SOUTHERN PENINSULA COMMUNITY SUPPORT

HELP WHERE IT'S NEEDED

AUTUMN 2026

We're providing help where it's needed.

The Power of Community Support.

There's one word that means everything to all of us at SPCS. This one word which enables us to continue to provide programs and services for people doing it tough or living rough on the Southern Peninsula.

That one word is **YOU.**

You – our amazing community of supporters - are the reason we've been able to meet the increased demands for help in 2025, especially last December.

December 2025 was particularly busy at SPCS resulting in our giving out the most aid in our history.

> At our main centre we gave out $113,248 - an increase of $51,632 (or 84%) compared to December 2024. An incredible result but a most hectic time for us all.
>
> We worked with 423 clients – an increase of 77 clients (or 22%) to December 2024.
>
> And the aid we were able to provide per client in December 2025 was $268 compared with $178 in December 2024. An increase of $90 per client (or 50%).

What is remarkable is this delivery of aid and support came after a major reduction in federal funding of $80,000 per year announced last September. You can read more about this in our CEO's Report on page 2.

The support we were able to provide to people who came to our main centre or attended our programs was because of our community. You backed us and provided unprecedented support.

Individuals, community groups, Trusts and Foundations – you all stepped up and gave us greater confidence to continue our work. Your generous support not only replaced the lost funding but in fact surpassed it enabling us to provide even greater support for those who came to us. You helped make Christmas and the holiday season that little bit easier for so many in our community.

As we head into the colder months, more people across the Southern Peninsula will struggle with heating, food and housing. Your support today will help ensure we are ready to respond when people need us most.

> "The big take away is that at a client level we achieved substantial increase per client during a period which could easily have been a reduction. That's important at any time of the year but at Christmas it's especially so. Feedback from volunteers highlighted the positive experience of being able to do more rather than less. There were lots of tears, of joy, from clients and volunteers as a result."
>
> Jeremy Maxwell, SPCS CEO

Thank you

OUR SUPPORTERS, YOU, ARE AMAZING

Last time I wrote I mentioned that the challenges were coming thick and fast and were likely to get worse. Well, they did BUT out of that something really special happened. Collectively, you made our Christmas period amazing, it was one of the biggest and busiest ones ever.

Importantly, we saw a wonderful impact on our clients. Thank you.

Let me tell you what happened. In our September newsletter I said there were challenges ahead. At the end of September, we had confirmation that our federal Emergency Relief funding was to be reduced by $80,000 per year for the next five years. Devastating! This happened to most of the CISVic agencies across Victoria, including our sister organisations on the Mornington Peninsula. Many of them have reduced services, cut staff and closed programs.

We couldn't accept that scenario for our clients. They were struggling as it was and we couldn't face doing less. We already knew so many of you cared deeply about helping people.

We asked and you were just amazing. You donated toys, you organized Hamper collections, you donated cash, you arranged voucher drives, you gave food and so much more. It was such a moving time for us all. We had clients and volunteers in tears of both joy and relief that Christmas was going to be so much better. **Thank you from the bottom of my heart.**

In the table below I have compared December against last year and what we did in December 2019 just before COVID. The growth has been outstanding and all of that has come from donations from our community. So special!

December	Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5	Column6	Column7
	Dec-25	Dec-24	Diff (no)	Diff (%)	Dec-19	Diff (no)	Diff (%)
Clients	424	346	78	22.5%	263	161	61.2%
Visits	563	438	125	28.5%	356	207	58.1%
Value of aid given	$113,508	$61,616	$51,892	84.2%	$21,439	$92,069	429.4%
Aid per client	$268	$178	$90	50.3%	$82	$186	228.4%
Aid per visit	$202	$141	$61	43.3%	$60	141	234.8%

I recommend to you the article on rough sleeping on the Peninsula. The numbers are beyond belief, especially the number of women who are sleeping rough. You are making a difference there.

Our work continues all year round across a range of programs. I hope you can continue, or add, to what you have already done to support those doing it tough or living rough in our community.

As our number of supporters grow, we want to recognize your commitment through Peninsula 1000. You can find out more about this initiative on page7 in this newsletter.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Jeremy Maxwell, CEO

JOIN US TUESDAYS 9.30AM AND SEE THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE!

Every Tuesday, at 9.30am for one hour, join us for a tour of Southern Peninsula Community Support to see the difference you and our amazing community of supporters make.

You'll meet the people behind our programs - passionate staff and volunteers - who make an impact because of your support. You'll hear why we're different to other emergency relief, food and material aid organisations, as you see our work in action.

