



SPRING 2025

We're providing help where it's needed.

You believed in us and so you backed us.

Last year we told you demand wasn't easing; you believed in us and backed us in with your support. Your belief in us and the support you gave meant we were able to provide over \$1.2million in aid (the most in our history), plus thousands of hours of support from case managers and outreach workers (almost all funded by donations), with over 20,000 volunteer hours given just as generously.

As supporters we know you care about the people doing it tough in our community.

We want to be honest with you – it has been hard work. It's been hard work for both staff and volunteers. Many times we have been stretched beyond what we thought possible and yet we have kept going. Inspired by the gratitude of our clients and the care from our supporters.

In this newsletter we thought we should explain a little bit around our outreach work for people affected by Homelessness and our case management work for those At Risk of Homelessness.

We are an Emergency Relief and Crisis Support charity; we can see no bigger crisis than being homeless so it's a direct extension of our wraparound support model. The size of the problem is huge, last year we supported 421 people who were homeless, and 195 rough sleeping. Our case workers supported 347 clients with complex issues, most of whom were at risk of homelessness.

Collectively, you are the backbone of Southern Peninsula Community Support. Without you, we would not be able to meet the increasing demand or provide help where it's most needed.

"Sorry to text after your work hours just wanted to say thank you and that we appreciate your help and support over the last couple of days. **We aren't used to people helping us at all**, thank you. You honestly have a heart of gold, and we can't thank you enough."



Over 20,000 volunteer hours were provided in 2024/2025

THE CHALLENGES ARE COMING THICK & FAST

I feel every time I write I am talking about how tough things are and how many challenges there are for our clients and for us as an organisation to provide support. While we understand it is the reality of the times we are in, sadly, I believe the situation is getting worse.

Just to give you an idea of what that looks like, as we go to print the Mornington Peninsula has the highest number of rough sleepers in Greater Melbourne with the equal highest percentage of women rough sleeping.

Our case managers are constantly at capacity, often having to close their books, and demand for emergency relief is huge: across the 24/25 financial year we provided \$1,209,850 in food and material aid, the most in our history.

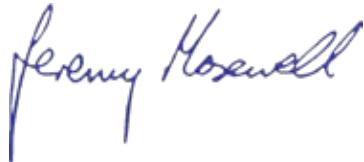
We took a snapshot of our main centre client profile at 30th June 2025 and were concerned to see that 65% of that client group were At Risk of Homelessness and 19% were homeless.

In terms of homelessness, we had 421 unique individuals of which 195 were rough sleeping.

My biggest concern is that we will not be able to support enough of the 'At Risk' group and as a result we will see the numbers of people who are homeless get out of control.

On the positive side, the fact that we could grow our support the way did was down to the wonderful support of many, from individuals answering our Pantry Call Outs, to trusts and foundations, community groups and individuals making significant gifts.

As our work continues, I hope you can continue, or add, to what you have already done to support those doing it tough or living rough in our community.



Jeremy Maxwell, CEO



**SOUTHERN
PENINSULA
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT**



HELP WHERE IT'S NEEDED

SEE THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE WHEN YOU VISIT SPCS

Every Tuesday, from 9.30am for one hour, join us for a tour of Southern Peninsula Community Support to see the difference you and our amazing community of supporters make.

You'll meet passionate staff and volunteers - the people behind our programs who make an impact because of your support. You'll hear why we're different to other emergency relief, food and material aid organisations, as you see our work in action.

And if you're unable to come to us, we can come to your next service club, business or community group meeting to share with you, your members and guests the impact you make for those who attend our main centre or programs.

Please call 03 5986 1285 or email ceo@spcsic.org and let us show you the difference you make.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOPE AND OF NEVER GIVING UP

Over her career, Marie has worked with children, youth, adults and families across the health, education and community sectors, with qualifications in teaching, social work, counselling and executive management. Her experiences, travels and love for learning, have shaped her as a strong advocate for homelessness support. As with every one of our volunteers, Marie gives all her energy, enthusiasm, and tireless efforts to help those who are struggling. This is Marie's story.

"Having lived on the Peninsula now for 15 years I appreciate its beauty – its natural environment, its unique villages and to be able to share in this community. And then, I am acutely aware of the increasing number of people doing it tough and sleeping rough here.

Since volunteering at SPCS, I see the daily increase in people tapping into services to ensure just basic standards of living can be maintained. I note with some sadness the inadequate, fragmented state of affairs and the lack of an integrated support model for these people, especially in the area of mental health. Together with escalating cost of living and the breakdown of family structures, this is reflected in the increasing incidence of homelessness on the Peninsula.

