



Annual Report 21/22

Bridge it



Celebrating our first year of creating homes and transforming lives.

Bridge It operates on Bunurong Country. We proudly acknowledge the people of the Yalukit Willam Clan of the South East Kulin Nations, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, work, and play. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present, and emerging. Australia always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

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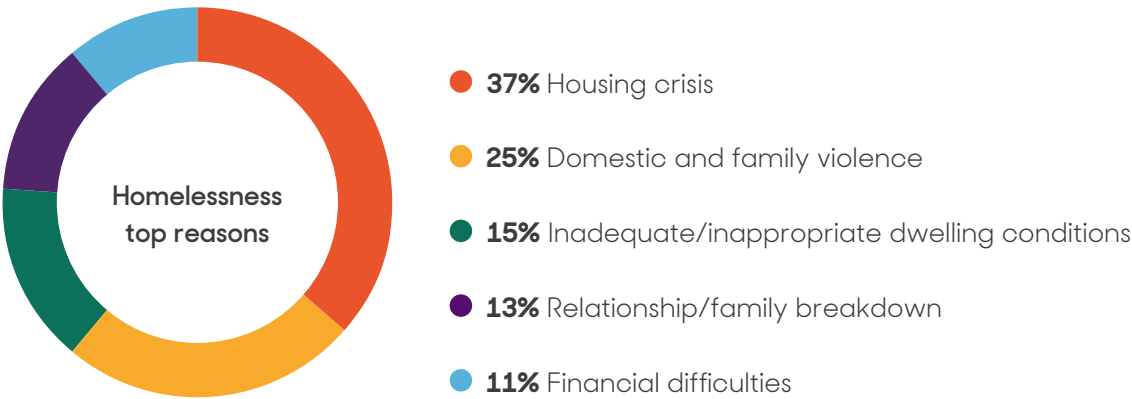
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Our Why & Our Work

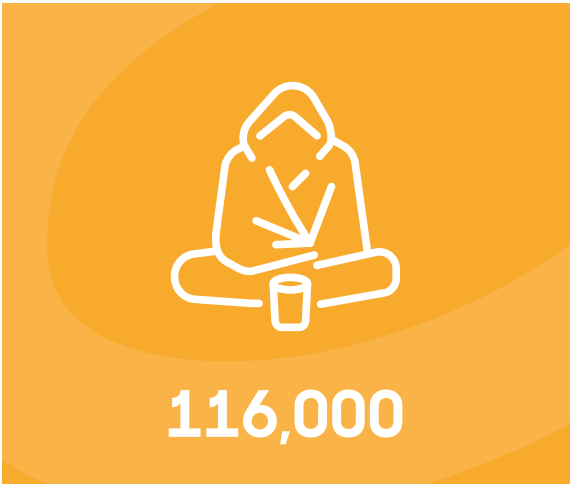
There is a youth homelessness crisis in Victoria.
More than 16% of people experiencing homelessness are between the ages of 15 and 24.

What can lead to this?

The top reasons are:



2016 Census.

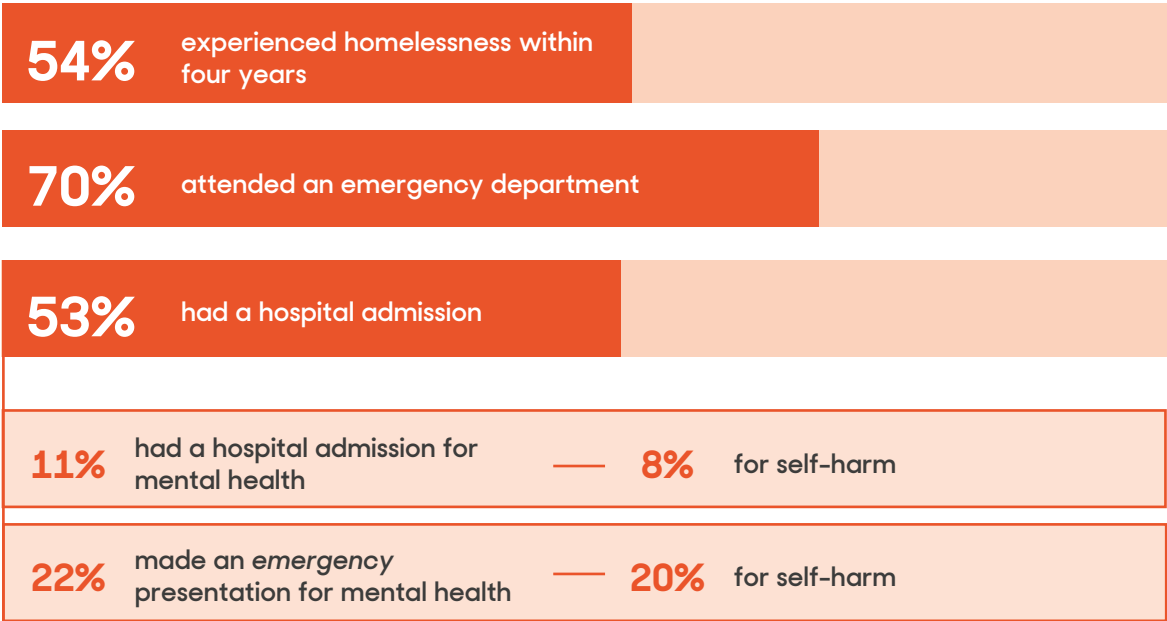


There are **116,000** people in Australia experiencing homelessness on any given night. (Census 2016)



1 in 6 young people surveyed in Mission Australia's 2019 Youth Survey have experienced homelessness. (2019-2020)

For young people leaving out-of-home care (OoHC),



Reports cited: Mission Australia's 2019 Youth Survey, 2016 Census, AHURI Poor transition processes are driving young care leavers into homelessness.

