

# CITYCARE UPDATE



## CITYCARE

is an expression of Hillsong Church, engaging our local communities with the desire to see healthy individuals, families & communities.

### A Note From Our COO

I want to express my gratitude for the dedication of our staff and the generous support of donors like you. Together, we have been able to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve. Throughout this term, we have continued to work hard on our CityCare programs, partnering with organisations across Australia to address the root causes of poverty and promote healthy, safe, and inclusive communities.

I am proud to report that, as a result of these efforts, we were able to serve over 11,800 attendees in Term 1 across Australia. However, there is still much work to be done. With your continued support, we can build on these successes and make an even greater impact in the community.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

- Jono Denton, CityCare Chief Operations Officer



#### OUR VISION

CityCare exists to build hope with vulnerable communities through programs and partnerships that foster healthy families and create safe inclusive communities, for the peace and wellbeing of the city.

#### OUR MISSION

Building hope with vulnerable communities.

#### OUR CORE VALUES

Empowerment, Quality and Effectiveness, Partnership, Leadership and Accountability.

#### OUR TARGET GROUPS

Youth, Children & Families, Women.

#### OUR OBJECTIVE

To partner with communities to address poverty and its causes, through programs and partnerships that empower the next generation, foster healthy families, and create safe, inclusive communities.

Our QLD team organised a taste of Shine workshop at a school interested in running the course in December of last year. During one of the activities, students were asked to celebrate their unique smiles by taking polaroid photos. Unfortunately, many girls found it difficult to have their photo taken, and one student, Anna\*, was unable to complete the activity due to her insecurities about her appearance. The full course was run this term with the school, and by the end of the eight-week program, Anna experienced significant personal growth in her self-perception and ability to connect with others. As part of the program, Anna wrote a letter to the next round of participants, expressing her positive experience.

*"At first, when I joined this program, I was so scared that it meant I would be judged by the people around me because of the ugly things I went through in my life. I was so wrong; for the first time, I felt loved by a community. Even though some of the activities were out of my comfort zone, I would do them all over again. While you're probably just meeting the team, they will love you and accept you for who you are. Shine has shown me that I am beautiful and have value."*

\*Name has been changed for privacy.

## 2023 TERM 1 RECAP

Despite the unexpected challenges we have faced this year, we have maintained positive relationships with both our community and partners.

During Term 1, our team focused on building strong relationships with both existing and new partners. We worked closely with each partner to determine which programs would be the most beneficial for their clients/students.

We also launched our new Easter Campaign, Love Thy Neighbour. Our team are busy working on putting together the essentials packs, so stay tuned for updates!

As we enter Term 2, we have a variety of program activities planned and new ones scheduled to launch nationwide, putting us in a good position for the coming months.

### A FEW HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED

- Playgroup launched in Hobart.
- New ShineGirl & Strength programs launched in Melbourne.
- We partnered with Night School on the Gold Coast to run ShineWomen.
- Our NSW North team partnered with Parramatta Mission to run ShineWomen for their clients.
- Seeing the continued impact our programs have on the participants and students.

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

Number of **Safe Spaces**: 11  
Attendance: 7,403

**SHINEgirl** courses: 11  
Attendance: 542

**STRENGTH** courses: 5  
Attendance: 158

### WOMEN

**SHINEWomen** courses: 4  
Attendance: 80

**Homes of Peace** families supported: 5

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Number of **Playgroups**: 8  
Attendance: 3,345

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Number of **Safe Spaces**: 2  
Attendance: 363

### CAMPAIGNS & CRISIS RELIEF

171 Emergency Food Relief Hampers distributed.

During the first week back at school, we had an amazing Safe Space event with approximately 200-220 students attending. It was inspiring to see some of the student's taking ownership of the space. We had the opportunity to reconnect with a student who hadn't attended Safe Space in a while and checked in on his well-being. During our conversation, we discussed the upcoming launch of the Strength program in May and the possibility of him participating. He expressed interest in getting involved and felt comfortable with our team. Witnessing our young people building connections and accessing positive role models in the Safe Space is incredibly fulfilling.

- Emma Kennedy, QLD Community Worker

## GET INVOLVED

There are a variety of ways for you to get involved with CityCare, whether you're able to give your time, skills or resources.

### PRAY

Pray for our programs and the many participants involved in them. Pray for CityCare staff, volunteers and partner organisations, that our work will continue to be transformational, build hope and create safe, inclusive communities.

### GIVE

Every contribution to CityCare Australia helps to provide tangible response and bring about positive change for youth, children, families and women in our nation. All giving to CityCare Australia over \$2 is tax deductible.

### VOLUNTEER

We have fantastic volunteer opportunities across many of our CityCare programs.

If you would like to connect with our team about what volunteer opportunities are currently available, please click the link below.