





WHERE YOU BELONG

MISSION

Home Base provides youth with life skills and gives them a local safe place that allows them to develop through engagement in activities and meeting new people.

VISION

To give youth an opportunity to try new things in order to enhance their life skills and better their future.

Home Base gives youth somewhere they feel safe and can get the help they need, and helps youth to get off the street by giving them an alternative place to go during the night.

We would like to help those young people who are experiencing difficulties with their schooling and advocate for their future aspirations and develop in life so they are able to live a long and sustainable life.



Credit: Kyah Home Base Attendee

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HOW HOME BASE BEGAN



HOW HOME BASE BEGAN

Home Base Safe Lounge, a safe space for Mildura young people and children to go to on weekends. Was a concept developed by a group of driven young people motivated and committed to supporting youth in our local community; and three organisations (Sunraysia Community Health Services, Cultivator and the Hands Up Mallee backbone team) who had the courage and vision to support them.

The idea came out of the “Hands Up Mallee Project Y” workshop with local youth in early 2018. The workshop extended on the information already gathered around local youth issues as part of the Hands Up Mallee community conversations, such as:

- Lack of employment opportunities
- Failure to succeed in education system
- Issues related to body image
- Family problems
- Substance abuse
- Pressures of materialism
- Lack of affordable housing
- Negative stereotyping
- Pressures of 24-hour social networking
- Crime

During the workshop, the young people identified challenges and opportunities for youth in the community and created real and practical solutions to create positive change.

The Home Base Admin team presented the concept of Home Base to the Hands Up Mallee Community Leaders table (CLT) in June 2018 and received support from the CLT to commence a trial.

The trial was undertaken at the end of 2018, at Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC). The trial ran for 7 weeks commencing on the 9th of November 2018, and was delivered by the Home Base Admin team and Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS).

The trial was strongly supported by SMECC and Victoria Police.

HOME BASE TRIAL RESULTS

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The evaluation of the Home Base trial was informed by a mix of quantitative and qualitative data collected through attendance records, financial reports, social media statistics as well as volunteer observations and informal interviews with participants, family members, staff, volunteers and partnering agencies.

The evaluation was designed around a series of questions related to the key objectives of the trial.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- To develop and test a possible model and process for management of a youth space
- Promote the opportunity to young people and engage them at the site
- Create a safe place for young people to go, free from violence, drugs & alcohol
- To provide a place which allows young people to learn new skills
- For youth to have a free event or activity to attend on a weekly / regular basis
- Create a space for youth by youth

The evaluation was undertaken by Hands up Mallee in partnership with Home Base and Sunraysia Community Health Services.

WHAT MAKES HOME BASE UNIQUE

YOUTH LED

‘For youth, by youth’. The Home Base trial was conceptualised, designed and implemented by youth. Unlike traditional approaches, which often profess to be “informed by” or ‘led by youth’, but are generally restricted in a multitude of ways by funding guidelines, prescribed program delivery models and not truly seeing youth as an equal partner.

AFTER HOURS

The youth who developed the Home Base concept (the Home Base Admin team) were adamant that the trial needed to run after-hours because that is when local youth most require support and a place to go. This thinking directly challenged traditional models of operation in the service sector. It also challenged ways of thinking about meeting community need and the flexibility required to do so.

A NEW WAY OF WORKING FOR AGENCIES

The key organisations who support the trial (SCHS, Cultivator and HUM) played a supporting rather than a leading role, which required a willingness to think and work differently. For agencies to relinquish control to youth requires the bravery to step out of their way, the confidence to sit with uncertainty, and trust in the capacity of youth to lead.

NO NEW FUNDING

The trial did not receive any specific funding. This meant that a high level of commitment and ingenuity was required in: re-purposing existing funding, committing staff outside their traditional roles, in-kind donations and an unwavering belief in the concept from both the Home Base Admin team and the supporting organisations.

HOW THE TRIAL RAN

Open to children and young people aged 10-17, Home Base operated from the SMECC site 3 days a week (Friday 4-10pm, Saturday & Sunday 2-10pm) during the 7-week trial. A mixture of volunteers and paid workers staffed the trial. One of the Home Base Admin team was present each shift as well as a paid staff member from SCHS. Staff from the Victorian Police, SMECC and MASP also assisted with the trial.

After signing in on arrival, children and young people were invited to take part in any of the structured or unstructured activities that were on offer. Unstructured activities included playing pool, using the Wi-Fi, playing Xbox, riding scooters or helping to prepare dinner. Structured activities – such as creative workshops or sporting competitions were scheduled at a specific time and were led by a volunteer.

Each evening, a free nutritious meal was prepared on site – with the help of the young people attending Home Base and the volunteers. At the end of the night, transport (driven by volunteers) ensured that the children and young people were returned safely to their homes.

“Just seeing kids,
getting to interact with
them and see smiles
on their faces.
See that they’re
happy and safe.”

