

Opportunity knocks.

*Steve's Story

To some people, our Market Street Lodge is a place of opportunity and hope for a better future.

Introducing Steve.

Steve, a long-term resident of our Market Street Lodge and his story is about overcoming adversity. His journey through life was one of tough times and extreme hardship from a young age. At just 14 years old, Steve became addicted to heroin. His daily routine rapidly became one of drugs and crime. It wasn't long before Steve ended up in prison.

"I served my time. Once released I thought about where I should go. Rather than go back to Western Sydney where all the trouble was, I decided a new start would be better. So, I moved to Queanbeyan."

Living in Queanbeyan meant that Steve could be closer to his family, but unfortunately trouble was brewing again, and he landed back in jail, this time in Goulburn. Once parole was granted Steve was able to finish his sentence within the community and it was at that point; Steve became a resident of our Market Street Lodge.

"The first six months at the Lodge was hard. I was devastated and disappointed in myself. I felt depressed and angry that I couldn't go back to Canberra to see my family. I remember when I went back to see my parole officer to have my ankle bracelet removed, I found myself thinking I have two options – suicide or change my ways. I chose to change my ways."

Steve's focus turned to finding purpose in his life.

"The Lodge has given me a place to call my own. I can make it what I want. Every morning I get up and I make sure to clean my room, make my bed. Doing this helps me set the pace for the day. My mindset has changed."

"In the last two months I've felt really settled here. I am not in any hurry to go anywhere. I have a roof over my head, a heater and fan in my room, a fridge, food, tv and I am slowly rebuilding my relationship with my family."

"The ladies in the Office have been amazing too! This place does massive things for people. You just got to look for the positives."

Steve is now 12 years clean and looking forward to contributing back to the community via volunteering opportunities.

Interview date: 22nd September 2023

Location: Market Street Lodge.

*Client's name has been changed to protect their privacy.