If you're unable to visit, we can come to your next club, business or group meeting and share the impact you make for those who attend our main centre or programs. **Please call 03 5986 1285 or email ceo@spcsic.org and let us show you the difference you make.**

A DESIRE TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION FOR PEOPLE ON THE SOUTHERN PENINSULA

Our volunteers are the backbone of our programs at Southern Peninsula Community Support (SPCS). They see the impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on people in their community. They're not willing to ignore the situation and are driven by one goal – to be part of an organisation that makes a difference on the Southern Peninsula.

Maree has been a volunteer with SPCS since 2017. Over the years, she has seen an increase in people coming to our main centre. People who have tried so very hard to make every dollar stretch as far as possible. People who are unable to make ends meet and need help, with requests for fuel vouchers to attend appointments or get children to school, food to put on the table, toiletries to wash, case management support for complex matters.

> "It makes me frustrated that so many people in our community are impacted by daily living costs, especially increasing housing and rental costs along with not enough public housing available in our area. We also have a huge increase in the number of homeless people. That's why I decided to volunteer at SPCS as I wanted to be part of an organisation that was directly helping clients with the cost of living and making their daily life a little easier with the basic necessities. I want to be part of a solution."

Maree and all of our volunteers take great pride in their roles, as they patiently listen to clients' stories and work with them on pathways of support. Each and every one of our volunteers is compassionate, caring and non-judgemental.

> "If SPCS didn't exist, those who come to us wouldn't be able to make ends meet. Families, single and older people would not receive the help they need to navigate the different services and programs available. There would be no SPLaSh or Homeless Connections for rough sleepers to have a shower, do washing, talk with someone, be referred to medical, housing and other services.

> "That's why SPCS is so important. It's so satisfying when you see the sense of relief someone experiences when we help them - be it food or pantry items, referrals to our Low Income Support Service, Family Support Service or other services, a connection, which can impact their lives in a really positive way."

Along with our volunteers, our community of supporters enable us to meet the increasing demand for help for people who are doing it tough or living rough.

You can help volunteers like Maree support more people.

Donate today at southern-peninsula-community-support.raiselysite.com or call 03 5986 1285.

ROUGH SLEEPING ON THE PENINSULA INSIGHTS

The Mornington Peninsula has the **highest number of rough sleepers** in Greater Melbourne and the highest percentage of **women rough sleeping**.

In December 2024 SPCS joined the Mornington Peninsula Zero Project (MPZ), a joint collaboration with Frankston Zero and Launch Housing. MPZ is part of wider Melbourne Zero, an initiative that takes a place-based collective approach aimed at reducing rough sleeping by 2025–2030 to a functional zero level. Launch Housing leads the project while Mornington Peninsula Shire funds the coordination of the project.

The project uses a *"By-Name List"* to identify individuals by name, understand their specific needs, with the primary goal to move people into permanent, sustainable housing, combined with wrap-around support services (mental health, alcohol/drug support).

SP Homeless Connections is the only dedicated Assertive Outreach for Homelessness program on the Peninsula and is fully funded by donations from many sources. **Key donors include Payton Foundation, Igniting Change, Lindisfarne Foundation and the Yulgilbar Foundation. We thank you all for your support.**

You can help us in our efforts to get to Zero homelessness on the Peninsula.

Please donate to our SP Homeless Connections program so that we can continue to provide help where it's needed for rough sleepers.

Visit peninsula-homelessness.raiselysite.com or call Kera on 03 5986 1285 to donate securely.

31 new referrals in January
The second-highest month since the project began.

13 exits from the By Name List:

- **2 housing outcomes** (1 public housing, 1 private rental)
- **9 inactive** (relocations or self-resolved housing)
- Despite these outflows, active numbers **increased to a record 133**.

Deaths

- One death in January.
- Total number of deaths among people experiencing homelessness since Dec 2024: 5.

Living Situations

- **101 people** sleeping rough (up from 88 in Dec 2025).
- **19 people** in respite accommodation.
- **5** in temporary stable housing.
- **8** have an **unknown** living situation.

Geographic Patterns

- **Rosebud** continues to be the primary rough sleeping hotspot.
- SPCS & Bolton Clarke account for **59%** of all referrals and **55%** of active cases.

Comparisons to Other A–Z Zero Projects

- MPZ has the **second-highest number of people actively homeless (133)**—behind Melbourne (173).
- MPZ **has the highest absolute number of rough sleepers (101)** across the 9 projects.
- **76%** of MPZ's active cohort is sleeping rough—one of the highest proportions.

