



Because of you, there's **A Way Forward** in 2024 and beyond

When the world feels hard and its problems confronting, I take great comfort in your compassion.

You remind me of the good in humanity. Your beautiful decision to leave a gift to Mission Australia in your Will means that no matter what, there will always be help, always be compassion, and always be a way forward.

That's why I'm so pleased to share this issue of your **A Way Forward** newsletter.

Inside, you'll read about some of the ways kind-hearted Mission Australia supporters like you are helping young people find their strengths and see the possibilities in their lives. You'll read about Olivia*, a young woman who is overcoming substance abuse, and Lola* who

first experienced homelessness at just eight years old.

Much of the work Mission Australia does alongside young people is about giving them the tools, support, and self-belief they need to overcome disadvantage, create safe homes, and ultimately thrive.

Between the potential of Australia's young people, and your very kind gift in your Will, I feel a lot more optimistic about the future.

Thank you once again for your gift.

Sharon Callister
Mother, Hidden Homeless Ally,
Mission Australia CEO



Last year, more than 18,000 young people responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey. They told us:

10.4% were worried about having a safe place to stay.

2.1% had no fixed address or lived in a refuge or temporary accommodation.

6.4% said they or their family sought financial help from family, friends or charity.

Your future gift will make sure young people are always supported to overcome adversity – and thrive.

"Home should be somewhere you feel comfortable and safe"

Thank you for helping Olivia create her own way forward

Olivia* remembers the first day she walked into Mission Australia's Drug and Alcohol Youth Service (DAYS) in Perth.

"I knew my use had become a problem in my life," she says. "I wanted to get help."

DAYS is funded by Mission Australia supporters like you. It provides young people aged 12 - 21 with emotional and medical support, and a safe place to overcome their dependence on drugs and alcohol.

Substance dependency is often the result of, and a contributor to, homelessness. Once Olivia had the support she needed, she responded well to the routine and security provided at DAYS.

"DAYS creates a sense of 'home.'" Olivia says.



"Home should be somewhere you feel comfortable and safe. It's a really good place to come if you're struggling."

It's been over a year since Olivia's first appointment at DAYS. She's not only found the strength to overcome dependency, but she's also studying to become a paramedic, and on her way to a career helping others.

Your gift to Mission Australia means that more young people like Olivia will have a place to turn and someone who believes in them.

To see and hear a little more of her story, scan this QR code:



Heidi (L) helped Lola (R) to believe in herself and change her life for the better.

New beginnings in an old home - Lola's extraordinary turnaround

Lola* was only eight years old when she first lived on the streets. Over the years, she dropped out of school, became a drug user, and was involved in a violent relationship.

She was among a growing number of young people in Tasmania without a safe home or the security of routine and good modelling.

But because of support like yours, Lola, now 16, has been able to turn her life around.

She engaged with a program at Chigwell House, in Hobart. It's been the base for Mission Australia's work alongside families and young people for over 15 years.

With gentle encouragement from Heidi, a Youth Support worker, Lola revealed some of the traumas in her life, and identified that she needed help.

Today, she's succeeding at college, and advocating for other young people experiencing homelessness.

How wonderful that your gift will make sure young people like Lola always have a way forward. Thank you.

Young and homeless: Helping break the cycle for vulnerable youth

A great deal for young people in Far North Queensland

Around 40 young people in Townsville will soon be supported to get their lives back on track at a new Mission Australia Youth Foyer.

Youth Foyers have been extremely successful at breaking cycles of homelessness and



Architect's image of the new Youth Foyer in Townsville.

disadvantage for young people by providing accommodation and personalised support. In return, residents sign up to The Deal – an agreement to participate in education, work, social activities, civic participation, and life skills development.

“The Townsville Youth Foyer will be a beacon of hope and opportunity for young people in our region.” - Krissy Regan, Program Manager, Townsville Youth Foyer.

Your commitment to Mission Australia will help many vulnerable young people leave behind lives of homelessness and substance dependency.



39,300*

The number of young people facing homelessness last year.

*AIHW (2022) Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2021-22

Early intervention is the RESET young people need

Nearly a third of all Australians reaching out to Mission Australia for homelessness support are under 25.

Thanks to a generous gift from a family philanthropic foundation, Mission Australia has opened the RESET4Youth program in South West Sydney. It helps young people aged 18 to 25 who are sleeping rough, couch surfing, or living in boarding houses or crisis accommodation.

RESET starts with secure accommodation and furniture for a young person. A case worker helps them set goals and build life skills such as budgeting. If needed, they can access support for mental health or addiction issues.

“Homelessness can often be incredibly isolating, destabilising, and traumatic for young people.



The RESET4Youth team celebrate opening their doors to young people in need.

Without proper intervention, it can have ripple effects on their lives.

Mission Australia is proud to support young people to avoid long-term homelessness, reach their full potential, and thrive.” - Nada Nasser, Mission Australia’s NSW State Director.

Your thoughtful decision to include Mission Australia in your Will helps ensure there is a way forward for young people in need for generations to come.

Do the children in your life have questions about homelessness?



Scan this QR code to download Mission Australia's guide to starting a conversation about homelessness with your children, grandchildren, or young people in your life.



Your feedback can help shape a better future for all Australians

In the coming weeks you will be receiving your 2024 Supporter Survey in the post or by email. It's an opportunity for you to share your thoughts about creating an Australia where everyone has a safe home and the chance to thrive.

To make sure the survey reaches you, scan the QR code to update your contact details or contact a member of our friendly Gifts in Wills team.



*Names and images have been changed to protect the identities of the people we help.

Your Gifts in Wills team

Our team is so thankful for your generous decision to leave a gift to Mission Australia in your Will.

If you have any questions or want to chat about your life-changing legacy, please reach out to us.

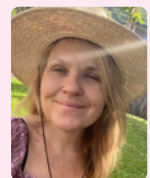
Nicki Grant

Gifts in Wills Program Manager
07 3394 8111
GrantN@missionaustralia.com.au



Lisa Gledhill

Gift Planning Advisor
0439 403 267
GledhillL@missionaustralia.com.au



Maria Natera

Gift Planning Advisor
0448 523 318
NateraM@missionaustralia.com.au



Ashlee Ralla

Estate Coordinator 02 9217 1064
RallaA@missionaustralia.com.au

"Working for Mission Australia is not just a job, it's a privilege. Every day I hear stories - from you sharing why you feel compelled to help, and stories of people whose lives are touched by your love and support.

Your commitment to protecting vulnerable people is beautiful and makes what I do everyday incredibly fulfilling. Thank you ."

- Maria Natera, Gift Planning Advisor



Always a way forward

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or Twitter to stay updated with stories like these:

