

Annual Report FY23/24

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

LET'S END YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS,

together



LIGHTHOUSE
FOUNDATION *for youth*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF *Country*



Lighthouse Foundation acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of the lands across Victoria where our services are located. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders past and present. Lighthouse Foundation is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationship to the land, water and seas and their rich contribution to our society. As we embark on our journey of reconciliation, we acknowledge the ongoing impact of colonisation and dispossession on First Nations peoples. We commit ourselves to listening, learning, and working in partnership with First Nations communities to address the injustices of the past and create a future of equality and mutual respect.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



Lighthouse Foundation celebrates diversity and affirms the right of access, equity, and equality for every young person, staff member, and volunteer in the Lighthouse community. Lighthouse is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We also practice from a position of cultural safety and awareness, across diverse languages, religions, and cultures.

RAP Artwork Bayley Misfud

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Photography Marie-Luise Skibbe | **Graphic Design** Hulsbosch



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN & CEO

In the past year, we have made great steps forward towards our goal to expand Lighthouse Foundation's impact. Managing the rapid growth of our services has required both resilience and determination. We have needed to keep nimble to adapt to constant change, and the challenges of increased staff teams, while dealing with the escalating cost of living. It is gratifying to note that, despite these testing conditions, we were able to extend our services by 39%, reaching many more children and youth in need of support. We are deeply grateful to our donors, whose belief in the effective social impact of our work, meant that they kept supporting Lighthouse locally, despite other urgent global demands for their philanthropy.

Despite the challenging economic conditions, Lighthouse continued to create impact with our evidence-based programs to support children, young people and families so they could heal from trauma and thrive. Our innovative programs in Foster Care and Kinship Care systems continued to build momentum, to support family resilience and connection. A major leap forward was the purchase, fit-out, and grand opening of Leonie's Place, our Southern Hub Home, named in honour of our great philanthropic supporter – Leonie Van Raay.

Private philanthropy continues to help us break new ground. Due to passionate local supporters, our Community Connect program was able to successfully expand onto the Mornington Peninsula, where youth homelessness services have been urgently needed. The program has had an immediate impact, and our team has been warmly embraced by collaborative partners such as Headspace.

A remarkable group of philanthropic women in the property and construction industry, TEN Women, worked with the Property Industry Foundation and other key alliance partners to renovate and extend one of the Foundation's large eastern suburbs homes, creating a haven for deeply traumatised survivors of violence, trafficking, and loss of autonomy over their lives.

Another feature of this past year has been the strengthening of our commitment to Aboriginal children and young people through progression of our Reconciliation Action Plan and working closely with Aboriginal agency partners to support the Aboriginal young people in Lighthouse homes. We also have developed our Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) reporting. This process is being embraced by our corporate partners, as they seek to have quantifiable evidence of their ESG commitment as good corporate citizens.

Our future focus will be on increasing early interventions as well as demonstrating best practice and continuous improvement in the delivery of our programs. We will continue to collect the data to prove the effectiveness of our Model of Care. We commit to keep working together with our valued stakeholders and funding partners, so that every child and young person has the safe home and community in which they can flourish. The young people of Lighthouse Foundation deserve nothing less than what we wish for our own children and families. They are our inspiration, and our reason to push onwards through any obstacles.

We wish to acknowledge our past CEO, Dr Eamonn McCarthy for his implementation of our Strategic Plan, and thank him for his efforts over the past three years. It is an honour to lead Lighthouse Foundation, and we are committed to move forward together to expand our future reach and impact.

Finally, we thank each one of you who has been part of our journey this year. Our staff and our leadership group kept doing outstanding work and maintained their support for the Board, young people and community despite all the challenges of growth. Our team of carers has gone 'above and beyond' expectations in their dedication to their roles. Our volunteers have been extraordinary. And above all, we are grateful for the tireless work of our Founder, Susan Barton AM, who continues to be a guiding light for the entire Lighthouse community.

With gratitude,

Len Warson (Chairman)

Brenda Boland (CEO)

WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT 39% GROWTH THIS YEAR

At Lighthouse Foundation, we provide homes and therapeutic care programs to children and young people impacted by long term neglect, abuse and homelessness. Our focus is to create caring communities where children and youth can feel safe, form meaningful relationships and begin to heal from traumatic experiences. Our Lighthouse Homes, Foster and Family Care and In Community care environments ensure our support reaches the children and young people who need it, where they need it, for as long as they need it.

OUR VISION

TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS
together

VALUES

RESPECT
KINDNESS
COURAGE
COLLABORATION



OUR ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE (ESG) STRATEGY

OUR ESG STATEMENT

Our ESG approach is based on our firmly held founding principles of evidence-based practice and community collaboration.

Lighthouse supports young people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness or trauma by providing the necessary resources to heal, grow, and achieve a lifelong sense of belonging through our Lighthouse Model of Care.

We not only provide the safe home environment and community connections for our children and young people, we also promote independent living skills and access to the education and training that helps break the cycle of homelessness.

OUR SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

Aligning our approach with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Using the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as our framework, we identified ten (SDG) priorities to demonstrate our commitment to sustainable practices and to provide our stakeholders with information on how we are contributing to broader sustainability objectives.

These SDGs are considered the 'grandmother' of ESG reporting guides and standards recognised by all levels of corporate, government and other organisations who commonly report on ESG issues. They reflect the sustainability areas Lighthouse Foundation is best placed to contribute to, given our organisational purpose and not-for-profit status.



www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/new/communications-material/

LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION PILLARS & SDGS



SOCIAL – OUR PURPOSE

- Care service delivery
- Connection to community
- Advocacy and prevention of youth homelessness

We're here to give young people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness or trauma the support they need to heal, grow and achieve a lifelong sense of belonging.

We practice an evidence-based model of care that provides a safe home environment and builds community connection.

With care we build independent living skills and access to education and training for future success.



SOCIAL – OUR PEOPLE

- Supporting care staff
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Employee compensation, benefits, learning and development
- Community engagement & collaboration

The people who support our children and young people are at the very heart of our organisation.

We strive to provide our employees and volunteers with a safe, inclusive environment where they are inspired to make a difference.

We believe in supporting our people with compensation, benefits, professional development and support that attracts and retains the right people in the right role.



GOVERNANCE

- Measuring outcomes and impact
- Ethical leadership and accountability
- Compliance and reporting responsibility

At the heart of Lighthouse Foundation's commitment to operational excellence and social impact lies a robust governance framework.

Our emphasis on accountability, responsibility and ethical conduct cultivates stakeholder trust.

This trust is pivotal in securing the ongoing funding necessary to advance our mission to end youth homelessness.



ENVIRONMENT

- Donated goods and services
- Purchasing policy: Energy, Waste, Vehicle

At Lighthouse, we're committed to reducing our environmental impact. We've implemented solar power for most properties and are asking for support to move company vehicles to hybrids where appropriate. We embrace second-life donations, keeping items like office furniture and IT equipment out of landfills. Additionally, we're improving recycling with sorting bins across our homes and hubs, and using local depots (e.g. for batteries and mobile phones).

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

\$15M
FUNDING

182
YOUNG PEOPLE
SUPPORTED

140+
PHILANTHROPIC
& CORPORATE
PARTNERS

120
LIGHTHOUSE
EMPLOYEES

470
LIGHTHOUSE
VOLUNTEERS



MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

I'm delighted to welcome our new CEO Brenda Boland who comes to us with extensive public sector experience after working in government in the Community Services sector for over three decades where she was responsible for large operational areas, rural and metropolitan, specialising in child protection, care services and disability operations. Brenda's passion for building connection and resilience in vulnerable children, fostering self-reliance among families, and promoting tolerance across communities aligns well with our values and the work of Lighthouse Foundation. We are thrilled to have her.

In the last 12 months we also welcomed Christine Campbell as our Lighthouse Foundation Patron. Christine came to Lighthouse at the age of just 15 as a homeless and vulnerable young person. She stayed with us for four years and turned her life around. She is now a mother and a manager in the healthcare industry and as our Patron, she continues to inspire others with her heart-warming story and dedication to social justice.

I continue to be so proud of our unique program offerings here at Lighthouse - one of my favourites is the On for Life program. It's a crucial part of our work, as it offers a life-long bond to Lighthouse for our young people who have transitioned out into the community from our care.

Just like a family would do, our young people know they can come back to us for support - from just needing to hear a friendly voice, to seeking help with navigating the complexities of the services sector. Once a young person has been in our care they form an important part of our extended Lighthouse family and we simply never give up on them.

