

Media Release



December 12, 2017

For immediate release

Samaritans Spreads Christmas Cheer on the Coast

Christmas is underway at Samaritans with staff and volunteers busily preparing for the annual Christmas Lunch on the Central Coast with the support and generosity of local sponsors.

The Christmas Lunch on the Coast will be held at Wyong Race Club at 11am on Christmas Day thanks to our major sponsors, HMA, H&H Catering, RhemaFM Central Coast, Hudson Homes, Event Cinemas and the Wyong Race Club.

By inviting the community to enjoy a free lunch, entertainment, a gift and company, the Lunch ensures that no one has to experience Christmas alone or go without.

“At Samaritans, we go the extra mile at Christmas time. Our Christmas Day Lunch ensures people who are lonely, isolated or experiencing disadvantage are included in the joy and celebration of the season,” Event Coordinator, Karen Patterson, said.

“Our Christmas Lunch on the Coast will see around 400 people from the local area enjoy a delicious lunch on Christmas Day, some of whom may not have otherwise been in a position to celebrate the festive season.”

“Samaritans work with the community at Christmas extends to thousands of people through a variety of services. From our Christmas Assistance Centre, Emergency Relief services, our refuges and our Christmas Lunches on the Central Coast and in Newcastle. There are a lot of people who need our help and we can only deliver this with the support of the community,” she said.

Samaritans encourages people to give generously this Christmas to support those less fortunate. Samaritans Christmas Appeal focuses on raising awareness of vulnerable people in our community who may not otherwise be able to celebrate the festive season.

“Samaritans is grateful for the generosity and support of all of our sponsors for Christmas Lunch on the Coast, particularly major sponsors HMA, H&H Catering, RhemaFM Central Coast, Hudson Homes, Event Cinemas and the Wyong Race Club. I’d encourage all who are able to give generously this Christmas to support those less fortunate,” Ms. Patterson said.

The Christmas Appeal aims to raise much needed funds to support and bring hope to families living in the shadow of disadvantage, and also to those who are without friends and family at Christmas time.

Donations can also be made directly to Samaritans for the Christmas Appeal at www.samaritans.org.au/donate or by phoning 1300 656 336.

-ENDS-

Media Opportunity: Media are invited to a presentation of sponsor cheques to Samaritans Event Coordinators, Karen Patterson and Dana Pichaloff on **Thursday 14th December at Wyong Race Club at 11am.**

Media Contact: Media are invited to contact Samaritans Communication Officer, Laura Dawson on 4960 7149 or 0438 475 772 for more information.