

# BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER

A prospectus to address disadvantage in the City of Whittlesea



*A Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership initiative*





# Foreword

**The City of Whittlesea is one of the major growth areas in Melbourne. With a current population of 209,118, we welcome over 7,000 new residents to the municipality every year and by 2037 our city is projected to be home to more than 350,000 people.**



*The Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership board.*

Located 20 kilometres northeast of the CBD, we are already one of the largest municipalities in Melbourne, attracting young families, newly arrived migrants and refugees. We also have a large and diverse elderly community. The fast and significant population growth experienced within the municipality means infrastructure, capital and key services are often stretched, as demand outpaces the supply capacity of our current resources. As a result, our community is missing out on access to the essential services and facilities enjoyed by those living closer to the city in more established municipalities.

While these issues affect the community as a whole, they are often most detrimental to the disadvantaged members of our community — those who are most vulnerable and at risk if we fail to act in time. If not addressed now, the lack of support afforded to those in need can lead to an entrenched inequality that is often far more costly and difficult to tackle later in life.

The Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership is about addressing social disadvantage and bridging the service gap, so that we can build a better future together. The Partnership has been advocating for adequate services for the City of Whittlesea since 2006 and works in collaboration with stakeholders in an effort to ensure essential services are available and accessible for vulnerable communities.

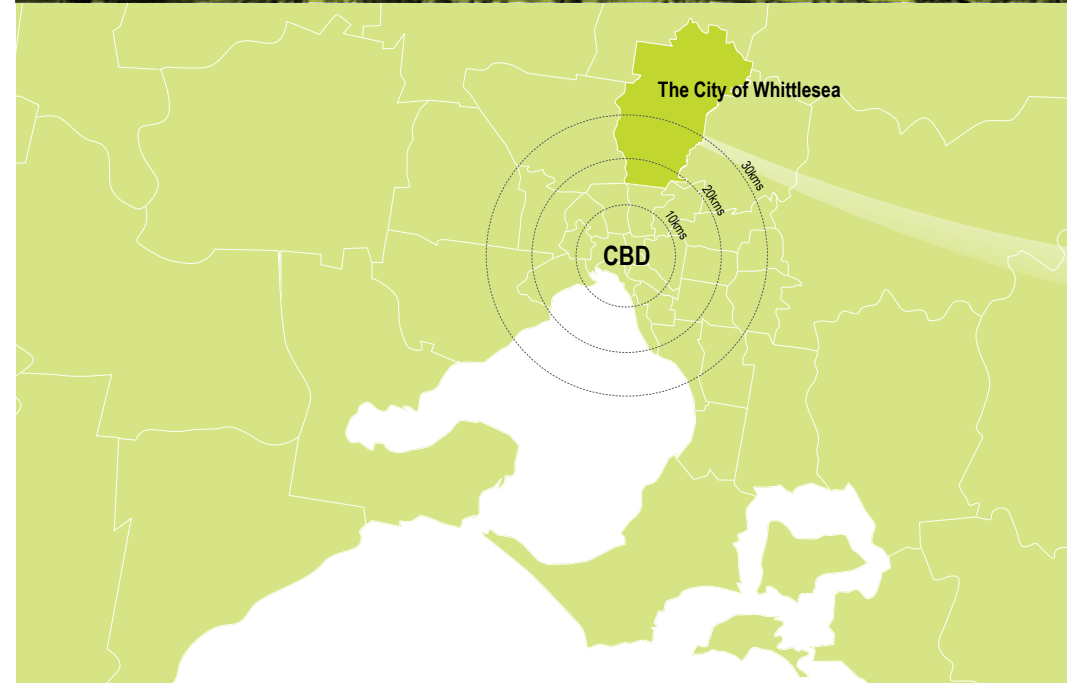
This prospectus provides you with a clear guide to the locally-based projects that will make a real difference to people's lives — projects your support can help bring to life. It includes 14 projects that focus on early intervention, prevention and place-based solutions, providing targeted support to disadvantaged communities and neighbourhoods.

We believe strongly in the importance of building a robust service approach in addressing disadvantage in our community and hope you will join us on our journey to build a better future together.

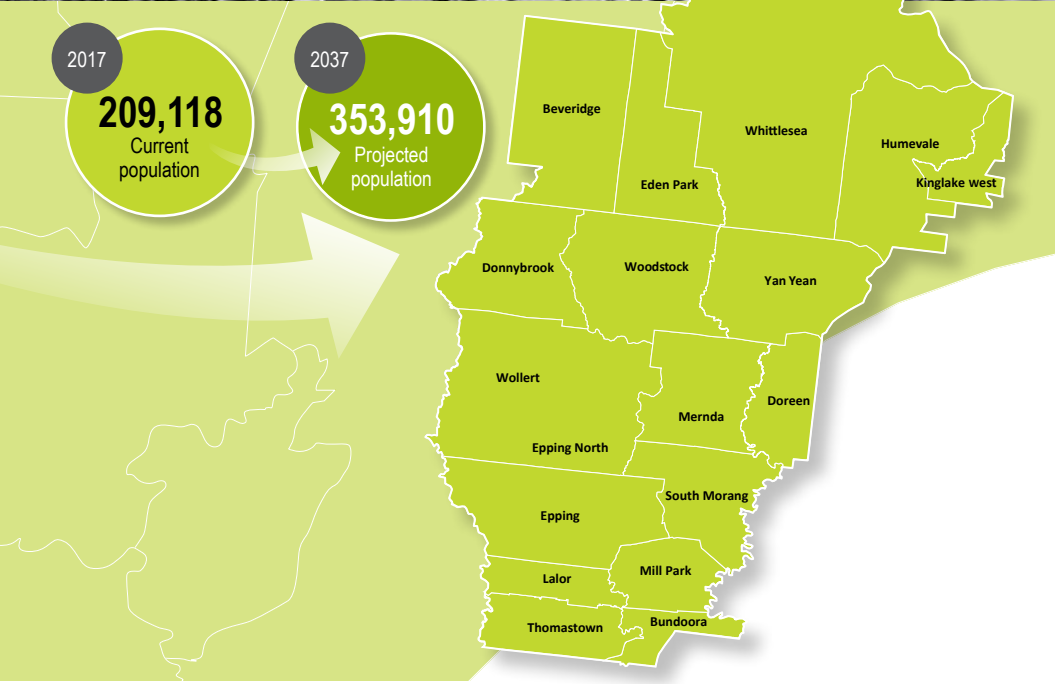
**Belgin Besim**  
**Chairperson**  
**Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership**

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## Our challenge

**The City of Whittlesea is the fourth fastest growing municipality in Victoria. Its current population of 209,118 is projected to reach more than 350,000 by 2037. It is also Melbourne's seventh largest municipality, covering a land area of about 490 square kilometres.**

Located on Melbourne's metropolitan fringe, the municipality is comprised of established urban and rural areas as well as new growth suburbs. It includes the rural centre of Whittlesea township, the rural localities of Beveridge, Donnybrook, Eden Park, Humevale, Kinglake West, Woodstock and Yan Yean and the established suburbs of Bundoora, Mill Park, Thomastown, Lalor and Epping, as well as the rapidly growing urban areas of Doreen, Epping North, Mernda, South Morang (including Quarry Hills) and Wollert.

The municipality is home to a high proportion of communities that are vulnerable to entrenched disadvantage, communities that often face multiple and complex challenges that negatively impact their health, learning and social outcomes.

Whilst disadvantage can affect anyone, entrenched disadvantage has a tendency to be particularly detrimental, potentially limiting an individual's ability to participate fully in our economy and society. Once disadvantage imbeds itself, it is often lifelong.

In addition to the economic issues faced by residents, the municipality has the highest rate of family violence in Melbourne's North East Department of Health and Human Services region.

Unacceptable numbers of youth appear to be disengaging from education and employment, further entrenching the economic issues impacting the municipality as a whole.

A lack of affordable public transport options means residents are vulnerable to social isolation and have to travel greater distances to work as well as to access many essential services.

This prospectus presents a range of projects that will help address these key challenges now and into the future.

# City of Whittlesea at a glance

## Income



**14%**  
have a weekly household  
income of \$599 or less<sup>1</sup>

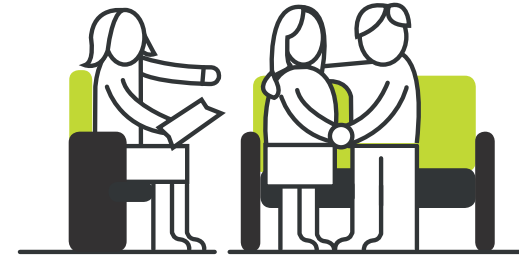
**54%**  
report moderate to heavy  
housing related financial stress<sup>1</sup>

## Access to local services

% who feel it is difficult to access local services<sup>1</sup>

**33%**  
Mental health

**23%**  
Respite services

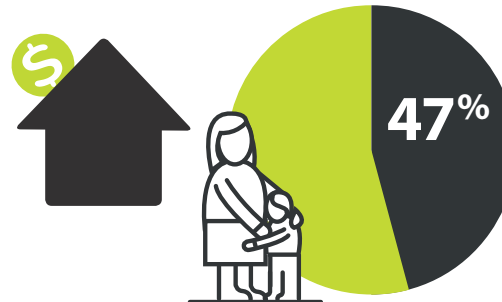


## Youth unemployment



**2<sup>nd</sup>** highest youth unemployment  
rate in Greater Melbourne<sup>2</sup>

## Single parent income



Nearly half of all single parent households  
have no parent in paid employment<sup>4</sup>

## Health

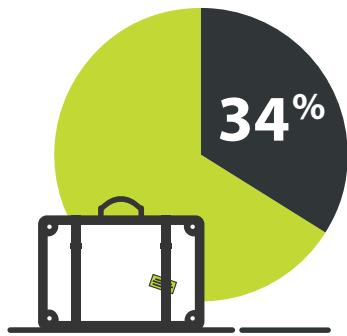
**26%**  
living with a permanent or long-term  
disability or medical condition<sup>1</sup>



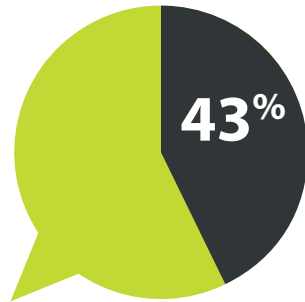
### References:

- <sup>1</sup> City of Whittlesea (2016). Annual Household Survey Municipal Report.
- <sup>2</sup> National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (2015). Young People and Unemployment in Melbourne's North, A paper for NORTH Link.
- <sup>3</sup> Crime Statistics Agency Victoria (2016) Family Incidents Data Table, Melbourne: Crime Statistics Agency Victoria.
- <sup>4</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013). 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

