



Wesley Edward Eagar Centre Appeal

Help give **hope and dignity** to vulnerable
women & men experiencing homelessness



Homelessness in Sydney has increased. Many people experiencing homelessness are under 35 years old and roughly six out of ten accessing services are women. Across Australia more than 116,000 people are experiencing homelessness every night.

But it's here in Sydney and New South Wales where the problem is greatest.

In the heart of Sydney sits Wesley Edward Eagar Centre – a place where every day Wesley Mission restores hope and dignity to vulnerable women and men experiencing homelessness.

But now, when Wesley Edward Eagar Centre is needed more than ever, it's getting harder and harder to help those in crisis.

Each year, increasing numbers of women and men are experiencing homelessness and seeking help from Wesley Mission.

Since I took on the Christian leadership of Wesley Mission, there has been no area of work that has concerned me more than the issue of homelessness. The total number of those who are homeless has increased to over 116,000 women, men and children every night. Behind the figures lie countless stories of the difficult experiences of these people. There are all too many accounts of lives that involve drug and alcohol addiction, mental illness and family violence.

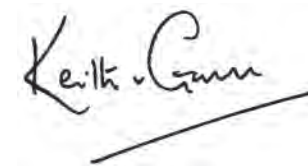
At Wesley Edward Eagar Centre, we have learned to listen to the stories, alongside offering practical help. I think it is fair to say that Wesley Mission has a deep knowledge of homelessness and provides clients with support from counsellors, health and wellbeing specialists and social services partners, without judgement.

Over the years, I have visited, conducted worship services, celebrated special events at this facility and have come to appreciate the high-quality care that our people bring in this setting. The current building has been largely unaltered since the 1970s. It is no longer fit for purpose and, for a number of years, we have been considering how we should address this situation.

Wesley Mission has launched the Wesley Edward Eagar Centre Appeal to help raise \$12 million to redevelop our crisis accommodation service in Surry Hills. When completed, a newly refurbished six-level building will serve to restore hope and dignity to some of Sydney's most vulnerable women and men. Please join me as you consider supporting the Wesley Edward Eagar Centre Appeal.

God has blessed our work in this area over many years and this is the time to see this work move to its next phase of Christian service, offering friendship and the highest standards of professional support.

Warmly yours,



Rev Dr Keith V Garner, AM
CEO/Superintendent
Wesley Mission



We have a plan to restore hope and dignity to hundreds of vulnerable men and women experiencing homelessness by redeveloping Wesley Edward Eagar Centre in Sydney's Surry Hills...

...and we're asking you to help make it happen.

