
LILLIAN'S 2015 – 2016
ANNUAL REPORT LILLIAN HOWELL PROJECT INC



We gratefully acknowledge funding from the NSW Department of Family and Community Services

We acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation on whose country we are meeting today and their elders past and present

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MINUTES OF AGM 14 -15

Lillian's Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 8 December 2015
Time: 6.30 pm
Location: Erskineville Turkish, 49 Erskineville Road,
Erskineville

Present: Helen Campbell, Ann Watchirs, Lucy Watchirs Smith, Vivian Stavis, Karen Lindley, Danielle Renwick, Victoria Bell, Sally Fitzpatrick, Jamie-Lee Allen, Alison Horvat, Arvia Grierson, Carlene Zolotas, Lenore Zolotas

Apologies: Helen McCutcheon, Cindy Ryan, Lin Cooper, Julia Suljada, Naomi Crago, Anna (? Surname YOTS), Lex (? Surname YOTS)

1. Acknowledgement of Country. Acknowledgement of the Elders, past and present, of the Land on which we meet.
2. Apologies
3. Welcome to new members

Welcome to Julia Suljada and Victoria Bell

4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2014 AGM.
Moved HC, Seconded LC, All carried.
5. Chairperson's Address
Treasurer's Presentation and Adoption of Audited Financial Statements
Motion: To accept both the Chairperson's report and the treasurer's report and audited financial statements.
Moved KL, seconded HC, all carried
6. Election of Directors

Vivian Stavis was appointed as the returning officer.
The work of the outgoing committee was acknowledged. Sally declared all positions to be vacant. The number of nominations being equal to the number of vacancies the following positions were elected unopposed:
President HC
Vice President LWS
Treasurer VB
Secretary AW

7. Appointment of the auditor

It was proposed that we give notice to Cheryl G Hastie and Associates that we intend to change auditors with a one year transition period. Vivian requested that it be noted that the current arrangements with YOTS has created a lot of additional work in terms of auditing.

Motion: To appoint Cheryl G Hastie and Associates for the 2016 and to give notice that we intend to change auditors.

Moved KL Seconded HC All carried

Meeting suspended 7:15 pm

Meeting recommenced at 7:25 pm

8. Presentation of Annual Report

Vivian presented 2014 managers' report and Danielle presented the 2014 staff report on behalf of Cindy.

9. Service User Report

Jamie-Lee and Alison presented residents reports to the management committee.

10. General Business

Helen thanked the residents who spoke at the management committee meeting and acknowledged that the management committee were very proud of their achievements over the last year.

Meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Vivian Stavis 2015 -2016

This financial year has been about consolidation and growth for Lillian's and we really have gone from strength to strength! In December, Brad Hazzard (Minister Family and Community services) announced that our funding would be extended until June 2020! This was a huge relief after our massive campaign to remain funded from the year before.

We continued in our efforts to fundraise through our Give Now donations page changing the title from "Save Lillian's" to "Support Lillian's" securing \$2,000 and the support just kept on coming! Our fundraising efforts have been very successful, as the Community seems to have a soft spot for Lillian's, our ethos and the way in which we work to support our young women who are homeless.

We received grants from Lendlease of \$7,000, Streetsmart \$4,650, Cafesmart \$1,000, private donations \$3,000 and Zonta Club \$300. We also had many supporters who made many donations for our girls, the Beauty Bank, Share the Dignity, Zonta Club, Dandelion Foundation and Good 360.

We started the process of transforming and updating Lillian's through various grants and the support of a GoFundMe page to raise funds for an air conditioner for the lounge room and our office, which were installed in May. We bought a new dishwasher and started a grant for IKEA to makeover the girl's bedrooms, which we won! We also organised a Community Day with Lendlease staff to paint the lounge room, kitchen and dining room. However, transformation isn't happening until September 2016. Our garden has also been beautified thanks to the help of a gardener, who comes every few months. The car also had a refurbishment; finally after many years the leak was located and repaired, the car was detailed and is as good as new! We also got new master locks for all the bedrooms for safety and security reasons, which Housing NSW provided.



