



Bobby Goldsmith  
Foundation

**Immediate release**  
**19 May 2025**

## ***BGF launches winter appeal to support people living with HIV amid cost-of-living crisis.***

Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) has launched its 2025 winter appeal to raise critical funds for people living with HIV who are disproportionately affected by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Founded in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, BGF has long been a pillar of support for the HIV, LGBTQIA+ and marginalised communities. Today, the organisation continues to provide life-changing support and services to some of the most vulnerable members of our society – many of whom are facing housing insecurity, mental health challenges and financial hardship.

“Our clients are navigating incredibly complex circumstances,” said Nick Lawson, CEO of BGF. “We’re seeing more and more people struggling to afford basic necessities like food, rent and medication. This appeal is about making sure they’re not facing those challenges alone.”

The campaign highlights the work of frontline staff, who support clients through their personal and mental health challenges through to recovery and increased health and wellbeing.

“Many of the people I work with are going through incredibly tough times,” said BGF Alcohol and Drug Case Manager, Hannes Isensee. “But with the right support, they can start to rebuild. It’s a privilege to walk alongside them and help them achieve their goals – no matter how big or small.”

The campaign also shares the story of Liam<sup>1</sup>, a BGF client whose life has been transformed through the organisation’s support.

“Liam lives with complex mental health conditions, which made it hard for him to be heard and taken seriously by other services—but at BGF, we listened without judgement,” said Hannes. “With our help, he secured the Disability Support Pension, moved into safe housing and joined our health and wellbeing programs to overcome loneliness. His story is a powerful reminder of what’s possible when compassion meets expertise.”

BGF’s services are made possible through the generosity of donors and contributions are needed now more than ever. All donations are tax-deductible and will directly fund essential programs and services for people living with HIV.

BGF hopes to raise in excess of \$50,000. To donate or learn more, visit [www.bgf.org.au](http://www.bgf.org.au)

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<sup>1</sup> Note: name changed to protect the privacy of client



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### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Supporting people living with HIV has never been more important. Whilst transmission rates have dropped significantly, HIV is not over for the almost 30, 000 people living with HIV in Australia. Many of the people who BGF support are Long-Term Survivors, the first generation to age with HIV and have complex health and social needs. Now more than ever, they need our support.

### **ABOUT BGF:**

Bobby Goldsmith was one of the first Australians to die from an AIDS-related illness in June 1984. His friends came together to find a way of giving him the care he needed to remain at home so they could make his last weeks as comfortable as possible. He died with dignity, at home, where he wanted to be.

His friends established the important precedent of providing support and services for people living with HIV. If direct support could be provided for one person, it could be done for many.

We are the legacy of that dedicated group of friends.

Bobby Goldsmith Foundation has been supporting people living with HIV for 40 years. Founded in 1984, we provide practical, emotional and financial support to people living with HIV in New South Wales and South Australia.

We are unique as the only not-for-profit in Australia providing frontline services and support to people living with HIV.

In 2024 however, we expanded our service offering to provide disability services to all people, especially those living with HIV, the broader LGBTQIA+ community and to all people seeking progressive, supportive care.

BGF is a registered not-for-profit with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission and has no political or religious affiliations, just a commitment to help and support people to live well on their own terms through practical, tailored care.

### **For interviews and further information:**

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