



**BELONG BLUE MOUNTAINS INC | KATOOMBA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (MAIN OFFICE)**  
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## **Gazette Editorial Content: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

### **PAGE TITLE: OUR MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY**

## **Giving Community a Voice.**

Belong Blue Mountains would like to thank everyone who took part in the recent Community Voice Survey. The survey was an opportunity for anyone in the community to share how life has been since last summer's fires and the arrival of COVID-19 and to highlight the most important issues and challenges facing our community now. The response received shows how committed our community is to making the Blue Mountains the best possible place to live and will be enormously valuable as we work to deliver the community services that are most needed.

"Belong Blue Mountains exists to serve our local community. By really listening to what people have to say, we can better understand what we can do to help our community be safe, well and strong." said Danielle Wilding-Forbes, Community Engagement Manager for Belong Blue Mountains. "Based on what we learn from the survey, we will hold a series of organised conversations with small groups of community members so we can dig deeper into the most important issues and be in a position to advocate for what the community needs most." If you would like to be involved in future community surveys or conversations, please let us know by sending an email to [info@belongbm.org.au](mailto:info@belongbm.org.au)

Belong Blue Mountains is one of our key local community services organisations including the Lower Mountains, Mid Mountains and Katoomba Neighbourhood Centres, providing essential support to community members in a range of different ways from aged care, NDIS, mental health and wellbeing support services, to community festivals, social groups, school holiday workshops and playgroups.

The arrival of COVID-19 saw a number of these services move to online and over-the-phone formats to ensure community support continued during this difficult time. "Although our Centres are operating differently now, we have been able to keep our doors open, maintain most of our existing services and successfully launch a number of our services into the virtual space with our Zoom Community Room and phone-based programs" said Danielle.

"We are also very pleased that we have been able to continue important services like our Food Relief Hampers, our No Interest Loans Scheme, Domestic Assistance, NDIS support, KOOSH Out of School Hours Care, our ASSIST Home Building and Maintenance services and our Community Information and Referral service. We have also launched 'Talk Time', a new social connection phone call service aimed at providing a friendly ear and conversation for those who feel isolated or just need a chat."

If you, or someone you know, need a little extra support or don't know where to turn, please get in touch with Belong Blue Mountains on 02 4782 1117, visit our website [www.belongbm.org.au](http://www.belongbm.org.au) or contact your local Neighbourhood Centre. For 24-hour crisis support, call Lifeline on 13 11 14, or call 000 in an emergency.