

Wednesday 26 March 2014

## NEW YOUTH SERVICES HUB OPENS

*OUR SPACE*, the City of Ryde's first youth hub, where local young people can get professional advice, support and be inspired, will open its doors on Thursday 3 April, at 167 Shaftesbury Road, Eastwood.

Open Day celebrations include a special performance by members of the Ryde Youth Theatre, the official signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and service providers, and a community barbeque.

*OUR SPACE* is an initiative of the City of Ryde Council which brings together a network of services working in partnership to improve the wellbeing of local young people. Services include educational assistance, career advice, sexual health information, counselling and lifestyle activities.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Roy Maggio, who will sign the Memorandum of Understanding, said: "Council is committed to supporting the youth of our city and this facility is a very practical example of that commitment.

"What was once a vacant Council-owned property has been converted into a much needed youth hub. A welcoming place where young people will come to get the information, support and inspiration they need to help them development the confidence and skills to succeed in life."

The name *OUR SPACE* was chosen by the young people that will access the facility that consists of a classroom/workspaces, chill-out room/kitchen and community garden. Service providers include The Salvation Army's Oasis Youth Support Network, Christian Community Aid and Ryde Family Services, all of whom can be reached on 02 9874 7458 or through the soon to be launched website – [www.ourspace.org.au](http://www.ourspace.org.au)

### Services offered:

- Board of Studies endorsed Alternative Education Program, helping at risk youth re-engage with education or employment pathways
- Case management for young people 11 – 18 years disengaged from education or at risk of disengaging
- The delivery of a variety of Youth Connections programs for the region
- Project based learning and skills development
- After school homework help and assignment assistance
- Skills development workshops
- Educational Case management
- Financial support – for buying text books, school and work uniforms.
- Strength base workshops – self-esteem, bullying, resilience, positive relationships, body image, identity, sexual health
- After School creative workshops including art, dance, music
- Schools Holiday programs promoting healthy lifestyle
- Counselling and coaching services for youth
- Family counselling

- Six week intensive parenting program
- Parenting workshops and groups.

*OUR SPACE* Integrated Youth Service Hub is the third Council-initiated community hub in the Ryde LGA. Other facilities are: Brush Farm House Learning and Development Hub (19 Lawson Street, Eastwood), and West Ryde Community Centre (1 Anthony Road, West Ryde).

***OUR SPACE* Open Day Ceremony and Celebrations**

Thursday 3 April 2014, 3.30 – 4.30pm

<b>Time</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>
3.30pm	Welcome by MC	Baharak Sahebekhtiari – Acting Group Manager of Community Life, City of Ryde
3.32pm	Welcome to Country and Cultural Talk	Karen Smith Aboriginal Heritage Office
3.42pm	Mayoral Address	Councillor Roy Maggio, Mayor
3.46pm	Key Note Address, Minister for Citizenship and Communities	The Hon. Victor Dominello, MP, Minister for Citizenship and Communities, Member for Ryde
3.53pm	Young Person Performance – Ryde Youth Theatre and Our Space Youth Advisory Group	Suzanne Hauser, Artistic Director of Ryde Youth Theatre Josh Field, Education Manager - Oasis
4.08pm	Mayor and services sign MoU	
4.19pm	Photos & Tour	

---

Media contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer 9952 8083