

MEDIA RELEASE

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Communities at Work launches Winter Appeal as demand for support continues to rise across Canberra

Communities at Work is calling on the Canberra community to support its 2026 Winter Appeal as rising cost-of-living pressures continue to increase demand for food and emergency relief services across the ACT.

Last year alone, local families and individuals made more than 26,700 visits to Communities at Work's Tuggeranong and Gungahlin Community Pantries, with more than 2,000 households accessing food and essential support services.

Communities at Work Chief Executive Officer Lesley Jordan said the organisation is seeing more people turn to support services as financial pressures continue to affect households across Canberra.

"Every week, we meet people who are making incredibly difficult choices between paying rent, heating their homes, or putting food on the table," Ms Jordan said.

"Our Community Pantries are here to support Canberra individuals and families with dignity and care, but we need the community's help to keep our shelves stocked this winter."

The Winter Appeal aims to collect food, toiletries, baby items, household essentials and financial donations to support local people experiencing hardship. Communities at Work is aiming to raise \$15,000 to purchase high-need items, pantry equipment and essential supplies.

The organisation is encouraging schools, workplaces, sporting clubs, community groups and local businesses to get involved by running community food collections and donating to our community pantries, and/or organising fundraising activities throughout winter.

"We know Canberra is a community that cares deeply for one another," Ms Jordan said.

"Whether it's donating a few pantry staples, contributing online, or organising a community food collection through your workplace or community group, every contribution helps support local families during a difficult time."

Donations can be made online at commsatwork.org/winter-appeal, and food and essential items can be donated through Communities at Work collection points, including Communities at Work

Tuggeranong and Gungahlin Community Pantries. Please visit the winter appeal website page for more information.

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