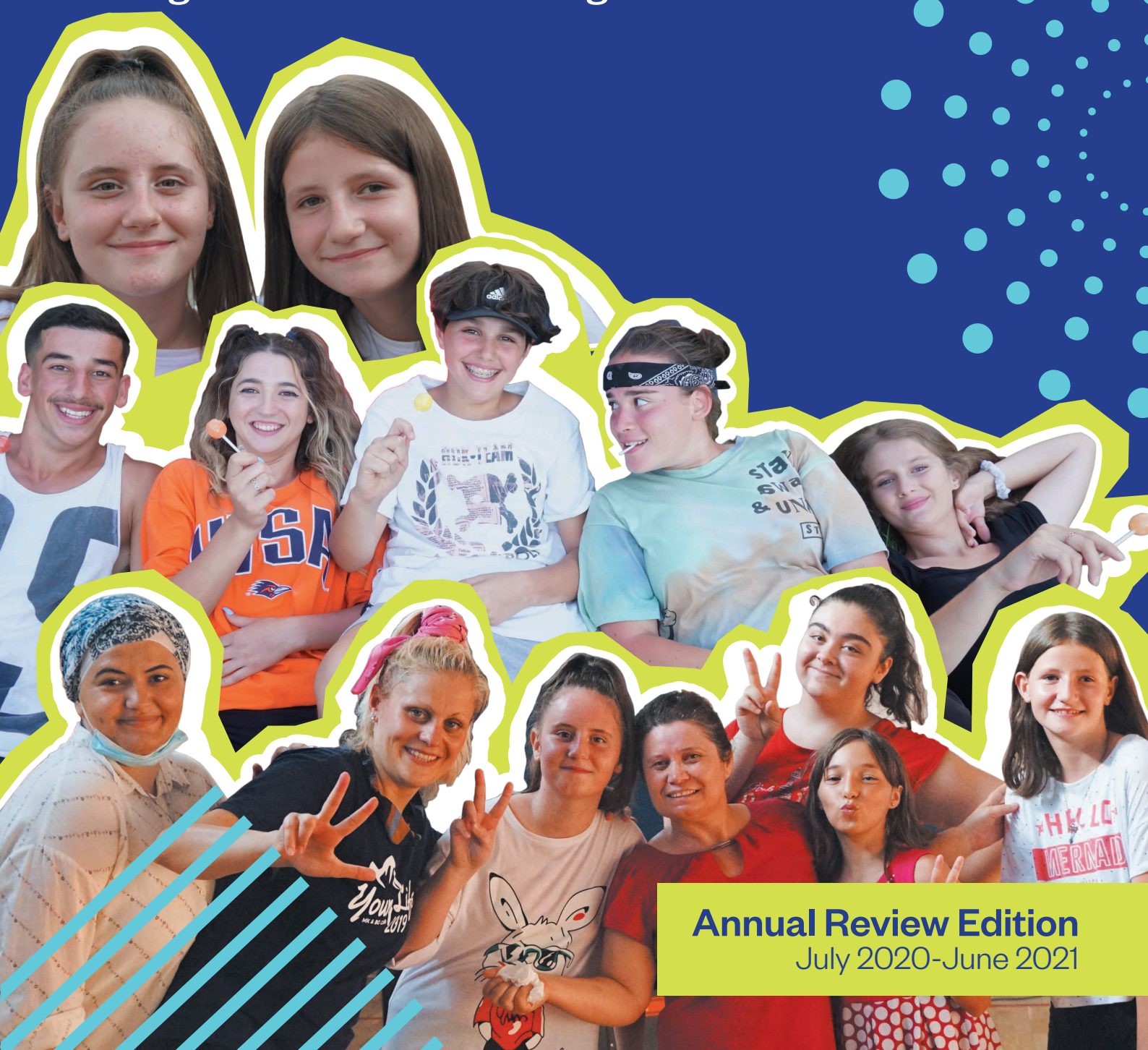


INSIDE

Gratitude...in a Pandemic

Bridging gaps to build his Kingdom

A single seed for a lifetime of growth



Annual Review Edition
July 2020-June 2021



CEO'S REPORT WITH GLYN HENMAN

What a year! Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. The 2020-21 financial year has certainly been a challenge and the volunteers, committees, staff, and board appreciate your commitment to help reach the young people of Australia.

