



# Educate Employ Empower

Building sustainable  
and thriving futures

# Annual Report 2020-21

Resident of Foyer Oxford



foyerfoundation



# What a year #Foyerlife

Accredited Youth Foyers provide a safe, supportive and integrated accommodation, education and employment pathway within a 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.



Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People Justin Mohamed consults with EFYF Shepparton's young residents



Southern Foyer residents perform a co-written song with Aboriginal music artist Shellie Morris



Foyer Warrnambool bake up a storm

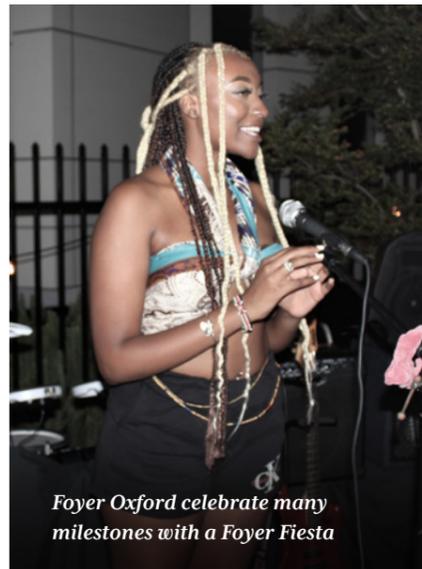
**Our vision is to ensure that all young people experiencing disadvantage have a pathway to education, training and employment that is founded on access to stable and secure housing.**



Foyer Gold Coast welcomes their first resident



Our youngest Foyer resident starts kindergarten!!!



Foyer Oxford celebrate many milestones with a Foyer Fiesta



Foyer Port Adelaide is Better Together



EFYF Shepparton celebrate 10 years of Advantaged Thinking



Foyer Central officially opens February 2020



For Change Co. visit and train up EFYF Broadmeadows residents



Lest we forget - Foyer Port Adelaide commemorate Anzac Day

# Keith Bryant

## Chair



I think of what we do at the Foyer Foundation as having two parts. The first part is a centre of excellence, that promotes and improves the standards (through accreditation and a national community of practice) that operate within Foyers. The second part is a commitment to the expansion of the number of Foyers. We know Foyers are effective and we know more of them are needed. These two parts create an interesting culture. A culture that listens, that collaborates, that learns and that dreams.

We are a listening culture. That starts with listening to young people who have experienced homelessness and who at some point in their past, present or future experience living in a Foyer. We expect living in a Foyer, however briefly, to be a formative experience in their lives. By listening, we show trust that they will find their own way to building a good life for themselves. The listening extends to the staff that operate Foyers, what their concerns are, what they need to make their work with Foyer residents more effective.

We are a collaborative organisation. We can only achieve what we want to achieve if we partner with other organisations. We start our collaboration by being confident of what we can contribute and by being open to others' different ways of working.

Our work in accrediting Foyers is about pride in the delivery of high standards for young people. It is about facilitating organisations to achieve a higher quality in their practice, in a way that is consistent with the Foyer approach.

**We are a learning culture.  
We learn together.  
We work with our partner agencies to apply our collective learnings.**

We compare reference points. We set out to understand what knowledge is missing, how we find it and how we resource the processes to find it. We encourage experimentation. We verify new learnings and share those learnings with others.

We are a culture that allows ourselves to dream. If Advantaged Thinking is what we encourage young people to follow, we want to do more of that as an organisation and as a leader of the Foyer movement. What will it take to get more Foyers built and operating? We know we have an approach that changes lives and that has relevance in so many as yet untouched Australian communities. That is our challenge but also our dream.

# Katie Hooper

## CEO



I don't think I'm alone in admitting that I believed, and hoped, 2021 was going to be an easier year after the COVID-19 challenges of 2020. Wow, was I wrong.

Our Foyers have certainly faced some interesting hurdles as COVID-19 continues to require us to stay agile, flexible and supportive of each other. At one stage we had 6 Foyers in lock down, totalling nearly 150 young people requiring additional support.

However, I'm proud to say that thanks to the passionate team and their incredible ability to pivot, we've had some remarkable wins and made some significant progress for the Foundation, the network and the young people we work with.

An ongoing challenge for the NFP sector is securing funding to ensure we can meet our vision and strategic goals. After laying the foundations for the future expansion and scaling of the Foyer Network to increase the number of young people we can support on any given night, we are excited about our future. We still believe our goal of 30 Foyers by 2030 is achievable.

**The next 3 years for the Foundation are all about advancing our resourcing and striving for sustainability to drive an accelerated growth plan for evidence informed Foyer expansion across Australia.**

This is made possible by numerous funders and supporters that share our passion and belief for offering innovation and better outcomes in the youth at risk space.

It's been an amazing 12 months. We teamed up with our first corporate partner – AFG, recruited 9 incredible young people to be ambassadors for the Foyer Foundation and continued to support the Foyer workforce online with our National Community of Practice.

