

YOU HELPED MAKE A COLOURFUL SPLASH AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

MCM turned heads as part of the campaign to increase housing for young people.

Supporters like you were there in spirit as MCM campaigners built LEGO brick houses on the steps of Melbourne's Parliament House recently. The eye-catching event helped to remind decision-makers of the urgent need to create new homes for young Victorians.

Young people have been hit especially hard by rental stress and the housing crisis. As an MCM supporter, you are at the forefront of efforts to make sure no young Victorian is left without a safe place to live.

You are a vital part of the call to build 5,000 new homes for young people and implement an overarching strategy to address youth homelessness in Victoria.

Thank you for standing alongside young people experiencing homelessness, students, CEOs, advocacy leaders and LEGO Masters contestants on the steps of Parliament House, and helping to make sure young people have access to safe housing.



Photos © Jorge de Araujo



A HEARTFELT MESSAGE FROM VICKI...

One issue I am deeply concerned about is the severe lack of dedicated youth housing in Victoria.

During Homelessness Week (despite the chilly morning weather), it was heart-warming to see so many people who share this concern gather with us on the steps of Parliament House.

Using LEGO houses, we made a colourful yet powerful statement about how too many young people spend each night without a safe and secure place to sleep.

This important piece of advocacy is, however, only the start of MCM's latest work, led by our wonderful staff and aided by your generous support.

I hope you enjoy reading about them all here in "Impact". I was especially touched by the letter to our Palliative Care Service and I am proud to share it with you.

Vicki Sutton
CEO

FRONTYARD CIRCUIT BREAKER



*You're making a difference
in your own Frontyard*

Frontyard Youth Services is MCM's King Street one-stop shop for young people experiencing homelessness.

Frontyard operates the only Statewide specialist access point for young people aged 16-24 seeking to access the Homelessness Services system, including an 18-bed CBD-based crisis accommodation service for complex young people experiencing rough sleeping.

Young people voted on a new name for the accommodation program, choosing Circuit Breaker. You may be wondering what a circuit breaker has to do with homelessness. Young people thought it represented the chance to break the cycle of homelessness and find the path to stability and safe housing.

Thank you for being a part of this ground-breaking, integrated model of accommodation that provides vulnerable young people with holistic trauma-informed and healing-oriented support. Through this intensive model, you are helping to change the life trajectory of young people away from being entrenched in the service system. You are helping to break the cycle of homelessness.

**FINALLY,
AN OPEN
DOOR.**

Thanks to you!



Nhala and MCM caseworker, Evan.

Thousands of young people like Nhala are in urgent need of a safe place to live.

A family breakdown forced 15-year-old Nhala into homelessness. She spent two years couch surfing with friends across Melbourne, and was sometimes even forced to sleep at McDonalds or outside youth homelessness services.

“I wouldn’t wish that on any young person, ever,” Nhala says.

“Imagine finishing work and not knowing... where you’re going to stay.”

Thankfully, Nhala was linked in with Evan a caseworker at MCM’s Frontyard Youth Service, and she was offered safe and

secure housing. She was also supported with gaining the skills she needed to find a job and return to university.

Sadly, many young people like Nhala don’t find the help or housing they need.

That is why MCM is calling on the government to increase housing for young people experiencing homelessness.

*Thank you for supporting
this vital work.*

Incredible Kids get the help they deserve!

Almost 50 years after it was started by a dedicated group of mothers seeking better support for their children with developmental delays and disabilities, Kalparrin Incredible Kids Centre has become part of Melbourne City Mission.

The Centre in Greensborough is now part of MCM's Early Childhood Intervention Services.

It's a space where children with developmental delays and learning disabilities are helped to learn and develop at a pace that works for them. It's also a place where parents, carers and families are welcome and supported.

We know that early intervention and confident, engaged carers are two big factors that help set up children with disabilities for success in life.

Thanks to MCM supporters like you, children across the north and west of Melbourne have access to the specialist care that an Incredible Kid needs!



10 YEARS OF KEEPING YOUNG DRIVERS SAFE

MCM's TAC L2P Learner Driver Mentor Program recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

MCM's L2P Learner Driver Mentor Program was started in 2012 by a Rotary club in Sunbury. The club's members recognised how difficult it would be for vulnerable young people to get their license under a new system that required them to have 120 hours of supervised driving.

Since then, an amazing **287 young people have got their drivers' license** through the program.

Thank you to all the volunteer mentors who generously give their time to help students learn, and of course to wonderful supporters like you who make it possible.

SLEEP AT THE 'G - WE'RE BACK!

Wednesday 10 May 2023

Register your interest at Sleepattheg.com.au



ON THE BUSES IN BENDIGO

MCM has helped deliver Recovery Coach services to people with a mental health disability in the Bendigo area since 2019.

Recovery Coaches spend time with each client, working to understand what each person wants and needs. That can range from improved support for a mental health issue or more social connection, to meaningful employment. Then they'll connect the client with the best support and services in their local area.

Kat Kenyon, one of our coaches, says the most rewarding part of her role is seeing positive outcomes for the people she works with.

"Being involved in and supporting and guiding our participants to reach their goals is very rewarding, especially seeing them take control of their lives and reach a goal like finding work or taking up study."



A LOVELY MESSAGE FROM JOHN'S FAMILY

Our Palliative Care team received these moving words of thanks for the care that loving husband and father John received over the last months of his life.

"John was able to die at home, which was his sincere wish, because of the support and skill of the Melbourne City Mission team."

"You gave us confidence that we were managing the situation well and that John was in good hands. At all times he was treated with dignity and respect, and we always appreciated that. He was deeply grateful to you all and understood well that without your care, he would have had to be in hospital."

"Unquestionably, the support of MCM's Palliative Care prolonged his life and gave us all a final Christmas together. We will never forget what you have given us as a family."

- Leonie, Patrick and Rosie
(John's family)





"You're not just donating money.

You're giving someone like me hope that we can overcome things."

YOU BROUGHT WARMTH IN THE COLD WINTER

Thank you to everyone who gave to our Winter Appeal. Your support helped vulnerable people through a hard Victorian winter, and beyond.

You helped provide young people who came to MCM this past winter with a safe place to stay, a warm bed to sleep in, and support to move forward with optimism.

You may remember the story of Liana, a bright young woman who came to us after moving from one unsafe home to another – and nearly losing her education and dreams in the process. Thank you to everyone who responded so generously to Liana's story.

Sadly, as we move towards spring and warmer weather, it is a harsh reminder that young people experiencing homelessness is a perennial problem.

As you know, abuse, neglect, and family violence often drive young people to homelessness.

Your generosity means MCM is there for them, with kindness, respect, understanding – and the support to create better lives for themselves.

Your support for MCM can and does change lives. Thank you!

**Thank you for keeping our communities strong,
and helping Victorians when they need it most.**

To help more Victorians overcome challenges and live their life, their way, donate online at mcm.org.au/makeanimpact or call **1300 364 507**