"The path that I'm on now is very much because of those people and services. The Foyer is on that list that saved my life."

Luke, a student at Glen Waverley



#### Dear {{FirstName}},

Investing in the future of our young people breaks the cycle of homelessness, and this week's Youth Homelessness Matters Day (17 April) is a timely reminder of <u>what we can</u> <u>do</u>.

We were recently in Canberra advocating alongside the Foyer Invest's call for \$184 million to construct 10 forty-unit Foyers over the next 3 years.

Our Glen Waverley and Broadmeadows Education First Youth Foyers have shown exceptional outcomes for young people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

Last year, 84% of our students exited the program into further study or employment. That's an incredible outcome when we consider the hardships these young people have overcome.

Investing in the future of young people breaks the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage and homelessness in our society. The evidence is clear, we see every day through our Foyers the impact these services have on young people – the future of Australia.

Benan Warner



BEVAN WARNER Chief Executive Officer

# My week in Canberra advocating for youth homelessness



"At the start of the meeting, the vibes were very much 'don't get your hopes up.' But when we told our stories about the impact and the potential ... the energy in the room changed."

Sam Jelley's time as a student at our Foyer inspired him to become a Youth Development Worker. And when he graduated, he got a job at our Glen Waverly Education First Youth Foyer!

Sam was invited to parliament alongside dozens of advocates from the sector, calling for more Foyers across the country to break the cycle of disadvantage and create bright futures for young people.

Read more of Sam's time in Parliament here

### Launch Housing at the ABC's Q+A panel



"I know how close anyone is to homelessness."

Our team jumped at the chance to be in the audience for a recent Q&A TV debate on the housing and homelessness crisis.

A big shout out to Paige, who works at one of our crisis accommodation sites, who spoke to the panel with courage and strength about her own experience with homelessness, which included living in a motel and couch surfing. As Paige said, while having a home is a basic human right, with constant rent rises, increasing cost of living, and a national housing shortage, homelessness really could happen to anyone.

And what's an acceptable rate of homelessness? Zero, according to Andrew Leigh MP. Let's work together to achieve that.

Catch up on the unmissable episode here

## The power of partnership in tackling youth homelessness



We want to take a moment to celebrate the power of partnerships for helping to break the cycle of homelessness and empowering young people to fulfil their potential.

Since 2015, we've partnered with <u>HoMie</u> and <u>For Change Co</u>. to provide training and employment opportunities for young people experiencing homelessness, including many past and present students at our Education First Youth Foyers.

HoMie has equipped over 2,550 young people with qualifications, retail experience and employment. And For Change Co. has given many young people training and work experience in hospitality, helping them build invaluable skills and confidence to work and gain independence.

Together, we provide support, community, and empowerment for young people to thrive.

Are you a business or organisation interested in providing employment and training opportunities to young people? Reach out to <u>partnerships@launchhousing.org.au</u> to learn how you can make a difference.

#### We can't end youth homelessness without a strategy – will you help?

Our friends at Yfoundations have launched a petition for a national strategy to end child and youth homelessness.

We need a clear, targeted plan to tackle such a serious issue and end the cycle of homelessness for our future generations.

Will you take the time to sign the petition below?

Sign the petition here

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