

Looking Ahead

June

- International Men's Health Week 9th-15th
- Refugee Week 15th-21st
- Drug Action Week 22nd-28th
- Red Nose Day 27th

July

- National NAIDOC Week
Celebrating indigenous culture and building bridges between Indigenous and non-indigenous Australians 6th-13th

August

- National Homeless Person Week 4-10
- National Youth Day 12th
- Daffodil Day 22nd
- National Missing Persons Week 5th-11th
- World Overdose Awareness Day 31st

Community News

Myuna Market

A community market has been established at Myuna Farm, with the goal of providing fresh fruit and vegetables to the community at affordable prices. The market is in operation on Thursdays between 4.00 and 6.00 p.m., and is located at 182 Kidds Road Doveton.

Drug Action Week

Commences on Sunday, 22 June and concludes on Saturday, 28 June. It features events such as the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on Thursday, 26 June, and the gala presentation of the National Drug and Alcohol Awards in Melbourne on Friday, 27 June.

Drug Action Week contributes to the promotion of awareness of the dangers of alcohol and other drugs, and to recognise our frontline workers.

Communities across Australia have stepped forward to raise awareness of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) issues through the staging of social gatherings, workshops and forums, sporting events etc. Click on the link below to see what is happening in your community.

www.drugactionweek.org.au

National Homeless Person Week 4-10 august

The week is aimed at raising awareness of the plight of homeless Australians.

This year's theme, "*Homelessness - It's not who you think,*" highlights the diversity of people who are homeless and those who are at risk.

Organisations around Australia are invited by Homelessness Australia to hold events that will highlight the diversity of people who are homeless. Click on the link below for ideas.

www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

National Youth Week

National Youth Week, Australia's largest celebration for young people, was held between the fifth and thirteenth of April this year, with the theme of 'Shout. Share. Live. Unite.' Each year, youth services facilitate numerous activities during the annual week in April to recognise and celebrate the value and achievements of young people within their local communities. To provide an overview of the event in one local shire, the City of Casey was funded with State Government funding of \$2000 to organise a youth-led festival for the event, as was Connections Child, Youth and Family Services to organise a celebration of music activities, with the event showcasing the music and dance of different cultures within the community. Activities in Casey included Casey Creations Creative Arts Festival, FReeZa Fringe Fest, Culture Shock, and other activities organised by a committee of young people within each of the youth information centres.

Casey Pregnancy and Early Years Expo

The 2008 Casey Pregnancy and Early Years Expo was held on 17 May 2008 at the Balla Balla Centre in Cranbourne. The aim of the expo was to promote the wellbeing of families, and to raise awareness of local services and activities, and it included free parenting advice, free information sessions, and family entertainment, amongst various other activities. The target group for the expo was expecting parents and parents of children between zero and six. The expo was a useful opportunity for parents to access information on parenting-related topics and services, to have a day of family activities, and to make links with relevant services within the local community.

Principles of Working with Traumatised Children

Dr. Perry, an internationally recognised authority on brain development and children in crisis, has published pertinent findings in regards to working with traumatised children. He states that "the key to understanding traumatised children is to remember that they will often, at baseline, be in a state of low-level fear – responding by using either a hyper arousal or a dissociative adaptation – and that their emotional, behavioural and cognitive function will reflect this (often regressed) state." He puts forward the following

guidelines for working with traumatised children, that are intended to enhance caregiver interactions: don't be afraid to talk about the traumatic event; provide a consistent, predictable pattern for the day; be nurturing, comforting, and affectionate, but be sure that is in an appropriate 'context'; discuss your expectations for behaviour and your 'style of discipline' with the child; talk with the child; watch closely for signs of re-enactment (i.e. in play, drawing or behaviours), avoidance (i.e. being withdrawn, daydreaming or

Data & Statistics

For the period
1 July 2007 -
31 December 2007:

Overall Contacts

In Person - 4948
Telephone - 15773

Transitional

Housing Management

Total Number of Exits from
THM - 183

Total Number of Tenancies -
463

PROGRAM PROFILES

WAYS has 12 programs servicing the needs of homeless people and victims of family violence. Each newsletter we will profile three of those programs.



Useful Contacts

WAYS Family Violence
Crisis Service
ah 0400 503 338

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Mornington Peninsula
Domestic Violence
Service 5971 9454

**

Hanover - Dandenong
"Bob's Place"
Crisis Accommodation,
Housing Support and
Family Focus 9792 0750

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Office of Housing

- Dandenong
9767 8777
- Frankston
9784 3200

Links

WAYS

www.wayssltd.org.au

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The Association of
Neighbourhood Houses &
Learning Centres Inc.

www.anhlc.asn.au

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Hanover Welfare Services

www.hanover.org.au

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Homelessness Australia

www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

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Drug Court Homelessness Assistance Program

In response to the Victorian Government's drug policy proposals, the establishment of the first Victorian Drug Court Pilot was initiated.

In September 2002, WAYS was the successful recipient of the 3-year pilot component offering Transitional Housing accommodation and support to Drug Court participants.

The key principle of The Drug Court Homelessness Assistance Program (DCHAP) is to provide support and assistance to clients referred directly and solely by the Drug Court Team (DCT), specifically, the Specialist Community Corrections Officers

responsible for the case management of the referred client.

The Drug Court program structure comprises a full time program coordinator and 3 full time case workers. This structure has been the foundation of a homelessness support service for individuals assessed through the Dandenong Drug Court Pilot Initiative as being homeless, at serious risk of homelessness or in inadequate/unsuitable housing. Such identified individuals will be accommodated in dedicated Transitional Housing Management (THM) properties with attached support.

Predominantly, the service delivery provided by DCHAP is to assist Drug Treatment Order (DTO) clients to obtain long term, affordable, safe accommodation that fits the requirements and obligations to be met as part of their DTO.

DCHAP will also assist clients to identify other structural and/or personal factors contributing to homelessness above and beyond substance use by providing support, basic living skills, advocacy and referrals to counselling and other assistance programs as required.

Youth Support Program

WAYS Youth Support Program provides a number of services to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Services to young people include Intake, Assessment & Referral, Transitional Support and access to Crisis Accommodation options. The program can also assist young people to return home if this is a safe and secure option.

Through developed pathways, the service aims to increase a capacity to live independently, through improving access to long term

secure and affordable housing, to secure income support and to a range of social supports. This includes the provision of a case managed approach based on individualised support plans to assist young people to reach their full potential.

WAYS Youth Support Program provides options and assistance to young people aged 15 to 25 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Support can extend to include young people who are in their own accommodation, moving around, or

in community housing.

The service has limited access to transitional accommodation where young people can stay in shared accommodation initially for 2 months whilst they are getting their life and long-term housing options sorted.

WAYS Youth Support Program is committed to assisting young people to access education, employment and training.

Emergency Youth Accommodation

WAYS Emergency Youth Accommodation is a 7-bed facility that is located in Dandenong and provides 24-hour residential support and case management, for a period of up to six weeks, to single young people who are homeless. This facility is available to receive referrals 24 hours,

7 days a week. When young people access EYA it is with the acknowledgement that they, with staff, will work towards securing safe, affordable accommodation and link in the education, employment and training opportunities.

Residents are encouraged to develop their independent

living skills and are required to contribute to the overall running of the house.

Residents are also encouraged to participate in recreational activities and excursions that take place on Saturday afternoons.