Lillian's had an administration refurbishment too! Our strategic plan was finalised, we got new computers, a new logo, business cards, new office chairs and a new website which was uploaded in February. We engaged ProTech Computers to manage our IT requirements.

We signed 2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) cementing our partnerships with The Girls Refuge (TGR) and Metro Community Housing.

We continued building our partnership with Youth off the Streets (YOTS). After much discussion our partnership name is ***LOFT – Lillian's Opportunities for Tomorrow.***

Our key deliverables on our funding through the Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP) service Description are:

- **Providing a medium term response:**
- **Provide intensive responses for clients with complex needs:**
- **Intervene early to prevent Homelessness:**

The way in which we have addressed these key deliverables are as follows: Our relationships with other organisations, schools and FACS ensured that we received the referrals required to achieve the numbers needed for our service agreement. This year Lillian's supported **90** young women. We provided **33** accommodation stays and provided an outreach case management service to **57** young women combined of low, medium and high effort. We also provided service to 5 aboriginal clients, 2 in accommodation and 3 in outreach case management.

We received **12** referrals for accommodation for ages 15 years and under, of those 12, **10** were accepted for accommodation, not one of those referrals was turned away and each was assessed accordingly. Of the 2 referrals where accommodation didn't proceed, this was because the young woman did not accept accommodation due to either location e.g. out of their area, or to Drug Addiction issues, with the risk too high for the other young women residing at Lillian's.

We received **41** referrals for accommodation and outreach in the 15 years and below age range, all referrals have been accepted and we are working with them.

This table shows the service provided in age range for both Accommodation and Outreach:

AGE	Amount
10 - 14 years	16
15 years	25
16 years	22
17 years	20
18 - 19 years	7
TOTAL	90

We partnered with YOTS to provide group work to the girls in the refuge, we had three workshops, Sleep Hygiene, Anxiety and the other on Self-esteem, the girls reported that sleep had improved, their anxiety had lessened with techniques discussed in group and that self esteem had increased through positive strategies taught. We also ran other



workshops with the assistance of our students, these include Pyjama making, healthy eating, Tie-dyeing, Painting for self worth and Youth block ran a Sexual Health workshop. The girls were also engaged in many activities, these include, Karate classes, Singing lessons, English and Maths tutoring, Weave wrap up party, Driving Lessons, Mad pride event and the Sister2sister Program.



The management of Mental Health issues such as Anxiety, Depression and Personality disorders was achieved through partnerships with Camperdown Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA), Marie Bashir Short Stay Unit, Headspace,

Youth Block, Rosemount Good Shepard and Marrickville Community Health Centre. We also incorporated a wellbeing index into our Case Management procedure called the DASS 21 (Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale). This

measures levels of Depression, Anxiety and Stress and is conducted every 3 months to determine the wellbeing of our girls.

This table shows the amount of Mental Health Issues and service provided, as shown some young women were assisted by more than one service:

Disorder	Amount	Services referred to
Anxiety	12	CAMHS: 10 RPA Marie Bashir Short Stay Unit: 2 Headspace: 4 Youth Block: 4 Rosemount: 3
Depression	11	CAMHS: 8 RPA Marie Bashir Short Stay Unit: 3 Headspace: 3 Youth Block: 4 Rosemount: 3
Borderline personality	1	CAMHS RPA Marie Bashir Short Stay Unit Marrickville Community Health

Achievements of the young women have been many, and include re-engagement to school and maintaining attendance, completion and graduation of HSC, enrolment into Nursing, Travel, Hospitality, Childcare, Hairdressing, Makeup and Beauty. Work includes, Full-time/Part-time work as a croupier at Star City, Gardener, Make up artist, McDonalds, Hospitality and Sales assistant.

