

media release

Friday June 4th 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CENTRAL COAST IN DIRE NEED OF ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Coast Shelter has announced today, a brand new facility planned for the Central Coast. With the support of Gosford City Council, The State Government, Central Coast Registered Clubs, Local Churches and businesses the New Coast Community Centre which will provide a 'one stop' program to help not only the homeless, but also those doing it tough within the community.

"More families are finding it tougher now than the same time last year" Laurie Maher, EO of Coast Shelter stated. "With interest rates, costs of energy and everyday living expenses increasing all the time, more families are finding it difficult to maintain their tenancies; and if they lose their accommodation, the extreme shortage of affordable rental properties on the Central Coast makes their predicament quite disastrous. The need for assistance within our community is growing. Services need to be easily accessible to provide help for people when they really need it."

The new Coast Community Centre will be located at 356 Mann Street Gosford and will replace the current Donnison Street Restaurant & Community Centre. Coast Shelter has already acquired the building, which thanks to Gosford City Rotary, already houses the successful Community Men's Shed. When complete, the centre will provide Community offices, Legal Advice, Laundry & Shower Facilities, Pharmaceutical Assistance, free meals, a No Interest Loans Program, Tenancy Advice & more support services.

The entire project is worth \$1.6million and with the assistance of Gosford City Council and State Government and corporate support, we have raised \$1.2million. But, for the Coast Community Centre to become reality, we still need to raise an additional \$490,000 to complete the project. Approaches have been made, under the National Partnership Agreement, a Federal program and also, the NSW State Government Homelessness Action Plan. But the reality is, without additional funding, this wonderful project won't see completion.

We still need Financial Contributions from local and state government departments, corporate supporters, local businesses, philanthropic organisations and individual donors.

We need help and support from community groups & businesses alike to ensure this facility can be completed to help those that really need it now and in the future.

For more information, comments or interviews,
contact LAURIE MAHER, Executive Officer Coast Shelter (02) 4325 3540

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