



Making a Difference

FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND

*Ask them to do the same,
we need your help!*

Welcome

*to the newsletter of the
Second Chance
Programme that reports on
the activities of the SCP –
and which seeks your help
to give homeless women a
second chance to take
charge of their lives.*

For Queensland in 2011, the relentless rain has resulted in 'the summer of sorrows'. Given that post-flood, there is less affordable housing than there was –pre-flood, the need for homes is greater than it has ever been. Not just for younger women (previously the group in most need), not just for older women (increasingly in financial difficulties): it's also for women with children who have lost everything.

This is a challenging scenario for SCP -- and it is in a climate where funds are in greater demand but harder to raise.

AGM

On May 10th a new committee was elected at the AGM: the following report introduces the SCP members and their various responsibilities.

dale spender: (Chair, networker)



Has been the president for the past few years; she has a background in writing, public speaking, broadcasting and academic/ educational consulting. A former chair of the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) she is currently an adjunct Professor at James Cook University, and the deputy chair of the State Library of Queensland.

Marjorie Morton (Treasurer, record keeper)



Marjorie Morton has been the treasurer since Second Chance became an incorporated body.

Trained as a radiation therapist in the days when women, once married could no longer hold permanent positions in the Public Service, she founded a food brokerage business which has morphed into a national company, marketing and distributing disposable food packaging. A large proportion of the products her company stocks are also manufactured by companies held by the family. The skills utilised to fund a rapidly growing business for such a long time are the same skills required to make best use of the hard earned funds and to keep the records



Vicki Scott (Deputy Chair, chief organiser)



Vicki has worked in government at Federal and State levels where she has managed large projects – such as CHOGM and the Reconciliation March over the Harbour Bridge. She has a talent for developing 'best practice' outlines for events and projects and is the cofounder of STARS, which runs *Bootcamp 4 Life* programs; she has also worked in Indigenous Affairs for over 20 years.

Abby Hills (Brisbane Girls Grammar School Liaison)



Is a teacher at Brisbane Girls Grammar School, responsible (among many other things) for the student Second Chance Program leadership project. BGGGS SCP committee raises money, undertakes blanket drives and puts together comfort packs for homeless women, and Abby's writing talents are employed in providing guidance for the girls and reports for SCP. Her social skills assist her in developing community links and activities that bring the girls into contact with homeless young women and which encourage them to appreciate the purpose, possibilities and personal satisfaction of service to others.

Pia du Pradal (Prizes and networks)



Pia du Pradal has had a second career as a successful Brisbane based fashion designer and manufacturer. (She was once an anthropologist in Botswana.) She has been on the committee for several years and enjoys working together with the team in raising money to help homeless women overcome their desperate situation. Being entrenched in the local business community (and a member of Women Chiefs of Enterprise International) she is generally able to rally their support through the donation of prizes for the Second Chance fundraising events.

Kathleen Noonan (Media)



Kathleen Noonan is a Brisbane-based journalist and columnist. She is a feature writer and weekly columnist for The Courier-Mail. She has a broad career in journalism, having started reporting in rural Queensland before moving to Brisbane to work for The Courier-Mail and The Australian. For a number of years, she worked overseas as a reporter and sub-editor in South Africa and the UK.

Zara Sexton (Marketing, web page etc)



Zara Sexton is one of the 'younger' members who commenced fund raising for Second Chance long before she became a member of the committee and she has brought to Second Chance her well-developed skills in organization and marketing. She is a business development consultant at Freehills.

Molly Hitchcock: (Project Manager)



Molly Hitchcock has recently joined the Second Chance committee and brings experience and skills in project management and strategy development. In her role as a Project/Change Manager at KPMG, Molly has worked with private, government and not-for-profit organisations to design and implement operational strategy projects. Molly is delighted to have the opportunity to work with the committee to help develop and support the growth and success of the Second Chance Programme.

