



BREAKING SOCIAL ISOLATION **BUILDING COMMUNITIES**

MICAH PROJECTS INC  **annual report**
2008

vision statement

Our hope is to create justice and respond to injustice at the personal, social and structural levels in church, society, government, business and society.

mission statement

To respond to people who experience exclusion, poverty, injustice and social isolation so that they may experience inclusion, economic wellbeing, justice and connection within their community of choice.

guiding principles

MICAH Projects endorses the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. In responding to individuals, families, groups, communities and institutions we believe that people require:

- access to a broad range of personal, social, intellectual, economic and spiritual resources for personal and community wellbeing
- forums to participate in decisions which impact on their life at an individual, social and structural level
- commitment to equity, acknowledging the impact of age, gender, economic status, disability, sexual orientation, culture and religious belief
- a commitment to human rights, personal dignity of individuals and ensuring just processes for conflict resolution
- opportunities to redress neglect and abuse of past and/or present experiences
- resources to enable restoration of relationships with self, family, community, social and religious institutions.

core business

The agreed core business, or reason for being of MICAH Projects is:
An unwavering commitment, focus and determination to advocate and deliver on our social justice mandate.

The key service areas that will be governed by the board and continuously developed and delivered by the co-coordinator, managers and workers are:

- Mental Health & Disability Services
- Young Mothers for Young Women
- Esther Centre
- Homelessness Services

The six strategic initiatives are:

- Excellence in Governance
- Excellence in Organisation Development
- Excellence in Service Provision
- Excellence in Citizenship Participation
- Excellence in Advocacy
- Excellence in Social Inclusion

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micah projects board 2007/08

Chairperson

Margaret Ridley
Lawyer

Treasurer

Neal Ryan
*Pro Vice Chancellor of Research
Southern Cross University*

Secretary

Terry Fitzpatrick
Priest

Board Members

David Gonsalves
Solicitor

Annie Holden
Consultant & Projects Manager

Michael Kelly
*Natural Resource Officer
Community Engagement*

Peter Martin
Pastoral Care

Margaret Rodgers
Communications Consultant

John Roney
*Accountant
Consultant Strategic Management*

Louise Vaughan
Marketing & Communications

Samuel Walker
Community Liaison Officer

Karyn Walsh
Micah Coordinator

chairperson's comments

Micah Projects Inc continues to flourish. The Board of Management has developed with the organisation while improving supervision of projects and activities. This supervision has also become more systematic through the application of The Australian Governance System. The Board appreciates the value of TAGS and looks forward to its continued use across Micah.

It is particularly satisfying and a joy to be part of a board who work so harmoniously. The tenor of our meetings is a testament to how successfully each member has embraced the mission of Micah Projects.

The year has had its sadness though. Feelings of satisfaction and success have been tempered by the illness of board member John Roney. Our thoughts and prayers are with John and his family in this extremely difficult time.

All members of the board have made a valuable contribution to the life and work of Micah Projects. I particularly want to thank John Roney and retiring member Louise Vaughan.

I have been a member of St Mary's community for fourteen years. In retrospect, I realise how closely aligned the culture and vision of the St Mary's community is with Micah Projects. The qualities I believe are shared by both are acceptance, inclusion, courage, leadership and community

Acceptance is strongly evident in Street to Home and other projects operated by Micah at the Brisbane Homelessness Service Centre. Powerlessness and homelessness go hand in hand. Micah staff members are often challenged by the consequences of powerlessness on an individual's psychological wellbeing.

Acceptance of circumstances with the aim of empowering people has led to significant success. This is especially critical with more families and children presenting at BHSC.

It took courage to decide to end Micah Project's governance of the Prevention and Early Intervention Consortium while we continue to be involved in other prevention and early intervention endeavours.

The organisation continues to value leaders with all team leaders participating in sustainable leadership programs. And we work strongly in the community and encourage decision making participation from all stake holders.

I am sure the creed preached by the prophet Micah will continue to be the raison d'être of Micah Projects ensuring its future is characterised by the successful service witnessed in the past year. I want to thank Karyn Walsh for her outstanding contribution to the organisation. It has been central to its remarkable achievements.

Margaret Ridley
Chairperson

coordinator's report

The year has seen consolidation for Micah Projects as we live out our commitment to reduce the impacts of disadvantage and homelessness on the lives of the people. We welcome the attention the Rudd government has placed on addressing homelessness.

We are committed to wider supportive housing for Brisbane's chronically homeless. The critical element of protection through a staffed foyer entrance is again confirmed with Dr Annie Holden's Voices From the Margins report.

Family homelessness continues to increase. National data showing families as the fastest growing population of homeless people. We advocate more than ever Brisbane needs a dedicated family support Hub to assist families early and prevent the downward spiral leaving families isolated from opportunity, parents out of work, individuals unwell and children out of school.

On another front, Esther Centre in partnership with Redress Services and Post Forde Worker Robyn Eltherington met massive challenges supporting people with redress for survivors of institutional abuse. We thank Child Protection Week Committee for ongoing Remembrance Day sponsorship.

It is fantastic seeing Young Mothers for Young Women's early intervention and prevention programs implemented. Working with Mater Mothers provides holistic health with women in antenatal, birth and post natal stages. Work is underway creating Caterpillar House early childhood hub for young children, parents and partners. And we enjoy working with Sussex St Uniting Church. This project is evidence based demonstrating benefits of early intervention so children don't fall into child safety system or homelessness.

