



MEDIA RELEASE

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New Model for Working with Youth in the Huon Valley

Huon Valley Youth Services has rebranded and developed a new way of working with young people in the valley.

A frank conversation revealed that young people were feeling disconnected and left out of Council processes and decision making. *12 to 24* represents the next evolution of how the Huon Valley Council will be working with youth.

Acting Mayor Sally Doyle said young people have an essential role to play in the community and in shaping the future of the Huon Valley and so it is important for their voices to be heard and respected.

Huon Valley Council Youth Development Officer Mitchell Robson said the new model involves Council working alongside youth, working with their ideas, dreams, goals, and motivations for living in the Huon Valley.

"The change came about because the way we were connecting with youth was no longer working" he said.

"The new way of working reflects what young people told us about how they are empowered and what their main concerns are for the health and wellbeing of all young people."

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To come up with a different model Council worked with young people using a co-design approach; one that was more empowering and inclusive.

"We established a youth working group and discussed a new way to meet and discuss matters, new ways to educate and support youth, and a brand that speaks to youth living in the Huon Valley."

Young people who have been involved in the working group have said that they now feel heard and valued. In their words:

"Being part of 12 to 24 helps my voice be heard as a young person and I can also take in other young people's opinions and bring them forth."

"Young people want to connect and find a sense of community, not rebel. 12 to 24 provides connection and community."

The youth working group will work together on campaigns to help young people make more informed decisions and address issues which impact the lives of their peers living in the Huon Valley.

"Essentially it's about finding ways to help youth feel more confident and live happier lives in the valley," Mr Robson said.



Acting Mayor Doyle said Council demonstrated its commitment to youth services recently by employing a permanent Youth Services Officer.

"We remain committed to supporting youth services in the Huon Valley," she said.

For more information: Acting Mayor Sally Doyle (03) 6264 0300