



Kilkivan & District Community Care Assn Inc.

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Advocating for & providing care services and facilities on behalf of aged & disabled people in Kilkivan & districts.

MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Campaign Demonstrating Wide Support

A \$1000 donation by Sullivan Livestock, Gympie to the *\$10,000 in 10 weeks* campaign being rolled out by Kilkivan & District Community Care Association (KDCCAI) has been called a “huge boost” by KDCCAI President Rosie Fitzgerald.

Seven weeks into the 10-week campaign to demonstrate widespread community support for an **affordable, accessible accommodation project**, the target is looking achievable. At the end of Week 6, just over \$7000 had been amassed.

“We are so grateful for the Sullivan Livestock donation – it’s come at just the right time in this campaign to show how widespread the support for this project actually is,” said Ms Fitzgerald. “Sullivan Livestock has close business and community ties across the whole of our area, and it’s really wonderful that our project resonates with them.”

On behalf of the business, Leanne Sullivan said today that Sullivan Livestock “is happy to support a very needed and important project...We congratulate all involved in this venture.”

KDCCAI Treasurer Lynda Sempf said that the support of individuals, businesses and other organizations has been very impressive. “There have been three donations of \$1000 but there have also been lots of smaller amounts – they are all significant to us! While it would be great to meet the target with just a couple of large donations, what this campaign is demonstrating to us is that so many people are helping us and willing us to succeed. That’s a lovely thing to know. And every dollar counts!”

The other major donations from businesses so far are two others with close ties to the cattle industry in the Kilkivan area. “Nolan Meats last week donated four cryovac packs of rump for KDCCAI to raffle, and our local butcher, Luke King of Kilkivan Meats, donated a gift voucher of \$500 to our Cost-of-Living Buster raffle!” said Ms Fitzgerald. “Those two items will help to generate a lot more value – we’re very hopeful of not just busting the cost of living for the lucky winners but of also busting our \$10,000 target!”

But the momentum needs to be maintained. KDCCAI is now hoping that many other people with social or economic connections to this rural community will also contribute to the \$10,000 target by October 8. “We’re urging individuals, businesses and other organizations to get behind this campaign – it’s an important financial and symbolic part of achieving a more sustainable community for all,” said Mrs Sempf. “This type of accommodation is missing in our district, and its availability may be the difference between seniors staying in the area or having to leave.”

The 10-week campaign is intended to demonstrate that the entire Kilkivan-Goomeri-Tansey-Woolooga community still supports the ambitious objective to fund and construct **affordable, accessible, rental accommodation** on a large block in Kilkivan. A large State government grant is being sought for the project by KDCCAI’s consortium partner, The Affordable Housing Charity, but locally-sourced contributions are regarded as important indicators of community support.

The initiative is part of the **integrated Rise & Shine Ageing-in-Place Project** which was first outlined to the community at a well-attended public meeting in February, 2020. Since then, KDCCAI has not only established a **community transport service** (the aptly-named *KilkiVAN*), but has also partnered with Trilogy Care to deliver **in-home aged care package services**. “Our Kilkivan Care Coordinator Robyn Haack is doing a great job of providing community-coordination of the packages, with support workers from the Mable platform delivering domestic, social, yard maintenance & other support to our seniors. This community-managed model means that money is flowing into our local area and staying here. Because our local support workers often live only a very short distance from their clients, money earned locally is very likely to be spent locally – it’s becoming an increasingly significant element of our economy,” said Ms Fitzgerald. “The model has been operating since April 2022, and our first client, a man with a Level 4 package, is still happily living in the community, despite his challenging chronic conditions.”

KDCCAI is a registered charity with Deductible Gift Recipient status, so donations are tax deductible. The KDCCAI website is <https://kilkivancare.com.au/>

ENDS

Rosie Fitzgerald

President, KDCCAI

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