



Media Release

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Making safer communities with youth engagement and the PCYC

Independent candidate for Yerrabi David Pollard has announced a commitment to support at-risk young people in Canberra. With a history of success, the PCYC are well placed to improve the lives of at-risk young people, and curb rising crime rates in Gungahlin.

Funding will be secured to relocate the Fyshwick facility and expand the PCYC into Gungahlin.

“Crime rates in Yerrabi suburbs are a growing concern for residents,” Mr Pollard said.

“Local crime is raised with me while campaigning, but also through my roles in Gungahlin communities.

“There are spikes in crime around the school holidays, while families should be having some downtime.

“PCYC are passionate about helping young people to live their best lives, and their programs have an excellent track record of success.”

“All you have to do is meet the people at the PCYC for five minutes to see the good that is happening.” Mr Pollard said.

“At the recent R U OK? Day BBQ hosted by the PCYC, I did not see ‘at-risk young people’, I saw children who were nurtured, respected, smiling, and thriving.”

Mr Pollard met with some participants to hear directly what they get out of the PCYC programs.

One participant said, “It makes weekends seem boring.”

Another spoke confidently and proudly about how she is getting back on track with the PCYC, “They understand me here. At school, they couldn’t understand what I needed.”

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## David Pollard Independent for Yerrabi



Bringing an expanded PCYC to Gungahlin will help vulnerable young people in the region. Social programs that the PCYC run divert young people from the youth justice system. This represents a saving for rate payers, brings relief to the under-resourced Gungahlin Police, and gives young people and their families the opportunity to get back on track.

“Organisations like the PCYC are doing what they can with limited budgets.” Mr Pollard said.

“PCYC Canberra is undergoing a shift in operation to include social enterprise ventures.

“They are taking more ownership of their funding, so they aren’t as reliant on ratepayers in the future, but they need our support to get there.”

“I am proud to advocate for such a passionate organisation as PCYC Canberra.” Mr Pollard said.

[www.davidpollard.com.au/crime-in-gungahlin-prevention/](http://www.davidpollard.com.au/crime-in-gungahlin-prevention/)

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