

Need Urgent Assistance? Please Call
1800 825 955



“I was empowered to change my life” – Andy

August 2018

Like so many people who suddenly find their circumstances have changed and are potentially facing homelessness, Andy said he put off asking for help. But he wished he hadn't, because the support from BeyondHousing has empowered him to change his life.

“I was down, really depressed with what had happened and I didn't know where to turn. You don't like to ask for help – initially it was embarrassing but BeyondHousing staff understand and the fact that they are really empathetic, really helps you,” Andy said.

Andy was studying for a new career when his partner left and returned, three times. This affected his mental health and the health and wellbeing of his two children.

He breached a court order and ended up in the justice system. As a result, many things suffered including his finances; he was well behind in paying his rent.

“BeyondHousing helped me with things like seeing a financial counsellor and planning payments to bring down my rent arrears. The counsellor made me realise I had to focus on priorities and BeyondHousing also put me in touch with local services such as a no interest loan for a washing machine and refrigerator, free food from the Salvation Army and help with utility bills.”

“I'd tell anyone who is struggling, to use the services available. Just remember life can turn so fast – don't be ashamed, get out there and seek help. It's only going to improve your quality of life.”

Andy

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Andy was assisted through the Sustaining Tenancies At Risk (STAR) program where he also accessed the Children's Brokerage Fund. This contributed to educational and extra-curricular costs for his children.

"They gave me help I didn't know existed. Being able to go out with the kids to do their swimming is what kids need and helps me connect with the community.

"My relationship with my children is my main focus and after having done a men's behavioural program and having less financial strain, I can focus on giving them all the opportunities in life. It's amazing to see it happening. I am in a much better space than I was.

"I'd tell anyone who is struggling, to use the services available. Just remember life can turn so fast – don't be ashamed, get out there and seek help. It's only going to improve your quality of life."