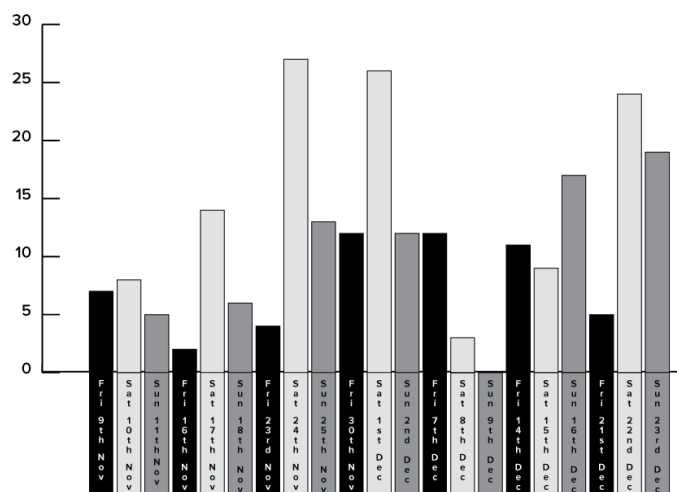
WHO CAME TO HOME BASE





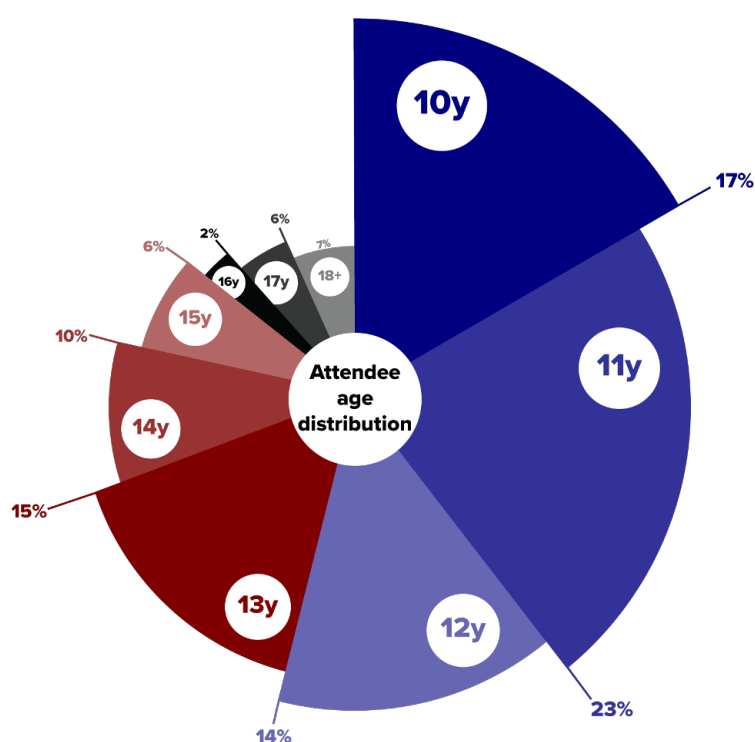
WHO CAME TO HOME BASE

Prior to commencing the trial Home Base volunteers were expecting that up to five children or young people might turn up once they opened the doors. They were surprised by the numbers of young people and children who came along. Week three was when numbers increased significantly, mostly due to word of mouth. Although there were some quiet days, on some occasions there were almost 30 children and young people in attendance at Home Base.



Home Base was targeted children and young people aged 10-17. The majority of those who participated in the trial were aged between 10 and 14.

There was a number of children aged under 10 who came along to Home Base, some of these were the children of volunteers, or younger siblings of Home Base attendees. When children under 10 attended without a parent/caregiver, a family member was contacted to make arrangements for them to go home. A small number of people over the age of 17 attended, and were therefore asked to leave as they did not fit the age criteria for Home Base. They were encouraged to get involved in the future as volunteers.



HOW DID PEOPLE HEAR ABOUT HOME BASE?

HOW PEOPLE HEARD ABOUT HOME BASE		
WHERE THEY HEARD	# OF PEOPLE	% OF PEOPLE
Service	16	24%
Word of mouth	22	32%
Unknown	30	44%
Total	68	100%

Children and young people heard about Home Base from friends, family and staff working in local services.

Social media (Facebook and Instagram) was used to promote the trial. The Facebook engagement scored a 1.26 engagement rate (average/good) based on 110 likes and comments from 87 followers over the trial period. Facebook and Instagram tend to have an older user following and the Home Base posts mostly received responses, shares and likes from adults and people working in local services.

THE ACTIVITIES

The children and young people at Home Base were engaged in both structured and unstructured activities. The activities that attracted the largest number of children and young people were the drumming workshop and the pool tournament. Other structured activities included: a projection art workshop, Christmas biscuit decorating, a tagging workshop and a Christmas decoration making activity (see Appendix D: Activity Calendar).

All staff and volunteers involved in the trial agreed that the structured activities worked well and engaged the children and young people, keeping them busy and involved.

How Youth Felt





WHAT HOME BASE ATTENDEES HAD TO SAY

“...my day has been stressful, I just needed to get out...”

Home Base youth age 16

“I want to run Home Base one day!”

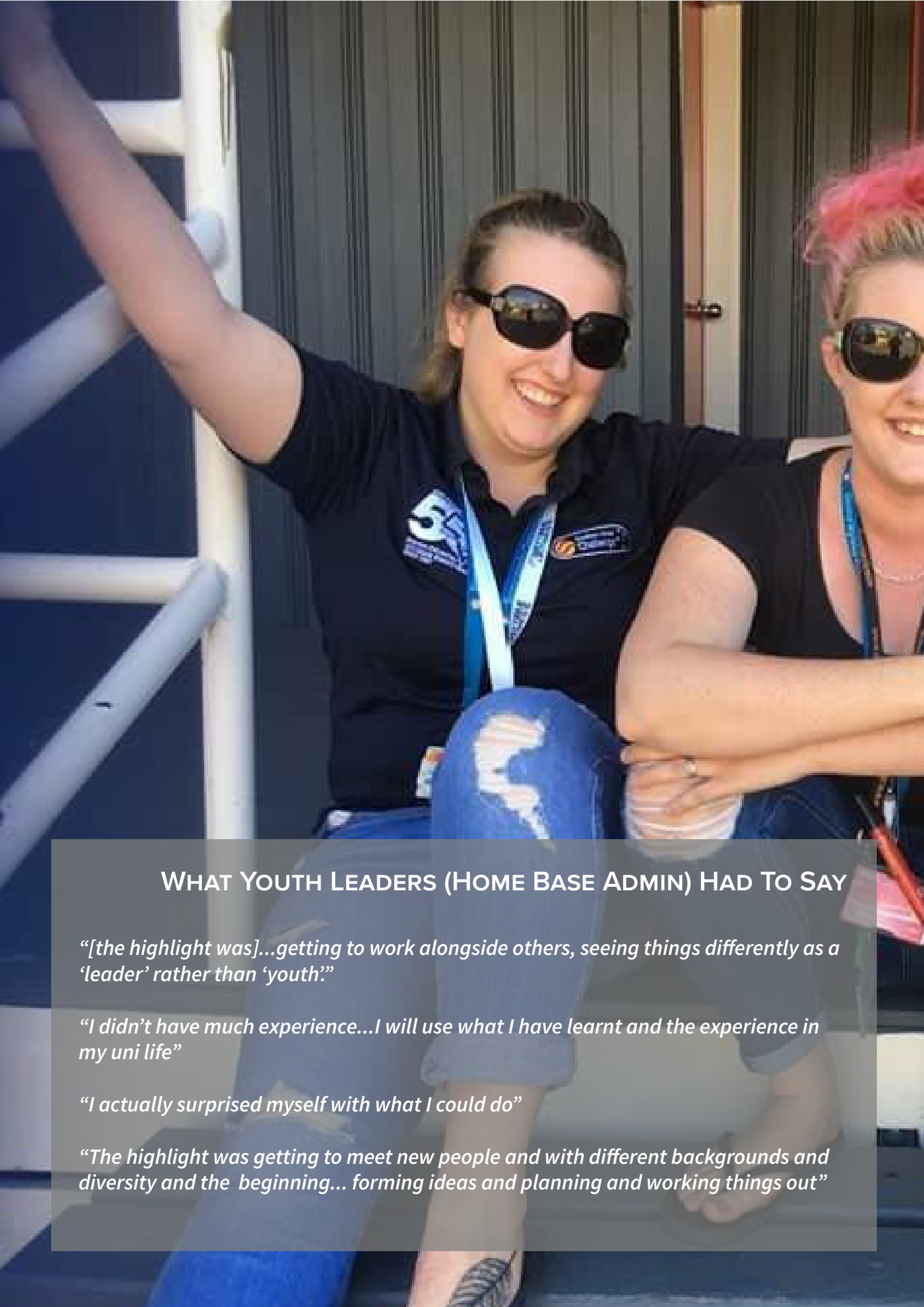
Home Base youth age 12

[If I wasn't here... I'd be home] “getting on mum's nerves”

Home Base youth age 12

“...had to get away from home because it was crazy with too many kids and I just needed a quiet place.”