Micah continues supporting people with mental illness or disability. Women at Romiga enjoy life in community, residents of privately owned hostels benefit from new Resident Support Program arrangements and Home Front has developed new relationships. However, many people only access minimum support instead of what they really need.

In the last year we have strived to improve organisational governance and management. Our first quality assurance steps were achieving DSQ Disability Standards accreditation and starting the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Systems certification process.

Thanks to Michael Goldsworthy & Patrick Herd for strategic planning, Howard Neilsen for Sustainable Leadership Program, Greg Dean & Maureen O'Reagan for professional supervision, Mick Devlin & Eric Keenan for facilitation, Gerard Palk & Infoxchange for web SRS, Peter Goldsworthy & Adele Renwick for quality assurance, Mark Jeffery for communications and Dr Paul Cleary helping initiate BHSC GP clinic with Ros Butler.

I acknowledge and thank BHSC collocation partners Big Issue, Centacare South West Brisbane Community Options, Brisbane Borders, Mater Health Services and Murri Watch. Relationships Australia and Forde Foundation make up Lotus Place.

34 Micah staff are studying for certificates, diplomas or degrees. Helen Styles received Centre for Philanthropy awards and improved business community engagement. Thanks to Lisa Westby and all the best with your new work.

On behalf of everyone at Micah I thank the St Mary's Community for continued spiritual, emotional, financial and practical support. Your generosity is part of work addressing poverty in Brisbane. Thanks to volunteers across our programs for time, support and being part of Micah. Our funding bodies Housing Qld, Dept of Communities, Disability Services Qld, Dept of Child Safety and Australian Government Emergency Relief support us to implement our vision.

I thank the Board for support, insights, skills and commitment. I recently saw a definition of innovation being ordinary people working together to achieve extraordinary things. At Micah everyday people bring energy, diversity, fun, knowledge and skills. Tasks far removed from the ordinary are transformed into extrardinary achievements.

I thank everyone for what you give. I enjoy working everyday with a great team and look forward to our continued commitment to filling our vision of creating justice and responding to injustice.

Karyn Walsh
Coordinator

Redress Peer leader Beth



Redress Peer Leader Allan
with Karyn



treasurer's comments

The 2007/08 financial year was a year of modest growth combined with consolidation for Micah Projects. Income increased by \$890,000 to \$5,953,441. Grant income remained approximately the same with state government recurrent and non-recurrent grants of \$5.3 million continuing as the dominant funder. This represents around 90% of Micah income.

As in previous years funding provided to Micah has been spent on delivering services to those in need. This includes \$526,480 for Young Mothers for Young Women and \$381,704 for Brisbane Homelessness Service Centre Assessment and Referral.

Homelessness prevention and early intervention funding amounted to \$676,560 and Homefront \$559,776. The public intoxication project received \$462,712, Esther \$474,349, Lifestyle Support \$361,805 and Resident Support \$645,959.

The budget surplus for the financial year was \$20,533. The board continues to be confident the organisation is in a very sound financial position with reserves of approximately \$139,000.

The finance unit within the Shared Services Team continues to operate the financial management of the organisation. Sherryn West, Bridget Elliott and Lisa Westoby led the team with Julie Herbert, Miseon Kim, and Rebecca Jones providing excellent financial services. Paul Bellas and Sue Shields from Paul Bellas Accountants continue to be our external accounts consultants. And Arrow Accountants are our auditors.

Services provided to the board by a combination of skills gives us confidence in the strong and expert financial accountability of Micah Projects. I take the opportunity to thank all for your attention to sound and excellent financial management over the last year.

Neal Ryan
Treasurer

2007/08 highlights

Getting housed, staying housed

Micah is the lead agency at Brisbane Homelessness Service Centre.

We provide a continuum of services to people homeless or at risk of homelessness:

1. **Street to Home** public space & homeless outreach service works seven days a week 4pm to midnight
2. **BHSC Homelessness Interagency Team** provides crisis information & referral
3. **Homelessness to Home** is a family crisis accommodation, support and outreach service
4. **Homefront** proactive outreach support program works with people who's disability makes it difficult to maintain housing
5. **REACH** is a homeless early intervention consortium preventing homelessness through early assistance

This year has seen consolidation and ongoing development for Micah homelessness services. Evaluation of BHSC by the Centre of Philanthropy & Nonprofit Studies at QUT provided positive evaluation. People who access the services, staff employed at the centre and other stakeholders all report satisfaction.

Street to Home received short term funding for several projects. This included funding from Dept of Communities Qld and Brisbane City Council for people sleeping rough at Riverside Drive. Watpac provided funding to work with residents involved in the closure of a caravan park at Wynnum. These outreach support projects relocated people to permanent housing and helped establish their new homes. This was greatly assisted by teamwork and input from registered nurse Ros Butler.

The Chronic Homelessness and Impaired Decision Making forum was a highlight. Over 160 people attended the forum at Griffith University as the result of a continuing partnership with Griffith, the Public Advocate and other homelessness services.

