

About homelessness & how we can help

Homelessness is a complex issue and there are many ways someone can become homeless. It could happen to anyone. You could lose your health, a family member or your job resulting in not being able to pay your bills.

For others it is a result of; experiencing domestic violence, a mental illness and/or drug abuse, lack of access to economic resources, social support, and for others the result of fractured families, educational attainment and high rental costs within the local housing market. With many people, there is an overlap of the above causes.

Our commitment

Coast Shelter puts significant effort into developing partnerships that enhance our capacity to respond to the needs presented to us, as well as extend our capacity to care with the volume of demand for assistance.

We recognise that staff need to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to enable them to provide effective support to our clients. Professional development is always ongoing to keep our programs such as our crisis refuges and Community Centre as effective, supportive and informed as they can be.

About Coast Shelter

Coast Shelter is a not for profit organisation providing accommodation and support services to homeless persons and victims of domestic violence on the Central Coast. Coast Shelter's programs include ten crisis refuges and a Community Centre which provides free meals and practical assistance to help people avoid homelessness.

Coast Shelter's ten accommodation programs are funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services. The Coast Community Centre is funded by our Central Coast community supporters.



Coast Shelter acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land where we work, live and play. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, traditions, the culture and hope for Aboriginal Australia.

**Ending homelessness
and domestic violence
on the NSW Central Coast**

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Coast Shelter is recognised by the Australian Taxation Office as a Public Benevolent Institution and is a Registered Charity (CFN: 15695) making all donations over \$2 tax deductible.



Bequest Giving Information



 **coastSHELTER**

Phone 4325 3540



Forms of Bequests

In your Will you may wish to leave a gift to Coast Shelter. You might decide on one of our programs, a refuge or Community Centre.

It is important that your Will is drawn up with the help of a legally trained professional.

Your Bequest to Coast Shelter could be made in the form of:

- a specific sum of money
- the residue of your estate
- a percentage of your estate
- assets such as shares or property

How to leave a Legacy

Thank you for considering making a long-lasting contribution to Coast Shelter. Your legacy will help many families and individuals overcome homelessness and disadvantage in years to come.

For a confidential discussion about leaving Coast Shelter a gift in your will, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Officer, Laurie Maher, on 4325 3540.

Laurie can provide you with further information on how your bequest could be used in Coast Shelter's programs and arrange a tour of our various services if you wish.

Cindy's Story

Cindy contacted Coast Shelter after speaking with a Centrelink worker, who gave her our phone number. Cindy had never thought she would need to contact a refuge, let alone go into a Centrelink office asking for monetary assistance. Cindy and her two young children had lived what appeared to others as a fairy tale life. Cindy had a beautiful home in Sydney's North Shore, drove an imported car, wore beautifully fashionable clothes and had a husband who earned a six figure income. However, living with her husband was anything but a fairy tale existence.

Cindy's husband was extremely controlling and had tracking devices on both her mobile phone and laptop. She was given an allowance for all essentials, with no access to their bank accounts. Cindy's husband would take her shopping for clothes and chose what she would wear. He would not allow her to have a job or socialise without him. When he returned from work each evening, he checked the house for dust and the cleanliness of the kitchen, which he obsessed about.

It became too much and Cindy and her children moved into our Refuge and stayed with us for two months. During her time with us she received support for the domestic violence she had experienced by participating in group work and she was also referred to a psychologist, who she still sees on a fortnightly basis.

Cindy is now in her own private rental through the Housing NSW Start Safely program, where she receives subsidised rent for up to three years. Cindy is going through Family Law Court for a financial settlement however, her lawyer has informed Cindy this could be a lengthy process. The children are now settled into new schools and also participate in after school sports. They have made many new friends who they are able to have over for play dates, something they were never able to do before.

Making a Bequest

Regardless of income, wealth or assets, everyone over the age of 18 should make a Will.

It will most likely be one of the most important documents you will ever sign and determines how your assets will be distributed after you die. It also provides you with an opportunity to make a bequest and continue supporting a charitable cause that you regard as important.

Bequests are often referred to as "the gift that never stops giving".

A Bequest is a deeply personal gift which allows you to express your support in the manner you feel most appropriate.

It doesn't matter how large or small your gift to Coast Shelter is, because every gift makes a difference to homeless and disadvantaged people right here on the Central Coast.

Restoring hope.