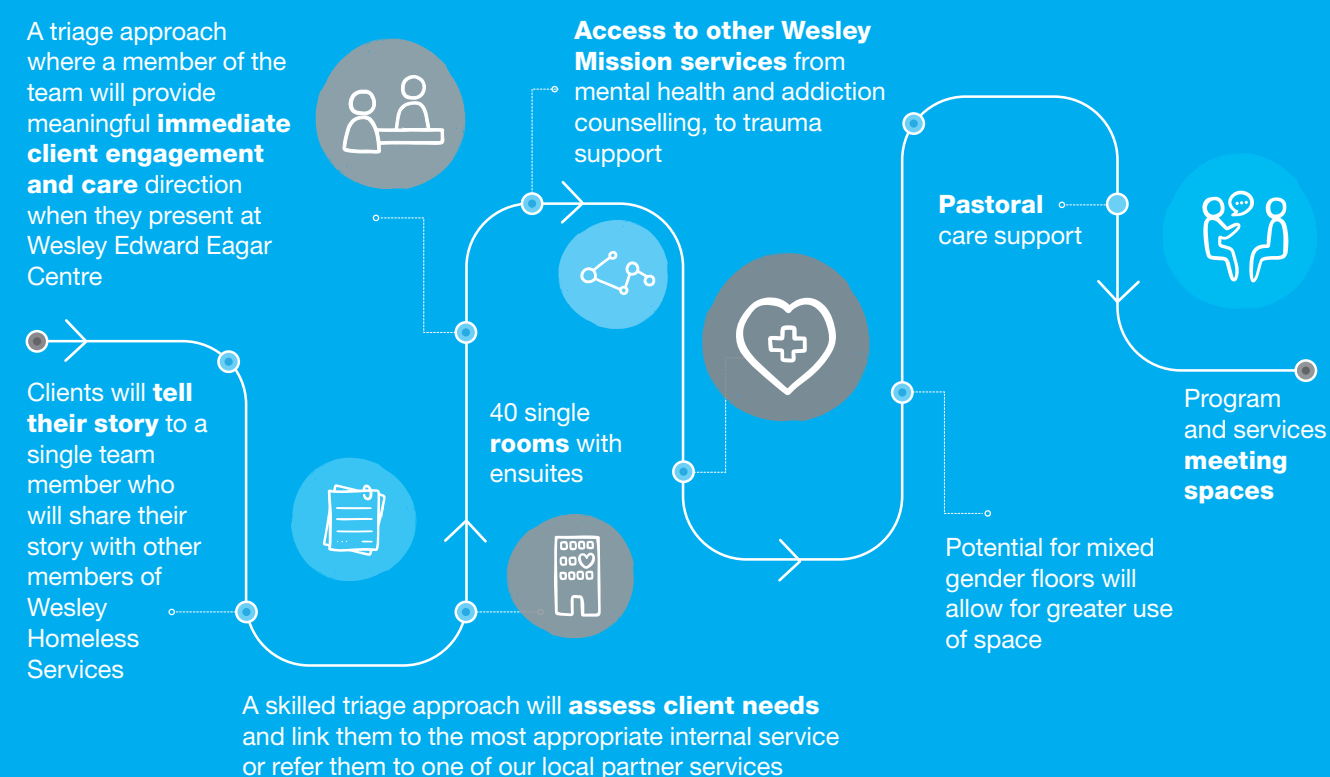


A need to change how we help people

Since the 1970s, Wesley Edward Eagar Centre has been a place of hope for people experiencing homelessness. Back then it was one of the first accommodation services to offer single, lockable rooms, giving people the dignity and respect of a safe space from which they could come and go. But now, the challenges of addressing homelessness have changed. So the way we work must change too.

A new approach

Wesley Homeless Services will implement a new model of support for vulnerable women and men experiencing homelessness, which will provide:



A redeveloped Wesley Edward Eagar Centre will support a new model of care which will restore dignity to clients while reducing their dependence on social services. A critical step to leaving homelessness for good.

After yet another stay in a psychiatric ward, hospital staff referred Sophie to Wesley Edward Eagar Centre. It was there she met caseworker, Justin.

Sophie liked the idea of moving into a room of her own. But it was the support she received from Justin and his team which was vital. She's now been in her own space for eight months and talks with Justin every week about what's been happening in her life.

Having stable accommodation, access to counselling and educational goals are prevention measures against mental illness.

Justin and the team at Wesley Edward Eagar Centre need your help to keep helping women like Sophie.

20% of those experiencing homelessness have mental illness

32% of people experiencing homelessness have also experienced domestic violence

After years of abuse, Zehra fled from her husband with the hope of finding a new start in life but ended up living on the streets.

Broke, alone and struggling to beat a drug addiction, she had no one to turn to and nowhere to go, until one day she walked through the doors of Wesley Edward Eagar Centre.

Seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, Wesley Edward Eagar Centre provides people like Zehra and hundreds more with practical care and support.

Zehra received practical care from Wesley Mission's Homeless Services, as well as spiritual and emotional support from Pastor Michael Tang. Michael spends time one-on-one with residents like Zehra.

"At a service at Wesley Edward Eagar Centre, we can have someone having an argument, someone interrupting, and it's very different. It's real life, everyone makes their feelings known. It is refreshing and at the same time it can be quite challenging."

As a chaplain, Michael is part of the broader team providing holistic care to people who have immediate housing needs, but so often are disconnected from community and supporting relationships.

For women like Zehra, it's supporting her to leave an abusive relationship while giving her strength to overcome addiction. Restoring Zehra's dignity was key to providing her with a sense of hope.