Home Base youth



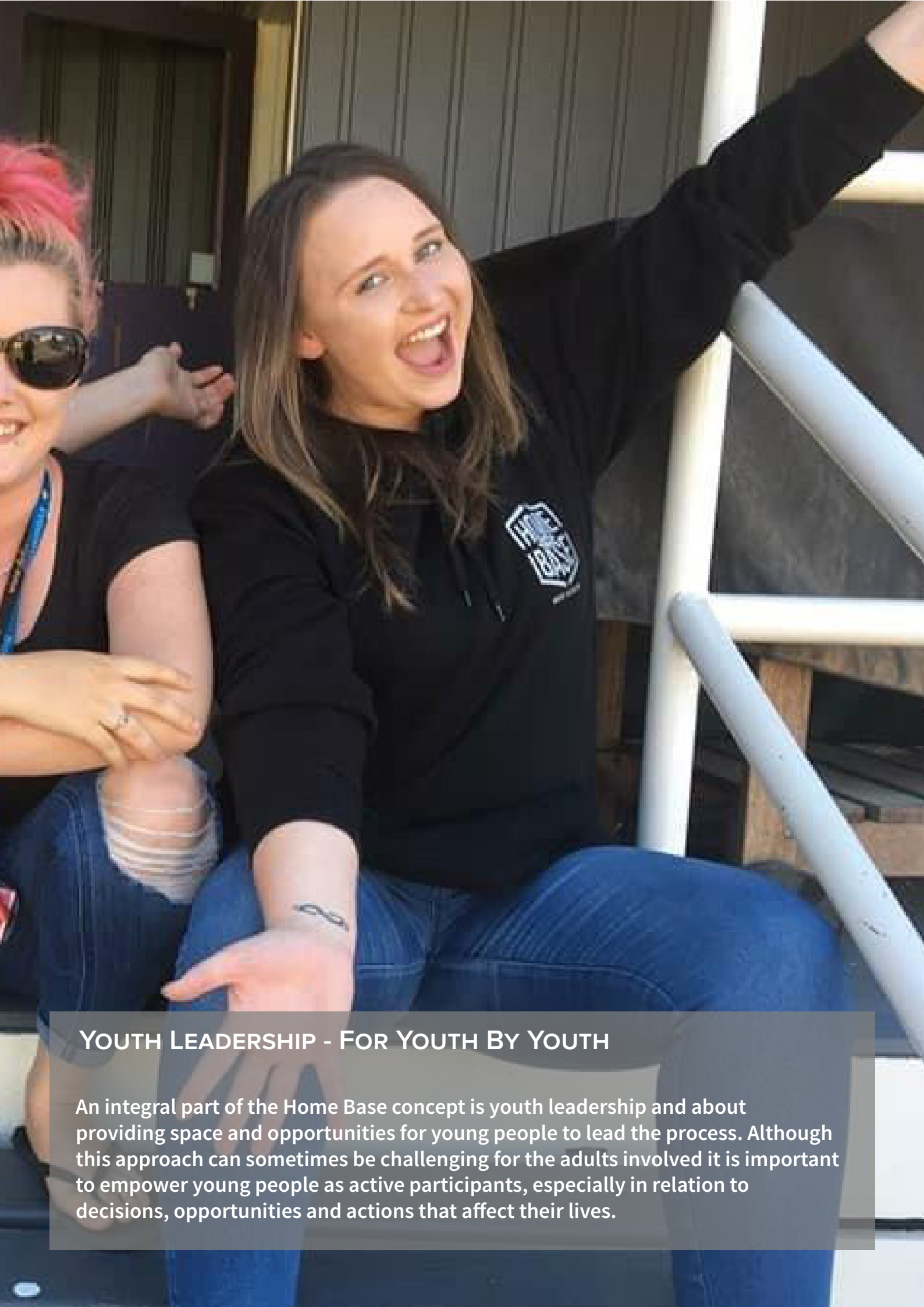
WHAT YOUTH LEADERS (HOME BASE ADMIN) HAD TO SAY

"[the highlight was]...getting to work alongside others, seeing things differently as a 'leader' rather than 'youth.'"

"I didn't have much experience...I will use what I have learnt and the experience in my uni life"

"I actually surprised myself with what I could do"

"The highlight was getting to meet new people and with different backgrounds and diversity and the beginning... forming ideas and planning and working things out"



YOUTH LEADERSHIP - FOR YOUTH BY YOUTH

An integral part of the Home Base concept is youth leadership and about providing space and opportunities for young people to lead the process. Although this approach can sometimes be challenging for the adults involved it is important to empower young people as active participants, especially in relation to decisions, opportunities and actions that affect their lives.

WHAT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS HAD TO SAY

“A few of the kids said that without Home Base they would just be at home, doing nothing and they don’t really like it at home.”

Home Base Volunteer

“This is a good model as it was community members that identified the need, which is key in terms of buy-in for the target group. It’s beyond co-design in my opinion; I think this is a good learning for service providers to challenge how we work with community on their terms.”

SMECC

“During my shift a young boy brought his Scouts shirt in because he needed help sewing the badges onto his shirt. He had mentioned it to a Home Base volunteer earlier in the weekend who arranged to bring in a sewing kit to help him with this. He sat down on the Sunday with the volunteer and attempted to locate and stitch his own badges onto his shirt. His attempt wasn’t very good but he persisted and proceeded to work with the volunteer to locate where the remaining badges had to be placed before he received help in stitching them in place. He was engaged in this process for a good two hours. He then wore the top with pride during the remaining hours that Home Base was open.”

Volunteer

“One young girl spent her whole time (approximately 3 hours) by my side walking with me to the bathroom, cooking alongside me, cleaning alongside me, sitting down and engaging in general chit chat... I feel she was crying out for a positive role model in her life and really enjoyed the adult interaction while just completing everyday tasks.”

Volunteer

‘On Sunday some Home Base participants ‘decorated’ the bathroom with hand soap. This was disappointing, however it led to four other participants voluntarily assisting the staff to clean the entire bathroom. This showed that the kids felt ownership and responsibility for Home Base and were wanting to make sure their space remained well looked after.’

