

### The Mercy Foundation

The Mercy Foundation is committed to social justice and structural change to create greater social equity and inclusion in the Australian community. Our primary focus is on ending homelessness, particularly chronic homelessness. The solution to homelessness is permanent, affordable housing, and in some cases, people with complex needs may require additional support to maintain their housing.

### Purpose of the Mercy Youth Awards

Each year, the Mercy Youth Awards encourages students gain an understanding of social justice issues in Australia and how we can work to address these issues. This year our focus is on homelessness. This unit can be incorporated into parts of the syllabus including English, Art and RE Studies.

### Competition Details

The theme for 2019 is “**Housing First: the key to ending homelessness**”. Students are asked to:

1) take a photo expressly created for the competition that explores the idea of **home** and includes a **house key**. The house key cannot be digitally added to the photo but must be included in the original composition.

The house key need not be the focus of the image, but rather a demonstration that the photo was taken especially for the competition.

2) **Each photo must be have a** written a paragraph (no longer than 100 words) that explains that explains how the image represents the idea of home.

3) **AND** fill out the **Housing First** quiz on the online entry form.

The online entry form is available online on our website [www.mercyfoundation.com.au](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au). Our website provides information about **Housing First** in Australia. This information is the basis for the questions in the quiz.

### Important Notes:

- ✓ Only one entry per student
- ✓ An Entrant is an individual student
- ✗ No faces in any photos (this means we do not require any talent consent forms)
- ✗ No stereotypical images of people experiencing homelessness
- ✗ No brand names or logos

### Important Dates

Competition opens: **29 April 2019**

Competition closes: **5 July 2019**

Winners notified by: **Mid August 2019**

### Judging

The judging committee comprises staff and Board members of the Mercy Foundation. Entries will be assessed according to the accuracy of quiz answers and the creativity, originality, effort, content and quality of both the photo and written content.

**The school that submits the most entries will win \$250. Please encourage your students to participate!**

## ENTRIES

1. Entries must consist of a photograph uploaded with the online entry form. The online entry form is available on our website [www.mercyfoundation.com.au](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au)
2. Photographs should be a maximum of 2MB and in the format of a JPEG, GIF or PNG. JPEG is the preferred format. A PDF will also be accepted.
3. Photos should be saved using student's name and school e.g. SmithH\_SydneyHigh.jpeg
4. If for any reason you are unable to use our online entry form, please contact us by email [youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au](mailto:youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au) or call 02 9911 7390 and we will send you an entry form to fill in.
5. By submitting an entry, you acknowledge that you have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions for the Mercy Foundation Youth Awards 2019. The Terms and Conditions are available on our website [www.mercyfoundation.com.au](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au)
6. The photo and entry must be the student's original work created for the competition.
7. The Mercy Foundation will acknowledge all entries received. It is your responsibility to ensure that we have received your entry.
8. Photographs may be exhibited at a public event later this year. More information will be provided closer to the event.

For more information please call the Mercy Foundation on 02 9911 7390 or email [youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au](mailto:youthawards@mercyfoundation.com.au)

## PRIZES

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** \$700 will be awarded to the winning entrant & \$700 will be awarded to the winning entrant's school

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** \$350 will be awarded to the winning entrant & \$350 will be awarded to the winning entrant's school

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** \$200 will be awarded to the winning entrant & \$200 will be awarded to the winning entrant's school

\$50 vouchers will be awarded to the next top 10 highly commended entries as selected by the judges.

\$250 will be awarded to the school that submits the most entries.

Schools are requested to spend their money on social justice resources and/or activities to promote social justice in your school and/or a charity addressing social justice issues in Australia.

Note that more than one winner may be awarded in each place. If this is the case, the prize money will be shared between the winning entrants and the winning schools.

The total Prize pool is \$3,250.