Having retired, I wanted to give back in a meaningful way. I had trained with another shower/laundry service in Melbourne but could not find such a service on the Peninsula. Until one day as I walked along the Rosebud foreshore I came upon SPLaSh. And I signed up to volunteer that same afternoon! I was thrilled to be asked to join the SPLaSh team, after just one visit. It all felt right. And then an opportunity came my way from CEO Jeremy Maxwell... one I couldn't refuse.

Today, I work 2 days a week managing SPLaSh for Women (SFW) with a fantastic group of volunteers. We set up food supplies, clothing, toiletries, areas to chat, provide lunch and support women who are homeless to use the SPLaSh van. We welcome and engage with each one of

them, ensuring they feel safe and supported in a non-judgemental and caring environment. For some, this means being left alone without pressure to be, say or do, while others seem keen to connect and chat.

Often, they are survivors of family violence and have lost trust in services. They feel invisible. Many are sleeping in their cars, in tents, and in questionable boarding houses or in other dangerous accommodation options. This is an opportunity to engage, connect and build trust with these women. It will take consistent effort, patience and long-term commitment but it will have positive outcomes.

As with the SFW team, everyone at SPCS values, acknowledges and supports each other, especially the volunteers, in an incredibly inspiring and meaningful way. There is goodwill, laughter and sharing amidst the challenging work that is performed each day at SPCS. It's an amazing model of community investment in enhancing the lives of people in need, whatever their circumstances. As I continue to grow and learn, **the value and importance of hope and of never giving up is my mantra."**



BECAUSE OF YOU, WE HAVE SPLASH FOR WOMEN - THANK YOU

We are truly grateful for the generous support we have received from many in the community to our SPLaSh for Women program. So much so, this program is fully funded for the next 12 months.

Our gratitude to the RM Ansett Trust who provided seed funding for this program. To Sharon Richardson from Sorrento Beachside Visitor Information Centre who was the heart and drive in establishing the inaugural SPLaSh for Women Ladies Luncheon and gave her all from driving ticket sales, to liaising with businesses for prizes, to you

name it – Sharon did it. To the RACV Cape Schanck for providing their gorgeous venue to host the luncheon and providing some awesome prizes. To Barry Plant Rosebud for their most entertaining auctioneer who revved the crowd to bid strongly. To every sponsor, prize donor and guest for being part of the luncheon. And to both Belinda, SPCS President, for her moving words and leadership, and Kara, our Homeless Connections Assertive Outreach Worker, who shared powerful insights into the reality for women sleeping rough.

WHY HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT AT SPCS

We are an Emergency Relief and Crisis Support charity. Emergency Relief is often characterised as food aid, but at SPCS it is so much more. When someone is struggling to find a way to eat, they are also struggling to pay their bills, cover their rent or mortgage. It is a crisis for the people affected as the ramifications impact every part of their lives. Usually, the sector that addresses those ramifications is identified as the welfare sector:

"The Australian welfare sector covers a broad range of support services and financial assistance designed to promote social and economic wellbeing...with services delivered by government, non-government, and community organisations. It addresses needs arising from specific life events, economic hardship, or disadvantage, offering both temporary and long-term support."

Typically, throughout Greater Melbourne there are multiple organisations in any given geographic area providing support and often multiple agencies specialising in one kind of support. Inner Melbourne has enough options that if a service can't help then a person can easily go down the road to get support from somewhere else.

On the Southern Peninsula many agencies no longer have an on the ground service, this means there are gaps aplenty in all sorts of areas but particularly in outreach support for people impacted by homelessness. We decided a long time ago that if we don't help there is no one else who will.

We believe doing something is an absolute extension of our Emergency Relief and Crisis Support work and it is a living example of our tag line "Help Where it's Needed".

These are our programs that help address homelessness on the Southern Peninsula:

BECAUSE OF YOU...



195 clients supported through Homeless Connections

- Southern Peninsula Laundry and Shower (SPLaSh) program – provides showers, laundry services, food on the day, food to take away and engagement with workers;
- Southern Peninsula Homeless Connections (SPHC) – focused solely on people rough sleeping by going through the bushes doing welfare checks, giving food, providing accessories like tents and sleeping bags, connecting people to support services and other programs, completing housing applications, triaging for crisis accommodation at The Ranch;
- Splash For Women (SFW) – we have close to the highest percentage of women rough sleeping in Greater Melbourne, SFW provides everything the main SPLaSh program does in a safe and secure space;
- Our ER program as the first point of contact provides Easy Food packs, SPLaSh Food packs, and a range of other aids e.g. phones, that are targeted to people who are homeless and catering to their particular needs, often mixed into the above programs and also through our main centre.

