

MCISC NEWS No. 2

Fresh Food Program – 5 Year Anniversary

On Thursday 2nd August 2018, the Mornington Community Information and Support Centre (MCISC) celebrated 5 years of operation of its Fresh Food Program.

The Program is run by volunteers and operates with the support of St Mark's Uniting Church. It operates from 10.30 am each Thursday and provides fresh food supplied by SecondBite, for free.

SecondBite exists to provide access to fresh, nutritious food for people in need across Australia. It does this by stopping good food from going to waste and giving it to people in need, free of charge, through 841 food programs across the country, including the MCISC Fresh Food Program.

Woolworths, Benton's Square, also provides bread for the Program.

A recent national survey by Edith Cowan University of 2,334 Australians found that 36% of people have experienced low or very low food security at some time. MCISC recognizes the importance of food security to everyone, giving out food from its pantry, through its Fresh Food, Meals and Bread programs, providing food vouchers through its Emergency Relief Program and hosting Christmas Lunch.

I would like to pay tribute to the hard-working volunteers who make the Program happen and in particular, our volunteer coordinators, Shelley Dewerson-Bogue and Kay Crellin, who ensure that the Program runs smoothly on the day. I would also like to recognise the amazing contribution of Patricia Watt, who has been volunteering on the Program since it began.

In 2017/18, the Fresh Food Program assisted an average of 45 individuals and families each week. That equates to some 2,340 individual food packages given out throughout the year.

In addition, the Program also distributes food to other agencies in the Mornington area that collect food for their clients including Fusion, Advance College, The Corner Youth Centre, St Vincent de Paul, Men's Breakfast, Mornington Park Primary School and Preschool and St Mark's Uniting Church.

The program ensures that all our clients have weekly access to at least some nutritious food, allowing them to reduce their weekly grocery spend and better manage their household budgets. The alternative is that they often go without food for themselves and their children.

“Every Thursday morning, our amazing volunteers unload the SecondBite truck, sort and display the food and ensure a welcoming experience for all.”

Congratulations and thank you to all the volunteers involved in the program.

Stuart Davis-Meehan
Manager



Some of our wonderful volunteers
(Photo: Rab Siddhi)

NB: This year is a year for celebrating. On the 2nd November, the Centre will be celebrating its 35th year of operation! Watch this space for an invitation to a special celebration event (save the date in your diary 4pm – 6pm).

News from the Mornington Community Information and Support Centre

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