

MCISC NEWS No. 4

It's Nearly Christmas!

The main target group of our information and support service is “people experiencing personal and financial difficulties in Mornington, Mt Martha, Mt Eliza and Moorooduc”.

But surely, you might say, we don't have that many people in that target group in the Mornington area. Well actually we do!

Recently released data from the Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) shows that there were some 4,800 people living in poverty across Mornington (2,400), Mt Martha (1,300) and Mt Eliza (1,100). This equates, on average, to 10% of the population. So, 1 in 10 of our local residents are living in poverty. That is a significant number of people!

I can also tell you, from data recently released by the Council of Homeless Persons that, based on the most recent Census, there were 103 people who were homeless in our state electorate of Mornington District. Of these: 37 were couch surfing, 32 were in crisis accommodation, 16 were living in severely overcrowded dwellings, 13 were sleeping rough and 5 were living in boarding houses. It is generally accepted that this data under represents the real picture.

Of the 22,546 (62 per day, 7 days a week) enquiries for assistance that we responded to through the Centre in 2017/18, there were 6,898 (26 per day, 5 days a week)

occasions when we assisted people through our Emergency Relief Program.

In addition, last year we fed some 117 people at our Christmas lunch (I am told we are already booked out for this year's lunch) and assisted 372 families with hampers and 173 children, who would otherwise miss out, with presents, generously donated by the community.

You might watch out for the Peninsula Toy Run tomorrow morning (Saturday 1st December) between 9.30am – 10am as hundreds of motor bikes roar down Main St on their way from Frankston to Rosebud. They will be delivering toys which we and others will distribute to local families.

If you were thinking of donating food for our hampers or gifts (unwrapped please) for children up to 16 years of age, this Christmas, you can drop them off at the Centre anytime up until the Friday 21st December.

I note that the Centre will only be closed on Public Holidays and only open from 9am – 2pm on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

I do hope that you all enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and that at some stage throughout the holiday period, you take some time to think about those more vulnerable and less fortunate than ourselves.

Stuart Davis-Meehan - Manager

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