

2030 Foyer Strategy

Guiding the Australian Foyer
movement to 2030 and beyond





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Image: Clare, Foyer Ambassador and former Logan Youth Foyer resident.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work and dream. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community and pay our respects to Elders past, present and those yet to come. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded. This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

A MESSAGE FROM FOYER AMBASSADORS

In our own words.

We imagine a future where...



'Scopophobia II' by Savannah, former Warrnambool Foyer resident

Every young person CAN envision their own future and choose their path to a thriving life. I want that sense of hopelessness to disappear with more quality support put in place for young people.

- Caitlyn

A future filled with light, where the girl who once carried her life in bags now carries plans instead. The past will always be part of me, the long nights, the uncertainty, the constant moving, But it will not define where I end up. I see a warm home, meaningful work, people who love me gently and consistently, and a life built from resilience instead of fear. For the first time, stability feels possible, and happiness feels like something I can keep.

- Sienna



'Shutters Up' by Avie, Foyer Ambassador and former Foyer Oxford resident



Ambassadors Caitlyn, Avie, KD, Sienna and Brea at the 2030 Foyer Strategy Accelerator workshop in 2026

Seeing how my story can inspire others and create real change has motivated me to want to create even more meaningful impact for other young people facing similar challenges.

- KD



'Serentiy' by Kailey, Logan Youth Foyer resident



'Human Rights' by Ash, Foyer Ambassador and former Lived Experience Board Member.

My upbringing of unstable housing and living situations motivates me to advocate for change and for a better world. I see how the world could change for the better and know how lucky I am... I want others to be able to experience what I have.

- Avie

Life after Foyer looks like...

Staying in a safe apartment. I have applied for uni, which is big for me as it has been a goal of mine for a while. I have grown more confident and sure of myself.

- Avie

I've been able to figure out who I am as a person and heal for the first time. I completed a Certificate 4 in youth work and moved on to become a full-time youth worker.

I have my advocacy, moved into the private rental market and now I'm saving up to do a year holiday abroad and travel the world!

- Caitlyn

We're proud of what we've achieved.

The person I've grown into, and the independence I've worked hard to build. Navigating such a complex world takes a lot of resilience, and being able to not just survive but also thrive, is something I'm incredibly grateful for and proud of.

- KD



'Shutters Up' by Avie, Foyer Ambassador and former Foyer Oxford resident

I've lived through dealing with and navigating failures in the system, as a young person I lost my best friend to a system failure it broke me, but becoming an Ambassador gave me the confidence to speak up and save people like myself and my best friend from those hidden system flaws.

- Caitlyn

Be the change that makes this future possible.

Our lived experience makes us who we are, it can shape who we are. But it's not all that we are.

We deserve a future filled with stability and the opportunity to achieve our goals, create lasting happiness, and give back to the communities that support us.

This is both a call to action and a catalyst for hope especially for those who have experienced homelessness and we hope a reason for you to invest in young people's futures and livelihoods.



Artwork by Tarik, Foyer Ambassador and former Gold Coast Youth Foyer resident

Being able to sit in stability and not always needing to feel on edge.

Enrolling in my Law and International Relations uni course. I love it so far and hope to use my education to advocate for others like me.

- Sienna



'Midnight Community' by Avie, Foyer Ambassador



'I am more than a case number' by Ella, former Gold Coast Youth Foyer resident

THE PROBLEM WE'RE TRYING TO SOLVE

The reality right now...

We all deserve a place that feels like home, people who believe in us, and the support to find our way in the world.

But right now over 40,000 young Australians don't have safe place to live. Not because they chose homelessness - but because the people and systems meant to protect them failed.

Most are escaping family breakdown, domestic violence or housing insecurity. Many have experienced poverty, overcrowding, and mental health challenges. Almost three quarters aren't in education. 30% of young people leaving out of home care have nowhere to go next.

One third are young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, despite First Nations people making up just 5% of the population between 15-24 years old. This gap has widened. And it will keep widening until the policies and systems meant to close it are designed with, and led by First Nations communities.

