

# MCISC NEWS No. 5

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope the new year brings you happiness, good health and prosperity. For the MCISC we are excited about the new year with our offering of two new programs from the Centre. I will provide a brief outline of the Financial Counselling and Community Health Nurse programs, but first a quick recap on our very successful Christmas programs.

Thanks to Paula Creek of Functioning Together, for organising our Christmas lunch on Christmas day. We catered for some 117 people, including volunteers. Thanks also to the Shire, Mt Martha Community Bank and the many other businesses and organisations that supported the event.

We also distributed 344 Christmas hampers and provided toys for 316 children who would have otherwise gone without at Christmas. Thanks to our many partners that made these programs so special and in particular to our major partner, St Vincent de Paul.

2019 will see us offering two new programs.

The first, is the provision of a Financial Counsellor, one day a week from the Centre. This program is funded by DSS and will be provided by Casey North Community Information & Support Service.

The program aims to help people in personal financial difficulty to address their financial problems, manage their debt and make informed choices about their money in the future. We expect the range of services to include direct casework, advocacy, referral and community education.

The second, is hosting a Community Health Nurse from MI Health once a fortnight. MI (Mobile Integrated) Health is a program of Peninsula Health that aims to improve and maintain the health status and quality of life for people who are homeless or people living in insecure accommodation. The Community Health Nurse will be able to discuss people's health needs and assist them with a health assessment, access to dental services, allied and mental health referrals, and assistance with addictions, to name a few.

We were also advised late last year of the success of our consortium bid with CISVic, for DSS emergency relief funding for the next 4 ½ years. While they are still working out how much we will get, it does mean that we will be funded and we will be able to continue to give 100% of this funding to our clients.

Today, I took delivery of a BBQ from DHHS, which we will be using to run regular BBQ's for tenants of the Main St Public Housing Estate. The aim of the BBQ's is to engage with the tenants to provide support and ensure that they have appropriate access to support services. We ran our first BBQ late last year and it was an outstanding success.

In closing I would like to promote and invite you to attend a discussion with Hugh Mackay, an esteemed Australian social researcher, commentator and bestselling author, on the topic of "Towards a more compassionate, less anxious society" on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February. I have attached a flyer with all the details.

**Stuart Davis-Meehan, Manager, January 2019**

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