

**Tuesday 21 July 2020**

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

### **UNITED APPROACH TO SUPPORTING COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

United Way Glenelg is providing hope across the Glenelg Shire community with special packages to lift the spirits of vulnerable and isolated residents.

While the coronavirus spreads across the world, Glenelg Shire is not immune to the impacts with levels of social isolation for vulnerable people at unprecedented levels.

United Way Glenelg has provided 200 HOPE packages to those at greatest risk thanks to its local, Australian and local partner networks.

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer Nicole Carr said it takes a collaborative approach to support a community during these unprecedented times.

“It is essential we listen and respond to local needs. 26% of our residents are over the age of 65 with many already facing serious health problems, chronic diseases, isolation and loneliness. The COVID-19 pandemic is posing new threats to an already vulnerable population, said Mrs Carr.

“The packages have been extended to include disability clients, palliative care patients, those supported through district nursing, and those recently released from hospital who have been asked to physically isolate.”

The HOPE packages include health and support information, basic food, reading material, grocery vouchers, non-slip socks, hankies, hand warmers, toilet paper, freshly baked biscuits, Lavender spritz, activity books and a special hand-written note. The boxes have been packaged by volunteer students from South West TAFE VCAL program and delivered by Rotary Club of Portland Bay and Lions Club of Heywood.

Mrs Carr said the majority of the items were sourced locally to support local businesses.

The packages are funded by 3M, who teamed up with United Way Worldwide to support relief projects across the Asia-Pacific region, with their substantial relief grant of over AU\$1.3 Million that comes as part of an AU\$29 million commitment made by 3M at a corporate level to support COVID-19 relief projects, globally.

“It’s important that 3M holds its core values during this pandemic by supporting Australians in need and improving lives. Throughout this global crisis, we will continue to look for ways to help in the fight against COVID-19,” said 3M Australia Managing Director Chris LeBlanc.

United Way Glenelg is working closely with many of its Community Partners to identify those residents who will receive a HOPE package.

“We are very grateful to Glenelg Shire Council Aged and Disability unit, Portland District Health palliative care and district nursing units, Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service Inc, Salvation Army, Kyeema Support Services, Heywood Rural Health and their district Nursing unit, Winda Mara, Dartmoor Bush Nursing Centre, Casterton Memorial Hospital and St Vincent de Pauls.

“Collaboration is critical at a time like this. We are proud to see what a difference we can make when business, community and philanthropy work UNITED,” concluded Mrs Carr.

Photo: Dot Lanyon and Tashy from Dartmoor and Brian Smith from Heywood.

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