



National  
**Homeless  
Collective**

**Annual Report 2019 - 2020**



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# CEO Report

**National Homeless Collective (NHC)** continues to thrive and excel in its mission to support and assist people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage. It has been an absolute honour to be at the helm of this truly inspirational organisation for yet another year.



Donna Stolzenberg, CEO

Our newly opened **Kala Space Op Shop** saw supportive, practical and purposeful employment offered to six women experiencing homelessness. This provided almost **3500 hours** of employment to vulnerable women who otherwise would not have had a safe place in the workforce. **Kala** also hosted **fourteen volunteer days** for corporate organisations, local community groups, schools and students with special needs. Our newly build courtyard provided a perfect background for groups to gather and we recycled almost **10,000** articles of clothing.

**NHC** was proud to be featured in the Channel 10 TV show **Behind the Sash**. The show highlighted the work we do with **Sleeping Bags for Homelessness** and showcased the extreme conditions people sleeping rough are forced to endure.

We were thrilled to once again host our Christmas day party for isolated single parents and once again felt the love of the Brunswick and Melbourne community as we came together to host eight special families including twenty-two children, spoiling them all on such a special day.



Kala Space Op Shop Employees

Our work assisting people affected by the horrific bushfires right across the country saw thousands of people assisted with sanitary items, underwear, food, toiletries and other essentials. Our wonderful collaborations with other charities such as Foodbank Victoria and Foodbank QLD.

March saw things change dramatically as we were forced to lock down the **Kala Space op shop** due to Covid-19. However, we were immediately called to action to support thousands in the community who were now unfortunately at great risk of homelessness due to the rapidly changing landscape of our economy. We are incredibly proud of our ability to be flexible, adaptable and rise to the challenge to support people at a moments notice.

Of course, none of this could happen without the incredible support of our wonderful volunteers and those who donate to us throughout the year. These amazing people give their time, energy, expertise, love and friendship without asking for a thing in return. They are the lifeblood of our charity and we could not do any of this without them. We dedicate our last year to those who have helped us every step of the way and we cannot wait to see where these bonds take us 12 months from now.

– Donna Stolzenberg, Director

Statistics show:

**On any given night there are around 116,427 people experiencing homelessness in Australia**

"Before the Period Project  
I was using old socks  
as Pads"



## Period Project

**Melbourne Period Project** continues to be the hub of the NHC charity. We are proud to have been able to offer support to approximately **60 organisations** across the country and to some **50 thousand** individuals including those affected by the horrific bushfires.

Donations of sanitary items continue to arrive and our partnership with Gift Box Organic and Silent Arrow has enabled us to send even more much needed sanitary items and underwear right across the country. **MPP** continues to be a voice for those experiencing period poverty and we continue to provide educational awareness sessions for the public on how period poverty affects people and proudly continue our support for the LGBTIQ community.

Our work with remote Indigenous communities continues to strengthen as we deliver even more sanitary items to those in remote communities. The past 12 months also saw us work closely with the **Primary Health Network** and the **Department of Health** to deliver accessible information on the importance of cervical screening

to those in low socio economic and non-English speaking backgrounds. The past year saw us begin a new relationship with the **Dame Phyllis Frost Centre** to support the menstrual needs of women exiting prison. We are proud to provide this service as previously women leaving prison had no immediate access to sanitary items. Our Period Packs are very welcome by those who are re-joining society.

**MPP** continues to be so much more than just the deliverer of sanitary items and we are proud to continue our multi-faceted work reducing period poverty across the country.

Our dynamic community focussed Op Shop has provided thousands of hours of supported stable employment for six women experiencing homelessness and has recycled more than 10 thousand items of clothing.

Homelessness in children aged under 12 has increased **11%** since 2011



Bikes built for the School Project



We continue to support children of those experiencing homelessness by provision of much needed school, swimming and school camp supplies. We were so proud to once again be able to assist the children supported through **Launch Housing** to attend their yearly summer camp.