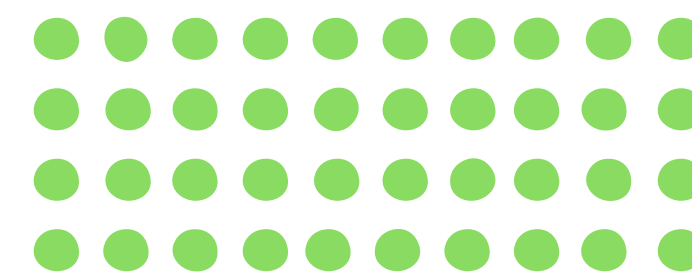
In one of the wealthiest countries on earth, young people are locked out of a housing market they can't afford, surviving on Youth Allowance below minimum wage.

Every one of these people has dreams, goals and a future worth building.

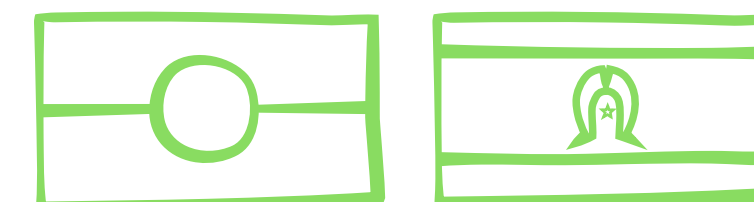
There are solutions to help them get there. Youth Foyers support 80% of young people into secure housing, employment and education, and 87% develop the confidence to reach their goals.

No single solution is enough. We must create a system that works with and for young people with real pathways out of homelessness to independence.

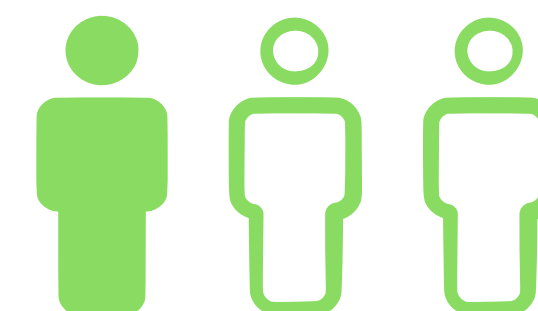
That's what this strategy is for.



40,000 young Australians face homelessness every year.



1 in 3 young people facing homelessness are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



30% young people leaving out of home care have nowhere to go next.

OUR VISION

We are a growing movement of young people, organisations and communities working to create a future where...

Every young person has a home and the power to shape a thriving future.



BY 2040, WE WANT TO SEE...

75+ Communities Strengthened



Offering young people a range of support options, education and employment opportunities on their pathway to independence with Youth Foyers as essential community infrastructure.

Over 20,000 Futures Changed



By 2040, we aim to have supported over 20,000 young people to independent, thriving futures.

Stigma Disrupted In Society



More people, leaders and communities see young people for their talents and invest in their futures.

Policy & Funding Systems Shift



Funding, policy and decisions that share power with young people and are driven by lived experience and evidence.

Achieving this will take time, collective effort and investment. Our strategy to 2030 will move us closer to this vision.

OUR APPROACH



**Advantaged
Thinking**



**Lived
experience
and evidence**



**A powerful
national
network**



**A strong
backbone**

OUR PRIORITIES



**Grow and
sustain quality
Youth Foyers**

in 50+ communities
across Australia.



**Back First Nations
self-determination**

so First Nations young
people have culturally
strong pathways.



**Change systems
to work with and
for young people**

so funding, policy and
decisions reflect lived
experience and evidence.

BY 2030

**Over 2,000 young
people** supported
at any one time
across a network of
50 Youth Foyers.

**> 80% of young
people exiting Youth
Foyers** into secure
housing, employment
and education with the
skills and confidence to
achieve their goals.

**First Nations young
people** have culturally
strong pathways through
every Youth Foyer, with
at least 3+ First Nations-
led Foyers committed.

100+ young people
driving decision-
making and advocacy.

