

## **Camberwell Rotary tackles youth mental health challenge**

***Every day, somewhere in Australia a number of young people will attempt to take their own lives. Some will be “successful”. For each of those tragic cases, many others are deeply troubled and in urgent need of help.***

The Rotary Club of Camberwell is moving to address this “national mental health epidemic”. The Club will mount its first free Youth Mental Health Forum on 9th May at Camberwell High School. The organisers aim to help parents, carers, grandparents and siblings to understand youth mental health issues and how to support troubled young people.

The forum is a joint venture between the Rotary Club of Camberwell, Australian Rotary Health Research Fund and Orygen Research Centre supported by Camberwell High School. It will bring together experts in the field including Professor Tony Jorm, Associate Professor Nick Allen from Orygen and Des Jones, Executive Director of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund. There will also be an open discussion of the issues led by a panel including a youth platform member with personal experience as a client of community mental health services.

According to the forum’s convenor Malcolm Munro of the Rotary Club of Camberwell,

***“Mental health problems are the single most important health issue affecting our young people. If these are left untreated they contribute to academic failure, early school leaving and premature death. Our forum is an opportunity for us to raise community awareness of mental health issues in our young people.”***

The forum aims to destigmatise mental health issues, to clear myths and misunderstandings while flagging the importance of early intervention. It will bring parents students and other concerned people into contact with mental health services and support groups.

The Youth Mental Health Awareness Forum will take place from 7.20 PM on Wednesday 9 May, 2007 at the Assembly Hall, Camberwell High School, Prospect Hill Road, Canterbury. For further information email to [mhmunro@netspace.net.au](mailto:mhmunro@netspace.net.au)

*For further information or interview, please contact Malcolm Munro  
Phone 9889 4322 email [mhmunro@netspace.net.au](mailto:mhmunro@netspace.net.au)*



Healthy minds in healthy bodies are key aims of the Youth Mental Health Forum at Camberwell High School on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Malcolm Munro (Forum Convenor), Des Jones (Australian Rotary Health Research Fund) and Ellida Brereton (Camberwell High School Principal) look on while Jeremy Palmer, Tom Edwards and Tristan Simons show their ball skills.



Eyes on the ball! Healthy minds in healthy bodies are key aims of the Youth Mental Health Forum at Camberwell High School on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The forum organisers look on while students show their ball skills. Left to right – Ellida Brereton (Camberwell High School Principal) Jeremy Palmer, Tristan Simons, Tom Edwards, Malcolm Munro (Forum Convenor), Des Jones (Australian Rotary Health Research Fund)