



MEDIA RELEASE

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‘Two great tribes’ connect to promote crisis support, care and compassion

It took a non-native of Sydney to encapsulate the significance of a new partnership launched this week between Jewish House, from the eastern suburbs, and Lifeline’s Harbour to Hawkesbury centre at Gordon.

Apologising in advance for being “a little bit biblical”, the Newcastle-born member for Ku-ring-gai, Alister Henskens, praised the two organisations for their amazing feat of “bringing together the two tribes of Sydney”.

The purpose of the partnership is for help-seekers to benefit from the organisations’ shared expertise and values in providing crisis support and mental health services.

“We joke about people from the eastern suburbs needing a visa to come across the Harbour Bridge, but here you’ve got together two great organisations from the two great tribes of Sydney - the tribe in the eastern suburbs and the tribe on the north shore,” Mr Henskens said at the launch.

Jewish House CEO, Rabbi Mendel Kastel, noted the advantage of being able to plug into each other’s services and cross-refer if someone in need sought help from one organisation which only the other could provide.

“Clearly, if someone’s in crisis you want to get them services as soon as possible. The longer they wait, the crisis festers. It’s important to be able to respond straight away,” Rabbi Kastel said.

Jewish House has a crisis support line but not as extensive as Lifeline’s. He said the information Lifeline’s telephone crisis supporters had at their fingertips about available services made them “gold for the person that’s going through a crisis”.

Jewish House also offers crisis accommodation for people in need.

“You have mental health crises, drug and alcohol problems, people who are dealing with suicide, domestic violence and homelessness. All these sorts of things cut across each other and therefore to be able to have all these services together, as well as gambling help, hoarding and other services, I think the partnership with Lifeline gives us the extra expertise.”

Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury’s CEO, Wendy Carver, said she hoped it would be the start of a long and valuable relationship.

“I can’t think of a better way to celebrate our 50th anniversary,” Mrs Carver said.



“Together, our two organisations will provide more crisis support to more people and will save more lives. Both our organisations know that people can experience a crisis for many, many different reasons. Together, we’re going to tackle those reasons. Together we will make a difference and together we will have a valuable and significant partnership.”

At the same time Wendy Carver announced two new Lifeline services on the north shore: Way2Wellness, is a telephone assessment and referral service for people at risk of mental illness; and there will also be a new series of psychological help group programs including a postnatal depression group, one for people for with disabilities, another for adolescents as well as for people with mental health issues.

All services will be free and will require referral from local GPs.

See event photographs on next page.

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Event Photographs



Picture caption:

1. Psychologist and Ku-ring-gai councillor, David Citor (left), Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury CEO, Wendy Carver, Jewish House president, Roger Clifford, and Jewish House CEO, Rabbi Mendel Kastel (right) at the launch of the Lifeline H2H and Jewish House partnership. Click [here](#) for a free-for-media-reuse copy of the photograph – please attribute Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury as copyright owner



Picture caption:

2. Jewish House president, Roger Clifford, draws the lucky number for the raffle helped by Lifeline H2H community engagement officer, Chris Pettinger, at the launch of Jewish House-Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury partnership. Click [here](#) for a free-for-media-reuse copy of the photograph – please attribute Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury as copyright owner