It has been a challenging period with rolling lockdowns, the opening and closing of schools, business, borders and society has made us all more than a little anxious at times. Not to mention the impact this is having on our young people. Young Life Australia volunteers and staff continue to look for creative and innovative ways to connect with young people and offer support in local communities. Keep praying for young people, there is no more important thing we can do right now.

The last year has not been all hard work. One important highlight has come around the property Young Life purchased in 2015 in Armidale NSW. As part of the purchase arrangements Young Life was able to secure a significant concessional loan to make the vision a reality. We are pleased to announce that those who funded that loan have forgiven the remainder of the debt. This is a significant gift to the mission and one we are truly thankful for. It is hard to put into words how grateful we are as a mission and for me

personally to those who have partnered in this project with us. Celebrate God's goodness with us.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the board over the last year. Thank you for your commitment and focus on reaching young people. I also want to pay special tribute to our retiring chair Mitch Broom who has led the board over the last two years and served for the last nine years. Also to Daryl Redford for his service on the board over the last nine years and previously as long time staff in Melbourne. Both of these men will be missed. Thank you for your friendship and vision.

Romans 5:3-5 reminds us that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character and character produces hope. My prayer is that we all find hope as we encounter God in our daily lives.



If COVID restrictions allow, we are planning a Christmas gathering on Sat Dec 4 at The Greengate Hotel, Killara, Sydney.

We will send out details soon and very much look forward to seeing you all in person!



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT WITH MITCH BROOM

This time last year as I sat down to write my message as the Chair of Young Life Australia, we were hopeful in how our nation had come through the COVID-19 pandemic, and optimistic in a return to normality, for our work, social lives, church, and of course our face-to-face programs with the young people of Australia.

As is often the case, reality hasn't quite met our hope, but our optimism has continued to shine through.

After yet another tumultuous year on mission, Young Life remains optimistic in our ability to continue to connect with young people through programs that matter as well as being able to deliver them by reaching young people where they are, whether face to face or through digital means. It has not been business as usual, particularly the last few months in Sydney and NSW, but our programs around Australia continue to show that the message and love that Jesus brings is essential to giving young people hope and stability in a dark and chaotic world. Our staff and volunteers are in that world with them.

Our expectations of what we can achieve as an organisation are founded on what we can expect from God. We know that He will

do more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us (Eph 3:10), if we are willing to step out in faith and support the work He calls us to do. This year we have seen that in motion in our local areas, in our wonderful staff and volunteers, and in our donors. We have been the beneficiaries of incredible generosity each month in our regular giving program, and one-off gifts that exceed all our expectations. We are deeply grateful for the faith that our donors put in us to manage and steward the resources gifted to us.

As I retire from the Board this year, I look back on the past nine years I have served with brothers and sisters in Christ at Young Life and am humbled to have been given such an opportunity. Much has changed; we employ more staff, reach more young people, continue to be a significant force in ministry to unchurched young people, and through God's blessing have consistently increased the resources and capacity we have to continue this into the future with boldness. Knowing the God that we serve, I can only expect more great things to come.



FINANCE REPORT WITH MEERA SEEMAMPILLAI

2021 has been another year of unforeseen challenges for Young Life Australia - however we are so very proud of our staff and volunteers who have shown great resilience and adaptability. We are extremely grateful for our partners and donors who have again stood with us during this difficult year.

Our staff operate in 15 communities within Australia and 2 overseas. At year end, we employed 33 staff including 3 full time and 30 part time. Our staff are supported in their work by many, many adult volunteers who serve Young Life Australia in a variety of roles including operating on committees, organising fundraising events and leading youth activities. All of our volunteers are registered and have been cleared to work with children through the child protection process in each state and territory.

Significant events

During the 2020/2021 year we continued to receive Jobkeeper until March 2021 which was a great blessing for our organisation and helped relieve the cost of employment.

This financial year we received an incredible gift to Young Life Australia, a loan forgiveness of \$560,000 towards our property in Armidale. This donor's generosity has blessed Young Life in the past and will certainly continue to bless future work for Young Life Australia especially in Armidale. This has freed up our yearly loan repayments to invest in the growth of the organisation.



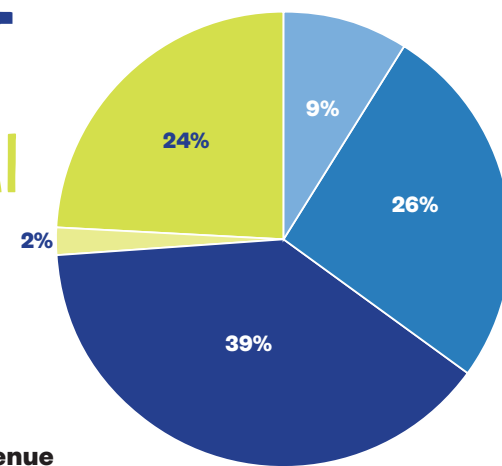
Our property in Armidale.

