

Media Release

Best&Less and Next Steps Australia Limited help over 320 women and children affected by family violence.

Melbourne, Wednesday 13th September 2023 – Next Steps Australia Limited (**NSA**) and specialty value apparel retailer Best&Less have joined forces in a gold coin donation campaign that has provided direct support to over 320 women and children who have fled their homes from domestic violence.

Following a highly successful nationwide in-store gold coin donation campaign that saw Best&Less raise \$62,727.00 which NSA will use to supply packs of every day manchester items to refuges across all Australian states and territories.

1 in 4 women across Australia experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime, often leading them to flee their homes and seek alternative accommodation in refuges.

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.

NSA supplies manchester packs to womens' refuges around Australia. The packs contain many items including sheets, towels, quilts and pillows. When the women and their children leave the refuges, they are able to take the packs with them.

The manchester packs are welcomed by the refuges who receive them. A representative of one of the recipient refuges said "Yesterday we received 22 boxes that were so well packed and labelled. Honestly, so much hard work has gone into this from planning right through to delivery and it just shows. This donation supports our women and children so much.. ...You have made a big difference and impact on the women and children who have had to flee their homes due to domestic and family violence. Keep up the great work. Staff really appreciate your support."

A recipient of a pack commented: "I was in temporary accommodation with my young daughter, after we escaped his violence. The linen was terrible. I felt like that was all people thought we were worth. I have now been approved for a transitional property. I knew I had enough money to buy linen for my daughter but not me, but I didn't mind as long as she felt safe and snug. But now we will both have new linen which is beautiful, and I can use my money for food. I felt like someone really cared when I opened that box and saw everything. Thank you so much. I now know we are worth more."

NSA Chair Bernadette Blair says, "We are immensely grateful for the support of Best&Less and their generous customers. This campaign has had a meaningful and positive impact on the lives of hundreds of women and children who are going through one of the hardest times in their lives."

Best&Less Head of Marketing, Janine Van Deventer says, "We are honoured to be partnering with Next Steps Australia once again and thankful to be a part of their mission to help vulnerable members of the community. The donations of the Starter Packs demonstrate to the recipients that they are valued, cared for and safe. Assisting these families on their next steps to an independent life is the least we can do to show our support. Sleeping in new manchester to have a good night's rest is all part of that."

For more information about Next Steps Australia Limited and their initiatives, please visit:
<https://www.nextstepsaustralia.org.au/>

For further details on Best & Less and their commitment to social responsibility, please visit:
<https://www.bestandless.com.au/>

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