

# *Your* **IMPACT**

SPRING 2025

**mcm.**

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**YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS OPEN THE  
DOORS OF MCM SERVICES TOWARDS  
STABILITY, CONNECTION, AND HEALING**





## A Message From Our CEO

**Every day at MCM, I am reminded of the courage of young people who face some of life's hardest challenges and of the extraordinary role you play in their journey.**

This year's MCM *Victorian Youth Homelessness Snapshot* lays bare the realities many young people endure including family violence, mental health crises, and years of instability. But thanks to your compassion, MCM can be there with more than a safe place to sleep. Together, we provide wraparound support that helps young people heal, stay engaged in education, and build futures filled with hope.

Your generosity has also helped us achieve so much more this year: raising over \$730,000 at *Sleep At The 'G* to support the Youth Housing Initiative, opening a new healing-focused Hybrid Campus at Hester Hornbrook Academy, and joining the CoAct network to create meaningful employment opportunities for young people with disability. These milestones are only possible because you stand with us.

I want to thank you for being part of this community of care and action. With your continued support, we can work toward ensuring every young person and family has the safety, dignity, and opportunity they deserve.

Warm regards,

**Vicki Sutton**  
CEO, MCM

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Minister for Housing and Building,  
Hon. Harriet Shing launching MCM's Victorian  
Youth Homelessness Snapshot 2025.



# You're helping young Victorians find safety, hope and a future

**Each year, thousands of young people across Victoria face the heartbreaking reality of homelessness. But thanks to compassionate supporters like you, MCM can continue to stand beside them providing not just shelter, but safety, care, and the hope of a better future.**

This year's *Victorian Youth Homelessness Snapshot*, released by MCM in partnership with Social Ventures Australia, shows what your support is helping to change but also what still needs to be done.

On one day in April 2025, the Snapshot captured the experiences of young people aged 15 to 24 accessing MCM's homelessness services, including crisis accommodation, youth refuges, and vital mental health and case management support.

## What it revealed is heartbreaking:

- **4 in 5** young people had experienced family violence before becoming homeless
- **2 in 3** reported self-harm or suicidal thoughts
- **1 in 4** live with chronic pain, and half had recently gone to hospital for mental health emergencies
- many had been homeless for years, some **since the age of 16 or younger.**

These aren't just numbers. They're young lives interrupted by trauma, by family violence, by systems that are meant to protect them but often let them fall through the cracks.

Every night, your generosity helps open the doors of MCM services like Frontyard Youth Services, youth foyers, and specialist programs that provide a lifeline. You help fund intensive, wrap-around support that meets young people where they are, guiding them toward stability, connection, and healing.

The wrap-around support helps young people to stay engaged in education, find pathways into employment, and reconnect with their communities.

***"Without this place, I don't know where I'd be. The staff helped me feel safe, like I mattered again."***

– Young person supported by MCM

Together, we can continue to offer young people more than just a place to stay. We can offer them a chance at a life they deserve filled with safety, opportunity, and hope.



Susanna King (SVA), Vicki Sutton (MCM) and Shorna Moore (MCM) were joined by panelists Natalie McDonald (Quantum Support Services), Associate Professor Jess Heerde, and young people with lived experience, Tara and Arlo.

MCM's Victorian  
**Youth Homelessness  
Snapshot 2025**

 in partnership with  innovators  
for good



**To download the Snapshot,  
scan the QR code, or visit  
[mcm.org.au/our-publications](https://mcm.org.au/our-publications)**





## MCM joins national network to provide employment services for young people with disability

**We are proud to announce that MCM has joined the CoAct network to support local jobseekers and employers under the Australian Government's new disability employment program, *Inclusive Employment Australia*.**

As a new member of CoAct's national not-for-profit network, MCM will deliver tailored, community-based employment services for people with disability, injury, or health support needs working alongside CoAct to create meaningful and sustainable employment outcomes across the Victorian regions of Westgate, Yarra and Plenty.

From 1 November 2025, MCM will begin delivering services under Inclusive Employment Australia working closely with CoAct, jobseekers and local employers to build more inclusive, diverse, and resilient workplaces.

MCM Services General Manager, Sean Spencer, said joining the CoAct network presents a powerful opportunity to make a lasting impact in the community.

"At MCM, we've seen the barriers young people with disability face in finding and keeping meaningful employment. Being selected as a specialist youth provider for Inclusive Employment Australia is an exciting opportunity to change that. This program reflects our long-held belief that employment support must be person-centred, flexible, and grounded in dignity," said Sean.

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# Hester Hornbrook Academy: New beginnings for students in the heart of Melbourne



**In August 2025, a new chapter began for young people at Hester Hornbrook Academy, as we proudly opened the doors to our brand-new *Hybrid Campus* in Melbourne's CBD. This stunning, purpose-built campus is more than just a place of learning, it is a space designed to heal, inspire, and empower. And it was made possible through the support of generous supporters like you.**

The Hybrid Campus reflects our deep commitment to our *Healing Oriented Program of Education (HOPE)*. Every element of the design was created with student wellbeing in mind, offering a calm, nurturing environment where young people can feel safe, seen, and supported.

