



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 : DECEMBER 2007

QUEENSLANDERS TAKE ACTION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

In August 2007, the Lady Bowen Trust held its inaugural fundraising dinner at Parliament House to raise money to help people who are homeless to settle into a stable home.

Almost 200 dignitaries attended the '2007 Bridge to the Future' dinner on 6 August including Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, Governor of Queensland, patron of the Lady Bowen Trust and MC, 7 NEWS Presenter Rod Young.

The Trust chose to launch the event during National Homeless Persons' week from the 6–12 August 2007.

Housing affordability, mental illness and drug and alcohol addiction remain the top issues contributing to Queensland's homeless numbers, according to Darryl Seccombe, Chair of the Lady Bowen Trust Board of Advice.

"However, the forgotten catalyst is often the challenges these people face in adapting to a housed environment for the long-term," Darryl said.

The Lady Bowen Trust provides people who are homeless with practical help in their efforts to move into a stable home and a better future.

Launched in November 2006, the Trust works with community partners to help people who have complex, individual needs—from providing simple items such as bus tickets, to more substantial goods such as essential furniture.

"Queensland has the second highest rate of homelessness per capita in Australia. Supporting the Lady Bowen Trust is a great opportunity for all of us to lend a hand in reaching a solution," Darryl said.

More than 350 people sleep rough every night on Brisbane's streets and most of them have been without a home for many years.

"These are people who have often been victims of domestic violence or abuse and can suffer from addictions and mental illnesses. As hard as it is for many of us to imagine, being on the street is sometimes a better alternative to the life they once knew," Darryl said.

"At the Trust, we believe these people deserve more. We realise it's a complex problem but we're doing our best to help reach a solution."

Around 70 per cent of homeless people have been living without safe housing for the long term. According to Darryl, these people need sustained support to move to a stable home—they rarely have the financial resources or skills to maintain a life off the streets.

Sponsored by the Department of Housing, TVS Partnership, Indigo, Brisbane BMW, 7 NEWS and DSA Financial, the 'Bridge to the Future' dinner raised funds towards helping Queensland's homeless have a real chance to become an active part of the community once again.

The Queensland Government established the Lady Bowen Trust with an initial \$3 million funding provided by the Department of Housing and Residential Tenancies Authority. The Trust is independent and managed by the Public Trustee of Queensland. It is guided by the Board of Advice which is made up of leaders from the business, government and community sectors.



Top: Guests at the Lady Bowen Trust dinner

Above: Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, Governor of Queensland and Mr Darryl R Seccombe, Chair, Board of Advice, Lady Bowen Trust

Our patron

The patron of the Lady Bowen Trust, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, Governor of Queensland, works as an advocate of the Trust. Her Excellency helps to advance the profile of the charity and achieve its objective of improving the welfare of people experiencing homelessness in Queensland.

The Board of Advice wishes to thank Her Excellency for her support of the Trust. The Governor hosted a reception at Government House on 25 October 2007 to thank supporters and sponsors of the Lady Bowen Trust.

Want to know more?

The Lady Bowen Trust has a DVD which provides more information about the establishment of the Trust, our objectives and who we are hoping to help. More information can also be obtained from the Lady Bowen Trust website at www.ladybowentrust.org.au

Practical support to overcome homelessness

The Lady Bowen Trust has allocated funds to Mission Australia to assist clients exiting Roma House to sustain their life-changing move into more stable accommodation.

The Lady Bowen Trust provided \$10,000 in July 2007 which assisted 39 residents of Roma House to move to more stable accommodation. A large proportion of the funding assisted residents with housing establishment costs. The Trust also assisted one client with transport to return to their home in Townsville.

A number of clients are successfully managing their own tenancies and several exiting residents have stated that the move-on support from Roma House, with funds provided by the Trust, helped them to reduce their depression and see a way forward.

The Lady Bowen Trust has provided further funding of \$20,000 to assist clients exiting Roma House before 31 January 2008.



DATE CLAIMER:

FRIDAY 8 AUGUST 2008
LADY BOWEN TRUST DINNER

CHANGING LIVES

If you wish to help people make a successful transition from sleeping rough to stable accommodation, you can donate to the Lady Bowen Trust. Your donation will be used to create positive and lasting outcomes.

A donation can be made by cheque or money order and should be sent to:

The Public Trustee of Queensland
Lady Bowen Trust – 20468994
GPO Box 1449
BRISBANE QLD 4001

All donations over \$2.00 are fully tax deductible.



LADY BOWEN TRUST

THE LADY BOWEN TRUST BOARD OF ADVICE:

Mr Darryl R Seccombe,
Chair

Mr Ian Allen OAM

Mr John Battams

Mr Graham Billingham

Mr Brendan Butler AM SC

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Seasons greeting

The Lady Bowen Trust wishes you a very happy festive season. We also hope that those Queenslanders who are experiencing homelessness during this time, or who are at risk of homelessness, are able to access the assistance they need.