

THE UPSTREAM PROJECT

The best way to address youth homelessness?

By working *upstream* to prevent it from occurring in the first place.



Countries such as Australia have achieved great success in addressing youth homelessness by developing integrated community responses that operate within the school system. **Why schools?** Because virtually every young person who becomes homeless was in school at one point, and very likely was in contact with an adult (teacher, guidance counselor, coach) who knew something was wrong but, didn't know how to help.

1. IDENTIFY & ASSESS



Identify students at-risk of homelessness, using a proven screening method (*Student Needs Survey*)



2. CONNECT TO SERVICES

Provide wrap-around services to identified students and their families

3. MEASURE & REPLICATE

- Comprehensive program evaluation
- The Upstream Project will be replicated in communities across Canada



Evidence-Based

The Upstream Project adapts the innovative, evidence-based successes of Australia's *The Geelong Project (TGP)*

The Geelong model of youth homelessness intervention has been **extensively evaluated** over the past five years

100% of supported youth have safe, sustainable accommodation (TGP)

INCREASE school engagement, graduation rates & access to safe, secure housing

REDUCE the risk of family breakdown, dropping out of school and involvement in crime.