



Rocky Road cubby with the design and build team

Sweet Success for Australia's Best Cubby **8**

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WHO WE ARE

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.

A MOMENTOUS YEAR AHEAD

What an incredible start to 2018 we have had. In mid-January, the Andrews Labor Government launched their new 'Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan' with the announcement of more than \$45 million to fund initiatives to combat homelessness.

The Action Plan builds on a commitment to grow Victoria's social housing supply, ensure better collaboration between agencies and improve support services for vulnerable Victorians.

We welcomed this unprecedented funding commitment, which included a one-off grant to be invested specifically into an innovative homelessness prevention initiative we are working in partnership with Anglicare Victoria to deliver.

'Village 21' will address the needs of young people aged 18-21 who are leaving the Out-of-home care system. We are incredibly proud to have been included in the Governments Action Plan. You can read more about the project on page four.

2018 marked the 10th anniversary of the Cubby House Challenge® which, since its inception has raised over \$600,000 for our homelessness prevention programs. This year the event did not disappoint. Over 200 guests joined us for the special twilight auction and saw five wildly different cubbies sell to some very generous bidders who contributed to the \$70,000 raised on the night. A tremendous contribution indeed.

Each year I continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of those who support the event, our partners, sponsors, enthusiastic volunteers and those who come along to bid for a cubby.

Likewise, the kind-heartedness and generosity of the build teams, designers, and their partners, really does leave me speechless.

The collaboration between so many diverse organisations who donate their time, materials, and expertise to ensure they deliver world-class cubby houses is almost beyond belief. This goes a long way towards making a difference for the young people we support.

You can read more about the success of the Cubby House Challenge® on page eight.

2018 is set to be a momentous year for Kids Under Cover. We work hard every day to support young people at risk of homelessness. But to ensure we can continue this support we must find ways to diversify our income.

Behind the scenes we have been working hard to do just that, and at the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show, we launched our social enterprise, *Nestd*.

Drawing on our experience in building relocatable studio accommodation we are now tapping into the tiny home movement. Nestd will be selling tiny homes with a purpose. Please flick to page seven to read more about this very exciting development.

We will not rest when it comes to supporting vulnerable young people. We can't do it alone, we need people like you, who share our vision of a community where no young person is homeless.

I thank you for taking an interest in our work and hope you have the time to read more about what's happening at Kids Under Cover, I trust you will enjoy this edition of *Undercover News*.



Jo Swift
CEO, Kids Under Cover

A PLAN TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS

The announcement of the Victorian Governments \$45 million Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan in January provided some hope for vulnerable Victorians.

The plan, led by Brotherhood of St Laurence Executive Director Tony Nicholson, is focused on breaking the cycle of homelessness by intervening early, getting rough sleepers housed quickly and strengthening support services to keep people off the streets.

Included in the plan is a commitment to spend \$19 million to establish assertive outreach teams in areas of greatest need across the state – including Dandenong, Frankston, Warrnambool, Ballarat, Geelong, Bendigo, Swan Hill and Maroondah.

These workers will actively seek out and engage with people experiencing homelessness and connect them with emergency accommodation, health services and ongoing support.

Within the funding commitment is an allocation for 106 accommodation units and onsite support. Kids Under Cover was lucky to be included in this with a one-off grant to develop and deliver our 'Village 21' initiative in partnership with Anglicare Victoria (read more on page 4).

2016 Census data released in March 2018, revealed 24,817 people in Victoria are experiencing homelessness¹. Of those people counted as homeless, people under 25 make up 40% of Victoria's homeless population.

Children and young people make up 2-in-5 of all people experiencing homelessness in Victoria

- ABS Census, 2016

That's 9,742 kids with no home



People living in 'severely' crowded dwellings (i.e. usual residents of dwellings which needed four or more extra bedrooms to accommodate them adequately) have been the largest homeless group in each of the last four Censuses.

Overcrowding is a major contributor to youth homelessness. 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.

Among those people who were not classified as being homeless on Census night but may be at risk of homelessness, the number of people living in crowded dwellings jumped 23% to 51,088 in 2016.

CENSUS DATA

TYPE OF HOMELESSNESS	2011	2016	WHAT % OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION
Rough sleeping	6,810	8,200	7%
Couchsurfing	17,374	17,725	15%
Rooming houses	14,944	17,503	15%
Living in severely crowded dwellings	41,370	51,088	44%

The full data set is available at www.abs.gov.au

¹ ABS 2016 Census

CREATING A VILLAGE TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE



As part of the funding announcement by the Andrews Labor Government at the start of the year, Kids Under Cover was included in the plan to help break the cycle of homelessness.

Funded by a one-off grant from the Victorian State Government to specifically support at-risk young people aged 18-21, Village 21 is essentially a scaled up, co-located version of our existing Studio Program.

