

Independence

Autumn 2018

MISSION
AUSTRALIA

Helping
families
thrive

Making history together

2018 is a special year for Mission Australia. Among many milestones is the 40th anniversary of our Family Day Care Western Sydney service and 30 years of the Sleepout – our community-led fundraiser supporting people experiencing homelessness.

In this edition of your Independence newsletter you'll learn more about our longstanding history – captured through the lens of a dedicated volunteer photographer – as well as recent homelessness statistics, which show the great need for your ongoing support.

As I reflect on Easter, I'm reminded of the inequality of our world and Jesus' call for us to show compassion, humility and generosity to all. This inspires my determination to help Australians overcome disadvantage and move towards independence.

It encourages me greatly that you share this determination to create change for people in need.

So whether you've been supporting us for twenty years or two months, thank you for your continued investment into the lives of vulnerable Australian families and children. We couldn't do it without you.

With gratitude,

James Toomey
CEO, Mission Australia



Connect with us:



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missionaustralia.com.au/news-blog

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



Specialist homelessness services

Mission Australia recognises the complex needs of those experiencing homelessness and we strive to take preventative measures where possible. This includes a range of mental health programs and outreach services.

Once we identify risks we can provide proper support for individuals in need. We operate a number of crisis and supported accommodation services as well as social and affordable housing and aged care facilities for people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness.



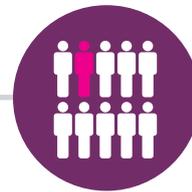
1 in 4

people who received support from specialist housing services in 2016-17 were experiencing mental health issues¹



23,600

people supported by specialist homelessness services in 2016-17 were aged 55 years or over¹



1 in 10

people who were supported by specialist homelessness services in 2016-17 had a disability¹

1. Statistic taken from Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) report - 14 December 2017

GET INVOLVED

MISSION AUSTRALIA | **30** YEARS OF SLEEPOUT

You're invited

JOIN OUR 30 YEARS OF SLEEPOUT CELEBRATIONS

30 years ago, a few Mission Australia staff took their passion to the streets as they slept outside to raise awareness of homelessness in our country.

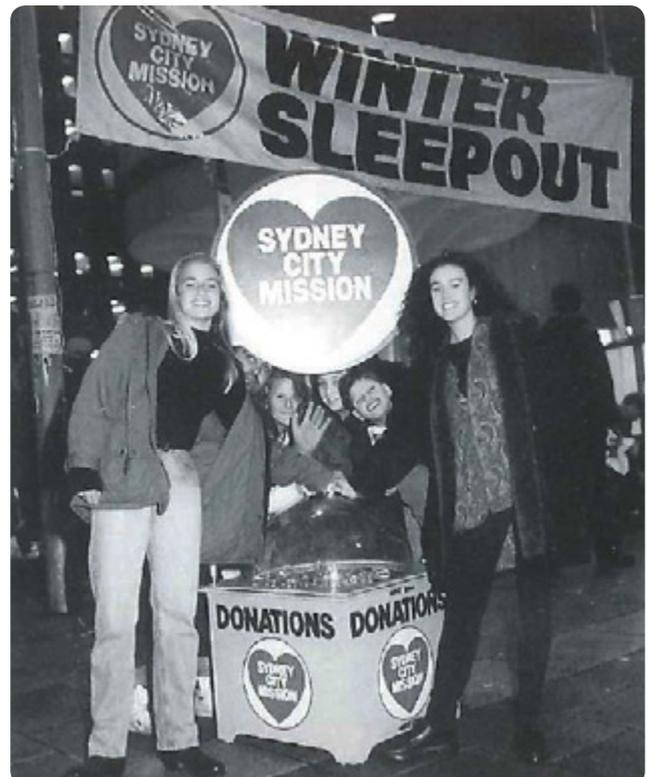
Since that night in 1988, our enthusiastic participants and their generous supporters have raised

more than \$3 million and in that time together we've helped over five million disadvantaged Australians.

Today, homelessness remains a major issue in our society. In response, we're encouraging you and your friends to host a Sleepout and raise awareness

about the growing crisis whenever and however it suits you.

This could be camping in your backyard or hosting a talent show, bake sale or a dinner party. The choices are endless and we encourage participants to think creatively to organise a fun and successful fundraising activity.



REGISTER TODAY IN 3 EASY STEPS



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If our 30 year anniversary sounds like something you'd love to be a part of, don't hesitate to make it official.

1

STEP ONE: sign up at missionaustralia.com.au/sleepout

Create your fundraising page detailing your activity, and ask friends and family to join your event.

.....

2

STEP TWO: ask family and friends to make a donation and support your activity

Send your fundraising page link to friends and family giving them the chance to make a difference.

.....

3

STEP THREE: host your Sleepout event

When the big day comes, know that your fundraising efforts will make a big impact in the lives of vulnerable Australians. And don't forget to share your images on social media to spread the word!



Questions about hosting a Sleepout?

For more information simply contact us:



sleepout@missionaustralia.com.au



02 9217 1074



LET YOUR CREATIVITY Bloom

These easy flower pencils are the perfect fashionable and functional Mother's Day gift

MATERIALS

- Cupcake liners (baking cups) of your choice
- 10cm clay pot
- 0.5cm circle paper punch, green washi tape and green cardstock
- Green moss
- Floral polystyrene
- Tacky glue
- Push pins, scissors, plastic knife and pencils with erasers on the top

STEPS

STEP 1: Wrap pencil from the eraser down with green washi tape to make stem.

