

19 October 2022

Mayoral Message

Dear Residents



As one of the wealthiest countries in the world, we still have far too many people living in poverty.

You would be appalled to learn that there are 3.24 million Australians living below the poverty line. And in our City alone, thousands of families are struggling to make ends meet.

But what's most alarming, is that one in six Australian children are living in poverty and will often go to school without having a decent breakfast or lunch.

For children, poverty affects their entire lives. They may feel left out if they can't afford to join a local sporting team; or they may be living in an overcrowded home where there's no quiet place to do homework. It crushes a child's hope for the future, and they carry those scars with them into adulthood.

It's not surprising that children who grow up in poverty are 3.3 times more likely to suffer adult poverty than those raised in affluent households. A huge issue that past and present Governments have failed to address, and a situation that will only get worse, is the ever-increasing cost of living putting pressure on families.

This Anti-Poverty Week (16-22 October) is another reminder to band together and help those who are struggling. Our Council is playing its part by

partnering with Canterbury-Bankstown Multicultural Interagency to host a donation drive.

We have collected arts and craft supplies, toys, books, healthy snacks and vouchers, and a team of volunteers packed the hampers for distribution to more than 180 households across our City.

The generosity of our community came to the fore and I was blown away by the way they responded. I'm particularly thankful to our local businesses like Woollies at Bankstown and the Commonwealth Bank Bankstown Central Branch, who made sizeable donations.

For most of us, a hamper may not mean much, but for people living on the poverty line, it could be something that bides them over till payday.

And to those who are suffering in silence, please reach out to the number of support services in our City. To see a full list of services who can help you, visit **[cb.city/AntiPovertyDirectory](https://www.cb.city/AntiPovertyDirectory)** or call us on **9707 9000**.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Khal Asfour
MAYOR