

WODONGA EDUCATION FIRST YOUTH FOYER

Breaking the poverty cycle – a supportive place to live and study



ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project is to construct and operate a 7-star energy rated, 40 studio apartment building with community living spaces, to provide youth (16–24 years) experiencing or at risk of homelessness with transitional, affordable accommodation while they undertake education, training and employment opportunities and expand their capabilities in a supported manner.

The building will be on the Wodonga TAFE campus (neighbouring the La Trobe University campus) and is based on the successful Education First Youth Foyer model of the Brotherhood of St Laurence implemented under the Victorian Government housing program at three TAFE campuses across Victoria – Holmesglen (Chadstone), Kangan (Broadmeadows) and GOTAFE (Shepparton).

GOVERNMENT ASK

\$15 million construction + \$2 million p.a. operational.

PROJECT OWNER

Wodonga TAFE in partnership with Beyond Housing, Junction Support Services, YES Unlimited, City of Wodonga, Albury Council and Brotherhood of St Laurence.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Available by request:

- Business Case: Establishing a Wodonga Education First Youth Foyer – Brotherhood of St Laurence (2021).
- Education First Youth Foyers: Economic Evaluation – Brotherhood of St Laurence & KPMG (June 2019).
- Schematic Designs.

WHAT IT WILL ACHIEVE

The Wodonga Education First Youth Foyer, to be based at Wodonga TAFE, is an evidence based, cost-effective initiative that will reduce youth homelessness, improve educational achievement, increase employment opportunities, and equip vulnerable young people in the region with critical life skills.



EXISTING EDUCATION YOUTH FOYERS IMPACT

85% OF YOUTHS

in work or education one year after exiting the Youth Foyer.

75% OF YOUTHS

completed year 12 or equivalent during time at Youth Foyer.

Wodonga is a priority site for a Youth Foyer because:

- **423 homeless young people** (ABS 2016).
- Significant pockets of **high socio-economic** disadvantage.
- Highest level of **'mental stress'** incidents reported to Department of Education and Training by local schools.
- It is a key initiative identified through the OMRP **Wodonga Youth Mental Health Deep Dive** (2020) which identified homelessness and risk of homelessness as key barriers to mental health service access and treatment.
- **Prioritised in the Wodonga Council Youth Strategy** and the Wodonga Youth Homelessness Strategy.
- **19 New ongoing jobs** will be created.



OMRP CONTACT

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