



wesley impact!

news

Spring 2022



When Suzi* and Mark* called us in distress, we were there for them, thanks to your support. Your compassion has helped us continue our Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland telephone crisis service.

Because of caring donors like you, we've provided people in distress with a listening ear – whether they were struggling with loneliness, challenging circumstances or a mental illness.

Sadly, many people are telling us they feel life isn't worth living and they want to end their own lives. Thankfully, the opportunity to share their pain can prevent this tragedy, as it did when volunteer Tess spoke to Suzi and Mark.

Here is what Tess says about your generosity:

"Having a caring person to talk to in a crisis literally saves lives, so thank you for supporting Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland. Your donation means that no one will have to face their darkest times alone."

The fact is though, these are tough times and more young Australians are experiencing higher rates of psychological distress¹.

According to the National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing², released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in July, almost 40 per cent of 16 to 24-year-olds experienced a mental disorder in the past year.

Nearly a quarter of females aged 16 to 34 reported self-harming at some stage in their lives.

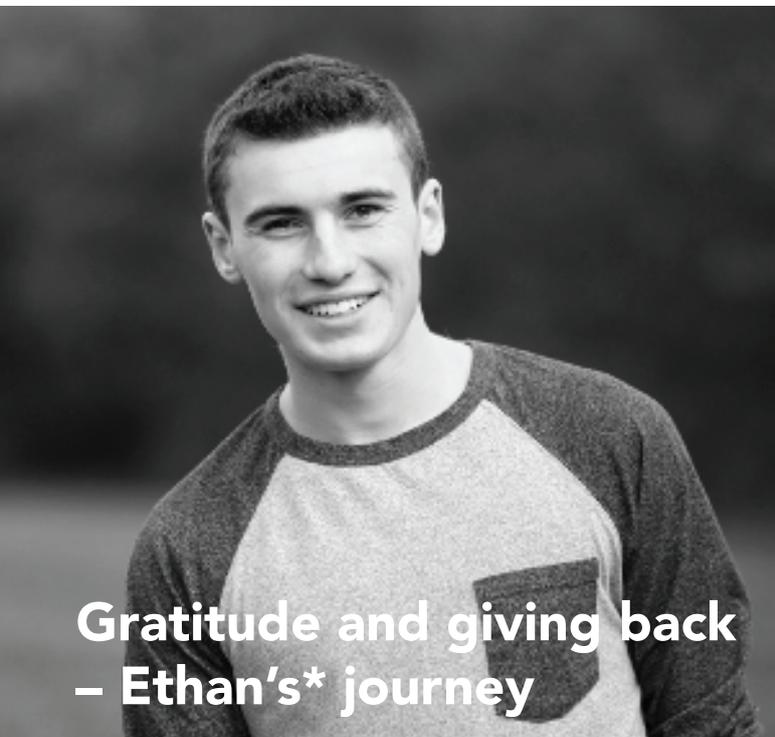
And shockingly, one in six Australians have experienced suicidal thoughts or behaviours.

Now, as more people phone our Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland telephone crisis service, we're planning to urgently train 300 additional volunteer Crisis Supporters so no call for help goes unanswered.

Your partnership with us prevents suicides. To help us train more Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland volunteers who can answer every call, donate now at wesleymission.org.au/impactnews_spring2022

1. AIHW Australia's Health, July 2022 <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/australias-health>
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing', 22 July 2022

*Suzi's and Mark's names and photo changed to protect their privacy.



Gratitude and giving back – Ethan’s* journey

Ethan’s journey in foster care began when he was two. He shares how it felt to be raised by people who barely knew him but still loved him as their own son.

“My carers were kind, loving, supportive. No matter what I tried to do, they’ve always been supporting me through, and always just behind me.”

*Name and photo changed to protect privacy

Currently, 681 children and young people are in our care and we’ve helped 1,122 over the last five years.

Ethan has received support from a case worker at Wesley Dalmar to achieve his goals. “It was a great deal of consistency,” he says. “Knowing that I had just the one person I could talk to if I needed help.”

