



Hope Street Youth and Family Services Limited ACN: 167 510 018  
Hope to Home in Whittlesea

# Hope to Home in Whittlesea Information for Partners



**Ksenya Kupres**  
Community Integration Facilitator  
Tel: (03) 8311 9635  
Email: [ksenya.kupres@hopest.org](mailto:ksenya.kupres@hopest.org)



## Overview

Hope to Home is a pilot initiative funded by Lord Mayors Charitable Fund and Hope Street Youth and Family Services. The project aims to reduce the number of young people at risk of homelessness by addressing the barriers contributing to homelessness in the City of Whittlesea.

Young people are referred to Hope to Home based on the recommendation of their case manager (either from the Hope Street in Whittlesea Program or Whittlesea Housing Service) that they are ready to graduate into private rental. Our aim is to support young people as they transition into private rental and assist them to increase their life skills to maintain the tenancy.

The funding has been used to employ a Community Integration Facilitator to help support the young people to find and maintain affordable housing and will also be used to subsidise the weekly rental on a property for the first four months of the tenancy. Hope Street Youth and Family Services will remain a co-lessee on the rental contract for the first 6 months of the tenancy and provide ongoing case management for up to 12 months.

With the support of a local real estate company, affordable units will be made available to the project and as a participant of Hope to Home each young person will be expected to work closely with their Case Manager and the Community Integration Facilitator over the first 12 months of their lease to ensure the success of their tenancy and the stability that brings.

As a partner of the Hope to Home initiative you will impact directly on the achievements and success of some of the most disadvantaged young people in the Shire of Whittlesea, ensuring their continued development and enhancing their ability to contribute positively to the local community.

## Aims

1. To reduce the number of young people at risk of homelessness
2. To facilitate 30 people and their children's transition from the Hope Street in Whittlesea Program or other housing agencies into a place they can call home that are affordable, sustainable and long-term (private rental).
3. To support young people aged 18-25 years old to build on their skills to maintain tenancy, employment, education and training, healthy relationships in their local community



## How it works

Hope to Home will work with young people who have reached relative stability in their homelessness journey. This is to ensure that they have every opportunity to make a successful transition into the private rental market and a full move away from the support of the homelessness service system. A significant screening process will form part of assessing the 'readiness' of a young person moving through the Hope to Home project and include;

1. Young person has demonstrated capacity to live independently (either through the existing Hope Street in Whittlesea program or through other local Housing Program.
2. Young person has secured or is very likely to secure employment, training or education
3. Young person is willing to engage in a case management plan that may be for a period of up to 12 months; to ensure the young person is progressing well and is unlikely to default on their obligations as a tenant. It is also to ensure the young person is self determined and is able to access other resources should they need. (Both mainstream e.g. local GP and specialist e.g. foodbank, emergency relief)
4. If young person is receiving Centrelink benefits and are eligible, they are registered to receive rental assistance/bond assistance.

## What does Hope to Home offer?

1. Hope to Home will support the young person(s), in partnership with a local real estate agency, to secure a private rental property
2. Hope to Home will act as a co-lessee to further ensure the success of the tenancy
3. Provide financial support to help with rental costs
4. Assist the young person to furnish the property
5. Provide Moving Out, Moving In Starter Kits of up to \$500 for essentials such as linen, crockery and utensils
6. Provide ongoing support to the young person(s) to increase their independent living skills (including budgeting, cooking, education or employment) for up to 6 months



## Common concerns addressed

1. If the young person is entitled to rental assistance, the financial assistance from Hope to Home project will not affect this.
2. The Hope to Home funding is available even if a young person has secured a Private Rental Brokerage (PRB) grant