

SOUTHERN PENINSULA COMMUNITY SUPPORT

HELP WHERE IT'S NEEDED



SPRING 2026

We're providing help where it's needed.

**Together, we provided over 20,000 occasions of support.
And gave more than \$1.3 million worth of aid across all of our programs.**

Sadly, last financial year was another record-breaking year of people needing support across the Southern Peninsula. The ongoing cost of living crisis continues to have a profound impact on everyone - individuals, couples, families – young and old. For those already doing it tough, this crisis is pushing them further into hardship and increasing their risk of becoming homeless.

You are the difference that helps us provide food and material aid, assist with essential living costs and continue delivering programs for people experiencing hardship, homelessness and other complex challenges. You are an amazing community of volunteers and supporters. In the last financial year 70% of all of our funding was provided by the generosity and compassion of our supporters.

Together, we were able to support over 1,300 people who were at 'Risk of Homelessness' and over 460 who were homeless including over 250 rough sleepers in the past financial year.

However, a few months into this new financial year and we are already seeing that the need for support continues to grow. The fuel crisis is extra hard on those struggling already and grocery items continue to rise. People often are being forced to decide what to go without so they can keep a roof over their heads. With so few affordable housing options we are putting extra efforts to keeping people in their homes.

Many clients return, some returning after many years, and there is a constant stream of new clients asking for help. More and more people who have never needed a service like SPCS before. Yet, what separates us from other organisations is our dual focus – providing immediate emergency relief along with wrap-around case management support – and you. Thank you for believing in SPCS and more so, in the people of the Southern Peninsula.

Vale Marianne, an extraordinary volunteer

We are all saddened at the passing of one of our wonderful and caring volunteers – Marianne. If you've ever come to our main centre, you most likely met Marianne - one of our longest serving volunteers, with a warm smile, humorous stories to tell, and a love for sugary hot drinks. But it was the care and compassion she had for every person who needed help that we will miss the most.

As Marianne had once shared, "SPCS is about trying to find out the cause of a person's problem. We spend time with them. They learn to trust you because you're willing to listen to them. They learn that we truly care. I love the trust this place gives me. I love the passion everyone has for people because I've also got that. It's the most beautiful place."

Vale Marianne and thank you for all your love, care and compassion for every person you met and helped. You will be missed.



TOGETHER, WE ARE GETTING THINGS DONE

Together, we made an incredible impact in another record-breaking financial year. What is extra special is this was achieved after a massive hit on our federal funding in September last year. This challenge sparked a powerful transformation. Recognizing the vital nature of our work, you, our community stepped forward. A surge in private donations not only filled the gap but also granted us greater operational independence.

What is remarkable is that 11 years ago we had a similar hit and then in 2015-16 we bounced back thanks to our community. At the time we pivoted from predominantly supplying food vouchers to a donated food model. Since then, as demand has grown, your support has grown.

Just to give you an idea of what that looks like, in 2015-16 we provided over \$500,000 (excluding NILs) in food and material aid.

This past year, we provided over \$1.3 million in food and material aid, the most in our history.

A close look at our main centre client profile for 30th June and we continue to see around 65% of that client group being 'At Risk of Homelessness' with 19% being homeless.

Our staff and volunteers are constantly at capacity and often case managers have had to close their books. In terms of homelessness, we had 462 unique individuals of which 251 were rough sleeping.

SPCS Aid Comparison 2025-16 to 2025-26				
	Value \$ 2015-16	\$ per week (50 weeks)	Value \$ 2025-26	\$ per week (50 weeks)
Food - main centre	\$ 98,610	\$ 1,972	\$ 381,418	\$ 7,628
Food Vouchers	\$ 40,000	\$ 800	\$ 235,328	\$ 4,707
SPLaSh food	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 127,037	\$ 2,541
Fresh Food Walk Up	\$ 224,878	\$ 4,498	\$ 123,418	\$ 2,468
Total Food & Vouchers	\$ 363,488	\$ 7,270	\$ 867,201	\$ 17,344
Main Centre - Aid Other	\$ 138,412	\$ 2,768	\$ 244,659	\$ 4,893
SPLaSh - Aid Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,371	\$ 447
No Interest Loans (NILS)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 220,490	\$ 4,410
Total non-food aid	\$ 138,412	\$ 2,768	\$ 487,520	\$ 9,750
Total Aid Provided	\$ 501,900	\$ 10,038	\$ 1,354,721	\$ 27,094

My biggest concern is always that we will struggle to support enough of the 'At Risk' group to maintain their housing, we could see the numbers of people who are homeless out of control.

