

You can Raise the Roof for Survivors of Modern Slavery

28–31 July 2023



sistersofcharityfoundation.org.au/raisetherooft

Raise the Roof Campaign Key Messages

30 July is the UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. This 28–31 July join the Sisters of Charity Foundation to help survivors of modern slavery find a safe place to call home.

Visit sistersofcharityfoundation.org.au/raisetherooft to learn more.

What is modern slavery?

There are approximately 50 million people in slavery throughout the world today – more than at any other time in human history. 1 in 4 are children. 54% are women and girls. 27.6 million are in forced labour. 22 million are in forced marriage. And 41,000 are in Australia.

The Global Slavery Index 2023 estimates that on any given day in 2021, around 41,000 people were living in slavery-like conditions in Australia. Precise figures for victims are difficult to obtain because of the secretive nature of the problem.

Deception, threats and violence are used to keep people in situations they feel they cannot leave or change usually for someone else's benefit. It might be migrant workers being paid minimal wages and working long hours, fruit-pickers isolated and underpaid on rural farms, women trapped in domestic servitude or 'slave-like' relationships, young women forced to marry by their families, or child labour in its worst forms – but modern slavery is happening in Australia.

Helping survivors of modern slavery build a new life

Survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking in Australia are in a vulnerable position, even after they have escaped their perpetrator(s). Australian citizens may have no family or support networks to rely on, no money, no education and nowhere to live. The situation is worse for foreign nationals, who must navigate unfamiliar customs and bureaucracy and may not speak English.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation partners with The Salvation Army to provide transitional housing assistance and support to survivors, helping them build a new life and become independent.

How does the Modern Slavery Transitional Housing Program work?

This unique model provides survivors with accommodation that is tailored to individual needs, and is designed to overcome the barrier of entering the rental market experienced by people who have no previous rental or employment history. This approach also eliminates the need for survivors to move again when they exit the program, unless they choose to.

Prior to entering the program, survivors may be living in The Salvation Army's Safe House or similar community accommodation, recovering from their ordeal and taking steps toward independence. These may include receiving medical attention, dealing with the Australian Federal Police, applying for a visa, learning English, studying or job hunting. Next:

1. A survivor secures employment and a steady income, and is ready to live independently.
2. The Salvation Army helps the survivor find suitable accommodation that is affordable as well as accessible for work and transport.
3. The Sisters of Charity Foundation heavily subsidises each rental payment for up to 12 months and provides a lump sum to set up the home with furniture and whitegoods.
4. The survivor is supported through ongoing case management from The Salvation Army, funded by the Sisters of Charity Foundation.
5. When the survivor is ready they take over the lease – and now has a proven rental and employment history in Australia.

Visit sistersofcharityfoundation.org.au/how-we-help/modern-slavery-housing-program to learn more.

Where do your donations go?

- **\$27** is the hourly living wage, the lowest hourly rate a person can live on. A living wage provides the means to do more than just cover everyday essentials and survive.
- **\$50** covers an average daily rental payment.
- **\$350** covers an average weekly rental payment.
- **\$1,500** can provide basic furnishings.
- **\$2,000** funds an hour of casework support each week to help a survivor maintain their tenancy and grow their independent living skills.
- **\$3,500** can fund basic furnishings and cover the rental bond.
- **\$15,000** is the total cost to Raise the Roof for one survivor of modern slavery: covering rent, furniture, and casework support.

About the Sisters of Charity Foundation



The Sisters of Charity Foundation is a progressive not-for-profit, dedicated to the development of lifechanging social justice programs that provide compassion, hope and practical assistance to people experiencing financial hardship. The Sisters of Charity Foundation feeds, houses, and educates some of the most disadvantaged, marginalised and socially isolated people in our community.