

KIDS UNDER COVER



Building foundations to prevent youth homelessness

Every day, more and more young people are becoming homeless.

Kids Under Cover is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to preventing youth homelessness.

The only charity organisation in Australia delivering the unique combination of relocatable studio accommodation and education scholarships as a practical and proven early intervention strategy to prevent youth homelessness and keep young people connected to family, community and education.

OUR VISION

Where no young person in our community is homeless.



OUR MISSION

Providing young people at risk of homelessness the foundations to strengthen their connection to family, community and education and make a lasting difference in their lives.



OUR VALUES

- Empathy
- Collaboration
- Resilience
- Engagement
- Integrity



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS: THE ISSUE

It's a grave misconception young people become homeless by choice. The reality is vastly different. The issues that lead someone to become homeless are complex and varied. For at-risk young people, their lives have become emotionally and often, physically unbearable.

Their home life may be burdened by the disadvantages of poverty, neglect, abuse, unemployment, substance abuse, health complications, disability and mental illness. This cycle of events cause some young people to feel there is no other option, but to leave.

They are not ready, have nowhere to go and may become isolated from mainstream society, and can often experience depression, poor nutrition, substance abuse and mental health problems. Without the right support, many will struggle with homelessness their entire lives.

Early intervention interrupts the cycle, and maintains a young person's connection to home and their support networks.

ENTER KIDS UNDER COVER

Kids Under Cover supports vulnerable young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years who are either already homeless or at risk of homelessness.

We build relocatable, one and two bedroom studios, with a bathroom, in the backyard of a family or carer's home. The extra room relieves overcrowding, eases tension and provides young people with a secure and stable environment. The studio remains in place for as long as it's required. Kids Under Cover will relocate a studio up to four times during its lifetime, to help other families in need.

We then compliment with scholarships for education or job training, offsetting basic education costs to empower young people to achieve their goals. Not only are our scholarships awarded to young people residing in our studio, but also their siblings in the main home – helping to break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage.

kuc.org.au

IMPACTS



629

YOUNG PEOPLE CURRENTLY LIVING IN A KIDS UNDER COVER STUDIO

87

NEW YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED IN 2015/16

MORE THAN

3,000

YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED SINCE WE BEGAN

700+ SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED SINCE 2004
130 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN 2015/16



62 STUDIOS BUILT DURING 2015/16



450+

STUDIOS ON THE GROUND



15,000+ CAR DONATIONS SINCE 2006

6,053 CAR DONATIONS IN 2015/16



“Every Friday morning I would wake up so fearful for the weekend, I didn’t know where Ali* would end up...”

Like all mums, keeping her family together and her children safe is the most important thing to Fatuma. Sadly, she knew it wouldn’t be long before Ali would run away for good.

“I was so worried my boy would run away and not come home, that he would get hurt or even something worse,” recalls Fatuma.

As youth homelessness continues to surge, we must be able to continue to support at-risk young people and keep them connected to family, education and the community.

For Fatuma’s family things were spiralling out of control. The family home was overcrowded, Ali and his brother were constantly fighting. For Ali the situation was intolerable. Things at home were having a huge impact on all aspects of his life. He had become withdrawn and he would frequently run away for days, sleeping rough underneath a bridge.

“It’s been a really hard time for all of us,” admits Fatuma. Without a Kids Under Cover studio, Fatuma says she doesn’t know where Ali would be.



Fatuma is overwhelmed by the difference the studio has made, not only for Ali, but the whole family. “I used to wake up worrying and go to sleep worried, there was no end in sight,” remembers Fatuma.

“The studio has given us so much; we now enjoy family-time together without as much stress. Sometimes I go out into the backyard and cry when I look at the studio, I am so happy to know Ali is safe, at home. You people are angels.”

*Names have been changed.

“My brother Jesse and I had to move in with my grandma and aunt which meant three of us were sharing one bedroom...”

Brittnie is no stranger to hard work, or to putting her brother Jesse first. Jesse has cerebral palsy which means he needs 24hr care. Mum was an alcoholic and couldn’t cope so Brittnie had to attend to a lot of his personal care needs, at the same time as getting through high school.



Moving in with their grandma and aunt meant Brittnie could get some help, but there was not enough room for the four of them and it was hard for her to study, **“my future looked bleak, I didn’t know what I was going to do”**

Getting a studio changed everything for Brittnie. The anxiety caused by extreme overcrowding disappeared, everyone was happier and relationships within the family home got so much better. The studio made a significant difference to Brittnie’s future giving her space to study, privacy, and time out from Jesse.

“I was able to complete a Diploma of Nursing, and I’m now working in aged care, and I love it. Caring for people has been my life, I just want to be the best nurse I can be”



“I can’t imagine what would have happened if Kids Under Cover hadn’t helped our family, I’m so grateful for the studio and for the scholarships I received which helped me achieve my dreams”

Not everyone has the fortune of a stable family environment. Many of the young people we support are dealing with trauma and grief, family homes are often overcrowded and mental health issues can really affect relationships within the home.

Once in a studio, the resident and any siblings living in the family home can also apply for a scholarship to offset basic education costs. Our scholarships ensure young people remain connected to education or job training, laying the foundations for a bright future.

SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU HELPS US PREVENT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM BECOMING HOMELESS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE NOW!



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kuc.org.au



MAKE A DONATION

Every donation, large and small, does make a difference to young people in need. You can donate easily online at kuc.org.au OR call us 1800 801 633.



DONATE YOUR CAR®

Our Donate Your Car® program is an easy way to make a significant contribution to the lives of young Australians who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. It’s free, tax deductible, and a fast alternative to selling or trading your vehicle. donateyourcar.org.au



CORPORATE BUILD PROGRAM

Are you a business that wants to make a difference? Build your team while building a better future for young people at risk of homelessness. For partners who contribute to the funding of a studio, Kids Under Cover can provide a unique team building experience for staff and other volunteers. Call us to discuss.



FUNDRAISE FOR US

There are many opportunities to fundraise for us throughout the year, from taking part in a fun run event to holding your own event such as a trivia night or afternoon tea. Please call us today to discuss your ideas.



WORKPLACE GIVING

A regular, pre-tax donation straight from your pay is easy to setup and you receive tax benefits. Workplace giving even provides your employer the opportunity to match your donation dollar for dollar. Ask us for more information by calling 1800 801 633.



REGULAR GIVING

Much like workplace giving, regular giving is a commitment to donate on a regular basis. This can be via a direct debit or credit card payment setup to automatically deduct on the frequency of your choice.



LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

A bequest is a gift left by an individual in their Will. It can take the form of cash, shares, property or other assets. Choosing to leave a bequest is a lasting and generous legacy, which will benefit young people beyond your lifetime. For a confidential conversation about leaving a gift in your Will please call us on 1800 801 633.



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are the backbone of many things that we do throughout the year. Often we have opportunities for you to become involved as a volunteer at our events, in the office and at other community fundraising events that may take place. To find out more visit kuc.org.au or call us on 1800 801 633.

