**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**NEW North Central Youth Advisory Council**

The North Central LLEN (NCLLEN) is looking for energetic, self-motivated young people between the ages of 15 and 21 who live, work or study within the Buloke Shire Council, Loddon Shire Council and St Arnaud in the Northern Grampians Shire Council to join the inaugural North Central Youth Advisory Committee.

The Committee will include up to 24 local young people (for an initial 12 month period) who are passionate about many different areas of community life to represent the views and interests of their peers, and to provide the opportunity to build positive connections with each other and the wider community.

According to North Central LLEN Executive Officer Jane Hosking, the Committee will hear and facilitate a response to the voice of young people in the north central region.

“Initially this will be to help us navigate the recovery process from Covid-19 and the economic and wellbeing impacts/challenges that have, and will continue to arise,” she said.

“This is a fantastic opportunity to build on - and expand - your skills in leadership, communication, public speaking, problem solving, teamwork and governance and at the same time making a difference by helping us to create opportunities for all children and young people to be on their way to success in education, work and life,” said Ms Hosking.

As a collective, the Youth Advisory Council will perform a range of roles including discussions about issues that are of concern to young people and advocating for change, and the development and implementation of projects and events that will help young people living in the north central region.

The Council will also provide opportunities for young people to respond to local, state and federal government policies that impact them and their communities and potentially be part of a study tour to participate in the Victorian Youth Parliament initiative.

It will also provide a social opportunity for young people from across a broad range of north central communities to come together as a network to have fun, collaborate and make a difference.

“We know how important it is to provide opportunities for children and young people be heard, participate and influence not only for their own personal growth and development, but also to ensure we build strong communities,” said Ms Hosking.

The group will initially meet monthly by ZOOM until Covid-19 restrictions ease and will then continue to meet both in person and online as the group determines over the next 12 months.

The Youth Council’s inaugural gathering will take place as part of National Youth Week on Sunday 15 November.

For more information about the North Central Youth Advisory Council and how to apply visit [www.ncllen.org.au](http://www.ncllen.org.au) or contact Julie Slater on 0409 983 270 or by email to ncllen@ncllen.org.au. Applications close on Sunday 1 November 2020.

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For more information please contact Julie Slater on 0409 983 270 or Jane Hosking on 0439 886 339

**Photo Caption:** Opportunities to be involved in important conversations such as the development of the new North Central LLEN Strategic Plan are just some of the opportunities that will be available to members of the new North Central Youth Advisory Committee.