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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**31 July 2008**

### **Connect Day to highlight Homeless Persons' Week 4th - 10th August**

Coast Shelter will host an expo of services for the homeless and those doing it tough at the Donnison Street Restaurant on 6th August from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Breakfast with the Mayor Councillor Jim Macfadyen will commence at 8:00 am and puts into practice Gosford City Council's Social Inclusion Policy.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the homeless and anyone doing it tough in our City to sit down and have breakfast with our Mayor", Executive Officer of Coast Shelter Laurie Maher said.

"Connect Day will also give everyone the opportunity to find out about all of the services available to give a hand to those in need", Maher said.

A feature of the day will be the opportunity for those in need to obtain clothing, food and furniture at no cost.

Coast Shelter has arranged for carriers to deliver any furniture that people select from the donations that Coast Shelter has received throughout the year.

Blankets knitted as part of the Central Coast 'Wrap with Love' project will also be available along with other clothing donated by the community.

"Connect Day is the brain child of Coast Shelter President Gavin Shepherd who first saw the event in Brisbane where it has grown over the last four years so that more than 400 needy people are assisted in the Brisbane City Hall each year. Coast Shelter will host service providers from areas of housing, health, personal care, legal, employment, counselling as well as offering food and clothes", Laurie Maher said.

We might be much smaller than Brisbane, but the needs are still here in our community and this is the first of what will become an annual event.

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