

member profile

Community Support Services Officer Hobart City Mission

AVRIL LEVER Shelter Tas' Treasurer

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES OFFICER - HOBART CITY MISSION INC.



I have only worked for the Hobart City Mission for 4 months, however, it has been a huge learning curve for me and I am really looking forward to learning more. I am visiting my mum in the UK for January, I have arranged to visit the London City Mission (where it all began) and looking forward to learning more about the Mission's origins and helping out with some of the programs.

Background: The Hobart City Mission (HCM) is a non-denominational Christian Charity that has been offering assistance to those in need since 1852. HCM is the oldest independent Mission in Australia.

Programs: The Mission has adapted over the years, changed and implemented programs that can make a real difference to those in need within our community. These programs are provided by two Business Units within the Mission: • [OUTREACH AND MINISTRY](#) • [FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES](#)

OUTREACH & MINISTRY PROVIDE:

- Chaplaincy – schools & prison
- Volunteer programs: - *Volunteer recruitment and training* - *Friends @ Court*
- *Ambulance Buddies* - *Befriending Services including 'Drop-in with friends' and 'Eating with Friends' home visiting & outings*
- Life coaching & counseling
- Christmas gift distribution
- Children's camps

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDE:

- Transitional housing - Community crisis services - Emergency relief - Community housing (for large families)
- Community living – 4 Group homes housing 16 residents
- Clinical and professional counseling
- Financial guidance and budgeting
- Nils network loan scheme
- Mobile community services
- Life Skills for Children
- Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS) – child welfare



Staff: The Mission has 60 employees and utilizes over 120 volunteers. The Mission runs opportunity shops in 5 locations and Community Crisis services in 7 locations.

Location: The HCM Transitional properties are spread out in Hobart's surrounding suburbs, accommodating clients that have been referred by the crisis service for accommodation or just transitional support.



Funding: HCM is funded from a number of sources including government subsidies, contributions, donations and investment income. Other sources of income include resident fees, client fees, fundraising appeals, trusts and bequests. HCM supports various programs that receive government grants by the way of extra contributions as well as self funding a number of important pilot programs.

Major Issues: Obviously exit points from Emergency Accommodation (there are never enough). Clients choices are very limited to what they can get and what they can afford. More and more clients are re-presenting and the cycle of homelessness just keeps going. We are seeing more and more second generation homeless.

The Dream: I'm sure I'm no the first to say, "We need more houses to be built, more support for people to maintain the tenancies they have and the public housing debt resolved". Having said that - tomorrow is looking better!