



FIND **your** path

Pathfinders Supported Independent Living Program

www.pathfinders.ngo

About Pathfinders

Pathfinders' vision is that all children, young people and their families will have a home where they feel they belong, are free from abuse and neglect, are able to achieve their full potential and are supported by appropriate and timely community services.

OUR VISION

Pathfinders provide community care support services to regional, rural, and remote communities. We empower, encourage and connect communities and families with culture, supporting them to thrive and participate to live freely through mutual trust and acceptance.

OUR MISSION

Pathfinders recognise the uniqueness of the culture and country in which we work. We strive to:

- Support and resource a workforce that empowers people to live with hope and equal opportunity, and
- Meet the diverse needs of our programs and strive to surpass expectations.

OUR COMMITMENTS

Social responsibility

A commitment to social responsibility focuses on building a community in which people feel a sense of responsibility, care for each other and the group as a whole and in which people are held accountable for their actions. Non-violence Pathfinders is committed to no-violence in our workplaces, our programs and communities.

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Growth and change

Our commitment to growth and change presents a framework to evaluate current behaviours while focusing on the future.

Emotional intelligence

Our commitment to emotional intelligence creates an environment in which community members understand the relationship between past experiences, emotions and behaviours.

Open communication

A commitment to open communication creates a community that tolerates expression of emotions and openly explores interpersonal and organisational issues.

Social learning

This commitment promotes collaborative thinking and problem solving to break dysfunctional and repetitive patterns through exposure to other's perspectives and ideas. It also mitigates the isolating effects of shame by viewing mistakes as positive learning opportunities.

Democracy

Our commitment to democracy ensures equal participation from all stakeholders.

Cultural Humility

Our commitment to cultural humility encourages ongoing self-reflection, learning and respect for the diverse cultures, identities, experiences and perspectives of others. It recognises that cultural understanding is an ongoing process and supports relationships built on curiosity, openness and respect.

Supported Independent Living

Information for Young People, Carers & Families.

What is SIL?

Our SIL program aims to prepare and support young people in Out-of-Home Care to make a smooth transition to adulthood by providing the chance to experience the realities of independent living with individualised support. In SIL you'll learn the skills needed to live on your own such as paying rent and bills, buying groceries, cooking, cleaning, doing laundry and looking after the property you live in; just to name a few!

Pathfinders also offers Therapeutic Supported Independent Living (TSIL). TSIL provides the same practical support and independent living skill development as SIL, with the additional support of access to a Therapeutic Specialist.

How it works?

Once your referral has been accepted you will have the opportunity to meet with the designated SIL Caseworker and SIL Mentor. This will allow them to get to know you, your wants, hopes and dreams. Your Caseworker will create a SIL mentoring plan in collaboration with you and your mentor to set some very clear goals you wish to achieve over a number of domains e.g education, employment, housing, socially.

As a young person with no rental history, it can be difficult to get approved for a rental lease, so during your time in SIL it is our job to help you find a place to live and support you to obtain your own lease. Pathfinders will assist you in furnishing your property and ensure you have all the necessary items. It is a requirement that each young person accepted into a SIL placement will contribute 25% of their income to rent via Centapay.

Your Caseworker and Mentors will provide you with intensive support to develop your skills and knowledge, including:

- Your rights and responsibilities as a tenant
- Housekeeping and cleaning skills
- Planning, shopping for and cooking easy, affordable, nutritious meals
- Money and budgeting skills to develop financial self-sufficiency
- Education, training and vocational and employment options
- Setting up Centrelink, a Tax File Number, Doctor's appointments etc.

SIL young people receive a maximum of 12 hours a week mentoring. These mentoring sessions are allocated on days and times that suit your needs. Your mentoring plan is reviewed regularly with yourself and your mentoring, ensuring your goals are being met. When your Caseworker is able to see that you are making progress, we are then able to reassess and potentially reduce your mentoring hours to set you up for independence before you are ready to exit the program.

Tilbuster Station

Tilbuster Station was gifted to Pathfinders by a private benefactor. Their wish was that the property be used for child and youth development, and the support of families. The property is utilised as a venue to continue and expand upon the work that Pathfinders does with at risk youth and local families. Through this generosity, Pathfinders is working to turn this property into a multi-functional youth and family centre. With long and short-term plans for renovations and construction, Pathfinders aims to develop this property to eventually become a regional centre for youth and family development.

Disadvantaged young people are participating in a range of agricultural, horticultural and trade skills programs such as crop and vegetable production, animal husbandry, beef cattle production, fencing, welding and building construction.

Programs are designed to enhance self-esteem, skills and work readiness of young people and to instil the values of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity.



Our Tilbuster Station program is possible due to wide public support, the partnerships Pathfinders has developed within the community and the generosity of individual farmers and tradespeople who have stepped forward to assist in this worthwhile endeavour.

Through our innovative partnerships, not only are we showing our young people how to work collaboratively and to give generously, we are also fulfilling the wishes of our generous benefactor.

These partnerships demonstrate the benefit of NGOs working together, the vitality of the local NGO sector and the value young people have within the community.

While we are currently seeking additional funding to further develop Tilbuster Station, we can now begin to utilise the property to expand our current reach and offer new forms of support, education and development to our young people. These community partnerships are a big initial step in that direction. With continued support, Tilbuster Station has the potential to provide even more meaningful learning, training and participation opportunities into the future.

Creating opportunities for young people to contribute to society through meaningful activities and employment is a core philosophy in our service delivery.

Education & Living Skills Programs

The Marie Delaney Training and Education Centre is located at Tilbuster Station. The centre has been built to support multiple educational, training, and cultural programs for our young people, their families and the community.

Currently, Pathfinders is working with our partners NSW TAFE to develop and deliver training courses at Tilbuster including Cert 2 in Carer Preparation which will commence in 2022.

Pathfinders envisage the development of more courses in the future to be run at Tilbuster for our young people and staff.



TRANEE SHIPS

Tilbuster Station is a working farm providing a broad range of opportunities for young people to engage in agricultural, horticultural and trade skills programs such as crop and vegetable production, animal husbandry, beef cattle production, fencing, welding and building construction.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HUB

Pathfinders Cultural Hub is in the process of developing a schedule of activities to be run at Tilbuster Station throughout the year.

These include:

- Culture Camps
- Bush Tucker walks
- Yarning circles

