

NAME OF THE PROJECT/ACTIVITY: Student leaders Conference 2018

NAME OF COUNCIL & OFFICER: Kate Beveridge: Cardinia Shire Council

DATE: Nov 2018

Description/background (100 words max):

Cardinia Shire Council ran a Student Leaders Conference in September 2018. The theme was 'listening to children in our community'. It was a very interactive day including group activities that tackled topics such as what attendees like about their community, what they think would make their community better, what it takes to become a great leader, and much more. The event also included some school presentations about what the 'student voice' is and why it is so important for empowering children both at school and within their community, and for the institutions with whom they interact, such as Council, local community groups and organisations.

Key stakeholders?

Primary schools- students and staff, Council staff, videographer, graphic designer, guest speaker, Aligned Leisure

How did you include children in the project?

104 students from 17 schools participated on the day. The conference was developed, designed and lead by participants in grade six from local primary schools; students MC' d the day, decided on the program content, chose the catering and designed all promotional material for the day and decided on much more.

What were the outcomes for children and your organisation?

It was a great success, making an impact on 104 young people, and that is by far the best part of the conference. Various teams in council interacted with students, asking them for their ideas on what should happen in their community e.g. Outdoor Space asked for half-court basketball court designs and will use students designs in future plans.

It increased the profile in our community that children are recognised as important citizens.

The Cardinia's Children's Charter was designed by students. On behalf of children in Cardinia Shire, we sign this charter because we believe

- Children of today helping children of tomorrow
- Children are the future
- Children have good ideas from their own experiences
- Children have a different perspective
- Children can make a difference and change the world

All students signed the charter on behalf of children in Cardinia. The charter was presented to Councillors and is displayed at the Civic Centre.

What did your evaluations tell you?

Overall feedback was very positive. Students and staff from schools have asked this become a regular annual event. Students commented that they felt included and comfortable on the day and particularly liked that students MC' d the day and that tables were made up of students only, as staff sat at the back of the room. Feedback also highlighted that schools would support more activities for their school leaders, so Council will run a session each term for school captains on topics such as leadership and public speaking.

What key messages or learnings would you like to share?

Including children in the planning and development of the day was vital to its success.

Would you like to present at a network meeting? Yes

Please attach any images or links that provide further information

