

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

12<sup>th</sup> April 2019



### **YMCA Ballarat Appoints Young CEO for the Day**

Blake Cox, 18, was appointed CEO of YMCA Ballarat on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April – as part of Victorian Youth Week.

On Friday last week, YMCAs right around Australia, including YMCA Ballarat and Grampians were led by young people, aged between 18 and 30. The YMCA Young CEO for the Day initiative reflects the organisation's belief in the power of inspired young people to positively impact communities, locally and globally.

As YMCA Ballarat's Young CEO for the day, Blake had the opportunity to meet with key YMCA personnel including the President of the Board, Keryn Crebbin and YMCA Ballarat/Grampians CEO Brooke LeSueur along with the executive team and share his aspirations for the YMCA going forward. Blake would love "the Y to be the place where people can come and feel comfortable, be listened to and supported."

Blake started his YMCA journey at the age of 16, completing a traineeship; Certificate III in Children's Services as a school based apprenticeship. He is now an Outside School Hours Care Educator and is studying his Diploma in Children's Services.

Blake engaged in meetings with a number of staff from different departments, covering important issues which impact on our community. "I'm very grateful to the YMCA for the opportunity to get more involved in the community and look at important issues for young people such as school retention numbers and breaking down the traditional gender stereotyped career paths".

There is so much to learn about the role of the CEO and how the YMCA can make a difference in the local community," said Blake.



“We were thrilled to have Blake as our CEO for the Day and I’m keen to explore some great initiatives together that aim to improve the employment opportunities for young people in our community and help them take action,” said Brooke LeSueur, CEO of YMCA Ballarat and Grampians Region.

YMCA Ballarat and Grampians provide a range of programs and services for the entire community, with 30% of Ballarat YMCA’s workforce under the age of 30, the YMCA also provides employment and training opportunities for young people passionate about making a positive difference.

For further details visit: [www.ballarat.ymca.org.au](http://www.ballarat.ymca.org.au) or email: [ballarat@ymca.org.au](mailto:ballarat@ymca.org.au).

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