



## Friends on the Street



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 26 years, Rosies has been helping improve the lives of Queenslanders that 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 homeless people each week through regular outreach services
- Some 850 volunteers currently support Rosies outreach services and day-to-day operations of the charity
- This equates to an estimated 40,525 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**



*"That young people who are homeless know they will always be welcomed and accepted at Rosies which provides a very important sense of belonging"*

**Co-Patron**  
**Lenée Forde**

## Rosies response to the Federal Budget

*Rosies, like many other charities across Australia, will need to expand its services to meet the needs of vulnerable families and others who live on tight budgets may find themselves homeless or houseless.*

The Federal Budget has raised concerns for many local charities as disadvantaged and vulnerable groups are at higher risk than ever due to funding cuts.

The axing of government jobs and amalgamation of many State based services will stress families already reliant on support services, tightening their already precarious budgets and making homelessness a very real possibility. Cuts to Family Tax Benefit will be the breaking point for many already vulnerable families.

Rosies has been seeing families living in their cars in our regional outreaches across Queensland over the past year, and numbers are rising. Already 27% of homeless in Queensland are children, and we expect this figure to rise as more families are pushed out on to the street.

Our Ipswich outreach reported 90 people in the park recently and 30 of them were children. With such alarming numbers of families already reaching out to Rosies for help, we can expect the demand on our outreaches to increase.

In fact, Rosies is already receiving calls to expand with requests from the Wynnum community to establish an outreach locally.

Local emergency relief providers have reported a significant increase in requests for help from people at risk of homelessness – families and individuals reliant on Centrelink payments who do not have enough money for food after rent is paid, and some who do not receive income support at all.

Already this year, just one emergency relief provider has had requests for assistance from 160 individuals and families. Their clients are households at significant risk of homelessness already, and budget cuts increase this risk significantly.

As some of these budget cuts don't take effect until 2015-2017, Rosies needs to plan and prepare for an increasing number of marginalised people who will need our support.

It is crucial that Rosies further engage in local community partnerships in order to resource and provide support to the growing need that lies ahead. We would like to secure some corporate partnerships, so we can engage skilled volunteers to assist us with providing services and bridging the gaps for the marginalised and disadvantaged in our community.

*With such alarming numbers of families already reaching out to Rosies for help, we can expect the demand on our outreaches to increase.*

# From the Manager

*Winter is always cold, but this winter seems especially so in light of the recent Federal Budget.*

Over the last six months, I've been around to all our branches, and everywhere I go our patrons are the same: they're just ordinary people, doing it tough.

Reducing welfare services is only going to make life even tougher. As it is we're seeing more and more families on the streets - ordinary people, who until recently were raising their kids in a family home, until the budget just got too tight. Now they're sleeping in cars, trying to keep their families together until they can find somewhere affordable to live.

In this issue, we highlight our partnership with the Street Doctors. Those kinds of partnerships are going to be more important to Rosies as time goes on - if it comes down to a choice between milk and bread or a doctor's visit, services like the Street Doctors will become even more vital to our patrons' survival.

Rosies are 'friends on the street' - we build community spaces of safety and trust, where we can be a front door to access medical assistance and other

welfare services. We can offer a bite to eat as we invite our friends into the warmth of our Rosies family; and as friends, we connect our patrons with the practical help they need.

Our challenge now is to develop partnerships with businesses and other supporters, so we can build a long term strategy to expand our services to meet an ever-growing need.

I am however delighted to announce an important and prestigious partnership: our Governor-General has accepted our invitation to extend his association with Rosies - Friends on the Street to become our Patron in Chief.

We look forward to working closely with Sir Peter in the future, and thank him for his continued support of Rosies.

**Troy Bailey**  
General Manager



## Governor General becomes Rosies Patron in Chief

*Rosies - Friends on the Street is pleased to announce the appointment of Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove as Patron in Chief.*



Sir Peter has a long involvement with Rosies, having joined Mrs Leneen Forde AC as Co-Patron of Rosies in 2005. On his appointment as Governor-General of Australia, Rosies extended an invitation to Sir Peter to deepen his ties with the organisation through vice-regal patronage.

Sir Peter confirmed he wished to continue his close association with Rosies, an organisation he once characterised as 'compassion with its sleeves rolled up', and was formally elevated to Patron in Chief on May 7 with Mrs Forde continuing as Patron.

