at recognising tutors and mentors and for those who raise awareness for a cause
- Equality Award, aimed at those who advocate for equality
- Leadership/Positive Role Model
- Diverse Cultural Contribution
- Arts & Music

Our sixth suggested category was a Disability Inclusion Award, aimed at recognising young people who act as a role model or ally in championing disability inclusion and create an inclusive culture by challenging disability inequalities, barriers and bias. A vote was held with consensus reached to keep the Disability Inclusion Award separate to the Equality Award.

The Youth Council suggested that further consultation is had with Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee relating to the Disability Inclusion Award.

## **OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS**

Onto our priorities for the next two months.

The Youth Council will continue to convene monthly and provide advice, solutions, ideas and proposals that are clever and creative to Council.

Where possible, Youth Council members will participate in the Councillor Connect Mentoring Program with Ward Councillors. I will present more on this experience in my next presentation to Council.

## **CONCLUSION**

To conclude, my next report to Council will be on Tuesday 23 June with another update on our work, achievements and potential proposals we may have. I would like to formally thank the Mayor and Councillors here tonight, my fellow Youth Council members and the parents of our Youth Councillors for their support.

Thank you and good night.