

Media Release



Monday 17 June 2019

Council helps young people earn meaningful qualifications

Young residents have the chance to learn new skills and earn meaningful qualifications with a range of workshops and programs on offer, as part of Camden Council's Youth Empowerment Project.

Young residents will be selected to participate in the available courses through referrals received from local youth services and high schools. The workshops include:

- **One three-day lifeguard course, on Thursday 18-20 July, 9am-5pm, at Mount Annan Leisure Centre.** The 10 selected residents, aged between 17 and 25 years, will receive training and a qualification from Life Saving Australia, with a certificate issued;
- **Two two-day mental health first aid courses, the first on Wednesday 2 and 9 October, and the second on Thursday 3 and Thursday 4 October, 9am-4pm, at Mount Annan Leisure Centre.** The 30 selected residents, aged between 18 and 25 years, will receive Youth Mental Health First Aid training qualification, with a certificate issued. This course will help participants provide support to other young people who are experiencing mental health issues and concerns; and
- **One responsible service of alcohol (RSA) course, on Saturday 16 November, 9am-4pm, at Camden Civic Centre.** The 30 selected residents, aged between 17 and 25 years, will receive a Statement of Attainment covering SITHFAB002 – Provide Responsible Service of Alcohol.

Camden Liquor Accord President, Steve Wisbey OAM, said the Camden Liquor Accord were funding 14 of the 30 positions available in the RSA training course.

"We'll also be offering successful participants work experience or placement opportunities with local restaurants, bars and hotels," Mr Wisbey said.

"This will open up opportunities for casual employment and also the possibility of great careers in hospitality. The experiences they'll have will give them lifelong skills they can use in any work role or relationship.

"These young people will also learn that people may be effected by drugs or alcohol before even coming in. Having your RSA isn't only about being allowed to legally serve alcohol, it's also about obeying the law and refusing service or entry where necessary.

"I applaud Camden Council because these sorts of courses give young people employment opportunities in their community and also support businesses with a crop of new and local staff."

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Mayor of Camden, Cr Theresa Fedeli, said education and building skills was the key to building bright and exciting futures for young people.

“We have more than 16,000 people aged between 12 and 25 years living in the Camden area – all with different talents, specialities and interests,” Cr Fedeli said.

“Council’s Youth Empowerment Project is all about providing these young people with a safe environment and the necessary tools to really spread their wings. We want to help them obtain the skills and knowledge for them to become active change-makers for Camden area.”

Council runs, and supports, many other skills-based programs and workshops for young residents, including:

- Youth public art projects, with works to be featured in public spaces, community and youth facilities and streetscapes across the Camden area;
- 3D printing workshops at Oran Park Library, for residents aged between 12 and 16 years old;
- Various lectures, workshops and seminars for students studying the HSC; and
- Various painting and drawing workshops at Alan Baker Art Gallery at Macaria.

For more information, visit camden.nsw.gov.au and search ‘Youth Empowerment Project’.

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