

BIG YELLOW UMBRELLA – 18th June 2020

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (3:55pm): During the COVID-19 pandemic many people in our communities are facing illness, financial insecurity, isolation and many more hardships that we do not know about. Amongst all of this, though, we have seen and heard of the wonderful support being provided to members of our community by individuals and organisations. As we look to recover from COVID-19, it has been so uplifting to hear how we have helped one another. Just one of the many organisations that is making a difference to the Camden community during this time is the Big Yellow Umbrella. Big Yellow Umbrella offers food relief, advice, information and referral for homelessness, domestic violence support, over-the-phone youth case management, over-the-phone crisis support, community welfare connection calls, over-the-phone parenting support and the Book BUS Program to ensure that children have access to early literature information.

Big Yellow Umbrella's food relief program has gone from 30 regular families per week to over 60 families needing support. It has met the challenge by partnering with OZHarvest for food. The Big Yellow Umbrella group is innovative and are meeting community demand as part of their strategic plan. The Big Yellow Umbrella vision is to build and support inclusive, cohesive and emerging communities across south-west Sydney and it is very proud of its work, as am I. The Big Yellow Umbrella has done our community extremely proud during this time.

We cannot thank Big Yellow Umbrella enough for its contribution and efforts. Thank you to the hardworking staff, who include Kim Landouw, the operations manager; Jane McIvor, the strategic finance executive; Lyndell Scott, bookkeeper; Aaron Frydmann, community worker; Leanne Haggart, community worker; Nicole Daley, community worker; Mackenzie Edgington, community worker; and Sharon Friere, administration and website.

Thank you also to Big Yellow Umbrella's invaluable volunteers who provide support where and whenever they can: Steve Irwin, Naji Nour, Alan Brooks, Rebecca Smith, John Smith, Ted Mericki, Belinda Cook, Kaye Hahn, Carmen Merecki, Anna Constantine, Noor Anton, Bryanka Singh and Doaa Mousa. If that all is not enough, Big Yellow Umbrella has supervised four students completing studies in this field—Seba Shmeisen, Kelly Kong, Admir Karajcic and Bryanna Rixon—who have all made valuable and meaningful contributions to Big Yellow Umbrella. That is much appreciated. Camden is a better place because of Big Yellow Umbrella. Big Yellow Umbrella plays such an important role in our community. I look forward to continuing to work with it in the future.

Private Members Statements are given to the NSW Parliament to acknowledge the outstanding efforts and achievements of groups or individuals within our community. Private Members Statements are recorded on the NSW Parliament Hansard.

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