

300 BLANKETS

ANNUAL
REPORT
2017-18

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Homelessness in Australia continues to be a growing issue in cities across the nation. The 2016 census concerningly revealed the rate of homelessness in Australia has increased 4.6 per cent over the last five years. One quarter of all people experiencing homelessness in 2016 was aged between 20 and 30 years and people aged between 65 and 74 years experiencing homelessness increased to 27 persons per 10,000 people, up from 25 persons per 10,000 people in 2011. The 2017 Rough Sleeping in Victoria - Situation Appraisal has also found that centralisation of homeless services within the city centre has led to a migration of individuals to the CBD to receive aid. The study showed evidence that the further people travel from their own communities to receive aid, the higher the risk that they spend more days sleeping rough, significantly impacting both mental and physical health.

What 300 Blankets has done this year

300 Blankets distributed over 2500 blankets to support homelessness services across Victoria. This has been our highest number of blankets purchased and distributed within a 12 month period. As our presence in the community continues to grow, we are able to develop more partnerships with homelessness services. We believe that homelessness services should work in partnership to serve our community. In 2017/18, we added Big Umbrella, Life Without Barriers and Unison to our list of beneficiaries.

The 300 Blankets Outreach Program increased the outreach nights from 72 nights in 2016/17 to 88 outreach nights in 2017/18. We increased the frequency of our outreaches to reinforce the value of developing meaningful relationships and breaking down barriers with people sleeping rough through consistent contact. With time, the development of trust and the creation of hope, we have seen individuals seek support from families and friends from whom they had previously been isolated from. The increase in outreach nights was made possible with the appointment of two additional Outreach Program leaders, developing a partnership with Bridge Church and an organic increase in everyday Melbournians joining our volunteer teams. We often hear about people sleeping rough who come from all across Melbourne city to see our outreach teams, not just for material aid but for their friendship.

In partnership with Bridge Church, 300 Blankets explored new opportunities to reach more people and address the issue of urban migration raised in the 2017 Rough Sleeping in Victoria - Situation Appraisal. With this in mind, we consulted with Br Doug from the St Vincent de Paul Society Soup Vans. Br Doug has a wealth of experience working in the social welfare sector and is in direct consultation with service users. A need was identified in the Braybrook area; for a new community kitchen service to tackle food insecurity. Thus came the development of the Soul Kitchen. The coming months and year will see this new community program come to life. Our goal is to make Soul Kitchen a safe place that will bring communities together, create a sense of community belonging and that the families and individuals who attend feel loved. We could not do this without the support of local businesses in the community including: local bakeries, groceries and of course all of our wonderful volunteers!

We continue to see a greater need for community education about homelessness. This is being addressed through our twice weekly outreach program, the development of Soul Kitchen and through our education program. In the last 12 months we have partnered with a Monash University program and will be engaging in a new education program with the University of Melbourne in the next 12 months. Our growing presence in the community has also resulted in the invitation from numerous primary and secondary schools across Victoria to learn more and to develop lesson plans that focus on homelessness. We have also continued our great partnership with the Brotherhood of St Lawrence - school program. We believe that through education, we can change the public perception of homelessness which will result in greater awareness and break down stigma associated with this community issue. Together we can make a difference.

Plans for the future

We are excited by this years growth and the direction that 300 Blankets is heading in for the future. Over the last 12 months we have been empowered by a large influx of volunteers with more people taking on more leadership positions across the charity. We have developed strong bonds with new partners including Bridge Church and continue to have our vision supported financially by generous individuals and corporations. We see the development of Soul Kitchen as an important step forward in decentralising homelessness services to suburban areas and hope this will have a significant impact on rough sleeping in Melbourne.

Thanks

Thank you to everyone who have contributed to 300 Blankets. 300 Blankets remains a 100% volunteer operated charity in Victoria. All of the triumphs and successes could only be possible because of the hard work and dedication of the incredible people who donate their time and financial contributions to 300 Blankets. Thank you for believing in our mission that sees meaningful improvements the livelihood of individuals and families who are at risk or are experiencing homelessness.



Warren Tu
Co-Founder & Director

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HOMELESSNESS SITUATION



The term homeless is broad, and while everyone has a different experience of being homeless, at its very core, being homeless is about absence: an absence of a home, a safe place to live, security, choices and control over one's life. It is also often an absence of family and friends.

The 2016 ABS census statistics showed more than 116,000 people experiencing homelessness in Australia on Census night (an increase from 105,000 in 2011). 24,817 Victorians were reported as experiencing homelessness, which accounts for 27 per cent of Australia's homeless population.

The total number of people sleeping rough accounts for just seven per cent of the homeless population. The remaining 93 per cent comprises a range of distinct groups including persons living in supported accommodation (18 per cent); persons staying temporarily with other households (15 per cent); persons living in boarding houses (15 per cent); and persons living in overcrowded dwellings (44 per cent).

There are more males than females, around a quarter are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds and 15 per cent were born overseas and arrived in Australia in the last five years.

While nearly 60 per cent of people experiencing homelessness are under 35 years, there has been a 28 per cent increase in people aged 55 and over experiencing homelessness - a rapidly growing age bracket.

300 BLANKETS

300 Blankets is dedicated to supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Victoria. By reaching out to people who are disenfranchised and socially isolated, we strive to break down barriers and enrich a community where all people are accepted and respected through love, compassion and dignity.

Our fundraising activities have resulted in providing over 13,000 blankets to people experiencing homelessness throughout Victoria.

To make a direct impact for people sleeping rough, 300 Blankets now operates a twice weekly outreach program in the Melbourne CBD. This program enables our teams of volunteers to provide people with information about homeless services, address social isolation and provide material aid.

