



# ANDREWS CENTRE

## ENDEAVOUR MINISTRIES

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### QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL TO JUNE 2025

I cannot think of a time since our doors opened back in 1994, when there has been so many who are homeless – couch surfing, living in cars or simply “on the streets”. The more fortunate have been helped to get accommodation in motels – very limited for families but better than nothing! Over the past three months 18.5% of those we have helped with emergency relief have no place to call their own. It is great to be able to offer some of these families and individuals accommodation in one of our five units, but, of course, we do not have anywhere near enough available to meet the demand. Over the past few months, we have provided accommodation to a homeless couple with three children, a single mother with one teenager, a single mother with four children and a single mother with two primary aged children. The other two units are also occupied by a family and an individual who would otherwise be homeless. With no other units available, we can only refer people to housing organizations such as WAYSS who are really struggling to cope with the numbers seeking housing. The Centre does help with swags and bedding, showers and hot meals to provide some limited comfort to those sleeping rough.

*“Jenni” and “Mario” have three children and had been homeless for more than five months. One of the housing organizations had managed to provide them accommodation in a motel room – very inadequate for a family with a young baby and an autistic toddler! We were asked to provide accommodation for the family whilst the father sought employment to better their chance of achieving a more permanent private rental option. The Centre provided accommodation over a period of six months and supported the father to gain full time employment – paying for police checks, Vic Roads checks, workwear and the tools needed to start work. In April the family were able to move out into affordable private rental nearer to where Mario’s employment is situated.*

*“David” was homeless until recently, but finally found accommodation in a boarding house through a friend. Unfortunately, he was forced to leave when the other residents trashed his room, and destroyed all his belongings. Including some precious items left by his recently deceased grandmother. We provided him with some meals and other groceries and a voucher and bedding to keep warm whilst he remained living in his car.*

*“John” has been living in his car for the past 5 weeks following a family breakdown. He is struggling with depression and, to add to his distress, he was a victim of vandals who smashed the windscreen of his car. We were able to help him with repair of the window and also with doona and blanket to try to keep him warm on these cold nights.*

Over the past three months there has been around 470 sessions representing people seeking crisis assistance – whether it be for food, vouchers, meals, chemist or transport costs, help with emergency bills or even just blankets, swags, or small furniture items. Over the 2024/25 financial year \$146,567.00 has been spent on the provision of crisis help. In addition, there is often a call for bedding, crockery and cutlery, warm clothes for those moving into a boarding house. The Op Shop is a great source of material items to help set boarders up in their new home!

*“Ivan” and his wife are both originally from overseas and now live here with their two children. Ivan was working up until he was injured at work and forced to take time off to recuperate. Meanwhile his wife was diagnosed with colon cancer and has had surgery and requires ongoing treatment. He has had a very difficult time with various changes in management of his workcover claim which has meant he has had periods of up to six weeks with no pay while new managers are put in place. He is left with no money for food or rent or bills. The Centre has helped with basic food relief and a contribution to his rent to keep him from facing eviction on top of everything else he is dealing with!.*

*“Jodi” works part time as an Uber driver to help family survive financially. Her income helped cover the cost of basic food and bills. Unfortunately, she was left without the ability to earn an income when she was involved in a four car pile up caused by a drunken driver not recognizing that the car in front of him had slowed to turn left. Her car was written off and, though insured, she still has no immediate income to pay for food on her table! Food vouchers and a supply of food items have allowed this family to overcome their immediate problem.*

The Andrews Centre continues to provide medical aids such as shower chairs, wheelie walkers and wheelchairs, crutches and commodes. It is a great help to those struggling financially who do not then have to find funds to purchase these items. We have also been able to provide baby bassinets and porta-cots to new settler families. Nappies, wipes, toiletries and cleaning products are also distributed to families as needed. We continue to greatly appreciate the extra food and toiletry items regularly donated by individuals and regularly by the Endeavour Hills Uniting Church.

### NO INTEREST LOANS



Don and Bill continue to provide this most valued service to help keep families and individuals out of the hands of loan sharks. The No Interest Loan scheme allows people to purchase items up to the value of \$2000.00 such as whitegoods, furniture, educational costs, car repairs and registration and even vet bills.

### CENTRELINK WORKER

Helen is a very welcome addition at the Andrews Centre as she provides people with help to access Centrelink services when they have difficulty navigating the whole process around applying for payments.



### LOAN CARS

The Centre has two cars currently loaned out at no cost to families in need. Unfortunately one of these cars “died” and has now been replaced by another small car, so that the mother still has access to a car to get her children with special needs to their activities.

### REPLACING THE VAN



After 18 years of faithful service, thanks to a very generous donation by the Andrews Foundation, we are in the process of replacing our old and tired van with a newer version to continue the pick up of food and furniture items.

