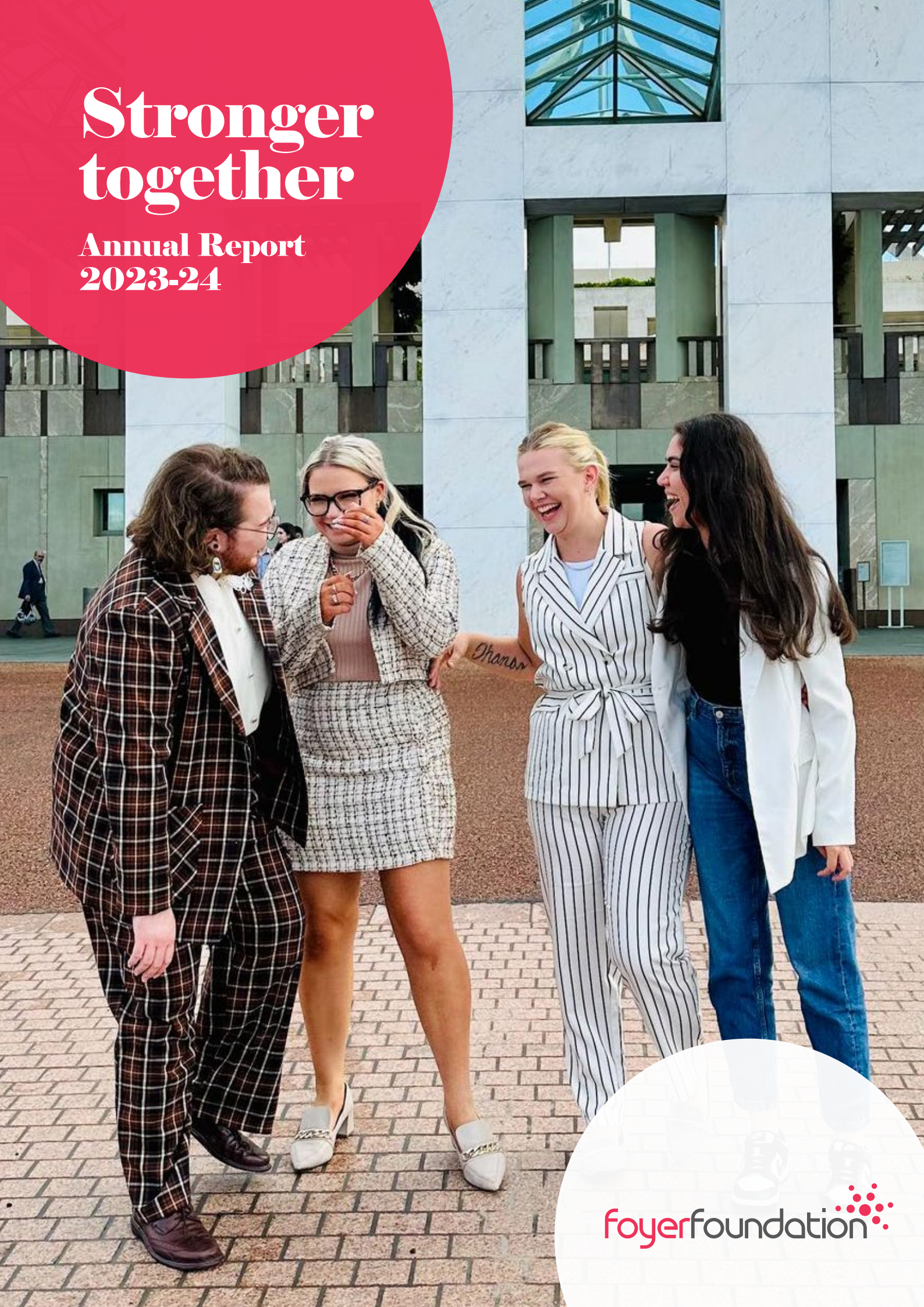


# Stronger together

Annual Report  
2023-24



foyerfoundation 



# Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and recognise their continued connection to the land, waters and sky. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge the cultural authority of First Nations people across Australia.

**Nearly one third  
of all young people experiencing  
homelessness are First Nations,  
despite First Nations people making  
up just over 3% of our population.**

We seek to work in partnership with First Nations people and communities to address the overrepresentation of First Nations young people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

We stand for a future where all First Nations people can experience equitable housing and life outcomes and believe that any effective response to youth homelessness must be culturally informed to create culturally safe solutions and ensure equitable access for First Nations young people.

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“

*A year ago, I never would have thought I'd be in this position, but the Foyer helped me realise my potential, and for that, I couldn't be more thankful.*

**Ange**, current Foyer student

*Front cover image: Youth Ambassadors Sam, Brea, Jemma and Tyrah outside Parliament House, March 2023*



## Why we exist



Co-CEO, Liz Cameron-Smith with  
Townsville Foyer resident, Elma

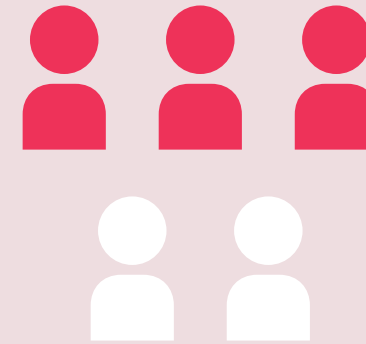
## Unlocking thriving futures for 16-24 year olds experiencing or at risk of homelessness

Australia is a wealthy nation by global standards, yet more than 40,000 young people across Australia experience homelessness each year – all too often due to domestic and family violence and a housing system that is failing them.

Youth Foyers are an important part of the national solution to this crisis. Each Youth Foyer provides approximately forty 16-24 year olds with a safe and stable home, integrated with education, employment and life skills support, all under one roof. The evidence shows that by investing in young people and their potential, Youth Foyers transform lives.

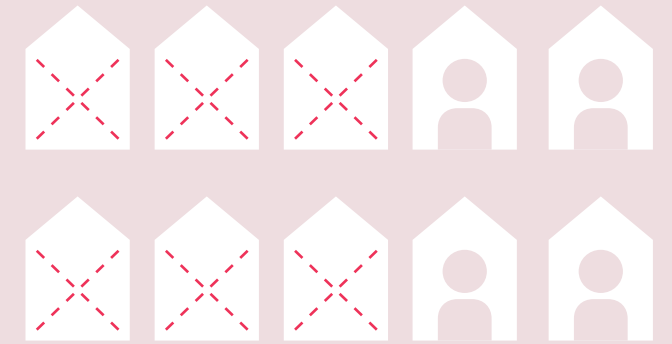
# 40,000

young people seek support for homelessness on their own each year



## 3 in 5

young people accessing support services are **repeat users**



## 6 in 10

young people seeking medium-term housing support are **turned away**



## 31%

of young people experiencing homelessness are **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander**



## 40%

of people experiencing homelessness are under the **age of 24**



## Over 70%

of young people accessing specialist homelessness services have experienced domestic violence





# The Foyer Foundation believes that every young person deserves to live thriving, independent futures.

“

*Foyer provided me with four safe walls I could call home, a support team I could call family and a future trajectory that was mine to own.”*

**Brea**, Youth Ambassador and former Foyer student

*We work to make this possible this by:*

## **Growing the reach and impact of Youth Foyers**

Together with our national network and the FoyerInvest consortium, we are working towards a bold goal of 50 Youth Foyers by 2030. 50 Youth Foyers would change the life trajectory of 20,000 young people over the course of a decade.

## **Ensuring Youth Foyer quality and integrity**

Youth Foyers are delivered by a strong network of service organisations in metro, regional and remote communities across Australia. The Foyer Foundation works to ensure all Youth Foyers achieve high standards, because young people deserve nothing less. We cultivate a national Community of Practice to drive continuous learning and practice improvement, deliver the National Youth Foyer Accreditation Scheme, and strengthen the evidence base through the National Outcomes Framework.

## **Embedding young people at the heart of all that we do**

The Foyer Foundation values and respects the lived experiences of young people who are or have lived in Youth Foyers, and are working to embed young people in everything we do from governance through to operations. This strengthens the way we make decisions, develop strategies, and create feedback loops that keep us grounded in what works. By recognising young people as experts in their own lives, we can create more effective solutions together.



# Message from Keith Bryant, Board Chair

For over a decade, the Foyer Foundation has worked in partnership with our growing network so that young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness can realise their full potential in life. I am proud to see the Foyer movement in Australia continue to gain extraordinary momentum this year.

Along the way we are learning important lessons about what it takes to scale proven community-based solutions through our FoyerInvest Consortium, which I am delighted to Co-Convene alongside the inimitable Jan Owen AM. Jan has played an integral role working with the Foyer Foundation team to convene and amplify the collective efforts of our Consortium. We thank our FoyerInvest members for their unwavering commitment to young people experiencing homelessness.

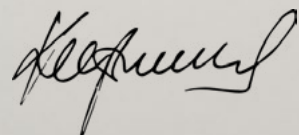
The sustainability of the Foyer Foundation, in particular our financial sustainability, is something that the Board of the Foyer Foundation regularly contemplates as the Australian Youth Foyer network grows. That contemplation has led us to consider how we become less dependent on philanthropic funding, as well as the pathways we need to become a self-funding social enterprise that can serve the Foyer network at scale. A self-funding social enterprise means different stakeholders, including service providers and Governments, would pay for our work. Not because we are a worthy organisation addressing a worthy cause, but because we create defined value for them.

The Foyer Foundation is on the journey towards creating defined value for our stakeholders. We have had a bold audacious vision to have 50 Accredited Youth Foyers by 2030, a vision we are now confident we will realise. Equally important will be our next target to achieve true social enterprise status by 2035.

Planning out to 2035 may sound far-fetched, but we are convinced there is immense power in having such a long vision. The stages to social change take time and persistence. In the next few years, social enterprise is likely to generate only a small part of the total funding that would sustain a high quality Youth Foyer network at scale. We continue to work with our philanthropic funders, who make our work possible and understand our intent and journey towards being self-sustaining.

We were delighted this year to see a six-year extension to the three years of philanthropic funding we have already received from the Paul Ramsay Foundation. From the Board's point of view this was a wonderful endorsement of a shared long-term vision. We now have many other philanthropic funders that support us – they are all highlighted in this report – and the message is the same. We hope to build your trust and confidence in the social change that we want to achieve for Australia's young people.

Our confidence was the reason the Board and I welcomed the recommendation by our existing CEO, Liz Cameron-Smith, to appoint a Co-CEO in order to harness the momentous strategic opportunity before us. We are delighted to welcome Corin Moffatt to the team as Co-CEO, and know that our team can achieve anything with Liz and Corin at the helm.



“

*We have had a bold audacious vision to have 50 Accredited Youth Foyers by 2030, a vision we are now confident we will realise.*







“

*The Foyer movement in Australia is on an ambitious journey to change systems so they work better for all young people.*

## Message from Liz Cameron-Smith and Corin Moffatt, Co-Chief Executives

As Australia grapples with a housing crisis, cost of living pressures and domestic and family violence, it has never been more important for us to pay attention to young people who are impacted by these challenges.

We have high belief that by investing in each young person's individual talents and strengths, and working to change the systems and structures that hold them back, young people can thrive despite these challenges. This is Advantaged Thinking in a nutshell, and it is core to the Foyer approach.

Over the past year, we've seen the Foyer movement in Australia gain incredible momentum as more people recognise the power of Advantaged Thinking, and the potential Foyers have to change lives. With a focus on being impact-led, we have grown from 11 to 16 Accredited Youth Foyers this year, with 11 more under construction or Accreditation and 8 committed to by the Queensland Government, and taken important steps to secure Foyer quality as we grow. Together this will impact the lives of 12,000 young people over the next 10 years.

This momentum is the result of the collective efforts of the many people and organisations that form the Australian Foyer network: current and potential Foyer operators across Australia, FoyerInvest Consortium members, philanthropic partners and donors, supported by a growing team at the Foyer Foundation.

Most importantly, it is thanks to young people who live or have lived in Youth Foyers who are now using their voice, time, and lived experiences to ensure more young people have access to the transformative life opportunities gained through Foyers.

This year's success demonstrates that we are stronger together. Our growing network is firmly focused on our bold national goal of 50 Foyers by 2030, and defined by its unique spirit of generosity, collaboration and pragmatism. We have immense gratitude to each and every one of you, and consider it a rare privilege to work at the heart of such a highly engaged, committed national network.

The Foyer Foundation is proud to be an organisation that thinks outside the box and has the courage to reimagine the status quo. We brought this innovative philosophy to the way we approach leadership by transitioning to a Co-CEO leadership structure this year. We are deeply grateful to our Chair, Keith Bryant, and our Board for their support through this process and beyond.

The Foyer movement in Australia is on an ambitious journey to change systems so they work better for all young people. This report is a celebration of the impact we have achieved together so far, and a glimpse of what is yet to come.

