



Second Chance Programme Annual Report 2022 / 23

placing women beyond homelessness

From our president

To grasp the challenges for at-risk women and children we assist, several things must be understood about 2022/23. We know that the national and Queensland housing rental market is now tighter than before the pandemic.



Kathleen Noonan
President

Let that sink in. Tighter than before the pandemic. We know the cost of living is soaring. We know there is a significant net migration to Queensland – higher than any other state – and homelessness services struggle to keep up. Importantly, we know that in the past 12 months the final expenditure of some one-off targeted COVID funding from Government, which was invaluable, has ended. The makings of a perfect storm.

I am pleased to provide the annual report for Second Chance for its 22nd year. Our projects continued throughout the pandemic but with the easing of the restrictions, our year of events could return, supporters rallied, and fundraising strengthened. It will be needed. There is simply

nowhere for women and children with little money to go. Caravan parks are now full of people who traditionally work and rent. Women are sleeping in cars and tents, or choosing to stay in unsafe homes.

In Queensland, families who previously found it difficult to access secure, long-term housing are now finding it impossible, with hundreds of applications submitted for every rental property. The “very high needs” section of the Department of Housing waitlist grows by the hundreds.

The start-stop nature of government funding and recent feedback from DV shelters remind me sharply of what Second Chance does best. It involves constancy. “A lot of other funding is difficult

in recent years” reports one shelter manager, “with services receiving dribs and drabs of supplementary funds, the constancy of support from Second Chance has been much appreciated during this time.”

This year’s committee has produced an amazing outcome. Committee member Kelly Greenop stepped away recently after a huge contribution. Her passion and depth of knowledge of homelessness as one of the wonderful co-founders of the winter sleepout, helped ensure its success. Thank you Kelly for helping develop Second Chance.

Capturing the concerns and interests of the broader community, especially younger women, is something Second Chance continues through school engagement. In 2022 we appreciated the support from SE Queensland school communities – which also spreads awareness of the many ways women and

children end up homeless. Second Chance continued its advocacy with talks and media involvement to sharpen focus on how economic inequalities impact women and children.

The timely flow of funding, in particular to DV shelters, is essential. For this we depend on treasurer Marjorie Morton, whose efficiency is paramount. Likewise Amanda Schiavo, our secretary, is an effective recorder of our deliberations. In 2022 we relied heavily on Zara Sexton and Alison Kubler for smooth organisation and running of major events including the annual Winter’s Lunch. I am very appreciative for this. The outstanding growth of the Sleepout for Homelessness and valuable involvement of the Queensland architecture community is significant.

To Second Chance committee members, thank you for your time, ideas, and hard work. To our supporters and donors, you make our work possible. To Second Chance

partners – especially workers in Queensland’s DV shelters – we appreciate your expertise and hard work in the face of enormous challenges.

Second Chance’s work sits within a strong network of organizations that assist women to rebuild their lives. What is holding those women back, and the work of the entire homelessness sector is the lack of public, social and affordable housing in Australia.

This problem has been four decades in the making and can be solved by a courageous Federal Government in collaboration with state governments.. **It needs a bold will to act.** Until then, all the work in the homelessness and DV shelter space remains hugely constrained. The message from this sector is simple, loud and urgent: You create more housing, we can save more lives.

Our mission

All women have the right to safe housing that allows them to re-establish control over their life. We provide targeted funding to fill the gaps that other agencies cannot meet, to smooth the pathway for women to a stable and secure home.

Second Chance is lean, agile and responds to needs quickly. We are on the ground, researching what works best and focused on detail.



Where it all started

About us

TWO strangers met in 2000 over the threat of the loss of a crisis-care bed for homeless women in New Farm and wondered what they could do.

Feminist, educator and activist Dale Spender and Brisbane businesswoman Marjorie Morton were to become powerful agents for change.

“We didn’t know what we could do. We didn’t know the extent of the problem. But we knew we had to do something,” said Mrs Morton. On discovering that there were limited beds for at-risk women in the city, yet many more for men, they started Second Chance Fund Raising Group in 2001.

