



# wesley impact!

# news

Summer 2024



## A Christmas full of *Hope* for families like the Parry\* family *thanks to you*

When Charlotte and Joe Parry\* were pushed into homelessness amid soaring rents and record low vacancy rates, their whole world was rocked.

But thanks to the overwhelming kindness and compassion of people like you, they were able to experience a Christmas filled with joy and love with their four young children in their new home.

The Parry family welcomed in the year with a new found hope for the future, and hope that by sharing their story it'll help the thousands of other Australian families experiencing homelessness in the face of an ever-deepening housing crisis.

*"You feel so hopeless searching for a place to call home with the current housing situation, and it's especially painful when there's children involved,"* says Charlotte. *"I'm so grateful to all the Wesley Mission donors because I can't bear to think where we'd be now without their support"*.

Thanks to your wonderful generosity, we were able to provide **85,768** nights of accommodation to people experiencing homelessness, as well as wrap around services to ensure they stayed safe and had the practical support they needed to rebuild their lives and leave homelessness behind for good.

\*Names and photo changed to protect privacy

# Your compassion has shown its power

The compassion of our community has really come into its own over the past year and I want to thank you for your ongoing generosity towards the many people who've come to us experiencing hardship.

Thanks to you, we've been able to support over 150,800 people through our programs, a 9% increase on last year. This, amid spiralling costs of living and an unprecedented housing crisis that has seen more and more people in need of our help. Kindness itself has helped transform their lives.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for partnering with us. Together, we are doing all the good we can, knowing and believing passionately that every life matters.

Every blessing



Rev Stu Cameron  
CEO and Superintendent



## Your Impact

In 2022-23 you helped support 150,843 people through 120 programs in 144 locations across Australia – **9 per cent increase from the previous year!**

### Your kindness and compassion helped:

Provide **85,768** nights of safe and secure accommodation to vulnerable people experiencing homelessness

Answer **37,841** crisis calls through our 24/7 Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland centres

Support **29,656** families and children who are vulnerable and at risk – **10.7 per cent increase from the previous year**

Support **6,120** children and young people including foster care placements

Resource, educate and empower our Wesley LifeForce Suicide Prevention Networks in **130** communities across Australia with **2,274** people conducting suicide prevention activities in their local area with support from Wesley Mission staff



## Young people are set for success as Wesley Dalmar turns 100

Since the late 1800s, Wesley Mission has been providing safe, caring home environments for children and young people who cannot live with their families. Recently, we celebrated 100 years of Wesley Dalmar, now our foster families program which today supports 826 children and young people.

Northern Rivers local, Christian\*, is one of those young people. At 17, Christian is currently living in foster care and has aspirations of joining the Royal Australian Air Force as a chef when he finishes school. Every Wednesday, he spends the day at the Dove Cafe in Ballina where he's learning practical skills that will equip him for a successful future.

The Dove is a fully functioning cafe and catering service that offers young people transitioning from Wesley Dalmar foster care the building blocks to create successful foundations for adulthood and the opportunity to learn hospitality on the job.

"The whole concept came about to give young people some solid transferable life skills and real work experience in industry," says Cafe Manager Trent Morgan, "We're empowering these young people and all the while the whole community is benefiting from the cafe."



For Christian, working at the Dove also means he can complete a Certificate II in hospitality through a school-based traineeship that will stand him in good stead for his Australian Defence Force application.

"I do a bit of everything but serving customers is my favourite part of the job," says Christian, "When I first started, I found it hard chatting to customers but now my confidence has grown and I find it easy."

Christian is just one of the young people to benefit from The Dove program, and for him, it means he can apply for his dream job in the Air Force knowing the steps he's taken have set him on the right path for success.

\*Name changed to protect privacy

## Penina finds confidence to be the best mum for her children

Penina can't help but smile when her son starts singing 'Praise', a song he learnt at church, at the top of his lungs while on the train.

"When I see little positive impacts on my children, that's when I realise, I am doing a good job," Penina says. Since connecting with Denee, her Caseworker from Wesley Family Preservation, Penina has rekindled her faith – and she says, she owes it all to Wesley Mission.

A mother of two kids, for a long time Penina struggled to parent alone. In a moment of desperation, Penina Googled 'parenting support' and discovered Wesley Mission.

"I just wanted to be the best parent I could. We'd been going through such hardship. I thought, surely there's a program out there that can help me. I was willing to give Wesley Mission a try because doing nothing was

not getting me anywhere," Penina explains.

Penina is now so glad she found the courage to seek out help. "Honestly, it's been the best journey ever since," smiles Penina.

"I've become very in tune with God. I recently got baptised and I've just found this overwhelming sense of unconditional love that I have never, ever felt or received. "One of the goals I made with Denee was to connect with a church community. And this program has allowed me to do that. If it wasn't for the support of Wesley Mission, I wouldn't have been able to be in touch with my spiritual side."

Penina found healing and confidence in just five months of support from Wesley Family Preservation and is grateful for all the support Denee has given her.



Penina hopes by sharing her story she will not only inspire others to ask for support, but she'll also be an example to her own kids.

"I want my daughter and my son to know that it is OK to reach out for any kind of help. I want to encourage them not to be afraid to research as I did, because it may be life-changing."

# How Doreen is transforming lives for future generations

Doreen Marsden led a blessed and long life. She enjoyed Tai Chi and aqua aerobics well into her later years, and tended to a garden filled with roses and camellias. Being a kind and compassionate person, Doreen had always been acutely aware of how fortunate she was, and made it a priority to support people who may be in need of her help.

Doreen had been making regular donations towards Wesley Mission's vital work for nearly 30 years when she passed away aged 95. Keen to ensure she could continue to make an impact

after her death, she'd already spoken to us about leaving a gift in her will so her beautiful legacy could continue. Now, her generous spirit lives on with her gift destined to help transform lives for generations to come.

The lives of those disadvantaged and marginalised can be transformed by everyday Australians like Doreen leaving a gift to Wesley Mission in their Will. For over 200 years, these legacies have helped 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 by leaving a gift to Wesley Mission in your Will, please call Steve Burfield on (02) 9263 5561.**

*\*Name and photo changed to protect privacy*

## Upcoming Wesley Mission Wills Days

Have an independent solicitor prepare your simple Will for a fraction of the cost. The next Wills Days are:

- 21 March 2024 at Frank Vickery Village, 101 Port Hacking Rd, Sylvania
- 23 May 2024 at Level 4, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney CBD

**For further information, please visit [www.wesleymission.org.au/gift-in-will](http://www.wesleymission.org.au/gift-in-will) to book your place today.**

## Easter 2024

Everyone is invited to celebrate Easter with Wesley Mission. If you're in Sydney we'd love to welcome you at one of our special events or church services.

Stay up to date with more information on our Easter events at [wesleymission.org.au](http://wesleymission.org.au)

## Good Friday

**1pm, Friday, 29 March 2024**

Martin Place Amphitheatre, Martin Place, Sydney

Free, public street theatre performance depicts Jesus' love and sacrifice.

Join us in person, or streaming online at [wesleymission.org.au](http://wesleymission.org.au)



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## Yes, I'll give practical support to people in crisis.

**Please accept my gift of:**

\$25  \$50  \$100  My choice \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

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State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to make a recurring monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please debit the credit card below\*\*. (You can change or cancel at any time.)

Please contact me to set up direct debit.

**My payment details:**

Cheque made out to Wesley Mission OR

Please debit my credit card:  Visa  MasterCard  Amex

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