



Calling All Volunteers. We need you!!!!

Heading Home – Ending Homelessness Here is an exciting project calling on people to volunteer in Penrith, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury to help end homelessness in our district.

The project is seeking volunteers to be trained alongside staff from key homelessness services like Wentworth Community Housing, Platform Youth Services and Mission Australia. The training takes half a day and will be available on 28th, 30th and 31st October. Volunteers will be trained in conducting surveys with people who are homeless. The survey collection will occur 1st, 2nd and 3rd of November during what is called Registry Week.

“Registry week entails approaching people who are experiencing homelessness and conducting an in depth questionnaire with them to help us understand how best we can support them.” said Judy Spencer, Manager for WCH who is leading the project.

During Registry Week, volunteers will be out in the district early in the morning, together with experienced community workers, seeking out people who are experiencing homelessness. “Once we know who they are and what they need, we will have a clearer picture of what we can do to help change their circumstances” said Judy.

Cheryl, a Specialist Housing worker who has previously been involved in such a project explained “Doing the surveys gave us the opportunity to connect one on one with individuals in their own space. It gave us the chance to understand their stories and find ways to help them.”

Cheryl tells of having worked with a client who had been homeless for some time, and that doing the survey helped him feel comfortable to talk about his health issues. She was then able to seek some support for him. He subsequently was offered a house and became more settled.

Registry Week is the first phase of this project, which ultimately aims to provide housing and support to those that need it. “We are encouraging all sectors of the community to get involved with this project” said Judy. “There are many ways to help and we encourage everyone to go to www.headinghome-endinghomelessnesshere.org.au to find out more”.

If you are interested in volunteering for Registry week or finding out other ways you can help, go to www.headinghome-endinghomelessnesshere.org.au or contact Jo Robinson on 47778085 or email her on headinghome@wentworth.org.au for more information.