I am very pleased to report that outside this generous gift we have an operating loss of \$36,283. This expected result shows that our donors and partners see the value of what Young Life Australia does and the incredible impact the work has on unchurched teens of Australia.

I am also pleased to report that we have a healthy balance sheet which will allow us to invest in new areas and new staff. God has fulfilled his promise in Hebrews 13:8 ie He is the same yesterday, today and forever. The same God who grew Young Life Australia from very humble beginnings to now is also opening doors, pathways and opportunities for us to take hold and invest in the future of Australia's youth.



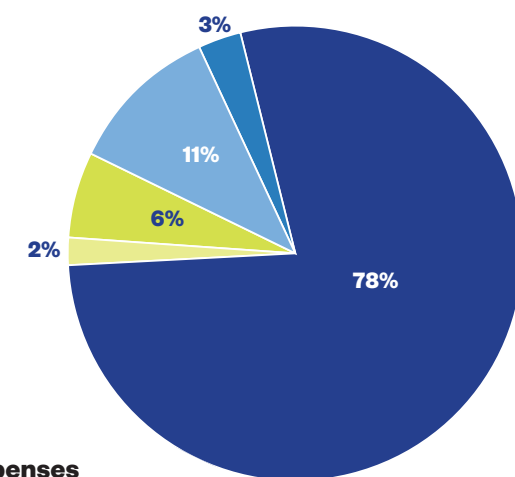
To see the full audited financial report you can go to our website and click on the Annual Report tab or search the ACNC website under Find a Registered Charity.



Revenue

- Grants, subsidies and other operating revenue
- Government Support: COVID-19
- Donations and Fundraising
- Other income
- Gain on loan forgiveness

Total Revenue \$2,359,458



Expenses

- Administration Expenses
- Depreciation Expenses
- Employee and Training Expenses
- Fundraising and Promotion Expenses
- Program expenses

Total Expenses \$1,835,741

Income

Income from Donations and Fundraising totalled \$911,616. This is the largest component of income representing 38.6% of income and is the result of donations from faithful partners. This year the loan forgiveness makes up 23.7% of income this year. We also show 26% of income from COVID-19 related assistance from the Government compared with 17.8% of income for last year's figures.

Expenses

Employment expenses of \$1,408,963 make up 76.7% of Young Life's expenses. This is slightly up from last year at 75.6% of total expenses.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on running Programs this financial year there was a drop in such expenses by a third from last year.

Young Life Australia continues to strive for improved operational efficiencies and ranks highly on standard efficiency measures for charities. We are pleased to report 1 cent in each dollar of total income is spent on fundraising and less than 10 cents in the dollar is spent on administration.

GRATITUDE.... IN A PANDEMIC 🤔

In a year defined by feelings of loneliness, despair, fear and anger, how can we be grateful?

It's a good question and one we put to our Young Life teams all over Australia.

Through a passionate resolve to stay connected with the young people they serve, and by lifting their concerns to God in prayer, our Young Life leaders have not only embraced gratitude this year but through Him, found strength, laughter and hope.



Nathan Wilson, Young Life Redland

“I’m so grateful for the financial partners who have so generously given to Redlands in Queensland this year.”
Nathan

“So many things! Increased attendance at our Breakfast Clubs, school leaders step into volunteer roles, connecting with churches and our Trivia night where the support from community and business blew me away!”
Sophie



Sophie Wilksch, Young Life Barossa

“In North Macedonia we were finally able to have a camp this Summer and 80% of those who came hadn’t been involved with Young Life before. What an amazing opportunity to meet some awesome new young people.”
Brooke



Good times at Young Life North Macedonia's Summer Camp



Social distancing at camp.

“Volunteers! Their energy and commitment to the events we’ve been able to run ensured unforgettable memories for the kids.”
Anthony



“I’m grateful for the unknowns! The fact that through God there are so many opportunities ahead and that we can plan and pray for the future.”
Mark



Isabelle Poulos, Young Life Casey

“I was able to start a dance group with my Young Life girls and it was so beautiful seeing their confidence grow.”
Isabelle



Online Club Vilnius.