This table shows the achievements of the young women residing at Lillian's:

Discipline	Amount
Re-engagement to school and maintaining attendance	10
Completion and graduation from HSC	3
University entrance	2
Nursing	2
Hospitality	1
Childcare	1
Hairdressing	2
Makeup and Beauty	2
Travel	1

The girls that moved out of Lillian's moved either into transitional housing, Housing NSW property, Private rental market or back into the family home. We had a total of 7 girls transition into our transitional properties, 1 into other transitional housing, 2 moved back into the family home, 1 into private rental and 1 into a Housing NSW property

Our staff team had training in many areas of work including Trauma Informed Care, Neurodevelopment – focusing on a deeper understanding of the brain, Neurodevelopment attachment and trauma informed approach, Recognise and respond appropriately to domestic and family violence (DFV), provide DFV support in ATSI communities, provide DFV support in CALD communities, respond to clients need - working with people living with a disability, Media and sex education, Youth Hunger workshop, Results based accountability, Proactive Case management framework, Mental health First Aid, Mental Health crisis training, Database (CIMS), National Quality Framework Workshop, Mental Health Connect and Youth Worker Survival Training. One of our staff was selected to be on the Australian College of Community & Disability Practitioners (ACCDP) Board which is a research and working group to look at the professional standards of the Community Services industry and are in the process of creating a code of ethics and looking at what training is required in the industry to inform best practice.

Staff also attended many events the Unaccompanied under 16's forum, ReConnect conference through Yfoundations and OZHARVEST CEO cook-off.



I cannot say enough about the amazing staff team that encapsulate Lillian's. They have been brilliant in supporting me through the transition of Lillian's with their awesome ideas and their expertise on working with girls and trauma. We have all worked tirelessly, cohesively and collectively to achieve all that we have this year and I'm so proud to have you all as my colleagues. Dan, Cindy, Carlene, Bonnie and Rea and also our fabulous relief workers – Katherine, Sophie, Virginia, Maral, Alex, Laura A and Laura M for their sustained efforts



to provide our residents with the best possible care and support and to work collectively in the intake and assessment process with new girls. We also continued to support students from Ultimo TAFE completing Certificates and Diplomas in Youth Work and Community Services, Cheryl, Jill, Sara, Arvia, Laura M and Laura A, both Laura's were such exceptional students that we also employed them in a casual capacity. We said a very sad farewell to Cindy in April, after 25 years of dedication to Lillian's. Not only will we miss her extraordinary knowledge and wisdom that she brought to working with our girls but her beautiful spirit and energy that she brought to our team. Farewell Cindy!





SAL Consulting continued to provide an excellent job with professional supervision and training to all staff and consolidating and assisting us with our Strategic planning. They are all brilliant and I want to thank Lisa Gardiner, Liz Summers and Frances for their support.

The Management Committee has been fantastic in their dedication to the running of Lillian's. Sadly, we said farewell to Sally as the president of the Committee after many years and welcomed Helen in this position. We also welcomed Julia and Jan to the Committee in August and June respectively. A huge Thank you to Sally, Helen, Lucy, Naomi, Ann, Karen, Victoria, Julia and Jan.

There are so many sponsors, supporters and people that we need to thank. Thank you to Bonnie Penn for her amazing skills in creating our website, Ping Wang for her en pointe accounting, Erko dentist for pro bono dental work for our girls, Erskineville Family Medical Practice (for always making time to see our girls), Shenkin for their awesome coffees and for employing our girls and OZHARVEST (who supply food every Thursday). A very big Thank you goes to Karen Lindley who got our car repaired, and has organised an enormous



amount of furniture donations. Thank you also to Nicole Graham for organizing the air conditioners and for the installation starting the GofundMe page to raise the funds. All of these people have enriched the lives of our girls with their kindness and generosity and have also helped with our bottom line!



Brad Hazzard

Minister for Family and Community Services
Minister for Social Housing

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 10 December 2015

FUNDING CERTAINTY FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

Front line services which assist children and young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness will have their funding extended to ensure continuity of service, Minister for Family and Community Services Brad Hazzard announced today.

The Homeless Youth Assistance Program is a \$54 million, six year initiative of the NSW Government. It provides supported accommodation and services to reintegrate young people with their families or to help transition to longer-term supported accommodation, whilst also supporting them in education, training and jobs.

