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Category: Government

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If I were a leader to aspire today to influence tomorrow I would begin with the attitude of young people towards their community. I would undertake to do this through education for the benefit of both community and individuals. First of all, the qualities a leader needs to succeed in making changes in the community is knowing what the main needs of their community are and understanding how to go about making the needed changes. A leader needs to be trustworthy and willing to work hard. They need to be profoundly aware of sensitive issues where having a manageable agenda is vital and where visions, policies and plans will carry out change. A leader must truly care for the community to gain respect. However the most important quality that is needed to succeed in making a difference in the community is to make sound decisions, believe in them and follow through with them.

I believe the attitude held by many members of the community towards the community has not been beneficial. Therefore change needs to be made through schools, since most people spend their first thirteen years of life at school. If I am able to bring change into the community in the future I would do this by changing the current material on the school curriculum. I feel it has a negative influence on students who may be too immature to understand the contents. Instead I would provide books that have positive themes and showed hope in the face of adversity. I would bring in experts from the field of education to put in place policies making schools more student friendly by looking at education systems with high success rates, such as Finland. Their schools provide a school environment of friendship and a place where students feel safe, welcome and a valued member of the community. Therefore when students leave school and enter the community they already feel a sense of belonging. After all not all students have a home environment where they feel valued, as abusive language and even physical abuse may be what these children are used to. Thus, this is the attitude that they will bring to the community. It is necessary to break this cycle. Through correct schooling we can avoid citizens who are unable to relate to others and lash out with abuse or even violence towards any one they feel might have taken opportunities away from them. What needs to be done is to teach all students that they are worthy and can be valued members of the community. They should be taught how to take advantage of the many wonderful opportunities that a country like Australia has to offer.

Having lived in Australia for only two and a half years I have seized every opportunity given to me to become a better citizen of the community. It is so important that everyone should realise their full potential. Even though English is my second language it has not stopped me from aspiring, by volunteering in community and school events. I have taken the opportunity to meet local politicians such as Newcastle's MP, Tim Owen, who was kind enough to allow me to interview him for a school project. I also took part as a volunteer in the Five Lands Walk on the Central Coast as part of the Greek community there and made it a point of speaking to Senator of New South Wales and NSW Labour Junior Vice President Deborah O'Neill. I have shown my love for school and community firstly by doing well in my studies, having received a Principals' Award on every school report since coming to Australia, and by being voted Prefect for the second year running. I also received the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership and Team Work Award last year. I have also volunteered for events such as The Colour Run, The Wesley Church Christmas Tree fundraiser and being part of the ANAC Dawn Service Ceremonies. But the most rewarding was dressing up as the Easter Bunny and surprising the Special Education students. My hard work and love of community and school was recognised when I was presented with the Citizenship award from Newcastle High School. My being able to interact with the community has helped me understand how changes need to be carried out. If I were to aspire today to influence tomorrow I would take risks and change pedagogy to benefit people's attitude toward the community.