Home Base Volunteer

“A structured and safe environment for youth to go we believe is a good option for youth who are at a loose end and it’s an easy environment for police to engage on a casual basis.”

Victoria Police

“Need to have the ability to develop genuine relationships and engage them where we can.”

Victoria Police

“One of the girls (aged 12) asked whether Home Base would be here in a few years when she finished uni... because she would like to come back and volunteer.”

Volunteer

WHAT IT TOOK



WHAT IT TOOK

In preparation for the trial the Home Base Admin team worked with SCHS and SMECC to develop the policies and procedures required to provide a safe, welcoming and engaging space for young people and children. The planning group met regularly, engaged local organisations, volunteers, as well as skilled and qualified staff to ensure the success of the trial.

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE TRIAL INCLUDED:

COORDINATION

Regular meetings of the planning group, OH&S and risk management planning (provided by SCHS), engagement of volunteers, approaching local services and community groups for support.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Ensuring sufficient volunteers (and paid staff) were engaged and rostered on throughout the weekends. The working group made sure that volunteers had current Working with Children checks and were appropriately inducted to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people attending Home Base.

VENUE

Working with SMECC to develop an agreement for the usage of the youth space for the trial.

TRANSPORT

Accessing appropriate transport (buses) with volunteers and a transport plan to ensure that the children and young people were dropped home at the end of the night.

FOOD

Securing support from local agencies and community groups as well as the Mildura Region School Breakfast Partnership to ensure there was food available to prepare and cook a nutritious meal for the children and young people.

ACTIVITIES

Ensuring the venue had the equipment and materials required for informal, unstructured activities such as play station, Wi-Fi, pool tables, as well as engaging local volunteers to run structured activities that were promoted to encourage young people and children to come to Home Base.

PROMOTION AND MARKETING

Establishing a social media platform for Home Base to promote the trial, encourage young people and children to attend, and seek feedback on activities and promote structured workshops throughout the trial.

WHAT DID IT COST?

EXPENSES		
ITEM	AMOUNT	
Staff	\$8476.02	Sunraysia Community Health Services
Food	\$735.00	Donations from: Mildura Region School Breakfast Partnership, Max Employment and Cultivator
T-shirts for workshop	\$836.25	Max Employment
Transport (Volunteers)	\$836.25	SCHS (\$776.25), Cultivator (\$50), Max Employment (\$10)
Venue	\$8470.00	In-kind SMECC (\$55 per hour)
Drink bottles / shirts	\$200.00	In-kind Christie Centre
Transport (Bus)	\$3465.00	In-kind SCHS
Total Cost	\$22,487.57	
Total Cash Cost	\$10,352.27	

STAFFING COST BREAKDOWN			
EMPLOYEE LEVEL	TOTAL HOURS	AVG. HOURLY RATE	TOTAL HOURS
Level 3 (Senior)	40	\$53.51	\$2132.28
Level 2	69	\$44.24	\$3052.45
Level 1	97	\$33.93	\$3291.30
Total Cost			\$8467.02

Given the nature of the Home Base trial, there was a need for experienced and qualified staff to be involved in a paid capacity. SCHS demonstrated a strong commitment to Home Base and local youth by funding these qualified staff from the planning phase through to the conclusion of the trial.

SCHS staff chose to be involved because they believed in the Home Base concept and were willing to help build it so that it could succeed. They brought with them experience in working with children and young people and a strong knowledge of the requirements to undertake a trial such as OH&S and Child Safe standards.

This experience base was an invaluable asset during the planning phase where paid staff worked with the Home Base Admin team to co-design the trial model and to create and implement policies and procedures to ensure that the model was safe and effective.

During the Home Base open dates staff continued to informally mentor the volunteers and the Home Base Admin team, while supporting local youth who attended. This dual role continued the development of Home Base Admin skills and knowledge which will contribute to the recommended long-term models sustainability and success.

HOME BASE CHALLENGES

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

As the trial presented the first opportunity for the youth leaders, various service staff and volunteers to work together, there were challenges experienced around the alignment of expectations about participant behaviour. At times there were clashes in ideology about how to deal with the challenging behaviours of some of the participants. The Home Base Admin team built the trial on a solid framework of inclusivity for youth who may not experience that in any other aspect of their lives. Sometimes this ethos clashed with the more authoritarian approach to behaviour management some of the paid service provider staff adopted. This resulted in significant difficulties in managing behavioural expectations consistently and staying true to the vision of providing all youth with a place where they belong.

VENUE

The venue played an important role in encouraging children and youth from various cultural groups to engage in the trial and was perfectly positioned to enable access. However, at times the venue also proved challenging. Other groups used the broader facility at the same time, and another youth group utilised the same facility immediately prior to Home Base on Saturdays. This sometimes made it difficult to determine who was at Home Base and who was attending the broader premises for other reasons. On two weekends the air conditioning failed making conditions very hot and uncomfortable resulting in participants being restless and irritable. It also resulted in the hours of operation being shortened on those days.

A NEW WAY OF WORKING FOR SERVICES

New ways of working require courage, vision, a willingness to take risks, and a desire to challenge existing service delivery models and funding silos. SCHS took on the role of lead support agency for the trial, despite not being a specifically youth funded service, when no other organisation was willing to do so. While a number of local agencies expressed interest in supporting the Home Base trial, and 26 representatives from various services attended an information session, few agencies were willing to make a firm commitment by way of staff, funds or in-kind resources. This is despite the existence of a local collective impact approach (which most local agencies are involved in) dedicated to improving outcomes for children and young people which is underpinned by adopting new ways of working that embrace community as an active and equal partner in creating change.

GETTING PAID STAFF ON BOARD

The paid agency staff who worked shifts at Home Base were predominantly from SCHS and the Victorian Police. The community policing unit rostered-on staff in their usual community policing time allocation, and saw the trial as an excellent way to connect with youth in the community which is a key part of their core business. Understanding the vision and purpose of Home Base, accepting roles outside of their traditional job roles, and a willingness to work on weekends were all challenges SCHS faced in getting staff to attend in a paid capacity. These challenges occurred despite the CEO of SCHS being deeply committed to the trial and willing to pay staff to work. These challenges were successfully worked through and SCHS supplied the majority of paid staff over the seven week trial.

BALANCING RISK


Risk, and balancing perceptions of risk with the need to support a youth conceived concept to become a reality, was a significant challenge. Initially the SCHS Board had reservations about supporting the trial, however once protocols were developed to manage risk and safety they supported the involvement of paid SCHS staff. Anecdotal feedback was received that many agencies that chose not to be involved in the trial did so because they felt after hours work with youth, led by youth, was “too risky”. This brings up interesting challenges for future collaborative community based work about perceptions of risk and whether perceptions of risk are holding community and services back from meaningful collaborative work which is required to truly change the system in which we operate. As one of the Hands Up Mallee Backbone team commented, maybe we need to be asking ourselves what the long term risk is of not listening to and acting on the ideas of youth in our community rather than solely focusing on short-term risk.

