



Schoolies Week: what's it worth?

Schoolies Week is a time for celebration, a time when young people come together to celebrate the closing of a chapter - but these celebrations also carry with them specific risks.

More than 30,000 school leavers register for the event on the Gold Coast, with a majority coming from Queensland. Unlike school leavers from most other States, the majority of Queensland schoolies are under the age of 18.

Many of these young people are away from home for the very first time, trusted to behave as adults in what can be a highly stressful environment.

Seventeen year olds occupy a difficult legal grey area. On the one hand they are not legally permitted to enter a licensed premises; but they can be tried and sentenced as adults. Choices made at Schoolies Week can have lifelong consequences.

To help mitigate these risks, Rosies volunteers collaborate with several other community groups as part of the Queensland Government's Gold Coast Schoolies Community Safety Response - a massive undertaking involving 19 government and non-government agencies.

The Response aims to support young people to make responsible decisions while they celebrate. A safe space is cordoned off for young people to enjoy themselves without recourse to alcohol or drugs, and young people can access vital support services as required.

Schoolies are encouraged to think about

their behaviour and how their choices affect themselves, their friends, and the wider community.

Preliminary data suggests that the Response works: rates of drug and alcohol use by school leavers seem to be decreasing. The culture of school leavers is gradually changing for the better.

Despite these positives, there are still specific risks for young people at Schoolies Week. Although young people may feel excited and relieved at finishing school, they may also feel a sense of loss, anxiety or uncertainty - without the nearby support of their parents and family.

Rosies actively recruits volunteers with relevant skills to assist clients with complex or high-risk needs - especially youth workers, counsellors, and volunteers with suicide intervention or first aid training.

Shannon Pettigrew first volunteered with Rosies in 2010 as a psychology student. Having since completed her degree, she's also an experienced front

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Mareeba
Cairns

Sunshine Coast
Caboolture
Toowoomba
Ipswich
Brisbane
Logan
Gold Coast

Rosies Youth Mission is an incorporated charity reaching out to the most abandoned on the streets, in youth detention centres, prisons, and children's and drug courts.

ROSIES FACTS

For 27 years, Rosies has been helping improve the lives of Queenslanders who are living on the streets, marginalised or disadvantaged with services spanning from the Gold Coast to Cairns and west to Toowoomba.

- Rosies reaches out to an estimated 1,370 people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness each week through regular outreach services.
- Some 900 volunteers currently support Rosies outreach services and day-to-day operations of the charity.
- This equates to over 42,000 volunteering hours each year.

Our Patrons



'At a time when our attention is understandably occupied with very grave international events let us never forget there are many young people on the streets experiencing isolation and discrimination. Through Rosies let us do everything we can to help them.'

Patron in Chief
General Peter Cosgrove AK MC



'Young people who are homeless know they will always be welcomed and accepted at Rosies which provides a very important sense of belonging.'

Patron
Leneen Forde AC



UPDATE: AMAQ FOUNDATION FUND NEW VAN

Local Cairns GP Dr Sharmila Biswas and Australian Medical

Association Queensland Foundation have raised an incredible \$57,000 through their annual tax appeal to help secure the future of Rosies' Cairns branch.

The current Cairns vehicle is the oldest in the Rosies fleet and no longer serviceable. Funds raised will provide a brand new van with a custom designed and fitted servery tailored to the needs of the Cairns branch. Homelessness rates in Queensland's far North are double the rest of the State, and in response to increasing demand the Cairns

branch last year expanded to a third night of street outreach each week.

A new van will ensure the branch will be in a position to expand services further if needed.

Rosies CEO Troy Bailey said the generosity of Queensland's medical community is overwhelming.

'The members of the AMA - they're already working to help some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people out there,' he said.

'Then to donate the way they have to support our work here at Rosies - I can only say thank you. It's really incredible.'



The weather is warming again, and people are already planning ahead to the school holidays and the festive season.

But did you know there are around 5000 children without a home in Queensland tonight? Most of those are small children whose families are searching for a place to live.

These are kids whose future is uncertain. It's hard to make a future when you don't know where your next meal is coming from or when you'll get a chance to sleep in safety.

A huge challenge for organisations like

Rosies is planning ahead, but if you pledge a monthly donation, we can commit to helping our 'friends on the street' with certainty for the long haul.

A thousand people giving just \$50 a month could keep Rosies running for a year!

Can you or a friend offer us year round support by making a monthly donation?

It might seem like a small gift, but for our patrons it's the security of knowing that Rosies will be there for as long as they need us.

Troy Bailey, CEO

From the Manager

New approach to an old partnership

Bartons drives Rosies into the future

Rosies - Friends on the Street is set to strengthen ties with one long term supporter.

Bartons Bayside have pledged their ongoing support through workplace giving - and if you buy a car or have yours serviced, mention you're a Rosies supporter and Bartons will give us a little extra!

