

## 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](mailto: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%