Homelessness is unnecessary and solvable.

We want to be part of the solution.

We believe everyone has the right to safety, connection, and the choice of how and where they live.

Our Bridge

In Bridge It's pilot year, we aimed to tackle two ends of the homelessness spectrum.

Early intervention... enter



And long-term homelessness... enter



Both provide beautiful, safe, stable homes in great locations, with connected communities and the support to thrive.

Both have disrupted the homelessness cycle and changed the lives of our residents.

Our Mission: To play a role in ending homelessness in Australia by providing homes, community, and support.

MICRO VISION:
There's a Cocoon or Sanctuary in every suburb of Australia.

MACRO VISION:
We inspire new ways of thinking so homelessness support is life-changing and long-lasting.

MEGA VISION:
We play a role in ending homelessness in Australia.



Bridge It Facts

- ➡ Bridge It's birth: 22nd June 2021
- ➡ Carla, the fire-starting Founder & CEO
- ➡ Jenna (Carla's identical twin), Engagement Officer & the dreamer who visioned The Cocoon

Welcome to Bridge It by Carla (Founder)



We birthed Bridge It by harnessing the combined energy and passion of legends who became the founding team and Board. When a group gets together with a shared belief – that people experiencing homelessness should have access to a home and a community – and are willing to give their time, magic happens.

Both my sister and I have worked in the homelessness field for years. I was frustrated by Melbourne's urgent need for safe and affordable housing. Jenna wanted to create a place for women to heal and recover from trauma. We saw a significant gap in the current system. It was time to Bridge It.

A seemingly impossible dream turned into reality, thanks to Jane Tewson (one of our Founding Directors) and all the amazing connections that came from meeting her. Jane supported me in forming my Board; Greg, my chair, and his wife Lee became mentors; Ed assisted me in accessing the properties through HousingFirst; Tom supported me in registering Bridge It as a charity, and Christa in getting the financial aspects of the organisation running smoothly.

We launched two residential pilot programs in our first year. Thanks to securing a partnership with HousingFirst, we were given access to two beautiful heritage properties in St Kilda. One became The Cocoon and the other, The Sanctuary.

The programs are one-of-a-kind; they're real homes, providing housing for longer, focusing on connection and skill-building. In the time Jenna and I spent working in homelessness, this was what we wanted for the people we supported, but it simply didn't exist.

We've watched our residents' lives change. Many of them feel they have a home for the first time. The model assumes that, with stable housing and high-quality, flexible support, people can focus on their life goals and fulfil their aspirations. Ultimately, they can exit homelessness long-term.

2021 was the year of COVID and subsequent lockdowns, which created unique challenges. Our service was needed more than ever, and we continued to provide face-to-face support during this time. We're proud we got to be part of the Victorian Government's Homelessness to a Home initiative, working alongside South Port Community Housing Group and Star Health to deliver a program of housing with support. This level of government investment was unprecedented; it needs to continue.

I was so lucky to meet incredible people, foundations, and corporates who believed in Bridge It's vision and backed us with the funding and support to launch and grow. I extend my deepest gratitude to our fantastic Board, team, supporters and my ever-supportive husband, Corey, for backing Bridge It and being part of its creation. I look forward to seeing what the next year will bring.

Carla Raynes
CEO and Founder



Chairman's Letter

It's been an inspiring and successful first year for Bridge It's team, and one to be proud of as we take our first steps into the homeless sector under our own steam.

Bridge It was incorporated on 22 June 2021 and registered soon after with the Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission. We started with some \$20,000 in cash, five employees and a plan based on a different approach to homelessness. With Carla Raynes, our irrepressible Founder and CEO, leading the organisation, we felt we had a real shot at success.

Our friends at Igniting Change took us under their wing and introduced us to numerous supporters who've been outstanding in their generosity and encouragement. Our team initiated arrangement with HousingFirst secured us the stewardship of two properties in St Kilda, The Sanctuary and The Cocoon, which provide warm and welcoming, secure, stable, self-contained, and dignified accommodation to female-identifying people. At The Cocoon, we have an additional 12 units awaiting renovation, and we continue investigating exciting opportunities to secure more sites to extend our support.

I thank our founding Board, Jane, Christa, and Ed. They, and our company secretary Tom, have generously lent their time, expertise, and enthusiasm to progressing our efforts and guiding our decisions. Our friends, volunteers, advisors, and supporters are numerous, and I thank them for always being there to support us in all manner of ways.

We are in a solid financial position at year-end with incredible philanthropic supporters and several successful grant applications. At the same time, Bridge It is being noticed and, more importantly, so is our model of care, so exciting opportunities continue to emerge.

Sadly, there is a huge demand for the type of services we provide. We will strive to increase our reach and impact, supporting and equipping our residents for their journey in life.

Greg Ridder
Chairman and Board Director

Our Values

We believe...

Community is critical.

To thrive, we need others as humans crave connection and belonging. Bridge It creates community.

People are the experts in their own lives.

People know how they feel and what they've been through and are the ones who can say what they need. We trust them, provide flexible support, and go on their journey with them.

Home is a human need.

Everyone needs a safe space that offers stability and serenity; without it, we can't thrive in other areas of our life.

Everyone has worth and value.