## Diversity

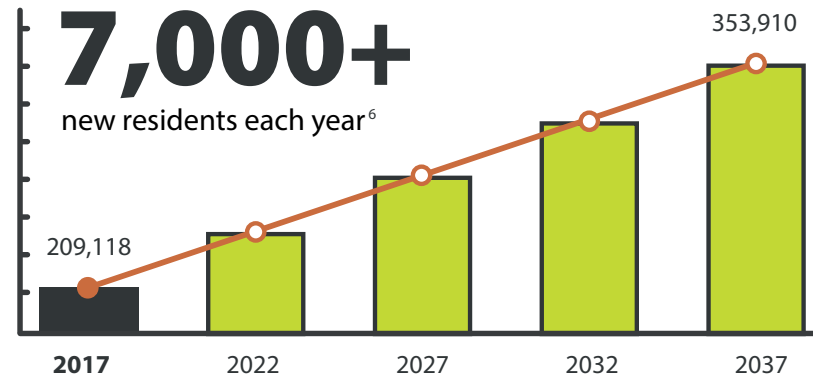


born overseas<sup>5</sup>

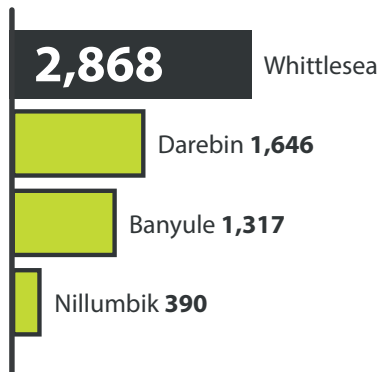


speak a language other than English at home<sup>5</sup>

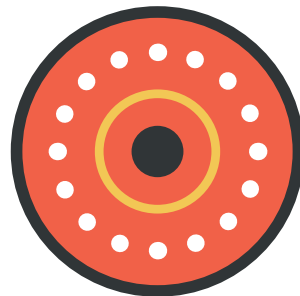
## Growth



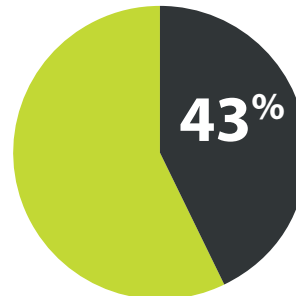
## Family violence reports 2016<sup>3</sup>



## Population



**4<sup>th</sup>** largest Indigenous population in municipal Melbourne<sup>5</sup>



Indigenous population aged between 0 and 17 years, with a median age of 21 years<sup>4</sup>



aged 65 years +<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> atlas.id (2016). City of Whittlesea Population Demographics.

<sup>6</sup> Forecast .id. Population forecasts, 2017 to 2037, prepared by .id December 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Forecast .id. Population aged 65 and over in 2017, prepared by .id December 2016.

All Statistics quoted are current as at the time of publication 09/05/2017.

# Background

## The concept

**The Whittlesea Community Futures prospectus presents a number of evidence based, locally driven projects, endorsed by the Whittlesea Community Futures (WCF) Partnership as potential solutions to address the many social and economic disadvantages faced by our community today and into the future.**

The purpose of this document is to attract and guide philanthropic investment and strategic giving in the City of Whittlesea, to proactively address the disadvantages faced by our community.

This prospectus has been developed by the WCF Partnership, which comprises more than 55 organisations, including not-for-profits, state and federal government departments and the City of Whittlesea. It is a voluntary alliance that works together with a commitment toward shared goals. All member agencies recognise the strength of an effective partnership in contributing to the wellbeing of the City of Whittlesea community.

It is based on an initiative by the Australian Communities Foundation (formerly the Melbourne Community Foundation) which clearly demonstrated that evidence based research can lead to collaborative partnerships between philanthropists, businesses and community organisations to meet identified needs.

Adopting this approach, the City of Whittlesea has attracted funding for a number of initiatives. Building on this model, the WCF Partnership has developed its own prospectus to address growing disadvantage in our community.

This prospectus encourages philanthropic trusts, large corporations and small businesses, all tiers of government and community groups to actively work together to address the key social issues facing the Whittlesea community.

## Our approach

The Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership represents a new proactive approach to identifying and addressing disadvantage and inequalities in the City of Whittlesea.

It brings together a number of community service organisations that otherwise would be competing with each other for limited funding to work collaboratively on developing specific projects that provide a tangible benefit to the whole community.

It makes it easier for philanthropic trusts, corporate and community organisations to support a project that addresses a specific area of disadvantage. It also enables philanthropic trusts to have greater confidence that their investments will deliver positive, life-changing results in the local community.

The projects in this prospectus have satisfied key criteria, including:

- Addressing a demonstrated critical need of the local community
- Providing adequate social return for the investment required
- Building local capacity
- Having the expertise and experience to successfully deliver the project
- Having a clear plan for monitoring and evaluating the initiative
- Outlining a true partnership approach with clear roles and responsibilities for all involved.

The WCF Partnership actively seeks to engage with local businesses and large corporations who care about this community. It provides a platform for businesses to contribute to the wellbeing of the community in which they are based. In return, the initiative provides ample opportunities for business to promote their brand. Local businesses prosper in communities that thrive.

It is widely recognised that addressing complex social issues involves action by all sectors – government, philanthropic, corporate and the community.

The WCF Partnership is seeking funding to deliver these vital initiatives.





## Our priority areas

The Whittlesea Community Futures prospectus focuses on five strategic priorities. These are:

- Early years
- Young people
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities
- People with disabilities
- Positive ageing.

Under these five strategic priorities, the WCF Partnership has identified 14 projects that address specific social issues facing local communities. The projects target early years intervention, family violence, young people's mental health, youth disengagement, disability, refugee and asylum seekers and financial vulnerability.

The range of issues included in this prospectus clearly demonstrate the spectrum of need in the City of Whittlesea. The prospectus also seeks to tackle the hard issues often overlooked by state and federal government funding streams.



# Whittlesea Community Futures partners

In partnership with:



Our project partners:



## Projects

Project	Project Focus	\$ Needed	Lead agency	Page No.
1 <b>Family Man: Supporting Dads in their Parenting Role</b>	Early childhood intervention	\$272,000 over 2 years	Children's Protection Society	12
2 <b>Bringing Up Boys</b>	Tackling family violence	\$496,000 over 2 years	Kildonan UnitingCare	14
3 <b>Connecting Families Through Play</b>	Early childhood intervention	\$272,000 over 2 years	City of Whittlesea	16
4 <b>Settling in Well: Early Years Cross-Cultural Collaborative in Whittlesea</b>	Supporting migrant and refugee families	\$607,000 over 3 years	VICSEG New Futures	18
5 <b>Employment Pathways for People Seeking Asylum</b>	Jobs for young asylum seekers	\$157,863 over 1 year	Brotherhood of St. Laurence	20
6 <b>Communities for Respect</b>	Tackling family violence	\$358,742 over 2 years	The Salvation Army Crossroads Youth & Family Services Network	22
7 <b>Learning Together: Aboriginal Young People, Schools and Families</b>	Indigenous education	\$120,000 over 1 year	The Salvation Army Crossroads Youth & Family Services Network	24
8 <b>Voiceless Journeys</b>	Supporting asylum seekers and refugees	\$35,500 over 1 year	Ondru	26
9 <b>Strong Minds: A Partnership to Strengthen Youth Mental Health</b>	Building mental health resilience in young people	\$358,000 over 2 years	Kildonan UnitingCare	28
10 <b>Bounce Back: Encouraging Young People to Reengage with Education</b>	Education support for disengaged students	\$317,188 over 1 year	The Salvation Army Crossroads Youth & Family Services Network	30
11 <b>Invigor8ing Education</b>	Motivating at-risk Year 8 students to stay engaged in school	\$23,600 over 1 year	YMCA Whittlesea	32
12 <b>MIDA Café</b>	Employment for people with disabilities and mental illness	\$25,000 over 1 year	Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) Mill Park	34
13 <b>Carers' Voice</b>	Supporting carers of children with a disability	\$6,500 over 1 year	YPRL Mill Park	36
14 <b>Vulnerable Families Solar Project</b>	Access to renewable energy and energy efficiency advice for vulnerable households.	\$350,000 over 1 year	Kildonan UnitingCare	38



## Project 1

### Family Man: Supporting Dads in their Parenting Role

#### Project focus

##### Early childhood intervention

*Helping 80 fathers a year to be more involved in parenting which can have a significant impact on a child's cognitive development, academic achievement, positive mental health and school readiness.*

### What is the project?

**This project will target at risk and disadvantaged families to support fathers to become more involved in parenting and play an active role in their children's lives. The proposed programs will boost fathers' confidence in their parenting skills and improve their knowledge and access to support services in their local community. Supporting fathers to be better parents will strengthen families and provide better outcomes for children.**

A father's involvement in parenting can have a significant impact on a child's cognitive development, academic achievement, positive mental health and school readiness.

The extent of a father's involvement in the birth and early parenting of children can also strengthen a couple's relationship, reduce family stress, enhance the mother's role and establish an important foundation for the ongoing relationship with their children.

Fathers face many pressures when balancing work and family responsibilities. In particular, these challenges can have a disproportionate impact on those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

While fathers are, and want to be more actively involved in parenting they often lack information and may be reluctant to seek help. In addition, many family-based services have evolved to respond to the needs of mothers and children and are not inclusive of fathers.

This project will undertake an assessment of the needs of local fathers, identifying gaps in supports and services. It will specifically target at risk families including those with complex needs, families affected by disability and those from Aboriginal and non-English speaking backgrounds. It will also provide specialist training for early years providers and related community agencies to help them deliver services that are more inclusive of fathers.

A brokerage model will enable local services to apply for funding to initiate and trial new programs or events that support fathers and their families. This may include a dads' parenting group for men with a history of family violence, an after-hours teen parenting program for dads and establishing a fathers' peer support network.

Up to 10 initiatives or activities a year will be funded with at least eight fathers and their families participating in each group, reaching about 80 families a year. It will also provide a minimum of 10 training sessions to local service agencies previously considered the domain of mothers, including health services and children's health care.

It is expected up to 60 local services will benefit from increased resources and information supporting the needs of fathers. This will in turn generate new, targeted programs or activities.



## Who benefits?

- At risk families and children
- Community service agencies benefit from training that is more inclusive of fathers.

## Who's leading it?

The Children's Protection Society.

## Who are the partners?

The Whittlesea Early Years Partnership agencies are the main partners with a number of other agencies offering support through the Father Inclusive Practice Network such as Maternal and Child Health services, Melbourne City Mission, Brotherhood of St. Laurence, Plenty Valley Community Health and others.

## How can you support us?

\$272,000 over two years to:

- Employ a part-time Project Officer (0.6 EFT)
- Provide a \$60,000 brokerage fund and cover administrative supplies.

