



## Cornerstone Contact Centre Gazette January 2025



*The delicious breakfast bar at our drop-in centre, with volunteer Neil ready to serve barista-style coffees and hearty snacks throughout January*

Dear friends,

What a great start we have had to 2025. Cornerstone has been open throughout January, providing community members with our drop-in service Monday to Friday. It's been great to provide a safe and welcoming space for community members, where people can access food support, be connected with valuable referral services, and connect with peers. We are so thankful for the sponsorship of Chobani, which has made it possible for us to be open throughout January and provide this great service for the community.

## ***It has been a great start to the year with some exciting new opportunities for community members at Cornerstone***

We have some interesting and exciting new projects set to launch in 2025. I am really pleased to introduce the Ukulele Club, which meets and rehearses at Cornerstone each Monday afternoon. Co-ordinated by our friends from the Dandenong Mental Health and Wellbeing Local, the club is a great example of the benefits of Cornerstone's strong community partnerships. The Ukulele Club played two sets of Christmas carols at our Cornerstone community Christmas luncheon. You can see a photo of the performance below.

Following a successful pilot of our Cornerstone Pop-Up in central Dandenong, we will be running a 12-week series of pop-up days in early 2025. In partnership with other local support services, this program is a great opportunity to increase local awareness of the many ways that Cornerstone, along with other local agencies, can support disadvantaged people in central Dandenong.

As we look forward to a year filled with opportunities, I want to extend my thanks to the many supporters, volunteers and partners who make this valuable work possible. You are appreciated.

*Naomi Paterson*  
CEO, Cornerstone Contact Centre

## **January Drop-In Centre Highlights**



*Cornerstone Contact Centre has been open Monday - Friday between 9am and 2pm throughout January. This has been an incredible support for homeless and disadvantaged people, enabling our vulnerable community to connect with a range of support services. Along with great coffee and delicious snacks, of course!*

## **Highlights of 2024**



Community members Carol and Harry with One Voice volunteer Otto and Anita from South East Water. The impact of Cornerstone Contact Centre is strengthened by our many valuable partnerships with other agencies.



Ali (John) and David with the Mayor of Greater Dandenong, Cr. Jim Memeti, enjoying the Cornerstone Christmas luncheon.



Julian Hill MP joins our CEO Naomi, long-term volunteer Barb and community member Maryanne at the Christmas luncheon. Julian knows many of our community members by name and always receives a hearty welcome from the Cornerstone community.



Gardening Club extraordinaries Carol and Julie, HPP Health Nurse with Bolton Clarke. The garden gives community members a valuable opportunity to connect with the land, while contributing produce toward our community meals.



It was an honour to have Gabrielle Williams MP attend our Christmas luncheon, pictured here with Naomi. Gabrielle is a passionate supporter of the work of Cornerstone and is always keen to have a chat with community members.



The Ukulele Club performing at the Cornerstone community Christmas luncheon.



Cornerstone is privileged to be a part of the CGD Anti-Poverty Consortium, engaging in advocacy for our community members. Here, our CEO Naomi and Elena Sheldon (manager of SLAC) meet with David Limbrick MP, to discuss alleviation of poverty in the South East.



Naomi and Elena from the Anti-Poverty Consortium Steering Committee also met with Rachel Payne MP, and were encouraged by her interest in bringing positive change for disadvantaged people in the South East.



Cornerstone Chairman David Talathoti congratulates volunteer Barbara Carlin on 25 years as a Cornerstone volunteer. What an incredible achievement!

## Regular Cornerstone meals and programs:

### Regular programs

**Mondays:**

Drop-In Service, 9am - 3pm  
Snacks, tea and coffee  
Games, chats, and connection with support services

**Tuesdays:**

Breakfast toasties served from 9am  
Orange Sky mobile laundry service, 9.30am - 12noon  
Gardening Club 10am - 12noon  
Cornerstone regular lunch program 12noon  
Fresh food parcels 10.15-11am

**Wednesdays:**

Drop-In Service, 9am - 3pm  
Snacks, tea and coffee  
Games, chats, and connection with support services

**Thursdays:**

Dinner 5.30pm  
(Thursday dinners provided by various partner agencies, including Noel Social Services, Servants of the Two Hearts, Reaching Out Because We Can, and the Lion's Club Supper Club)

**Fridays:**

Breakfast toasties served from 9am  
Cornerstone regular lunch program 12noon  
Fresh food parcels 10.15-11am  
Orange Sky mobile laundry service, 9.30am - 12noon every Friday  
One Voice shower van 10am - 12.30pm every Friday

*The Avalon Centre clothing, 2nd Friday of the month  
Second and Fourth Friday in month, ATO Breakfast 7.30am - 9am*

Meal programs are held at Dandenong Baptist Church, 25-27 James Street Dandenong

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