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Media Release:

PCYC Blackwater retains sponsor to keep boosting youth

Yarrabee Coal is proud to renew its three-year partnership with PCYC Blackwater to further its support of the PCYC'S youth programs and recreational activities to help keep improving youth development in the area.

The partnership will see Yarrabee Coal donate \$75,000 over three years. The funding will ensure the positive work being done in the community continues to deliver consistency for the young people of Blackwater.

Sergeant Terry Coultis, Youth Club Program Manager, was thrilled with the continued support.

"We aim to have a positive influence on the lives of young people in our community. We want to get them active by participating in physical exercise, creative arts, and experiential learning activities.

"Every day we see young people who are disengaged from the community, family, or school.

"We want to empower them by improving their physical health and wellbeing, emotional resilience, self-esteem, and confidence using sport in a safe and structured peer environment.

"Our After Dark and Drop-In sessions are extremely popular with young people in the area, we are seeing record attendance numbers.

"These youth support programs offer a safe place for kids to come and make friends, play sport, engage in positive social activities, and hang out with our program mentors.

"Since 2023, Yarrabee Coal has been a strong supporter of PCYC Blackwater, helping us run our Youth Space program. As part of this activity, two staffing roles were funded to expand the sport and recreation offerings at the centre.

"Some of the participants have now gone onto become our Community Development Officers at the centre, so the support of Yarrabee Coal has come full circle, which is wonderful.

"Yarrabee Coal Mine is a big supporter of youth development, and we couldn't offer all this without them," said Sergeant Terry Coultis.

PCYC Blackwater aims to unite the local community through a range of activities. With the goal of improving early stages development, and offering a range of youth and community activities, including After Dark Basketball, After School Drop-In (twice weekly), Youth Leadership Team, After Dark Futsal, Team Up, Saturday Drop-In, Cadet Club, After Dark Tabletop Games and major events such as Halloween, PCYC Open Day and the Colour Xplosion. They also do a Fun Run as part of the school holiday programs. PCYC Blackwater has an active membership base of 641 people using the gym and fitness, twenty-eight volunteers and it attracts up to one hundred kids on average per session to its Drop-In and After Dark programs.

Yarrabee Coal Operations Manager, Mike Priestly, was proud to have renewed the three-year partnership.

“Yarrabee Coal and PCYC Blackwater share a common vision to make a genuine positive difference to the people in the region where we operate, so continuing to partner with them is a perfect fit for us.

“The PCYC Blackwater is an important facility in our community, which offers a vital service for the youth in our community.

“We feel strongly about ensuring there is a dedicated space where young people can visit and feel physically and emotionally safe.

“We intend to work closely with PCYC Blackwater to explore other ways of helping them expand their services to continue to build on the success of this program,” said Mike.

The funding support is part of the Yancoal Yarrabee Community Support Program, which aims to make a difference in the community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the areas where it operates.

For over 20 years since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia’s largest coal exporters: owning or operating eight producing mines across the country, employing over 5,500 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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