*C. Moffatt* *L. Cameron-Smith*

# 2023-24 Year at a Glance

Now 2024

621 young people

every year have a safe and stable home to live with education, employment and life skills supports

16 Accredited Youth Foyers

## 2023-24 highlights



5

New Youth Foyers achieved Accreditation



16

Youth Foyers enabled to adopt the new national Outcomes Measurement Framework



40+

Young people engaged in more than 80 opportunities to influence change

Next 2027

1,400+

young people per year

12,000+

young people over a decade

35 Youth Foyers

Currently committed, including those that are being built, already open and undergoing accreditation

Future 2030

2,000+

young people per year

20,000+

young people over a decade

50 Youth Foyers

Our bold goal

30+

Delivered 30+ Masterclasses, training sessions and Community of Practice gatherings

15M+

Potential audience reached through 800+ media stories

450+

Paid hours created for young people and provided additional 180+ hours of training



500+

Supported 500+ Foyer practitioners to learn and refine their practice



400+

people from over 40 organisations aligning action as part of FoyerInvest



10

Grown our small but mighty team from 6 to 10 people



# Our national Youth Foyer network

**In 2023-24, we grew from 11 to 16 Accredited Youth Foyers across Australia. There are 11 more currently being built, or open and working towards Accreditation.**

Every Youth Foyer is delivered by local partners that tailor the Foyer approach to their community context – including service organisations, community housing providers, and TAFEs, alongside strong relationships with education providers, employers and community groups. We recognise the enormous efforts of our community partners who go above and beyond so that every young person can unlock their full potential in life.

*Take a look at the [Under One Roof report](#) to learn more about the social and economic impact of Youth Foyers*

**80%**

of young people exit from a Youth Foyer into safe and stable housing

**60%**

less likely to interact with the justice system

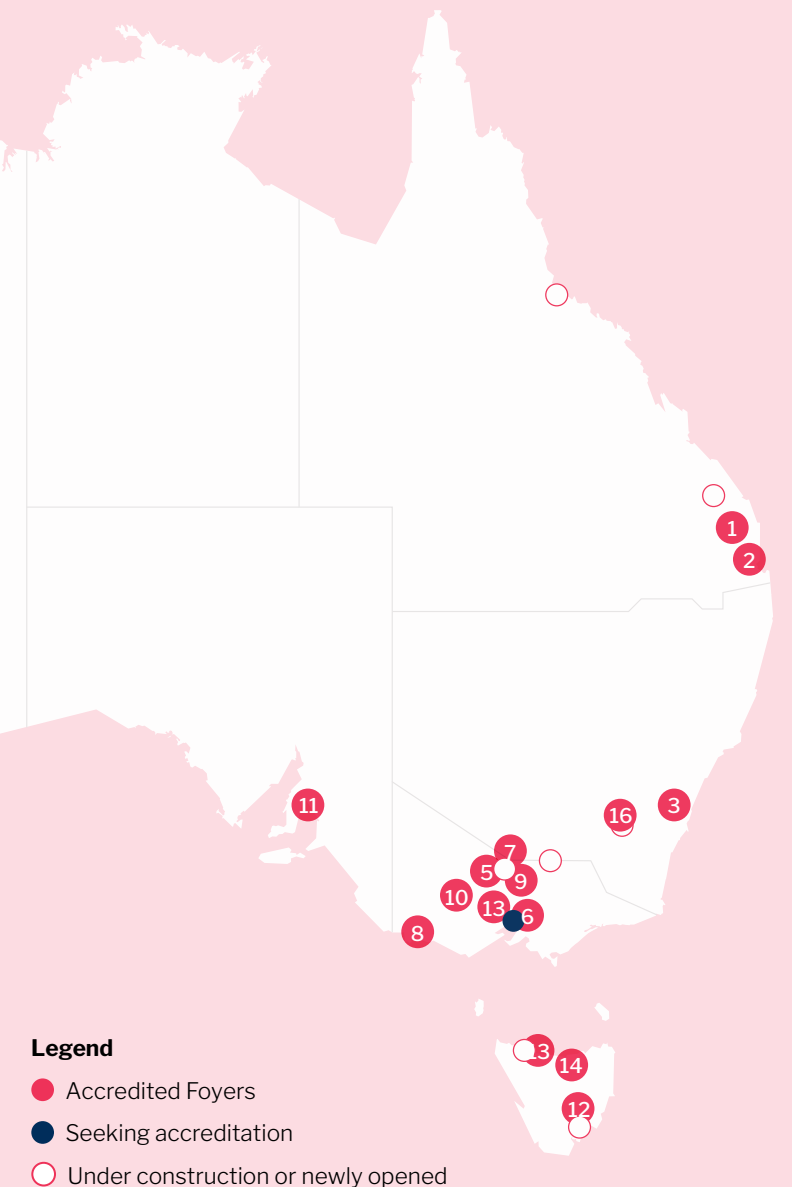
**65%**

gain secure and decent work

*Foyer Manager, Aimee and former Foyer resident, Alex*

## Accredited Foyers

- 1 **Logan Youth Foyer** (Wesley Mission Qld)
- 2 **Gold Coast Youth Foyer** (Gold Coast Youth Service)
- 3 **Southern Youth Foyer** (Southern Youth and Family Services)
- 4 **Foyer Central** (Uniting NSW/ACT)
- 5 **Kangan EFY Foyer Broadmeadows** (Launch Housing)
- 6 **Holmesglen EFY Foyer Glen Waverley** (Launch Housing)
- 7 **GOTAFE EFY Foyer Shepparton** (Berry Street)
- 8 **Warrnambool Youth Foyer** (Brophy Youth Services)
- 9 **Lilydale Youth Foyer** (Anchor Youth Services)
- 10 **Karrung Youth Foyer, Ballarat** (Uniting Vic/Tas)
- 11 **Port Adelaide Youth Foyer** (St John's Youth Services)
- 12 **Trinity Hill Y2I Hobart** (Anglicare Tas.)
- 13 **Eveline House Y2I Devonport** (Anglicare Tas.)
- 14 **Thyne House Y2I Launceston** (Anglicare Tas.)
- 15 **Foyer Oxford Leederville** (Anglicare WA)
- 16 **Our Place Youth Foyer** (Barnados Australia)





# Growing the reach and impact of Youth Foyers

## 50 Foyers by 2030

*As a result of the collective efforts of the Foyer network we are well on our way to achieving this goal.*

### 16

Accredited Foyers

### 4

Seeking accreditation

### 7

under construction or newly opened

### 8

new Foyers committed to by the Qld Government

### 35

Maintain investment in Support towards accreditation  
Convert from a commitment to a funded high-quality Foyer

### +15

Additional Foyers to gain investment for

In the past year, five new Youth Foyers have achieved Accreditation, bringing the total number of Accredited Youth Foyers from 11 to 16.

Eleven more Youth Foyers are on the journey to Accreditation, including 4 locations in Melbourne preparing for Accreditation next year and new Foyers currently being built in the ACT, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland as a result of the generous investment of these state and territory governments.

With our goal of 50 Youth Foyers within reach, our network has continued to campaign with commitment and energy for more Foyers to meet the rising demand across the country.

Our network has worked to line up the partners, plans and providers to deliver 10+ Youth Foyers within the next two years if investment is secured.

