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# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**16 December 2021**

## **Emergency relief provider to expand at new City of Melton base**

A key emergency relief and assistance organisation will relocate to the City of Melton in 2022 to help meet growing demand for its services.

The Western Emergency Relief Network Incorporated (WERN), a not-for-profit community organisation initiative in partnership with Rotary Clubs across the west of Melbourne, will relocate from Brimbank to a new warehouse at Westwood Drive, Ravenhall under a peppercorn lease agreement with Melton City Council.

The warehouse is under construction by Council and is expected to be ready for WERN to move in by March 2022.

The relocation and Council's low-cost lease agreement will allow WERN to expand its reach and help even more people in need. WERN works to support people experiencing homelessness, mental health conditions, family violence, fire or flood situations, or those who are refugees by supplying them with quality second-hand furniture, electronics, and whitegoods.

City of Melton Mayor Cr Goran Kesic said Council was proud to support WERN's efforts to expand.

"Emergency relief is absolutely critical, and I'm very pleased that we can help support a key organisation in its important work," Cr Kesic said.

"WERN's work helps so many people in need, including our own community, and I look forward to seeing their reach expand from their new City of Melton base."

WERN Chair Tony Ebejer thanked Council for its long-term support and recognition of the good work WERN does in the community.

"We're pleased that this new lease and purpose-built warehouse will help us to better serve our clients who are all in personal crisis situations," Mr Ebejer said.

"Council's strong support over several years has allowed WERN to help more than 7000 Australians."

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