"I have met young people who have had a really tough life and have ended up without a safe home," Mr Hazzard said.

"HYAP and the front line services funded through it give these children and young people safety, a home and hope.

"The Premier has identified reducing youth homelessness as a priority and we are working, through HYAP and other measures, to boost by 10 per cent the number of young people successfully transitioning from homelessness services to long term accommodation, including family reconnection, where this is appropriate."

Mr Hazzard said HYAP Stage 1 service funding will be extended until 31 July 2016. The HYAP Stage 2 select tender will commence by March 2016 with Stage 2 funding secured through until June 2020.

Youth refuge services that assist 13-17 year olds which were funded before HYAP Stage 1 have also been brought under the HYAP funding extension.

This includes the Lillian Howell Project which is sub-contracted through Youth Off the Streets to deliver the Medium Term Homelessness Service for Young Women and Girls; and Detour House Inc which delivers the Homelessness Support Services for Girls and Young Women with Complex Needs, both of which will be funded through until June 2020.

Rumbalara Youth Refuge operated by Coast Shelter will also receive funding to ensure continuity of service. Coast Shelter has been funded through until 2020 to deliver specialist homelessness services on the Central Coast.

MEDIA: Leonie Lamont 0407 591 926

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Helen Campbell 2015 -2016

What a first year it has been as president of the Management Committee for Lillian's! This is my first report on the activities and development of Lillian's during 2015 – 16 and I can say up front that the organisation has continued to thrive. We have seen the growth of our service footprint to under 16 year olds through the HYAP program and our partnership with Youth off the Streets (YOTS), the consolidation of the Committee and the continued commitment of the staff team.

In December 2016, I am proud to report that Brad Hazzard (Minister Family and Community services) announced that our funding would be extended until June 2020! Due to the unwavering commitment of the staff, our girls, management committee, as well as our community partners, as Vivian will report, we are now stronger than ever. Our fundraising has been a massive effort and we secured funds from Lendlease, Cafesmart, Streetsmart, Zonta and our Give Now donations page. The process of transformation has started for Lillian's and will be continued into the next year with the whole of Lillian's being beautified!

Meanwhile our girls continued to flourish and achieve remarkable things. This year Lillian's supported **90** young women. We provided **33** accommodation stays and provided an outreach case management service to **57** young women combined of low, medium and high effort. Well done Team!

The Management Committee has been brilliant in their dedication to the governance of Lillian's. Knowing that we were starting the process of Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) for accreditation due by June 2017, and the fact that the legislation for Incorporated Associations was changing, we reviewed and finalised our Governance and Financial Policies and Procedures and our Constitution, which are a truer reflection on how Lillian's operates today. We also attended Governance training to ensure that we were operating efficiently and with good governance.

Sadly, we said farewell to Sally as the president of the Committee after many years. We welcomed Julia and Jan to the Committee in August and June respectively. Thank you to Sally, Lucy, Naomi, Ann, Karen, Victoria, Julia and Jan. Thank you to Ping and Victoria for updating the Profit and Loss statements making it a document which is much easier to comprehend.

We farewelled Cindy, one of our longest serving and most dedicated staff, with gratitude and best wishes for her health. Thank you Vivian, Danielle and to everyone of the staff for all that you have contributed; and most of all, a big thank you to our girls for all your remarkable inspiration and achievements.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Victoria Bell 2015 -2016

The audited financial statements covering the financial year 2015-16 for Lillian's are available here tonight.

This financial year, we received full funding via our subcontract arrangement from Youth off The Streets (YOTS) through Family and Community Services (FACS).

They show that we experienced an operating profit of \$24,080. This was attributable to an increase in rental income of \$6000 from the last financial year and \$11,800 received from grants and donations that were unspent. We received grants from Lendlease, Streetsmart, Cafesmart, Zonta Club and private donations. We also continued to fundraise through our Give Now donations page securing \$2,000.

Since opening our St George Business account, our revenue on interest earned increased by \$1400.

