



Annual Report

2015



Respect Hope Concern Inclusion Empowerment

About the Kogarah Storehouse

The Kogarah Storehouse is an outreach ministry of the Brighton-Kogarah Uniting Church that exists to bring hope through the spirit of the gospel by **actively showing God's love to people in need**. We are a community based, non-profit, charitable organisation with God at our centre. We seek to see people resourced and empowered to handle life's struggles and fulfil their God given potential.



What is our vision?

To see the lives of people transformed with hope through the power of God. Our motivation is to be the hands of Jesus reaching out in his name to people in need.

People need to feel connected, to know they are a part of a community of friends who truly care about their lives and support them when they need help.

Message from our Minister

This last year has been quite a challenge with both the departure of our previous Manager, Margie and losing the distribution of Federal Government Emergency Relief Funds. The appointment of Lala as our new Manager is a great gift to us. Her energy and lateral thinking are helping us in new directions and we wish Margie well in her new ventures.

Through it all there has been a sense of the presence of God and the leading of God in finding a new way forward for The Kogarah Storehouse.

I am most grateful for the dedication of the volunteers who faithfully and generously held the work of The Storehouse together in the time without a Manager, from September to March and continue to give so generously of themselves in this way.

It is the desire of the Church to continue a food parcel ministry and so we are endeavouring to find the funds to be able to continue this vital ministry to people who are living on the margins of society.

It is a time of trial for us as we seek God's leading and the support of our generous donors of both money and food, to find ways of doing what we have done before, in new ways.

We are thankful that we believe in a loving and gracious God who is faithful, who has provided for us a group of volunteers who genuinely love the people in our community who are suffering and need our support and the generosity of our donors so that we can continue this Trust that has been given to us .

Rev Robyn Lyons



Message from our Chairman

The Kogarah Storehouse has had a year of significant change with the appointment of Lala Noronha as our new Manager in March 2015, after the resignation of Margie Nielsen. Lala commenced at the same time we were informed that the Federal Government was not renewing our contract to distribute their Emergency Relief Funds to our local community. These funds were used to offer emergency relief to people who were facing severe poverty. As a result, The Kogarah Storehouse is now not able to provide the same level of emergency financial support as we have been able to do in the past, which has left people literally out in the cold. To say the least, this has been extremely disappointing.

However, The Storehouse is still very much resolved to be out there offering hope and help to people in real need. It is a very dynamic and busy place to visit with many people still coming in for emergency assistance in the form of a food parcel, a free lunch on Wednesday, energy accounts payment assistance or just a loaf of bread. Then there are the many and various community groups who come and use our facilities every day of the week. As you read through this Annual Report I believe you will feel a sense of culture and the wonderful work that is being done here in Jesus name.

It is a privilege to chair such a committed group of people on our management committee and to work alongside our staff and volunteers. I am humbled by their dedication and willingness to go the extra mile in serving those in our community who are struggling at the moment and are in need of our help. . I must give special recognition to Lala Noronha who has made such a positive contribution to The Storehouse in the short time she has now been with us.

Our dedicated group of financial supporters are the other wonderful group of people who I must thank and say how much we appreciate your giving and your prayers. All of us who are involved with the work of The Kogarah Storehouse are very much aware that we cannot exist without your ongoing support so please know how much you are valued. We are all part of a team, each contributing in our own way to make this ministry happen.

We are looking forward to what God has in store for us in this coming year as we know it will be exciting, as it always is, as we seek to follow His leading.

In Christ's service

Russell Foxe



Message from our Manager

2015 is a new era for The Kogarah Storehouse

I started my position in March 2015 which was the same month the Federal Government withdrew their Emergency Relief Funds. It is a significant change for The Kogarah Storehouse, however, the Church and Board members were determined to keep the Emergency Food Program operating as much as possible. Therefore, the priority for me was to try to source grants and other sources of funds to sustain our food ministry.

