

Our credentials

Hope Street has been providing specialist youth homelessness services to young people in Victoria for over 38 years. We have a strong track record of delivering high-impact services in local communities hard hit by youth homelessness. In delivering the First Response Youth Service in Whittlesea, we are drawing on our previous experiences with similar projects:

- First Response Youth Service established in the City of Melton in 2018 / 2019, with construction of a purpose-built youth refuge currently in progress and due for completion by the end of 2019
- A supported crisis accommodation centre running in Brunswick since 1981
- Specialist homelessness, housing and support programs provided in the City of Whittlesea since 2008



Let's do this!

In partnership with the City of Whittlesea, a site has been identified in South Morang, close to the train line and shopping centre as well as other community amenities.

In 2021 as a priority, Hope Street will progress our work with the local community to establish a First Response Youth Service in the City of Whittlesea.

Hope Street has invested resources to bring the project to a 'shovel ready' stage to expedite the project and construction commencement and completion.

For further information, please contact Donna Bennett, Chief Executive Officer at donna.bennett@hopest.org.

FIRST RESPONSE YOUTH SERVICE FOR MELBOURNE'S NORTH-EAST



Hope Street Youth and Family Services has an ambitious plan to build a First Response Youth Service in the City of Whittlesea, an area with high rates of youth homelessness. The need is big, but our vision is bigger.



What is the First Response Youth Service?

- Emergency accommodation for young people and families in a purpose-built 13-bedroom youth refuge
- Holistic, wrap-around case management and integrated support
- Prevention and life-long diversion from homelessness
- Mobile emergency response available 24/7, enhancing the supported crisis accommodation response



“I don’t feel homeless when I’m here. This place is my home. I look forward to getting home every single day.”

– Hope Street client

Who will benefit?

Young people (16 – 24 years old) and their children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, in crisis, disconnected from their family / community, and in need of a range of support responses. The service will support 220 young people and their children per year – 120 via the mobile outreach service and 100 via emergency accommodation at the refuge.



Why Whittlesea?

The City of Whittlesea is a growth corridor reporting high rates of youth homelessness, and there is currently no youth refuge in the area. Whittlesea has:

- One of the highest rates of family violence in Melbourne
- Two of the most socio-economically disadvantaged suburbs in Victoria (Lalor and Thomastown)
- The second highest youth unemployment rate in Melbourne
- High rates of mental health problems amongst young people aged 15 to 24 years – 25%