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COVID-19 Community Response

COMMUNITY CONNECT Informing and connecting the Gawler Community

In a local response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Gawler is implementing a new program called Community Connect.

The aim of this program is to provide information and connection to Gawler residents, in particular to elderly and vulnerable members of the community who may find themselves socially disconnected during these uncertain times.

We understand how our community is feeling right now, with the closure of many local facilities and businesses, people losing their jobs, and the concerns around the health and wellbeing of ourselves and our family members. As a community we can get through this with kindness, care, compassion and by being conscientious. If you require some information, need clarification, are feeling worried or anxious or have concerns about a vulnerable member of the community, I encourage you to utilise the Community Connect Program as a way of staying connected through these difficult times' says Council's Mayor Karen Redman,

The Council program will work with local groups and organisations to ensure as many community members as possible stay connected, receive accurate information and practical assistance where needed.

Community members who themselves are looking for information and assistance, or know of elderly and/or vulnerable persons who need to connect, can contact Council via the following avenues:

Phone: 8522 9295

Email: communityconnect@gawler.sa.gov.au

Online: www.gawler.sa.gov.au/communityconnect

'Council is committed to the health and wellbeing of our community. This program goes some way to ensuring members of the Gawler community, particularly those who are most vulnerable, are not forgotten and stay connected during this trying time' says Mayor Redman.

Council CEO Mr Henry Inat advises, "Council continues to fulfil its legislative obligations and has a plan in place to ensure that essential services can still be delivered to the community and in particular, to support residents who may already be socially isolated as a result of this public health emergency. As most people would be aware, many of Council's facilities and programs have closed down in recent times, but we are maintaining as many services as realistically possible in these circumstances".

Both the Evanston Gardens Library and the Gawler Civic Centre Library are offering a 'call and collect' service, so that library members can still collect their holds. Members simply place items on hold online, or over the phone, and then once items arrive members can call to arrange a pick up time. All existing library loans have been extended for six weeks, and the after-hours returns chute at the Gawler Civic Centre is available as normal. The Evanston Gardens Library can be contacted on 8522 0123 and the Gawler Civic Centre Library on 8522 9213.

The Community Connect Program is being delivered in addition to Council's existing Home Assist Program, which will continue to operate, providing a range of services aimed at supporting eligible residents to remain living within their homes.

It is anticipated that there may be a suspension of some service types related to the Home Assist Program over the coming period, but all efforts are being made to ensure existing customers continue to receive the support they require. For all Gawler Home Assist enquiries please call 8522 1177.

The status of the COVID-19 pandemic is continually evolving, as is the Australian Government's Department of Health response. Council will continue to monitor advice being provided from the relevant agencies and communicate this to our community accordingly.



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The media may make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359