



**August 2021**

## Banana Shire Support Centre

(Banana Shire Emergency Accommodation and Support Centre)

Shop 2B/56 Kariboe St

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### What's happening?

- Quarterly Board Meeting and AGM — Wednesday 3 November 2021
- OzHarvest— Thursday and Friday 2pm—4:30pm

### We are moving ...across the arcade!

Our office staff are preparing to move to new offices. Our current office space is very cramped and lacks privacy for clients. The four office spaces across the arcade will include a reception area, offices and a meeting room. See overleaf for further information.



### Our Website ...

[https://  
bseasc.weebly.com/](https://bseasc.weebly.com/)

## Domestic and Family Violence and Court Support Services for the Banana Shire

For the past 6 years, the BSSC has been subcontracted by the Gladstone Women's Health Centre to provide DFV and Court Support services in the Banana Shire. GWHC receive funding from the Qld Government and then pass a percentage of these funds on to our organisation to provide local, face-to-face services for members of our community affected by DFV. Robyn Rooke has been the counsellor employed by our organisation to provide this 5 days/week service. Robyn has done a wonderful job!

Sadly, in our opinion, GWHC has decided to discontinue this arrangement, and to coordinate DFV and Court Support services from Gladstone. This was not a decision that was discussed with our office staff or our Board, and a letter received from GWHC on 7 June explained that the local service provided by BSSC would conclude on 30 June.

Our Board has written to Shannon Fentiman, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, to voice our concerns about diminishing services for the residents of Banana Shire. We also wrote to Colin Boyce MP and have spoken to him about this issue.

The letters we wrote were accompanied by 11 letters of support from members of our community... letters from health care workers and ser-

vices, police, council, service groups and individuals. Many included first-hand information and stories about the huge contribution that Robyn, in her role as DFV and Court Support worker, has made to our community. *THANKYOU SO MUCH TO THOSE WHO WROTE THESE LETTERS!* It was clearly evident that the DFV and Court Support services that have been offered through BSSC for the past 6 years were HIGHLY valued by our community.

So where are we at?

- A GWHC staff member is visiting Biloela on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- A response letter from the Minister and conversations with a representative from the Office for Women and Violence Prevention in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, say that they will monitor service delivery to the Banana Shire
- The BSSC Board will continue to voice concerns about diminished DFV and Court Support services

We are very disappointed that despite our efforts, BSSC is no longer able to offer DFV and Court Support services. We have also been very sad to see Robyn leave BSSC. Thankyou Robyn for the heart and soul you have put into your work with BSSC over the past 6 years, as you have supported and worked with some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We wish Robyn all the best with her future endeavours and work.

## Office Upgrade

In our last newsletter we noted that one of our goals this year is to refurbish our BSSC office. At that stage, we were not planning to move office spaces, but as we discussed the best ways of providing services for our clients and the best conditions to support our staff to deliver these services, we decided that our current office space was not able to do this. So, we are moving into offices across the arcade from our present office.

BSSC applied for grants from CS Energy Community Sponsorship and the Banana Shire Council Community Grants program. We were successful in securing a total of \$8000 from these organisations. These donations will be used primarily to purchase office furniture, particularly appropriate cupboards and filing cabinets for storage.

**THANKYOU** to CS Energy for your generous support. CS Energy is an ongoing supporter of BSSC and already this year have offered services and helped us promote DV Week in May, by holding an information session at the power station. Staff also made a donation of \$3470 to BSSC!

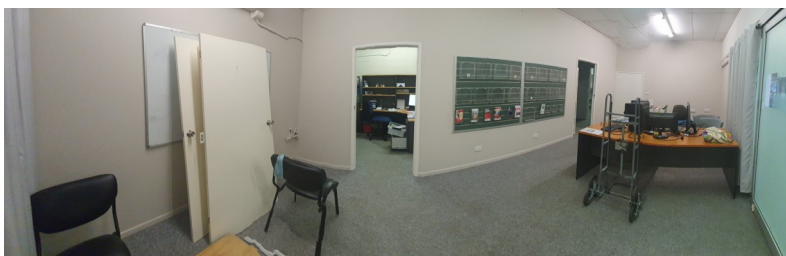


**THANKYOU** to Banana Shire Council for your generous support.

**AGM—Wednesday 3 November @ 12pm**

**ALL WELCOME...but please RSVP to the office to ensure we can be Covid-safe.**

**Venue to be confirmed.**



**Preparing new offices and readying ourselves for moving!**

We recently received a donation of \$2000 from the **Rotary Club of Biloela** to support our work.

**Thankyou**

Our landlord Art Kooiman has been generous in allowing us to use an unoccupied office space for OzHarvest distribution.

**Thankyou**