Homelessness Snapshot 2024-25

- 421 unique individuals supported who were homeless
- 195 were rough sleeping
- 36% of rough sleepers were women
- 65% of our clients supported through our main centre were at Risk of Homelessness

CASE MANAGEMENT – MORE THAN KEEPING A ROOF OVER PEOPLE'S HEADS

On any given day we provide emergency relief and material aid to many people in our Main Centre, around 500 – 600 people per month. Our experienced volunteers use our wraparound dual focus approach to work with clients to better understand the issues they face.

This year at 30 June we did an analysis of the client profile coming through our Main Centre - 65% of our clients were At Risk of Homelessness.

Often, the issues are so complex that clients need to be referred to our case managers, Margaret Brown in our Low Income Support Service (LISS) and Tracey Byrne in our Family Support Service (FSS).

LISS offers support to individuals and couples experiencing extreme hardship and with more complex situations. More and more, LISS is seeing people over 65 years of age. LISS is the major user of our Start Up Money program (SUM) which was created to provide one-off financial assistance to people experiencing a hardship event – the aim being that through targeted assistance, a person would be able to get back on track and maintain their financial situation. Once largely funded by government, LISS is now fully funded from donations.

"Hi Margaret - I just want to say thank you for all your support and financial assistance. All without judgement and always with kindness. It was very difficult to reach out for help, as I've always been quite independent.

Thank you for always being available, and making time for me ... You've really taken the pressure off financially. This is making it easier for me to pay for my high medical expenses and housing.

It really feels as though some bricks have been lifted off my shoulders, which has enabled me to focus my attention where it's acutely need, my health and survival.

Thank you for always going above and beyond. I'm so very grateful."

FSS focuses on families with children, offering support around extreme hardship along with a range of other challenges specific to families. The majority of parents who come to see FSS are female caregivers within a single income household, residing in increasingly unaffordable private rentals. Some are survivors of family violence. More often than not, they carry the financial burden for their family alone. This program has always been funded by donations.

"The versatility of FSS has meant that our family could seek support in one place with links to mental health support, legal advice, housing crisis, to financial assistance with educational and essential supplies that gave us the means to keep going."

BECAUSE OF YOU...



240 cases supported in our low income support program and 107 families & 228 children supported in our family support program

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Every day, our wonderful community of supporters demonstrate how much they care for those who are doing it tough or living rough on the Southern Peninsula with bags of food, toiletries and other essential items, financial donations, monthly gifts, philanthropic gifts and grants, and volunteering.

Community Kids, Kindness in Action!

A huge thank you to Balcombe Grammar School. As part of their giving campaign, Grade 5 students collected over \$800 worth of pantry and toiletry items through their Window Shop. The school also supplied the products for students to create more than 50 Easy Food Packs – a lifeline for people who are sleeping rough or unable to prepare a meal. And the generosity didn't stop there. Year 8 students packed an additional 100 Easy Food Packs while also running a creative market stall, selling homemade goodies to fellow students and raising an incredible \$943.80. The compassion, teamwork and generosity these young people demonstrated is truly inspiring. Well done Balcombe kids!



Community heroes, unwavering support

We are beyond grateful to our amazing friends at JackanAndy's Op Shop for their continuous generosity and unwavering support! From their regular pantry call-out donations – and vital top-up funds for our Emergency Relief Program after recent government funding cuts – they have helped us keep food on the tables of local families when it mattered most. On top of this, they generously donated \$5,000 to our SPLaSh for Women program, helping us continue to provide a safe, supportive space for women doing it tough. Their kindness makes a real difference. JackanAndy's, you are absolute superstars! Thank you for standing with us and supporting those who need it most.



Poetry, Cheese & Wine for a good cause

It was a great night of Poetry, Cheese & Wine with 6 amazing Australian actors, including the brilliant William McInnes who brought the house down with his reading of poetry. Thank you Georgina for organising and curating the event, Emma, Emilie, Nathaniel and Josh. Your magical night helped raise more than \$5,000 towards our programs and services. We are so grateful to everyone who participated or supported the event. Thank you!



Is that a big cheque or what!

This is not just a big cheque – it's a big generosity and the incredible outcome of the Sunshine Golf Classic, organised by the unstoppable Pat Randall (pictured with our CEO Jeremy). For over 10 years, Pat has combined an outstanding golf classic with supporting charities. The funds were raised through event sales, auctions and activities, all organised by Pat and her small yet dedicated, hardworking team. You're amazing and we're so very grateful!



