



## Media Release

2 Years  
of Putting  
People  
First



**Gavin Jennings**  
Special Minister of State

Friday, 25 November, 2016

### **SUPPORTING PROJECTS TO DRIVE DOWN YOUTH CRIME**

The Andrews Labor Government's *Public Sector Innovation Fund* will support a crucial project to reduce youth crime and help divert young people from criminal activity in Melbourne's western suburbs.

Member for St Albans Natalie Suleyman today announced \$700,000 for The Youth Junction Inc. to work with young offenders through their Youth, Community and Law Program (YCLP).

This funding will support 1000 young people to access a range of co-located services – including health and employment services, stable housing and drug and alcohol rehabilitation – all designed to support their reintegration back into the community and away from crime.

The Youth Junction will initially focus on Melbourne's western suburbs before looking to explore opportunities to expand the program elsewhere in the state.

The project is being jointly funded by the Labor Government's \$11 million *Public Sector Innovation Fund* and the Department of Justice and Regulation.

The Fund aims to improve the delivery of government services, and support new ideas from people working in and with government as part of the broader public sector.

A number of grants have been awarded for projects since the Fund's launch in December 2015, including Monash University's work to boost the immunisation rates of secondary school students, and Safe Steps' development of better systems to manage refuge accommodation for the victims of family violence.

#### **Quote attributable to Special Minister of State Gavin Jennings**

*"The Youth Junction's Youth, Community and Law Program is working hard to reduce youth crime, while at the same time giving young people the support they need to get on the straight and narrow."*

*"This funding boost is about putting people first and ensuring we are doing everything we can make our communities safe from crime."*

#### **Quote attributable to Member for St Albans Natalie Suleyman**

*"The Youth Junction do a fantastic job diverting young people away from crime and with this funding they will be able to do even more in supporting young people across Melbourne's west."*

#### **Quotes attributable to The Youth Junction Inc. General Manager Karen Hart**

*"No single agency can address the current challenges faced by young adults. This collaboration intends to strengthen the early intervention and preventative approaches to the prevention of youth crime in Victoria."*

*"The funding provided by the Public Sector Social Innovation Fund and the Department of Justice and Regulation provides a great opportunity for us to collectively tackle the increasing challenges related to youth offending."*

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