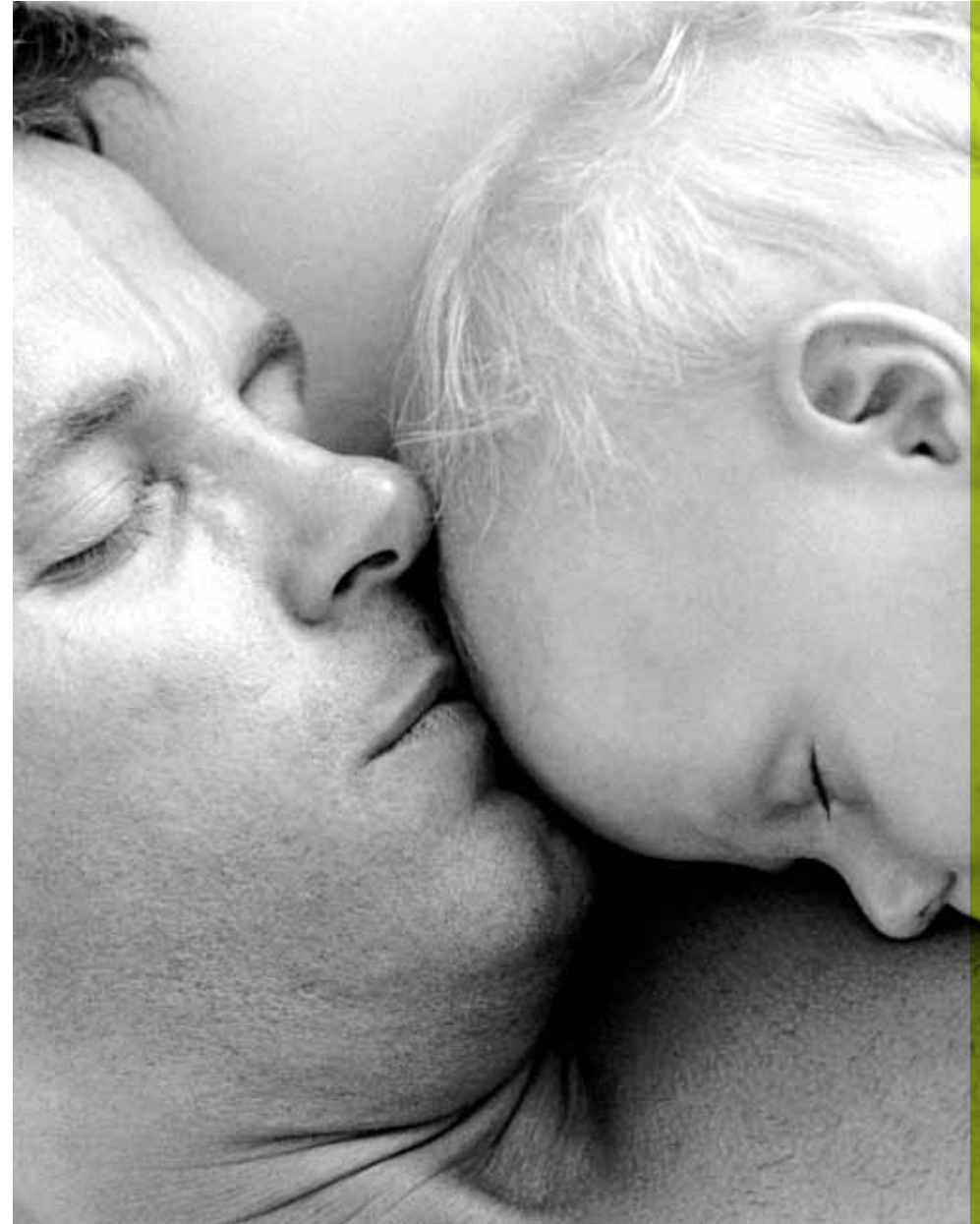
## Project contact

### Jane Williams

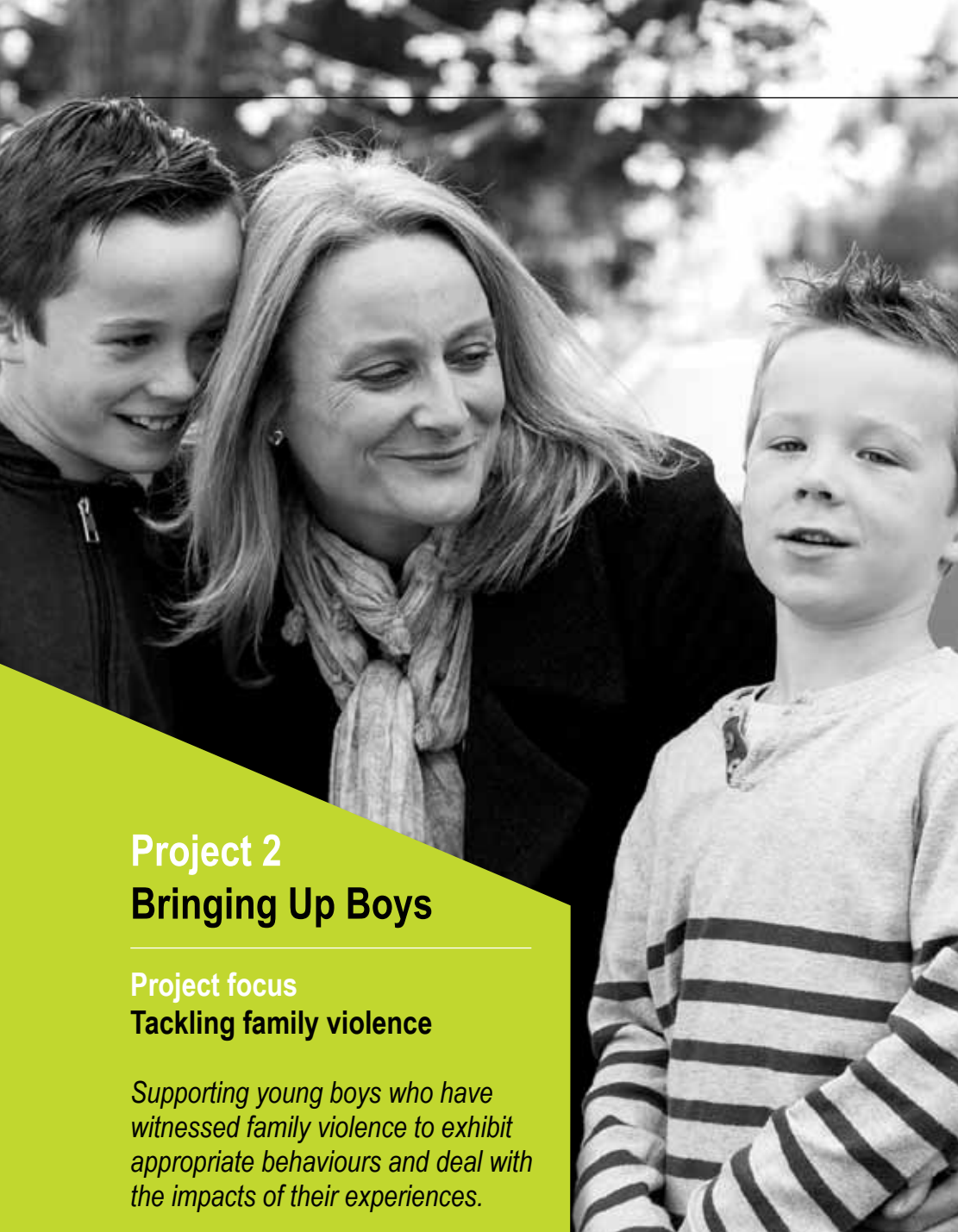
Executive Manager, Fathers' Programs  
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## Project 2 Bringing Up Boys

### Project focus Tackling family violence

*Supporting young boys who have witnessed family violence to exhibit appropriate behaviours and deal with the impacts of their experiences.*

### What is the project?

**The Bringing Up Boys project tackles the increasing incidences of family violence across Whittlesea through both a preventive and early intervention framework.**

The project was developed as a response to an increasing number of parents – mostly single mothers – identifying young boys aged between four and 10 years old as being aggressive and ‘out of control’. It was common for these families and women to have experienced family violence.

Sole-mothers raising sons face a range of issues. There is a common assumption that a male role model is important for the ‘normal’ development of boys. This can leave women feeling guilty and responsible for the lack of a father figure in their son’s life. At the same time mothers can frequently feel at a loss as to how to deal with their son’s aggressive behaviours.

The Bringing Up Boys project will conduct four eight-week playgroups (one per term) involving eight to 10 parents each. The playgroups will target sole mothers currently experiencing family violence and offer alternative support to address her and her children’s safety and wellbeing.

Mothers will attend the playgroup meetings with their children and receive support and advice on dealing with aggressive behaviours. Specific parenting support, counselling and therapeutic support will also be available at the sessions.

Participants will be recruited through word of mouth, as well as council networks, family violence agencies and referrals from local Maternal and Child Health centres, preschools and primary schools.

The project will also engage a Child Psychologist to conduct a training forum on parenting boys who have experienced family violence.

In addition, the project will build capacity in agencies that work with, or come into contact with children who may have experienced family violence. It will assist agencies to understand why children behave in negative ways and how best to support those who have experienced trauma.

Family violence crosses all cultures and the project will target culturally and linguistically diverse communities, particularly the South Asian community to strengthen its understanding of the impacts of violence on children and the importance of respectful relationships.

The Bringing Up Boys project provides immediate support to women and children affected by family violence. It also seeks to break the cycle of family violence by addressing unacceptable behaviour in boys at an early stage in their life.

## Who benefits?

- Sole mothers and young boys who have experienced family violence
- Agencies working in the early years sector, including Maternal and Child Health, preschools and primary schools as well as mental health and other services.

## Who's leading it?

Kildonan UnitingCare.

## Who are the partners?

The City of Whittlesea (Early Years) and Anglicare Victoria.

## How can you support us?

\$496,000 over two years to:

- Employ a full-time Coordinator
- Employ a Parent/Child Support Worker for four days a week to provide counselling and casework management.

Kildonan UnitingCare and Anglicare Victoria will provide in-kind administrative support and transport, as well as equipment such as phones and computers.

## Progress

A program manual, Bringing Up Boys has been developed and includes a template for the delivery of the parents' program.

## Project contact

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Executive Manager, Child, Youth & Family  
Kildonan UnitingCare  
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## Case Study – Helping heal the scars



**Sue is a mother of two — a boy aged 10 and a girl aged six. She escaped a violent relationship three years ago and has been raising her children as a sole parent.**

*Her son has recently started acting out against her physically and verbally. His behaviour reminds her of her husband and even at the age of ten, she finds him scary and is concerned it will intensify as he gets older. She is also worried that he has been teasing her daughter to the point of tears and doesn't seem apologetic or empathetic afterwards.*

*Sue is referred to Bringing Up Boys. The Program helps her realise that her son's behaviour has been driven by witnessing his father's violent behaviour and her inadvertently allowing her guilt about the relationship breakdown to soften her parenting skills.*

*Through the program Sue learns coping and parenting strategies that help her manage her son's negative behaviours and support her children's recovery from the mental scars inflicted by family violence. She also connects with other mothers who have experienced family violence.*

*The program helps her son open up and her family can finally begin to heal from the traumatic experience of family violence.*





## Project 3 Connecting Families Through Play

### Project focus Early childhood intervention

*Helping 100 parents and children experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage have access to social connection and informal learning through play-based activity.*

### What is the project?

**Connecting Families Through Play will assist vulnerable families with young children (birth to eight years) by establishing new play-based groups in growth areas of the municipality and in the established areas of Epping, Thomastown and Lalor.**

The groups will provide opportunities for parents to meet in a safe and supportive environment, develop local social networks, strengthen their parenting skills and build links with other early years services and the broader community. They will also provide children with opportunities to learn and develop through play at a critical time in their lives.

Vulnerability and disadvantage exist across the City of Whittlesea. Epping, Lalor and Thomastown have the highest disadvantage within the municipality, according to the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas Index of Disadvantage. Results from the Australian Early Development Census 2015 also indicate that children living in these suburbs experience higher levels of developmental vulnerability in two or more areas compared to the rest of Victoria. Many of these families are from a culturally and linguistically diverse community where English is not spoken at home and some are of Aboriginal background.

Growth areas are also unexpectedly demonstrating many early indicators of individual and community vulnerability with services struggling to keep up with rapid growth. Social isolation, mortgage stress, family violence, socio-economic disadvantage, a lack of transport and limited community support networks for families can all have a negative impact on the wellbeing of parents and young children.

