

## CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY

NEW Wollert childcare centre One Early Education Group will be holding a community family open day on Saturday. Managing director Richard Rice said the day was a terrific opportunity to support local businesses.

"It also gives the community a chance to connect and engage with each other around our incredible childcare facility," he said.

Families and business owners are invited to head to 236 Harvest Home Rd for face painting, a jumping castle and more.

Interactive stalls are available to all local businesses and can be booked by calling 9088 7160 or via email at director.wollert@onelearn.com.au

One Early Education Group managing director Richard Rice at the Wollert childcare centre.



### SOUTH MORANG

# Crisis beds edge closer

### Council strikes a deal with Hope Street service for youth homeless accommodation centre

Paul Shapiro

VULNERABLE young Whittlesea families impacted by homelessness will be helped with a new crisis accommodation centre to be built in South Morang.

The 12-bed supported crisis accommodation centre, to be run by Hope Street Youth and Family Services, will cost \$4.8 million to build and \$2 million a year to run.

It will also provide a 24-

hour, seven day-a-week response service to help place 220 young people aged 16 to 25, and their children, in emergency and mobile outreach accommodation.

Hope Street will model the centre, located on council land, on similar services it runs in Brunswick and Melton.

The centre will also act as a bridge to other services.

Hope Street approached Whittlesea Council seeking a

long-term lease for land on Embling St, South Morang.

Councillors unanimously voted to grant a 30-year lease for a nominal fee of \$104 a year, provided the not-for-profit company could raise the money to build the centre and fund ongoing operational costs.

The council will enter into a joint application with Hope Street to advocate to government, corporate, philanthropic and other

stakeholders to raise the required funds.

South East Ward councillor Alahna Desiato said she was "very proud" the council could provide the site to Hope Street.

"It's distressing to know there are homeless people who can't get the help they need in Whittlesea," Cr Desiato said.

"It's important we look after our residents so they don't have to travel to the city

to access the services they need."

Hope Street chief executive Donna Bennett said she was thrilled to be partnering with the council on the project.

She said the organisation was still in the early stages of exploring options to raise money through community consultation but the community was keen "to get behind us to address youth homelessness."

### Super toy recall

A line of DC Micro Pozers series one bendable figures sold nationwide has been recalled amid fears the toys pose a serious safety hazard. The figures have small magnets in their hands and feet which may detach from the toys and pose a choking hazard for children.

### Crime podcast

The Sunday Herald Sun's latest, must-listen-to podcast *Life and Crimes with Andrew Rule* is here. The podcast tells the stories behind the biggest criminal mysteries, the characters of yesteryear and the crooks of today. People can subscribe to the podcast via iTunes or RSS podcast feed.



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## MORNING TOUR

Friday, 4 May

9:00am-10:15am

Principal's address at 9:00am

REGISTER AT

WWW.CLC.VIC.EDU.AU/TOURS

2020 Year 7 Enrolments close, 17 August 2018

Courage. Resilience. Empathy. Integrity



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