Rosies CEO Troy Bailey said it was an honour for Rosies to be associated with a leader like Sir Peter.

'Sir Peter embodies characteristics we see as truly Australian - strength, determination, compassion, and humour,' said Mr Bailey.

'As Patron in Chief, Sir Peter represents Rosies everywhere he goes - and we couldn't ask for a more inspiring role model for our volunteers who are out there every day and night on the front line.'



## Back Pack Beds Update

To date 100 Back Pack Beds have been donated to the homeless in Queensland.





# From the Chairman - Making a Difference

*Every night, somewhere in Queensland, Rosies volunteers make a difference to the homeless or the imprisoned.*

Recently, I joined a Rosies team in Cairns on outreach on a wet and miserable Thursday night. Imagine my surprise when our van arrived to find at least 12 of our patrons standing in the rain, sopping wet, waiting for Rosies to arrive. They stood there and waited because Rosies is reliable – we always turn up!

Early in my career, I was told the starfish story - you may know it.

A young man was standing on the beach throwing starfish that had washed ashore back into the ocean. A passer-by told him not to waste his time because it wouldn't make any difference. As he threw another starfish, he replied, 'It made a difference to that one!'

Sometimes the plight of the homeless and imprisoned may seem hopeless. But through the generosity of our donors and the persistence of our volunteers, we make a difference - every night!

This month, I want to make a special appeal to our donors to consider making a regular monthly donation instead of a single lump sum.

One of our challenges at Rosies is that our income is inconsistent from month to month, making planning and responding to the needs of the homeless very difficult.

One of our objectives is to increase the value of regular contributions.

Would you please pray about this and consider whether you are able to make a regular monthly contribution to Rosies? It would be just like throwing a starfish into the ocean every month!

God Bless.

**John Scoble**

Board Chairman



## Royal recognition for Rosies

*Logan volunteer represents Rosies at Duke and Duchess's reception.*

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge hosted a reception for young Queenslanders of note on Saturday April 19.

Logan volunteer Sean Scanlon was selected to represent Rosies at the event, held at Southbank's Convention Centre and co-hosted by the Premier and

Governor of Queensland, in recognition of the work he does for Rosies.

Logan branch coordinator Margaret Harvey said Sean's invitation is a fitting reward for his service to Rosies.

"At one stage he was taking out three teams as a team leader, as well as being deputy coordinator here in Logan.

"He also visits the Youth Detention Centre on top of that. I think he richly deserved to go."

Sean thought the whole event was quite exciting.

"It was mostly a blur!" he said.

"What surprised me was that Princess Kate was already aware of the work Rosies do.

"I do remember telling her that I was one of 870 volunteers, and she was impressed."



# Around the Outreaches



## IPSWICH ROSIES KEEPING FAMILIES WARM THIS WINTER

The nights are already cold in Ipswich, but Rosies is partnering with Street Doctors and Kotahi Aroha to provide warm hospitality to patrons.

Ipswich Branch Coordinator Michael Byrnes says that Thursday nights in Ipswich are like a big family get together – though the irony is that many of our patrons are families who are doing it tough.

'We're seeing lots of kids,' said Michael.

'Last night we saw about 90 people in the park, and about 30 of them were children.'

'I was shocked.'

There are so many children coming to visit the Rosies van that a volunteer on each team spends their shift making hot Milo for them and ensuring they're comfortable and warm while they're there.

'I've got a fair idea that a few of them are sleeping in cars, but some of them have homes – they just have no money. They're coming out to get something to eat.'

Kotahi Aroha are a charity group based in Logan who make the trip to Ipswich every Thursday to provide hot meals to Rosies patrons.

They also bring canned food for patrons to take home with them.

Michael says that sharing park space with Rosies actually changes the way that groups like Kotahi Aroha engage with patrons.

Once the group serves patrons with a meal, their volunteers enjoy a cuppa from the Rosies van and spend time chatting with patrons.

'It makes for a very harmonious night,' said Michael.

'We all eat together like a family.'

The Street Doctors also visit on Thursday night with their mobile GP surgery to provide medical services to patrons in need.

Demand for the Street Doctors services are increasing as patrons become more familiar with the service.

The doctors also share a cuppa and chat with patrons in between consultations which helps to build trust.

'The doctors used to see about 6 patrons each night, but in the last couple of weeks that's doubled to around a dozen.'

