



**Lighthouse
Foundation**

A place where
homeless kids belong

Our Founder

Susan Barton AM, is a woman whose passion and inspiration has been the driving force behind Lighthouse's life-changing work for almost three decades.

Susan began caring for vulnerable young people in her own home more than 30 years ago following a life changing experience as a volunteer when she saw a child die from malnutrition in a Sri Lankan orphanage.

This was the catalyst that started her on the Lighthouse journey. She began by opening the first Lighthouse home in 1991. Lighthouse Foundation has since raised multiple millions of dollars to radically transform the lives of more than 1000 vulnerable young Australians.

Susan, who is a mother of six and grandmother of 11, pioneered a new approach to working with Australia's homeless youth. Lighthouse does not just provide our community's most vulnerable people with a roof over their heads; it also provides them with vital skills, 24-hour support, intensive therapeutic care, a new sense of hope and a lifetime of care.

Susan Barton AM has been recognised through multiple awards for driving change in the area of youth homelessness. She was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia in 2002; received the Melburnian of the Year award in 2009 and was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women for her significant achievements and contribution to the Victorian community in 2012. Susan has also co-authored two books that feature an extensive evidence and hands-on experience collated over the past 25 years

Susan has worked relentlessly to harness widespread community support and build Lighthouse into an organisation that has grown substantially and helped to truly break the cycle of homelessness. Susan is still on Lighthouse's board and is passionately involved as ever, with her story serving as a constant reminder of the life-changing impacts of our work.

Protecting children in everyone's business. All children deserve to have a loving home where they can feel safe, loved and supported- Susan

For more information or to have Susan share her inspirational story at your workplace please contact marketing@lighthousefoundation.org.au