



# Storehouse seasons

## Kelly's Journey

A few years back, my life was thrown into chaos. My husband, after 14 years decided to get up and leave.

In shock that Wednesday morning, he packed his suitcase in front of us and simply said, "I'm leaving ". It felt so surreal it took days for me to comprehend what had just happened. My son could not leave our home for days, and with the encouragement of his class teacher, we took those few days to try to collect ourselves. We had always been a happy family (or so I thought). This had appeared to come out from nowhere.

Thoughts of, how do I pay rent and buy food, plus we had just received a few bills that needed to be paid within the week. My heart and head were still a mess.

A dear friend of mine encouraged me to visit The Kogarah Storehouse for some assistance and came along with me. Still a mess, it was only a week after his exit, I was very much embarrassed to ask for help. However, I met this wonderful team of people there who were so compassionate

and helped me with the process of getting my bills paid and then provided food for my son and myself. I was so grateful, not only for the material support they gave me, but also for the emotional and empowering support they provided, which made me feel valued so that I could cope. Over time, with their ongoing support I was able to restart my life and come to grips with my new reality.

My son was still struggling greatly. This was a major concern for me as he had lost so much in such a little time. His grandfather had died, we lost our dog with whom he had grown up, his dad had left and he was about to start a new school. Everything felt magnified.

I was faced with having to purchase a new school uniform and other items and frankly didn't know how I was going to be able to do this. The Storehouse once again stepped up and offered to pay for my son's school uniform. This was such a great help and relief.

The Kogarah Storehouse had so impacted my life that about a year later, I wanted

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## Lala's Greeting

A belated Happy New Year to all. I trust you had a blessed Christmas and great start to 2019, in whichever way you spent the holiday season.

Our end of year Christmas party for our clients, staff and wonderful volunteers was such a great success with 130 people being served a sumptuous meal. A huge thank you to our dear friends from Club Rivers who were an enormous help with providing food and helpers.

Now the holidays are over we are recharged and looking forward to getting back into the important work God has given us to do for the disadvantaged people in our community.

My prayer, as we go into this year and as you read the encouraging story of Kelly's life being changed, that you will continue your interest and support of the work we do. We could not do this without you! I pray that our work at Storehouse will be fruitful and will enrich the lives of all who seek our help, through the services and programs we provide. So many people with sad stories and situations come through our doors each week. All who serve here are dedicated to provide whatever we can to show God's love to all, without discrimination. We have a busy year lined up, so welcome to the 'Summer Season' of Storehouse News.

Blessings,

Lala Noronha  
Manager



to return the compassion I had received. So when the opportunity arose I asked if I could become a volunteer and work at the Storehouse. Here I have learnt to laugh more and understand peoples struggles in many forms.

It has been just a little over 2 years later and I now have casual work. When I come here I can be me again (with still some work in progress mind you) and I have a son who is proud that I am helping others too.

My experience has taught me acceptance, respect and understanding that each individual is unique in God's sight and therefore so valued.

**Thank you Kogarah Storehouse!!**

## THE 'HUB' GETS PEOPLE AND JOBS TOGETHER

The 'St George Community Connections HUB Expo... connecting people to community services' is a free service with no appointments required and is held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month between 10am & 1pm from March to November. Conveniently located in The Kogarah Storehouse centre, it is a 'one-stop-shop' opportunity for people to connect with up to 25 service providers, offering a wide range of assistance to people looking for help. It commenced in July 2016 and last year the HUB saw a record number of people coming to avail themselves of the

services provided. A free lunch is provided by The Storehouse for all who attend.

In 2018 the St George Community Connections Hub was particularly successful in helping people find a job. The HUB assisted 8 people to find employment through networking and the connections they made, with another 4 persons connected to Employment Service Agencies of which they had not been aware. 3 people were connected to free English classes to improve their employability, whilst another 5, who had severe issues, were linked in to Government and

non-government departments for timely assistance.

Lastly, 2 persons found a connection to volunteer work which is great step for them to find employment.

In 2019 the St George Community Connections HUB Expo will be operating again at The Storehouse on 20th March and hopefully continue to make a significant contribution to helping individuals connect to jobs and the social services, which they are looking for to help them in their particular situation.



## 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, not-for-profit, registered charity with (PBI) Public Benevolent Institute DGR status. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. It operates from the Kogarah Uniting Church and is an outreach mission of the church.



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