Demographics

- **82 males (62%), 51 females (38%).**
- Women sleeping rough are unusually high: **36 women**, including **16 sleeping in cars**.
- **Average age:** 44 years.
- Significant priority cohorts:
  - **Women:** 51 individuals
  - **First Nations people:** 16 individuals (9 sleeping rough)
  - **People aged 55+:** 31 individuals

IT'S ON AGAIN! YOU'RE INVITED TO SPLASH FOR WOMEN LADIES LUNCHEON.

Hosted by Sorrento Beachside Tourism, you're invited to a very special ladies' luncheon in support of Southern Peninsula Community Support's work assisting women at risk or experiencing homelessness. Hear from guest speakers who'll share their experiences and insights on what it means for a woman living rough on the Southern Peninsula. And enter our raffle to win some great prizes.

EVENT DETAILS

When: Wednesday 3 June 2026, 12pm onwards
Where: RACV Cape Schanck Resort
Ticket Price: $98 per person *(includes glass of bubbles on arrival and 3-course lunch)*

Tickets are selling fast! To book scan the QR code, visit trybooking.com/events/landing/1538843, email president@sorrentobeachsidetourism.com.au or call Sharon Richardson on 0407 047 791.

Don't miss out. By attending you'll help support vulnerable women on the Southern Peninsula.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Every day, our wonderful community of supporters demonstrate how much they care for those who are doing it tough or living rough on the Southern Peninsula with bags of food, toiletries and other essential items, financial donations, monthly gifts, philanthropic gifts, grants, and volunteering.

A truly lovely donation to share with you all. This young local boy won the local cricket club Christmas Hamper - and then donated the whole lot to SPCS! He said it was especially to give out to “the humans who need help”. This wonderful gesture just made our year!

Huge thanks to the *‘Read and Whine’* book club, to which our volunteer Tracy belongs! They’ve been collecting shampoos and conditioners for a while and made this amazing donation to our toiletry supplies. We are always in need of such items so we’re very grateful. Thank you Readers!!

Wonderful news! SPCS was successful in securing a $20,000 Community Grant from **Soroptimist International Victoria** and we couldn’t be more grateful. A special thank you to the members of **Soroptimist International Mornington Peninsula Inc** who nominated us. This generous grant will help us expand our case work capacity, with a strong focus on supporting women - particularly single parents - on the Southern Mornington Peninsula. Thank you, Soroptimist International and Soroptimist International Mornington Peninsula, for believing in us and investing in brighter futures.

This amazing thing happened last December. The extremely wonderful Loz and Tyson (AKA **Sunday Lemonade**) put on another fabulous **Ninch Nights** event with three brilliantly talented artists and chose to donate ALL the profits to SPCS. With support from Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (who donated the use of Somerville Mechanics Hall) and one of the artists (who donated their entire fee but wishes to remain anonymous!) this event raised just under $3,400! Absolute superstars all round! **Thank you to the Ninch Nights crew.**

A massive thank you to **@thebeautycollective** for this incredible Christmas donation - boxes and boxes of skincare, haircare and everyday essentials. These goodies made such a difference to families and individuals over the holiday season providing people doing it tough with moments of care, dignity, and a little sparkle! @thebeautycollective, we appreciate you more than we can ever tell you.

JOIN PENINSULA 1000 FOR THE SOUTHERN PENINSULA

When someone is struggling to find a way to eat, they are also struggling to pay their bills, to find somewhere safe to sleep, to just keep their head above water. It is a crisis that impacts every part of their lives.

Over the past year we have seen an increase not just in the number of people coming to SPCS, but also in the complexity of their issues. Many of our programs receive little or no government funding and so we rely on the generous support of our community for donated funds to run them.

One of SPCS' fantastic volunteers, Germaine, had an idea – an idea that would bring people together to create greater awareness of the challenges and hardships many in our community are facing. Before we could say 'thank you', she along with others had organised an amazing lunch at Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club hosted by Zoe McKenzie MP.

> "When most people think about the Southern Peninsula, they think about the beauty of our beaches and waters, rolling hills and national parks, wildlife and critters of the water world, and its extraordinary community spirit. Beneath that picturesque surface, there is a reality that demands our immediate attention: a rapidly growing crisis of disadvantage."
>
> Zoe McKenzie MP

As demand for help continues to grow, we want and need to do more for the people who are doing it tough or living rough on the Southern Peninsula.