We have collaborated with community groups as they continue to advocate for more local Foyers, produced our annual Foyer Snapshot and commenced critical work on our Foyer model and Theory of Change, celebrated 10 Years of Advantaged Thinking and planned and postponed our Foyer Life conference – look out 2022!

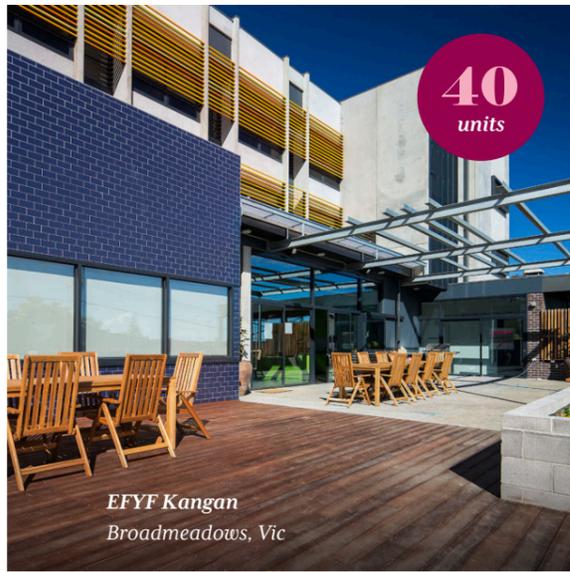
Still to focus on in 2021-22 is how we ensure the Foyer approach is meeting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

I'd like to thank everyone for their support as COVID-19 keeps us all on our toes and the Foyer movement continues to grow. Your support, care, understanding and commitment to what we do is appreciated everyday by us, the Foyer Network and the young people studying/residing within them.

Stay tuned for updates via our social channels and newsletters.

Hope to see you in 2022!

# Our National Foyer Network



**13**  
Accredited /  
Accrediting  
Foyers



As we get closer to our vision of 30 Accredited Foyers by 2030, we welcome the Foyers who are commencing accreditation to join our growing network. There are a further 17 services in various stages of Foyer planning and development.

#buildmorefoyers



**4** Committed to Accreditation

Foyer Central  
Foyer Hobart  
Foyer Devonport  
Foyer Launceston

# Making a difference

# 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

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

**62%**  
16–19 years

**28%**  
20–24 years

Other (10%)

**14%**

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 South East Asia and the Pacific.

Approx. **52%**

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

Approx. **1/3**

young people identified having experienced mental health issues

[Click here to read our first ever Foyer Snapshot](#)

## Commitment to building our evidence base

The Foyer Foundation is committed to “growth with fidelity” of accredited Youth Foyers. To strengthen the national evidence base to meet the needs of the growing Foyer movement, we have committed to focus on data collection, an impact framework and building the evidence to demonstrate the outcomes of the Foyer approach over the next 3 years. This data will be used to address the pressing issues of youth disadvantage and ongoing service delivery improvements, forming a critical basis for driving the Foyer National Community of Practice.

## National Foyer Community of Practice

The National Community of Practice looks forward to the innovation and best practice that is derived from the combined knowledge and input of Australian Foyers. The 2022 calendar is focussed on strengthening practice, networking and leveraging the significant investment provided by our funding partners.

Working within a COVID-19 online environment, we achieved 6 Community of Practice sessions, bringing together 15 organisations for 18 hours of collaboration within the Foyer Network.

# Supporting our passion

We’ve been able to achieve the support of over 10 incredibly generous funders and trusts. Their investment shows great confidence in our growth, vision and passion for what we love to do.

This funding ensures we are set up for success to achieve our strategic goals, built around 4 key pillars and we look forward to reporting on their progress over the next 3 years.

The ongoing financial support into 2021 and beyond will see us working hard to advance the resourcing, centralisation and sustainability of the Foundation. We will drive an accelerated growth plan for evidence informed Foyer expansion across Australia that offers an innovative solution and better outcomes for young people who have experienced homelessness.

## Quality

Implement systems and frameworks to achieve national accreditation standards and data collection for Foyer Network

## Influence

Advocate and showcase the Foyer approach as a key solution to investing in young people who have experienced youth homelessness

## Capacity Building

Build and enhance staff capability, develop and share resources to drive best practice

## Growth

Build sustainable revenue generation models readying for a significant period of growth in Foyers



We welcomed our first ever corporate partnership in 2021 – AFG

## Philanthropic Partners

We are very grateful to our philanthropic partners who support our work to improve outcomes for youth at risk of homelessness.

- The Bowden Marstan Foundation
- Grant Family Charitable Trust
- Jim & Fiona McKnight of the McKnight Family charity at the APS Foundation
- Paul Ramsay Foundation
- The John T Reid Charitable Trust
- UBS Foundation
- Thyne Reid Foundation
- Baly Douglass Foundation

## Foyer 5000

- Sam Armstrong
- Mark Ashton
- Keith Bryant
- Peter Kingston
- Anthony Sweetman
- Peter Crossing

# Voices of our young people

## Caytlyn

"Foyer welcomed me with my disability and has taught me that I can live independently and join events and activities that I never would have done before if it wasn't for living at Foyer"



Approx.