BY 2040

**Over 20,000 young
people** supported
by Youth Foyers
to independent,
thriving futures.

OUR VISION

**Every young
person has
a home and
the power
to shape
a thriving
future.**

OUR APPROACH

How we make this happen



Advantaged Thinking

Advantaged Thinking is a different way of thinking about and responding to young people experiencing disadvantage.

Advantaged Thinking unlocks high aspirations. Rather than focusing on deficits and problems, it recognises that all young people have skills, capabilities and assets - and a vital contribution to make to our communities and societies.

Together we co-create real solutions to systemic barriers and opportunities, like jobs, education and community connections.



Lived experience & evidence

This movement is accountable to young people who understand what it's like to experience homelessness and what it takes to fix it.

This means engagement and investment at every level: from within Youth Foyers through to governance, paid leadership, grants and support for First Nations self-determination.

We combine lived experience with evidence to continuously improve practice and our response to homelessness more broadly.



A powerful national network

We're a national movement of young people, organisations and communities working to make sure every young person has what they need to thrive.

There are 18 accredited Youth Foyers across Australia - providing a home and personalised support for young people building their futures, with more on the way.

Our networks in over 65 communities connect young people to education, work, culture and belonging.

And we work across 70+ organisations to influence funding, policy and practice at every level of government.



A strong backbone

The Foyer Foundation backs the movement through:

Quality & Innovation: Ensuring every Youth Foyer delivers consistently strong results for young people through training, accreditation, outcomes measurement and place-based innovation.

Collective Action: Mobilising a national network of people, communities and organisations to grow the Youth Foyers network and change systems so young people get the support they deserve.

Shifting Power: Connecting young people with decision-makers to shape systems that impact them - through advocacy, co-design, and direct investment in their independence.

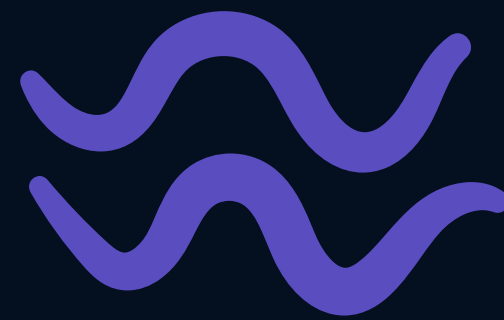
WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

Three connected priorities



Grow and sustain quality Youth Foyers

In 50+ communities across
Australia.



Back First Nations self- determination

So First Nations young people
have culturally strong pathways.



Change systems to work with and for young people

So funding, policy and
decisions reflect lived
experience and evidence.

PRIORITY 1

Grow and sustain quality Youth Foyers in 50+ communities

What we'll do

- 1 Grow and sustain Youth Foyers in more communities** so more young people get the housing and support they deserve.
- 2 Uphold high quality of all Youth Foyers** through training, accreditation and outcomes measurement that reflect young people's priorities.
- 3 Champion community leadership and innovation** so Youth Foyers are embedded in local ecosystems providing support and opportunities to young people before, during and beyond their Youth Foyer.
- 4 Connect all Youth Foyers as part of a national learning network** so we can adapt to the changing needs of young people and communities.

What success looks like by 2030

- ✓ 2,000+ young people with the housing and support they need to live thriving futures.
- ✓ 50 communities with high-quality Youth Foyers embedded or in development.
- ✓ > 80% of young people exiting Youth Foyers into secure housing, employment and education with the skills and confidence to achieve their goals.*
- ✓ 100% Youth Foyers accredited within three years of opening and committed to ongoing learning and development.

*Aggregate of outcomes across all of Australia's accredited Youth Foyers

Image: Tarik, Foyer Ambassador and former Gold Coast Youth Foyer resident.



