

Professional development opportunity, 'School Can't' panel discussion wrap up, new therapist profile!

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The Snapshot

Welcome to the FRMP Newsletter, Spring Edition

MCM's Family Reconciliation and Mediation Program (FRMP) is a state-wide service funded by the Victorian Government. FRMP provides brokerage funding and other capacity building activities for the youth homelessness sector.

[Learn more](#)



Professional Development Opportunity!
*Engaging with Parents, Carers &
Families of LGBTIQA+ Young People*

The Family Reconciliation Mediation Program (FRMP), in partnership with Drummond Street Services and the Centre for

Family Research & Evaluation (CFRE), is offering specialist training to build staff capacity in supporting LGBTIQ+ young people and their families. The program starts with a foundational 101 e-learning module covering inclusive language, pronouns, unconscious bias, and creating safe environments. This is followed by a two-hour workshop—offered either in-person or online—led by trainers who bring both professional expertise and lived experience.

This training will give staff the tools to better support LGBTIQ+ young people, handle disclosures with care and confidentiality, and work effectively with families. It also includes practical strategies, referral options, and useful resources to support your work. Grounded in Queerspace’s evidence-based and intersectional practice model, it centres lived experience and LGBTIQ+ voices, helping staff improve outcomes for young people and foster more inclusive and supportive environments across the sector. This training is FREE and there are 2 sessions available:

- **Online** - Wednesday October 22nd 9:30am-11:30am
- **Fitzroy North** - Tuesday October 28th 9:30-11:30am (light refreshments provided)

[Register for Online session](#)

[Register for Fitzroy North session](#)



**Drummond
Street
Services**



'Building Bridges: Supporting Young People Experiencing School Can't' - panel discussion wrap up

On August 13th, the FRMP team hosted an online panel discussion on the topic of School Can't. The event brought together a diverse panel of experts who shared valuable insights and practical strategies to support practitioners working with children, young people and families experiencing School Can't. The event was attended by 100 youth homelessness and allied sector workers from 40 organisations across Victoria. We received some wonderful feedback:

"Hayley was amazing and very insightful to listen to. The sharing of resources was valuable and hearing the one topic discussed from a variety of perspectives was eye opening"

"Great discussion which was very good examples. Loved that the focus was on the young person and the focus was strengths based and trauma informed"

"It was wonderful to have presentations from so many passionate people in the field. I just wish we had more time to talk to them all!"

The recording of the panel discussion is now available for viewing on our website, please check it out if you were unable to attend.



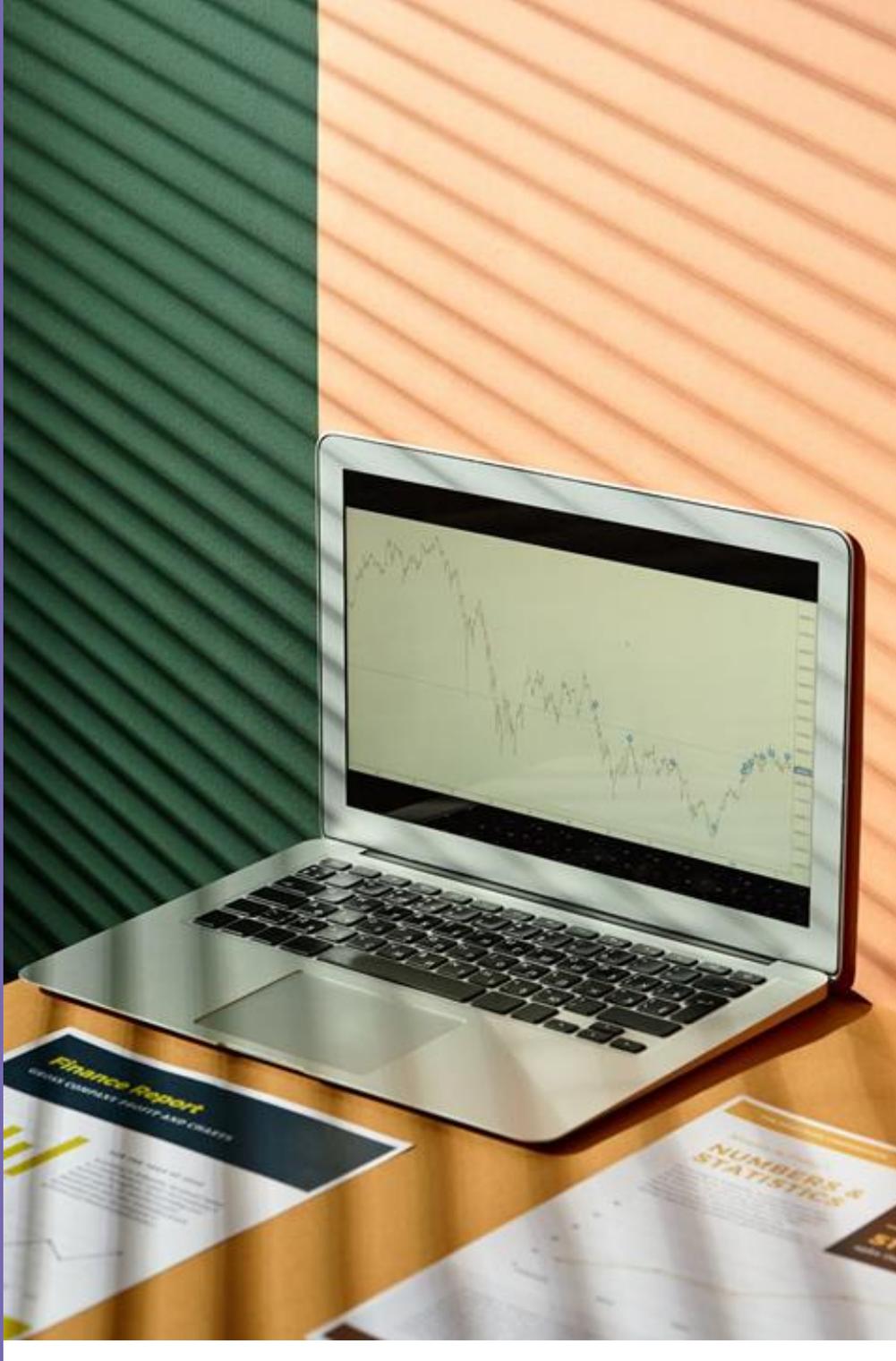
Did You Know? FRMP Brokerage Funding is Available for Schools Too

