



An Australian charity  
providing essential material  
aid to displaced children

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## B4VK Philanthropic Opportunities



## Who are we?

Helping vulnerable children one backpack at a time.

Founded in Victoria in 2014, our purpose is to provide quality-filled crisis packs and gift packs for vulnerable children, aged from birth to seventeen years. Our mission quickly expanded in response to requests for children in additional situations, to bring comfort, ease anxiety and to restore dignity as soon as practicable.

Originally our core program, My Essentials Packs, provided material aid to children entering foster care, but grew to include all types of out-of-home care, secure facilities and emergency accommodation. Often children are relocated quickly without much more than what they are wearing at the time of displacement. We now deliver six programs supporting children in crisis.



## Why B4VK exists

There are **45,000 Australian children in out of home care**, which includes Foster Care, Kinship Care, Permanent Care, Emergency/Short Term Care, Residential Care and respite.

On any one night, **over 9,000 children in Victoria are unable to live with their biological parent.**

The number of **children in care is growing by 11%** every year and by 24% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

At this rate of growth, **almost 26,000 children in Victoria will be in care by 2026.**

**1 in 33 children** across Australia are in need of child protection services.

A child in care costs **50% more to raise** than a child with their biological parent.

**The preferred approach is to keep children within the family environment. However, this is often not a viable option. When children have to be removed from their family home, the focus is on “providing children with safety, stability and a sense of security”. Our programs do just that.**

Source: [aihw.gov.au](http://aihw.gov.au)



## The gap in funding

Funding for children in these situations is assessed and allocated on an individual basis. This means that the process can take days, weeks or even months, leaving workers and carers personally responsible for the immediate needs of the children they are supporting.

**That's where Backpacks 4 VIC Kids helps**

Our programs deliver essential items that can change a child's life by providing them comfort, dignity, self-worth and equality in a stressful and frightening time. When children have these items, including their own toiletries, appropriate clothing, a blanket and soft toy, they are easier to settle, feel more secure and, most importantly, they know that there are people who care about them and value their wellbeing.





## Our Values

- ♡ Honesty
- ♡ Fairness
- ♡ Reliability
- ♡ Compassion
- ♡ Inclusion

## Our Vision

All displaced children will have the resources they need, bringing them comfort in their first 24 – 48 hours of displacement and beyond.

## Our Impact

“For some people it looks like just a backpack with some items in it, but for those children who receive it, like Jen\* it’s everything that they have in the world and sometimes it becomes their world”

**Sally Beard, Founder & CEO,  
Backpacks 4 VIC Kids**

*\* Name changed to protect client privacy*



## What we provide Our core programs

### My Essentials (ME) Pack



Easing anxiety and grief in the first 24–48 hours of displacement, increasing self-worth as children arrive at a strange location. Our ME Packs include a backpack or baby care bag and are created in sizes 0000 to 18.

Our ME Packs contain age-appropriate essential items such as:

- Toiletries
- Nappies for sizes 0000–3
- Underwear & clothing
- Sleepwear
- Torch
- Tissues
- Blanket
- Soft toy to cuddle

### School Essentials (SE) Pack



Strengthening engagement in education and increasing equality in the classroom our School Essentials Packs are customised to the specific needs of each child, our School Essentials pack can include:

- Lunch box
- Drink bottle
- Backpack
- Stationery
- Sun hats, socks, hand sanitiser
- Padlock and USB stick

### Christmas 4 Kids in Care



Giving joy to children in out-of-home care and supporting the people who care for them, our B4VK Santa Packs are hand sewn draw-string sacks containing:

- Age and gender appropriate book
- Soft toy
- Educational and activity-based toys

### Disaster Relief (DR) Pack



When everything is lost, our Disaster Relief Packs provide clean fresh clothing, underwear, hope and dignity to children impacted by natural disasters. B4VK responds to particular needs promptly following an event, customising each Disaster Relief Pack in consultation with services on the ground.

### Rough Sleeper (RS) Pack



Restoring dignity and comfort for homeless children and youth, with essentials including toiletries, a beanie, socks, notepad, pen and wipes are packed in a versatile zip-lock bag.

### Tiny Sites Initiative

This is a ground-breaking initiative of Backpacks 4 VIC Kids.

Tiny Sites are refurbished shipping containers, fitted out with solar lighting, pin code operated door, ventilation and shelving. They also provide opportunities for sponsor branding. Working in collaboration with other welfare providers, a wide range of care items are made available inside.

