

# salvos

*magazine*

## Understanding youth disadvantage

Caring for unique needs in troubled times



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### FEATURE

It's all about youth care

### FAITH TALK

A place for all to belong and call home

### MY STORY

Elizabeth has a new lease on life

**“Your value does not decrease  
based on someone’s inability  
to see your worth.”**

**– Jacob Nordby**





## The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

### What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

### Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

### Mission Statement

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice



The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and well-being of people of all ages, particularly children.

# Salvos Magazine

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## Youth homelessness

As Homelessness Week approaches (7-13 August), this edition of *Salvos Magazine* focuses specifically on youth – their unique needs and challenges, and some of the ways in which the Salvos are working with young people to support them.

The unique needs of at-risk youth include suitable accommodation, education, employment, and social, psychological and spiritual support. They are too often subject to adult-focused programs and funding policies that do not address these needs.

Faith Talk calls attention to the homelessness that Australia's native birds and animals are also facing as their habitats are destroyed, and the need for us to work together to end homelessness for all.

In My Story, Elizabeth shares the struggle she and her children faced with homelessness, and how support from the Salvos has given them all a new lease on life.

For these stories and more, go to [salvosonline.org.au](http://salvosonline.org.au)

Simone Worthing **Editor**

# Understanding youth disadvantage

## The need to meet unique housing needs

Young people across Australia urgently require a dedicated National Housing and Homelessness Plan that is responsive to their unique needs, says The Salvation Army's general manager for youth services, Natalee O'Brien.

This comes as the Federal Government prepares to deliver funding to address homelessness across the nation. The funds are part of a scheme to address housing concerns which arose from 2021 Census data. The government has also promised to release a new National Housing and Homelessness Plan set to roll out in 2024-25.

“

**Young people across Australia urgently require a dedicated National Housing and Homelessness Plan ...**

”

Young people have a unique experience of homelessness, Natalee says. Attitudes among landlords towards young adults with little rental history or income, long rental queues, the decades required to save for a house deposit and the complexities of disadvantage mean young people face more significant challenges in overcoming homelessness than those in other demographics.

“Generally, young people are subject to overarching, adult-focused housing and homelessness funding and policies that do not meet their unique needs,” Natalee adds. “Understanding a young person's pathway to experiencing homelessness becomes even more critical in order to develop effective and appropriate responses.”

### **YOUTH HOUSING A PRIORITY**

Natalee says a priority area for the government should be a dedicated National Youth Housing and Homelessness Plan, and that current solutions are failing to adequately meet the needs of everyone.

“While youth refuges and transitional accommodation programs provide a critical emergency response for many young people experiencing



homelessness, they must be delivered as part of a broader housing and support continuum that ensures flexibility and suitability in responding to diverse needs.

"We know that growing up in poverty can limit a young person's chances of thriving at school, which in turn affects their potential and limits overall life outcomes, thus continuing the cycle of disadvantage," she adds. "Our work with young people experiencing highly challenging circumstances has shown that they can thrive when the drivers of disadvantage, discrimination and poverty are removed."

### EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

Natalee says that, unlike for other cohorts, finding permanent supported housing solutions did not need to be a priority for young people, adding that it could in fact be counterproductive for some. Supported and social housing

should instead be seen as a transition point for young people into more self-sustaining housing solutions. Most young people require housing and support responses for a particular time frame that will empower and inspire them and help them to build confidence, self-sufficiency and resilience.

"[Life-long supported housing solutions] can compromise and unintentionally constrain the pursuit of independence, personal responsibility and aspiration [among young people]," Natalee says.

The nature and extent of disadvantage varies widely between individuals, but homelessness tends to cause other serious and ongoing issues for young people.

"Without appropriate intervention, young people experiencing homelessness are at a much higher risk of failing to gain an education, entering the labour market, or receiving support to recover from past trauma or substance misuse," Natalee explains. "These experiences significantly contribute to long-term psychological, social and economic harm. Most importantly, many young people will remain isolated and excluded from society and not be provided with the opportunities necessary to achieve their potential as adults.

"Governments and the community at large need to listen to the specific ways that exclusion, discrimination, exploitation and opportunity can be addressed to better facilitate participation, hope, fairness and well-being for all young people through access to appropriate affordable housing."

## A better future for youth in Bundaberg

The Salvation Army's Tom Quinn Community Cafe in Bundaberg, Central Queensland, isn't your typical cafe. Its mission is to change lives by training young people and those looking to return to the workforce in valuable skills in the kitchen, as well as in life.

