

It costs \$250,000 to keep one child in a juvenile justice centre for a year.....

It currently costs for one specialist homelessness service case manager to house one parolee \$10,875 taking 55 hours in time and 300 km driving to and from appointments and still not addressing the real reason the survivor is in the situation.

Times that by 256 clients in the Albury area alone where talking \$2,784,000 and still not addressing the core issue or housing them all.

Healing Hearts Riverina Retreat will operate for 32 weeks a year with 8 participants a week ranging from 8 years old to 100 yrs old There are adult Healing weeks, 8 to 12 year old healing weeks, 12 to 17 year old healing weeks and 17 to 25 year old healing weeks

We can work with the same amount of clients working with all of the above services whilst dedicating 60 hours intense therapy for the core issues faced in a 6 day program that supports the survivors based in the Riverina along with, the Case Managers, Nolan House, Housing NSW, Probation & Parole, the Police , The Department of Education & Communities, Family and Community services and a multitude of other service providers.

We have all the support letters from services to drive and support the program so now it's time to raise your glasses, step up, put your money where it will benefit the Riverina and the communities, step out of your office, pull on your boots roll up your sleeves and volunteer your time, expertise, support or use your finances and sponsor a survivor through the program into a home, a life, and a career that creates a long-term sustainable community right here in the Riverina by purchasing a Healing Hearts Gift Certificate.

For more information contact us via email or PM TO GET INVOLVED..

The commonwealth government will spend \$154 billion this year on social security & welfare whilst expecting this to rise to \$187 billion by 2019 (3 years time)

“Did we as a nation ever expect to have 800,000 people on Disability pensions & 220,000 people on carer's pensions?”

The government has spent 40% more in the last 10 years on education to get a 400% worse result for our now 15 year olds .

Experts believe the treasurers goal will require stricter rules on welfare payments to encourage recipients to move into the work force. Then there's the calling for more investment into training and employment services to move people off a lifetime of welfare...(Front page news of the Weekend Australia)

Then in Saturdays Border mail - we now have a Friends of Nolan House Organisation hoping to make the place more attractive to patients with the group looking at the environment & appearance, whilst seeking community input and lobbying politicians.

Then in the BM we had the story on ICE ADDICTION AT THE HEART OF OFFENDING>> Hoffmann had an unblemished record for the entirety of more than two decades that he spent in the military from 1991. That included 3 tours to Afghanistan and 1 in Iraq.

Then there's Domestic Violence and sexual assault, men, women and children whose lives are filled with oppression & loneliness. DV IS ABOUT POWER IN THE RELATIONSHIP even if there is no physical violence it's still abuse. .

Often the people most affected don't see it for what it actually is; demeaning and soul destroying.. DV does not belong to a poverty cycle or a culture it's inflicted through a pattern of control, isolation & manipulation a power play of words & actions that are more damaging than a slap in the face might be.

Suffering is not new in my world, Its part of my Job, It's not the physical injuries that I've witnessed that bring me to my knees it's the daily pain and longstanding suffering of the survivors and the blinding sadness in their eyes that crosses all boundaries and the hand to mouth existence that often goes hand in hand with survivors to just keep surviving.

When survivors have placed their faith and hope in you and shared there devastating stories yet again hoping there truth alone will guarantee an action and an outcome in a system so complicated that when we let them down again there hope turns to anger and frustration then dissolves into a place of resignation and bitterness for a system and life that seems to say to them "Where not worth saving".

Yep it's depressing but childhood trauma, sexual violence and domestic violence are tearing the fabric of our communities apart.

long ago I realised my tears were NOT what survivors needed but my empathy and voice for them was the only solution I could come up with.

This situation is escalating right at our feet; the government cannot continue to fund such a desperate bid for the health and safety of survivors as we have watched all other options fail.

As the mother of 3 little women my motivation is for us to take drastic action, as many mothers will attest the minute you hold your new born child your life and priorities are changed forever.

Working in a constant sea of suffering smashed me into the big picture on a systems level as I realised I was useful on the ground in case management

Whilst utilising my business and common-sense farming background in all areas of my work.

Personally I don't want to stand in the spotlight, I'd rather stand in the sun and I'd rather wear boots and jeans than a suit but hearing so many devastating stories means I will do whatever it takes!!!!