



wesley impact news

Summer 2019

Your impact in 2018

Your generous support throughout 2018 has had a powerful impact on the lives of more than 200,000 people who turned to Wesley Mission for help this year.

It was a season of strong and sustained growth for Wesley Mission, and thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, over 750 new clients were supported each month throughout 2018, with an average of 25,353 clients receiving support every month.

Wesley Mission has relied on the kindness and compassion of donors like you for over 200 years, and we're deeply grateful for your ongoing support to ensure more individuals and families in need are able to get the assistance they need. Here's just a few of the ways you have made a difference in 2018:

24

new locations opened for Wesley ParentsNext

37,550

calls answered by Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland

Wesley Homeless Services and Wesley Community Housing provided

105,681

nights of accommodation

Wesley Counselling supported

3,667

clients, 221 more than in 2016/17

Wesley KickStart properties refurbished to accommodate

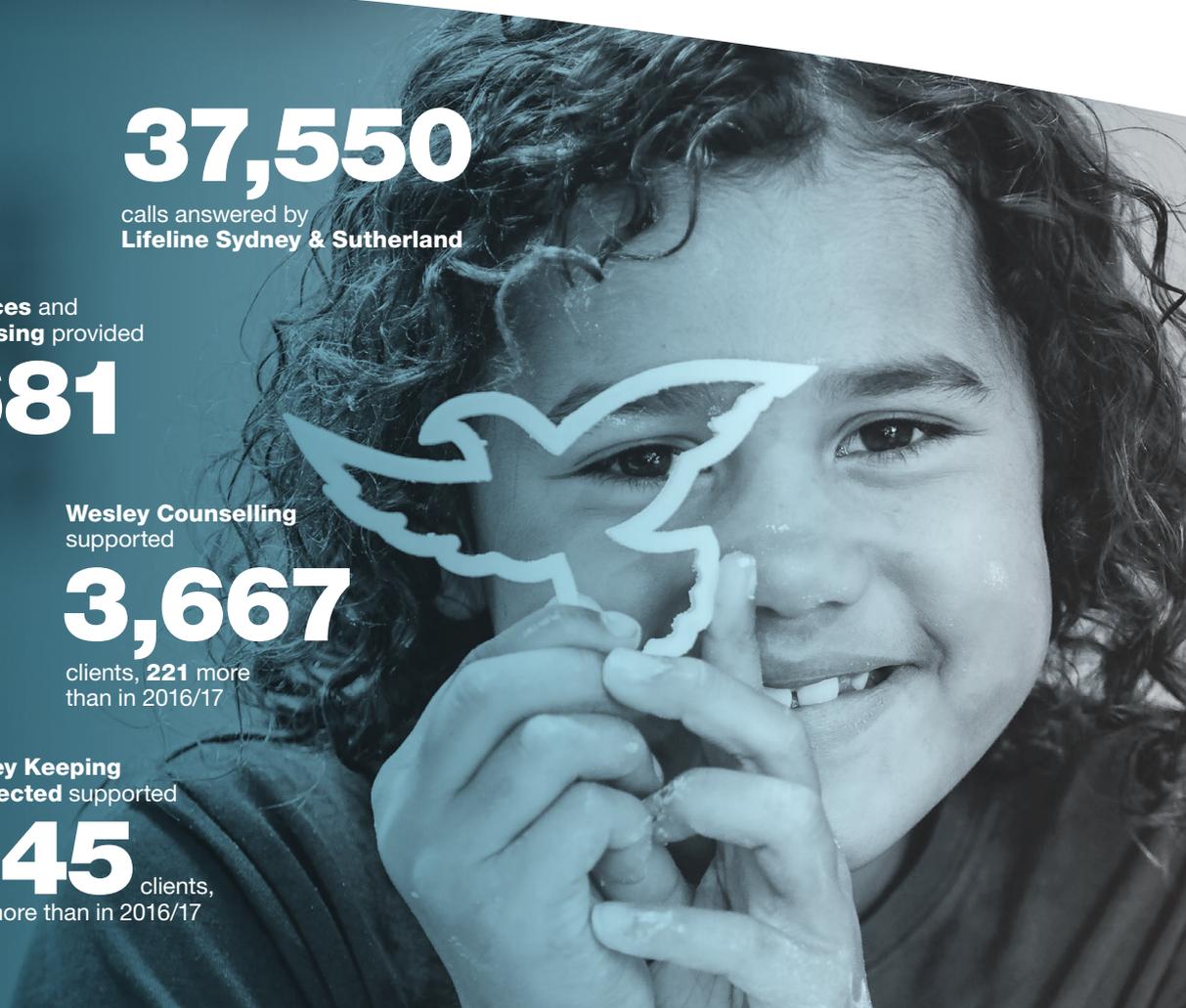
22

young people

Wesley Keeping Connected supported

945

clients, 241 more than in 2016/17



Your support helped David move forward with his life

In his early fifties, David was homeless and thought his life was over.

“My main reason for being homeless was debt,” David said. “I had a \$5,000 loan I couldn’t repay. I was getting less work and hours because I was an older security guard. The younger guys came into the scene and took all the workload.”

An old friend paid for his accommodation in a hotel but when that ran its six-week course, he meandered down to the Bondi Pavilion with swag in hand.

“I had lived in Bondi for 10 or 12 years and the people were more friendly,” he said.

After two years sleeping rough, workers from Wesley Mission’s Edward Eagar Lodge arrived in the depth of winter to play their part in David’s restoration.

“The Wesley team offered us transitional housing,” David said. “I didn’t know what they were talking about. On the coldest day of the year, I declared I was ready.”

“I grabbed my sleeping bag and swag and my fishing line and rod and ended up at Wesley Edward Eagar Lodge. The room I had was warm... it was heaven!”

David received health and medical support, participated in Pathways training and got a part-time job. “It was my ticket out of the hole I had dug myself into,” he said.

