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Youth Foyer gave me a home

May 2017

After being abused and then forced out of her home, Skye has found her place at the Education First Youth Foyer.

"I came to the Youth Foyer because I was kicked out of home and had been mentally and physically abused by my family. I was couch surfing at my best friend's house for a year when my school recommended the Foyer.

In the six months I have been here, the Foyer team has made me feel welcome and that somebody cared about me. If I didn't move into the Foyer I would be still couch surfing at my friend's, so I'm grateful that I was given the opportunity to move in.

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I am now enrolled at GOTAFE doing my Cert IV in Disability. The Foyer and GOTAFE helped me get into this course after I finished Year 12 last year. It would have been hard getting into this course as I have a disability myself and found the entry exam difficult.

I am employed part-time here in Shepparton and volunteer at one of the local Primary Schools.

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I have joined in on some local community activities including the Mad Cow Run and Clean up Australia Day. My confidence is boosted and I now know that I can help other people and benefit from it myself.

I'm not as shy anymore and I have made some good friends at the Foyer and it feels like home. I have joined the gym and I do yoga classes at the Foyer with the other residents.

Since living at the Foyer I now know that I have a home to come back to. I now trust other people more and I'm more confident in talking about myself to others. I believe that I can make a difference too."

The Education First Youth Foyer is a Victorian Government funded initiative, managed in partnership with Rural Housing Network Limited, Berry Street Victoria and GOTAFE.