

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP
Minister for Veterans
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Youth



Thursday, 23 January 2025

GEELONG'S NEW YOUTH HUB OPENS ITS DOORS

The Allan Labor Government is giving young Victorians across the Geelong and surrounding regions a new place to connect and create, with a purpose-built youth hub now open.

Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman today joined Geelong Mayor Stretch Kontelj OAM and Member for Geelong Christine Couzens, to officially open *'The Nest'* – offering young locals aged 12 to 25 access to a range of youth-focused programs and services to support mental health, employment readiness, life skills and social groups.

Designed by young people, for young people, the modern, purpose-built hub features an open-plan area for socialising and group activities, creating a welcoming space for young people to connect with one another and engage in their community.

'The Nest' will assist young locals in developing their skills across a range of areas, with a multipurpose room designed for music, arts and workshops, as well as a fully equipped kitchen for cooking classes.

Located in the Busport complex on the corner of Gheringhap Street and Transit Place in Geelong, the service will operate as a two-year pilot program.

The name of the service was selected following extensive community engagement led by the City of Greater Geelong with young locals – the symbolism of a safe and nurturing environment resonating with them.

The project is supported through the Labor Government's five-year Youth Strategy *'Our promise, Your future'* and backed by a \$1 million investment to upgrade and develop place-based youth hubs, in outer metropolitan Melbourne and in regional locations across the state.

Quote attributable to Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman

"The Nest is just one of several important spaces we are creating – giving young people a place they can feel at home, access support and engage in activities that promote their wellbeing."

Quote attributable to Member for Geelong Chris Couzens

"Young people in Geelong came to me with a vision for a dedicated Youth Hub. I'm proud to stand with them and see The Nest delivered - ensuring that local young people have a safe space with the support and tools they need to thrive."

Quote attributable to City of Greater Geelong Mayor Stretch Kontelj OAM

"The Nest promises to be a fun, welcoming, and inclusive space for young people across Greater Geelong to relax, access essential services, and connect with peers."