

BRISBANE YOUTH SERVICE

NEW FUTURES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019

Welcome to the Brisbane Youth Service quarterly newsletter for supporters and friends

A word with the CEO

It has been another busy and productive year at [Brisbane Youth Service](#). We have assisted more than 1400 young people and young families (including 144 children) and provided casual support, advice and information to an additional 1325 young people, family and community members. Just over half of the young people were homeless at the time we met them and 80 per cent described their living situations as unsafe, unsuitable, temporary or unaffordable. Concerningly, the number of young people who seek help from BYS continues to grow each year with a seven per cent increase last year and a 13 per cent increase over the past three years. As you can imagine this places a strain on our finite resources and is challenging for staff who work tirelessly to find safe housing and support young people to move out of crisis. Our focus on continuous improvement means we are always looking for ways to respond to gaps in services and emerging needs. This year we established two new temporary positions; a Safe Relationships Project Officer and a Safe and Connected Family Worker. We also launched our new [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (RAP) and the trial of a Couch Surfing Hotline which you will read about in this newsletter.

With Christmas just around the corner, it is important to remember it can be a difficult time for young people who are isolated and disconnected from family and support networks. You can help us spread some Christmas cheer this year with our upcoming [Christmas Appeal](#). By purchasing a hamper or giving a donation you'll be assisting vulnerable young people caught in crisis and making Christmas a bit brighter for them and their children. Stay tuned to our social media platforms and website to find out how you can take part in our 2019 Christmas Appeal.

COUCH SURFING HOTLINE

This month, BYS excitedly launched its new [Couch Surfing Hotline](#), an 18 month pilot project funded by the Queensland Mental Health Commission. Couch surfing is the most common way young people experience homelessness and is a widespread, national issue. Half of the young people who seek help from BYS are couch surfing and young women and LGBTIQ+ young people are over represented in the couch surfing population. BYS's new Couch Surfing Hotline provides support for young couch surfers, concerned family members and carers, and people providing temporary or 'couch' accommodation to young people. More information about the new hotline can be found on the BYS website.

THAT'S A WRAP! DAGGY JUMPER DAY & BRIDGE TO BRISBANE

Our sixth annual Daggy Jumper Day campaign was held in August to raise funds and awareness for young people experiencing homelessness in our community. A huge thank you to all organisations and supporters who helped to create new futures for young people by getting involved in this year's campaign. The help of local community groups and our valued corporate partners helped raise more than \$9,500 for young people.

August was a huge month for BYS with the organisation also taking part in [The Sunday Mail Bridge to Brisbane](#) as a VIP charity for the first time and raising more than \$7000. BYS was thrilled to welcome major corporate partner, Student One, to *Team End Youth Homelessness* as a VIP runner, as well as BYS corporate partners and sponsors, Rochele Painting, KPMG, Jacobs Brisbane and Commonwealth Bank Eagle Street. We were delighted to be a VIP Charity Partner of Bridge to Brisbane in 2019 and we're grateful to our partners and supporters who

are helping us to address the growing problem of youth homelessness.

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

In September, BYS hosted some special guests at the Fortitude Valley Hub with BYS Patron, Steve Renouf, and Aboriginal elder, Aunty Dawn Daylight, joining BYS to launch our new [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (RAP). Steve shared a powerful story about his experience moving from his small town of Murgon to Brisbane where he was shocked to discover there were young people experiencing homelessness - some of them were people he knew. Over 31 per cent of young people who sought BYS support in 2018-19 identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. It is essential we continue to grow our knowledge of the culture and history of the First Australians as we strive to offer service responses based on respect and understanding.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous support in the last year, your contributions to and support of BYS means we can continue to empower young people and their children to navigate life challenges and thrive in the community. Vulnerable young people are always at the centre of our work. The BYS team's innovative and optimistic approach to delivering evidence-informed services is aimed at ensuring the best possible outcomes for the young people we support. We're looking forward to another busy and productive year in 2020.

Annemaree Callander
Chief Executive Officer



Each year Brisbane Youth Service spreads **Christmas** cheer by distributing 300 food hampers to vulnerable young people who are accessing our services. We rely solely on donations to provide store gift cards and Christmas hampers filled with a mix of non-perishable food items and festive treats. Stay tuned to the [BYS website](#) and [Facebook page](#) in the coming weeks for more details on how you can help us provide life changing support and services for young people caught in crisis or experiencing homelessness.

