

Centre Closure Continues on Wednesdays for the Foreseeable Future

My time as Locum Manager at JNC is nearly over. Barbara Kelly, our centre manager is due back at the end of October after being away for a total of 4 months on study and long service leave. She has been updating us on her travels by email and it has been lovely to feel like we are travelling with her a bit through her vivid descriptions. We look forward to welcoming her back and hearing of her experiences first hand. My time in this role has been a busy and rewarding one.

We were unsuccessful with our funding application to Randwick Council under their Council's Community Partnership Funding Programme. We had applied for money to provide much needed case work. We are doing a large amount of casework that is currently unfunded and we are keen to secure funding to provide this much needed service.

Please see Kim's report (pages 4 & 5) on her experience supporting families and individuals in their search for housing. It gives a very clear idea of why casework funding is so desperately needed.

We were also hoping that we would be able to open the Centre again on a Wednesday morning but no extra funding makes this impossible. So the Centre will remain closed all day on Wednesdays for the foreseeable future. Please note that phone calls are answered on this day.

An exciting area that VAST is moving into is online training. We have received money from DADHC to offer our Volunteer Orientation course on line. Shyrley has recently attended the training for this so look out for more information in future newsletters.

Another positive area that the Family Support Programme is investigating is the area of 'mentoring'. Our Family Support Worker has had extensive experience with programmes such as this whilst working in the USA and we are looking at how this one to one support for children can be offered on a small level as part of the Family Support Programme.

Our Tax Help programme is nearly at an end. It runs annually from August to October and this year approximately 78 people received help with their tax returns from our volunteers, Joanne and Albert. Thank you to both of them for giving their time and helping so many people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team here at JNC for their hard work and their willingness to take on extra duties to enable the Centre to continue on in the fabulous work that we do in Barb's absence. I would also like to thank the management committee for their support on many levels. JNC is very fortunate to have a committee like them.

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**Joy Steele-Wood
JNC Locum Manager**

Personal Helpers & Mentors Programme

This new programme is being implemented by Anglicare in areas of Eastern and South Eastern Sydney. This programme outreaches into the community to increase opportunities for the recovery of individuals living with mental illness. This service works toward recovery by:

- Equipping participants with skills to better manage their daily activities as well as finding ways to connect people with the community.
- Identifying needs and providing referrals to appropriate services to increase overall well being.
- Developing individual plans for recovery and goal setting with participants.
- Assisting people to engage with support networks by promoting family, carer and other relationships.

If you are 16 years or over you may be eligible for the Personal Helpers and Mentors programme. You do not need to have a medical diagnosis of a mental illness to initially join the programme. If you join the personal helper or mentor will help you to get the medical and other health support you need.

You may self refer by calling Anglicare on 8362 3700 or for assistance with referral you can call in or ring The Junction Neighbourhood Centre 9349 8200.

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Articles and items of news are welcome and can be sent to:

JNC NEWS

Email: info@jnc.org.au