

# Meriden Students represent on Strathfield Youth Advisory Board

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The Strathfield Youth Advisory Board was established as a forum for students to share ideas, challenge perspectives and help shape the future of their community.

The Board's role is to advise the Member for Strathfield, Mr Jason Yat-Sen Li MP, on issues impacting young people, while providing members with insight into the political and representational work of a Member of Parliament. Members meet several times a year with Mr Li, leading discussions and brainstorming practical solutions, while gaining valuable experience in leadership and community advocacy.

Katherine Fanning and Gabriella Selim are Meriden's representatives on the Youth Advisory Board. They share their reflections on their first meeting below.

*"Towards the end of Term 1, we attended our first Youth Advisory Board meeting of the year. When we arrived, we encountered students from a variety of different schools from the local area. During the day, we split into groups to discuss issues facing young people and then came together to discuss recurring issues.*

*Some common points of discussion included the effects of social media on young people's mental health, specifically when young people isolate themselves due to a fear of judgement and rejection. Another point that was discussed was ethnic tolerance, which became a major topic for the day after we all agreed on its significance. As a collective, we discussed the importance of ethnic tolerance in every school, to eliminate preexisting stigmas and build a sense of respect and safety.*

*We enjoyed the day immensely as we were able to hear a diverse range of opinions from a diverse range of people. We also appreciated the opportunity to meet with Mr Jason Yat-Sen Li, MP, the Member for Strathfield, and to share our thoughts with him. Everyone was very welcoming and we are excited for our next meeting."*

We look forward to following Katherine and Gabriella's continued involvement and leadership through their work on the Youth Advisory Board this year.

**Ms Priscilla Curran**  
Dean of Lateral Learning  
Languages Teacher



Katherine Fanning and Gabriella Selim, Year 11