



BELONG BLUE MOUNTAINS INC | KATOOMBA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (MAIN OFFICE)
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Neighbourhood Centres support and connect community during lockdown.

Neighbourhood Centres are usually a hive of community activity and connection. While face-to-face community groups, activities and events are on hold as everyone stays at home, Belong Blue Mountains Community and Neighbourhood Services are still working to support the community in any way they can.

Neighbourhood Centres can help with a range of different support services for anyone in the community, no matter what your background or circumstances. They also provide information and referral services for a whole lot of other community support services. Neighbourhood Centres are a great first call if you need help but don't know where to start. If you, or someone you know, needs a little extra support during lockdown, Belong Blue Mountains is available to call from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Belong BM are offering free food hampers for anyone who needs a few extra staples for their pantry and can deliver if needed. They also offer no interest community loans for essential one-off expenses like car repairs or registration, medical expenses and a whole range of other things. No interest loans of up to \$1500 can be paid back with affordable repayments over 12 to 18 months with no interest and no fees or charges, ever.

“We know this is such a hard time for everyone. We really want to make sure the community knows we are here to support them.” said Danielle Wilding-Forbes, Manager of Families, Children, Youth and Community Services at Belong BM. “As well as the practical support we offer through our Neighbourhood Centres, we are hosting a series of online social activities for the community to join at no cost. Staying connected with other people is so important for our mental health and wellbeing. Meeting new people and trying something new in a safe and positive environment is also a great way to beat the lockdown blues.”

Social activities being run live online by Belong BM during lockdown include Community Trivia Contests, Storytime with Play and Chat for young children, parents and carers, an online drawing group, craft group, chair yoga classes, and a ‘Social Stories’ literature group which is like a book club but centred around the reading and discussion of engaging short stories.

All activities are free and being held on Zoom. If you haven't used Zoom before, Belong BM staff can help you get set up. You just need a smartphone, tablet or computer with video, audio and internet. You can register your interest in any of the online activities at www.belongbm.org.au/zoom And, if you have a community group or activity that you would like to run online during lockdown, Belong BM can help get you get up and running on their Community Zoom.

For more information on the services and support offered by Belong Blue Mountains, call Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre on 02 4782 1117 or Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre on 02 4759 2592 between 9am and 4pm on weekdays. You can also find more information on the Belong BM website www.belongbm.org.au and Facebook page www.facebook.com/BelongBM. For 24-hour crisis support, call Lifeline on 13 11 14, or 000 in an emergency.



Danielle (L) and Pauline (R) from Belong Blue Mountains preparing food hampers at Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre.

For further media enquires please contact Belong Blue Mountains Communications Officer, Nikki Boys on 0413 817 317 or email nboys@belongbm.org.au