

Council's adopts crime and youth initiatives

Alice Springs Town Council is looking to instigate a number of immediate initiatives to address the escalating issue of crime for the town's residents, as well as to expand support for local youth.

Mayor Damien Ryan said *"Council is keen to pursue initiatives that can be implemented now, utilising existing capacity and resources, while also acknowledging and working towards a longer-term collaborative approach to this multifaceted community problem."*

Stage 1 – for immediate implementation (from December 2020 onwards):

- Leverage Council sporting facilities and teams to deliver new sports diversionary program through MOUs with organisations such as Arrernte Boxing and local dance organisations – provide facilities, youth team and coaching support to engage young people in additional/new sporting opportunities.
- Working with existing stakeholders to develop a 'Protect Alice' home safety scheme, to enhance support community access to home protection services and equipment.
- School Holiday Programs – continue to facilitate the operations of successful events such as ASALC Splash parties, Desert Hoops basketball competition, Library programs, etc.
- Free upskilling course targeted at youth age 16-24 years – commencing Dec/Jan free lifeguard course includes first aid and Bronze Medallion training.
- Establish a dedicated youth programs team in Council to support delivery of recreational events by Council outlets (ie pool, library, community development) under existing resources.
- Deliver and evaluate 'Youth Empowerment Program' pilot
- Develop an 'Empowered Futures' collaborative youth plan
- Cultivate youth leadership through development and engagement of young leaders, led by Council's Youth team.
- Scope viable options for additional child & youth friendly facilities e.g. adventure play, waterpark, skate park expansion.
- Active stakeholder engagement – at a high level with the Chief Minister, CEO and Mayor.

Further to these immediate actions Council is working on a long-term community plan with actions and goals that is guided by the below principles:

1. Leadership – We make a commitment to lead in the space of youth programs and positive development of our young community. Our youth program plans, resources and actions demonstrate community leadership
2. Collaborative – we actively listen to and work with others to deliver services that are collaborative. We work with others to share responsibility and cultivate positive partnerships. We are willing to contribute resources to help.

3. Engage – We offer attractive, needs-based, opportunities for young people to engage with us, their peers and our partners.
4. Empower – all of our programs are based on an aim to empower them. We involve young people from planning to inception and deliver the tools to empower them to make positive choices, develop and succeed.
5. Education – Our programs aim to offer young people the skills and knowledge that help them to be happier, healthier and engaged members of our community.
6. Employ – work collaboratively with others to deliver initiatives that lead to future employment and opportunities for local young people to remain in the community.

“This is a good combination of immediate action items and long-term vision to address such a critical and systemic community issue” said CEO, Robert Jennings.

For further information contact:

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