



ABOUT THE ORGANISATION:

Foundation 61 was founded in 2005 and since this time has established themselves as a respected community service organisation in the Alcohol and Other Drug sector in Geelong.

'Our mission is to empower people who are confronting life controlling addictions so they can restore control in their lives and contribute positively to mainstream society.'

Foundation 61 operates the only two long stay addiction rehabilitation facilities in Geelong:

- Restoration House for Men – 15 bed residential drug rehabilitation facility set on four acres on the outskirts of Geelong. The program is six months live in and offers a holistic program for recovery.
- House of Hope for Women – 8 bed residential drug rehabilitation facility set on two acres in Mt Duneed, for women and women with dependent children. The program is six months live in and offers a holistic program for recovery. This facility for women was opened in August 2024.

HOW THE GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED:

The funding will support the employment of an Alcohol and Other Drug Lead Worker for one year. This essential role will be located at the House of Hope for Women and will oversee the implementation of the program of recovery, ensuring participants receive the care and attention needed to attain sobriety.

Website: www.foundation61.org.au



ABOUT THE ORGANISATION:

The Empowerment Challenge's (TEC) mission is 'to provide younger mums with a safe space to feel empowered, connected, respected and valued. Offering long-term accessibility to services providing mental health and well-being support, mentorship and community connection'.

TEC runs three Younger Mums Groups each week for mums aged 26 and under, across Geelong. These weekly groups foster connection, create a sense of community and offer informal mentoring and support. Currently support is available for 6 hours per week. TEC often invites external services such as The Orange Door to introduce themselves, engage with participants and offer support.

Additionally, TEC's Help Hub operates during the group sessions, whereby staff provide practical assistance such as navigating Centrelink forms, completing job applications or paying online bills, further empowering participants with essential life skills.

TEC also offers one-on-one outreach support for younger mums who cannot attend the weekly group sessions due to mental health challenges or logistical barriers.

HOW THE GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED:

The funding will be used to secure a premises to open The Empowerment Challenge HUB, a bricks and mortar building that will operate five days a week. This will provide long-term, easily accessible support for vulnerable younger mums in Geelong. It will offer a safe space for connection, self-empowerment, and mental well-being, while improving access to essential services and fostering a strong community.

Website: www.empowermentchallenge.org.au



WESTERN CHANCES

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION:

Western Chances is a not-for-profit organisation that provides life-changing scholarships, support, and opportunities to high achieving young people who are facing financial barriers to realising their potential. Historically servicing the Western suburbs of Melbourne, Western Chances expanded its services into Geelong approximately two years ago.

'Our mission is to create equal access to education and career opportunities for young people in the Geelong Region. We believe that aspirational young people should not be held back by circumstance, and we work to empower young people to realise their ambitions through targeted financial and programmatic support'.

To support this mission Western Chances provides educational scholarships alongside learning resources, and access to their wrap around Links Program. The Links Program connects recipients with tutoring, mentoring and career pathways that build social capital through access to networks and links to industry.

HOW THE GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED:

The funding will support the expansion of the Geelong Chances Program to five new schools in the Geelong Region providing 60 scholarships. In addition, grant funds will strengthen the Links Program that provides academic, personal and professional opportunities. As a result, it will help young people afford expensive education-related items, improve educational outcomes, and build pathways into higher education and meaningful careers.

Website: www.westernchances.org.au