



wesley impact!

news

Summer 2020

Your impact on people in need in 2019

Thank you for your support in 2019. Because of you, Wesley Mission could deliver services giving dignity and hope to more than 200,000 of the most vulnerable people in our community.

With your compassion and kindness, we continued a phase

of growth that built on more than 200 years of responding to the changing need around us. We supported over 27,000 people a month, listening to each person's story and offering help. We also added to the number of locations where people can access our life-changing assistance in areas including homelessness,

suicide prevention, mental health, disability support, and services for children, youth and families.

Here are just some highlights from our 2019 Annual Report entitled 'Strengthening our future', showing how your generosity in the past 12 months served those in the greatest need.

32,523

calls from people in crisis answered by Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland

71

people supported by Wesley Disability Accommodation

105,681

nights of accommodation provided for people experiencing homelessness

6,537

volunteers gave 124,358 hours of service

105

families in need engaged in the SafeCare program – 36% more than in 2017/18

Each night, Wesley Dalmar organised care for and supported an average of

665 children

A gift that keeps giving

One of the most selfless and generous commitments you can make is a gift to charity in your Will, after you've provided for those you love. Roger Coggins, whose role as our Community Relations Officer is to acknowledge and thank Wesley Mission donors, says these gifts made to Wesley Mission can change the lives of people in great need for years afterwards – whatever the size.

“These donations are pooled together and they have collective power,” Roger says. “They can be directed to a particular service area at Wesley Mission. They can help us improve services or start new ones, train staff or purchase equipment.

Another great advantage is these gifts allow us to plan our services into the future.”

We are so grateful to everyone who has decided to support people out of hardship and into a better future by specifying a gift in their Will to Wesley Mission. If this is something you'd like to consider, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information call (02) 9263 5548 or attend one of our Wills Days where an independent solicitor can prepare you a simple Will for a \$60 donation to Wesley Mission's work. For dates, email WillsDays@wesleymission.org.au or visit www.wesleymission.org.au/wills.



Bushfire update – giving comfort after loss

On 10 December, Wesley Mission CEO/ Superintendent, the Rev Dr Keith V Garner, AM travelled to the mid-north coast of NSW to visit people affected by bushfires. “Our vehicle was filled with hampers, Christmas toys of various kinds for children who have lost so much, together with tools and vouchers to help people rebuild their lives,” he said. “Many people have suffered hardship and loss in various ways and need our support, practical assistance and love.”

Your support of Wesley Mission means we can be there for those who need our help. Thank you.



Event celebrates volunteers

We couldn't do our work without our 6,537 remarkable volunteers and corporate partners, who contribute many hours of their time to help those in the greatest need. So on 17 November, we applauded their inspiring generosity at our Volunteer Appreciation Function and Awards. The Rev Dr Keith Garner AM spoke of his gratitude and respect for the sacrifice made by volunteers to do all the good they can. He also presented the 'Making a Difference' volunteer of the year awards honouring winners in six categories. The commitment of our Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland volunteers received a special mention, along with the dedication of everyone who reached a milestone in their service.

Ernst & Young transforms Harrison Street

Harrison Street's Wesley Community Housing studio units are a stepping-stone out of

homelessness for many residents, but earlier this year they were looking rundown. Then the help of a corporate volunteer team from Ernst & Young transformed more than the appearance of the units. The volunteers busied themselves painting, cleaning, and weeding the gardens, while interacting with tenants who ventured out of their units to join in. Since that day, residents have struck up friendships with each other and continued maintaining the gardens. They also completed a two-day gardening course and a horticultural workshop, making succulent pots as thank-you gifts for the volunteers.



Special thanks to our volunteers and corporate partners for your hard work this year!

New horizons for Julia, Evie and Sara

Julia* fled terrifying family violence with her little girls when Evie was a baby and Sara was just two years old. The years of homelessness that followed left Julia feeling defeated and overwhelmed by hunger, fear, loneliness and desperation, before she turned to Wesley Mission. Today she has made an exciting new beginning thanks to people like you. When we phoned Julia inviting her to provide this update for you, her voice was energised with confidence and positivity.



Still being supported by her Homelessness Worker Robyn, Julia has now completed her Certificate 3 in Community Services, and started her Certificate 4 with the hope of finding work where she can help others. She's made new friends among her fellow students who are young mums too.

