



Dear Supporters of Lou's Place,

I hope that this email finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

Sadly it looks like our current lockdown in Sydney will be longer and more restrictive than what we faced last year. This is a very challenging time for many, both psychologically and financially. I thought you would be relieved to know that we are soldiering on and our staff are hanging in there, helping as many of our clients as they can with new restricted work practices.

So what has been going on now?

- We have been having home cooked meals delivered to Lou's and distributed to our women.
- We have cooks in person about once a week to provide a hot meal out the front door and to use the Oz Harvest deliveries that are still coming in
- Zoom meetings continue for our Always Mum Program and Domestic Violence programs
- There are staff "cup of tea" sessions happening over zoom with our women
- Nicole has reinstated her bookclub
- Acute clients are still coming in
- Our case workers have been even more busy (but remotely) than usual

Apart from client work by the staff, there is a team from the Marmalade Foundation working hard on getting quotes, builders and specs done for the renovation of our new premises in Redfern. As soon as the restrictions lift for construction we are hoping to be in there and working as quickly as we can to get the new house ready. I am afraid there is no date set for completion with all the uncertainty of Covid, but the ball is rolling! We will keep you updated as things progress.

We have a couple of leads on organisations who are keen to fund parts of the renovation. We have a group happy to pay for our new washing machines and dryers for example. As you can imagine there are many items on our wish list from stacking chairs to joinery, fittings for new toilets and showers, as well as carpeting. If you or anyone you know would like to fundraise or donate towards an item on our wish list that would be amazing! Thank you.

We can't wait till we can be back safely in our house and hopefully all vaccinated. We know that the women of Lou's Place will need us all even more once we are able to fully open our doors again. Until then, take care and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. All of us at Lou's Place, particularly the women we are helping get through the Covid pandemic, thank you again for your support.

Fondly from lockdown,
Alexa



Alexa Haslingden
Chair, The Marmalade Foundation
Funding and Operating Lou's Place and the Plunkett Street Playgroup