The Family Reconciliation Mediation Program (FRMP) provides brokerage funding to help young people who are experiencing — or at risk of — homelessness access therapeutic support during times of family breakdown. These supports can make a real difference in keeping young people connected to family, culture, and community, and in building the stability they need to thrive.

Many of you may know that youth homelessness sector workers across Victoria can apply for this funding on behalf of young people they support. But what's less well known is that **student wellbeing staff in high schools can also apply**. This means schools are in a unique position to step in early, when a young person is struggling at home, and connect them with the therapeutic support they need before things escalate further.

👉 To learn more or to start an application, visit our website or contact frmp@mcm.org.au. Together, we can make sure young people get the support they deserve.

[FRMP Brokerage Funding](#)



Please meet Leon Martin, our new Occupational Therapist in Geelong



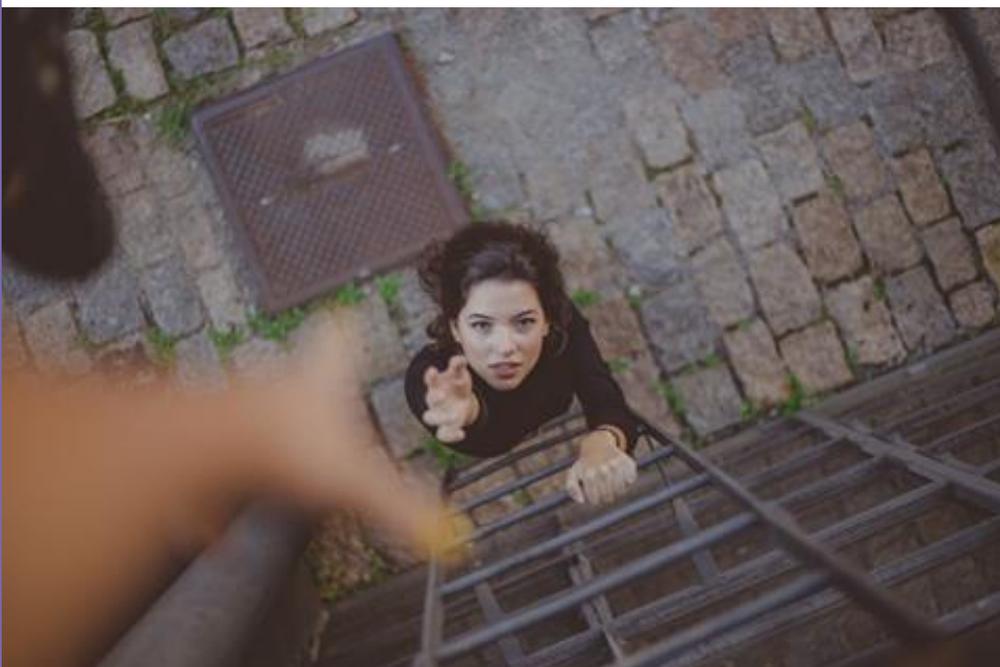
Leon is an Accredited Mental Health Occupational Therapist who holds a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy. He has worked in the mental health field for over a decade in a wide variety of settings including triage, high acuity, community mental health, child and adolescent mental health, and offshore detention. Leon adopts a collaborative approach working with clients to help shape the sessions and allowing them space to create and refine their own goals for therapy. Leon draws from various therapeutic modalities including cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT), Schema, acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), emotionally focused therapies (EFIT), solution focused brief therapy (SFBT), motivational interviewing and mindfulness. Leon is passionate about

improving mental health outcomes and changing the stigma around asking for help for young men and males, especially those in non metro areas with less access to mental health services. He has a particular interest in anger management, emotional regulation, anxiety/depression and assertiveness. Leon's goal is to help clients overcome barriers in order to achieve their full potential. As a mental health Occupational Therapist he takes a functional approach to treatment, and looks to identify and overcome the barriers to a full and healthy engagement in life.

New therapists on the FRMP register

Please also welcome the following therapists who have recently signed up to support young people experiencing (or at risk of) homelessness:

- Vessal Safaei - Mental Health Social Worker (Fairfield)
- Natalya Garden - Psychotherapist (Castlemaine)
- Peta Briggs - Mental Health Social Worker (Shepparton)
- Daniel Hoyling - Mental Health Social Worker (Frankston)
- Ashna Mangharam - Psychotherapist (Warragul)
- Stephanie Hallam - Mental Health Social Worker (Kalimna)
- Helen Spicer - Counsellor (Traralgon/Morwell)



[Contact Us](#)

The FRMP team has allocated contacts for the regions:

- **Poppy Fotiadis:** Metro West (incl. CBD), Metro North and Loddon Mallee
- **Cassie de Ruyter:** Metro South, Metro East and Gippsland
- **Linda Schwan:** Grampians, Hume and Barwon South West

Please contact the team on **03 9977 0046** or frmp@mcm.org.au with any enquiries.



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Family Reconciliation Mediation Program (FRMP)

Melbourne City Mission

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