The devastating Australian bushfires also saw a huge increase in need as the fires were so close to the start of the school year. Many children in affected areas were left without essential items for school. With the support of

small grass roots charities and the SES we were able to donate enough supplies to assist approximately 800 children. Aside from the bushfires the past 12 months saw us have a slight reduction in the number of children supported through **TSP**. This is due mostly to the state government increasing its funding and support programs for disadvantaged children. As a charity it thrills us when governments notice those left behind and build solid support structures to provide much needed equipment to facilitate better education.

**“Once again, thank you. Without your support none of these children would ever know what it is like to experience school camp. We are so grateful for everything you do.”**

– Launch Housing South Melbourne team



Homelessness in Australia  
has increased  
in five years. **13.7%**



Kitchen splash back built for the Plate-Up Project

**Plate-Up** continues to be on hold while we finalise the last stages of our kitchen rebuild. We have received funding to finalise this project and will commence operation of our brand-new **Plate-Up Project** and **Kala café** in the Spring of 2020.

Our dynamic community focussed Op Shop has provided thousands of hours of supported stable employment for six women experiencing homelessness and has recycled more than **10 thousand** items of clothing. Our space is the pride of **NHC** and welcomes people of all nations, ages and genders.

**Kala** has an incredible positive atmosphere and our gorgeous courtyard is the pride of our space. Kala welcomes community members, corporates and schools to join in, volunteer, learn and shop to help support our employment program and help save the environment through the recycling of clothing and accessories. In addition to our shop we are thrilled to have completed our brand new kitchen which will be the home of the **Plate-Up Project** and our brand new **Kala Café** coming in late 2020.

# The Kala Space



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**“You had trust in me. That’s the biggest thing. I felt like no one would ever give me a chance, but you did and you trusted me.”**

