

Notice of Motion

Submitted by Cr Vincent De Luca OAM

Youth Homelessness and Mental Health

That this Council resolves to:

1) Note with concern:

- a) that there are approximately 11,000 homeless children and young people in New South Wales and over 36,000 homeless children and young people across Australia.
- b) that a study in 2000 by the NSW Department of Health, indicated that 14 per cent of children and young people have mental health problems, which compares with 18 per cent of the adult population;
- c) that the NSW Parliament's Select Committee on Mental Health, Chaired by the Hon Dr Brian Pezzutti, found that the projections for 2000 to 2010 indicate the rate of all mental health disorders for 0 to 17-year-olds will rise to 15.4 per cent, that is up to 236,000 young people across New South Wales;
- d) that 75 percent of all mental health patients show signs of the illness as adolescents, thus the need for increasing work/focus on youth; and
- e) that on the northern beaches there are a limited amount of beds for children and young people in Manly Hospital's Mental Health wing.

2) Note the recommendations of a recent forum convened by Mr Baird and attended by specialists in the youth, housing and mental health sectors that:

- Counsellors are needed in every NSW school for early intervention;
- Co-locate services to improve access for youth;
- Case workers must work across government departments to help youth navigate the system;
- Tax incentives for landlords to provide cheap accommodation for young people and those with a mental illness;
- Mentoring programs for young people by young people;
- Long-term recurrent programs rather than project-based funding of limited duration.

3) Note the statement of the Minister for Youth that a "multidisciplinary approach" is needed to combat these issues.

4) Note that the NSW Government, the Minister for Youth, the Hon Graham West and the Shadow Minister for Youth, Mr Mike Baird MP, in a bipartisan approach have agreed to hold a summit to tackle youth homelessness and mental health issues.

5) Congratulate Minister West and Mr Baird on their attention to this important issue affecting all communities across New South Wales, not just the Warringah community.

6) Request Council Staff to monitor the progress of the Summit and upon submissions being called for notify members of Council's previous Youth Advisory Council and interested Councillors to make written submissions and the details of the Summit.