STEP 2: Fold cupcake liner in half three times. At the outside edge, cut double scallop shape. Continue this step to make a total of five layers, cutting the scallop away from the edge to be smaller than the previous layer.

STEP 3: Starting with the biggest layer, add a little bit of tacky glue to the centre and attach the next layer. When all layers are attached, put a push pin through the centre and attach to the top of eraser.

STEP 4: Cut two leaves for each flower out of the green cardstock.

STEP 5: Punch hole at the base of the leaves and slide up the pencil to the eraser. Wrap washi tape around under the leaves to fully cover the pencil.

To add a bit of presentation to your flower pencils, place a piece of polystyrene in a clay pot, push the flower pencils into the foam and add green moss to cover the top.

Love you
mum x



Leaving a lasting gift

Byron holds a photo of himself (about age 7) receiving a visit from Santa during his time at St Michaels, an all boys orphanage

At age 5, after his father deserted his family, Byron Campbell and his 3-year-old sister, Ruth, were sent to an orphanage run by Catholic nuns.

At age 7, Byron was sent to St. Michaels — an all-boys orphanage in Baulkham Hills, NSW. Ruth later went to Lane Cove across the harbour from Sydney. "It felt like countries apart," Byron said, "Ruth and I didn't have any way to stay in contact."

Now 89, the memories of this time are as vivid to him now as they were back then. He remembers the trauma of clinging to his mother's leg during her once-monthly visits, despite feeling loved by the nuns.

Byron went on to spend a total of four years in the orphanage — two years with Ruth and two years by himself. Helping to care for the younger boys in the orphanage forced Byron to grow up quickly and develop his hard-working and determined attitude. Byron went on to have a family and a successful career including owning a hotel and a printing company.

Having not forgotten the circumstances he once found

himself in, Byron wants to give others the same chance he had to gain independence.

To do this, he chose to donate to Mission Australia and leave a bequest. Since then, he has seen firsthand how services like Missionbeat and Triple Care Farm operate.

"I've always appreciated the warmth, commitment and compassion that Mission Australia shows as they extend a hand to those in need."

Find out more

If you'd like more information about leaving a lasting legacy of your own through a bequest, simply visit our website:

 missionaustralia.com.au/mywill

FAMILY DAY CARE

Celebrates 40 years



Since 1977, Family Day Care Western Sydney has supported children in some of the most influential years of their lives through education and childcare. Recently celebrating 40 years of serving the community, the program benefits both children and parents.

While qualified educators assist children with education and development skills at Family Day Care, parents are able to pursue employment, education or training that will help them to look after their children financially.

A unique model providing options for parents

Family Day Care has a unique model that allows educators to run the day care out of their own home – giving children guidance from qualified educators in a nurturing home environment.

“I prefer to work and try to give my child a better life as well as an education,” said one mother about the benefits.

“Family Day Care has meant I can return to work and earn an income while my son is taken care of in a fun, friendly environment with kids his own age. And at the same time he’s learning skills that will make it easier for him when it’s time to start school.”

Mother

Started by St Marys District Baptist Church, the service was transferred to Mission Australia in 1995. Program Manager Nerryl Liston has worked with Family Day Care Western Sydney for more than three decades and has managed the service for 15 years.



In that time she has seen plenty of change.

“Originally, family day care was really just babysitting, however, now the regulations and requirements are the same as they are for all early childhood education and care centres,” Nerryl said.

She sees the changes as positive since the new standards mean

educators are providing more consistent, quality services. It also gives parents a viable alternative to long day care centres.

“I still get a buzz from this work more than 30 years into my career, because I can see the huge difference it makes in the lives of the children and their parents,” Nerryl said.

“It’s fantastic to work with such dedicated staff, and equally devoted educators.”

Image at left: His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret’d), Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Hurley visiting the Mission Australia Centre Kingswood with children from Family Day Care Western Sydney earlier this year.

Image at right: Program Manager Nerryl Liston, staff and children at the 40 year anniversary of Family Day Care Western Sydney.

Stepping back in time

With a media career
spanning over 50 years
and a passion for helping
people, Ramon Williams
has an impressive resume



FROM OUR ARCHIVES



He's photographed names from Mother Teresa to Liberace and events including the 1968 Billy Graham Crusade, royal visits, demonstrations and natural disasters. From 1977-1994 Mission Australia, then known as Sydney City Mission, was fortunate to have Ramon voluntarily assist us in documenting our work.

"I was impressed with the variety of helpful projects for young people needing help with a way of life," Ramon said. "Those referred by the courts were helped to realise they had the potential to live a life that was worthwhile. Others, from areas of poorer

economical reputations, were given the help to learn trades through vocational training. The homeless were provided with accommodation and medical assistance."

An avid photographer in his teenage years, Ramon felt it was time to put his hobby aside at age 22 as it was taking too much of his focus. But while serving as a missionary in Indonesia the opportunity came up to combine his faith and passion for photography to help others.

In November of 1967, he picked the camera back up and brought his family – his wife Dorothy, son and five daughters – including newborn triplets – back to Australia.

Since then, Ramon has used his skills to help organisations like Mission Australia promote their

work to the media. Now 87, Ramon only just retired in February of this year. He has 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Always happy to help, Ramon recently volunteered many hours converting over 3,500 slides into a digital archive of memorable photos that provide a glimpse into another era of Mission Australia. We're so grateful for Ramon's efforts!



Ramon Williams today



**Help vulnerable
children when
crisis hits their family**

Please donate today

**MISSION
AUSTRALIA**

Please donate today to give hope
to children and families in crisis

missionaustralia.com.au/childrenappeal