### OP SHOP



*Manager Liz with the morning sort!*

The daily supply of donations to the Op Shop are a testament to just how much the community supports our work and we are truly grateful. The shop is such a valuable source, not only of direct funding for the emergency relief work of the Centre, but also the provision of warm clothing, shoes, blankets and other important items. We have a wonderful team of volunteers running the shop – sorting, pricing, selling each weekday. It is a lot of work and they do a great job! Some of

### COUNSELLING

This remains a key ministry with a very high demand for the services of both our counsellors and psychologists. Thanks to the support of The Andrews Foundation, we are able to subsidize or fully cover the costs associated with this service, including, sometimes, the cost of psychological assessments. At the moment we have 5 part-time psychologists and two counsellors and their work covers a whole range of age groups, from upper primary- aged children to the elderly. There are so many issues affecting people’s sense of well-being and mental health and a broad range of these are addressed at the Centre. Issues addressed include grief, anxiety, depression, stress, family breakdown with associated problems, trauma, addiction, clinical issues, autism etc , Depression and anxiety remain “the common cold” of counselling and the Centre seeks to help where this is caused by social isolation. Hence there are opportunities for community involvement in our community garden, outings, the Monday meal, specific support groups such as Al Anon (for families of alcoholics) or PEERS (for teenagers struggling with social engagement), Key Abilities (a special group supporting young adults with ASD and intellectual needs) and other occasional one-off events. Key Abilities have just enjoyed an outing to Walhalla Railway which was enjoyed by all!

## VISIT BY FAMILY LAW SPECIALISTS



Earlier this month we were given the privilege of spending time with two family law specialists, Mehdi – a family law barrister and Jonathan, a solicitor who used to work as a police officer helping victims of domestic violence.

They gave their time to answer any questions people wanted to ask to help them gain an understanding of how the whole legal process worked. It was very informative and extremely valuable support to those we support who are in the midst of legal battles occasioned by family breakdown.

## MONDAY MEALS

These meals continue to happen every first Monday of the month and around 180 hot and nutritious meals are prepared, and these are followed with desserts for all! The homeless have access to a hot shower and shave before the meals courtesy of the shower truck provided by Crossway Baptist Church and people can also access a health check by the Green Cross nurses.

## TAKE HOME MEALS AT THE ANDREWS CENTRE



Sue continues to delight us with her amazing variety of delicious meals prepared and packaged every fortnight so that the freezers remain stocked and ready to supply the homeless and many in local boarding houses with an easy meal- 8 minutes in the microwave!! Some homeless of late have enjoyed the warmth of our woodstove and one of these meals heated up whilst they shower!



## MIGRANT ENGLISH

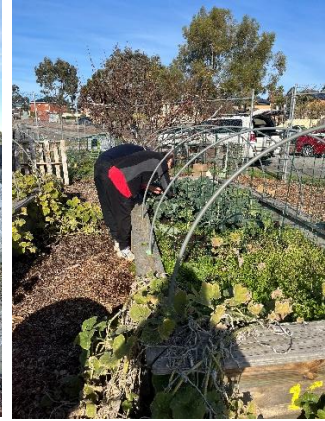
Classes continue for people seeking help to learn English so that they can better communicate with others and improve employment opportunities. At the moment we have two Afghan and one Cambodian receiving lessons each week with Judy.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN



. We had a visit from Hippy Hop Early Learning Centre where a group of very keen three year olds were able to help plant some of our cauliflowers! They enjoyed a walk around the garden admiring lemons, pumpkins, snow peas, chillis – and even some of the bugs!

An abundant crop of potatoes and pumpkins have been harvested and winter crops are now being planted. The gardeners met together on Saturday 14 June and work was done to prune the apple trees ready for next year's crop.



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

As always, it remains for me to thank the many who make the ongoing work of Endeavour Ministries possible. I am so grateful to the individuals who volunteer their time or contribute financially (or both!) to keep us going. Thank you to the Andrews Foundation for their generous support over many years and to other trusts such as the Peter and Lyndy White Foundation as well as groups such Rotary, Men's Shed, Neighborhood House and businesses such as Specsavers. Thank you, too, to City of Casey for contributions towards operational costs and DSS for their help to cover some of the cost of emergency relief. We are so grateful for the support of local churches and the support of many in the local community who donate to the shop.

*Judy Marsh*

Thank you to all the organizations and individuals without whose support we could not keep doing this very important work.-The Andrews Foundation; Peter and Lyndy White Foundation; City of Casey; DSS;; Specsavers; Felton Bequest, Endeavour Hills Uniting, Anglican, Catholic, Narre Hills Churches Community Church, Narre Warren Baptist Church, Victory in Jesus, , Endeavour Hills Neighbourhood Centre and Men's Shed, Rotary, St James Anglican Dandenong and Maranatha Christian School, Chalcot Lodge Primary School, Gleneagles Secondary College, Emerson

As we approach the end of the financial year, we greatly appreciate your tax deductible donations that enable us to continue this important work in our community.



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](mailto:admin@andrewscentre.org)

ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE



