

Charlie's Story

This story is to be read in conjunction with Launch Housing's teaching resource for older primary students.



After many years of short-term housing, Charlie and his mother asked [Launch Housing](#) for help. Worker Michelle then discovered that Charlie wasn't going to primary school.

Charlie's work in our Education Pathways Program showed he couldn't write his name and his reading and writing were at a prep level. He also learnt slower than other children his age. He soon started to receive one-on-one classroom support.

The longer Charlie was at school, the clearer it became that his lower IQ was because of his difficult history and was not permanent. Now that he was in a safe and stable environment, with stable housing, he was able to think and learn better.

For example, he showed great skills on the football field and made friends at school. These things can be difficult for children who have an intellectual disability.

Charlie was raised in an unstable family environment and had experienced homelessness since he was very young. This difficult start to life as well as his father dying suddenly affected his emotional health and educational growth.

Michelle spent three months building a relationship and working with him. After finally gaining his trust, she began walking him to school every day to make sure he attended.

For the first few months at school, Charlie showed signs of childhood trauma and found it hard to participate.

Recognising that homelessness can have a bad effect on early learning, it's important to ensure that children like Charlie can access vital help learn and grow.

The program has made a great impact on his life and will leave a lasting impression as he journeys into adulthood.



The local primary school is understanding in their engagement with children who have experienced homelessness. For example, they allowed Charlie to follow a teacher until he felt comfortable to join the regular classroom.

Overall, Launch Housing has supported Charlie for three years. In this time he has improved really well, making strong friends at school and supporting his move into secondary school.

This is an amazing achievement considering everything he went through in his early life. He is now in the permanent care of his older half-sister who is making sure he continues with his learning plan and attends school regularly.