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MEDIA RELEASE

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Coast Shelter to Host Homeless Connect Day

Coast Shelter will this year host a “Connect Day” at 97 Donnison Street Gosford, to assist those doing it tough in Gosford, the President of Coast Shelter, Gavin Shepherd announced.

Homeless Connect Day helps homeless people and those doing it tough to connect with resources and services by bringing them together in a specialised event. From a homeless person’s perspective, the Homeless Connect project presents a day where services they need are located in one place and they are given assistance in approaching them.

The project has both short-term and long-term benefits from connecting homeless people to benefits and services that they immediately need, to offering pathways to affordable housing and self-sufficiency and bringing Central Coast’s support services together, where they can work on delivering seamless solutions

The Homeless Connect Day initiative started in San Francisco and is now held quarterly on the same day in 25 cities in the United States.

The project was successfully adapted for Brisbane and has been held each year for the past four years and grows each year, both in the services offered and the number of needy people benefitting from the day.

Feedback from those in need, service providers, volunteers and other stakeholders testify the value and success of the day.

Brisbane City Council considers the provision of coordinated services to all residents as core business and will be holding a Homeless Connect event twice yearly in the future.

The first Homeless Connect Day on the Central Coast will be held during Homeless Persons’ Week on Wednesday 6th August at 97 Donnison Street Gosford, home of the Donnison Street Restaurant. In facilitating Homeless Connect Day, Coast Shelter is acting as a ‘solution broker’ for the community.

All Service Providers are invited to be an important part of this annual event.

President of Coast Shelter, Gavin Shepherd said he expected Federal, State and Council agencies, along with Church and Community groups to participate.

Volunteers play a key role in Homeless Connect Day he said. Donations of goods and services are also vital to the success of the day. Food and toiletry items, along with health and other support services are particularly necessary for those in need.

For further details on Homeless Connect Day contact Laurie Maher or Teri Kitching on Phone: 02 4325 3540