"The cafe offers everything from coffee, morning tea and a light lunch to a more substantial meal," says Ash Schiffke, cafe team leader. "Today, with everything that's going on, everyone enjoys having a nice meal at a very reasonable price. That's one of our main selling points."

The cafe also contributes a unique service to the community, providing a safe space for young people to learn catering skills, gain confidence and get into the workplace.



Bryce has always wanted to become a chef.



Bryce began his days at the cafe as a volunteer.

"Skills they learn here can be in anything from basic cooking and barista, to customer service and anything in between," Ash says. "The main thing we're trying to teach them is to be at work on time and to be committed. If you can show commitment in your work you will go further – not just in work, but in life."

### BRYCE'S STORY

Bryce began volunteering at the Tom Quinn Cafe because he wanted to become a chef, just like his mum.

"I started volunteering just in the cafe and I'd stuck around for a little bit," he says. "I'd gotten to learn a little bit about catering and then they advertised that they were bringing out paid traineeships. And I was like, 'Well, I could do that.'



Chloe trained with Bryce and is now an employed barista.

"That offer is a unique experience for culinary students. You know, you've got your fresh herb garden over there. There's not a lot of places to do that – you don't just get to walk out the front and go pick some parsley.

"I wouldn't have that apprenticeship if I hadn't come here first," Bryce says. "You make connections in the industry just by being here. Drew [cafe chef and hospitality trainer] and Ash, they've got a lot of connections. They know a lot of people and so do the other trainees you work with.

"I think having the trust, knowing that they trusted me to jump onto something that I had no idea how to do gave me confidence. Just little things – like they're able to stand there and coach me on – and knowing that they trust me to do the job right after four or five tries. It helps you develop your own confidence as well. I felt a lot calmer in there.

"There's no anxiety. There's no pressure. You're just doing what you know how to do and you're doing it well. And this place facilitates that really well."

Ash says that if they can give young people the help they need and get them off the streets, maybe they can change lives.

"We give them a purpose, get them to come to work every day," he says. "We show them that if you work, you can earn some money and get a roof back over your heads. We build relationships with them and get them in contact with the right people.

"It's all about changing their lives."



Chloe and Bryce show off their barista skills.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army services.

# It's all about youth care in Karratha

**WORDS** Cliff Worthing

Unique challenges and opportunities supporting young people are all part of a day's work for the Salvos in the remote mining community of Karratha, Western Australia.

"Every day is different in our job – sometimes it doesn't always go to plan, but we learn to work and adapt to all different situations," says Kerry Hall, service manager at Karratha Youth Accommodation Service.

The youth service operates in the city of Karratha, situated about 1500 kilometres north of Perth in the Pilbara region. It has six beds and two independent living units for young people at risk of

homelessness. It also offers a drug and alcohol outreach program.

"We have a job to do, but we have to be human because we really care about young people in our community," Kerry says. "We created a home-like setting that is nurturing and caring, something some of the young people may never have experienced before."

## COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE

The Salvos provide more than a bed for the young people, endeavouring to respond to all their challenges. Facilitating health checks and Centrelink payments, sourcing identity documents (sometimes for the first time),



A young client of the Karratha Youth Accommodation Service feeds a horse during a visit to the local stables.





RJ (Yaandina Community Services), Angela Day (previous AOD worker), Kevin Michel (Member for Pilbara) and Kerry Hall.

reconnecting with school, filling out housing applications, assisting with living skills, local excursions, and providing 'a shoulder to cry on' are some of the multifaceted supports offered.

The challenges of providing a service in a remote mining community include retaining staff, who need partners with well-paid employment because of the high cost of rent and utilities. Mining towns also have transient populations, so sometimes staff need to leave when their partner is relocated.

However, the mining community also offers opportunities for young people through traineeships and apprenticeships. The Salvos have partnerships with Fortescue Metals Group and Woodside Energy, which provide training and employment opportunities, supported by on-site mentors advising about healthy living skills, cooking and fitness programs.

"Some of our clients have gone all the way through the 12-week traineeships

into apprenticeships and can now live independently," Kerry says. "The companies in our partnerships look after them so well, but they still pop in to see us from time to time asking for help or giving us an update on their lives."

Kerry says they also have four clients working in local shops, one studying hairdressing at TAFE, another in a leadership program, and another working for a local Aboriginal corporation.