Daggy Jumper Day puts youth homelessness in spotlight



A huge shout-out to everyone in Brisbane who dug out their naff knits and silly sweaters for the sixth annual [Daggy Jumper Day](#) campaign on 9 August. Over 20 corporate organisations across the city joined BYS in getting daggy for a good cause and to fundraise more than \$9500. Held during national Homelessness Week, **Daggy Jumper Day** raises awareness and funds to provide life-changing support for young people who are in crisis or experiencing homelessness in Brisbane.

[Find out more >>](#)

BYS takes a run at Sunday Mail Bridge to Brisbane



Team End Youth Homelessness proudly pounded the pavement in August for [The Sunday Mail Bridge to Brisbane](#), raising more than \$7000. More than 45 individual runners joined BYS to raise funds for vulnerable young people. Major corporate partner Student One took part as a VIP runner, as well as BYS corporate partners and sponsors, Rochele Painting, KPMG, Jacobs Brisbane and Commonwealth Bank Eagle Street. BYS CEO, Annemaree Callander, and Partnerships and Fundraising Coordinator, Tamasin Chugg, flew the flag for the organisation taking part in the 5km walk, while BYS Corporate Services Director, Sarah Page, conquered the 10km run!

[Find out more >>](#)

BYS welcomes Holding Redlich as Official Partner



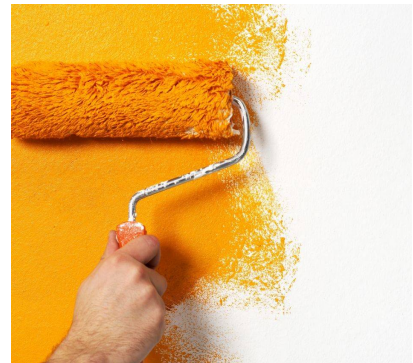
HOLDING REDLICH

Holding Redlich's Brisbane office has proudly supported Brisbane Youth Service since 2006, donating more than \$100,000 to help support vulnerable young people. Now, for the first time, it is with great pleasure we announce [Holding Redlich](#) as an official BYS Partner for 2019-20.

[Find out more >>](#)

BYS Valley Hub receives fresh new look

BYS's Fortitude Valley Hub is receiving a fresh new look thanks to our partner [Rochele Painting](#) and a little bit of colour therapy. A BYS corporate partner, Rochele Painting's goodwill project, Painting with Purpose, has already transformed eight BYS properties and the makeover of the Hub is underway.



[Find out more >>](#)

LATEST NEWS

A couch is not a home: New BYS hotline tackles hidden homelessness



BYS is tackling a hidden form of homelessness with the launch of a new [Couch Surfing Hotline](#). The launch comes after research undertaken in 2018 by BYS in partnership with Griffith Criminology Institute attracted national media attention and revealed young **couch surfers** have consistently higher rates of poor mental health than any other group of young people seeking support from BYS, even those who are sleeping rough.

[Find out more >>](#)

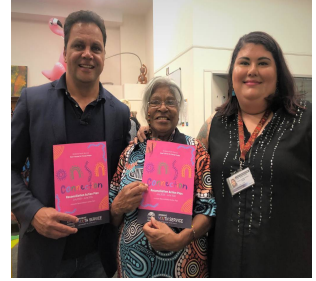
Smarten up! Grants creating new futures

Brisbane Youth Service *Smarten Up* grants are making an impact on young people's education, helping them to achieve their goals by providing access to resources through direct donations from individuals and BYS's corporate partners.

[Find out more >>](#)

BYS on reconciliation journey with new plan

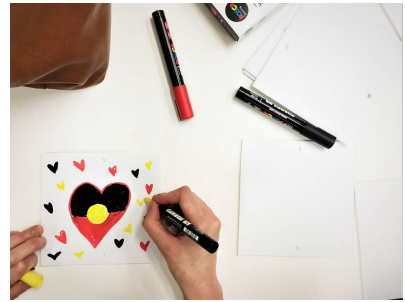
Officially endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, Brisbane Youth Service's new Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was launched at the Valley Hub on 4 September 2019.

[Find out more >>](#)

Young people super-styled thanks to talents of BYS social work student

[Find out more >>](#)

Adventures in the great outdoors a powerful therapy for young people

[Find out more >>](#)

'It means connection': BYS support worker talks Reconciliation

[Find out more >>](#)

DATE CLAIMER

2019 Annual General Meeting

TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2019
3:30PM TO 5:00PM

VALLEY HUB
42 MCLACHLAN STREET
FORTITUDE VALLEY

ADMIN@BRISYOUTH.ORG or PHONE 3620 2400

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