Of course, none of this is possible without our trauma-informed specialist care workers and their ability to form safe and trusting relationships with our young people. Their reparative work is gold and the reason why a vulnerable young person can begin to heal and thrive. Without this precious care, a young person is more likely to fall foul of the justice system or re-offend. We are proud of our very low recidivism rates at Lighthouse, and I thank the care team for their unwavering dedication, passion and investment in our young people.

Let me also mention our community committees, the trusted and devoted group of volunteers who surround our home with love and care to support the young people and the carers. They are the key to offering the support we need to do our work, and they model the possibility for a young person to enter into a warm community connection, which is key to the Lighthouse philosophy - because protecting children is everybody's business.

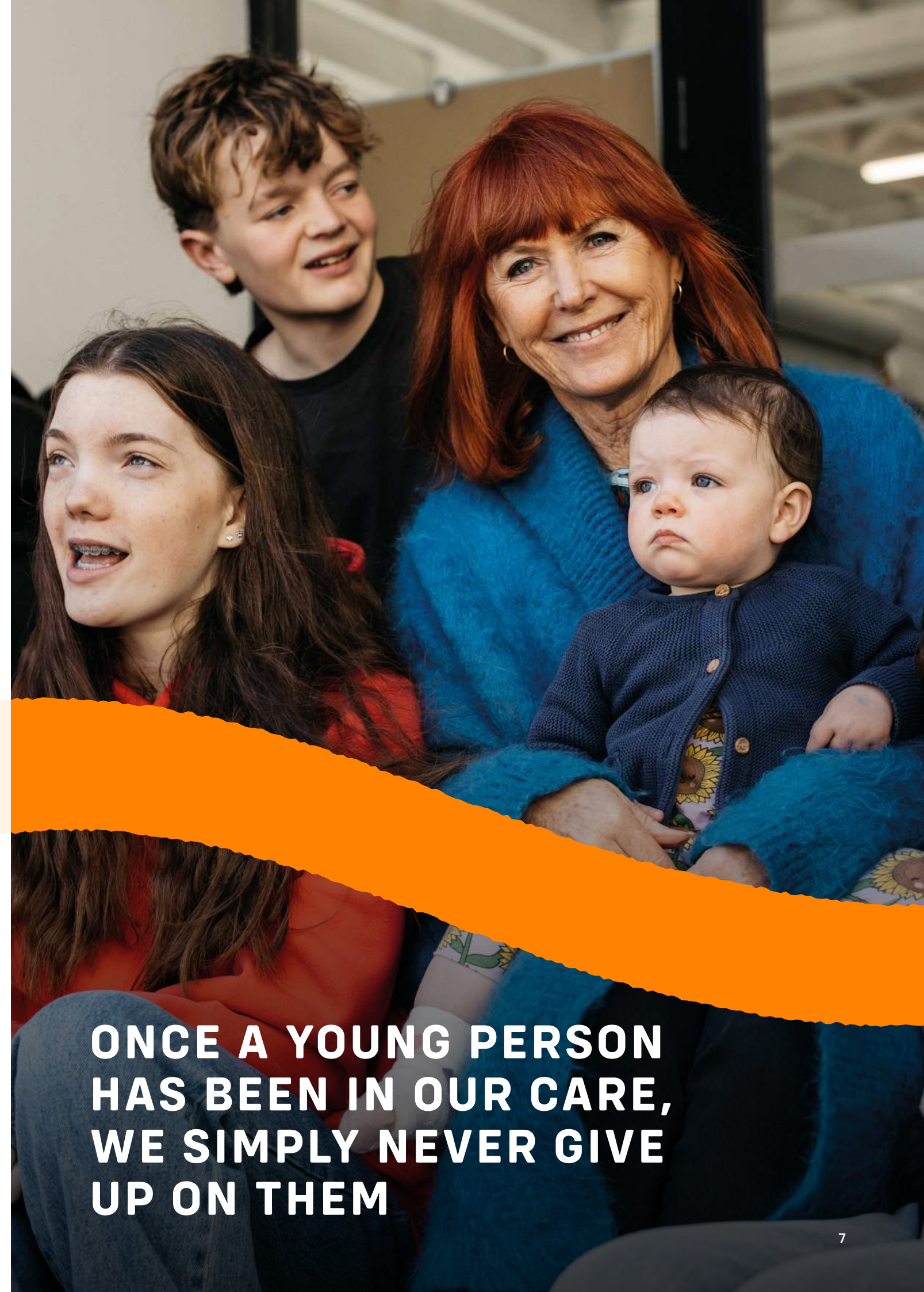
Thank you also to our hardworking fundraising and development teams who work with our wonderful donors to provide the very funds we need simply to exist and to the whole of the organisation for playing their part. As I often tell people, it's better to build stronger children than try to mend broken adults.

Thanks finally to the Board who strike the balance between vision and strategy that enables us all to do our work with the most vulnerable and traumatised children and young people within our community.

It takes a village to raise a child.
With heart,

Susan Barton

Susan Barton AM,
Founder, Lighthouse Foundation



**ONCE A YOUNG PERSON
HAS BEEN IN OUR CARE,
WE SIMPLY NEVER GIVE
UP ON THEM**



JAMILLA'S STORY

Jamilla* grew up in Afghanistan and immigrated to another country for safety from war and conflict. After the death of a parent, Jamilla moved to South Australia to live with relatives when she was a teenager.

Jamilla came to Australia wanting a better life. However, during her several years in South Australia, Jamilla felt continuously unsafe and experienced physical deprivation and social isolation in her household environment. Jamilla was confined to her household to complete domestic duties for 10 family members. She was victim to a modern slavery environment where she experienced repeated human rights abuses every day, including only being able to bathe and brush her teeth once per month, she suffered malnourishment and was not allowed to venture outside of the home independently – not even to go grocery shopping.

After convincing her relatives, Jamilla was able to enrol in her first ever school environment. The school teachers spoke her language, and Jamilla was able to converse with other people her age and adults outside of her family. She arrived at school one morning and confided in a school teacher about an upcoming overseas trip that was planned without her consent, with the intention for her to marry a stranger in the country she fled from when she was a child.

Jamilla was identified as a victim-survivor of modern slavery, domestic servitude and at risk of forced marriage. A swift and coordinated response from the Australian Federal Police and The Australian Red Cross's Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP), led Jamilla to be referred to Lighthouse Foundation's Young Women's Freedom Program. The Australian Federal Police receives approximately 100 reports each year of Forced Marriage as a Commonwealth offence, with many still hidden – Jamilla was just one of those cases. Lighthouse Foundation's Young Women's Freedom Program was identified by professionals in the sector as the best trauma-informed supported accommodation service that could be offered to Jamilla. Lighthouse Foundation offered more to Jamilla than just a place to live, but offered her a home, filled with people who cared for her.

With the support of Lighthouse's Therapeutic Carers, Jamilla began rebuilding her self-confidence and regain her freedom. She soon learned how to use public transport to get herself to and from her new school and also discovered her love of shopping. Jamilla was re-designing her own life and identity.

“Lighthouse Foundation offered more to Jamilla than just a place to live, but offered her a home, filled with people who cared for her.”

She developed friendships with other young people in the home with shared experiences and was supported to build a strong and culturally safe support network, which Jamilla identified as her chosen family. Through Lighthouse partnerships with community health organisations, Jamilla underwent extensive dental surgery to have several rotting teeth removed due to the neglect of her oral hygiene and also had her first hearing aids fitted.

When Jamilla transitioned out of the Lighthouse home and into independence, Jamilla purchased two Australian budgerigars, or “budgies”, which she named after the people that heard and believed her when she spoke of her experiences of violence. The trusting and caring relationships that Jamilla has built with her support networks and at Lighthouse Foundation will be long lasting in our ‘On For Life’ community, as Jamilla continues to live her life as a free, happy and empowered young woman.

*Jamilla is not her real name and image used is an actor. Lighthouse Foundation is committed to protecting the safety and identity of young people and children.



OUR *purpose* AT LIGHTHOUSE



We're here to provide children and young people who have experienced trauma, and/or homelessness with the support they need to heal and thrive.

Many of the children and young people we support have experienced significant challenges prior to entering our care, which often includes experiences of abuse, neglect and trauma. We care for those who have had experiences of family violence, mental health issues, addiction, and those who may be facing discrimination due to their religion or sexual orientation. The current financial pressures due to the cost of living only intensify these circumstances.

When children and young people find their way into Lighthouse's care, we embrace them with respect, compassion and unconditional love to help them heal from their past experiences. With the guidance of our dedicated care staff, along with therapeutic supports, we offer a safe place where children and young people have the opportunity to heal and be part of a community. We are here for them, throughout their whole journey.

WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT HOW WE HAVE *made a difference*

With the growing need for care, we are proud to report that we have once again expanded the number of young people, foster, and kinship families we support. This achievement wouldn't be possible without your continued support. Thank you for helping us make a difference.

CARE



1,336

**YOUNG PEOPLE,
CHILDREN & BABIES**

HAVE BEEN CARED FOR OVER THE LAST 33+ YEARS

182

**YOUNG PEOPLE, CHILDREN & BABIES
HAVE BEEN CARED FOR THIS YEAR**

76

**WERE WELCOMED
INTO LIGHTHOUSE
PROGRAMS**

106

**REMAINED IN OUR
PROGRAMS, RECEIVING
ON-GOING SUPPORT**

17

**YOUNG PEOPLE, CHILDREN
AND BABIES WERE SUPPORTED
CLOSELY WITH CASE MANAGEMENT
THROUGH ON FOR LIFE**

15%

**ABORIGINAL AND/
OR TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER**



37%

**CULTURALLY &
LINGUISTICALLY
DIVERSE (CALD)**

9%



**YOUNG PEOPLE
IDENTIFIED AS BEING
PART OF THE LGBTQIA+
COMMUNITY**

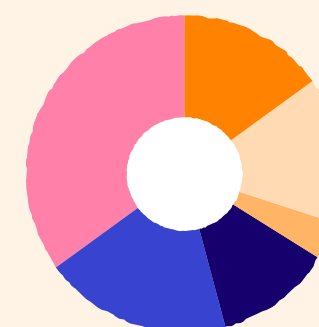
8%

**REFUGEE
BACKGROUND**

19%

**YOUNG PEOPLE
IDENTIFIED AS LIVING
WITH A DISABILITY**

Distribution of programs



15%	Foster care
15%	Family supports
4%	Secure base
12%	Therapeutic
19%	Transitional
35%	Community Connect



TRANSFORMING LIVES

CARE ENVIRONMENT	LIGHTHOUSE FOSTER CARE & FAMILY SUPPORT		LIGHTHOUSE HOMES		LIGHTHOUSE IN COMMUNITY	
CARESTREAMS	Child focused services			Youth focused services		
TAILORED CARE PROGRAM	FOSTER CARE	FAMILY SUPPORT	SECURE BASE	THERAPEUTIC	TRANSITIONAL	COMMUNITY CONNECT
	0-21 yrs old	0-21yrs old Kinship care Family preservation Family reunification	0-17yrs old	6-25yrs old Youth Young Women's Freedom Young Parents & Babies	6-25yrs old Youth Young Women's Freedom Young Parents & Babies	16-25yrs old



CHILD FOCUSED

Foster Care, Family Support & Secure Base Programs

62 YOUNG PEOPLE, CHILDREN & BABIES SUPPORTED



7 YOUNG PEOPLE

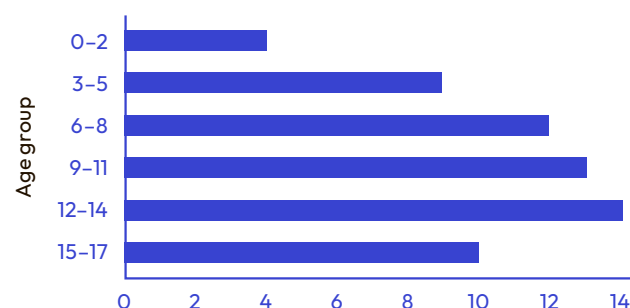
28 FOSTER CARE

27 FAMILY SUPPORT



LIGHTHOUSE HOMES & HUBS

AGE RANGES OF THOSE IN CHILD-FOCUSED PROGRAMS



3 LIGHTHOUSE HOMES OPERATE OUR SECURE BASE PROGRAM

86%

ENROLLED IN EDUCATION
(childcare -> secondary school)



FOSTER CARE

18 FOSTER HOMES

14 KINSHIP HOMES

2

LIGHTHOUSE CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES HUBS:

1

NORTHERN HUB HOME

1

SOUTHERN HUB HOME

47

FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS PROVIDED
(long, short, emergency, respite)

2,543

DAYS OF FOSTER CARE PROVIDED

3 LONG-TERM

10 SHORT-TERM

5 NEWLY ACCREDITED FOSTER CARE HOUSEHOLDS
(26 foster carers total)

9 EMERGENCY

25 RESPITE

4 REFLECTIVE GROUPS ATTENDED BY FOSTER CARERS

19 HEALING CONNECTIONS TRAINING PROVIDED TO FOSTER & KINSHIP CARERS



FAMILY SUPPORT KINSHIP CARE

15

HOUSEHOLDS

4681

PLACEMENT DAYS

10

EVENTS HELD TO SUPPORT KINSHIP FAMILIES





YOUTH FOCUSED

Therapeutic, Transitional Youth & Community Connect Programs

120

YOUNG PEOPLE, CHILDREN & BABIES WERE SUPPORTED ACROSS YOUTH PROGRAMS

22

IN THERAPEUTIC HOMES

35

IN TRANSITIONAL HOMES

63

IN COMMUNITY CONNECT



11

LIGHTHOUSE HOMES

55%

young people were engaged in education and/or employment at time of exit

44%

have a history of trauma linked to physical abuse

37%

were referred to Lighthouse due to family conflict/violence

17%

reduction in young people disengaged from education or employment



42,000

HOME-COOKED MEALS PROVIDED



THERAPEUTIC & TRANSITIONAL YOUNG PARENTS & BABIES PROGRAM

PARENTS & DEPENDENT CHILDREN

13

MUMS

16

BABIES

35,000+

NAPPIES & PULL-UPS CHANGED ON BUBS

13

CHILDREN ENGAGED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (excluding newborns)

CHILDREN'S AGE RANGE

0-3

YEARS



THERAPEUTIC & TRANSITIONAL YOUNG WOMEN'S FREEDOM PROGRAM

9

YOUNG WOMEN & GIRLS SUPPORTED

AGES

16-23

YEARS

5

LANGUAGES SPOKEN/LEARNT



COMMUNITY CONNECT

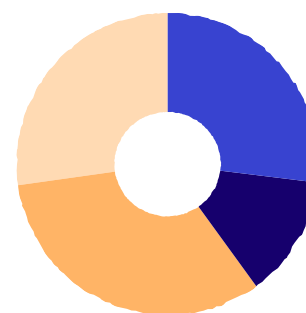
14

REFERRING AGENCIES



83%

REDUCTION IN YOUNG PEOPLE COUCH-SURFING BY THE END OF THEIR SUPPORT WITH COMMUNITY CONNECT



LIGHTHOUSE YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED BY REGION

27%	North
13%	East
33%	South
27%	West

*The increase in young people supported in the South is due to Community Connect expanding to the Mornington Peninsula from August 2023.



LIFE AFTER LIGHTHOUSE: THE IMPACT ON OUR *young people*

This section explores the top 5 living situations of young people aged 16+ at referral to Lighthouse, along with key housing outcomes upon exiting the program. The data reflects both the challenges faced and the progress made. While we celebrate these achievements, we recognise that life's ups and downs may require ongoing support. Our On for Life program is available to help ensure continued stability as they move forward.

LIVING SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE AT TIME OF REFERRAL

Entry	100%
Residing with Parents	29%
Couch surfing	24%
Crisis Accommodation, e.g. refuge	13%
Short-term Accommodation, e.g. hotel, motel, hostel	5%
Sleeping rough, e.g. no shelter or in improvised/inadequate dwelling	5%

LIVING SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE AT TIME OF EXITING LIGHTHOUSE

Exit	100%
Remained living with or was reunified with family	34%
Social housing	20%
Private rental - on lease	9%
Public housing	5%
Youth Foyer program	5%

The most recent Census Data released in March 2023 shows nearly a quarter (23%) of all Australians experiencing homelessness are aged 12 to 24 years. It is thought that this is potentially under-representative of the true number of young people experiencing homelessness, as a young person couch surfing may report the household with whom they are residing with as their 'usual address', and not as 'staying temporarily with other households'.

It's also important to highlight the number of young people who were living with their parents at the time of referral. Many of these young individuals faced challenges related to housing stability, including familial conflict, overcrowding, and safety concerns. When safe, Lighthouse Therapeutic Case Managers collaborate with both the young person and their family to help them remain in their home while they work toward independent living goals.

“Nearly a quarter (23%) of all Australians experiencing homelessness are aged 12 to 24 years.”

The support provided to young people in these situations includes assisting families in applying for transfers to larger properties, helping them secure material aid such as food and furniture, and encouraging young people to engage in employment or educational opportunities that foster a sense of purpose and alleviate tensions at home.

