

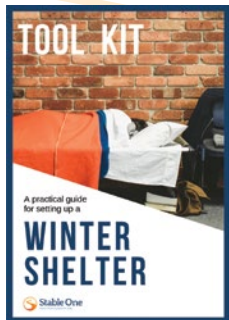
Interested in Starting a Winter Shelter?

Stable One Winter Shelter Network

Join a growing movement of churches who are responding practically to the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

As a network affiliate you will receive personalised assistance and be equipped to start and run a shelter, including:

- Toolkit containing a comprehensive project description along with detailed operational policies and procedures, sample forms, role descriptions and a volunteer handbook
- Project Coordinator training, support and consultancy
- Online Coordinator's forum
- Annual conference to share learnings, collaborate and develop best practice.



"The Toolkit and evaluation documents are invaluable ...It was not really until I volunteered to be the Project Coordinator (some weeks later) that I really understood the level of work you had done to pull all of this together."

Contact us for more information.

Our Vision

More than a place to stay

We recognize that homelessness is not just a lack of shelter. The Church is uniquely positioned and called to care for 'the least of these' (Matt 25:40)

Our Values

Integrity

- In honouring God we honour people
- We are transparent and accountable
- We treat all people with respect and dignity

Community

- Each person matters
- We prioritise connection and inclusion
- We journey with people towards stability

Unity

- We work together as the Church
- We collaborate with Others



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Winter Shelter Network

"When I had no place to stay, you invited me in."

Matt 25:35 (TPT)



stableone.org

The Stable One Story

Stable One was established as a registered charity after a group of Christians from different churches met together for prayer in the middle of Winter 2016. They asked God what they could do to help those who were homeless in their community and they listened. He answered:

- Be the Church and love people like Jesus
- Work together
- If you only help one person, it's worth doing

Stable One's mission is to support the Church as it works together to share the love of God by providing accommodation to those in need. To journey with each person towards stability, offering physical and spiritual care.

After a long period of research and consultation, Stable One developed a model for running a Winter Shelter. They partnered with churches in the Yarra Valley in the winter of 2017 to pilot a successful program. Using their buildings as venues and members as volunteers, churches were able to throw open their doors and provide hospitality to those who otherwise would have nowhere safe and warm to sleep.

"Hospitality means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place."

— Henri Nouwen



Winter Shelters – The Model



Churches agree to come together to run a Winter Shelter in their area and each take one night of the week as host. Volunteers from churches and the community are recruited, vetted and trained to staff the shelter filling evening, overnight and morning shifts. Guests are assessed for eligibility before being invited to stay and are provided with dinner, dormitory style sleeping and breakfast.

Winter Shelters help to fill a critical need for crisis accommodation at the coldest time of year. At the same time they also provide **more than a place to stay**. There are benefits to the Church, to volunteers, to guests and to the community.

The Church gets to *be* the Church – the people of God on mission, loving others. Volunteers have an experience which money can't buy as they step outside their comfort zone and learn first-hand what life is like for people they may otherwise have no contact with. Guests are given shelter and connection with people who genuinely care and are supported to link in with services who can help them. The community has a solution, albeit temporary, to the critical need for crisis accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.



From a Guest...

"Thank you for your love and support. Deadset the main reason I'm off drugs is because of this very program."

Bruce* was referred to the Shelter by a local housing agency. He was homeless due to relationship breakdown and had been sleeping in his car. Bruce stayed at the Shelter for 3 ½ weeks and was able to continue his community work each morning. Through networks associated with the Shelter, Bruce was able to move into a share house giving him a stable base and the opportunity to work on his fractured relationships.

From a Pastor...

"Participating has provided members of our church yet another avenue to demonstrate the love of Jesus towards people in our community. One aspect of this ministry that I admire is that we are able to serve in unison, focusing on Kingdom goals, through a wide variety of people expressing an equally diverse number of skills ... all without regard to waving a denominational flag."

— Pastor Michael Drennan, Mooroolbark Baptist Church

*name has been changed