They are usually located on privately owned land. Each Tiny Site houses at least 76 My Essential Packs and other essential items such as nappies, child car restraints, cots and strollers, allowing police officers and social workers to have 24x7 access to support displaced children and the people caring for them.

B4VK Tiny Sites will be rolled out across Victoria to metropolitan and regional areas providing stronger support to more children.

## What We Need

Our supporters are made up of kind-hearted individuals and community groups who donate time and money to support B4VK. We couldn't do this without them.

We look to our philanthropic partners to provide operational level, strategic support to enable B4VK to expand operations and support more children and young people who really need it.

Our vision is bold. To give all displaced children the resources that they need within the first 24-48 hours. To achieve we need the support of our philanthropic partners to enable us to continuously improve and grow.

## Continuous Improvement

We actively seek feedback from carers, children and other stakeholders to identify what is needed and improve the support that we provide. We are proud of our efforts to meet the changing needs of displaced children.

### C4KiC (Christmas 4 Kids in Care)

We started the supply of Christmas presents in 2016 after a special request from the staff of a secure facility. Their usual supply was no longer available to them so they asked for help. Our community responded strongly to our call out for donations, consequently we made further assessment of need and established the Christmas 4 Kids in Care program.



### Tiny Sites

A ground-breaking initiative of Backpacks 4 VIC Kids, our tiny sites are revolutionising the way that our essential material aid can be accessed.

#### What is a Tiny Site?

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#### A current location list:

- TS1 - Keysborough** - Established/active
- TS2 - Bendigo (Junortoun)** - Completed awaiting stock and site
- TS3 - Port Melbourne** - Potential site
- TS4 - Wendouree** - Established/active
- TS5 - Seeking site in Eastern suburbs** - Under construction
- TS6 - Rochester** - Completed awaiting stock

It's our goal to add 3 Tiny Sites each year.



## How we work

### Structure & Management

Backpacks 4 VIC Kids (B4VK) is an Incorporated Association with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status, a registered Public Benevolent Charitable Organisation and has been granted Tax Charity Concessions (TCC).

We are governed by a voluntary Committee of Management:

