



A MINISTRY OF OUR LADY'S NURSES FOR THE POOR

December 2020

Dear friends of the Brown Nurses,

Reflecting back over the past twelve months, there is an inescapable sense of loss – ranging from actual losses such as homes, habitat, employment, or lives, through to uncertainty arising from changes in daily routines or world events.

Amidst all this, it is worth reflecting that some in our client community have had reason to feel more hopeful:

Hope for a woman who struggles with advanced respiratory disease and is unable to rest comfortably unless she is sitting up. Frequent pauses to catch her breath punctuate our conversations. The combination of her illness and an inability to part with her belongings resulted in a cluttered and unhealthy environment filled with paperwork, bags of clothing and food waste. Conditions have improved and our visible supportive presence on site appears to have bolstered her confidence, despite what the neighbours might be thinking or saying.

Hope for a new client recently re-housed after sleeping rough for 17 years. He has had his problems with drug use but recently reached a turning point – partly due to successful treatment for hepatitis C but also because he could not face another winter on the street. He is proud to show our nurses around his new home, where he enjoys views of the Sydney skyline and treetops.

Hope for an elderly chap who is at least 30kg underweight. We think he may have a problem with alcohol, but he is not yet comfortable telling us that part of his story. His home has mould on the ceiling, unsafe power points, and he is washing his clothes in a bucket. For now, he prefers that we meet him downstairs in a garden area we have nicknamed “The Cabana”. His name is on the list for a housing transfer and he has decided that *we might* be of some use doing the legwork associated with finding him new furniture!

As ever, I acknowledge the hard work and persistence of my colleagues Scott, Michele, Aiza, Leslie and Ann.

Thank you, for your continued interest in the welfare of our clients.

Matthew 11:28

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Sincerely,

Wendy Peddell RN
Director of Services