Everyone’s idea of a homeless

person was old and male, sleeping rough on the street, said Ms Spender, whereas homeless women’s existence was stigmatized, invisible to policy makers and uncouned in statistics. Second Chance originally raised money to assist single homeless women.

Many had experienced divorce, a breakdown, a health crisis, financial crisis, inter-generational poverty or increasingly, family violence. Second Chance worked to shift that stigma and raise awareness. Today one of

Second Chance’s funding focuses is assisting women fleeing violence – and their children – regain control of their lives. Family violence is now the number one cause of homelessness in Australia.

Early on in its existence, Second Chance formed partnerships with Brisbane Housing Company and Anglicare Homelessness Services, which continue today. Another major project was set-up alongside the Combined Women’s Refuge Group.

Second Chance is run by a dedicated team of volunteers who roll up their sleeves to ensure adequate funds are raised to honour our promises and ensure money is spent wisely and with the highest integrity.

Our story over 22 years in the making has consistently delivered support to organisations dedicated to helping women and children into safe and stable housing. Started with a view to re-balance crisis and support services for women, we have continued with our grassroots approach to addressing the need within *our community*.

Every month the committee meets to discuss the organisation of fund raising events and to identify need in the community. We monitor

the effectiveness and integrity of the programs we support, placing high standards on reporting and transparency.

We are on the ground and understand the need. All committee members are actively involved with charity activities with individual members taking ownership of specific operational aspects and events.

Moving into the future we are motivated to refresh our perspectives and evolve so we can continue our work for another 22 years.

We are...
100% volunteer
No salaries,
Independent,
Anti-waste, and
< 1% admin costs.

If you think **you can contribute**, visit **secondchance.org.au** to get in contact.



Marjorie Morton

Dale Spender



Michael Dickson

Amanda Schiavo

Zara Sexton

Marjorie Morton

Kathleen Noonan

and **Alison Kubler**

From our treasurer

A little means a lot

While our Second Chance Committee has enjoyed a very successful year as fund raisers, the opportunity for funding our chosen projects has been hampered by a critical lack of affordable accommodation.



Marjorie Morton
Treasurer

Our income increased from \$153,024 the previous year to \$176,436. Our donations for this last year were considerably less, down from \$152,740 to \$124,492.

Second Chance celebrates a surplus of \$51,944 for the 2022-2023 year. The expenses for this period constitute 0.6% of our income, a rare achievement in the charity sector. These expenses are for credit card merchant fees, and web hosting. Fortunately, we still enjoy the charity of Austbrokers Comsure, in providing us insurance cover of \$20,000,000.

This report encompasses the transactions of three separate bank accounts for the period February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023. Our income was derived from the following:

- Bank Interest
- Membership Fees
- Donations
- Winter Sleepout
- Calile Winter's Lunch
- Book Therapy - Lussh
- Dior Bag Raffle

The 2022 Winter Sleepout result was remarkably successful, thanks to the ingenuity and persistence of Michael Dickson and Kelly Greenop, both architects.

Fund raising by others is always appreciated and we are particularly grateful to the year 11 and 12 students at Brisbane Girls Grammar School for their imaginative fund-raising efforts, to say nothing of their efforts in spreading awareness of the plight of disadvantaged women. The mothers support group excelled themselves last

year, donating \$15,000 from their annual ground lunch.

We also appreciate the wonderful support we enjoy from Fiona Stager from Avid Reader and Suzy Wilson from Riverbend Books for the way they unhesitatingly step up each year for our International Women's Day Book Event.

Our last two have been held at the glamorous and spacious venue The Lussh. The Lussh is owned by Maree Henry who not only waives any rental fee but also provides her staff, the flowers, and welcome champagne. We are fortunate to have her support.

Second Chance continues to collaborate with Carol Birrell in her role as Manager of Anglicare Homelessness Services Southern Queensland.

