

Wednesday 5 May 2010.

## COUNCIL ADOPTS ZERO TOLERANCE TO ILLEGAL BOARDING HOUSE OPERATORS

The City of Ryde has adopted a range of measures to act against landlords operating illegal boarding houses within the Ryde LGA, including writing to the State Government requesting more powers to enter and search alleged unauthorised properties.

General Manager, John Neish, said: “This is a complex issue to deal with and we need to think outside the square as enforcement alone is difficult and costly and is unlikely to stop the spread of illegal boarding houses.

“To both protect vulnerable students and prevent the degradation of our residential neighbourhoods, our task is to work closely with all the stakeholders, to educate and to find solutions.”

Key objectives of the program to be undertaken by the City of Ryde include:

- An integrated enforcement and education program to reduce the supply of unauthorised boarding houses
- Increase Council’s resources to carry out enforcement and community liaison
- Work with all stakeholders to explore and encourage opportunities for appropriate student housing. This includes working with landlords/investors, student bodies, real estate agents/Institute, Macquarie University, Government agencies and residents.
- Promote existing programs such as HomeStay within the community.

In the past 15 months, Council staff has investigated over 225 alleged boarding houses, resulting in actions being taken in 70% of the investigations.

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