



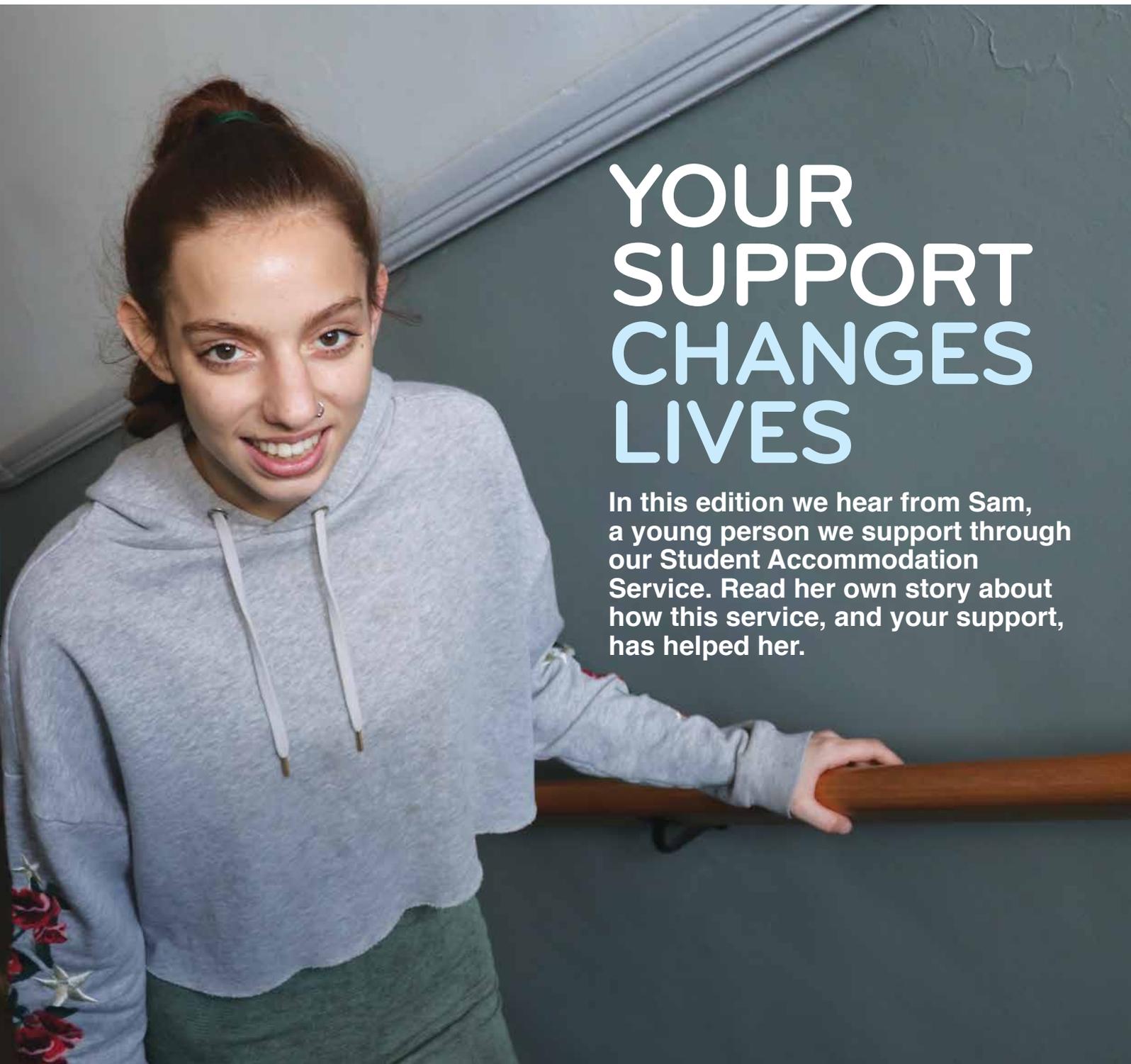
Samaritans

*Compassion Integrity Justice*

# CONNECTIONS

Your March 2020 Supporter Newsletter

The Samaritans Foundation is the social welfare arm of the Anglican Church in the Hunter, Manning and Central Coast.



## YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES

In this edition we hear from Sam, a young person we support through our Student Accommodation Service. Read her own story about how this service, and your support, has helped her.

## SAM'S COVER STORY

Continued

**M**Y name is Sam and I am currently a student and resident at Samaritans Student Accommodation in Wickham. I am studying interior design at TAFE and also have a passion for fashion design. I love to cook and share a meal with friends, I love drawing, reading and sewing. I love to clean and I'm very house proud.

