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LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

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City of Playford Community Inclusion Team - Everyday Money Skills, Financial Literacy Project

Approximately 7,700 residents of City of Playford live with disability, representing nearly eight percent of the city's population of 96,500.

During 2021, City of Playford's Community Inclusion team collaborated with 20 members of the Playford Friends group, who all live with an intellectual disability, to co-design and develop the Everyday Money Skills website; a bespoke online training program to help learners understand foundational money skills including recognising money, budgeting and protecting money. The package was launched in April 2022 and is free to download for anyone across Australia from the City of Playford website.

Developed to support the high proportion of residents who live with disability to become more active citizens in the community, Everyday Money Skills uses videos, games and activities to replicate real life scenarios including checking change, avoiding scams, spending needs vs. wants, shopping 'dos and don'ts' and different ways to save.

The learning content is also transferrable to people from diverse cultural backgrounds, young people, or those with low literacy levels.

Over 1,400 users have accessed the training platform since its launch. Feedback from local schools and service providers across Australia has been positive, with the program and resources supporting learners towards their goals of improved financial management skills and long-term goals of living in the community independently.

Results demonstrate that the training platform, supported by a \$20,000 grant from The Wyatt Trust, has increased confidence, independence and empowerment when using money.

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District Council of Kimba - GP Services Attraction and Retention Strategy

The District Council of Kimba 2021-2025 Strategic Management Plan strives to increase population levels, by collaborating with state and federal agencies and other entities to maintain or improve existing health and education services for the region.

Kimba lacks permanent GP Services, impacting community health and liveability, with this currently the greatest challenge the district faces in driving growth and supporting existing and future services. To negate this impact on the community, Council invested \$1M in upgrading the Council-owned Cr Leo Schaefer Memorial Centre, creating a modern, all-use facility including seven consultation rooms, lumps and bumps examination area and meeting room.

The provision of a modern, well-equipped facility in a central hub is designed to assist in Kimba becoming a town of choice for the medical professionals that the district is so desperately seeking.

With the completion of the upgraded facility, Council embarked on a campaign to attract a permanent GP through the production of a promotional video and targeted marketing. Providing not only a rent-free facility for a GP, Council has also made two residential properties available to entice the right candidate on a long-term basis with incentives.

The upgraded Centre and targeted marketing have been well received by the medical sector. Following the release of the 'That's Our Kimba' and 'Kimba Needs You!' videos, the uptake from media outlets was significant and featured on Channel 7's Sunrise, helping to drum up interest from potential doctors and medical professionals seeking information about what the facility and community had to offer. Council received an influx of emails from interested parties looking at extending their services and in an immediate capacity, Council has successfully secured a skin cancer specialist who commenced in April 2023 with talks underway with another potential recruit, with the necessary skills to meet Kimba's GP needs.

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Rural City of Murray Bridge Impact Youth Task Force - Impact Youth Project

The Rural City of Murray Bridge Youth Council was formed to bridge the gap between youth and local government, as a result of community feedback during preparation of Councils 2016 - 2020 Strategic Plan.

During workshops at Murray Bridge high schools, students identified three fundamental needs:

- Changing the perspective of Murray Bridge
- Turning Murray Bridge into a long-term livable country town
- Provision of relevant opportunities and activities for youth

Local youth have always been dynamic and vibrant participants in the community and actively contribute to the economic, social and cultural vitality of the City - they just required a platform to voice their concerns, ideas and provide advocacy.

Council Officers met with representatives of Murray Bridge High School, Tyndale Christian College and Unity College to explore a proposed format of the Youth Council, with each school agreeing to be involved and committing to actively promoting the concept to eligible students. Of interest to Unity College and Murray Bridge High School was the opportunity for Youth Council membership to contribute to curriculum requirements for students regarding participation in their community, connection with local government and engagement in decision-making.

The Youth Council offers local students in Grades 7-12 the opportunity for meaningful engagement with Council activities and plans. This is achieved through fostering improved communication between youth and Council, driving civic participation, opportunities for input into decision making on matters affecting their community and future as well as the provision of networking and professional development opportunities.

Relevant Council officers maintain communication with local schools throughout the year to ensure the annual program structure remains relevant whilst reflecting Council's Strategic Plan aspirations.

In the four years of operation, the Youth Council have worked towards inclusivity, wellness, mentoring, small business opportunities and raising the profile of youth by partnering with local community groups and businesses, sponsoring local events, and representing the young people of Murray Bridge.

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