

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
on the occasion of the
Official Opening of Rise Community Network
Unit 6/1 Merino Entrance, Cockburn Central
Monday 27 February 2017

Good Morning one and all.

I am delighted to join you today on the occasion of the official opening of Rise in Cockburn Central.

It is always pleasing to hear a 'Welcome to Country' at events and I thank Sarah Patterson and acknowledge the Wadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation and pay respect to their Elders both past and present and extend that respect to Indigenous people here today.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation who are the custodians of the land on which we meet. I pay respect to their Elders both past and present and extend that respect to Indigenous Australians who are with us today.

The Rise Community Network vision of 'Celebrating People' sends a clear message across the community that Rise is serious about its service delivery model a provider of services that focus on people with a:

- Disability;
- youth at risk;
- people with a mental health issue;
- carers, and
- older people in the community.

The Rise Community Network values of Integrity, Respect, Welcoming & Optimism provides a base level of confidence for those seeking services in our communities.

As we know an increasing number of people and their families are touched by circumstances that arise gradually or occur almost overnight at some stage of their life that relate to a loved one.

Many service providers commence their journey with concerned individuals and families coming together when they have identified a gap in service delivery or when that identified gap is ignored by government.

I read that Rise emerged from a small group of dedicated local people who gathered together in 1983 to discuss the support needs of people in the Perth Hills area.

I congratulate the Rise Community Network for making a defined difference in the Perth Hills area and for your expansion into the Cockburn and Kwinana areas.

The City of Cockburn covers 165 square kilometres, has a population of 110,000 increasing over the coming years to approximately 175,000 with an amazing Aboriginal history and a significant multi-cultural community.

The City has put in place a range of strategic plans that cover most aspects of service delivery across its community and works in partnership with federal and state governments, not-for-profits, private providers and other stakeholders to ensure efficient and effective service delivery to those in need.

I commend our members of staff and our volunteer base for their in-house and outreach programs that improve the mental health and well-being of our community.

I'll just talk about a number of programs and activities we offer and/or work in partnership with others to provide or support;

- Hello Baby;
- Teddy Bears Picnic;
- Froggy on the Green;
- Play groups;
- Skate parks;
- Bibra Lake Regional Playground;
- Playgrounds across the community;
- Exercise equipment in parks;
- Shade sails;
- Beach shelters;
- Coogee Beach Maritime Dive Trail;
- free community concerts;
- Seniors Centre;

- Library Services;
- Home library Services;
- Cockburn Seniors Centre;
- Seniors Expos;
- Access and inclusion opportunities;
- Art Exhibitions;
- Fremantle Street Doctor,
- Co-health programs;
- Healthy eating;
- Exercise and fitness programs;
- Counselling services;
- and the list goes on.

The City continues to make a significant investment in its community and to work in partnership with those with similar visions.

My wife Pat & I are out & about in the community seven days a week seeing & hearing first hand from individuals, families, community groups etc. on their needs and expectations and receiving feedback on what has occurred or about to occur.

The City looks forward to working with Rise and other complimentary service providers in the Cockburn/Kwinana areas.

As I said at a national Indigenous mental health and well-being conference a couple of weeks ago – we all have much to do to ‘Close the Gap’.

With an increasing number of migrants living in our community there is also a pressing need to make their lives more inclusive.

Living in a multi-cultural society provides an amazing range of opportunities and the sharing of the richness of music, song & dance and conversations on how we can make life is becoming increasingly important.

I look forward to the partnership with Rise growing in strength and diversity of service delivery as we go forward.

I now have great pleasure in officially declaring open the Rise Community Support Network in Cockburn.