WORKING WITH POWER DYNAMICS AND GROUP DYNAMICS

New ways of working, with a new concept which has not been trialled before, with groups of people who have not worked together closely before, inevitably throws up challenges with power dynamics and group dynamics. Enabling youth to lead, and services to take a secondary supporting role, inverts traditional power dynamics. At times it was difficult for service staff to sit back and let things unfold, and not to jump in and want to “fix” things in the planning stage or to do things differently. The Home Base Admin team were also in the early stages of forming as a team, and so underwent the usual trials, tribulations and group dynamic challenges of working together. These challenges were overcome through a steadfast commitment to the trial and new ways of working, as well as investing time in supporting relationships with volunteers and paid staff.

WHAT IT CHANGES



A close-up photograph of a young girl with dark, wavy hair looking down at a smartphone. The phone is held by an adult's hand, which is visible at the bottom of the frame. The girl is wearing a white top with a blue butterfly pattern. In the background, another person with blonde hair is partially visible, and a white car is parked outdoors.

“Young people who feel engaged and who are provided with opportunities to participate, experience a better quality of life and contribute to creating and building better communities. In the long term, young people who are valued and feel connected have better health and mental health as adults”

p4 Preventing Youth Disengagement and Promoting Engagement,
Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth - August 2008

WHERE TO NEXT?



WHERE TO NEXT?

HOME BASE COMMITTEE

- Grow and formalise the Home Base committee, ensuring diverse representation of young people
- Register Home Base as an incorporated community group with Consumer Affairs
- Prepare for re-opening of Home Base before mid-2019

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

- Although the trial was supported by SCHS, the long-term approach, for a more cost effective and sustainable model, for Home Base is for it to be majority volunteer run
- Allocate shorter shifts (4 hrs max) and encourage once-off volunteer opportunities
- Build a greater pool of volunteers including volunteers from a range of experiences and with different skills that they can share
- Continue to invite local services who work with young people to be involved in Home Base and appreciate the value of engaging with young people in an informal, social way during the weekend

COORDINATION

- Build further community partnerships to support Home Base in the future
- Use grant funding to establish Home Base social enterprise
- Continue to work with the SCHS Health Promotion team to source local food, and to support the Home Base volunteers and participants to cook cost effective and nutritious meals
- Build on the effectiveness of 'word of mouth' promotion seen during the trial. By developing printed flyers about Home Base, and distributing them in public spaces that young people frequent such as Langtree Mall and the skate park
- Create a Snap Chat account for Home Base to promote to the target age groups
- Set a calendar of activities, booked and promoted in advance to which will support an increase in attendance and the vision of child and youth development through life skills, physical activity and creative expression
- Schedule multiple structured activities per day, including the preparation of dinner as a shared responsibility for all in attendance
- Engage young people attending Home Base early and support them to self-determine the rules and expectations and empower them to be champions of this to their peers

“...get out there and help the youth, they're our next generation”

Larni Edwards
Home Base Admin

CONCLUSION

The seven week Home Base trial demonstrates that there is certainly a need for a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for children and young people to go after hours in our community. The youth of Sunraysia whole-heartedly embraced the concept, with up to 30 young people in attendance on some days during the trial.

With the right support young people can lead change in our community. The Home Base Admin team demonstrated incredible drive, commitment to purpose, and tenacity in making their vision of a safe space for youth a reality. The trial could not have happened without the coming together of the community and service sector. While brokering such relationships is not without its challenges, the Home Base trial is evidence that it is possible and can be successful.

Often what is needed to get community-based initiatives such as Home Base off the ground is not more money, but the willingness to work differently, be bold, to accept a level of risk, and to unlock existing resources and utilise them for purposes identified by the community.

Home Base has a bright future due to a group of passionate youth who are leading the way with dedication and enthusiasm and key community organisations who have challenged traditional ways of working to support them.

The Home Base trial was proudly supported by the following organisations and groups:

HOME BASE VOLUNTEERS

CULTIVATOR

SUNRAYSIA COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL

VICTORIA POLICE

THE HANDS UP MALLEE BACKBONE TEAM

MILDURA DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES - KOORI NIGHT BUS

THE CHRISTIE CENTRE

MILDURA REGION SCHOOL BREAKFAST PARTNERSHIP

MALLEE ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

APPENDIX A - HOME BASE PROPOSAL LETTER

5 September 2018

Eleanor Heald
Administration Support Officer
Northern Mallee Community Partnership
PO Box 10184
Mildura Victoria 3502
eheald@schs.com.au

Dear Eleanor

My name is Chloe Janman and I am currently a part of HomeBase Mildura which it is in its beginning stage of trying to open a youth centre. The first centre is a SafeLounge at Sunraysia Community Health Centre premises in Johns Street Mildura. This will be an 8 week trial commencing in November 2018. The hours of opening are:

- Friday: 4.00pm – 12.00 pm
- Saturday: 12.00pm – 12.00am
- Sunday: 12.00pm – 10.00pm

In the 8th week, we aim to have it open for the whole 7 days - Monday to Friday and opening hours will be from 230pm-10:30pm

We are hoping that you will attend a meeting on September 27 2018 at 10.00am at 5 Johns Street, Mildura.

By attending this meeting we are hoping for support and ways that can ensure the success of SafeLounge.

Our mission and vision statement is:

Mission:

- HomeBase provides youth with life skills and gives them a safe place that allows them to develop through the engagement of activities and meeting new people who may or may not be experiencing difficulties. It also gives young people somewhere to socialise in a local environment.

Vision Statement:

- To give youth an opportunity to try new things in order to enhance their life skills and better their future
- HomeBase gives youth somewhere they feel safe and get the help they need as well as helping the youth to get off the street by giving them an alternative place to go during the night
- We would like to help those young people who are experiencing difficulties with their schooling and advocate for their future aspirations and develop in life so they are able to live a long and sustainable life.

Brand:

- We have worked with Mark Haynes from Cultivator and developed a branding which represents our mission and vision

HomeBase have three volunteer administration staff which includes myself, Larni Edwards and Bre Mcfarlane.

We want to help the youth of Mildura by giving them a safe place to hang out, play some Xbox, learn life skills, have access to computers and internet as well as getting help if they need it for whatever reason.

We invite you to our meeting, to hear our story, and think about how you can assist us to make this work. What do we need from you:

- We would like two trained staff from agencies available at SafeLounge while it is open. This means we need 2 staff Friday, and 4 staff Saturday and Sunday
- We would like volunteers to also help out while it is open
- Equipment – furniture, computers, x box etc.