With our network of 30+ representatives from current and potential Foyers along with Youth Advocates, we have called on the Federal Government to invest in 10 Foyers. Our advocacy efforts involved meeting with decision-makers in Parliament House, writing to MPs, the Treasurer and the Prime Minister and speaking with media to raise public awareness.

Our collective efforts, alongside others across the sector including the Home Time campaign and Homelessness Australia, unlocked \$1 billion investment in young people experiencing homelessness and women and children escaping domestic violence through the National Housing Infrastructure Facility.

The FoyerInvest working groups have focused efforts on unlocking investment in Queensland and NSW, resulting in the Queensland Government announcing an additional eight Youth Foyers.



*Former Foyer resident Livi cutting the official ribbon at the opening of Townsville Youth Foyer alongside dignitaries including Meaghan Scanlon, Minister for Housing*

### Impact story

#### Australia's newest Youth Foyer opened its doors in Townsville

Mission Australia opened Australia's newest Youth Foyer in Townsville in June 2024, welcoming 40 young people from Townsville and surrounding communities. The third Youth Foyer to be built in Queensland will support up to 350 young people over the next 10 years.

In Townsville, over 55% of all young people experiencing homelessness are First Nations young people. The Townsville Youth Foyer provides an important part of the local service system, working with community partners to create pathways to independence for young people in the region.

*'They've definitely given me the space I need to find out what I wanted to do... and to have that space to live independently as well. I want to get my study up in construction and I want to help build Youth Foyers for the future. To give people happiness and something to look forward to.'*  
Elma, one of the new residents of Townsville Youth Foyer.

The launch of the Foyer was attended by Premier Steven Miles, Queensland Housing Minister Meaghan Scanlon, and many of our Queensland FoyerInvest partners, community organisations and had a strong media presence. Former residents of the Logan Youth Foyer, Claire and Livi, shared their wisdom and experiences with new Foyer residents, inspiring everyone in attendance.





*FoyerInvest Consortium delegation at Parliament House*

We continued to raise the profile of Youth Foyers and raise awareness of the impact on young people through a special edition of Parity Magazine and ongoing media and social media activity, reaching an audience of over 15 million. Thank you to the Council to Homeless Persons and other sponsors and contributors to the Parity Magazine.

We are deeply grateful to our FoyerInvest Consortium members, who have actively invested time, skills and resources in all of the above to make it possible, and the many more people and organisations that have contributed to our collective efforts over the past 12 months.

We also worked with broader sector collaborators to support much needed changes to create a strong system to support young people experiencing homelessness, from crisis through to independence, in the knowledge that Foyers are just one part of the solution to youth homelessness. The Foyer Foundation acknowledges the tremendous efforts of many across the sector we are lucky to collaborate with, including the Home Time campaign, Homelessness Australia, Homelessness NSW, Y Foundations, National Shelter, Shelter NSW, NT Shelter, QShelter and Shelter WA.

#### Our FoyerInvest Consortium members



#### Impact story

### Eight new Youth Foyers on the way in Queensland

We began the year with two Foyers in Queensland, Wesley Mission's Logan Youth Foyer, and the Gold Coast Youth Foyer run by Gold Coast Youth Service, and Mission Australia's Townsville Youth Foyer about to open its doors.

We finished the year with the Queensland Government committing to an additional eight, which could unlock thriving futures for almost 3000 young Queenslanders over the next decade.

This is the single biggest commitment by any State and Territory Government to expand the impact of Youth Foyers as part of a system-wide Housing Plan, and is the direct result of the collaborative efforts of the FoyerInvest Queensland Working Group.

Co-Chaired by Sara Parrott (CEO, Hand Heart Pocket) and Stephen Vines (Queensland State Director, Mission Australia), the Queensland Working Group also included Wesley Mission



*Youth advocates with members of the Foyer Foundation and FoyerInvest at Hand Heart Pocket's Year in Review event*



*FoyerInvest Qld Working Group members Pam Barker, Sara Parrott and Damian Foley with youth advocate Caitlyn ready to meet with local decision-makers*

Queensland, Gold Coast Youth Service, The Y (YMCA Queensland), Brisbane Youth Service, Q-Shelter, IFYS, Anglicare Southern Queensland, Queensland Youth Housing Coalition and the Foyer Foundation.

Building on years of local advocacy by many organisations and people, the group worked together to develop a state-wide strategy, Foyer project development pipeline for the next 5+ years, a joint advocacy approach, and aligned their organisational resources and efforts to prioritise projects in areas of high need that were ready for investment.

These collective efforts – which focused on the end-game of better outcomes for young people experiencing homelessness in Queensland, rather than individual organisational gain - eventually paid off. New Foyers will be developed in Cairns, Hervey Bay, and Moreton Bay, with an additional five locations to be announced.

We are grateful to the Queensland Government for their investment in young people, and to the FoyerInvest Working Group for demonstrating the power of working together for better outcomes.



# Ensuring Foyer quality and integrity

Youth Foyers exist to create positive outcomes for young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness across multiple domains: housing, education, work, health and wellbeing, social connections and community participation.

With over 20 years of practice experience in Australia and a growing national evidence base, we know what it takes to achieve these outcomes. The Foyer Foundation are stewards of the Foyer approach, working hard to ensure that every Foyer across Australia is consistently delivering high quality services to create great outcomes for the young people who walk through their doors.

The Foyer Foundation has focused on building our Integrity team's capacity and capability this year in response to growing demands across the Foyer network as it scales.



Andrew Wallace, BSL sharing the National Outcomes Framework

## Foyer Foundation National Outcomes Framework

Accredited Youth Foyers have now adopted The Foyer Foundation's National Outcomes Framework, the first nationally consistent measure of outcomes for young people living in Youth Foyers. Not only will it provide robust evidence to demonstrate the impact of Foyers, it will also enhance the quality of Foyers by generating data that each service can use to drive learning and continuous practice improvements. Additionally, the National Outcomes Framework will allow us to track numbers and outcomes for different cohorts moving through the Foyer program, including First Nations young people, LGBTQI+ and other diverse groups of young people.

Foyer Foundation team, Youth Ambassadors and Colin Falconer at the Advantaged Thinking Symposium



## Our Community of Practice

We have invested in developing the offer to the Community of Practice for Accredited Youth Foyers to support Foyers to continuously enhance practice through peer learning. Our highlight? We hosted Advantaged Thinking guru Colin Falconer in Australia and delivered the National Advantaged Thinking Symposium, bringing together young people and the growing Foyer network to deepen our knowledge, strengthen our practice and imagine an Advantaged Thinking Future.

