



Make a
difference
DINGLEY VILLAGE INC



**Annual Report
2022**

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Make a Difference Dingley Village Inc

Address: 29 Marcus Road
Dingley Village

ABN: 78 684 267 029

Inc: A0014674G

Phone: (03) 9551 1799

Email: admin@madv.com.au

Website: www.madv.com.au

Our Ambassadors

The Ambassador's role is to both support and acknowledge the work we do. They attend events such as "Crazy Sox day" and our corporate sponsors events..

They lend their names to the funding applications we lodge, and represent community leaders in our village.

We would like to take this opportunity to personally thank:

- David Madill (DVCA)
- Dr David Senini (Interhealth)
- Pastor Richard Loh (Christ Church Dingely)
- Greg Laws (Bendigo Bank Dingley Village)
- Pastor Rodney Hole (Village Church)
- Sultan Kamdemir (Bank of Melbourne)
- David Littlejon (Michael Benjamin & Associates)
- We appreciate support from Mayor Councillor Steve Staikos, Peter Bean (CEO City of Kingston)

Ambassadors have a purpose to raise our profile, encourage others to understand and support our organisation, promote our work with all affected by disadvantage.

We would hope they have a commitment to MADDV and the objectives of the organisation



Peter Bean



David Madill

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Chairperson: Scott Lowther
Public Officer: Jacqui Nally
Treasurer: Margarete Lehmann

Members: Tom Duguid
Marlene Nanscawen
Alma Osbourne
Gary Schultz
Jennie Schultz

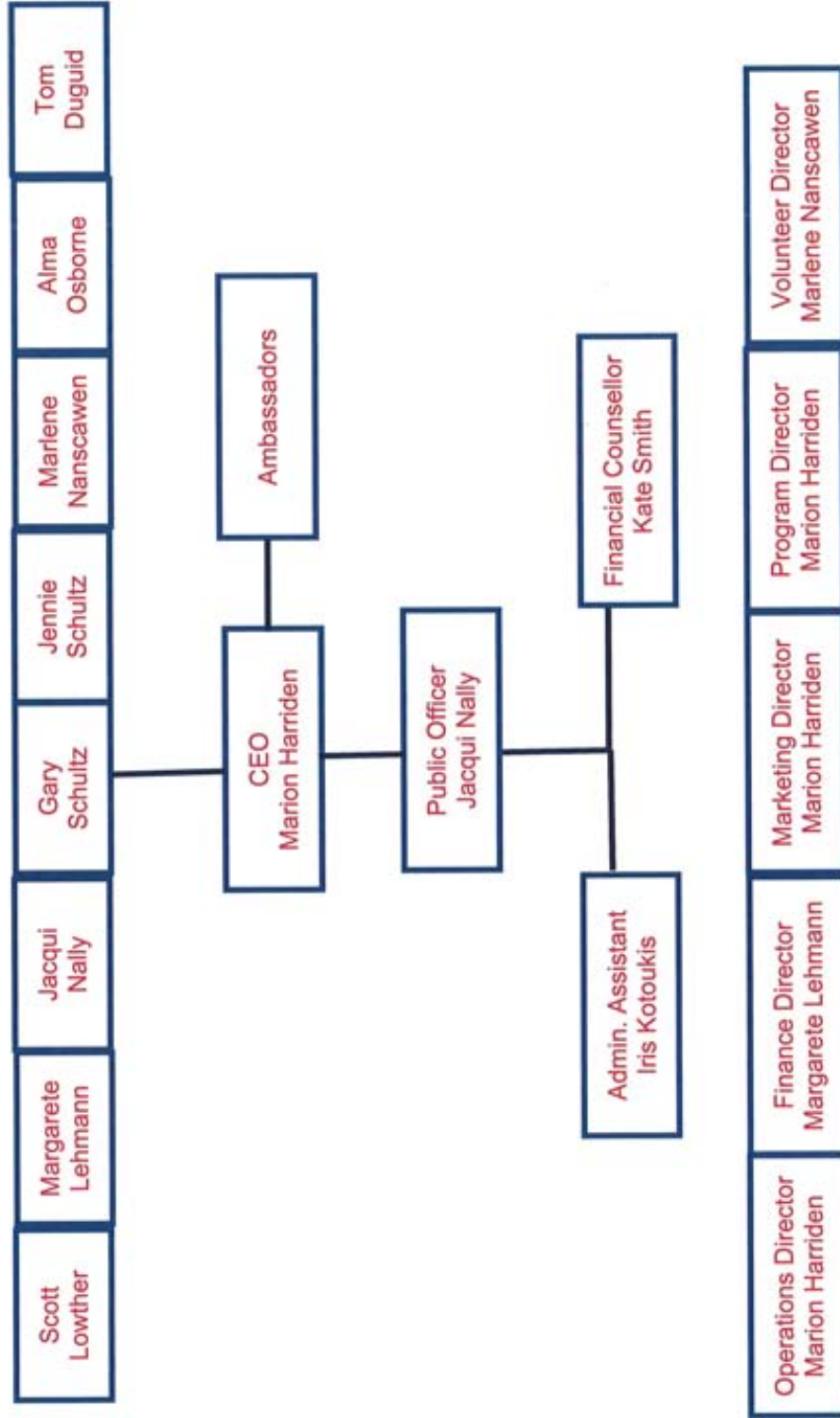
Staff:

