



GARETH WARD MP
M E M B E R F O R K I A M A

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 20th December 2021

ILLAWARRA YOUTH SURVEY REPORT RELEASED

Member for Kiama Gareth Ward MP has today released the COVID-19 Illawarra Youth Survey Report 2021 by the Illawarra Centre for Enablement (ICfE) Youth Council.

Mr Ward said that the Youth Council conducted an online survey which ran from 23 August to 21 September 2021 and included questions for young people aged 18-26 years old in the Illawarra on a range of issues, including COVID-19 vaccination, impacts on mental health and well-being, and personal and local community concerns.

“I would like to thank the Youth Council Members including Alvin Chung, Amar Sultan, Ben Johns, Ben Healey, Ishan Datar and Tristan James whom I also recently presented with ‘Outstanding Young Citizen’ Awards during my annual Community Recognition Awards ceremony,” he said.

“I would also like to acknowledge Dr Diann Rodgers-Healey, Director of the Illawarra Centre for Enablement for her outstanding advocacy and her leadership and mentoring role in developing these outstanding Youth Council Members who have done a tremendous job.

“I welcome the Youth Council’s seven key recommendations outlined in the report (see attached) particularly those around giving youth greater access to the vaccine and also the call for better and more accessible access to mental health clinics. This is also something I have called on the Commonwealth Government to do to establish a Headspace service in Kiama to improve access for local young people.

“Young people have faced many serious challenges over the past two years; from bushfires to drought to flooding to COVID lockdowns.

“Our local young people are the future leaders of our community and I want to congratulate the members of the ICfE Youth Council for this wonderful and inclusive initiative and I welcome the final report and its seven key recommendations,” Mr Ward concluded.

Dr Diann Rodgers-Healey, Director of the Illawarra Centre for Enablement (ICfE) said: “Having commenced in July this year, the Youth Council are to be congratulated for their leadership in launching the survey and analysing the responses from 134 Illawarra youth. They resoundingly heard Illawarra youth ask for more mental health

services, more Covid vaccines and information to assist them. Their recommendations are significant given the ongoing challenges Illawarra youth are now facing with the rise of Omicron,” she said.

Download the Report here: <http://illawarracfe.com/youth-council/covid-19-illawarra-youth-survey-report-2021/>

More information about the Youth Council is available at: <http://illawarracfe.com/youth-council/icfe-youth-council/>.

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