



MEDIA RELEASE

10 May 2019

Turning more young lives around

A program helping young people avoid crime in City of Melton has received a \$200,000 grant from the State Government this week.

The UTURN 193 program, a partnership initiative of Melton City Council's Young Communities team, works with young people aged 10 to 24 years who are at risk of committing crime or have already offended in the criminal justice system.

Member for Melton Steve McGhie presented a cheque to Melton City Council's Young Communities team on Tuesday as part of the State Government's Youth Crime Prevention Grants.

Mayor Cr Bob Turner thanked the State Government for continuing to support UTURN 193.

"This program is making a big difference to a number of young people and it's wonderful to see this recognised and supported by the State Government," Cr Turner said.

"Even more young people in the City of Melton will be able get the help they need to turn their lives around through this program."

UTURN 193 is delivered in partnership with Melton City Council Young Communities, Victoria Police, Odyssey House, Djerriwarrh Health Services, Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services, and the South Sudanese community in Melton. A Youth Project Officer provides one on one case management alongside access to therapeutic wilderness and recreational activities, including sport, outdoor adventures and the arts.

The program has already helped more than 1200 young people who live, study or work in City of Melton by engaging them in social activities, linking them to education and employment pathways and providing intensive case management.

"Empowering young people to make better choices has a positive impact on the wider community," Cr Turner said.

A Thriving Community Where Everyone Belongs



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“Together, the project partners play a critical role in addressing the needs of vulnerable young people and helping to keep them out of the criminal justice system.”

UTURN 193 is a FREE, confidential and voluntary service. To access the service, contact Melton City Council’s Youth Project Officer on 9747 5373 or email UTURN193@melton.vic.gov.au

ENDS

Melton City Council media enquiries (not for publication): Kylie Kitchen – Media and Communications Officer on (03) 9747 7132.