



WHAT IS BOOST?

The BOOST Program works with young people entering the homelessness service system who have complex needs and/or challenging behaviour(s). Combined with the Hope Street Youth Residential Program (Refuge), BOOST can provide an immediate response around-the-clock to young people in need.

Vital access points such as North East Housing Service, MYSS, Homeground and Vincentcare are able to link young people to the BOOST program immediately. The program aims to improve service system integration and medium/long term diversion from the homelessness service system.

BOOST naturally feeds into the other specialist youth programs operating at Hope Street. This could mean:

- providing young people with expert assistance (the Royal District Nursing Service) for better health and wellbeing, local GPs, pre and post natal services, dental and optical appointments,
- identifying that a young person might have signs of post-traumatic stress disorder/anxiety or depression and drug use (Homeless Youth Dual Diagnosis Initiative),
- grief and loss of family support (Young Reconciliation Program), or even
- suddenly finding themselves sleeping rough and having to use the BOOST Short Stay Bed (Youth Residential Program).

BOOST has a full-time team of specialist practitioners as well as a small pool of casual staff to provide help to young people and families 24/7.

See overleaf for a story on how the Hope Street BOOST program helped two young men immediately tackle their issues with anxiety, depression and homelessness.





CASE STUDY JAMES AND JIM

James and Jim were living with friends' families in uncertain circumstances. Being mates, they decided they should pool their resources and try and rent a house together.

James had left his family home due to difficulties communicating with his father. He moved in with his girlfriend but that relationship ended, leaving him homeless again. Suffering from depression and anxiety, James tried to find work but found it hard due to a broken hand.

Jim had to move out because of ongoing conflict with his mother which resulted in police involvement. Jim was working full-time, however, due to only being seventeen, he was unable to apply for a private rental property.

After being referred to BOOST over a three week period, the boys' fortunes immediately started to change.

BOOST staff assessed private rental properties with them and discussed strategies such as how to present at an inspection. The boys learned about financial entitlements like Bond Loan, Private Rental Brokerage and Rent in Advance. Estate agents were contacted and asked about properties that James and Jim would be eligible for.

James was referred to the Homeless Youth Dual Diagnosis Initiative for some support with his mental issues. He enrolled at a Youth Employment program through Vincentcare. Jim was found to have grief issues due to the death of his father, and was referred to the Youth Reconciliation Program for some support around the relationship with his mother.

After exploring options with the help of BOOST and other related Hope Street programs, James and Jim felt that they weren't in fact ready to enter into a private rental agreement. Both ended up respectively negotiating a more permanent living arrangement with the families they were currently with.

James enrolled in a business course and received ongoing support and medication for his depression from a local GP. Jim continued working casually until he could gain full-time work and again apply for a rental property when he turned eighteen.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE HELP LIKE JAMES AND JIM,
OR YOU WANT TO REFER A YOUNG PERSON
TO BOOST, CONTACT:**

Access Points

Melbourne Youth Support Service 9614 3688
North East Housing 9479 0700
Homeground 9288 9611
VincentCare 9304 0100

HOPE STREET 8311 9610
hopest@hopest.org