



Patricia
Giles
CENTRE

New Start Kits



Patricia Giles Centre is committed to ending family and domestic violence in our community.

For over 30 years we have been providing a range of services for women and children experiencing and escaping family violence and abuse. We help them find safety, security and stability. We support and empower them to get mentally and physically well so they can get their lives back on track. And we educate and collaborate – always working towards a future free from family and domestic violence.

New Start Kit

New Start Kits are essential items provided to women and children affected by family and domestic violence who have been forced to leave the family home.

The issue

For many women and children affected by family and domestic violence, escape is the only option to ensure their safety. Most leave their family home with very little, and some with almost nothing.

Following a stay in crisis accommodation they need to seek more permanent housing. There are a wide variety of expenses associated with setting up a new home and household essentials are some of the largest ones. Often these are needed at the same time that access to family funds or bank accounts may be restricted or unclear. Violent perpetrators can use financial abuse as a control mechanism so many women don't even have a bank account in their own name, adding more financial hardship.

Our solution

When women and their children leave our crisis accommodation to take up permanent housing, we provide them with **New Start Kits**. These kits provide families with some essential household items such as a fridge, washing machine, kitchen appliances and utensils.

New Start Kits aim to ease the financial burden they are under and help families make a fresh start free from the fear of violence.

This program is complimentary to, and runs alongside of, a range of other services we offer to women and children affected by family and domestic violence.



Rachel's story

Rachel (not her real name) fled her violent partner with her two young children when heavily pregnant with her third. After many years of physical, emotional and financial abuse she was exhausted, confused and uncertain about her ability to survive.

Following a period of time at a Patricia Giles Centre refuge and the birth of her baby, Rachel was offered long-term public housing. With no funds and no immediate ability to seek employment Rachel was not able to purchase the essential household items needed to set up her new family home. Adding to her financial issues Rachel discovered her ex-partner had not paid utility bills that were in her name and there was a collection agency pursuing her.

We provided funds via our **New Start Kits** program and assisted Rachel to source furniture, a fridge, and kitchen appliances. Other services and support provided to Rachel included advocating on her behalf with the utility companies, helping her access legal aid, assisting with understanding and filing legal documents, and providing support during ongoing family court issues.

With our support, Rachel was able to set up the new family home for herself and her three children and make a new start.

You can help

The need for **New Start Kits** is constantly growing as more and more families are forced to leave their homes due to family violence. We are asking for your support with this program.

The cost of us providing a **New Start Kit** to support one family is \$3,500.

We have a fundraising target of \$25,000 for our **New Start Kits** program. The more we raise, the more women and children we can help.

Your donation to Patricia Giles Centre's **New Start Kits** program has an immediate and direct affect for women and children who have to leave their family home due to violence. By providing funds used to purchase essential household items you are helping them to make a new start.

Our services

Patricia Giles Centre offers a suite of services to assist women and children affected by family and domestic violence including:

- safe crisis accommodation
- housing support
- women's and children's counselling
- group programs
- advocacy, resources and support

There are a range of programs you can donate to in order to make real difference in the lives of woman and children affected by family and domestic violence. Talk to us about:

- Safe at Home
- Empowerment Program
- Circle of Security
- New Start Kits

Contact us

Please contact us to see how you can help.

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