

Turning Point Camden Newsletter Spring 2023



Where has this year gone? Since our newsletter issue earlier this year, 116 new families and individuals have registered with our service. They have sought support in response to the “Cost of Living” crisis where we have seen significant increases in Financial Hardship, Domestic and Family Violence and Housing Insecurity.



Winter saw our numbers double with food relief enquiries and people seeking information around Domestic Violence, rental arrears and fuel shortage. Our team has weathered these storms with participants providing emotional support during our drop-in times, speaking goodness and hope into what seems to be a hopeless situation. Everyone leaves the centre feeling cared for, heard and with a plan in place to tackle their situation.



This year’s Winter Appeal was incredibly successful. A huge thanks to our local Woolworths and Coles stores for their support. Around 4000 food items were donated at drop off points in these stores. Mt Annan Christian College school community donated 96 large boxes of pantry supplies through their fundraising efforts and St Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish Oran Park donated carloads of food items. We also received financial contributions which were used to purchase vouchers for petrol, perishable food and Opal cards. To date, we have distributed \$145,500 worth of groceries and vouchers. Sincere thanks also to the anonymous donors who left countless bags of groceries on our front porch.



We celebrated birthdays, farewelled 2 long-term volunteers and sadly mourned the sudden loss of one of our clients. We welcomed new businesses and community members to our “Friends of Turning Point” family and increased our exposure on Social Media to encourage both new donors, and people in need of our support to reach out.





We were represented at community events. Pastor Mike delivered prayer to 20,000 people at the Dawn Service on Anzac Day and participated in Anzac services for the aged and infirm, throughout the week leading up to the 25th of April. Volunteers delivered presentations at schools, churches and social group meetings.



Finally, our Annual Fundraiser was held in September, “Opera In The Barn”, at the historic Denbigh Property Cobbitty. Australian Opera and local musical talents, entertained 230 guests on what was the most perfect evening.



Through a separate fundraising initiative, we have been able to secure the funds to purchase a Community Bus, a long-term goal, which will enable us to reach people facing more complex challenges that reduce their capabilities of accessing our service onsite. More about that next year as we excitedly await its arrival.



Amongst the heartache, we have loads of laughter, plenty of smiles amongst the tears and an abundance of encouragement, offering reassurance to what seems an impossible mountain to climb.



The team are all looking forward to meeting some of you during Christmas Appeal this year, we couldn't do it without you!

Every Blessing, the Turning Point Team.