Executive Officer Marion Harriden OAM
Finance Officer Margarete Lehmann
Administration Iris Kotoukis
Administration Jacqui Nally
Financial Counsellor Kate Smith

Foodbank and Admin Volunteers

Tom Duguid
Jacqui Nally
Gary Harriden
Jennie Schultz
Gary Schultz
Marlene Nanscawen
Alma Osbourne

Make a Difference Dingley Village Inc- Organisational Chart



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

DEDICATION

Firstly, I would like to thank David Madill for his excellent work as Chair of the MADDV board and I only hope I can come close to fulfilling the role as he has done over the last few years.

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our amazing staff and volunteers whom without, we could not function. On behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank them all for their dedication and support.

The last year still had us operating under COVID 19 Pandemic conditions and our staff, CEO Marion and volunteers have faithfully continued to maintain our weekly distributions throughout.

The last year has seen the continued high-level demand for our services averaging around the 110 people and families per week, up from around 50-60 pre-pandemic. This has strained finances and placed extra demands on our people. Again, it has been our fantastic staff that have kept the doors open.

DONORS

Our donors have recognized the significantly increased demands on our services and have responded magnificently in this crisis time. Most have offered increased financial support, several of whom made very significant increases, with donations up about 75%.

We would not exist or be able to help anyone if it were not for the wonderful generosity of our donors. We are incredibly grateful and thank them all most sincerely.

OUR SERVICES

MADDV continues to be firmly focused on our primary charter of distribution of donations received from benefactors to our disadvantaged clients.

MADDV currently offers, grocery vouchers, utility bill support, pharmacy bill support, amounts of essential foods (eg milk) when available and free financial management advice sessions from our qualified financial counsellor.

RESULTS

This year has continued with the large increase in people needing aid and unfortunately this includes an increase in those trying to escape domestic violence situations. As a result, we have had to increase staffing to cover 5 days per week, up from 4 days, to cope with the added workload. This year also saw an increase in our rent, with these two cost increases leading to a drop in the amount of our income given as aid. Overall MADDV finished the year essentially at breakeven an excellent result given what was going on around us.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ctd

On a positive note and separate to the distributions of donations, our financial counselling has generated a benefit to our clients of around \$462,000 or about twice the value of our donations. An excellent effort by our financial counsellor, Kate.

MOVING FORWARD

At the time of writing this report we have, through the very kind and generous support of Cr Steve Staikos, Mayor of the City of Kingston and the Kingston City Council, been able to secure interim accommodation resulting in a significant saving in rent for our operations. This will incur some one-off relocation and set up costs, however, will provide a benefit to the bottom line over the longer term.