At Lighthouse, we are committed to continuing this essential work with your support. Together, we can empower more young people to overcome their challenges and foster stable, nurturing environments where they can learn to heal and thrive.





PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Kinship, Kith & Parental Care

Lighthouse strongly believes that it takes a village to raise a child, and kinship carers are essential in supporting a child's relationship with their family and providing long term stability in a young person's life. Our new Family Support program commenced this past year, with a promise to provide kinship carers and the children and young people they look after with a consistent circle of support, sense of community and therapeutic care.

Since the program commenced in 2023, we have supported 27 children and young people living with their families. The Family Support program focuses on provision of support through Therapeutic Case Management, working directly with, and supporting the children and young people as well as their primary carers and broader family networks to work on goals that build on their individual needs and strengths, to create strong, healthy relationships and connections to heal and grow.

Our Therapeutic Case Managers meet with carers and children regularly, and support in areas such as family visits, engagement in health and wellbeing, assisting with education and supporting with the coordination of day-to-day care and supports. Our Therapeutic Carers have provided kinship carers in-home support, role modelling of trauma-informed responses, establishing routines and provided reflection opportunities. Children and young people have also connected with Therapeutic Carers as an additional safe adult in their care network. These two key functions are significant elements of Lighthouse's point of difference in delivering the Family Support program and will continue to benefit families with a focus on providing dedicated clinical support in the future.

At the centre of our program is the Hub Home, a place of belonging and community connection for children, young people and Carers. In March 2024, we officially opened our second Hub Home, located in Southern Melbourne, now affectionately known as 'Leonie's Place' in acknowledgement of Lighthouse's long-standing donor and supporter, Leonie Van Raay.



The Lord Mayor of Greater Dandenong, along with key partners from the Lighthouse Community—Leonie Van Raay, the Brian M. Davis Charitable Foundation, Equity Trustees, Make a Difference Group, and Quintessential—celebrated the early successes of the Family Support program. The unique feature of a safe and secure community space where children and young people feel at home, has been central to our aim of making our Hubs 'a home away from home' and provide the sense of belonging and community for vulnerable families. The new Hub has allowed the Family Support team to deliver a greater range of support to children, young people and their families. The previously modest 3-bedroom house was transformed into a functional and beautiful space thanks to designer and long-time supporter of Lighthouse, Tina Nettlefold and her team at T.House, with top-class furnishings generously donated by GlobeWest.

Over each school holidays, the Hub hosted ten fun events for up to 15 children and young people per event, including arts and crafts, movie days, picnics, game days and BBQs. The team supported children and young people in the program to attend outdoor activities at local parks and lakes, building themselves bicycles, and excursions to Gumbuya World and Healesville Sanctuary - places that they may not otherwise been able to enjoy.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we are proud to share some impactful outcomes from the program. One young person, who struggled to engage with school for 18 months, is now attending full-time and has recently started a part-time job. Another young person won the Maccas "Awesome Award" for football, while another became their school athletics champion. A child who initially felt isolated after their sister took on the caring role has grown comfortable engaging with the Lighthouse community.



One little one expressed a love for healthy foods, stating their favourite food is carrots and drink is water because "it's healthy for your teeth." Another child, dressed as an astronaut, imagined flying to Paris, showcasing the Hub's focus on imaginative play. On the Kinship Carers side, one family began sharing warm meals at the dinner table for the first time, thanks to support from a Therapeutic Carer. Another Carer, after months of reliable support, now feels comfortable reaching out to their Therapeutic Case Manager for help. Lastly, one Carer received practical support that allowed her to take time for herself, enhancing her ability to care for her family.

These outcomes highlight the importance of our Family Support program and the positive impact it continues to have on families in our community.

"One family began sharing warm meals at the dinner table for the first time."

Lighthouse's Southern Hub Home has been made possible through the generous contributions of donors, trusts, and philanthropic partners, including Leonie Van Raay, Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation, Equity Trustees, Make A Difference Group, and Quintessential. This program has been established alongside Southern Metropolitan Department of Families Fairness and Housing, however is entirely funded by private philanthropy, with the hope to establish a long term sustainable and evidence-based program in future.

MEET FOSTER CARERS: LIZE & SEAN

Foster care families come in many forms, and many foster carers are raising their own children at home. Lize and Sean share their fostering story and how they involve their children in their journey.

Tell us about yourselves...

My name is Lize, and my husband's name is Sean. We have been foster carers for around five years, two of which have been with our foster care agency, Lighthouse Foundation.

Originally from South Africa, we now live in Melbourne with our three young children. I work as a paediatric occupational therapist, and Sean works in the construction industry.

How did you decide to become foster carers?

When we were first married, we considered how best to give back to our community. Feeling privileged to have our own home and a lot of love to share, we decided to become foster carers.

Through my work as an occupational therapist, I had encountered children who had experienced trauma or developmental challenges, and I knew we could help. We decided to provide short-term and respite care because it best suited our family of five.

What support have you received from your agency and community?

Our agency, Lighthouse Foundation, has been phenomenal. They check in regularly, and we reach out whenever we need. We know the entire Lighthouse team and can call them at the drop of a hat. Sometimes, there are different behaviours and feelings that children might experience coming into a new home, and we have found the training we received extremely helpful in navigating those feelings.

It's also been great to share our fostering journey with our family, friends, and community, knowing we have people to lean on and debrief with after a hard day.

How have your own children been involved in your fostering journey?

Our children love fostering and have responded very positively to it. They are always excited when our foster care agency calls with the possibility of a new placement.

We love to see how accepting our own children are of the different children who come to stay with us. It's very important for us as parents to give our children the chance to see that life isn't always sunshine and roses and that other children face different challenges.

Our children are as much a part of the journey as we are. At the end of each placement, we make sure to do a family check-in to see how each of them feels and if they wish to continue. There is a great need for foster carers, but it's okay to say no at times and put your own family first. If the kids need a break, we make sure to respect that — but so far, they have never said they wanted to stop.

What advice do you have for prospective foster carers?

People often ask how we manage to say goodbye at the end of a placement. While it can be sad, it's all about having the right mindset. Our role is to give children in foster care happy moments during the time we have them, and you can find comfort in knowing you provided a safe space for that period. Some of the most rewarding moments in our fostering journey have been when we've been able to build positive relationships with birth families, when appropriate.

There's an opportunity for all sorts of people to become foster carers. If you have a passion for kids, just give it a go. It's the most rewarding thing you will ever do, and the good times far outweigh any of the challenges.





PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: YOUNG WOMEN'S FREEDOM PROGRAM

Lighthouse Foundation's Young Women's Freedom Program began in 2018 in response to an urgent need to provide safe homes and therapeutic care to young women escaping, or at risk of, modern slavery practices including forced marriage and domestic servitude, as well as other forms of gender-based violence. This program is currently in operation across two of our Transitional homes, supporting young women from various cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds and focuses on providing a safe and secure home for these vulnerable young women where they can regain agency over their lives. In the past year, Lighthouse supported nine young women between the ages of 16 to 23, helping them connect to their culture and sense of self through tailored therapeutic interventions. The program implements a holistic care team in collaboration with innovative external services, fostering sustainable connections to family and community.

A 2020 evaluation of the program showed that participants experienced profound physical and emotional containment, thanks to their Lighthouse Therapeutic Care Team and the supportive home environment. Young women reported feelings of safety and comfort, enabling them to build trusting relationships with each other, their Therapeutic Carers, family and community.

Lighthouse Foundation's Young Women's Freedom Program has active membership in the Victorian and National Forced Marriage Working Groups, hosted by the Attorney General's Department of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Branch. Lighthouse provided a submission to the Targeted Review of Modern Slavery Offences in the Criminal Code, published in October 2023, which acknowledged our contributions to the Federal Forced Marriage Sector.

"In the past year, Lighthouse supported nine young women between the ages of 16 to 23, helping them to build on their connection to their culture and sense of self through tailored therapeutic interventions."

Image right
Ruth Wilson, Louise Hansen, Kristiana Greenwood and Anthea Savidis, from the TEN Women group, at a Lighthouse home



Image left
Melbourne Rotary Director, Chris Sotiropoulos and Shadow Minister for Education, Jessica Wilson, attended the garden party at one of the homes in Melbourne's South East



We remain committed to advocacy efforts that raise awareness and empower individuals and organisations against human trafficking and exploitation. Lighthouse's Transitional Program Team Leader, Haylee Lawrence-Simons, was invited by the Attorney General to consult with survivors of forced marriage, ensuring that interviews are conducted with a trauma-informed lens and that survivor voices are amplified to the government. Lighthouse Foundation was also invited to contribute our observations on the intersection of modern slavery and homelessness, along with program evaluation findings, to the UN Special Rapporteur on Modern Slavery, Prof. Tomoyo Obokata, to inform international approaches to modern slavery prevention and remedies.

