



National



**Homeless
Collective**

Annual Report 2017/2018

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Our Story

National Homeless Collective is an Australian charity that creates solutions to complex issues arising from homelessness, domestic violence, and social disadvantage.

“Housing should be seen as a human right. Available and affordable for everyone. Not something you get if only if you’ve had a privileged life.”

–Donna Stolzenberg, Director

Based in Port Melbourne we run services across Victoria, and run programs and services throughout Australia. Our programs all support at risk women and children and include the nationwide **Period Project**.

Since 2015, we have created five major sub charities including; **Period Project, School Project, Plate Up Pro-ject, Sleeping Bags for Homelessness, and Secret Women’s Business.**

National Homeless Collective employs women currently experiencing homeless as well as those at risk. Our board is entirely volunteer-run and comprises of 90% women and 50% First Nation’s People.

For more information visit our website www.nhcollective.org.au

National Homeless Collective

has a proven record of:

- Financial and organisational integrity
- Delivering on our projects
- Working in the best interest of the people we assist
- Reducing stigma and promoting equality
- Working collaboratively with other organisations.



Mission Statement

Mission

Our mission is to be a leading charity responding immediately to the complex needs of people experiencing homelessness and associated causes for homelessness, such as family violence, domestic abuse, and housing unaffordability.

In all of our work, we ensure we centre the needs of those we're assisting as well as customs of First Nations and LGBTIQ+ people.

Vision

We see an Australia where everyone has the opportunity to be safely housed, have access to essential hygiene, schooling, and living items, as well as avenues for assistance in times of need.

Values:

- Acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land.
- Seeks to empower women, especially those escaping violent and abusive situations.
- Seeks to support all people experiencing homelessness and housing uncertainty, including children and the elderly.
- Supports the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Provides immediate, short, medium, and long-term solutions to complex issues arising from homelessness including employment and sustainable pathways to housing.
- Provides immediate, short, medium, and long-term solutions to complex issues arising from domestic violence and abuse, including connection to crisis accommodation numbers and services.

“Every Australian deserves to have a safe place to call home.”



Director's Report

Our latest year in charity has seen us go from strength to strength. We are proud to be recognised as a peak body in homelessness services for alleviation of suffering caused by homelessness.

During this past year we began our transition from **Melbourne Homeless Collective** to **National Homeless Collective**. Growth requires change and as we've grown, so have we changed to more accurately reflect our service provision. We are now proud to be a national company.

National Homeless Collective now has operations in six states and territories, with the recent collaboration of our charity and **Essentials for Women SA**. Our organisations joined forces to provide better services for those we seek to support and to knowledge share and combine resources. Not only does each state offer one of the most accessible and practical programs for hygiene and sanitary support, we also provide information, advice and education to other support services. 2017-2018 saw the implementation of our first ever **Plate Up Project**, with 12 participants from **Launch Housing** undertaking a 12 week hospitality and training course. We were thrilled with the outcomes which saw women who were long term unemployed and homeless gain not only employment but independent housing. We would

like to thank **Community Sector Banking** and **StreetSmart Australia** for funding our pilot projects to enable us to build a solid and robust course that fits the needs of the individual in a group setting.

2017-2018 also saw us increase our reach with **The School Project** which now services children in Brisbane, the Murray Region and on the Gold Coast. We're now reaching more children in crisis and helping them to achieve their educational goals. **TSP** also supports children to achieve their sporting and extra curricular goals with provisions of anything from bikes to soccer boots.

We were proud to be invited to knowledge share with government and independent organisations throughout the past 12 months. In particular our involvement with the **Department of Health** and **Human Services** working groups to build a more effective pathway and support service for homelessness was particularly noteworthy. We attended many events throughout the year and were guest speakers on numerous radio stations, including our favorites **JOYfm** and **RRR**.

News of our services and knowledge reached quite a few media publications including **Australian Women's Weekly** for our collaboration with **Gift Box Organic**, and **Chanel 10** for our work with women on the streets. We also

had articles published by **SBS media** both here in Australia and also in Greece. News of our work has now spread worldwide.