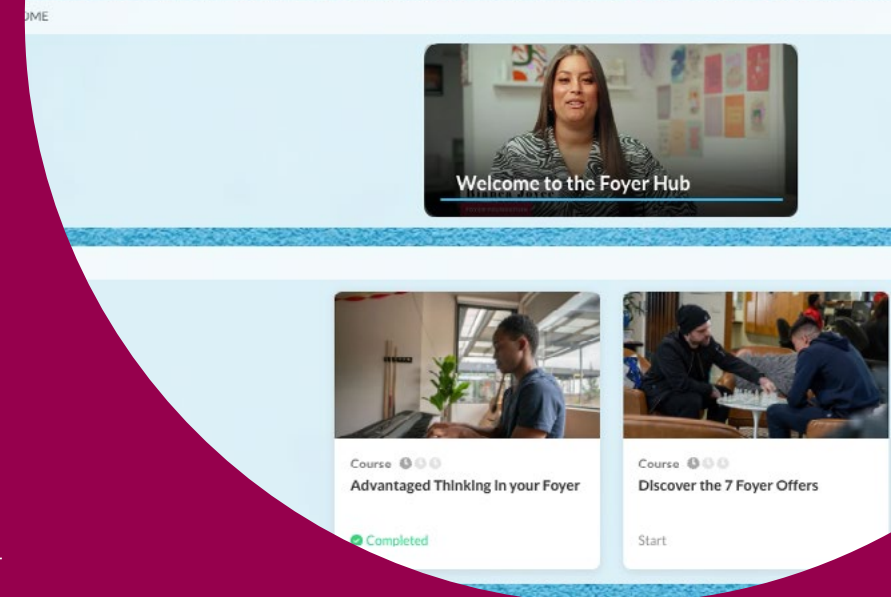
Bringing representatives from 16 Youth Foyers together in Hobart in June to focus on the theme of work and education was another highlight. The event gave our Community of Practice a platform to exchange insights on empowering young people through employment and educational opportunities for lifelong learning and a chance to see the Trinity Hill and newly opened Hobart Foyer.



Community of Practice in Hobart, June 2024

foyerfoundation

Welcome to the Foyer Hub, Kim! Here you can find the knowledge, tools and resources to create positive change for young people in Foyers across Australia.



## The Foyer Hub

We launched the Foyer Hub prototype, a virtual learning platform that will transform the way Youth Foyer communities build their skills and capabilities. Starting with the Accredited Youth Foyer network, we worked to co-design the platform, create content, pilot it and gain user-feedback highlighting the enormous value it brings to our network. We are continuing to build out the platform, adding new content and tailoring it for newly emerging Youth Foyer communities that are earlier in their learning journey.



Aimee Cavallaro, Foyer Central Manager receiving certificate of Accreditation from Bianca Joyce, Head of Integrity



## Foyer Accreditation

During the 2023-24 period, three Foyers successfully completed re-accreditation:

**Shepparton EFYF** (GoTafe Berry Street), Victoria

**Foyer Warrnambool** (Brophy Family & Youth Services), Victoria

**Logan Youth Foyer** (Wesley Mission), Queensland

Additionally, five Foyers achieved Accredited Foyer status for the first time:

**Foyer Central** (Uniting NSW/ACT), Sydney New South Wales

**Karrung Youth Foyer** (Uniting Vic/Tas), Ballarat Victoria

**Y2I Hobart at Trinity Hill** (Anglicare Tas), Tasmania

**Y2I Devonport at Eveline House** (Anglicare Tas.), Tasmania

**Y2I Launceston at Thyne House** (Anglicare, Tas.), Tasmania

The accreditation process continues to uphold the highest standards of quality in Advantaged Thinking youth services, ensuring that Foyers are providing exceptional support to young people.

## Australian Foyer Foundation Accreditation Framework Review

Our national Youth Foyer Accreditation process is the foundation for upholding Foyer quality. This year we sought to improve the Accreditation Framework and process through a comprehensive review. We gathered feedback from accredited Foyers and key stakeholders across the network, hired expert consultants, and convened an advisory group with diverse expertise, including lived experience representatives, data experts, and a First Nations member to advise on and endorse any improvements to the Framework. This collaborative approach ensured the review was thorough, inclusive, aligned with the needs of Foyer services and will improve the Accreditation process for the future.

Logan Youth Foyer



### Impact story

## Celebrating 10+ years of impact

Building on over 30 years of global success, Youth Foyers in Australia have a track record of helping to create thriving futures for young people for over a decade. From the pioneer Youth Foyer opened by Southern Youth and Family Services in 2001, today there are 9 Youth Foyers that have been operating in Australia for over 10 years.

As a place based response, each of these Foyers is slightly different. Some are Education First Youth Foyers delivered in partnership with TAFE and the Brotherhood of St Laurence; others focus on learning and earning. The largest supports almost 100 young people; the smallest just 15.

What unites them is their commitment to delivering outcomes for young people through the practice of Advantage Thinking, and their expertise in offering high-quality support across the 7 Foyer service offers.

Congratulations to three Foyers who celebrated their 10th anniversary this year:

**Foyer Oxford in Leederville WA** – delivered by Anglicare WA

**Kangan EFYF Youth Foyer at Broadmeadows, Vic.** – delivered by Launch Housing, Kangan Institute and the Brotherhood of St Laurence

**Holmesglen EFYF Youth Foyer in Glen Waverley, Vic.** – delivered by Launch Housing, Holmesglen Institute and the Brotherhood of St Laurence

As the network continues to grow, there is much to be learned from the achievements of these long-standing Foyers along with others that have existed for 10+ years including Southern Youth Foyer, Port Adelaide Youth Foyer, Logan Youth Foyer, Lilydale Youth Foyer and Warrnambool Youth Foyer. We thank them for their generosity in sharing learning and practice insights with new and emerging Foyers.

*Image: Kangan Education First Youth Foyer 10th birthday celebration*



# Embedding young people at the heart of all that we do

We see the talents and potential of every young person, no matter what challenges they have faced in life. This is Advantaged Thinking, and it's embedded across the Foyer approach and everything we do at the Foyer Foundation.

We are working to shift power towards young people and equip them with the opportunities, skills and experiences to influence the systems, institutions, and policies that affect their lives.

## Over the last 12 months we've created opportunities for over 40 young people to influence change.

We work with current Foyer residents and alumni with varied experiences of homelessness and the service system who come from many different backgrounds, cultures and identities – particularly First Nations young people, LGBTQIA+ and young people from migrant backgrounds – connecting them with opportunities that align to their experiences, skills and interests.

The voice of young people has been at the heart of our advocacy efforts, with more than 40 Youth Advocates supported to help shape the National Housing and Homelessness Plan to recognise young people as a priority cohort, meet with more than 70 decision-makers across Federal and State Government and Departments and share their voice in mainstream and social media helping to generate over 800 stories.



