

Headspace centre bid gains speed

Councillors, MP push for Knox's case

Health | Zoe Lewis

KNOX Council has thrown its support behind a one-stop shop for youth mental health services in the area.

Councillors unanimously voted to write to Headspace chief executive Chris Tanti and Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler indicating strong support for a Headspace centre being established in Knox Ozone. Cr Adam Gill said at the meeting they wanted to access federal funding, which was announced in May for 30 new centres.

"It's clear that it's a needed service," Cr Gill said.

Maroondah Council is also pushing for a Headspace centre to be built in Ringwood, but Cr John Mortimore said Knox Ozone was the "youth magnet of the east" and there was a "powerful" case for having a centre there.

Aston federal Liberal MP Alan

Tudge, who has been campaigning for the centre for months, last week tabled a petition in Parliament with more than 10,300 signatures in support.

"Other than the petition for a rail link to Rowville, no petition in recent memory has had such support from residents of my electorate," Mr Tudge told Parliament.

Boronia's Prerna Diksha, who spoke about the need for more youth mental health services after her 16-year-old brother, Abhishek Gaurav, committed suicide on May 10, was there to see the petition tabled.

Headspace chief executive Chris Tanti recently told the *Leader* the next round of centre locations was expected to be announced by the end of the year.

Would you be angry if Maroondah got it instead? Email us at knox@leadernewspapers.com.au



Mick Hall has established DayHab, a day rehabilitation program for people with addictions. Picture: LAWRENCE PINDER N08KN101

Centre promises addicts good habit

Health | Zoe Lewis

AN addiction rehabilitation centre in Upper Ferntree Gully, staffed by recovering addicts, promises to be accessible to as many people as possible.

DayHab, which opened on July 1, is the brainchild of Yarra Junction qualified drug and alcohol counsellor Mick Hall.

The centre provides a two-week

intensive non-residential program for people with addictions to alcohol, gambling and drugs, including one-on-one counselling, group sessions, 12-step meetings and educational material.

The day program allows the centre to keep its overheads low, making it more affordable.

"No matter what socio-economic background or status in life, addiction does not discriminate be-

tween people," Mr Hall said. "I believe that high quality addiction treatment should be accessible to as many people as possible."

Mr Hall, 40, is familiar with addiction, having once been a heroin user and alcoholic.

He has been clean and sober for about 10 years.

For more information on the service, go to dayhab.com.au or phone 9753 5869.

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