"Some come to us with literally nothing, so we try to rebuild their lives from the ground up," Kerry adds. "If we can't help them immediately due to the accommodation being at capacity, we point them in the right direction and offer them as much assistance as we can."



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army homelessness services.

# Homelessness across the ecosystem

A place for all to belong and call home

**WORDS** Melanie-Anne Holland

In the biblical book of Matthew chapter 8, verse 20, Jesus is recorded as saying, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." One sentence can say so much. All kinds of people wanted to become followers of Jesus, but he said, "Are you sure? I'm technically homeless" (my paraphrase).

Two things really stand out to me. The first is that in Jesus, we see God as itinerant. Jesus was vulnerable and did not have a fixed home address. Instead, he relied on the welcome, kindness and hospitality of those around him. There are cultural nuances to this, of course, but it challenges my thoughts on the importance of community and how we must look for the divine in every person we meet.

Jesus later teaches, "Whenever you did one of these things [feed, clothe, visit, encourage] to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me" (Matthew chapter 25, verse 40, The Message Bible translation). Jesus continues to place himself alongside those experiencing homelessness today.

## NATURAL ORDER

The second idea that catches my attention is that it is the natural order of things to have a home. Birds have nests and hollows. That is how life is meant to be, and yet in Australia we find so much habitat being destroyed, with many animals becoming displaced and homeless.

I've only recently learnt that red-tailed black cockatoos only nest in the hollows of trees more than 200 years old. Because they have their babies in winter, they need hollows with thicker walls to provide insulation for their chicks. As we continue to log old-growth forests and clear bushland for residential developments, mines and agriculture, we also take away the birds' nests, and the trees we plant in their stead will not be suitable homes for another two centuries.

“

**Jesus continues to place himself alongside those experiencing homelessness today.**

”

At this rate, it is likely that red-tailed black cockatoos could be extinct in the wild in the next 20 years – all for lack of suitable homes.

One of the responses to this crisis has been the development of artificial nesting boxes that meet the specific needs of red-tailed black cockatoos. Placed in the traditional range of the black cockatoos and near good food sources,



studies continue to measure the willingness of these birds to take the temporary homes they are being offered. I dearly hope they are successful.

When it comes to the pressing issue of homelessness in Australia, we need to be sincere and creative in finding ways that bring both crisis and long-term supports to those who have nowhere to call home. There are short-term measures that can bring comfort and relief while we collectively strive for

reforms that ensure that everyone can gain and sustain a home.

I believe that God cares very deeply about homelessness – both in people and animals – and that there is something sacred in offering each other a place to belong and call home. The Salvation Army works tirelessly to end homelessness in Australia and believes that when we work together we can achieve this. “It’s time to end homelessness: together, we can.”

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- In Australia, 303 native wildlife species rely on hollows to nest, breed, shelter and feed. This includes 31 per cent of native mammals and 15 per cent of native birds.
- Each animal species has its own requirements in terms of hollow size, location (branch or trunk), tree species and surrounding vegetation, which affects how a hollow is used.
- As the adage says, “The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.”
- So, get planting, but also find ways to protect the trees and hollows in your community now.

For more information, go to [wilderness.org.au](http://wilderness.org.au)



Scan here for more stories of hope.

# A place to call home

With help from the Salvos, Elizabeth now has a new lease on life

**WORDS** Elizabeth

I am of Maori descent and moved to Sydney from New Zealand with my family in 2001 as a child. I was enjoying school and making friends, but when my parents separated and my siblings left home I felt abandoned and alone. I dropped out of school at the start of Year 11, fell into depression and became a homebody, with no sense of purpose.

On my 18th birthday, I became rebellious and, with no brakes, I ran straight into the world. Then I met the man who became the father of my two eldest children, and ended up in a four-year domestic violence relationship.

## HITTING ROCK BOTTOM

At the time my mum moved to Brisbane, and I had been going between her and my partner. During one of my visits my mum passed away suddenly, and I was heartbroken. I returned to Sydney and

drowned myself in drugs to numb the pain of losing my mama.

That's when I hit rock bottom. I was getting addicted hard and fast to meth and knew if I carried on my babies wouldn't have a mum to be there for them.

“

**I had never experienced such an outpouring of grace, compassion, empathy and love.**

”

In the middle of my grief and drug addiction I found Christ. I prayed the prayer of acceptance of salvation and that God would direct my future.

I moved to my brother and sister-in-law's place in Adelaide and after a few years I moved to Brisbane to live with my dad. This didn't last long, so I got a job and rented a little unit. The kids were growing up and things were going well. I had two more children.

