

# Foyer Case Studies





**Aberdeen Foyer** SCOTLAND

Established in 1995, the Aberdeen Foyer in Scotland is an excellent example of a Foyer. Working across seven different sites, the Aberdeen Foyer provides supported tenancies for up to 80 formerly homeless and at risk young people (aged 16 – 25) at any given time. There are several features of this model that are worth considering. First, they engage in prevention work in the community, working in partnership with other mainstream services to provide young people and their families with extra support in order to minimize future crises that may lead to homelessness. Second, the Aberdeen Foyer provides a whole range of services and supports to engage young people with the goal of affecting real change in their lives. This includes arts-based programming, and a range of life-skills programming aimed at supporting personal, social and employable skills, and encouraging healthier lifestyles. The programs are either run directly by the Foyer, or in some cases through partnerships with other organizations.

In addition to supporting involvement in education, the Aberdeen Foyer offers a broad range of social enterprises that young people can participate in, including a Foyer Restaurant and Gallery, Foyer Graphics, Roadwise Driver Training, Foyer Works (property maintenance) and Foyer Catering Co.

**TO FIND OUT MORE**, download their Annual Reports (Aberdeen Foyer, 2006; 2010) or go to the Aberdeen Foyer Website.

[www.aberdeenfoyer.com](http://www.aberdeenfoyer.com)



**Garden Court Foyer** AUSTRALIA

The Garden Court Foyer in Wollongong (New South Wales) It represents an enhancement on the more conventional fixed site Foyer models in place in most communities (National Youth Commission, 2008). The main Foyer site has seven individual bachelor apartments for youth. Each unit has its own bathroom, kitchenette and living/bedroom area. Communal space includes a lounge, dining room, common kitchen, outdoor courtyard, as well as a training room and computer room.

What makes this Foyer unique is that it combines a central or main location with 'dispersed' units – properties away from the main facility that young people can live in. Youth in dispersed units still have access to the supports and facilities of the main site, as well as supports provided on an outreach basis. This is an interesting model because it demonstrates how the Foyer may be adapted to incorporate elements of 'scattered site' housing, Housing First and potentially convertible leases.

## Foyer Plus AUSTRALIA

In Melbourne, Australia, they have implemented the “Foyer Plus” model. This project is highly innovative, and includes several separate facilities and programs. For instance, the length of stay is dependent upon the program, with some programs having a two-year maximum, and others three years or longer. Operated by Melbourne City Mission, they manage several models of “Foyer Plus” across metropolitan Melbourne.

- The Precinct model – located in North Fitzroy
- The High Density model - Lion Garden located in the CBD and Ladder Hoddle Street located in Collingwood.
- Neighbourhood model – dispersed transitional properties located in Inner South and North

Ladder Hoddle Street is an integrated support program for homeless youth, much like Step Ahead. Young people are provided with up to two years of housing, links to employment, education and training and mentoring services. One of the key features of Ladder is that young people who have left the program are provided with aftercare for up to six months to support in their transition to independence.

In the **Step Ahead Foyer** program, operated by Melbourne City Mission and Melbourne Affordable Housing, young people aged 16-24 are housed in fully furnished, self-contained units for up to three years. As with other Foyers, they receive ongoing intensive motivational casework and a structured program of learning (education and training).

There are two accommodation options: first, there is the eight-unit Lion Garden property, designed for younger clients with higher needs. There is also a dispersed housing option for an additional twelve to fourteen young people who are older and/or have lower needs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, download the Step Ahead’s program evaluation (Grace et al., 2011) or go to the Foyer Plus website:

[www.melbournecitymission.org.au/What-We-Do/Our-Programs-Services/Homelessness-Services/Homelessness-Homeless-Support/Foyer-Plus](http://www.melbournecitymission.org.au/What-We-Do/Our-Programs-Services/Homelessness-Services/Homelessness-Homeless-Support/Foyer-Plus)



## Chelsea Foyer NEW YORK

The Chelsea Foyer in New York (operated by Common Ground), was introduced in New York in 2004 to help address the growing problem of homelessness after foster care. The program development and practice model is supported by three core principles that assert the Foyer's commitment to providing:

- A supported transition in which young people can practice independent living;
- A developmentally-appropriate environment to build a sense of competence;
- A community of peers and caring adults with emphasis on peer mentoring.