Rosies CEO Troy Bailey dropped by the dealership recently to personally thank Bartons General Sales Manager Michael Atkinson for committing to the generous program.

Mr Atkinson and his staff are proud to be sponsors of Rosies.

'We look forward to a long friendship,' he said.



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line drug and alcohol worker and crisis counselor.

'School leavers are at a crossroads - there's so much potential ahead,' Shannon said.

'I think it's important to help them through that, so they get to the other side of it ready for the next phase of their lives.'

Shannon was on the ground in 2012 when Rosies volunteers were called to respond to a critical incident.

Staff and volunteers from several organisations worked through the night to identify affected young people, offer counseling, and ensure their safety until they reconnected with their families and support networks.

'The thing that struck me about being a part of the critical incident response was that it really wasn't about me,' said Shannon.

'We managed the welfare centre and were there to meet the needs of those young people and help them decide what to do next, but it was more about facilitating a community coming together to support the affected young people.'

'Our role was really to keep young people safe

until they could go home, and we did that.'

Mark Reaburn, Independent Chair of the Gold Coast Schoolies Advisory Board, said the work that community organisations like Rosies undertake at Schoolies Week is vital to the success of the Response.

'Rosies have been an imperative part of the delivery of the Gold Coast Schoolies Community Safety Response by providing practical support services and advice to young people during the official schoolies period,' he said.

'We appreciate the ongoing commitment and contribution made by Rosies and their volunteer network to enhance the safety of school leavers and the local community.'

Despite this, services face increasing funding pressure.

Government cuts threaten resources across the not for profit sector, and there is intense competition for grant funding.

'There needs to be someone there for schoolies,' said Shannon.

'I'm fortunate enough to be able to keep coming back.'

To donate to Rosies' Schoolies Week project, head to rosies.org.au.



protect children from abuse by those charged with their care.

Fifteen years ago the Forde Inquiry examined the treatment of children in Queensland institutions including youth detention.

The Commission's findings included a recommendation that visitors from the community be allowed regular access to correctional centres and other institutions.

Rosies first entered the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre in 1998. When that institution was closed - another recommendation of the Inquiry - the visitation program moved to the new Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.

Rosies volunteers currently visit boys and girls in the Centre on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, engaging them in card games, recreational sport, and friendly conversation.

The centre's residents are overwhelmingly from disadvantaged backgrounds. Indigenous youth are also concerningly over-represented:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprise approximately 2% of the population, but represent around 50% of detainees.

Inquiry chair and Rosies patron Leneen Forde recently spoke of the importance of Rosies' presence in the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.

'One of the key findings that the (Forde) Inquiry made was for young people in correctional centres and institutions to have access to sympathetic visitors who visited them and helped them to get their lives back on track,' she said.

Outside prison, volunteers are restricted from acknowledging young people they have met through visitation programs. It's not unusual though for patrons to approach a street team and self-identify as having engaged with Rosies inside prison - often they are glad of a familiar face.

Because volunteers are present both inside and outside of prison, Rosies serves as a social anchor for young people who find integration into ordinary life difficult.

Youth Detention: Children Behind Bars

Social contact with the outside world is crucial to the emotional well being of young people, but there are even more serious reasons for the existence of volunteer visitation programs. The transparency involved in opening institutions facilitates a form of community oversight which helps

Rosies - Friends on the Street is delighted to announce an exciting new partnership with Gold Coast company I Luv Coffee, part of the Essential Brands Group.

The five year deal will see I Luv Coffee Express bean-to-cup machines installed in Rosies vans state wide, offering café style coffee and hot chocolate to patrons while also minimising risks to volunteers.

The generator powered machines will heat water for beverages in the vans, reducing heavy lifting for volunteers and minimising the risk of serious burns.

Rosies CEO Troy Bailey said not only will the machines make work safer for volunteers, they will help patrons to feel valued.

'The thing is that a good cup of coffee, like you'd get from a café, is something of worth,' said Mr Bailey.

'I say it all the time, because it's true - if you give a person something of worth, they feel of worth themselves.

'Our patrons are always glad of a friendly ear and a cuppa.

They come to us for friendship, not just coffee - but if we can give them something a bit special, it's like we're saying to them, "You're special," and that matters.'

Along with the machines, I Luv Coffee will provide the

consumables required to offer hot beverages to patrons - coffee, chocolate, and insulated cups.

Further increasing the value of the partnership, I Luv Coffee will also offer Rosies supporters the opportunity to help fund the organisation year round through their own coffee habit. Specially branded Rosies I Luv Coffee barista style or express machines will be available for supporters to use in their business or office.

A percentage of proceeds from these coffee sales will be donated to Rosies, ensuring an ongoing income stream for the charity.

'Because these funds are ongoing, it allows Rosies to plan ahead for the future,' said Mr Bailey.

