

Building youth a better tomorrow

Anglicare Youth Homelessness Project



Queensland is facing a youth homelessness crisis

Our youth are our collective future. What we can achieve as a society depends on the degree to which our young people can realise their unique promise in life.

Yet tragically, over 28,000 young people fall into homelessness each year.¹

Many find themselves in this desperate situation after a breakdown in their family life, but increasingly, it's soaring rents and a lack of housing that is robbing many young people of a stable environment and a safe place to sleep each night.

These are our children, or grandchildren, who are struggling without the very basics of life, in a society that no longer sees them. Homelessness can eat away at their health and spirit, their sense of self, and their dreams of something better.

By investing in Anglicare Southern Queensland's Youth Homelessness Project, you can be a part of the movement to change this heartbreaking crisis. You can help provide our most vulnerable young people with the safety, stability and care they need to build a better future. For them and for all of us.

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census, 2021



Current accommodation often can't meet the demand, or young people's varying needs

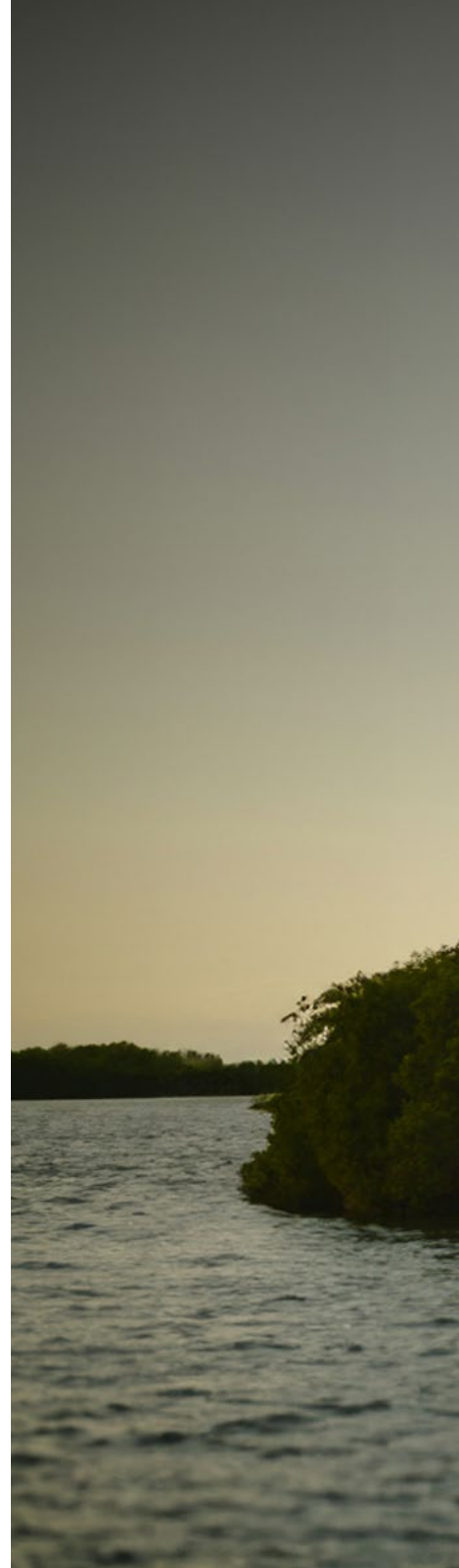
The housing crisis has left more young people across Greater Brisbane facing homelessness than ever before and, often, there's not enough emergency accommodation for when a young person reaches out for help.

If they do find a place to stay, it's usually set up like a family home, with shared living space and bathroom facilities. This model can fall short for young people who are vulnerable or have experienced trauma, and is often not appropriate for couples or young families.

Anglicare Southern Queensland is calling on your generosity to build a new kind of homeless accommodation service. Together, we can give vulnerable young people a place that is 'theirs' and support them to walk their own unique path to independence.

In 2023, there was not a single affordable rental in Greater Brisbane for a young person on Youth Allowance payments.²

2. Anglicare Southern Queensland 2024 Rental Affordability Snapshot



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It's hard enough for brothers and sisters and parents to get along at times. With a lot of crisis accommodation, young people have to share their living space with strangers or other young people that they may not like.”

Rees Maddren, Youth Services Manager,
Anglicare Southern Queensland



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We want to move away from deficit thinking that says to a young person that their life has problems and they need us to help them. The new focus is around staff being a champion for young people: supporting them, while they live in their own space, to build up their strengths and talents to achieve their own goals.”

Rees Maddren, Youth Services Manager,
Anglicare Southern Queensland





Support the Youth Homelessness Project today. Provide a safe haven and a fresh start.

With the help of your generous contribution, this project will deliver practical, and urgently needed, housing and wrap around services to support young people in the Logan region.

The project has been shaped by what the young people who use Anglicare's services have told us they need: privacy, independence and adults who champion them.

