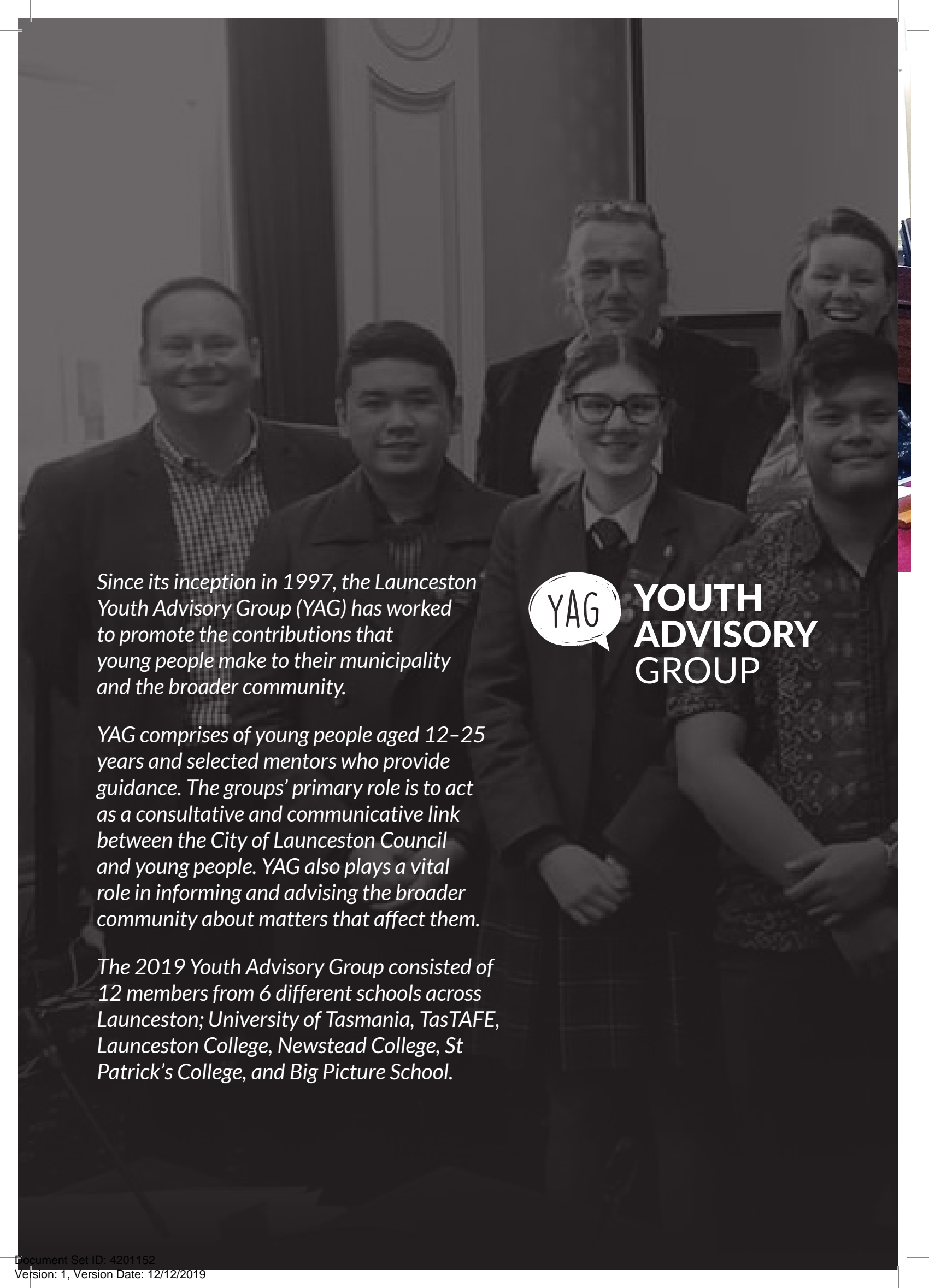




City of Launceston **Youth Advisory Group** 2019 Report



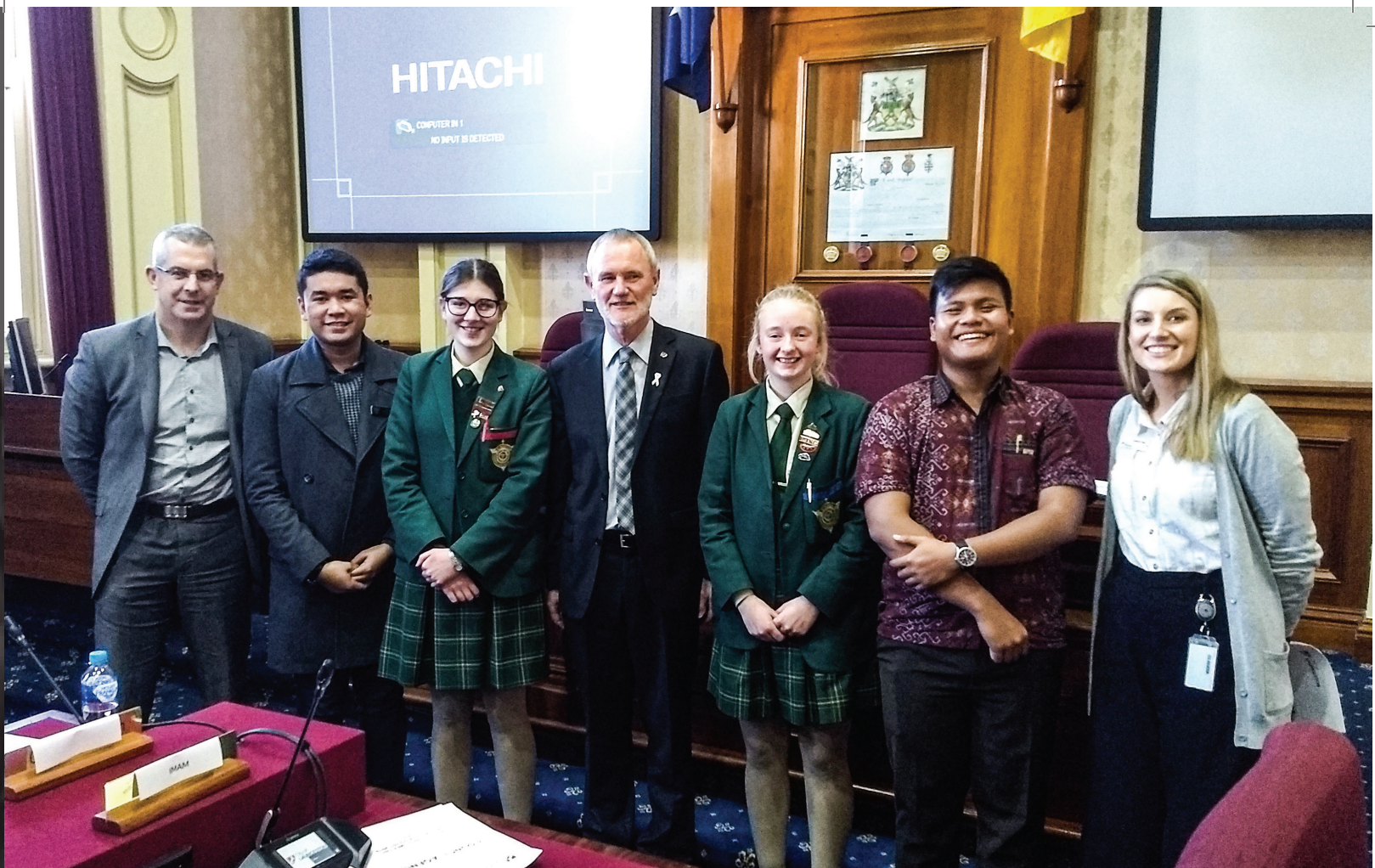
Since its inception in 1997, the Launceston Youth Advisory Group (YAG) has worked to promote the contributions that young people make to their municipality and the broader community.

