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**Title:**  
Message to Whyalla Council for Youth

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MESSAGE FROM DON DUNSTAN TO WHYALLA COUNCIL FOR YOUTH

Young people today are having to accept greater responsibilities at an earlier age than ever before. Many of the pressures of modern industrial society affect the young more than anybody else. There is, for instance, the strain caused by the emphasis placed on educational attainment within a rigid and inflexible structure. Then there are advertising pressures and job responsibility, which push young people towards socially-acceptable conformist goals, many of which they resent.

This poses a tremendous challenge to young people, and in many places their problems are magnified by a lack of recreational facilities or organisations interested in their welfare.

The Labor Party believes the majority of young people accept the challenge, and act with considered responsibility.

It was because of this clear acceptance of responsibility by young people that this Government lowered the age of majority to 18 years.

The Labor Party believes firmly that young people must have the opportunity to act as full members of our society, and it has given them this opportunity.

However, society must also provide for those who have been slow to learn or recognise its demands.

The State and Commonwealth Governments are involved in the provision of youth and welfare services, but there is still a great deal to be done.

And it is here that organisations like the Whyalla Council for Youth can play a valuable part, and help fill a substantial gap in youth services.

I wish the Council every success in its venture.