



## Cornerstone Contact Centre Gazette March 2024



*Cross-Cultural Worker Janik, volunteer Debbie and community member Robert try out their barista skills at Cornerstone's new drop-in day*

Dear friends,

I am so pleased to share that the Cornerstone Contact Centre drop-in service is now open on Wednesdays. With the dramatic increase in local homelessness over the last few years, there has long been the need for Cornerstone's services to be available more often during the week. The drop-in centre service provides a safe, welcoming space, barista style coffee and delicious food, along with plenty of activities and lots of friendly team members to share a cuppa and a chat. The café style drop-in service ties in directly with Cornerstone's recent job pathway barista training program, made possible with the support of City of Greater Dandenong Council. Volunteers and community members serve up great coffees while practicing their skills.

The need for increased operational hours was identified through direct feedback from our community members, particularly those who sleep rough. While Greater Dandenong has steadily increased in homelessness figures over recent years, support for disadvantaged locals has been lagging behind. This increase in Cornerstone's operational capacity is just a small start to meeting the significant local need. With the support of our committed volunteers and generous donors, this extra operational day has become possible. We hope to expand capacity even further over the coming months.

Another exciting development is the launch of our new website. Check it out by clicking on the link below. We were thrilled to receive the support of the South East Business Network's "*Take a Swing for Charity*" golfing fundraiser last month. Check out the feature below for all of the details.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who makes the work of Cornerstone possible; from our volunteers to our corporate partners, donors and government supporters. Your care for the disadvantaged in Greater Dandenong, through your support of Cornerstone's work, has such an impact - thank you!

*Naomi Paterson*  
CEO, Cornerstone Contact Centre

[Support our Drop-In Centre here](#)

[Check out the new Cornerstone website here](#)



*City of Greater Dandenong Mayor Councillor Lana Formoso, with Cornerstone Contact Centre's CEO Naomi Paterson at the launch of the SEBN Take A Swing For Charity golfing day fundraiser.*

Cornerstone Contact Centre is this years recipient of the South East Business Network *Take A Swing For Charity* Golf Day fundraiser. Held at the prestigious Kingston Heath Golf Course, funds raised will help Cornerstone construct a purpose build shed for much needed extra storage and workspace. This will enable the Cornerstone team to provide around 100 extra food parcels each week, due to the increased food pantry space. It will also enable Cornerstone to expand the drop-in service, with a multipurpose space adjacent to the community garden expanding the existing facilities.

The fundraiser is in its 15th year, and 92 golfers attended the milestone event. Corporate Partners from SEBN contributed significantly on the day, and many of Cornerstone's corporate supporters assisted with items for the auction fundraiser.

The Cornerstone Contact Centre team would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to City of Greater Dandenong event coordinator Sandra George, her fabulous team of CGD helpers, the SEBN members and *Take A Swing* Committee Members, and the many golfers who took to the course in support of Cornerstone on the day.

## A big 'thank you' to our corporate donors who supported Cornerstone with auction items for the "Take a Swing for Charity" golfing day.



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## Regular Cornerstone meals and programs:

Regular programs

Tuesdays:

Breakfast toasties served from 9am  
Orange Sky mobile laundry service, 9.30am - 12.30pm  
Gardening Club 10am - 12noon  
Cornerstone regular lunch program 12noon  
Fresh food parcels from 10am

**Thursdays:**

Dinner 5.30pm: First, Second, Third and Fifth Thursday of the month.  
(Thursday dinners provided by various partner agencies, including Noel Social Services,  
and the Lion's Club Supper Club)

**Wednesdays:**

Drop-In Service, 9am - 3pm

**Fridays:**

Breakfast toasties served from 9am  
Cornerstone regular lunch program 12noon  
Second and Fourth Friday in month, ATO Breakfast 7.30am - 9am  
Fresh food parcels from 10am  
Orange Sky mobile laundry service, 9.30am - 12.30pm every Friday  
One Voice shower van 10am - 1pm every Friday  
The Avalon Centre clothing, 2nd Friday of the month

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

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