

DINING
GUIDE

INSIDE



BIG FREEZE
SUCCESS

PAGE 12





VOTE FOR
SWAN HILL



Tough times

As rising living costs put pressure on households, Swan Hill communities are stepping up.

Local volunteers, food hubs and neighbourhood initiatives like A Good Kitchen and Nyah's Share Shack are working together to support residents, share resources and strengthen community connections, showing how locals are driving practical, caring solutions.

See how grassroots generosity is easing the cost-of-living pressure within the Swan Hill municipality - Stories Page 5.



Volunteers Helen Trafford and Ian Brewer look after the community garden and Share Shack initiative which was established by the Nyah District Progress Association.
Picture: Louis Harrison (561751_02)

CARE CRISIS

Edmund Coleman

MALLEE District Aboriginal Services has urged the government to address the “continuing crisis” of First Nations overrepresentation in Victoria’s out-of-home care system, following the release of “alarming” new data in a Victorian Auditor General’s Office report. According to the report, First Nations children make up nearly one-third of all out-of-home care placements in Victoria, with the proportion increasing year-on-year.

“The rate at which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enter out-of-home care in Victoria is still about 22 times higher than non-Aboriginal children,” the report states.

That figure is nearly double the national average, and apart from Queensland, where data was not available, the auditor-general said Victoria has the nation’s highest rate of First Nations children in out-of-home care.

MDAS chief executive Kylie Degenhardt said the findings reflected a “continuing crisis and reinforced the need for urgent, sustained action.”

“These statistics are deeply concerning because they represent real Aboriginal children, families, and communities experiencing ongoing trauma and disconnection,” she said.

“Every child deserves to grow up connected to their family, culture, community and identity.”

Continued Page 2

weather

16°



Swan Hill

Partly cloudy

The chance of morning fog. Light winds.

Sat 16°



Sun 17°



Mon 16°



Tue 17°



Wed 18°







APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Find out more at www.becklegal.com.au/communityfund

WE ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF LAW AND EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

- Wills and Estates
- Property Development
- Conveyancing Solutions
- Farm Succession Planning

- Commercial and Business
- Local Government and Planning
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Corporate Governance

12880087-GS26-26