



wesley impact!

news

Summer 2022

Thank you,
you gave Bianca,
Kaylie and Hunter
a happy Christmas



Your generosity has helped people facing homelessness like Bianca* and her little twins, Kaylie and Hunter. Your care and compassion this Christmas meant we could find secure accommodation for people in dire need.

Bianca fled a violent relationship with nowhere to sleep that night, but she and her gorgeous children have a safe home now because of you.

When we asked Bianca if she had a message she'd like to share with you, her answer could be summed up in just two words.

"Thank you are the only words that come to my mind," she said.

"At Christmas we could have a tree and Christmas lights. The kids had a backyard. They had toys."

"As a person that has struggled a lot, my life has changed drastically since Wesley Mission helped me."

"I have the stability of knowing that my kids are always going to have somewhere to lay their heads at night. I can provide them with the basics – food, shelter, clothes. Most people don't realise how important those things are until they don't have them."

We're living at a time when more people, even working families, can't afford a place to live. House prices and rents are rising so fast everywhere¹. There are precious few locations in NSW that are still affordable for those on a low income².

Sadly, the stock of social housing is nowhere near enough to meet demand³. Increasingly, people are being forced into insecure accommodation like a friend's couch or garage, a tent, caravan or car, if they have a roof over their heads at all.

But stories like Bianca's are proof that your donations make a difference.

A gift from you now, can give vulnerable people meals, accommodation and other essential support to get back on their feet. To give, visit wesleymission.org.au/impactnews_summer2022. Thank you.

¹ CoreLogic

² SGS Economics & Planning, November 2021

³ "COVID-19: Rental Housing and Homelessness Impacts in Australia" report 2021, ACOSS and UNSW

*Names and images changed for privacy.

How Jacques' family had help in lockdown

Thanks to you, during the hardest days of the COVID-19 pandemic this year, we could help vulnerable people who were most at risk of falling through the cracks and missing out on support, like Jacques* and his children Henry, 15, Ben, 12, Royal, 9, and Angel, 7. They had settled in Newcastle as refugees just before the pandemic began. When the borders closed, Jacques' wife and youngest children were stuck in Kenya.

They were dealing with the pain of the separation of their family, along with countless other worries. And as NSW grappled with rising cases of COVID-19, their challenges only grew. For the children, doing home school in English – without all the equipment they needed – was incredibly difficult. Their education and mental health was suffering. Jacques struggled to keep food on the table.



Having connected with Kath, our Humanitarian Youth and Family worker, when the toughest times came they had a helping hand. Kath organised grocery vouchers, and fruit and veggie boxes each fortnight through lockdown for them and many other families experiencing hardship. She provided mental health support for the children and also linked them with funding for desks, computers, headsets and tutoring sessions to support their online learning.

“We had needs for food and groceries, and the children needed every kind of help with study and school,” Jacques says. “I can't say how grateful I was for Wesley Mission's help. We all sat down and thanked God for all the help that we were getting and we were very happy for the support.”

*Names and images changed for privacy.

The impact of your support in FY 20/21

In FY20/21 thanks to your generosity we assisted 115,700 clients including 11 per cent more people 'most in need' and nine per cent more people 'in need'.



Housing and accommodation

197,573 nights of accommodation provided

3,242 individuals and families supported including:

1,781 individuals, 900 families, 450 young people, 67 veterans and 44 older people



Wesley Emergency Relief

3,963 individuals and families supported

2,099 family food hampers delivered across more than 45 communities across Sydney



Suicide prevention

114 suicide prevention networks across Australia

3,524 community network participants

31,349 calls answered by Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland



Foster care and adoptions

608 children and young people supported to connect with their birth families

887 children and young people supported in placements



Hospitals

5,611 patients treated through our consulting rooms



Families and children

2,138 family members supported to help vulnerable children stay safely in their families



Home care

3,534 people in the community provided with home care support

Teresa has found the artist within

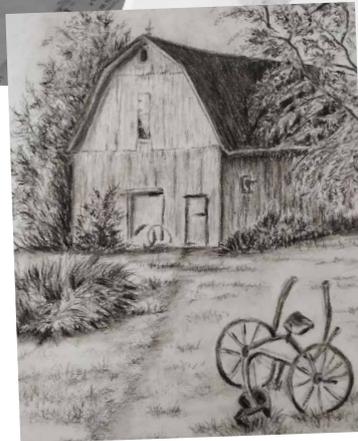
Teresa, who is 68, was on a cruise with her husband when a couple they met spoke glowingly of the Wesley School for Seniors program. Back on shore, with her career winding down and no kids left at home, Teresa googled the classes and felt excited by what she saw.