We would like to thank the Christ Church Dingley for their support with accommodation when we had nowhere else to go.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all staff members and the current Board for their support and continued dedicated management of MADDV, and for the excellent job they have all done. I would particularly like to thank our CEO Marion, for her tireless and vital contribution to the success of MADDV and Margaret (our Treasurer) for her excellent over-seeing of our finances.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

I could write a book about the past year – it has been quite overwhelming.

COVID-19 affected our staff and volunteers – while it dramatically affected the number of people in crisis at our door. Numbers doubled and our resources stretched to the limit. The issues presented to us became all encompassing – homelessness, domestic violence, those not managing the cost of living, and those facing debt which was unmanageable.

While we moved to our new premises and thank Christ Church Dingley Village for the assistance, rental is not manageable for our resources. We re-located to 29 Marcus Rd, a council owned facility and thank Councillors and council officers for their assistance

Our finance team reluctantly made a decision, that we would have to close our borders to those in the City of Greater Dandenong. Despite appealing to them, no support was forthcoming.

I wish to publicly thank staff and volunteers whose assistance has been invaluable during this difficult time.

I also thank the Trusts and Foundations who view our work as positive for the community we serve.

Special thanks to the Children of Dingley Village for taking part in “Crazy Sox Day”, a day to acknowledge our efforts. Thank to Mayor Steve Staikos for taking part.

We view 2023 on a positive note and look forward to continuing the work we started 39 years ago.

Marion Harriden



Marion Harriden OAM JP

Financial Counsellor Report

What a tumultuous year it has been. With COVID-19 causing further restrictions and impacting people's lives, an increase in referrals and appointments was a given.

Due to the ever-changing climate, there were clients that attended MADDV for the first time, whom never had prepared themselves for the impact of the pandemic. These were people that had successful, high paying jobs, stable relationships and were staying on top of their debt repayments.

Due to the pandemic, people lost work, their hours dropped, or their role became obsolete and all of a sudden, they have to apply for Centrelink benefits for the first time in order to survive, and quite often it is not enough to do that. Relationships were strained due to the ongoing financial stress and hardship, and family violence was at an all-time high, and sadly this remains.

Challenges looked different for everyone, but the number of people experiencing hardship well and truly increased.

Throughout the financial year, I was able to assist a great number of people, and I was generally being booked out each week (and this still seems to be the case).

Thankfully a lot of organisations, companies and creditors, implemented new Covid 19 Hardship policies which took into consideration the ever-changing circumstances of the pandemic, which made negotiations for clients and for me that little bit easier. This came in the form of long-term moratoriums (generally 6 months, when the 'normal' is around 3 months), debt waivers, very small payment plans with cessation of interest to name a few.

This provided a great deal of relief to those going through hardship.

In total over \$462,000 of debt was waived for clients attending MADDV.

This debt generally came in the form of loans and credit cards.

I also submitted a number of No Interest Loans (NILS) for clients experiencing financial hardship. NILS are small loans, generally around \$1200-\$1500 that can be applied for, for certain household items, such as whitegoods, TV, laptop, emergency dental, car repairs etc. There is never any interest charged, and the repayment comes out of your Centrelink payment over 12 -18 months. This was very necessary as many people spent a significant amount of time in lockdown or home-schooling.

NILS also launched a rent relief loan of up to \$3000 to assist throughout this challenging time (this has now ended) and I referred a number of clients to the service to apply for this.

I received a great deal of referrals from external agencies also, as wait times for financial counsellors at other local services was in excess of 2-3 months.

Financial Counsellor Report

The majority of referrals I received, family violence was prevalent, highlighting the need for implementation of more options for those fleeing violence.

All in all, it has been a very successful year for MADDV Financial Counselling service in relation to servicing the most vulnerable members of our local community and we all take pride in the difference this makes to their lives.