We hope you can come and meet us.

Kind Regards



Chloe Janman

Administration, Homebase



Mark Haynes

Chair, Cultivator



Simone Heald

Chief Executive Officer, SCHS





HomeBase is a local group of youth who are working to address the needs of the youth within our community.

Mission:

HomeBase will provide youth with life skills and give them a safe place that allows them to engage in activities that will develop, inspire and educate them.

Give them somewhere to socialise in a non-threatening environment and meet new people who may or may not be experiencing difficulties.

Vision:

To give youth an opportunity to try new things in order to enhance their life skills and better their future.

HomeBase will give youth somewhere they can feel safe and get help if they need.

Give them an alternative place to go after school and get off the street.

HomeBase will help those young people who are experiencing difficulties with their schooling and advocate for their future aspirations and develop in life so they are able to live a long and sustainable life.



WHERE YOU BELONG

HomeBase is for youth to have a safe place to go, which is free of violence, alcohol and drugs.

For youth to access free events and activities on a weekly basis.

To provide a place which will allow young people to learn life skills.

HomeBase is running a 7 week trial,

which will start on the Friday 9th November 2018

at

SMECC - 12th Street, Mildura

Hours

Friday - 4pm till 10pm

Saturday - 2pm till 10pm

Sunday - 2pm till 10pm

HomeBase will provide meals and transport home.

HomeBase is after support from our community, organisations and agencies who want to help make a difference. Show that you care and get involved.

Contact

Phone: 0421 987 688

Email: homebasemildura@gmail.com

Find Us on Facebook - Home Base Mildura
<https://www.facebook.com/homebase.mildura/>

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www.cultivator.net.au



WHERE YOU BELONG

• A Place for Youth Aged 10 to 25 •



HomeBase - Admin Team

Bre's Story

Breanna Macfarlane (22).
Mother of 2 boys (3 & 4).

Currently studying Cert 4 Community Service
and is a Zoe Support Mum.

Bre has experienced family violence, been a
victim of domestic violent relationships, as a
result suffers mental health issues (depression)
and been part of the system (DHHS).

*"I want HomeBase, because if I had
somewhere like HomeBase, I might have had
the support to finish schooling, could be on top
of my mental health and had somewhere to
escape to when things got hard at home.
I could have been able to make friends that
understood me and support me, whether I had
problems or not".*

Chloe's Story

Chloe Janman (19).

Currently studying Cert 4 in Youth Work.
Chloe experienced family violence, been in and
out of DHHS since 2012 for a range of reasons
and recently kicked out of home.

*"I wished I had somewhere like HomeBase to
go when I was growing up. I'm excited to see
where HomeBase can be in the future, I want
HomeBase to be a safe place for the youth to
hang out and to build skills that they can use
in everyday life".*

Larni's Story

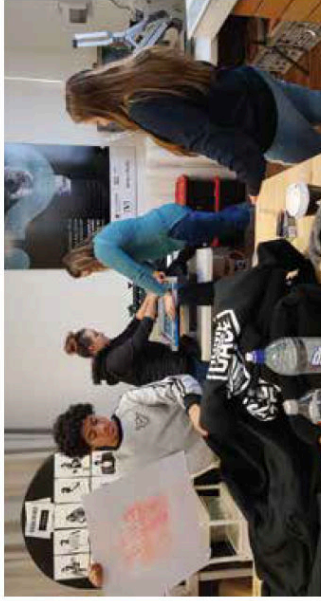
Larni Edwards (20).

Mother of 2 girls (1 & 3).

Currently studying Cert 4 Community Service
who cant wait to work with the amazing youth
and the diverse community in Mildura.

*"I grew up in a town that had a youth centre
which helped me to finish year 12.*

*I'm excited to be part of HomeBase and work
with such an incredible team of hardworking
people who have a vision for the future of
Mildura Youth".*



Activities

HomeBase will be hosting a Midnight Basketball
comp for the youth of Mildura early next year.

All youth are welcome to come along and join in
the fun. More details about this will be on the
Home Base Mildura Facebook page.

Fund Raising Activities

HomeBase are looking at setting up
a Clothing Brand using second hand clothing
that will be re-purposed, redesigned and sold
on-line, at markets and a pop-up shop.

HomeBase are now selling hoodies, t-shirts
and tank singlets that are screen printed
by the HomeBase youth.

We also have **HomeBase** stickers available.

To order or you have any ideas for activitiess
contact us via Facebook or Email.



*"HomeBase, where you can hit a home run
with all of us cheering you on.... have a rest
and go back out and face the world"*

APPENDIX C - HOME BASE CODE OF CONDUCT



WHERE YOU BELONG

PO Box 3517 Mildura Victoria 3502
Email: homebasemildura@gmail.com
Mobile: +61 421 987 688

This is a safe place for youth, volunteers and staff, free of violence, drugs and alcohol
WELCOME TO OUR SAFE PLACE

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR VOLUNTEERS AND WORKERS

All volunteers and workers must:

- Hold a current working with children's check (WWCC), and will immediately notify HomeBase representatives should their eligibility to hold a WWCC come into doubt
- Adhere to Child Safe Standards and ensure the youth in attendance are provided with a safe environment, adequately supervised, remain in sight and are not exposed to harmful or untreated risk
- Sign-in to the register of attendance when first arriving on site each day and sign-out when leaving site
- At all times act in good faith, upholding HomeBase's aim of providing a safe place for youth
- At least one worker/volunteer on site at any time needs to have a current first aid certificate
- All new workers/volunteers will require a Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC) induction and orientation prior to starting
- Follow the relevant and applicable SMECC policies and procedures as outlined in the induction/orientation sessions
- Acknowledge that HomeBase representatives are managing the service – volunteers and workers are in attendance to provide support when required
- Acknowledge that as volunteers/workers they are encouraged to engage with youth in appropriate and supportive manners, while also respecting that some youth may not wish to engage with them at times.
- Inform HomeBase representatives either by closed Facebook group message or by telephoning the dedicated HomeBase mobile phone number 0408 238 987 as soon as they become aware that they may be unable to fulfill their shift (or part there-of) due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances. Workers/volunteers should assist in arranging a suitable replacement to cover their shift where possible.
- Staff and volunteers of SCHS will need to contact 0417 734 362 if unable to attend their rostered shift

Processes:

- HomeBase representatives will keep a register of attendance and incidents. When not in active use, the register will be securely stored by HomeBase. Workers, volunteers and HomeBase representatives will only use information in the register for the purpose it was intended - i.e. to



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ensure participant ("young person") safety. Details recorded in the register will not be visible at any time to any other individual(s) including other participating young people, parents and carers.

