

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Crime Prevention

Minister for Corrections

Minister for Youth Justice

Minister for Victim Support



Wednesday, 15 December 2021

SUPPORTING YOUNG VICTORIANS THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Special school holiday camps, sports and other activities will help keep young vulnerable Victorians engaged and on the right track during the summer holidays, thanks to support from the Andrews Labor Government.

Twenty four targeted programs will give 780 young people the chance to participate in culturally appropriate day and overnight activities these school holidays, facilitated through \$270,000 in Government funding.

Minister for Crime Prevention Natalie Hutchins today visited the Northern Community Support Group in Broadmeadows, which received \$20,000 to run a three-day summer camp offering a range of activities such as hiking, sports, games and cooking lessons for 20 vulnerable young people.

The program partners with AFL, Victoria Police, and community religious leaders to deliver engaging activities and provide educational and culturally appropriate talks on the importance of staying out of trouble.

Young people are also assigned a mentor to provide guidance and advice, and who they will continue to receive support from beyond the summer camp.

For children and young people experiencing challenges, engagement with school provides a meaningful structure and support network, and programs such as this ensure young people will continue to be supported during the holidays.

The Northern Community Support Group is a community-led initiative delivered by the Australian Multicultural Foundation in partnership with the Preston Mosque, MyCentre in Broadmeadows, and the Victorian Government.

Other organisations providing school holiday activities include Centre for Multicultural Youth, Afri-Aus Care and the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association.

For more information, visit crimeprevention.vic.gov.au/buildingsafercommunities.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Crime Prevention Natalie Hutchins

"School holidays can be difficult for many young Victorians – particularly for those from challenging backgrounds. These programs will help them stay on track through a range of tailored activities and programs."

"By supporting young people, we're creating a better future for them, their communities and all Victorians."

Quotes attributable to Member for Broadmeadows Frank McGuire

"Vulnerable young people can sometimes need a bit of extra support to stay connected and resilient, and organisations like the Northern Community Support Group do incredible work supporting young people."

"I'm thrilled to see this program help kids from across our area to have somewhere safe to turn to over the summer holidays."