



Friday, 25 July 2025

Dear Principals,

Diocesan wide fundraising initiative for CatholicCare's homelessness services

Between 2015 and 2025, homelessness on the Central Coast has increased by 15%, while the North Shore has seen a 10% rise (ABS, 2025).

These statistics are deeply concerning. For the past three years, Catholic Schools Broken Bay have come together to support a successful Diocesan-wide fundraiser for CatholicCare's homelessness services. Bishop Anthony is deeply grateful for your generous participation and has once again endorsed the initiative for 2025.

This year we are inviting our primary schools to once again take part in a mufti day on Friday 8 August, coinciding with Mary MacKillop's Feast Day.

Our focus remains on *Mary Mac's Place*, located in Woy Woy on the Central Coast. Mary Mac's Place is a community kitchen providing meals, support, and dignity to individuals who are homeless, transient, or facing hardship. Importantly, Mary Mac's Place receives no government funding, and its services continue only through the compassion and generosity of our community.

In 2025 we will also support *Dom's Place* in Hornsby, another CatholicCare initiative. Established in April 2022, the program provides crisis intervention and case management to men, women and families who are at risk of, or experiencing homelessness. The team currently provides support to over 1000 clients per year. Operating as a 'one-stop-shop,' some pop in to get a meal, wash their clothes and chat with a social worker to address housing needs. Others come and play a game of pool, use the computers and connect with employment pathways, counselling, groups and mental health supports.

A web page has been set up with all the assets you will require and some easy to follow steps on how to get support for this important fundraiser.

To support cashless donations, please follow the instructions available through www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/csbb-homelessness-fundraiser, where assets and additional information can be found. This link is **not** to be forwarded onto families.

I strongly encourage your school's participation. As we strive together toward Bishop Anthony's vision - working as one Body of Christ in this shared Mission - we have a unique opportunity to support some of our region's most vulnerable individuals and families.

If you have any questions please reach out to Ashleigh Donnelly, CatholicCare's Community and Outreach Manager ashleigh.donnelly@catholiccaredbb.org.au

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving our community through faith in action.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danny Casey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Danny Casey
Director of Schools