

Our Mission - Because everyone needs to know how much Jesus loves them

Calvary Christian Church believes that everyone needs to know how much Jesus loves them. Calvary Care aims to make a difference in our communities through both local and Church wide initiatives motivated out of the love of Jesus. We are intentional about working with and building effective relationships with local community organisations that are already on the ground doing an incredible job in our location.

1 John 3:18 says,
Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Throughout this year Calvary Care has had the opportunity to partner with just over 50 organisations including Schools and through that relationship we have seen 476 grocery bags/hampers go out to those that don't have the means to provide, 723 Care bags that assist to provide for the basic day to day needs as well as with emergency food relief. Over this year Calvary Care have provided 516 meals and over 75 lunchboxes filled each week for disadvantaged children at schools and families that need additional assistance. We are seeing a local presence being established within all of our locations and Care directors and teams being equipped and trained to identify need and respond accordingly. Part of the response framework is to continue to partner with local organisations for long term support and care.

As well as doing Church wide projects We aim to have an active presence and serve our local communities, we have identified that each location where we have a Calvary Christian Church is very different and each have their own needs. Calvary Care wants to be intentional about building effective relationships throughout the local community organisations. For the remainder of this year and next we have defined our focus on 5 key areas that meet requirements of PBI activities and expenditure.

- 1. Provision of relief to vulnerable or at-risk children and young people**
 - Hope in a Suitcase,
 - Coaching
 - Act for Kids
 - Lunchtime / breakfast programs in schools where opportunity arises
- 2. Partnership with local Community Shelters – those experiencing homelessness and escaping family violence**
 - indigenous shelters and health service providers
 - Men and women escaping domestic violence
 - Local health providers who work with people recovering from addiction
- 3. Support to refugee families building a new life in Australia**
 - Relief and support based on the local need.
 - This becomes a focus of back-to-school uniform initiative
- 4. Emergency Relief of Natural Disasters and People in Distress**
 - This area of Calvary Care is reactive / responsive to local needs as arise

Provide support to people who request support directly to Calvary Care at local sites
- through the call back hotline

Calvary Care response to COVID and recent lockdowns

Our priority objective during COVID-19 was to initiate and to assist families and individuals who were at risk or unable to leave their homes, Calvary Care practically assisted those who were vulnerable or in need while in Isolation. Our assistance was short term but effective, referring individuals and families onto organisations that could provide ongoing support and assist individuals and families to access a wide scope of services throughout our communities. During the lockdown period Calvary Care saw 185 grocery bags given out to for emergency relief, 187 Meals provided to those in need and who didn't have the means. Calvary Care also saw our influence and impact expand, as we partnered with 47 local organisations that offer a wide array of services.

In the height of the pandemic Calvary care established a 1800Calvary hotline, our objective for this was to provide relief and support to those who had fallen on hard times due to COVID-19. Through the hotline we were able to provide immediate support to those in need and also had the opportunity and privilege to be a listening ear on the phone line in a time of community crisis.. This year Calvary Care has repurposed the hotline to a call back service has been made accessible on our website for those looking for practical help or need support to access other services.

The Calvary Care team were active through the different communities in other formats that included partnering with neighbourhood houses, providing coffees to front line workers, delivering kids packs to a number of children wards across the state of QLD.

Church – Wide projects

Calvary Care have established three Church-wide initiatives that take place within the yearly calendar, we are excited to see these grow and develop in future years.

Angel Tree 2020

Children of incarcerated parents are often the most forgotten victims of crime. Calvary Care is proud to partner with Angel Tree to provide Christmas gifts for the children of those in prison.

- TOTAL gifts given – 649
- Gifts given to Angel tree children – 302
- Surplus gifts given – 346
- Organisations partnered with – 6

In 2021, due to an expansion in community engagement with local organisations in Calvary Care locations, a Christmas Toy Drive will work with local groups to provide gifts to families experiencing poverty. The Toy Drive will also include the Angel Tree initiative.

Back to School

For many families in our community, starting the new school year is exciting but difficult, because their household simply doesn't have the financial resources to send their children to school with everything they need. Calvary Care partners with local schools to assist families in the purchasing of new uniforms, so that every child can go to school with confidence and dignity.

- TOTAL back to school essentials – 191
- Schools partnered with – 18

In 2021, Calvary Care will work with local schools and school chaplains to help families experiencing poverty prepare for the new school year. This project is run sensitively to preserve the privacy of the families and children and to provide high quality items for school.

Easter

Partnering with our Calvary Kids team in bringing hope and joy to children & families who find themselves in our local hospitals and Ronald McDonald houses over the Easter period.

