

Independence

Winter 2018



MISSION
AUSTRALIA

A taste of things to come

Thanks to your generosity, young people across Australia are getting the support and opportunities they need to pursue happy, healthy and self-sufficient lives.

Charcoal Lane in trendy, inner-city Melbourne is a restaurant like few others.

A quick glance at the native Australia-inspired menu tells of its uniqueness: *Roasted emu fan fillet or Parma ham wrapped wallaby, anyone?* But it's the people behind the menu that make it truly one-of-a-kind.

Charcoal Lane is a Social Enterprise run by Mission Australia that provides mentoring and hospitality training to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Relentlessly high youth unemployment threatens the future of young people, especially those from families with limited work history. The unemployment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the 2016 Census was more than three times the rate for non-Indigenous people.

Over the past 12 months, your donations have supported 30 young people to participate in this life-changing program.

One of them was Scott*.

When Scott first started at Charcoal Lane he was living with his father and brother in a caravan park. He provided the family's main financial support, and took the responsibility of being a mentor for his younger brother. On top of this, he spent three hours each day commuting for work. When he thought about his future, he felt burdened by the many barriers standing in his way.

Seeing Scott's determination to change his life, a friend told him about Charcoal Lane.

With guidance and encouragement from Mission Australia staff, Scott was successful in completing the training program and securing an apprenticeship. His steady income has allowed him to secure more appropriate housing, obtain his driver's licence and purchase a car.

Today, Scott continues to be a strong support for his young brother and family, and has been nominated for two awards for excellence, including a State Training Award.

Seeing people, not problems

A 2.5-hour daily commute gives our Executive for Community, Family and Children's Services Ben Carblis time to ponder all kinds of things...

My family and friends will tell you that I spend these hours thinking exclusively about surfing – one of my life's passions.

I'll admit, there's an element of truth in that! But more accurately, I spend most of this time thinking about the millions of disadvantaged children and families across Australia and what we're doing to help them.

More than 20 years working in community and employment services roles – including seven years at Mission Australia – have made me particularly attuned to the plight of people doing it tough in our communities.

I was disheartened recently, as I'm sure you were, by the lack of substantive measures to address homelessness and increase the supply of social and affordable housing in the latest Federal Budget.



Ben Carblis

Executive, Community,
Family and Children's Services

As freezing weather envelopes much of the country this winter, my heart goes out to the individuals and families without a secure place to call home, and those forced to choose between turning on their heater and putting food on the table.

As I reflect on all of this, I'm overwhelmed by a feeling of gratefulness for the generosity of people like you. It's thanks to your ongoing support that we can continue to walk alongside and care for the people who need our help, regardless of whether they are a current priority for the political party in power.

Thank you for seeing the people, not just the problems, and for continuing to support them as they journey towards lives of independence.



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Winter reflection

Two men walk together along a busy city street. The first says he can hear crickets in the bushes; the other says this is impossible.

The first man reaches into his pocket and drops a few coins on the footpath. Despite the noise of the traffic around them, almost every person within 10 metres turns to see if the money that hit the pavement is theirs. "We hear what's really important to us," he says.

What are you listening for?

Every day, Mission Australia's staff and volunteers respond to what they see and hear by supporting people in need. You, as a loyal supporter, play a vital role in this. By listening and responding generously to what you see and hear, you enable this important work to happen. Thank you.

As a Christian, I am confident that God blesses the work we seek to do. So please keep listening, keep responding and keep trusting.

Rev. Peter Devenish-Meares
Chaplain, South East Queensland

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

Generosity flows as Ebbs House opens



Residents, local community members and Mission Australia staff gathered recently for the opening of our newest crisis and transitional accommodation centre Ebbs House.

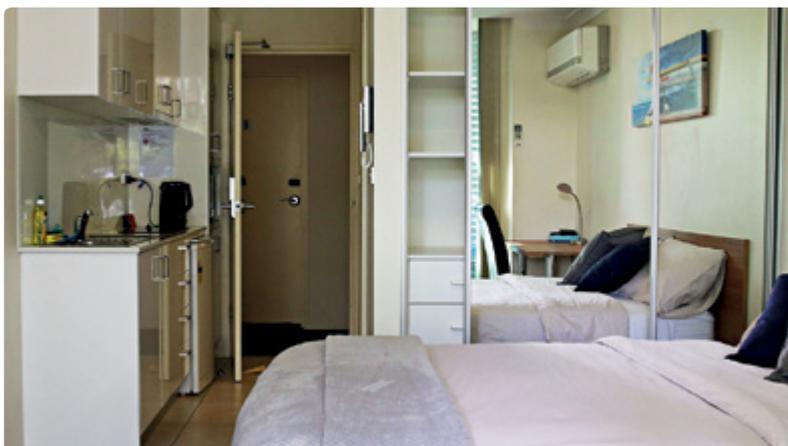
Located in northern Sydney, Ebbs House provides safe housing and support for 26 men and women who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Services available on-site include accommodation, outreach support, case management, counselling and advocacy.

Program manager Kevin Kingsbeer says the facility operates across two neighbouring properties that are within walking distance of local community and employment services, including hospitals, a shopping centre and the local TAFE.