Karla, Wes and Sarah
from BHSC



The homelessness teams are very thankful to visiting professional services, volunteers, students and schools for assisting with community BBQ's, hygiene packs, legal and mental health services.

The collocated partners at BHSC are Centacare's Southwest Community Options Program, Brisbane Boarders, Big Issue, Murrie Watch and Mater Health Services. Visiting services include Qld Health Homelessness Health Outreach service, Centrelink and QPILCH. Other consortium members involved at BHSC are Zillmere Neighbourhood centre and members of the REACH consortium.

Esther Centre and Redress

Esther Centre is an activity of Micah collocated at Lotus Place with Relationship Australia's Aftercare Resource Centre and Forde Foundation. The foundation is also auspiced by Micah. Lotus Place is a one stop shop for people who have suffered abuse while in care of state, church, foster homes and detention centres.

The 2007-2008 financial year was the year of redress as we supported people applying or working through the state government Redress Scheme. The scheme provides ex-gratia payments for survivors of institutional abuse to help with practical necessities and life's essential.

Additional funding was provided to appoint redress workers. They and Esther staff provided information and assisted with the redress applications. The scheme was announced in May 2007 and the application closing date was extended beyond June 30 this year. People contacted us 4477 times for support with redress. This led to 477 applying.

We have been privileged to be part of walking with people through their journey seeking redress. Many have experienced tremendous hurt and harm as a result of their childhood experiences with church and state run institutions. We continue to support them as they find a way to healing and wellbeing.

Allison and Brendan from Lotus Place



Thanks go to all the team. But special thanks to Brendan Tuckerman being the focal point for coordinating and assigning assistance. Thanks also to John Lucas, Mick Devlin, Jane Armanasco, Jo Bennett, Anne Hilton, Allison Pook, Kalo Green, Lauren Kelly and all staff.

We acknowledge the persistence of peer leaders Beth Wilson-Sozeredi, Alan Allaway and Sue Treeweek. And all members of the Historical Abuse Network have advocated strongly for redress. We thank Kathy Munro, Rose Blackman, Darren McGhee and all volunteers for their work.

Homelessness to Home Healthcare

Partnership with Mater Healthcare Services and Micah Projects

The provision of healthcare services is building momentum enabling holistic responses for people experiencing homelessness and making the transition to being housed. Through the leadership of Ros Butler trust is building as people reconnect with the health system and receive medical support after many years of missing out.

The health circumstances are diverse. They include supplying essential asthma or epilepsy medication, treating burns, providing health advice, managing conditions, replacing dressings and creating personal health care plans.

Ros Butler works as part of the BHSC interagency team as an employee of Mater Health Services. Medications are also supplied by Mater. Ros networks with nurses from Spiritus, Oz Care and West End Family Clinic to provide health care.

Many people experiencing homelessness have significant health problems but are hesitant to get medical help. They are often scared to identify health problems because of past experiences. The BHSC clinic is focused on primary health care. It works collaboratively with the Qld Health Homelessness Healthcare Outreach Team mental health care unit and local GPs.

People are referred to doctors or to a hospital if needed. The clinic plays an important role helping people face medical and hospital systems. By supporting people at outpatients and emergency departments the nurse is able to provide a continuum of care ensuring follow up and after care.

The Riverside Drive Project in West End was tremendously successful housing chronically homelessness people and combining healthcare with social support. The outcomes for the men housed have been significant. Micah Projects board acknowledges the partnership with Mater Healthcare services in creating effective solutions to end homelessness particularly for the twelve men housed from Riverside Drive.

Young Mothers for Young Women

It's been a busy year for YMYW with family support, peer support, group work and early childhood programs all coming to fruition. Peer Support Worker Liz Quinn began with us in May. She has a strong peer leader role with the young women's group work.

Liz is employed under a Certificate Three in Community Services traineeship. She has on the job training and mentoring while undertaking her studies with qualified trainers regularly visiting to check on progress.

YMYW provided intensive planned support with 56 young families over the past year. This included young mothers under the age of 21, their partners, families and 47 children. Fifteen of these families identified as being Indigenous with a further nine families from African cultural backgrounds.

Accommodation & tenancy, pregnancy, parenting support, child protection, children's needs, advocacy, relationships and family domestic violence were the main areas of support.

Many young women, their children and partners established themselves in new homes. They also accessed high quality anti natal & post natal care while receiving support and practical assistance as they became parents.

YMYW is proud of the impact of the programs and the partnership with Mater Mothers preventing babies entering the child protection system. Children are able to remain with their mothers while being supported by YMYW staff.

While waiting for the completion the early childhood hub Caterpillar House we've been fortunate to work with specialist Nicole Schultz. She developed our children's project based on Surestart UK's highly regarded Foundations for Families Birth to Three

program. It focuses on bonding and attachment to lay the foundation for children in the early years.

Caterpillar House is YMYW's early childhood hub for young women, their children and partners based in an old Queenslander currently being renovated. It's located next door to Butterfly Place and will provide purpose built spaces for the early childhood program and young women's group work.

Caterpillar House will offer a range of services for families from late 2008 and has been made possible through the generous financial support of ABN Amro Morgans.

Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance

On Friday September 14, 2007 Micah hosted our fourth annual Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance. The atmosphere at The Broncos Leagues Club was truly magic with over 300 guests decked out in their finest frills and sharpest suits.