Shane Kreltszheim, Young Life Parramatta

“I’ve had more time this year to spend with God than ever before and I’m grateful for how much he’s helped me grow through this time.”
Shane



The Young Life Barossa team striking a pose at their annual Trivia Night.

“We were able to run two outreach camps in Belarus and saw 30 teens make commitments to follow Jesus.”
Mark

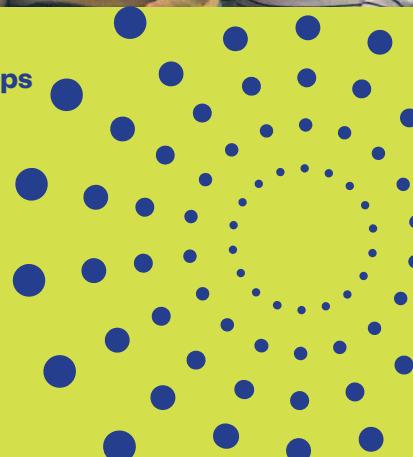


Group shot of Summer Camp in Belarus



Alex Lee, Young Life Belconnen

“Our committee, funding and church partnerships have all grown! We ran our first local camp and established our first ever local ministry office, now doubling as a youth drop in centre.”
Alex



YOUNG LIFE IN NORTH MACEDONIA

BRIDGING GAPS TO BUILD HIS KINGDOM

Whether it's teenagers from suburban Australia or young people in places like Skopje in North Macedonia, the joy of reconnecting after a long lockdown is universal, and very REAL!!!

For Young Life's Brooke Filipovski serving in Eastern Europe, finally being able to hold camps in both Skopje as well as Albania following two years of tough restrictions was not only an opportunity she was grateful for but one which saw God's love truly transform hearts in many of the young people who attended.

"One of the beautiful things I love about serving with Young Life is that we get to work with believers from different denominations and our heart is to reach every young person with the message that God loves them personally and intimately."

Across the two camps more than 130 young people gathered in an atmosphere supercharged with the Gospel and an itinerary jam packed with intense fun and meaningful connection. The events were rich with 'firsts' and true blessings, but for Brooke, it was what happened in Skopje that made her heart sing.



Thumbs up for a great day at the lake.



Crud War!



Smiles aplenty at the end of a fabulous camp!



Program team from Poland and North Macedonia join forces at Camp.

"In North Macedonia the majority of people are Slavic Macedonian but there's a significant Albanian population who speak a different language and the two groups have barely any interaction. There's also a large group of Roma who are marginalised, isolated and many of the children don't go to school at all. My heart has always been for our ministry to welcome all of these young people and this year at camp, incredibly we saw that happen."

41 young people from all three groups, along with international students spent the week together, engaging, laughing and connecting in a way that would have seemed impossible. They were served by a diverse group of believers from seven different nations.

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands." (Revelation 7:9)

Brooke says while they had always hoped to be able to reach young Albanian Muslims, without Albanian leaders they hadn't thought it was achievable.

"Amazingly, an Albanian missionary in our old town befriended a group of students, three from the same family, who were selling items on the street to make ends meet for their family. They were invited to the camp, along with four other Albanian students to spend a week just being kids and they loved every minute. They've also come back to every activity we've organised since then. Of course, it will be a long journey and take a miracle for a Muslim family to change their faith and accept Jesus, but I believe that by loving their children, God is already deep at work in the hearts of this family."

After more than a year of having to cancel events and find new ways of staying connected with students, Brooke admits that for Young Life in North Macedonia and Albania, it was difficult at times to stay motivated.

The July camps brought joy and hope for what can be achieved once restrictions are lifted, with the team energised by the number of kids who came along including more than half who they met for the first time. Their prayers are for new partners and leaders so they can reach even more young people regardless of language, culture or religion and their commitment is to continue bridging gaps, building relationships and communicating the life changing message of Jesus.



Ray (Second from left) as a leader in Young Life Rosebud in the 1980s

A SINGLE SEED FOR A LIFETIME OF GROWTH

It was about 1980, Ray was 16 and a tough guy. He and his gang hung out at the local milk bar where above the store, the Young Life Rosebud CLUB met. For Ray and his mates, the Christians upstairs were nothing but dorky 'goodie-goodies' who they often laughed at, so it was a surprise when one of them crept downstairs one day and asked if anyone wanted to see a shaving cream pie thrown in someone's face!

As Ray tells the story, it didn't feel right to bash a dork, so instead he and his five mates shrugged and thought 'why not'. They followed the Young Life leader up to CLUB.

