

Latrobe Youth Space secures a partial funding outcome from Victoria's Allan Labour Government!

Celebrating today, the Board of local *for-purpose* organisation **Gippsland Youth Spaces Inc. (GYS Inc)** was happy to be the recipient of a state government grant of **\$250,000** that will enable the Latrobe Valley based space to operate for a further six months.

The GYS Board has plans to establish multiple lines of funding for our projects. We will work with industry and business; local government and with State and Federal Governments to ensure ongoing funding.

The Morwell based facility is part of a range of youth facilities and services delivered by GYS Inc. Its overarching principle is that the services delivered are those that young people have determined are needed – by young people.

Enabling Youth Voice:

GYS's motto is as simple as ***Youth led, adult guided: nothing about us, without us.***

To this end, the Board of GYS is an equal partnership of young people – under the age of 25 and others, including other for-purpose entities such as the Centre for Multicultural Youth, Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN and GippSport.

Young People – or at least, those over 15 years – are members of the GYS Inc legal entity. They attend annual general meetings and vote for the election of board members.

A group of 35 young people comprise the Youth Programs Committee that decides which activities/projects will be funded by GYS.

Later this month a delegation of young people is travelling to Canberra to meet with decision makers to ensure the voice of young people is being heard. The Hon. Darren Chester – local Federal member is facilitating the trip.

In December, the Board announced several sponsorship opportunities for local small businesses to be a part of the GYS story. The first business to take up the offer was Full Circle HR, which has committed to a regular monthly sponsorship amount. GYS wishes to publicly thank Full Circle, and its Managing Director Caitlin Grigsby for her support and advice. [If your business can contribute](#) \$10k- \$70k per annum to support more than 1000 young people, please contact our CEO Sandy Hegarty, sandy@latrobeyouthspace.org.au.

Gippsland Youth Spaces Inc acknowledges the work of many people to achieve this outcome and in particular wishes to thank local member Hon. Harriet Shing MLC and CEO of the Latrobe Valley Authority Mr. Chris Buckingham and others with government and the bureaucracy.

In other GYS projects - in Wellington and East Gippsland Shires, staff work out of minibuses that travel from town to town every day to work with youth. Regrettably, this project's funding ceases at the end of March next year.

Quote attributable to Gippsland Youth Spaces Inc Youth Co-Chair Lincoln Ingravalle

The commitment by the Allan Government to work alongside us over the coming months to help identify potential funding options, connecting the service with industry, business, councils, and partners who want to see young people in the Latrobe Valley thrive is a wonderful outcome.

Quote attributable to Gippsland Youth Spaces Co-Chair Barry Rogers

The commitment by the Allan Government to work alongside us over the coming months to help identify potential funding options, connecting the service with industry, business, councils, and partners who want to see young people in the Latrobe Valley thrive is a wonderful outcome.

Now, together, we need to continue to expand the services that our young people deserve – and need!



gippslandyouthspaces.org.au/latrobe-youth-space

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