



**Lighthouse**<sup>®</sup>  
Foundation

*Giving homeless kids a future*

## About Lighthouse Foundation

### The Problem:

In Australia, around 105,000 people are homeless on any given night. Around half of them are under 24 years of age and many of their problems are complex.

### The Lighthouse Solution:

Lighthouse provides vulnerable young people at risk of homelessness with a safe, stable family-style home environment, coupled with on-going counselling, support and life-skills training programs, tailored to meet each individual's needs. Through their Lighthouse experience, these young people are healed and learn again to relate to others, rebuild their lives and reintegrate into the community.

### What the Young People Have to Say:

Before coming to Lighthouse, Natalie had been in and out of refuges and living on the streets. Her family had forced her from home because of her drug dependency, which stemmed from the emotional and sexual abuse she'd suffered there. Her mother was ill, her stepfather an alcoholic, and since she was ten years old she'd taken responsibility for her two younger brothers who suffered from disabilities.

Natalie is now twenty and has been living at Lighthouse for two years. With the support of the clinical care team, she has been totally drug-free for eighteen months, and her self-confidence and self-esteem are soaring.

*Lighthouse feels safe and secure, and I feel free to spread my wings, Natalie said.*

### Lighthouse and 'Polly and Me':

The story of Polly mirrors the stories of many Lighthouse young people. Lighthouse has established a Mother and Babies Program that supports young homeless mothers and their babies and breaks the cycle of child maltreatment and future homelessness that the film depicts.

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### Lighthouse is doing a big job – but we can't do it alone.

We seek individuals, corporate and philanthropic organisations to get involved in the Mothers and Babies Program and join with us to help the most vulnerable members of our community.

Want to know more? Call (03) 9093 7500 : [www.lighthousefoundation.org.au](http://www.lighthousefoundation.org.au)

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*'I wish I had a place to live where I feel safe. Where I don't hear dad yelling and mum crying and where I don't have to hide in my room waiting for the footsteps 'cause I'm next'.*

(Lisa, one of the Lighthouse young people)