

# Hutt St Centre Community News

January 2026



Dear supporters,

Reflecting on 2025 and stepping into what promises to be a big year for Hutt St Centre, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you for being a highly valued member of our community. Your generosity — through donations, volunteering, or staying engaged with the challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness — drives our mission to end homelessness.

Last year was (sadly) another record year and thanks to you, 2025 was a year of impact, hope and connection. To read our wrap up of 2025 click the button below.

Wrap up 2025

2026 promises to be a transformative year for Hutt St Centre and South Australia at large.

Homelessness in our State has reached a crisis point, and incremental change is no longer enough. The homelessness sector is under unprecedented pressure. A chronic shortage of affordable housing, combined with the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, is pushing more people into homelessness and trapping others there for longer.

Demand for services is at record levels; beds are full, and waitlists continue to grow. At the same time, extreme weather events are increasing the risk of serious harm and death for people forced to sleep rough.

The upcoming 2026 State Election presents a pivotal opportunity for meaningful change — not change at the margins, but decisive action that stops the growth of homelessness and moves South Australia toward a future where everyone has a place to call home.

As the election campaign begins, we are calling on you — as a valued member of our community — to stand with us in advocating for systemic change. Together, we can amplify the voices of people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness and ensure their lived experiences are heard by those seeking to lead our state.

You can take action today by following our social media channels and sharing our content with your friends and followers. In the lead-up to the election, we'll be sharing the issues facing homelessness — in people's own voices — to raise awareness, build understanding, and drive real change.

Follow us on Facebook

## Giving a glimmer of home this Christmas



Christmas is the hardest time of year for people experiencing homelessness— for them, it is a stark reminder of everything that is missing in their lives. For Felicity\*, who spent years sleeping rough, Christmas evokes painful memories of everything she's lost.

"I don't celebrate Christmas. When I wasn't sleeping rough, I used to do breakfast, lunch and tea at my dad's place—cook and clean for the whole family. And now, I don't do anything."

Sadly, Felicity's story is, not uncommon.

"The first time I slept rough was in 1995, when I left my ex-husband. I had to leave home every six months because he would find me wherever I moved and slip death threats under my door.

Just recently, I was sleeping rough again because my lease ended, and the owners wanted to sell the place. I couldn't secure a place in time."

Christmas is meant to be a time of joy, but for people like Felicity, it can be lonely, painful, and distressing. Thanks to your generosity, Christmas Day at Hutt St Centre was filled with simple moments that mattered — a welcoming space, a hot breakfast to start the day, and a traditional Christmas lunch shared in comfort. It was a chance for people to pause, feel included, and enjoy the season with dignity and joy.