We support and motivate residents to reach their goals by focusing on what they can do instead of what they can't.



How We Work

The Bridge It team combines decades of experience across various parts of the homelessness sector, including drug and alcohol, mental health, and family violence. This experience has informed the shape of Bridge It's programs and our approach to work.

We provide homes – our apartments feel welcoming and homely with light, high-quality furnishings, appliances, and accessories. They are safe, affordable, and are available for 12 months plus.

We create community – hosting group outings and activities, so our residents can connect. These include walks, movie or games nights, birthday parties and BBQs.

We focus on recovery – offering therapeutic activities, such as massage, acupuncture, and animal therapy.

We provide individualised support – offering case management that focuses on individual needs and assists residents with their goals.

We build skills and capacity – offering various groups to help residents find work, learn how to cook, and manage relationships (to name a few).

Half of our team has lived experience of mental health conditions, neurodiversity, or the criminal justice system. We believe that having a team with lived experiences, qualifications, and years working in the sector, we are well placed to provide support and intervention.

We adapt our model of support through engagement with our residents. Co-design is essential to ensuring that we meet the needs of the people we support.





Our Strategy

Because:

People experience homelessness due to a lack of safe and affordable housing, appropriate support, and a lack of connection.



We provide:

Innovative housing solutions creating 'homes', not just houses, and facilitate connections with neighbours and the community.



To support:

People at risk of homelessness and/or leaving out-of-home care.



That leads to:

People stabilising, building positive relationships, finding employment, and engaging in study and other meaningful activities.



That results in:

People thriving and reaching their full potential, creating an end to their experience of homelessness.



The Cocoon

Because:

Female-identifying young people who have experienced significant trauma have difficulty finding and maintaining affordable housing. Young people leaving out-of-home care are overrepresented in our homelessness and criminal justice systems.



We provide:

A fully self-contained home for one year, with onsite support including peer mentoring, case management, therapies and life and living skills development. AND a pathway into long-term community housing.



To support:

Female-identifying people aged 17-24 who are either:

1. NDIS participants;
2. Exiting out-of-home care; or
3. At risk of experiencing homelessness.



That leads to:

Residents stabilising their mental health, starting to recover from childhood trauma and working on life goals such as finding employment, engaging in education and building healthy relationships.



That results in:

Young people thriving, reaching their full potential, and experiencing an end to the homelessness cycle.



The Sanctuary

Because:

People with psychosocial disabilities, such as schizophrenia, face an increased risk of experiencing homelessness, loneliness and isolation, and a critical lack of safe, long-term, affordable and supportive housing.



We provide:

A long-term, fully self-contained home with highly individualised support, including peer mentoring, case management and community-building activities.



To support:

Female-identifying NDIS participants aged 25+ with a history of homelessness, trauma and psychosocial disability.



That leads to:

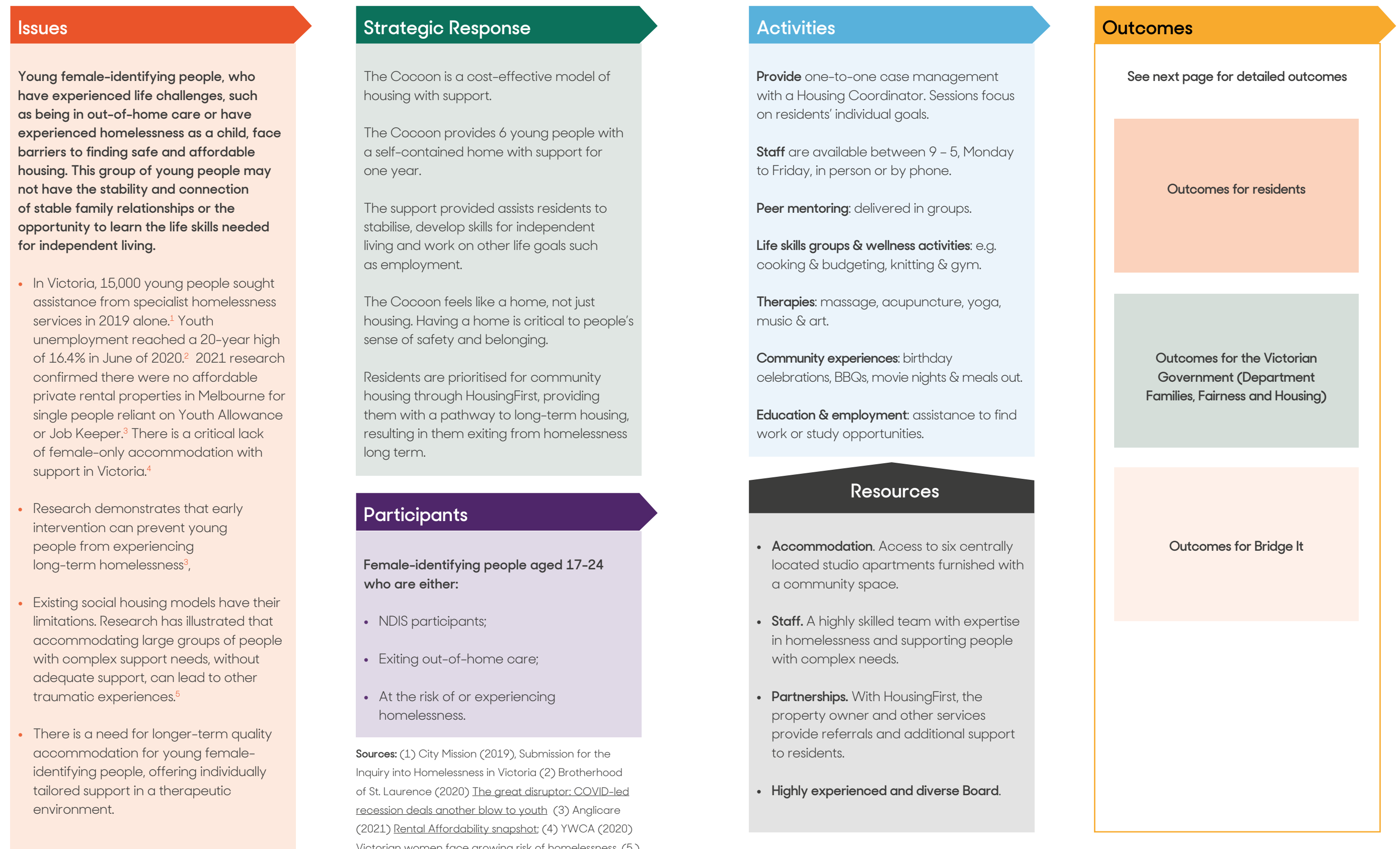
Residents having a safe home, friendships, a community and the stability to thrive in other life areas, such as finding employment.