—Elly,  
Kala Space Employee

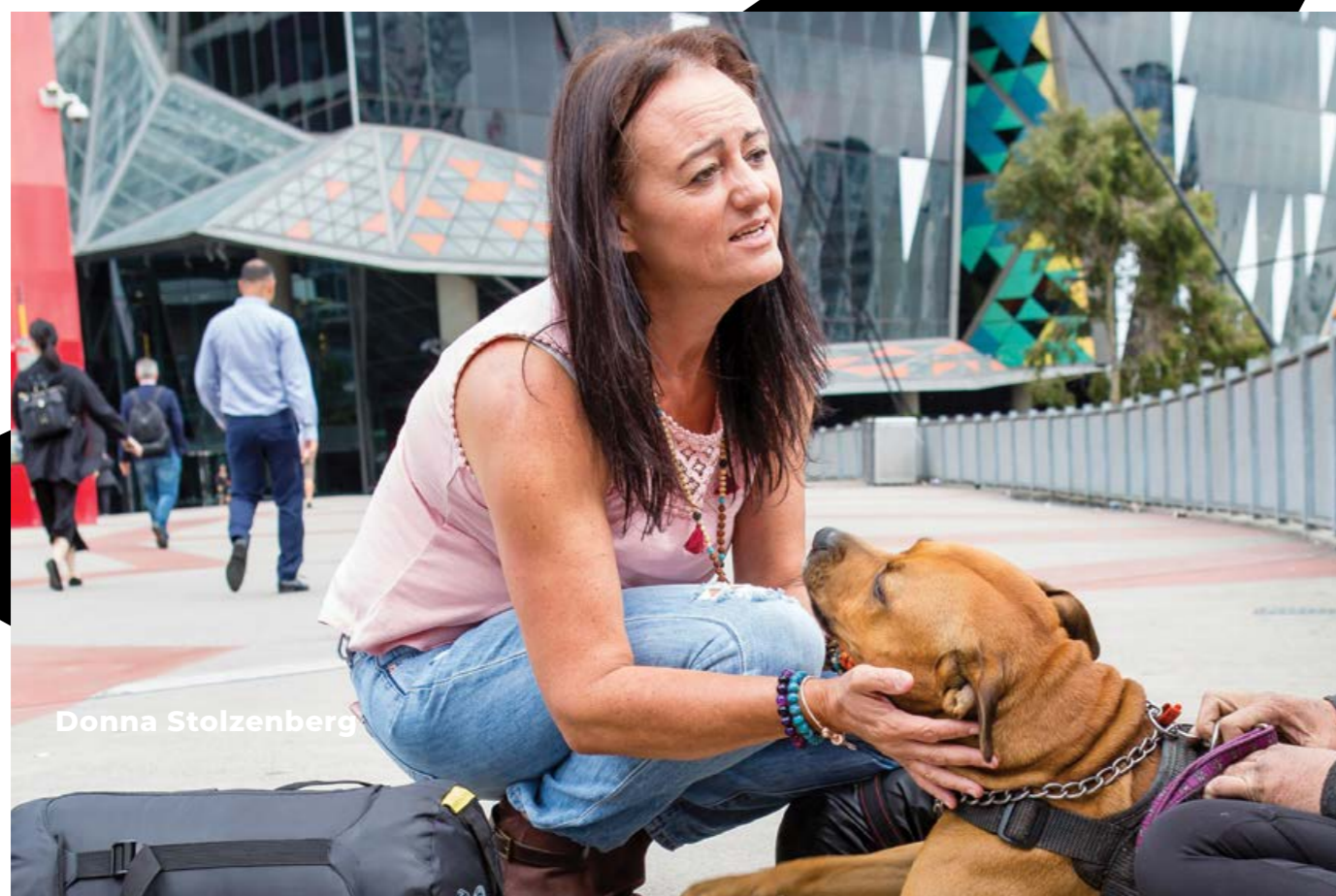


**55%**

of women experience homelessness because of domestic abuse.

**“I was so cold. I was so tired of being so cold. I didn’t think I’d ever be warm again. Thank you for everything you gave me. I finally felt warmth again and slept all night.”**

–Emily, *sleeping rough*



Donna Stolzenberg

**“All I wanted was for people to see me as a person, and not just that homeless lady. That woman who ruined her life. Thank you for believing in me and for seeing me as the person I truly am.”**

–Erica, *sleeping rough*

## Sleeping Bags for Homelessness

With the incredible support of the Australian community we were able to assist people experiencing homelessness with the provision of **over 2,000** brand new life saving sleeping bags, approximately **600+** pairs of socks, beanies and pairs of gloves.

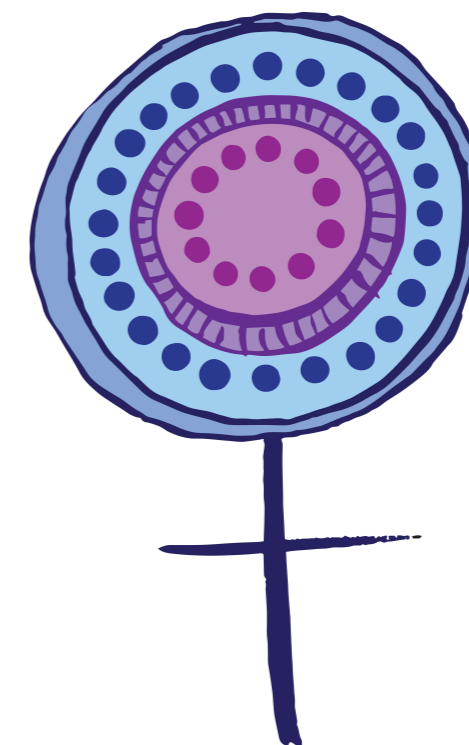
Our bags reach those in need all across the country and continue to provide a safety net for those who cannot access the safety of a home of their own.

**We were especially proud to provide sleeping bags for the Fire firefighters and SES crew who worked tirelessly during the bushfire crisis of 2020**



**58%**  
of people  
experiencing  
homelessness  
are men.

**42%**  
are women.



## Secret Womens Business

Being an organisation founded by a First Nations woman and run by a board consisting of **75% First Nations people** it is important for us to continue to provide access to appropriate sanitary and hygiene items for our mob living remotely.