In November 2023, we celebrated the program with a garden party at one of the homes. The event beautifully captured the importance of community support, highlighted by Principal Ashleigh Martin of Caulfield Grammar School who spoke about the importance of community. We are grateful for the residential property the school generously has provided for Lighthouse. Local MP for Higgins, Dr. Michelle Ananda-Rajah also spoke, discussing the vital role of local government in assisting young people, particularly with rising living costs and the impacts of domestic violence on mental health and youth homelessness.

Thanks to \$650,000 raised by TEN Women from Melbourne's property and construction sector, Lighthouse completed the renovation of the Young Women's Freedom program home in early 2024, creating a warm and inviting space featuring six bedrooms, a communal kitchen, a living area, bathrooms, and a dedicated wing for carers and clinicians. The redesign, enhanced by furnishings from Provincial Home Living and the thoughtful interior design by Tina Nettlefold of T.House, provides a supportive environment for young women.

Lighthouse Foundation is dedicated to the vital work in this program, empowering vulnerable young women and forming lasting connections within their families and communities as we strive to raise awareness and drive meaningful change.



TEN WOMEN'S FUNDRAISING EVENT RAISED
\$650,000
FOR LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF A *life changing* PARTNERSHIP WITH PROPERTY INDUSTRY FOUNDATION

LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION SOUTH-EASTERN TRANSITIONAL HOME

Property Industry Foundation (PIF) has been a longstanding partner of Lighthouse Foundation, and we are excited to celebrate 10 years since the completion of our beautiful transitional home in Melbourne's South-East. It has lived up to its promise of being a haven where young people experiencing homelessness can heal from their trauma and go on to thrive and reach their potential. So many kids have been cared for in the home, and then gone on to re-establish their education and move into independent living. We estimate that 45 young people have graduated from the home, into safe and sustainable housing.

With six of our Lighthouse homes either renovated substantially, or newly built, PIF has led the way in ensuring our society's most vulnerable children get the care and safety they need. One of the most gratifying aspects of working alongside PIF members and admin team has been that everyone agreed that no corners should be cut. This commitment to quality, and to demonstrating to these young people that they were worthy of having beautiful spaces to call their own, has a deep impact on bolstering the self-esteem of the young people.

From the very start, in 2012, the home was a standout success for the young people themselves, PIF, and Lighthouse. PIF understood that the home needed to have the best carers, and that the home was only part of the solution. That's why they have also invested in the care program at the home over all these past years, totalling \$1.75m of program costs. This stable funding enabled continuity of carer contracts, and it kept the Lighthouse Model of Care functioning with all the supports such as the local volunteer Community Committee and essential clinical counselling support.

This home has always had a high profile. Channel Nine's – The Block loved the home, and as a challenge, four kid's bedrooms were decorated in the team colours of red, blue, green and yellow. They looked amazing, and everyone couldn't wait to hear about the reactions of the new residents. Contestants, Kyle and Kara, stayed involved as Ambassadors.



2012 Home Opening

This home also became the base for the wonderful husband and wife carer couple. They established remarkable close relationships with the young people in their care and supported many young people in their transition to independent living, into education, and reconnecting with family members. Some of these young people are still in touch with Lighthouse through our On for Life program.

It is the resident young people that create the spirit of the home. We enjoyed watching them take up hobbies in the home, including craft and baking.

There have been hundreds of family meetings, tears and hilarious laughter around that great dining table. It has also been the party house for 18th and 21st birthdays. Several joint Lighthouse Christmas parties were also celebrated there with large numbers, with past residents always coming back for it. Toddlers and babies would run around, crawling over everything, whilst everyone opened their presents. There were delicious baked creations made by the young people for everyone to enjoy. Many politicians have visited the home over the past decade, including the Attorney General Mark Dreyfus.

It was telling there was always the neat shoe line up at the door, and that the young ones themselves were the ones who policed visitors taking off their shoes. They are always so proud of their home.

So many young people and carers have loved the home and thrived in it. The impact is already immeasurable. For everyone in the PIF network, words of gratitude don't seem nearly enough for the past ten years. We are deeply appreciative and know that the best is yet to come.

we transform
**LIVES BY
PROVIDING HOMES
AND THERAPEUTIC
CARE TO THE
YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO NEED IT,
WHERE THEY NEED
IT, FOR AS LONG
AS THEY NEED IT.**





MEET LEONIE

THERAPEUTIC CASE MANAGER IN THE YOUNG PARENTS & BABIES PROGRAM

Leonie's journey with Lighthouse began six years ago where she started as a contracted therapeutic carer one day a week between two homes. It was here that Leonie was introduced to Lighthouse's unique Model of Care. Her commitment and passion for the role soon led her to transition into a permanent Therapeutic Case Manager position.

Leonie's decision to join Lighthouse on a long-term basis was deeply personal. A pivotal moment came when someone she knew faced the difficult prospect of an arranged marriage. This experience highlighted the urgency of addressing issues around forced marriage, modern slavery, and other forms of gender-based violence. The therapeutic care model at Lighthouse and the Young Women's Freedom Program resonated strongly with her values. Determined to make a difference through her role in this program, Leonie dedicated herself to helping young women connect with their culture and themselves through tailored therapeutic care. Most importantly, she encouraged them to use their voices and be heard.

Leonie later moved on to support our Young Parents and Babies Transitional Program. As a therapeutic Case Manager, Leonie plays a crucial role in role-modelling parenting techniques, teaching essential life skills, and helping young parents develop strong attachments with their babies. This support leads many young families to successfully transition to independent living.

Reflecting on her work, Leonie says, "Working alongside young parents as they move toward independent living is both challenging and rewarding. Each day brings new opportunities to make a difference in their lives."

Leonie remains an advocate for Lighthouse's therapeutic Model of Care. Unlike traditional residential care settings, this model emphasises walking alongside individuals, providing not only practical tools for life but also emotional support. "The model of therapeutic care is the point of difference," she explains. "We give young people the tools for life and a reassuring hug. This approach is so different from the residential care I was used to."

The young people at Lighthouse continually inspire Leonie with their strength, resilience, and courage. "The young people at Lighthouse inspire me in many ways," she shares. "Their never-give-up attitude and courage in the face of difficulties remind me of the power of perseverance and hope."

One of the most rewarding aspects of Leonie's role is witnessing the growth and newfound independence of the young people and families she supports. "Being part of a young person or family finding freedom through independence is incredibly fulfilling," she says.

"Seeing them rise from the ashes of their struggles and set themselves free is a profound experience."

Despite these rewards, Leonie acknowledges the challenges of her role. Many of the young people have experienced complex trauma, and while it's impossible to erase their pain, showing genuine care makes a significant impact. "You cannot wipe away their pain, grief, and sorrow, but you can show them that you care," she notes. "Their lives matter and demonstrating that therapeutic care helps turn their challenges into positive outcomes."

Leonie's dedication embodies the spirit of Lighthouse Foundation, leaving a lasting impact on the young people she supports. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Leonie for her unwavering commitment and compassionate care.





LEADING THROUGH RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

In the past year, Lighthouse Institute has made significant strides in training and supporting individuals working with young people. Thanks to the generous support of our corporate partner, Alfasi Property, we have been provided with extra space to train 748 participants who have benefited from our diverse training programs, with 355 of those from the external community and 393 from our internal team and volunteers. Over the course of 67 trainings and presentations, we have provided valuable resources to enhance the skills and knowledge of others in the field, driving improved understanding of trauma-impacted behaviours, quality care delivery, community support, and advocacy.

The Institute also completed the “Healing Connections: Sharing What Works” training program, supported by a federal government grant. This experiential training package is designed to strengthen the skills of adults working with young people with experiences of complex trauma aged 12-24, focusing on fostering safe and positive interactions.

In collaboration with Monash University, we employed a comprehensive co-design methodology, which included an international literature review and the establishment of a robust research evaluation framework. This partnership drew insights from clinicians, case workers, carers, and young people with lived experience in out-of-home care, ensuring that the training was tailored to meet participants’ specific needs.

A thorough evaluation conducted by Monash University revealed improvements in carer wellbeing and family dynamics, supported by qualitative feedback highlighting the training’s effectiveness and high-quality delivery. To promote continuous learning, we established a regular six-week reflective practice group led by a Lighthouse clinician, facilitating ongoing development and experience sharing among foster carers.