Our staffing bill decreased by \$174,733 due to the stability of the staff and the engagement of staff on Full and Permanent/Part-time contracts with casual staff required minimally.

Our overall administration expense decreased by \$7500 due to cost cutting strategies made such as combining the phone and internet bill through iinet.

Ping Wang, our bookkeeper has done an excellent job balancing the books this financial year. Ping, with my help generated a new profit and loss spreadsheet, which lists the yearly and monthly budget and then the expenditure for the month and year to date, making it very simple for the Management Committee to understand the financial situation of Lillian's, thanks Ping! We farewell CGH accountants as this is the last year that we will be using their accounting services. Thanks to Monika and Cheryl for doing an amazing job at auditing our financial records.

In conclusion, we enter our next financial year with all accruals and provisions in the bank and nearly \$47,000 equity.

- Victoria Bell
(Treasurer).

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Cheryl G Hastie 2015 -2016

Lillian Howell Project Incorporated

ABN 22 465 606 851

Directors' Declaration

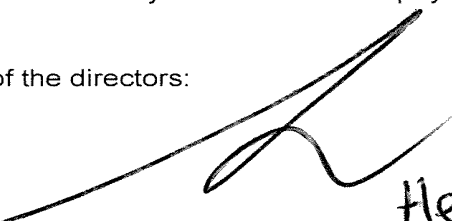
In the directors' opinion:

- a) the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. Accordingly, as described in note 1 to the financial statements, the attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the New South Wales Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and associated regulations;
- b) the attached financial statements and notes thereto comply with the Accounting Standards as described in note 1 to the financial statements;
- c) the attached financial statements and notes thereto give a true and fair view of the incorporated association's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- d) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the incorporated association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the directors:

Chairman

Date:
Sydney



Helen Campbell

18 October 2016

Lillian Howell Project Incorporated

ABN 22 465 606 851

Income & Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Income		
FACS Grant	-	286,877
Funding from YOTS	450,268	175,000
Other Grants & Funds Received	1,000	-
Dividends Received	91	91
Interest Received	1,929	521
Rental Income	23,075	17,084
Donations & Sponsorship	4,268	12,156
Sundry Income	139	421
Total income	480,770	492,150
Expenses		
Staffing Expenses		
Wages and Salaries	354,355	529,088
Superannuation	33,332	35,518
Workers Compensation	17,386	9,890
Workers Compensation - Prior Year Adjustments	5,138	-
Staff Development	-	5,000
Additional Support Workers	-	10,000
Consortium Expenses	-	0
Supervision	-	7,200
Movement in Long Service Leave Provn	3,690	(53,316)
Movement in Annual and Personal Leave Provn	(2,201)	(114,257)
Staff Recruitment	-	95
Total Staffing Expenses	411,700	429,218
Administration Expenses		
Accounting	7,812	5,447
Audit Fees	2,200	2,091
Administration Expenses	757	1,398
Bank Fees	348	117
Computer Expenses	154	-
Conferences/Education Resources	427	-
Consultant's Fees	440	6,640
Insurance - Liability	1,100	-
Postage, Stationery & Printing	2,518	8,442
Resources & Education	-	888
Sundry Expenses	1,691	272
Telephone	2,546	3,993
Travel	169	108
Motor Vehicle Costs	3,393	2,071
Total Administration Expenses	23,555	31,467

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

Lillian Howell Project Incorporated

ABN 22 465 606 851

Income & Expenditure Statement (cont)

For the year ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Residents Expenses		
Education & Amenities	269	1,317
Activities & Entertainment	2,249	4,040
Residents Personal Living Expenses	1,842	1,320
Food & Housekeeping	11,099	8,964
Other Expenses (Xmas, Birthdays, etc.)	639	2,090
Travel	197	-
Total Residents Expenses	16,295	17,731
Property Costs		
Electricity	1,783	2,233
Repairs & maintenance	1,654	6,443
Household General Replacements	658	407
Insurance-Contents	1,045	5,727
Total Property Costs	5,140	14,810
Total Expenses	456,690	493,226
Net Profit (Loss)	24,080	(1,076)

