



# ANDREWS CENTRE

## ENDEAVOUR MINISTRIES

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## QUARTERLY REPORT

### JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2023

*“John” appeared at the Andrews Centre accompanied by his social worker. He was very shy and withdrawn, obviously quite embarrassed by his circumstances. He was very hungry and very much in need of a good feed, a shower and some fresh clothes. He had lived on the streets for over three years and was used to just looking to friends and acquaintances to keep him fed. He did not have any income as he was not confident to even attempt to apply for Centrelink payments. The social worker had therefore organized an appointment for him at Centrelink but now sought our help to get him “tidied up” for that appointment. John was provided with a shower, new underwear and socks and some very nice clothing and shoes from our Op Shop store. He enjoyed a hot meal, given a food voucher and, by the time he left, really looked a “new man” – quite handsome in fact!!! He thanked us with a wide grin on his face, obviously feeling quite chuffed that he looked so fresh, well dressed and clean.*

The Endeavour Op Shop has been invaluable in supplying clothing and other items for people in need referred to them through the emergency relief program. Help from the shop includes everything from furniture, medical aids, clothing and shoes, cutlery and crockery and linen. It is particularly helpful for the homeless or people moving into boarding houses, as well as new refugee families. We are so grateful for our team of volunteers who so faithfully run the shop with all that that entails. We are also very appreciative of the many in the wider community who keep us supplied with a whole variety of goods to sell or give away.



The last three months has been rather challenging, with a number of staff either sick, injured or away for various reasons. The demand for services remains high, whether it be for emergency relief or counselling. Over the past three months we have seen more than 360 families/individuals for crisis assistance.

It is good to be able to help many people in really difficult situations and it is a very much needed service in these difficult economic times. We are very grateful to the many individuals who support our work, as well as philanthropic trusts such as the Andrews Foundation, St Andrews Foundation and Peter and Lyndy White Foundation. We also greatly appreciate the support of City of Casey and the Federal Government.

*“Jenny is married with two young children and has been struggling with serious ill health which has left her husband in a situation where he has used up all his leave to stay home and look after the children whilst she recovers. In the meanwhile the couple has been confronted with their mortgage payments doubling over the last month due to the rise in interest rates. An appeal to the bank only allowed one month’s delay and they also faced mounting costs for their utilities. The Centre was able and very happy to do something to lessen their stress by covering the utility costs.*

The Centre subsequently received a note from “Jenny” saying “your willingness to jump in and assist us during a very challenging time since my diagnosis is truly heartwarming”

*“Kim and Lee” with five children were forced to leave their home when pipes in the roof of their rented home split and the roof collapsed. They were not insured and lost all their furniture and bedding. They were able to secure another home and, between ourselves and two other agencies, were able to secure beds, bedding and the other items that needed to be replaced.*

The Centre has also provided families with furniture, bedding, clothing and even toys. There have been a number of new settlers seeking this very basic help as they try to start a new life in Australia.

We are also very pleased to sponsor students who show particular talent, but whose opportunities to shine are limited by their family’s financial constraints. This term we have sponsored a very promising teenager dancer to compete at National level.

## MEALS



A sit down two course meal continues to be provided on the first Monday of each month in Dandenong, along with the shower truck being available for any who might value this additional service. Meanwhile at the Centre, Sue Bracher continues to provide a supply of home cooked meals to be distributed to those seeking food help.

We also have some regular homeless men who love to come in for a shower and then one of Sue’s hot meals. Some of the meals include tuna mornay, pumpkin and chicken risotto, beef rissoles and mashed potato, vegetable ravioli etc

## EMERGENCY HOUSING

There has never been a time since we first began this area of our ministry 28 years ago when there has been such a shortage of available and affordable rental properties. We have really struggled to help families transition from our emergency accommodation into more permanent alternatives. At the moment we have three single parent families each with two dependents in three of four units and a single male in the fourth unit. In addition we have provided assistance to a number of families facing imminent eviction, often due to unforeseen circumstances, to help with rent arrears to keep a roof over their heads. For others who have already lost their homes and are “on the street” we have sought to

provide some limited support covering the cost of weekend or overnight stays in a local motel. We have also helped families with rent in advance to secure a rental property.