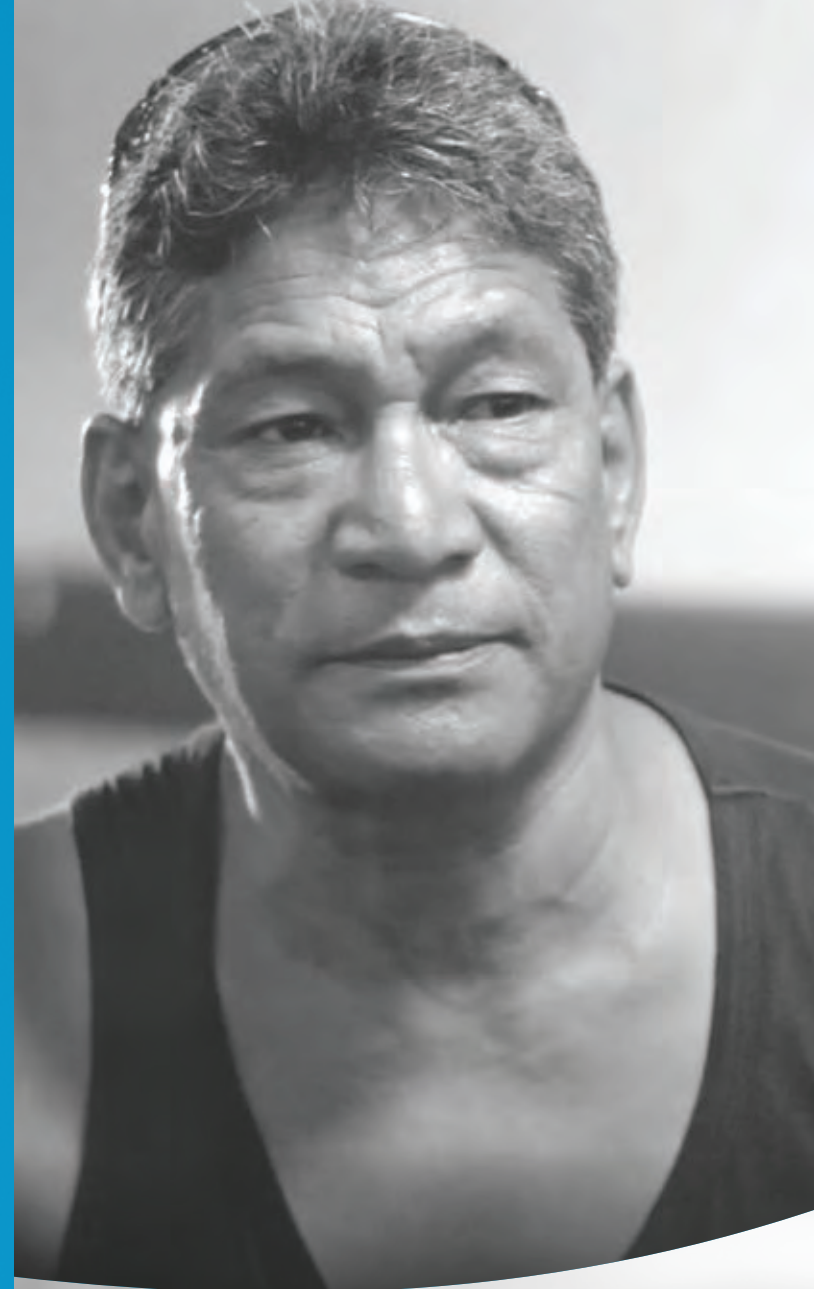
Please help Wesley Mission continue to provide hope, strength and a safer place to stay for so many people experiencing homelessness like Zehra each year.



“I’m part of the broader **team providing care to people who are in crisis** and are so often disconnected from the supporting relationships most of us take for granted.”

