



Hope for a brighter future

Every mum and dad knows that parenting young kids can be hard work. There's certainly no instruction manual. Add in some personal issues and a lack of family support, and you can start to understand the challenges facing parents Mark and Lisa*.

When their children – aged seven and five – displayed varying degrees of developmental delay, Mark and Lisa knew they needed help to give their kids the appropriate care.

Staff from our Brighter Futures program helped schedule a paediatric assessment for their youngest daughter, who was diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability. Despite living far from specialists and experiencing financial strain, Mark and Lisa were determined to help their little girl.

With our support, their parenting skills improved dramatically. They learnt the importance of providing positive structures, including routines for bath time and bedtime.

Both kids are now enrolled in schools that provide the individual support they need. In a short time, they've taken big steps forward.

Mark and Lisa now feel far more capable as parents. Mark is even pursuing extra work, desperate to give his family a better life. Together they're providing a supportive home for their children to thrive.

Your support makes a world of difference to families like Mark and Lisa's. **Thank you.**

**MISSION
AUSTRALIA**

Time to celebrate



Alongside the Christmas season, we have entered another chapter in our organisation as I take on the role of Chief Executive Officer.

I am so humbled to have been selected to lead this organisation that I deeply believe in and love working for. Most recently, I worked for Mission Australia in the role of Executive, Operations and Fundraising where I managed the national operations of all of our community services. I saw that without our committed supporters, partners, funders, and staff, the breadth of services we're able to provide simply wouldn't be possible.

Over 25 years of my professional life has been dedicated to community services, in the UK and Australia. As a police constable, qualified social worker, manager and executive I have worked across many areas of human need and in many different communities, in government, for-profit and not-for-profit organisations.

James Toomey
CEO, Mission Australia

Throughout this time I have deepened my keen interest in social justice, seeking always to provide high-quality services to marginalised members of society, delivered with dignity.

Under Catherine Yeomans' leadership, we have become a truly purpose-driven and values-led organisation that personally aligns with my Christian faith. I'm honoured to continue the work Catherine has started.

In reading this newsletter, you will see we have a lot of progressive things happening in our organisation – yet there is still so much to be done to help disadvantaged Australians.

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you will join me as we journey onward together to help Australians in need gain independence.



Christmas reflection

My favourite part of Christmas is carefully selecting a gift for my loved ones and watching as they open them.

I give myself bonus points if the gift is something they need, that lights up their eyes with delight.

The best gifts are the ones they would never find or purchase for themselves; like a rare book for my Dad or a big toy for my niece.

Christmas itself is that gift for us. On this day, God became flesh and gave His very self to us.

As we enjoy the parties, presents and carols this season, I invite you to join me in giving thanks for two gifts: The gift of Jesus that we could never buy for ourselves, and the gift of following Him in generously serving others in need.

Ellen Beasy
Chaplain, South Australia
and Broken Hill

Connect with us:



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Purpose Inspired by Jesus Christ, Mission Australia exists to meet human need and to spread the knowledge of the love of God.

Values Compassion • Integrity • Respect • Perseverance • Celebration

How we made a difference *together*

With your help in 2016-2017 we've continued to provide services to those who need it most.

140,639

Australians supported nationwide



19,278

people assisted through
65 homelessness and housing services



34,644

people assisted through 108 families,
children and early learning services

6,429

people assisted
through 51 mental
health services



11,619

people assisted
through 23 support
services for alcohol
& other drugs

To view our full annual report for 2016-2017, visit:
missionaustralia.com.au/annualreport2017

Residents share *their joy*



'I'm happy
to be
here and
safe.'



'I am
overjoyed
at being
here.'



'I love it...
all the people
care about
me and
help me.'

Benjamin Short Grove *welcomes new residents*



The Orange/Cabonne area is experiencing rising poverty, inequality and homelessness, with soaring rents and a lack of affordable housing impacting the region's elderly citizens.

That's why we were thrilled to welcome the first residents to our brand new aged care facility, Benjamin Short Grove, in June. By the end of 2017, it will provide dignity and a home for 60 elderly people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and are financially or socially disadvantaged.

The project was funded by a \$14.7 million Federal Department of Health grant and

\$1.7 million in donations from our generous supporters and partners.

General Manager of aged care Jill Bicknell says, "Many of the aged homeless population are sadly no longer in contact with family or social networks. They also often age prematurely and face other problems like chronic health problems, malnutrition, chronic loneliness, and a history of violence and trauma."

Benjamin Short Grove aged care facility delivers 24-hour nursing and medical care and is modelled on the award-winning Charles Chambers Court in Surry Hills.

Like to send a Christmas note to residents?

Christmas can be a difficult time for those in a time of transition. Write a note and mail it in the pre-addressed envelope to spread some Christmas cheer to the residents of Benjamin Short Grove.

Name:

Message:



The safe and inclusive development will feature open green spaces, a supermarket and two childcare centres and will provide access to infrastructure, transport, services and jobs.

Ivanhoe estate to redefine housing

Mission Australia Housing has partnered with Frasers Property Australia and Citta Property Group to redevelop the NSW Government's Ivanhoe estate in Macquarie Park, Sydney.

Upon completion, the vibrant, integrated neighbourhood will include at least 950 new social housing homes and 128 affordable homes.

Mission Australia will coordinate person-centred support services for social housing tenants to increase their independence through social connections, education, employment and, where possible, transition to alternative housing options. We will also provide community development and measure results.

Ingredients

½ cup peanut butter
125g of butter or 120ml of vegetable oil
½ cup white sugar
½ cup brown sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 egg
1 ⅓ cup plain flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
½ tsp salt
48 coloured chocolate buttons
96 mini chocolate chips
pretzels

Method

Preheat oven to 175°C.

Break pretzels into pieces to use as antlers.

Cream together peanut butter, butter, sugar and brown sugar until smooth. Add egg and vanilla and beat until smooth.

Whisk together flour, bicarbonate of soda and salt in a separate bowl. Slowly add dry ingredients to the creamed mixture, beating until incorporated.

Roll into 1.5 cm balls and place on a cookie sheet several inches apart. Sprinkle with

sugar and gently make an indentation slightly off the centre of each cookie.

Bake 12-14 minutes.

After baking, immediately place a chocolate button in the indentation of each cookie. Insert 2 chocolate chips (pointy side down) above the chocolate button to be the eyes.

Insert 2 pretzel pieces to be the antlers. If the antlers won't stick, place some chocolate chips in a sandwich bag, microwave 30 seconds and knead until soft. Clip the very tip of the corner and pipe onto cookie to act as glue.

Reindeer cookies



Recipe used with permission from Chrysa Durán of thriftyjinx.com

"How is Santa going
to find us here Mum?"

Many families'
only wish this
Christmas is to
have a **safe and
secure home.**

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Please donate today to help families this Christmas
missionaustralia.com.au/christmasappeal

Together we Trek

Register to hike the Larapinta Trail
from June 4-10. Every dollar you raise
for Together we Trek will go towards
helping young people by launching a new
Missionbeat service in the Northern Territory.

missionaustralia.com.au/trek



*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our
supporters and the people we help