PRIORITY 2

Back First Nations self-determination to create culturally strong pathways

What we'll do

- 1 Embed cultural authority and First Nations leadership in the way we make decisions.**
- 2 Build deep, long-term partnerships** with First Nations young people, Elders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations, and the broader First Nations youth and housing sectors.
- 3 Co-design, test and scale a First Nations-led Youth Foyer model in three different communities,** adapting to their context while maintaining Youth Foyer integrity and quality.
- 4 Influence policy and funding conditions** so Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations are set up to lead and succeed as designers, partners and providers of Youth Foyers and wraparound support.
- 5 Lift cultural safety and wellbeing practice across all Youth Foyers and the Foyer Foundation.**

What success looks like by 2030

- ✓ First Nations young people have culturally strong pathways through every Youth Foyer.
- ✓ First Nations young people living in Youth Foyers are achieving positive, whole-of-life outcomes on exit.
- ✓ Three First Nations-led Youth Foyers are committed with more on the way.



PRIORITY 3

Change systems to work with and for young people

What we'll do

- 1 Build our collective capability to share power and shape systems** with young people, Youth Foyers, our organisations, and beyond.
- 2 Bring together lived experience and data** to build a clearer picture of what it takes to prevent and respond to youth homelessness.
- 3 Amplify the voices and insights of young people** to influence change within and between systems.
- 4 Advocate for changes to state, territory and federal policies and funding** to reflect what we hear from people with lived experience, expertise and the evidence.
- 5 Disrupt the way society thinks and speaks about youth homelessness** to break stigmas, engage decision-makers and inspire change.

What success looks like by 2030

- ✓ 100+ young people driving decision-making and advocacy.
- ✓ A national network of 100+ organisations learning, working and acting together.
- ✓ Shifts in legislation, policies or government funding as the result of our collective efforts.



OUR ROADMAP TO IMPACT

Every young person has a home and the power to shape their future.

Our priorities What we're working on	Grow and sustain quality Youth Foyers In 50+ communities across Australia	Back First Nations self-determination To create culturally strong pathways	Change systems to work for and with young people So funding, policy and legislative decisions reflect lived experience and evidence
Our activities What we'll do	- Grow and sustain Youth Foyers in more communities - Uphold high quality of all Youth Foyers - Champion community leadership and innovation - Connect all Youth Foyers as part of a national learning network	- Embed cultural authority in the way we make decisions - Build deep, long-term partnerships with First Nations people and communities - Co-design, test and scale a First Nations-led Youth Foyer model - Lift the cultural safety and practice across Youth Foyers and the Foyer Foundation	- Build collective capacity to share power and shaper systems - Bring together lived experience and data - Amplify the voices and insights of young people - Advocating for changes to policies and funding - Disrupt the way society thinks and speaks about youth homelessness
What makes this possible	Advantaged Thinking • Lived experience and evidence • A powerful national network • A strong backbone		
Targets for 2030 What success looks like	- Over 2,000+ young people with the housing and support they need to thrive - Accredited Youth Foyers delivering consistent outcomes - Young people have positive transitions into Youth Foyers and clear pathways out	- First Nations young people have culturally strong pathways through every Youth Foyer - First Nations young people living in Youth Foyers are achieving positive, whole-of-life outcomes on exit - Three First Nations-led Youth Foyers are committed with more on the way	100+ young people driving decision-making and advocacy - A national network of 100+ organisations learning, working and acting together - Shifts in legislation, policies or government funding as the result of our collective efforts
The difference we're making By 2040 we want to see	Over 20,000+ futures changed - Young people transitioning through Youth Foyers to independence over the next decade 75+ communities offering young people a range of support options, education and employment opportunities on their pathway to independence	Self-determination is the norm First Nations young people thrive - connected to culture, country and community. Benefits flow across generations	Our society and systems back young people - Funding, policy and decisions that back young people and are driven by both lived experience and data - More people, leaders and communities see young people for their talents and invest in their futures

Together, we can back young people to live thriving, independent futures.

Be part of a growing movement
joining up people, organisations
and communities across Australia.

Connect with the team at the Foyer Foundation
via info@foyer.org.au or visit foyer.org.au



Cover Image: Foyer Ambassadors Avie, Brea, KD, Sienna and Youth Lead, LVK at the celebration of 25 Years of the Foyer movement in Australia held in 2026.

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