Months of planning led to unique choices in what people wore, their hairstyle and personal appearance. Guests were greeted by Micah staff and escorted to their tables.

The venue was beautifully decorated with balloons, trimmings and cloth napkins on each table in Micah colours. Great thanks to the friendly, obliging and efficient Broncos Leagues Club staff. They went out of their way to accommodate in every way. Again we are grateful for the discounted rates for room hire and meals.

After food it was time for the band Cool Change to strike. Then began the dancing. For many service users and providers the Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance is eagerly anticipated for months before and reminisced about for months after. Long after the band packed up people were still lingering reluctant to end the night.

Thanks again this year to Mal Causer, Kay Johnstone, Bridget Elliott, Margaret Rodgers and other members who made it all happen.



micah projects staff

During the 2007-2008 financial year 128 people were employed at Micah Projects. There continued a diversity of cultural backgrounds and nationalities throughout the organisation.

As part of being an equal opportunity employer we continued our commitment to employing a strong mix of gender, age and employment type. And we continue providing opportunities for people returning to the workforce.

Micah Projects is proud of its flexible family friendly practices enabling staff to manage their work home balance.

Staff development improved through the gaining accreditation from Disability Services Queensland. We also began the process of gaining ISO 9001:2000 accreditation.

Monthly professional development for staff continues so does the implementation of the web based electronic Service Record System.

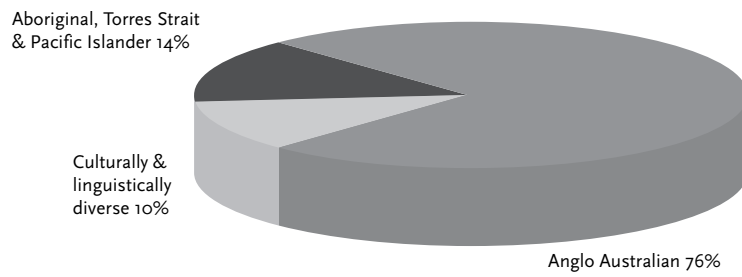
Dan and Adele led staff improvement programs at Micah



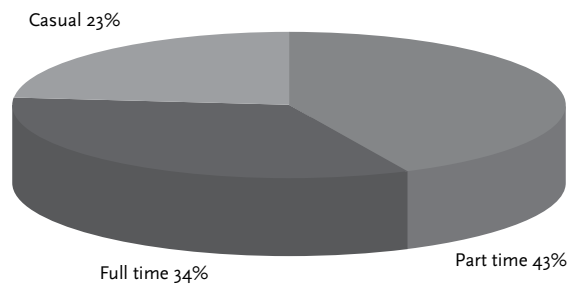
34 staff from Micah were involved in academic study in areas such as information technology, business, philanthropy, nonprofit studies, disability, accounting, human services, arts, mental health, community welfare, social work and nursing.

There is recognition of prior learning such as diploma and degree qualifications. Eleven staff members finished their studies this financial year. Team leaders continue to participate in the Sustainable Leadership Program.

Micah Staff Cultural Diversity



Employment Category Breakdown



Bridget, Sherryn and Verity from Micah with Terry from St Mary's



services provided

MICAH HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

Micah Projects provided homelessness services thanks to Responding to Homelessness Initiative Qld, Supported Accommodation Assistance Program & Management of Public Intoxication Program. Through the Brisbane Homelessness Service Centre Micah provides a continuum of services to families and individuals at risk of or homeless. These include:

Street to Home

Public space & homeless outreach service

- 8186 contacts with individuals & families sleeping rough
- 65% were with Indigenous people
- 145 people moved from sleeping rough to accommodation

BHSC interagency assessment & referral

Providing homelessness crisis and referral services for

- 1189 adults & 277 children
- 9622 additional casual contacts
- 2821 incidents providing financial assistance to address & prevent homelessness including 820 people accommodated

Homelessness to Home

Family support outreach assisting

- 29 families with crisis accommodation units
- 46 families including 50 adults & 84 children with follow up support

Homefront

Supportive outreach service

- 2935 times through a \$15,208 grant from the Commonwealth Government Emergency Relief program
- 44 people with a disability supported through proactive, personal & tenancy support

MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITY SERVICES

Supporting people makes a difference

- 27,560 hours of support to three women with disability living in their homes through the Romiga project
- 8086 hours of support to eight people living in a range of community housing options
- 8970 hours of support to 187 people in privately owned supported accommodation

YOUNG MOTHERS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Planned support was provided to 56 young women, their children and partners. YMYW provided information and referrals following 2239 requests.