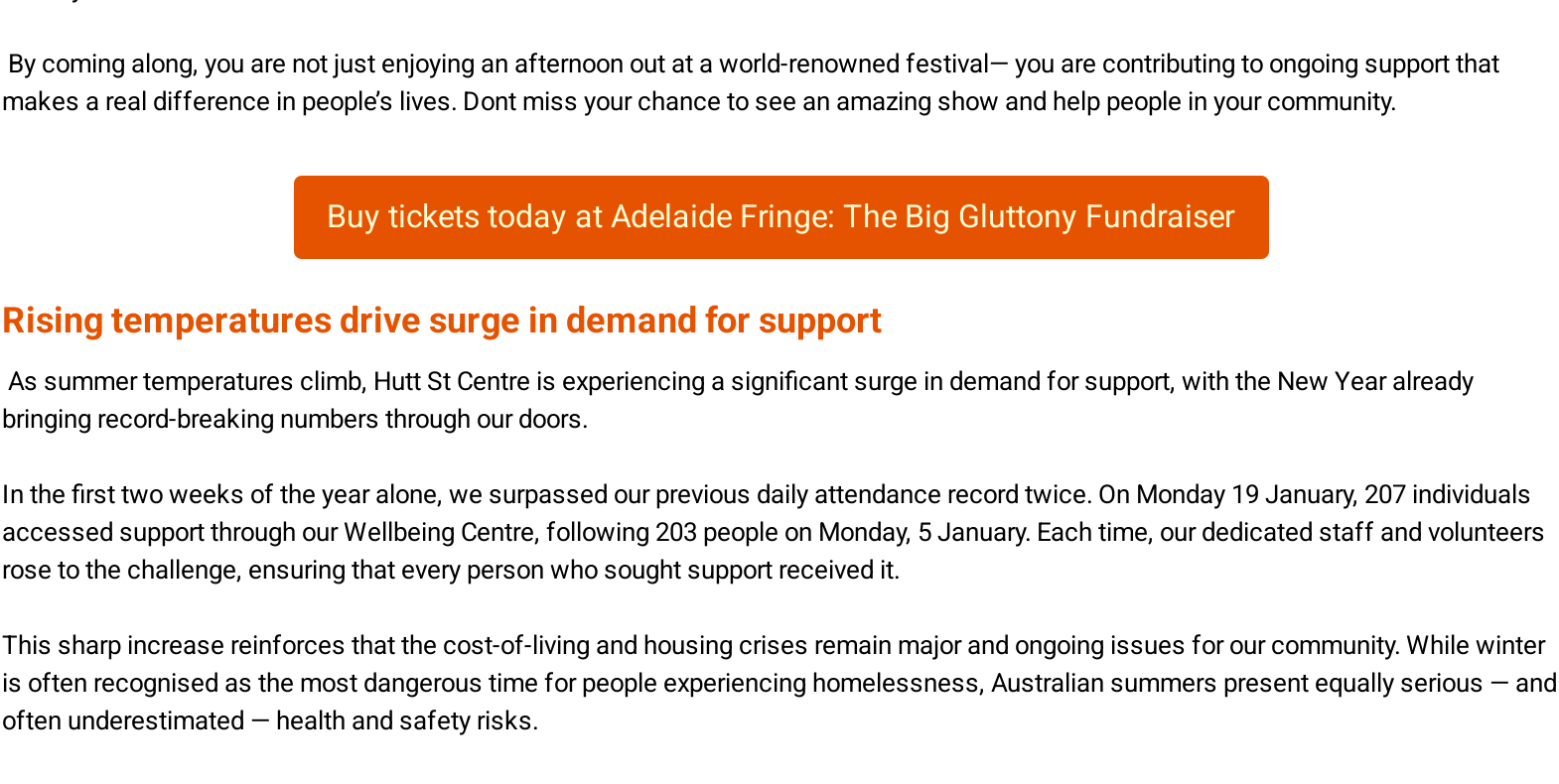
Felicity shares: "I came to Hutt St for lunch on Christmas Day. My friend said to me to come over here and sit, and there's people around—which is better than being on your own. I got a present in a box all wrapped up—it was really nice."

Every person who walked through our doors received a gift, made possible through the kindness of our corporate and community partners. From movie tickets and vouchers to thoughtfully packed bags of Christmas treats, these presents carried a powerful message: you are seen, you are valued, and you matter.

Christmas can be a difficult time for many. Your support helped turn it into a day of belonging and festive cheer — one that will be remembered long after the decorations are packed away. Thank you so very much for making that possible.

\*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the individuals involved.

## Fringe with heart: Gluttony and Hutt St Centre unite to support Adelaide's homeless



Join us at The Big Gluttony Fundraiser at this year's Adelaide Fringe — a spectacular showcase uniting Adelaide Fringe's biggest stars in one powerhouse performance. This epic fundraising event features a handpicked lineup of the Fringe's best acts, creating a show of awe-inspiring talent, laughter, and heart with all proceeds going it indirectly towards helping people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in our city.

By coming along, you are not just enjoying an afternoon out at a world-renowned festival— you are contributing to ongoing support that makes a real difference in people's lives. Dont miss your chance to see an amazing show and help people in your community.