There is concern that children and their families who are experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage may not have access to the same opportunities for social connection and informal learning through play-based activity as their peers.

Connecting Families Through Play will establish playgroups for families and children from birth to five years old and play-based activity groups for families and children from five to eight years old. The project will establish up to 10 groups a year, working with up to 10 families each – assisting more than 100 vulnerable families.

The type of groups established will be determined by the needs of the specific communities and could include weekend or holiday play activities, monthly pop-up playgroups, activities for fathers and their children and after-school activity groups. While the types of groups may be diverse, they will all provide social opportunities for families.

Group facilitators will also provide information regarding local services and activities, model and guide appropriate parent and child interactions, and provide opportunities for children to learn and develop through play. There will also be opportunity to highlight the benefits of shared family activity on behaviour, communication and relationships.

## Who benefits?

- Vulnerable families living in the City of Whittlesea
- Early childhood services and agencies that work with children by linking vulnerable families to available support networks.

## Who's leading it?

City of Whittlesea.

## Who are the partners?

Whittlesea Early Years Partnership agencies and service providers.

## How can you support us?

\$272,000 over two years to:

- Employ a part-time Coordinator (0.5 EFT)
- Establish an \$80,000 brokerage fund to set up at least 10 playgroups.

## Progress

The project is based on a successful Maternal Child Health Family Engagement pilot program undertaken by the City of Whittlesea and evaluated by the Centre for Community Child Health in 2014/15, and the previously state-funded Supported Playgroup and Parent Group Initiative managed through the Whittlesea Early Years Partnership.

## Project contact

### Kim Barker

Coordinator Whittlesea Early Years Partnerships

City of Whittlesea

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## Case Study – More than just child's play



***Fatima is a young mum with two children aged two and 12 months. She has no family in Australia and just a few mutual friends through her husband's work connections. She feels isolated and finds herself sometimes bursting into tears for no apparent reason.***

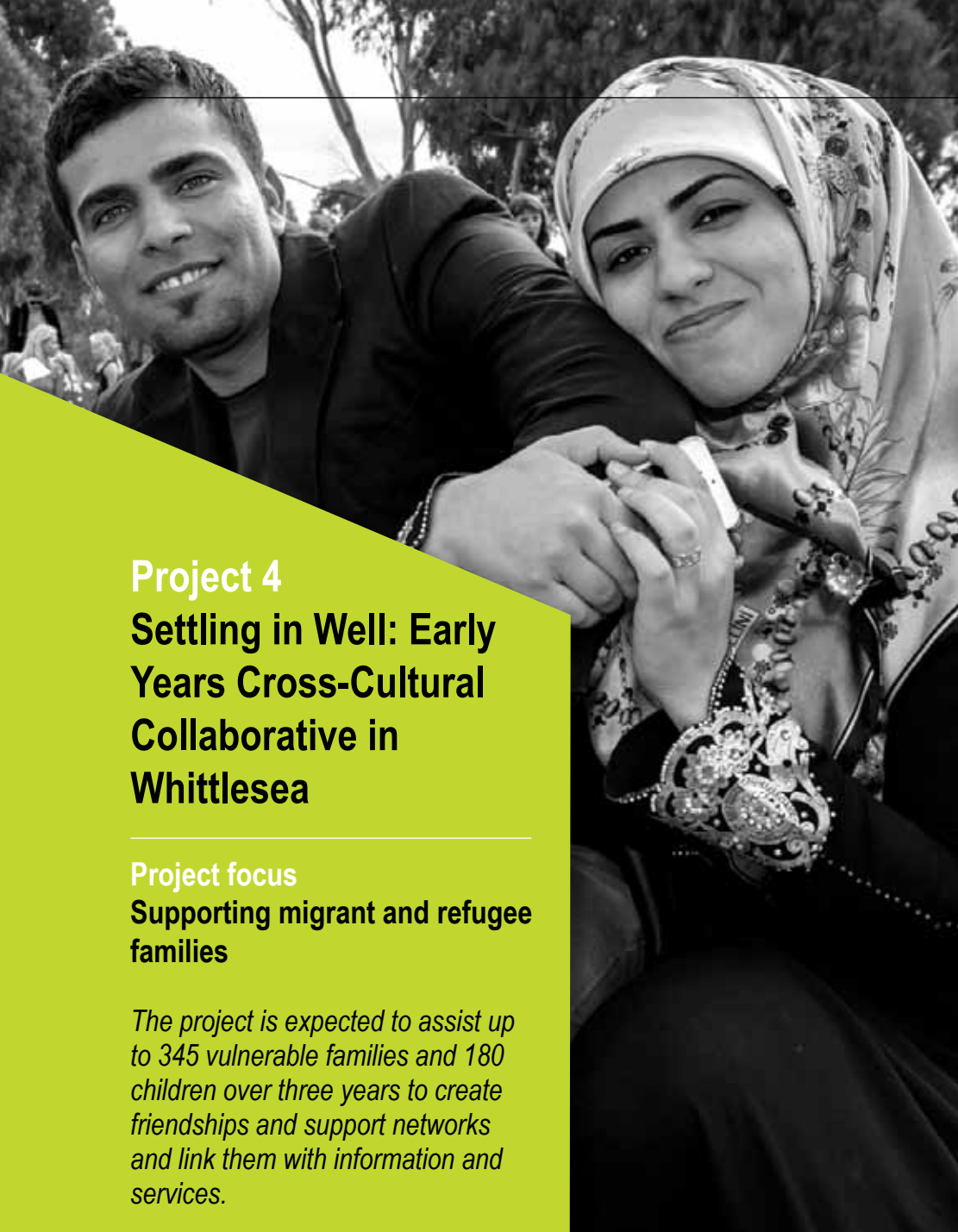
*When her Maternal Child Health Nurse sees Fatima crying, she suggests Fatima join a new playgroup specifically tailored to mums and dads who want to meet friends and connect with their community.*

*Fatima decides to head along to the playgroup and hits it off straight away with the other mums. Some of them like her have come to Australia from other parts of the world and their shared connections of having young children and moving to a new country help form strong new bonds. Soon, Fatima and some of the other mums are meeting up outside of the group for coffees and chats.*

*The kids are flourishing and love their new playmates and Fatima finally feels like she's part of the community. While she still gets down sometimes, she doesn't cry anymore and knows when she's having a bad day, she always has a friend she can chat to.*







## Project 4

### Settling in Well: Early Years Cross-Cultural Collaborative in Whittlesea

#### Project focus

#### Supporting migrant and refugee families

*The project is expected to assist up to 345 vulnerable families and 180 children over three years to create friendships and support networks and link them with information and services.*

#### What is the project?

**This project will establish a number of cross-cultural community support groups to reduce the social isolation experienced by migrant and refugee families, especially during the early years of settlement.**

The groups will assist families to create friendships and support networks and link them with information and services around health, education and training, as well as wider community activities and events.

The range of activities provided by the groups will depend upon the needs of the migrant communities targeted but could include playgroups, parent and family support groups, training and education, English classes, health and welfare workshops and social events.

The project builds on the success of cross-cultural playgroups and parent groups established by the Victorian Cooperative on Children's Services for Ethnic Groups (VICSEG) across the northern suburbs.

Whittlesea is a culturally diverse area with large populations of families from China, India, Iraq, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. There are also growing numbers of asylum seeker families with young children settling in Whittlesea, including Iranians, Assyrian-Chaldeans and Syrians. Almost one in three families in the City of Whittlesea do not speak English at home.

Many culturally and linguistically diverse families find it difficult to access the services they need because of language issues, a lack of knowledge or understanding of available services and culturally inappropriate models of service delivery.

Migrant women with young children are particularly vulnerable due to a lack of English and social isolation. Often women are left at home caring for a number of children with limited opportunities to improve their language skills or meet other people.

The Early Years Cross-Cultural Collaborative will initially map the needs of the migrant communities in the Whittlesea area and determine the location of programs, types of activities and which cultural groups are most in need.

The project will establish five new culturally diverse groups for parents and children under eight years old, covering four different language groups. A bi-cultural family mentor for each language group will be appointed to run the groups and support families to access vital services.



As part of the project, three cross-cultural roundtables will be run to assist local organisations to be more responsive to the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse families. A two day cultural-competence training workshop in working with vulnerable children and families will also be conducted.

The project is expected to assist up to 345 vulnerable families and 180 children over three years, with a strong focus on early years intervention and engaging women before they re-enter the workforce.

It will also expand the number of socially inclusive activities across the community and improve the capacity of local service providers to reach out to migrant families with young children.

### Who benefits?

Newly arrived migrant and refugee families, particularly women and young children.

### Who's leading it?

VICSEG New Futures a not-for-profit community organisation providing support and training to newly arrived and recently settled migrant communities throughout the northern and western suburbs of Melbourne.

### Who are the partners?

Plenty Valley Community Health, Drummond Street Services, City of Whittlesea, Life without Barriers and the Charles Sturt University Research Institute for Professional Practice, Learning and Education.

### How can you support us?

\$607,000 over three years to:

- Employ four part-time family mentors from the targeted language groups
- Establish five new parent playgroups
- Conduct two cultural-competence training programs for community and service providers
- Hold three cross-cultural family roundtables to address cultural barriers to access.

## Project contact

### Janet Elefsiniotis

Manager Programs for Families, Children and Young People

VICSEG New Futures

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## Case Study – Bridging cross-cultural divides