That results in:

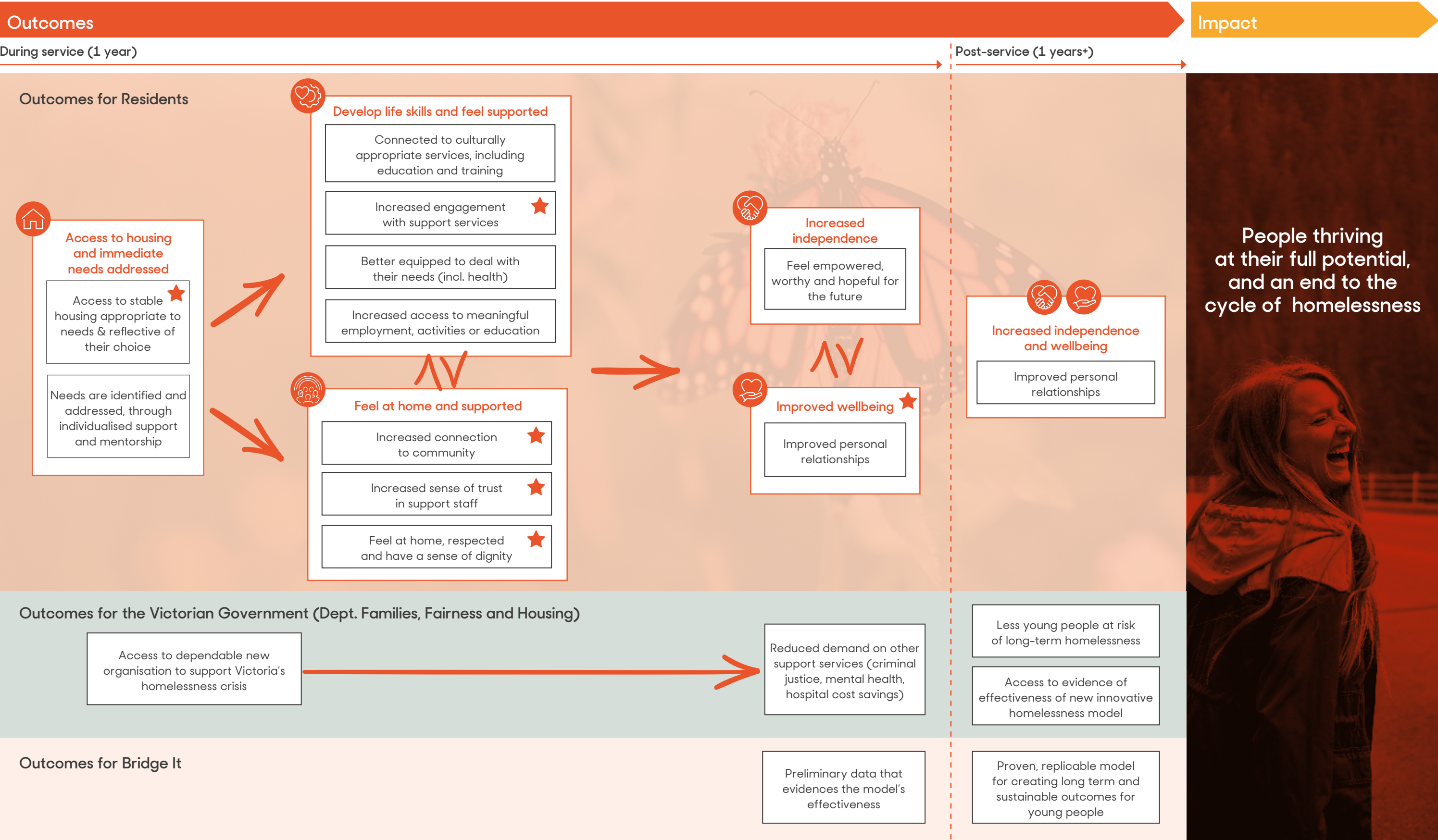
Residents exiting homelessness and thriving in other life areas.

