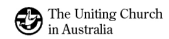


Media release
(Pictorial opportunity available)
17 April 2007

Wesley
Mission
Melbourne



People Caring
for People



A new home for Wesley Footscray Outreach

People experiencing homelessness or crisis in Melbourne's west will benefit from improved privacy and facilities at the new Wesley Footscray Outreach premises, thanks largely to a generous bequest from a local parishioner.

Staff, volunteers and local community members will celebrate the official opening of the new facility at 310 Barkly Street, Footscray on Monday 23 April 2007 at 3pm.

Program manager Michael O'Kelly says the new location will enable the Mission to provide a much improved service to people seeking emergency relief.

"Our new premises create a caring, respectful and professional environment where people in crisis in the municipality of Maribyrnong can access services," he says.

"One of the most important changes is that we now have separate meeting rooms," he says.

"This is significant as people can feel uncomfortable about asking for help. They are much more relaxed now they can speak with our staff and volunteers in private."

"We are also able to offer shower and laundry services, which is a huge improvement."

Last year, Wesley Footscray Outreach provided emergency assistance to over 5,000 people, in the form of food parcels, vouchers and assistance with essential services. It is the only emergency relief service in the city of Maribyrnong and operates with five staff and 10 volunteers.

PICTORIAL OPPORTUNITY

Staff, volunteers and local community members will celebrate the formal launch of the new Wesley Footscray Outreach premises.

WHEN: Monday 23 April 2007

TIME: 3 – 4 pm

WHERE: Wesley Footscray Outreach, 310 Barkly Street, Footscray (Melways Ref. 2S C7)

For further media information or to arrange an interview or a photo opportunity, please contact Emily Armet on (03) 9600 0006 or 0414 742 307.