When I received news that my sister in-law was mentally unwell I moved to Adelaide to help my brother look after her.

## ANOTHER MOVE

Things went downhill fast. I started to realise I couldn't help them and the environment was triggering my own



Elizabeth and her caseworker, Jonelle.





Elizabeth shared her story at a recent Red Shield Appeal launch in Ipswich, Qld.

anxiety, so my four children and I went back to Brisbane.

I stayed with my dad for a year and was struggling with finances so I went to The Salvation Army in Goodna for assistance. I asked Jonelle, the caseworker there, what support there would be if I found myself and my children homeless.

The February 2022 floods saw Goodna directly impacted, and it wasn't long until it all just got too much. When I retaliated against my dad's partner's unkind behaviour towards me and my children I was told we had a week to leave.

I went back to the Salvos to ask Jonelle about my options. She said that after the floods caravan parks and hotels were full, and the Salvos were sourcing caravans and land as an emergency option.

I found a caravan to hire on a website and when a member of the Salvos heard about how Jonelle was helping me he told her the caravan could be put in the backyard of his property.

I met Jonelle at the property after work, where she and a few others were working tirelessly, mowing lawns, and tidying the place to make it homely for us.

### A NEW LIFE

Every day Jonelle and her team helped my children and me through our trials. They listened, they were consistent, they laughed with us, they gave us stability and showed us so much grace.

I believe the Lord sent us in the right direction in our time of need. I had never experienced such an outpouring of grace, compassion, empathy and love, with no judgment and no condemnation.

I thank God every day for the caring team at Goodna Salvos.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army homelessness services.

## Potato bake



### Ingredients

1.8kg Desiree potatoes, 1 barbecue chicken (skin and bones removed, shredded), 300ml pouring cream, 120g baby spinach, 200g coarsely grated mozzarella

### Method

- Bring potatoes to boil in a large saucepan. Cook for 15 minutes or until tender. Drain and set aside to cool.
- Peel potatoes and cut into 8mm slices. Arrange one-third of the slices over the base of a baking dish (7 x 20 x 32cm). Top with half the chicken.
- Drizzle over one-third of the cream. Top with half the spinach and half the cheese.
- Continue layering with half remaining potato, all remaining chicken, another one-third cupful of cream and remaining spinach.
- Finish with remaining potato, cream and cheese. Bake for 45-50 minutes or until golden.

## FUNNY THINGS KIDS SAY



"If happiness is a warm dog,  
is sadness a cold cat?"

"Cat food looks better than it tastes."

"Wrecking the environment is  
something aliens do. Not people."

"Our duck had babies.  
They're duck puppies."

## SIGNING IN



# Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

	6	4						
						2		4
		1	2			6		
4	3						7	
9		7			6	4		
6		8	4				9	
	9		3					
		3	8				1	2
	4	2	9					5



## Quick quiz

1. Due to the low nutrient levels of the eucalyptus leaves they feed on, koalas can sleep up to how many hours each day?
2. Female green turtles have been known to travel more than how many kilometres in their migration between feeding grounds and nesting beaches?
3. Approximately how long is the sticky tongue of a numbat, used to collect termites?
4. Dugongs can live for around how many years?
5. One bilby can make up to how many burrows within its home range to use for shelter?

# Tum-Tum



On which page of this week's *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?

## Bible byte

"A good man is concerned for the welfare of his animals ..."

Proverbs 12:10a  
Living Bible translation

Quiz answers: 1. 18 2. 2600 3. 10-11 cm 4. 70 5. 12. Tum-Tum: is hiding in the coffee grinder on page 6.

**Australia has the highest animal extinction rate in the world.**

**In the past 200 years, 100 of Australia's endemic species have been declared as extinct (or extinct in the wild).**

**Today, more than 480 of our native animals are at risk of being lost forever.**

**More than 80% of our plants, mammals, reptiles and frogs are unique to Australia.**

DID YOU KNOW?

8	4	2	9	7	1	3	6	5
5	7	3	6	4	9	1	2	
1	9	6	3	5	2	8	4	7
6	2	8	4	3	7	5	9	1
9	1	7	5	2	6	4	3	8
4	3	5	1	9	8	2	7	6
7	5	1	2	4	3	6	8	9
3	8	9	6	1	5	7	2	4
2	6	4	7	8	9	1	5	3

# GIFTS THAT MAKE THEM SMILE



Shop Salvos Stores for gifts that  
make them smile this Father's Day



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