I have had lengthy discussions with our CEO regarding the position with the Financial Counselling Service. Financial counselling in our state is generally funded by the Federal government, and discussions are to be held between our Board and the Attorney General, Mark Dreyfus. I thank the Board for their support.





Annual General Meeting
Thursday 30th September 2021 at 1.00pm
387-405 Old Dandenong Road, Dingley Village

MINUTES

1. Welcome to all by Chairman David Madill.
2. Present – Marion Harriden (Chief Executive Officer), David Madill (Chairman), Margarete Lehmann (Treasurer), Gary Schultz, Jennie Schultz, Tom Duguid, Marlene Nanscawen, Alma Osborne, Jacqui Nally, Megan Young (staff), Scott Lowther
3. Apologies – Kate Smith (staff)
4. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 07/12/2020

Moved: Alma Osborne Seconded: Jacqui Nally. That the minutes be accepted, carried.

5. Reports

Chairman's Report – David Madill.

Dedication

Once again, our amazing staff and volunteers have been the backbone of our efforts. MADDV could not function without volunteers. On behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank them all for their dedication and faithful support.

It is a credit to our volunteers, staff and CEO Marion that we have continued to maintain our weekly distributions in the face of increased personal health risk and logistical difficulties.

Daily Activity

MADDV continues to be firmly focused on our primary charter of distribution of donations received from benefactors to our disadvantaged clients. We have continued to increase our percentage of funds received going to our clients and reduced our operating costs (this financial year, 89.2% of income was given out as aid).

MADDV currently offers grocery vouchers, utility bill support, pharmacy bill support (up to 4 scripts monthly), amounts of essential foods (e.g. milk) when available and free financial counselling sessions from our qualified financial counsellor Kate. We are currently helping an average of 120 individuals and families per week.

Annual General Meeting continued...

Treasurer's Report – Margarete Lehmann

Margarete reported that it is heartening that 89.2% of our donations and stewardship are returned to our emergency relief program recipients.

Income from donations was - \$229,497
Direct Emergency Relief costs - \$204,717

Income MADDV - \$239,653
Expenditure MADDV - \$307,995

Loss - \$ 68,343
Our shortfall was covered by the cash reserve.

Moved: Tom Duguid Seconded: Marlene Nanscawen. That the reports be accepted, carried.

Chief Executive Officer's Report – Marion Harriden

Board Members, staff and volunteers have become a "team", and although exhausted, thanks to all for managing to continue our work.

The Board agreed that on-going concerns are:

- City of Greater Dandenong response to our workload.
- Emergency housing rental at 29 Marcus Rd.

6. Election of Board of Governance

Chairman David Madill declared all offices vacant. There being only one candidate per Board position, there was no need for a ballot.

The new Board of Governance will be:

CEO – Marion Harriden (non-voting member)

Chairman – Scott Lowther

Secretary – Jacqui Nally

Treasurer – Margarete Lehmann

Committee Members - Marlene Nanscawen

Alma Osborne

Jennie Schultz

Gary Schultz

Tom Duguid

David Madill congratulated the new Board and handed the meeting over to the incoming Chairman. David Madill then left the meeting.

7. General Business

7.1 Appointment of auditor Bruce Hyden

Motion proposed that Bruce Hayden be accepted as auditor.

Moved: Gary Schultz Seconded: Jennie Schultz.

Annual General Meeting continued...

Carried.

7.2 Copies of Annual Reports now available, both hard and electronic. Copies of the Report will be sent to City of Kingston Councilors and major donors.

8. Ambassadors

The CEO was pleased to announce that our ambassadors (supporters) will continue to be:

- David Madill
- Leigh Menzel
- Michael Benjamin
- Rev Wayne Walters
- Greg Laws
- Sultan Kandemir
- Rodney Hole.

9. Close of Meeting 1:15pm.

10. Next Board of Management meeting TBA

Next AGM to be held September 2022.