The “Healing Connections” training program was first introduced to internal foster carers and staff followed by a presentation at OPEN Symposium 2023. After this successful launch, we promoted the program through the Carer KaFE online portal, offering it to foster care stakeholders across Victoria. This success has paved the way for expansion to include non-Lighthouse foster carers within the Victorian-based Foster Connections, as well as adaptations for various out-of-home care environments, including kinship care, residential care, and outreach programs for youth facing housing instability. Additionally, the training has reached community volunteers, primary school teachers, and other stakeholders outside the Lighthouse network.

Lighthouse Institute remains committed to enhancing the skills and wellbeing of those who care for our most vulnerable youth, creating lasting positive impacts within our communities.

LIGHTHOUSE INSTITUTE



748

PARTICIPANTS WERE TRAINED BY LIGHTHOUSE INSTITUTE IN PAST YEAR

393

Internal team and volunteers

355

External community



67

TOTAL TRAININGS & PRESENTATIONS RUN

EXTERNAL TRAINING:

10

Total trainings delivered

4

Total presentations delivered

2

Institute-delivered Corporate Training Sessions

INTERNAL TRAINING:

Of the trainings delivered:



38

RUN BY THE INSTITUTE

11

run by members of the Care Team

5

externally run

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY



2

INSTITUTE PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES

LIGHTHOUSE INSTITUTE TRAINING PROGRAMS:



26

HEALING CONNECTIONS RELATED TRAINING MODULES DELIVERED

A FOUNDATION YOU CAN *trust*

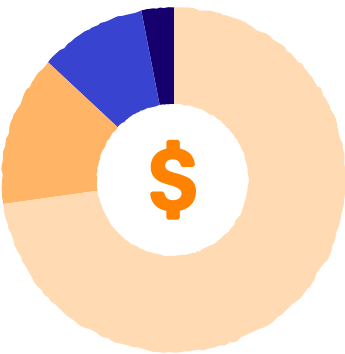


Lighthouse Foundation is deeply grateful for the ongoing support from our government and community. While government funding contributes to our child-focused services, it is not guaranteed or consistent, making philanthropic support essential to our mission. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we are able to focus on early intervention, break the cycle of intergenerational trauma, and reduce the long-term demand for youth-focused services, many of which receive limited government backing.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the hundreds of donors who have contributed over the past year. Your support has made a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable children and young people in our care, enabling us to provide the stability and resources they need to thrive, both now and in the future.

WHERE OUR \$'S GO

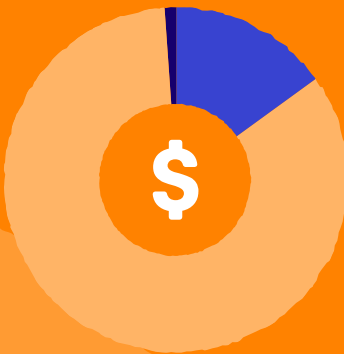
Expenses



74%	Programs
14%	Fundraising
10%	Administration
2%	Lighthouse Institute

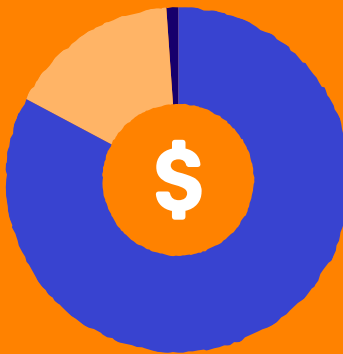
WHERE OUR \$'S COME FROM

Child-focused Services



15%	Philanthropic & general donations
84%	Government Funding
1%	Lighthouse Institute

Youth-focused Services



83%	Philanthropic & general donations
16%	Government Funding
1%	Lighthouse Institute



Thank you to Pitcher Partners who proudly audit our financials annually, pro bono.





ONCE A YOUNG PERSON
HAS BEEN IN OUR CARE,
WE SIMPLY NEVER GIVE
UP ON THEM

STAFF & *community*



120

LIGHTHOUSE STAFF
ACROSS OUR HUBS,
HOMES & CARE TEAM



25+

COMMUNITY EVENTS
HELD IN OUR HOMES
& HUBS



470

VOLUNTEERS DONATED
THEIR TIME & TALENTS



1500 HRS

TIME DONATED

50

COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

4

STUDENT
PLACEMENTS



93

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER REGULAR
DONORS KEPT THE LIGHTS ON
IN OUR LIGHTHOUSE HOMES

Community Committees:

CIRCLES OF VOLUNTEERS SURROUNDING
LIGHTHOUSE HOMES & HUBS



9

HOMES

1

HUB



2,600

PEOPLE LIKE YOU, DONATED TO
SUPPORT OUR WORK ENSURING
HIGH QUALITY CARE OPERATIONS
TOOK PLACE FOR KIDS IN NEED

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Lighthouse celebrates diversity and affirms the right of access, equity, and equality for every young person, staff member, and volunteer in the Lighthouse community. Our organisation is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We practice from a position of cultural safety and awareness, across diverse languages, religions, and cultures. Lighthouse also recognises that all people with a disability have the right to be included in meaningful ways. All Lighthouse programs are tailored to the needs of the young people and families we are working with.



1

WEAR IT PURPLE DAY

Lighthouse Foundation celebrated Wear It Purple Day in alignment with our commitment to fostering supportive, safe, empowering, and inclusive environments for all young people. Events took place across the Lighthouse Community, providing a platform for LGBTQIA+ young people to share their individual stories.



2

NAIDOC WEEK 2024

Lighthouse Foundation celebrated National NAIDOC Week to acknowledge the rich history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. After an Acknowledgement of Country and tasting some delicious snacks from Indigenous-owned companies, we headed to the march in Melbourne's CBD. One of our Committee members organised a banner with this year's theme "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud". Lighthouse supported 5 young people to attend, encouraging them to connect to their Aboriginal culture, identity and community.



3

MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL

Lighthouse's Foster Care team were proud to join Fostering Connections Victoria for the Midsumma Festival Pride March on Sunday 4 February. This was a fantastic opportunity to represent Lighthouse and the young people in our care and show solidarity for young people who are gender and sexuality diverse.

YOUTH VOICE

A focus within Care over the last financial year has also been on integrating the young person's voice within the Lighthouse community and organisational decision-making processes. Our Transitional Program Team Leader and Youth Engagement Coordinator have collaborated with young people and created a number of youth facing resources, one of which is focused on supporting young people's transition out of their Lighthouse program.

The 'Transition to Independent Living Guide' was designed to support young people to plan and navigate their transition from Lighthouse. It offers accessible information, resources, and support across all areas of independent living and wellbeing. The guide was reviewed by a cultural advisor and young people from Lighthouse's programs to ensure the accessibility of this resource for all.

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN (RAP)

We respect, respond, and continue to learn about the unique needs of our First Nations young people. We believe the strong relationships between First Nations and non-Indigenous Australians will benefit all of Australia and we are committed to contributing to change by developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

Our RAP reflects our dedication to understanding and addressing the unique challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We recognise the importance of acknowledging their rich histories, cultures, and contributions to our society. Through our RAP, we aim to build strong partnerships with Indigenous organisations and communities, ensuring their voices are heard and respected in our programs and initiatives.

In the past year, we have implemented several initiatives aligned with our RAP:

- **Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training:** We conducted training sessions for all staff, led by Bunurong Traditional Custodian Jillian West, focusing on the history, culture, and contemporary issues faced by Indigenous Australians.
- **Engagement with Indigenous Communities:** Prioritised strong connections with local First Nations communities, recognising the importance of cultural safety plans for supporting First Nations young people in reconnecting with their culture. Our partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) reflects our commitment, and we aim to formalise additional connections during our RAP Reflect process.
- **Celebrating Indigenous Culture:** Hosted events and activities that celebrate Indigenous culture, including NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week celebrations. These events encourage our staff and our people to engage with and learn from Indigenous traditions and practices.

- **Supporting Indigenous Youth:** This year 15% of our young people identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Lighthouse aims to foster cultural safety and connection for Indigenous children and young people. We are committed to best practices that strengthen their ties to family, culture, and country.

As we move forward, we are committed to continuously evolving our RAP to ensure it remains relevant and impactful. We will seek ongoing feedback from Indigenous stakeholders to refine our initiatives and address any emerging needs. Our goal is to create a supportive environment where all young people can thrive, regardless of their background.

