

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### YOUTH FOYER GIVES VULNERABLE YOUNG VICTORIANS GENUINE CHANCE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The Brotherhood of St Laurence, Hanover Welfare Services and the Kangan Institute are proud to be delivering the new Youth Foyer project in Victoria.

A Youth Foyer is student accommodation for young people who are unable to live at home and wish to study and secure employment.

Tony Nicholson, CEO of the Brotherhood of St Laurence explained, "Youth Foyers are designed for young people who are without family support but who wish to remain or reengage with the education system. This project is so vital because without education and skills young people are unable to realise their aspirations and build a good life for themselves."

The Youth Foyer will be the first model of its kind in Victoria to join up two complex areas of government, providing secure, student accommodation for young people who agree to engage in training and education.

Tony Keenan, CEO of Hanover welcomed the Victorian government's investment, "Youth Foyers provide long term support to ensure that the most disadvantaged young Victorians get a genuine chance to succeed in life. This is cutting edge social policy that we know works."

Independent evaluations of Youth Foyers operating in the United Kingdom showed that 75% of young people exiting foyers were successfully engaged in further education, employment or both.

The Kangan Institute is a flexible, innovative place of learning and will offer the Youth Foyer residents an outstanding learning environment. "We have substantial expertise in working with disengaged learners and we are incredibly proud to be a key partner in this project," said Ray Griffiths, CEO, Kangan Institute.

The Youth Foyer will be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and the student residents will be hand selected young people that have demonstrated a willingness to engage in education and employment. Youth Foyers generally provide up to two years of accommodation.

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