



James Griffin MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Health
Parliamentary Secretary for Veterans
Member for Manly

MEDIA RELEASE

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MP BACKS STUDENT BUSINESS PROGRAM

Member for Manly, James Griffin has thrown his support behind a project providing students with 'real life' challenges faced by local businesses and then finding solutions.

The collaborative project between SEVENmile Ltd, the Department of Education, St Paul's Catholic College and local participating businesses involved Year 9 and 10 students at Manly's St Paul's Catholic College.

The 8 week program (14 hours) is designed by the SEVENmile Venture Lab to expose students to problem solving techniques; gain valuable presentation skills; and develop connections with local industry.

Mr Griffin, who presented students with their certificates said, "It was all on display. What is so impressive about this project is that the students have been working on 'real life' problems faced by local businesses.

"These have been all too apparent recently, especially with the impact of COVID-19 and the associated Northern Beaches lock down over Christmas," Mr Griffin said.

Principal of St Paul's, Michael Reid was especially impressed to see an industry program that provided his students and teachers with an opportunity to explore beyond theory.

"This is deep, authentic learning. The program allows our students to engage with life beyond the school gate and develop applicable skills in solving real-world problems," Mr Reid said.

Greg Twemlow, CEO of SEVENmile, the not-for-profit organisation behind the course said, "I'm proud to see the student's development over the 8 weeks program.

"Look at what these young men have achieved – the ability to collaborate, create ideas, analyse research, and so much more.

Mr Twemlow said, "These 15 year old students stood before an audience and presented their project with confidence. They should be very proud of their achievements – SEVENmile certainly is."

Mr Twemlow also thanked participating local business, EdgedVR, FoodSt, Global Surf Industries and MyFirstGym

James Griffin congratulated all involved in the program, including the organisers, participating businesses and especially the graduating students.

Caption (L-R): James Griffin MP, Lorraine Gnanadickam (FoodSt), and students Jai Angelo, Jaush Singh, Baden Malcolm, Jayden Donney and Zachary Jonson

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