

JULY 2025

St Pat's Dispatch



Welcome to the July 2025 edition of St Pat's Dispatch

Join us at an upcoming event, or read on to find out how the projects and programs you help deliver, positively impact and support people facing homelessness.



Together in Action: Homelessness week events

Walk with a Worker



Fremantle



Tuesday 5th August



Rockingham



Friday 8th August

Homelessness Week is back for 2025

This August take action, get involved and get to know our frontline experts. Join our popular walk with a worker events in Fremantle and Rockingham, ask your burning questions about the causes and solutions of homelessness and meet other like-minded people.

If sitting back and taking it in is more your thing, join us and the City of Fremantle at a screening of the powerful documentary, Under Cover, highlighting the reality of Australian women over fifty experiencing homelessness, featuring a panel discussion with key members of our support teams.

Film Screening, Undercover



Luna on SX, Fremantle



Friday 8th August



**Book your spot and get all
the event details by visiting
the St Pat's website here**

How your support gave Brian hope and helped him into a new home

After a 22 year marriage break up and a long career in FIFO mining, Brian found himself staying at motels and caravan parks due to the housing crisis. The challenges he faced impacted his mental health and led to alcohol misuse. Once all of his funds were exhausted he became homeless.

Brian told us that he “met some genuinely kind people whilst on the street, from all sorts of backgrounds. It illustrated to me how homelessness does not discriminate by, age, gender, religion or social status. Experiencing homelessness can impact anybody at any time.”

The rough sleeper network told Brian about the support that was available at St Pat's. He said “the next step of my journey probably saved my life from really spinning out of control”

St Pat's was able to offer Brian a room in temporary accommodation. “Once in the arms of St Pat's I became aware of the vast resources that suddenly became available to me. It was at this stage when I met my case worker, Belinda, who took on the role of advocacy for my housing application and assisted me in getting onto the priority wait list”

After seeking in-patient treatment for his mental health, Brian was at his lowest ebb. He noticed some missed messages from Belinda which gave him some hope that he wasn't totally on his own in his journey. To his disbelief he then got a call from the Department of Communities who had a place for him.



Brian and Belinda at his new home

“When I moved in I literally had the clothes on my back. I rang up Belinda and told her the great news. The next thing I knew, the team at St Pat's had organised furniture, new white goods, and blankets. I was absolutely humbled by the kindness”

Brian says he would like to help other people going through hardships, now he has a comfortable home and stability.

“I thank St Pat's so much for all types of support. Whether it was financial or just knowing someone was in your corner and on your side. A special thanks to Belinda for her empathy and tenacity when my chips were down.”

The one thing I gathered from this journey is that what St Pat's gave me is worth more than any amount of money. They Gave Me Hope”

Showcasing our Creative Community

Your support doesn't just help us provide housing, it helps to create spaces where creativity and community can thrive. The Housing Services Team recently held an art competition for residents and tenants living in St Pat's properties and we were all blown away by the talent on display! All the artworks are a beautiful reminder of the creativity, skill, and spirit that lives within our communities. We feel incredibly proud and grateful to have such talented individuals living in our properties, and we're honoured to support them on their journeys.



Competition Winners (L-R) Desmond, Keith and Jason with their fabulous works of Art

Running to end homelessness

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the HBF Run for a Reason at the end of May. A huge shout-out to Cathryn and Peter who first met as residents in St Pat's housing and decided to run together to give back and help others who are facing homelessness.



Cathryn and Peter at the end of their run



Amy from the Fundraising Team wore a house for the 12K!

Celebrating Culture, Community Strength and Bright Futures

Here at St Pat's we're very lucky and privileged to work with and get to know many passionate and deadly First Nations colleagues, clients and members of the community.

Earlier this month we took the time to pause and gather together to celebrate NAIDOC day and the rich cultures of our First Nations Peoples the best ways we know how - with food, time to yarn, make a new friend or two and learn some new skills.

The rain didn't dampen our smoking ceremony and the fire warmed our hands and hearts. Thanks to Uncle Clive for the Welcome to Country which was followed by weaving and wood burning.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped fill our bellies with delicious damper, roo stew, roo burgers and the NAIDOC themed cake! We are especially grateful to all our First Nations colleagues for putting such great efforts into the day and for sharing your many unique talents, cultures and perspectives.

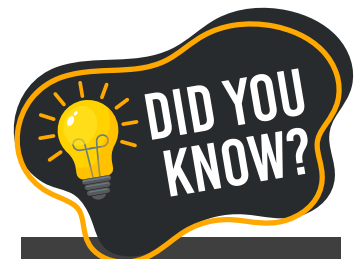
If you missed out this NAIDOC, you can get involved from the comfort of your couch! [Here is a list of films and TV shows](#) which celebrate Australia's First Nations cultures and determination.



Write a Will for free this September!

This September it's your chance to write a legally binding Will, completely free.

From 1st - 15th September we're partnering with [Safewill](#) - Australia's leading online Will writing platform, to offer all St Pat's supporters the freedom to write your Will simply and securely, 100% free. It's something many of us put off and not all that much that fun to talk about, but having a valid Will means you can secure your legacy and protect your loved ones into the future. If you'd like to know more about writing your Will for free, [register your interest here](#).



Our Aboriginal Services Team, Djenabidet Kalleep, aka Footpath Home, was created thanks to a legacy gift.

Volunteers in the Frame: Thank You for All You Do!

Earlier this year, more than 50 volunteers attended an event to thank them for the huge difference they make in the lives of the people we support. They were entertained by our very own Starlight Hotel Choir, played dress up at the selfie gallery, met with members of the St Pat's Board and got to know other like minded volunteers.

