

BRISBANE YOUTH SERVICE

NEW FUTURES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

JANUARY 2020 Newsletter

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

A word with the CEO

Hello and welcome to another new year and a new decade!

Whilst most of us enjoyed a break over the holiday season several BYS services remained operating, and I want to acknowledge the BYS staff who gave up time with family and friends to keep services open and available to vulnerable young people.

Like so many, I have watched in horror at the catastrophic bushfires across the country and the tragic loss of lives, homes, and livelihoods as well as the devastation to our wildlife and environment. My thoughts are with all those affected and those working to help communities rebuild and recover.

Here at BYS we know a bit about helping rebuild lives and the past decade saw many great achievements including innovation and expansion in our service offerings, the establishment of evaluation and impact measurement systems, new partnerships with the community and service providers, a diversification of our workforce and of course our 40th anniversary!

The end of 2019 was busy here at BYS with our Annual General Meeting taking place at the Fortitude Valley Hub in November. We were delighted to welcome special guests, supporters, and partners to look back on our achievements over the last year. As always, the highlight was hearing from young people directly who generously shared their stories of courage, resilience and change with us. We also welcomed Mark Wheatley as a new Board member. Thanks to everyone who came along to celebrate the work of BYS. You can learn more about our programs and services and the successes of young people we have supported in the [2018-19 Annual Report](#).

The festive season is meant to be a time of celebration but for vulnerable young people and their families it can be especially difficult. Brisbane's generosity brimmed over in the lead up to Christmas and we were grateful for the donations of hampers, cash donations and gift cards which helped make the holidays brighter for many young people and their children. Community support of BYS's annual [Christmas Hamper Drive and Christmas Appeal](#) came from far and wide, and I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all the organisations, workplace teams, and individuals who donated.

BYS is a strong, dynamic and innovative organisation and I am looking forward to this new decade and sharing with you all the achievements of our talented staff and the remarkable young people we work with. Thank you for your ongoing support which has a real and lasting impact by empowering vulnerable young people to build better futures for themselves.

Annemaree Callander
Chief Executive Officer

We're supporting more young people more often...



BYS's [2018-19 Annual Report](#) shows we're supporting more young people more often who have ongoing complex needs, with annual data highlighting a 13 per cent increase in the number of young people assisted by BYS in the last three years. The Annual Report tells of our commitment to creating new futures for young people and the ongoing delivery of quality services through a focus on strong governance, continuous improvement and innovation.

[Find out more >>](#)

Read young people's inspiring stories

When Zoe suddenly fled a violent relationship, she got on a train headed to Brisbane from the Gold Coast and with nowhere to go, went straight for the BYS Hub in Fortitude Valley. Feeling “lost and confused”, she was struggling with her gender identity and coming out to her family and friends.



[Find out more >>](#)

Thank you! Brisbane gets behind Christmas giving



A sincere thank you and huge shout out to to all of the organisations, businesses, work places and community members who supported our **2019 Christmas Appeal and Hamper Drive**. Because of all of you, the festive season was a little bit brighter for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people and young families in Brisbane. We distributed around 300 hampers and \$500 worth of store gift cards through our annual Hamper Drive and the Christmas Appeal raised more than \$16,000 via donations. Thank you to everyone who contributed—however big or small.

[Find out more >>](#)

Reidy House students join fight against youth homelessness

Over the past eight years, the Dean of **Reidy House at St Joseph's Gregory Terrace**, Rob Johnson, has taken great pride and joy in bursting bubbles, leading hundreds of high school boys towards their own aha! moment, watching as they suddenly get a sense of what life is like for a young person who is homeless.



[Find out more >>](#)

World's Big Sleep Out 2019



From New York city's Times Square and Los Angeles' Rose Bowl to Trafalgar Square in London to ... The Gabba! The city put homelessness on the world stage in December when its iconic stadium played host to **The World's Big Sleep Out 2019**—and Brisbane Youth Service was there to fly



the flag for young people who have no place to call home.

[Find out more >>](#)

Meet Windsor House Manager Eli Brooker



"Young people are willing to be vulnerable and open." BYS's Windsor House Manager, Eli Brooker answers seven questions, telling why she loves working with vulnerable and homeless young people and what makes them tick!

[Find out more >>](#)

Save the date: Burpees for BYS is back!

After a hugely successful event in 2019 **Burpees for BYS** is set to return in 2020! One of our biggest annual fundraising campaigns, in 2019 more than 400 people came together during Queensland Youth Week to take part in Burpees for BYS and take a stand against youth homelessness. The event raised more than \$10,000 to help fund emergency accommodation, food, toiletries and health care. BYS is once again calling on the community to bust out some burpees to help us create new futures for young people. Stay tuned for more details as we announce them in the coming weeks!



febfast for BYS and call time-out on cheeky habits to help young Aussies

febfast for BYS! We're proud to be one of febfast's Beneficiary Partners along with a number of other similar organisations across Australia! All of the beneficiary partners work with disadvantaged young people with all the funds raised by [febfast](#) helping cover program costs. febfast is where individuals call time-out on alcohol, sugar or another vice of their choice, to support disadvantaged youth in Australia. It is the perfect excuse to kick-start the year with a little good health and a lot of good will! Across Australia, thousands of people give up alcohol or sugar for the month of February to raise \$1,000,000 for young people experiencing serious disadvantage to access the resources and support they require to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. REGISTER now and call time-out this February at [febfast.org.au](#)



[Find out more >>](#)

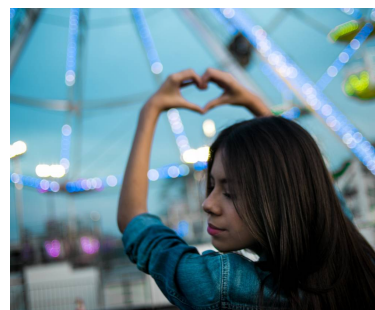
Make a difference with regular giving

Give a little, make a big impact!

Regular or monthly giving is a simple and convenient way to make a tangible difference in young lives through Brisbane Youth Service.

You can sign up for regular giving by using the DONATE link below, or on the BYS website, choosing your preferred donation frequency from the drop down options.

For more information, please contact BYS Fundraising Coordinator Laura Watson on 07 3620 2428 or at lwatson@brisyouth.org.



[Find out more >>](#)



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