

STREET RIGHTS

newsletter of the pilch homeless
persons' legal clinic

issue 68 | **december 2010**

a special edition from our
consumer advisory group



I won't be home for Christmas

Chris

My ideal Christmas would be recording music by the sea, lots of family coming and going... delivering cards all over Melbourne when the post was down - Christmas forty years ago in Glenferrie Road.

My Christmas wish this year is to build a time machine and go back to Christmas 1969 and thank my folks for being so special...I also wish that the time-machine is reliable and low maintenance.

Paul

Christmas means a lot more to me than it used to, now that I get to see my brother. I never used to see him. When I was on the street I used to see no one and Christmas was shit, so it's good now. I've got a mate, he's homeless so he stays at the rooming house with me, and my brother lets him come up too, so Christmas day is good now.

It's nice to get away from here. I come here every day, seven days a week and sell the Big Issue. When it's raining like today it's tough, don't sell much, not many people around cos they stay under shelter. I'm out everyday till about 6.30pm, then I go back to the rooming house.

I go to my brother's for about a week over Christmas and I get to sit down and do nothing, it's great. I get a present now for Christmas and I get my brother a present...In the rooming house I get to have showers and watch TV - before I was in a squat and I'd get stuff stolen and have no electricity. Having electricity is good.

My ideal Christmas, well that's a

thought. A car would be nice - and a home, my own home. A decent holiday would be good. It's been a long, long time since I've had a holiday, maybe twenty years or so. Having more money at Christmas would be good. By the time I pay for everything, there's not much left. Not a lot for food and smokes. The Big Issue helps though. It helps a lot. Things are a lot better than they used to be.

My Christmas wish is that my dad was still alive... He's been gone around twenty years. I wish he was still around, I miss him.

“My ideal Christmas, well that's a thought. A car would be nice - and a home, my own home.”

Dennis

Due to my spiritual inclination, Christmas to me means the original spirit...to remember to do good things, celebrating Jesus who I love, remembering and serving Jesus rather than the commercial aspect. If I was a kid I would probably like the toys and stuff. Having a vegetarian lunch or dinner, believing being vegetarian is following Jesus...in the mood of the compassion of Jesus's teaching he taught to all living things.

I wish to become more peaceful by association with the divine. Call it what you like...peaceful is a gate you go through before you reach real happiness.”

Sheryl

Christmas means giving and sharing with other people, particularly people without family who would otherwise be alone. It is also about having no expectations to be repaid. It is not about presents – it's about communication.

There is no ideal, or perfect Christmas for me, but it would please me to see others get together who have nowhere to go or don't want to venture out into the public community.

Wishes are nothing – I'm just hoping I can do good and see a smile on someone's face by helping them to not feel left out. By the way, thank you Inner South Community Health Service for giving me my four front teeth. I thought I was only getting two!

Freddy

Christmas is a celebration of corporate greed and misery. It has turned into an industry of false praise whereby those that have a lot already receive more from those that have less. Many people who live in social isolation away from family and former friends seek solace via suicide and self harm. I do not go outside at all from November until to end of December.

If you need to talk about these issues call **Lifeline Australia on 13 11 14.**

The content for this article was provided by the HPLC Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) which is made up of people who have experienced homelessness or who are currently homeless. Currently, the group has 7 members, each with their own stories about their experiences of homelessness. The CAG is based on the principle that every person has the right to contribute to policies and decisions that affect them.

For this edition, CAG members spoke to people who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness during Christmas time.

Where can I get a free Christmas meal ?

John

Christmas means lots of free food - they won't ever give you grog but plenty of free food... I've already been given a couple of hampers and invited to Church, lots of Churches, a couple have even offered me lifts. I think I've had more Church people pushing stuff (their beliefs) on me than food though. Some of us get together and swap some of the food but no-one ever likes the Christmas puddings... I go down to the Town Hall every year on Christmas Day for a free feed, catch up with my mates, sneak a bit of booze in, nobody notices. The food's okay, and they wait on you like kings and queens, and out comes the plum pudding at the end every year. I'd rather seconds of the main course even if the ham looks and smells and tastes like spam, it's better than the taste and smell of that pudding, but you're never allowed seconds.

Yeah, I got family but we don't really stay in touch, we're different. I like the ladies and they all love me. As long as I've got a bit of booze, Christmas is just another day - just with more free food and being around heaps more people, then it's all over and no-one really cares that much about you for another year.

I'm pretty happy, that's the sort a bloke I am. I don't ask for much. It would be nice though if everyone was as nice to you throughout the year as they are at Christmas time. They gotta get rid of those puddings and pies though, here do you want some (interviewer declines!)...you can't even give 'em away for free. I've even tried selling them for a dollar each but no-one wants them, so who's buying them? I reckon they just off load them to the poor people cos no-one else wants them...Are you sure you don't want one of those puddings, or some pies?

