



Helping People in Need Bridgewater Uniting Church - Policy

As Christians we are taught to show love, encouragement and to respect vulnerable people in need. In the past, the BUC has had cause to extend the love of Jesus and to give practical assistance to a few individuals who have found themselves in dire need. From this experience the BUC has learnt that boundaries need to be put into place in order to assist in the most effective way.

There are several agencies in the Hills set up to assist vulnerable people and to give support for mental health, homelessness, budgeting, alcoholism and abuse. Details below.

In the first instance, when we are approached for assistance, we need to listen with respect and if needed, contact Rev Christa Megaw, Heather E or Sharon S for practical advice relating to the problem at hand.

The BUC has a policy of giving up to two \$5 Coles vouchers per fortnight for basic food items. These vouchers can be obtained by contacting Christa, Heather or anyone from the Pastoral Team and will need to be signed off in the book with the vouchers. Reimbursement can be arranged for church members if they find themselves having to give cash for bus fares etc. Please note that Concession Card holders only pay about 90c between 9am and 3pm and under \$2 bus fare outside of these hours. In the event of emergency cash for a prescription item (\$6 for Concession) this cash can only be used at the Bridgewater Pharmacy if the church member accompanies the person.

There is an emergency box in the Oak containing basic food and toiletry items to assist in situations when the shops are not open. These items will be rotated and updated when needed. Also, we have room in the fridge to store frozen meals if the need arises. These meals can also be used for Pastoral assistance.

The following agencies can be of further assistance:

Street to Home Services (24 hr) 8113 3888

Partners in Recovery Towards Independence. Pam McEvoy: Ph 8110 8522 Mob 0457746714, pam.mcevoy@aus.salvationarmy.org

Anglican Community Care (AC Care) based in Murray Bridge. Vanessa Burkinshaw 85326304. vanessa.burkinshaw@accare.org.au

Financial Counselling. Build Church based at Nairne. Pastor Robert Saldanha, 83880010 www.capmoney.org

National Sexual Assault, Family and Domestic Violence Counselling Services 1800 737 732 24hr

Lifeline 13 1114 (24h)

Mental Health Emergency 131 556 or 000

Suicide prevention and support 1300 133 911 (24hr) or 000

Family Drug Support 1300 386 186 (24hr)