



# Storehouse

## Seasons

### The Storehouse to the Rescue

Help can come in many ways and can be unexpected.

For over 20 years The Kogarah Storehouse, has been helping the unemployed and low income earners with services such as Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA). This has allowed us to build up much knowledge as to what assistance is available for those in need.

This is the story of Ken (not his real name), who lives on his own in FACS housing. Ken came to



us seeking help with his electricity bill with us providing some EAPA vouchers.

There are strict criteria with EAPA which must be met, and Ken met all the criteria. However, during his assessment, our staff member Jordanna, noticed that he was not

getting his 'Low Income Rebate'. This is a special discount that clients on Centrelink payments receive on every bill of around \$71. Because Ken had moved his address and his new address had not been recorded, his low income rebate had not been reinstated.

The good news is, Jordanna was able to help Ken go back over his past year of payments and retrieved \$292 in back subsidies, which fully cleared his current \$150 bill, and gave him a credit balance of \$142 towards his next bill.

It may seem such a small "win" when counted among all the need we see each week. But for Ken, it showed him that someone genuinely cared for him, and was willing and prepared to do that bit extra to demonstrate her "genuine care" for him . . . after all, this is what The Kogarah Storehouse is all about!

### Lala's Greeting

What a past few years we have endured! Fires, Floods, Covid and threats of another World War. Life can turn upside down, for any of us, in a heartbeat!

I am reminded of the book of Job, in the Bible. Job was wealthy and successful, a blameless and upright man in the sight of God. But poor Job was beset by a number of calamities. Job responds: "Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked shall I return; the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21)

It is good to be reminded that we come into the world with nothing and leave equally so. What happens in between these two bookends is what defines us, what we are remembered for. In today's materialistic world we measure many by money, but having a heart for others, showing love, care and charity can be a much more rewarding epitaph.

Blessings,

Lala Noronha  
General Manager



# JOIN OUR DOLLAR-A-DAY CLUB

...SO TOGETHER WE CAN  
REACH OUT TO THOSE  
WHO DESPERATELY NEED  
OUR SUPPORT



For just **1 dollar a day (\$30 a month)** you will have a huge impact on those who are suffering hardship and in real need right here in our local community.

WITH YOUR VALUED SUPPORT WE CAN MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE TO HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE'S LIVES

## What the latest Federal Budget means for Storehouse clients

The first point that needs to be clearly made is that The Kogarah Storehouse receives no Government funding (Federal or State) to cover its operating expenses. These are all covered by tax deductible donations from our wonderful, loyal supporters who believe in and stand behind the work being done. Other operating income comes from our Storehouse Charity Market and other fund raising events, which hopefully will now increase post COVID.

This article looks at the resources and funding which has been made available to those people in need in our community who come to us for help.

The Federal Budget 2022-23, released in March, has increased funding in areas that should assist the clients we serve and help them with the struggles they face.

A one-off payment of \$250 to pensioners, welfare recipients and concession holders may lessen the debt that many of them possess. A 2.1% increase in pensions, increased spending on Medicare and a reduction in the Pharmaceuticals Benefits Schedule safety net threshold, may improve availability of appropriate health care. For our clients with mental health concerns, spending \$52 million dollars to ramp up Lifeline (online and phone) support services and \$17 million for mental health services to multicultural communities could ease their burdens. Initiatives to reduce the cost of fuel and energy will allow our clients to stretch their welfare payments further. More funding for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will enable those physically disadvantaged to access better support. A \$2 billion increase in the National Housing and Financing Corporation's lending capacity is expected to support around 10,000 more affordable dwellings for vulnerable Australians.

While these improvements in Federal Government spending should make a difference in helping disadvantaged people in our community, of course it will never be enough. And so, the work at The Kogarah Storehouse, as ever, is greatly reliant on your care and concern, and on your charity for those who are deserving of our love.

With the end of the Financial Year approaching, please consider making a tax deductible donation to keep our doors open to those most in need of our support.

## Tax Deductible Donation Appeal

The demands on the resources of The Kogarah Storehouse are escalating. We need your help, more than ever. With the end of the financial year approaching, please consider giving tax deductible financial support.

GO TO:

<http://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/donate>

## 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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