

The Gateway Gazette

Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities

Spring 2025



Goodbye Oak St. hello Junction 142

After 12 years of providing support to children and families at the Clairvaux Centre, 14 Oak St, Katoomba, Gateway will soon be relocating to a new home.

The Department of Communities and Justice - owners of the Clairvaux site - have advised that we must relocate, as the site requires significant repairs to remain safe.

The good news is, we've found a lovely new space in the heart of Katoomba, a heritage-listed cottage directly behind Junction 142. Works are being completed and we're looking to officially open in October - stay posted!

PLEASE NOTE: Our Blaxland and Penrith offices will continue to operate as usual.

Follow our social media for updates about our Katoomba relocation.



We acknowledge and respect the Traditional knowledge holders & custodians of the land on which we work, the Darug & Gundungurra people.





Nurturing bonds. changing lives

This year we delivered a unique parenting support program at Jacaranda Cottages in Emu Plains Correctional Centre.

Partnering with Penrith City Council, we delivered the Circle of Security Parenting program paired with a supported play session for the women and children residing onsite.

Using a trauma-informed and strengths-based approach, the programs provide parenting support which recognises the extensive trauma that many of these women have experienced.

There were many complexities to manage in the increased security setting, including the fact that some of the women did not have access to their children. Our facilitators were sensitive in their approach, holding space for women who are dealing with grief, guilt and their own personal stories of trauma and heartbreak.

The program worked with participants to learn about the importance of attachment, how to better understand their children's needs and for parents to be able to identify their own pathways of attachment to their children.

Initial feedback has been encouraging, with participants reporting positive transformations within themselves and their children.

"At the end of the program one of the women [who has English as a second language] spent maybe half an hour writing her evaluation, and it said 'thank very much'.

It was so touching, that she had agonised over this one sentence of just saying thank you."

Belinda, group facilitator

The healing power of arts and crafts

We recognise that volunteer wellbeing is incredibly important. This year we've introduced a number of mindfulness and self-care activities, including mandala painting and a drumming workshop to help volunteers recharge, relax and connect with each other.

We've been so lucky to have Art Therapy student Elisa Ware with us here at Gateway on field placement this year. Elisa has been kind enough to host a series of self-care activities for our volunteer cohort, using arts and crafts to inspire relaxation, connection and reflection.

A number of our volunteers work with clients in crisis, so self-care is crucial, and engaging in activities like this allow them to build the resilience and capacity required for the important work they do.

These activities are fun and enjoyable while also providing our volunteers with the opportunity to reduce the risk of vicarious stressors and to prevent burnout. They also provide the chance for our volunteers to reflect on the work they do for their community and what unique contributions they make to our service.



What's going on at Gateway?



Thanks to a last minute donation of \$810 from Lower Mountains Air Conditioning we reached our \$10,000 fundraising target for our Winter Appeal!



We're thrilled to have social work students Leeane and Emily join us this semester for field placement in our Evolve and Essentials teams.



Our Trivia Night committee has been working hard to bring together this special fundraising event for our community on August 30th.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Thank you!

to the **Church of Jesus Christ of Letter-Day Saints Emu Plains** for kindly donating 30 Kids' Hamper boxes for Back to School and for your donations of cakes, baked goods and grazing platters for our upcoming Trivia Night fundraiser.



Donate

SUPPORT CHILDREN & FAMILIES IN NEED

Your kind donation provides food for local families who are doing it tough.

Follow us on social media



www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au

What's going on at Gateway?



Our fundraiser Trivia Night on August 30th is already a sell-out! Thanks to everyone who has bought their tickets and to all of the individuals and businesses that have donated cash and prizes already. We can't wait to see you all for a fun evening of trivia, laughter and fundraising for a good cause.



Gateway board member Mark Elliott and John Cox from Junction 142 signed the MOU for our Katoomba relocation on Wednesday 25th June. This partnership developed naturally, with both organisations dedicated to social service provision for vulnerable people in our community.



with social work student Emma



What was your favourite part of placement?

I have the privilege of working with an incredible team that fosters a supportive and empowering environment for students to learn and grow. This has challenged me, pushing me to develop in meaningful ways. I also find deep fulfilment in seeing the positive impact my work has on vulnerable families and communities.

What did you find the most challenging?

Navigating systemic barriers while finding alternative ways to support vulnerable individuals seeking assistance has been both challenging and eye-opening.

Three words to describe Gateway:

Embracing, Passionate and Resourceful

