

11 December 2019

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Social Futures StandBy helps animal group this Christmas**

Social Futures program StandBy Support After Suicide knows the festive period can be difficult, and this Christmas is helping out some of the furry members of our community.

The team at StandBy recently donated a fantastic hamper of food, toys, collars and other pet-friendly goodies to Animal Rights and Rescue Group (AARG) Lismore.

This was part of a gentle campaign to help raise awareness for those who might not be so merry this festive season – including pets. While many are celebrating the holidays, gifts galore, good food and drink, friends, family and loved ones... others may be doing it tough. This could be for any number of reasons including loss of family or friends, estrangement, trauma, increased workload.

StandBy is dedicated to supporting people and communities bereaved or impacted by suicide, regardless of when or where the suicide has occurred.

Social Futures StandBy Coordinator Rose Hogan said the impact of loss, is felt deeper and wider than many imagine, especially at this time of year, when it may be the first Christmas that many experience without their loved one, including pets. Pets are also wonderful companions for those who are experiencing grief.

“We encourage everyone to spare a thought for those less fortunate, especially at this time of year. A smile or kind word doesn’t cost a cent and can go a long way to brightening someone’s day.” Rose said.

If you have experienced a loss through suicide, you can contact StandBy 24/7 directly on 0417 119 298 or email [standby@socialfutures.org.au](mailto:standby@socialfutures.org.au)

StandBy provides support at a time and place that best suits you, face to face or by telephone. It is a free and confidential service, crisis bereavement support, information and referral. StandBy has a suite of locally tailored workshops that are delivered across the region and can visit your agency or workplace upon request to provide an in-service to staff.

For more information please visit: [www.socialfutures.org.au](http://www.socialfutures.org.au)  
[www.standbysupport.com.au](http://www.standbysupport.com.au) or find a furry friend via the AARG website  
[www.animalrights.org.au](http://www.animalrights.org.au)

Anyone potentially distressed can seek immediate crisis support and suicide prevention services via Lifeline 13 11 14.

-ENDS-



*Left: Rose Hogan, Coordinator StandBy support after suicide at Social Futures.*

*Middle: Mel – StandBy Outreach Worker*

*Right: Suzanne Lavis Manager ARRG*

*Ground:Pugsley the staffie dog (waiting for his forever family).*

**For high res images and media enquiries contact:** Jeff Clements, Brand and Engagement Coordinator, Social Futures. Ph. 0427 556 892 e: [jeff.clements@socialfutures.org.au](mailto:jeff.clements@socialfutures.org.au)

**Interviews:**

Tony Davies, CEO Social Futures.

**Note to editors:**

1. Social Futures is a not-for-profit community service organisation based in Northern NSW. We have more than 40 years' experience as a regional leader, advocating with the communities we work in; working in partnership with others; and providing services that promote inclusion, fairness and social justice. Our work encompasses homelessness and housing supports, youth and family services, programs that promote genuine participation for people with disability, community sector support, professional development, and systemic advocacy.