Wesley Impact

Winter 2025



wesley mission
driven to do more good



The astonishing impact of your compassion

In today's challenging times, your kindness continues to shine a light for people in need.

Thanks to your wonderful support, families facing financial hardship, housing stress and mental health struggles are rebuilding their lives and their sense of hope.

As Australians navigate the tremendous pressures of rising costs of living and an ongoing housing crisis, it encourages me deeply to see the impact of your compassion in the stories we're sharing in this newsletter.

These are stories of people who have found renewed strength, stability and hope … because of you and others like you who have given generously and with great kindness.

As always, I thank you for standing with them and showing that even in the most difficult times, **compassion lights the way forward.**

With deep gratitude,



Rev Stu Cameron
CEO and Superintendent

"After a lifetime caring for others, I never imagined I'd need help myself."



Nara spent her life helping others as a nurse. But when a burst pipe flooded her home - leaving three inches of water on the floor of the entire house and making her instantly homeless - everything changed.

With nowhere to go, she was forced to live in motels while managing serious health issues and disability. After a stint in hospital for major surgery, when it came time for discharge, heartbreakingly she had no home to return to. And with the country experiencing a housing crisis, there was little hope of finding anywhere.

"I called everywhere and everyone," says Nara, "But there was just absolutely nothing available."

Alone and overwhelmed, Nara reached out to Wesley Mission. That call changed everything. Wesley Mission caseworker Antoinette became her lifeline, helping secure safe, stable housing, guiding her through the complex system, and offering a steady presence when Nara had no one else to turn to.

> **She felt like a friend, explaining things calmly, keeping me on track, and giving me the strength to keep going," says Nara. "I can't bear to think about what could have happened if not for Antoinette. I'd still be homeless, or worse."**

Now settled in her new home, Nara is still adjusting, but she's safe, warm, and grateful for the support that gave her hope, dignity, and the feeling that someone truly cares. Antoinette says, "Nara is a real glass half full person." Despite all she's been through, her warmth and resilience shine through.

"I'm so thankful to everyone at Wesley Mission," she says. "Please keep going for the next person who needs help like I did."



Because of you, hope is growing

You'll remember the Clarke* family's story that we shared with you recently. With a safe place to call home, they've been able to regain stability and start to rebuild their lives – together and with hope.

> **"We feel like we can breathe again, words can't describe how grateful we continue to be every day."**
> **– Jenny, Mum of three**

Your kindness is what makes transformations like this possible. With your support we continue to help more families facing the cold, uncertainty and fear of homelessness this winter. Every gift provides urgent care, practical support and the chance to start afresh.

There's still more to do and your compassion makes all the difference – a big thank you.

A family's enduring legacy

John's connection to Wesley Mission began 25 years ago, when he stepped into the fundraising team. It was a role that would come to shape not only his career but his whole outlook on life.

He still remembers the faces, the stories and the moments of quiet resilience. From travelling with supporters to witness programs in action, to walking alongside people like Paul*, a supporter going through his own tough times, John saw the human side of help and made sure no one ever felt alone or forgotten.

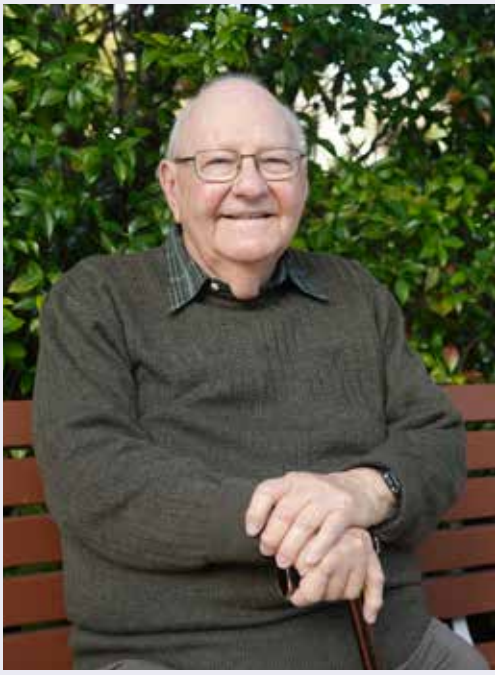
These experiences left a mark. They didn't just strengthen John's belief in the work of Wesley Mission – they stirred the desire to do something lasting.