Despite a record start to the year we are managing the demand for now, and that has been down to the wonderful support of many, from individuals answering our Pantry Call Outs, people donating monthly, 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



JOIN US TUESDAYS 9.30AM AT SPCS AND SEE THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE

We would love to show you the difference you and our amazing community of supporters make. Every Tuesday at 9.30am, join us at our main centre for an hour-long tour and chat. Meet the staff and volunteers behind our programs. Hear why we're different to other emergency relief, food and material aid organisations. And see your support in action. If you're unable to visit, we can come to your next club, business or group meeting and share 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.



GIVING BACK SUPPORT AND CONNECTION THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

Our volunteers are the backbone of SPCS, vital in our ability to deliver programs and services. Last financial year, our superstar volunteers, like Lauren, provided nearly 21,300 hours with total value of over \$1 million! This is Lauren's story.

"I used to be a client here. I was able to start my placement here, and I loved it so much I stayed on as a volunteer. I'm now a volunteer interviewer, and every day is different. I listen to people's stories and struggles, help organise assistance, unpack donations, print and fill in forms - really, whatever the client needs at the time.

Over time I've seen a massive increase in need. Not just families. I see older generations, 18-year-olds and people who never thought they would need help. Bills, rent, petrol, have gone up. People are really struggling just to cover the basics and feed themselves. They are really feeling the stress.

Without somewhere like SPCS, so many people would be lost. SPCS gives people much-needed support and connection to their community. They are treated with dignity when they ask for help, and that is so important. It gives a lot of people a reason to keep going."

Thank you Lauren, and all our volunteers, for your care, support and time. You are superstars!



TOGETHER, WE'RE GROWING FRESH FOOD FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

Every week, SPCS supports more than 260 people and their families across our programs, with fresh fruit and vegetables an important part of that support. With the cost-of-living crisis continuing to affect local households, demand for fresh food is growing.

In August 2025, SPCS launched **Peninsula Grow to Give**, inspired by locals and driven by **Georgina Haig and Karen Panton from Panton Vineyard**. Karen has helped bring together family, friends, neighbours and local growers to donate fresh produce.

The idea is simple: local households, commercial growers and community gardens share surplus produce with SPCS. This reduces waste, increases freshness and helps us provide nutritious, locally grown food to people doing it tough.

The community has responded wonderfully. **Warwick and Alison from Blairgowrie Community Garden** recently delivered leafy greens and lemons following a community working bee. **John and Joyce from Village Glen**, who have supported Grow to Give from the beginning, once again filled our pantry with cabbages, leafy greens and capsicums. Karen also continues to regularly deliver freshly picked produce from local growers.

Peninsula Grow to Give is about much more than food. It is about **connection, kindness and neighbours looking after one another**. Every donation helps us put more fresh, nutritious food into the hands of local families.

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



SUMming UP THE POWER OF SUM!

You may be wondering what SUM is. SUM stands for 'Start Up Money' and is one of our longest running brokerage programs. Brokerage funds are specific funds donated or allocated within a program to pay direct client expenses, that could be an outstanding account, repairs to a car, rental arrears or even a medical expense. The philosophy behind SUM was to remove a one-off financial barrier that was preventing a client moving forward from the crisis they were in, it was to give people a 'Start Up'.

Our brokerage funds are funded by community donations across all of our programs. In the case of SUM it is a program funded by a very generous local couple almost from its beginning.

When the SUM Assistance program steps in.

Through our wraparound framework we are able to see the whole picture of a person's situation and SUM gives us the flexibility to pinpoint where targeted funds can achieve a really positive outcome.

