

17 November 2014

An open letter to the congregation of Glen Waverley Uniting Church,

On behalf of Wesley Mission Victoria, thank you for inviting me to your service last Sunday morning. And thanks to Peter Stewart for letting us know that this gift was even a *possibility* all those months ago.

As part of Wesley Mission Victoria's Community Relations team it's my job to connect all the selfless, the... *amazingly* generous supporters – such as yourselves – with the programs doing good work and through them with those who *need* your help.

And so I'd like to write briefly on the Wesley program you have chosen to support this year:

Wesley's Homelessness Support Service's – Emergency Relief Program

The program provides Emergency and crisis support for individuals and families across metropolitan Melbourne who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Apart from linking people to various other service avenues: health services, Centrelink, etc., the program provides – *when* it has the resources, that is:

- **Crisis accommodation and support** to individuals, families and young people,
- **Emergency Relief**, such as food, pharmaceutical vouchers, clothing, fuel vouchers, myki and phone cards and other essential items,
- **Laundry and shower facilities**,
- **Financial counselling and No Interest Loans**,
- Resilient Kids **therapeutic counselling and group programs**,
- **Back to School Assistance** to help families experiencing financial hardship give their children just an *ordinary* school experience,
- Access to a **community health nurse** as well as **healthy living, eating and exercise guidance and programs**,
- **Tenancy support and assisted pathways to private rental accommodation**,

And more – I'm afraid this short list barely scratches the surface!

Without the committed support of donors such as yourselves we would be unable to provide these kinds of services, this much needed assistance to the over 5,000 families – the over *13,000* individuals – who seek help from Wesley's Homelessness Services each year.

Your donation is going to make a *real* difference – the exact spend will depend on the most urgent programmatic needs – but to give you some tangible examples of what your donation could do: \$3,600 means we can provide:

- **Over 50 hours** of support from clinical nurses, or
- Pharmaceuticals and medical aid such as glasses, walking frames, etc. **to approx. 100 people**, or
- **Over 80 hours** of caseworker support, or
- Back to School books, shoes, uniforms and excursion fees **for 20 children** for the entire year.

In terms of meals it is the equivalent of roughly **720 full meals!**

I started by thanking you for inviting me to your service. Please allow me to finish by saying, on behalf of the WHSS program and the ultimate beneficiaries of this, this *generous* gift, thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Goddard – Community Relations – Wesley Mission Victoria

