

11 YEARS OF IMPACT: 2011-2022

CLIENT STORIES



Acceptance and rebuilding a life after prison

Andy 2020

Andy, was referred to Ready Set by Jesuit Social Services, who were supporting him to rebuild his life after leaving prison in May 2020.

He was hoping to find employment, acceptance back into the community and be able to rebuild connections, including the relationship with his daughter.

After leaving with a positive attitude and appropriate clothing from his appointment in the early days of the Covid-19 crisis, he was over the moon to secure employment in the meat packing industry.

Andy came back to Ready Set in February 2021, to support the Power Up Challenge fundraising event and was optimistic about his life.

Securing work was key to Anne breaking a cycle of homelessness

Anne, 2020

Anne was homeless and placed in temporary accommodation as part of the funding program during the early phase of Covid-19 in Melbourne. Like many in a similar situation, Anne faced a long journey to move forward with her life and securing work was critical for this to happen.

Anne was looking for an administration job and had very little in the way of belongings. She visited Ready Set and collected a selection of work appropriate clothing and some essential items too such as toiletries and casual wear. Care was given to select clothing she could manage in her current living conditions. She then came back for some one-on-one career coaching.



Motivated to work even harder knowing someone believes in her

Winta, 2019

“My experience at WFS was actually wonderful. Everyone was pleased and happy to help me get the right outfit. It made me feel welcomed and excited to try the beautiful attire. It also motivates me to work even harder knowing someone believes in me and is not only happy but also willing to support me.

Having a job means stability and independence. It makes me feel great and satisfied to see the fruit of my hard work throughout uni. It makes me feel great and valued to contribute towards the common goal of the company.”

He hoped securing work would make his life better

Bronson, 2019

Bronson had really a tough background and along the way had lost contact with his kids, which he deeply regretted.

He said he'd learnt so much at his clothing fitting at Ready Set. He told us that securing a job meant he might again have access to his children and would make his life better.

Like many with complex backgrounds, Bronson had a long road ahead of him on his journey. He also received coaching and had a CV created during his visit, so was better equipped to attend interviews and hopefully move forward with his life.



The kindness and compassion shown her made a difference

Betelhem, 2018

Quietly spoken and shy, Betelhem had recently arrived in Australia from Nauru and was finding it a challenge to understand workplace expectations and culture.

Ready Set set her up with work appropriate clothing, so she felt comfortable and confident at interview.

Betelhem told us the kindness and compassion she was shown during her visit made all the difference.

He saw a new confident person in the mirror

Ernie, 2018

Mature-age Ernie had attended numerous interviews and was struggling to find the confidence he needed to put his best self forward to potential employers.

He told us he was nervous and felt 'plain' when he arrived at Ready Set and that he really struggled with his self-image.

With gentle support during his clothing fitting Ernie worked out what he liked and felt good in. Afterwards when asked how he felt, he laughed and said 'just look at me, when I look in the mirror now I see a new confident person.'. It was heart-warming to see the change in him.



Transformation Tuesday

Monique, 2018

Monique was referred to Ready Set by the youth organisation White Lion and we met her during a mobile fitting service in Geelong.

She was overwhelmed by the kindness shown her during her fitting and couldn't believe she had been given lovely clothes that fitted her so well. She especially loved the dress she is wearing here, donated by radio announcer Chrissie Swan, a fact that made Monique feel extra special.

The transformation in her confidence after the fitting was so profound, that White Lion dubbed the day 'Transformation Tuesday'.

Living in their car, a job would mean a roof over their head at last

Brent, 2017

Brent came to see us in October 2017. He, his partner and their dog had been living in their car for six months when he was referred to us for clothing to wear to interviews.

Despite being committed to getting a job and submitting countless applications a day, it still took him a long time to find work.

Having a job means security for him and his family and a roof over their heads. Brent said it was how he was treated during his visit that gave him a boost, to have confidence, and belief in himself.



Worried she wouldn't make a good impression at her interview

Janette, 2017

Janette was referred to Ready Set by GenU and had just finished her Cert IV in community Service. She had an interview lined up but nothing suitable she owned fitted her and she was worried she wouldn't make a good impression.

Janette said our service was "awesome" and perfect for people needing a confidence boost. She told us that she knew the volunteers would be nice but didn't expect them to be so lovely.

As the before and after photos show, having the right clothing that fits well and she was comfortable in, made all the difference to Janette. Her bubbly personality shone, and she was all set for her interview.

He didn't think we could help

Jesse, 2017

Jesse had a job to start in a warehouse but nothing suitable to wear. He didn't expect Ready Set to be able to help him, as he thought it was all suits and boots.

We understood that he needed practical clothing and due to a recent donation of workwear, we were able to outfit him in everything he needed. He was then ready to start his new job with confidence and ready to start the next stage of his journey.



Ready to start the rest of his life after illness

Jai, 2016

Jai came to Ready Set for support, as he was entering the workforce after a life-threatening illness.

He just needed some kindness and compassion, along with the right clothing, so he could start the rest of his life on the right footing.

Rebuilding

Peter Mac OnTrack participants, 2016

A group of young people came to visit us back in 2016 from the Peter Mac OnTrack program.

All rebuilding their lives after cancer, the group was a joy to be with. At the end of a long makeover session during which each received a full work wardrobe and coaching, the group wanted to show what the session had meant to them.



I couldn't have done it without your help

Brotherhood of St Laurence 'Given the chance' program, 2015

Abdullahi was an asylum seeker from Somalia being supported by the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) to find employment and start a life in Australia.

He told us he had no idea of what to wear or how to interview and worried he would not be able to impress a prospective employer.

He beamed throughout his clothing fitting, which was being filmed to promote BSL's work with refugees.

He was so grateful for the guidance on how to present himself and for the clothing he received. He was adamant afterwards that he would not have got the job without it.

The support she received made a big impact

Lisa, 2012

Lisa was incredibly grateful for the help she received, that she wanted to talk about it.

So when 'The Project' TV show came calling back in 2012, Lisa appeared with our volunteer Helen, to talk about the big impact the service had made on her confidence and job search.



Our first clothing fitting client 10 years on

Carol, 2011

Carol was the very first client we dressed, way back in June 2011. Referred to us by the Aboriginal Employment Service, she needed clothing to attend an interview for a role at DHS.

Her life since has been challenging but 10 years later she still remembers her visit to us.

She's now recording music and keen to use it to support indigenous youth to make the right life choices.