



Cornerstone Contact Centre Gazette
May 2025

**Your gift can help us support those
who are most in need:**

**Support the homeless in Greater
Dandenong this End of Financial Year.**



Hi friends,

The cost-of-living crisis is hitting everyone hard; with rising interest rates, a severe lack of affordable housing, and increases to the cost of everyday items at the supermarket; everyone is feeling the impact. But some from our

community are struggling more than most. For our rough-sleeping friends, it is becoming harder to source a nutritious meal and a warm place to be.

Your donation this End-of-Financial-Year will have a big impact on many who are doing it tough.

Please consider supporting the work of Cornerstone Contact Centre with a tax-deductible donation this EOFY. From providing a hot meal and a nice warm place to spend the day, to assisting people navigate the available support services, our team are helping restore hope and dignity to those most in need in our neighbourhood. As you read Mina's* story below, I trust you will be encouraged by the huge impact that your support is having.

With our thanks as always for your support and care,

Naomi Paterson
CEO, Cornerstone Contact Centre

Donate

Mina's* story

When things fell apart, I didn't know what to do. I had no job, I had run out of money, and I had nowhere to turn. Someone gave me a list with pages and pages of services that might be able to help, but reading them felt overwhelming. Every name on that list was a reminder that I couldn't provide for myself. Walking into a place and asking for help felt like too much. I needed food—but I didn't want to be seen needing it.

So I picked the place that was closest to me: Cornerstone.

I pulled into their carpark, but I couldn't get out of the car. I was so embarrassed. I sat in the car crying, not knowing how to move forward. And then—someone knocked on my window.

A stranger. Just another community member. He asked if I was okay. I told him I was—but he saw through it. He didn't take no for an answer. He gently told me to come inside with him. We had a coffee together and he introduced me to one of the staff, who took me aside in private. I explained my situation through tears, and he just looked at me and said, "That's okay—we can give you something."

I came back again. And again. And by the fourth visit, I brought my neighbours—because they had kids going without food, and I knew Cornerstone would help.

Now I come to Cornerstone every day. It's the only place I know where I feel truly welcome. You forget about your problems for a little while. You get involved in programs. You laugh. You talk. You sit with friends and people who feel like family. The coffee man remembers your name and how you take your coffee. That might sound small—but when you feel invisible everywhere else, that kind of care matters more than people realise.

If it weren't for Cornerstone, I'd be dealing with far more serious mental health issues. It's not just a place that hands out food—it's a place that lifts people up, quietly, without fuss, with dignity. Most places feed you and send you on your way. But Cornerstone invites you to stay. To belong. To heal.

It's the only place I've found that feels like home.

Support our Drop-In Centre

Cornerstone Contact Centre is now open every Monday to Friday. This means that homeless and vulnerable locals can access a warm meal, respite from the elements, and a friendly chat with our team, more than ever before. By supporting our winter appeal, you are helping to keep Cornerstone's doors open for increased access-hours this winter.

Your support through our winter campaign will help to keep Cornerstone's doors open more, providing warmth and comfort for our most vulnerable.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible to Australian tax payers. Please give generously to support this valuable work.



How Your Donation Helps

Your contribution to our winter fundraiser will have practical and tangible results. Here's what your donation will support:

- **A food parcel for a family of five: \$65 donation**
- **A food parcel for an individual: \$35 donation**
- **Hearty snacks, tea and barista-made coffee for 50 people at our drop-in day: \$150 donation**
- **A two-course meal for 80 people: \$330 donation**
- **An hour of one-on-one case work support for our vulnerable clients: \$40 donation**
- **Serving spoons and tongs and ladle: \$15 donation**

To contribute to the cost of these much-needed kitchen items, please donate by clicking the link below.

[Donate towards our drop-in centre](#)

[Support Cornerstone with a regular donation](#)

Regular Cornerstone meals and programs:

Regular programs

Mondays:

Drop-In Service, 9am - 3pm
Ukulele Club 1pm - 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 - 12.30pm
Gardening Club 10am - 12noon
Cornerstone regular lunch program 12noon
Fresh food parcels from 10am-11am

Wednesdays:

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

Thursdays:

Drop-in Service, 9am - 3pm
Snacks, tea and coffee
Games, chats, and connection with support services
Dinner 5.30pm

(Thursday dinners provided by various partner agencies, including Noel Social Services, the Lion's Club Supper Club, and the Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong and Endeavour Hills)

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-11am
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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