

THE HAVEN: A SPACE FOR THE YOUTH OF GV



THE HAVEN OFFERS A SAFE,
WELCOMING SPACE FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE AGED 12 TO 24 TO:

- * GATHER AND RELAX
- * MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- * MEET POTENTIAL MENTORS
AND ROLE MODELS
- * ACCESS FOOD AND OTHER
NECESSITIES
- * PARTICIPATE IN
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
- * LEARN NEW SKILLS AND
- * ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES TO
SUPPORT THEIR WELLBEING

THE HAVEN IS BASED 92 WYNDHAM ST
SHEPPARTON (NEXT DOOR TO THE RSL).

IT IS CURRENTLY OPEN MONDAY TO THURSDAY FROM 4PM TO 8PM AND
WILL SOON OPEN ON FRIDAY EVENINGS (DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED).

It was established by the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project in 2017 after extensive community consultation showed young people were seeking a safe haven and a place to meet friends and role models and learn life skills.

No appointments or referrals are required. Young people can simply walk in off the street. There are a range of recreational activities available at the site including table tennis, pool, xbox and Wii, karaoke, board games, basketball and fun organised games. There are also regular guest speakers covering issues such as sex education and mental health and access to music, art and craft, story-telling and multicultural activities. The young people sometimes volunteer in the community and assist with fundraising and are forming links to many community and business leaders via The Haven.

Young people help with the cooking and clean up and a hot cooked meal is served each evening of opening. There is also a vegetable garden and outdoor area for relaxation.

The opportunity to participate in regular excursions around the town such as visits to swimming pools, Go Jump, the lake etc; as well as occasional excursions out of town to the beach, Luna Park etc.

The Haven is staffed by trained youth workers as well as a large number of volunteers drawn from the business and wider community. There are high expectations around behaviour.

Young people from all walks of life visit The Haven with 20 to 50 kids attending most evenings. While some are thriving, others may be experiencing family or other issues and find The Haven a safe place to access food and support. A group of young people who have been identified as leaders among their peers assist with managing the space, decision-making and program planning.

Some of the young people have challenging lives and efforts are made to support them to link more effectively to support such as services, school and the wider community. A worker will soon be in place to further connect young people to relevant services such as housing, mental health and school welfare workers.

Many of the young people are flourishing in the safe space where they meet new friends and engage regularly with positive role models.

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INTERESTED?
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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