It is different from most Foyer buildings in the UK in that it is a 40 unit independent residence that is part of the larger Common Ground's 207 unit permanent supportive housing complex for low-income and formerly homeless adults. As of 2009, the Chelsea Foyer had served 165 young people between the ages of 18 and 25. As in the UK, the maximum stay is two years. Residents of the Foyer are expected to at least have a part time job even if they are in school, and to engage in a variety of events and workshops. The Foyer offers daily activities and/or workshops related to housing (including money management, establishing good credit, running a household, communicating effectively with

landlords), work (including monthly career clubs where youth have opportunities to network with employers), and general health and wellbeing (including fitness programs, a men's forum, a women's forum, and cooking classes). For youth who are not working, employment workshops are mandatory.

Foyer residents contribute a program fee, determined by income, in lieu of rent, which is deposited into a savings account and returned to them when they successfully complete the program.

The Chelsea Foyer has a higher concentration of residents with high needs (mental health, addictions) than is typically the case in the UK. Staff have found that it is possible to have peer mentoring even within a high-needs community. Although the Chelsea Foyer has no dedicated aftercare service, participants are encouraged to keep in touch with program staff, and are invited to attend and participate in regular alumni events.

## Foyer Websites

### ABERDEEN FOYER, SCOTLAND UK

<http://www.aberdeenfoyer.com/>

### FOCUS E15 FOYER (LONDON, UK)

<http://www.east-thames.co.uk/focus-e15>

### THE CORK FOYER (CORK, IRELAND)

<http://www.corkfoyer.ie/>

### RIVERSIDE CAMBRIDGE FOYER (CAMBRIDGE, UK)

<http://www.homelessuk.org/details.asp?id=HO1008392>

### FOYER PLUS (MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA)

<http://www.melbournecitymission.org.au/What-We-Do/Our-Programs-Services/Homelessness-Services/Homelessness-Homeless-Support/Foyer-Plus>

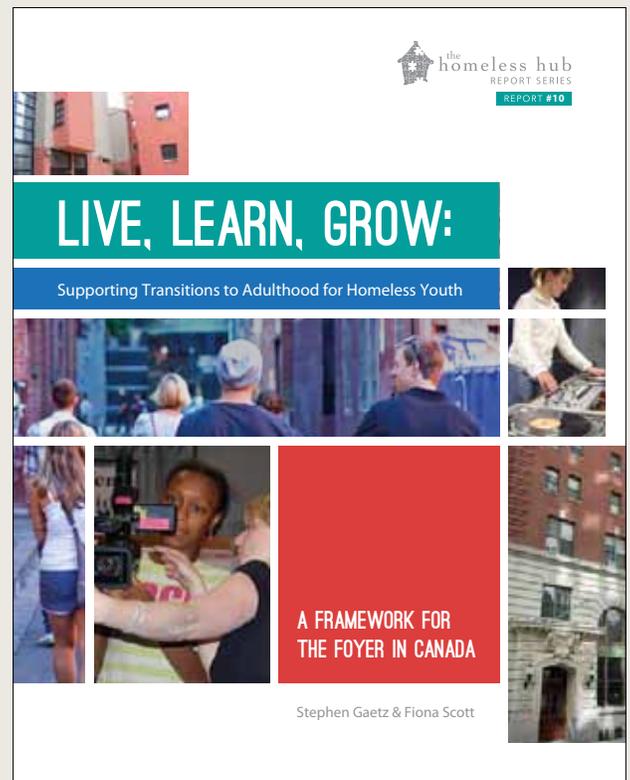
### LIVE N LEARN FOYER (NSW, AUSTRALIA)

<http://www.livenlearn.com.au/about-us.html>

## READ MORE

### TOOLKITS

- #1 What is a Foyer?
- #2 The Foyer and Transitions to Adulthood
- #3 The Philosophy and Principles of the Foyer
- #4 Foyer Essentials  
Part 1: The Program
- #5 Foyer Essentials  
Part 2: Accommodation
- #6 Foyer Essentials  
Part 3: Organizational Framework
- #8 Resources from the Foyer Federation (UK)



[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)