



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGEES**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Nudgee Youth Advisory Council

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.14 pm): One of my favourite parts of being a local member is engaging with young people across my electorate and listening to their thoughts on current issues, the challenges they are experiencing and their hopes and dreams for the future. So often these conversations are made possible by the regular contact we have as local members with local schools and community groups, but when young people finish school and head off to work and study—an intensive period in their lives—I have noticed that this is often when I and my office do not hear as much from young people in the 18-25 age group. It is when people buy a house, start a family and start accessing services such as local schools, healthcare and early childhood services that they are more likely to reach out to their local member for assistance or to share their views.

It has always been a pleasure to engage with young people in my electorate at community events and through initiatives such as the YMCA Youth Parliament, but it was recent conversations with respect to youth justice, respectful relationships and consent laws that led me to put the call out for nominations to form the Nudgee Youth Advisory Council, or NYAC as I now affectionately call it.

The purpose of the youth advisory council is to amplify the voices of young people across my local community on issues of importance to them. Never has this been more important. In the 2020 Voices of Hope: Growing Up in Queensland survey, carried out by the Queensland Family and Child Commission, just 23 per cent of young people said that adults in their communities listen to young people. This finding matters.

Young people's thoughts and feelings matter and surely we need to better harness them, so I put the call out on social media for interested Nudgee locals between the ages of 16 and 25 who wanted to have their say to nominate to join my inaugural youth advisory council. The response was fabulous. Young locals from the three high schools in my electorate—Earnshaw State College, Nudgee College and Mary MacKillop College—put their names forward. Young locals studying at TAFE or university, those looking for work and those working casual, part-time and full-time jobs put their names forward. From social housing to the environment, disability services, consent law reform and respectful relationships, foster care and youth justice—each nominated key issues of importance to them. I wish I could have accepted all nominations, but there were too many.

On 28 April I met with 18 fabulous young people from across my community who put their names forward to be a voice for youth in our community. From Boondall to Banyo and from Nundah to Nudgee, all were represented. All are impressive, all have a clear view of what issues matter to them and all have a desire for their voices to be heard.

To Al, Alexandra, Alyssa, Andrew, Annabel, April, Caitlin, Emily, Harry, Jennifer, Mahalia, Megan, Olivia, Owen, Scott, Taylah, Thomas and Zachary, I look forward to working with you in the year ahead, to listening and hearing your voices, and to you amplifying the voices of young people across our community.