



“  
**I don't know where  
we would be without  
WestCare by our side**” - Maggie says

Not long ago, Maggie never imagined she would be without a home.

She had worked hard all her life. She was a nurse. A carer. Someone who looked after other people. But when her husband was injured and couldn't work, everything changed.

***“One minute you're coping,”*** Maggie says.  
The next, you're just trying to get through the day.”

After months of sleeping rough and worrying about food, washing, and where they would be safe, Maggie was directed to BaptistCare SA's WestCare Centre by a volunteer who noticed she was struggling.

“That was the turning point for us,” she says.

***“If WestCare wasn't there, honestly, we would've been in real trouble.”***

### **A place to breathe and begin again.**

At WestCare, Maggie found a place to shower, share a meal, and sit down without judgement. It gave her and her husband the chance to breathe, to regroup, and to start rebuilding.

With practical help, referrals, and ongoing support, they were eventually able to secure housing. But the need didn't disappear.

***“I don't take anything for granted now,”*** Maggie says.



“Even simple things, like boiling the kettle and having a cuppa somewhere I can relax, still feel like a novelty sometimes.”

Today, Maggie volunteers at WestCare. She helps with the laundry, makes sure towels are clean and ready, and looks out for others who come through the doors each day.

“It might not seem like much,” she says with a smile, “but I worry about people having clean towels, having what they need. Those little things make a big difference when you’re doing it tough.”

### **Giving back doesn’t mean the need is gone.**

Maggie is a bundle of energy and is always on the go. Hanging washing. Wiping tables. Clearing plates. She rarely sits still.

*“I’ve been there,” she says.*

“You don’t forget what it feels like. You just want to help where you can.”

Her story shows what WestCare makes possible. But it also shows how fragile stability can be.

Having housing doesn’t mean life is suddenly easy. WestCare remains a lifeline, a place of connection and belonging, not just for Maggie, but for hundreds of people every week.

### **A growing need we can’t ignore.**

Older women are now one of the fastest-growing groups experiencing homelessness in Australia.

More people are walking a tightrope between coping and crisis. Rising living costs and housing stress mean that when support networks fall away, it doesn’t take much for someone to slip into hardship or homelessness.