*Left: FoyerInvest Co-convenor, Jan Owen and Youth Ambassador, Tyrrah as co-hosts of the 'Parity: Future of Youth Foyers edition' launch event*

*Below: Claire, former Foyer resident speaking at the Townsville Youth Foyer launch*



“

*It (Foyer) represents a new beginning for many young people, giving them the opportunity to embark on a beautiful journey of self-discovery, just like I did. My advice... use it as a foundation to build your future.*

**Claire**, former Foyer resident

## Advantaged Thinking

Advantaged Thinking is not simply a strengths-based approach – although it draws from and builds upon this widely used practice. Advantaged Thinking recognises the critical importance of the geographic, systemic and institutional settings within which young people must make choices about their lives. It recognises that any effort to create change for people must attend to both this individual and structural context, making positive investment and influencing change in both.

*“Advantaged Thinking represents a paradigm shift in the way we think about and respond to young people experiencing disadvantage. It is a shift away from deficit, disadvantaged or problem-saturated thinking, towards positive thinking and acting. It is focused on identifying, developing and, most importantly, investing in the skills, capabilities and assets of these young people so that they can establish sustainable lives.”* **Colin Falconer**







Stella, 19, Caitlyn, 17, and Tyler, 20, are hoping there will be more funding for the Foyer Foundation in this year's budget. Picture: Liam Kidston

## DEAR TREASURER: FOYER RESIDENTS'

Stella, Caitlyn and Tyler, current Foyer residents featured in the Courier Mail with their letters to the Treasurer

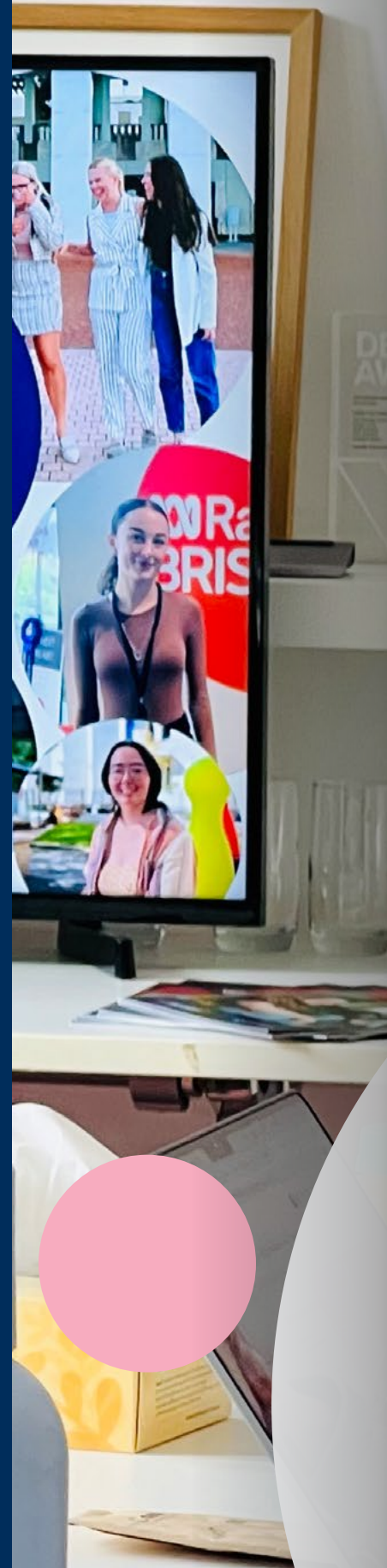
### Impact story

#### Lifting the voice of young people

We amplified the voices of young people with experience of homelessness this year to ensure more people understand the needs of young people in Australia and how Foyers create thriving futures. Throughout the year we worked with Foyer alumni and current residents, providing training on lived experience advocacy and media and equipped them with the skills and confidence to share their perspectives and stories. Over 40 young people took part in over 80 opportunities to influence the systems, policies and decisions that affect them. Through our network we created opportunities for young people to speak directly to decision-makers at the federal, state and local levels, platform their voices at conferences, and feature in mainstream and social media campaigns. A few highlights have been:

- Youth Ambassador Brea wrote to the Prime Minister earlier this year talking about how the Youth Foyer helped develop her independence, finish studies, take control of her future and enabled her to dream of one day having an office in parliament, too.
- Five residents of Logan Youth Foyer and Gold Coast Youth Foyer wrote to the Treasurer Jim Chalmers calling for investment in more Foyers, and were covered in a two-page Courier Mail spread.
- Youth Ambassadors Sam, Brea, Tyrah and Jemma joined 30+ FoyerInvest delegates at Parliament house and met with the nations senior politicians, decision-makers and media
- Brea and Tyrah, were interviewed by David Speers for a special feature on his Insiders Podcast

We've heard directly from senior decision-makers the impact young people's efforts have had on their decisions, including in identifying that young people's needs were under-represented in current policy and funding which resulted in greater investment for young people in Qld and federally.



“

*I'm proud to be a part of the Board because of the organisation's unwavering commitment to empowering young people. It's an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people and recognises the value of lived expertise in creating lasting solutions.*

Ash, Lived Experience Board Member

Current and former Foyer residents have a critical role to play in ensuring the growing Foyer network continues to deliver quality outcomes for young people. This year young people helped redesign the Accreditation Framework, contributed the Advantaged Thinking Symposium alongside the Foyer network and supporters and co-developed their vision for an Advantaged Thinking future, and many more opened their home to help those wanting to learn more about how to run a successful Foyer.

Importantly, young people are also shaping the Foyer Foundation itself. This year Ash Cook, Foyer Port Adelaide alumni, Social Worker and Foyer Foundation Youth Ambassador, joined the Foyer Foundation Board as the inaugural Lived Experience Board member as part of a pilot to ensure lived experience is informing our governance and decision-making. Youth Ambassadors also co-designed our shared Strategy, the Young people at the heart strategic activities, FoyerInvest priorities and much more.

*Image: Ash Cook, Lived Experience Board Member presenting at a FoyerInvest Roundtable in South Australia*



# Our philanthropic partners and supporters

Investing in young people who experience or are at risk of homelessness breaks cycles of disadvantage, unlocking thriving futures for individuals, their families, and communities.

Our philanthropic partners and supporters are contributing to this future and our strategy for impact. The Foyer Foundation is fortunate to have deep and trusting relationships with our philanthropic supporters, and a growing number of private donors that believe in the talents and potential of the young people we work with.

Thank you to our generous partners for supporting us to grow the reach and impact of Youth Foyers in Australia.

## Philanthropic partners



The Foyer Foundation is proud to be entering our fourth year of a nine year funding partnership with the **Paul Ramsay Foundation** (PRF). Beginning in 2021, PRF invested in an initial seed phase designed to lay the foundations for the growth and impact of the Youth Foyer movement in Australia. This phase enabled us to strengthen our core team, infrastructure and evidence-base needed for success and establish FoyerInvest. We are delighted that PRF has extended our partnership from 2024 to 2030, enabling the Foyer Foundation to continue to play a catalytic role in our field.