"As we embark on our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), I am filled with pride and gratitude for the journey we are undertaking. Our RAP signifies not only a commitment to reconciliation but also a celebration of the diverse cultures that contribute to our nation's rich tapestry. It is a promise to walk hand in hand with First Nations people, learning from their wisdom, and collaborating towards a future built on mutual respect, understanding, and shared prosperity"

Susan Barton, AM



Bayley Mifsud is a proud member of the Peek and Kirrae Whurrong people of the Maar nation from Southwest Victoria (Warrnambool). Her Aboriginal name is Merindah-Gunya, meaning "Beautiful Spirit" in the Peek Whurrong language. Bayley has a passion for community development, diversity, as well as storytelling through her artwork.



achieving MORE TOGETHER. FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES & COMMUNITY IMPACT

CUT OUT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

To raise awareness of youth homelessness, Lighthouse Foundation launched a school's education initiative called 'Cut Out Youth Homelessness' with the aim of educating school communities by displaying life-sized 'cut out's' of young people of all ages and backgrounds on school ovals or gyms to represent the number of young people experiencing homelessness in the school's local area.

Our campaign began in March at Caulfield Grammar School, where 129 cutouts were displayed, representing the number of young people experiencing homelessness in the Glen Eira City Council area. The "Cut Out Youth Homelessness Campaign" is the brainchild of Year 10 Caulfield Campus student Yasmin Bowden, granddaughter of Lighthouse Founder and Director, Susan Barton AM, who conceived the idea while planning her school Community Project last year.

The initiative helps students understand the scale of the issue through real-life stories from Lighthouse's young people and curriculum-aligned resources.

Additional participating schools include Lauriston Girls' School, Kilvington Grammar School, Port Melbourne Secondary College, Richmond High School, Tintern Grammar School, Camberwell Grammar School, St Michael's Grammar School, Box Hill Senior Secondary School, Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar, Ruyton Girls' Grammar School, Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar and Xavier College.

According to the most recent Census data, nearly a quarter (23%) of all Australians experiencing homelessness are aged 12 to 24 years. Thanks to Yasmin's initiative and the support of these school communities, we raised over \$32,000. We also extend our gratitude to our wonderful pro bono partner, Brand Laundry, for designing the cutouts.

"I told Nanny that the usual fundraising options didn't feel like they were making a real difference. We discussed how many children and young people were homeless in our school community, and I was shocked by the numbers."



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY

We marked 'Youth Homelessness Matters Day' on April 17 by displaying 268 life-sized cutouts of children and young people on the forecourt of the State Library of Victoria, representing the number of young people experiencing homelessness in the City of Melbourne. We were joined by former young person and inaugural Graduate Patron Christine Campbell and former Lord Mayor of Melbourne and Lighthouse Patron, Sally Capp AO who spoke of the importance of raising awareness for a crisis that is sadly worsening. "The situation is that we must do something to address youth homelessness, and we can do plenty of things to make a difference for our youth into the future," she said.

The media call generated extensive coverage across National TV (Channel 7, 9, and WIN TV), ABC Radio, 3AW, Triple M, and major digital and print publications. We extend our gratitude to our generous Corporate Partner, Natio, for their generous \$2,000 matched giving, and to our media partners for their invaluable pro bono support, which helps us raise awareness about this growing issue.



RALLY FOR YOUTH

On Saturday, December 2, Lighthouse hosted its inaugural Rally for Youth social tennis challenge at the Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club (RSYLTC). Teams of four competed in a 3-hour Team Doubles match to raise essential funds for Lighthouse.

We were thrilled that international tennis legend Mark Philippoussis, challenged guests in an 'Hour of Power' in the afternoon. Participants enjoyed joining in the raffle, silent auction, and listening to our Founder, Susan Barton AM. Our long-standing Patron, Alicia Loxley, Nine Network Reporter, served as the MC. Thanks to everyone who participated and contributed to raising over \$40,000 for vulnerable children and young people in need.

WORLD HOMELESS DAY - 10:10

On the tenth of the tenth, our corporate partners united for World Homeless Day, with over 500 people from 14 businesses watching a video about Lighthouse at 10:10am. To help break the cycle of homelessness for young people, we asked for a \$10 donation. Thanks to everyone's generosity, over \$5,000 was raised to support our mission.



STRONGER TOGETHER: PARTNERSHIPS WITH *purpose*

GOLF DAY FUNDRAISER

In April, Lighthouse held a golf day at the prestigious Metropolitan Golf Club, bringing together 80 corporate partners and supporters for a day of 18 holes of golf. The event featured a luncheon with StudioHawk Founder Harry Sanders, who moved the audience by sharing his personal journey with homelessness. Event prize categories included Best Team Score, nearest to the Pin, and Longest Drive. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we raised an impressive \$50,000.

Gold sponsor



Silver sponsor



Bronze sponsor



GLENVILL LUNCH

Lighthouse Foundation's Chairman and CEO of Glenvill Group, Len Warson, hosted an inaugural lunch in support of Lighthouse in the LK Grand Room, attended by over 150 property professionals. Monika Tu, owner of Black Diamondz and Luxe Listings Sydney star spoke to guests. Thanks to their incredible generosity, \$123,000 was raised for Lighthouse through ticket sales, donations, games, and auctions. A big thank you to Glenvill Group, the sponsors, and all attendees for their support.



MICM GALA

Our partners at MICM Real Estate hosted a gala event at Taxi Kitchen, Federation Square, in support of Lighthouse Foundation. The evening was wonderful, attended by MICM staff, corporate partners, suppliers, and members of the Lighthouse team, including Founder Susan Barton AM and former young person and graduate patron Christine Campbell. Christine shared her powerful story, highlighting the positive impact Lighthouse has had on her life over the years and how she is currently thriving in her career and personal life. Together, this inspired audience raised an impressive \$120,000.



DIRECT CHEMIST OUTLET GIVING

We were proud to partner with Direct Chemist Outlet for their 'Shine Bright' campaign, featuring star Christmas ornaments in over 105 stores available for sale during the holiday season. Thanks to the efforts of team members and customers, the campaign raised \$27,781. The 'Shine Bright' initiative not only brought festive cheer but also helped create brighter pathways for those in need. Additionally, DCO and Lighthouse were named finalists in this year's Real Media Awards for Best Charity/Fundraising Campaign.





COMMUNITY & PARTNER *collaboration*

AVIS BUDGET GROUP

Avis Budget Group from Queensland held their National Conference in June, raising an impressive \$42,000 for Lighthouse Foundation. Special thanks to Sue Glendal, a long-time supporter, whose efforts helped the group double their staff contributions. This remarkable generosity will significantly impact Lighthouse's work with vulnerable young people in need of care.

HOOPS FOR HOMELESS

Our Hoops for Homeless events ran across seven rounds, spanning Frankston, Keilor, Knox, Melton, Southern Districts, as well as tournaments in Nunawading and Southern Peninsula. Junior teams showed their support by proudly wearing Lighthouse socks and sweatbands. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated volunteers who orchestrated BBQs and awareness activities. Thanks to everyone's efforts and merchandise sales we raised \$39,750.

POP CHOIR

Pop Choir Australia combined their power of community, music and generosity to release their first charity single, 'Windows with Smiles,' in support of Lighthouse. Produced by Simon Moro and written by choir director Darryl John Moulton, the single was recorded by 350 choir members at Melbourne's Iwaki Auditorium, and has since been turned into 'The Power of Pop Choir' documentary, available through SBS on demand. We are deeply grateful for the awareness this project raised within the community and the \$13,000 raised for vulnerable children and young people.

CARJI CLUB

Our Founder, Susan spoke at an event held by the Carji Club, and had the room full of football-lovers in tears with her powerful words. The stories of our young people touched the hearts of many, and as a result, the Carji Club raised over \$25,000 for Lighthouse. This was an incredible show of community support and generosity.





COMMUNITY, COMMITTEE MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS ARE CENTRAL TO THE LIGHTHOUSE *model of care*

Community Committees foster a supportive environment around our homes and hubs. Over the past year, they have engaged with young people in meaningful ways. For instance, a member from one of our Young Parent & Baby homes connected with a young person through their shared Sri Lankan culture, practicing Tamil and linking them to local resources. Committee members from three Transitional Homes have also provided driving lessons, helping young people gain important skills for independence.

Celebrations like birthdays and holidays offer wonderful opportunities for connection. During Christmas, committees and young people baked cookies, decorated trees, and shared family recipes. These interactions help build lasting relationships, evident when On for Life participants return for monthly dinners and community activities like brunches and skate park outings.

As young people transition to independent living, committees assist with transportation, organizing movers, painting, and decorating their new spaces. Working bees in the gardens allow committees and young people to create welcoming environments while learning new skills together.

Thank you for your commitment and fundraising efforts that make all of this possible.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Mary Bailey – Frankston (left in January 24)
Louisa Durbin – Clayton (left in July 24)
Anna Houlahan – Coburg North
Kristen Harris – Kensington
Catherine Green – Glen Iris
Michelle Power – Heathmont



ST KILDA GRAND FINAL SCREENING

Lighthouse's East Malvern Committee hosted an exclusive screening of the 1966 St Kilda grand final at the Palais Theatre in August, to raise funds for Lighthouse Foundation. This unique screening drew over 480 fans, who enjoyed footy food and historic memorabilia while celebrating the club's 150 years.