This year marks the centenary of Wesley Dalmar’s relocation to Carlingford – expanding our care of children which dates back to 1893. That was when the Sydney Central Methodist Mission (as we were known then) opened a ‘Home for Neglected Children’ in Woolloomooloo. The 14-room home was generously offered rent-free by the philanthropist Ebenezer Vickery.

Today, much of our work serving children, young people and families is in partnership with our wonderful foster families, through out-of-home care.

As our teams provide this empowering and life-transforming service, they often have the privilege of seeing extraordinary outcomes. Like Ethan’s.

Ethan is now in his second year at university, supported by the Wesley Dalmar Scholarship, which helps him pay his expenses and tuition fees. He has been giving back to his community, developing a workshop focused on how caseworkers can better support foster children like himself.

Well done on your achievements, Ethan.

Why Krisztina became an ‘auntie’

Krisztina loves being an ‘auntie’ in the Wesley Aunties & Uncles program. “I love children and not having children of my own, I thought it would be a nice way for me to get to know a little child,” she says. “And hopefully be a positive influence.”

A chat with a friend first planted the idea in Krisztina’s mind and she contacted us to express her interest. After a screening process, she was linked with 10-year-old Annabel*. For her safety, Annabel had to leave her family home when she was five and she was cared for by relatives, before being placed with foster families.

Annabel was introduced to Krisztina during a play at the park, accompanied by Annabel’s real aunt and a Wesley Mission case worker. Since then, Krisztina has regularly spent time with Annabel. She’d take Annabel on outings to the beach, the cinema, shopping or putt putt golf, or to her own home for a visit. “We

made slime – that was Annabel’s favourite – and played cubby-house or board games and we’d watch DVDs,” says Krisztina. “As she was getting used to having her phone, she’d watch TikTok and practice little dance moves in front of me.”

Seeing Annabel gradually start to trust her and enjoy her company has been very special for Krisztina. “I’d pick her up and Annabel would open the door excitedly and have a big smile on her face. It was just gorgeous.”

They’ve now been part of each other’s lives for close to six years. Annabel is 15 and she has become a ‘strong’ young woman after enduring many challenges. Krisztina’s hope is that she has given, and will continue to give, Annabel some stability, unconditional love and guidance that will help her throughout her life.

“Taking part in the Wesley Aunties and Uncles program takes time



and energy but if you can do it, it’s definitely worthwhile,” Krisztina says.

Our ‘aunties’ and ‘uncles’ provide mentoring and care to children from disadvantaged homes. If you’re interested in joining the program and helping children like Annabel, let us know at wesleymission.org.au/auntiesanduncles

*Name changed to protect privacy

Celebrating Wesley Impact TV

Did you know Wesley Mission has appeared on Aussie TV screens from 1958 up until now – an unbroken run of 64 years? It all began with Rev Alan Walker, who hosted a pioneering TV show called 'I Challenge the Minister' on Channel 9 responding to audience questions about religion, politics and social issues. More than half a million people tuned in each week. When Alan became Superintendent at Wesley Mission, he expanded his broadcast to include televising our Easter Sunrise Service. Today, it's the longest-running, regular program on Australian television.

Subsequent Superintendents, Rev Gordon Moyes and Rev Keith Garner, continued to build on this remarkable legacy. In the same pioneering spirit, we're now moving away from a weekly TV program towards producing high-quality content we can share online, including on social media, where more audiences are going. As always, we want to tell our stories and share our message where the people are.

We've created a special series to pay tribute to our 64 great years of broadcasts and look ahead to exciting new developments for our congregations, Chaplains and community services. Take a look here: wesleymission.org.au/wesleyimpacttvministry



The revamped Wesley Edward Eagar Centre turns one!

In July, a small crowd gathered at Wesley Edward Eagar Centre in Surry Hills to celebrate a year since the refurbished building reopened to people experiencing homelessness.

Among our special guests were some of the amazing donors and supporters whose generosity helped fund this major renovation project, along with the Hon. John Howard OM AC, who was patron of the fundraising appeal, and our former Superintendent and CEO Rev Keith Garner.