He lived at Wesley Edward Eagar Lodge for about a year before securing a unit in the city’s inner west with Wesley Community Housing. It’s here where he has been learning living and budgeting skills which are preparing him for independent living.

An important part of David’s ongoing growth is his relationship with Wesley Edward Eagar Lodge as he attends a Bible study run by its chaplain, Michael Tang, as well as the centre’s worship service.

David is looking forward to becoming a community worker or nurse and maybe even a husband and dad.



Wesley Edward Eagar Lodge helps vulnerable men and women.

We opened our doors at Wesley Edward Eagar Lodge in Sydney in 1979 to meet the needs of Sydney’s homeless. We provide temporary and crisis accommodation for men and women in individual rooms, laundry and bathroom facilities, and also breakfast and dinner daily.

In addition to meeting the immediate needs of those who come through our doors, we also seek to meet the intellectual, vocational and spiritual needs of people who face issues such as homelessness, mental health, addiction and domestic violence.



Thank you to our hard-working volunteers!

Over 160 volunteers enjoyed the 1950’s atmosphere at our recent Volunteer Appreciation Function and Celebration Service, hosted by Rev. Keith Garner.

Volunteers were warmly invited to a delicious lunch and had the opportunity to attend our special Volunteer Celebration Service, where our ‘Making a Difference’ Volunteer of the Year awards were presented.

This year’s awards ceremony honoured the commitment of Wesley

Mission’s 3,197 volunteers and 4,362 people who, through corporate volunteering experiences, have contributed their time to providing support to clients in need, or to raising awareness of the lifesaving work of Wesley Mission.

The overall award for Volunteer of the Year was given to Helga Lyon, who has been a volunteer mentor with the Wesley Aunties and Uncles program since 2013. The program requires volunteers to be a friend to a child living in disadvantaged circumstances.

Through mentoring, Helga has helped a single mother recovering from breast cancer treatment by taking the child on outings, allowing the mother to rest and recover.

Emily found hope for a new start

When Emily was just 15 years old, she felt abandoned by her own family and didn't have anyone she could trust. She says:

“Mum and my stepdad began hurting me. I was put in my dad's care, but then he started hurting me too, so I left and never went back. I stayed anywhere I could. There was nowhere safe for me to call home. I was in a really dark place. I didn't want to be here anymore.”

