

Give in to Christmas

Make others happy with gifts for those going without

Appeal | Bridie Byrne

A WHITEHORSE welfare agency is urging residents to be generous this Christmas.

Doncare chief executive Doreen Stoves said the service took care of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the east.

The festive season could be a sad and lonely time for those on the breadline, she said: "For some of our clients without the assistance from not-for-profit organisations they will not have the Christmas they deserve.

"We give them respect and dignity during one of the most expensive times of the year."

Ms Stoves said there had been a surge in demand because of rising cost of living pressures. "People are really doing it tough with the cost of rents, food and electricity," Ms Stoves said. "This is not a gravy train. These people are in desperate need of help.

"People think this is a wealthy community, but there are people out there that are struggling every day of their lives."

Ms Stoves said some of the stories would pull at the heartstrings. "We have experienced a high increase in pensioners seeking help who have worked all of their lives," she said.



"When they don't have enough money to pay the bills they don't eat or turn the electricity off."

Ms Stoves said the Doncare Wishing Tree appeal needed gift cards,

toys and non-perishable food for struggling residents. Donate at North Blackburn Shopping Centre, shop 38 in 66-104 Springfield Rd, until December 23.

Welfare agency Doncare chief executive Doreen Stoves asks Whitehorse to support its Wishing Tree appeal with gift cards, toys and non-perishable food.

Picture: RICHARD SERONG N25