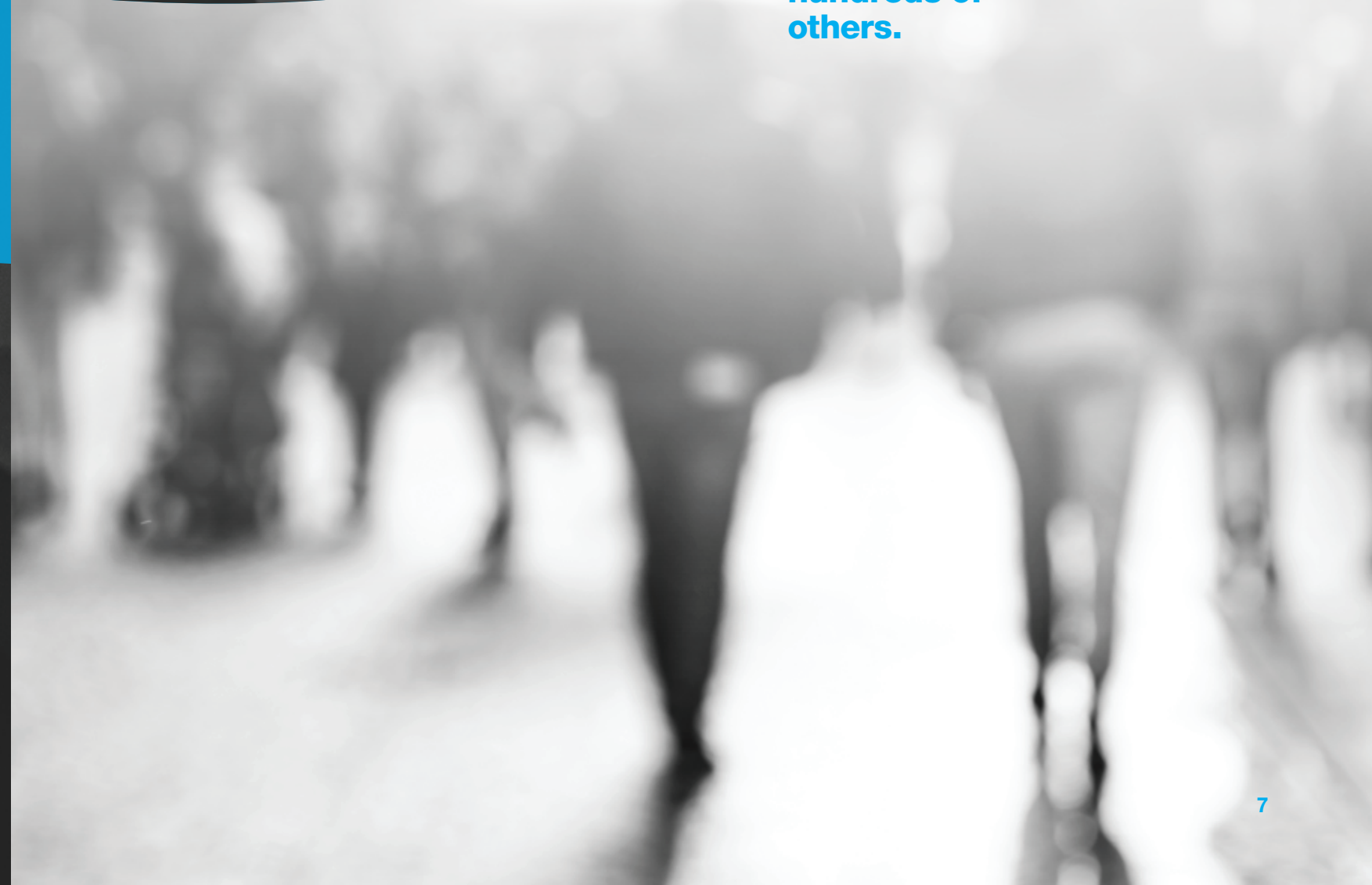
“During my time at Wesley Edward Eagar Centre, I’ve learned a lot about the true nature of strength from the people we serve. I can tell you that how the world measures and values strength is very different to the amazing strength I see everyday”.

Michael Tang
Chaplain
Wesley Edward Eagar Centre



“**Coming here was like safe haven.** And then, I learned to understand from all the case managers. They are good help. They are... I learned a word, advocator. Is that it? Advocator? They’re our advocator to the outside world. The effort that the case managers do to back you up. You got to give them something back too. It can’t always be, “I want this, I want this, I want that.” It’s got to be a two-way street. You’ve got to pull your weight.”