Services such as our Low-Income Support Service, Family Support Service, SPLaSh and Emergency Relief programs have all benefited from SUM over the many years this program has been operating. It is able to assist people in

a substantial way. For example, SUM received \$50,000 in brokerage funds last year, and our Low-Income Support Service was able to provide \$28,835.67 in direct financial assistance, with 61% of this going toward housing costs, primarily rent and removalist costs, last financial year.

SPCS Program Coordinator, Miranda, shared that "The real strength of SUM is that, through a more in-depth assessment of someone's circumstances, we can identify where a relatively small amount of financial assistance can make a very significant difference."

Over the years, SUM funding has helped people to:

- repair a car so they can continue getting to work
- move into more affordable accommodation
- purchase tools or other work-related items needed to start a new job
- complete education or qualifications
- access vital medical support or health assessments
- break out of cycles of debt that were causing ongoing harm.

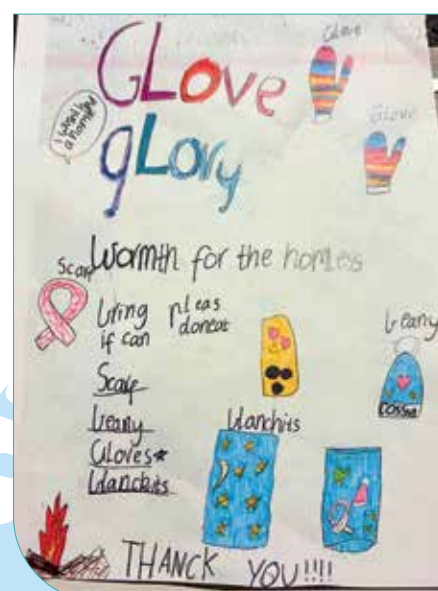
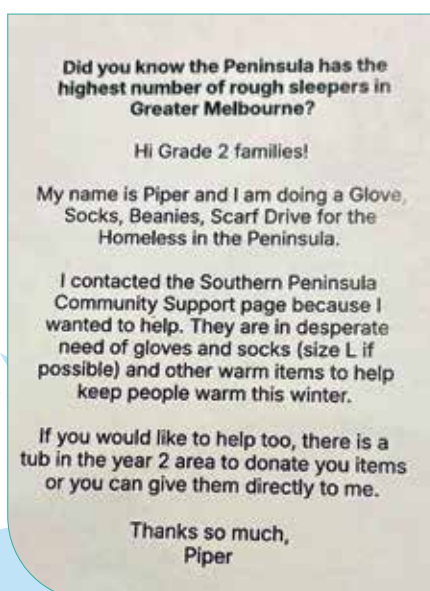
SUMming UP THE POWER OF SUM!

The SUM Assistance program has been vital for people who are struggling especially with housing issues. We are most grateful to one donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, whose generosity has ensured we've been able to provide the SUM Assistance program at SPCS.



PIPER'S DRIVE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Sometimes it takes a spark to ignite great change. And Piper was that spark that got her entire school on board, collecting gloves, socks, beanies, blankets for people doing it tough on the Southern Peninsula. Piper's entrepreneurial skills really came to the fore with posters put up around the school and gorgeous drawing to really inspire everyone to get involved. We can't thank Piper, her mum and her school enough for the care they all took in getting items together to hand over to us. You are all AMAZING



BRAVING THE FREEZING COLD FOR A GOOD CAUSE – A NIGHT THAT CHANGED LIVES

Whether it's winter or summer, rain, hail or shine, weather on the Peninsula reminds us how tough conditions are for people living rough.

On Friday 31 July, as part of the lead up to Homelessness Week, more than 120 intrepid people came together - community leaders, politicians, MP Shire councillors and lots of concerned caring locals. The Southern Peninsula Sleep Out was hosted by The Ranch Adventure Park and their staff.

They slept in their cars, tents, or wherever they could find a warm enough spot on what turned out to be the coldest night of the year! And all the while raising funds for SPCS's homelessness outreach programs and generating awareness of the challenges faced by people living rough or experiencing homelessness.

