

*Statement regarding recent fundraising activities advertised
to be for the benefit of
Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre
(SPCSIC)*



In the later part of 2018, we were made aware that several activities and events were being organised in the local community. It was conveyed to the community that the proceeds of these events would be donated to the SPCSIC. These activities were advertised through various mediums, including local businesses and local business awards nights, including The Peninsula Business Awards and The Frankston Business Awards. To the best of our knowledge, while several activities and events were advertised, only one of these activities went ahead, although we are aware that people may have paid entry fees for the other events and activities that were originally advertised, including the business awards.

This event occurred on 24th October 2018, and involved a comedy gala event at the Safety Beach Sailing Club. Advertising for this event stated that the money raised would go to the SPCSIC Fresh Food Program. A number of local businesses were contacted to supply goods and services for this event, in exchange for payment. Additionally, we understand that a number of local businesses donated goods and services for free; these products were auctioned at the event.

Despite being listed as the beneficiary of this fundraising event, SPCSIC was not a party to the development, management or delivery of this event. To date SPCSIC has received around \$250 of the thousands originally promised. Further, we have received no accounting records from the event, or any other fundraising activity that had advertised it would donate its proceedings to the SPCSIC. SPCSIC has been told that, in addition to not paying the funds raised as intended, a number of businesses that devoted their time and services, free of charge, were under the impression they were working for the SPCSIC. Unfortunately, this was not the case.

We have written to the event organiser explaining our concerns, and requested the full and final payment of the proceeds raised in the name of SPCSIC.

SPCSIC is saddened to have been the nominated beneficiary of an event that has negatively affected our community. It is very troubling to us that an event that traded on our name and reputation has adversely impacted wonderful local community members and businesses. Our purpose is to assist and support our community. We strive every day, with very limited resources, to do what we can for our community. That we are able to achieve as much as we do is due to the support we receive from very generous community members who have been our life-blood for the 40 years we have been in operation. By donating time, resources and funds, you all make it possible for us to do the work we do to support those in our community who may be struggling or in need of assistance. A fundraising event supported by our community should be a happy event, an activity from which we receive financial support to do our work while those who donate or attend get recognition and entertainment. Instead, this event has provided us with very little of what was first promised, and left others experiencing financial hardship.

While this experience has created great concern and distress, our hope heading forward is that no one will let this tarnish our belief in the essential good and giving nature of our community. Together we can achieve amazing things. Perhaps this one experience of something wrong, can help us better see the good in our community and celebrate with greater gusto those who do honestly and unstintingly contribute.