



## Families facing Financial Crisis, find Support and Community

One in four households will struggle to keep warm this winter because of the increase in electricity prices and the impact that the carbon tax will have on Australian families.

MORE than 10 per cent of Australian households - or 850,000 - spend so much on rent or mortgage payments they have little left over to cover other bills, a recent study shows.

In particular, many households that rent are struggling, with one in four considered to be in "housing stress"

Late last year the question was asked of Lin Hatfield Dodds from Uniting Care, "How difficult are families doing it"?

Her response is, "many are too scared to open their electricity bills, as new reports show families are struggling, but too proud to speak up".

Latest figures show 14,000 families can't afford their bills, and more than 730,000 need State Government assistance.

Each year The Kogarah Storehouse assists literally hundreds of people with Emergency Relief. This relief comes in the form of emergency food vouchers, food parcels, rent assistance, phone bills, gas bills and electricity bills.

The biggest area of concern in the past twelve months, however is the growing number of people who have sought assistance to pay their electricity bills.

We do encourage older people who are really struggling to contact the Storehouse. We want to say to our community that "we do not want you to suffer because of power bills".

**Fuel poverty is where a family spends more than 10 per cent of its income on energy.**



How much money do you need to be happy? The answer is: about 20% more than you currently earn. At least, that is what people think will make them happy. In Australia, surveys in 2002 found that 62% of people feel that they do not have enough money for "everything they really need". Really? Not enough for our basic needs? How much is enough?

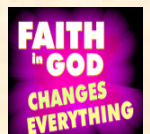
When Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4) he placed the idea of enough at the centre of this prayer. The importance of the Lord's Prayer has been vastly under-recognised, for it is not intended as merely some liturgical form of words, relegated to be droned out in Christian gatherings; rather, it is a model of the things we should pray about, the very substance of our dialogue with God. So we should take special notice that immediately after Jesus instructs us to pray that "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven", he then instructs us to pray "Give us this day our daily bread".

The implications of this are huge. At its most basic level it tells us that our economic affairs are rightly a subject of importance to God, and that they are directly related to the subject of God's kingdom and his will. God's economy begins with simple gratitude and contentment with what we have, such as that expressed by the Apostle Paul:

*I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*  
(Philippians 4:11-12)

Blessings,

Margie  
Executive Director





## Community in Action



A very big thank you to St. George Bank who play a large part in community volunteering. They have offered a team of volunteers every couple of months to come down to the Kogarah Storehouse and keep our gardens looking neat and tidy.

They also are regular donors of food and non perishable products to the Food Program at the Storehouse.



## Spring Walk in the Botanical Gardens Saturday September 1st

The Brighton Kogarah Uniting Church are planning a walk around Sydney's Botanical Gardens and are not wasting any time getting out and enjoying the first day of Spring. If you would like to join this happy & energetic group please call the Storehouse on 9587-5761.

## What's On...

### 123 Magic

*"123 MAGIC" is designed to assist parents manage their child's behaviour including tantrums, yelling, fighting, arguing etc., and learning practical skills to develop your child's positive behaviour "and help make parenting an enjoyable experience.*



This is a very popular course at the Storehouse and runs over 3 Monday mornings. This course will commence on Monday August 6th, 13th & 20th from 9.30-1.00pm. Please call 9587-5761 for registrations.

### Storehouse Lunches

Every Wednesday at the Storehouse from 12noon—1.00pm.

Everyone is welcome!!

Coming up in September we will have a guest artist, so it's sure to be lots of fun.

### APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

So that we can continue the vital work we do each day, we need more supporters to join our 200 CLUB. For \$1 a day (or \$30/month), your contribution will help to pay our ongoing expenses and ultimately enable us to provide care and support that our community needs.

With the help of '200 CLUB' members, we can meet our

annual target. If you would like to donate to the work of the Storehouse, please call (9587-5761) or email us (storehouse@ozemail.com.au) for more information. We are a registered charity with DGR status and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