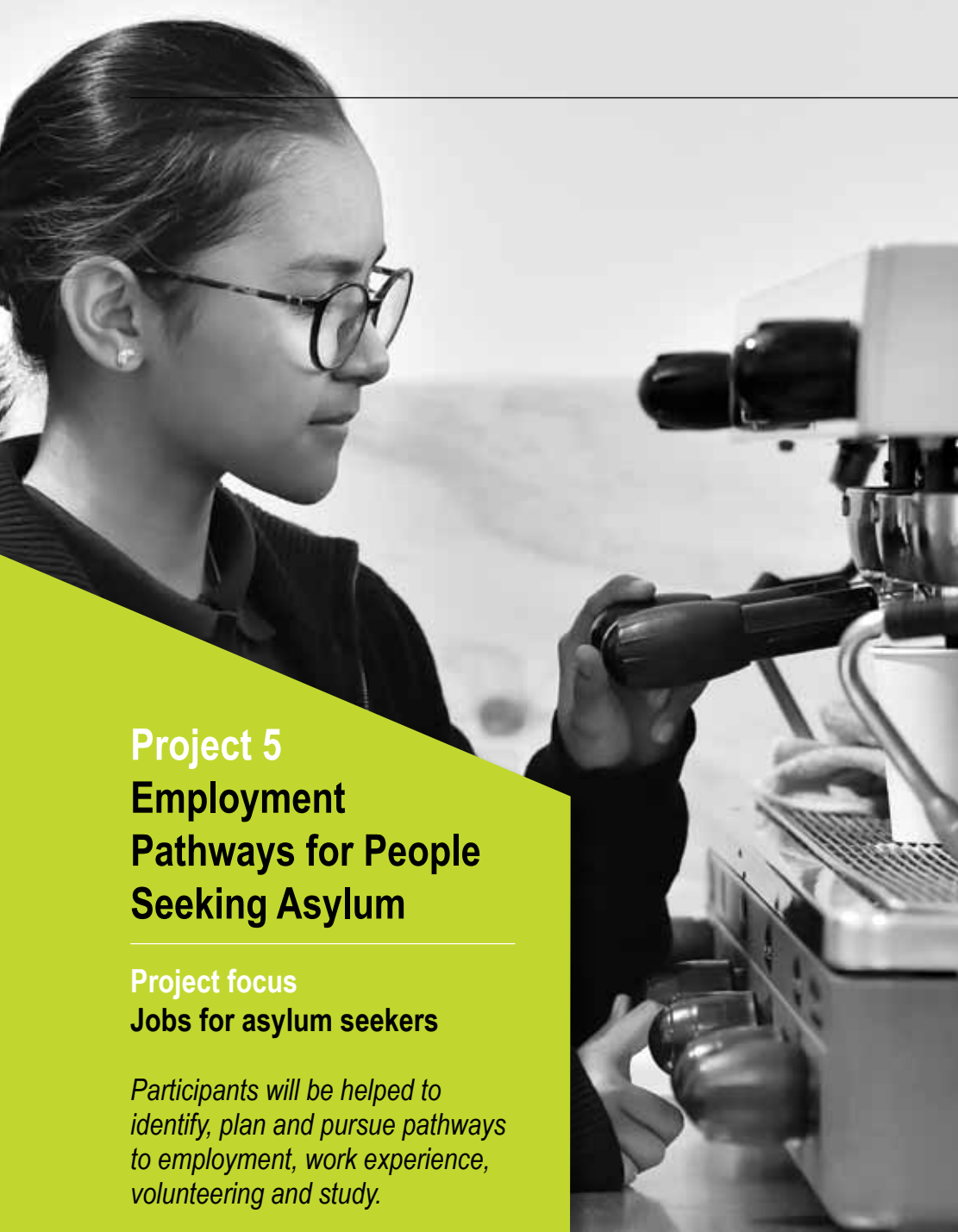
***Naima is a mother of one who recently arrived from India. She attended a local Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centre concerned about problems in her family and her wellbeing. An Indian bilingual staff member from VICSEG New Futures was able to provide intervention and support to the family that same day.***

*She was introduced to the Indian and cross-cultural playgroups and accompanied to appointments related to her child's wellbeing. Staff worked very closely with the family as Naima had disclosed suicidal thoughts.*

*After months working with the family there have been vast improvements. The child is a lot more settled and now mixing with other children in the playgroup. Naima sought help concerning mental and physical abuse issues and she is now more confident to go to child health milestone check-ups. The family has been making progress in all areas.*

*Naima and the MCH staff are extremely grateful for the support VICSEG provided. Without their assistance, the mother wouldn't have been able to build the trust and networks to seek the help she and her family needed.*





## Project 5 Employment Pathways for People Seeking Asylum

### Project focus Jobs for asylum seekers

*Participants will be helped to identify, plan and pursue pathways to employment, work experience, volunteering and study.*

### What is the project?

**The Employment Pathways for People Seeking Asylum project will provide support to participants to identify pathways to stable and fulfilling employment.**

People seeking asylum, who have little education or employment networks, can find it particularly hard to obtain a rewarding and satisfying job.

It is estimated there are more than 1000 asylum seekers living within the City of Whittlesea. While the majority of people seeking asylum have been granted work rights in the past 12 months, they lack the necessary assistance and support required to secure employment.

Access to employment is further compounded by a lack of awareness of the Australian recruitment system, unfamiliarity with our social systems and a lack of the support networks that people traditionally rely on such as extended family and friends and others in the workplace.

The project will assist 70 people seeking asylum who require employment support. It is anticipated that at least 40 per cent of participants will secure paid employment or work experience, providing them with the necessary skills to pursue more career pathways. A further 60 per cent of participants will secure volunteering or other training opportunities.

Employers will be located in Whittlesea and across Melbourne to increase opportunities for participants.

Through workshops and individual support, participants will be helped to identify, plan and pursue pathways to employment, work experience, volunteering and study.

The workshops will cover information about workplaces in Australia, where to look and find job opportunities, how to apply for jobs, write a resume and covering letter, practice interview skills and how to become a volunteer.

The project provides people seeking asylum with essential support in navigating and entering the Australian job market.

It aims to reduce the social isolation of people seeking asylum by engaging them in work, volunteering or training. It will also assist in supporting better mental health outcomes for participants and improve their life chances.

## Who benefits?

People seeking asylum who face barriers accessing mainstream employment opportunities.

## Who's leading it?

The Brotherhood of St. Laurence's Multicultural Communities Team (formerly the Ecumenical Migration Centre).

## Who are the partners?

Adult Multicultural Education Services Australia, Life without Barriers, Red Cross and Whittlesea Community Connections.

## How can you support us?

\$157,863 over one year to:

- Employ a full-time Project Officer and provide for administrative supplies and other incidentals.

## Progress

The Employment Pathways for People Seeking Asylum project has been successfully delivered in the local government areas of Moreland, Brimbank, Darebin and Yarra. In Moreland, 67 per cent of participants achieved training or education outcomes in a range of areas such as VCAL, English classes, certificate training and university scholarships, 25 per cent of participants secured work or work experience and 18 per cent were supported into volunteering roles.

Since November 2016, the program has been trialled in the City of Whittlesea. Of the 77 Whittlesea participants to date, 87 per cent (67) have achieved education/training outcomes, 48 per cent (37) have gained Employment and 22 per cent (17) have had volunteering/work experience opportunities.

Further funding for the program in the City of Whittlesea will ensure a broader reach of support is extended to the high numbers of people seeking asylum and continue roll out of the program across Melbourne's north-western suburbs.

## Project contact

**Josh Badenoch**

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## Project 6 Communities for Respect

### Project focus Tackling family violence

*Whittlesea has one of the highest recorded rates of family violence in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. This project will help 50 to 60 young people from non-English speaking backgrounds to develop respectful relationships.*

### What is the project?

**Communities for Respect is an education initiative to develop respectful relationships among young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.**

Family violence is a scourge on communities. The City of Whittlesea has been heavily impacted recording one of the highest rates of family violence in the northern suburbs. According to police statistics there has been an increase of 17.4 per cent in reported family violence incidents in the past year.

It is important that young people learn the importance of respectful relationships as a means of preventing violence later in life. The Victorian Government funds a respectful relationships in schools initiative but there are many young people who fall outside its scope, particularly disengaged youth and newly arrived young people and their families.

Communities for Respect builds on a successful 10-week trial of the Respectful Relationships and Soccer program run for young men from the City of Whittlesea's Iranian community.

A Project Worker will work closely with community groups to identify effective ways to deliver the Respectful Relationships program to cultural and linguistically diverse communities. This could involve partnering education sessions with other community development agencies such as father-son or mother-daughter programs or through sporting and cultural activities.

The project will also provide professional development support and networks to teachers and support content and delivery to suit school communities with high Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) populations. It will support communities to develop programs that suit their needs, building community resilience and an understanding of family violence, gender equity and respectful relationships.

It will also provide three 10-week respectful relationship programs a year through a soccer program. The Team Respect programs will assist between 50 to 60 young people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

A further 60 people from CALD communities will participate in alternative respectful relationship education programs each year.

Staff, students and parents from at least two local schools will receive tailored support to effectively deliver respectful relationships education, including professional development for staff. The Communities for Respect project will build community knowledge and an ability to promote respectful relationships and reinforce the view that violence is never okay.



## Who benefits?

- Disengaged youth and newly arrived young people and their families.
- Staff, students and parents from at least two local schools and the broader community.

## Who's leading it?

The Salvation Army Crossroads, Youth & Family Services Network.

## Who are the partners?

The project is part of the Whittlesea CALD Communities Family Violence Project involving nine local, regional and state-based agencies including:

- Whittlesea Community Futures
- City of Whittlesea
- Whittlesea Community Connections
- The Salvation Army Crossroads
- Kildonan UnitingCare
- Plenty Valley Community Health
- InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence
- Berry Street Northern Family and Domestic Violence Service
- Victoria Police.

A number of facilitators will deliver the training sessions including Victoria Police, family violence workers and legal services.

## How can you support us?

\$358,742 over two years to:

- Employ a Project Manager for four days a week
- Run six Team Respect programs
- Cover the cost of developing educational resources and other incidentals.

## Progress

The Communities for Respect project is part of a broader community strategy that works on prevention and intervention in family violence with different CALD populations.

Other elements include empowering women through grants to women's groups, capacity-building for community and religious leaders, early intervention during settlement, reducing reoffending through an Arabic-language Men's Behaviour Change Program and programs targeting young people.

## Project contact

### Carmen Faelis

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## Project 7 Learning Together: Aboriginal Young People, Schools and Families

### Project focus Indigenous education

*Learning Together will support and encourage Aboriginal students at two local schools to complete Year 12 and increase their confidence and motivation for further education.*

### What is the project?

**The Learning Together project aims to build the capacity of Aboriginal parents, carers, elders and young people to improve school retention rates for Indigenous students.**

A quality education is one of the key determinants of choice and opportunity for young people throughout their lives. Young people who stay at school and complete Year 12 are more likely to undertake further education and training, enjoy increased employment opportunities and go on to lead successful lives.

Unfortunately many Aboriginal students do not complete secondary school making it harder for them to find employment, which in turn impacts on their ability to lead a healthy and fulfilling life.

Aboriginal students in Whittlesea face a range of issues including disengagement from school, lack of one-on-one educational support, mentoring and tutoring programs. Generally parent and carer engagement with the school is low and families struggle to find money for basic school items such as books and uniforms, as well as excursions and camps.

This project will work in partnership with Aboriginal parents and the community to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students. It will also encourage school communities to respect, recognise and celebrate cultural identity.

A Project Officer will work closely with a chosen local primary and secondary school to develop a parent engagement strategy. The strategy will establish a School Community Action Team that includes representatives of the school leadership group, parents/carers, key local community agencies and senior Aboriginal students. The group will monitor the individual progress of Aboriginal students and provide resources for cross-cultural training of key staff members.

Communication between the schools and parents of Aboriginal students will be strengthened through a series of regular morning/afternoon teas and meetings with teachers and community leaders.

The Project Officer will also work to identify opportunities for the school to embrace and acknowledge Aboriginal culture. This could include developing a series of events and activities around NADIOC week, 'Dreamtime at the G', The Long Walk and Harmony Day. Other cultural activities could include having an Aboriginal flag flying during school assemblies, Aboriginal artworks and murals around the school grounds and acknowledgement of traditional land owners at formal school events.

The Learning Together project aims to improve the educational outcomes of Aboriginal students and develop a culturally inclusive school system.

## Who benefits?

Young Aboriginal students and local schools.

## Who's leading it?

The Salvation Army, Crossroads Youth and Family Services.

## Who are the partners?

The City of Whittlesea, Bubup Wilam For Early Learning, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, Whittlesea Youth Commitment and Hume Whittlesea Local Learning Employment Network.

## How can you support us?

\$120,000 over one year to:

- Employ a Project Officer for three days a week
- Other program operating costs, including resources for students and teachers.

## Progress

The project builds on key findings from a similar project delivered in the City of Hume.

