

August 2025

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Dianne Kozik, General Manager

Dianne's Discourse

Dear Volunteers, Supporters, and Friends of St John's,
As we enter the second half of the year, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible impact you've made over the past months. Your time, compassion, and commitment remain the heart of St John's. Every hour you give, and every gesture of kindness, truly makes a difference to those who walk

... The commitment to support families fleeing domestic violence, particularly those with teenage boys and pets, who are too often excluded from other shelters...

through our doors seeking help, hope, and a fresh start.
We are working, step-by-step, towards achieving our goal, the goal to raise sufficient funds to fulfil our commitment. The commitment to support families fleeing domestic violence, particularly those with teenage boys and pets, who are too often excluded from other shelters, need special attention. Thank you for being part of the journey that will make this possible.

Our upcoming Glitz & Glam Gala Fundraiser on Friday, 5 September at the JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort and Spa will raise much-needed funds towards the purchasing and fit-out of the new refuge. If you'd like to support the event or help in the lead-up, please let us know! Check out the flyer on the last page where you also can book your tickets.

This year, **our Christmas Lunch will be held on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, 24 December.** We know that many of our guests may not have the opportunity to celebrate both days, and this change offers a joyful and inclusive way for them to enjoy a festive meal in a warm and welcoming space.

If you'd like to volunteer on the day or assist with preparations, we'd love to hear from you.

Thank you for continuing to walk alongside us as we build a safer, kinder, and more compassionate community together.

With heartfelt thanks,

Dianne Kozik
CEO – St John's Crisis Centre

"Love is the best thing in the world to have, and the worst to lose. [...] Even worse is to be trapped and know you will never have it.

Ken Follett 'The Armour of Light'

Meet our Volunteers: Rachel

Rachel is a business owner and a busy mum of two and she still finds time to volunteer with us at St. Johns Crisis Centre! She started back in December 2024, joining with her family during our Christmas Day lunch. Since then, she's been helping on Thursdays, serving lunch and spreading smiles to our clients.

Rachel also wants to help with basic accounting services for those in need. She knows that life can throw tough situations at anyone—like losing a loved one or dealing with divorce—and wants to lend a hand where she can.

Beyond her work with us, Rachel actively supports grassroots community organisations and gets involved through her kids' sports clubs. She loves giving back and finds it super rewarding to support folks during their tough times. We're so lucky to have her on our team! Thank you, Rachel!



A journey toward hope and healing: A story of Change through Community Support

Here is an extract from a wonderful letter we received recently, an amazing story of struggle, recovery, new upheaval and recovery again once St John's Crisis Centre and UnitingCare became engaged again.

"I'm taking a moment to share my story—a story of how life can begin to turn around when you're met with kindness, belief, and real support.

For years, I was homeless and struggling with mental health challenges I didn't understand. I felt completely lost, and without purpose. My turning point came when I started going to St John's Crisis Centre for lunch each day. The meals weren't just about food—they were offered in a safe, welcoming

environment that gave me space to breathe, think, and slowly start imagining that change might be possible..."

Thank you for taking the time to write this letter. It really makes our day when we receive positive feedback from our clients.

Read the full letter—it is attached in the email with which we sent this newsletter.

St John's staff participates in the Domestic Violence Prevention Breakfast



In May, some of our staff went along to wave the St Johns Crisis Centre flag at a breakfast organised by the **Domestic Violence Prevention Centre**, a Queensland Government institution.

From left: Idiko, (back) Barbara, Robyn, Anne, Di, Scott and Amanda

**Breaking News:
St John's Crisis Centre
Kitchen gets 5 Stars
from the Gold Coast
City. Nice!**

Staff and volunteers, take a bow.

Multicultural Society Network - Phantastic Support



Last month, our General Manager Di Kozik (2nd from left on photo with Community Engagement Officer Scott Woodward and Erica, a student from Griffith Uni) spoke with **Hussain Buba** (left) from the [Multicultural Social Network](#) about the items SJCC currently needs.

One week later, we received 100 new towels, 50 tarpaulins, deodorants, body wash, toothpaste, and toothbrushes—fantastic support from our Multi-Faith community.

Students from All Saints Anglican School represent St Johns CC at Youth Summit

At the recent Gold Coast Youth Summit, organised by our Federal MP for Moncrieff, Angie Bell, three [All Saints Anglican School](#) students represented St Johns Crisis Centre

The two boys Flynn and Oliver are in grade 11 and Georgia graduated last year and is currently going through uni.

Each one has volunteered each Christmas for many years in helping us with Christmas hampers, assisting with lunch service at the Crisis Centre through school terms, the boys having done placement at the Centre while fulfilling obligations for Duke of Edinburgh award. Great ambassadors for both their school and our Crisis centre.

