



CHP conference brief: 'Happiness is hugging a therapy dog': Exploring the use of Animal Assisted Interventions with homeless young people

Session abstract:

We know animal-assisted interventions (AAI) can have great benefits, including to help homeless young people cope with challenges, and build social skills, intrapersonal awareness, interpersonal skills and to reduce aggressive behaviours. The session will showcase Frontyard Youth Services' implementation of a 12-week Animal Assisted Intervention, facilitated by Lead The Way. You'll learn about: some of the benefits of this model, some practical challenges, recent advances in AAI research with vulnerable population groups, and you will meet a wonderful therapy dog.

Date and time: 2:00pm to 3:10pm, Thursday 14 September

Venue: Yarra Room

Facilitator: Poppy Fotiadis, Frontyard Youth Services, Melbourne City Mission

Presenters:

Poppy Fotiadis, Frontyard Youth Services, Melbourne City Mission

Melanie Jones, Lead The Way

Dr Jess Heerde, Westpac Bicentennial Foundation Research Fellow, The University of Melbourne