Legendary players Ross Smith, Barry Breen, and Ian Stewart joined a halftime panel, reminiscing about the glory days.

There was a massive roar from the crowd as they watched Barry Breen kick the winning point and a sense of team spirit filled the theatre. This spirit could also be felt through donations received from the night – thanks to everyone who bought tickets, pies and raffle tickets, we raised an incredible \$26,000. A big thanks also go to our East Malvern Committee who made this event possible. Committee member, Brad has been volunteering with Lighthouse for 20+ years and has dreamed of turning this event into a reality for a long time. Thanks to his determination, and that of the committee, we saw that happen and were able to raise vital funds that will assist us in supporting our young people. The night was a win for the Saints and a win for Lighthouse.



LIGHTHOUSE CAMP

In August 2023 we held our Lighthouse camp over a weekend with 85 people attending from across our community. There were 39 children and young people, 6 foster and kinship carers and 40 Lighthouse team members who came together for a fun-filled weekend.

Elder Perry Wandin welcomed us to Wurundjeri Country with a wonderful smoking ceremony. The young people enjoyed lots of activities and challenged themselves on high ropes, low ropes, swimming and a wildlife encounter. For those who wanted to get creative, there was an art activity that will form a big mural. In the evening, everyone enjoyed a talent show where brave young people and Lighthouse team members took to the stage to perform musical numbers, dances and even some interpretive mime.

The sense of community, connections and memories that were made were the true highlight of the weekend. Some of our young people gave us feedback that it was the best camp ever and that they didn't want to leave because it was so much fun. We're already looking forward to next year's camp.



LIGHTHOUSE'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2023 MICHELLE POWER – GARDEN PARTIES

Lighthouse Committee Member and Third Sector 2023 Volunteer of the Year, Michelle Power, hosted a Garden Party in April for Lighthouse Foundation at her home with the support of her good friend, Kim Beckwith.

Over 80 guests enjoyed food and Levantine Hill wines generously donated for the event while local acoustic guitarist, Elise Gaudion, played beautifully in Michelle's stunning garden. An impressive \$16,000 was raised on the day – with the money going towards replacing the carpet and installing new floorboards in the home during a renovation at the Young Parents and Babies home in Melbourne's East.

We often say it takes a village to raise a child, and the village in Michelle's local community has certainly demonstrated that.

thank you FOR YOUR SUPPORT

PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

Lighthouse is deeply appreciative of the commitment of our Philanthropic Trusts and Foundations, supporters, and long-standing donors.



Leonie Van Raay



THE VICTOR
SMORGON GROUP



Vicki Standish Family
Foundation

Vicki Vidor OAM

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The Angel Foundation
The Bowden Marstan
Foundation
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The Isabella Foundation
The Myer Foundation
& Sidney Myer Fund
The Orloff Family
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The Piers K Fowler Trust
Trent Youl
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Valerie Osbourn
Vicki Standish Family
Foundation
Vicki Vidor, OAM
William Angliss (Vic)
Charitable Fund
Wingate
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Future
Generation
Australia
INVESTMENT & SOCIAL RETURNS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Future Generation Australia (FGX) for being a major benefactor to children and youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Your ongoing support is invaluable, ensuring a brighter future for many young lives for years to come.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

At Lighthouse, our partners make our important work possible and provide financial and pro bono support that ensures we can do what we do to support our young people every day.

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GLOBEWEST

With heartfelt thanks to GlobeWest's ongoing support, Lighthouse Foundation is able to create safe, nurturing, and welcoming environments for the vulnerable children and young people in our care. Their generous contribution helps provide essential items for our homes, from electricity and gas to groceries and cleaning supplies, ensuring each home remains a place of stability and comfort. GlobeWest's thoughtful in-kind donation of household furniture adds a personal touch, making our homes, including the recently opened Hub Home in Southern Melbourne, feel even more like a true sanctuary. The development of The Kip Chair, with 5% of proceeds benefiting Lighthouse, further reflects GlobeWest's deep commitment to our mission.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS & IN-KIND SUPPORT

who have donated funds or gifts in kind, or held a fundraiser, or supported us in delivering Community Fundraising events:

- Akira Grateful

All Aboard Club Williamstown

Bunnings

Captured By Amanda

Cannings Butchers

Carji Club

Frankston Basketball Association
- Grill'd

Hawthorn Tennis Club

Hawthorn Cricket Club

IOOF Alliances/Insignia Financial Ltd

Knox Basketball Incorporated (KBI)

John Rombotis & O'Brien Real Estate Keysborough
- Melton Basketball Association

Metropolitan Golf Club

Mornington Hockey Club

Norsu Interiors

Nunawading Basketball Association

PGA of Australia

Pop Choir
- Prahran Football Club

RIO Tinto Services Ltd

Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club

Southern Basketball Association

Waverley Basketball Association

WomenCAN

PARTNER SCHOOLS

- Alphington Grammar

Box Hill Senior Secondary School

Camberwell Grammar School

Caulfield Grammar School

Chelsea Heights Primary School
- Cheltenham Girls High School (NSW)

Flinders Christian College

Kilvington Grammar School

Ivanhoe Girls

Lauriston Girls School
- McKinnon High School

Merry-Bek Primary School

Melbourne University

Ruyton Girls School

St Michael's Grammar

St Kevins College
- Tintern Grammar School

Vermont Secondary

Wesley College

Westbourne Grammar

Xavier College

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

- Camino de Santiago
- James Markwick Ride
- Melbourne to Sydney
- Tour de Trails (Afterglow)
- Up Property (Run Melbourne)

THANKS FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR MEDIA PARTNERS



celebrating OUR ADVOCATES

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Director & Life Member



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CBE AO**



**MICHAEL CRAWFORD
CBE**



**MARGARET GARDNER
AC**



**CHRISTINE CAMPBELL
GRADUATE PATRON**



Vale Bev Brock OAM 1947-2024

Our Lighthouse community was deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved Patron in April. Bev was a talented, fierce, and resilient woman who devoted herself to her charity work, and especially to raising funds for children and young people in need of a safe, loving home. She has left a legacy through her children, James, Robert and Alexandra and through the lives of the many young people she assisted at Lighthouse. She will be greatly missed by our community.

AMBASSADORS



TOMMY LITTLE



MICK MOLLOY



STEVIE NICHOLSON



GARRETT MCNAMARA

OUR LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS HELP KEEP THE LIGHTS *shining* BRIGHT IN OUR HOMES

Our dedicated Lighthouse Keepers are a special group of monthly donors. While many of us easily access essentials like groceries and electricity, it's important to remember that some of our children and young people faced uncertainty about their next meal.

Thanks to our dedicated Lighthouse Keepers, we raised approximately **\$65,000** this past year — enough to nearly sustain an entire Lighthouse home for a year. Thank you Lighthouse Keepers. Your ongoing commitment ensures that our homes remain a safe haven for vulnerable young people throughout the year. **We couldn't do this without you.**

BECOME A LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER & MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

By becoming a regular giver to Lighthouse, you'll be part of a special community dedicated to making a lasting impact.

Even **\$15 a month** can make a big difference, and help us keep our homes open, all year round.



lighthousefoundation.org.au/donate



\$15

Can help go towards providing fresh groceries and essential supplies for a Lighthouse home.



\$50

Can provide a welcome backpack (toiletries, socks, underwear and a teddy bear) for a new young person moving in to our care.



\$100

Can provide counselling and group therapy to help our young people process the trauma of homelessness.






YOUR GIFT, YOUR *legacy*

A Gift in your Will is a gift to every future young person impacted by abuse, neglect and homelessness. By making a meaningful bequest, you can leave a lasting impact. Including Lighthouse Foundation in your Will ensures that your legacy lives on and continues to help children and young people facing the challenges of homelessness for generations to come.

Any gift, whether small or large, makes a difference. Without the generosity of our supporters, we cannot reach all the young people in need, or grow our services with new homes and programs. This is one of the most important ways you can ensure that your life has a positive impact on others.

For more information about leaving a Gift in your Will, please contact our Head of Philanthropy and Bequests, Michelle Michie on (03) 9093 7500 or email michellem@lighthousefoundation.org.au





**WE'RE HERE TO
ENABLE YOUNG PEOPLE
TO FIND THEIR PLACE.
TOGETHER, WE
create pathways
TO ENSURE THOSE
WITH EXPERIENCE OF
HOMELESSNESS OR
TRAUMA DON'T BECOME
DEFINED BY IT.**



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