



FAN

# Family Access Network Spring Newsletter 2023 - Volume 123

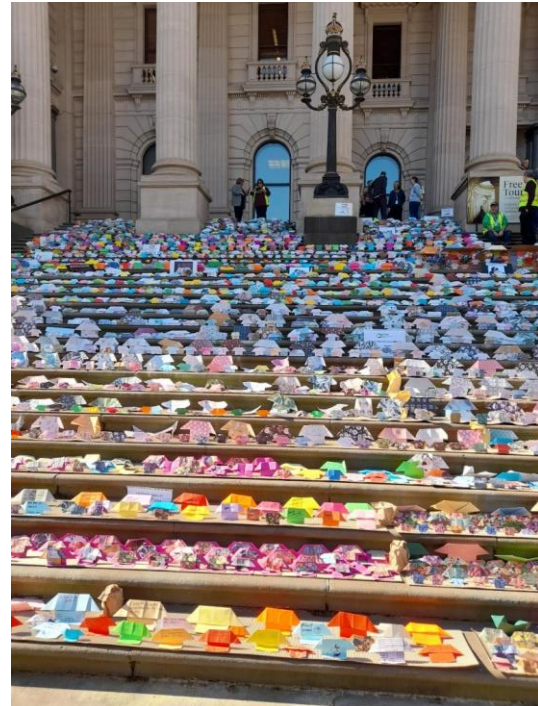
## CEO UPDATE

Welcome to the FAN Spring Newsletter.

For many, winter can be a hard time especially for those who are experiencing homelessness. During the colder months it can be particularly challenging for young people and families who have no roof over their head.

The theme for Homelessness Week in 2023 is, **Its Time to End Homelessness.** National Homelessness Week 7-13 August is when Australia shines a light on homelessness and the long-term solutions such as a coordinated approach and social housing. In Australia there are over 122,000 people who have no home on any given night. Homelessness Week aims to raise awareness of the impact of homelessness in Australia via national and local community events, including providing information on the importance of housing as a solution and educating communities on how they can make a difference.

This year FAN was involved in a campaign at Parliament House with over 6,000 origami houses on display to highlight the urgent need to address the housing crisis and end homelessness. To end homelessness we need to ensure people have adequate incomes, have access to affordable housing and are free from violence.



I would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their support of FAN in recent months, thank you, your support goes directly to our clients and assists them to achieve their goals:

- Melbourne Inclusive Church
- Colin Bellis
- City of Whitehorse

Please note we are holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in person on Wednesday, 4 October 2023 which will be via invitation. The Annual Report will be available on our website immediately after the AGM.

The newsletter contains lots of important updates on what has been happening at FAN, please do take the time to read.

Regards  
Michelle



## Client Services

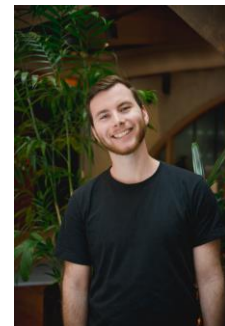
This quarter we welcome Cameron Darling and Dalton Kealey to the talented team at FAN.



**Cameron Darling (he/him)**  
**Pride in Place Service Navigator**

Cam joined FAN as the Pride in Place (PIP) Service Navigator in June.

In his role he works with young people who identify as LGBTIQ+ who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Prior to working in PIP, Cam worked in the human services, community services and education sectors. He has worked in many different roles including service delivery, network support and policy development in a career spanning more than 30 years. Cam is an active community advocate for people who are marginalised particularly people living with HIV. His interests include community development, community engagement, homelessness/housing and sexual health.



**Dalton Kealey (he/him)**  
**LGBTIQ Specialist Youth Worker**

Dalton joined FAN as LGBTIQ Specialist Youth Worker in July.

In his role he provides case management support to LGBTIQ+ young people residing in Transitional Housing and project support to the Eastern Diversity Group (EDG). Prior to joining the team, Dalton worked as a Program Administrator organising LGBTIQ+ youth mental health training in regional Victoria.

With an educational background in Community Services and work history in the legal and property sectors, combined with strong rapport building ability and an approachable and vivacious nature, Dalton is a valuable member of the FAN team.

# Homeless Support Services

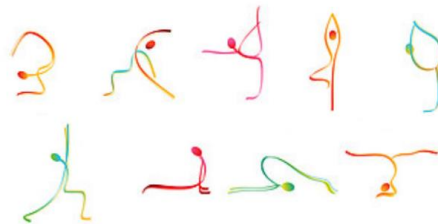
As we bid farewell to the colder months of the year, Spring provides an opportunity to reconnect, rediscover, and revitalise our minds and bodies. The importance of reconnecting after the cold, dark days of winter cannot be overstated. There is no better time to rekindle relationships, rediscover passions, and renew ourselves for the bright days ahead.

## Reconnecting with our friends and family

As spring unfolds, the environment around us seems to come alive again, and so do our social connections. With the warmer weather there is no better time to reach out to friends and family whose contact might have tapered off over the winter months. For Mums and LGBTIQ folks, perhaps now is good time to attend our Young Mums Group (YMG) & EDG.

## Renewing the mind and body

After the often-sedentary lifestyle of winter, we can easily be excused for neglecting our health and well-being. Spring offers a chance to engage in healthier habits, such as regular exercise, outdoor yoga, or taking a walk in your local botanical garden. Spending time outdoors boost our mood and energy levels, providing a natural remedy for the winter blues.



## Embrace growth and change

It is hard not to be inspired by the blossoming flowers, sprouting leaves that comes along with Spring. Similarly, it presents us with an opportunity to reflect on our own personal growth and embrace positive changes. With the changing of the seasons, it is not only a perfect opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments but also a time to renew our focus and set goals with a deeper understanding of our aspirations.



