

**Mrs Mary Smith
999 Mary Street
Sampleville VIC 0000**

Dear Mrs Smith

**We have a long term solution to pull people out
of poverty but there is one thing stopping us**

You have probably never before received a letter quite like this.

I am here to ask you for \$925,000.

Yes, I know, it may sound ridiculous. But please don't stop reading yet.

We are tackling a long term problem here at Prahran Mission and we have a long term solution. We'll ultimately have an impact on thousands of Australians from our local area. **And you can be the major player in this.**

I am asking you for \$925,000 to create a kitchen and training facility. We want to lift people out of the cycle of poverty and I know we can do it. By training them.

The big problem for the people who come to us is **mental illness**. So many of them are homeless and they feel hopeless. If we secure a place for them in a normal TAFE, they don't last long, because it goes too fast for them. They can't manage.

It's their mental illness combined with their lack of training that keeps them in poverty. Forever.

We want a training kitchen and facilities in our refurbished building in Chapel Street. We are already an Accredited Training Organisation. We can issue qualifications for Certificate I, 11, 111 and IV. And we will have a fully operational coffee shop and restaurant on street level.

With a training kitchen in place, we'll be able to train desperate people and then give them work experience. We'll equip them for a future. They will have new hope. This is no band aid. We'll be lifting them out of that dreadful cycle of poverty.

We have already seen it happen many times. The story of 18 year old Jodie who came to us in February 2008 is an example of what we can do. Jodie was homeless and suffering with severe depression and anxiety. She had no where to go. But she did have a dream about working in retail in women's fashion.

We began by giving her the training she needed. Then, when the time was right, we got Jodie into a volunteer position at our Goodwill Shop. Gradually we gave her some responsibilities. It did not take long for the work experience to have a

profound impact. Today, Jodie is a different person. She has a good job. She is building in confidence. She has plans. She has hope. She is out of poverty.

Jodie is just one person. With our own training kitchen, we can do this over and over. We'll be changing lives . . . one young person at a time. In the first year, we'll give training and new hope to around 280 of our fellow Australians. **Over the years, that will end up being thousands of lives.**

All we need for this long term solution is \$925,000. And you will have the wonderful satisfaction of knowing that you are making significant positive change in the lives of people who otherwise have nothing to hope for. And the impact will continue long into the future.

Our very strong view is that every person living with a mental illness or with extreme economic and social disadvantage has the right to a decent life. I know you share this view.

As I mentioned at the outset, I know it sounds ridiculous to ask for \$925,000. But I am hoping you may be inspired. Of course, we'll accept less if the full amount is not suitable for you at this time. But this is big and **in years to come the Training Centre at 211 Chapel Street will stand as a practical monument to you and your vision.**

After 64 years of working with people from the streets, we know about mental illness and extreme social and economic disadvantage. We know what we are doing. We can get people out of poverty and into a brighter future with decency and hope.

I look forward to your response just as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Dick Carter
Chairman

PS: I am greatly inspired by this practical solution. If you'd like to come in and discuss the details of how we can give deserving people a full and meaningful life, please call me at any time on 03 9692 9500.