The nature of PRF's contribution has been flexible and responsive, recognising the unpredictable nature of systems change, valuing the role of intermediary organisations, and adapting as our organisation and policy context has evolved.



We have a deep partnership with **Hand Heart Pocket** in Queensland that includes a generous philanthropic grant alongside the active involvement and contributions of time, skills and resources to the FoyerInvest Consortium.

Hand Heart Pocket CEO, Sara Parrott, is the Co-Chair of the Queensland FoyerInvest Working Group alongside Mission Australia's Stephen Vines. Sara's leadership was pivotal to the successful Queensland campaign that resulted in the Queensland Government announcing an additional eight new Youth Foyers in Queensland, in Cairns, Moreton Bay and Hervey Bay, with five more locations yet to be announced.

Chief Investment Officer, Ben Stevens, has Co-Chaired the Payment-by-Outcomes Working Group, enabling the Foyer network to explore innovative investment options for Youth Foyers in Queensland and nationally.

We are grateful to Hand Heart Pocket for their ongoing support, collaborative mindset, and willingness to think and work creatively to unlock positive impact.



**Australian Finance Group** (AFG) is one of Australia's largest mortgage aggregators and a principal partner of the Foyer Foundation since 2021. Our \$800,000 four year partnership with AFG focuses on three key pillars: the AFG Independence Fund, Community Capacity Building and Strategic Growth.

The AFG Independence Fund has provided nearly 400 young people living in Accredited Youth Foyers with \$500-\$1000 microgrants to be used for independence, such as buying a laptop, driving lessons, uniforms and work tools.

The Community Capacity Building pillar has enabled the Foyer Foundation to scope, design and build The Foyer Hub, an online learning platform that supports Youth Foyer teams in communities across Australia to build skills, share knowledge and information.

The Strategic Growth pillar has strengthened our core team and its capacity to grow the reach and impact of Youth Foyers, with a particular focus on supporting the high quality of the Foyer network and our national advocacy efforts.

AFG also invited their mortgage broker network of over 4000 small to medium businesses to give to the AFG Independence Fund, which has resulted in 36 donations that total over \$4,200 this financial year. Thank you to AFG and your network for your generous contributions.



The **William Buckland Foundation** and the Foyer Foundation have a four-year partnership designed to support communities across Australia seeking to establish new Youth Foyers. Through our partnership, the Foyer Foundation offers support to new and emerging Youth Foyers in their early stages of development.

With a focus on Victoria, we are building prototypes for how to support more communities with Youth Foyers as the national network scales, and offer support to communities earlier in the Foyer development journey than we previously had the capacity and resources to support. This helps Youth Foyer projects move from business case through to opening their doors more quickly in response to the urgent demands of young people in their area, and sets up new Youth Foyers with the quality standards needed for successful Accreditation into the future.

“

*The support of the AFG Grant has allowed me to complete the pre-motorbike course needed to get my motorbike licence. Having my licence will give me access to more employment and education opportunities, as well as be able to visit my family who live 2.5 hours away.* Current Foyer resident





“

*One of the biggest differences is that I'm now hopeful for the future and can see a future for myself. I also feel like the person I entered through Foyer and the person I will exit through Foyer will be like almost two completely different people as I'm now a lot more confident and sure of myself.* **Ava**, current Foyer resident

## Foyer5000 and Private donors

The Foyer Foundation is also supported by a significant and growing number of private donors and trusts, whose generous donations enable us to grow the reach and impact of Foyers. Our Foyer5000 donors contribute over \$5000, which is a significant personal contribution. Alongside the Foyer5000 program, we have 33 private donors that make regular contributions to The Foyer Foundation. We extend our sincere thanks to each and every donor for the difference you make to young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Australia.

### Foyer5000+ donors

Anthony Sweetman  
Baly Douglass Foundation  
Keith Bryant  
Peter & Barbara Hoadley Foundation  
Peter Crossing AM  
Peter Kingston  
Q-Giving Fund  
Rhondda Blackshaw  
Rosemary Coleman

## Ambassadors

We thank the many Youth Ambassadors who have dedicated their time, energy and expertise to our collective efforts and advocated so passionately for change for other young people. We also extend our thanks to our Ambassador Chloe Shorten for her continued commitment to the Foyer Foundation and young people.



*Annabel Luscombe and Mark Cox outside the Townsville Youth Foyer development following Advantaged Thinking Training with the Mission Australia team*

## Organisational partners



The **Brotherhood of St Laurence** (BSL) has been a trusted strategic partner of the Foyer Foundation since the inception of the Foyer Foundation in 2008. Our organisation was originally auspiced by the Brotherhood of St Laurence, and over the years we have worked together in various ways to advance the Youth Foyer movement in Australia. Our partnership has evolved as the Foyer ecosystem has grown so that we can better serve our thriving Foyer network, together.

This year, we have been delighted to welcome two members of the Brotherhood St Laurence team, Mark Cox and Annabel Luscombe, on a 12 month secondment to our Integrity and Growth team. We have continued to work together to implement the national Youth Foyer Outcomes Framework, and co-deliver training and events, including the national Advantaged Thinking Symposium held in Melbourne. BSL also plays a valuable role as a member of the FoyerInvest consortium and works to promote Advantaged Thinking in Australia within Youth Foyers and beyond.

## MinterEllison.

Our legal partner, **MinterEllison**, continues to support the Foyer Foundation through the provision of high-quality, low bono legal advice. We thank them for their continued support to our growing organisation, with special acknowledgement of Keith Rovers for your time and effort.



# Treasurer's Report and financials

Treasurer

## Peter Kingston

The Foyer Foundation continued to advocate at all levels of Government and throughout the community on behalf of young people at risk of homelessness.

Revenue over the last financial year ending 30 June 2024 increased 11.1% to \$2,674,065. The skew towards a small deficit in 2024 resulted from a 2023 donation of \$550,000 that required recognition in the 2023 financial accounts but the actual expenditure took place during the 2024 financial year. The accounting treatment caused a small surplus in 2023 and a deficit in 2024. Employment services expenses rose 46.3% to \$1,149,177 as we increased full-time equivalent staffing from 6 to 10.

Donations, grants and conference income received rose 24.5% to \$3,413,295. Total equity fell 17.3% to \$847,279. The statutory financial accounts to June 30, 2023 were again audited by McBain McCartin & Co. The audit was unqualified.

The Foyer Foundation receives no Government financial support – deriving 97% of its funding from donations and grants. Philanthropic support allows us to advocate for an Advantaged Thinking approach for young people at risk of homelessness and to invest in our core asset – our people. During the financial year, Foyer engaged more than 40 young people in 80 or more opportunities to influence change, created in excess of 450 paid hours and an additional 180+ hours of training.

