



8 August 2018

For immediate release

Agencies partner for Bring Your Bills Day

Samaritans will partner with the Energy and Water Ombudsman and Hunter Water for a free consultation day to help people to resolve outstanding financial issues on Thursday 30th August.

A range of service providers and specialist agencies will be present on the day to assist people who are experiencing financial stress, with advice and solutions as to how to reduce bills, find out information on managing fines, debt, credit and loan issues.

“Bring Your Bills Day is a great way to access a range of services in one place at the one time. We know that it can be challenging and distressing to see the bills piling up, but we hope that people will come along to talk through some of the financial stress that they are facing,” Denise Crossley, Samaritans Senior Worker said.

Samaritans staff will be available on the day to assist with Energy Accounts Payment Assistance, information and referrals to emergency relief, financial and gambling counseling, homelessness services and more.

“Many people in our community experience serious financial distress which leads to poor outcomes in terms of mental health and sometimes family breakdown. By linking with the right services, we aim to provide people with ongoing support and solutions to lessen financial burden and related stress,” Ms. Crossley said.

The agencies that will be present on the day with Samaritans will be:

- Ability Links
- Centrelink
- Compass Housing
- Fair Trading NSW
- Financial Counselling Hunter Valley Project
- Samaritans Financial Counselling
- Hunter Tenancy and Advice Service
- Carries Place Domestic Violence and Homeless
- Legal Aid NSW
- Services NSW
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- Cessnock City Council
- Revenue NSW
- Australian Hearing
- Housing NSW

The day is open for all to attend and will run from 9am til 3pm. The event will be held at the Samaritans Information and Neighbourhood Centre at 198-202 Vincent St Cessnock.

While bookings are encouraged, participants are welcome to pop in on the day to speak to participating agencies. Bookings can be made by calling Samaritans on 4993 3400.

For further assistance, Samaritans Emergency Relief in Cessnock are open for appointments on Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

-ENDS-

Media Contact: Media are encouraged to contact Samaritans Communications team on 4960 7100 or 0438 475 772 to arrange an interview.