



EMPOWERING. WELCOMING. EVIDENCE INFORMED.

POSITION TITLE:	Youth Researcher
LOCATION:	Visy Cares Hub., Sunshine
REPORTS TO:	Safe Spaces Program Coordinator
DIRECTLY MANAGES:	NIL
EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS:	Young people and families, Community Groups, Tenants/Services staff, Volunteers, Local, State and Federal Government Departments, Education providers, Professional Bodies, and the Business Community.
AWARD:	Social, Community, Healthcare and Disability Services Industry Award 2010. Band Level 2.1
HOURS PER WEEK:	11.5 (.3 FTE)
DATE:	September 2026

OVERVIEW:

The Youth Junction Incorporated is looking for two young people aged 18-25 to join the Safe Spaces team. In this role you will help shape the research questions, speak with other young people, make sense of what we find and share the results.

You do not need a degree or previous research experience. On the job training and support are provided. This is a paid role, and you will be credited on the work you contribute to.

THE

Safe Spaces is a place-based pilot exploring what welcoming and non-criminalising “third spaces” for young people could look like in Melbourne’s West. A “third space” is somewhere between school, work and home, where **young people can** spend time, connect with others and feel welcome without their presence being treated as a problem. We are delivering this project in collaboration with the Target Zero coalition.

PROJECT:

Safe Spaces is designed with young people, not for them. We haven’t decided what it looks like yet, and that’s deliberate. Rather than arriving with a finished model, we’re asking young people what they need, and what makes a space feel good, welcoming comfortable and safe for them. We’ll use what we learn to explore how existing places, buildings, and public spaces across Melbourne’s West could better work for young people.

ABOUT YOUTH JUNCTION:

The Youth Junction Inc is a leading provider of holistic programs and services that support and advocate for young people in Melbourne’s West. We are passionate about helping young people strengthen their personal resilience build confidence, and achieve their goals, and we are committed to service delivery that is empowering, innovative, inclusive and collaborative. Our team of experienced and qualified professionals has a deep understanding of the challenges faced by young people and work alongside them to create a positive future.

The Youth Junction Inc also manages the Visy Cares Hub, a thriving space for young people to access services, support and resources under one roof.

ABOUT THE ROLE:

The Youth Researchers will work alongside the Safe Spaces Project Coordinator to design and carry out research with young people in the community. You will bring your own perspective and knowledge of young people's lives today, while building research skills you can take into future study or work.

Both positions are the same. We are recruiting two people so that Youth Researchers can work in pairs, learn and support each other. Your 11.5 hours will be spread across different days and times depending on research activities. This is not a role with the same set days every week, so some flexibility is required. We will plan hours with you as far ahead as possible around study, work or caring responsibilities.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Planning the research

1. Help decide what we ask young people and how we ask it.
2. Review research questions, surveys and information sheets, and tell us what is unclear, confusing or off-putting for young people.
3. Raise any ethical or safety concerns, particularly around sensitive topics.

Collecting information

1. Co-facilitate focus groups and workshops with young people, alongside an experienced team member.
2. Help invite and recruit research participants to take part. Following the project's agreed research and ethical processes.
3. Keep accurate records and handle participant information securely and confidentially.

Make sense of what we hear

1. Take part in sessions where the team reviews what participants have told us and identify patterns and key themes
2. Speak up when our interpretation does not match what you are hearing from young people or know from your own experience Your perspective is an important part of the research.

Sharing the work

1. Contribute to reports, presentations and creative ways of sharing what we learn
2. Help present findings to stakeholder audiences if you would like to.
3. Be named as a co-author or contributor on outputs you have worked on.

Working as part of the team

1. Attend team meetings, supervision and reflection sessions.
2. Take part in the training provided.
3. Work in line with the Youth Junction's Code of Conduct, child safe standards and privacy obligations.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

Essential:

- You are aged between 18-25
- Curiosity, and a willingness to ask why things are the way they are.
- Ability to work respectfully with people whose experiences are different from your own.
- Willingness to learn and take part in training, including research ethics.
- Flexibility to work your 11.5 hours across different days and times when research activities are scheduled.
- A Working With Children's Check is required before you start, if need be, we can cover the cost.
- A National Police Check is required. A criminal record will not automatically rule you out; we consider whether it is relevant to the role.
- You must have the right to work in Australia

Desirable:

- Experience in youth advocacy, peer support, advisory groups, student representation or community organising.

You do not need:

- A university degree or any prior study in research
- Previous paid employment
- Any knowledge of research methods, we will teach you what you need to know.
- A resume, although you are welcome to send one

WHAT WE OFFER:

- Fair pay with superannuation. This is a paid position, not volunteering or work experience.
- Training and support in research methods, ethics, interviews and analysis.
- Regular one-on-one supervision with Youth Junction management and a debrief after any difficult sessions
- Hours arranged around education, work or caring responsibilities
- A written reference and named credit on project outputs.

Support and wellbeing

Research on Safe Spaces can raise personal or difficult material. The project includes:

- A wellbeing plan developed with you during your first few weeks: what helps you, what to watch for and who to contact.
- Clear limits on the role. You are not expected to provide counselling or crisis support. If a participant needs help, your role is to refer them to the appropriate staff member or service, following the process you are provided.
- Free access to counselling sessions through EAP