

Building better lives together



Brotherhood
of St Laurence

Working for an Australia free of poverty

Building better lives since 1930

Youth Foyer resident's mural unveiled at Brotherhood's Fitzroy office

A stunning mural celebrating our commitment to reconciliation was unveiled at our Fitzroy head office in late May, to mark Reconciliation Week.

Education First Youth Foyer resident Christinaray created the mural.

She says reconciliation is close to her heart, as an Indigenous woman of the Warumunga people, and the mural uses the metaphor of rivers.

'The rivers show how the Brotherhood's carved its own way. The path started off small, all those years ago, and developed into something big – helping people, meeting people, making impressions on people, giving them a chance,' she says.

Our innovative Education First Youth Foyers program in Melbourne has allowed Christinaray to pursue her education and career goals.

The Brotherhood runs the program in partnership with Launch Housing and two TAFE institutes, with Victorian Government support. It's a great example of the power of collaboration.

The program aims to break the cycle of homelessness and enable young people to reach their potential.

All foyer residents make a deal.

They agree to enrol in, and stay in, education and training, and in return enjoy safe, affordable accommodation and support to study, train and work.

The foyers – in Broadmeadows on the Kangan Institute campus and the other in Glen Waverley at the Holmesglen Institute – each house 40 young people in studio apartments with shared communal areas, supervised by trained staff around the clock.

Support services on site include career guidance, employment assistance, mentoring, mental and physical health support and assistance with involvement in volunteer activities.

'The Education First Youth Foyer in Broadmeadows has given me the chance to study art at RMIT, so I know first-hand the Brotherhood's work can transform lives.'

To find out more visit

www.bsl.org.au/youthfoyers



Christinaray

Invest today, be a part of lasting change.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Extending our approach into new frontiers

I'm pleased to be able to report that we are about to open up a new front in our efforts to tackle poverty and disadvantage.

From July this year the Brotherhood will become involved in the delivery of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). We will be responsible for assisting people with disability to put together plans for their care and support under the NDIS and to help them to participate fully in the mainstream life of our community.

This will continue, in another way, our long commitment to opening and expanding opportunities for disadvantaged people. We understand that choice, power over decision making, careful planning, co-ordinated community effort and mainstream connections are essential for people with disability, their families and their carers to achieve good outcomes.

For too long disability has been a major cause of poverty and

exclusion. The NDIS presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ensure that people with disability are able to fully participate in the social and economic life of our community and to thereby enjoy a life of common dignity. We are pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to this great social endeavor.

This new work for the Brotherhood will span five municipalities in Melbourne – Banyule, Darebin, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra. The implementation work for the service is now well underway with special attention being given employing people with disability as providers of the service.

As is our well established way, we will work closely with others. Partnerships, collaboration and community engagement will



Tony Nicholson

underscore our efforts. This will include working with the designated local councils, disability advocacy groups, disability service providers, local community organisations and local employers. We understand the importance of helping in building the capacity of mainstream organisations to be inclusive of people with a disability.

Best wishes,

Tony Nicholson

Shonna shines in Winter Appeal

Our current Winter Appeal focuses on Shonna who has thrived through her work as a Home Tutor with the HIPPY program in Port Stephens.

The Brotherhood runs the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) across Australia, in partnership with community organisations with local expertise, to resource parents facing disadvantage to become their child's first teacher, and to gain employment.

Shonna is an Indigenous woman of the Worimi community and joined HIPPY as a parent in 2014. She started working as a HIPPY tutor last year, and through that role, completed Certificate III in Community Services.

'Becoming a home tutor has given me the skills and confidence to be more involved in the community,' says Shonna, who was out of work for six years before joining the program.

Her next career goal is to obtain a childcare certificate,

and her plans in that field could have a big community impact. Shonna recently conducted a survey of local parents, many of whom face barriers to work.

'Parents would look for job opportunities if there was day care centre where their kids could go,' she says.

Shonna hopes her HIPPY experience will lead to further work in the childcare sector and plans to put the proposal for a new childcare centre to the local council. She says her involvement with the program has given her the confidence to pursue her goals.