Beyond the bricks-and-mortar will be a new way of supporting young people. A way that celebrates their strengths, their resilience and their ability to reach their potential.

Aims of the Youth Homelessness Project:

- Increase housing support in the Logan area
- Give young people a place that's theirs, even for short stays
- Support young people for longer, through both housing and wrap around services to give them the best chance to stand on their own two feet and not fall back into homelessness
- A focus on young people's strengths, and give them the tools and confidence to achieve their goals for the future.





Architect's impression

Highlights:

- A 30-unit urban model in Logan for young people 16-25 years of age
- Studio apartments suitable for singles and couples, and one-bedroom apartments designed for young families – all accessible for people with disability
- 24/7 on-site support
- Caseworker support available day and night; whenever it's needed
- Office space for support visits, including health and employment services
- Modern, welcoming apartments equipped with furniture and appliances
- Secure key card access to floors and each apartment.



There's more to homelessness than not having a roof over your head. You can help young people, like Will, pursue a future they deserve.

It's often the things we don't think about, the things we take for granted, that are the biggest obstacle for young people experiencing homelessness.

Without a place to call home, somewhere to wash clothes, a physical address, many young people struggle to find and maintain employment. Without employment, they can't get housing. It's a cycle that's hard to break.

By providing safe accommodation, Anglicare is able to empower these young people to take back control over their lives and build a future that they deserve.

But, the Youth Homelessness Project is about more than just accommodation. This service will allow residents to access wrap-around support focused on their social and emotional wellbeing, and their journey toward independence. This may include a range of mental health support services, connection to education, training and employment opportunities, relationship building, financial literacy and other forms of counselling.

You can give young people, like Will, a place to call home. You can give them the opportunity to pursue the future they choose for themselves.







Will's story

Will became homeless when he was 15 years old. His dad told him and his brothers to leave, as it wasn't safe for them to stay at home. His dad suffered from PTSD and often had suicidal tendencies.

Will went to the city first, having heard that they open up parks for the homeless, but it was hard. People would take his belongings whenever he left his base to do little things other people take for granted, like have a shower, or brush his teeth.

"I was living day-to-day, hour-to-hour. I couldn't think of anything for the future, I just had to worry about surviving in the moment. I left school in grade 9 because I couldn't pay for it, and I couldn't get a job because of basic things – I couldn't shower and couldn't keep my clothes to keep my job."

Will was homeless for three years before being connected with Anglicare. Within a week we found him somewhere to live. Shortly after, he found a job at a golf course, which he loves.

When he first moved in, he says, "Well I was a bit nervous, but I was welcomed warmly and whole-heartedly by the other kids as well as by the support worker. Every worker who came in, had a one-on-one chat, saying 'we're always here. You know if you ever feel uncomfortable you can come and have a chat.'"

Will feels optimistic about his future. The opportunities he's been given have helped him. He's now working and going to the gym and finds satisfaction from both. Seeing what some other young people have gone through, he says things need to change sooner rather than later, before they have no hope for their futures.

“ It doesn't take much. For me, it happened pretty quickly and it was pretty eye-opening. Anybody can be in that situation, especially in today's world with the cost of living and housing prices going up, it makes it a lot easier for kids to fall down that path.”

Will, age 18

Homelessness can diminish the promise of young people, like Leo*. Will you be someone who says, 'No more'?

The ages of 16-25 are crucial years, which can shape a young person's ability to realise their potential and navigate the challenges of adulthood.

Yet, at a time when they should be tackling final exams and first jobs, many young Queenslanders are sleeping rough and worrying about their next meal.

It's an exhausting existence that tells them, day-after-day, they don't matter. Some will turn to drugs and alcohol as an escape, which can cause their lives to unravel even further. Without support, many young people face futures far harder than they should be.

By investing in Anglicare's Youth Homelessness Project, you are saying that our society can, and must, do better. You will help give vulnerable young people, like Leo, the chance they deserve to live a better tomorrow.

Leo's story

Leo was just 14 when he became homeless. He came from a good family with everything a child should need. But, he was battling an inner turmoil that caused a rift between him and his family, and was destroying his life. When he found Anglicare, Leo says he was a young man without hope.

But little by little, with the support of Anglicare, Leo began to turn his life around. He'd arrive in the morning for a hot meal, but stay for an hour-long chat with people who genuinely cared about how he was doing.

Anglicare gave Leo the basics of survival, like food, warm blankets and toiletries. Day-after-day, they also reminded him that his life had value.

Today, thanks to the support of kind people, like you, Anglicare has been able to assist Leo to obtain temporary housing. He's reconnected with his family and is focused on building his best future, one he nearly lost to homelessness.

*Name changed to protect identity

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There was a long time where I didn't have hope. I thought, 'I'm going to be like this forever.' But every single day when I went into the Anglicare office they said, 'You'll be all right. You can fix your life.'