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING FUND

The St Mary's Community donated \$42,504 for the Homelessness & Housing Fund. It provided food, accommodation, prevention of eviction and home establishment costs across all Micah Programs. People accessed HHF practical assistance because of homelessness and poverty 557 times

HOMELESSNESS TO HOME HEALTHCARE

This partnership between Mater Health Services and Micah Projects at the Brisbane Homelessness Service Centre included:

- 577 patient contacts
- 144 referrals made
- 52 referrals received
- 29 occasions for inpatient support
- 102 occasions for transport outreach

ESTHER CENTRE

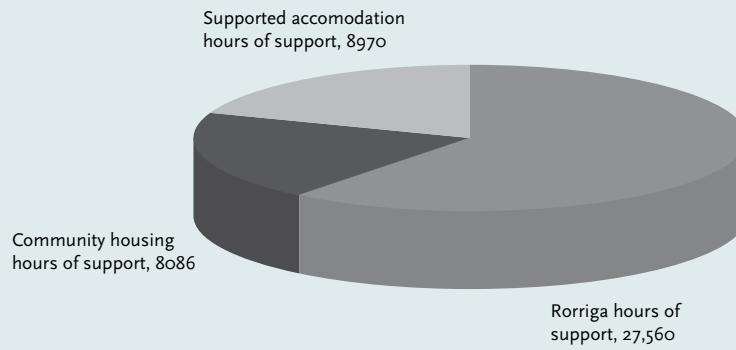
The centre is located at Lotus Place and provides support and advocacy for people who have experienced abuse in institutions, foster care and detention centres run by the state and churches in Qld

- Advocacy with faith communities involving 13 complaints of abuse by churches
- Support and advocacy with 22 people in crisis and ongoing support to 17 people providing support in housing, child protection, mental health, drug and alcohol, medical and relationship areas
- Peer support to 1100 people at the centre through drop in days, activities and social support
- Historical Abuse Network membership increased to 2142. HAN provided information, newsletters, training, forums, submissions and support through other services
- Redress Scheme services included receiving 4,477 contacts with 1,185 people about applications to for the scheme. This resulted in supporting 402 people with Level One applications and 75 people with Level Two applications.

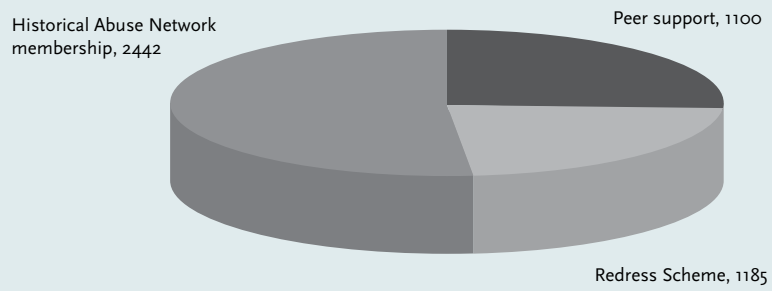


Funding from Disability Services Queensland and Qld Departments of Communities, Housing, Information & Technology and Child Safety

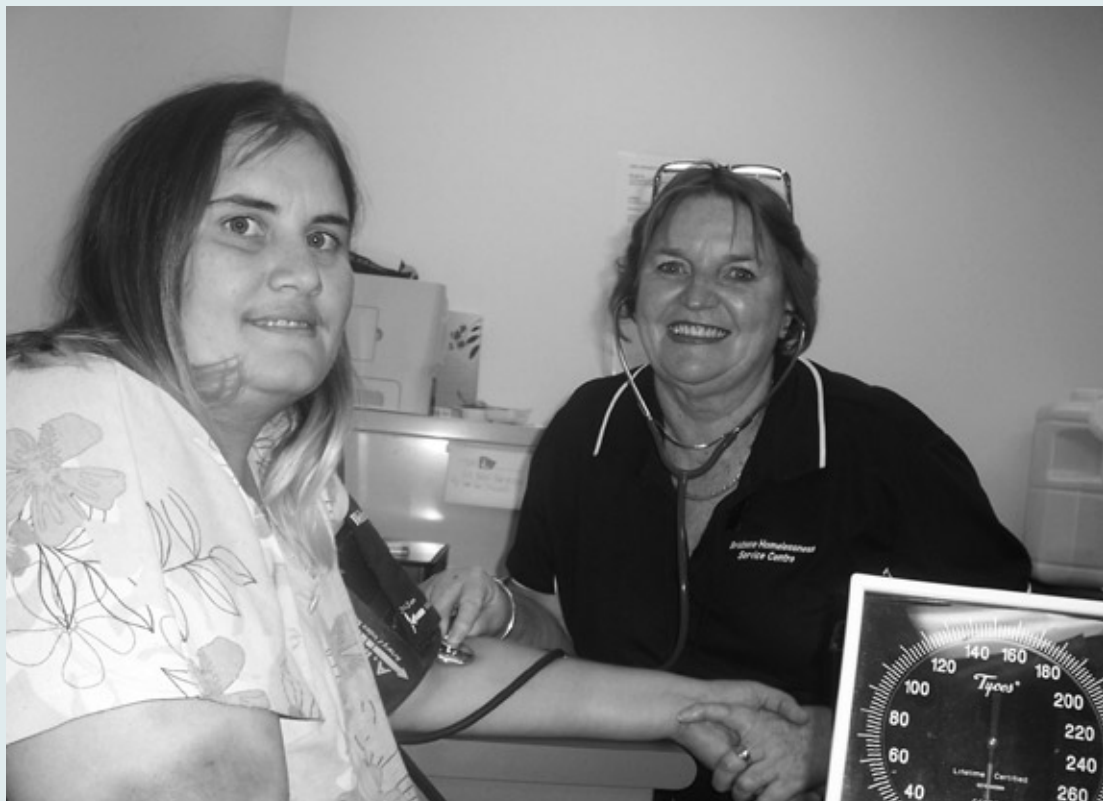
Mental Health & Disability Services



Esther Centre people supported



Anita and Ros at the BHSC health clinic



auspice programs

Forde Foundation

During 2007-08 the foundation faced significant challenges. The biggest being the large number of former residents registering as potential Forde Foundation Trust Fund recipients. The existing database couldn't cope and it was difficult to carry out our work.