YAG comprises of young people aged 12–25 years and selected mentors who provide guidance. The groups' primary role is to act as a consultative and communicative link between the City of Launceston Council and young people. YAG also plays a vital role in informing and advising the broader community about matters that affect them.

The 2019 Youth Advisory Group consisted of 12 members from 6 different schools across Launceston; University of Tasmania, TasTAFE, Launceston College, Newstead College, St Patrick's College, and Big Picture School.



**YOUTH
ADVISORY
GROUP**



Council Business

Youth Advisory Group members are young leaders in a shared decision-making environment who have the opportunity to present to council on matters of importance, as required.

YAG represents in council chambers

In August 2019, the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) acted in their young leaders' capacity, hosting their own council meeting. The Youth Council meeting was arranged and facilitated to reflect a local government meeting and took place in the council chambers. The meeting was chaired by his worship the Mayor and City of Launceston General Manager Michael Stretton.

YAG members chose homelessness in the city as the main agenda item discussing if council should have role to play in addressing the social issue.

The event was well received online through the live stream, media coverage, and the full public gallery which included Councillors and local services who worked in the homelessness sector to hear young people's views.

Find out more here:

www.examiner.com.au/story/6359381/youth-group-takes-centre-stage-in-council-chambers/



Consultation from the committee Pill testing in Tasmania

YAG members were asked by the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) to provide on their thoughts on pill testing. YAG's comments were incorporated into YNOT's response to The Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC, Independent Member for Murchison's notice on Pill Testing to the Legislative Council.

National Youth Commission - Employment for young people

YAG was part of the consultation for the National Youth Commission Inquiry into Youth Employment and Transitions seeks to build a reform agenda for education and employment in Australia. With help from our facilitator Mo, members outlined how they saw the future of the workforce and the potential barriers to accessing secure employment.

A Resilient and Sustainable City

As part of City of Launceston's Tomorrow Together community consultation YAG members were asked to respond to targeted questions relating to environmental sustainability to assist developing the Launceston's Sustainability Strategy.

A presentation was also arranged with Trish Hausler from Plastic Free Launceston about how to be plastic free and YAG members also had involvement in School Strike4Climate.

City of Launceston Organisational Alignment Project (OAP)

General Manager Michael Stretton wanted to ensure that young people had a voice into City of Launceston's future as an employer. A session was arranged for young students to have their input into what would make City of Launceston an improved place to work in the future. The feedback was used as part of the organisational alignment process.



City of Launceston Youth Engagement Framework 2020

YAG played a crucial role in the development of council's Youth Engagement Framework, providing input into the document and being responsible for the broader youth engagement with distribution of the Youth survey.

Copy of the document can be found here:

www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Community/Youth#section-4

City of Launceston Cultural strategy

YAG was part of the consultation for the youth consideration within City of Launceston's Cultural Strategy. The strategy is aimed to deliver initiatives for a creative, healthy, vibrant Launceston community, which attracts and supports business, entrepreneurship, and tourism.

Tasmanian Youth Forum: Online Safety

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) represented at the 2019 Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) discussing Online Safety for young people in Tasmania. This is an annual forum for young people delivered by the Youth Network of Tasmania.

The TYF Online Safety State-wide Forum was held in June 2019 at the Launceston Tailrace Centre. The event was free and open to any young person in Tasmania aged 12 to 25. The forum was an opportunity for young people to have their say, contribute their ideas on how online safety for young people can be supported, and learn more about the topic and services that provide support.

A finalised report containing all results from the youth forum will be submitted to state government to consider at the end of 2019.



Supporting Launceston

The Youth Advisory Group members are passionate about making a difference to social issues and the lives of young people in Launceston. During the year, members have supported campaigns, sought feedback and created events to deliver key messages.

Youth Week Tasmania 2019

Each year YAG is involved with Youth Week through planning, delivering and supporting an event held in the city each year. The development of the event provides an opportunity for young people aged 12 to 25 to express their ideas and views, act on issues which affect their lives, and create and enjoy entertainment.

