MT/SJ

3 June 2014

Ms Judith Graley MP
Member for Narre Warren South
PO Box 4180
NARRE WARREN SOUTH VIC 3805

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BY:



Dear Judith

Operation Newstart Casey

Council, at a recent meeting, resolved to write to the Victorian Premier, Police Minister, Police Commissioner, Leader of the Opposition, Opposition Police Spokesperson and all local State MPs; seeking their support in requesting Victoria Police to reinstate funding to allow Police Officers to assist in the delivery of Operational Newstart Casey.

Operation Newstart Casey is a successful and unique program for troubled and disengaged youth that was established in 1997. The program has thrived and assists youth at risk to embrace sustainable educational opportunities and directions. As a result of the cessation of funding for members of Victoria Police to assist in the facilitation of the program, there is significant pressure on other agencies to fill the gap; thus taking valuable resources away from other programs.

The loss of involvement from Victoria Police officers is disappointing, as it provides a opportunity for the Police Officers to interact with a vulnerable cohort and make positive change.

The City of Casey is home to approximately 60,000 young people aged between 10 and 25 years. To support young people as they transition from adolescence to adulthood a range of programs and supports are required. Operation Newstart has been highly beneficial for young people trying to turn their life around.

In recognition of the value that Operation Newstart has had for some of our most vulnerable young people, other support agencies, including the City of Casey, have taken on some of the roles of Victoria Police facilitators to ensure this vital work continues.

Council strongly urges the funding of Operation Newstart to be reconsidered as this program has supported many young people in our community.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 9705 5246.

Yours sincerely

Mike Tyler

Chief Executive Officer

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