



MAYORAL REPORT - SUPPLEMENTARY

11th September 2007

MM6 REPORT ON MEETING WITH MS LINDA BURNEY
SUPP AUGUST 2007
FILE: * EAG {Folio No. * }

SUMMARY:

Report on meeting with Ms Linda Burney, Minister for Fair Trading, Volunteering and Youth Affairs, August 2007.

◇◇◇◇◇◇

DESCRIPTION:

Minister Linda Burney attended a meeting at the request of Council to discuss Youth Issues on 22nd August 2007.

Ms Burney outlined her portfolio of Fair Trading, Volunteering and Youth Affairs pointing out to those present that while initially this would seem to be a strange combination there was actually a connection, through youth. Minister Burney also identified that her department was in the process of building a framework within which they would work to obtain resources for the three areas which her portfolio covered as she has no direct funding.

Prior to her coming to Kempsey, Council's Community Services had forwarded an outline of the issues which we would like to discuss. These included:

- Education and Training matters including increasing student participation in the Vet Programmes (Vocational Training in Schools).
- TAFE courses available in Kempsey and their suitability for career availability locally.
- Need for development of life skills and being job ready.
- Transport and the lack of public transport throughout the Valley for young people to access services.
- Youth Mental Health
- Extending PCYC to seven days and support for a funding submission.
- Volunteering across the board.
- Long term funding to ensure the continuity of programmes.

The final item in our submission was the need for youth specific infrastructure funding. Copy of submission is attached as [Appendix B – Page A16](#)

During discussion other issues which were raised included:

- North Coast Health Service Mapping project which highlighted youth issues. North Coast Health Service has requested to work with Council through its Youth network to address the issues identified.
- The need for a central point for youth to access services including professional rooms for counsellors and other service providers to lease (submission currently being developed).
- Involvement of schools in preventative Mental Health activities.
- Use of Council's KAP buses.
- Lack of employment opportunities for youth throughout the Shire.
- Need for youth to be more involved with the arts and cultural development.
- Need to develop more partnerships.

During discussion it was clearly identified that funding was a real problem. However, with better co-ordination of services and a central contact point we could obtain better co-ordination of service and more effective service provision.

Discussion identified a need for Council to make better use of our Youth Council and investigate ways to incorporate them into Council's activities. The Glenorchy project was identified as a possible model.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

Some of the issues discussed, if implemented, would improve the social capital of our youth and therefore the community.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

There will be a need for some resource allocation. However, most would be in the form of grants.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

.....
**E A Green
MAYOR**