Philanthropic support for the Foyer Foundation is the result of successfully sharing a vision and working towards the goal of 50 accredited Youth Foyers by 2030. Thank you to the Australian Finance Group, The Paul Ramsay Foundation, The William Buckland Foundation, Hand Heart Pocket, individuals that make up the Foyer 5000 Group, as well as other individuals, companies and not-for-profit organisations that provide financial and other material support. Your support is, has been and continues to be invaluable.

Click [here](#) to read our audited financial accounts by McBain, McCartin and Co.



## Financial Reports

### Statement of Financial Performance

	30 June 2024	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue and Other Income from operating activities	2,674,065	2,406,296	1,119,180	384,638	153,473
Expenses to operating activities	(2,851,865)	(1,844,301)	(887,271)	(305,465)	(199,470)
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>(177,800)</b>	<b>561,995</b>	<b>231,909</b>	<b>79,173</b>	<b>(45,997)</b>

### Summary Statement of Financial Position

	30 June 2024	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Assets	3,022,324	2,282,661	1,378,573	574,378	155,425
Total Liabilities	2,175,045	1,257,582	915,489	343,203	3,423
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>847,279</b>	<b>1,025,079</b>	<b>463,084</b>	<b>231,175</b>	<b>152,002</b>
<b>Net Equity</b>	<b>847,279</b>	<b>1,025,079</b>	<b>463,084</b>	<b>231,175</b>	<b>152,002</b>
Balance	0	0	0	0	0



# Our Board

## Keith Bryant

Keith is the Chair of the Board of the Foyer Foundation. He is also the CEO of the Open Dialogue Centre, a start-up NGO that is looking to transform the way mental health services are delivered. Keith previously held leadership positions at Wentworth Community Housing, the Constellation Project, and the Benevolent Society. Prior to 1999 he managed investment banking teams across the globe for Deutsche Bank.



## Peter Kingston

Peter Kingston worked as an investment banker for more than 30 years in Melbourne, Sydney and Hong Kong. Through his love of running he found a way to combine racing with fundraising for social causes, allowing him to raise money and support causes for Oxfam and the Benevolent Society. He is a strong believer that placing a small dent in a cycle where people experience disadvantage can lead to lifelong change for people, their families and communities.



## Tracey Burton

Tracey Burton is the Chief Executive at Uniting NSW/TAS, and a seasoned health and community services leader dedicated to excellence in client service and employee outcomes. She's known for driving growth, service improvement, and financial performance through strong teams and stakeholder relationships. Notable achievements include the establishment of Foyer Central in Sydney for young people transitioning from the care system.



## Dr Lyn Farrell

Dr. Lyn Farrell is a distinguished leader in Vocational Education and Training, having held senior positions in both the VET and university sectors. With nine years as the Dean of Edith Cowan University's South West Campus, she also served as Managing Director of Pilbara TAFE, General Manager Training Services at North Metropolitan TAFE, and CEO of Abmusic. Lyn's passion lies in expanding higher education opportunities and creating diverse learning pathways, particularly in regional Western Australia. Her community and industry involvement in improving economic and social capacity earned her induction into the Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame in 2020. Dr Farrell resigned from the board at the end of the financial year and the Foyer Foundation is grateful for her contribution.



## Rhys Edwards

Rhys Edwards is a consultant and board director, who collaborates with governments, universities, social enterprises, and the private sector to pioneer innovative models for growth and transformation. Rhys had a long career as a public servant including six years as Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet in Tasmania. Rhys is Chair of InVent a university commercialisation company, a director of the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre, a director on the board of Australia's largest renewable electricity retailer and a director of a basketball business Swisherr. He is a Rhodes Scholar and Fellow of the AICD, a Salzburg Global Fellow and a member of the Economics Society of Australia.



## Bevan Warner

Bevan Warner is the CEO of Launch Housing, a major housing and homeless support provider in Victoria that operates two Education First Youth Foyers. Formerly as the Managing Director of Victoria Legal Aid, Bevan facilitated legal assistance and advocacy for 90,000 Victorians each year, always prioritising equity and respect for those in crisis or facing adversity. Throughout his career, he has championed client-centred service design and guided workforces in navigating complex service systems.



## Kristy Brittain

Kristy Brittain, a proud Yued Balladong Nyoongar woman, serves as the Headspace Centre Manager at Wunan Foundation in Kununurra, regional Western Australia. With a background in youth and community work at organisations like Save the Children and the Department of Communities WA, Kristy holds a Bachelor of Social Science with a major in Youth Work. She specialises in Trauma Informed practice and community collaboration, enhancing program systems for evidence-based outcomes and ensuring a regional community perspective and cultural safety in the Foyer approach.



## Melissa Wilton

Melissa Wilton, the Head of Communications and Engagement at the Butterfly Foundation, has more than 20 years of global experience in communications, marketing, branding, fundraising, and membership. Over the past decade, she has channelled her expertise into the not-for-profit sector, spanning disability, health, housing, and mental health. Melissa collaborates with Boards to devise strategies that drive the organisation's vision and direction, including revenue growth, impactful awareness campaigns, and marketing objectives.



## Ash Cook

Ash Cook, Lived Experience Board member (non-voting), is a qualified Social Worker and currently working as a Response Case Manager at Uniting SA. Ash was formerly a resident at Port Adelaide Youth Foyer, where he became a Youth Worker while completing his degree. Ash has been a Foyer Foundation Youth Ambassador for the past few years, and is a strong advocate for Youth Foyers and utilising his lived and professional expertise to influence better outcomes for young people across the country. Ash has previously served as a member of Minister Nat Cook's Youth Advisory Council where he contributed to policy decisions that affect young people in South Australia.



## Julie Saunders

Julie Saunders has over 25 years of experience as an urban planner and property specialist working in diverse roles around the country. Her passion for serving community is demonstrated in her breadth of experience across various levels of government, the not-for-profit and private sectors. She has a diverse range of experience in the planning and development pipeline through her roles in statutory and strategic planning and agency work.







Julie also brings invaluable insights to the board through her roles as the Chair of the Housing Supply Expert Panel, Chair of the Queensland Chapter of Learning Environments Australasia and Board Chair of BRIC Housing. Julie joined the board in September 2024.





Join us and be part of unlocking thriving futures for over 20,000 young people over the course of a decade.

Follow us online for news, updates and inspiring stories as we work towards our goal of 50 Youth Foyers by 2030 or get in touch to be part of the solution to youth homelessness.

-  [facebook.com/FoyerFoundation/](https://facebook.com/FoyerFoundation/)
-  [linkedin.com/company/the-foyer-foundation/](https://linkedin.com/company/the-foyer-foundation/)
-  [@foyerfoundationaustralia](https://instagram.com/foyerfoundationaustralia)
-  [info@foyer.org.au](mailto:info@foyer.org.au)

[foyer.org.au](https://foyer.org.au)



*Artwork: Walking My Dog, by Tarik Dallinger-Dimizio, artist and former Foyer resident*