We were given the opportunity of recommending potential student leaders to attend the GC Impact Youth Seminar by Angie Bell, MP, who is a patron of the seminar and also a great supporter of our centre.



Students from All Saints Anglican School (from left) Georgia Normile, Flynn McWaters and Oliver Hunter

WHAT WE NEED NOW:

With the growing number of people sleeping rough in our community, we need tarps (to keep dry when sleeping) and small travel packs with shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and deodorant.

WHAT WE ALWAYS NEED:

Small sunscreens, insect repellent, nonperishable food, especially meals in a can

WHO WE NEED:

Volunteers! There is always something that suits your skills. E-mail us: admin@stjohnscc.org.au

Fabulous ongoing support by Dnata



From left: Reneid Howe and Aleeta Micallef from dNata

If you have ever travelled on an international airline, there is a high chance that you may have eaten one of **Dnata's** meals - the local branch of this major company caters for airlines throughout the world. But at StJohns CC, Dnata keeps rolling up with food and goodies of all types. Recently, an entire van was filled to the rim with produce, and in addition, their **staff ran a fundraiser** to finance the purchase of backpacks, clothing and shoes.

Thank you!

Hair Aid provides dignity

St Johns CC, in partnership with [Hair Aid](#), provided a safe, welcoming space where members of our community could come and receive a free haircut no questions asked, just kindness offered.

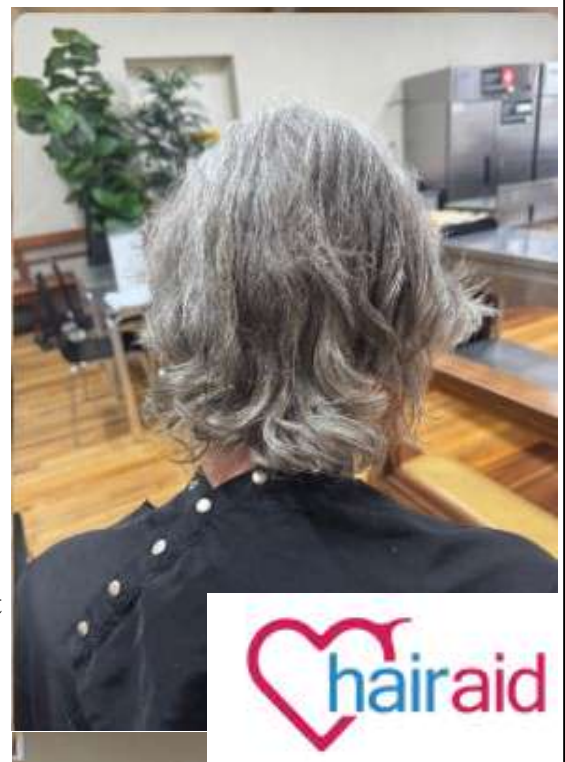
For many of us, a haircut may feel like a simple part of life. But for those doing it tough, it can mean so much more. It's not just about appearance it's about feeling seen, valued, and restored.

A haircut can boost confidence, improve mental health, and even open doors whether it's attending a job interview, reconnecting with loved ones, or simply walking down the street with a little more pride.

Today wasn't just about scissors and style it was about offering respect, care, and a sense of normalcy to those who need it most. We're incredibly grateful to Hair Aid (Angela) for sharing her skills and heart with our community, and to every person who came through our doors you belong, and we see you.

Let's continue to create spaces that honour dignity, hope, and healing.

The Hair Aid story began in 2010 when founder and CEO, Selina Tomasich, was holidaying in the Philippines when she met two nuns living in Manila. Today, they have seven international projects. **What do they do?** They are not just **providing free haircuts for the disadvantaged, but they teach them the art of cutting hair!** Now, here is a novel idea!



Glitz & Glam Gala

Break the Cycle. Rebuild Lives. Be Their Light

Join us in transforming lives and spreading joy to families escaping domestic violence.

JW GRAND BALLROOM,
JW MARRIOTT GOLD COAST RESORT & SPA

DATE: Friday 5th September 2025

TIME: 6.30pm pre-dinner drinks, 7:00pm to 11:30pm

TICKETS: \$295 per person or \$2,950 for a table of ten

DRESS CODE: Dress to Impress

LIVE MUSIC: Manu Music

INCLUSIONS:

- Free flowing French champagne package, premium wines and beer.
- Pre-dinner drinks and 3 course one hat Citrique inspired menu by Chef Paul.

LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS, AND RAFFLE PRIZES:

- Live & silent auctions including travel & luxury holidays.
- Diamond Hoop Earrings
- Raffle boxes including designer handbags, dining and experience vouchers plus much more!

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY

<https://galabid.com/stjohns>

The St John's Crisis Centre has been in operation for over 44 years.

Meals provided to
those facing crisis

Emergency
relief services

Essential medical
assistance

Housing for families
fleeing domestic violence