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MEDIA RELEASE

HOPE PACKAGES GO OUT TO CASTERTON RESIDENTS

United Way Glenelg has given 20 HOPE packages to families in Casterton, funded by their COVID-19 Impact Fund. The packages were sent to families needing a helping hand during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each family received a base package which included a \$40 FoodWorks voucher, essential pantry items, toiletries, fruit and vegetables, simple recipe cards and health resource information.

The packages received by the Casterton families were also customised to the specific needs of each family, taking into consideration the number of children and age of children in the family.

The families were identified through the Casterton Memorial Hospital, with input from the principals and wellbeing teams at Casterton Secondary College, Sacred Heart Primary School, Casterton Primary School and the Kathleen Millikan Centre.

Paula Layley-Doyle, Community Health Nurse from Casterton Memorial Hospital said the families were chosen to receive the packages for multiple reasons.

“We included single-parent families, children with autism, single-income families, low socio-economic families and families who were geographically and socially isolated.”

“Multiple community organisations were generous in donating to the packages, including Paint Casterton REaD, Casterton Primary School, Casterton Memorial Hospital and Hands up Casterton,” concluded Ms Layley-Doyle.

Many recipients of the HOPE packages have provided feedback, with one recipient, who at the time had a 4-day old baby stated ‘No one has ever been this kind to me. These baby things are just what we needed’. While other recipients phoned the hospital to thank them for the items they received.

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer, Nicole Carr, said that working with community organisations was important in understanding the needs of the Casterton community.

‘Partnering with organisations who have a greater understanding of the needs of their community is important in being able to reach those who need to support the most.’

‘These packages are addressing the invisible problems and consequences of COVID-19,’ Ms Carr said.

Assistant Principal of Casterton Secondary College, John Webb, thanked the community organisations involved, as well as United Way.

‘On behalf of Casterton Secondary College and the recipient of the HOPE packages, I would like to thank the Casterton Memorial Hospital, Community Health and United Way for the generosity and kindness in making these packages available.’

This project is supported by the United Way Glenelg COVID-19 IMPACT Fund. If you would like to donate please head to https://www.givenow.com.au/uwg_covid19_impact_fund

Photo: Mamta Rani and her beautiful six-week old baby girl, Redika.

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