



Living Learning:

Living Learning combines flexible learning with mental health support to make sure **everyone** can finish school

Living Learning is an innovative and well resourced program that provides the right support at the right time to the right people.



Traditional school isn't for everyone.

Melbourne City Mission (MCM) has launched a program that incorporates the student-centred education and wellbeing support model of the Hester Hornbrook Academy (HHA) to better support students who experience mental health conditions.

Living Learning utilises proven elements from existing MCM programs to provide a flexible, community-based learning program for people who are aged 15-21 at enrolment.



Learn at your own pace, your way

Living Learning provides wraparound support and richer experiences for greater success over a three year learning journey.

Planning for pathways into further training and work will begin from day one when students have access to careers planning throughout their journey. From there, The HHA Alumni program will continue offering ongoing guidance, support and advice.



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Working at my own pace has really helped me realise that if I do try hard enough I will probably be able to be the same as everyone else. Or even better. Coming here is one of the best decisions of my life. Not sure where I'd be without it.

- DJ, HHA student

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We Focus on Learning and Wellbeing

With both a teacher and youth worker in every classroom, our students are supported in all aspects of life through building strong, positive relationships.

Our flexible learning options give students the chance to:

- gain practical skills in a safe, welcoming environment
- pursue their own learning amongst other youth services
- work towards their goals in a supported way, including year 12 or equivalent
- take charge of their future and gain independence



Living Learning Is A Free Service

Eligibility Criteria

To be referred in to the Living Learning program, potential students must:

- be 15-21 years old
- have attended 10 or less days of school in the last 90 days
- have a mental health condition



3 campuses across Melbourne

Our campuses are located in the heart of vibrant communities across Melbourne, co-located with other youth services and close to public transport.

Living Learning: How is it different?

We recognise that good mental health is a key facilitator of effective learning. Students' mental health and wellbeing receives the same focus and resources as their academic learning.



MENTAL HEALTH WELLBEING

**Neuropsychologist,
Counsellors,
Psychologists and
Psychiatric support**
all available when needed.



YOUTH WORKER IN CLASS

All Living Learning classes are staffed by a full time youth worker and educator, with additional management available on site for support.



OTHER SUPPORT PROVIDED

Care navigation provided – Key Worker to coordinate supports which address barriers to student participation. Ensures student attendance and progress. Other supports may include homelessness, family issues, alcohol and other drugs, etc. Program brokerage available if further funding is needed.



SPECIALIST EDUCATION SUPPORT (E.G. FOR DYSLEXIA, ADHD, ETC.)

Specialist educators provide individual support according needs of each student.



TEACHERS

A single stable educator to student relationship is built with specialists joining in as needed. The student learns to work well with one educator.



PHYSICAL HEALTH PROGRAM

**Regularly visiting nurse,
doctors' appointments
and dentistry** funded through the program. Education about using the publicly available health services integrated into education model.



FLEXIBLE, PRACTICAL AND STUDENT-LED CURRICULUM

Students work at their own pace, developing core literacy and numeracy skills through practical projects aligned to their interests and future career aspirations.

Find out more about Living Learning:

mcm.org.au/learning/livinglearning

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