We approached Minister for Communities Lindy Nelson-Carr for additional funding to conduct a thorough review of the foundation's operations. Spall Waters Group began the review in May 2008. It developed a discussion paper for interested parties, former residents and key stakeholders.

The Forde Foundation Board of Advice met fifteen times and conducted Grant Round Eleven. Total applications received for funding were 1018 with 2000 requests totaling more than \$550,000. This is the largest number of grants ever made.

We acknowledge the great support provided by Micah, Karyn Walsh and the great team at Lotus Place. And we thank the support and guidance from our patron Leneen Forde. She continues to be held in the highest regard by former residents.

Significant challenges lie ahead. There are no easy solutions. While future directions will ultimately be determined by the Minister and the Public Trustee the Forde Foundation board continues to work to improve the quality of life of former residents.

Supported Accommodation Providers Association

The Department of Communities Qld funded SAPA project ended on June 30, 2008. The objectives were achieved in four key ways. We developed a suite of generic forms for use in Level Three Residential Services in both hard copy and electronic formats.

Secondly, we developed and delivered medication training for management and staff of the services. A further application has been submitted to Disability Services Queensland to enable delivery of this training statewide.

Thirdly, the project established a telephone information and assistance line. And, finally, we established the Working with Resident Support Programs for better communication between operators and RSP staff.

SAPA expresses sincere gratitude to Micah Projects for auspicing the project and thanks Karyn Walsh whose incredible global view of social justice is so inspiring. We also thank RSP team leader Mal Causer for their excellent collaborative work with the project. Lorraine Gorman and Kay Johnston both have extensive experience in the private supported accommodation industry and were employed to work on the project.

Mal, Mark and Kay
from Micah and SAPA



research & innovation

Journeys Through Homelessness

Prevention and early intervention systems advocacy

Micah Projects continues working with all stakeholders to improve homelessness service systems. We work to incorporate policy research that builds on sound evidence. Journeys Through Homelessness was commissioned as part of systems advocacy funded through Qld Dept of Communities Prevention and Early Intervention of Homelessness funding.

The report looks at how the service system is working in the post Responding to Homelessness era and how it might work better to achieve the lasting outcomes the State Government is seeking from its investment.

This report clearly demonstrates the cost effectiveness of prevention and early intervention and the high cost that comes with simply managing homelessness. Carolyn Mason from Partnering Works and Walter Robb from Analyse Australia were contracted to write the report.

Journeys Through Homelessness includes:

- **pathways analysis** to understand issues through client's lived experiences and how to apply the knowledge of service providers
- **issues analysis** to identify homelessness policy and program areas the need reframing
- **cost analysis** about the net benefits to government by allocating resources along specific policy and program choices

During the life of this project the Australian Government released its green paper on homelessness called Which Way Home? A New Approach to Homelessness. The findings from Journeys Through Homelessness were presented as part of the Micah Projects submission to the green paper.



Left Out in the Cold

In March 2008 Micah Projects was a key part of the Left Out in the Cold conference focusing on people experiencing chronic homelessness because of impaired decision making. Over 160 people attended and highlighted how people continue in cycles of homelessness because of a cognitive disability.

Speakers included Bryan Lippman founder and CEO of Wintringham, Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist Luke Delaney and Morrie O'Connor from the Community Living Program. They explored the long term effects of impaired decision making as well as drug and alcohol abuse on neurological functioning.

Griffith University School of Human Services, The Office of The Public Advocate, Homeless Persons Legal Team and HART 4000 ran the conference with funding by the Griffith's Community Partnerships Grant.

It was decided ongoing research was needed. Micah, Griffith, the Public Advocate, Hart 4000 and Mission Australia are now part of a continuing project identifying specific chronic homeless and impaired decision making issues. The follow up project has raised \$30,000 for research.



Common Ground New York is a pioneer and international leader developing supportive and affordable housing linked to services people need to maintain housing, restore health and gain economic independence.

It adopts a whole of community approach actively involving government, business and philanthropy organisations. Common Ground founder and President Roseanne Haggerty visited Brisbane in 2007 for a Sustaining Tenancies Summit sponsored by QCOSS, Micah and others. Supportive housing projects also operate in other communities across the US as well as the UK.

Supportive housing has features not found in current housing models in Queensland. It offers safe, permanent and affordable housing with access to on site support and safety services. These are for people that would otherwise be at serious risk of damage to their health and wellbeing. Supportive housing reduces use of police, health, mental health and homeless services.

Common Ground Australia membership includes Micah, Mercy Foundation NSW, HomeGround Victoria, Common Ground Adelaide, Social Inclusion Unit South Australia and Social Inclusion Unit Tasmania.

Therese Rein is the patron and visited Common Ground when she was in New York City in March 2008. She was very impressed with the significant reductions in homelessness that this organisation has achieved.

