



# **MAYORAL MINUTE**

## **25 JULY 2023**



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# MAYORAL MINUTES

**MAYORAL MINUTE**

**ITEM NO. 1**

**FILE NO: 23/186144  
EDRMS NO: PSC2021-04199**

**YACAABA CENTRE**

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**THAT COUNCIL:**

- 1) Acknowledge the work of the Yacaaba Centre, providing critical counselling and support services to the Port Stephens community.
- 2) Notes that the Yacaaba Centre is funded through donations, volunteering and reliance on operational funding from the NSW State Government.
- 3) Notes that recently the NSW Government discontinued critical funding for mental health services provided by the Yacaaba Centre, 5 days a week to the Port Stephens community.
- 4) Writes to The Hon. Rose Jackson, Minister for Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health and Youth, The Hon. Ryan Park, Minister for Health, Regional Health, and The Hon. Kate Washington, Minister for Families and Communities and Member for Port Stephens, requesting urgent funding for the Yacaaba Centre.
- 5) Provide a \$5,000 donation from Mayoral funds to the Yacaaba Centre to assist with continuing these critical services for the Port Stephens community.

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**BACKGROUND**

The Yacaaba Centre is a non-government service providing a range of early intervention support aimed at assisting vulnerable people who are at imminent risk of homelessness, are homeless or are experiencing domestic and/or family violence.

The Yacaaba Centre works in partnership with the Port Stephens Homelessness Support Service and collaborates with a range of government and non-government providers to ensure people are assisted and continue to sustain accommodation.

The Yacaaba Centre is partly funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, NSW Ministry of Health, donations, and support from individuals and businesses. The Yacaaba Centre is the only service provider on the Tomaree Peninsula that offers free counselling support. Over the past year, 67% of clients identified mental health as their primary concern.

Recently, funding for mental health services was rejected by the NSW Government. This has decreased the overall funding for the Yacaaba Centre by 44%.

Temporary funding of \$50,000 has been secured by Kate Washington MP, however, it is vital that the long term financial funding is provided to ensure these important services continue to be delivered in Port Stephens.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.