

SJOS 2021 UPDATE # 3

(The latest news from St Joseph's Outreach Services Inc.)

SJOS HIGHLIGHTS

The new 2021 Residential Tenancies Regulations seemed to have slowed down the opportunity for new placements into the SJOS Transitional Housing Units. Since mid-June, there has been only one changeover of resident in the SJOS Transitional Units.

Currently there are three (3) vacant units, although one of these is still needing some bathroom repairs before being refitted and cleaned for the next family. Whether into public housing or a private rental, it is always great to see one of the SJOS Units' families move on.

Our mission is to provide transitional housing and support services to those in need, regardless of race or creed, and to work towards relieving the effects of poverty in our community.

HOW COVID RESTRICTIONS CHALLENGE SJOS

Over the past few months, we have once again had to face COVID restrictions and learn how to continue the SJOS Mission in a COVID Safe environment. Masks and gloves are mandatory, QR Codes are in place and hand sanitation stations are provided. SJOS has a COVID Safe Policy and all those with whom we engage are encouraged to ensure that everyone adheres to all the COVID rules in place. To review the SJOS COVID Safe Policy, please visit our website www.sjos.org.au.

NEW GAS HEATERS FOR FIVE SJOS UNITS

Every year, prior to the winter storms arriving, SJOS has the gas heaters in the units serviced. Most of the heaters are over 15 years old, so it was no real surprise that we had some concerns. After the audit was conducted, it was decided to replace five of the heaters, as one was non-compliant, one was not heating well, one was very noisy and two were old wall furnaces. In early June the plumbers attended to replace these heaters, and after some cosmetic work from the maintenance team, all five of these units are now providing warmth for the families in the SJOS Units.

THE SJOS FOOD STORE

The **Food For Friends Group** had some funds left over at the end of their financial year, and after being provided with a list, these wonderful volunteers went shopping, delivering a fabulous array of food stuffs. A very big **Thank You to Food For Friends**.

The **Twelve Thirteen Group** once again provided SJOS with support in the form of supplies for the Food Store. With directions in hand, two SJOS volunteers drove to the TIC Group in Tottenham to pick up a load of toothbrushes, baby wipes and razors for use in the store. After receiving a grant from **StreetSmart** in 2020, we have been supplying more male and female hygiene products, so it is really great that the Twelve Thirteen Group were able to help us with some supplies. The continuance of lockdown has restricted the amount of food stuffs that are usually donated to SJOS, so anything donated is truly appreciated.



Twelve Thirteen Group Donation



THE SJOS GARDEN CLUB

Patron: Sir James Gobbo AV CVO

President: Ms. Joan Donoghue

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The SJOS Garden Club been busy during the past few months finishing a rehabilitation project in parts of the garden. As well as creating a native garden, through the support of a grant, the team have been able to clear and revitalise the area of the garden overlooking the Almost French Kindergarten's recreation area. Once covered with a variety of old plants and shrubs, the team have now planted a variety of fruit trees. We are so fortunate to have a really strong team of very enthusiastic and passionate gardeners who have a true commitment to making the garden a success.

THE SJOS CCTV GRANT

Over the 2020 Christmas Period, after an incident in the SJOS Units, the local police suggested that SJOS should consider installing CCTV cameras throughout the SJOS Units. This would give the families, that come to SJOS for accommodation and support, more comfort and security in their new environment. The team at SJOS found a government grant for which to apply and now CCTV cameras are being installed in the SJOS Units. The cameras will not only cover the internal and external entrances of the units, but they will also cover Rocky Lane, Tillet Lane and the waste disposal area where so much rubbish is frequently dumped. All families staying in the SJOS Housing Units can now rest more easily at night.

DR DAVID QUIN AM MEMORIAL

The memorial garden bench is now in place looking over the entrance to the Food Store and Bread Bank, and once the COVID restrictions are eased, we will be able to place a plaque to celebrate all David's efforts for SJOS. As you come into the Food Store / Bread Bank area, take the time to sit and relax on David's garden bench, reflecting on the SJOS mission and what he did to support the marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community.

THE SJOS REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

The continued lockdowns have challenged the refurbishment project in the units. However, as we are hopefully getting closer to a vaccinated community, the plans to restart our refurbishment project in the SJOS Housing Units have resumed. In 2020, we completed the refurbishment of one of the units, Unit 3, and the plans are now nearly complete to proceed with three (3) more of the units that need to be revitalised and refitted, after nearly 20 years of housing service.

DONATIONS TO SJOS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME | DONATE NOW: <https://sjos.org.au/donate/>

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