Buy tickets today at Adelaide Fringe: The Big Gluttony Fundraiser

## Rising temperatures drive surge in demand for support

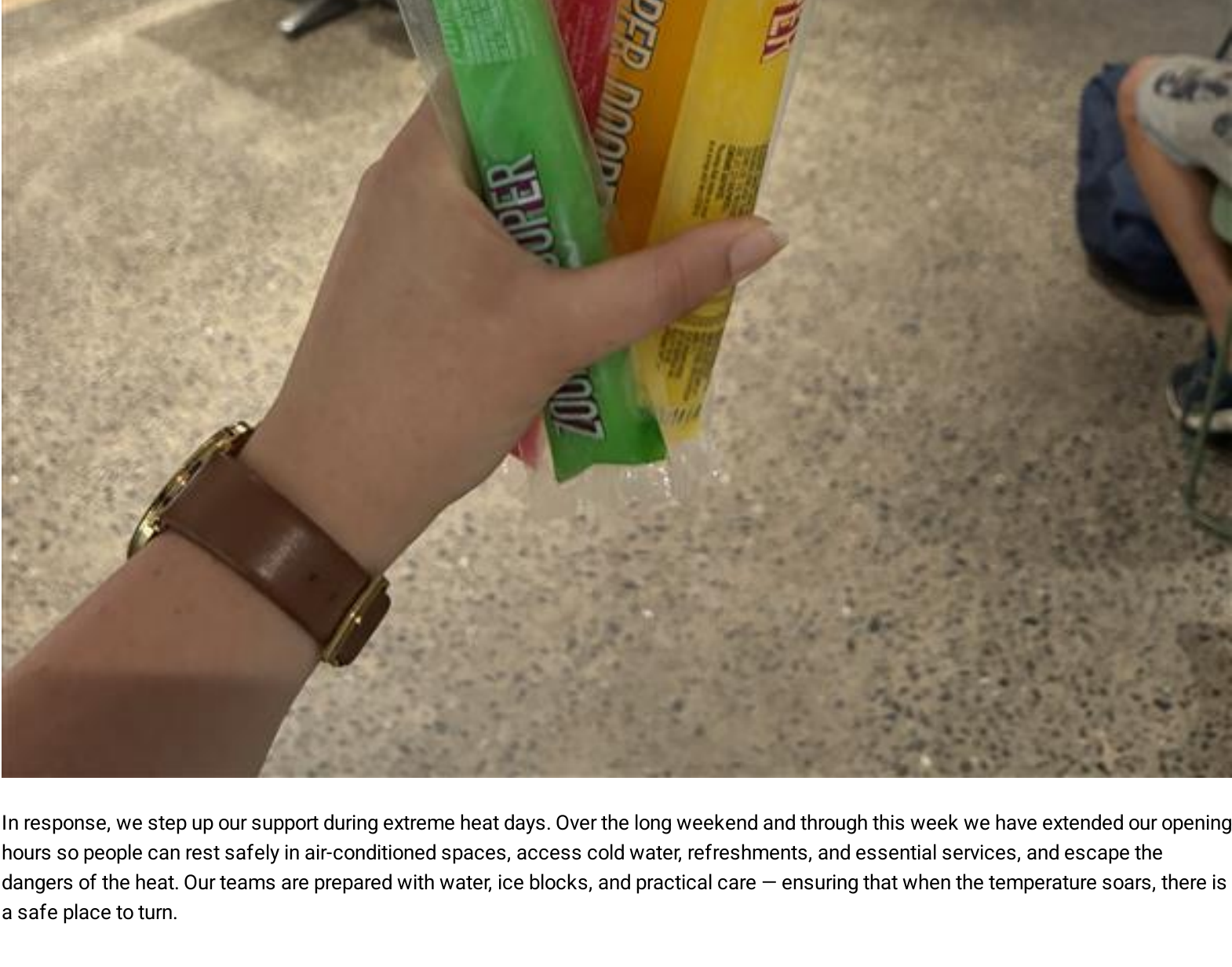
As summer temperatures climb, Hutt St Centre is experiencing a significant surge in demand for support, with the New Year already bringing record-breaking numbers through our doors.

In the first two weeks of the year alone, we surpassed our previous daily attendance record twice. On Monday 19 January, 207 individuals accessed support through our Wellbeing Centre, following 203 people on Monday, 5 January. Each time, our dedicated staff and volunteers rose to the challenge, ensuring that every person who sought support received it.

This sharp increase reinforces that the cost-of-living and housing crises remain major and ongoing issues for our community. While winter is often recognised as the most dangerous time for people experiencing homelessness, Australian summers present equally serious — and often underestimated — health and safety risks.

Extreme heat places people without stable shelter at heightened risk of dehydration, heatstroke, and the worsening of chronic health conditions. Limited access to shade, water, and cool environments, combined with higher rates of mental illness and other health vulnerabilities, means heatwaves can be life-threatening for those experiencing homelessness. These risks are further compounded by the financial and family pressures that often follow the festive period, driving increased demand for support early in the year.

As temperatures rise across the city, we are seeing a direct and corresponding increase in the number of people turning to Hutt St Centre for help.



In response, we step up our support during extreme heat days. Over the long weekend and through this week we have extended our opening hours so people can rest safely in air-conditioned spaces, access cold water, refreshments, and essential services, and escape the dangers of the heat. Our teams are prepared with water, ice blocks, and practical care — ensuring that when the temperature soars, there is a safe place to turn.

## Congratulations to Hutt St Centre Ambassador

Lainie Anderson OAM



We are thrilled to congratulate our Ambassador Dr Lainie Anderson Author on being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to community history.

Lainie is a seasoned journalist, historian and author whose extensive career spans print media, public relations and historical fiction. Her writing has preserved stories that might otherwise go untold, helping South Australians to better understand local history.

From all of us at Hutt St Centre, we take this as an opportunity to also extend our gratitude to Lainie for her valuable community work as an Ambassador to help shine a light on homelessness in South Australia.