



April 2017

Hello!

Welcome to the St John's Youth Services April update. In this edition:

- read about the launch of [Keeping my Place](#),
- learn about [Youth Homelessness Matters Day](#)
- lend a hand to Ladder SVS residents in the [#YHMD2017 Video Competition](#)
- meet our newest supporter, the fantastic [StreetSmart](#)
- see the latest SJYS team [training update](#)
- read about a [new report from the Brotherhood of St Laurence](#) that looks at youth unemployment in Australia

As part of Youth Homelessness Week, today is [Youth Homelessness Matters Day](#). You can show your support by **liking, sharing or creating** a post on social media, using the hashtag **#YHMD2017**. You can also sign the [YHMD Petition](#) calling on political leaders to commit to a national plan to end youth homelessness.

To help young people stay in private rental and out of homelessness, you can [donate](#) to our [Keeping my Place](#) or [Next Step](#) programs by clicking the button below.

As always, **THANK YOU** for being part of our wonderful community of supporters and for sharing our belief in young people in SA.

Have a wonderful April!



From all of us at
St John's Youth Services

our best wishes for a safe
and happy Easter

We have lift off!

Keeping my Place launched

[Keeping my Place](#) was recently launched at our [Next Step office](#), with lots of friends and supporters on hand to share the celebrations and learn more about the program.

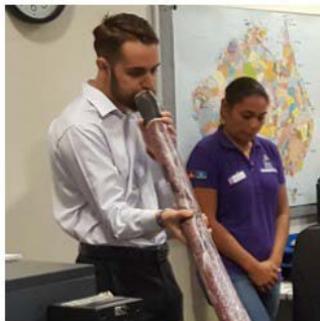
Ben from [Career Employment Group \(CEG\)](#) organised catering with students from [Ocean View College](#), who did a brilliant job preparing and serving a feast of delicious food.

We heard from the Program Leader, Kaelia, about the great connections already being made. Since [Keeping my Place](#) started in January, almost 20 young people have connected with the program. These include young people self-referring, as well as referrals from real estate agents, support workers and education providers.

Kaelia has been especially heartened by the positive response received from property managers, who are already utilising the program to help young people maintain their tenancies.

[Read more](#)

Guests at the launch of Keeping my Place. Visit [our website](#) for more pics.



Youth Homelessness Matters Day

Wednesday 5th April

Like. Share. Act. #YHMD2017

More than 26,000 young Australians don't have a place to call home.

As Australia's housing affordability crisis worsens, the cost of rent continues to climb and [high youth unemployment](#) makes finding work more and more difficult, young people are increasingly vulnerable to becoming homeless.

Young people experiencing homelessness are often hidden from view. The most common first experience of homelessness is couch surfing between friends' houses. While this can provide temporary safety, the constant moving and instability makes successfully engaging with education or finding work almost impossible.

The causes of homelessness are varied, but poverty consistently ranks first among them. When poverty is combined with family violence or a lack of support, young people are much more likely to experience homelessness and long-term disadvantage.

[Read More](#)



#YHMD2017 Video Competition

Ladder residents need your help!

Young people from [Ladder St Vincent Street](#) made their own video about ending youth homelessness for the #YHMD2017 video competition. The video with the most likes wins an iPad mini, so hop on over to the [Youth Homelessness Matters Facebook page](#) to give them a like and a share, and put them in the running!

Look for the video posted yesterday captioned 'Thanks Jarian for your video competition entry'.

Supporter Spotlight [StreetSmart](#)



[StreetSmart](#) raises funds and awareness to bring about change for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. By adopting a philosophy that privileges locality - donations are fed back into projects as close to where they are raised as possible - and channelling 100% of partner donations straight to partner charities, [StreetSmart](#) operates at a local, grassroots level to fund critical homelessness services. These smaller organisations (like St John's Youth Services!) are embedded in local communities and deliver critical and often innovative response to community needs.

We're thrilled to be recognised as worthy recipients for their most recent grant round, made possible by proceeds from [DineSmart](#) 2016. This grant will fund the 'My Story' video project, which will give young people who have experienced homelessness the chance to tell their own stories in their own words, and correct community misperceptions about youth homelessness.

[CLICK HERE to donate and make a positive difference
for young people in South Australia.](#)

Sharing Culture

The SJYS team exercised their minds *and* bodies at this year's annual Cultural Training day!

Our guide, Frank Wanganeen, led employees on a fantastic tour of significant Aboriginal cultural sites from the City to the Coast - with lots of stops in between. It was fascinating to learn about the pre-European settlement history of Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga, and to hear historic trading tales at the Kurna Living Centre.

As always, our Aboriginal employees were generous with their time and knowledge, sharing their own stories and histories to help us all better understand the extraordinary living history and culture of Aboriginal Australia.



Generation Stalled

Young, underemployed and living precariously in Australia

A report released in March by the [Brotherhood of St Laurence](#) reveals that young Australians are severely disadvantaged by a lack of secure employment.

The report, [Generation Stalled: Young, underemployed and living precariously in Australia](#) found that young Australians are facing a far more difficult job market than their parents or grandparents. Underemployment has also become an entrenched feature of the youth labour market, making it increasingly difficult for young people without family support to find and keep secure housing.

Australia's youth underemployment rate, where people have some work but want more hours, has surged to 18% - the highest it's been in 40 years. That rate is even higher than the youth unemployment rate for 15-24 year-olds in the labour force of 13.5 per cent, which has been persistently high since the 2008 global financial crisis. Today, almost a third of Australia's youth labour force are unemployed or underemployed, with more than 650,000 young people unemployed or underemployed in February 2017.

[Read more](#)



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[Contact us](#)