

NAME OF THE PROJECT/ACTIVITY:

Whitehorse Community Youth Services Awareness Project – The Creative Youth Community

NAME OF ORGANISATION AND CONTACT PERSON: Whitehorse City Council : Neil Rogers and Frank Perrone

DATE: 1 March 2019

Description/background (100 words max):

The Whitehorse Community Youth Services Awareness Project is a comprehensive and integrated communications package providing information of all existing services, supports, programs, events and activities available to young people and their families in Whitehorse and the surrounding areas. Central to the Project is the Whitehorse Creative Youth Community. On the Creative Youth Community young people can:

- post creative work such as music, art, film , literature
- browse the creative works of other young people in the community
- keep up to date with youth events that are coming up
- review information about support, services, programs that are available
- complete relevant poll to give thoughts on a relevant issue
- inform Council of their thoughts on an issue - 'Have Your Say'

Key Stakeholders:

- Council Youth Services
- Young people – Youth reference group
- Project Steering Committee – relevant Council Staff – Communications , IT , Health and Family Services staff and 2 young people from the Youth Reference group
- Digital Developer

How did you include children in the project?

- (1) The Whitehorse Community Youth Services Awareness Project - **Steering Committee**: oversaw the development and implementation of the Project. Committee consisted of staff from Council's Health and Family Services Department and 2 young people on the Project Youth Reference Group. Project Steering Committee provided guidance and advice in regard to the development and implementation of the Project.
- (2) Whitehorse Community Youth Services Awareness Project - **Youth Reference Group** : a committee of young people that provided advice in regard to all aspects of the Project (including scoping, design, implementation, operation and evaluation of the communications strategies / package).

What were the outcomes for children and your organisation?

(1) The 2 young people involved in the Steering Committee developed communication, leadership, assertion and presentation skills. They received mentoring from professionals on the Steering Committee in terms of professional conduct and career development / aspirations.

(2) Young people as part of the Youth Reference Group developed the following attributes / skills :

- enhanced ability to positively engage with peers and professionals
- increased self-esteem, confidence and assertion skills

- conflict resolution, anger management and mediation skills
- problem solving and project management skills

What did your evaluations tell you?

In the development and evaluation of the of the Creative Youth Community, young people provided insight and ideas in terms of the functionality and appearance of the 'online' space to ensure it met the needs of young people in the community. Young people evaluated the site during the trial and provided their advice and thoughts on the Creative Youth Community to the digital developer for changes to be incorporated.

What key messages or learnings would you like to share?

- young people were central the development and implementation of the project
- involving young people ensured the 'end product' met the needs of the 'users'
- as a result of being part of the project, young people developed a range of skills that could be used in various other situations / settings.

Please attach any images or links that provide further information

Do you have permission to share these images (please circle) YES

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