Introducing Peninsula 1000 and our invitation for you to join

Launched late last year, Peninsula 1000 aims to help us underwrite our support of people and their families by enlisting their ongoing support. We are hoping **1,000 caring and committed people, businesses, organisations, philanthropic entities or community groups** can commit to giving their ongoing support:

Examples

- Donating a financial gift – there are many ways to do this, including signing up to our monthly giving program, commit to making a standalone gift over 3 or more years, ask us and we will work it through with you, or
- Committing to provide fresh food, non-perishable pantry items, material aid items such as toiletries on a regularly basis, monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly, or
- Making a significant donation or grant towards one of our programs, or
- Joining our fabulous SPCS volunteer team.

There are many other ways to show your support, the key for us with demand so high is to have an idea on the funds we have available to pay bills and/or buy food and material aid.

We are fortunate to have over 600 supporters doing their bit and more. We're still some way from our target of 1,000! Will you join our Peninsula 1000 program and pledge your support for the people on the Southern Peninsula? Visit icareforthesouthernpeninsula.raiselysite.com to learn more or to pledge your support today.

Our gratitude to Payton Foundation who not only support programs such as SP Homeless Connections but also pledged to match $20k of donations at the lunch held at Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club. This gesture helped galvanise giving on the day with, more than $50,000 was raised. We are so very grateful for your generous and philanthropic support of SPCS and, more so, of the people on the Southern Peninsula. Thank you.

Yes, I'm here to help those in my community who are struggling and doing it tough!
I want them to know I care.

Name _____

Address _____ *Title* *First Name* *Surname*

_____

Suburb _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

Please accept my tax-deductible donation of:

☐ $15 ☐ $31 ☐ $46 ☐ $77 My choice _____

☐ **I would like to donate $_____ monthly.**

I authorise Southern Peninsula Community Support to make automatic monthly deductions from my credit card (details as below) until further notice.

Payment details

☐ My cheque / money order is enclosed (payable to Southern Peninsula Community Support)

OR please debit my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

Card number _____

Name on card _____

Expiry date _____ / _____

Donations $2 and over are tax deductible.

You can post your donation to:
PO Box 91, Rosebud 3939

SCAN TO DONATE

Donate online at:
southern-peninsula-community-support.raisely.com

I would like to find out more about:

☐ Leaving a gift in my Will to Southern Peninsula Community Support **OR**

☐ I have already included Southern Peninsula Community Support in my Will

SOUTHERN PENINSULA COMMUNITY SUPPORT
HELP WHERE IT'S NEEDED

Southern Peninsula Community Support
878 Point Nepean Road Rosebud VIC 3939
P: 03 5986 1285 E: admin@spcsic.org

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YOU CAN PROVIDE HELP WHERE IT'S NEEDED IN A WAY THAT SUITS YOU.

Helping others is something we all want to do. Sometimes it's difficult to know how best to do that. Below are a few ways you can consider supporting people doing it tough or living rough on the Southern Peninsula.

Join Peninsula 1000

Pledge your support and join our Peninsula 1000 community. Donate a nominated amount monthly or regularly. Provide food, pantry items or toiletries on a regular basis. Make a philanthropic gift to a program or contact us to discuss your options. Visit icareforthesouthernpeninsula.raiselysite.com.

Leave a Gift of a Lifetime

A gift in your Will can help us meet the increasing demands for help while planning programs and services that will meet people's future needs. It's an extraordinary gift - a lasting legacy for years to come. Call Kera on 03 5986 1285 or email ceo@spcsic.org to learn more.

Become a Monthly Giver

Monthly giving is a great way to make a sustained difference - $12 a month is the cost of an Easy Food Pack; $37 a month is the cost of a rough sleeper cooking bundle; $56 a month covers the average cost of aid provided per family each month; $90 a month is the cost of a rough sleeper camping bundle.

Make a one-off donation

Whether you give $20, $200 or $2,000, every donation we receive, when added together, helps us ensure continuity by filling gaps in fresh food, pantry items, material aid or helping with urgent, outstanding bills. Many of our programs rely on donations to keep operating - programs such as SPLaSh, Family Support Service and SP Homeless Connections Outreach – are all 100% funded by donations.

Join Rachel, a member of Peninsula 1000, and show your support today.

> "I want to support an organisation that's on the ground, understands the needs of the community and is providing practical support for those who are hurting. I feel I can help someone who's lost, or is close to losing, everything they once had."
>
> Rachel

To learn more, please call us on 03 5986 1285 or email ceo@spcsic.org.

Your support changes lives on the Southern Peninsula.

SCAN TO DONATE