

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Skills and TAFE
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NEW COMMUNITY HUB IN THE HEART OF BALLARAT

A new community hub in the heart of Ballarat will assist not-for-profit service providers support locals in need, backed by the Allan Labor Government.

Acting Minister for Regional Development Steve Dimopoulos today announced the start of works at the old Chatham House building in Lydiard Street South, supported by a \$1 million investment from the Labor Government.

The project will see the 1800s building completely renovated and refurbished to provide modern, accessible working spaces, offices, and meeting rooms to be used by not-for-profit service providers.

The building's facade will also get a refresh with the entrance to become fully accessible, which means multiple support organisations can work together under one roof. The upgraded space will also host charities and volunteers to come together for education and development.

Before the Ballarat Foundation purchased the building in 2018, Chatham House had several owners.

The Ballarat Foundation was formed by United Way Ballarat 35 years ago with the vision of a community without disadvantage and where everyone was empowered to prosper.

In 2019, the two organisations merged into a single entity that now supports and funds local initiatives and charities that help more than 200,000 people in the region.

Support provided ranges from arranging work experience, school activities and back to school vouchers, community health, learning to drive programs, food initiatives, Aboriginal development programs, and free library books.

Projects like this are part of the Government's record investment of more than \$41 billion in rural and regional Victoria in the past decade. For more information go to rdv.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Acting Minister for Regional Development Steve Dimopoulos

"This hub will provide a space for like-minded social welfare and not-for-profit groups to work alongside Ballarat Foundation United Way to strengthen their service delivery to locals in need of support."

"It's important to support initiatives like the Ballarat Community Hub because all Victorians deserve the opportunity to thrive."

Quote attributable to Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison

"Our \$1 million dollar investment into the Ballarat Community Hub will support the great work of the Ballarat Foundation and other not-for-profit groups across our community to help those who need it the most."