“I’m very much into active ageing and staying connected, and I thought when I finish work I might be a bit isolated,” she says. “So in September 2019 I started taking a few courses.”

So far Teresa has tried classes in drawing, painting with watercolours, square-dancing and guitar. She continued learning the guitar during lockdown on Zoom, keeping in touch with her classmates on WhatsApp. “It was really good building up friendships and staying connected with people,” she points out. “We encourage each other. Now we’re starting a group where we actually meet up in person and do some guitar practice.”

But for Teresa, the highlight has been the chance to explore her inner artist, after not drawing since high school. “Now I go out, I look at trees, the clouds, the sky, driving in the countryside, and I think, ‘How can I draw that?’ It’s so peaceful, it gives me enormous pleasure. Now is the time for me, and this is so enriching for my soul and my spirit.”

At Wesley School for Seniors, over-55s can learn new skills and socialise in a safe and supportive environment. Classes start 17 January 2022. Visit wesleymission.org.au now to find out more or register for a class.



Teresa is so proud of her beautiful artwork. “Wesley School for Seniors has opened up a whole new world for me,” she says.



Community Housing tenants Miriam (back centre), Kerry (front left) Carmel (centre) with Wesley Mission tenancy worker Liesa (front right) and community greening volunteer Darren (back right) who donated a bench he made.

A garden that grows joy and hope

After a series of setbacks in her life, Miriam found herself homeless in Sydney. Having Wesley Mission help her into a community housing unit started her on the path towards healing and renewal. But one of the most life-changing aspects of having a home was actually outside its walls – in the little shared garden she helped plant with the other tenants.

It began when our Wesley Mission tenancy workers would visit to see how the tenants were going, and they’d drop off a few plants at the same time. The garden became a place for everyone to connect and experience the pleasure and satisfaction of creating something lovely together.

“When COVID allowed, we’d all have a cuppa and chat,” says Miriam’s tenancy worker, Liesa. “When we had to social distance, we’d stand outside with the plants we brought and shout out ‘here they are.’ Miriam loved it so much, she donated a big table we could use in the garden.”

Miriam isn’t where she wants to be just yet, but she’s come so far. “Wesley Mission is helping me back on my feet,” she says. “It’s a village of support.”

Will you consider leaving a gift of lasting impact?

You may never know or meet the people your life will impact or know the transformation you make by leaving a gift in your Will to Wesley Mission.

But as the custodians of hundreds of legacies over many years change to we'll make sure that future generations have hope, and our doors will always be open to people in desperate need as a result of your generous gift.

So, after providing for your loved ones please consider including a gift in your Will to Wesley Mission. Your decision today will help change the future for people in need.



For a FREE copy of our Wills Guide or to ask about leaving a gift in your Will to Wesley Mission, please contact Stephen Burfield on (02) 9263 5561 or email Stephen.Burfield@wesleymission.org.au.

In an emergency, you were there!

We've been overwhelmed by the support for our COVID-19 Emergency Relief appeal. Thanks to you, we've raised over \$150,000, and counting, to feed people in need due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

One entire family was COVID-positive and needed urgent food assistance. They were relieved and grateful when our delivery arrived, complete with the items they needed most.

Four friends Olivia, Lara, Ilaria and her twin brother Gianluca, who are all 8 years old, raised \$768 by running a bake sale in their street. Ilaria loves baking and decided to help people who lost their homes in the pandemic, and Gianluca wanted to feed the kids whose families had lost their jobs. For Lara, "it was really nice to be doing something useful with my friends."

Their delicious tea cakes, cookies, and dog and bunny treats proved a huge hit with neighbours getting out for a much-needed walk. "Some neighbours donated extra to



L-R: Ilaria, Gianluca, Olivia and Lara raised an amazing \$768!

help," says Olivia. "I felt shocked that baking cookies could make such a difference."

Adds Olivia's mum Katharine, "It was humbling to see these kids being grateful for small things and colluding to do something impactful."

Yes, I'll give practical support to people in desperate need.

Please accept my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 My choice \$ _____

My contact details:

Title: _____ Name: _____

Surname: _____

Street address: _____

Suburb: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

My date of birth is: ___ / ___ / ___

We'd love to send you a birthday message!

PO Box A270 SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235 1800 021 821 fundraising@wesleymission.org.au ABN 42 164 655 145 Wesley Mission

Can you give monthly?

Yes, I'd like to change lives every day with a monthly gift of \$ _____

- Please debit the credit card below.
- Please contact me to set up direct debit.

My payment details:

- Cheque/money order made out to Wesley Mission OR
- Please debit my credit card: Visa MasterCard Amex

Card No.: _____ Expiry: ____ / ____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

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Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Scan here to donate now



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