
YACAABA CENTRE INFORMATION & COUNSELLING SERVICE PORT STEPHENS INC.

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RE: Threatened closure of the Yacaaba Centre

The Yacaaba Centre in Nelson Bay is a largely government funded service supporting victims of domestic violence and other family issues, predominantly to the disadvantaged sector of the community. It has provided a valuable and continuous counselling and domestic violence support service for 25 years.

In the recent changes to the state Specialist Housing Service (SHS) funding we were unsuccessful and have lost our funding and consequently our premises. The funding for the Port Stephens area was awarded to a service based in Raymond Terrace, less than a quarter of which would have kept us afloat. The Tomaree Peninsula is therefore in danger of losing non-housing services such as support counselling, emergency relief, case management and a point of referrals for services such as the medical profession and the police DV Partnership.

Over the years we have enjoyed strong support from the local community and organisations in providing additional funds, goods and services allowing the extension of our support for needy people in our area. This has allowed us to provide a unique service in this geographically isolated area which has a lack of public transport to neighbouring centres making it difficult if not impossible for people to access similar services in other areas.

During the last 12 months our service has provided assistance of over 2000 support services to more than 350 individuals. Our clients have been referred from at least 12 different agencies apart from those coming to us by personal referral or chance. We have provided support in all manner of ways, too numerous to mention, apart from emergency and medium term housing.

We are currently in the process of applying for alternative funding through a transitional Service Support Fund (SSF) for the next 18 months that has been set up by the state government for small organisations that were unsuccessful in receiving the SHS funding. We are also exploring other avenues of more permanent funding to allow us to confidently continue our service into the future.

We appeal to you to support us in being successful in tendering for the alternative funding and ask if you can guide us as to any other areas of longer term funding for our counselling support service.

We look forward to a positive response from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



**Susanne Platcher
Chairperson – Management Committee.**