Another year of growth also saw us becoming employers to 8 people currently experiencing homelessness and also saw us as a provider of work experience for children with special needs who are doing **VCAL**. We are proud to now be fulfilling our dreams of providing safe and nurturing employment opportunities for people who are disadvantaged.

We were proud to be guests and many community events again in 2017-2018, with one of our favorites, **Renegade Football** once again inviting us to participate as charity partner. We were also very proud to once again attend **Midsumma Carnival** to support our friends in the **LGBTIQA+** community and are proud to also support the new **Supervised Injecting Room** in Richmond. The last 12 months has seen strengthen our community bonds with many different and varied organisations and we couldn't be prouder.

Donations from our supporters continued to keep us afloat to do the work we do. We thank each and every

person who donates to us as without your support we simply have no way of operating. To run an effective and modern organisation we need support from the community to support those in need. We thank each and every one of you who continues to support us.

We continued to deliver over 30 **Homeless Awareness Sessions** – **HAS** to schools and community partners and also open the warehouse to facilitate packing days and **HAS** for many large and well known organisations including, staff from **Channel 10**, **Kikki.K** and **Penguin Publishing**. We were proud to be invited to once again participate in the **Lord Mayors Challenge** and the **Common Purpose Challenge** working with students from **RMIT University** to deliver new innovative ideas for best practice in **Homelessness Services**.

As 2018 draws closer to an end we look forward to new and exciting ventures in the charity sector, including a retail store and a centralised information hub for women leaving abusive relationships. We very much look forward to having you along for the journey.

Sincerely,

Donna Stolzenberg
Founder & Director of National Homeless Collective



Our People



DONNA STOLZENBERG

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT



NEVENA SPIROVSKA

VICE PRESIDENT



GLENN STOLZENBERG

TREASURER



KATRINA HORNE

SECRETARY



AMY RUST

BOARD OFFICER



SINEAID HAMMER

BOARD OFFICER

Our Projects

Period Project

The largest charity of National Homeless Collective is **Period Project**, which spans across all three states, two territories and several regional hubs across Victoria. **Period Project** provides support, menstruation products and essential living items to women, non-binary people, and trans men experiencing homelessness and housing uncertainty.

The Period Packs we provide come in six different styles, to cover the various types of homeless periods. In the last financial year, we have given out over 10,000 period packs via our 56 partner agencies.

Period Project operates from our volunteer run warehouse in

Port Melbourne, where we also co-ordinate our work-for-dole program for at-risk and long-term unemployed women. The women assist in assembling our 'Period Packs' that are distributed to agencies across Australia.

Sleeping Bags For Homelessness

Starting off as **Blanket Melbourne** back in 2014, **Sleeping Bags for Homelessness** began as a small blanket drive to help keep people experiencing homelessness on the streets of Melbourne keep warm.

What began as a small call-out for assistance, ended up with a staggering 3,500 blankets and sleeping bags in just 8 weeks thanks to the overwhelming community support.

This year - thanks to our collaboration with **Humans In Melbourne** - we were able to fundraise and deliver over 1,750 brand new sleeping bags to people experiencing homelessness across Australia.

The Plate-Up Project

The Plate-Up Project is a new homelessness and domestic violence initiative launched in

Melbourne to offer people fleeing domestic violence and experiencing homelessness a hand up, not a hand out.

Plate-Up assists its students to gain new cooking, hospitality, and employment skills in a supported and safe learning environment.

Thanks to **Community Sector Banking**, we've been able to run two successful cohorts of **The Plate-Up Project**.

The School Project

The School Project was launched in 2016 to address the overwhelming and growing shortfalls families with school children face when leaving dangerous domestic violence situations.

We have found that affected families often find themselves living in crisis accommodation - like motels or cars - without access to school items. This often prevents children from returning to their education.

We purchase and distribute brand new school equipment, uniforms and essentials to those kids who need it most.

In the last financial year, we delivered over 800 backpacks as well as 40 swimming bags, 60 camp bags, including sleeping bags, pyjamas, and torches.