We know, as did those that attended, that one night can never be the same as living rough for weeks, months, even years. The goal was to gain insight and experience, for just one night, what life might be like for people who are homeless or living rough on the foreshore, in cars, or parks. They deliberately ditched the comfort and warmth

of their homes for the freezing cold temperatures and elements outside.

For many participants, the Sleep Out was a glimpse into the reality faced by people sleeping rough. As one participant shared, "Last night was a sliver of an insight into homelessness and what life is like for anyone doing it tough. Thank you for the opportunity."

We thank every participant, sponsor, volunteer, donor and supporter who made this event such a wonderful success. Your generosity, compassion and willingness to stand alongside people experiencing homelessness sends a powerful message:

no one should have to face homelessness alone.

Together, we raised awareness, sparked conversations about rough sleeping and homelessness on the Peninsula, strengthened our community, and helped ensure that people doing it tough on the Southern Mornington Peninsula receive the support, dignity and hope they deserve.

We would like to acknowledge the community leaders who supported Southern Peninsula Sleep Out. A big shout out to **David Southwick MP, Anthony Marsh MP, Chris Crewther MP, Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Cr Stephen Batty, Cr Max Patton, Cr Michael Stephens** for their support of The Sleep Out and willingness to join with others in our community tackle the challenges we are facing supporting people rough sleeping. And huge thanks to The Ranch Adventure Park for all of their efforts, from wanting to help by running such an awesome event. From all of us at Southern Peninsula Community Support, thank you.



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, grants, and volunteering.

RPPFM – Your Peninsula Radio

We had a fabulous surprise from John Shore of RPPFM, who dropped into our main centre with 200kg of laundry powder! After having Jeremy on his breakfast show, John wanted to do even more. Together with Alex, Harvey Norman Mornington and Sunrise Tissue, he then helped organise an incredible 3,456 toilet rolls for SPCS. We are so grateful for this amazing generosity.

Rosebud Fire Brigade

A huge thank you to our wonderful Rosebud Fire Brigade for their generous donation to SPCS. You already do so much to keep our community safe, yet you continue to think of others and support local people doing it tough. Your kindness and community spirit mean so much to us.

Zonta e-Club

Heather, a member of the Zonta e-Club, saw one of our Pantry Call Outs and quickly rallied support. Thanks to Heather and everyone who contributed, this wonderful collection of essential pantry items is now helping our Emergency Relief program support local people in need.

Peninsula Business Networking

A huge thank you to Peninsula Business Networking for their ongoing support of SPCS. Throughout the year, **\$10 from every event ticket sold is donated to SPCS**, helping support local people experiencing hardship and homelessness across the Southern Peninsula.

Their recent networking event at the Frankston Arts Centre contributed to this wonderful support, with \$1,000 donated to SPCS. It is a fantastic example of local businesses coming together, building connections and making a genuine difference in our community.

InterContinental Sorrento Mornington Peninsula

What an incredible effort from Molly and the team at InterContinental Sorrento! By collecting and recycling cans from guest rooms, the team has saved an amazing 20,000 cans from landfill and raised more than \$2,000 for SPCS. It is a brilliant example of sustainability, initiative and community spirit working together.

And to all our supporters...

There are many more wonderful people and organisations we would love to mention here. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see the ongoing impact our incredible community of supporters continues to make.



ONE YEAR ON SPLASH FOR WOMEN IS MAKING A HUGE IMPACT!

In August, SPLaSh for Women (SFW) celebrated its first birthday of providing shower, laundry and a safe space for vulnerable women living on the Southern Peninsula. Marie, who runs SFW, reflected on "the incredible span of diversity and challenge SPLaSh for Women has responded to, through varying levels of support to the 30 women who have accessed and continue to access this program."

The triumphs can be small and hard won but exemplified by the recent and unexpected visit from a young 31-year-old, one of our first clients, to SFW. Monique* had been living in a shared house after finding herself unemployed. Her relationships had broken down, and her support network dropped away.