The Cocoon Theory of Change



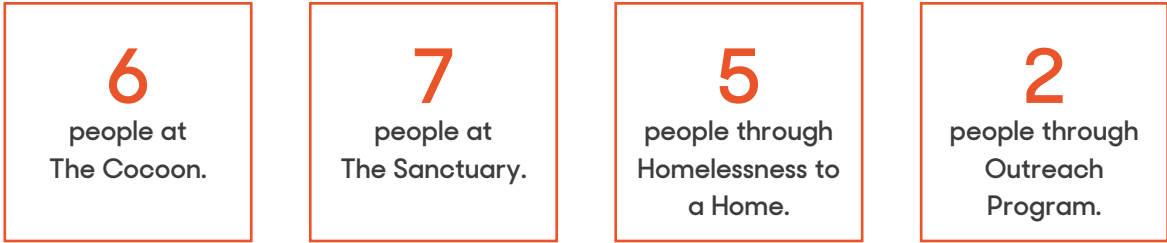
The Cocoon Theory of Change

Key: Cocoon outcomes ★ Priority outcomes for measurement



Year in Review: Our Impact

Since its inception, Bridge It's supported 20 people to exit homelessness.



Beyond creating homes, we build a sense of community, connection and belonging for our residents at The Cocoon and The Sanctuary. We ran over 60 group activities, including knitting, gardening, craft, music, cooking, walking, coffee outings, movie nights, games nights, and more. We've seen connections and friendships blossom, and many residents stabilise and thrive.



Our homes and support programs are delivered in partnership with HousingFirst.

We provide the support, and HousingFirst provides tenancy management.

Year in Review: The Cocoon & The Sanctuary



The Cocoon: St Kilda

The place to transform: a beautiful home for female-identifying people exiting out-of-home care or homelessness.

The Cocoon

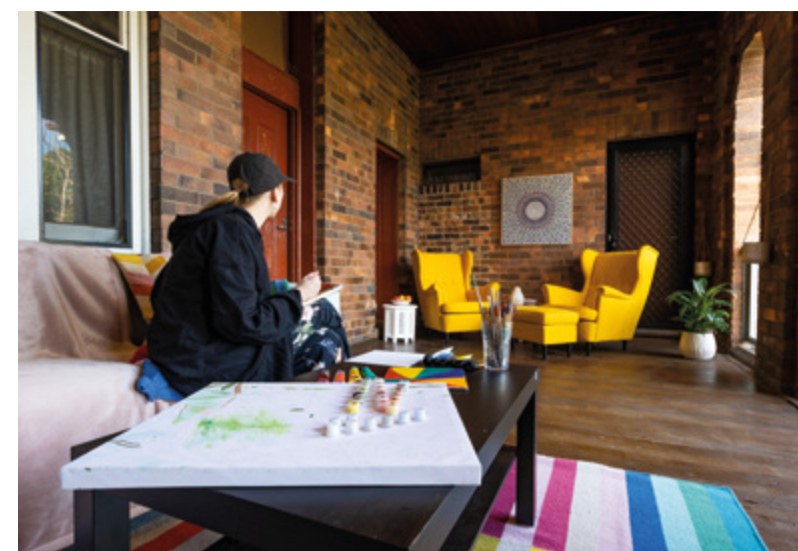
The Cocoon is a heritage-listed property in central St Kilda, providing a safe home to 6 female-identifying people aged 17-24 who've exited homelessness or out-of-home care. The Cocoon offers a therapeutic space for residents to stabilise, with modern, light-filled, self-contained apartments and a shared living space to connect with other residents.

The Cocoon offers a range of services onsite.

- ➔ Our skilled team provides one-on-one case management support.
- ➔ Peer mentoring from a lived experience worker.
- ➔ Wellbeing activities, including walking groups and access to the PCYC gym.
- ➔ Community-building activities, including shared meals and birthday celebrations.
- ➔ Life and living skills groups, such as learning to cook.

"A home is where you feel safe, supported, and comforted and can be yourself. The Cocoon feels like home."

Resident





The Sanctuary

The Sanctuary is a heritage-listed, converted mansion in St Kilda. It offers 7 high-quality, safe, and secured self-contained studio apartments to female-identifying people over 25 who have experienced homelessness, trauma and psychosocial disabilities.

The accommodation is long-term community housing, so residents can stay as long as they want. The Bridge It team provides outreach support designed to be flexible to meet residents' individual needs. Support includes case management, peer mentoring and community-building activities. The intention is to create a therapeutic place where recovery is possible and to end the residents' homelessness journey for good.

Year in Review: Homelessness to a Home & Outreach

Homelessness to a Home (H2H) is a government initiative supporting people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The H2H program provides support and pathways into safe, secure, and sustainable medium and long-term housing for 1,845 households in emergency accommodation. Bridge It was one of 14 partnerships in Victoria's homelessness service sector. Our delivery partners were Star Health and Southport Community Housing Group.

Through this program, Bridge It supported 5 people into safe housing, which enabled them to work on other life goals.

Michael is supported through the H2H Program.



"I feel safe and secure. So many people have helped me. I can't think of words nice enough. I've had so much great help from the program and my support worker Kate, who is such a lovely human being. She has been a lifesaver. I have nothing but praise. I'm so happy with everything. The whole system has treated me nicely, like a human being."

Outreach:

We provided stable homes and supported 2 young people through donated student accommodation.

Bridge It aspires to create more homes outside our Melbourne residential programs. We're working on building partnerships where we can access either donated housing or below-market rental opportunities.



Meet our Peer Mentor Sam

"There's nothing about us without us" is a saying that Bridge It Peer Mentor Sam Jones embodies in her peer-to-resident relationships. She learnt it during the Intentional Peer Support training (2020) after being encouraged and inspired by her support worker.

Sam lives with PTSD and bipolar type 1 and has spent considerable amounts of her adult life in psychiatric wards.

