



Charity Youth Programs

An initiative of the Property Industry Foundation

Lighthouse Foundation, *Boronia* est. 1991

Lighthouse Foundation holds the vision of 'ending youth homelessness together'. This is achieved through the provision of safe, secure accommodation in a family-style home setting for young people, aged 15-22, who would otherwise be homeless. For each young person, a program of therapeutic support and educational programs meet their individual needs.

How do they help youth homelessness and young people at risk?

Short term care on its own simply is not enough to break the cycle of homelessness; young people need long-term 24/7 'wrap around' support where the emphasis is on relationships and community, and they can thrive in an environment where they are trusted, challenged and can flourish intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. Since these young people have suffered trauma and abuse over many years, 1:1 counselling and support is needed over a long period of time.

Each Lighthouse home typically houses four young people and two carers. The carers live in the home with the young people and act as surrogate parents or siblings, providing a caring and therapeutic relationship to the young people.

What is the program that PIF is funding?

PIF is providing funds for a Primary Carer for a Lighthouse home. A carer is the linchpin of the Lighthouse model of care for young people who have previously been homeless. Most of the young people have a long history of abuse and neglect and the carer, who lives in the home 24/7 with the young people, acts as a 'parent', and provides specialist skills and experience.

Why did PIF believe that the program needed funding assistance?

The Lighthouse Therapeutic Family Model of Care is the cornerstone of the Lighthouse approach and is based on empirical evidence from a range of disciplines which demonstrate that if young people are offered a safe physical environment, with positive adult role models and a range of clinical and occupational services they can (re) build their self-identity and learn new ways of trusting and relating to others.

After the young people are ready to move out, they are able to access the After Care and Outreach program at any time in the future – just like any 'real family'. Some go into private rental accommodation, others into shared accommodation, some reconnect with their families, others go into Community Housing or public housing and others enter programs for young people leaving live in care.

Total cost of this program?

Sponsorship for one year: \$55, 000

How much did the PIF Board approve for this program

\$55,000