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Words from our CEO

Dear friends,

To say I'm continually inspired by the generosity and kindness of our dedicated donors is an understatement. Your unwavering support empowers us to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need, and for that, I extend my deepest gratitude.

As I reflect on your selfless giving, I consider its impact on the issues facing our communities. By far, the biggest challenges being faced by Australians is the dual cost-of-living and housing affordability crises.

Of late, an increasing number of people have contacted Wesley Community Housing for support. They've never interacted with services like ours in the past and, worryingly, include key workers (people providing essential services) and the 'forgotten middle' (those who've always been able to afford rent and food).

These crises not only threaten the wellbeing and stability of individuals and families but also challenge the very fabric of our society.

Thankfully, with your continued support we can work to meet the growing need and implement long-term, sustainable impact – as illustrated by the stories in this edition – because everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

Every blessing,



Rev Stu Cameron
CEO and Superintendent



Exploring housing stress, homelessness, and gambling

Did you know Australia has the highest gambling losses per capita globally?

Our Advocacy and Campaigns team have been working hard fighting for change and researching the connections between gambling, housing stress and homelessness in Australia to build the evidence base for the gambling reforms we know are desperately needed in NSW.

To ensure our reform advocacy is effective, we are building a movement of individuals and organisations to pressure decision makers to take real action to minimise gambling harm.

If you'd like to learn more about how the poker machine industry operates and how you can help us minimise harm, please scan this QR code or visit our Pokies You're Being Played website for more information.

Together, we can act to prevent and reduce gambling harm.

To read more about our research and findings, check out the Resources page of our campaign website.

Your generosity means more Australians, like Emily, now have safe places to call home

When Emily* became homeless at just 17, she had her whole life packed up in her car with nowhere to go.

But thanks to the overwhelming kindness and generosity of people like you, we were able to help Emily get back on her feet by providing her with a safe place to stay and wraparound support services, including legal support, financial assistance and support to find employment. Now living independently, Emily says her life has changed for the better because of compassionate people who support Wesley Mission.

"If it wasn't for the people who were donating, then obviously I wouldn't have had anywhere to stay," Emily says. "I think compassion is the most important attribute to have. And everyone needs to find that because kids like me are so scared. I just hope that other kids can reach out [like] I did." Emily is now on her way to achieving her career goal to become a veterinary nurse, largely influenced by her time with Halen, our furry accredited therapy dog, while staying at our refuge.

And because of the support Emily received from our team, especially her caseworker Julz, Emily says she now has the confidence to go forward and pursue her goals.

"There are so many young people that come through these doors who just do not trust people anymore,



▲ Julz, Meena & Lisa

> "If it wasn't for the people who were donating, then obviously I wouldn't have had anywhere to stay"

and it has been amazing to see the change from those young people when they meet and get to know Halen. And then to see how that trust transfers to myself and the rest of the team is incredible."

"Now Emily has left the service, she's become this amazing young woman. I'm really happy that we could support her at that time," says Julz.

Sadly, there are still so many women and young people without safe places to call home. It's not too late to donate to our Winter Appeal. Visit wesleymission.org.au/endhomelessness or call 1800 021 821.

***Name changed to protect privacy.**

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Noreen's legacy continues to help people journey out of homelessness



▲ Noreen Towers

Rev Noreen Towers never imagined that a simple invitation to church would lay the foundations for our iconic homeless refuge in Sydney – Wesley Edward Eagar Centre. But it did.

Noreen was just 23 and starting out as a Wesley Mission minister when she approached two men, who were experiencing homelessness, to attend her new church. These two men were the first to come along to Noreen's church service, which grew to a congregation of 200 people within its first year.

It quickly became more than a congregation – a refuge for people experiencing homelessness. At first, many just came for bread, jam, a cuppa, Bible study and choir. But as they continued to come back, they found friendship within this church community.