A first of its kind, Village 21 is an accommodation and support program based around a village concept, assisting at-risk young people aged 18 – 21 years who are leaving Out-of-home care (OOHC).

Anglicare's 'Home Stretch' campaign to increase the leaving care age from 18 to 21 years heightened the real need for further support. Until the provision of care is extended we must do more for this group of vulnerable young people.

Currently in Victoria (and many other states) once a young person turns 18 funding to their carer ceases and they are exited from OOHC.

Delivered in partnership with Anglicare Victoria, Village 21 is designed to interrupt the spiral young people leaving care often find themselves on. By providing six relocatable studios in western metropolitan Melbourne for young people to live in, with support, for two to three years, young people will be given the opportunity to live independently. This village environment will assist in creating strong connections back to the community and teach skills in self-sufficiency.

Six young people and a professional mentor will reside on site with regular visits by Anglicare staff with expertise in employment and study pathways. The Village is designed to support communal activities such as cooking, maintaining shared gardens and learning life skills.

“The extension of our Studio Program into a village environment for a specific target group of young people, balanced with comprehensive mentoring and life-skills training, is a working example of early intervention. Prevention of youth homelessness is more likely to be delivered with this long-term vision.”

**Jo Swift – CEO,
Kids Under Cover**



DOUBLE CELEBRATION A FIRST FOR KEN & LENKA MORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship recipients Bruno and Tahilia with Lenka Morgan

Bruno is a young man with a plan to change the world as a bio-medical Nano technician. Tahilia, a young woman with a mission to be the best youth worker she can be and an advocate for indigenous children.

With a shared desire to help people and to give back, Bruno and Tahilia now share the title of Ken & Lenka Morgan Scholarship recipient for the 2018 academic year.

Delighted to meet these two inspiring young people, Lenka Morgan was on hand to congratulate Bruno and Tahilia at a special celebration event held in November 2017.

Bruno's family received a Kids Under Cover studio in 2008. He recently moved to Melbourne from regional Victoria to study nanotechnology at university. Moving to Melbourne to study full time is a huge step for him and one which will open some exciting new doors.

With the support of the scholarship Bruno will register for the 20th Asia Pacific Nanotechnology Congress being held in Sydney in July. This scientific gathering is sure to open Bruno's eyes to the current trending technologies in Nano fields and discover state-of-the-art prototypes, technologies and research results.

“My goal is to become a bio-medical Nano technician so I may assist in finding ways to discover and treat cancer growths in patients, so I may help others as I have been helped.”

The scholarship selection committee were overwhelmed with Bruno's willingness to contribute to the community, along with his drive and determination to achieve personal goals.

Studying a Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice, Tahilia is now in her third year. Tahilia credits the fact she is the only person in her immediate family to have completed year 12 as her motivator to continue with her studies.

“This might seem silly, but my greatest achievement so far is the completion of year 12. This achievement is so important to me as it has been the foundation to continuing on to further studies as a university student.”

Having lived in a Kids Under Cover studio since 2013, Tahilia's determination and readiness to tackle hard work coupled with her passion for advocating for indigenous young people really impressed the selection committee.

Currently Tahilia is exploring opportunities to volunteer within indigenous communities to further her understanding of the challenges faced and work on closing the gap for indigenous people.

PILOTING A PROGRAM TO INCREASE SUPPORT AT CRISIS END

Our CEO, Jo Swift, participated in the "Making Innovation Happen" program at Cambridge University in May 2017. From the program Jo walked away with an idea to address the significant shortage of safe and inclusive crisis accommodation and respite in Victoria.

Currently, approximately 66% of young people are turned away when seeking crisis accommodation in metropolitan Melbourne. As a result, these vulnerable young people are forced to stay in unsafe and inappropriate environments such as overcrowded rooming houses, motels and backpacker hostels.

There is currently a significant shortage of safe emergency/short-term accommodation in Victoria. Just 159 crisis accommodation beds are available on any given night, for an estimated 9,742 young people who are experiencing homelessness in Victoria.

The Studio Stay Program will provide at-risk young people (aged 14–18 years) with short-term crisis accommodation with a family in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment. A young person would stay in a Kids Under Cover studio (one-bedroom with bathroom) in the backyard of an accredited carer during the critical time from when they leave their current care placement until their case worker establishes long-term care or the young person reunifies with their family.

Placements would last seven days to six weeks, though each case will be unique in its duration depending on the needs of the young person. During the placement the case worker would continue to support the young person.

The program is currently moving into pilot stage with a model having been setup in Ballarat.

