

Believe.

Barnardos Australia Newsletter

Your support at a glance

FY 21-22:



12,880

children assisted through our Children's Family Centres



1,203

children placed in safe, temporary homes



29

children found their forever home



5,452

children and families received service referrals



674

children and families were provided supported housing



661

parents actively participated in parenting programs



809

children participated in early learning and education



1,530

children and young people participated in youth programs



Thanks to your vital support and the generosity of many Australians, we were able to raise a total of **\$6,890,000** which provided assistance to **14,083** vulnerable children, young people and families.

Every donation you provided makes a real difference in the lives of children and young people suffering from abuse and neglect, domestic and family violence, poverty and homelessness - we really hope you're proud of your achievement! You truly are a champion for children!

A special mention to our 4,734 new Barnardos Buddies who helped raise \$1,893,247.50 through your monthly donation! Your support enabled vulnerable children to access vital and life-changing services including:



Urgent medical care and ongoing check ups



Therapy and counselling




New clothes and essential daily items

If you'd like to become a Barnardos Buddy, please visit our website:

barnardos.org.au/barnardosbuddy

A portrait of Amy Hawkes, a woman with dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a black top. The background is a colorful, abstract wall with blue and green patterns.

Amy Hawkes, Program Manager
for Children and Families

A portrait of Brooke Uren, a woman with long blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a patterned sweater. The background is a dark wall with a pattern of white and orange dots.

Brooke Uren, Youth
and Family Case Worker

Your support is helping young people reach their brightest future

The Mount Druitt Project is a youth support program run from the Barnardos Penrith Children's Family Centre. It covers the four high school campuses of Chifley College within the Blacktown area. This innovative service, now in its fourth year, gives children suffering from mental health issues, school disengagement and homelessness the support they need to overcome these challenges in an open, friendly and non-judgmental environment.

Youth and family case worker in the Mount Druitt Project, Brooke Uren talks about the scale and impact of the program. "We screen everyone in the school, and there would be times when results would show over 100 out of 500 children were at risk of homelessness or needed mental health and school support. It's a massive number."

Amy Hawkes, Program Manager for Children and Families believes that the success of this

program is its individualised approach. "Each child gets a case plan that is all about them to make sure we meet their specific needs and help them achieve their goals in life. Our youth workers are amazing in establishing close working relationships with these kids through consistent casual and in-depth conversations. We also partner with other services that vulnerable children and young people would need, and coordinate with these different groups on behalf of the child. This saves them from having to repeat their stories and relive their trauma."

Amy shares, "I can literally see the faces of these kids and see their transformations. They now have better relationships at home, in school and in the community. They are excited for what their future holds. All they need is someone to listen and care enough to get them on the right path."

Samar's story

Samar is just one of the young people you helped support through the Mt Druit Project this year. She shares her story with us.

I'm Samar and I'm 17 years old. I used to be jealous of other kids when I had to stay home to take care of my mum and sisters. My mum, younger sisters and I had been living with my dad's violence and abuse since I was in Year 5. My mum suffers from schizophrenia, where she gets delusional and paranoid of everything. There was even a period when she refused to let us go to school because she believed my dad would come back and take us away.



Samar

I was really struggling with caring for my mum and my sisters, balancing school and working weekends to pay the bills. When I completed a wellness survey in school, I was contacted by Barnardos with an offer to help me and my family. This changed my life completely. Aside from the financial and emotional support, they helped me get the job at Zone Bowling and helped me get into university. I'm excited to start university in March next year. I want to take up criminal or family law to help people experiencing domestic violence because I've been there and I know what they're going through.

What I love about Barnardos is how my youth worker really cares about me and wants me to succeed. She lets me vent my frustrations and cry without any judgement. She also gives me helpful advice when I don't know what to do. I'm so grateful for the connection I have with her and the Barnardos team.

Before Barnardos stepped in, I couldn't look ahead because I was just trying to take care of my family and survive. **I was in a dark place and didn't see my life going anywhere. Now, my future is looking bright, and I'm excited and inspired to help others.**

Thank you for making a life-changing difference.

You truly are our champion.



In September, we launched our Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) research report: Truth is, the abuse never stopped. The report draws upon insights gained from responses to our survey asking adults about the support they received when impacted by domestic and family violence as children. A first of its kind, the report is an important part of our continuing efforts to better understand the experiences of children in DFV situations and its long-term impact. Our DFV programs support children and families by providing integrated programs and services.

Thank you to those who participated in the survey; you have made an invaluable contribution to inform future program and policy decisions.

To read the report visit:
barnardos.org.au/dfv



A huge thank you to everyone who donned their bike shorts and got peddling in October for our annual Champions Ride event. We had over 500 people register for the ride at a busy and challenging time of year, so we are very appreciative of the effort.

For every kilometre, you have made an amazing contribution to vulnerable children and their path to a safe childhood. Thank you!

To find out how you can join the fun next time, please visit
championsride.org.au



In 2022, generous supporters like you donated a wonderful **\$404,731** to our Winter Appeal aimed at raising funds to provide vital support to children like Rosie* and Elise* to help them heal from severe neglect and sexual abuse.

Your generosity helped provide traumatised, vulnerable children like these two little girls with art therapy, medical and psychological care, and a safe, stable home to recover in with wonderful foster carers.


Thank you for being there to support abused and neglected children and help them reach their brightest future.


For enquiries or donations
1800 061 000

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