

# ANTIPOVERTY IN ACTION



The report suggests regional communities would receive a multi-million-dollar boost with Launceston predicted to receive an injection of \$16 million through the creation of new jobs, increased wages and profits and most importantly, an increase in income for people in the lowest income bracket.

While most people living in poverty receive welfare payments as their main source of income, a third of people living in poverty rely on wages as their main source of income.

This shows that even though people are working, it doesn't necessarily provide an adequate income.

While the increasing casualisation of the workforce is positive in terms of jobs growth statistics, it's also a contributing factor in the rising level of under-employment.

Not only does poverty effect food, housing and education, children from families with a high reliance on welfare support can also have a decreased sense of control over life events, yet are likely to experience more adversity throughout their lives.

Child social exclusion is also a growing issue and in 2016 Tasmania had the second highest prevalence of children with the greatest risk of social exclusion in Australia (34%).

Sadly, this can lead to lost opportunity and disengagement, something we often see the effects of through our Inside Out 4 Kids program.

**As part of Anti-Poverty Week, our CEO, Stephen Brown shared his thoughts on poverty in the community and is calling for more to be done to combat the growing issue.**

Poverty affects people from all walks of life. Those who are unemployed or suffering from an illness, disability or a relationship breakdown. Someone who is a low wage earner, underemployed or has simply fallen on hard times.

In Tasmania the poverty rate is around 14% and remains a significant issue in our community. Last year we experienced a 40% increase in people asking us for help and it is clear that the face of poverty is changing.

In the media we see a stereotypical image of a young person who doesn't want to find work, however, recipients of New Start and Youth Allowance payments are from diverse backgrounds.

Recent statistics on Australians receiving these payments highlight that just 17% were under 25 years, 38% were aged 25-44, with the largest age group being over 45 years, sitting at 43%.

It is hard to believe that the Newstart Allowance hasn't increased above inflation since 1994. This needs to be urgently addressed, along with an increase in Youth Allowance.

Evidence in a recent study commissioned by ACOSS highlights the economic impact of raising Newstart and related payments by \$75 per week.



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## CITY ACTION *Christmas Edition*

Welcome to our Christmas edition of City Action.

It's been a busy six months at City Mission as we continue to take on new projects to meet the needs of Northern Tasmanians.

While many of us look forward to celebrating the festive season with family and friends, for those who are already struggling to make ends meet, Christmas brings the added burden of not being able to afford a gift for a child or enjoy a basic Christmas meal.

We know people experience high levels of financial stress at this time of year and 50% of people are living on a day to day basis.

With a 40% increase in people accessing our services in 2017/18, we anticipate more people reaching out for help this Christmas.

Last year, with strong community support, we were able to provide food, gifts and emergency relief to over 400 individuals and families in our local community.

This year we are aiming to do the same through our annual Christmas Appeal. As part of fundraising activities, we have partnered with the Launceston Night Market, being held on Friday 7th December in Civic Square.

Patrons are being asked to bring along and donate a Christmas food item or make a monetary donation. We hope you can join us.

We continue to be grateful for your support over the past year and wish you, your family and friends a safe and Merry Christmas.



The best thing to open  
this Christmas

*is your heart.*

Help us transform  
Christmas for those  
in need in our local  
community.

Please donate today.



#openyourheart  

Phone 6335 3000

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# AT THE Mission

Moving Moments at the Mission July to December 2018.

## Kids helping Kids

Earlier this year we went to Youngtown Primary School to accept a donation of games, teddies and craft supplies for the Inside Out 4 Kids program. Grade 6 student Oscar was inspired to help children in the program after he meet with Team Leader, Teenette VanDyk. Working in conjunction with student leaders, Oscar co-ordinated a school toy drive.

## Dare to Rewear

In August we held the inaugural 'Dare to Rewear' initiative which aims to encourage workplaces, clubs and service groups to 'rewear' something from an Op Shop and make a gold coin donation to City Mission. With over 20 businesses participating in the first year, we hope to see more people accept the challenge in 2019.