Voices from the Margin

In May 2008 Micah Homelessness Services commissioned Dr Annie Holden to survey 31 people currently sleeping rough in Brisbane as part of Voices from the Margin. It looks at barriers to secure housing and why support services are so critical.

The report found the average chronically homeless person is a 41 year old non Indigenous male born in Brisbane and homeless for more than ten years. He is likely to have mental health issues, be on medication or use alcohol or drugs. He is also likely to attribute the trigger for homelessness as a major traumatic, grief or loss of life event.

Barriers such as lack of affordable, suitable secure housing in the right location are evident. However, some people also cited a jail record, lack of references, their appearance, their race, gender or age, poverty, unemployment, debts, lack of photo ID, not being entitled to a Travel Concession Card and not knowing about available accommodation support services as barriers. Overwhelmingly the biggest barrier is their poor mental health or heavy drug and alcohol use.

Respondents reported difficulties maintaining tenancies because of inability to control visitors, difficulties managing money and in a small number of instances being unaccustomed to independent living. The overwhelming majority replied that housing was very important to them

Brisbane Homelessness Service Centre Collocation Evaluation

The Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies at Queensland University of Technology is looking at the collocation of the five agencies that make up the Brisbane Homelessness Service Centre. It looks at how successful bringing the five agencies together under the one roof has been. It also looks at areas that can be improved and if any practices should be changed.

The project commenced early in 2007 and finished this financial year. A key component includes a confidential survey of all staff at the centre to gain their feedback and input on the shared agency arrangement at the centre. Dr Cameron Newton, Senior Research Fellow at QUT, coordinated the project.

Participatory Decision Making & Policy Production in Child Welfare

The Participatory Decision Making & Policy Production in Child Welfare project continued this financial year. This project with the University of Queensland looks at involving families with young people aged eight years or under in child welfare decision making and policy production.

It looks at practices and processes encouraging or limiting opportunities for parents and children being part of decision making processes in child welfare service delivery.

The project also builds models for participation in decision making to balance the recognition of child and parental rights in child welfare decision making. It also considers legal and ethical duties of institutions to protect vulnerable children from harm.

This is a three year project that also includes Department of Child Safety Qld, Department of Communities Qld and Lifeline Community Care. Associate Professor Karen Healey from the School of Social Work and Applied Human Sciences at UQ is the Principle Researcher.

statement by members

The committee have determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The committee declare that:

1. the financial statements and notes, present fairly the associations financial position as at 30 June 2008 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements;
2. in the committee's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that Micah Projects Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee:



Chairperson
Margaret Ridley



Treasurer
Neal Ryan

Date: 21 OCT 2008

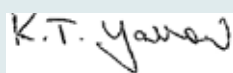
disclaimer

The following financial data was prepared by Micah Projects Inc. to provide additional information to the association's members. Micah Projects Inc. is solely responsible for the additional information. Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views have not been adopted in the preparation of the additional information.

Although we have audited the preceding general purpose financial report no audit or review of the additional information has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

To the extent permitted by law, we do not accept liability for any loss or damage which any person, other than the association, may suffer arising from any negligence on our part. No person should rely on the following financial data without having an audit or review conducted.

We do not accept responsibility to any person for the contents of the following financial data.



Kevin Yarrow
Arrow Accountants
Brisbane
Tuesday, 21 October 2008

statement of revenue & expense

for the year ended 30 june 2008

ORDINARY INCOME		THIS YEAR
Interest Received	67,357.14	
Grants	5,666,895.72	
Rent Received	4,087.73	
Donations	157,153.40	
Rebates and Refunds	7,965.77	
Other Income	297,203.71	
Unspent Funds Carried Forward	(247,222.40)	
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME		5,953,441.07
TOTAL INCOME		5,953,441.07

OVERHEAD EXPENSES	
Accountancy	24,000.00
Advertising	6,209.66
Audit Fees	8,262.19
Asset Purchases < \$5,000	26,247.59
Bank Charges	3,333.04
Business Planning Costs	28,323.75
Client Support Services	386,948.65
Client Support Consumables	111,894.11
Computer Supplies	163,930.22
Consultants Fees	69,757.29
Depreciation	63,842.47
Donations	3,142.73
Employees' Amenities	19,350.99
Employment Support	8,757.50
Fees and Charges	2,987.17
General Expenses	23,156.72
Hire - Plant and Equipment	23,779.48
Insurances	18,689.79
Journals and Periodicals	9,966.13
Lease - Equipment	185,136.58
Fuel Oil and Maintenance	83,691.70
Registration and Insurance	21,312.48
Management Fees Paid	66,947.65
Meeting Expenses	59,894.07
Postage	10,188.47
Printing and Stationery	80,498.65
Provision for Annual Leave	221,494.36
Provision for Long Service Leave	6,129.83
Repairs & Maintenance	128,193.63
Rent	52,425.00
Salaries & Salary Sacrifice	1,111,620.84
Security	3,279.97