**President: Ross Beard**

Yard Supervisor, All Staff Airconditioning, Dingley Village

**Vice-President: Position to be filled**

**Treasurer: Helen Brown**

IT tutor, Supply Chain Consultant

**Secretary: Sharni Robinson**

Lawyer, Maurice & Blackburn Lawyers, Dandenong

*General Members:*

**Shane Stevenson**

Director, Cointree Cryptocurrency Exchange

**Marianne Fearon**

Auditor, Bupa, Melbourne

**Steven Shipp**

Consultant Lawyer, Melbourne

## The Financials

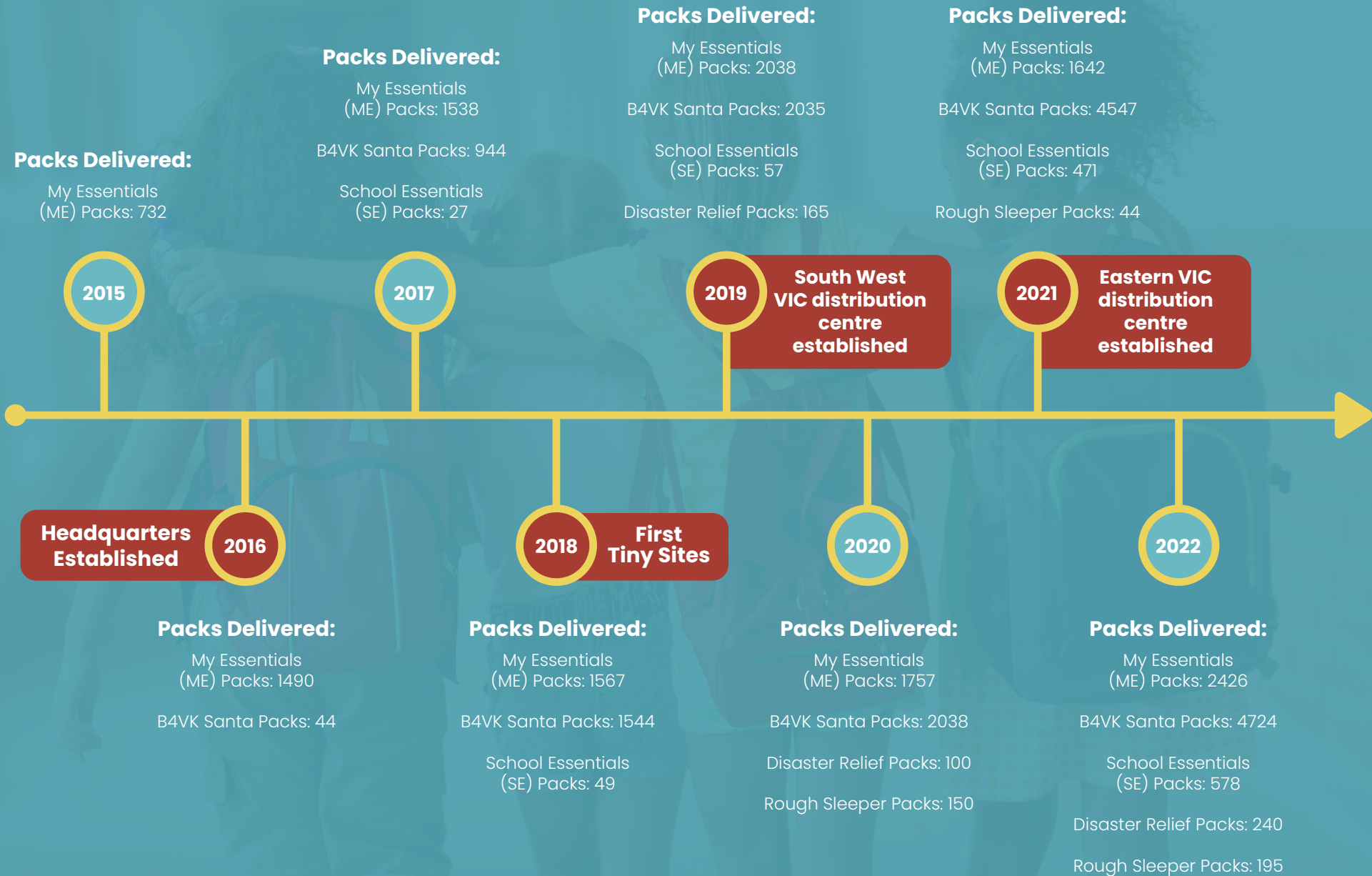
Backpacks 4 VIC Kids delivers programs to support children entering care, their carers and workers in the sector. All programs are delivered for free. We ask agency workers and secure facilities to pass on our ME Packs and ME Jnr Packs to children in need on our behalf. We do not ask for payment. The purpose of our packs is to provide urgently needed resources expeditiously, well before funds are made available for each child. B4VK does not currently have any funding agreements nor sponsorship arrangements in place. We rely on donations, fundraising and occasional grants. We are frugal in our spending to make the most of every dollar. Our capacity relies heavily on volunteers and donations in-kind of bags, backpacks and the items we pack in them.

Click [here](#) to view financial statements summaries





# Our Achievements



## B4VK Goals

We have big plans for the future, to reach as many displaced children as possible in line with growing demand, supporting the children, the workers and their carers. We can do so much more with help from philanthropic partners.

### Our immediate goals are:

- Identify and implement inventory control technology for our Tiny Sites in conjunction with our new inventory management system.
- Enhance infrastructure and performance of our existing distribution centres in Warrnambool, Bairnsdale and establish the third distribution centre in Central VIC

### Our longer term goals include:

- Expand our operations, programs and reach to supply more than resource 65% (produce 4,076 me packs) of children entering OOH by 2028.
- Reduce ongoing operational costs by owning a premise of 1200m2
- Increase staff time from 3.3 FTE to 5 FTE:
  - Employ full-time General Manager
  - Employ part-time Tiny Site Initiative Manager



## How You Can Help



### Infrastructure

- Warehouse / premises
- Freight services



### Professional Services

- HR
- Marketing
- PR
- Fundraising
- Legal
- Warehouse Management



### Financial Support

- Grants
- Program Sponsorship
- Project Grant
- Finance Operations



**We'd love to discuss how we can align our focus on transforming more lives in our community together.**

### Contact us

03 8712 9545

[www.backpacks4vickids.org.au](http://www.backpacks4vickids.org.au)

*Together we can make a difference.*



## Further Information

Please see our website for more information and contact details:  
[www.backpacks4vickids.org.au](http://www.backpacks4vickids.org.au)

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