

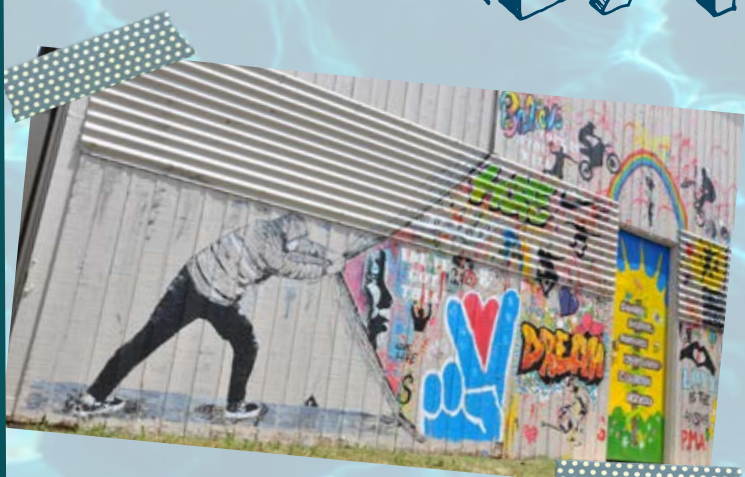
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EXPRESS

Young people are getting arty in houses run by Junction Support Services across north-east Victoria. Young people and carers created a positive mural wall at one house for young people in Wodonga and their creativity has inspired the rest of the team at Junction Support Services.



Encouraged and supported by carer Leonie, young people have driven the mural and all young people and carers at the house have contributed.

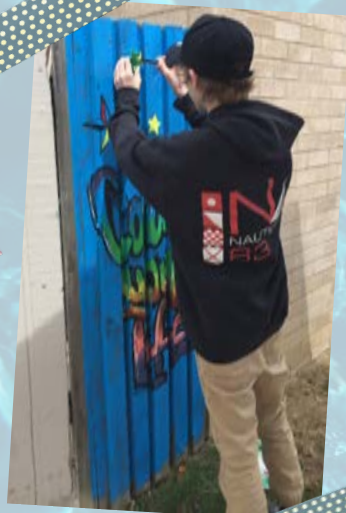


One young person who took part says:
"It was good fun. My favourite part was using water-pistols, which were filled with paint, to colour in the background."



YOURSELF

There is an increasing amount of evidence that shows art enhances brain function. Research has shown arts develop neural systems that produce many positive results including development of fine motor skill, creativity, improved emotional balance and feelings of belonging.



The project has been so popular that it is being copied in Wodonga Youth Refuge



For the past 20 years, "The Ref" has provided emergency accommodation for young people 16-17 to get back on track and either move home or learn the skills they need to live on their own and secure permanent accommodation.

"The mural is about young people leaving their mark," Wodonga Youth Refuge house supervisor Heather says. "We're also turning a wall in the games room into an art gallery. Everyone who comes through the Ref will have a chance to create an artwork on a canvas and have it go up on the wall."



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