



INFORMATION TO HELP YOU DONATE TO A WORTHY CAUSE SUPPORTING OUR FARMERS IN SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

Our Mission

Downs & West Community Support (DWCS), a ministry of Sisters of Charity Community Care (SCCC), offers encouragement, discreet and personalised assistance to farming families and their communities in Southern Queensland who are severely affected by climatic conditions or family matters beyond their control.

We are motivated by a sense of responsibility to provide compassionate care and to share our resources as far as possible.

SCCC Ltd is a not-for-profit Registered Charity and DWCS is dedicated to supporting our farming families and their rural communities. DWCS is funded by the people for the people!

Our Story

drought - flood - fire - storms

Farmers and their communities experience financial and emotional hardships. A loss of income and farming infrastructure, culling of quality stud breeders and the prospect of needing to leave their home and farm has a direct impact on family, social interaction, their health, and agricultural production.

Support DWCS offers focuses on individual and family needs. These may include:

Practical support may include providing food and household hampers, toiletry care packs, Christmas hampers and gifts.

Financial support may involve providing cash assistance, prepaid grocery and petrol vouchers, essential home appliances, paying domestic and farm bills, purchasing stock feed, replacing water tanks, fencing, gates and repairing machinery.

Emotional support is achieved by visiting farmers – unlimited face to face interactions, writing letters, phone contact, visiting people in hospitals and utilising appropriate referral systems as required.

Social Events involves hosting Wellness Days and the unique Dragonfly Health and Wellness Retreats for country women, which may include health checks and relaxation therapies, self-care presentations, motivational speakers, companionship, and times for personal reflection.

We work, in collaboration with other rural service providers, to organise rural events and will assist, where possible, families needing immediate care.

Our Values

Our Values underpin our activities
and connections with people
with whom we work.

Generosity

We greatly appreciate all donations received from
organisations and members of the public.

We value the significant role our volunteers play as they offer a variety of services.

Respect

We strive to treat people as we

would like to be treated.

Accepting

We aim to see everyone as equals
and treat them accordingly.

Collaboration

We work together with organisations and individuals to make a difference
to farmers and their communities.

Encouragement

We offer encouragement,
building hope and
meaningful connections.

Our Objectives are

1. **to** support farmers and their local rural communities by offering a listening ear, pastoral care, practical assistance, and organising events,
2. **to** work in collaboration with, and to utilise the appropriate referral systems of other rural organizations who offer professional counselling, financial advice, and local community updates,
3. **to** raise funds for purchasing essential provisions for those suffering the impact of drought, floods, fire, and other matters beyond their control, and
4. **to** raise awareness of the impact Natural Disasters are having on farmers, their families, and rural towns and to seek practical support and concrete action from those in a position to share resources.

BEING EXTENSIVELY USEFUL.....in the service of the poor

Our Foundation

In 1815 the Sisters of Charity were founded in Ireland by Mary Aikenhead, then on the last day of December 1838, five Religious Sisters from Dublin stepped ashore at Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) after a long, difficult journey across the seas lasting 4½ months on the Francis Spaight. The Sisters of Charity were the first women religious in Australia.

With gusto, strength, and dedication they set to work immediately, ministering to female convicts, teaching children, caring for the orphans, visiting the sick in their homes, giving religious instructions, and visiting women and men in prison.

Over the past 182 years the Sisters of Charity of Australia have been serving the people of Australia and at times we minister overseas in response to particular needs.

Today we are in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania.

Within the mission of the Catholic Church, we are committed especially to service of the poor and disadvantaged and have a commitment to social justice and to the environment.

When a new need is perceived, we endeavour to respond, making ourselves useful and constantly seeking creative ways to help those in need, hence the development of Downs & West Community Support. To many people the Sisters of Charity provide a beacon of hope in times of uncertainty.

Our mission in today's world draws strength from a spirituality based on the Christian scriptures and an Ignatian tradition and that of our Congregation, dating back to our founder, Mary Aikenhead.

Our Congregational charism is “to bring to each person the love, the tenderness and concern of Christ for the poor, seeing Christ in everyone we serve”. (Constitutions: Religious Sisters of Charity of Australia.)

Read More: www.sistersofcharity.org.au.

Incorporation with Sisters of Charity Community Care Limited (SCCC)

In July 2014 DWCS became one of the works of the Sisters of Charity Community Care Ltd, an Australian Public Company Limited by Guarantee, and as such accountable to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission for its governance in general and use of funds. As DWCS relies entirely on donations, this move offered donors the opportunity for their financial support to be eligible to be claimed as a tax deduction. Being under the umbrella of the Sisters of Charity Community Care Ltd also meant that volunteers who donated their time to DWCS would be covered by the company’s insurance.

Read More: www.sistersofcharity.org.au.

Advisory Committee of Downs & West Community Support (DWCS)

An Advisory Committee for DWDA (predecessor of DWCS) was established in December 2007 when it became clear the project would continue past the initial six months. The first meeting was held on January 16, 2008 with Mrs Cate Mapstone AM as Chair, Mr Craig Doyle, Mr Denis McMahon, Ms Joy Mendel, and Sr Mathilde Harnischfeger as Secretary. Also present was Sr Christine, Coordinator and Mr Rod Saal, Consultant and Drought Co-ordinator for AgForce.

In 2021, the members of the DWCS Advisory Committee include: Mr John Hollamby as Chairman, Mrs Kathrine Howlett, Mrs Chris Jackson, Mr Chris Muir and Mr Kevin Bray. Mr Rod Saal OAM is the rural consultant.

How you can help

Fundraise for DWCS – please visit our website:

<https://www.downsandwestcommunitysupport.org/fundraise-for-dwcs/>

Volunteer with DWCS – please visit our website:

<https://www.downsandwestcommunitysupport.org/volunteer-with-dwcs/>

Please consider donating in one of the following ways (donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible):

1. Go to: <https://givenow.com.au/soccc> to donate online,
2. Forward your cheque or money order, payable to Downs & West Community Support, to: PO Box 6613, Mitchelton QLD 4053. If forwarding your donation by mail, please ensure that you include your name and address to enable us to send you a receipt, or
3. Make a direct deposit to our bank account using internet banking or at any branch of Westpac Banking Corporation. Details required on the deposit are:
 - Bank: Westpac
 - Branch: Potts Point NSW (50 MacLeay Street, Potts Point NSW 2011)
 - BSB: 032-032
 - A/c No: 38-3436

- A/c Name: Sisters of Charity Community Care Limited - Downs & West Community Support
- Reference: Your Surname
- If using the direct deposit option, please email your name, address and the amount of your donation by clicking on the following link: info@downsandwestcommunitysupport.org. A receipt will be issued as soon as the deposit is identified in our bank account.

Thank you most sincerely for your donation, which will certainly make a difference to our rural and regional friends.

If you need help

If you need our help, please contact us:

Sr. Christine Henry rsc

Coordinator

Mobile: 0414 324 682

Phone: (07) 3353 0277

Postal Address:

Downs & West Community Support

PO Box 6613

Mitchelton QLD 4053

Email: admin@downsandwestcommunitysupport.org
