7.1 MONASH YOUNG PERSONS REFERENCE GROUP (MYPRG)  
(YTH15: FR)

Responsible Committee: Monash Young Persons Reference Group

**RECOMMENDATION**

1) That Council accepts the resignation of Mr Bevan Heng, Ms Alex Pelevaniuc and Mr Michael Pelevaniuc from the Monash Young Persons Reference Group.

2) That Council accepts the appointment of Ms Eileen Liu, Mr Cadell Sanderson and Ms Bethany Davey to the Monash 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 to accept the resignation of Mr Bevan Heng, Ms Alex Pelevaniuc and Mr Michael Pelevaniuc from the Monash Young Persons Reference Group (MYPRG), accept the appointment of Ms Eileen Liu, Mr Cadell Sanderson and Ms Bethany Davey to the MYPRG and to inform Council about the current work of the MYPRG.

**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 on this Group in October 2006.

The advisory committee has two broad objectives. Firstly, it functions as a consultation panel of young people that provides input into the development of Council policy and planning frameworks and secondly it acts as a conduit for the positive promotion of young people’s ideas and achievements.

**ANALYSIS**

The MYPRG has met monthly since March 2007. Currently the MYPRG is almost at capacity. With the endorsement of these three new members and one resignation, the group will have 19 of the maximum 20 members as per the Terms of Reference.
In January 2012, the MYPRG hosted a planning day and developed a plan for their activities in 2012. The topic the young people identified as most important to focus on is mental health. The MYPRG attended ‘Back to the Festival’ at Central Reserve in March 2012 and surveyed young people about issues and topics to be discussed at the Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo. The MYPRG have also assisted promoting and participating in the Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo. Another task identified for 2012 is promoting the MYPRG Facebook page as another tool to consult young people in Monash.

To fill vacancies MYPRG sought membership from young people aged 15 –25 who live, go to school, or work in the City of Monash. Eileen Liu, Cadell Sanderson and Bethany Davey were interviewed by a panel consisting of Cr Lo, Council Officers and MYPRG members.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**CONCLUSION**

The MYPRG continues to represent young people’s views and provides the opportunity to include young people in Council’s consultation processes. In addition, it enables Council to raise the profile of the positive achievements and contributions made by young people within the Monash community.