'The fact that the doctors can be social with a cuppa – it does make a difference.'

Michael said that as the weather gets colder, patrons are seeking shelter for the night earlier.

'We've changed our outreach times on Friday nights to start at 7pm rather than 8pm.'

'We found that our patrons were arriving as early as 5 or 6pm and waiting for us to come and give them a hot drink or some noodles to fight off the cold.'

The Ipswich branch is facing an increase in demand for warm blankets and Backpack Beds.

During winter, temperatures overnight can drop to below zero, making a warm place to sleep a matter of survival rather than comfort.

## BE PREPARED: GIRL GUIDES HELP ROSIES GET READY FOR WINTER

*World Chief Guide and founder of the guiding movement, Lady Olave Baden-Powell once said, 'It is not what you have but what you give that brings happiness.'*



*The volunteers L-R are Jim, Jon Martlew (Branch Coordinator), Joe, Marg, Faye, and Kathryn Gorton of Guides Queensland.*

On Saturday evening May 17 Toowoomba Branch Coordinator Jon Martlew took a team of Rosies volunteers and a fully stocked van to the Yellaloo Guide Hut.





*Guides setting up their cardboard boxes, with Rosies volunteer Marg heading over to help.*

The team were there to provide a barbecue dinner and some hot Milo to Girl Guides from the Guides Queensland Darling Downs region who slept outside in the cold as part of their 'Chain of Cardboard Cities' fundraising event.

22 Guides aged from 8 to 14 participated in the event to raise funds to assist homeless people in the Toowoomba area.

The girls slept outdoors in cardboard boxes to get a feel for what it's like for a person sleeping rough – and the weather pitched in to help with a little rain overnight, leading to some soggy shelters!

One lucky girl had the opportunity to sleep in a Backpack Bed overnight to see the difference a warm dry shelter can make to a person without a roof over their head.

'We drew a lucky number to select the Guide who would have the chance to sleep in the Backpack Bed for the night,' said Jon.

'The girl who won the draw had brought her own sleeping bag for the night – so she gave the opportunity to another girl she felt needed it more.'

'We thought her generosity was just so special – if these girls are our future leaders, I think the place is in good hands.'

Rosies Training and Development Manager Cat Milton also attended to talk with the girls about homelessness and how people can help.

'Young people can sometimes grasp abstract concepts so much more quickly than adults,' said Cat.

'The girls understood intuitively the value of friendship to a person's self esteem and resilience, and were able to suggest ways they could assist people who are homeless in ways which are both practically and emotionally supportive.'

Funds raised from the event will be donated to Rosies to support operations in Toowoomba.

## LOCALS SUPPORTING LOCALS ON THE GOLD COAST

*Faced with empty shelves in the Gold Coast branch's Drop In Centre, branch coordinator Wendy Coe turned to local radio station 102.9 Hot Tomato for help.*

Hot Tomato responded immediately with a 'Rescue Rosies' campaign, asking listeners to donate non-perishable items – and the reaction was overwhelming! The Drop In Centre's pantry was full within a matter of hours, and people even came in to donate money directly.

"The flow on effect has been amazing," said Wendy. "We still have people donating today."

Hot Tomato's next move was to partner with Newey's Dry Cleaners. Together they ran 'Coats for a Cause' – a campaign where Gold Coasters could drop winter coats and jackets they no longer need in to a Newey's dry cleaner.

Newey's cleaned the coats so they were fresh, and passed over 300 coats on to Rosies to give out to patrons.

"What a wonderful business," said Wendy.

"Thank you to the wonderful folks at Hot Tomato."

## ROSIES PARTNERS WITH STREET DOCTORS

*When it's hard to access medical care, it can help to have the support of a friend.*



*The Street Doctors with Logan volunteers*

Rosies – Friends on the Street is progressively partnering with Street Doctors across South-East Queensland to bring medical care to patrons who need it.

The Logan outreach pioneered the program, with Dr Mohamed Elsaid's team of doctors bringing a mobile examination room to Rosies outreaches, offering a fully mobile, bulk-billed GP clinic to our Logan patrons.

The program has extended to our Ipswich outreach, with the Street Doctors team offering medical services in Queens Park on Thursday evenings.

Street Doctor's Dr Adel El-Mezin said many patients were in their 40s and 50s.

'By providing free medical assistance, at a site where the patients feel safe and secure, we can often identify health issues before they worsen,' he said.