## Private Rental Brokerage Program

The Private Rental Brokerage Program (PRBP) offers a range of services to young people through skills-based education on the private rental market and flexible brokerage packages. These supports have proved crucial in assisting young people with accessing and maintaining housing in the private rental market and ending the cycle of homelessness. The program enables young people to be more competitive when applying for private rental as well as improving budgeting skills and education on tenants' rights and responsibilities. Feedback on the program continues to be positive and shows the true impact on young people's lives.

***'Very grateful and thankful for all the support offered it made the moving process possible and a lot less stressful!'***

***'I just wanna thank the rental program for all the help.'***

***'Just to say a big thank you to the Private Rental Brokerage Program for always helping when I was in need.'***

***'Thank you for this amazing program and worker. If it wasn't for this program we don't know how we could have been in our home we have now. We are so thankful and appreciative for this program and for the workers who make it happen.'***

*If you are interested in the PRBP, please call FAN on 9890 2673 and ask to speak with a youth support worker.*

## Pathways to Resilience - Talking With Pride

Talking with Pride (TWP) is an arts-based group for LGBTIQ+ young people (ages 15-25) who have experienced family violence. Experiences of family violence includes having their identity and/or appearance being dismissed, controlled or put down by parents, siblings, and/or partners. TWP is offered under the Pathway to Resilience partnership between FAN, Uniting, Australian Childhood Foundation, Safe Futures and EACH.

During Term 3, TWP participants have been working together to create a zine as part of Amy's Art Therapy placement with FAN. Young people have been invited to contribute visual art works, poetry, short stories or any other content they felt called to create. The zine is a curated collection of art centred around the themes of pride, voice and self-expression. We are excited to see the final results.

TWP is now accepting referrals for Term 4 and we are keen to welcome to new members to the program. The group meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons during school terms, is free to attend and all materials and snacks are provided.

*If you or someone you know would like to join the TWP group or would like to know more about the program, please contact Jess on 9890 2673 or [jinnes-irons@fan.org.au](mailto:jinnes-irons@fan.org.au)*



# Life Skills

## Young Mums Group

YMG was back for Term 3 with an amazing event packed calendar.



YMG is a social support group for mums under the age of 25 years. We facilitate different activities where mums can socialise with their little ones and take part in some great activities.

*If you are interested in attending the group, please contact Oriana on 9890 2673 or [ophutully@fan.org.au](mailto:ophutully@fan.org.au)*



## Eastern Diversity Group

EDG is a social support group for young people aged 15-25 who are of diverse gender identities, expressions, sexualities, and/or sex characteristics who are, or are at risk of becoming homeless. EDG continues to have a positive impact on the lives of LGBTIQ+ young people, serving as a safe, supportive, and welcoming space. The next season brings with it exciting LGBTIQ+ days such as Wear it Purple Day, Bisexuality Day and Trans Day of Remembrance.

On 24 August, FAN hosted activities outside of Box Hill Mall for Wear It Purple Day. This is an annual nation-wide event designed to honour and celebrate LGBTIQ+ young people.

Photos from FAN Wear It Purple Day



If you were unable to join us in celebration of our LGBTIQ+ young people, LGBTIQ+ community members and allies can still show support through various means such as; sharing words of affirmation on social media platforms, hosting a Wear it Purple event in your workplace or wearing purple attire.



# VOLUNTEER *opportunities*



## ***Youth Mentor (live in position) - Balwyn***

FAN is currently seeking to engage a Live in Youth Mentors to assist us to support three young people in a shared living house in Balwyn. This is a voluntary live-in position that involves a 12-month commitment in exchange **for rent free accommodation**. The purpose of the position is to act as a role model for young people to help them live in independent shared accommodation and is not a professional support role. This position offers ongoing training and support.

*If you are interested in any opportunities, please call Oriana on 9890 2673.*



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## Useful Contacts

### Housing Assistance

Eastern Region Opening Doors 1800 825 955  
Melbourne City Mission Youth Support 9614 3688

### Crisis Counselling

Lifeline – 24hrs 13 11 14  
Suicide Helpline - 24hrs 1300 651 251  
Kids Help Line - 24hrs 1800 551 800  
Mens Line 1300 789 978  
Parentline 13 22 89  
First Nations Support 13YARN - 13 92 76

### Sexual Assault

Eastern CASA 9895 3281  
Sexual Assault Crisis Line 1800 806 292

### Health

Family Planning Victoria 9257 0100  
Maternal & Child Health line 13 22 29  
Nurse On Call - 24hrs 1300 60 60 24  
Health Ability After Hours Mental Health Nursing Service 1300 003 509

### Domestic Violence

1800RESPECT 1800 737 732 Sexual Assault, Domestic & Family Violence Counselling Service  
Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre 1800 015 188  
The Orange Door - Inner Eastern Melbourne 1800 354 322  
The Orange Door - Outer Eastern Melbourne 1800 271 150  
Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS) 9259 4200

### Child Abuse

Child Protection Crisis Line 13 12 78  
Child Abuse Prevention Services 1800 688 009

### Legal Help

Eastern Community Legal Centre 1300 32 52 00  
South East Monash Legal Services 9545 7400 or 9038 8002

### Alcohol & Drugs

Direct Line 24hrs 1800 888 236  
Youth drug and alcohol advice (YoDDA) - 24hrs 1800 458 685  
Eastern Consortium of Alcohol and Drug Services (ECADS) 1800 778 278

### Sexuality & Gender Identity

Rainbow Door Switchboard call 1800 729 367 or text 0480 017 246  
Q-Life 1800 184 527  
Transgender Victoria 9517 6613