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

Lillian Howell Project Incorporated

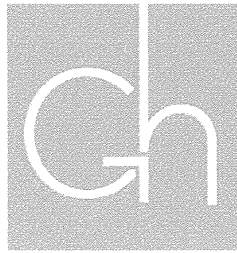
ABN 22 465 606 851

Detailed Balance Sheet

As At 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Current Assets		
St George Cheque Account	5,127	27,078
St George Saver Account	175,814	113,021
Clearing Account	270	(80)
Toll Account	101	-
Petty Cash	1,601	1,600
Total Current Assets	182,913	141,619
Total Assets	182,913	141,619
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors		
Trade Payables	712	1,148
Accrued Expenses	10,816	-
St George Credit Card	2,084	2,814
Union Fees Payable	-	45
Superannuation Payable	2,563	2,596
	<u>16,175</u>	<u>6,603</u>
Tax Office Creditors		
PAYG Withholding	5,202	3,633
GST	(1,076)	(537)
	<u>4,126</u>	<u>3,096</u>
Provisions		
Designated Funds Unspent	11,150	-
Annual Leave	15,484	17,686
Long Service Leave	10,234	6,543
Replacement Vehicle	43,184	37,500
Cyclic Replacement	8,617	15,684
Staff Training	5,000	5,000
Entertainment	2,661	4,000
Wages	10,000	10,000
Consultation	5,000	5,000
Office Equipment	1,220	3,576
Garden Maintenance	3,250	4,200
	<u>115,800</u>	<u>109,189</u>
Total Current Liabilities	136,101	118,888
Total Liabilities	136,101	118,888
Net Assets	46,812	22,731
Equity		
Retained Earnings	22,731	23,808
Current Earnings	24,080	(1,076)
Total Equity	46,812	22,731

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.



CGH & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Lillian Howell Project Incorporated

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Lillian Howell Project Incorporated, which comprises the Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2016, and the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the directors' declaration.

The directors' responsibility for the financial report

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the constitution and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a fair presentation, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Lillian Howell Project Incorporated as of 30 June 2016, and of its financial performance for the year then ended on that date and complies with Australian accounting standards to the extent described in Note 1.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cheryl G Hastie'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'C' and 'H'.

Cheryl G Hastie
Chartered Accountant
CA 79748

Dated 18 October 2016

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS

2015 -2016

An email sent by AXX who moved out in December 2016:

Hi, everyone at Lillian's (those who are still there that remember me)
It's been just over a year since I left, and I was wondering how the refuge is going these days :)

I'm now fully independent, having moved out 2 months ago from living with Dylan and Debbie's family, unfortunately I decided not to stay with Dylan, but I now have a wonderful partner who makes everyday amazing :)

My back ended up being too much of a problem for me to continue studying, but I now work part time at a cafe, working towards getting more qualifications in the workforce hopefully along the way, finding another career I want to pursue.

I wanted to let you all at Lillian's know that without my staying at the refuge for the 2 years that I did, I don't think I would have the courage I do today to stand up for myself and keep pushing forward through life, and I wanted to say thank you for teaching me these very important skills, and also teaching me that life is worth living.

I hope Lillian's can also keep strong and continue empowering young women to achieve their best in life.

Also I'm getting engaged sometime in the near future :)

I hope you all stay well

AXXX

:)

Encouraging: Lillian's always let me make my own decisions on my own and were there for me when I needed to make my next move for example when I chose to leave school at the beginning of year 11, it was my Case Worker Dannielle who helped me enrol into TAFE. Although leaving school early is never ideal, they were encouraging me to continue education.

Supportive: Lillian's have organised a free tutoring programme for me which is what I've always wanted. They've always been able to provide support when it comes to Psychologists and medication as well, which are things I wouldn't be able to do on my own.

Caring: the staff at Lillian's genuinely cares about me. Being a teenager and not have parents can get lonely but I'm reminded that I'm not alone when the workers come and check up on me and ask how my day was.

If it wasn't for Lillian's I wouldn't have a secure place to live and I wouldn't know where I'd be.

LXXX