Our guaranteed annual

payment towards the running of the hostel at Toowong was \$32,000. To date, Second Chance has supported Anglicare in their vital work in assisting women and children in dire need, with total funds of \$486,299. Our first donation of \$5,000 was presented to Anglicare in 2003.

Sunny Kids continues to enjoy our support. We paid \$26,000 for the year just past. We find the regular reports for NAJIDAH (Sunny Kids) justifies our continued support. Since 2009, this organisation has received \$272,500.

While in the past we have supported some 20 shelters through our *Gateway to a Safe Home* Project, this last year, fewer required our help. There were two reasons for this; the government had provided considerable COVID

19 funds to assist the shelters; and clients are staying longer in crisis accommodation due to the scarcity of affordable rental properties.

Our partnership with the Brisbane Housing Company (BHC) to subsidise the rent of women who would otherwise be unable to access BHC properties continues, and to January this year, we have been able to support 866 women and 24 mothers with children. Our support to the BHC in its various forms totals \$577,186.

We are most grateful to PP Atkins and Co, Caringbah, NSW for preparing our audited figures. They always step up unhesitatingly.

How funds are used

We identify what women need and what is not provided by government.

We partner with proven service providers and fund those services through a system of invoice-based funding. With the domestic violence shelters, we provide \$2000 general floats which can be used for agreed purposes e.g. food vouchers, Go-cards, and removal companies.

The shelters report to us regularly and we top-up these floats. The aim is to be accountable without placing too big an admin burden on already busy shelters.

This hard-working community organisation gives practical support with compassion, generous spirit, and determination to make a difference."

Dame Quentin Bryce

Can we (we can) fix homelessness?

Things can change, as we move into 2023 we have a new federal government and in Queensland, a new optimism around the benefits the 2032 Olympics will deliver with the eyes of the world firmly fixed on our region.



Beyond the hype, it is also a point of reflection where we, and the rest of the world, consider what kind of city we want to live in. Last year Second Chance's Kathleen Noonan and Michael Dickson shared their thoughts with Rebecca Levingston in an effort to spread the word about the challenges of housing supply and the limits it places on supporting women escaping violence.



With a new government and new optimism comes a *game-changing* opportunity to fix our supply problem. We have a PM, treasurer, and state premier with an appreciation and lived experience of social housing. The understanding may be there but we need an Olympian will to act to tackle the massive housing shortage accumulated over decades of neglect.



We can learn from Finland which have effectively ended rough sleeping by significantly ramping up support through a *housing first* approach. Rather than placing artificial gateways to permanent housing, the most cost-effective method to *ending homelessness* is to *provide people with a house*. Once housed, then apply wrap-around services to support them in their journey to stability and enhance capacity to manage their household.

SCP is excited at the prospect of becoming redundant through a massive investment in new houses. But we know that aside from submarines, governments are slow to act so we will continue to provide support and advocate for safe housing for **all women** and families.

The recent announcement to simplify the process for New Zealanders to adopt Australian citizenship will have a profound impact on those women seeking support to escape a violent relationship.

The same cannot be said about thousands of women who find themselves in unsafe family situations and unable to access commonwealth government support due to their citizenship.

Women in this situation are referred to as "no income" women. Typically these are foreign women living in Australia married to an Australian citizen, or in a relationship with a 457, student, or bridging visa. It is a significant and invisible part of the DV story with no income women falling through the cracks and facing considerable financial and social challenges in their journey to a safer home life. The additional barriers place these women and their children at significantly higher risk of harm.

Cultural values and language barriers compound the sense of helplessness and isolation with a limited network of family and friends on hand to provide help.

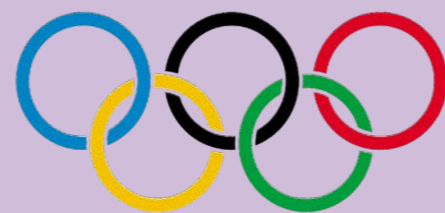
As a charity dedicated to providing **all women** with a second chance to a safe home life, we target funds to plug this gap in the support

network. We do this through financial support to DV support providers specifically for no income women. This support gives our providers the capacity and confidence to reach out to no income women and provide much needed help and prevent tragic outcomes to this large sector of forgotten women.



