

CAMDEN COUNCIL

Media Release



20 June 2014

Graffiti Education Program

Camden Council is funding an early intervention education program 'Respect It, Don't Wreck It', targeted at Year 8 students in the Camden Local Government Area to help reduce graffiti vandalism.

The program aims to deter young people from engaging in illegal graffiti activities and discusses:

- the motivations behind graffiti vandalism and other anti-social behaviour, encouraging students to seek other ways of dealing with emotions
- the cost of graffiti vandalism to the individual, their family, their school and the community – demonstrating how it affects people directly and indirectly
- the consequences of graffiti vandalism, including criminal, physical and emotional consequences
- the alternatives to graffiti vandalism
- how students could assist someone in the 'offender spiral', and peer support

Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak said this program was a great initiative.

"I very much believe in being proactive than reactive and I think this program is a great way to help explain the affects graffiti has on the community before it becomes a major issue in our Local Government Area. The program has been tailored to reflect the Camden community and represent Camden Council's position that graffiti will not be tolerated in our area".

"The Graffiti Education Program forms part of Camden Council's Graffiti Management Strategy, aiming to not just remove graffiti but help prevent it occurring" she said.

A number of program resources have been distributed to participating high schools to assist teachers in reinforcing the message after the delivery of the in-school education component.

The Graffiti Education Program will be delivered through Warner Youth Education, a company with extensive knowledge and experience in social education and the delivery of education programs to young people.

END

Words: 273

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