Please help us provide support to Cecil and hundreds of others.



He offered
Christian love
and care to
those who were
in great need.

Edward Eagar

Edward Eagar was an educated lawyer from Ireland, but he arrived in Australia a convict. While in prison in England, a Methodist minister spoke on his behalf in court resulting in Edward receiving a lesser sentence and being sent to Australia. By 1812, the Christian faith was central to Edward's life. In Australia, Edward helped organise the first ever Methodist meeting.

Edward was amongst the first Methodists to develop work and programs in some of Sydney's poorest areas. **There he offered Christian love and care to those who were in great need.** Two centuries later and Edward's mission – to give a voice to the voiceless and remember those who would easily be forgotten – continues at Wesley Edward Eagar Centre.





"Wesley Edward
Eagar Centre gave
me hope..."

Women over 55
years old are the
fastest growing
group of people
experiencing
homelessness.

Doing all the good we can

Wesley Edward Eagar Centre has been doing all the good it can for Sydney's most vulnerable women and men for almost 50 years. During that time, both society and the social services sector have evolved. Now significant changes to building codes, government funding expectations and Wesley Mission's greater understanding of homelessness service provision mean that the current programs and services must be updated to continue to make an impact. This significant change to the way we deliver programs and services is being planned at the same time as the redevelopment of the building itself.

A triage approach by our team will enable meaningful immediate client engagement and care direction. Clients will be able to engage with our service without repeating their story or issues. A triage approach will assess client needs and link to the most appropriate internal or local service. Accommodation at Wesley Edward Eagar Centre will be, as it always has, one option of a range of ways we can help. The triage team will:

- be the initial 'service delivery face'
- assess a client's needs upon presenting
- be the central contact point for those already in residence guiding them to in-house care and support options
- observe both residents and new clients to better inform the care planning process
- assist with mental health referrals
- arrange pastoral care

A redeveloped Wesley Edward Eagar Centre will also allow space for local service partners to be on-site including:

- Local Area Health services
- Housing support
- Centrelink outreach
- Devotional opportunities
- Employment services



A safe place that restores hope and dignity can go a long way to breaking the cycle of homelessness

When vulnerable women and men are in crisis and need a safe and secure place to go, they come to Wesley Edward Eagar Centre.

Your support will help keep this safe and secure place close to people in crisis and experiencing homelessness.

