



## ACCESS TO SERVICES

### DRUG REHAB FACILITY AND SERVICES PACKAGE

#### CURRENT SITUATION

Mitchell Shire has a current population of around 45,000<sup>1</sup> and is one of the fastest growing councils in Victoria<sup>2</sup>. In the next 25-30 years, our population is expected to grow to over 230,000<sup>3</sup>.

Although we are only at the beginning of our rapid growth, our communities are already experiencing limited access to human services<sup>4</sup>. Residents are frequently required to travel to services, and are increasingly having to seek services out of the municipality. This is difficult for many families, with almost a third of households in Mitchell Shire having access to only one car or no motorised vehicle at all<sup>5</sup>.

There is a lack of support services and programs that treat addiction and withdrawal from alcohol and other drugs (prescription and illicit). As a result Mitchell Shire is presenting with alarming (and growing) drug use and crime statistics.

#### ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG STATISTICS

- > From 2011-2017, Mitchell Shire's recorded drug offences total has increased by 214%<sup>6</sup>.
- > Mitchell Shire's recorded drug offence rate total is almost double that of Victoria, with a rate of 738 persons per 100,000 population compared to Victoria's rate of 458 persons per 100,000 population<sup>6</sup>.
- > From 2011 - 2017 the number of ambulance attendances to alcohol related incidents in Mitchell Shire has increased by 60%<sup>7</sup>.
- > From 2011 - 2017 the number of ambulance attendances to any illicit drugs-related incident in Mitchell Shire increased by 265%<sup>7</sup>.
- > In the VicHealth Indicators Survey, just under one third (31.4%) of residents in the Mitchell Shire identified as being at risk of short-term harm from alcohol in a given month<sup>8</sup>.
- > In the 2017 Mitchell Shire Council Community Survey, over 60% of respondents indicated that it is very important for council to focus on the issues of reducing harmful alcohol and drug use<sup>9</sup>.

#### MORE INFORMATION.

Advocacy and Community Services

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8. VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015 Result, Mitchell LGA Profile, Available at: vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/vichealth-indicators-lga-profiles-2015. Accessed 30 Jan 2018.  
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*Mitchell Shire Council is seeking a commitment from the State Government to build a drug rehabilitation facility and provide funding for a drug services package, including outreach services and carer support.*

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#### THE ASK

**FOLLOWING EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICE, ACCESS TO TIMELY, CONSISTENT AND TARGETED PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND HARM MINIMISATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE IMPERATIVE TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY.**

#### THE ASK CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS:

- 1. DRUG REHABILITATION FACILITY CONSTRUCTION**  
\$6,000,000 for a drug rehabilitation facility within the Mitchell Shire.
- 2. DRUG REHABILITATION FACILITY OPERATION**  
\$1,000,000 to support the operation of the drug rehabilitation facility.
- 3. COMMUNITY BASED OUTREACH SERVICES AND CARER SUPPORT**  
\$800,000 for increased outreach programs and carer support across Mitchell Shire for immediate community based service response/crisis response.

#### THE BENEFITS

- 1. DRUG REHABILITATION FACILITY**  
The allocation of a drug rehabilitation facility located within Mitchell Shire boundaries will address the lack of support services regarding alcohol and other drugs and will provide residents with timely and effective intervention. A rehabilitation facility within Mitchell Shire will provide a local response to drug and alcohol misuse, and provide individuals with therapeutic strategies for ongoing recovery. Timely rehabilitation services will provide important emotional support and practical assistance to families and carers to aid the recovery journey.
- 2. COMMUNITY BASED OUTREACH SERVICES AND CARER SUPPORT**  
The allocation of a package of services will allow a flexible and holistic approach to service provision such as community based counselling and support and a focus on carers education and support services.