We are proud to have continued to support the **DAIWS** program in Darwin, The Yuendumu community in the Northern Territory and several other towns and communities across the country.

### **Secret Womens Business**

is a culturally sensitive project and works diligently to support communities under their direction and leadership. In the past year we have supplied over **2000** items of underwear, **over 50,000** sanitary items and other necessities such as soaps, deodorants, body wash and shampoo to those who would otherwise be going without.





The addition of the **Black Pack project** was an exciting time for **NHC**. We could see yet another area where people experiencing homelessness were once again being left in need.

We designed **Black Pack** to fill the gap of immediate access to food and hygiene items for people newly experiencing homelessness or those sitting out the long wait for housing and accommodation.

**Black Pack** has proven to be a welcome addition to the **NHC** project team with many people and organisations telling us they appreciate these items very much. During the past 12 months we have delivered around **1200 Black Packs** across the country.



# General Projects

## Bushfire Appeal

The 2020 bushfires caught the country by surprise. Working with very little in the way of financial support we were able to reach over **50 thousand** individuals within a matter of days to ease the burden of being placed in frightening and uncertain situations because of the fires. We were proud to work

alongside **Foodbank Victoria and Foodbank QLD, SES Victoria** plus numerous grass roots organisations to supply these items to people cut off from services in extremely remote areas. Our immediate response framework enables us to deliver goods without delay which is crucial in times of immediate need.

**“It just felt like I was going around in circles until I found you guys. I had no one else to turn to. I had tried everywhere. I still cry remembering how scared and desperate I was. Thank you for helping me.”**

*–Alex, DV survivor*

## Darwin

We continue to support the women and children at the **DAIWS** centre in Darwin. This incredible organisation provides a haven for women and their children who have experienced family violence. We are guided by the community leaders and provide essential items on an as needs basis dependent on the needs of the centre and the people it supports. In the past

year we have provided over **5000** sanitary items, **300** pairs of underwear, dozens of new nighties for the women and we continue to top up the supplies as needed. We were extremely proud to be guests of honour at the **DAIWS** International Women's Day event for 2020 and had a wonderful time listening to the awe inspiring panel of powerful Indigenous women.

## Yuendumu Senior Fellas Health Program

We are proud to support the Senior School Fellas program which provides much needed hygiene items to the fellas in the outback.

This assists with health and hygiene education essential to growing up healthy.

## Rescue and recovery of women

**National Homeless Collective** continues to provide immediate support for women unable to access safety and housing.

We have supported dozens of women in the past 12 months who have suffered extreme domestic abuse and have found themselves unhoused and unsupported.

### This included:

- Helping women pack up their houses
- Providing removal and cleaning services
- Installing security cameras around properties
- Providing food vouchers and petrol vouchers
- Relocating women to safe places
- Providing new bedding, clothing and clothing vouchers
- Helping women find new suitable and affordable housing
- Assisting with information to access services

# Our People

**“Thank you so much. I can’t believe how much you have helped me. I feel like a child on Christmas morning.”**

—Michelle,  
middle aged women  
experiencing homelessness



DONNA STOLZENBERG

FOUNDER & CEO



GLENN STOLZENBERG

TREASURER



AMY RUST

VICE CHAIRPERSON

**“It feels amazing to finally get some help. We feel so lucky.”**

— Kayley,  
single parent experiencing  
homelessness



KATRINA HORNE

SECRETARY

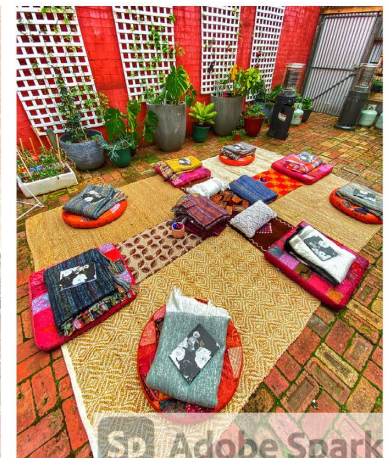
# Our Thanks

**“Without your help this year I honestly think I would have been a DV murder victim. The entire NHC community wrapped their arms around me and gave me hope when I really didn’t even know how I was going to put a roof over our heads, let alone create the safe home we now have.”**