OVERHEAD EXPENSES (contd.)		
Staff Training	85,280.54	
Superannuation	268,682.03	
Subscriptions and Memberships	11,141.23	
Telephone	140,454.30	
Travel and Accommodation	64,525.09	
Utilities	41,757.63	
Wages	1,573,831.34	
Workcover	713,842.36	
TOTAL OVERHEAD EXPENSES		(5,932,907.23)
NET PROFIT		20,533.84

balance sheet

as at 30 june 2008

CURRENT ASSETS	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
Cash and cash equivalents	1,104,343.32	1,172,264.71
Trade and other receivables	51,703.69	39,789.23
Other current assets	8,036.44	6,168.92
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,164,083.45	1,218,222.86
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	111,358.26	164,888.78
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	111,358.26	164,888.78
TOTAL ASSETS	1,275,441.71	1,383,111.64
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Bank overdraft	9,280.29	10,705.54
Other Current liabilities	143,715.29	358,041.07
Trade and other payables	257,429.56	307,780.94
Current tax liabilities	173.02	0.00
Short-term provisions	436,072.20	287,285.02
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	846,670.36	963,812.57
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Other Non Current liabilities	76,725.02	98,803.46
Long-term provisions	212,726.98	201,710.10
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	289,452.00	300,513.56
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,136,122.36	1,264,326.13
NET ASSETS	139,319.35	118,785.51
EQUITY		
Reserves	49,827.66	49,827.66
Retained earnings	89,491.69	68,957.85
TOTAL EQUITY	139,319.35	118,785.51

supporters & partners

The achievements of this year would not be possible without the assistance and generosity of our many partners and supporters.

We wish to acknowledge our continued relationship with local, state and federal government:

- Department of Communities Qld
- Disability Services Queensland
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Canberra
- Department of Housing, Qld
- Residential Tenancy Authority, Qld
- Department of Information and Technology, Qld
- Department of Child Safety, Qld
- Lord Mayor's Community Trust

We thank the many schools, kindergartens, childcare centres and other organisations for their support:

- St Elizabeth's Primary School
- Tarragindi St Ambrose's Primary School
- Newmarket & St Andrew's Primary School, Ferny Grove for Hygiene packs
- St Joseph's Nudgee College for swags
- Albany Creek Kindergarten & Lady Gowrie Childcare Centre, Christmas toys
- Yeronga State High & Holy Family Primary School Indooroopilly for financial support
- Brisbane Grammar School, St Augustine's College Springfield & St Peter's Lutheran College for volunteer BBQ
- Lourdes Hill College Bulimba for new baby hampers and food for Christmas hampers
- St Joseph's Primary School Bardon for Socks, blankets, soups and noodles
- Centrelink Call Centre staff
- Homeless Persons Information Queensland

We appreciate the valuable support from businesses and organisations:

- Brisbane School of Hairdressing, Stefan and Norris Hair Wholesalers, haircuts and products
- HANS Smallgoods, Meat for BBQs
- Hyteco, ANZ Bank West End branch, CI Productions, Fresh Marketing, Travelscene, Samford, RealWay Property Consultants
- Samford, Direct Office Products & Centrelink Stones Corner, Metro Central Community Church, Curves West End, Christmas hampers
- KPMG Accounting, Volunteer day
- Panasonic @ Work, photocopier
- Gadens Lawyers, 25 transition to independent living packs
- Colour Chiefs, Invitations and tickets for Dinner Dance, blanket appeal flyer
- Commonwealth Bank, 100 blankets
- Yvonne's Natural Therapy & Beauty, Toiletry items, blankets
- St Vincent de Paul Sts Peter & Paul Conference Bulimba, Tinned food
- Q Build Flood Relief, 20 Mattresses and bedding
- United Way, goods and service
- Australia Post, advertisement in *Big Issue*
- HPIQ, Xmas hamper items, food, toiletry items, school supplies
- Quota International Brisbane South, 50 hygiene packs
- Community Angels, Caterpillar House, various goods
- Queensland Health Homelessness Health Outreach Team, Xmas toys
- West End Uniting Church, children's books for Christmas
- Gamble McKinnon Green Landscape Architects, services
- Steele Financial Consulting, financial support

There are many individuals & families who have supported us financially or with goods. These include Peggy Huntley, Dee Saunders, Eoin Mac Giolla, Michelle Cassimatis, Margaret Whimp, The Kiwi Trust PR & TH Jun, B & D Dennien, C & C Harkin, David Devine, Margie McCabe, Anne Waterford, GM Manning, Brenda, Burgman and Paula Good

Our volunteers continue to be invaluable to helping our services run. These include Robert Henderson, Darcy, Kate Mooney and Sarah Walters



contact us

Micah Projects Inc

St Mary's House
20 Merivale Street South Brisbane
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane Q 4101
P 3844 9122 F 3846 5207
micah@merivale.org.au

Micah Mental Health & Disability Services

St Mary's House
20 Merivale Street South Brisbane
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane Q 4101
P 3844 9122 F 3846 5207
disability@merivale.org.au

Esther Centre

Lotus Place
26 Merivale Street South Brisbane
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane 4101
P 3844 0966 F 3844 6706
esther@merivale.org.au

Micah Homelessness Services

Brisbane Homelessness Service Centre
62 Peel Street South Brisbane
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane
P 3036 4444 F 3036 4400
micah@bhsc.net.au

Young Mothers for Young Women

Butterfly Place
11A Sussex Street West End
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane 4101
P 3013 6000 F 3013 6013
ymyw@merivale.org.au

Visit us at www.micah.merivale.org.au