## Serenity House

City Mission's AOD & Accommodation Manager, Stephen Hill, received the keys to a new LDV 9-seater wagon courtesy of a grant from the Tasmanian Government in August. The van will be used to transport clients staying at Serenity House.

The demand follows City Mission's recent extension of available beds, from 6 – 8, made possible by the repurposing of the on-site care-takers unit. Time-out is available for people from any part of the state where substance misuse is the primary presenting need for support.

## Mish Makers

Mish Makers is a new youth focused program which helps young people explore their creative side in art, craft and design.

Open to people between 13 to 24 years, the program provides access to resources that can be used to create products including, furniture and home décor items.

Operating from our makers space on the top level of Hunta Gatha, in the heart of Launceston's CBD, participants are supported and mentored by a team of industry relevant, experienced local artists and craftsmen.

With a hands-on learning approach and one-to-one support, participants will also learn how to successfully navigate education and employment opportunities.

Importantly, Mish Makers can also help participants to develop the entrepreneurial skills required to start up, organise and manage a business selling their art and craft.

## Mission Garden & Salvage

As we welcomed the arrival of Spring, we also celebrated the opening of our new venture, Mission Garden & Salvage. Stock is constantly changing and includes a range of low cost, affordable plants and gardening equipment, second hand tools and salvage items including building materials.

## City Kitchen in Burnie

City Kitchen received a make-over in September as a result of funding from the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Partnership grant program and financial support from the Burnie Baptist Church and City Mission.

Work on the project included the purchase and fitting of ventilation equipment for the oven, improving flooring and benches to meet safety and relevant standards as well as extending bathroom facilities to cater for the homeless who use the space. The cost of the project was approximately \$35,000.

## Pay It Forward Dinner

Local cooking celebrities, Anna & Henry Terry, were our special guest chefs at this year's Pay It Forward Dinner held in July. Over 100 guests joined us in Morton's Place for a 3-course dinner, nominating the value of their dining experience and 'paying it forward' to provide free meals for people in need.

As part of the evening, The Mish Culinary School students prepared a bespoke coconut meringue for dessert and we were thrilled the event raised over \$12,000 which will provide free meals and vouchers for local people in need. Thank you to our major sponsors, The Tasmanian Food Company, Young's Veggie Shed, Lion and of course, our generous guests.

# Message from CEO – STEPHEN BROWN



The past six months have been incredibly busy at City Mission as we continue to grow and evolve activities to meet community demand.

Our Social Enterprise Team is always striving to identify new opportunities to provide funding for support services to the people of Northern Tasmania, and in the process create jobs and training opportunities for paid staff and volunteers.

As you read this update our Recycling Team will be preparing the Central Coast Council Tip Shop (Ulverstone) for a re-opening in December following our successful tender to work with the Council and local community to revitalise this asset.

From a funding and service delivery perspective we were very excited to be successful in our joint tender submission with the Salvation Army to the State Government. This will deliver an additional 31 residential rehabilitation beds across the State, 15 of these beds will be at Missiondale and Serenity House.

During the past 4 months our Inside Out 4 Kids service, providing free and accessible trauma grief and loss support to school children, received welcome funding to expand our reach from the Rotary Club of Central Launceston, Harcourts and Moonbeam Children's Charity. Teenette and her team are incredibly grateful for the community support of this most needed support service.

Our Mish program continues to prepare for the commencement of Mish Makers early in 2019. Mish Makers is a new youth focused program which helps young people explore their creative side in art, craft and design.

Recently recognised as an 'Employer of Choice', we continue to invest in our workers and celebrate their achievements. One way we do this is through a culture development tool, Character Core, which acknowledges the positive character traits we see in our staff volunteers. The month of October highlighted the trait of Loyalty and I want to thank our donors and sponsors for their faithful and ongoing support of City Mission whether, this is by donation of money, goods or time.

Likewise, we thank all of our volunteers for donating their time. So many demonstrate their commitment to others by volunteering hundreds of hours, enabling us to continue to operate sustainably.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank and acknowledge the service of Peter Vandenberg as a support worker and chaplain of City Mission for over 35 years. Peter finished his role in October and the Board and workers thank him for his lifetime contribution to the lives of so many people in the communities comprising the Mission.

