

# Media Release

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26 July 2018

## Council stands against bullying

Council has launched an anti-bullying campaign with new signage on three of its waste collection trucks.

Bullying has been identified as the number one issue affecting young people within the community through the work Council does with high schools and the Camden Youth Council.

“It is alarming to think that so many students are affected in some way by bullying and is one of the most common problems affecting young people today,” said Mayor Lara Symkowiak.

“We want to combat this issue and hope that the messages will inspire young people and members of our community to stand up and speak out against bullying behaviour,” Cr Symkowiak said.

Member of Camden Youth Council and Camden Council Young Citizen of the Year, Lubna Sherieff said that bullying is something that young people deal with too often.

“Bullying is still a thing for young people. It not only happens at school, but online as well which means some teenagers can never really escape it,” Miss Sherieff said.

“We think it’s important that we bring anti-bullying messages into the spotlight. If just one person is able to look at these trucks and make a better, healthier choice about their lives - whether they are a bully or at the end of bullying - then that would be so worthwhile,” she said.

“We didn’t want the signage to be like the generic messages we see in most anti-bullying campaigns. We wanted it to stand out, so people could remember it later on and hopefully take action.”

The wording includes *‘Bullying is garbage, stand up and speak out!’* and *‘Bullying stinks, stand up and speak out!’* and has contact details for Kids Helpline and Lifeline.

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Kids Helpline is here for young people aged five years to 25 years anytime and for any reason - free call 1800 55 1800 or [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au).

“In 2017, we received more than 3,500 contacts from children and young people about bullying. It’s important young people know where to go for help. The trucks cover a lot of territory and will help create that awareness across the community,” said yourtown CEO Tracy Adams.

Anyone who needs help can call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

“Every dollar raised helps save lives and our vision is to have an Australia free of suicide,” said Lifeline Events and Partnership Coordinator, Lyndal Bruce.

Another new sign has an inspirational message, ‘*Throw around kindness, not your rubbish*’.

These trucks will join the fleet of waste collection vehicles that have signage to raise awareness of mental health, suicide prevention and domestic violence.

Another truck will have new signage to remind pet owners to update their pet registration details with Council to support responsible pet ownership and make it easy for Rangers to return lost pets to their homes.

A new smaller truck designed to collect and clean park bins has been branded with ‘*Keep our parks litter free*’, messaging.

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