A light afternoon tea was followed by tours around the crisis accommodation. This included a walk through of one of the 40 secure rooms, each with its own private ensuite. On-site there are also spaces for a chaplain along with services like medical, counselling and legal services so guests have easy access to the wraparound support they need to break the cycle of homelessness.

In addition, the building features an entire floor dedicated to women – who increasingly are experiencing homelessness¹. Having a private room with an ensuite provides a sense of security that's particularly important when many of the women residents at Wesley Edward Eagar Centre have

experienced domestic violence and trauma.

"Some of them actually cry because they can't believe how beautiful it is here, how comfortable their rooms are," said Tanya, the Manager on Duty, as she conducted a tour.



"Women have more dignity and privacy, which really does make a difference.

To our supporters, all I can say is thank you from the bottom of my heart. I cannot thank you enough for all that you've helped us to do."



At Wesley Edward Eagar Centre's one year anniversary event, the Hon. John Howard OM AC said, "I'm sure lives have already been changed ... and they will be in the future. [The building] is a wonderful example of the practical Christianity that is a hallmark [of] Wesley Mission."

New guests receive a welcome pack and card (above) on their bed. And when they walk into their room a light turns on automatically, to create a cosy and homely feel.

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Cottee family's sweet legacy

Born in 1898 – the son of the Lismore dairy farmer who brought Passiona soft drink to Australians – Harold Warnock Cottee helped expand his family's company into a household name known for jellies, cordial and jam. But at Wesley Mission, it's the generosity of the Cottee family that we remember and appreciate the most.

Harold Cottee was a staunch supporter of the Methodist Church throughout his life and when he passed away in 1973, he left Wesley Mission a 500-acre orchard in South Australia in his Will. While it was the largest citrus orchard in the southern hemisphere, initially it wasn't profitable – but Harold saw its potential. And by 2007, more than \$2 million in proceeds from the sale of oranges and orange juice had helped us care for vulnerable children at Dalmar Children's Homes (now Wesley Dalmar foster care).

Harold's widow, Lois, also continued their kindness, with a \$132,000 gift that established the Harold W. and Lois Cottee Lodge (now Cottee Lodge) for young people experiencing homelessness in Ashfield in the 1980s. Not only is their generosity still changing lives today, their family remains directly involved with Wesley Mission. Harold's grandson Warwick Cottee serves on the board that manages the Cottee Orchard, and another grandson Jim Wackett is our General Manager for Communications & Partnerships. "I grew up knowing about Wesley Mission," he shares.

"[Working here] just felt like it was part of my DNA."

Asked how his grandparents would feel if they knew how many children their kindness had helped, Jim says: "I think they'd be humbled. They weren't ostentatious people. They came from working-class backgrounds. They survived the Depression, the First World War. And they were just devoutly Christian. After they became successful, they held onto that success and wealth very loosely. For them, it was just natural to put their faith into action."

Their lives also influenced their seven children, numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Lois, who lived to 93 years old, was a dearly loved pillar of Jim's childhood, while he says, "my grandfather's legacy loomed large in my entire family."

One of the lessons their example taught Jim? "Leaving a gift in their Will is something that anyone can do," he says. "And these gifts don't have to be large. Collectively they can go on, in some instances, to enable programs to continue for decades."

The lives of those disadvantaged and marginalised can be transformed by everyday Australians leaving a gift to Wesley Mission in their Will. For over 200 years, these legacies have been helping us strengthen the vulnerable, comfort the lonely and give hope for a brighter future. To discuss how you can make a powerful impact for generations to come, call Steve Burfield on (02) 9263 5561.



Credit: Wikipedia



Top: Harold Warnock Cottee
Bottom: Lois Cottee

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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!

Reply Paid 270, SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1234 1800 021 821 fundraising@wesleymission.org.au wesleymission.org.au ABN 42 164 655 145

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: _____

 Online: wesleymission.org.au/impactnews_spring2022

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Scan here to donate now