## Project contact

### **Carmen Faelis**

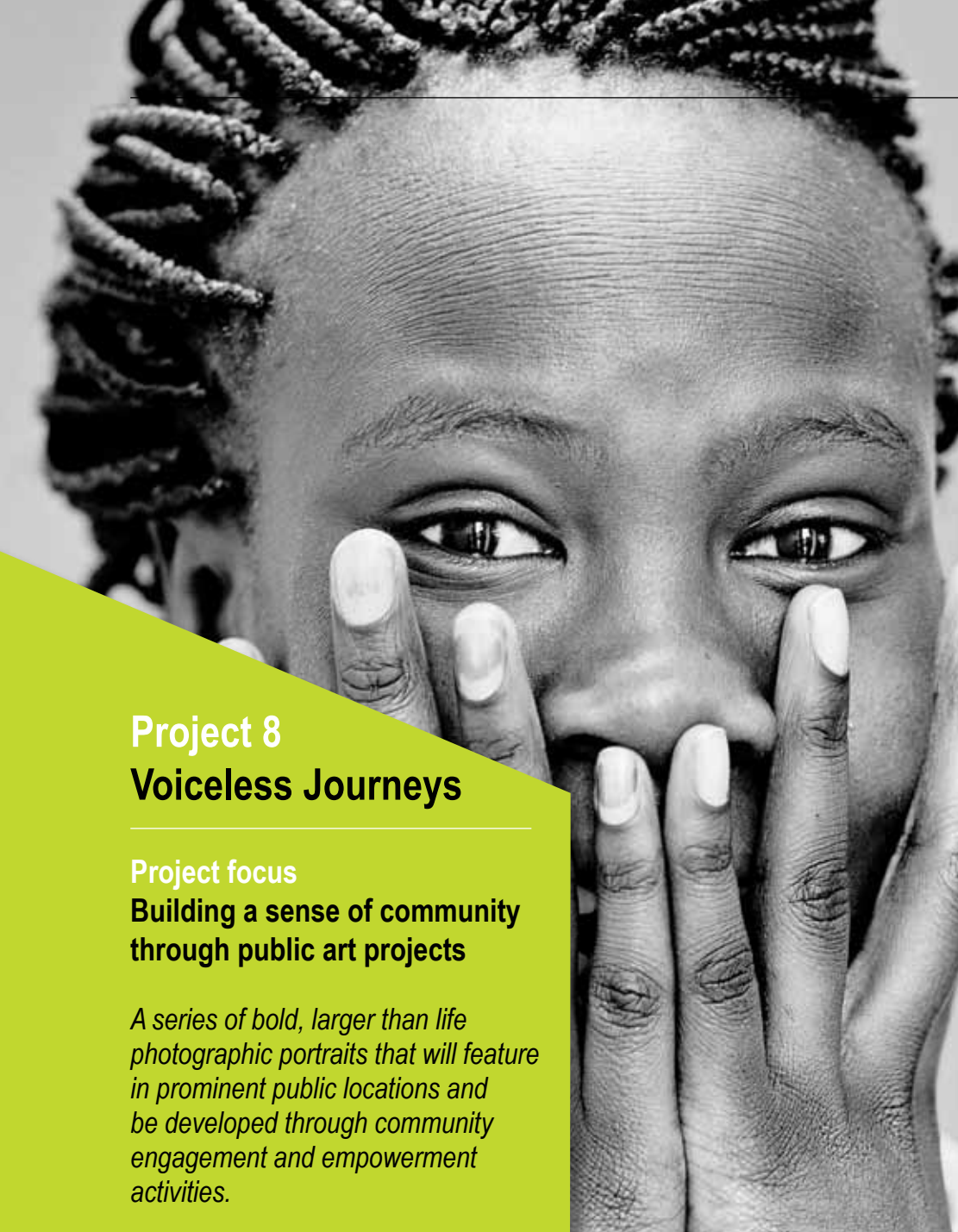
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## Project 8 Voiceless Journeys

**Project focus**  
**Building a sense of community through public art projects**

*A series of bold, larger than life photographic portraits that will feature in prominent public locations and be developed through community engagement and empowerment activities.*

### What is the project?

**Voiceless Journeys is an art project that highlights the struggles and achievements of asylum seekers and refugees who have begun building new lives in the City of Whittlesea.**

The project will involve the commissioning and creation of large-scale photographic installations at selected locations around Mill Park, Lalor and Thomastown.

Striking black and white photographic portraits will feature the images of local asylum seekers and refugees, accompanied by text detailing aspects of their journey and struggle in their own words to inspire dialogue and greater understanding.

The project captures the 'silent stories' of people who left their own countries often as the result of war and conflict to make a new start within the City of Whittlesea and who are positively shaping the community.

Voiceless Journeys will foster a greater sense of community and build more understanding of the issues confronting humanitarian migrants.

The project will become a force to encourage community acceptance of people from diverse backgrounds and to challenge mistrust or fear.

An initial workshop will explore the social issues underpinning the project and identify people to become portrait subjects. A series of discussions will establish the connection with the local community and further shape the project. Finally, disengaged youth will be encouraged to participate as volunteers to help install the work.

The portraits and personal stories will highlight the resilience of humanitarian migrants and demonstrate what can be achieved with hope, belief, determination and a sense of community.

### Who benefits?

Asylum seekers, refugees and the wider community. Disengaged local young people who are encouraged to become part of the project as installation volunteers.

### Who's leading it?

Ondru – an independent, non-profit arts organisation.



## Who are the partners?

Whittlesea Community Connections, Yarra Plenty Regional Library and the City of Whittlesea.

## How can you support us?

\$35,500 over one year:

- For materials, equipment, art production and a Project Officer to guide the project from inception through to installation
- To assist in recruiting appropriate refugees and young people, as well as conduct community engagement activities.

## Project contact

**desh Balasubramaniam**

CEO and Artistic Director

Ondru

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## Reyaz – Making the journey in ‘black and white’



*I became homeless and ended up begging. I was later detained. It was only then I knew I could apply for a protection visa.*

*Going through the application was traumatic. I spent eight months in detention. It was very hard. There is the extreme fear of being sent back as well as the ambiguity of the future. In detention, I was threatened — assaulted. Now I just feel that I am living. I want to study law and help people. I used to be shy and quiet but now I have become a fighter!*



**Reyaz H., Ondru art installation participant.**







## Project 9

### **Strong Minds: A Partnership to Strengthen Youth Mental Health**

**Project focus**  
**Building mental health  
resilience in young people**

*Strong Minds will systematically support young people and those who support them through the delivery of targeted mindfulness training.*

### **What is the project?**

**The Strong Minds project aims to lower the incidence of mental health issues for young people within the City of Whittlesea.**

Youth mental health is a significant issue in the community and Whittlesea has been assessed as an area of 'high need' by the Austin Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

Stress, anxiety and depression are the most common conditions experienced by young people and parents may not be aware of how to support their children and to identify signs of declining mental health.

Some parents have also raised concerns about the impact of electronic devices, social media and gaming on young people's mental health.

*Strong Minds* will build mental health resilience in young people by teaching them mindfulness techniques. Mindfulness can offer an antidote to stress and help young people to develop good social and emotional health.

The project will help young people learn techniques to focus and self-calm that can improve concentration and reduce stress.

In the first part of the program, mindfulness techniques will be taught to youth workers, family support staff and schools that support young people. The project will conduct six mindfulness sessions a year training nearly 50 professionals.

About 500 young people will then be given the opportunity to learn mindfulness strategies through programs run in schools, sports clubs and youth groups.

The project will also run a series of mindfulness seminars for parents. Some of these will be conducted in different languages to cater for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Through the seminars parents will gain exposure to mindfulness techniques that could help them and their children, as well as learn about the mental health services available in their area.

Feeling down, tense, angry, anxious or moody are all normal emotions for young people but when feelings persist for long periods or interfere with daily life they may be part of a mental health problem.

## Who benefits?

- At risk young people and families in the area
- School support staff and youth workers who will be trained in mindfulness techniques.

## Who's leading it?

Kildonan UnitingCare.

## Who are the partners?

Headspace Greensborough, the Austin Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and the City of Whittlesea.

## How can you support us?

\$358,000 over two years to:

- Employ a Project Coordinator
- Employ one staff member
- Cover transport costs and venue hire.

## Project contact

### Jo Howard

Executive Manager, Child Youth and Family

Kildonan UnitingCare

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## Case Study – Mindfulness restores the balance

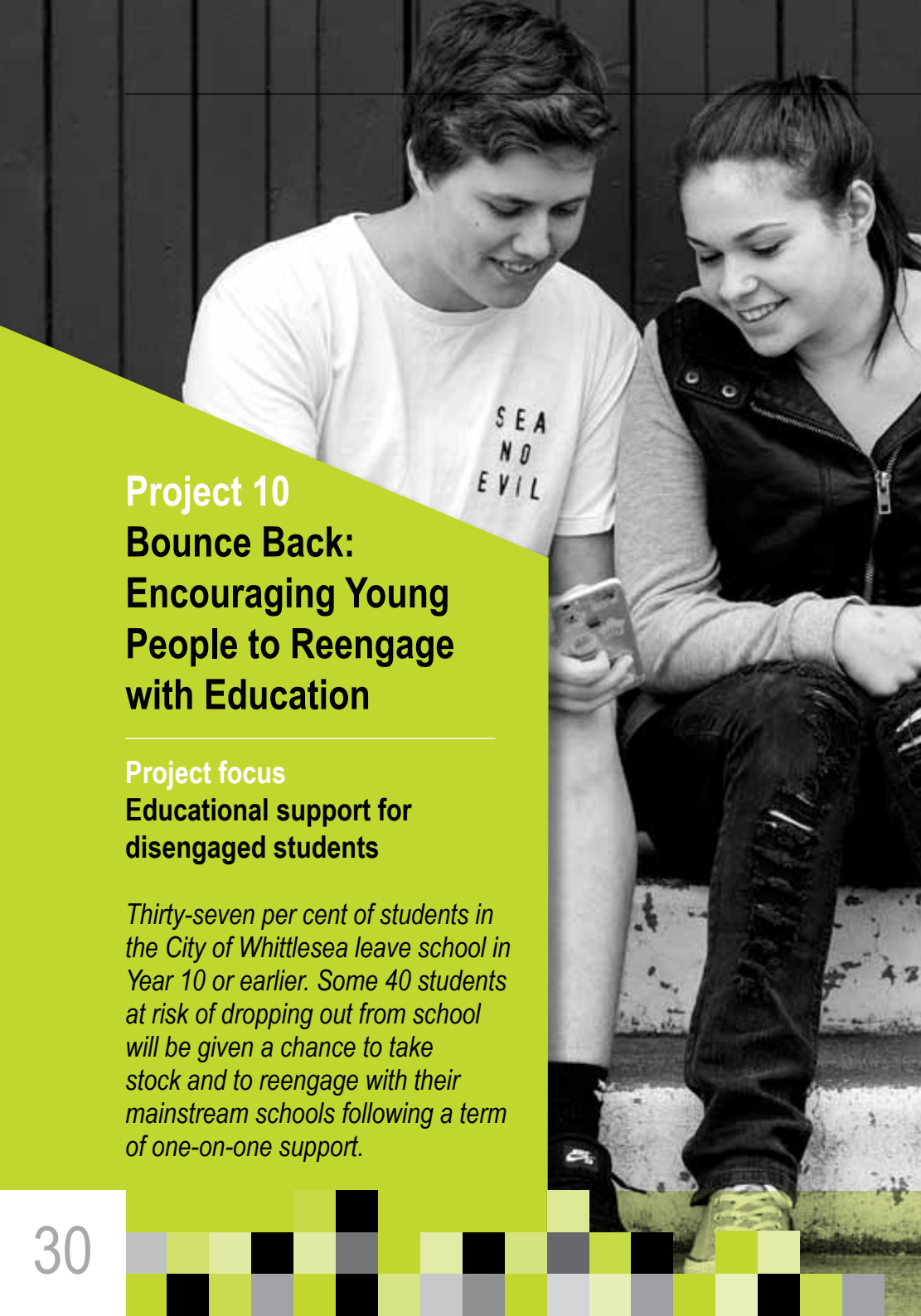
“**Priyansh and Alisha are parents of Hiran who is 16 years old and attends a local secondary college. Priyansh has great expectations of his son. They have migrated from India in order to give their children a bright future.**