Robyn also linked Julia with Wesley Mission's Opportunity Pathways, to assist in her search for a job to achieve her goal of supporting her young family, move from Wesley Mission transitional housing into a private rental, and become self-sufficient.

"One barrier I was having with getting a job was lack of experience,"

Julia says. "But I had a meeting with Opportunity Pathways and they're helping me get ready for job interviews, even down to helping me find outfits to wear. I've gained a lot of confidence."

"I think the girls are having a better quality of life because I'm more motivated. My eldest Sara is getting an award at the big presentation assembly at her school tomorrow. She's done really well in her first year of school – she's loved it."

"This year, being in our home, we could have a full Christmas tree and lights. It was a magical experience for the girls."

Robyn has felt delighted and privileged to be part of Julia's journey from homelessness to hope. "She's firing on all her own cylinders now, it's amazing," says Robyn. "It just goes to show you that if someone is given an opportunity then they can thrive."

Support like yours for Wesley Mission services has also helped Julia start securing a stronger future for herself and her daughters. Thank you for making sure we can be there for people experiencing homelessness when they need us most.

Photos and names have been changed to protect identity and privacy.

Suicide claims more men than accidents

In September, the Australian Bureau of Statistics released worrying statistics about the leading causes of death in Australia in 2018.

The Causes of Death, Australia, 2018 report showed self-harm is a major problem for Australians and men in particular, underlining the importance of your vital support for services such as our phone crisis support, Wesley Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland. It is only with your generosity that someone can always be on the end of the line to talk to those experiencing a mental health crisis. This can help stop the worst from happening.

In 2018 suicide accounted for 105,730 years of potential life lost – the highest number among the top 20 causes of death

Intentional self-harm was the 13th leading cause of death

Suicide is the top ranked external reason for death among males, claiming more lives than causes such as accidents or assault.

Soccer match raises \$21,000 for homelessness

On 9 August in Coffs Harbour, Matt Snell of the local business Simply Conveyancing partnered with the team of Rise – Coffs Harbour Incorporated and the local Coffs Harbour community to host a football fundraiser for Wesley Youth Accommodation Services. Nearly \$21,000 was raised – an incredible donation that will go towards supporting young people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. Huge congratulations to everyone who took part and massive thanks to everyone who kindly donated.



Redevelopment update

A distinguished patron to assist in major appeal

Former Prime Minister The Hon. John Howard OM AC has agreed to be patron of a major Wesley Mission fundraising appeal, helping raise \$12 million to redevelop and improve the crisis accommodation services offered at our Wesley Edward Eagar Centre.

“There are many reasons that contribute to homelessness and I commend the specialist help Wesley Mission provides,” said Mr Howard. “The scarcity of affordable housing, poverty, financial crisis and mental illness are among the major factors.”

“Partnering with a trusted organisation such as Wesley Mission means that we unite forces to support Australians in their greatest need.”

Wesley Edward Eagar Centre, in the heart of Sydney city, was one of the first to provide private rooms in the same building for women and men experiencing homelessness. However it has remained largely unaltered since the 1847 Wesleyan Chapel on the site was relaunched as a homeless shelter in 1979, and it is no longer fit for purpose.

The refurbishment, to be known as the Wesley Edward Eagar Centre, integrates conservative changes to the heritage-listed façade and chapel with innovations in crisis accommodation to vastly improve how this essential service is provided.

The addition of ensuites means there will be 40 large, self-contained bedrooms, rather than



the current smaller, more basic rooms. The improved privacy, security and level of individualised care is expected to lead to shorter stays, as people are able to address crisis needs more quickly.

“The accommodation we provide speaks of the value we see in each person we meet,” says Wesley Mission CEO/ Superintendent, the Rev Dr Keith V Garner, AM.

“The centre will be suitable for a changing demographic with sadly more older women experiencing homelessness and it will also connect clients with a broader range of services for long-term support and opportunities to help them permanently break the cycle of homelessness.”



Your compassion makes an incredible difference! If you would like to make a donation to the Wesley Edward Eagar Centre Appeal, visit wesleymission.org.au/edwardeagarproject

Wesley Mission collects your details for fundraising purposes and to keep you up to date on our activities. All information collected is covered by our privacy policy (reviewed and updated from time to time), see wesleymission.org.au/privacy. Please contact us if you wish to change your contact preferences.

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