*“John and Catherine” were forced to move when the landlord notified them that he intended to demolish their home. They had to pay removal and storage costs and stay with family quite some distance away, whilst seeking alternate accommodation. The Centre has paid two weeks rent for John to remain nearby to pursue the search for accommodation for his family near where the children are currently at school.*

## CENTRELINK HELP

Every second Monday Helen from Centrelink comes to the Andrews Centre to help people who are struggling to access or navigate the Centrelink system. She has been a great help to many and it is terrific to have her “on board”

## LOAN CARS AND A LOAN SCOOTER



Thanks to our two loan cars, an unemployed single male and a sole parent have been able to access newly acquired jobs to help them get on top of difficult financial circumstances. The generous donation of an electric scooter has also allowed us to help an elderly lady with serious back problems become more mobile. She is overjoyed with her new “wheels”! The Centre has also provided other medical aids to people in need at no cost, including wheelie walkers, a wheel chair and shower chairs.

## OUTING TO SOVEREIGN HILL.



On Saturday 2 September a number of our financially struggling families and individuals were invited to attend a special day out to Sovereign Hill, all expenses paid! It was a beautiful, sunny day and the children were especially delighted with the park we attended on the way there, just out of Melton. It was equipped with a playground and flying fox which, together with a special gumboot throw competition and an absolute feast of goodies for morning tea, meant they were wonderfully entertained before we even arrived at Sovereign Hill! The bus arrived at around 12.30 and the families had three hours to

explore all the highlights and learn something of the history of the gold rush era. It was a fun day enjoyed by all.

## NO INTEREST LOANS

It is so important to be able to provide this service for families and individuals who might otherwise be tempted or even compelled to use high interest fast money alternatives which often lead to insurmountable debts. Bill and Ameet have helped a number of people apply for loans for everything from bond payments, car repairs, whitegoods, phones and furniture.

*“Joan” retired from work to help look after her granddaughter when her daughter was a victim of domestic violence. She needed her car repaired so that she could transport her granddaughter to and from school etc. and visit her son, but she could no longer afford to pay the cost of the repair in one hit. She was able to secure a loan to pay this debt off over a year, for which she was very grateful.*

*“Helen” is a single mother of one child who was moving into rented premises. She needed a couch and was able to get a loan to secure the one she wanted.*

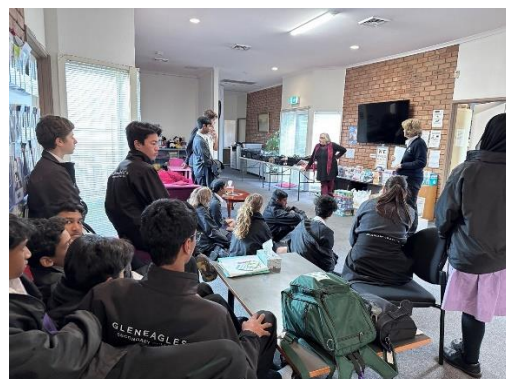
*“Sarah” struggles with depression and was quite distraught when unable to pay a vet bill to have her dog treated for a serious infection. She was so relieved to be told she was able to get a loan to cover the cost.”*

## COOL MONEY



As part of the Centre’s work to help people of all ages with financial literacy and budgeting, Ameet has run two teenage programs entitled “Cool Money” for around 50 Year 9 students at Gleneagles College. The program helps students to understand how to budget and be discerning with expenditures as well as inspiring them to find sources of income. The course also included an introduction to tax and superannuation.

