

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

It is with profound sadness that I speak about the recent loss of PJ Hahn, who died suddenly around Christmas at the age of 25.

The youngest son of Michael and Lynn Hahn of Drummoyne and brother of John, Rob and Ellen, the Hahn family is well-known and respected in our community. I had the honour of awarding his father Michael with our highest honour in 2015 when he became our Citizen of the Year, for his tireless service to Drummoyne Water Polo Club and Drummoyne Rugby Club.

Just like his father, PJ was active in our local sporting clubs. At the beginning of this summer he rejoined Drummoyne Swim Club, he played water polo for Drummoyne Devils Men's Team and coached the Under 16s Boys. During his school years he played firsts rugby for St Patrick's College Strathfield as well as Drummoyne Rugby Club where he had been a proud "Dirty Red" from his earliest years. PJ was also supportive and active in our local charity, Communities for Communities.

PJ's untimely death brings into sharp focus, the issues surrounding mental health and depression that is so prevalent in our community today, and which seems to target our young people. As Monsignor Vince Redden stated at PJ's Requiem Mass: "Suicide is a mental cancer" and is the most misunderstood of all illnesses. There is no pain like the one suicide inflicts.

It is beholden on us as a community and as those intimately touched by the pain of suicide, to do what we can to ensure others do not experience the pain, isolation and despair that leads to an action like suicide and that we are there to help those left behind in the wake.

To Michael and Lynn Hahn, along with their children John, Robert and Ellen, I ask Council to join me in conveying our heartfelt condolences at this most shocking and heartbreaking loss.

Donations in memory of PJ can be made to [LIVIN](#), a charity working to support people suffering in silence from a mental illness.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council donate \$500 to LIVIN in honour of PJ Hahn.
2. THAT the 2018 Mayor's Golf Day proceeds benefit LIVIN.