

---

*Reflection – Being a Youth Council Member with the Illawarra Centre for Enablement*

Joining the Illawarra Centre for Enablement (“ICfE”) Youth Council was a decision rooted in my passion for creating positive change. I wanted to actively engage in initiatives that would have a tangible impact on the lives of individuals in our community.

Unfortunately, due to commitments in my life and my increasingly busy schedule, I am stepping down from my role as a Youth Council Member. As I reflect upon my time as a at the ICfE, I am filled with a sense of gratitude for the opportunities I have had and the skills I have gained. The Youth Council has empowered me to be an agent of change and has inspired me to continue making a positive impact in whatever capacity I can.

Being a member of the ICfE has allowed me to collaborate with like-minded individuals who share a common vision. Through project planning and discussions over Discord, Diann and the ICfE brought together a diverse group of individuals with a shared passion for making a difference. We created a space where we could openly discuss important and big ideas, fostering an environment of intellectual curiosity and collaboration (and I think that’s pretty special). These discussions served as a catalyst for some of our most impactful initiatives which I am very proud to be a part of. One such initiative was the hosting of our free Grill & Chill event for youth aged 18 to 25. Inspired by our conversations and our shared commitment to improving the lives of others, we organised this event to provide a day of joy for young individuals who may be facing their own personal challenges. It was a rewarding experience to witness the smiles and laughter of those who attended, knowing that we had played a small part in making their day better and happier.

These meaningful projects exemplify the power of our discussions and the genuine care we had for the well-being of our community. Interacting with a diverse group of individuals, each with their unique perspectives and backgrounds has allowed me to discover and nurture my own leadership abilities. I learned the importance of effective communication and collaboration in achieving successful outcomes. These

leadership skills not only benefited me within the council but also in other aspects of my life.

Being a member of the ICfE also taught resilience in the face of obstacles and the importance of perseverance, particularly when some of our project plans did not come to life for reasons completely outside our control.

I will forever appreciate the experience and the lessons the Youth Council and Diann have taught me, and I am confident that the Youth Council will continue to thrive and create positive change.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to all the Youth Council Members and most importantly, thank you Diann for creating a safe space where we could openly discuss our ideas and share our passion to make a positive change – you are all special and amazing.

**Cellina Zayya**

---