Shonna

Collaboration is key

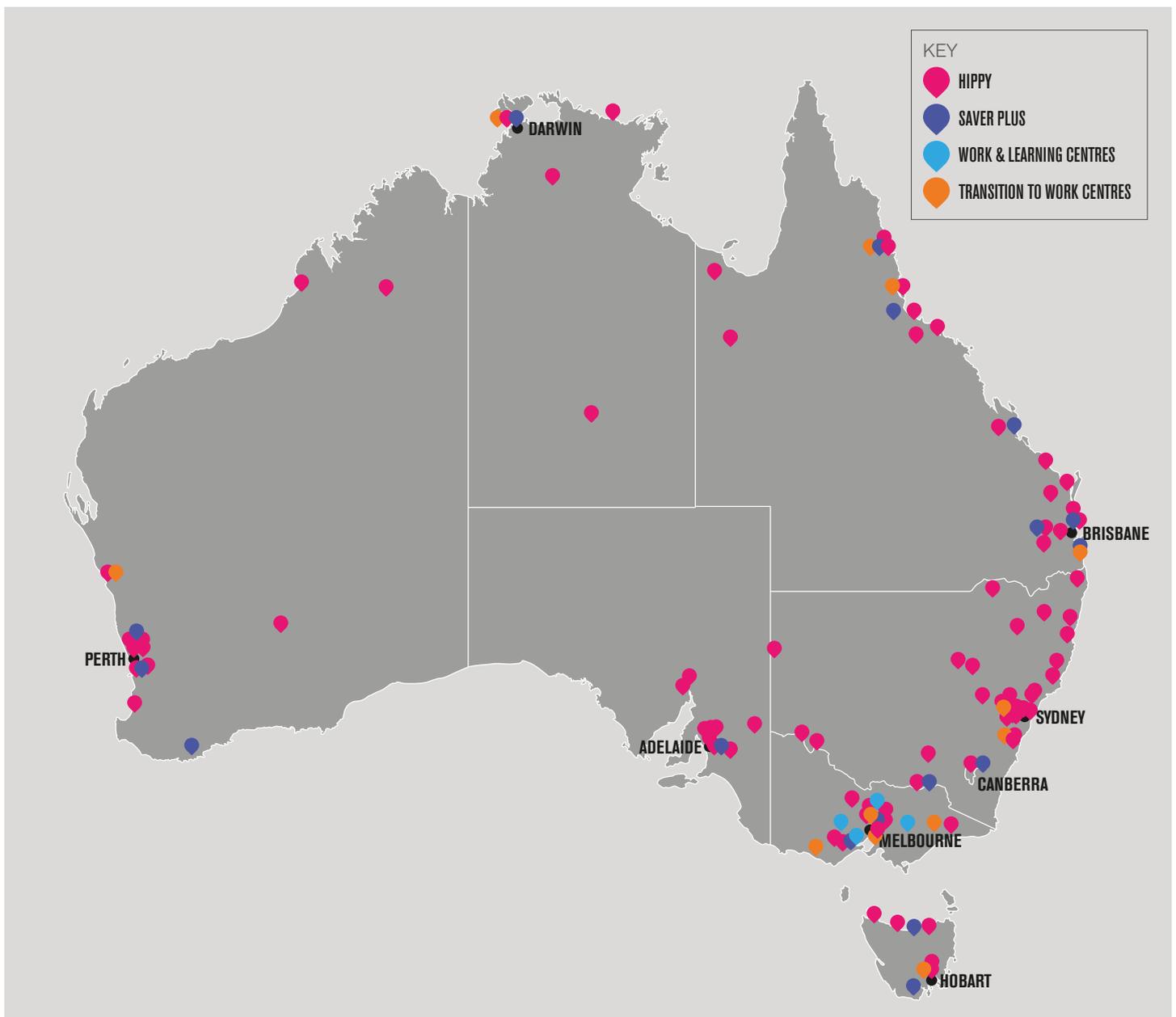
Our long experience tells us that the best results in tackling poverty are achieved when we join hands with others. Collaboration and co-operation are the key.

The Brotherhood isn't driven to become a large national organisation with offices in every state or region, as we don't believe this is the most effective way to support local communities. Instead, we often trial on a small scale what we believe can have significant impact, then partner with governments and local community organisations to achieve that impact across the country. This has the added benefit of avoiding duplication and ensuring the most efficient deployment of limited resources.

Currently we are partnering with a growing number of organisations around Australia to deliver our evidence-

based programs, including HIPPY, Saver Plus, Transition to Work. We take a 'place-based' approach and seek to partner with local organisations that are best placed to understand, engage with and support their local communities – as can be seen on this map.

Collaboration isn't always easy, but investing the same value in our partnerships as we do in our programs, and seeing the two as interlinked, we are already seeing this approach work where it matters the most – on the ground in places of high need around Australia.



Governor of Victoria and Judge Howard join career workshop in Broadmeadows

Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria, and His Honour Judge Anthony Howard took part in a workshop with young people from two of our employment and education programs on 10 May.

The Governor and Judge Howard shared their experiences with 20 participants of the Transition to Work program and the Education First Youth Foyer, in an experiential learning workshop at the Broadmeadows Youth Foyer.

The Brotherhood invited the Governor and Judge Howard to the workshop as part of our National Volunteer Week celebrations.

They shared insights into their distinguished careers and took part in group discussions on topics such as setting and achieving career goals, and developing a flexible and persistent mindset.

Harriet is studying a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Criminal Justice as part of the Youth Foyer program. She said the workshop was an amazing experience.

'It's kind of terrific. I feel really lucky. It's not really common to see the Governor. We can learn a lot from her. In life you follow the footsteps of people older than



Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria, and His Honour Judge Anthony Howard with Harriet and Maryam

you. If you've got mentors, or people older who give you advice, I think it's going to make your life better.'

The Brotherhood runs the Youth Foyers – on-campus housing for young people while they study towards a career – in partnership with Launch Housing and Kangan Institute, with Victorian Government support.

Transition to Work is a training and employment program for young people living in Melbourne's north and west, run in partnership with local business and with Australian Government support.

For more about volunteering with us visit www.bsl.org.au/act/volunteer/

BROTHERHOOD

Books

If you're a fan of online shopping, and you love second-hand books, then look no further than Brotherhood Books.

Brotherhood Books has been operating since late 2009 and sells 800–1,500 books per week via our online store.

Our team of dedicated volunteers sort, clean and price high-quality donated books, the proceeds of which help further the charitable work of the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Some of the more interesting things found in donated books include: \$2,000 cash, dried flowers from 150 years ago and birthday cards from the turn of last century.

You can check out the huge selection of books and join the Brotherhood Books mailing list to

receive savings, news and updates at www.brotherhoodbooks.org.au

If you'd like to donate your books to us, it's easy and can be done in two ways:

- you can drop them off at your local Brotherhood Op Shop OR
- contact us and we'll collect them from you for free (greater Melbourne area only). Simply call **1300 DONATE (1300 366 283)**.



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Building better lives since 1930

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