



Once you lose stable accommodation, everything starts to unravel

 - Andrea

Not long ago, Andrea turned to BaptistCare during one of the most difficult periods of her life. She had lived in the same home for more than ten years and built a life there. Then the homeowner needed the room back for family, and suddenly Andrea found herself searching for somewhere else to live.

“I thought I’d be able to find another place fairly quickly; I never imagined it would become almost impossible to find somewhere affordable.”

At the time, Andrea was living on a limited income while managing ongoing health issues and continuing her studies. As rental prices climbed, housing became harder to secure and things started to unravel.

“It all happened really quickly, you’re constantly thinking... where am I going to go next?”

As Andrea’s situation became more uncertain, she was connected with BaptistCare and offered a room at Wright Place.

“I remember thinking... I can finally breathe.”

The small room, with a single bed, ensuite and somewhere to make a cuppa, felt comforting after weeks of uncertainty. Combined with the support of a case worker, things slowly started to change. “There was always someone there, if you needed help, you weren’t on your own.” Over time, Andrea began to feel safe enough to think beyond immediate survival.

Once you feel safe, you can actually start thinking again.

baptistcare.org.au

With support from the BaptistCare team, Andrea was able to continue studying while beginning to rebuild her life. "I kept to myself at first, there's a lot of shame when you lose your housing."

Over time, shared meals, cups of tea and simple conversations with other women helped her feel less alone. For Andrea, Wright Place was the first step towards stability.

The WestCare Centre became another important source of practical help and community.

For people sleeping rough or living on the brink of homelessness, WestCare can be a lifeline, offering meals, showers, healthcare, support services and a place where people are treated with dignity.

This winter, we urgently need your support to help more people move from crisis towards stability through the support of Wright Place and the WestCare Centre. Andrea was able to access a range of support through WestCare, including an optometrist so she could receive a new pair of glasses she desperately needed. "The WestCare Centre is more than a place to eat, it's somewhere you feel safe. You're not judged and you can access the support you need."

Each week, WestCare provides 653 free meals and support for people with nowhere else to turn. Unlike many services, WestCare receives no government funding and relies entirely on community support.

Your gift today can help people access safe accommodation, meals, practical support and connection when they need it most.

Today, Andrea is living independently in her own home. She enjoys riding her bike along the beach and hosting simple BBQs for friends in her courtyard. Small things that once felt out of reach now help her feel connected, settled and safe again.

With the cost of living continuing to increase, Andrea still faces challenges, though she now has stability, hope and a supportive community around her. She has also returned to WestCare as a volunteer, giving back to the people who supported her through one of the hardest times in her life.

"I was lucky, I had the right support at the right time."

This winter, more people than ever will turn to BaptistCare for help.

Please give generously today.



With heartfelt thanks,

Hugh Ballantyne

Fundraising Manager

WestCare Centre, BaptistCare

*** P.S.** More people across South Australia are facing homelessness and housing insecurity for the first time.

Your support today can help someone access meals, safety and a pathway forward through WestCare and Wright Place.

Donations of \$2 or more to BaptistCare are tax-deductible in Australia.

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