



Strong local services. One connected response.

A three-year place-based investment to prevent family violence and build lasting community capacity in Hobsons Bay.

The investment opportunity

Hobsons Bay City Council is seeking \$485,000 over three years to establish, implement and evaluate a place-based model that builds local capability to prevent family violence, strengthen safety and support recovery.

The investment would fund:

- A dedicated Place-Based Family Violence Prevention and Community Capacity Project Lead to drive implementation, strengthen partnerships and build sustained local capability over three years
- The connective infrastructure needed to transform individual organisations into a coordinated local system by strengthening relationships, building community capability, embedding new ways of working and linking prevention, early intervention, response and recovery
- Embedded learning and evaluation to support sustainability, capture and share what works, and provide practical knowledge that can be adapted by other communities experiencing similar service gaps.

This investment would enable Hobsons Bay's local organisations to operate as one intentional, community-serving system, extending the reach and impact of specialist services, strengthening the local conditions needed to prevent violence, and supporting safe, sustained recovery through connection to place and community.



Why this is needed

Family violence is experienced locally.

Hobsons Bay is a service desert, with no state or Commonwealth-funded specialist family violence services located within the municipality. Residents seeking face-to-face specialist support must travel outside the area.

Specialist family violence services are essential. Their impact is strongest when reinforced by capable local organisations, trusted relationships and connected mainstream services. Demand for crisis and response services will remain substantial. Sustainable progress also requires communities to mobilise the knowledge, relationships and everyday settings already surrounding people.

Hobsons Bay in 2023-24

1,028

reported family violence incidents, a 30% increase on the previous year

30%

of reported incidents had children present

103

emergency department patients attributed to domestic violence, up 56% in two years

362

residents accessed homelessness services due to domestic violence

These are not four separate problems. They show how family violence moves through homes, hospitals, housing services, schools, courts and community settings. The same victim survivor may be visible in several systems, or fall between all of them.



Communities hold part of the answer

When properly supported, they can recognise need earlier, preserve connection and belonging, strengthen pathways to help, support recovery and build the social fabric through which prevention and lasting cultural change become possible. Investment in community-led, place-based approaches builds the capability to act earlier and drive broader systems change. It strengthens the fence at the top of the cliff, enabling communities to act earlier while reducing reliance on crisis responses after harm has occurred.

What three years will deliver

Hobsons Bay already has strong foundations: trusted organisations, committed practitioners, a shared systems map, local evidence, collective advocacy and momentum for change.

The Project Lead would turn this readiness into durable community infrastructure. The role would bring services together around shared outcomes; establish cross-sector governance and safe working arrangements; build workforce and community capability; connect data, practice knowledge and lived experience; strengthen pathways; support community ownership of prevention; and create a stronger collective voice about unmet need and system barriers.

Three years provides the time required to test and refine new ways of working, embed capability within local organisations, and transition the model into sustainable local practice.

Learning that can strengthen other communities

Learning would be embedded from commencement. The project would document the operating model, enabling conditions, costs, tools, partnership practices and outcomes needed for sustainability. It would examine what changes when a community is resourced to work with shared purpose, including whether local capability strengthens continuity, identifies needs earlier, supports prevention and enables existing service investment to achieve greater impact.

The resulting evidence, tools and lessons would be shared with governments, funders and other communities, creating a practical model that can be adapted to different local strengths and circumstances.

Invest \$485,000 over three years in the connective infrastructure and local capability Hobsons Bay needs to prevent family violence, strengthen safety and support recovery. This investment will establish and test a sustainable place-based model that can be adapted to strengthen other communities experiencing similar service gaps.