I am pleased to say that, through God's provision, we have secured funds for the next 6 months. While Brighton-Kogarah Congregation continue to collect food items and donations, there are new groups, organisation and individuals supporting the Emergency Food Program. We cherish our partnerships with Coles Brighton **"SecondBite"**, **Bakers Delight Rockdale Plaza** and Foodbank. The Kogarah Storehouse will need to remain creative to continue raising funds

The Storehouse continues to serve people in our local community in four main ways :

1. Our food program which includes not only emergency food parcels , but also free community lunches every Wednesday. As well, there were two special lunches hosted during the year, the Christmas and Easter lunches. Both were a great success and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with the members of our community

2. Our welfare support through the **distribution of the State Government's**

Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) program. Vouchers are available for people facing severe financial difficulty and are facing termination of their electricity, gas, or Telstra service. Also, Case Management is provided to help people through a wide range of issues they may be facing, including a referral service.

3. Community Groups use our building for meetings and activities. Over 17 groups use our facilities each week over the 7 days. These groups provide great value and support for those with whom they interact.

4 Life Empowerment courses and support groups are held to enable people to break from their addictions or learn a new skill. Either way we are trying to empower **people's lives.**

The Kogarah Storehouse can only deliver many of our services because we have such a positive group of dedicated volunteers who give so generously of their time, effort and commitment to help people in need.. Words are not enough to describe how **grateful we are except to say "Volunteers are the heart of the Kogarah Storehouse"**

Lala Noronha



Our Services

Emergency Food Parcels

Throughout the year there has been a constant demand for assistance with food as a result of the increased difficulty many people are facing with spiralling rents and higher living costs. **The Kogarah Storehouse's Emergency Food Parcels** are just one strategy we are taking to help our clients with their pressing need to be able to feed their families.

Over 2300 families and individuals were helped with emergency food during the year

Our Emergency Food Parcels are put together by our volunteers and are available to our clients and their families every month with no appointment necessary. They are a key service we offer.

This van, fully loaded with food, is typical of what is collected every two **weeks from 'Foodbank'** by one of our dedicated volunteers.

Another wonderful source of fresh fruit & vegetables is a food service called 2nd Bite. This is a community services program run by Coles supermarkets, which allows us to collect three times a week from our



local Coles store at Brighton.

As well, we are very grateful to Baker's Delight at Rockdale Plaza who donate all their excess bread at the end of the day for free distribution to anyone who needs a loaf or two.

Community Lunches Program

Every Wednesday the Storehouse provides a free lunch for our clients to offer them a nourishing meal and an opportunity to sit and chat with others and enjoy some interaction and friendship with others. Approximately 2000 meals have been served over the year and they have proven to be a vital service to the community. Many friendships have been formed during these lunches and some who were previous lunch guests are now volunteering in the kitchen and serving others wanting some companionship and a meal.



Welfare Assistance

Other Emergency Relief services include helping clients with electricity & gas bills through the NSW State Government provided EAPA Vouchers (Energy Accounts Payment Assistance).

Telstra also provide telephone bill payment assistance through the provision of vouchers.



Case management is also available for clients who face an emergency situation, whether that is the threat of eviction, domestic violence, addictions, or other pressing issues. The Storehouse often will act by referring clients to other specialist services who are better able to provide assistance.



Community Groups

The Storehouse is in use 7 days a week with no less than 17 different community groups using the Storehouse facilities. Some come every day, some weekly, two weekly or some monthly. This is a vital part of our mission as we see it helps these groups reach out into the community with their own special gifts and services.