Members of the Board providing emergency relief support for our clients

Auditors Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MAKE A DIFFERENCE DINGLEY VILLAGE INC

I have audited the attached financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Make a Difference Dingley Village Inc which comprises the balance sheet at 30th June 2022 and income and expenditure statement and statement of cash flows.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The association's committee is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the financial statements are appropriate to meet the needs of the members and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from misstatement.

I have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the association. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, are appropriate to the needs of the members.

My procedures included examination on a test basis of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Association's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Make a Difference Dingley Village Inc under the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012 as at 30th June 2022 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.



BRUCE T. HYDON
27th September 2022
Practice Certificate No: 11972

Financial Reports

Make a Difference Dingley Village Inc
ABN 78 684 267 029

Balance Sheet

June 2022

	This Year	Last Year
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cheque Account	75,018	71,068
Paypal	104	173
Cash Reserve A/c (former named LSL)	106,147	106,074
Payroll Cheque Account	300	0
Total Current Assets	181,569	177,914
Security Deposit	1,517	1,517
Bendigo Bank Shares	450	450
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment at Cost	1,416	1,332
Motor Vehicle at Cost	4,664	24,876
Total Fixed Assets	6,080	11,928
Total Assets	189,616	191,809
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Deferred Aquittal	0	7,975
GST Collected	1,029	154
GST Paid	-1,341	-2,777
Payroll Liabilities	5,987	2,710
Total Current Liabilities	5,674	8,063
Total Liabilities	5,674	8,063
Net Assets	183,942	183,746
Equity		
Retained Earnings	183,746	252,089
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	196	-68,343
Total Equity	183,942	183,746

Financial Reports

Make a Difference Dingley Village Inc
ABN 78 684 267 029

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

July 2021 To June 2022

	This Year	Last Year
Income		
Grants	280,362	212,998
Donations	11,818	10,336
Events	1,855	263
Total Donations	294,035	223,497
Emergency Acc. RENT	8,400	6,000
Total Income	302,435	229,497
ER - Direct Costs		
Emergency Relief On-Costs	2,100	224
Emergency Relief - Food	134,702	135,741
Emergency Relief - Utilities	4,110	29,226
Emergency Relief - Pharmacy	3,901	4,220
Emergency Relief - Petrol Cards	1,960	980
Emergency Relief - Miscellaneous	3,003	3,237
Financial Counsellor	28,680	30,311
Emergency Accomodation Expenses	662	777
Total ER - Direct Costs	179,118	204,717
Gross Surplus	123,317	24,779
Expenses		
Advertising/Promotions	86	155
Auditors Fee	2,500	2,640
Bank Charges	209	157
Computer expenses/Tech upgrades	748	1,115
Depreciation	6,665	7,424
Dues and Subscription	2,914	1,979
Employment Expenses	77,461	52,456
Volunteers & Staff Expenses	2,419	615
Fees and Services	700	110
Furniture & Equipment < 1000	273	694
Insurance	1,181	2,412
Lease Copier	9,960	4,294
Meeting Expenses	187	95
Motor Vehicles/ Ins etc	1,576	1,869
Office Supplies	2,051	2,512
Printing, Newsletter etc	4,896	2,666
Postage & Shipping	754	747
Rent	20,389	13,650
Telephone	8,256	5,381
Total Expenses	143,225	100,971
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	-19,908	(76,192)
Other Income		
Interest received	74	156
Bendigo Community Bank Dividend	30	-
Cash Flow Boost 1 & 2	0	10,000
SME COVID-19 Grant	20,000	-
Disposal of Assets	0	(802)
Total Other Income	20,104	9,354
Other Expenses		
Re-Location Expenses	0	1,505
Total Other Expenses	0	1,505
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	196	(68,343)

