



Open House

In 1971 George Farrington noticed a need within the community, as locals from various backgrounds, faiths and cultures desired positive friendships, a person to share their funny, sad and celebratory moments with. Open House expanded its services but its heart has remained the same, why? Because the importance of friendship and support is just as relevant today, as it was in 1971.

Consequently the doors of Open House were opened to provide a drop in space where people could find a sense of belonging and friendship. Over the next four decades Open

**New Hope,
New Chance,
New Life.**

1971 vs 2016

"Reflecting on the early days of Open House reminds me that the things that mattered then - still matter today. When my friend and I (aged 13) wandered in to Open House we were just looking for something to do and a place to go, the lure of a pool table and table tennis were very attractive, but fundamentally it was about a place to go and hang out. What struck me from the onset was the friendship, the way the volunteers connected with us and were interested in what we were doing in our lives and from there developed the friendship. From that point Open House shifted from a place to go and hang out, to a place where we belonged and built friendships.

The importance of friendship can't be underestimated. The way that many of our social services are going is such that the role of friendship is being undervalued. Sadly all the research points the other way – in reality people make changes and grow to potential in the context of supportive relationships.

Reflecting back, my life could have gone in many destructive directions but for the friendships and influence of Open House; the values and beliefs helped me choose positive alternatives. Many of those friendships still influence my life today and I am who I am because of the friendships that have guided and supported me over the years."

Written By George Giuliani

Just like in 1971 there are still pressing issues facing our community and Open House is committed to hold to its roots and remain at the centre of it all, continuing to provide the respite and support needed to make a difference in peoples lives.

Our Vision:

To be a place where people belong.

Our Mission:

To give long term friendship and support to youth and adults.



Updates

Fun4Teens

Fun4Teens is returning to its Drop-In Centre roots, the program will now merge with the youth cafe and run from 3:30-10:30 without any breaks in between programs. If you wish to enquire about the program please contact Harmony or Tim, ph:9450 7600

Clubwork Sing Along

Friday Club visited Wendy's home for a BBQ lunch and sung some songs with great delight. So much so the neighbours commented on how wonderful they sounded. Singing and playing music is a vital component to the wellbeing of

clubwork participants. The support and encouragement they give each other is overwhelming. It's beautiful to see how much each participant is growing within this group.

Youth Workshop Mentoring Program

The Female Workshop has partnered with Days for Girls International and the Sisters of Charity to put together washable hygiene kits which will be sent off to third world countries and will make a difference in the lives of many women and girls.



\$1,400

was raised at the March 14th Bunnings BBQ, thank you to all those who assisted on the day. All this money will go to support Open House.

THANK-YOU

The Sisters of Charity have generously provided a grant to the YWMP for sewing machines and overlockers. Consequently our participants have been able to sew some washable hygiene kits to send to third world countries.



Our People

New Volunteers

We would like to welcome; Nathan Turner, Alex Vasilevski, Yik Pun, Crystal Power, Danielle Herry, Sarge Selvarajah, Andy O'Meara, Eliza Ammassalorso, Maddie Clement, Hooman Mihanazadeh, Wendy Barlow, Naveli Mehta, Stella Ross, Ashleigh Allen, Alan Urquhart, Prithi Rajiv who have joined the Open House family in the last six months, make sure you say hello!

If you are interested in volunteering here with us please ring our volunteer coordinator on 9450 7600

Happy 70th Birthday
Elizabeth!



Bequests

We are very grateful to those donors who have in the past remembered Open House in their estate planning. Bequests to Open House contribute significantly to our long term financial wellbeing and help us ensure the success of our many programs on an ongoing basis. Naming Open House in your will is

not difficult and you can designate any amount of your estate that you wish. As you make plans for your estate we hope that you will consider a bequest to us. For more information on Bequests and other gifts to Open House please contact our reception on 9450 7600.

Open House Christian Involvement Centres

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