

From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> of August, 2020. Prepared by Rosanna Barbero

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The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Ms Barbero, you talked about how you received a \$750 discount on what you are usually spending from Foodbank. You said that it was \$93,000 over the course of the pandemic.

Can you give us an idea of how much a week you will be spending at Foodbank?

**Question:**

Ms BARBERO: Probably about \$9,000. I can be more accurate if you like with the figures.

**Answer:**

At the peak the spending reached \$9000 per week but on average we are purchasing \$5500 worth of stock.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: No. It gives us a sense of how much that is actually impacting on what you provide.

The CHAIR: Have either of your organisations put a budget pitch in to the State Government and asked

for specific funding?

Ms BARBERO: I did after I spoke to Minister Gareth Ward.

The CHAIR: Has St Francis?

Ms PELLICANO: Yes. We applied for the funding that came out in the first tranche that was administered by Multicultural NSW.

**Question**

The CHAIR: If you are able to provide us that on notice, so we can have a look at the kind of quantum and the kind of services you were applying for and did not receive, I think that would be of use to the Committee.

**Answer:**

Please find attached. Post Hearing responses and Addi Roads Strategic Response to COVID-19: Preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

On behalf of all the Committee again, thank you for the work you do. The stress and anxiety that you and your

staff and your volunteers must face given the extreme need you are servicing is very real. We collectively very

much extraordinarily appreciate the work you do. The job is to help you.

## **Post-hearing responses required by Thursday 17 September 2020**

### **BUDGET SUBMISSION ADDISON ROAD COMMUNITY ORGANISATION**

#### **TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED FOR 6 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2020: \$231,200**

Thank you for inviting Addison Road Community Organisation (ARCO) to the ninth hearing of the Public Accountability Committee's inquiry into the Government's management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Attached please find a detailed, realistic and accurate budget, providing value and appropriate use of public funds, in addition to own contributions.**

Provided on notice, are two funding applications: the first, is the current submission based on relevant expenditure on food rescue, purchase, parcelling and distribution, during the initial stage of the pandemic emergency, and the second, originally supplied to Minister Ward on 14 May 2020.

Detailed advice about ARCO's work and other relevant data resulting from the emergency nature of the pandemic has been provided in oral evidence and by way of written advice at the time of the hearing.

In summary,

#### **FINANCIAL STRESSORS, RESULTING FROM COVID -19 PANDEMIC**

- Since end March 2020, food purchase of \$127, 186 from FoodBank and approximately \$26,000 for the purchase of culturally appropriate food.
- Existing staff and other resources diverted to fundraising for food purchase and to other pandemic associated duties
- Some existing food donors closed down due to pandemic
- Costs for on-site adaptations of all areas to be COVID safe



## Post-hearing responses required by Thursday 17 September 2020

- PPE for staff and approximately 300 volunteers
- Additional vehicle and delivery costs
- Lack of any coordinated emergency food distribution mechanisms from State or Federal Governments
- Government funding allocated to organisations with little or no food rescue and distribution experience, or without deeply embedded local knowledge of how to engage with vulnerable isolated communities and individuals
- Staff resources diverted to communications, partnerships development, coordination and maintenance, assessment and referral of vulnerable individuals, development of on-site wrap-around services
- No financial or other support from either Federal or State Governments, apart from \$26,000 residual funds from NSW EPA for food rescue

### **ADDISON ROAD COMMUNITY ORGANISATION:**

- Community-embedded NGO with local knowledge, in addition to food distribution expertise
- Demonstrated experience and capacity to swing into action
- Contact with over 300,000 individuals and 200 organisations annually on 9 acre site
- Already established local and other food supply networks
- Funded by NSW EPA for food rescue
- 66 food donors, functional Food Pantry, infrastructure, public access, vans, warehousing, refrigeration and parking
- 1,000-square-metre hall converted into emergency food preparedness and distribution centre



## Post-hearing responses required by Thursday 17 September 2020

- Culturally appropriate, healthy food, fresh fruit and vegetables, in addition to canned, refrigerated and dried staples
- Savings to public purse by means of social safety net that sustains health immunity and mental health
- Those assisted include international students, refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD), isolated seniors LGBTQI communities, single-parent households, arts, culture and gig economy workers, Indigenous families, survivors of domestic and family violence, sex workers
- Capacity to organise social groups who are not organisations, not-for-profits, or associations that deliver to their communities and monitor well-being
- Partnerships with 60 other organisations that order, collect and deliver our hampers to their communities.
- Food Pantry and food relief hub feeding 10,000 at the beginning of the pandemic and currently up to 4,000 per week
- Other needs based, wrap-around social, cultural and legal support services also provided.
- Established the Temporary visa Hub that provides weekly food and support services (established post August as a result of the thousands of International students coming to us for food and help)
- Opened a new Food Pantry in Common Ground Housing association to support residents with food, nutrition and well-being.

