



MEDIA RELEASE

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Experts help locals cut their bills

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St Vincent de Paul Society NSW (Vinnies NSW) will be hosting a Bring Your Bills Day in Gosford on Monday 4 April to help support people experiencing trouble with their finances. This free event is coordinated by the Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW (EWON), in partnership with other organisations.

Vinnies Gosford Conference President, Bruce Dent, says this event is about enabling financially vulnerable people to find savings and reduce the risks they face.

“There are many concessions available that can reduce your electricity bill which we just don’t know exist – coming along and chatting to EWON may save you a proportion of your bill,” said Mr Dent.

“This is the third Bring Your Bills Day on the Central Coast and, because of its success, we are keen to run more of these events with our partners across NSW.”

The rising cost of living and the deregulation of the energy market means people have to be more financially savvy when it comes to shopping around for their energy providers.

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Energy Price Report (July 2015) highlights how customers switching from the worst electricity offer to the best market can save up to \$550-\$1050 per annum depending on their local network area.

The Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW, Janine Young, encourages people to take advantage of the help available to them.

“There is a lot to get your head around when it comes to energy and water consumer issues, but you don’t have to make sense of it on your own. If you have a question you need answered or there’s an issue you’d like explained, you can talk to EWON staff at the Bring Your Bills Day,” Ms Young said.

Free specialist support will also be available on the day from services including NSW Fair Trading, Legal Aid, Ability Links, Housing NSW and Centrelink.

“The State Debt Recovery Office will be there too. Again, most people don’t know that they can pay off their fines through community service. For many, that saving could be the difference between able to pay rent or being forced into homelessness,” said Mr Dent.

When: 9am-3pm Monday 4 April 2016

Where: Uniting Church, 127-129 Donnison Road Gosford

To register for this **free** event call (02) 4323 6080 (ext 4).

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