What homelessness in Sydney looks like



60% are under 35 years of age



6 out of every 10 people accessing homeless services are female



20% have mental illness

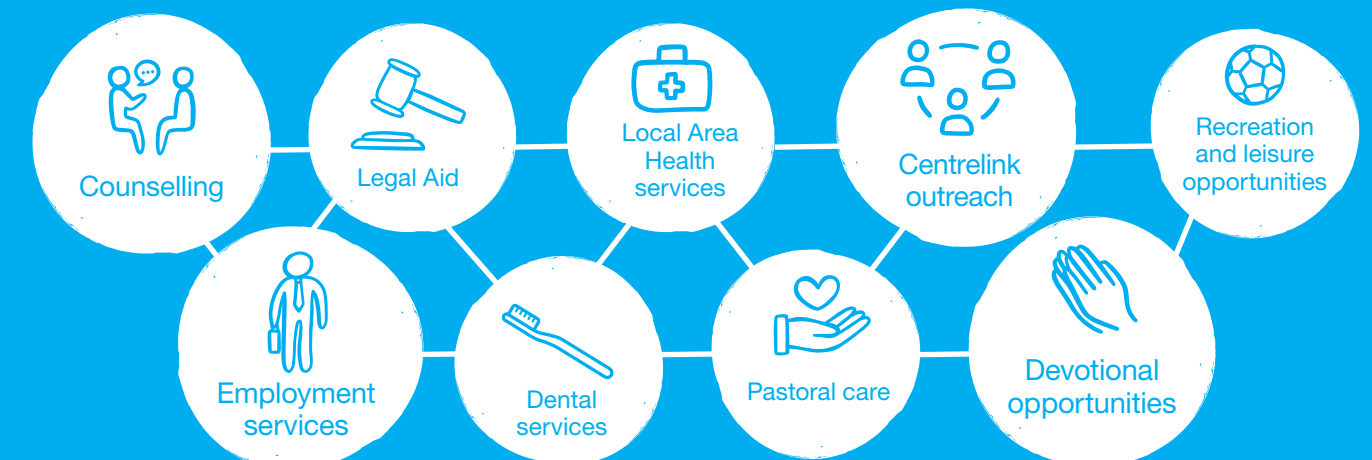


32% have experienced domestic violence



Homelessness amongst people **55 years or older** has increased

Breaking the cycle of homelessness means identifying problems and addressing complex issues such as trauma, addiction, violence and mental illness. Wesley Edward Eagar Centre offers those experiencing homelessness access to specialist services on-site.





**current
single
room**



**current
shared
bathrooms**

Providing more than just a bed for the night

To better support vulnerable men and women experiencing homelessness Wesley Edward Eagar Centre must fundamentally change. This means changing the building itself and the way our team works inside it.



**current
communal
space**

The plan for better supporting those experiencing homelessness

We have a plan to help hundreds of Sydney’s most vulnerable men and women. To do this Wesley Mission will invest in its homelessness programs and services, including more caseworkers. We will also need to invest in capital works, including at Wesley Edward Eagar Centre.

The current facility was opened in 1979 and has since undergone little change. Now, it has become increasingly difficult to effectively support the needs of those men and women experiencing homelessness. Wesley Mission’s immediate priority is to redevelop the building. When completed a newly refurbished six-level purpose-built facility for women and men will include:

- Triage space for clients who present
- Clinical assessment rooms
- Counselling areas
- One large central common area on ground level
- Commercial kitchen facilities
- Professional Development & Training space for Wesley Homeless Services team
- Counselling Café
- 40 single rooms each with ensuite for men or women
- Outdoor area for single or group counselling sessions
- Program space for other providers.



The benefits of a redeveloped Wesley Edward Eagar Centre

This new space will include:

- A reconfigured building which will enable our new model of client support to be implemented
- Ability to accommodate future investment in more counselling staff
- Options to allow for single gender or mixed gender floors
- Improved client and staff safety
- 40 single accommodation rooms each with ensuite allowing for greater client independence and safety
- Increased access to additional community support services
- Improved Pastoral care space for clients
- And the list goes on and on...



Capital Appeal Leadership



The Hon. John Howard

I have been a supporter of Wesley Mission for many years. I have always admired the work they do alongside some of the most in need in our community.

There are many reasons that contribute to homelessness and seeking the specialist help Wesley Mission provides. The scarcity of affordable housing, poverty, financial crisis, and mental illness are among the major factors.

Partnering with a trustworthy organisation such as Wesley Mission means that we unite forces to support Australians in their greatest need.

I have accepted the invitation to be the Patron of the Wesley Edward Eagar Centre fundraising appeal, and I encourage you to join me.

Together we can achieve so much more.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Howard".

The Hon. John Howard OM AC



Dr. Keith Suter

Over ten years ago, I read a lecture about a group of common Christian people who decided to play their part regarding the issue of homelessness.

Their actions resulted in great change in the 1930s and subsequent years.

Unfortunately, today the issue of homelessness is growing in Australia, with nearly 1 in 200 Australians experiencing homelessness each night.

Wesley Mission has been a lifeline to people in need for over 200 years, with specialists in homelessness services helping to provide relief to people in their darkest hour.

This is why I am supporting this exceptional project to redevelop Wesley Edward Eagar Centre and I invite you to be part of the solution.

