



ACCESS TO SERVICES

YOUTH SERVICES HUB (WALLAN)

CURRENT SITUATION

Mitchell Shire has a current population of around 45,000¹ and is one of the fastest growing councils in Victoria². In the next 25-30 years, our population is expected to grow to over 230,000³.

Although we are only at the beginning of our rapid growth, our communities are already experiencing limited access to human services⁴. 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 one third of households in Mitchell Shire having access to only one car or no motorised vehicle at all⁵.

Our community's lack of access to services is evident, as Mitchell Shire is presenting with increasing rates of youth mental health issues including anxiety and depression, attempted suicide, substance use as well as disengagement and withdrawal from formal education.

YOUTH STATISTICS

- > Research suggests that half of all lifetime cases of mental health disorders begin by the age of 14 years⁶, and Mitchell Shire has a higher rate of adults that experience high or very-high psychological distress (14.8%) compared to the Victorian average (12.6%)⁷.
- > The biggest killer of young Australians is suicide⁸.
- > The rate of deaths by suicide in young Australians has grown over the last ten years⁸.
- > In the 2017 Mitchell Shire Youth Survey, some of the major areas of support identified for Mitchell Youth Services to focus on were: suicide prevention (29.6%), support for drug addiction (29.4%) and mental illness (17.5%)⁹.
- > In the 2017 Mitchell Shire Youth Survey, 13.7% of respondents indicated having a mental illness, with anxiety and panic disorders the most common, closely followed by depression⁹.
- > In the 2017 Mitchell Shire Youth Survey, 12.8% of respondents reported that they had taken drugs previously, and 35.5% reported they had previously consumed alcohol⁹.

MORE INFORMATION.

Advocacy and Community Services
(03) 5734 6200



1. Forecast.id.com.au. (2018). Population forecasts, Mitchell Shire, forecast.id [online] Available at: forecast.id.com.au/mitchell [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].
2. Allan, G. and Allan, G. (2018). Australia's top 20 fastest growing areas, .id blog. [online] .id blog. Available at: blog.id.com.au/2017/population/population-trends/australias-top-20-fastest-growing-areas/ [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].
3. Potential Development Sequencing Northern Growth Corridor. (2016). Final Version, PATCH design and plan, (calculated on new figure of 17 dwellings/ha).
4. Interface Council Group Human Services Gap Analysis. (2017). Final Report, Version 7.3. [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].
5. Profile.id.com.au. (2018). Car ownership, Mitchell Shire, profile.id. [online] Available at: profile.id.com.au/mitchell/car-ownership [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].
6. Young People's Mental Health over the Years, Youth Survey 2012-2014 (2015), Mission Australia, Blackdog institute
7. Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, (2016), Victorian Population Health Survey 2014, State Government of Victoria, Melbourne, www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems/health-status-of-victorians/survey-data-and-reports/victorian-population-health-survey/victorian-population-health-survey-2014 [Accessed 29 Jan 2018].
8. Youthbeyondblue.com. (2018). beyondblue. [online] Available at: https://www.youthbeyondblue.com/footer/stats-and-facts [Accessed 23 Jan. 2018].
9. La Trobe University, (2017) Youth Survey Report, Mitchell Shire Council.



ACCESS TO SERVICES

YOUTH SERVICES HUB (WALLAN)

Mitchell Shire Council is seeking a commitment from the State Government to provide funding into research and refurbishment of a Youth Services Hub based in an existing Council building in Wallan.

THE ASK

\$250,000 for the establishment (fit-out) of a youth hub at an existing Council building, and **\$300,000 per annum** for services to assist with addressing the precursors to mental health issues, as well as providing opportunities for counselling and support for individuals and families. The hub will also provide access to a variety of other youth services, to address additional issues experienced by young people, such as: homelessness, social isolation, disengagement with education.

THE BENEFITS

The hub will facilitate the co-location of services to deliver and develop a range of health and wellbeing services catered to the young people of Mitchell Shire.

This will see a positive impact in the way of:

- > increased access to relevant and essential services
- > decreased youth mental health issues
- > decreased youth justice issues
- > increased youth employment
- > increased educational outcomes and coordinated referral pathways
- > reduced commute times to services
- > early recognition and treatment of health issues, ensuring they do not worsen as they enter adulthood or become critical
- > increased liveability in the area

Under the current proposal the Wallan Youth Hub's main objectives are to:

- > Provide positive diversionary program opportunities as well as referral pathways for young people at risk of poor mental health.
- > Work with local service stakeholders to organise delivery of activities, services and education/awareness programs specifically targeting young people.
- > Facilitate the delivery of targeted youth employment and training programs and activities.