

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP

Minister for Tourism

Minister for Small and Family Business

Minister for Employment

Minister for Veterans



Thursday, 14 May 2026

GETTING MORE YOUNG PEOPLE INTO JOBS IN MELBOURNE'S WEST

Labor is helping more young people in Melbourne's west to get job-ready and employed.

Minister Suleyman today launched the Western Pathways Program at St Albans Tin Shed.

Delivered by Jesuit Social Services in partnership with Opendoor, the program provides tailored support for young people who are experiencing unemployment.

The inclusive services help young people develop skills, connect with local social support and participate in meaningful jobs, training and community activities.

The two-year pilot program will focus on people aged 15 to 24, people from multicultural communities and people who are at risk of involvement, or have previously been involved, with the justice system.

Participants can access mentoring and coaching, skills assessments, resume and interview preparation, support with training and tickets, job placement and support, and referrals to health and housing services.

The Western Pathways Program is backed by a \$3.2 million investment by Labor Government and is being delivered in three locations – St Albans, Sunshine and Melton.

Getting people into employment and training keeps them on the right path, which benefits the whole community.

For more information visit jss.org.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Employment Natalie Suleyman

"Labor is backing young people in the West with the training and support they need to get into work."

"Through the Western Pathways Program we will continue to back young people to transition into employment."

Quotes attributable to Jesuit Social Services Acting Chief Executive Officer Michael Livingstone

"The Western Pathways Program is a great opportunity to support young people from Melbourne's west to engage in training and employment outcomes. We look forward to working with Opendoor and the Victorian Government to deliver this exciting initiative."

"Working in and alongside local communities, we can make a real difference in improving long-term wellbeing and employment outcomes for young people."

Quotes attributable to Opendoor Chief Executive Officer Graham Dangerfield

"Western Pathways reflects everything Opendoor stands for – place-based, trauma-informed support that responds to the real needs of young people and their communities."

"We're proud to partner with Jesuit Social Services and the Victorian Government to deliver a program that not only supports young people into sustainable employment but also helps shape a more responsive and effective employment service system for the future."

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