Financial Reports

MAKE a DIFFERENCE DINGLEY VILLAGE INC

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021
Cash was received from:	\$	\$
Covid-19 State Government Grant	20,000	0
Grants	280,362	42,371
Donations	11,816	188,113
Events	1,855	263
Emergency Rent	8,400	6,000
Dividend	30	0
Interest Received	74	156
Cash flow boost Australian Taxation Office	0	10,000
	322,537	246,903
Cash was expended on:		
Emergency relief	150,437	204,717
Administration expenses	56,788	45,805
Employment expenses	103,165	51,195
Refund of Grant	7,975	0
	318,365	301,717
Cash expended on capital items		
Trailer	0	-1,545
Office equipment	817	1,332
	817	-213
Net decrease in cash flow for year	3,355	-54,601
Cash at beginning of year	177,914	232,515
Cash at end of year	181,269	177,914
Represented by:		
Cheque Account	75,018	71,668
Cash Reserve Account	106,147	106,074
Paypal	104	172
	181,269	177,914

Financial Reports

Annual statements give true and fair view of financial position of incorporated association

We, Marlene Nanscawen and Alma Osborne, being members of the Committee of the Make a Difference Dingley Village Inc., certify that--

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Make a Difference Dingley Village Inc. during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending 30th June 2022.

Signed: M. B. Nanscawen
Marlene Nanscawen

Dated: 20.10-'22

Signed: Alma Osborne
Alma Osborne

Dated: 20th 10. 2022.

“29 Marcus Road”

It was a great day when we moved Make a Difference to 29 Marcus Rd Dingley Village

It only happened with great assistance from the Mayor of the City of Kingston, Steve Staikos, councillors and council and council officers.

We will always assist families who need our help, and 2022 has been a difficult year for many. Living costs are escalating, and utility bills extremely high.

We have also supported many with serious issues that include homelessness, domestic violence and financial debt.



Welcome to our newest volunteer!

Kelsey is 18 months old and anxious to join Pa in his work at Make a Difference.

Our team of volunteers manage our large emergency relief program and are of incredible support to our staff and the families who need our help.

The volunteers have been with us as we worked through COVID-19 and the pandemic – and of course our move to our new premises.

Volunteers contribute \$723million to the Victorian community and 36% of Victorians volunteer.

The ABS tells us volunteers are worth \$41.72 per hour.

Our volunteers are the “salt of the earth”. What would we do without them!



Anti-Poverty Week

The government recognises anti-poverty week each year and our contribution is to print a Directory of agencies that provide emergency relief to those in need.

The directory is useful to all people such as doctors, teachers, nurses, etc attempting to assist vulnerable and disadvantaged families who need assistance.

Mayor Steve Staikos was pleased to launch the Directory and distribute it to relevant councillors and staff.

MADDV will distribute to local agencies such as schools, doctors surgeries, maternal and child nurses etc.



Mayor, Marion and Steve

A third of single mothers in financial hardship due to welfare policies, analysis finds

Multiple policy decisions by both Liberal and Labor governments blamed for situation where one in eight Australian children live in poverty



The
Green Family
Foundation

About this content

Excerpt from the article by [Luke Henriques-Gomes](#) Social affairs and inequality editor

Tue 18 Oct 2022 02.00 AEDT

The longstanding federal government policy was one of several blamed for the high poverty rates among single-parent families. Analysis prepared for Anti-Poverty Week by University of Queensland researchers, released this week, shows the risk of financial hardship for single mothers is at least double that of partnered mothers.

About 34% of single mothers live in this hardship, according to the analysis of data from the household, income and labour dynamics in Australia survey.

The “proportion of single mothers in financial hardship has not dropped below approximately 30% in the past 10 years”, said researchers Dr Alice Campbell and Prof Janeen Baxter of the University of Queensland.

The research points to several policy decisions that have led to a situation where, as an Australian Council of Social Service report found last week, [one in eight Australian children live in poverty](#).

Next page

These decisions include the Howard government's decision to move single parents on to lower jobseeker payments when their children turn eight. The Gillard government infamously ended grandfathering arrangements in 2012, throwing 80,000 more single parents on to the lower payment.

The value of jobseeker payments has also eroded because they are indexed differently to the age pension. The single rate of jobseeker (then Newstart) was worth 92% of the age pension in 2002, compared with about 66% today with supplementary payments included, the researchers said.

