



HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS FROM THE GROUND UP

Hope Street Youth and Family Services offers programs and services to vulnerable young people and families who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

Young people and families are our focus – we concentrate on their immediate as well as short to medium term needs – safety, food, shelter, wellbeing and longer term goals.

We believe the early intervention of support helps the young people and families we assist to build meaningful lives separate to the homelessness service system.

HOPE STREET IN MELTON

HOPE STREET IN MELTON provides residential accommodation to young people and young families with intensive one-to-one assistance to be active participants in creating opportunities to strengthen their housing, employment, education, training and personal and social development.

A strong focus on connections and reconnections with family and other personal relationships, as well as building new connections with community, encourages young people to be active participants in their own destiny.

Please see overleaf for an account of how the Hope Street in Melton program helped to change one young girl's life for the better.

NEWSFLASH

We're currently raising funds to build a much-needed emergency accommodation facility in Melton. The facility will provide immediate accommodation for young people (aged 16-24) that live in Melton, and will also offer follow up support with counselling, health and wellbeing initiatives, and development opportunities.

Can you help?





SUE'S STORY

Sue became homeless at the age of sixteen when her mother, putting her new partner first, told Sue to leave.

Sue tried living temporarily with other family members before getting a private rental property with some friends in Melton. This too broke down due to conflict in the share arrangement. After then staying with her aunty for six months, Sue managed to find another private rental arrangement in a two bedroom property with a pregnant couple who were friends of hers. Once the baby came along her friends asked Sue to move out so they could have the extra room. Sue then stayed briefly with another family member in Flemington before moving into Hope Street's Youth Residential program.

Sue had tried to stay in school in Melton to finish Year 11 however, due to all her housing and emotional disruptions she couldn't manage to achieve this goal.

Sue was assessed as being suitable for the Hope Street in Melton program. After the assessment period in which Sue identified that she wanted stable housing, was sick of moving around and wanted to go back to study, she was accepted into the program.

After seven months in the unit, Sue has engaged in retraining for work. Creating Connections Employment Education Program brokerage was used to get Sue clothes for work and interviews, and to pay for transport for her to get to education and job interviews. Sue's case manager was able to work with her intensively to encourage her to keep trying to find work, despite having had many knockbacks.

After much perseverance Sue managed to get a job in a shoe store in Melton. She is loving what she is doing and hopes to be promoted some time this year. Sue has embarked on getting her Probational Driver's Licence, and has even considered reconciling with her mother with whom she has had barely any contact since she was told to leave. Sue has enjoyed living in her unit with other young people close by, and has engaged actively with the group living skills program, focusing particularly on her cooking skills.

Sue can remain in the unit for a further eighteen months, after which she can also receive up to twelve months' Outreach Support if she wants. She maintains her dream to be a fashion designer, and now that she has a decent income and some stability, wants to start a course in 2014 to realise this. We have every faith that Sue will achieve her goal, given her commitment to improving her life circumstances despite having almost no family support, but plenty of energy and drive!

**Do you want to help
young people in Melton like Sue?**

www.hopest.org/meltonfirstresponse