



# Storehouse Seasons

## Lala Looks To The Future

There is no doubt the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for all of us, however, I see the future is looking bright for The Kogarah Storehouse as we move into 2022 and out of this strange time in our history.

I am naturally a positive person and look for the best way forward to go, even when our situation is being disrupted and we are not able to carry on providing our services as we would want. I see that the main objective for The Kogarah Storehouse now is to remain open and operating, providing the much needed help and support to those most vulnerable in our community. Certainly, the Emergency Food Parcel distribution program is such a vital service and so this will remain central to our 2022 plans, to not only maintain, but to expand as we can.

The other pressing need we are experiencing are women struggling with isolation either because of COVID or because of their migrant background. Many are mothers with young children who lack the support of family and don't know where to turn for help. The restarting of our Women's Health & Wellbeing six week courses will provide these women with the information they need together with greater understanding of their health needs, their parenting skills, their sense of worth and the value of healthy relationships.

Through our partnership with the 'Moving Forward' organisation, who are specialists in domestic and family abuse case management and other support services, The Kogarah Storehouse will be providing this much needed help to those women who are experiencing abuse.

We are working on planning for each six weeks period going forward, at

which point we will reassess what we can do next. As soon as we are able we want to restart our larger group gatherings like our Wednesday free hot lunches and hosting our monthly Community Connections HUB to access the many social services available in our community.

There is no doubt this year will continue to bring us challenges, however, I am so confident that The Kogarah Storehouse, with God's continuing help, will more than just meet those challenges, but will grow. I am excited !!

*Lala Noronha, General Manager*



Lala and her Team



Lala with Food Parcel



Lala with Russell Foxe

# A Helping Hand For Debbie

Debbie (not her real name) came to us recently seeking help to pay her power bill.

For over 20 years The Kogarah Storehouse has been an agent for issuing Energy Account Payment Assistance (EAPA) coupons, so Debbie was referred to Jordanna, our welfare officer, for help. There are strict guidelines that we must adhere to be able to provide EAPA coupons. However, Debbie met all the criteria and we were able to give her the assistance she needed.

When Jordanna contacted her, Debbie told her she had now contracted COVID-19 and was in isolation and had little food and other supplies. It was arranged that emergency food parcels would be delivered to her, together with a COVID isolation pack, and these would be left at her door for her to collect.

Jordanna then called Debbie each day to make sure she was OK and was coping with the virus and her isolation. Debbie told her that the isolation pack and food parcels came to her at the perfect time and it was more than enough to see her through the week.

Debbie said it was the lowest time in her life that she could remember and she really didn't know what she would have done without the help she was given by The Kogarah Storehouse ... "it was an absolute 'Godsend'"

Being given practical help with food and other COVID supplies is one thing. However, being checked on each day by Jordanna gave Debbie another whole level of support and comfort, knowing she was valued and cared for. She told Jordanna that her phone calls were lifesaving.

HELPING  
HAND



**Kogarah  
Uniting  
Church**



the  
**Kogarah**  
STOREHOUSE

Sharing God's love with our local community

## 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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