- Hampers – 219
- Kids Easter activity bags – 366
- Organisations partnered with – 20

Local Presence

EMERALD

We have seen doors open and exceptional growth within Calvary Care in Emerald and now we venture into Blackwater.

- Calvary Care in Emerald has been supporting local Schools. Over the last two months the Emerald Care team have put together 180 Period Packs that have been donated to local Schools to girls who are disadvantaged.
- Next term Calvary Care are focusing on lunchbox packs to local schools.
- We have been and continually are working ongoing with the Emerald Neighbourhood Centre.
- When direct referrals are made, or donations are needed, Calvary Care also support the Emerald Hospital.
- Calvary Care Emerald are now actively partnering with Hope in a Suitcase and Calvary Christian Church is a drop off point for the wider community.

ROCKHAMPTON

Relationships are building with local organisations within Rockhampton with local schools.

- We receive on average 5-10 direct referrals from Girl Time-out, who are an organisation that interact with between 50-100 people weekly from a wide variety of backgrounds
- Weekly during the school term Care teams provide over 50+ students with lunchbox food items to Depot State School. The Care team also have a presence within the school volunteering.
- Calvary Care provide breakfast items at a local high school to students who often go without or minimal breakfast.
- Over the last two months Calvary Care have been working with the department of Child Safety in providing 40 toiletry items to children/ young people in care or going into care.
- Calvary Care Rockhampton are now actively partnering with Hope in a Suitcase and Calvary Christian Church is a drop off point for the wider community.

GOLD COAST

Gold Coast are building on our existing relationship with Nerang Neighbourhood Centre to support local families struggling with limited income.

- This Winter Gold Coast saw over 60 winter items including: jackets, shirts, beanies, socks, toiletries, thermos flasks and food containers being donated. These items were donated to the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre's programme called Wolf Pack that support people experiencing homelessness
- 15 sleeping bags/beds were provided by Calvary Care for Nerang Neighbourhood Centre's programme called Wolf Pack that support people experiencing homelessness
- In response to recent Covid lockdowns, Calvary Care has provided much needed grocery items/bags for 60 families

- Over this term Calvary Care are discussing with Nerang High School how we can be of service to the students & their families they are also communicating with a local DV shelter to see how they can future support.

CAIRNS

Calvary Care Cairns has established great relationship and partnerships.

- When direct referrals are made, or donations are needed Calvary Care support the Cairns Base Hospital.
- A blanket/beanie drive was run, and 30 donations went to *Ruth's Shelter* - Ruth's Women's Shelter provides crisis accommodation and support to women and children who are affected by domestic and family violence.
- This winter, Calvary Care provided 30 students at Djarragun College with much needed Winter jumpers. Djarragun College caters for mainly Indigenous students' remote communities across Cape York, the Torres Strait Islands.
- We have provided 32 dental hygiene packs and are also providing a number of towels and blankets to Orange Sky. Orange Sky help provide a free mobile laundry and shower for people experiencing homelessness. Support people experiencing homelessness access clean clothes and a warm shower.

SUNSHINE COAST

The Sunshine Coast campus has partnered with Chancellor State College to help provide relief and care to disadvantaged families. The relationship with the school has been integral at identifying and responding quickly and effectively to meet a wide scope of needs.

The Care team are currently in conversations with Wishlist for future partnership and assistance. Wishlist provide an integral service to the community and partnering with them allows us to bring hope to hopeless situations.

TOWNSVILLE

Strong community relationships have been built throughout the Townsville community that identifies and meets a wide scope of needs across many diverse cultures and situations. By partnering with local community centres as well as women shelters ensures that calvary Care recourse is used effectively to meet needs.

Children are often the most vulnerable people group within our communities that is why we have partnered with local schools in providing emergency relief as well as much needed assistance in the school and out.

Calvary Care Townsville has established great relationship and partnerships with

- Garbutt and Upper Ross Community Centre's.
- Partnering with a local women's shelter
- Also supporting local schools and providing lunchbox items to them once a month.

YEPPOON

Calvary Care teams in Yeppoon continue to meet needs referred to Calvary Care from the local hospital as well as other agencies throughout the city.

East London

East London, Africa focus is helping families who have fallen on rough times. Calvary Care East London also runs a weekly soup kitchen that feeds 100 to 200 people. and the KZN project KZN project is partnering with a local supermarket to collect goods for people in KZN who were affected by the riots. We have partnered with Rivers Foundation (Ps Andre Oliver's church).