## AMA FOUNDATION SUPPORT CAIRNS

*Rosies' Cairns branch has caught the eye of the Australian Medical Association Queensland Foundation and local GP Dr Sharmila Biswas.*



*Dr Sharmila Biswas with Lyall Forde's Cairns outreach team*

The AMA Queensland Foundation is helping to sustain and grow the Cairns branch by raising money for a new van in Cairns through their annual tax appeal.

Dr Biswas recently visited outreaches in Munro Martin Park to meet volunteers and patrons and gain a feel for Rosies.

'It's a very, very complex social challenge,' says Dr Biswas.

'Homelessness is not just about being without a secure house or shelter, it's an extreme form of social disadvantage and moreover, social exclusion. The impact is not only felt by the individual, but the community as a whole.'

Dr Biswas says a new van would not just keep Rosies outreaching in Cairns, but allow the branch to grow.

'It breaks my heart thinking of the loneliness these people carry around with them every day. They have nowhere to feel they belong.'

## CAIRNS OUTREACH CALM DURING STORM

The tropical north is no stranger to cyclones – and even the threat of Cyclone Ita couldn't keep Rosies volunteers at home.

The Cairns branch outreached as usual on Friday night, April 11, even sharing pizza and a barbecue with some very appreciative patrons.

Team leader Declan Lenaghan said that despite the weather, outreach was just a normal night, with patrons 'over the moon' to see Rosies arrive.



"I told them if they're here, we're here," he said.

"Rain, wind, or hail – we'll be there!"

# Heritage Bank supporting the Community

*Martin Cox from Heritage Bank Southern Region presented Rosies with a donation of \$4700 on May 13 in front of a gathering of Branch Managers from the Bank's Southern Region.*

Managers from all branches between Mt Gravatt and Coolangatta were present at the Beenleigh Yatala Motor Inn, including Loganholme, Beenleigh, Springwood, Garden City, Mermaid Waters, Helensvale, Runaway Bay, Southport, The Pines, Robina, Nerang, and Sunnybank Hills.

Each year as part of their ongoing commitment to local partnerships Heritage Bank produce a calendar which they sell for a gold coin donation, with money raised going to a local charity to support their community endeavours.

This year, the Bank's Southern Region chose Rosies as the main beneficiary of



calendar proceeds, and requested that funds raised be put toward the purchase and distribution of Backpack Beds in their region.

Rosies CEO Troy Bailey showed the gathering a Backpack Bed to demonstrate how Heritage Bank's generous donation will benefit their regional communities.

Rosies would like to thank Martin Cox and Heritage Bank Southern Region for their generous donation.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP THIS WINTER!

This winter we will need to provide blankets, hot soups, and beverages to our patrons. As our patron numbers grow we will need more volunteers – our outreaches are sustained through volunteering. We ask that you consider Rosies at this time of year and please give generously to our Winter Appeal, to ensure the continuation of our outreach services to those in need.



**ROSIES**  
Friends on the Street

**DONATE**

[www.rosies.org.au](http://www.rosies.org.au) • 1300 767 437



## New Chaplain for Rosies: *Fr John P Sherman OMI*

John Sherman was born in Ayr in North Queensland in 1936, but his parents Patrick and Emily moved the family including siblings Tom and Patricia to Brisbane when John was about two years old.

The family lived mainly in Toombul, and John's school years were spent at St Joseph's Convent school, Nundah, and St Joseph's College, Nudgee.

As a young man, John studied

Philosophy and Theological studies at St Joseph's Oblate Scholasticate in South Africa, and he went on to join the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1958.

He was ordained a priest in Pietermaritzburg in South Africa in July of 1965.

Fr John's education continued with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of South Africa, a Diploma of Education from the University of Queensland, and a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University.

It is perhaps not surprising then that Fr John has most of his adult life working within the educational field.

He has spent significant periods of time working at Iona College in Queensland and Mazenod College in Victoria – twice at each College - including several years guiding each school as Rector/Principal.

From 1988-1994, Fr John was Provincial of the Australia/China Province of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and it was during this time that Rosies established its formal structure in Queensland. During these early years, Fr John was involved in Rosies ministries at Schoolies Week and the full time volunteer teams.

Alongside his role as Rosies Chaplain, Fr John is currently Chaplain to Iona College and is the Vocations Coordinator for the Oblates in Australia, a role he has held since 2010.