## GLENEAGLES STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT OUR WORK



Year 9 students from Gleneagles visit the Centre

Gleaneagles Secondary College students came to see what the Andrews Centre was doing into the community and how they could contribute. Feedback from these students included:”-  
*I was impressed that they were able to help so many people in different ways and even have on-site psychologists for support.  
What impressed me is how they have stayed open for over 20 years, even throughout Covid..  
We are so impressed that volunteers in the Centre don’t get paid.*

## MIGRANT ENGLISH

Judy, Heather and Shadia have all been involved with assisting those wanting help and struggling to learn our language. Lessons are one on one and are about increasing the confidence of these ladies to communicate effectively with things they confront every day in their new country, eg shopping, transport, making appointments. One of the ladies attended our outing to Sovereign Hill in a fun way to learn something of our history!

## COUNSELLING

There remains an overwhelming need for these services and waiting lists for all our psychologists remain very long unfortunately. Sadly, the problem has not been helped by the fact that one of our psychologists has been “out of action” since June due to injuries she suffered in a bus crash. However, we “carry on regardless” with the other psychologists and counsellors trying to take on some of her load Coral, Elizabeth and Amorelle- our team of counsellors- have also been very busy and between them and the psychology team, a wide range of issues over a wide range of ages have been addressed including counselling for varying levels of depression, anxiety, stress, grief, family breakdown and trauma.. They also support individuals who are victims of domestic violence and others with conditions such as Obsessive Compulsive or Bi-Polar disorders. or those who have been diagnosed with neurological and developmental disorders, including Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADHD. Psychological counselling and support includes assessment, emotional and behavioural regulation, social skills and executive functioning skills development.

*“Ella has been seeing one of our psychologists because of her battle with self-loathing and depression such that she was self-harming and really struggling to cope. Things have really turned around in a wonderful way for this young woman. She has recently started a tertiary course and reports that she is really feeling good about herself and has new confidence.*

*Another much older client has “accused” her psychologist today of giving her new confidence! She reports, not only that she is feeling better about herself, but that she has felt the affirmation of others of late who have noticed a real difference in her.*

Al Anon continues to provide support to the families of alcoholics and meets without fail every Monday at the Centre.

A group of counsellors and psychologists from different areas also meet every 2 months at the Andrews Centre to share knowledge and support in the work they are doing into the community.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN



Winter crops are now being harvested, including a healthy amount of broccoli, broad beans, snow peas, cauliflowers and potatoes. The citrus fruit trees surrounding our 16 wicking beds have also produced an abundant crop of oranges and lemons. We have been busy spreading a very large load of mulch kindly donated by a local tree feller and very useful to keep weeds down around the garden beds

The community garden group met Saturday August 26 to enjoy coffee together and share tips on growing successful crops. We have also welcomed some new members this term keen to be part of our garden community.

#### MARANATHA LENDS A HAND



A group of students from Maranatha Christian School have been rendering assistance every second Friday, doing various jobs including working at the community garden, sorting items at the Centre for the Op Shop, cleaning windows and even icing cakes cooked in readiness for our outing to Sovereign Hill!

#### SUPPORTING OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Centre continues to provide a home for the “Victory in Jesus” church each Sunday at the Andrews Centre.

As we come to the end of another term, I never cease to be amazed at the generosity of so many who have made this ministry possible over so many years. In fact, the end of this year represents 30 years since we started – and how amazing it is to reflect on how much has been achieved and how many have been helped in their time of need. It is always a joy to meet up with people who remember with gratitude the support they and their family had received and enjoy the opportunity to tell us how well they are now doing now. Thank you to all who make possible such a valuable and practical ministry into our community.

Judy Martin

Thank you to all the organizations and individuals without whose support we could not keep doing this very important work in our community.  
The Andrews Foundation; Peter and Lyndy White Foundation; City of Casey; DSS;; Specsavers; St Andrews Foundation, Felton Bequest, UCF, Endeavour Hills Uniting, Anglican, Catholic, Narre Hills Churches Community Church, Victory in Jesus, Narre Hills, St James Anglican Dandenong.

To donate towards the work of Endeavour Ministries the bank details are as follows

Account Name  
BSB 063610  
Acct 10419490

Please provide email and/or address or name so that a receipt can be sent.

Email Address admin@andrewscentre.org

**ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE**