Other crucial policy decisions were the failure to invest in social housing, a reduction in spending on family tax benefit payments and a dysfunctional child support system that has led to an estimated \$2bn in owed debts.

The analysis noted when the [temporary coronavirus supplement was removed](#), the new rate of jobseeker fell to approximately 30% below the poverty line. It triggered a sharp rise in rental stress for those on Centrelink payments getting Commonwealth Rent Assistance, from 29% in June 2020 to 63% at June 2022.

The only period in the past 10 years where the proportion of single mothers in financial hardship improved was when welfare benefits were doubled in 2020.



Our partner in supporting families

FareShare meals feed dignity and wellbeing in Dingley Village

There will never be enough FareShare meals to go around but sometimes the case for support is so compelling our chefs supply new charities even when FareShare is struggling to keep pace with existing demand.

Recently, we started providing meals to Make a Difference Dingley Village (MADDV) in Melbourne's outer Southeast where aged and disability pensioners, refugees and asylum seekers, single parent families, women escaping domestic violence and vulnerable single men line up for help.

"As a small agency, we are facing big problems," says CEO Marion Harriden. "It's not just people struggling a bit to manage. These are people in really serious trouble and we're not the right agency to help but they are being referred to us.

"Centrelink send people here from all over because they have nothing to offer them," explains Marion, a former social worker, whose small team of volunteers includes people in their 80s.

"A meal is like winning the lottery for some people. We've had people cry when we give them the meals.

"A lady came here yesterday with domestic violence. She was staying in a motel with a two-year-old. Only support she was receiving was done on email and by phone. Here she is, no car to get around, couldn't get to us. She'd been moved to three different motels. So, we gave her grocery vouchers, clothes for her two-year-old, blankets, books for the little girl and of course we gave her meals! Motel freezers are not big enough, but I gave her six meals.

"Another woman came up the drive on a frame and said all her pension had gone on rent and she wouldn't have any money for food for a week," says Marion, who has been the driving force behind MADDV since its inception 30 years ago.

"Many of the single men prefer to sleep on the streets than go to a rooming house. One told me he woke up and the shoes were gone from his feet."

Before sharing FareShare meals with community members seeking support, Marion decided it was important her team tested them first.

"The very first day your driver brought us meals, our volunteers decided they were going to have one for lunch so that they knew what they could say to people. We had the auditor here and the treasurer and they sat down in the kitchen and had a meal." The verdict: "FareShare got a very favourable review!"

(This appears on the FareShare Blog 2022)

CRAZY SOX DAY



We thank the students from both the Dingley School and Kindergartens for taking part in “**Crazy Sox Day**”

It is not just a fund-raising day, but a time to say “Hello—Make a Difference is here for families who need our help.”



JobSeeker has kept recipients below the poverty line for years, but advocates say they've never been worse off

Key points:

- As cost of living pressures bite, there are no plans to increase Centrelink payments such as JobSeeker
 - Advocates say they've never seen JobSeeker recipients struggling to this degree
- The government says next week's budget will include "responsible cost of living relief with an economic dividend"

'Way below the poverty lines'

Social services advocates have been calling for a more substantial increase to JobSeeker for years.

While the rate of JobSeeker [was technically increased last month](#), it wasn't an increase in real terms.

Most social security payments are adjusted automatically twice a year to account for inflation, under a process called indexation.

JobSeeker, by the numbers

783,985 Australians [were receiving JobSeeker in August](#)

A single person over 22 with no children [receives around \\$668 a fortnight](#), or \$334 per week and \$48 a day. That currently sits at about 46 per cent below the Henderson poverty line

Last month's indexation bumped JobSeeker for someone who is single and over 22 [up by 4 per cent](#), according to government figures. But according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), prices actually rose by [6.1 per cent](#) between June 2021 and 2022.

Because the indexation didn't match the cost-of-living increase, the purchasing power of JobSeeker recipients declined.

Some experts argue the cost-of-living crisis and inflation is actually hitting those on low incomes harder than those on higher incomes.

