

# Homelessness Week 2019

## Life Changing Stories

I became homeless nearly 4 years ago, I was in a very abusive relationship for many years where I was hospitalized for being physically abused e.g. broken bones. The verbal abuse was worse so after many years I finally left I had never been homeless before. I was ashamed and lost I had never asked for help, I hadn't even really ever paid a bill he control the finances when we were together.

So soon I turned to alcohol to help me cope then my three year old daughter was removed from my care then I was literally sleeping on the street for many months I relied on the kindness of charities to eat. I was broken I had no confidence I didn't care whether I lived or died... no support and no friends I lost them all when I left my ex.

I started to go to church and turned to God for help. Slowly I started to piece together my life. I am happy to say I have been sober for three years and have just started the unification process of my daughter being returned to my care.

I have spent the last few years doing domestic violence counselling with the women's centre in Northbridge. I can't tell you enough how much of what I learnt there has changed my life, I attended drug and alcohol counselling for over a year and I see a psychologist monthly to keep on track.

I cannot express enough that all the organisations I received help off helped shape my life to get me to a point where I am. I enjoy my life and I am proud of where I am. Even though they don't get recognition for all the work they do (every organisation that helps needy people) they are changing lives.

I will always strive to make my life the best life I can lead. The next time you walk past a homeless person I encourage you to feel compassion towards their situation, nobody wants to live like that. Like they say it takes a village to raise a child and it takes a village (team) of people to help restore somebody's life.