*Priyansh believes his son should spend most of his time at home studying in order to secure a good career. Lately Hiran has been distracted. His parents have found him playing online games rather than studying and his grades have declined. Priyansh is angry, while Alisha is concerned that Hiran seems to have lost his appetite and isn't sleeping.*

*The parents attend a Building Resilience in Young People seminar at the school. They realise their high expectations of Hiran made him feel anxious and less engaged in school. Priyansh and Alisha decide to try to be more encouraging and to have more family fun time as well as a focus on education. They also negotiated with Hiran time out from study to socialise and exercise.*

*Hiran participates in mindfulness sessions delivered by his teacher. Thanks to the program he is now getting a better sleep and has learned how to manage his anxiety.*

”



## Project 10

### Bounce Back: Encouraging Young People to Reengage with Education

#### Project focus

#### Educational support for disengaged students

*Thirty-seven per cent of students in the City of Whittlesea leave school in Year 10 or earlier. Some 40 students at risk of dropping out from school will be given a chance to take stock and to reengage with their mainstream schools following a term of one-on-one support.*

#### What is the project?

**Bounce Back is a flexible alternative education program to support students in the middle years of secondary school who are not coping in mainstream schooling.**

The project will develop an alternative education centre within an existing school or at other suitable premises for students at risk of leaving the education system.

Thirty-five per cent of students in the City of Whittlesea leave school in Year 10 or earlier. Many schools, families and agencies have called for more support to keep these students at school and engaged in learning.

High levels of absenteeism, student disruption and disengagement from education are features of this under-16 age group, with little formal support available for individual students.

Bounce Back will employ a teacher and a youth worker to run an alternative education program for 10 students per term. It will accept referrals for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 from local secondary schools.

The program will run for a year, with students attending for a single eight-week term offering a break from their regular school environment and enabling issues to be addressed prior to their return. About 40 students from up to 14 secondary schools in the area will be supported through the project.

Students will attend the 'circuit break' classroom for three days a week and will be able to attend their usual school for the remaining two days, depending on their circumstances.

Staff at Bounce Back will also work with students on the non-classroom days, undertaking home visits and driving them to other activities, programs and services depending on their needs and areas of interest.

Each student will be provided with intensive, individual support with a focus on building positive relationships and linking students to mentoring programs and other family support services where needed.

Students will be given a chance to take stock and to reengage with their previous schools following a term of focused, one-on-one support aimed at boosting their self-esteem, interpersonal skills and motivation levels.

## Who benefits?

Secondary students at risk of dropping out of school and school communities through the provision of extra resources to support young people in a mainstream setting.

## Who's leading it?

The Salvation Army, Crossroads Youth & Family Services.

## Who are the partners?

Kildonan UnitingCare, Whittlesea Secondary College, Whittlesea Youth Commitment and Hume Whittlesea Local Learning Employment Network.

## How can you support us?

\$317,188 over one year to:

- Employ a Teacher and Youth Worker
- Cover operating costs of an alternate education centre.

## Project contact

### **Carmen Faelis**

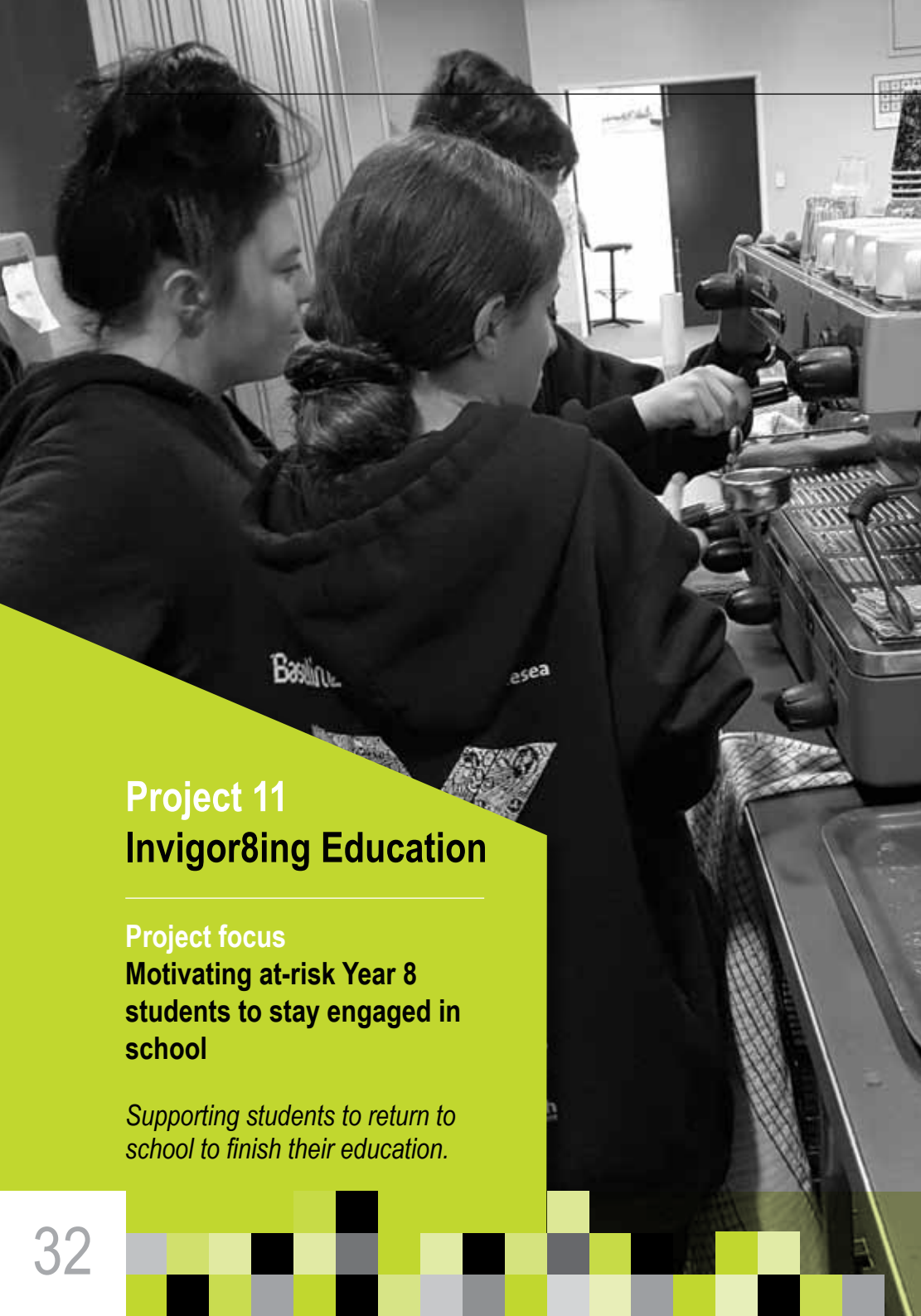
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## Project 11 Invigor8ing Education

**Project focus**  
**Motivating at-risk Year 8 students to stay engaged in school**

*Supporting students to return to school to finish their education.*

### What is the project?

**The Invigor8ing Education project will provide students who are disengaged or at-risk of disengaging from education with industry based applied learning opportunities designed to assist with completing secondary schooling.**

The Whittlesea municipality currently has a youth disengagement rate of 16.9 per cent, which is double the state average.

The Whittlesea Under-16 project identified Year 8 as the time when students typically disengage from the education and training system. If the issues relating to this disengagement are not addressed, the situation only becomes more complex when students reach senior school levels requiring greater focus and commitment. By targeting Year 8s, the program equips 13 and 14 year-olds with new life skills and a sense of optimism about what they can achieve.

The program takes students out of the classroom — an environment that has been associated with negativity and failure — and into a practical employment-focused environment in one of two streams: trades or community.

Community stream students are mentored by industry professionals at Mill Park Leisure Centre across a number of career areas including: children's services, fitness, administration and customer service and food services.

Trades stream participants attend Melbourne Polytechnic where they learn painting, plastering, building and other trades skills, working on multiple projects under the guidance and mentorship of specialist trade teachers.

The core aim for both streams revolves around supporting the students to return to school to eventually reengage with education.

Students who have previously participated in the program have reported that the program had motivated them, with 9 out of 10 community stream participants at Mill Park Leisure Centre choosing to return to school so they could then go on to complete courses in areas such as childcare following their work experience at the Mill Park Leisure.

Invigor8ing Education sets up all participants for success, by giving them a clearer view of where school could eventually lead them.

## Who benefits?

Year 8 students who are disengaged or at-risk of disengaging from education.

## Who's leading it?

YMCA Whittlesea and the City of Whittlesea.

## Who are the partners?

Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network and Whittlesea Youth Commitment.

## How can you support us?

\$23,600 over one year to:

- Cover staffing costs, venue hire, program materials, resources and excursions.

## Project contact

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## Case Study – Invigor8ing engagement

“ **Ben was struggling to engage at school. He didn't enjoy any of the traditional subjects and couldn't see himself staying on at school after year 10. After being referred to the Invigor8ing Education program, Ben's parents say he has shown a significant behaviour change for the better at home.**

*His mother said, 'I reckon all that time he spends in the workshop allows him to drain his excess energy. He is also calmer and appears to be happier.'*

*'He told me it was because he finally felt he was accomplishing something by completing all those woodwork projects. As a parent, I can see the value in this program.'*

*Thanks to the Invigor8ing Education program, Ben has been engaging more with his studies and his parents are confident that he will stay at school.*

”





## Project 12 MIDA Café

**Project focus**  
**Employment for people with disabilities and mental illness**

*The café in a library setting will give trainees' meaningful volunteer work experience.*

### What is the project?

The Mental Illness and Disability Awareness (MIDA) Café project will establish a new café within the Mill Park Library, operated and staffed by people with disabilities and mental health issues.

The project will give people with a disability or a mental illness on-the-job training in the hospitality sector so they can gain experience and confidence to move into paid employment.

Trainees will work in the café on a volunteer basis providing them with valuable work experience that is difficult to obtain in commercially run facilities. The café will provide a supportive environment for participants to gain work and life skills and enable them to participate more fully within the community.

The café will be run with a partner organisation that will provide training in how to run a café. It will have a sustainability aspect, selling coffees in 'keep cups' branded with positive messages and information about mental illness and disability.

The location of the café in a public library will also spark community conversations about mental health and disability issues.

The project aims to reduce the sense of isolation experienced by people with disabilities and mental illness and dispel the stigma of mental illness in the broader community.

### Who benefits?

People with mental illness or a disability.

### Who's leading it?

Yarra Plenty Regional Library, Mill Park Branch. Araluen have committed to running the café with qualified trainers.