Sounds on the Street: Youth Busking Competition

Sounds on the Street was an initiative run by the Northern Youth Coordinating Committee and City of Launceston Youth Advisory Group. Youth Week was celebrated with this pop up event in Tatler Parade. Branded as “Sounds on the Street” the event ran as a Youth Busking Competition with 15 performers putting on their best performance for industry judges from the Junction Arts Festival, Valley Sounds and the City Mission Music Program.

Entrants had the chance to win one of three Barratts music vouchers valued at over \$700, and free busking licences thanks to Cityprom with the overall winner the opportunity to perform at Junction Arts Festival.

The neighbouring shop venue owned by City Mission was also utilised by services and their respective youth groups to run separate free and fun activities including photo booth, video gaming, movie room and a free community BBQ.

The location the event was held is typically viewed as an area of anti-social behaviour by members of the public. Feedback was that the event created a positive and safe “vibe” in the area showcasing positive contributions young people make to our city.

Beaconsfield Youth and Community Festival



During the April 2019 school holidays, a Youth and Community Festival was held in Beaconsfield. The City of Launceston arranged for a bus to transport YAG members and young people from YMCA's young leaders group.

The West Tamar Council event had a range of fun activities targeted towards young people and families such as ninja warrior course, skate and scooter competitions, bubble soccer, devils archery, tug of war, and live music performed by young musicians.

It was a fantastic atmosphere with over 500 young people enjoying themselves and having fun in greater Launceston.



REACH OUT LAUNCESTON

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND SHOWERS

HOUSING CONNECT
Phone 18 00 800 588
Drop in to 122 Elizabeth Street, Launceston

LAUNCESTON
Phone 6333 1111
Drop in to 122 Elizabeth Street, Launceston

Emergency accommodation, referral to shelters and applications for social housing.

SALVATION ARMY
Phone 6323 7500
Drop in to 111 Elizabeth Street, Launceston

Free breakfast and food items available. Access to TV, lounge chairs, and phone charging points. Access to free shower 9am-3pm.

HEADSPACE
Phone 6323 1111
Corner Braddon and Elizabeth Streets, Launceston

Free support, advice, and referrals. Walk-in service.

FIND HELP TAS
www.findhelptas.com.au
Online service. Enter your postcode (7248, 7249, 7250 for Launceston) and select the service you require for legal support, health, finances, crisis and emergencies.

OTHER SERVICES
Police Tasmania
Phone 131 111
Criminology Services, Launceston

Panel with the Pollies

Panel with the Pollies was a free event for young people ran by Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT).

Held across all regions of Tasmania, the Launceston event was hosted at the University of Tasmania campus with three major party politicians (Bridget Archer Liberal MP, Ross Hart Labor MP, Senator Peter Whish-Wilson Australian Greens) as panel members.

It was a rare opportunity to ask Federal candidates and representatives questions about issues that were important to fellow young people. It was also a chance for young people to be informed about who to vote for prior to the 2019 election.

Supporting homelessness in Launceston

After highlighting homelessness in the city as a concern at their council meeting, YAG actioned their response through an educative campaign. The campaign was built off the Reach Out for Assistance Wallet cards provided to council regulation officers and Tasmania Police. YAG believed this information listing essential services for those sleep rough should be provided to the broader public. Using the original design and information of the wallet cards, a vinyl sticker was created and placed on public toilet doors in the CBD. This provides the general public with information on where to access accommodation, food and showers when in need.

Examiner Student Newspaper Program

City of Launceston supported the Examiner student newspaper program, known as Momentum, a student publication written by youth for youth. A number of students were involved and the Examiner team provided support and guidance.

Each year, YAG is offered the opportunity to take part and utilise the publication to advertise for members and contribute to the content of the publication. More information about the publication can be accessed here: <https://www.examiner.com.au/story/6379880/momentum-to-publish-all-the-news-that-matters-to-them/>

LAUNCESTON CITY MISSION
Phone 6335 3000
Drop in to 48 Frederick Street, Launceston

Free and affordable food in a warm, inviting place. Shower facilities and washing machines available from 9am-11am.