We've also sponsored a young Indigenous girl to play football, purchased several bikes for kids in need, bought bedding for newly housed children and supplied sporting equipment to children who needed it.

Secret Women's Business

Secret Women's Business is an indigenous run project that specifically supports First Nation's women and girls in remote communities in a culturally appropriate manner.

Many First Nations women and girls do not have access to adequate sanitary items due to high costs, unavailability of items, and cultural boundaries.

This year, we partnered with The Elders of Yuendumu Community to deliver 23 cartons of sanitary items for the town's school and six regional centres to last over 12 months. We also included gifts for the community's children for their graduation, courtesy of KiKKi. K.

“In my five years of teaching experience here there has been plenty promises made by so many organisations but never fulfilled. You and your organisation are the first and the only ones who are providing so much for the students here. Thank you so much for your support.”

–Dowreen, Yuendumu Elder

Our Thanks

“Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our work. From those to share our posts, to those who donate their time and money to our cause. We couldn’t deliver the work we do without you.”

–Donna Stolzenberg,
Director of National Homeless Collective

- **Renegade Pub Football League** for supporting our work year after year.
- **Humans in Melbourne** for partnering with us to raise over \$40,000 to buy sleeping bags.
- **Gift Box Organic** for partnering with us to help at-risk women.
- **Penguin Publishing** for generously for joining us a volunteer partner.
- **Kikki.K** for raising funds for The School Project
- **Community Sector Banking** for our Plate Up Project grant.
- **Mitsubishi Werribee**
- Our partners: **Australia Post, Startrack**
- **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** for their ongoing support of The School Project
- **Southern FM** for their support
- **StreetSmart** for funding The Plate Up Project
- **One Ledger** for their accounting assistance
- **Launch Housing** for partnering with us on The Plate Up Project
- **Good360** for their support
- **Mentone Girls Grammar** for their support
- **SunSuper** for their support
- **Perpetual** for their support
- **Meg Copp** for her graphic design assistance
- **Danielle Walt** for policy guidance



Statistics & Information

Alarming statistics about homelessness in Australia:



There are over **120,000** Australians experiencing homelessness



44% of rough sleepers are women



This makes up **0.5%** of our total population



Indigenous Australians are more likely to experience **27%** homelessness than non-Indigenous Australians

Information about homelessness:



39% of people experiencing homelessness live in severely overcrowded houses



20% of people experiencing homelessness live in supported accommodation.



6% of people experiencing homelessness live in improvised housing dwellings

Causes of homelessness:



The single biggest factor is extreme financial difficulties arising from unforeseen situations such as medical issues or job loss



Housing affordability and availability, especially with the demand for subsidised and public housing rising outstripping supply



Domestic violence and abuse

Causes of homelessness for women:



Domestic violence and abuse



Financial dominance and control



Isolation from friends and family



Loss of independence

Challenges for women experiencing homelessness:



Increased risk of infections



Increased rates of sexually transmitted infections



Increased rates of assault



Increased mental health issues



Risk of isolation from essential health services

Challenges managing menstruation when experiencing homelessness:



Lack of access to essential menstruation items



Stained clothes



Higher risk of infection if using old clothes to manage bleeding



Exacerbation of menstruation symptoms



Difficulty accessing services during menstruation

How You Can Help

Financial Donations

Please help us sustain our work by making a generous donation.

National Homeless Collective is a Public Benevolent Institution that has DGR Status. All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

If you need a receipt, please email:

glenn@nhcollective.org.au

National Homeless Collective

BSB: 063-027

ACC: 1011-8955

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Host a Fundraiser

We are a 100% donations run organisation that is completely sustained by fundraising and grants.

You can host a fundraiser at your school, University or workplace and one of our representatives can attend to collect the funds and speak about our work.

Email:

nevena@nhcollective.org.au

Lunch & Learn Sessions

We highly encourage people to book a 'Lunch & Learn' session with us.

Groups are welcome to visit us for an informative session that dispels the myths of homelessness and domestic abuse.

The sessions are empowering and can be tailored to age appropriate learning levels.

Email:

info@nhcollective.org.au

