

7.2 YOUNG PERSONS REFERENCE GROUP

(YTH15: FH)

Responsible Committee: Young Persons Reference Group

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Accepts the resignation of Mr Sankaran Kasynathan from the Young Persons Reference Group and acknowledges his contribution.*
- 2. Accepts the appointment of Mr Tito Tut Pal and Mr Sophocles Kithardis to the Young Persons Reference Group.*

INTRODUCTION

On 18 July 2006, Council endorsed the recommendation that Council “Establishes a young person’s advisory committee, to be called the Young Persons Reference Group.”

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s endorsement in accepting the resignation of Mr Sankaran Kasynathan and accepting the appointment of Mr Tito Tut Pal and Mr Sophocles Kithardis to the Young Persons Reference Group (YPRG).

BACKGROUND

In 2006 a proposal was put forward by one of Monash’s young people, Sankaran Kasynathan to enhance Council’s official recognition of young people’s views. Council responded to this request by establishing the Young Persons Reference Group, supported by Councillor Charlotte Baines. Councillor Baines was appointed as the Councillor representative again in 2008.

The advisory committee has two broad objectives. Firstly, it functions as an ongoing panel of young people to provide input into a range of policy and planning frameworks and secondly it acts as a conduit for the positive promotion of young people’s ideas and achievements.

ANALYSIS

The Young Persons Reference Group has met monthly since March 2007. The group have identified four key priority areas that they will be addressing:

1. Health and Well Being.
2. Multicultural/Interfaith.
3. Communication & Service Awareness.
4. Environment.

The group currently has 13 committee members all of whom represent a broad range of issues, ages and demographic of young people associated with the Monash community.

The membership of Tito Tut Pal and Sophocles Kithardis to the YPRG will increase the diversity of the group. Tito is currently studying a Bachelor of Social Science and is involved with a number of Sudanese Youth groups. In addition, Tito is completing a Diploma of Interpreting.

Sophocles Kithardis is currently studying Arts/Law and has participated in a number of Multicultural Youth Forums.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

CONCLUSION

The development of an ongoing Young Person's Reference Group presents a unique opportunity for Council to be regularly informed of young people's views, and concerns. In addition, it enables Council to raise the profile of the positive achievements and contributions made by young people within the Monash community.