- When a young person arrives, their name, arrival time and details will be written in the register, including their age. People aged 18 and over cannot participate and will be politely asked to leave.
- Children aged 10 to 13 years (inclusive) must have a parent or carer contact phone number recorded in the register.
- When a young person leaves the site, the time they have left must be written in the register. Should they attend again during the same session they need to sign in and out again.
- All young people who attend site will be provided with a HomeBase introduction bag upon their first attendance.
- All HomeBase representatives, workers, volunteers and young people are to wear their Respectful Communities armband whilst attending HomeBase

Operational arrangements:

- Sessions for the trial period are as follows:

- Fridays: 4 pm – 10 pm*
- Saturdays: 2 pm – 10 pm*
- Sundays: 2 pm – 10 pm*

**As HomeBase facilitated transport may be required of an evening, these times mark the end of the worker/volunteer responsibilities. The facilities will need to be closed prior to this time on days where transport is required to ensure all participating young people requiring transport are home prior to 10 pm. All young people participating in the program should be told sessions will likely end at 9:45 pm on any given evening.*

- A roster will be maintained by HomeBase representatives and emailed to all representatives/workers/volunteers whenever updated, identifying rostered representatives, workers and volunteers for each session.
- A hardcopy of the roster will be provided to SMECC and SCHS prior to the commencement of each weekend.
- The HomeBase trial will be facilitated out of SMECC's main facility (107 – 111 Twelfth Street Mildura).
- HomeBase representatives will open and close the assigned spaces at the start and end of each session.
- The trial will also include the provision of appropriate transportation home at the end of the sessions for the participating young people if they require it.
- On-site activities will stop before transportation begins (i.e. HomeBase will either be facilitating on-site activities OR transporting clients at any given time, not both)
- HomeBase representatives will work out if any young person requires transport home towards the end of each session. Should a participant require transport, activities will be wound up to ensure that the program (including any transportation arrangements) is finalised by 10pm.



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- Transport will be facilitated by HomeBase representatives in accordance with the relevant SMECC policies and procedures at the end of day / evening to anyone requiring a lift home. The address at which the young person was dropped off to will be recorded in the register.
- The building and grounds are to be visually tidy and clean each evening at closing time, and thoroughly clean and tidy on a Sunday close for the following week.

Other considerations:

- SMECC premises (including outdoor spaces) are entirely Smoke-Free. If a participating young person wishes to smoke cigarettes during the sessions, one **HomeBase** representative (not SCHS workers or volunteers) must go with the young people onto the Twelfth Street footpath and remain with them the whole time (this means the young person doesn't have to sign out/in). Workers and volunteers from other agencies are reminded they may have obligations to adhere to their organisational policies and procedures regarding smoking.
- If there is a change over of HomeBase representative, workers and/or volunteers during a session, a verbal hand over is required.
- Volunteers are encouraged to join in on the activities.
- If a volunteer or youth comes with a child under the age of 10 years, they remain the responsibility of that person, not of the workers or other volunteers

Emergency situations:

- In the case of any emergency, call 000
- If police are required for an urgent situation or assistance call the Police station: **5018 5300** and ask for **Section Sergeant**, and explain help is required at HomeBase
- If a 10 year old wants to leave HomeBase after 9.00pm, their parent or carer must be notified and transport provided by HomeBase if parent / carer can not pick up.
- If a young person doesn't want to leave at the end of day / evening, volunteers/workers must inform HomeBase representatives. HomeBase must contact their parent or carer to pick up youth, if parent / carer is unable to pick up, get them on the bus or offer a ride home with two HomeBase/volunteers in the car, and if that doesn't work then HomeBase representatives will call the police).
- If a young person discloses anything of concern to a worker / volunteer, HomeBase representatives must be informed and the appropriate reports to external agencies must be made. The register of incidents is to be completed, and appropriate action taken to ensure the young person is safe.
- Any aggressive behavior will not be tolerated and the person will be asked to leave immediately and can only come back at a later date if they are prepared to behave responsibly.
- No drugs or alcohol will be allowed on site. If anyone is found to be in possession of drugs and/or alcohol they will be asked to leave immediately and can come back when they are not in possession of such.



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- Young people attending sessions will be informed at, or prior to, their first session that they are not to attend if they are under the effects of drugs and/or alcohol. Rostered workers will be immediately informed should a young person come to a session appearing to be (or suspected of being) under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol or in any other altered state. The rostered worker will assess the young person and determine the best course of action in order to ensure the young persons (and other participants) safety and wellbeing.
- No weapons, or any items that could be used as a weapon, are to be brought to HomeBase. Anyone who brings a weapon to site will be asked to leave immediately.
- Parents/carers may come to site to collect their children, at which point they will be accompanied by a HomeBase representative, worker or volunteer at all times. No parent or carer is to remain on the property. These premises are for the use of youth aged between ages of 10 -17 years, and will be supported during their time by adult workers and volunteers.
- If any facility related issues, please contact Dean Wickham 0408 238 987

APPENDIX D - ACTIVITY CALENDAR



WHERE YOU BELONG

• A Place for Youth Aged 10 to 17 •

HomeBase is a local group of youth who are working to address the needs of the youth within our community.

HomeBase is for youth to have a safe place to go, which is free of violence, alcohol and drugs.

HomeBase provides a place which will allow young people to learn life skills.

HomeBase is running a 7 week trial, (9th Nov - 23rd Dec 2018)
at SMECC -12th Street, Mildura (next to the Christie Centre)

HomeBase are able to provide meals and transport home if needed.

Hours

Fridays - 4pm til 10pm / Saturdays - 2pm til 10pm / Sundays - 2pm til 10pm

Weekly Activities

Friday 7 December
Sharing Circle (7-8pm)

Saturday 8 December
Projection Art
- Ideas Workshop (3-4pm)
Mark Haynes

Sunday 9 December
Videography Workshop (4-7pm)
Mark Haynes

Friday 14 December
Xmas Biscuit
Decorating (5-6pm)

Saturday 15 December
Projection Art
- Production Workshop (3-8pm)
Mark Haynes

Sunday 9 December
Projection Art
- Project Finished Work (8-9pm)
Mark Haynes

Friday 21 December
Footy & Board Games

Saturday 22 December
Pool Comp (4-5pm)

Sunday 23 December
Games and
Christmas Dinner (6-8pm)



Contact

Phone: 0421 987 688

Email: homebasemildura@gmail.com

Find Us on Facebook - Home Base Mildura

<https://www.facebook.com/homebase.mildura/>

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SUNRAYSIA DAILY 17TH NOVEMBER 2018

Youth get to touch base



ASHLEE Falvo

afalvo@sunraysiadaily.com.au

A TRIAL safe lounge has opened, aimed at helping troubled youth in Sunraysia – and organisers say it all came about through people power.