Cate Heyworth Smith (Secretary, lawyer)



A barrister, Cate has practised in London and is currently at the private bar in Brisbane. Her legal experience and skills as an advocate, and her knowledge of corporate governance are a great resource in her role as secretary: Cate has been a member of other boards and has undertaken pro-bono work for the Welfare Rights Centre.



PROGRESS

The last year has seen some changes at SCP: the workload of the committee forever expands as increasing demands are made to evaluate, select and monitor projects. We welcome Molly Hitchcock, who is joining the committee, whose expertise in project management adds to the committee's range of skills.

In 2010 – 2011, SCP had reached the goal of assisting 284 homeless women through the 'bridge the gap' project with Brisbane Housing Company; in the forthcoming year we have set our sights on reaching the target of assisting 500 women off the streets. This requires serious commitment.

With the benefit of a few serious strategy sessions, SCP has focused on what we do, and how we do it. Simply stated:

- We get women off the street.
- We support them to become self-sufficient.
- We enable them to live independently in their own homes.

We do this:

- By funding the rent gap. (Brisbane Housing Company)
- By funding tickets home. (Bahloo Women's Youth Shelter)
- By supporting accommodation. (Najidah Domestic Violence Refuge)
- By funding goods and furniture etc.

And to achieve these goals – WE HAVE TO RAISE MONEY!

WHAT WE DO

Fundraising: 2011

Brisbane Girls Grammar School International Women's Day Lunch at the Brisbane Club: the 100th anniversary of IWD on the 8th March made this year's lunch a special event. Jenny Bott was the stimulating speaker and SCP is most appreciative of the generosity of BGGIS – and of the supporters of the raffle. (Our thanks to our long time supporter Liz Kratz for providing the colour-appropriate necklace as the prize.) A surcharge on all the tickets was donated to SCP.

Donors and Sponsors

SCP is most fortunate to be the recipient of grants from the Talbot Foundation and very generous individual donors. We are most grateful to our valued sponsors who range from Freehills Lawyers (where the committee meets) to the major sponsors of our events. (We would welcome more sponsors and donors to help us achieve our target.)

SCP is also pleased to announce that The University of Queensland Business School has agreed to sponsor our Business Breakfast series for the next five years. UQ

Business School is ranked in the world's top 100 by the Economist for its highly regarded MBA program and by the Financial Times as a top 50 provider in the world for Corporate Education. Dean of UQ Business School, Professor Iain Watson said he is delighted to be joining forces with Second Chance. "Working with Second Chance gives us the opportunity to support and work alongside a pioneering program which really makes a difference to homeless women."

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Brisbane Housing Company remains SCP's major partner. At the end of January 2011, SCP had assisted 350 women off the streets, and 284 of them were with the BHC through the 'bridge the gap' program. This year the committee has set a target of 500 women – some of whom will live in apartments furnished by SCP. Green Square, the latest project of BHC is now occupied, but SCP committee was invited to 'inspect the premises' when under construction.



The SCP committee inspecting BHC at Green Square

Glenis Wilkinson is one of the 20 women tenants supported by SCP who have now taken up residence. She says she was 'overwhelmed' when she found that she did not have to try and find second hand furniture but could walk straight into her newly furnished home.



Inside a unit at Green Square

BHC has six new developments in the pipeline. Among them are the recently commenced \$26 million complex at Chermiside (84 contemporary apartments) and the in-progress \$18 million one at Woolloongabba (73 units). The Church Street development in Fortitude Valley and the Richmond Apartments in Bowen Hills are scheduled for completion this year. SCP thanks the staff at BHC for their support and willingness to engage with the committee to maintain and extend the bridge the gap program.

**WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR GOAL
500 WOMEN HOUSED BY THE END OF 2011**



Anglican Women's Hostel: since its inception, SCP has funded accommodation at the AWH – which has been of benefit to many women. SCP regularly receives reports on the women who have been assisted by SCP funds.

