

# Foyer Snapshot



Foyer Oxford



foyerfoundation 



# Why do we need accredited Youth Foyers?

Stable, affordable and suitable housing is essential for a young person's economic, mental, physical and social wellbeing. It is also connected to a positive sense of self, good health, social cohesion and supports educational completion.

Every night over

**27,500+**

Australian young people aged 12–24 years experience homelessness, a figure that has been growing over recent years<sup>1</sup>

Education, training and employment are also central to the development, improvement and often the outcomes of the lives of young people. They provide a platform for life.

We know that young people who complete school or an equivalent qualification are much more likely to have stable employment and support themselves financially than those who do not.

Approximately

**1 in 10**

young Australians aged 20–24 years have not completed year 12 or equivalent<sup>2</sup>

Sadly, approximately 1 in 5 young people who leave school early will continue to be disengaged with full-time work, study or training for most of their lives. Significantly, research indicates that this trajectory is largely locked in by the age of 25 – if young people do not have a Year 12 qualification or equivalent by then they are unlikely ever to do so<sup>3</sup>.

The financial and social cost of this is significant on both a community and an individual level. It has been assessed to be about \$1 million per young person over the course of their lifetime. That is almost \$1.3 billion annually per cohort and \$50.5 billion for each group's full lifetime cost<sup>3</sup>.

Young people experiencing disadvantage face significant challenges completing study and accessing work, particularly when those experiences mean that they do not have access to safe, stable and secure accommodation.

**Young people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness are much more likely to leave school early, be unemployed and experience poor mental health.**

There are many factors that contribute to young people being at risk, including poverty, family breakdown, domestic violence, poor mental health, drug or substance abuse.

Existing youth homeless services are focussed on the immediate need for safe shelter and essentials within a shorter support period. In emergency mode it can be a challenge to get young people back on track to complete their education, secure employment and achieve long term housing stability.



**Foyers are a solution to help reduce the number of young people experiencing homelessness.**

**Foyers provide a life changing opportunity for young people to achieve higher educational outcomes, access to meaningful career pathways and**

**build brighter futures**



# What is an accredited Youth Foyer?

**Providing an integrated living and learning setting, Foyers offer young people experiencing homelessness so much more than just a safe roof over their head. They offer a home.**

Accredited Foyers provide access to **education, training, employment** and **social opportunities** that can help young people break the cycle of homelessness, welfare dependence and build skills for life.

Foyers supported 526 young people during 2020. Offering independent living in student-style or unit accommodation, with communal living spaces and wrap around support services.

Residents receive a tenancy agreement that provides certainty and clear two-way responsibilities as a tenant and a landlord and an all important rental history to enter private rental post Foyer.

The accommodation is complemented through the provision of engaged wrap around support, youth development coaching and a range of service offerings to help young people build their knowledge, skills, confidence and connections.

By applying Advantaged Thinking, Foyers help young people to recognise and develop their strengths and ambitions, set goals, take positive risks, build skills and connections, and access opportunities and supports through which to build an independent, safe and sustainable future.

**An Advantaged Thinking approach is one that focuses on creating sustainable solutions, building for the future as well as responding to the here and now. It sees, values and invests in a young person's individual potential and helps them to set and work towards their goals.**

## Learning for life

To have the opportunity to build the knowledge, skills and connections to be:

### A positive tenant

*Support young people to develop the knowledge and skills to manage and maintain their own tenancies*

### Work ready

*Provide young people with opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills to explore and engage in meaningful education, training and employment pathways*

### Financial literacy

*Support young people to develop their knowledge and skills to confidently manage their day-to-day expenses and future finances*

### Independent

*Support young people to develop the knowledge and skills to live independently, confidently accessing community resources where necessary*

### Healthy

*Provide young people with opportunities to engage in activities which promote positive physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual health and develop the knowledge and skills to live a healthy life*

### Engaged in the community

*Provide young people with opportunities to have fun, strengthen social connection, engage in community activities and build civic awareness*

# The Youth Foyer Network in Australia

There are currently 9 accredited Youth Foyers in Australia, with a further 8 Foyers committed to accreditation\*. While the approaches applied across different Foyers vary, they all provide young people with an integrated housing plus support model and apply an Advantaged Thinking philosophy.