I have a good mum. She worked all the time, there was always food in the cupboard at home, but we experienced some challenges throughout my childhood. I would say that mum was strong, but not necessarily maternal and with five children in my family, she faced some difficulties in parenting all of us. At the age of 12, I was placed into residential care. My mother never spoke to me again, which means her door was never open for me. After living with family for 12 years, I really didn't want to be in care. I was known as a 'runner' and I was in and out of school until Year 9. I experienced life in a youth refuge.

I couch surfed and experienced eight years of homelessness. I was able to complete my Certificate two and three at TAFE while I was homeless.

Before I came to live at Samaritans Student Accommodation, I decided to try and find my Dad who I have never met before. I travelled alone to the centre of Australia. Unfortunately, it wasn't a happy ending with Dad as he decided he wasn't ready to meet me, but I'm hopeful that one day he might change his mind.

There was one person, Mel who is from Samaritans,

## WHAT IS SAMARITANS STUDENT ACCOMMODATION?

This program offers supported accommodation, education and employment opportunities to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It receives no government funding but allows 21 young people to ensure there is a roof over their heads while they continue to study.

who stayed in contact with me while travelling. You could tell she really cared. She never left my side and gave me more chances than what I deserve and for that, I appreciate everything I have now.

A few years ago, I'd tried to get into Samaritans Student Accommodation, but the demand is so high for the service, I was unable to gain a place. I kept fighting for it and now I'm in the first stable place that I've experienced in my whole life. For my whole life, I'd felt like I was moving, and I forgot how good it felt to have somewhere safe to live and be myself. Now I have nothing to worry about - I'm not in any harm and I always have food, clothes, a bathroom and a kitchen. What more could you want in life?

When I got into the program, I felt success and it was the encouragement I needed to pursue my dreams of becoming a fashion designer. I have the time and the space to design and be creative, to sew and read.

When my life was messy, Samaritans was still there for me, they never shut the door.

*Thank you for supporting Samaritans Services.*



## THANK YOU

**R**ETIRING after more than 30 years with Samaritans, June Butterworth says her time volunteering with the Emergency Relief team has been a blessing.

June began her volunteer career with Samaritans in 1990 when she managed the Samaritans retail store in New Lambton.

"I've met so many people through the service who are struggling, and being able to help them in some way is so special. I've made beautiful friendships while I've been with Samaritans and it has been the friendship and support of the team that make it all worthwhile."

Emergency Relief helps local people in financial crisis by providing short-term emergency financial and material assistance and linking them to other appropriate services and support.

*For more information about volunteering opportunities visit [www.samaritans.org.au](http://www.samaritans.org.au) or phone 4960 7100.*

# SAMARITANS HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED IN SPEAKING UP AGAINST INJUSTICE

In the last year alone\*, Samaritans has supported:



980

With Gambling and Financial Counselling



2,322

People facing homelessness



8,745

Through our Emergency Relief

**IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE PEOPLE WE SUPPORT AT SAMARITANS**

We believe in advocating for justice to create systemic change. Thank you for helping us to raise our voice, and the valuable voices of people with lived experience and hardship, through your support of Samaritans.

\*Figures from Samaritans 2018-2019 Annual Report

## STRENGTH IN PARTNERSHIP

**S**INCE 2011, Samaritans has been supported by the fundraising efforts of the Bean Counters Ball who most recently have committed to Samaritans Student Accommodation at Wickham.

The Bean Counters Ball is coordinated by a volunteer committee to support youth and education in the Newcastle region through means of fundraising. The event is a joint initiative between local charities and local members of Certified Practising Accountants Australia (CPA) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ). Samaritans is considered a major beneficiary of the Ball every year and since the ball's inception, over half of the \$200,000 raised has gone to support the Samaritans Student Accommodation.

Over the last 12 months, Samaritans extended its partnership with the BCB to help support mentoring programs, establish a tailored financial literacy program and maintain an ongoing collaboration beyond the event. This has enhanced the linkages for residents to the local business community, improved skills, and educated young people within Samaritans area of expertise.

In 2019, Samaritans was awarded a Highly Commended Award in Partnership at the Anglicare Australia Conference held in Perth, for our collaboration with the Ball committee.

The Anglicare Australia National Awards recognises the work of those who produce outstanding services, projects and programs throughout the Anglicare Network.



The BCB provides young people in the local region an opportunity for their voice to be heard, including a young person named Izzy who has experienced many challenges and hardships that has shaped her understanding of privilege and poverty.

"I wish to follow a career that supports people who are in need and be the voice that stands up for those who can't be heard. That is why sharing my life story is so important to me - expressing the impact that every donation makes but also offering a thank you from myself and everyone who has been supported," Izzy said.

Samaritans and the BCB also provide a career mentoring program for students like Izzy to learn from professionals and establish connections in fields they're interested in, an opportunity they may never have otherwise had access to. Community partnerships such as these are critical to the success of the unfunded service and the students who reside there.