Sam believes that the role of a peer mentor is not simply to say 'it's going to be okay,' – **"it's just about going through that journey with someone, compassionately,"** she says.

Sam's personal experiences bring awareness, understanding, and an informed skill set to her role. **"The good thing about my experience is that I can truly empathise as I have many shared experiences with the people we support at Bridge It."** Sam can share the useful strategies she developed to manage her triggers, but she's careful to make suggestions rather than telling people what they should do. **"It's providing understanding, that instead of helping them to change behaviours, they can see why they're doing them, helping them to link up the dots and offering suggestions."**

Sam notes that the positive experience of working at Bridge It has come from the consistent support that Jenna (Engagement Officer) and the team have given her.

"There's always someone to talk things through, so I never feel like I'm on my own."

Sam feels trusted, which gives her a sense of freedom to act creatively and empathetically when developing group activities and engaging residents.

Sam works to provide a fun, trauma-informed space, believing the best approach is to ask residents to contribute to decision-making. The Cocoon model's design is adapted to the residents' feedback.

Sam believes that being adaptable and seeking out opportunities to connect with residents makes trusting relationships.

W As Bridge It grows, we hope to expand our peer mentor team. It is so important for our residents to have stable and healthy connections and their relationship with Sam has been an important part of their journey.

Jenna Wilson – Engagement Officer.

Shout out to our Bridge It Builders

We can't do this alone! Bridge It partners with like-minded organisations to make the magic happen.

Wonder what it takes to start a not-for-profit? **Answer: a lot.**

This is our gratitude list of organisations and people who've supported us in making this happen.

Partners

HousingFirst
South Port Community Housing Group
Star Health

Foundations

Benjamin Duncan Foundation
Capricorn Foundation
Dorman Foundation
Duggan Foundation
Honda Foundation
Igniting Change
Jack Brookhoff Foundation
John and Betty Laidlaw Legacy
LL Group Holdings
Mamoma Foundation
Mercy Foundation
Mondara Pines Charitable Foundation
Mutual Trust
Payton Foundation
River Capital
Roebuck Foundation
Sisters of Charity
Street Smart Australia
Spotlight Foundation
UGH Foundation
Vasudhara Foundation

Government

City of Port Phillip
Victoria State Government

Donors of Items for Homes

Carlton Rotary Club
Huckleberry
Kmart
Kogan.com
Kogo
Linen House
Norsu Interiors
Payton Foundation
Pinchapoo
Sheridan
Spotlight
The Agent Group

Philanthropists

Greg and Lee Ridder
Heather Mokee
Ros Rogers
Richard Rice

Companies

McCann Australia
Just Wright Copy

Pro Bono Consultancy

Linda Fox
Ron Wilson
Russell Kunz

Creating Homes Crew: Founding Board of Directors

Our Board brings together a wealth of experience and connections from several industries. Having a solid team means a strong foundation.



Greg Ridder, Director, Chair

Greg's a seasoned Non-Executive Director and Chair with extensive experience in business strategy and leadership in Australia and internationally. He's a commercial leader with a strong ethical focus. Greg is currently Chair at Kogan.com and Life Without Barriers and is also on the Boards of Spirit Technology Solutions and PNG Sustainable Development Program.



Carla Raynes, Founder, CEO, Director

Carla's worked in the homelessness sector in the UK and Australia for 17 years. She's held many roles in front line and management positions. Her experience spans working within crisis accommodations, drug and alcohol teams, tertiary hospitals and youth residential units. Carla co-founded a social enterprise before bringing her creative solutions to Bridge It.



Jane Tewson CBE, Director

Jane is the Founder and Director of Igniting Change. She is passionate about bringing lived experience into all aspects of her work, and in the process has spent her life turning old-fashioned ideas of charity upside down. She's an innovator with a global reputation for inspiring individuals and organisations to work together for social change. She's founded 5 charities, all flourishing today. She's known for lateral thinking and creative initiatives, including Comic Relief (Red Nose Day) in the UK, which has raised more than a billion pounds.



Edward Ring, Director

Edward's an investment professional who values using capital as a source of good. He works for Conscious Investment Management, a leading Australian impact investment fund, focused on delivering social housing in Australia. Outside of this, Ed has a management role in two Melbourne-based foundations.



Christa Malkin, Director

Christa brings a wealth of corporate operational experience, having spent most of her career in the financial services industry, managing large teams of high-performing salespeople, often in fast-paced and challenging environments with robust regulatory frameworks. As Westpac's State General Manager, she was recognised in 2017 for outstanding performance as an Employee of the Year finalist from 40,000+ staff.



Tom Jessup, Secretary

Tom's an admitted lawyer and recent first-class graduate with a Master of Public and International Law from The University of Melbourne. He has experience working as a commercial solicitor and at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Tom has been identified as a 30 under 30 by Out for Australia and one of the world's top 100 leaders under 30 SDGs by Unite2030. Tom currently works as the LGBT Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy Analyst at Thorne Harbour Health.

Creating Homes Crew: Founding Team



Carla Raynes, CEO, Founder

Carla founded Bridge It in 2021 to address the urgent need to create safe, affordable housing in Melbourne. Before this, she co-founded and managed a not-for-profit social enterprise, Home Share Melbourne and worked across numerous roles in the homelessness sector.



Jenna Wilson, Engagement Officer

Jenna played a vital role in the development of Bridge It and the implementation of its residential programs. She's worked in the mental health and homelessness field for over 15 years. She's passionate about mental health and recovery-focused practice.