John and his wife are now long-time supporters. Through regular giving and the decision to include a gift in their wills, they've found a powerful way to extend Wesley Mission's support for generations to come.

Their son followed in John's footsteps and has been serving alongside people in our community as well. John continues to hear of transformative stories when he catches up with his son. For John, it's a personal reminder that some commitments don't end – they live on.

"Over the years, I've seen how powerful support can be," John says. "I want to know that future generations will have the same opportunities to find hope and rebuild their lives."

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



> **"I couldn't ask people to do something I wasn't willing to do myself," he says. "I know the difference it makes."**

*Names and images have been changed to protect the identities of the individuals.

When Hayley fought for her family, she found herself



Young, pregnant and homeless, Hayley reached a turning point after years of hardship and instability, including time spent living on the streets. She'd been, in her own words, 'in a really, really bad way'.

Already mother to a young son, Tyler, who was living in foster care, when Hayley's second son Malikai was born, she was terrified of losing her parental rights over him.

Faced with this reality, she reached out to Wesley Family Preservation and met Caseworker, Jess – someone who didn't judge her past, just believed in her future – Hayley felt for the first time that she could actually rebuild her life.

"It's good I've been here to help, but Hayley's been the one leading it," Jess says. "She's such a strong and fearless person. It's amazing to be a part of her journey."

From connecting Hayley with the right services, to advocating for her in court, and even caring for Malikai during appointments, Jess has been a trusted constant on a rocky path.

Jess stood beside Hayley through every stage in her fight and with steady support, Hayley found the strength and confidence to create a new life for herself and her sons, something Jess has been heartened to be part of.

"Jess is only ever a text or phone call away if I need something," Hayley says. "She tries to do whatever she can do to help."

Now settled and with her sights set on study and a new job, Hayley says she also found strength in her faith and the support of her local church.

"It was really important for me to reconnect with Jesus," she says. "Now, I want my boys to grow up in a good loving home with lots of support so they can grow into the good men God created them to be.

I just wanted to do better in life. I've learned a lot of lessons, and I'm really wanting to turn those lessons into good, by doing good for my boys so that they don't ever have to go through the things I have.
- Hayley

Speaking out to keep families safe from homelessness



Wesley Mission staff, volunteers and supporters at a Sydney Alliance Convention, advocating for fairer housing and renters' rights.

We recently shared the story of Molly and her family, who were evicted from their rental home for no fault of their own. Many of you responded with deep compassion. Sadly, stories like Molly's are far too common.

At Wesley Mission, our caseworkers see firsthand how housing insecurity is devastating people's lives. That's why we're working to change the systems that trap people in disadvantage, while we continue to help families with direct support.

As an active member of the Sydney Alliance, a coalition of community groups and faith organisations, we've been speaking out for fairer housing laws. Our staff, volunteers and supporters have joined forums and assemblies to push for action on energy justice, improved social housing and renters' protection, and support for vulnerable groups in society.

Advocating for energy efficiency in public housing will help families not to have to choose between buying food and paying for heating this winter.

- Dr Kate da Costa, Advocacy and Government Relations, Wesley Mission

We're seeing results.

In May this year, new laws came into effect in NSW that will make a real difference for renters. These reforms will help families stay in their homes, will protect vulnerable people and will help to reduce the risk of homelessness.

Wesley Mission played a vital role in making these changes a heartening reality– guided by our deep belief that housing is a human right.

We continue to advocate for improved housing conditions for people in our community. If you would like to know more, please contact us on advocacy@wesleymission.org.au to receive our newsletter.

Homelessness and hardship: A crisis we can't ignore

Now that winter is here and more people are calling upon our services, we urgently need your help to meet this growing demand.

The struggles Australians are facing

Over **122,000** Australians are homeless — including thousands of children.[1]

1 in 4 people experiencing homelessness are **under the age of 18**.[2]

Rough sleeping increased by 22% nationally in the three years leading up to 2023–24.[3]

How your support is making a difference

100,000+ nights of shelter offered to those with nowhere else to go.

3,000+ people found safety through crisis and transitional housing.

160,000 people reached out for help, and we were there.

1. ABS Census 2021. 2. Estimating Homelessness: Census, ABS, 2021. 3. Australian Homelessness Monitor 2024.



Make a Difference Today

Your support helps change lives.
To donate online, visit
wesleymission.org.au/yourimpact
scan the QR code or click the heart to the right.

Every gift counts.

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