As it turns out there was enough entertainment to keep them coming back, at least for a few weeks, and mostly just to watch the 'crazy people'. Ray scoffed and laughed along with his mates during prayer, but he also had this feeling he couldn't shake there was something in it and while his mates eventually stopped coming, he stayed on. To be honest, he'd never felt acceptance like it before.

Young Life changed Ray and people around him soon started to notice. The tough guy once motivated by looking for a fight felt a connection with Jesus. He committed to learning more and after some time felt ready to accept Christ. Ray went on to join the Young Life team and, given the opportunity to do contact work in the local high school, he realised he had a gift for reaching kids travelling the same troublesome path he had.

Ray's Christian journey with Young Life had much to do with a couple by the name of Ian and Brenda Gilmour who were the Rosebud area leaders from as far back as the 1970's, helping many teenagers come to faith by planting a simple SEED, an invitation to come and see.

Would it grow?

For Ray it didn't continue this way. Struggles with Christian living as a young adult, then a traumatic event caused him to isolate himself from people and God.

But fast forward 30 years and Ray heard that Ian had passed away. Despite the decades of distance, he was determined to attend the funeral and that became his first step in reconnecting with the best years of his life.

For Brenda, that phone call out of the blue from her 'cream-pie CLUB kid' was a joy and a treat. Having been saved all those years ago, Ray was ready to recommit and multiply the blessing.

Today, and in the midst of the COVID-19 lockdowns Ray and Brenda have stayed in touch, encouraging each other, making plans and reflecting often on the power of that single seed of faith, planted in Ray so many years before.

It really does only take one for God to make it grow.

PRAY FOR YOUTH WEEK | OCT 25-31 2021



UNITE WITH US | [YOUNGLIFE.ORG.AU/PRAYERWEEK](https://www.younglife.org.au/prayerweek)

CHAPLAINCY REPORT

WITH GLYN HENMAN

Young Life Australia has been a National Chaplaincy Program provider since its inception in 2007. Currently, we have chaplains placed in both primary and high schools across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

2020-21 has been challenging for chaplains and schools alike, as they navigated the opening and closing of schools due to COVID-19 restrictions. This level of disruption to students, teachers and families has placed a huge strain on all concerned. With many students struggling with online learning, social disconnection, and increased emotional and mental health concerns, there has been an increased need for additional support offered to students and staff alike.

Our chaplains seek to uphold and support the welfare component of school life by providing pastoral support and care to students, staff and parents and complement other essential support structures in the life of our schools. Whether this is supporting the school counsellor in their role, facilitating student engagement through reading, sport, drama, or simply being a safe adult willing to listen and support where possible.



Kathleen, one of our chaplains sent these little gifts to the teachers in her school. That small gesture warmed hearts and opened up conversations that she never expected! A small gift, but with a big impact.

The last year has seen chaplains supporting families to help their children with online learning, providing resources to parents, following up with practical needs to keep students engaged in their education or providing a simple care package for stressed teachers.

It has been a challenging year for the chaplains as they have supported school communities through one of the most challenging times in modern history. They have served their schools with distinction and Young Life Australia is committed to continuing to find innovative and creative ways of building confidence, resilience and values with young people in the school setting.

HOW TO DONATE TO YOUNG LIFE



You can donate to Young Life by visiting www.younglife.org.au/donate, scanning the QR code, or filling out the donation form below.

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Email _____

Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Evening) _____

Please send me more information on:

- ☐ Becoming a monthly giving partner ☐ Volunteers in Schools
☐ Serving on a local YLA Committee ☐ Sponsor a teen to Summer Camp
☐ Praying for the work of Young Life Australia

I wish to partner the work of Young Life Australia through financial support:

Amount \$ _____

Please tick the applicable boxes:

- ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ One-off
☐ Cheque ☐ Direct Debit (We will contact you for details)

Credit card type:

- ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex

Name on card _____

Card No.

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Expires

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Signature _____

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

We appreciate your support. It really makes a difference!

Please send completed form to:

Young Life Australia
PO Box 240, West Ryde, NSW 1685

Please make all cheques payable to Young Life.

Young Life Australia complies with all provisions of the Privacy Act. Be assured that the personal details you provide will be entered directly into the Young Life Australia database and will not be disclosed to any third party. We may use your details to send you information about the work of Young Life Australia. If you would like to know what information Young Life Australia has on you please call (02) 9877 5144 during business hours.

☐ Please do not send any further details about Young Life Australia

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