As is the case in Melbourne, Ballarat is facing a shortage of short-term accommodation options for Out-of-home care (OOHC) clients and young people experiencing homelessness. There are an estimated 400 homeless people of all ages in Ballarat, over 100 of those are aged under 18. On any given night there are around 130 young people placed in OOHC, clearly demonstrating a need for such a program in the Ballarat area.

Having cemented a solid relationship with Child and Family Services (CAFS) in Ballarat through our Studio Program since 2005, together we have been working to implement the pilot program. CAFS have been providing service for young people and families in Ballarat for over 150 years. They know the area and the challenges young people are facing.

THANK YOU

We are grateful to have received funding support from BB & A Miller Foundation, Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust and The Shine On Foundation to launch this pilot program.



nestd TINY HOMES FOR PURPOSE

Nestd display home, 'The Loft'

Behind the scenes at Kids Under Cover the Board and the team have been working hard on a bold new plan. A plan which we hope will ensure our longevity and enable us to continue to support vulnerable young people for as long as we need to.

In late 2017 the Kids Under Cover Board made a strategic decision to progress our studio model for the commercial domestic homeowner market. Funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and the Nous Community Partnership Program, extensive research and exploration of the market was conducted to ensure such a plan was feasible.

After reviewing the findings, the decision to proceed saw us collaborate with Ortech Industries (current manufacturer of our studios) and NH Architecture to develop our first commercial prototype.

We are proud to have recently launched our brand-new social enterprise, **Nestd**.

On display at the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show, our tiny home was a big hit. Across the five days the Nestd team did not stop as people queued to take a sneak peek inside the display home and find out what it was all about.

Thanks to the World of Style by Porter Davis team the display home wowed visitors to the show with its elegance and sophisticated styling.

These beautifully appointed tiny homes are available for sale to the public, but unlike other tiny homes or granny flats on the market, this one has a social purpose. 100% of profits from sales will support our youth homelessness prevention programs.

Thanks to the generosity of our friends at Vaughan Constructions our tiny homes will be displayed in Port Melbourne.

If you, or anyone you know is in the market for extra space, perhaps for your parents or your grown children saving for their first home, we encourage you to take a look at the website – **nestdhomes.com.au** or contact us today for more information or to arrange an inspection.

It is with thanks we acknowledge the following funders who have been instrumental in supporting the development of Nestd;

- Besen Family Foundation
- Goodridge Foundation
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- Nous Community Partnership Program
- Portland House Foundation
- The Shine On Foundation
- William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund



The Figurehead Construction team with their cubby 'Dream Catcher'. Photo by Capture Point Media

CUBBIES CONTINUE TO CONNECT US

A vibrant blue head, fairy-tale log cabin and a web like interactive wonderland sat alongside a whimsical connect four modular climbing block at this year's Cubby House Challenge®. But it was the imaginatively delicious Rocky Road cubby that stole the show at the special twilight auction event held within the picturesque Carlton Gardens.

The team from Becon Constructions and Watson Young Architects not only wowed the judges with their wildly colourful cubby creation it inspired some spirited bidding on auction night, taking home the title of Australia's Best Cubby selling for \$20,500.

A futuristic fusion of geometric shapes with different play areas for the ultimate sensory experience, Rocky Road took home four of the six awards up for grabs, including *Most Imaginative and Interactive Cubby* and *Kids Choice Award*.

This year's expert judging panel included Peter Maddison, architect and host of *Grand Designs Australia*; Shaynna Blaze, interior designer and judge on *The Block*; Emily Power, Editor of *Domain*; and Ben and Andy, former contestants on Channel 9's *The Block*.



2018 Judging Panel. Photo by Mercury Mega Photography

The real experts, a group of children from Carlton Gardens Primary School joined the judging panel to put the cubbies to the test casting their vote for the Kids' Choice Award.

The 10th Cubby House Challenge® did not disappoint, all five cubbies sold on the night raising over \$70,000 to support our youth homelessness prevention programs.

Peter Maddison was on hand to present the team from Buildher Collective, Beirin Projects and Bellemo & Cat with the award for *Best Architecturally Designed Cubby* for their beautifully sculptured 3-dimensional jigsaw puzzle cubby, *Heads Up*.

World of Style by Porter Davis proved they certainly are the experts in style taking home the award for *Best Interior Designed Cubby* for their fairy-tale like inspired cubby, *The Eyrie*.

Since its inception the Cubby House Challenge® has raised over \$600,000 for Kids Under Cover. This year the event raised just over \$100,000!

In 2018 we welcomed the support of Shura Taft as MC along with our long-time auction partners; Luke Banitsiotis from Woodards; Craig Shearn from Jellis Craig Inner North; Tom Roberts, Nelson Alexander; James Hatzolos representing RT Edgar and of course Harry Li from ISell Group – who took out the *Top Auctioneer Award*.