### Who are the partners?

Agencies that have expressed interest in the project include Araluen, NEAMI, Mind Australia, PVCH, Mission Australia, Latrobe Lifeskills, Kangan Institute, Mill Park Community House, Melbourne City Mission, the City of Whittlesea, Street and Madcap.

## How can you support us?

\$25,000 over one year for:

- The initial set-up costs including creating the café space within the Mill Park Library.

## Project contact

**Kylie Carlson**

Branch Manager

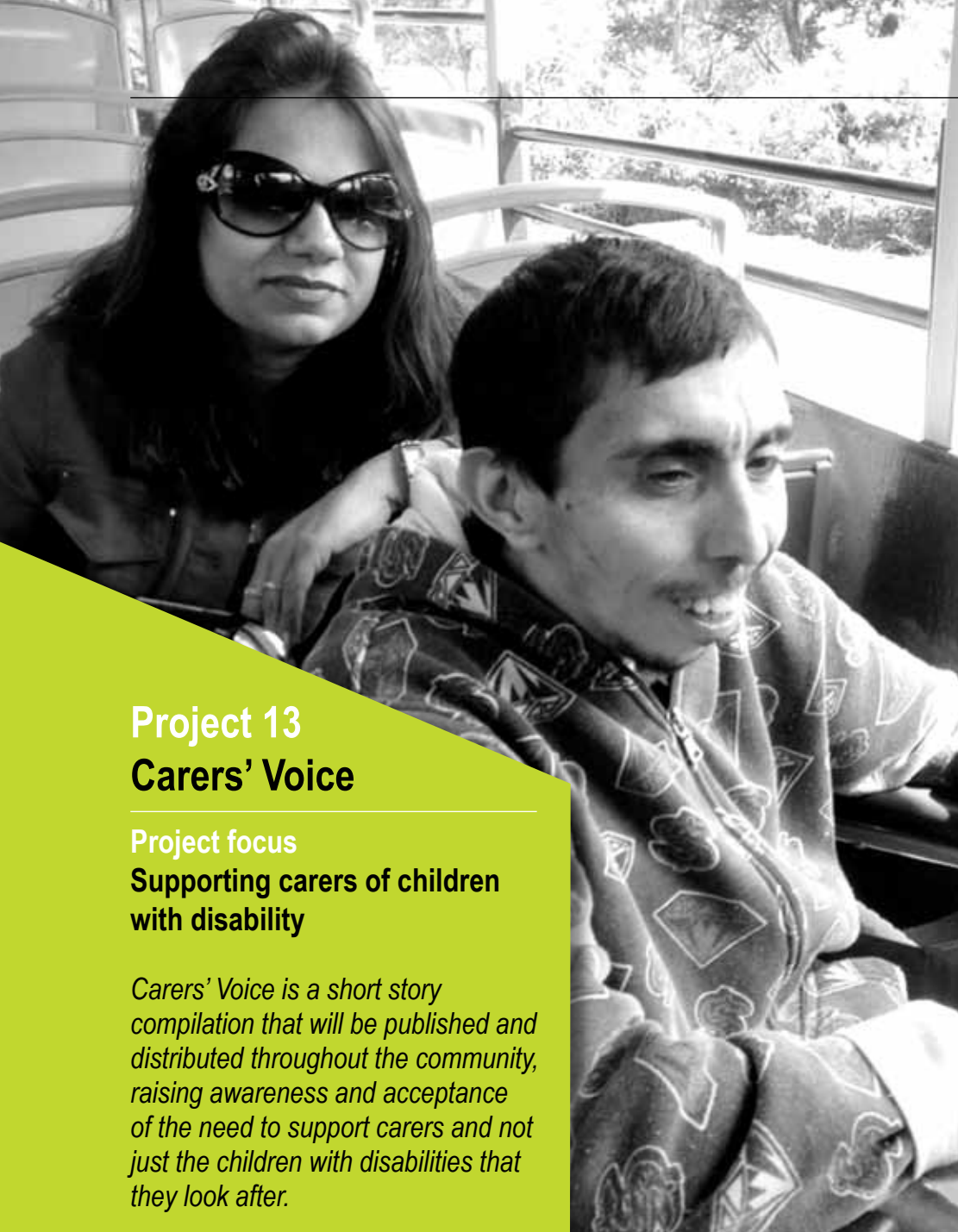
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## Project 13 Carers' Voice

### Project focus Supporting carers of children with disability

*Carers' Voice is a short story compilation that will be published and distributed throughout the community, raising awareness and acceptance of the need to support carers and not just the children with disabilities that they look after.*

### What is the project?

**The Carers' Voice project will establish a monthly writers group that will produce a collection of short stories about the experience of caring for disabled children.**

Carers can feel isolated and disconnected from others outside the family and may suffer from poor mental and physical health as a result of their responsibilities.

The monthly writers group will encourage carers to share their stories in a 'Carers' Voice' compilation that records their family stories and experiences.

The project will also enable carers to reconnect with people in the community with similar experiences and connect them with other services and support within the City of Whittlesea.

Carers will be guided through the process of recounting and discussing their stories and then offered techniques for how to approach writing them down.

The end result will be a short story compilation that will be published and distributed throughout the community. This will provide carers with recognition of their work and give them a sense of achievement in producing their own publication.

The book will offer first person accounts of what it is like to be a carer, the hurdles encountered and other aspects of their family history that would otherwise go publically unacknowledged.

The project will raise awareness and acceptance of the need to support carers and not just the children with disabilities that they look after.

### Who benefits?

Parents/carers of children with disabilities.

### Who's leading it?

Yarra Plenty Regional Library, Mill Park Branch.

## Who are the partners?

The City of Whittlesea, Carers Victoria, Mind Australia and Busy Bird Publishing. EACH, a service for children with disabilities and developmental delays, has provided \$2,000 towards the project and will provide a staff member as support to all workshops.

## How can you support us?

\$6,500 over one year to:

- Initiate the writing workshops
- Cover publication expenses associated with the short story compilation.

## Project contact

### Kylie Carlson

Branch Manager

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## Case Study – Writing the book on caring for ‘complex’ kids



**Kate is a carer of two boys with disabilities — one with autism and ADHD and the other with Asperger's and Dyspraxia.**

*Having a child with Autism is hard, it is largely an invisible disability and it's difficult for people to understand a disability they cannot see," she said. Even her own family have made comments like 'autism is a fad word, a label and an excuse for bad parenting.*

*The boys attend a mainstream school and some teachers are ill equipped to deal with them. Other children are also baffled by her boys' behaviour and they don't get invited to birthday parties.*

*Parents avoid talking to Kate or her husband at school drop offs and pick ups, leaving them feeling ostracised from the school and community. She and her husband have both suffered depression as a result of their social isolation.*

*Thanks to a local project, Kate has had the opportunity to share her story with other carers. The project has helped her connect with people who understand her situation and express what it is like caring for children with disabilities. She feels a sense of achievement and self worth and hopes by sharing their stories, it will broaden community awareness and compassion for children living with disabilities and their families.*





## Project 14 Vulnerable Families Solar Project

### Project focus

**Access to renewable energy and energy efficiency advice for vulnerable households.**

*This program will target families who are most vulnerable and under significant energy stress offering them the direct financial benefit of installed solar panels at no cost and a soft entry point for other support services.*

### What is the project?

**This project will provide rooftop solar panels to vulnerable low-income families identified by Kildonan UnitingCare to reduce their reliance on grid-supplied electricity and help them save money on their energy bills.**

The project will also provide information and advice on how to use energy more efficiently to decrease families' exposure to 'bill shock' and utility related financial stress.

Inability to pay a household bill can be an early indicator of financial hardship and has been linked to mental health issues, unemployment, family violence, alcohol abuse and a range of other issues.

Kildonan UnitingCare reports that growing numbers of vulnerable families are struggling to pay their utility bills and are applying for hardship support.

Through the Vulnerable Families Solar Project, solar panels will be installed over a 12-month period for 100 households in the City of Whittlesea. Householders will also be provided with information and advice on energy efficiency measures that can further reduce their electricity bills.

The project will also provide energy information and advice on behaviour change. If appropriate, it will provide information and access to other support services including financial counselling.

It is estimated that households can save on average about \$340 per year on their electricity bills after just one visit from one of Kildonan's experienced Energy and Financial Inclusion Advisors.

### Who benefits?

Low income and disadvantaged families.

### Who's leading it?

Kildonan UnitingCare.

### Who are the partners?

The Moreland Energy Foundation Limited.



## How can you support us?

\$350,000 over one year for:

- Provision and installation of solar panels, energy assessments, and project delivery.

*The final cost to be determined through a tender process to identify a solar system provider to the program.*

## Progress

This project will leverage Kildonan UnitingCare's experience in the roll out of national Home Energy Saver Scheme based on Kildonan's energy visit program. Kildonan was the national coordinator of the scheme and supported 19 agencies to deliver energy efficiency information to more than 50,000 Australians.

## Project contact

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Kildonan UnitingCare

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## With thanks to our partners:

1. Able Australia
2. Action on Disability within Ethnic Communities
3. AMES
4. Anglicare Victoria
5. ARULEN
6. Australian Hearing
7. Australian Quadriplegic Association (AQAVIC)
8. Berry Street
9. Brotherhood of St. Laurence
10. CatholicCare
11. Centrelink
12. Children's Protection Society (CPS)
13. City of Whittlesea
14. Community Leadership Network (CLN)
15. Creeds Farm LLC
16. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
17. Department of Health and Human Services
18. Drummonds Street Services
19. Education Programme for Infants and Children (EPIC)
20. FMC Mediation and Counselling
21. Graceful Community Services
22. Headspace
23. Hope Street
24. Hume Whittlesea Primary Care Partnership
25. Interact Australia
26. Kids Off the Kerb
27. Kildonan UnitingCare
28. Lalor Living and Learning Centre
29. Life Without Barriers
30. Link Community Transport
31. Melbourne City Mission
32. Mind Australia
33. Multicultural Women's Health (MCWH)
34. NEAMI Whittlesea
35. North East Neighbourhood House (NENH)
36. Northern Centre Against Sexual Assault (NCASA)
37. ONDRU
38. Open Minds
39. Plenty Valley Community Health (PVCH)
40. Relationships Australia
41. Scope Victoria
42. Smith Family
43. Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
44. The Northern Hospital
45. The Salvation Army, Crossroads Youth & Family Services Network
46. Thomastown Neighbourhood House
47. VICSEG New Futures
48. Victoria Counselling & Psychological Services (VCPS)
49. Victoria Police
50. WISHIN
51. Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC)
52. Whittlesea Early Years Partnership
53. Whittlesea University of Third Age (WU3A)
54. Women's Health in North (WHIN)
55. Women's Property Initiative (WPI)
56. WYC/HWLLLEN
57. Yarra Plenty Regional Library
58. Young Men's Christian Association –Whittlesea (YMCA)
59. Youth Support and Advocacy Services (YSAS)

For more information about the WCF Partnership or the initiatives included in this Prospectus, please contact Thiyagerajah Abarajitha (Abi), Partnerships & Projects Officer, City of Whittlesea on 9217 2524 / 0457 877 726 or email [thiyagerajah.abarajitha@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:thiyagerajah.abarajitha@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

All figures are correct at the time of publication and indicative only.

A Whittlesea Community Futures  
Partnership initiative

