**GENERAL IDEAS and COMMENTS**.

**SOUTHERN URGENCY RELIEF FUND (SURF)**

We are a group of 7 Church agencies.

*1) Furniture storage*

Need a storage facility for donated furniture etc. So often we have to say no to offers. Preliminary discussions with Council are under way.

*2) Food Security*

Preliminary talks with a CDO from City of Onkaparinga Council have begun.

*3) As recently appointed Secretary of SURF, what I hope to work on during my term are the following;*

a) Develop a skills set register. Off the top of my head we have people with the a variety of skills, such as Financial Counselling, Budget Counselling, Praying for people, Literacy and Numeracy Education, General Counselling , Community Development, and Grief Counselling.

 As well as having access to Christians Against Poverty (CAP) which is a home visiting Debt Counselling service that has support workers for clients as well as the Debt Counsellors and holds Money Courses.

 Thus a skills set audit would be beneficial for all our community.

One of our agencies THE STABLES has stated that we (SURF) do need “to think more collectively”. I believe the skills set register would fit that sentiment.

b) Develop a “service hub” for each of our 7 SURF agencies a place that would have:

 Resources available for all to collect,

 A worker solely assigned to ensure that resources and information are up to date,

 The ability to be used as a training venue, for clients and workers,

 Other service providers utilising it as training venue,

 Storage facilities for SURF records/history,

 The main server located for electronic data collection which links all our 7 agencies.

*4) Other notes*

 a) Update on our (SURF) Electronic shared data collection.

 This is now in place, as recently a worker of one of our member agencies, HRUC designed one and continues to maintain the updates. Data no longer is stored in the cloud, as it now has a physical server based at CBBC, making data sharing quicker. This action fits the sentiment of “thinking collectively” as well.

b) Referrals to Service providers

 We need to know that they are available in a timely manner for our clients.

c) Other referrals

Within our service we also inform people of social activities that they can participate, that are either free or at minimal costs. If we can, we cover those initial costs.

We inform clients of services where they may consider volunteering. Also to Sthn. Volunteering

Everyone has a skill and we try to encourage people to build on that skill.

d) Ambulance Costs.

Can be prohibitive to our client group, any additional funds to cover subscription would be beneficial.

e) Assumptions.

Too often it is assumed that our clients have access to computers, are computer literate etc.

The same can be said for Phone line services.

Many of our clients are not and do not have skills to gather information from Phone line services and follow through.

Face to Face still is the better option.