In July 2018, 300 Blankets will be launching a new initiative – Soul Kitchen, to decentralise homeless services from the Melbourne CBD. Based on the 2017 Rough Sleeping in Victoria – Situation Appraisal, more people are risking their health and safety by sleeping rough in the Victorian capital city due to insufficient services in the suburbs and towns.

300 Blankets has continued to evolve in response to the needs of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Our energies, finances and volunteer resources continue to be directed towards assisting other charities and making ideas for new programs come to life. These efforts are based on where we have seen a potential to increase 300 Blankets' reach and positive impact in the community.



OUR BENEFICIARIES

Our blankets continue to reach people beyond our Outreach Program. Our beneficiaries play an important role in providing the warmth and protection of blankets to people through out Greater Melbourne and across Victoria. With the help of our beneficiaries, this year we distributed our 13,000th blanket to people experiencing homelessness.



OUR OUTREACH PARTNERS

Through the ongoing partnership with a wide range of businesses, schools, charities and church communities, we are able invite more everyday Victorians to participate in our outreach program. In the 2018 financial year, 590 people volunteered with us and found that the aim of our outreach is not only to material aid, but to break down barriers by addressing social isolation and create community.



FINANCIAL REPORT: 2018

Overview of the financial statements for the 12 months ended 30 June 2018

300 Blankets has recorded a surplus of \$2,851 for the year ended 30 June 2018. The majority of funds raised by 300 Blankets goes towards the purchase of blankets for the homeless and others in need. In addition, funds also go towards the Outreach Program which allows 300 Blankets to provide various other services including providing food, sanitary products, and even a simple warm conversation to those who are sleeping rough. Outside of funded activities, 300 Blankets offers presentations to community groups to educate on the realities of homelessness and to dispel common misconceptions about those sleeping rough.

Income and Expenditure

Total income for the year was \$34,982, of which \$24,982 related to direct donations from individuals and funds raised from the public as part of events organised by the charity. This generosity is reinforcement that our cause is supported by members of the community in Melbourne and Victoria. Other sources of income include grants provided by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Government Department of Social Services

Of the \$34,982 of funds raised during the year, \$14,267 was spent to purchase blankets for those in need, which represents the lion's share of our yearly spending. Other costs include storage space for blankets, uniforms for volunteers and insurance costs as part of our Outreach Program, which aims to provide the warmth of companionship to those sleeping rough in Melbourne, as well as basic essential needs such as food and sanitary products.

Statement of Financial Position

300 Blankets remains in a strong financial position with net assets of \$36,594 as at 30 June 2018. This includes a cash balance of \$35,670 which will be used to purchase blankets and assist in funding our Outreach Program in future periods. The charity held no liabilities as at 30 June 2018.

Acknowledgements

We take this opportunity to thank our donors, volunteers, supporters, partners, friends, and beneficiaries for their commitment to our cause and for their continuing support. Their efforts allow us to provide essential services to those sleeping rough and in need and to assist in educating the public on the realities of homelessness.



FINANCIAL DATA

Profit and Loss Statement	FY18	FY17
Revenue		
Government grants	-	\$ 2,082
Other grants	\$10,000	-
Donations and bequests	\$16,036	\$22,378
Fundraising Revenue	\$ 8,946	\$ 9,484
All other revenue	-	\$ 200
Total revenue	\$34,982	\$34,144
Expenses		
Employee expenses	-	-
Insurance costs	\$ 1,263	\$ 1,263
Volunteer uniforms	-	\$ 2,030
Fundraising and appeal costs	\$ 2,962	\$ 2,524
Blankets gifted to beneficiaries / given away	\$14,398	\$11,229
Donation website hosting	\$ 702	\$ 959
Storage Costs	\$ 6,109	\$ 5,599
Outreach Costs	\$ 5,163	\$ 1,903
All other expenses	\$ 1,534	\$ 1,496
Total expenses	\$32,131	\$27,003
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 2,851	\$ 7,141

Balance Sheet	FY18	FY17
Assets		
Blankets	\$ 308	\$ 280
Cash	\$35,670	\$33,463
Total current assets	\$35,978	\$33,743
Property, Plant and Equipment	\$ 631	
Accumulated Depreciation – Property, Plant and Equipment	\$ (15)	
Total non-current assets	\$ 616	-
Total assets	\$36,594	\$33,743
Liabilities		
Total current liabilities	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	-	-
Total liabilities	-	-
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	\$36,594	\$33,743
Equity		
Accumulated funds	\$36,594	\$33,743
Total Equity	\$36,594	\$33,743

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our friends, supporters and sponsors. Through your generosity, you empower us to keep our community warm.

570 Bourke Street
Ace Communications
African Sisterhood Incorporated
Angry Cloud
Beam Marketing
blissmedia
Bolton Clarke
Bonbeach Primary School
Brandella
Braybrook Community Hub
Bridge Church
Brotherhood of St Laurence
cohealth
Compeer Program
Crepes for Change
Cynthia Vincent
Epping Secondary Collage
Galaxy Enterprises

Glen Waverley Secondary
Collage
Ivanhoe Grammar School
Jin Ling
Launch Housing
Letter Me!
Life Style Portraits
Life Without Borders
McKinnon Primary School
Melbourne Girls College
Melbourne Ice
Monash University
Mustard Creative
Myer
Oak Park Primary School
PWC
Quest
Ruyton Girls' School

Sechoir
Short Story
Specsavers – Mornington
St Vincent de Paul Society
Victoria
St. Dominic's Primary School
Stretch Now
Tam Bouquet
Telstra Store, Victoria Gardens
Terrain Tamer 4WD
The Big Umbrella
University of Melbourne
Villeroy & Boch
Watsonia Heights Primary School
Wesley College
Westbourne Grammar
Westpac



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