



Brisbane, QLD

[www.youngcare.com.au](http://www.youngcare.com.au)

### Purpose

To provide dignified and relevant care for young people with high care needs.



### Rationale for SVA Investment

There are currently 6,500 young people in Australia with high care needs due to disability living in residential aged care homes. An aged care facility is no place for any young person, however many young Australians are forced to reside in these facilities because there are no alternatives.

The realities of aged care mean that young people will share a residence where the average age is 85 and the average life expectancy is just three years. More importantly however, is that in most cases the specific care needs of these young people will differ greatly to those of the elderly residents. In this environment, young people's quality of life is poor, with, for example, 44 per cent of young people in nursing homes receiving a visit from a friend less than once a year.

Over 700,000 people under 65 have a severe or profound core activity limitation, and although exact numbers are unknown, it is likely that many families in Australia are also struggling with the significant care needs of a family member. The cost of caring to these families is great with research showing that approximately 60 per cent of carers are moderately to severely depressed.

Youngcare's purpose is to put hope, possibilities and dignity into the lives of young people with a high-needs disability and their families. It believes that there is more than enough money and goodwill in the system for this to be achieved – it just needs direction.

Youngcare works to improve how the system currently operates, rather than as a direct care provider, by facilitating the co-operation of community, business and government to enable the construction and operation of Youngcare Apartments.

SVA believes Youngcare has the potential to grow beyond its Queensland base to drive fundamental change in the way that high-needs disability care is viewed and managed for young people in Australia, enabling them to live their lives with dignity and social connectedness.

### Historical Achievement

Youngcare built the first Youngcare Apartments, a high-quality facility for people with high care needs, in Sinnamoon Park, Brisbane in 2007 by brokering relationships with government (to fund on-going care) and service providers (to select and refer appropriate residents and undertake to run the facility). It provides high-quality appropriate care for 16 people.

### Growth Goal as agreed with SVA

#### Youngcare's Strategy (2009-2014)

- By 2014 a sufficient amount of funding will be available to provide high quality care for all young people in aged care, or at risk of being in aged care, in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales.

## Performance Indicators

### Direct Youngcare responsibility

1. By the end of 2010, six to eight further places will be available on the Gold Coast and minimum funding for the Queensland plan of \$166m per annum will be in place.
2. By the end of 2011, six further places will be available in Melbourne and 16 further places will be available in Sydney.
3. By the end of 2012, minimum funding for the Victorian and New South Wales' plans will be agreed (\$194m per annum for VIC, \$292m per annum for NSW).
4. By the end of 2013, Victorian and New South Wales' plans are being actioned by all key organisations.

### Indirect Youngcare influence

1. By the end of 2011, service providers will complete approval processes for 250 new places in Queensland.
2. By the end of 2012, service providers will complete construction of 250 new places in Queensland.
3. By the end of 2013, service providers will complete approval processes for 250 new places in each of New South Wales and Victoria.

Full detailed performance indicators are contained in Youngcare's Strategic Plan.

## Venture Team

### Board Members & Co-Founders

David Conry (Executive Chairman)  
Simon Lockyer (Executive Director)  
Nicolas Bonifant (Executive Director & General Manager)  
Matthew Lawson (Non-Executive Director)

### David Conry, Executive Chairman

For years David and Shevaune Conry together fought Shevaune's chronic progressive disease of MS. When Shevaune's care needs became too great at their home, she and David were forced to find full-time care, only to discover that her only option was to enter residential aged care.

David and three friends, dismayed at the options open to Shevaune, resolved to do something about it and established Youngcare.

The founding members of Youngcare are David Conry, Nick Bonifant, Simon Lockyer and Matthew Lawson. They are four business professionals whose collective experience spans advertising, sales, marketing, media production, property development, project management and finance.

In recognition of his work and on behalf of Youngcare, David was awarded the Queensland Australian of the Year 2007 and was an Australian of the Year finalist. David also won the 2008 John Studdy Award for services to those with MS and the 2009 Northern Region Ernst & Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

David and the board intend to utilise these awards to further develop Youngcare into an organisation that promotes thought, innovation and proactivity to further the rights and quality of life of young people with disabilities and to change public perception and government policy on what is acceptable care for those with disabilities.

