



Poverty Alleviation in Greater Dandenong

The Opportunity

Council recommends for the Federal Government to assist our collective endeavours by providing annual funding of \$2 million for 5 years for Council to coordinate place-based initiatives aimed at alleviating high rates of poverty in our community.

1 in 5 people in Greater Dandenong live below the poverty line.



Since 2020 Council has invested **\$1.7 million** in poverty alleviation with a further **\$8.8 million** invested in community grants.

How you can help us

Food security

- \$200,000 for initiatives to address food insecurity through community education, food production programs and 'help yourself' events.

Early intervention and education

- \$254,000 supporting new arrivals to connect to community via expanding Council's Community Connector program.
- \$159,000 for the Multicultural Community Engagement Network to educate about seeking support early through a multicultural lens.

Monitoring and Evaluation \$30,000

Place-based community support

- \$287,000 to fund Anti-Poverty Officer, financial counsellors and 'bring your bill' events by grass-roots community organisations.
- \$150,000 to test innovative solutions for addressing local disadvantage.

Homelessness

- \$790,000 social work outreach for hotspots as modelled by the South East Community Links and Metro Trains pilot.

A place for respite

- \$130,000 for Cornerstone Contact Centre to provide a safe place for rough sleepers to seek respite.

How the community will benefit:

One-fifth of Greater Dandenong residents live in poverty, with 1 in 4 children being below the poverty line. Council is well positioned to work collaboratively with organisations, such as South East Community Links, Salvation Army and Red Cross, to address identified gaps in current service delivery.

This integrated pilot approach will help alleviate poverty and contribute directly to our community's liveability and wellbeing. This will also become a template to address similar issues in other Australian municipalities.