

## **BEST&LESS PARTNERS WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARITY TO HELP FAMILIES IN NEED AHEAD OF MOTHER'S DAY**

Australia's favourite specialty value apparel retailer Best&Less has partnered with Next Steps Australia for the second year in a row, to help support survivors of domestic and family violence across Australia. Family is at the core of Best&Less and this is reflected through its business and the value of the relationships it creates. Through in store and online donations from 27 April to 14 May, customers can get behind the partnership and help to provide women and children fleeing from domestic violence with support and help to set up their new life.

Across Australia, 1 in 4 women experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime, often leading them to flee their homes and seek alternative accommodation. Next Steps Australia supplies essential Manchester Starter Packs of basic items to women and children who have left domestic and family violence homes to help alleviate the financial stress of establishing independent lives.

Bernadette Blair, Chair, Next Steps Australia says, "We are delighted to partner with Best&Less again for the second year in a row, after raising close to \$150,000 last year. With Mother's Day around the corner, we are excited for the Best&Less community to raise funds again to provide women and children who have left domestic and family violence homes around Australia with Manchester Start Packs to help alleviate the financial stress of establishing independent lives."

When escaping family violence, most survivors (overwhelmingly women and children) are forced to leave their homes with few possessions and no basic household items. Often families will go without basic Manchester until they are in a more stable financial position. A Next Steps Australia Manchester Starter Pack will alleviate some of the financial pressure faced by a mother setting up a new home.

Best&Less Head of Marketing, Janine Van Deventer says, "We are so moved by the work that Next Steps Australia does, and thankful to be a part of their cause again this year. We understand the donations of these Starter Packs supports these women in their steps forward to greater safety, reassurance and comfort."

An anonymous DV survivor says, "I was sleeping on my friend's floor after leaving my violent ex, with not even a blanket and a lounge cushion as a pillow. My case worker helped me get a transitional property and some furniture, I was saving as much as I could, but I knew I couldn't afford sheets, towels etc. When I moved in, my case worker came with this big box and inside was all I needed to make my bed and set up my bathroom. I felt like a millionaire, I was safe and I had a home that I was proud of, thank you so, so much."

Best&Less is passionate about supporting community. Over the years it has supported rural regions facing fire and drought through Drought Angels. The company has existing partnerships with Good 360 and Starlight Children's Foundation – supporting communities in need and brightening the lives of sick children, young people and their families.

*Best&Less was established in 1965. Today the organisation has over 185 stores (including online) across Australia. With a focus on apparel, Best&Less houses baby and kidswear, men's and women's clothing. For more information, visit [www.bestandless.com.au](http://www.bestandless.com.au).*

**#ENDS**

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