Kate Mackenzie, Team Leader

Kate has worked as a social worker in the homelessness sector since 2017. From working at Vincent Care and the St Kilda Crisis Contact Centre, she has an in-depth understanding of the service sector in Victoria and the challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness. Kate manages Bridge It's day-to-day operations, leading and supporting the team.



Ollie Bates, Housing Coordinator

Ollie has worked in the homelessness sector for 5 years with some of Victoria's most at-risk young people. He's worked as an after-hours support worker and case manager for several homelessness services in Melbourne. He also has experience working in mental health and with people seeking asylum.



Sage Leslie, Housing Coordinator

Sage has a background working with specialist family violence services. Prior to working at Bridge It she was part of the Universal Services Team at Eastern Domestic Violence Services, working with maternal and child health nurses.



Kathryn Goldsmith, Bookkeeper

Kathryn has over 30 years of experience in accounting and bookkeeping, including 15 years running her own business. Her focus is on supporting not-for-profits.



Erin Wallis, Communications Officer

Erin has a background in advertising and has worked in or around communications for over 10 years. She also works as a business consultant for social enterprises. Erin has expertise in assisting businesses with their problems and opportunities whilst writing about and sharing their stories.



Sam Jones, Peer Mentor

Sam has lived experience of mental ill-health, which is imperative to her role as Peer Mentor. Before becoming unwell, Sam worked in business development. Now, she works as a Consumer Consultant at Alfred Health, an Inpatient Peer Worker at a psychiatric hospital, and a Peer Mentor at Bridge It.



Lee Ridder, Grants Coordinator

Lee is our voluntary Grants Coordinator. She's worked in the not-for-profit sector for over 15 years, most recently with Knit One Give One. Before this, she worked in retail property management.



Ryan Stevens, Business Manager

Ryan is our voluntary Business Manager at Bridge It. Before this, Ryan founded two successful organisations, one in the hospitality sector and the other, a street dog charity. Ryan uses his skills in the charitable sector to help at-risk people and animals in Australia and abroad.



Heather McKee, Fundraising Volunteer

Heather worked as a social worker, and community services manager. She started in Disability Services and moved into Local Government for the remainder of her career. She co-founded and remained on the Board of a community housing organisation for over 30 years.

Meet Resident Jo

"My whole life was like, oh, I'm probably going to die by ten, okay eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen. And then, at sixteen, I was so confused, and every birthday I'm still confused; I'm like, how am I still alive? What I've been through, I should be dead."

This outlook made it difficult for Jo to have personal goals. But, living at The Cocoon, and participating in meetings with Housing Coordinator Sage, has encouraged them to plan for the future.

Jo recalls living between hotels, stealing food for their mum and little sister and running away up to 40 times to live on the streets. Outside of Bourke Street Mall, where they sometimes resided, they were spat on, kicked, and had their blanket and cardboard stolen from under them.

"It was less than ideal, but it was the best I could do... I would take that over the abuse any day," they say, referring to their time living with their mother. "I grew up being told: you're showing too much emotion. You need to stop it. You need to stop crying about everything. You need to stop being angry."

During their time on the streets, they experienced suicidal ideation and trauma. Subsequently, at 14, they were admitted to a psychiatric ward and diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

Jo feels confronted by the idea of turning 21 and losing access to services. "I don't like it; I feel that many of those services should go up to 25, especially if it's supposed to be helping youth... I guess they have to do it because of funding issues." They find solace that The Cocoon team will still be able to provide support after they turn 21.

Initially nervous about joining group activities due to social anxiety, the warm and welcoming setting of The Cocoon has allowed Jo to develop a supportive friendship. "I have a friend who has experienced similar things and understands how it turned out, wasn't my choice. With her, I don't feel as alone. I have finally experienced what a true friend is like."

Meet Resident Tammy

"I never really had a loving family; we didn't show love or do things as a normal family did; it was just a place to live," says Tammy, who lived in foster care from age three.

"I started getting bullied at school, leading to self-harming, and using drugs, which caused issues with my foster carer. I started stealing and skipping school, and I got pregnant." The foster carer ended the arrangement, and "She kicked me out," says Tammy

"It's good to know I can chat to someone if something happens or I'm not feeling too good mentally."

Tammy found herself moving between houses, living with friends, an ex-girlfriend and their friend's dad, until she didn't have anywhere else to go. "I had to move in with my biological mum, and she got me addicted to ice. Because of that, I had a stroke." After being hospitalised and experiencing costly hotel accommodation, Tammy turned to The Cocoon as a supportive, financially viable option. "It's been pretty good having the support of people who've similar experiences."

Tammy's found regular catch-ups with Ollie and Kate helpful as she's learnt to reflect on the future and found comfort in receiving support. "It's good to know I can chat to someone if something happens or I'm not feeling too good mentally."

By being exposed to other residents in shared spaces, such as The Butterfly Room, Tammy's gained the confidence to talk to people and sees this as a constructive skill for gaining future employment. "It's nice to live in a place; I can distract myself from things I would normally sit in my room and think about. I don't feel like I have to sit in my room all day because I'm not friends with anyone."

Celebrating our Birthing-Backers

HOUSING FIRST AND BRIDGE IT - with Giovanna Savini of HousingFirst

- ➔ The union of generalist housing provider HousingFirst and Bridge It, was an opportunity meeting need," says Giovanna, Chief Resident Services Officer at HousingFirst.

"In principle, we've been considering the merits of having the means to cater for specific groups of people. Internally, an opportunity presented itself with two of our properties that lent themselves to becoming housing with support programs," says Giovanna.