'One of the biggest challenges for charity organisations that rely on donations is that it's hard for us to predict our income - which then makes it hard to know our capacity to help the people we want to help.

'When businesses like I Luv Coffee make a commitment to give back to the community like this ... this kind of support makes a huge difference.'



Rosies is generously supported by:



The Quality of Friendship

When principal of Iona College in the mid-1980s and the Provincial of the Oblates till 1994, I never imagined that some 30 year after I would be chaplain to Rosies in Queensland.

Rosies began as an outreach for two weeks each year to school leavers. Soon, the homeless also became our friends and they challenged us: 'You do-gooders come down for a couple of weeks each year and we experience your care, but then you disappear for a year.'

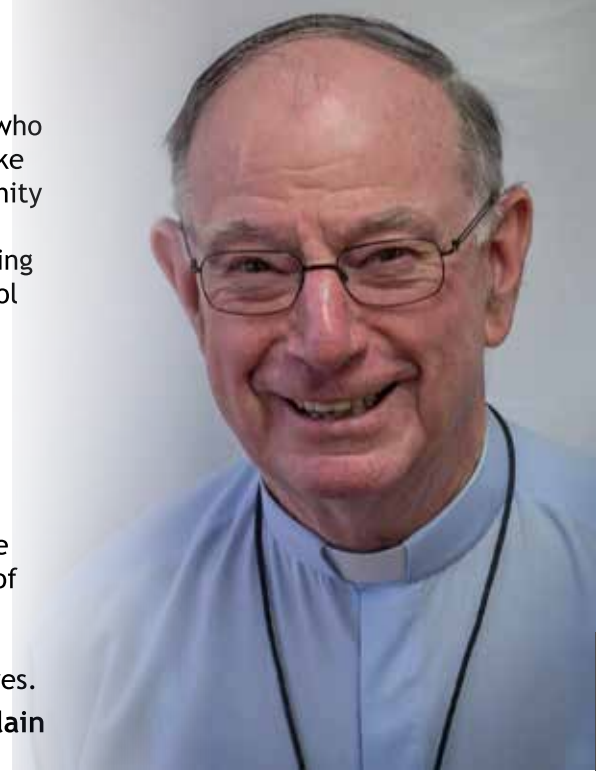
The hand of love, care and friendship is at the heart of what Rosies is all about. Our nine communities with volunteers from all walks of life and

all ages are evidence that people who make time for others really do make a difference to lives. Each community is also supported by many young people, from senior students working with volunteers, and primary school children who support our work.

As we prepare for Schoolies, we reflect on where Rosies has come from and how it continues to grow. We are reminded that we are 'friends on the street'.

The quality of friendship cannot be stagnant. As we walk in the steps of Jesus may we continue to grow as His witnesses; and may the Rosies prayer be the foundation of our lives.

Fr John Sherman OMI, Chaplain



CONTACT US

If you would like to make a donation, find out about our volunteering program or further information on Rosies:

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VOLUNTEERING

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OTHER INFORMATION

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Rosies would like to acknowledge the Flannery Foundation, who donated an incredibly generous \$30,000 to our Winter Appeal in 2014. On behalf of Rosies, our volunteers, and our patrons, we would like to thank Peggy and Brian Flannery for their support.

Making a difference in the future

Many of us want to feel like we've made a difference in our lifetimes, but sometimes our circumstances are such that we don't have time to volunteer or money to give directly right now.

A bequest is a way that you can make a difference that will last into the future. It's also a lasting gesture that embodies your beliefs and values in a very tangible way.

Choosing to leave a gift to Rosies in your Will is a wonderful way to make a difference to the people who most need the unconditional love that Rosies gives. It's an ongoing gift of compassion to the homeless, imprisoned, and disenfranchised adults and children that Rosies serves. You can continue to care for people beyond your lifetime - it can be your legacy of love.

If you would like to leave a gift to Rosies in your Will, but are unsure how, please talk to your solicitor, or give the Rosies office a call on 1300 ROSIES (1300 767 437). Your enquiry will be confidential, and there's no obligation involved.



VILLANOVA HOSTS HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE

Villanova College held the first Rosies Homelessness Conference for senior students on Saturday July 26, with around 50 student delegates from Brisbane and Ipswich attending.

The event featured keynote speaker Dr Cameron Parsell, who spoke about the nature of homelessness and strategies to address the issue. Rosies Training and Development Manager Cat Milton then put a human face to homelessness by sharing some real life stories of Rosies patrons and their unique circumstances.

Students were challenged to put together cardboard shelters, and they found that even with resources it's difficult to make cardboard feel like home.

Later in the day, attendees developed Powerpoint presentations to take back to their respective schools to pass on what they had learned.

Villanova Vice Principal John Holroyd said the conference had a powerful impact on students.

'I sense some good things will grow out of the day,' he said.