Soon she found herself homeless, living in a tent on the foreshore. It was the middle of winter and experiencing both mental health and addiction issues, Monique needed someone to listen to her. When she first dropped past, after "someone had burned down my tent", she was wary and difficult to engage with. Marie and her team welcomed Monique, offering her a shower, which she gratefully accepted. She washed her clothing and was overwhelmed to be able to choose clean warm clothes, enjoy a warm lunch and supportive welcoming space. She felt safe.

Monique became a regular at SFW and although her journey was rough for several months, she was always grateful. Marie recalls, "I remember she turned to me and said, 'I haven't felt this safe for a long time.' Monique was bright, creative and intelligent. I talked to her of small but significant opportunities she might like to explore to start a new direction in her life. I even asked her to decorate the program esky which she loved!"

Then for 5 months, Monique had seemingly disappeared. "We didn't know what had happened. We feared the worst - hoped for the best. You can imagine our delight to see her again - a healthy, clean and focused young woman, living in a stable family environment and exploring study options in hospitality. She had dropped by to thank us for accepting her, 'just the way she was' and for 'helping her believe in herself'."

** Monique is not the client's real name.*

Southern Mornington Peninsula Uniting Church provides essential support to run SFW. Our thanks also to Clothes 4 U Rosebud and other groups, Glenn who makes delicious rolls and sandwiches, and SFW volunteers – Rob, Michelle B and Michelle W. If you would like to support our programs, please contact Kera on 03 5986 1285 or email ceo@spsic.org.



WHAT A WONDERFUL EVENT - SPLASH FOR WOMEN AND MORE

On Wednesday 3 June, more than 320 women came together for the second year in a row at RACV Cape Schanck Resort for our **SPLaSh for Women and More Ladies Luncheon**. The room was filled with conversation, connection and compassion for women experiencing homelessness and hardship on the Southern Peninsula.

More than **\$35,000 was raised**, with funds supporting our SPLaSh for Women program. Event organiser and wonderful friend of SPCS, **Sharon Richardson**, shared why she created the luncheon:

"It wasn't until I toured SPCS that I realised the huge need and vowed to do something about it. The SPLaSh for Women Ladies Luncheon was born - an opportunity to raise funds and awareness to help turn lives around. Last year

we welcomed 260 women; this year, 320. Women rallying to empower other women - that's what it's all about!"

We are incredibly grateful to Sharon, Sorrento Beachside Tourism, RACV Cape Schanck Resort and the many businesses, community groups and organisations who helped make this year's luncheon such a success.



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 _____ / _____

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



Southern Peninsula Community Support
878 Point Nepean Road Rosebud VIC 3939
P: 03 5986 1285 E: admin@spsic.org

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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. Below are a few ways you can consider supporting people doing it tough or living rough on the Southern Peninsula.

Join Peninsula 1000

Pledge your support and join our Peninsula 1000 community. Donate a nominated amount monthly or regularly. Provide food, pantry items or toiletries on a regular basis. Make a philanthropic gift to a program or contact us to discuss your options. Visit icareforthesouthernpeninsula.raiselysite.com.

Leave a Gift of a Lifetime

A gift in your Will can help us meet the increasing demands for help while planning programs and services that will meet people's future needs. It's an extraordinary gift - a lasting legacy for years to come. Call Kera on 03 5986 1285 or email ceo@spsic.org to learn more.

Become a Monthly Giver

Monthly giving is a great way to make a sustained difference - \$12 a month is the cost of an Easy Food Pack; \$37 a month is the cost of a rough sleeper cooking bundle; \$56 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.

Make a one-off donation

Whether you give \$20, \$200 or \$2,000, every donation we receive, when added together, helps us ensure continuity by filling gaps in fresh food, pantry items, material aid or helping with urgent, outstanding bills. Many of our programs rely on donations to keep operating - programs such as SPLaSh, Family Support Service and SP Homeless Connections Outreach - are all 100% funded by donations.

Join Rachel, a member of Peninsula 1000, and show your support today.

"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

To learn more, please call us on 03 5986 1285 or email ceo@spsic.org. Your support changes lives on the Southern Peninsula.



SCAN TO DONATE