



Jenny Mikakos MP

Minister for Families and Children
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Mayor Bob Turner
Melton City Council
PO BOX 21
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Dear Mayor Turner

Thank you for your letter regarding funding for neighbourhood houses in the City of Melton

The Andrews Labor Government is backing our neighbourhood houses as we want to ensure more Victorians have access to the vital employment, training and volunteering services that many neighbourhood houses provide in local communities across Victoria.

The *Victorian Budget 2018/2019* invests a further \$21.8 million across the neighbourhood house network so that more people can enjoy the benefits of neighbourhood houses and the activities and services they provide.

This is the biggest funding boost to neighbourhood house coordination hours ever, with an extra 76,700 hours to be delivered each year to more houses across the state.

This funding will also provide mobile neighbourhood house networkers with an additional 4,800 hours per year to spend more time with individual houses in their region to help them improve access to key services and activities.

Eligible neighbourhood houses currently funded less than 25 hours per week through the neighbourhood house coordination program have been invited to participate in an expression of interest process to increase their coordination hours to 25 hours per week. Further, currently un-funded neighbourhood houses and local governments will soon be invited to apply for funding of up to 25 coordination hours per week through the neighbourhood house coordination program.

This funding boost builds on the more than \$30 million per annum the Andrews Government already provides to support 375 neighbourhood houses, 16 neighbourhood house networks and the peak body, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.

The Labor Government's record investment in neighbourhood houses is almost eight times more than what was delivered under the previous Liberal Government.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Mikakos MP
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