We are very lucky to have a strong, committed volunteer workforce, so a huge thank you to each and everyone of you. We couldn't keep doing what we do without you.



Dental Nurse Jess with some of our healing health clinic vologies!



Keen to join the incredible team of 140 volunteers making a real difference in our Op Shops, Sorting Depots, Kitchen, and Health & Dental Clinics?
We'd love to have you on board — [find out how you can get involved here](#)



Winter Appeal

A huge thank you to everyone that has donated to this year's Winter Appeal, which has been running on social media and the St Pat's website. You've nearly raised an astounding \$170,000 to support people who are facing homelessness this winter.

Our focus has been to highlight the growing number of families who are increasingly experiencing homelessness in WA. This unprecedented situation brings unique challenges for both the people we provide assistance to and our teams, as we learn to support a new demographic that has never faced homelessness to this extent before.

The images and videos created were staged for the appeal based on the real and desperate situations that families are facing out in the cold.

[Visit the Winter Appeal page and see the videos here](#)

Meet Jess, Engagement Hub Dental Nurse.

Jess supports all our Clients and volunteer Dentists in our state of the art dental clinic.

What's the most rewarding part of your role?

It's the little things - like when someone walks in nervous and walks out smiling.

Or when you make someone laugh during a check-up, and they tell you it's the first time they've laughed in ages.

Those moments remind me why I do this. It's not just about teeth, it's about people and connection.

It could be their first clean in years, or when they finally get relief from pain, and you can see the weight lift off their shoulders.

The real reward is building trust with people who often feel overlooked, and being able to help them feel heard and cared for.

What's it like being a Dental Nurse here?

Everything feels more human. It's not transactional. There's time to talk, to listen, and to build trust - which is everything.

We're helping people feel safe, sometimes for the first time in a long time. You leave each day knowing what you did mattered.

We've identified serious illnesses, prevented further health issues, and supported people to regain smiles, confidence and rejoin the workforce.

St Pat's People



Many of our patients have faced extraordinary challenges like pulling out their own teeth, sharing dentures, or draining their own dental abscesses.

Dental care isn't just cosmetic for them, it's life-changing.

Has your perspective on homelessness changed since working here?

It's taught me not to judge what I don't understand. Behind every incidence of homelessness is a story of pain, resilience, and strength.

Everyone's situation is different, and most people just need someone to listen and believe in them.

What do you wish more people understood about homelessness?

That it doesn't look one way. It's not always sleeping rough. It's couch surfing, staying in a car, or not knowing where you'll be next week.

People in those situations still have dreams, skills, and so much to offer. They just need a chance and someone to believe in them.

What is special about the way St Pat's supports people facing homelessness?

Many of our staff including myself have lived experience of homelessness, which brings a rare level of empathy and relatability to our work.

There's no judgment, no labels just kindness, respect, and real connection.

St Pat's doesn't just offer help - it restores hope. And that kind of support can truly change lives, one person at a time.

What keeps you motivated and passionate about this work?

It's the people. Some days are heavy, but then someone opens up, or smiles for the first time in weeks, and you remember exactly why you're here.

I've had clients tell me, "You're the first person who's treated me like I matter in ages." That kind of moment stays with you. This isn't just a job, it's a calling.

Behind every incidence of homelessness is a story of pain, resilience, and strength.



Jess in the dental clinic with Volunteer Dentist, Josh

How can people get involved and make a difference?

If you have experience in health or dental, volunteering can make a huge impact. Not just clinically, but emotionally.

If volunteering isn't possible, financial donations go directly towards services that can genuinely change lives.

If you're interested in volunteering at our health or dental clinics, you can connect with us via our [website](#) or email the clinic directly at healthreception@stpats.com.au

From the CEO



Thanks to Hon. Simone McGurk and Lotterywest for their visit and very welcome funding boost.

Although the winter solstice and the shortest day of the year was more than a month ago, it seems that the Noongar season of Makuru has really hit WA this week. We have been able to offer overnight refuge for rough sleepers at our Engagement Hub due to the severe cold snap, and I'd like to thank everyone who helped make it possible to welcome our community through the doors and provide some much-needed warmth and security.

This leads me on to thank all of you for your generosity in donating to this year's Winter Appeal – you've raised nearly \$170,000 so far for people facing homelessness during this extremely tough time of the year. Due to the colder temperatures, we are keeping our appeal open a little longer - you can [visit the appeal page here](#) if you'd like to find out more.

As many of you know, the housing and cost of living crises continue to impact and effect increasing numbers of people. This has put great pressure on all our services and teams as we endeavour to support those who need our assistance. Of these teams, the Emergency Relief team are often the first port of call for people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness and they do an incredible job supporting people and connecting them to the help they need. Earlier this month the team received a boost thanks to a visit from Hon. Simone McGurk, Member for Fremantle when we received some much-needed extra funding from Lotterywest to help us through these challenging times.

This year's NAIDOC week events were a perfect opportunity to celebrate the rich cultures and connections here at St Pat's. Special thank you's to our First Nations Elders and Leaders Group, Djinanging Kaartdijin Gnalla First Nations staff group, and all the staff from our Djenabidet Kalleep (Footpath Home – our Aboriginal Services team), Crossroads (Alcohol and other Drug Outreach team), Engagement Hub and Housing Services teams for creating such joyful and engaging NAIDOC celebrations. The talent, passion and dedication here fills us all with renewed vigour as we look and work towards a brighter future for our First Nations staff and clients, who are unfortunately very much over-represented in those who face homelessness across Australia.

*Melania and Denise:
NAIDOC style*



Thank you for your support of people facing homelessness. It's thanks to you that members of our community can be assisted by our dedicated teams and met with warmth and kindness in their time of need. Yours sincerely,

Michael Piu
CEO, St Pat's