Bridge It's service model, which focuses on female-identifying young people and people living with disability, had the potential to fill HousingFirst properties.

- ➔ Through a relationship of trust and unity in ethos, HousingFirst and Bridge It maintains a "conversation with no barriers...without fear of failure," says Giovanna. Each organisation offers their own skill set to the partnership. They believe this brings unique value to their commitment to addressing long-standing issues. Together they explore cost-effective, creative approaches

that emphasise the prevention rather than cure of homelessness. In turn, the organisations strive to transform the homelessness space.

"Intervene in people's lives at the right time and help them change their trajectory at the right moment, rather than picking up pieces when they have failed," says Giovanna.

- ➔ "The truth is that government tend to follow success. We're building proof of innovative ways to respond to the housing needs of vulnerable people that have successful outcomes, provided cost-effectively." Ultimately, both organisations want a future where the homelessness space is acknowledged with sufficient government support.

"We're hoping to transition from a philanthropist-funded program to recurrent government funding, opening up the opportunity for expansion and doing more."

IGNITING CHANGE AND BRIDGE IT - with Jane Tewson, Founder & Director of Igniting Change

- ➔ "We knew that Carla's idea of creating homes, not just houses, made perfect sense and was a huge gap that needed to be filled," says Jane Tewson.

"We invest in communities and organisations engaged in social change, and started our journey with Bridge It by providing financial support. Our first meeting with Carla left a big impression, her passion for making the world a better place lit her up,"

says Jane, recalling the first time the pair met.

"We loved that she walks with the people Bridge It is designed to support; she doesn't speak for them."

- ➔ "You could call our involvement 'wrap around' support," says Jane. In Bridge It's early days, Jane connected Carla to the Igniting Change team by opening their office to her. She wanted Carla to "collaborate with like minds and feel part of a supportive community."

By leading the way, Igniting Change enabled significant financial and pro bono support for Bridge It, including thousands of dollars of goods, thanks to the dynamic team of Igniting Change volunteers. Other organisations and companies introduced by Igniting Change include, Mutual Trust and MECCA who are now long-term supporters.

- ➔ "Bridge It is rigorous, authentic and courageous and has the guts to fight hard to make a great idea happen," says Jane. This is why Igniting Change continues to support Bridge It and why Jane decided to become a member of its board. "A chapter with Bridge It will continue to be a turning point in the lives of women with great potential experiencing homelessness." Speaking of the model that the "smart, dynamic, courageous team" has implemented thus far, Jane says that

"it's already clear that women who've experienced homelessness, who have a chance to live safely with the joys of a home, can go on and thrive and live independently."

PAYTON FOUNDATION AND BRIDGE IT STORY
with Jason Pater, CEO of Payton Foundation

- ➔ "A home is more than just shelter. It's crucial to safety, security, and a sense of wellbeing", says Jason Pater, CEO at Payton Foundation. With shared values at their core for "vulnerable people to transform their lives," Payton Foundation and Bridge It formed a friendship.
- ➔ Along with Igniting Change, Payton was one of the first to commit to Bridge It financially and advocated on the organisation's behalf. "It's been a privilege to see the domino effect of support and growth of the organisation over the last year."
- ➔ Regarding Carla's leadership in the homelessness sector, Jason says that the foundation observed "strength, creativity and potential." Jason observes that Carla and the "passionate and capable team" at Bridge It dedicate themselves to fostering community, which is why they support the organisation. "We love Bridge It's innovative responses to create solutions for people experiencing homelessness."
- ➔ The Payton team supports Bridge It by providing regular financial and business coaching services. They have connected Bridge It to their networks, facilitating alliances with passionate donors that want solutions for people experiencing homelessness.
- ➔ The foundation is excited about a long-standing relationship with Bridge It. Payton Foundation is enthusiastic about the vision to "significantly increase the number of women being housed and empowered to break the cycle of homelessness."



Our Financials

Income		%
Grants	364,952	71
Fee for Service	85,580	16
Government (H2H)	52,198	10
Donations	7,873	2
In-Kind/Other	2,536	1
	513,139	
Expenditure		
Staff	(331,498)	79
Administration	(54,647)	13
Client Expenses	(23,511)	5
Research	(6,425)	2
Other	(1,231)	1
	(417,312)	
Surplus	95,827	

Our Future

- ➔ In 10 years' time, we want to be a noticeable force in the sector.
- ➔ We want our model to have widespread proven impact.
- ➔ We want to have inspired new thinking about how homelessness support services are delivered.
- ➔ We would love to see our model adopted across Australia and used with different groups of people (e.g. people exiting the prison system.)

What's for 2022-2023?

Housing All Australian's has committed to facilitating a pro bono renovation of the current Cocoon. This will mean we will be able to accommodate 16 young people each year.

AND they are supporting us to find a property for our next Cocoon!

The Cocoon Outreach

To meet the high demand for our services, we're going to be launching an outreach program. This will result in more people being able to access the support and services offered at The Cocoon.

Bridge It's in discussions with State and Federal Governments about our residential programs. These programs have received no government funding, but we're hopeful that will change.



In April, Carla met with local Member of Parliament for Macnamara, Josh Burns, and Shadow Minister for The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Bill Shorten.

We aim to exit 40 people from homelessness into safe, supportive homes in our second year.



We exist thanks to good vibes, goodwill and good coffee.

Seriously, Bridge It depends on donations.

Support us to play a role in ending homelessness, one person at a time.

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