

Key Areas of Expenditure for Funds Donated to BABI:

- employing a generalist adolescent counsellor to assist the many young people and families who come to us seeking personal support and counselling;
- for our Homelessness Program;
- as well as life skills training, building maintenance, furniture, whitegoods and basic educational supplies and services for young people accommodated in the range of properties serviced by BABI;
- expansion of our Parenting & Enjoying Teenagers program;
- contributing to opportunities for our young parents to experience a beach holiday environment;
- providing the means to fund celebratory events for our young people;
- and enriching other everyday facilities, activities and experiences to better equip young people to contribute effectively in all aspects of their personal, family, community and work environments.

How will the funds be used?

Our most pressing need is to bridge the gap between Government funding and the real cost of providing our programs. We need to raise money to adequately fund these vital services for young people and families in the local community:

Homelessness Program

How can anyone plan a future without a roof over their head? The Homelessness Program offers supported accommodation, information, advice, referral, counselling and mediation for 15 to 21 year olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. One of our houses is reserved for homeless high school and TAFE students wishing to complete their education. BABI accommodates up to 30 young people (including children of young parents) at any given time. Government funding for this program does not meet operational costs, and certainly does not cover the cost of building maintenance, furniture and whitegoods. Your donation will help us bridge the gap.

Life Skills Program

Young people accommodated by BABI receive training in the real world skills and knowledge that, under normal circumstances, would be learned within the family. These are the essential skills that underpin independent living, such as cooking, cleaning, budgeting, shopping and study skills, understanding the balance between rights and responsibilities, and social skills. This program is funded solely by donations.

Family Support Program

Most people agree parenting is the hardest job of all. Can you imagine what it's like for a 16 year old with no family support? The Family Support Program offers an outreach service to young parents accommodated by BABI. The service incorporates counselling and support, parent education, advocacy and referral. The program also offers counselling, support, advocacy and referral services to the families of adolescents.

Parenting & Enjoying Teenagers

This legendary program has been provided by BABI since 1986 and is always extremely popular - because it works. Parenting & Enjoying Teenagers offers sound, practical strategies for strengthening parent/child relationships and surviving (and enjoying!) the challenging teenage years. The success of this program over the last 20 years was recognized in September 2006 when it was the recipient of the Child Protection Award for Education presented by The Child Protection Week committee. At a community level, it's an important tool in the prevention of youth homelessness. Parenting & Enjoying Teenagers tackles serious issues in a fun and friendly way, and is open to all parents, foster parents and grandparents. This program is funded solely by donation and participant contributions.

Youth Support Program

What would your future be like if your family life was just too chaotic to stay at school? Early school leavers face serious long term disadvantage in terms of career development, capacity to complete further education and training, and other opportunities to progress and participate in community life. The Youth Support Program provides information, referral and support for students who are at risk of leaving school early or at risk of homelessness. Your donation could help extend this important support program to more young people in need.

Youth Development Programs

Young people at school, in the general community or in BABI accommodation often have problems with developing and maintaining healthy relationships or interacting appropriately in social settings. Many are unable to gain these vital skills in their usual family or community environment and so it falls to BABI workers to support young people in their quest to become more comfortable with themselves and others. A wide range of programs to build self-esteem, explore relationships, experience different social settings, handle conflict situations, better ensure self-care strategies are implemented and emotional and creative expression encouraged are presented through LinX and the Youth Space programs such as holiday programs, Drop-in afternoons, Girls'/Boys' Groups, excursions, camps, art, music and recreational activities.

Youth Justice Program

What's the future for a 12 year old who spends summer holidays in "juvie" (youth detention) and considers it an improvement on home? Early

intervention is the key to reducing juvenile crime. The Youth Justice Program engages in counselling, support and group work with 10-17 year olds who are offenders or at risk of participating in offending behaviour, and their families. The Youth Justice Program works very closely with the Juvenile Aid Bureau, and has been instrumental in reducing the incidence of graffiti through the Graffiti Task Force. With your help this program could assist many more young people at risk of offending.

Get Set For Work

To some young people, schooling has not been an easy road to follow. The many bumps and detours experienced have led to disillusionment and often disengagement with the educational process. The GSFW Program supports such young people in the 15-18 year old age bracket to experience an alternative, holistically underpinned 8 week program to increase their motivation to either return to school, engage in other study or seek employment. This is an investment in each of the participants' future as well as in future generations.



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