The generosity of the purchasers coupled with the support of the event sponsors and partners has a significant impact on the work we can do. Equally as important is the support shown by the design and build teams.

All teams, along with their own supporters and partners, showed an incredible amount of enthusiasm and dedication to delivering the very best cubby houses.

"This year we have been overwhelmed by the efforts of the build and design teams, and the generous bidders," said Jo Swift, CEO of Kids Under Cover. "All teams pulled out all stops to deliver some of the best cubbies we have seen."

More than 90,000 people visited the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show, and anyone with kids most certainly stopped by the Cubby House Village to check them out.

CEO, Jo Swift sees firsthand the joy the cubbies bring. "I take great delight in seeing the children visit the Cubby House Village to play in the cubbies. This really highlights the important role of play in a child's life."



Volunteers from Coca-Cola Amatil

We are very grateful to have been part of the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show as the Official Charity Partner. Being able to display the cubbies at the Show provides a valuable opportunity to talk to people about our work and the issue of youth homelessness. And it was the perfect platform for the launch of our social enterprise, *Nestd* (read about our tiny home initiative on page 7).

An event of this magnitude is never possible without a dedicated team of volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on site. We are so grateful for the commitment of time you gave.

Thank you to all event partners and sponsors who continue to show support for at-risk young people. We couldn't do what we do without people who share our vision of a *community where no young person is homeless*.

Congratulations, and thank you to the following builders and designers for generously donating their time, expertise and of course the incredible cubby houses for the event;

Becon Constructions and Watson Young Architects

Buildher Collective, Beirin Projects and Bellemo & Cat

Figurehead Construction and architect Bayley Ward

The District Docklands, NH Architecture and APM Group

Porter Davis and the World of Style team

Visit cubbyhousechallenge.org.au to view photographs from the event

A1 OFFICE GALA DINNER MAKES A SPLASH

Not only are the team from A1 Office experts in workspace design and fitout solutions, they can now add experts in hosting successful fundraising events to their repertoire.

Having supported our work for some time now, A1 Office had hosted many golf days raising close to \$60,000 in three years. In 2017, Melanie Metlikovec, Marketing and Communications Manager for A1 Office, decided it was time for an event guests could put their dancing shoes on for and hopefully make a bigger splash.

The black-tie event held on Friday 1 September was attended by 300 guests who enjoyed dinner and dancing amongst the SeaLife at the Melbourne Aquarium.



SeaLife Aquarium

MC Sam Kekovich entertained guests with a hilarious take on how politically over the top the world has become. Whilst guests were enjoying a relaxing dinner catching up with old friends and making new ones, artist Joe Zappy was painting a portrait of Floyd Mayweather and Connor McGregor. The one-off original piece was later sold to the highest bidder during the live auction, alongside a highly sought after signed and framed Foo Fighters guitar.



Jared Wade, CEO, A1 Office

You could almost hear a pin drop when Kids Under Cover Fundraising and Marketing Manager, Bianca Richards delivered an incredibly powerful and moving speech, sharing with guests the realities of being a young person faced with adversity and an uncertain future.

Thanks to the generosity of guests, those who successfully purchased auction items and those who pledged to donate on the night, the 'Give Me Shelter' fundraising gala dinner raised almost \$50,000 in support of our youth homelessness prevention programs.

Following on from the enormous success of the 2017 event, plans for the second, 'Give Me Shelter' fundraising gala dinner are well underway. To secure your ticket, visit events.humanitix.net/give-me-shelter-fundraising-gala-dinner/



Photos by
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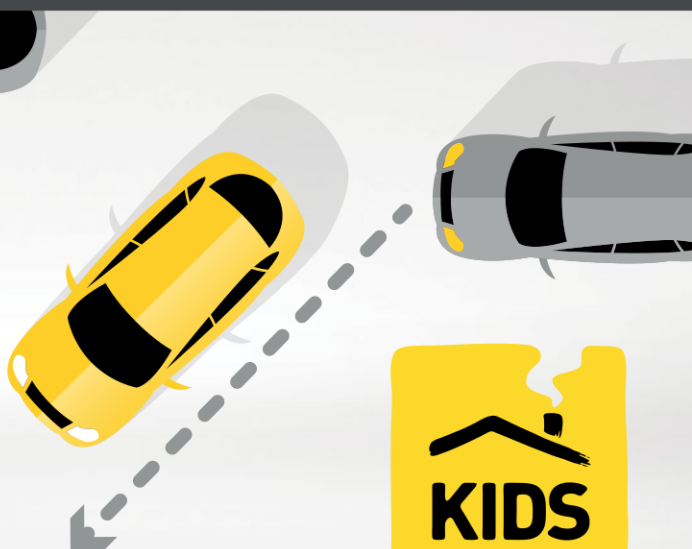
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