Leo, age 18





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If you were to put me next to the version of me that didn't get help, I'd probably cry. I don't even know if that person would even still be around. That's the difference your care makes. You can give a young person like me the chance to completely change their life.”

Katie, age 18

Your investment will help young people, like Katie*, rebuild their lives and reimagine their futures.

The young people curling up on friend's couches tonight may be scared, stressed, hungry and tired. But they still dream of what they'd be doing if their life was different.

Rather than focussing on what young people, like Katie, may have lost, Anglicare supports young people to achieve what they can give to the world. It's vital to empowering young people, who may have lost faith in themselves, and their potential.

Our new Youth Homelessness Project in Logan will be purpose built to deliver this type of support. With private units that young people can make their own, and space where they can set their goals with support workers, this service will enable them to develop their own identity and achieve what they want for their future.

This is your opportunity to show young people, like Katie, that they aren't alone. You can give them a place to build their confidence and life skills, so they can jump-start their promising new futures.

*Name changed to protect identity

Katie's story

Katie spent her first five years in foster care before returning to live with her controlling mother.

Katie was a bright student and talented musician. In Year 10, she was pulled out of school to be home-schooled. But, with the pressure that was put on her and the feeling of isolation, her marks and motivation plummeted, and her relationship with her mum fell apart. In her last year of high school, Katie became homeless.

She remembers feeling lost and "dead" before she reached out to Anglicare for help. With their help, Katie had a place to live within a week. And for the first time, she felt like she had adults who were on her side.

Today, Katie shares a home with her best friend. She has her license and a job she loves supporting people with disability, and continues to find solace in songwriting.

Katie's story shows the difference you can make for young people who've faced huge difficulties. With support, stability and kindness, you can help them overcome their pasts and start creating the lives they've dreamed of.

| An invitation from
all of us, to you.





Message from Sue Cooke, CEO

I am continually humbled and grateful for the opportunity to work in collaboration with individuals from the community, like you, who embody the core values of Anglicare – love, care, hope and humility. Philanthropic support enables us to extend a helping hand to those in need, particularly our young people facing unprecedented challenges.

As a former nurse and a parent of three, I have witnessed firsthand the growing struggles that young people encounter in today's society. The pressures they face are immense, ranging from mental health issues to financial instability and homelessness. As CEO of Anglicare Southern Queensland, I have seen the impact of these challenges on our community, and it is deeply concerning.

Thanks to the support of caring individuals like you, Anglicare has been able to assist countless young people in our community. Your generosity has provided them with

essential support, guidance and resources to navigate through difficult times, and build brighter futures.

However, the statistics on youth homelessness persist, driven by a severe lack of affordable housing. It is clear that much more must be done to address this pressing issue.

With your support of this build, we can make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable young people and begin to alleviate the homelessness crisis for future generations.

Together, we have the power to change lives and create a lasting impact in our community.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our cause. Your generosity gives hope where it is needed most.

Sue Cooke

CEO, Anglicare Southern Queensland

Case Study: Toowong Women's Homeless Service

Look at what can be built when good people put their values into action.

Prior to 2014, Anglicare had to turn away around 150 women a month from our stretched homeless accommodation service. Something had to be done.

So, we reached out to our community for support to build an urgently-needed, new facility. An accommodation service where more women could find refuge and break the cycle of homelessness for good.

It was an ambitious project that would deliver 24 new units across two communal spaces – doubling the number of beds for women in need. But it required massive capital and cooperation from good-hearted people, like you.

Today, the Toowong Women's Homeless Service supports over 270 women and children annually through accommodation, safety and wrap around services that help them change their lives.





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Homelessness can happen to anyone. Sometimes, life isn't fair and you can go through some rough times. There is no shame in asking for help. The work that Anglicare does is very important.”

Grace, former client of the Toowong Women's Homeless Service



Will you join with us to tackle youth homelessness and transform the futures of the next generation?

Youth homelessness is a growing crisis in Queensland. As a compassionate society we can do more to turn the tide on this pressing issue.

We know what young people need and what our community can achieve when we rally together for the greater good.

Today, we call on your generosity to build a landmark housing service for homeless youth in Logan.

You'll make an extraordinary difference for thousands of young Queenslanders who are homeless, or at risk of experiencing homelessness, each year. You'll show them there is a place for them in our society and that they deserve lives of purpose, joy and dignity.

Please join us to bring housing and a better tomorrow to vulnerable young Queenslanders – now and for decades to come.

No young Queenslander should lose their dreams to homelessness.

Please help us build the accommodation and future our young people deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for being part of a community that never stops caring for others.

To learn more about investing in the Anglicare Youth Homelessness Project contact Helen Astbury, Head of Fundraising on **1300 610 610** or email **hastbury@anglicaresq.org.au**.



Visit www.anglicaresq.org.au/donations

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Southern Queensland