# 7/10

young people stayed at their Foyer at least 12 months

# 16 months

The average length of stay of young people in a Foyer

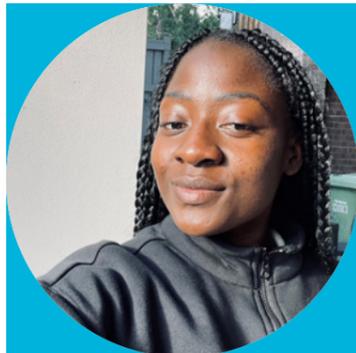
## Ash

"The biggest impact was the support from the Foyer through my transition. I got the support with name change, gender change, attending appointments, using my correct names and pronouns to just name a few. This made Foyer Life in a way, easy"



## Claire

"Foyer focussed on my abilities and helped me excel in them. They believed in me and I will always remember how Foyer changed my life"



Meet Alyssa

[youtube.com/watch?v=BgA\\_KCqOBUY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgA_KCqOBUY)

Chloe Shorten and our Youth Ambassadors brainstorm how to raise the awareness of youth at risk of homelessness and Foyer life



Commissioner for Children and Young People, Liana Buchanan and Ben (Foyer Alumni) talk Foyer Life in their podcast recording

[open.spotify.com/show/TWBkfmDqBn3oTjDxLVC5VS](https://open.spotify.com/show/TWBkfmDqBn3oTjDxLVC5VS)

# Our people

The Foyer Foundation thanks and acknowledges the generous support of partner organisations, trusts, foundations and individuals who enable us to undertake our important work to drive the Australian Foyer movement forward.

**Thank you to Chloe Shorten for her passion and tireless voluntary work supporting the Foyer Foundation.**



## Treasurer's report

If FY 2020 was one of change for the Foyer Foundation, then FY 2021 was one where we built on momentum as we accelerated towards the goal of 30 accredited Foyers throughout Australia by 2030.

FY 2021 saw us welcome a principal partner AFG and with their support, the creation of the AFG Independence Fund – a series of grants accessible to all of Foyer's young people tailored to contribute to their education, well-being and employment pathways. AFG joined with our investor partners (Brotherhood of St Laurence, Launch Housing, Anglicare WA and St John's Youth Services), service partners (accredited and accrediting Foyers and those

committed to accreditation), philanthropic partners and our Foyer 5000 supporters.

We thank each and every one of our partners and supporters for their role in improving access to education within the confines of a safe place to live, specifically for young people at risk. Looking forward, we are delighted to partner with the Paul Ramsay Foundation to facilitate project Gamechanger. This impact investment will change the face of youth homelessness in Australia. Partnering with service providers and State, Territory and the Federal Government, we plan to accelerate the opening of Foyers throughout Australia to remove disadvantage for young people at risk and replace it with advantage.

**Peter Kingston, Treasurer**

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)	
<b>Statement of Financial Performance for the Financial Year</b>	Revenue and Other Income from operating activities	384,638	153,473
	Expenses for operating activities	305,465	199,470
	<b>Operating result</b>	<b>79,173</b>	<b>(45,997)</b>
<b>Summary Statement of Financial Position</b>	Total Assets	574,378	155,426
	Total Liabilities	343,203	3,423
	Net assets	231,175	152,002
	<b>Net equity</b>	<b>231,175</b>	<b>152,002</b>

Full financials can be found on our research and report page here: <https://foyer.org.au/about-us/research-and-reports/>

## Board

<b>Keith Bryant (Chair)</b>	NSW	<b>Bevan Warner</b>	VIC	<b>Rhys Edwards</b>	TAS
<b>Peter Kingston (Treasurer)</b>	NSW	<b>Jennifer Samms</b>	VIC	<b>Michelle Hoad</b>	WA
		<b>Melissa Wilton</b>	NSW		



**For all Foyer enquiries please contact**

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**To donate or volunteer**

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Foyer Foundation  
67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065

**Support Foyers**

We do not receive Government funding and rely on the generous support of all our donors.

Join us with a commitment of funding or by contributing your time and expertise to enable those young Australians who are experiencing challenging circumstances to thrive.

**Thanks to our Lead Agency Partners**

- Anchor
- Anglicare WA
- Barnados
- Berry Street
- Brophy Family and Youth Services
- Gold Coast Youth Service
- Launch Housing
- Melbourne City Mission
- Southern Youth and Family Services
- St John's Youth Service
- Uniting Vic/Tas
- Wesley Mission QLD

Special thanks to the **Brotherhood of St. Laurence**

Logan Youth Foyer Mural

**[foyer.org.au](http://foyer.org.au)**

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

