



Engaging and responsible council

Continuing services at Brunswick's Don Bosco Hostel and Youth Centre

Brunswick

Our Ask:

Explore funding options to support the continued delivery of programs for children and young people from the Don Bosco Hostel and Youth Centre.

Using Development Victoria expertise, identify practical opportunities to retain a community youth facility on the site through precinct planning, development feasibility, partnership models, community infrastructure outcomes, and engagement with relevant stakeholders.

The Catholic Church's Salesian Society has determined that the Don Bosco Hostel and Youth Centre, which has been in operation for 87 years, is underutilised and surplus to its requirements. It is closing services and offering the Sydney Road Brunswick site for sale.

The Don Bosco Hostel and Youth Centre has served children, young people and families in Brunswick and beyond since 1939. The Centre provides a 30-room hostel for young men aged 18 to 24 and a popular Youth Centre offering free or low-cost after-school, weekend and school holiday programs, including recreation activities and accessible spaces for families and young people.

The Don Bosco Hostel and Youth Centre is highly valued by the local community. Its services and programs make a significant contribution to the wellbeing, inclusion and connection of generations of children, young people and families. Its loss would be felt particularly by young people and families who rely on affordable, accessible and welcoming community-based programs.

Council is calling for the Victorian Government to work directly with the Salesians to explore whether existing or future funding streams, partnership arrangements or precinct-based solutions could help secure the site's ongoing community benefit.