

Youth need help now

Homelessness emerges as major issue

Margot Taylor

WHITTLESEA'S increasing youth homelessness problem was put under the spotlight at a panel discussion earlier this month.

Whittlesea woman Whitney, a young mother who had experienced homelessness, said it was stressful not having adequate youth services in Whittlesea.

"I have children in this area, and this is my home, but there were no beds available for me when I was homeless," Whitney said.

She said she ended up in a refuge in Brunswick and then transitional housing in Melton.

"I had to travel for hours a day to be able to see my children," she said.

Data from the last Census showed 630 people experienced homelessness in Whittlesea in 2016.

Hope Street Youth and Family Services chief executive Donna Bennett said there was an increased need for homelessness services in Whittlesea because the district had a high rate of domestic violence and youth unemployment.

Hope Street would work with Whittlesea Council to build a first response youth service in the area, Ms Bennett said.



DORIAN FEELS RIGHT AT HOME IN NEW DEVELOPMENT

IMAGINE being surrounded by 14,999 empty houses.

For Dorian Sinopoli, this is a reality. Last week, Mr Sinopoli was the first resident to move into Wollert's Lyndarum North community. Over the coming years, more than 40,000

others will join him in 15,000 houses as neighbours in the new Wollert Precinct.

Mr Sinopoli said the neighbourhood was quiet at the moment "but there will be hustle and bustle around the streets soon".

AV Jennings state general manager Joanne Furlong said the development was "a major milestone for Whittlesea community".

The \$400 million Wollert Precinct Structure Plan was announced in 2017. Lyndarum

North would house 5000 people and include Wollert's largest town centre.

Lyndarum North resident Dorian Sinopoli outside his new house in Wollert.

Pawfect Pets

These animals are looking for their forever home. Can you help?

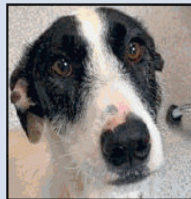
Epping Animal Welfare Facility
20 Companion Pl, Epping
Ph: 8401 6600

RSPCA
Victoria



DEW DROP

Dew Drop is an affectionate puss who hopes to find a family who will love her calm nature. This 10-month-old would like to live in a quiet adult household.



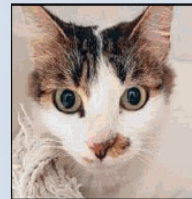
NOVAH

Novah is a bouncy 11-month-old pup who loves other people and dogs a lot. He is still a puppy so will need some further training to help him.



WALLY

Wally is a fluffy one-year-old who would like a calm environment to help her blossom. Her beautiful coat will need brushing every few days.



MEGAN

Megan is a friendly three-year-old girl who loves to hang around people. She would suit a family environment with primary school-aged kids.

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