Thankfully, in the middle of her darkness and pain, Emily met caseworker Ashlea at Wesley Operation Hope, and for the first time, found an adult she could trust.

Through Wesley Operation Hope, Emily grew in confidence and learned new skills that gave her a second chance at life.

Thanks to supporters like you, Emily is no longer alone. She has access to a broad network of support services, and a community of friends to support her.

“If it weren't for Wesley Operation Hope I'd still be in a really dark place. Coming here has showed me there are other ways to deal with everything that has happened. Even

Wesley Operation Hope offers a brighter future

Wesley Operation Hope is a powerful mentoring program which uses adventure therapy and fortnightly sessions to help vulnerable young people develop crucial life skills, resilience and self-confidence. It gives them a break from the trauma of their lives and the chance to work towards a future filled with promise.

just having someone you can talk to can completely change your life. This program helps in so many ways – it really does give you hope.”

Emily is now living in a safe home and is starting to make plans for the future – a future she used to think wasn't worth having.

Your generous support helps young people like Emily develop life skills, resilience and confidence to rebuild their lives.

As well as supporting the family through homelessness, Helga has introduced her linked family to her husband, grown up children and their children, giving them an extended family they had never experienced before.

Other winners included Joshua Gavellas (Youth), John Swift (Senior), Fiona Mulhall (Corporate Volunteer Individual), Endeavor (Corporate Volunteer Team), Lifeline In Shift Supervisors (Volunteer Team).

A special thank you to all our volunteers who have offered their time and energy to support our work - volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation, and if it weren't for them, many of our services simply wouldn't exist.



Football fundraiser kicks nearly \$40k to Wesley Youth Accommodation Services

Thanks to the support of generous people like you, Wesley Youth Accommodation has received nearly \$40,000 from three annual “Australia vs. Rest of the World” football matches.

The matches held in Coffs Harbour have provided a unique platform to raise awareness, rally local business and support, and bring the community together for a great cause.

The funds raised over the past three years have provided a number of initiatives such as accommodation packs, including furniture and household goods for young people starting out on their own.

Driving lessons have also been provided to young people creating opportunity, independence and direction.

Key people in football clubs throughout the area are aware of the vulnerabilities of families and young people, and firmly believe that their community has the capacity to notice, protect and rally support, this has been enhanced as a result of the Football Fundraiser.

The team at Wesley Mission felt privileged to be a part of the night and we cannot wait to see what the 2019 Football Fundraiser brings.

Corporate partners help put food on the table

In the heart of the Sydney's CBD, school and corporate groups are taking up the Wesley Homeless Food Challenge. Can you shop for three days' worth of food with less money than you spend on a gourmet sandwich?

Hosted by experienced presenters, the Wesley Homeless Food Challenge is based around fast-paced simulation exercises and thought-provoking discussions that promote teamwork and empathy.

The result is not only strengthened teams and empathy for people who are homeless or at threat of becoming homeless, but also a well-stocked pantry for Wesley Connect.

"Most people feel sorry for the homeless people they walk past on the street, but feel powerless to help. This is a really tangible way for people to make a difference in a short time," said Claire, Lead Facilitator of Wesley Mission's Corporate Challenges.

The Wesley Connect food and care program seeks to serve those in our city who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The program is run primarily by friendly volunteers who are always ready to have a chat, and assist with emergency food relief and essential items where needed.



Salesforce having fun while supporting people in crisis.

Thank you to all the corporate volunteers who have gone through the program, raised funds and collected items for people in need.



Upcoming events: Easter 2019

Wednesday 6 March

Lent commences

Sunday 14 April

Palm Sunday procession
at Circular Quay

Tuesday 16 April

Easter Luncheon

Wednesday 17 April

Easter Breakfast

Friday 19 April

Good Friday remembrance
at Martin Place

Sunday 21 April

Easter Sunrise Service
at the Sydney Opera House



Get involved

To volunteer, donate or
leave a bequest visit
wesleymission.org.au

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Connect with us



**Do all the good you can
because every life matters**