In 1979, Noreen moved her congregation into Wesley Edward Eagar Lodge, now known as Wesley Edward Eagar Centre. For Noreen, it was her compassionate heart that drove her to show genuine care to every person who walked through her refuge door.

"It's [all about] being there for them. Being that listening ear so people can find support and help," she says.

Noreen's legacy lives on through Wesley Edward Eagar Centre, which continues to help thousands of people journey out of homelessness today.

Mark's inherited legacy is still changing lives

For more than 20 years, Mark has supported Wesley Mission, thanks to his mother's legacy.

For many years, his mother financially supported Wesley Mission while playing a significant role in pioneering our advocacy work back when Rev Alan Walker was Superintendent of Wesley Mission.

"In that time, I have come to understand more about the diversity and range of their services and the vital impact they have had in helping, improving and even saving people's lives," Mark says.

Over the years Mark has developed a passion to support Wesley Mission's David Morgan Centre, a supported employment facility that opened in 1973 to provide job opportunities for those living with disability. It was during Mark's visit to David Morgan Centre, which sparked his decision to leave a gift in his Will to Wesley Mission.

"I have seen and experienced the care and dedication of the Wesley Mission staff and I am certain that leaving a gift in my Will to Wesley Mission is the right thing to do."

Would 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.



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 more information on leaving a lasting legacy please contact us on on (02) 9263 5548 or email giftinwills@wesleymission.org.au

Traineeship sets Brodie on his career pathway

"I don't think I would be where I am and who I am right now if I hadn't had [Wesley Mission] showing me that I was worth the effort," says Brodie.

When Brodie's long-term foster care placement broke down at 17, we stepped in and helped Brodie get back on his feet through our Wesley Take Charge of Your Life. Our program helps young people, like Brodie, successfully transition from foster care to living independently.

For Brodie that meant supporting him with finding a home and financial assistance with groceries, transport and school fees. But the support is more than that. Brodie knows his caseworkers, Nerissa and Jayson are just a phone call away when he needs support.

"Not having a family to rely on, these people are almost family," Brodie says.

Now 21, Brodie says the biggest life-changing moment came when his caseworker, Jayson recommended him for a traineeship with Wesley Dalmar Foster Care.

Brodie jumped at the opportunity and is now studying an accredited community services course with Wesley Vocational Institute (RTO code 90091) while gaining practical work experience with Wesley Dalmar, so he can achieve his goal of working in foster care.



▲ Jayson & Brodie

Find out more about Wesley training programmes at www.wesleytraining.org.au (external link)

Thanks for brightening our day

Just like you, we don't do what we do for the praise. We do it because it's our passion and purpose. But it's still (really) nice to hear how much you value our work. Check out what you – our donors – are saying about Wesley Mission...

"I think Wesley Mission is doing a **wonderful job.**"

"Wesley Mission does **so much good** in the country."

"I believe Wesley Mission is meeting a tremendous need in our society."

"The teaching of **Jesus** is to 'love our neighbours as ourselves'."

"You do words AND deeds. I see the positive impact."

"The Lord God provides for me, and it's only right I return something to his work."

"We give because **we want to show God's love** to others."

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Your impact Your kindness and compassion helped

Support **150,843** people through **120** programs in **144** locations across Australia



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



Support **6,737** people to access meaningful training and employment opportunities



Support **3,750** Australians to access safe, short and long term accommodation



Recruit **153** new crisis support volunteers at our Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland centres



Equip **29,656** families with the knowledge and skills to create a safe and nurturing home

Support **6,120** teenagers and young adults through accommodation, education, mentoring and employment services, including foster care





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

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

Please accept my gift of:

☐ **$25** ☐ **$50** ☐ **$100** ☐ **My choice $**_____

My contact details*:

Title: _____ Name: _____

Surname: _____

Street address: _____

Suburb: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

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.

Scan here to donate now

My payment details:

☐ Cheque 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/yourimpact

Donations of $2 or more are tax deductible.

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