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### Addison Road Community Organisation:

- Australian Business Number (ABN) 50001350152
- Australian Company Number (ACN) 001350152
- Registered for GST? Yes
- Incorporation Number (INC) 184872
- Main Telephone Number
- Main contact Rosanna Barbero
- Secondary contact Colleen Sutherland



## Post-hearing responses required by Thursday 17 September 2020

### BUDGET SUBMISSION ADDISON ROAD COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

	Expenditure area	Details - Fees	Description	Costs based on	\$ (Ex GST)
Materials & Equipment	Food for 6 months to 31 December 2020	\$153,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food purchased from Foodbank</li> </ul>	Average cost per month	\$153,000
	Cleaning & sanitation	\$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPE &amp; other COVID</li> </ul>	Previous 6 months	\$1000
	Motor vehicles	\$3,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refrigerated and food collection vehicles</li> </ul>	Previous 6 months	\$3,200
Fees	Communications & Office equipment hire	\$4,000	Advertising & translating COVID related material and printing	Previous 6 months	\$4,000
Personnel	Staff salaries at 50% of actual	\$70,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff redirected: recruit and train volunteers</li> <li>Maintain Emergency Food Relief Centre</li> <li>Triage with other agencies &amp; community groups</li> <li>Sourcing extra food</li> </ul>	Previous 6 months	\$70,000
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$231,200</b>



## **ADDI ROAD'S STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO COVID-19: Preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation**

Addison Road Community Organisation is an independent charity that has played a vital role in community development and cultural life in Sydney for more than 40 years. Our rapid and targeted response to the Covid-19 crisis is based on the strength of our rights-based approach and our longstanding community relationships.

We work with and serve the community with minimal funding from government and support many of our programs with revenue derived from our social enterprise projects. The Covid-19 crisis has heavily impacted our ability to derive revenue at the same time as the need for food security and social support in the community has skyrocketed.

We have a long term and strategic view as to what is required to support the community through the current health emergency, the recovery period, and the community strengthening period beyond. These stages are outlined below, with a summary of the support we require, in a table, to continue to meet the crucial needs of the communities we serve.

- **Stage 1** identifies our activities as part of the Emergency Response to COVID, and primarily relates to emergency food relief. Other activities involve supporting vulnerable people through the social and economic shocks of COVID, keeping people connected, and working within a collaborative framework with other community-based services to maximise our effectiveness.
- **Stage 2** identifies the work we anticipate will need to be done as people reconnect socially, and the economy begins to rebuild. Unemployment is expected to rise dramatically in this stage, resulting in significantly reduced household incomes and purchasing power. A new set of social tensions may also come into play, as many people experience uncertainty in relation to their livelihoods. The need for emergency food relief and integral social support is expected to continue here.
- Emerging needs and gaps in services will also be identified and addressed during this stage, through collaborative and creative projects. These will support individual community members, local businesses, sole traders and services as they begin to re-establish themselves in the aftermath of the health emergency and learn how to operate in a vastly different post-COVID environment.



- **Stage 3** will address the long-term effects of the health emergency. For many people, especially those who were already vulnerable before COVID, this will still be a very difficult period, especially if the economic safety nets are withdrawn. The ongoing demand for affordable, nutritious food will become more apparent during this stage. Long term gaps in services will also become apparent, and existing services may struggle to meet the increased demand for support.

### **OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE TO DATE – key points**

- **Emergency Food Relief:** Provision of emergency food hampers to people experiencing food insecurity, including Indigenous and CALD communities, people with disability, people experiencing homelessness and living in insecure accommodation, single-parent families, isolated seniors, LGBTIQ people and students/migrant workers stranded in Australia without welfare or family support. Critically, *we don't say no to any requests for help*, or require any proof of need. We are meeting needs across the broader Sydney region.
- **Food Pantry:** We have expanded our low-cost food-rescue Food Pantry service (with necessary health and safety measures) as the need for affordable food exploded with Covid-19. Pre-Covid (B.C), the Food Pantry has fed around 2,000 people per week, versus up to 4,000 per week currently, during Covid.
- **Prepared meals:** Distributed with the emergency food hampers as well as through the Food Pantry, we are currently providing 1,200 meals per week, including vegan, halal and allergy-specific options.
- **Volunteer coordination and opportunities:** We have over 270 registered volunteers and are collaborating with Craig Foster's #PlayforLives. We 'share' new volunteers with other organisations and projects that may need assistance.



- **Connecting community** members who are isolated or vulnerable, adjunct to our food security work, through Zoom Aunties, almost 200 students have signed up.
- **Collaborating** with other charities and services to get food to those who need it most, over 40 NGOs and civil society organisations.
- **Providing information** on services in multiple languages, to recipients of emergency food hampers and Food Pantry shoppers.



- [Left] International students and [Right] Locky from Milan Dhiyaan in Coonamble collecting emergency food hampers from Addi Road.