HEADSPACE 12 - 25 YEARS
Phone 6325 3100
Corner Brisbane and Wellington Street, Launceston

Free support for young people aged 12-25 years. Walk-in Nurse service. GP service and mental health counseling by appointment.

OTHER SUPPORT

Police Tasmania
Phone 131 444
Cimitiere Street, Launceston

Emergencies
Phone 000

City of LAUNCESTON



APPLY FOR SCHOOL PROJECT FUNDING!

SEED | STUDENT EXECUTIVE EQUITY DEVELOPMENT
GROWING YOUNG LEADERS

SEED Student Council Funding

Student Executive Equity Development (SEED) is a leadership program run by the Council's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) to help foster leadership and enable the launch of Launceston Student Council projects through funding. Up to \$1,000 was available from a \$2,000 budget.

This year the assessment panel - led by the Youth Advisory Group with support and guidance from Councillor Hugh McKenzie - awarded funding to two schools for their stand-out submissions:

- \$1000 awarded to "Kings Meadows High School Goes Green" project. The project includes purchasing of a variety of bins (compost, recycling & landfill) and educating students about environmental safe practices. The funding will also go towards a Mural at the school which will include environmental messages.
- \$700 was awarded to St Patrick's College for two projects:
 - \$500 was awarded to year 12 SEC to fund the "100 Year Celebration Fair" which will celebrate the centenary of St Patrick's College. Any funds raised from the fair will be contributed to the schools charitable programs.
 - \$200 was awarded to St Patrick's Sustainable Planet Committee for a "sustainable products stall" which will raise awareness of plastic free alternatives.

Congratulations to all schools. YAG looks forward to the final results of all three worthy projects.

#checkin

Mental Health Week: We All Have a Role to Play #checkin

As part of Mental Health Week in 2019, more than 550 students came together at the Launceston Conference Centre to "check-in" and learn about health and well-being.

Organised by Headspace Launceston and its youth reference team, the event inspired the next generation to find their voice and talk about mental health more openly.

The event aimed to promote the mental health message and help break down the stigma around talking about it. Launceston's YAG participated in the event by showing their podcast on bullying known as shout: stories untold. The podcast features local stories from local people on how they overcame bullying in the school environment.

www.shoutpodcast.com.au

Celebrating our committee

Recognition of the Youth Advisory Group has been highlighted through award nominations.

Volunteer Award Nomination

The City of Launceston Volunteer Awards aims to recognise individuals and organisations for their dedication to the Launceston community.

YAG members received nominations for the City of Launceston Volunteer Awards for averaging 200 hours of voluntary service over the course of 2018. The Council expressed their thanks and were appreciative of the dedicated YAG volunteers work to ensure the Council has an informed youth perspective on youth services, issues, and initiatives provided to the Council.

YAG is set to receive nominations for their work in 2019 having completed over 200 hours of volunteer work initiating youth based campaigns, projects, activities and events at the City of Launceston.





Thanks

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is supported by three sitting councillors who provide valuable advice, mentoring and guidance. YAG would like to thank Deputy Mayor Gibson, Councillor Hugh McKenzie and Councillor Nick Daking for their dedicated contribution for the course of 2019.

2019 YAG members

Amy Baillie

Des Dusautoy

Gabrielle Dewsbury

Kyle Dwight Cos

Erin Massey

Sasha Massey

Imam Athoarillah

Kaileb McKercher-Goss

Olivia Wenn

Lauren Ashley

Casey Puccetti

Rhian Bailey



YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

Get involved!

YAG is a special committee of City of Launceston council for young people aged 12–25 years.

Meetings are held at Town Hall every Tuesday fortnight from 4–5pm during school terms.

You will:

Meet like-minded people who want to make a difference.

Get an introduction to local government and direct contact with council Aldermen.

Help to create campaigns, projects, activities and events!

Interested?

Contact us for more information.

Claudia Garwood
Youth Development Officer
Phone 03 6323 3219
claudia.garwood@launceston.tas.gov.au



City of
LAUNCESTON



**YOUTH
ADVISORY
GROUP**

A voice for Launceston's youth.
facebook.com/LauncestonYAG