



Storehouse seasons

Poverty in Australia?

On May 24, 2017 the Sydney Morning Herald reported: "The sixth annual Economic and Social Impact Survey found skyrocketing Sydney housing costs are driving an increasing number of people into poverty, forcing them to choose between rent and putting food on the table".

When one thinks of poverty we probably all place a low dollar value on where the "poverty line" sits. If I was to quiz you what a single income family comprising two adults and two dependent children living in rental accommodation in Sydney need in disposable weekly income, what would your answer be? In fact, take a moment to think what your answer is and write it down, you might be surprised by the dollar value given later.

Poverty it seems is all around us but do we see it? Of course there are the obvious individuals sleeping rough about Sydney's streets, but they seem to me a very small proportion of the population. Indeed, most of our city's poor actually exist quietly under our very noses, hidden from view. Despite their situation they maintain some dignity and suffer in silence. According to the Australian Council of Social Security report on "Poverty in Australia 2016" they state 13.3% of Australians (2.99 million people) live in poverty. Do you think this figure alarming for the so called "Lucky Country"? It's not surprising then that the services of The Kogarah Storehouse are widely used and appreciated.

The answer to our Quiz is found in Lala's column.



Lala's Greetings

Welcome again to our latest "Storehouse Seasons". Since our last newsletter so much continues to happen at The Kogarah Storehouse that blesses our community in need.

In Mathew 13: 31 Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God is like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a large tree. Small things can have big outcomes and we aim to advance the Kingdom of God in big ways by the small things done at The Kogarah Storehouse. Many times the small things done are "practical and direct". For example, from data about our programs, we see over a 3 month period that we gave out over 10 food parcels to needy individual clients a day. Furthermore, we have served around 750 with community lunches and helped 380 with Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA vouchers).

But sometimes the small things we do are "practical and indirect", in so much that we facilitate our clients to access other services from other providers where they get direct assistance. Our hosting of the St. George Community Connections Hub is an example of this. And further, in this newsletter, you can read about how our Welfare officer, Jordanna, was able in small ways to make a big difference to one family's happiness.

And the answer to our Quiz....\$959.25

Lala Noronha

Manager





STOREHOUSE CHARITY GIFT MARKET

A new initiative has been created at The Storehouse to help our clients access low cost gifts, which otherwise, normally, be beyond their budget. The Storehouse Gift Market is also an opportunity to raise much needed funds for general operations. All goods offered for sale have been donated and are of high quality. There is a wide variety of items on offer so the selection is very inviting and appealing. The market is open Monday – Thursday 10am to 3pm, and Friday 10am -12.30pm. Everyone is invited to call in and find a bargain

THE KOGARAH STOREHOUSE OFFERS REALLY PRACTICAL HELP



Here is a client story provided by our Welfare Office, Jordanna Zammitt.

A single mother with 6 children aged between 1 and 15yrs old came seeking assistance. The mother was having trouble coping with all her children as she has no support from their father or other family members. The mother had no idea where to start so we worked through her issues together and I began by contacting 'Brighter Futures' childcare at Sutherland.

The main problem identified was that this client was having a lot of trouble coping with the younger children and never had time to herself. This lady has now been accepted onto the 'Brighter

Futures' program and they are helping her with childcare for her younger children.

Another issue identified with this family was the 5 year old boy has speech problems. He needed speech therapy but she could simply not afford to pay for it. I contacted Rockdale Community Centre to enquire if this boy would be eligible for free speech therapy.

After meeting with the child and his mother the Community Centre called me to say the boy had been accepted for free speech therapy. He is now talking a lot better and is keeping up at school. The mother was very thankful for all the help that was given to her by The Kogarah Storehouse.



About The Kogarah Storehouse

Our mission: "To be a haven of hope and practical help to people in need in our community".

Established in 1992, The Kogarah Storehouse Community Centre is a non-government community organisation, operating under the auspices of UnitingCare NSW/ACT Community Services, and the Brighton-Kogarah Uniting Church. We are a registered charity and a public benevolent institution with DGR status. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



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