## OUR CAPACITY – key points

- Embedded in the local community for more than 40 years
- Infrastructure in place: facilities, equipment, refrigerated vans, refrigeration and storage





- Human resources in place: food safety standards, donor relationships, local knowledge, experienced board, staff and volunteers
- Established working relationships with other charities, businesses and services: eg. Inner West Multicultural Network (120 members), Inner West Food Rescue Alliance, Community.a.Fair ('one-stop shop' with 80 government and non-government agencies involved) and 27 food donors before Covid (BC).
- Established programs supporting volunteers, including an onsite Work for the Dole program (now Jobseekers) aimed at developing skills and linking to employment opportunities
- Independent and trusted: we can respond flexibly and appropriately to community needs and expectations as they evolve
- Proven track record in grant management, implementation and acquittals. EPA (now PIE) funded since 2015 to develop food rescue and redistribution infrastructure

**Addi Road's strategic approach to the COVID-19 crisis and community recovery**

Stage	Focus	Activities	Federal Funding Request	NSW Funding Request
<b>Stage 1: Emergency Response</b>  Supporting vulnerable communities	Emergency food relief	Emergency Food Preparedness and Response Centre ('Hub') preparing nutritional hampers for 6,000 to 9,000 people weekly, including students (6,663 on our database)  Advance procurement of stock	\$10,000 per week	



dealing with new shock		Purchase PPE  Working with other charities and services operating in the City of Sydney, Inner West LGAs & 5 other LGAs		
	Food rescue and redistribution	Expanded Food Pantry stock and hours to ensure access, inclusion and safety  Mobile Food Pantry responds to a higher level of food insecurity in Canterbury Bankstown LGA	\$10,000 per week	
	Volunteering	Recruiting, managing and sharing volunteers (over 270 volunteers signed up) including collaboration with #PlayForLives	Nil – existing resources	
	Community connection activities	Language-specific communications for our diverse communities delivered via hampers and links to ethnic language broadcasting  Zoom Aunties program to match foreign students with others experiencing isolation to address language needs, social connection and loneliness  New volunteering opportunities for people displaced from work	\$10,000 per month	
	Collaboration	Increased contact and coordination with other community-based services  New partnerships with donors, local government and agencies, including	Nil – existing resources	



		supporting local businesses to sustain livelihoods		
		Referring and connecting other services		
	Advocacy and referral	Advocacy on emerging needs and referrals to other services	Nil – existing resources	
<b>Stage 2: Recovery &amp; rebuilding to increase community resilience</b>				\$200,000
	Emergency food relief	Emergency Food Preparedness and Response Centre ('Hub') preparing nutritional hampers for est 4000 people weekly for people experiencing ongoing food insecurity  Working with other charities and services operating in the City of Sydney, Inner West LGAs & 5 other LGA's		
	Food rescue and redistribution	Expanded Food Pantry stock and hours to ensure access, inclusion and safety for people experiencing ongoing food insecurity.  Mobile Food Pantry program expands into new (temporary) food insecurity hotspots		
	Community connection activities	Community development projects aimed at reconnecting and bolstering the community		



		Addressing heightened social tensions with flexible nutrition and wellbeing projects to address increasing needs and gaps in services		
	Employment/training support	Linking community members with employment and training opportunities		
	Collaboration	Regular contact and coordination with other community based services  Collaborative projects with small businesses and sole traders to sustain livelihoods  Referring and connecting with other services		
	Advocacy	Advocating on the priority needs with in the community- especially most vulnerable groups including: People with a disability, Indigenous & CALD communities, homeless and people at risk of homelessness, single parent families, young people at risk, people on Jobseekers Payments		
<b>Stage 3: Strengthening community &amp; sustaining wellbeing</b>				\$150,000



	Food rescue and redistribution	Food Pantry service for people experiencing ongoing food insecurity		
	Community strengthening and cohesion activities	Programs aimed at rebuilding the community, and connection with the community service sector.		
	Collaboration	Regular contact and coordination with other community based services Joint programs to build community cohesion		
	Employment/training support	Linking community members with employment and training opportunities		
	Advocacy	Advocating on the priority needs with in the community		

## **MEDIA COVERAGE OF OUR RECENT WORK**

Channel 10, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 [https://twitter.com/10NewsFirstSyd/status/1246706286437294080?fbclid=IwAR3u-kjp1io9bhXS\\_N8iuNTEBobBdY3tXpJWq-5JW3Pb2wBXdNPpa-wS-rA](https://twitter.com/10NewsFirstSyd/status/1246706286437294080?fbclid=IwAR3u-kjp1io9bhXS_N8iuNTEBobBdY3tXpJWq-5JW3Pb2wBXdNPpa-wS-rA)

City Hub, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 <http://cityhubsydney.com.au/2020/03/food-relief-hungry-for-help/>

SBS News, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 <https://www.facebook.com/craigfosterSBS/videos/2956429887769348/>