CPI tracks increases in a basket of goods and weighs them all equally. But it doesn't account for the fact that low-income households spend a greater percentage of income on essentials such as food and housing — expenses that are now rising the fastest.

Elise Klein, an associate professor at the Australian National University's Crawford School of Public Policy, said it would be better for recipients if JobSeeker was indexed to wages rather than CPI.

But more than that, Ms Klein said, "it just needs an increase" in real terms.

"JobSeeker is extremely low compared to the various poverty lines circulating," she said. The Henderson poverty line, one of the most commonly used metrics, [had the poverty line, as of June 2022, for a single adult at \\$616 per week](#).

The base JobSeeker rate for a single adult with no children is currently \$334 per week.

Other payments such as the Disability Support Pension ([\\$468 per week](#) for a single adult) and Youth Allowance ([\\$265 per week](#) for a single adult living away from home) also remain below the Henderson poverty line.

(Excerpt from the article by the Specialist Reporting Team's [Evan Young](#) and social affairs correspondent [Norman Her-mant 18/10/22 ABC news](#))

Kingston Charitable Trust

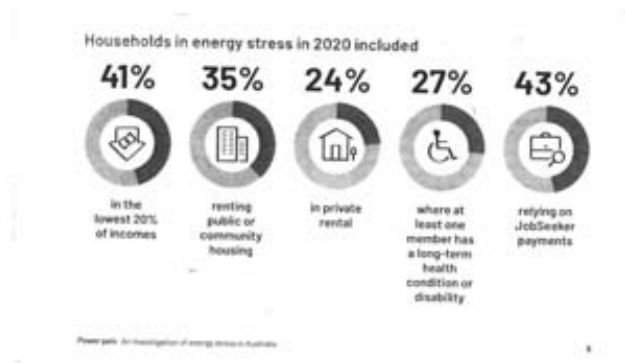
We sincerely thank the Trust for their assistance as we attempt to make a difference to families in need of our help

The Kingston charitable Fund aims to make the community stronger and more connected by supporting charitable organisations.

The Fund was established in February 2007 as an initiative of Council in partnership with the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

These funds will assist those experiencing "power pain" - or energy stress.

Research shows:



The grant from the Trust will assist many families.



City of Kingston

Mayor Councillor Steve Staikos visited us to show support of the work we do in the City of Kingston.

Councillor Steve has always been available for discussion regarding the challenges we face, offered constructive advise.

He attended Crazy Sox Day (wearing I know his Hawthorn Football Club sox) and to the children we visited.

We thank him most sincerely for his support and hope that the community of Kingston is aware of how lucky they are to have him representing them

Marion and the team.



Our Objectives

1. To advocate with clients or on their behalf for their rights and protection
2. To work with vulnerable families and increase their accessibility of casework and other services
3. To conduct an assessment within our Local Government Area as to services we could provide
4. To continue to take a lead role in the Southern Emergency Relief Network
5. To maintain adequate volunteer levels as we work with families
6. To develop a funding model that identifies our ability for innovation and growth
7. To review our management processes and develop a continuous improvement pathway
8. To identify those experiencing food insecurity and provide assistance.
9. To continue to “make a difference” to those who ask our help



Projected Priorities for 2023

1. To continue to support families in crisis that need our help in providing food for the family
2. To establish a staffing level that includes — Executive Officer, Financial Counsellor, Administrative Support, an emergency relief co-ordinator, and a wonderful team of volunteers
3. To maintain our website—www.madv.com.au and our social media contacts via Facebook.
4. To continue to take a lead role in the Southern Emergency Relief Network
5. To support asylum seekers and advocate for them as the SRSS cuts to payments forced some to destitution.
6. To establish a corporate sponsorship program
7. To involve our local school children in an annual “Crazy Sox Day” to market our organisation
8. To register our organisation with the Department of Health and Community Services — as a registered community services organisation
9. To support, advocate for and assist those who need us to “make a difference”

