

# TRANSFORMING *lives*

Strategic Direction  
2025-2028



**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.

This document design includes artwork by Bayley Mifsud, a proud member of the Peek and Kirrae Whurrong people of the Maar nation from South West Victoria (Warrnambool) as part of our Reconciliation Action Plan.





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## **OUR FOUNDING VISION**

**TO END YOUTH  
HOMELESSNESS**  
*together*

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## **OUR PURPOSE**

We're here to ensure children and young people who have experienced homelessness and/or trauma have a safe place and the therapeutic relationships they need to heal, grow and thrive.

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## **OUR VALUES**

**RESPECT**

**KINDNESS**

**COURAGE**

**COLLABORATION**



# MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN & CEO

At Lighthouse Foundation, our commitment to creating safe, stable, and nurturing environments for vulnerable children and young people remains at the heart of everything we do. Over the past year, we have experienced both growth and challenges, but our unwavering focus has been on strengthening our impact and reaching more young people in need of vital support for as long as they require it.

As we look ahead to 2025–2028, our Strategic Direction builds on this foundation, ensuring that children and young people who have experienced homelessness and trauma receive the stability, therapeutic care, and connection they need to heal and thrive.

Our Foster Care and Family Support Program, with a growing focus on Kinship Care, is evolving to provide families with the practical and emotional support necessary to break cycles of intergenerational trauma. Strengthening family connections helps children build a sense of belonging while ensuring they receive the care needed to flourish.

The Lighthouse Institute has long played a role in trauma-informed education. To maximise its impact, we will review and refine its focus - repositioning the Institute, strengthening training programs, and embedding research partnerships. This will ensure professionals have access to the most relevant, evidence-based tools to support children impacted by trauma. A renewed approach will allow us to expand our reach, enhance workforce capability, and create lasting change in how trauma-informed care is integrated across communities.



Ending youth homelessness remains our founding vision. We are committed to increasing access to stable, healing homes by expanding our housing portfolio and exploring innovative models that provide flexible solutions for young people in need, wherever they are, in the community.

None of this would be possible without our generous partners and donors. Your unwavering support enables us to provide essential care and resources to vulnerable children. Your commitment allows us to grow, innovate, and build a future where every young person can heal and thrive in a safe and supportive community.

Together, we will strengthen our programs, refine our approach, and champion evidence-informed best practices to create lasting change for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Len Warson (Chairman)

Brenda Boland (CEO)





# 2025-2028 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Over the next three years, we will build on the significant impact we've made over the past 33 years, supporting over 1,336 children and young people. To continue this transformative work, we will strengthen our Foster Care and Family Support Program, with a growing focus on Kinship Care Support. At the same time, we will expand our efforts with Lighthouse Homes and In Community. This will be guided by four key priorities aimed at expanding our reach, enhancing our impact, and creating a future where every child has the opportunity to heal, thrive, and develop a lifelong sense of belonging.

By reviewing, refining, and expanding our core strategic initiatives, we will strengthen Lighthouse's long-term impact in breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma.



## STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE LIGHTHOUSE MODEL OF KINSHIP CARE

Lighthouse's Foster Care and Family Support Program prioritises kinship care as the preferred option for children unable to live with their parents. This approach provides stability, maintains family connections, and helps break cycles of intergenerational trauma. To maximise its impact, we will refine and expand our approach to better support kinship carers and the children in their care.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Evaluate and enhance the Lighthouse Kinship Care model to improve outcomes for children and families
- Strengthen partnerships to expand support networks and increase access to services
- Continue to invest to scale the program's reach and impact
- Partner with Monash University to research and promote Lighthouse's effective kinship model to provide stability and connection for children in care.



## EXPAND LIGHTHOUSE HOMES TO PROVIDE STABILITY FOR MORE YOUNG PEOPLE

Safe, stable housing is essential for breaking the cycle of youth homelessness. Lighthouse is committed to expanding its housing portfolio to ensure more young people have access to healing environments where they can thrive.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Grow our housing footprint in high-demand areas, including identifying opportunities in regional Victoria
- Explore innovative housing models to increase accessibility and community support
- Strengthen partnerships to secure funding and land for future developments
- Operate homes within a financially sustainable framework.



## DEVELOP LIGHTHOUSE'S INSTITUTE TO EXPAND TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES IN THE COMMUNITY

The intention is for the Lighthouse Institute to be a leading centre for trauma-informed workforce development. To meet growing demand, we will refresh the Institute, ensuring it delivers relevant, evidence-based training that empowers professionals working with traumatised children.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Define a clear vision for the Institute's role in workforce development
- Prioritise data collection to build evidence-based approaches that improve support for children and young people
- Advocate for trauma-informed care to be integrated into mainstream education and community organisations
- Strengthen training programs and research partnerships to enhance knowledge and impact
- Develop training modules, cost structures, and strategic alliances to support long-term growth.



## STRENGTHENING CORPORATE AND PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Lighthouse Foundation is dedicated to building sustainable partnerships with organisations, businesses, and philanthropic leaders who share our values and dedication to positively transforming the lives of young people.

### ACTION STEPS:

- Embed Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into our partnership strategy to ensure alignment with values-driven partners
- In response to program needs, develop funding strategies that provide long-term stability and scalability
- Investigate and leverage opportunities within annuity funding models to create long term financial stability and sustainability for our programs
- Explore new investment and land access opportunities to support future growth.



# LET'S END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS, *together*



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