



## **Providing transportation for women at the House of Hope**

### **About the organisation**

Foundation 61 offers Geelong's only affordable long-stay residential based drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre for men and has built a reputation as one of the region's leading community service organisations. It provides clients with exceptional long-stay accommodation in a safe, rural environment surrounded by natural beauty and training facilities.

Foundation 61 has also run a community-based women's program for more than 10 years that aims to empower, support and equip women to live healthy and balanced lives. The program offers counselling, training, mentoring, volunteer opportunities, social events and an annual women's retreat. Each year, however, requests for a long-stay residential program for women grow.

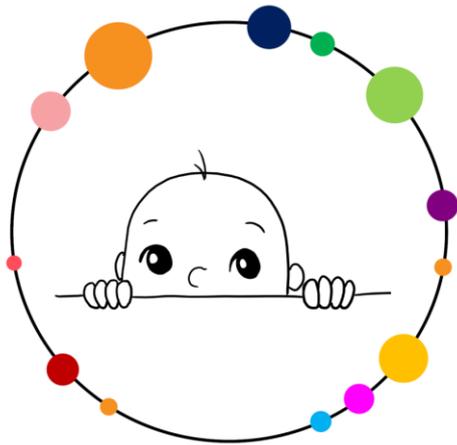
In response the Federal government has provided funds to build an 8 bed residential facility for women. The 'House of Hope' will open its doors to women seeking help with life controlling issues in 2023. The program offered to women uses a case management approach that responds to participants needs in a caring and flexible way, supporting them to set their own personalised goals for recovery, providing them with the opportunity to develop life skills and supporting them to reintegrate into their community.

[foundation61.org.au](http://foundation61.org.au)

### **How the grant will be used**

The 'House of Hope' is located in beautiful rural surroundings in Mt Duneed. This project will provide transportation for House of Hope participants. Grant funds will be used to purchase a mini bus for transporting women receiving care at the House of Hope to and from events, appointments and other activities such as outdoor recreation activities (e.g., visits to the beach) and local events (e.g., Foundation 61's annual volunteers thank you evening).

Funding will also assist in the purchase of car seats for participants who have children and for running costs over the first year.



# Tiny Dots

## Early Intervention

### **Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Program**

#### **About the organisation**

Tiny Dots Early Intervention is a newly established not-for-profit charity providing assessment, referral and short-term intervention services to babies and toddlers aged 0-2 years who are significantly at risk of disability or developmental delay in the Greater Geelong area. It was established to address the growing gap in services provided within the region for infants/toddlers. There is no other service in Geelong dedicated to this clinical population.

Currently many children are not detected until they are school age when the window for brain change (neuroplasticity) is closing, the chance to access NDIS for therapy is shutting and the developmental gap between these children and their peers has already expanded.

Providing Allied Health (Speech Pathology/Occupational Therapy) assessments and short-term therapy to vulnerable infants/toddlers, Tiny Dots' expert therapists are trained to identify babies at risk of more subtle disabilities/impairments in the 0–2-year age group using specialist assessment tools.

Tiny Dots helps infants/toddlers because the younger the child, the more effective the therapy. By combining rigorous assessment followed by a tailored therapy program, Tiny Dots puts 'tiny dots' on the right path to achieve their greatest potential, helping infants and toddlers flourish and thrive. The Tiny Dots innovative early intervention program ensures delays are not missed in the early years of life.

[dottodotearlyintervention.com.au/tinydots](http://dottodotearlyintervention.com.au/tinydots)

#### **How the grant will be used**

Grant funds will be used to establish Tiny Dots program as a sustainable stand-alone service. The grant will help with establishment costs including purchase of equipment and assessment tools, and funding wages for therapists to provide free initial and comprehensive assessments, and therapy sessions to vulnerable infants 0-2yrs.



## **Expansion of Wombat's Wish**

### **About the organisation**

Wombat's Wish is a grassroots charity, based in Drysdale, that supports Victorian children and young people who have had a parent die. 1 in 20 children before the age of 18 have a parent die in Australia. That is over 55,000 Victorian children. Currently, Wombat's Wish's is one of the only specialist services that offers professional support to these children in Victoria. This is an extremely difficult time for them and their family, and this can potentially result in long-term emotional health problems.

Wombat's Wish assists bereaved children to find a way to live with loss and grief, to move forward and take the next steps on their bereavement journey. Wombat's Wish operates this valuable service providing weekend camps for children and the surviving parent/carer at no cost to the families or children.

Community-based child bereavement services are about prevention. Many bereaved children/ young people use maladaptive strategies to cope with grief. If children/young people do not learn healthy ways to cope, they are at risk for developing serious difficulties, such as depression, anxiety, or anti-social behaviours. Enhancing self-esteem is essential in helping the child to be resilient and be able to cope with adversity throughout their grief.

[wombatswish.org.au](http://wombatswish.org.au)

### **How the grant will be used**

Wombat's Wish would like to employ a psychologist as a pilot program for 12 months to provide the 1:1 counselling, group counselling and camp counselling support to children/young people residing in the G21 region.

The psychologist will also redevelop the group counselling sessions, develop and research new program areas such as Covid death camps, redevelop the suicide death camps, introduce monthly facilitated sessions for families known as the parents lounge and kids lounge.

The new position will support Wombat's Wish to meet evidence-based support and service delivery that is researched and provides best practice within the region, supporting families after the death of a parent.