Fr John is a keen sports fan and quite catholic in his tastes as a supporter of the Queensland Reds, the Brisbane Broncos, the Brisbane Lions and Brisbane Roar FC – and he is keeping an eye on the improvements in the Gold Coast Suns.

When he was younger, he was a long distance runner, but now contents himself with fast walking.

In quieter moments, he enjoys classical music and a good movie.

Fr John says the warmth of Rosies volunteers 'blows his mind'.

'Sometimes I feel that the people we meet on the outreaches are doing more good for us, the volunteers than we are doing for them,' he said recently.

'It is a mission at the very heart of what is meant when we say "The Lord be with you".'



# 2014 VINNIES CEO SLEEPOUT

## THURSDAY 19 JUNE

Rosies Youth Mission is proud to be an organisation that volunteers our services in the CEO Sleepout. Our staff and volunteers provide service from our Street Outreach Vans to serve soup and a bread roll to those participating.

*Homelessness is the most damaging spiritual illness in Australian society today and Rosies is proud to be a part of the healing solution.*

**RISE TO THE CHALLENGE**



## Villanova College hosts Rosies conference

*Villanova College will host a conference on homelessness in Brisbane on Saturday July 26.*

The conference will feature a keynote address from Dr Cameron Parsell from the University of Queensland, whose research focuses on the effectiveness of a range of current strategies to address homelessness.

Villanova Vice Principal John Holroyd said students who attend outreach with Rosies tend to come back with many questions about why people become homeless and how change can be effected.

'Working with Rosies, we wanted to set up a day where different kinds of shared learning about homelessness can occur,' said Mr Holroyd.

'Dr Parsell is well-placed to answer questions like, why can't we... and why don't we...?'

Rosies Training and Development Manager Cat Milton will also address the conference to offer her insight into the nature of social exclusion and the value of presence in rebuilding community.

Schools from the greater Brisbane area and surrounds have been invited to send student delegates to the conference, which will be held in the College's Hanrahan Theatre.

Students will work together to create temporary shelters from cardboard, offering them some insight into the physical hardships faced by people sleeping rough. They will also have a chance to create presentations they can take back to their own schools to share what they've learned.

'This is a great opportunity for students from different schools to work together to share ideas,' said Ms Milton.

'It's exciting to work so closely with Villanova – and to see young people so engaged with our work and so invested in our patrons is inspiring.'

If your school would like to send student delegates to the Villanova Homelessness Conference, please contact Cat Milton at [miltonc@rosies.org.au](mailto:miltonc@rosies.org.au).





# Buddha Birth Day Official Festival Ceremony

*Rosies Training and Development Manager Cat Milton addresses the crowd at the recent Buddha Birth Day Official Festival Ceremony at Southbank's Courier Mail Piazza.*

It may be Buddha's birthday, but Rosies received a present: a very generous donation of \$5,000! Thank you so much to Chung Tian Temple and the Buddha's Light International Association of Queensland.



## Bequests: '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.

## Corporate Sponsors



## ROSIES Contact Details

### CONTACT US

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

P: 1300 Rosies (767 437)

Rosies State Support Office  
PO Box 908, Wynnum QLD 4178

P: 07 3396 4267

F: 07 3396 3205

### VOLUNTEERING

[volunteer@rosies.org.au](mailto:volunteer@rosies.org.au)

### OTHER INFORMATION

[admin@rosies.org.au](mailto:admin@rosies.org.au)

[www.rosies.org.au](http://www.rosies.org.au)

ABN: 68 041 152 768

**FRIENDS ON THE STREET**

## EVERY DONATION HELPS

As a non profit organisation, Rosies relies mainly on private donations and volunteers to run our outreach services and your generous support will ensure we can continue our support of the homeless and abandoned in our community.

Every single dollar helps. You can provide a one-off donation, set up a regular donation to help the disadvantaged throughout the year or form a bequest. To make a donation, please complete the tear-off donation slip attached to the newsletter (if receiving a printed version) or contact us today.

Phone: 1300 ROSIES (767 437) • ROSIES State Support Office Phone: 07 3396 4267  
PO Box 908, Wynnum QLD 4178 • Fax: 07 3396 3205 • Email: [finance@rosies.org.au](mailto:finance@rosies.org.au) • Web: [www.rosies.org.au](http://www.rosies.org.au)