9

*accredited Youth Foyers  
in Australia*

8

*Foyers committed  
to accreditation*

**The Foyer Foundation is actively working at a national level to expand the network of foyers across Australia.**

**We support the growth, building, fundraising, foyer set up, accreditation, collaborative practice development, research and learning for the Foyer Network.**

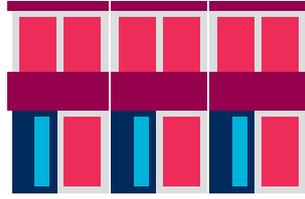
\*As at July 2021

# Who we support

## Our young people



Young people  
16–24 years of age



With no  
stable housing



Motivated for education  
and employment



**Zayne**

Foyer Ambassador

*“The stability that the Foyers program provides, along with the ongoing consistent support of Staff has really helped me challenge myself and move forward with my own life goals. It is good to have someone you can rely on to be there when you need them most.”*



**Kim**

Foyer Ambassador

*“I have gone through significant amounts of self-growth and development, my mental health and wellbeing has improved greatly. Without Foyer I would not be the person I am today, who values myself and wants to spread the advantages of Foyer to more young people who are at risk of homelessness or are stuck in a living situation that is detrimental to their mental health.”*



**David**

Foyer Ambassador

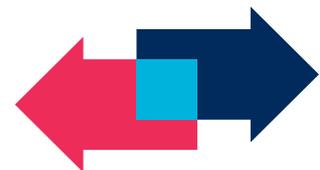
*“Foyers do everything they can, it’s more about how young people can use Foyer to their advantage to achieve better outcomes in their lives.”*

**526**

Young people  
supported in 2020

**1 / 3**

Referred from a specialist  
homelessness or outreach service  
provider



Others came to the Foyer through  
referrals from schools, health or  
other service providers, family  
and friends

# What we achieve

## Our impact

Approx.

# 7 in 10

young people stayed at their Foyer for at least 12 months

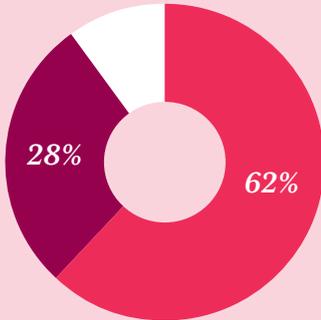
# 16 months

The average length of stay of young people in Foyer

In a number of cases young people received additional support before and after they were at the Foyer to support them to get ready for moving in and to help them to transition into independent living after they left.

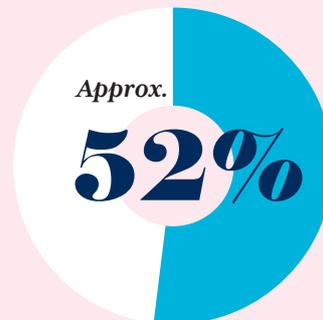
Young people who have been supported through the Foyer Network identify their Foyer experience as helping them to stabilise and move forward in their lives, by helping them to (re)engage in different forms of education and training, build their confidence and life skills, be healthier and be motivated, supported and able to work towards their life goals.

## Our impact in numbers<sup>4</sup>

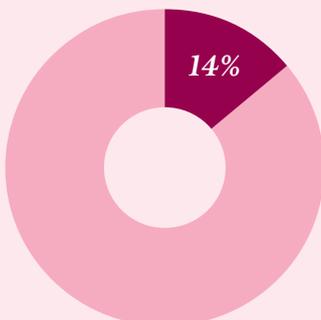


Most of our young people were aged between 16-24 years old. In some Foyers young parents are supported with their children.

- 16-19 years
- 20-24 years
- Other



of our young people come from family violence or a relationship breakdown with their family or carers



More than 1 in 10 young people were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background. A number came from other culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds from Africa, the Middle East, Central and SE Asia and the Pacific.

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Other

The main reasons that brought young people to the Foyer were experiences of family breakdown or violence and unsafe or insecure housing or homelessness

Approx.

# 1 / 3

young people also identified having experienced mental health issues

Approx.

# 1 / 7

were not engaged in education, training or work when they came to their Foyer

**Our vision is to ensure that all young people experiencing disadvantage have a pathway to education, training and employment that is founded on access to stable and secure housing.**

Accredited Youth Foyers provide a safe, supportive and integrated accommodation, education and employment pathway for young people at a time when they are ready and willing to engage with it and individualised support and guidance at a developmental stage when they need it. By doing that, Foyers provide young people with the best chance to break out of the cycle of homelessness and build a confident, independent and sustainable future.

**Our long-term commitment is to have 30 accredited Foyers operating in Australia by 2030.**

Across the nation it will see the Foyer Foundation create a vibrant learning network to share best practice and innovation, supported by clever data collection and an accreditation process that builds capacity and demonstrates outcomes for funders.

If you would like to learn more or help to achieve this vision please contact:

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1 ABS Census 2016, Table 1.1

2 <https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia-data-portal/participation-and-attainment-in-education-and-work#view3>, downloaded 1 June 2021

3 <https://www.vu.edu.au/mitchell-institute/educational-opportunity/leaving-school-early-means-you-re-likely-never-to-return-to-study-and-training-in-adult-life>, downloaded 1 June 2021

4 This data reflects collection period (January–December 2020).

The data set included all 9 Accredited/Accrediting Foyers: Foyer Oxford, Foyer Port Adelaide, Foyer Warrnambool, EFYF Kangan, EFYF Holmesglen and EFYF GoTafe, Our Place, Southern Youth Foyer Service and Logan Youth Foyer.