

Protecting homeless people during the coronavirus pandemic

Information re services to the homeless and those in need, during the pandemic.

Community Groups and individuals can help homeless people by:

- Directing the homeless or those in need to the City Mission for help - between 11am and 1pm daily - for food packs, help with getting shelter, and health treatment.
- Advertising on our respective social media sites and through our informal networks and channels, the services available through the City Mission to the homeless or those in need.
- Getting the message out to the homeless about the need to keep their distance - 2 metres apart - from each other and from other members of the community. Again, we can do this by talking to them and through social media.
- Encouraging the homeless to get their flu vaccinations.
- Keeping a list of volunteers who can help at the City Mission Warehouse (15 Auburn St, Grafton), which where the Mission packs its food parcels and is the one area where they are short of volunteers.
- Passing onto the City Mission any issues for the homeless (individually or collectively as a group) that we hear about as soon as we hear about them, so that they can try to help. This contact can be either made directly to the Mission or I can liaise with Chris directly.

Natalie Hansby of Auckland Council has offered her assistance and her details are below. She has also asked if any of the volunteer groups which are stopping their meal services during this time would consider donating their time/food supplies to the City Mission. Her details are:

Natalie Hansby | Operations Manager | Community Empowerment Unit, Arts, Community & Events

DDI: 09 890 2021 | Extension: 462021 | Mobile 021 564 798 natalie.hansby@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Ian Leung, Salvation Army, is feeding those on the streets directly from his van. He is passing on the information below to those he sees on the streets and asking them to pass it on. There are notices up on the central library near the front door and just below Griffiths Garden with some of this information.

Lifewise are putting people in motels where they can stay for 4 weeks, with food supplied, and are providing people with mobile phones and SIM cards.

Please check the City Mission [Facebook](#) pages or a posting and share that.

To summarise, the services that the Auckland City Mission is providing to the homeless are:

1. Food: **Between 11am-1pm, every day, the homeless and those in need can pick up a full-day meal pack from the Auckland City Mission, which contains enough food to keep one person going for the day and drinking water.** Currently 400 packs are being prepared daily, so there is enough for those who need it (more can be done, if the demand is there). The food packs are being prepared and packed in the Council commercial kitchens and there are enough people available to do this.
 - The City Mission will be lifting any current trespasses to enable everyone who needs food to have access to it.
 - There are enough food packs - no one will miss out - and these will be available across the 2-hour window. There is no need for panic.
 - Mission staff are using the time that people are picking up a food packs for outreach - asking people about any issues/problems they are having in relation to food, shelter, and their health.
2. Shelter: **The Mission is working to get the homeless into housing as a matter of urgency.** For example, MSD is making available more motel units to accommodate those who need it.
3. Health: **The Mission has facilities on site to help the homeless and those in need experiencing health issues.**
 - There is a triage tent for assessing health requirements, including COVID-19 infection.
 - There is a doctor on site.
 - There is flu vaccination on site.