Najidah: SCP has supported this Sunshine State domestic violence refuge for the past year and is evaluating further possibilities in the future. The reports on this project are positive and very encouraging.

Othila's: The committee has been disappointed by the outcomes of the Othila's pilot project that was designed to house 10 young women. Unfortunately there were difficulties and while the pilot study has been completed, SCP has decided not to pursue such a model in the future.

Bahloo Women's Youth Shelter: In some cases after negotiation, it is possible for young homeless women to return home – but there are no funds to help them. (And it is surprising how far many young women have traveled to get to Brisbane.) SCP maintains a going home fund for Bahloo – that covers everything from bus fares to Toowoomba - to *possible* plane fares to Perth. Sometimes air travel is the only way of ensuring that young women reach the desired destination.

MICAH PROJECTS: SCP is not the only group that raises money to support homeless women: the committee looks forward to working with MICAH in the future.

50 Lives 50 Homes Update

Micah Projects and 50 Lives 50 Homes campaign partners were so excited at the start of this year to reach our initial goal of housing 50 of Brisbane's vulnerable homeless people! Despite the difficulties caused by the floods, we have now housed 73 people, representing a 24% decrease in the people sleeping rough in Brisbane. 30 (41%) of the people housed are women.

Micah Projects and the Brisbane Flood

On day one of the Brisbane flood crisis Micah Projects began work at the RNA Evacuation Centre. We registered new arrivals (1,613 evacuees) and assisted the Red Cross to make the evacuees as comfortable as possible, as well as managing 210 volunteers. Our role quickly changed to relocating people into temporary accommodation (582 people) and we continue to support those who are at risk of homelessness. We worked closely with the Department of Communities to house 37 households made homeless by the flood and whose circumstances meant secure alternate accommodation was difficult, e.g. elderly person with no family, renters with no insurance, expectant mother. We remain in contact with these families and individuals. Donations to our Flood Relocation Assistance Fund are being used to keep people housed who can't return to their homes and to buy essential items for those returning to their flood affected homes.

SCP at BRISBANE GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The students of the Brisbane Girls' Grammar School Second Chance Committee have been very busy raising funds and awareness this Semester and so far the year has got off to a flying start. The first activity for the year

was the annual Valentine's Day bake stall which required girls in the committee to bake yummy goods for sale. The fundraiser was a great success and nearly \$1000 was raised on the day.

At the end of this term, representatives from Zig Zag visited the committee to speak to the girls about what the organisation does in the community and the realities of homelessness and working with the homeless. Currently the students are taking part in a national short film competition on youth homelessness, running bake stalls for school productions, setting up a postcard art project with Zig Zag and organising the Second Chance stall for Open Day.

In May, six girls from the SC committee spent some time with clients at the Pindari Women's Shelter in Spring Hill. The girls 'donated' a pamper evening for the women which included delicious desserts, makeovers, facials and foot spas. The women were clearly touched by the students' efforts to make them feel special. The students too found it very moving

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

UQ Business School -- BREAKFAST WITH BRODERICK!

SHE'S articulate, smart, deeply personable and at the centre of red-hot gender issues in Australia today. Elizabeth Broderick, Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner, is the first speaker of *The Second Chance UQ Business School 2011 Breakfast Series*.

The Second Chance UQ Business School 2011 Breakfast Series follows last year's highly successful event with Therese Rein, businesswoman and passionate homelessness activist.

Join us for breakfast with Elizabeth Broderick, Wednesday July 20 at The Brisbane Hilton.

For more information about this event, go to our website www.secondchanceprogramme.com.au and download the invitation.

To book, contact Cheryl le Cerf clecerf@mpmmarketing.com.au 3853 5816

Swing into Spring 2011

Swing into Spring, our annual major fundraiser, will be held on 9 September at Mirra. Tickets are \$120. For further information, go to our website www.secondchanceprogramme.com.au

UQ Business School

SCP is also pleased to announce that our breakfast speaker later in the year is MALCOLM TURNBULL.

