

HOPE STREET IN WHITTLESEA

The Hope Street in Whittlesea program is designed to address the needs of vulnerable young people in the Whittlesea 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 Whittlesea program helped to change one young girl's life for the better.





CASE STUDY CATHERINE'S STORY

Catherine came into the Hope Street in Whittlesea program, just eighteen and pregnant. She'd been couch-surfing with family and friends for a year, unable to live at her immediate family home due to ongoing conflict over her substance use. Catherine was referred to Hope Street by a housing and support worker at Anglicare.

During her pregnancy, Catherine made a life-changing decision to stop using substances for the sake of her unborn baby's health. She began to feel healthier and happier and started to spend her time more productively. Catherine was also able to begin happier and more regular contact with her mother. Soon after the birth of her baby, Catherine commenced a part-time course in Pathology as part of the employment, education and training component of her support plan.

Hope Street assisted with gaining the funding to purchase a computer and internet access for Catherine, to help with her homework requirements. With her case manager, Catherine checked out three child care centres in the area and settled on one she thought would provide the best care for her four month-old girl. Catherine's mother is also assisting her with child care needs so she can stay engaged in education. Catherine and her little girl moved into Public Housing after an offer via the Recurring Homelessness category, and is now settling into the local area with the assistance of her case manager.

Catherine is currently saving for a car, and has been referred to a local family support service for ongoing case management until she decides she no longer requires assistance and can live independently – which we suspect won't be far off.

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

Access Points

Melbourne Youth Support Service	9614 3688
North East Housing	9479 0700
Homeground	9288 9611
VincentCare	9304 0100

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