Transition Village Wallan

A community response to homelessness 2018
Community contact by TVW is an embedded priority in the project framework
Who are we?

TRANSITION VILLAGE WALLAN (TVW) consists of local volunteers who share a passion for helping people in need and building a resilient community.

We want to help our community and local people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness by building a small village of 7 Tiny Houses in Wallan.

TVW is based on the principles described by the Transition movement. ‘Transition’ describes a model of whole community change to a more compassionate, localised, low carbon lifestyle.

“Be the change you want to see in the world” Mahatma Ghandi
REACHING OUR COMMUNITY

• Since inception TVW has presented the project to all community service agencies and social agencies in Mitchell Shire and will continue to do so.

• TVW has maintained a close working relationship with all local Councillors, the CEO and senior staff of Mitchell Shire

• TVW has developed a high public profile on social media, and via print and radio

• TVW attends markets, community gatherings and festivals to promote the TVW project
Why are people homeless?

Homelessness is often the result of a number of complex issues, including:
- poverty,
- lack of affordable housing,
- marriage breakdown,
- disabilities,
- domestic violence,
- physical and/or sexual abuse,
- mental or physical illness

Being homeless is something that can occur to anyone at any point of time in their life and does not reflect upon the kind of person they are.

Homelessness can affect anyone you know - your neighbour, your friends even your family.
Why should you care?

Homelessness is an absolute human tragedy. To know that you don't belong anywhere, that you have no home to shelter in, and no one to support you is one of the most distressing experiences a person can have.

The consequence is that the quality of life for the whole community is diminished. People will do whatever it takes to survive, including turning to crime if they have to. A culture of ‘haves’ vs ‘have-nots’ emerges.

As a community, we need to be responsive to people who are homeless or otherwise in need, not just for moral and compassionate reasons, but also for the stability of the entire community.
What will Transition Village Wallan look like?

**In a few words: quaint and functional**

Each Tiny House will be designed by the community working with architect supervision. This will be done as part of the community consultation at a ‘Community Design Workshop’

Each sustainably designed Tiny House (sleeping pod) will:

- Measure 3m x 4 m = 12 square metres of inside floor space
- Have basic provision of bedding, lighting, heating/cooling and water for drinking and hand washing
- Share common facilities for kitchen, laundry, showers and toilets
- Have an outside porch to allow for socialising amongst the residents
- Have its own lock and key
What else will be onsite in the Village?

Other buildings:
Kitchen, laundry, shower and toilet facilities
A building for microbusiness, education/training and meetings, a BBQ and meeting rooms

Landscaping structures:
Permaculture designed gardens and compost
Garden shed
Microbusiness area

Security:
The site will be fenced and locked overnight
CCTV coverage of the area
There will be one entrance, with residents providing security at the gate to ensure that only registered visitors may enter
The Residents

WILL BE:
✓ 18 years and older
✓ Local to Wallan and district
✓ Will apply via an interview process – referral, police check; references; application, interview
✓ Wanting to achieve a **stable, connected lifestyle** – work, home, family, community

IN ACORDANCE WITH THEIR CONTRACT, THE RESIDENTS WILL:
✓ contribute to the village or broader community via volunteering opportunities
✓ meet high tenancy standards
✓ engage in training, volunteering or be actively searching for employment

THE RESIDENTS WILL:
✓**NOT** have a criminal record of serious crimes against persons
✓**NOT** be currently addicted to alcohol or drugs
Who will support the village residents?

- A Transition Worker will assist Village residents to write their own Personal Plan of action and its implementation
- A Lead Tenant will oversee the daily organisation of the Village
- A Residents' Management Committee will set daily tasks and mediate concerns (required attendance of all residents)
- An Executive Board of Management
- CEO and supporting staff (volunteers and paid)
- ‘Friends of the Village’ a well developed volunteer base – the bridge back to community
- Education, medical, financial agencies
Community support; ‘Let’s give it a fair go’...

The Wallan community is a strong community, with residents caring for each other in good times and bad. Floods, fires, victims of circumstances beyond their control....all met with community compassion and action.

Wallan is committed to building the village for our local people in need of assistance.
Thank you for your time!!

We look forward to working with you in the future...
REFERENCES:
Opportunity Village
http://www.pbs.org/video/2365342403/

Square One Villages (Opportunity Village)
http://www.squareonevillages.org/

Square One Villages
https://www.facebook.com/squareonevillages/?fref=ts

Gosford NSW - Tiny Homes Foundation
http://www.tinyhomesfoundation.org.au/

Transition Village Wallan
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1748850592048572

The Transition Network
https://transitionnetwork.org/

Permaculture
http://permacultureaustralia.org.au/