

## **WHY IS SOCIAL SUPPORT IMPORTANT.**

Dear Sir / Madam,

Our service provides a lot of social support into the community area our service covers.

Social support is grass roots answer to helping see many ageing and disadvantaged Australians maintain a healthy level of independence and continue living in their homes for longer.

We believe that social support is a very important part of maintaining people's ability to live within their own homes longer. We also see it as an invited step into our client's life that allows us to assist them with connection into other services. Assisting, through referral, to meet other needs our clients may be facing. We are sometimes the 1<sup>st</sup> people discovering another's struggle and hardship. This gives social support workers and the service a privileged position to then be able to offer a lot of immediate support, relief and reference or referral to many other services.

Social support allows those not able to do so on their own, gain an opportunity to continue getting out of their homes to appointments, shopping, and social gatherings. Generally allowing people to continue mixing with the community and the society in which they live.

We believe social support enhances the quality of life of our HACC funded clients. We see the daily benefits it offers into the lives of many holistically, and we are seeing the increasing need for social support in our area as the population continues to age. Many of our services involving social support have waiting lists. These services are often just areas of service provision to see basic daily living needs of clients met. We believe an increase in funding and support would open the doors to a much needed increase in social support within the community.

Social support runs with the amazing support of many committed and trained volunteers. Without volunteers these services could not run in the manner they do. The need is great and the volunteers are valuable in assisting us as service providers to meet the needs presented to Jannali Neighbourhood Aid.

We also see the volunteer area, as an area that will need continued growth and support. To help accommodate, the growing need of our elderly and socially isolated and disadvantaged clients.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and all the best with the findings on this valuable service into the community.

Regards Lesley Fox

Social support worker

Jannali Neighbourhood Aid.