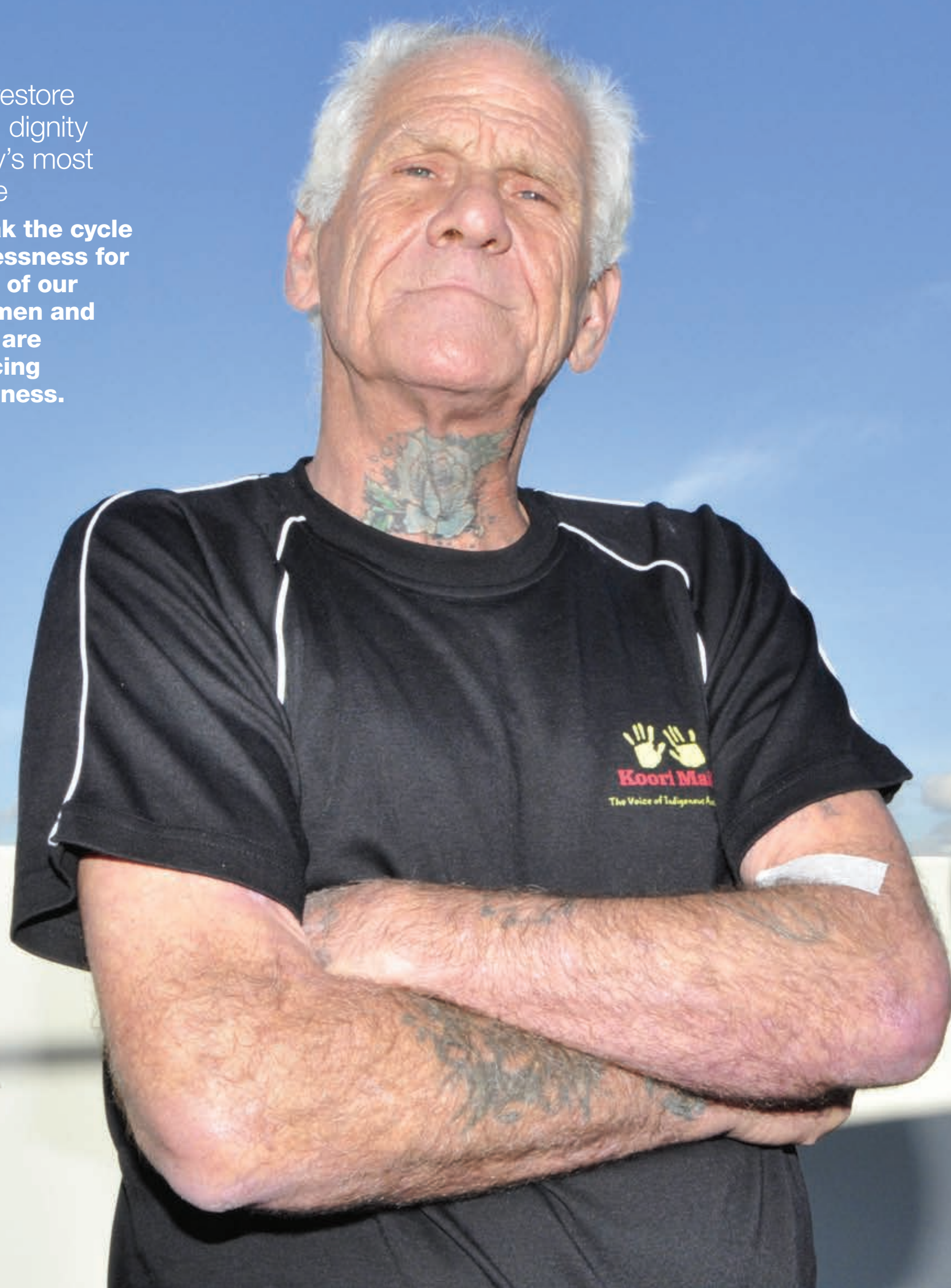
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Suter".

Dr. Keith Suter



You can restore hope and dignity to Sydney's most vulnerable

Help break the cycle of homelessness for hundreds of our city's women and men who are experiencing homelessness.



For over 200 years, Wesley Mission has been supported by generous donations from individuals, philanthropic trusts and foundations, government and congregations to help care for Sydney's most vulnerable women and men.

Wesley Mission is seeking to raise \$12 million

to fund the redevelopment of a place to help Sydney's homeless.

Wesley Mission has contributed \$4 million

towards bringing this redevelopment to reality. Please consider giving generously to the Wesley Edward Eagar Centre Appeal. Thank you.



To find out more, please contact:

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Wesley Mission is a part of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Do all the good you can
because every life matters