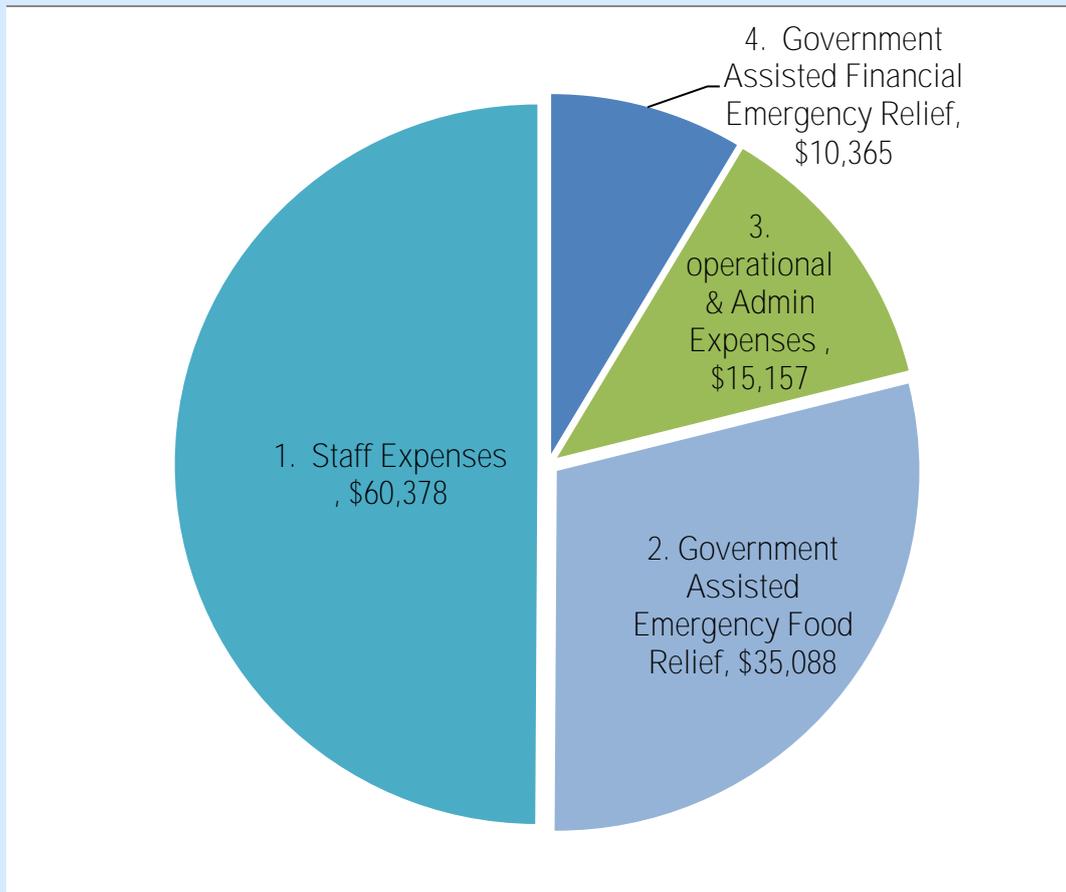
Depending on the group, there is usually little or no cost to them.

Groups currently include :

Alcoholics Anonymous * Narcotics Anonymous * Al-Anon * Nar-Anon * Smart Recovery * Long Day Child Care Centre * Play Groups for Tiny Tots and Babies * Knitters Guild * English Classes * Kumon math's classes * Get Crafty Group * Share Exercise Class for over 65's Storehouse Social Club for people with mental illness * Adult Learning & Leisure Group.



Summarised Statement of Expenditure July 2014 - June 2015



1. STAFF EXPENSES: all wages are raised through donations
4 part time staff = 1.3 full time equivalent
2. GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF *: consisting of food parcels, food vouchers and food cards
3. OPERATIONAL & ADMIN EXPENSES: consisting accounting services, stationary, postage
4. GOVERNMENT ASSISTED FINANCIAL EMERGENCY RELIEF* : Including electricity & gas account payments

**The Kogarah Storehouse was an accredited agent for the distribution of Federal and State Government Emergency Relief Funds and Energy Assistance Payment Vouchers*

Thank You

We are proud to list these organisations in our community who have helped and supported the services provided by The Kogarah Storehouse;

- The Brighton-Kogarah Uniting Church
- Woollahra/Double Bay Uniting Church
- Kirk Place – Kogarah Presbyterian Church
- Coles 2nd Bite – Brighton le Sands
- Kogarah City Council
- Kogarah Chamber of Commerce
- The Storehouse 200 Club Members
- The New Church - Hurstville
- St. George Bank – Kogarah
- Westpac Bank Kogarah
- Southern Community Welfare
- The Kingsley Foundation
- **Baker's Delight** - Rockdale Plaza
- Foodbank NSW
- Florence Norman Price Trust
- Uniting Care NSW/ACT



Contact

16-18 Gray Street, Kogarah NSW 2217 | P.O. Box 67, Kogarah NSW 1485

Ph: 02 9587-5761 | Fax: 02 9587-6040 | E: enquiries@kogarahstorehouse.org.au

www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au

ABN 83 458 985 477 | Registered Charity with tax deductible gift recipient status

For more information on any services, courses, programs or community groups please contact The Kogarah Storehouse on 9587-5761 or enquiries@kogarahstorehouse.org.au



The Kogarah Storehouse is a community support mission of
Brighton-Kogarah Uniting Church