



**You make fresh starts  
possible for so many.**

**Thank you.**

**mcm.**  
melbourne city mission  
*your future, your way*

# Their thanks are for you

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When you so kindly join with others to support MCM...

- You help people experiencing homelessness **find secure housing**
- You provide support to help **young people achieve their goals**

- You support **independent living**
- You provide family **crisis accommodation**
- You support **families** negotiating parenthood
- You help disconnected students **complete school and begin careers**
- You help young people **create new futures**
- You make **fresh starts** possible.

**Thanks to you, young people and families can make a fresh start. Here are stories from some of the many people you help.**

# Hi. I'm Luca. And I want to say thanks.

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I was only eight years old when I began taking care of my mum. She was physically disabled and had lots of health issues. She had to go in and out of hospital a lot. Sometimes she hurt herself. The last time she went, I was 15. I didn't know it was the last time - until it was too late. Then my dad told me I had to become "the man of the house".

I didn't know what to do. Mum had looked after everything. She paid all the bills. I didn't know how to get a credit card or get Centrelink or even finish school. It was

all too much, and dad and I had some really, really big fights. Some of them got physical sometimes too and so I didn't want to stay there. I slept in parks or at friends' houses in basements that were the worst, grossest places in the world.

Sleeping on a bench or a tent is really, really scary. It's like being naked. You've got nothing to protect you, no walls, no roof. But I felt safer there than I did at home.

My case worker helped me set goals. She was always there and she was always someone that I could go back to and talk to about stuff. It really helped me a lot to not feel alone and to feel that I had someone to reach out to. She helped me connect to a lot of people.

**If you helped do that, thank you.** I've now got a place of my own to live, and dad and I are getting on better.

Thanks heaps

*Luca*

## “I can’t stop smiling”

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Dear friend,

I’ve got a lot of health problems. I had a heart attack and a stroke in December 2019 and spent around 8 months in hospital before I was transferred to Mildura for rehab. I’ve still got weakness

in my left side. I can’t walk long distances or climb stairs and my balance has gone.

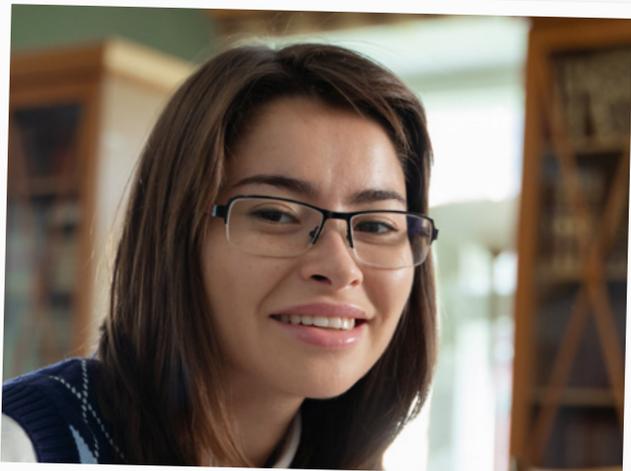
I’m 48, and I’ve had two children. I lost my son to suicide at 19 and I’ve suffered from depression since then.

MCM helped get me into crisis accommodation when I was sleeping rough. I was still using a wheelchair at that time. Then MCM got me into a new apartment. I’ve now learned to speak again and walk with a cane, and I can’t stop smiling.



## “I couldn’t have done this on my own”

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Hi,

My name is Maya, and I am really proud to tell you that with your help I graduated Senior VCAL from Hester Hornbrook Academy two years ago.

Going to Hester Hornbrook made a huge difference to me.

My dream is to become a paramedic. Since Hester Hornbrook Academy, I have completed my Certificate III in Non-Emergency Transport at Victoria University, and I’ve been supported by MCM to transition into the Diploma of Paramedical Science.

I could not have done this on my own. But I now have the confidence to achieve whatever I want. The staff at Hester Hornbrook Academy are always there for me, giving me advice, mentoring me, and helping me realise my dream to become a Paramedic and help others.

**It has meant a lot to me. Thank you for helping to make that possible.**

Yours 

# You help in thousands of ways



**6,548 Visits** by young people to Frontyard Youth Homelessness Services annually



Average of **68 placements a day** for accommodation and integrated services



**Over 16,000 calls** received annually by the Melbourne Youth Support Service



**250 Detour** homelessness support sessions



**267** Stopover new support sessions



**311** Adult & Family Homelessness Services new support sessions

## Thank you for giving fresh starts

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