Style and fashion at their best!

What happens when you combine flair and fundraising? Well, a clothes party fundraiser! The ladies at Racecourse Grange Retreat were treated to a wonderful day of trying on and purchasing clothes from Postie Women's Fashion, with 10% of sales going to SPCS. And that wasn't all – the lovely ladies also knitted various goodies for us to distribute over winter. Thank you all!



FROM LITTLE THINGS FRESH FOOD GROWS... AND GROWS...

In August, we excitedly launched a brand new initiative that will make a wonderful difference to so many who come to Southern Peninsula Community Support.

Introducing Peninsula Grow to Give

Each week, SPCS provides grocery bags of fruit and vegetables to people in crisis. Some food comes from generous partners like OzHarvest and Second Bite, and some is purchased. But with the housing and cost-of-living crisis, the demand for fresh food is greater than ever.

The idea is simple: Local growers, including households and growers at community gardens, share their excess produce with SPCS. This reduces waste, increases freshness, and directly supports people in our community who are doing it tough, with more fresh, locally grown produce into our SPCS Fresh Food program.

A huge thank you to Georgina Haig and Karen from Panton Vineyard who are driving this incentive for our community. Because of their enthusiasm and efforts, growers are signing up to be part of this initiative. This includes Polperro / Even Keel who delivered a huge amount of fresh, locally grown produce including pumpkins and leafy greens.

Together, we are making fresh, healthy food more accessible to those in need. **Together, we're growing a stronger, more connected community.**

If you'd like to learn more, get involved in the Peninsula Grow to Give program or would like to come on a tour of SPCS, please contact Kera by phone on 03 5986 1285 or email ceo@spcsic.org



\$12,264 of food & food vouchers provided every week

Yes, I'm here to help those in my community who are struggling and doing it tough! I want them to know I care.

Name _____

Address _____
Title _____ First Name _____ Surname _____

Suburb _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

Please accept my tax-deductible donation of:

\$15 \$31 \$46 \$77 My choice _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ monthly.

I authorise Southern Peninsula Community Support to make automatic monthly deductions from my credit card (details as below) until further notice.

Payment details

My cheque / money order is enclosed (payable to Southern Peninsula Community Support)

OR please debit my: VISA MasterCard AMEX

Card number _____

Name on card _____

Expiry date _____ / _____



SCAN TO DONATE

Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

You can post your donation to:
PO Box 91, Rosebud 3939

Donate online at:
southern-peninsula-community-support.raisely.com/

I would like to find out more about:

- Leaving a gift in my Will to Southern Peninsula Community Support **OR**
- I have already included Southern Peninsula Community Support in my Will



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YOU CAN PROVIDE HELP WHERE IT'S NEEDED IN A WAY THAT SUITS YOU.

Helping others is something we all want to do. Sometimes it's difficult to know how best to do that. We believe giving back to the community where you live is important - 'locals supporting locals'. Below are a few ways you can consider supporting people who are doing it tough or living rough on the Southern Peninsula.

Leave a Gift of a Lifetime

When you choose to leave a Gift in your Will to Southern Peninsula Community Support, you're choosing to help the local community in the future. These gifts help us to meet the increasing demands for help while planning programs and services that will meet people's future needs. It's an extraordinary gift that leaves a lasting legacy for many years to come. Call Kera on 03 5986 1285 or email ceo@spcsic.org for more information.

Become a Monthly Giver

Join our monthly givers today to help us provide continuous support. It's a great way to make a sustained and significant difference. For example, \$12 a month is the cost of an Easy Food Pack; \$37 a month is the cost of a rough sleeper cooking bundle; \$51 a month covers the average cost of aid provided per family each month; \$90 a month is the cost of a rough sleeper camping bundle. Over 60% of our program costs are covered by donations helping us to continue to provide the best possible care.

Make a one-off donation

Whether you give \$20, \$200 or \$2,000, every donation we receive, when added together, makes a real difference. Donations help us ensure continuity by filling gaps in fresh food, pantry items, material aid or paying people's bills. Many of our programs rely on donations to keep operating, with programs such as SPLaSh, Family Support Service and Homeless Connections outreach all 100% funded by donations.

"I want to support an organisation that's on the ground, understands the needs of the community and is providing practical support for those who are hurting. I feel I can help someone who's lost, or is close to losing, everything they once had."

Rachel

Please show your support. If you'd like to learn more about the different ways you can support people in need on the Southern Peninsula please call us on 03 5986 1285 or email ceo@spcsic.org

However you choose to give, please know your support changes lives on the Southern Peninsula.