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# Our Headspace hope

## Mental health campaign to save region's youth



By TOM SEBO

**F**OR Hugo Cunningham possessions were meaningless. What he really cared about was people. He measured the weight of a person's worth based on what they did, not what they had. To his friends he was a comforting ear; a rock to lean on when they were

in need; a charming, charismatic, fun loving guy whose roguish sense of humour made him not only the life of the party but a person they genuinely cherished and wanted to be around. But what few knew, including his family, was his internal struggle and when he took his own life in May this year, at the age of just 18, it rocked

the entire community. Less than four months later, the town was once again left shaken when a second teen, this time a 16-year-old Mulwaree High School student, committed suicide. In the wake of the second tragedy, a campaign began to lobby the federal government to fund a Headspace for Goulburn.

Headspace is an initiative of the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, which provides young people (aged 12 to 25) who are going through a tough time with a place to chill out, and receive the support they need in a safe, secure and non-confrontational way.

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## Economy to bounce

GOULBURN this weekend holds court to about 3000 visitors who are here for the NSW Catholic Primary Schools Basketball Championships. As far as accommodation bookings and potential economic impact is concerned, it will be the biggest event in the city this year. "Some of the motels have been booked out for months," organising committee spokesperson Vanessa Toparis said. "This is a unique event in that it doesn't involve a

specific demographic. Staying here with the kids will be their parents, grandparents, friends, teachers and officials. Pictured is Ss Peter & Paul's Primary School's Senior Boys Maroon Team (from left) Billy Weeks, Anthony Cummins, Jack McCarthy, Tom Toparis, Jayden Gray and Tye Young with their coach Jackson Weeks. They will be among 112 teams and 850 players from across NSW competing.

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