



**JON SULLIVAN MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LONGMAN**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

11 November 2009

**LONGMAN YOUTH FORUM**

High school students from across the district came together this week at the Longman Youth Forum. The event organised by Jon Sullivan MP Federal Member for Longman was an opportunity for young people to have a say on the National Strategy for Young Australians and local issues that affect them.

A communiqué from the Longman Youth Forum has been submitted to the National Youth Forum.

Young people from, Bribie Island State High School, Caboolture State High School, St Columban's College, Tullawong State High School, Morayfield State High School, Deception Bay State High School, North Lakes State College and Northpine Christian College were represented at the Forum.

"This was a great opportunity for our young people to get together and have a say on issues affecting them. I was impressed by the thoughtful and articulate way the students went about their work," said Mr Sullivan.

The Forum identified a number of issues that prevented young people from becoming active in the local community. The group also proposed a local youth council and a youth publication to help young people become more involved in their community.

**Summary**

Much of the discussion focused on identifying obstacles which prevented young people (locally and nationally) being active in their communities. The delegates identified practical ways young people can engage with the community and ways the broader community can engage with young people.

Some of the obstacles preventing young people from being active in their communities:

- Negative stereotyping and media demonisation of young people
- Lack of support; moral, facilities and financial for young people to create their own opportunities
- A lack of knowledge about the opportunities and support organisations for young people in the local area
- Lack of recognition of the positive contribution young people can/do make and a general underestimation of young people
- A lack of inspiration or motivation for young people to achieve

- A gap in educational opportunities
- Issues of social isolation, segregation and exclusion in the local area.
- A lack of positive social experiences for young people outside of school.

Respect was a recurring theme at the Forum; the delegates felt respect was vital if young people were to engage with the community.

“Respect for yourself, and respect from other young people and the wider community... (is needed) ... so we can get involved and people can see all the good stuff we do.”

Delegates were keen to seize opportunities to manage their own projects and destiny. They called for support so they could be empowered to develop and manage their own projects that encourage young people to participate in their community and that encourage older members of the community to see young people in a positive light.

### **Communiqué**

- Local young people need support from the community
    - o We need financial support to mount projects and activities locally
    - o We need to be encouraged and mentored by adults and the community generally
    - o We want to be acknowledge for our value
    - o We are seeking advice and support on life skills and direction
    - o We are seeking guidance – guidance officers and teachers need to relate more to the needs of young people
  - As young people we need to participate in and generate more community events that celebrate young people, youth culture and help foster acknowledgement of the positive contribution young people make to the community
  - We are seeking more support to help young people achieve their goals through their own actions/events
  - Young people should have a say on subjects that affect young people
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(Words: 592)

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