Melbourne

Our Lady Help of Christians

49 Nicholson St, Brunswick East
Christmas lunch: 12:30pm-3:00pm
Booking essential
Contact on 9380 1844

Ozanam Community Centre

268 Abbotsford Street North
Melbourne
Ph: (03) 9329 6733
Christmas lunch: 11:00am-1:30 pm
No booking necessary

Sacred Heart Mission

87 Grey Street St Kilda 3182
Ph: (03) 9537 1166
Free midday meals, from 12:00noon to 1.30pm
Christmas dinner is a special feature.

The Big Give

Fitzroy Town Hall
December 25th
Only community agencies are allowed to book tickets on behalf of their clients for this lunch, run by St Mary's House of Welcome. If you would like to book tickets please speak to a worker at one of the agencies you access, or call the HPLC on 1800 606 313.

Salvation Army

Many of the Salvation Army meals over the Christmas period have already booked out. To go to any of these Christmas meals, or to get more information, you will need to collect a ticket from The Life Centre at:
69 Bourke St, Melbourne
Ph: 9653 3213

Christmas Day Supper @ Spencer St Shopping Centre

4.30 pm on 25th Dec
Call the Salvation Army Life Centre on 9653 3213 or come in between 9am-1pm.



Geelong

Salvo Connect

2A Settlement Rd, Belmont
12pm Family Christmas Lunch/
Dinner
Ph: 5244 9500

Northside

92 Cox Rd, Corio, Geelong
Christmas lunch: 12pm
Ph: 5275 7771

Christchurch Hall

Call for more information
Ph: 5221 4507

Bendigo

The Bendigo Community Christmas

Bendigo Town Hall & Salvation Army
Community Arts Centre, Grave Hill.
Free meals from 12pm, 25 December
2010.
Ph: 0466 247 868.

HPLC Holiday Closures

Please take note of the following Clinic closures over the Festive Season. The HPLC office will be closed from 24 December 2010 and will re-open on 4 January 2011.

For more information or for urgent legal assistance please call the HPLC on **FREECALL 1800 606 313**.

We wish you all a safe and happy Festive Season!

The Big Issue

Last Clinic 2010 - 10 December
7 January

Credo Café

Last Clinic 2010 - 14 December
First Clinic 2011 - 8 February

Life Centre

CLOSED
First Clinic 2011 - 18 January

St Kilda Crisis Centre

Last Clinic 2010 - 14 December
First Clinic 2011 - 111 January

Ozanam House

Last Clinic 2010 - 21 December
First Clinic 2011 - 111 January

Flagstaff

Last Clinic 2010 - 21 December
First Clinic 2011 - 111 January

Subscribe

Please contact 1800 606 313 or hplc@pilch.org.au to subscribe, or to have your say.

Homeground

Last Clinic 2010 - 23 December
First Clinic 2011 - 13 January

Melbourne Citymission

Last Clinic 2010 - 13 December
First Clinic 2011 - 17 February

Hanover

Last Clinic 2010 - 15 December
First Clinic 2011 - 112 January

VACRO

Last Clinic 2010 - 16 December
First Clinic 2011 - 113 January

Northside Geelong

Last Clinic 2010 - 9 December
First Clinic 2011 - 1 Early February
(TBA)

Koonung

Last Clinic 2010 - 10 December
First Clinic 2011 - 14 February

The HPLC provides free legal advice at these locations and times:

Melbourne Citymission
214 Nicholson Street
Footscray 3011
Mon: 10:30am - 1:00pm
Footscray train station - Tram 82 (Droop St)

Ozanam House
179 Flemington Rd
North Melbourne 3051
Tues: 10:00am - 12:00pm
Flemington Bridge train station
Trams 55, 59, 68 (Flemington Rd)

Urban Seed (Credo Café)
174 Collins St, Melbourne 3000
(Approach via Baptist Pl, off Little Collins)
Tues: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

St Kilda Crisis Contact Centre
(for women and their accompanying children)
29 Grey St
St Kilda 3182
Tuesdays 12pm - 2:00pm
Trams 79, 96, 112

Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation
9 Roden St,
West Melbourne 3003
Tues: 1:00pm - 2:30pm
North Melbourne train station - Tram 57
(Victoria Street)

Salvation Army Life Centre
69 Bourke Street
Melbourne 3000
Tues: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Hanover Southbank
52 Haig St, Southbank 3205
Wed: 1:15pm - 3:00pm
Southern Cross train station - Tram 112
(Clarendon Street)

HomeGround Housing
1A/68 Oxford Street
Collingwood 3066
Thurs: 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Collingwood train station - Tram 86 (Smith Street)

VACRO
116 Hardware Street
Melbourne 3000
Thurs: 1.00 - 3.00pm
Melbourne central station
- Tram 19, 57 and 59 (Elizabeth Street)

Northside Geelong
92 Cox Rd, Corio
Thurs: 12:00pm - 2:00pm

The Big Issue
148 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne 3000
Fri: 2pm - 3pm

St Luke's Anglicare
175 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo
First Friday of the month, 10am - 12pm

PILCH
Level 17, 461 Bourke Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000
(03) 8636 4408 or 1800 606 313
www.pilch.org.au