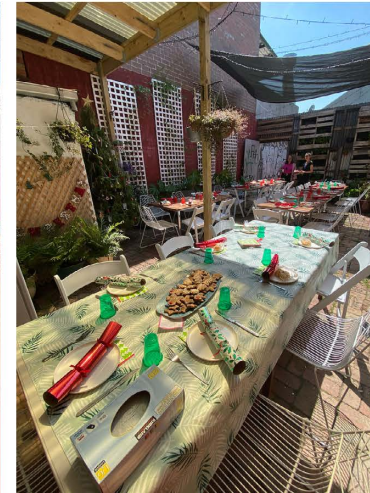
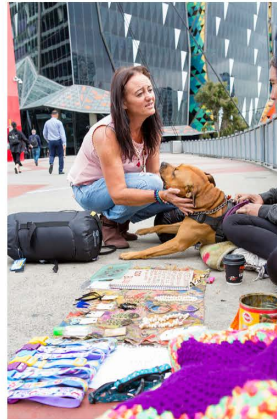
– Lauren  
*DV survivor*

- Hai Trang
- Young Do
- Amy Hsu
- One Ledger Accounting
- Tanya White
- MS Glass
- Joanne Ma
- Annette Sloman
- Fran Wadsworth
- Angela Morgan
- Geoff Morgan
- Gilbert Kruidenier
- Yumi Stamet
- Simon Levesque
- Nevena Spirovska
- Lou-anne Eggington
- Australia Post
- StarTrack
- Perpetual Philanthropy
- Lucia Hou
- Dannielle McAlpine Johnson
- Jason Chico Johnson
- CheekyMac Production
- Staff & Students from Hume Valley Special School
- Kellie Barrett
- Silent Arrow
- Saskia Hampele
- Gift Box Organic
- Tenille Gilbert
- Danielle Howe
- TOM Organic
- Moxie
- Kikki.K
- Des Cipin
- East Brunswick Village
- Patterson River Fire Brigade
- Deloitte Australia
- SunSuper
- Commonwealth Bank
- Noisy Ritual Winery
- Rylie Mayfosh
- Le'Pallet Enterprise
- StreetSmart Australia
- RMIT
- Justin Mayne
- Patrick Blaikie
- Vollyspot
- Renegade Footy
- Box Hill ATO Womens Forum
- Meg Copp
- Casey Freeman
- Moreland City Council

# Our 2020



# Our 2020



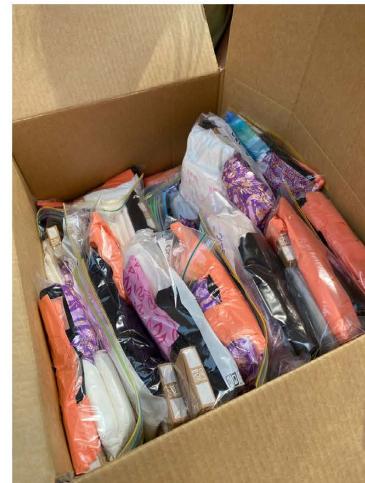
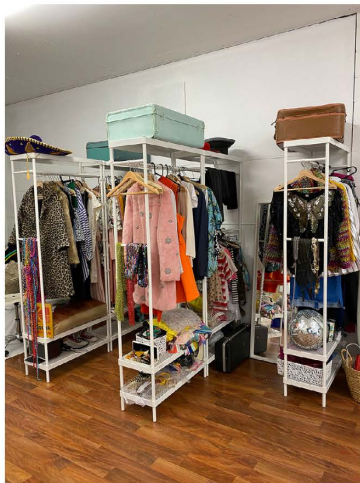
# Our 2020



# Our 2020



540 Period Packs  
and 1240 pairs of  
underwear delivered  
to Sale today



Sp. Adobe Spark