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Turning Point Camden Newsletter Mid Year

What an incredibly positive ending to an incredibly tough year. The team distributed 138 Christmas Hampers and roughly 300 toys to families and individuals during our 2021 Christmas Appeal. Over and above your own needs, you, our committed supporters, supplied goods over and above our expectations. We worked collaboratively with 4 other services to make sure no children missed out due to the pressures their parents are working through. Families were totally overwhelmed with this support.



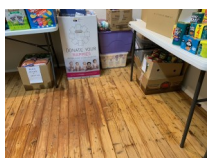
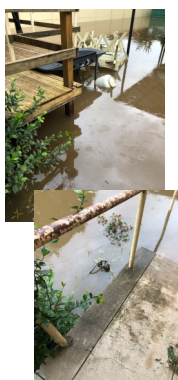
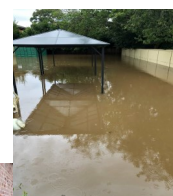
Throughout 2021, our centre was accessed on 1,499 occasions, carried out 135 interviews for new participants, 552 meals were served, we distributed \$40,480 worth of pantry stock, \$15,309 grocery cards, \$7,920 petrol cards, \$1,620 of Opal Cards, and supplied fresh fruit, veg and baked goods through the Secondbite program thanks to Coles Camden.

We provided general information, helped people fill out paperwork and acted as advocates both in person and over the phone on countless occasions. We also met with other services onsite in support of participants and worked through accommodation barriers. We provided back to school packs, made referrals and provided material support and gifts throughout the year.

Sadly, our community experienced unprecedented flooding. The centre was directly impacted by the rising flood waters, closing for 2 weeks while the cottage dried out. Our wonderful landlord met with us immediately, offering his support to quickly address the damage. Our container was hit hard, losing 80% of its contents. The team worked tirelessly to move supplies, stock and paperwork onto benches and tabletops as the alerts came through, then spent hours cleaning up.

We have made significant connections with families in the community especially the Poplar Caravan Park residents, and are working long term to support them as they relocate or move back into the park when possible. Through the generosity of the Iron Spokes Brewing at Narellan, who ran a fundraising event to help local flood victims, donations are being used to provide items such as white goods, clothing vouchers and incidentals to assist with flood recovery. People also donated bottled water, blankets, vouchers, and food supplies to donate directly to where there was the most need.

This Easter, we supplied chocolate eggs to 30 families and individuals. We are very appreciative to Peter Sidgreaves MP. Member for Camden for his ongoing support of Turning Point. He arrived with a huge collection of chocolate goodies for distribution and was able to chat with our team and participants on the day.





We had a visit from the Lifeline Mobile Café. Ryan and Emily provided a wonderful atmosphere during our Men's Breakfast program, giving participants access to information around mental health plus provided delicious refreshments. This is a wonderful outreach opportunity for people to access mental health support from trained volunteers in a relaxed environment. This information can save a life.



This year we have committed to supporting TAFE NSW students, who have completed their Diploma of Community Services and require a placement opportunity to finalise their course. This is a wonderful partnership, offering hands on experience in the welfare sector and giving firsthand opportunities to put their training into practice.



Bunnings Narellan invited us to their annual Mother's Day Event. We connected with Bunnings customers and social groups, receiving donations towards purchasing groceries for our Crisis Food Pantry. We are looking forward to our Bunnings BBQ event August 27th.



Our community knitters have been very busy, providing blankets for each of our new participants. These dedicated knitters participate with a two-fold purpose. One, to bless our participants experiencing crisis and two, giving retired people an opportunity to engage and be purposeful with their time.

We are sincerely thankful to our Community BBQ Breakfast partners, Wests Group, Coutts Solicitors and Conveyancers, Bunnings Narellan, and Matchworks Disability Employment. If you are interested in your team, staff or social group participating in this outreach opportunity, please contact the office, we have openings now.

Our new initiative is a FREE Community Book Box. The box is open to everyone. Books can be borrowed, shared and enjoyed. There is a variety of book genres from which to choose.

Thanks to Camden Councils Community Small Grants Program, several participants have gained qualifications in Forklift, White Card, RSA and RCG and educational courses. This Return-to-Work grant will provide solutions for individuals whose financial situation has been a roadblock to employment opportunities. The response has been "incredible, life changing and very motivating".

Our chaplaincy service continues to partner with people experiencing addiction, trauma, Domestic and Family Violence, homelessness, and incarceration. This service is one of compassion, commitment, and dedication, undertaking countless hours of assistance to individuals and their families.

Both our Women's Support Network and Men's Community Breakfast programs are thriving. Full house on both days with lots of chatting, laughter and people reaching out for support. The team are making significant impacts on the lives of these families and individuals through long term partnerships that only come through the encouragement of regular attendance and providing a caring and genuine atmosphere that promotes trust.

We are sincerely thankful for your ongoing support and look forward to the year ahead, as together we look out for the most vulnerable in our community.