*We have an unprecedented opportunity to fix housing at this moment. We have a PM, a treasurer, and a state premier with an understanding of the opportunities that affordable housing delivers. With the optimism of the Olympics on the horizon, now is the time for a **game-changing** approach to fix our housing system and provide stability to thousands of women in perilous housing circumstances.*

Kathleen Noonan, president SCP - speaking with Rebecca Levingston. (ABC Radio Brisbane).



Second Chance programme supports **No Income** women from over **60 countries of origin** through our targeted support delivered through the Combined Women's Refuge Group.

Sleepout for homelessness

Little did we know that an idea for a sleepout back in 2011 would continue to grow to develop into an event that now raises serious money and brings the local architecture community together under a common cause.

When student Katy Moir came to me with an idea to run a sleepout event at the UQ School of Architecture. It was a great way to bring students together and focus on an issue that future architects would have agency to do something about.

My role was logistics support, working in the background and letting students do what they do best, working social media and taking ownership of the event. More than the money raised, what that first event taught me was the value of a common cause to consolidate advocacy and

strengthen the solidarity of future colleagues.

The sleepout was held again in 2013, championed and organised by student Chi Tang. Funds raised for these foundation events were directed to a mainstream charity, however as we gathered in 2014 to kick start what would become an annual event, we sought out a charity closer to home. Then academics Kelly Greenop and I met with Dale Spender and began our work with SCP that continues today. We were attracted to the ethos of SCP with their *housing*



Katy Moir - sleepout 2011



Sleepout 2019 at Wandering Cooks

Fundraising and events 2022 - 2023



Sleepout 2013



Sleepout 2021
Deicke Richards Architects



Sleepout 2014

first approach and focus on support for women and children. Addressing the imbalance of funding across gender in the sector along with strong local connections resonated with supporters and helped us grow the event.

And grow it did. Learning from previous events, our approach drew in local architectural practices in friendly rivalry for bragging rights of the most effective fund raisers. This ethos helped us deliver some impressive totals. Much more than the money, is the strong sense of connection the event generates. It is an opportunity for the profession to reconnect over the event and provides a sense of shared endeavor that we hope to grow as we advocate for greater support and supply of housing services.

Michael Dickson
Sleepout co-founder

11 Years of S4H

2011	\$3,425.00
2013	\$3,704.00
2014	\$3,937.00
2015	\$18,386.00
2016	\$17,306.00
2017	\$19,111.00
2018	\$24,284.00
2019	\$47,371.00
2020	\$35,333.00
2021	\$67,942.00
2022	\$93,000.50
\$333,835.50	

2023 \$?



Archipelago



ARUP



Arkhefield

COTTEEPARKER

Wilson Architects

m3architecture

Deicke Richards



GHDWOODHEAD

Cavill Architects

KO&CoARCHITECTURE

BlightRayner

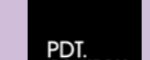
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MARC & CO

BUCHAN



Conrad Gargett



Booklovers come out to play

WHAT a fantastic event to start our fundraising year and mark International Women's Day. On a sunny Sunday afternoon in March, at lovely The Lushh at the Gabba,

