

Media Release

The Hon Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning
Minister for Housing



Wednesday, 8 December 2021

BOOSTING SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

The Andrews Labor Government is tackling youth homelessness by ensuring vulnerable young Victorians have access to the accommodation and support they need to build strong futures.

Minister for Housing Richard Wynne today announced \$50 million for new housing projects for youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness across Victoria.

With more than 16 per cent of people experiencing homelessness in Victoria aged between 15 to 24, this vital funding will ensure young people have the safety and security of a home to help them grow and develop.

The funding will deliver a range of housing options including youth foyers that integrate housing with education, employment and other support services, or youth housing accommodation and projects focused on young Victorians leaving out of home care.

The funding supports the Labor Government's landmark *Home Stretch* program, supporting young people leaving foster, kinship and residential care up to the age of 21, rather than leaving them to forge a life on their own at 18.

The homes will be in highly accessible locations within walking distance of education, employment, public transport, retail and community services and feature energy efficient design to help tenants keep their bills low.

The funding is part of the Government's landmark \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build, which is delivering more than 12,000 new homes while creating an average of 10,000 jobs per year over the four-year program and is the largest single investment in social and affordable housing in Australia's history.

The Big Housing Build is investing \$1.25 billion in regional areas – ensuring the economic and social benefits of the program are felt in communities across the state.

Registered Housing Agencies, eligible Community Service Organisation and partnerships with those agencies are encouraged to submit applications for youth housing projects, particularly in regional areas.

Applications are now open and close on 1 March 2022.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Housing Richard Wynne

"This will ensure young Victorians who are unable to afford rental costs while on Youth Allowance or Jobseeker have access to a safe place to call home."

"Young people leaving state care are at much higher risk of homelessness and unemployment, so we're ensuring care leavers have a roof over their heads and the support they need to thrive as adults."

Quote attributable to Member for Mount Waverley Matt Fregon

"The Youth Foyer here in Mount Waverley plays a vital role in supporting young people in our community – this funding will ensure young people across Victoria have access to the supports they need to thrive."