



**Official launch of 13 Adolph Street, Richmond  
6 December 2007**

**Vicki Vidor, Chair**

Ladies and gentlemen...

It is estimated that there are approximately 30,000 homeless young people in Australia aged between 12 and 18.

The Lighthouse Foundation offers a way for the community to address this serious problem.

Our mission is to reduce youth homelessness.

Our vision is that every child will live in a family environment within a community that fosters trust and love and supports young people to grow and develop holistically.

Our policy is to take in young people aged 15 – 22 for as long as it takes them to reintegrate into the community.

Tonight I would like to talk to you about your connection to the young people of Lighthouse.

You may have noticed we have a lot of sayings on the walls here. One of them says 'One hundred years from now it won't matter how much money I had, the sort of house I lived in or the kind of car I drove...the world will be different because I was important in the life of a child'.

Each and every one of you standing here tonight has been important in the life of a child. As you drive away from here later you can bask in the fact that every young person at Lighthouse has been touched and changed by you.

By supporting Lighthouse in the myriad ways that you do...

You have provided a safe haven. A home that is safe and secure and carers that show love and respect.

You have provided a roof over their heads and food on the table.

You have provided a sense of belonging. The ability to have relationships.

You have provided health and well being by giving time to heal.

You have provided the ability to laugh and cry.

And a family with siblings, cousins, aunties and uncles and grandparents.

You have provided each child with a life time membership to Lighthouse.

You have provided a future with a light that shines from your heart to theirs and back again.

These are the most precious gifts you will ever give, so from my heart to yours...thank you.