Home Base administration officers and volunteers Chloe Janman and Breanna Macfarlane hit the streets to ask community members what they wanted to see established for the local youth – and a safe lounge topped the list.

"It all sort of started as an idea, and now it's finally up and running, which we are really excited about," Ms Janman said.

"There's not many places where young people can go and hang out for free – everything costs money, even going to the cinema. Not everyone has the money to do things like that."

"Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS), Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC) and Cultivator have backed us and been a really important part of making this happen – we couldn't have done it without their support."

"SMECC offered us the use of one of their rooms, which was great because it's in a good location that kids can easily get to," she said.

The safe lounge is aimed at youth between the ages of 10 and 17 who may be experiencing difficulties at home, but is also open to young people who are just wanting a safe space to spend time.

"We really just wanted to create a place where young people can come and hang out, a place where they feel safe," Ms Macfarlane said.

"We have free internet access, which might not sound like much, but for kids who are struggling to do their homework because they don't have internet at home, it



Home Base administration organisers Larni Edwards, Breanna Macfarlane and Chloe Janman at the Home Base building.
Picture: Louise Barker

can be a really big help. We also put on meals and there are always adults here on hand to supervise. There are two SCHS workers and one Home Base worker here at all times."

Ms Macfarlane said the vision for the future was to establish five safe lounges in the Mildura area, each targeting a different youth group.

"If all goes well with this one, ideally we'd like to have one suited to an older age

group, one dedicated to study groups, one for kids struggling with accommodation and one that provides a space for kids to express themselves through art," she said.

The safe lounge has six weeks of its trial period left and the volunteers are hoping to get as much community involvement as possible during that time.

"We would love for people to get involved in the trial – all you need is a volunteer work-

ing with children check," Ms Janman said.

"The more we can show how important a space like this is, the better chance there is of us being able to reopen next year – bigger and better."

The safe lounge is open Friday 4pm to 10pm, and Saturday and Sunday 2pm to 10pm at SMECC, 111 Twelfth Street, Mildura.

People who would like to be involved should call Chloe on 0401 658 010.

SUNRAYSIA DAILY 10TH JANUARY 2019

Lounge looks for permanent seat

By Ashlee Falvo

afalvo@sunraysiadaily.com.au

ORGANISERS of a trial safe lounge in Mildura have labelled it a success, and are calling on community support to make it permanent.

Home Base admin officers and volunteers Chloe Janman and Larni Edwards say the seven-week trial of the youth centre "exceeded expectations."

"It took a few weeks to get off the ground, but honestly after two weeks of opening, we had an average of 15 kids a night coming through the doors," Ms Janman said.

"It was mostly word of mouth, kids telling their friends about it and bringing them along. We are so happy with the way it all went, and we really believe it's something permanent that the youth in Mildura need."

The safe lounge, located at Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC), was aimed at youth between the ages of 10 and 17 who may be experiencing difficulties at home, but was also open to young people who are just wanting a safe space to spend time.

Now that the trial period is over, volunteers are in full swing to form an official committee,

register as a not-for-profit organisation and make the safe lounge permanent.

"The seven-week trial period was great, it gave us a chance to see what works and what doesn't," Ms Edwards said.

"We got a lot of feedback from the participants and now we're ready to do what it takes to make this an ongoing place that youth can come to. That stability is important for youth, especially youth at risk."

But the women say they need the backing of the community to take the next step.

"A lot of people talk about youth issues, it's a really hot topic

at the moment," Ms Janman said.

"This is an opportunity for people to get involved and actually make a positive difference."

"We saw the changes in the kids who participated in the trial, and they were amazing. Kids who were once really shy and reserved got involved, they came out of their shell, they interacted and made friends. They felt like they had a safe space to go. That's what it's all about."

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23, at SMECC at 111 Twelfth Street, Mildura, at noon for people interested in getting involved, volunteering, or wanting more information.

Sunraysia Daily Saturday, January 12, 2019

Larni always finds time to give back



By Simon Cameron
scameron@sunraysiadaily.com.au

BEING a mum and part-time student would be enough to keep most people busy, but 20-year-old Larni Edwards has found the time to give back even more to Sunraysia youth.

Ms Edwards is one of three volunteers under 25 who created and help run Home Base, a trial service that provides youngsters aged between 10-17 with a safe lounge to socialise.

The trial, which started in November, has just finished and was such a success there is hope it will reopen again soon and a second Home Base added for older youth this year.

Ms Edwards was volunteering 20-hours a week during the trial in a supervision role.

"For the trial, I was working until 10 o'clock at night most nights, so I'd start around six, sometimes I'd start at four or two and work right through until 10 and close up here," she said.

"By the time I'd get home my kids would be in bed. Then I'd go to bed, get up the next morning and do it all again."



Youth volunteer Larni Edwards finds her work at Home Base extremely rewarding.

Picture: Carmel Zaccone

Ms Edwards said volunteering with Home Base had been hugely rewarding as she was able to see the personal growth in the youth using the service.

"Just seeing kids, getting to interact with them and see the smiles on their faces. See that they're happy and safe."

"When they first came they were very shy and wouldn't talk to each other. If they knew each other they'd talk but if not they'd just stick to their own little groups."

"Towards the end of the trial everyone was mingling with everybody and was really happy. The kids who were really quiet at the start and wouldn't say boo had really come out of their shell."

Ms Edwards is studying a Certificate IV in Community Services in the hope of making a career out of helping young people.

"I'd like to be youth worker or

something along the lines of (community organisation) Zoe's Support, working with young mums and helping them with their struggles," she said.

"I was a mum at 16 so I know where they're coming from and how hard it can be."

Home Base offers recreational activities for youth with pool competitions, video games and other sporting activities and the supervisors also help the youngsters in any way they can.

"We're quite strict on the idea that we won't open during school hours because we don't want them to think they can come here instead of going to school," Ms Edwards said.

"So we offer help if they want to bring their homework in, we can give them a hand."

"We have a little boy who brought in his Scout's uniform because he

wasn't able to sew his badges on. He brought it in so we could sew his badges on. It was pretty cute."

Ms Edwards said they hoped to run a cooking program this year and possibly small excursions to a swimming pool or farm.

"We're hoping to open another base toward the end of the year that would be for 18-25 (year-olds) which would then give the older community, whether they're studying or young mums, they can have somewhere to go."

Ms Edwards has a simple message for other young people considering volunteering: "Get out there and help. You're the youth, get out there and help the youth, they're our next generation."

Do you know a volunteer we should feature in our Doing Our Bit series? Contact us at news@sunraysiadaily.com.au



WHERE YOU BELONG