



Mission Australia

café one
on Wickham

Creating pathways away from homelessness

Café One on Wickham in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley provides low cost meals, great coffee as well as a range of individual support services to homeless and seriously disadvantaged people. The Café provides a sense of belonging to the lives of these people and is a place for them to connect.

Creating pathways away from homelessness

Mission Australia helps people in need by giving them support to get back on track, and transform their lives. Our community programs inspire self-confidence and hope, enabling people to tap into their own resources to pursue positive and independent futures.

On census night in 2001, there were about 100,000 homeless people on (Australian Bureau of Statistics). Homelessness affects people of all ages and of varying physical and mental health.

Our primary focus is on preventing homelessness from occurring by providing, financial counselling, family and individual support, mental health support and employment and training assistance to help keep people in their homes. However, when homelessness does occur, we work to satisfy immediate needs with crisis and transitional accommodation.

Description of Service

Café One on Wickham is a space for the entire community to interact. The Cafe not only provides approximately 20,000 meals each year, it also offers homeless and disengaged people with the assistance and support they need to make sustainable changes in their lives.



Café One on Wickham offers:

- Direct support to around 5,000 people through counselling, advocacy and connection to other specialised services
- Free legal and health advice to more than 650 people each year from visiting services like Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House (QPILCH) and Spiritus (formerly St Lukes Nurses)
- Information about housing options
- A micro credit system
- A space to connect with others and avoid social isolation
- A meeting point for community groups
- Access to the Catalyst Program (a program conducted in partnership with Australian Catholic University to provide university education to disadvantaged Australians).

In supporting Café One on Wickham, your investment will transform the lives of people in need by providing a place of acceptance, encouragement and professional help.

The café costs approximately \$430,000 a year to run and relies entirely on the support of the community.



The Need

- Queensland has the second highest rate of homelessness in Australia with nearly 25,000 homeless men, women and children. (Census, 2001).
- 46% of homeless people are less than 25 years of age. Young people aged between 12-18 years are believed to make up a quarter of those who are homeless (Mission Australia, Homelessness: New understanding, new responses snapshot 2004).
- Women make up 40% of the homeless population (Mission Australia, Homelessness: New understanding, new responses snapshot 2004).
- Every day one in every 200 Australians are homeless, (Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations Fact sheet, 2006).
- One in every three homeless Australians is a child (Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations Fact sheet, 2006).
- One in every two women with children in the homeless service system is escaping domestic violence (Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations Fact sheet, 2006).

Further information

If you can help, contact our Queensland team on (07) 3394 8149 or (07) 3394 8140. Alternatively, visit Corporate and Community Partnerships at www.missionaustralia.com.au

Case Study: Margaret's Story

As a result of family breakdown, Margaret was disengaged from her family and battled issues with substance abuse and homelessness.

When Margaret started to visit Café One on Wickham for meals, the staff engaged Margaret in casual conversation, treating her with courtesy and respect. Margaret's trust in others was renewed and in time, she began to share her personal struggles. This was her first step towards getting back on her feet. With the assistance of Mission Australia support staff, Margaret set goals to attain accommodation and address her substance abuse issues. She was also determined to reconnect with her children who were in foster care. After Café One on Wickham staff connected her to Alcohol and Drug support services, Margaret commented that she began to "feel hope". She initiated regular contact with her family and successfully maintained sustainable changes in her life. When times got tough for Margaret, the staff at Café One on Wickham were always there to provide advice, emotional support and encouragement.

Margaret is currently studying at TAFE and aspires to become a personal trainer. She is undergoing treatment for her drug issues and plans to secure stable accommodation and have her children returned to her.

Café One on Wickham will continue to walk alongside Margaret for as long as she requires, providing support to help her realise her goals.