For many of our students, traditional schooling didn't work for them. But we're able to offer something different, a flexible, trauma-informed model that meets students where they are. Our new Hybrid model allows students to engage in learning two days online and three days on campus, giving them the structure and stability they need while accommodating their individual circumstances.

As we welcome new students into this incredible space in Term 3, we want to thank you for believing in their potential and standing with us as we reimagine education for young people.



Minister for Education, The Hon. Ben Carroll and Minister for Youth, Hon. Natalie Suleyman with Hester Principal Sally Lasslett and students.



Donate to Hester  
Hornbrook Academy.  
Scan the QR code or go to  
[mcm.org.au/empowered](https://mcm.org.au/empowered)





# The power of community: Sleep At The 'G 2025

On Thursday, 15 May 2025, nearly 900 people gathered under the lights of the MCG to take part in MCM's *Sleep At The 'G*, a powerful, annual show of support for young people experiencing homelessness.

Together, we raised \$730,606, an incredible contribution that will go directly toward supporting the vital services of MCM's *Youth Housing Initiative*.



## A night to remember

Participants laid out their makeshift beds on the concrete walkway of the MCG settling in for a night of reflection and purpose. Some joined calming yoga and meditation sessions, others gathered in the stands for the sing-along and PJ fashion parade before heading off to their makeshift beds.

But it was the ever-popular Fireside Chat, featuring six young people who bravely shared their lived experience of homelessness, that truly brought home why we were there. Their stories were raw, powerful and inspiring, a reminder of both the hardship and the hope at the heart of our mission.

With charismatic host Brihony Dawson guiding the evening, lights dimmed at 11pm, but the impact was felt far beyond the stadium walls.



Join us in 2026 and take part in a fun event that enables young people to thrive. Register your interest at [sleepattheg.com.au/register-your-interest](https://sleepattheg.com.au/register-your-interest)

# Documentary gives voice to domestic violence survivors from multicultural backgrounds

**A powerful new documentary titled *Silent No More* was launched in June, bringing to light the untold stories of women from multicultural backgrounds who have experienced family violence.**

Quantum Support Services (part of the MCM Group) CEO Natalie McDonald said *Silent No More* was developed under the Strengthening Communities Project.

“This documentary not only amplifies the voices of women who have often been unheard but also serves as a vital training resource for practitioners supporting women in culturally safe and trauma-informed ways,” Ms McDonald said.

The film also features insights from police, advocates, and frontline workers highlighting the importance of trust-building, cultural understanding and systemic support in achieving safety and long-term wellbeing.

“This documentary is a message of hope. It shows that there is a way out, that support exists, and that no woman has to walk this journey alone,” Ms McDonald said.



**To view the documentary, scan the QR code, or visit [my.mcm.org.au/SilentNoMore](https://my.mcm.org.au/SilentNoMore)**



## Vale Reverend Ric Holland – Former MCM CEO

**In April MCM acknowledged the sad passing of former MCM CEO Rev Ric Holland.**

During his time as CEO, which spanned six years from 2010 to 2016, Ric made a significant contribution to MCM and the community.

Ric's foresight also led to the creation of the Melbourne Academy, which we now know as Hester Hornbrook Academy and pioneered Sleep At The 'G to raise funds and awareness for youth homelessness.

MCM Board member, and Chair of Hester Hornbrook Academy, David Rennick remembers Ric as a “larger than life character, whose presence lit up a room and was always quick with a joke and a smile.”

Ric continued with his support of all people in the community in working with Hampton Park Uniting Church and performed the first wedding under new marriage equality laws at St Michael's Uniting Church in Melbourne.

When he announced his retirement in 2024, he was described in Victorian Parliament Hansard as “a giant in the social justice world.”

We are incredibly grateful for Ric's contribution to MCM and to the lives of so many Victorian young people.





## Thank you to all who supported our 2025 Winter Appeal

**Your generosity is helping young people like Willow find safety, stability and hope. With the support of her dedicated case worker, Willow is rebuilding her life and looking towards a brighter future.**

Thanks to you, young people facing their most vulnerable moments are empowered to navigate through challenges, by accessing life-changing support, including housing, counselling, mental health care, case management and healthcare services.

**Your compassion is making a real difference. Thank you for helping more young people thrive.**

## Express your values in a lasting way

Leave a legacy with a gift in your will. Support MCM to create meaningful, lasting change for Victorians facing disadvantage, transforming lives through innovative services in homelessness, education, mental health, disability, and more. Make your impact felt for generations.

To have a confidential conversation about including a gift in your will, contact MCM's Supporter Relations Team on **1300 364 507** or email [bequests@mcm.org.au](mailto:bequests@mcm.org.au).



For further information, scan the QR code or visit [mcm.org.au/bequests](https://mcm.org.au/bequests)

**Thank you for keeping our communities strong, and helping Victorians when they need it most.**



To donate online, visit [mcm.org.au/makeanimpact](https://mcm.org.au/makeanimpact) or scan here:



To make a donation over the phone, call **1300 364 507**



### MCM places people at the centre of what we do



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the waterways and lands where we work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



We commit to ensuring everyone we work with is safe, empowered, supported, and respected, especially children and young people. We support and celebrate diversity of race, culture, ability, gender, sexuality, and gender identity.