

## HOPE STREET IN MELTON

The Hope Street in Melton Program is designed to address the needs of vulnerable young people in the Melton Local Government Area using a client centred, strength based approach, encouraging young people to be active participants in their own destiny.

The program helps young people to develop resilience through integration and interdependence within their community, which in turn strengthens their housing, employment, education, personal and social opportunities.

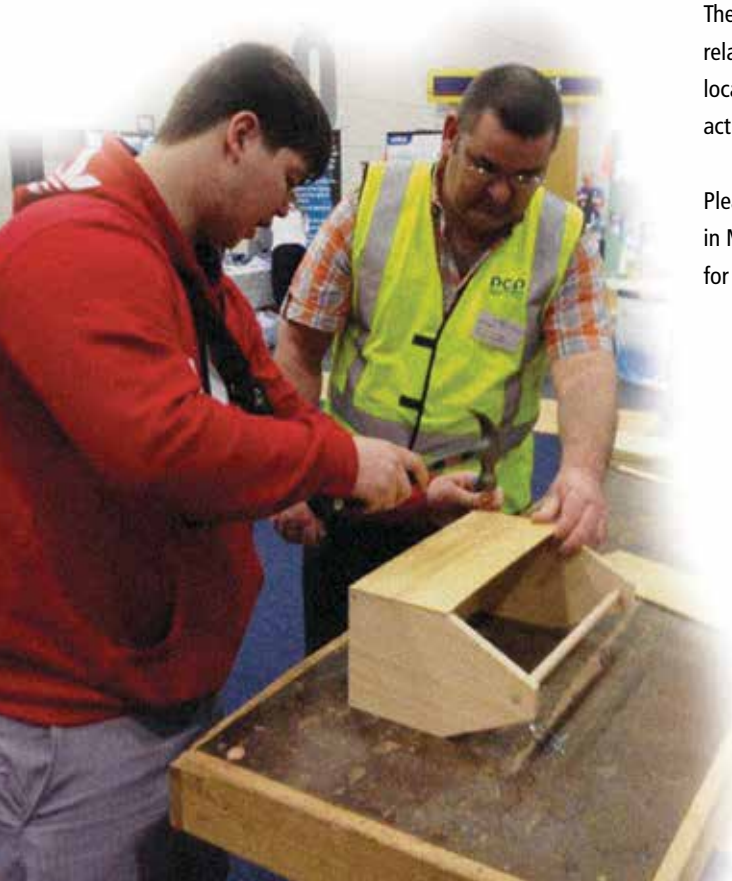
### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Individualised support to young people is offered, with a strong focus on connections and reconnections with family and other personal relationships, building new connections with community, and support as the young person moves into independence.

As well as the above, the "Living Skills" series of workshops has been designed to utilise young people's skills and experiences both as contributors and facilitators. Topics cover How to Sustain a Successful Tenancy; Accessing and Sustaining Employment, Education and Training, Personal and Social Development and Citizenship.

The program also helps young people develop meaningful relationships with their community via joint initiatives with local groups and agencies, partnership and capacity building activities.

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.





## CASE STUDY 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 (refuge).

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 by the refuge 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 Probationary 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!

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE HELP LIKE SUE,  
OR YOU WANT TO REFER A YOUNG PERSON TO  
HOPE STREET IN MELTON, CONTACT:**

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