

33 CHURCH STREET, PERTH – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The YouthBeat Service facility proposed for Palmerston Street will be operated by Mission Australia and the WA Police, in partnership with the Department of Child Protection, to support the objectives of the Northbridge Curfew.

It will operate between 10pm and 3am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to re-connect children under the age of 16 who are found unaccompanied by an adult on the streets of Northbridge and the Perth CBD. They will be collected by either Mission Australia staff operating the YouthBeat outreach bus service, or by police officers, and brought into the Palmerston Street service centre where they will be assessed while a safe place is found for them to be taken. Any young people picked up who have (or are in the midst of) committing a criminal act, or who are misbehaving under the influence of drugs and alcohol will be taken to a police station, NOT the YouthBeat facility.

We expect an average of around 25 young people will be brought to YouthBeat over the course of the three nights, usually in groups of 2-6, with minimal traffic movement and very little noise disruption. They are young people deemed at risk, who we are trying to re-connect with family and guardians, not young people being punished. If a safe place cannot be found, the young person will be taken to suitable emergency accommodation and our team will continue to work with them to resolve any issues or conflicts they may face.

It's important to note that no young people will be staying in the offices overnight and it is not an accommodation service.

This service has operated successfully in Northbridge for over 10 years, but with the sinking of the Perth railway line we lost our base and are now in need of new premises where our staff can work normal office hours from Monday to Friday and provide this valuable service for vulnerable young people across curfew hours.

We recognise the importance of being a good community neighbour and have a great track record with the other services we operate in residential streets, two of which provide 24 hour accommodation to young people who have experienced drug and alcohol issues. In fact, many of our neighbours take an active interest in our services and are keen to help in whatever way they can, be it dropping off a bag of lemons from their tree, or baking a cake.

To help us connect with the local community we would be proposing to form a reference group, in conjunction with the Town of Vincent, to meet on a regular basis and talk through any initiatives or issues that might come up, make the most of opportunities we can participate in and provide feedback on YouthBeat success stories.

Our first initiative would be enlisting the community to help us with an art project to transform the current brick façade into something that adds new life and freshness to the streetscape. Mission Australia's services are all about transforming young lives and we think that working with the community to revive an ugly duckling industrial building would be a fitting symbolic gesture to begin this new relationship.