

REPORTS THROUGH THE ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

38 [CNR-CM] Request for headspace 'letters of support' for Expression of Interest (EOI) submission process

SUBMITTED BY: Community and Cultural Services

Valid



Supporting Community Life

LINKAGE TO INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK:

- 2 Supporting Community Life
 - 2.1 Foster strong, cohesive, cooperative, healthy and safe communities
 - 2.1.1 Work closely with government and community organisations to improve services to children and families, youth, elderly, Indigenous people, disadvantaged and minority groups and to build stronger and more cohesive communities
-

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

headspace is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, incorporated to promote the improved health and mental health outcomes of young people in Australia. Due to centre expansion, **headspace** is currently seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to undertake the lead agency role for fifteen future locations, including Tweed Valley (Tweed Heads). Medicare Local and On Track Community Programs, which are *'not for profit'* organisations and Artius, a *'for profit'* organisation, have approached Council seeking 'letters of support' for the EOIs submission process for lead agency.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council provides a 'letter of support' to Medicare Local and On Track Community Programs, and Artius, for their submissions to the headspace project to be located in the Tweed Shire.

REPORT:

headspace is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, incorporated to promote the improved health and mental health outcomes of young people 12-25 years in Australia. Established in 2006, **headspace** is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aging under the Youth Mental Health Initiative Program.

Due to centre expansion, **headspace** is seeking EOIs to undertake the lead agency role for fifteen future locations, including Tweed Valley (at Tweed Heads). The current request for EOIs is the first stage of a two-stage process for selecting **headspace** centre operators (Lead Agencies) for each location. In the second stage, **headspace** may invite tenders from shortlisted respondents or negotiate a contract directly with those short-listed respondents. **headspace** may also invite tenders from, or negotiate contracts, with others.

Each local **headspace** is managed by a lead agency on behalf of a local partnership (consortium) responsible for the delivery of mental health, drug and alcohol and primary care services as well as community-based providers of vocational assistance and training. Other locally relevant services such as supported accommodation for young people and local government youth services are also important consortia members.

Evidence from existing **headspace** centres has shown benefits to service operation when local government is a participant. Consequently, the guidelines for the EOIs indicate it is preferable to include local government as a consortium member. Each prospective consortium member needs to demonstrate support (in the form of a 'letter of support') including agreement to co-contribute to the initiative. Accepted forms of co-contribution Council could provide include service promotion and community engagement activities.

Medicare Local and On Track Community Programs, which are '*not for profit*' organisations and Artius, which is a '*for profit*' organisation, have approached Council seeking 'letters of support' for their respective EOI submissions.

A draft copy of the letter of support is reproduced below:

Council Reference: Letter of Support
Your Reference:



(date)

Customer Service | 1300 292 872 | (02) 6670 2400

tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au
www.tweed.nsw.gov.au

Fax (02) 6670 2429
PO Box 816
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Please address all communications
to the General Manager

ABN: 90 176 732 496

To Whom It May Concern

Support for Expression of Interest for headspace initiative

Tweed Shire Council recognises the significant benefits to be gained from the establishment of the proposed **headspace** mental health service for young people in the Shire.

As part of the current **headspace** Expression of Interest (EOI) process, Council has been approached by (service name inserted) seeking a 'letter of support' for the lead agency position to accompany the headspace EOI submission.

For the submission process, Council agrees as a prospective consortium member, to co-contribute to the **headspace** initiative by providing service promotion and community engagement activities.

Council looks forward to working in partnership with the successful lead agency applicant to deliver much needed mental health support services for young people and their families residing in the Tweed area.

If any further information is required please do not hesitate to contact (officer).

Yours faithfully

OPTIONS:

- 1: Provide 'letters of support' for Medicare Local, On Track Community Programs, and Artius, for their submissions to the headspace project to be located in the Tweed Shire.
- 2: Do not provide 'letters of support' for Medicare Local, On Track Community Programs, and Artius, for their submissions to the headspace project to be located in the Tweed Shire.

CONCLUSION:

By Council providing 'letters of support' for Medicare Local, On Track Community Programs, and Artius for the **headspace** EOI submissions process, Council is demonstrating its commitment to youth initiatives.

COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS:

a. Policy:

Youth 1.0

b. Budget/Long Term Financial Plan:

Support will be provided by the Community Development Officer - Youth

c. Legal:

Not Applicable

d. Communication/Engagement:

Inform - We will keep you informed.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER/FURTHER INFORMATION:

Nil.
