



**YOUTH MAKING
A DIFFERENCE**



Diamond Valley Community Support

The DVCS YMAD (Youth Making a Difference) Project is a 6-month project focused on bringing local young people together to work on small projects in Banyule and Nillumbik to support other local young people who are doing it tough.

Why: Because Youth working together Make a Difference and have a greater impact in our community.

Diamond Valley Community Support (**DVCS**) is a not-for-profit charitable organisation that has been serving the local Diamond Valley community since 1972. DVCS services are free, confidential, impartial and independent. We assist over 2,000 people experiencing financial and/or personal hardship each year, and we are supported by more than 100 volunteers and 5 staff.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Emergency Relief, Material Aid
- Food Support, Transport Support
- Education Support
- Homelessness & Hygiene Support
- Financial and Personal Counselling
- Family Legal Service, Tax Help
- Public Internet & Computer Kiosk

DVCS recognises that young people are some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in our local community. Young people face greater barriers when it comes to access to education, employment, housing, and transport to name a few. However young people are also the experts on devising solutions to address their own barriers and to lead the way.



DVCS YOUTH PROGRAMS

DVCS Youth Programs have developed in response to the growing number of local young people needing assistance & experiencing financial and personal crisis.



Support DVCS Thrive Packs!

DVCS Thrive Packs help young people experiencing financial and/or housing crises with basic necessities including hygiene products and items that provide warmth to those sleeping rough.

Thrive Packs include hygienic products like soap, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant, sanitary items and more.



Strengthening Opportunities
for All Children
in our community.

KidsAssist grants go towards IT devices, text books, camps, uniforms & other educational essentials.



On any given night in Australia more than 100,000 people are homeless - sleeping rough, couch surfing, in refuges or boarding houses . **Nearly half of these people are under 25** (Mission Australia 2018)

Youth disadvantage, unemployment & underemployment continues to grow in Australia. Youth unemployment is twice that of the overall population. (YouthAction.org.au 2018)

A 'free' public school education can cost \$1,300 per child per year. Education essentials are simply out of reach for many struggling families. This can have a devastating impact on a child's education - if they can't afford the right uniform or the books they need, and feel as though they don't fit in, school becomes a place they don't want to be (Smith Family, Jan 2018)

Economically disadvantaged young people report higher levels of concern about domestic/family violence, bullying/emotional abuse and suicide (Mission Australia 2019)

Young Australians face greater financial and emotional challenges through the impact of - Conflict or family breakdown - Sexual, physical and emotional abuse in the home - Lack of access to employment opportunities - Rising housing costs & insufficient income to pay rent and living costs - Difficulties in accessing Youth Allowance and other support payments - Drug and alcohol issues; and Mental health issues (Foundation for Young Australians 2018)



HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

We are calling on schools, community youth groups and other organisations to work with us by creating your own fundraising or advocacy events, projects or activities that will help us support youth with emergency relief in our local community. These events or campaigns can be as small or as large as you want them to be and will contribute to the DVCS Youth Programs.



Examples of Projects:

Host a youth charity auction,
Sausage Sizzle, Car Wash
Donations Drive

Launch a Crowdfunding Campaign;
Host a Parent's or Peers Afternoon Tea Party
Fundraising Raffle, Jeans or Casual Dress Day, Bake Sale
Online advocacy campaign...

The possibilities are only bound by your imagination!

If supporting our **KidsAssist** grants, funds raised will go towards providing families and young people in financial crisis with grants for up to \$500 to go towards educational items and activities.

If supporting **Thrive Packs**, you can donate items, or funds to purchase the items, that make up a Thrive Pack. This includes:

- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes & Mouthwash
- Hairbrush, Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant & Soap & Face washers & Towels
- Pads/Tampons, Sanitary Bags
- Sun Screen & Water Bottle
- Beanie, Scarf & Sleeping Bags



WHAT TO DO NOW TO PARTICIPATE?

We would love you to partner with us and work towards our goal of providing more support to youth in the local area; and combined with the efforts of other groups such as yours we can all make a big difference.

Please contact:

Kerri Wellington on volunteers@dvsupport.org.au
(Client Programs and Volunteer Coordinator)

Or

Gavin Watson on eo@dvsupport.org.au
(Executive Officer)



Hours: Monday to Friday 9.30am –
4.30pm

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