

## Live4Life expanding in South Gippsland

The Live4Life Program is continuing to grow in 2025.

On Monday 11 August Live4Life officially welcomed 86 new students from ECG Secondary College (Leongatha) to the program.

ECG Secondary College joins a growing number of South Gippsland schools embracing the Live4Life model, which delivers evidence-based mental health education to secondary students and trains youth in Mental Health First Aid, while empowering local young people through peer leadership and community engagement.

Since 2022, the Live4Life program has connected with 1,766 Year 8 students and 1,192 Year 10 students through the Teen Mental Health First Aid Training across South Gippsland and Bass Coast. In addition to this, a total of 97 Year 9 and Year 10 students have been a part of the Live4Life Crew, who advocate and lead positive mental health promotions throughout their schools every year.

At the August Council Meeting, Council received highlights from the 2025 Live4Life Program. This year, the Live4Life Program has:

- Trained 483 students in Teen and Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.
- Provided training to fourteen adults in Youth Mental Health First Aid, bringing the community total to 137.
- Interviewed over 50 Year 9 and 10 students who applied to become a Live4Life crew member, selecting up to eight students per Live4Life school to become mental health ambassadors.
- Held an induction day event for all recruited crew in February, with 30 young people across South Gippsland Live4Life schools.
- The Live4Life crew has created their mental health theme for the year: “No matter what you are going through someone is always there for you”.
- Coordinated and delivered five Live4Life launches across five schools in South Gippsland.

Live4Life now has six schools participating in the program across South Gippsland. The schools include ECG Secondary College (Leongatha), Foster Secondary College, Korumburra Secondary College,

Leongatha Secondary College, Mary Mackillop Catholic Regional College (Leongatha) and Mirboo North Secondary College.

This new partnership with ECG Secondary College will implement the Live4Life model across its campus, providing students with vital mental health literacy, reducing stigma, and building a culture of openness and support.

**Quote attributable to South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor, John Schelling:**

*“It is great to see the Live4Life program continuing to grow throughout our region. This award-winning program is an innovative approach to youth mental health which aims to support young people in our region through access to early intervention, education and connection.*

*“To date, the Live4Life Program has provided an invaluable experience for everyone involved and I would like to share many sincerest thanks to the people who make Live4Life happen, including our dedicated Live4Live Crew.”*

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