

# A chance for our youth to be heard

**PHIL HOLMES**

GLENELG and Southern Grampians Local Learning and Employment Network has been collating surveys amongst the district's schools, with all year nine and 10 students taking part in the social experiment called Youth Shout out!

Last week students, teachers and members of different groups from the region met

at South West TAFE's Ballarat Rd campus to raise these issues with a number of schools making presentations to the attentive crowd.

G S G L L E N partnership broker Marg Millard opened the event and spoke about the student wellbeing survey distributed.

It included questions about social wellbeing and physical wellbeing.

The key issues and actions from the survey have surprised many.

Schools were represented by students who presented their results and some of the major issues surrounded teacher-student relationships, homework and career options.

The results varied through different schools. Students spoke openly and fielded questions from the interested crowd with Southern Grampians Shire chief executive Michael Tudball stating that the youth was the future and that he wanted to know what they wanted moving forward.

Around 50 per cent of the students stated they would follow through with tertiary education, while the other 50 per cent hoped apprenticeships would be available at school's end.

This was another issue that worried the teenagers as they



LLEN partnership broker Marg Millard (middle) with Baimbridge College student Nikita Ansell, 15, and Good Shepherd College's Michael Doherty, 15, at the Youth Shout Out! seminar. Photo: JUDY DE MAN. 160601jd003

believed Hamilton and the district wouldn't have the resources to have these apprenticeships waiting.

A representative from Casterton spoke about the issues of children

from that region, with two bus loads travelling to Hamilton schools every day.

Ms Millard closed the event and said the survey had brought a much clearer understanding of the

issues faced by 15 and 16 year olds in the region.

As one of the writers of the survey, she believed there were other issues also that could be raised, maybe in another survey

further down the line. She thanked all in attendance and was grateful for the schools and students who participated.

"We are very pleased with how this went and it's a great stepping

stone moving forward, learning more about the next generation and where they see their futures in the region," she said.

"There are positives and negatives, which is good to highlight."