

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE

Tuesday 11 March 2025

Flying Angels Portland Receives Grant to Support Seafarers and Port Workers

The Flying Angel Portland Inc. (Mission to Seafarers Portland) has received a \$1,500 grant from United Way Glenelg's Community Fund to support the installation of a new automatic coffee machine at its centre. The funding has enhanced services, providing quality coffee for seafarers, port workers, and volunteers while fostering greater engagement with the local port community.

Neville Manson, from the Flying Angel Portland, expressed his gratitude for the support, highlighting the difference the initiative is making.

"The new coffee machine has been a fantastic addition. We've seen an increase in port workers visiting our centre, some of whom had never stepped inside despite working at the port for over a decade. Having them here, learning about what we do, is invaluable for supporting seafarers' welfare. Port workers are often our eyes and ears when it comes to welfare issues onboard vessels," said Mr. Manson.

Since installing the coffee machine, the centre has experienced increased engagement from both seafarers and port workers, with an average of 222 coffees sold per month. The demand has also encouraged the introduction of takeaway food options such as hot pies, pasties, and sausage rolls, further enhancing the services provided.

Mr. Manson stated that the ship and its crew contribute up to \$9,000 per week to the local economy, purchasing voyage supplies as well as personal items, souvenirs, and daily necessities.

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer, Nicole Carr, praised the initiative for strengthening community connections and improving support for visiting seafarers.

"This project is a great example of how a small investment can have a lasting impact. The Flying Angel Portland is not only offering a quality service but also creating a welcoming space where seafarers and port workers can connect. We're proud to support their work and the vital role they play in the wellbeing of those who work at sea," Ms. Carr said.

With the new coffee machine successfully in operation, the Mission to Seafarers Portland continues to expand its reach, ensuring that both seafarers and the local port community feel welcome and supported.

Mission to Seafarers are always on the lookout for volunteers. Please contact Neville Manson, Mission to Seafarers Portland – 0408 595 241

Photo: Neville Manson, Mission to Seafarers Portland Board President Ernst Harrison, United Way Glenelg Board member Sarah Tolliday.

End of Media Release

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