



Good afternoon parents and carers,

Due to the circumstances around COVID19, Mondo Lounge Youth Space isn't able to operate as usual for term 2, 2020. However, we understand how important social connections are for our youngsters during this period and aim to maintain a sense of connectedness with our young people as they go through these uncertain times.

As an alternative to our youth space, we'll be offering an online correspondence program for your young people to get involved with, to help them stay connected with their peers and have some fun in their down time.

The program timetable will be split in to month by month activities, so we can assess and re-evaluate as necessary to deliver the best program based on the effectiveness and needs of the participants.

We have put in various measures to ensure the safety of the platforms used in the online program and will be asking parents to sign-up their young people in a different way to our usual practice.

For the online safety of the youngsters, we ask parents who would like their kids to be involved in Mondo this term to get in touch via email, text or phone call to sign-up.

When registering your young person, please include their full name, age, email address, a mobile phone number and street address. This is needed so we can create a 'mailing list' to send through specific URL's, access passwords and game codes to participate in each activity. This will help us ensure that our activities only have pre-approved young people joining in, and eliminates unwanted people having access to the group/activity.

While we have done our best with the limited resources available, we understand that not all young people will have equal access to each activity due to technological requirements, WIFI access, subscription requirements, etc. We would usually ensure we remove any barriers to participation in our Youth Space program, however we've been unable to achieve this in the current situation, but aim to work with you on a case by case basis if you have concerns about your young person's ability to be involved.

Information on each activities platform, its requirements, and how to sign in will be emailed through once you've registered your interest.

**Just a reminder that parents and/or carers are responsible for their child's use of technology.**

We encourage all parents/carers to research each platform yourself to ensure you are happy for your young person to use the technology.

We also encourage parents of the younger cohort to use these technologies in a shared space, such as a lounge room or dining room, where possible. This will help ensure you're able to monitor internet activity.

### **Help and support**

We understand the impacts of COVID-19 have been difficult for many people. If you, your young person or someone you know is struggling, please reach out.

Here are a few support services you're able to access, with some good online resources.

Kids Help Line:            1800 55 1800            [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

Beyond Blue:            1800 51 2348            [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

Raising Children

Stay well,

**Jodie Hearn**

**Youth Activities Officer, Mount Alexander Shire Council**

**Ph: 0429 421 214 / [Youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:Youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)**