

Looking Ahead

March

International Women's Day 8th
World's Greatest Shave 13th-15th

April

National Youth Week 5th-13th
World Health Day 7th

May

National Families Week 11th-17th
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea 22nd
National Reconciliation Week 27th-3rd June
White Wreath Day – In remembrance of all victims of suicide 29th
World No Tobacco Day 31st

National Youth Week

National Youth Week runs from the 28th of March to the 5th of April this year. National Youth Week, a joint initiative of local, State and Commonwealth government, is the largest celebration of young people in Australia, recognising the value of young people within their local communities.

National Youth Week activities in the City of Casey include FReeZA Fringe Fest, Casey Creations Creative Arts Festival, Rock'n'Skate skate board competition, and various activities at the Youth Information Centres.

Activities in the Cardinia Shire include a free festival on the 4th of April that will include free food, music, amusements, barbeque, games, rides, jewellery making, and art, basketball, BMX, scooter and skate competitions. For further information on National Youth Week, please contact local council.

Living and Life Skills Workshops Update

The Living and Life Skills workshops mentioned in the last edition continue to run. The workshops are for youth clients within WAYSS and the Creating Connections partnership agencies. Upcoming workshops for March include:

- 06/03/09 - 3.30 p.m. The Net - EYA
- 13/03/09 - 3.30 p.m. - An Awesome Cooking/Budgets Course - EYA
- 19/03/09 - 3.30 p.m. - Handy Skills - EYA
- 26/03/09 - 3.30 p.m. - PRAP/Share Accommodation/Renting - Dandenong office

Transport can also be arranged from the Narre Warren office. Please contact the Narre Warren office on 9703 0044 for bookings or further information on other upcoming workshops.

Bushfires

In this truly sad and distressing time we would like to share some of the good stuff that has been happening

WAYSS has accommodated two fire families in our properties. A couple from Narre Warren and a couple with a seven year old and two dogs from Marysville. A woman who was evacuated from Eildon with her three kids is having a break at a holiday caravan park, and a local kennel is boarding her Staffordshire cross for no cost.

An eight person Narre Warren family have found private rental, and the Good Guys have donated all of their electrical items at no charge.

SHASP & Tenant Participation

Each year the Office of Housing (OoH) provides housing services to approximately 63,000 public tenant households across Victoria. Essential to providing a high quality housing service is the opportunity for tenants to provide feedback about the quality of services and factors impacting on their tenancies.

The Social Housing Advocacy & Support Program (SHASP) plays a greater role in supporting local tenant participation by:

- Working with the [Victorian Public Tenants Association](#) (VPTA) as the state-wide peak body representing public tenants and the OoH in the development of local tenants groups
- Supporting tenants to participate in local and regional OoH tenant participation initiatives
- SHASP working with local tenant communities in the management and service planning of community facilities
- SHASP working with local tenant communities to enhance tenant self management of these facilities
- Supporting tenants groups to actively represent their local communities, through Tenants Group Program funding
- Supporting tenants to attend regional tenant forums, and providing participants with training opportunities to enhance their involvement
- Providing opportunities for representatives from tenants groups, regional tenant forum representatives and the VPTA to meet twice yearly with the Director of Housing

Young Renters Program Workshop

Aimed at helping young people find and keep a rental property, these workshops provide information on rights and responsibilities and other useful tips. A renter's kit and certificate of participation are given to participants.

Upcoming workshop dates

04/03/09 - 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. - Peninsula Youth and Family Services - 12 Keys Street, Frankston

17/03/09 - 10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. - Peninsula Community Legal Centre - Suite 12, Bella Centre, 33-39 High Street, Cranbourne

25/03/09 - 1.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. - WAYSS - 58 Webb Street, Narre Warren

Please call Peninsula Community Legal Centre on 9783 3600 for bookings or for further information.



Data & Statistics

For the period 1st July 2008 - 31st December 2008

FaxBack

Referrals - 854

HEF Assisted Clients

Private Rent Arrears
465 - (21.12%)
Private Rent in Advance
781 - (35.47%)
Emergency Accommodation
937- (42.55%)
Other - .86%

Total HEF Clients 2202

Transitional Housing Management

Total Number of Exits from THM - 151

Total Number of Tenancies - 503

PROGRAM PROFILES

WAYSS has 12 programs servicing the needs of homeless people and victims of family violence. Each newsletter we will profile three of those programs. Detailed information can be found on the WAYSS website



Outer South Rooming House Program

The Rooming House Program managed by WAYSS is a Department of Human Services/Community Housing Program which provides long-term accommodation for single people.

Accommodation is provided in properties designated as rooming houses under the Residential Tenancies Act 1997. The Rooming House program is not intended for free, emergency or special accommodation (providing rehabilitation or special care).

WAYSS manages four properties consisting of 34 rooms, located in both Frankston and Dandenong, and residents must be able to live independently and communally. Accommodation is available for both male and female residents.

Applicants need to be on a regular income and be assessed as low income in accordance with the rules for accessing public housing and Office of Housing criteria.

Women's Outreach Program

The Women's Outreach Program is committed to supporting and assisting women and their children to achieve their full potential.

This program aims to maximise the ability of women to live independently while promoting their rights and dignity through access to stable accommodation, linkages to community supports, and advocate for social justice. The program aims to work from a feminist perspective.

The Women's Outreach Program provides women with information and assistance to access accommodation which is low cost, safe, secure, of an appropriate standard and which best suits their needs. The program workers provide case managed support to assist women to address barriers and issues in their lives, and to set and achieve future goals.

Housing Support for Indigenous Tenants Program

The Housing Support for Indigenous Tenants Program is a program open to all Indigenous clients who have entered the public housing system via the Office of Housing or the Aboriginal Housing Board of Victoria who reside in the catchment areas of Greater Dandenong, Casey, Cardinia, Frankston and Mornington Peninsula. The program has the capacity to intervene where a public housing tenancy is breaking down to resolve factors placing the tenancy at risk.

The program provides intensive support to new tenants entering public housing via a Segment 1, 2 or 3 applications, to assist with the successful establishment of the tenancy.

Referrals can be facilitated by the Office of Housing, the Aboriginal Housing Board of Victoria, WAYSS Housing Services Workers or the clients themselves. The program delivers services using a case managed approach in line with WAYSS Case Management Procedures.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Meals in Pakenham

'Food for thought... Food for the soul... Food to eat...' is an initiative of the Big House Communities based in Pakenham. Community meals are held on the following days in Pakenham:

- * Tuesdays - 6.30 p.m. - 'Time Out Tuesdays' - A free dinner, and a safe place to take time out, meet new people, play some games, and try some art and craft
- * Saturdays - 5.30 p.m. - Community Dinner - Bring a plate of dinner to share, play some games, and hear a thought for life
- * Mondays - Fridays (except public holidays) - 12.00 p.m. - 1.00 p.m. - Free Lunch - Come along for a free lunch on weekdays
- * Saturdays 8.15 p.m. onwards and Mondays 9.30 a.m. onwards - Free Bread - Free bread can be picked up after these times

The location for the above meals is Shop 4 & 5 Treloar Lane, Pakenham, which is next to the ANZ car park.



Useful Contacts

WAYSS Family
Violence Crisis Service
A/H 0400 503 338

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Mornington Peninsula
Domestic Violence
Service 5971 9454

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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



WAYSS
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

Just a Thought

"If Americans ever allow banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation and then by deflation, the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children will wake up homeless"

Thomas Jefferson

"One in three women may suffer abuse and violence in her lifetime. This is an appalling human rights violation, yet it remains one of the invisible and under-recognized pandemics of our time."

Nicole Kidman