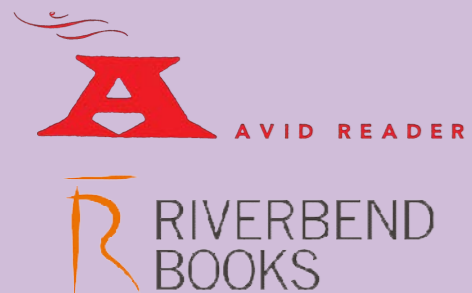
Suzy Wilson (Riverbend Books) and **Fiona Stager** (Avid Reader) sat and talked books. But it was so much more. It was an exploration of reading and writers, friendship and human nature, skinny-dipping, dogs and perfume, and the audience loved it. Thank you to those kind two, such steadfast SCP supporters; to our MC **Megan Daley** for her delightful crowd-wrangling, and to the boys from **Ambrose Treacy College** for their enthusiastic ticket-selling. And to **Maree Henry**, The Lushh owner, for her hard work and generosity, helping make the event our most successful book event so far. Much appreciation to raffle donors City Beach and Dissh, Adorne, Baiia Swimwear, the Body Refinery Massage, Opera Queensland, and Riverbend Books.



Enjoying the late throws of summer at The Lushh



Suzy and Fiona in conversation



Our literary lunch in celebration of IWD would not have been possible without the generous support of Maree Henry, owner of the fabulous venue The Lushh. **THANK YOU!**



Marjorie Morton, Maree Henry and Kathleen Noonan

Winter lunch at The Calile

SOPRANO Eva Kong hit the high notes with **Sarah Giles**, opera and theatre director with Opera Queensland, in conversation with **Alison Kubler** at The Calile Hotel.

How delightful it was to take time out of busy life and listen to such passionate singing, after so little live entertainment throughout Covid. The lunch was successful thanks to generous donations of a pearl pendant from **Paspeley** (won by Judy Tyne) and spectacular jewelery from long-time supporters Rachel, Sam and Gerri at **Our Gallerie**. Artworks supplied by Kate Mitchell, Natasha Ruschka, and Jane Thompson stimulated conversation and created a buzz, helping us add to the success of our ongoing mid year flagship event. Second Chance warmly thanks you all for your generosity in raising funds for at-risk women and children.



Sarah Giles and Alison Kubler in conversation



Enjoying Winter Lunch at The Calile



Art raffle - winter lunch 2022

Our fundraising is underpinned by the generous support of businesses and individuals providing prizes for our event raffles which provide a significant boost to our fund raising for the year.

A special acknowledgment goes out to artists who donate works. Despite the struggles artists experience in maintaining the business side of their practice they are **always on the forefront of giving**, but unfortunately overlooked when it comes to government support during the lean times of our economy. We appreciate their support and grateful for their contribution.

2023 and beyond: courage is needed

“Second Chance is the most inspiring, essential, life-changing not-for-profit programme I’ve ever had the honour of observing up close and from the inside.”

author Trent Dalton

ECONOMISTS say Australia is in the worse housing crisis in recent memory. Surely, this must fuel a renewed questioning of our confidence in the free market to deliver equitable housing outcomes for all?

At our recent AGM, Second Chance president Kathleen Noonan reported that Second Chance’s work sits within a strong network of Queensland organisations that assist women to rebuild their lives. “What is holding those women back, what is holding back the work of the entire homelessness sector is...the lack of public, social and affordable housing in Australia.

This problem has been four decades in the making (thanks to neglect by

consecutive governments who ran down housing stock) yet can only be solved by a courageous Federal Government in collaboration with state governments – with a major infrastructure housing project throughout the country. It needs a bold Will to Act. Until then, all the work in the homelessness and DV shelter space remains hugely constrained.

The message from this sector is simple, loud and urgent: You create more housing, we can save more lives.”

At Second Chance we will continue to advocate and continue to support women and children towards a better future, away from violence and housing stress. We will continue to be lean, targeted, and focusing our support where it will have the greatest impact. We thank you all for your continued support and look forward to connecting with you all through 2023.

Helping at-risk women for over 22 years

The Second Chance Fund Raising Group (ABN 84 194 825 242) is an Incorporated Association. The committee is a Public Benevolent Institution and is registered with the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission (ACNC). Second Chance received endorsement by the Australian Taxation Office as a deductible gift recipient, as well as endorsement for charity tax concessions.

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**Second Chance Programme
Fundraising Group Inc**
placing women beyond homelessness