“We hope that by providing a clean, modern and safe place, people will be able to grow their skills and confidence. Ultimately we are here to support people with dignity and give them a helping hand to connect with the community around them, helping each person take their own steps towards independence.” Program manager Kevin Kingsbeer

Ebbs House has been made possible by the generosity of an anonymous benefactor who felt compelled to act on the need they saw in their community.

The facility is named in honour of Reverend Arthur Rowley Ebbs who cared for disadvantaged young people and provided accommodation for returned servicemen experiencing homelessness during the Depression and World War II.



Top: Mission Australia CEO, James Toomey reveals the Ebbs House plaque.
Above: One of the 26 residential rooms at Ebbs House.
Photo credit Adam Yip, Manly Daily.



Changing lives by intervening early

Mission Australia’s Miller Family Support service provides counselling and assistance to more than 70 families with young children each year.

This early intervention service helps children reach their full potential by identifying and caring for their unique needs, while helping families with case management and individually tailored, wraparound support.

Our team recently helped Sarah*, who was born into a family where alcohol and substance abuse wreaked daily havoc.

She was removed from her parents as a young child, then returned to them years later once they could prove they had overcome their issues and could care for their little girl.

Staff worked with Sarah’s parents to build a positive and loving relationship between mother, father and daughter.

“We’re all about accepting people for who they are and where they are. We are not judgemental. Rather than looking for their deficits, we’re looking at how we’re going to build parents’ skills.”
Program manager Jo-Anne Platt

Now 14, Sarah regularly comes back to visit the staff that helped her and her family, and to update us on her latest accomplishments.

MISSION AUSTRALIA

30 YEARS OF SLEEPOUT

Singers, long-time friends and Mission Australia ambassadors **Mahalia Barnes** and **Prinnie Stevens** are calling on people young and old to get involved in the Sleepout, which turns 30 this year.

The Sleepout is an eye-opening, hands-on and fun way to raise awareness and vital funds to help end homelessness in Australia.

What are you waiting for?

SIGN UP TODAY:

 missionaustralia.com.au/sleepout



Listening to Australia's youth

24,055

Respondents to last year's survey told us the top three issues for them were:



1 Mental health



2 Alcohol & drugs



3 Equity & discrimination



Only 4 in 10

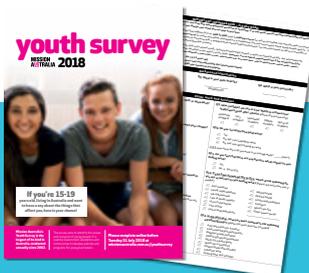


young people indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals

We invite all young people aged 15-19 to have their say in the 2018 Youth Survey.

The Youth Survey is the largest of its kind in Australia, providing a platform for young people to speak up about the issues that really concern them.

It provides valuable insights into the lives of young people, and equips us with evidence to advocate for the services and broader policy changes that they need.



Please share

The Survey is available until July 31 at: missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey

Safe from harm

You may remember the faces of Heather* and her little boy Lucas from our recent Winter appeal. They became homeless after being forced to flee Heather's violent husband, fearing for their lives.

Heather recently sent this message to us to share with you and other supporters:

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your donations to Mission Australia. Lucas and I owe our safety and independence – maybe even our lives – to you.

I'll never forget the fear we felt that night as we huddled in my car, terrified that Chris would find us. The following day we met with Fiona, a domestic violence specialist from Mission Australia, who was kind, listened to all we'd been through, and arranged for us to stay in a safe house out of town.

After years of fear, we could finally breathe. During our time at the safe house, Fiona helped me apply for, and secure, our new home. Mission Australia helped us move in, and supplied furniture and other items that we needed to get settled.

I recently started a new job at the local hospital, and Lucas has settled in at school.

I don't know what we would have done without the help of Mission Australia.

Thank you so much for your support. All the money Mission Australia receives is genuinely life-changing for families in need and in crisis, like me and Lucas.

Heather



Families escaping domestic violence and homelessness need your help. Please donate today.



1800 88 88 68



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Clarence Plains: changing the story of community



This year marks the halfway point in our community renewal project within the disadvantaged Tasmanian suburbs of Clarendon Vale and Rokeby, east of Hobart.

Five years ago, Mission Australia Housing took over the management of approximately 500 social homes in the region under an agreement with the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services.

Since then we have been listening to the

community and helping to facilitate their vision for the future. This collaborative effort, guided by an overarching 10-year community Master Plan, has seen a number of community initiatives come to life.

As part of this journey towards change and away from the historical and negative public stigma associated with Clarendon Vale and Rokeby, the community has developed their own new identity: Clarence Plains.

The community vision focuses on six key areas. Here's what we've achieved together so far:



Seed-to-Plate Access to and education about healthy food



Trail bikes Encouraging the safe use of bikes, helmets and streets



Safety Improving security within and outside the home



Laneways Upgrading, closing out and repurposing trouble areas



Public realm Improved connectivity, infrastructure and visual amenity



Housing Upgrading heating, cooling and other essentials



"Since Mission Australia has come on board, everyone is given the right to be involved in tenant participation and can help to have a positive impact on the community."

Mission Australia Housing tenant Graeme*