



**Media Release: 28 April 2020**

## **Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre - Peninsula Caring Community Helps in Covid-19 Crisis with Play For Lives**

Peninsula Caring, a grass roots volunteer community housed at Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre, has delivered over 250 hampers, 420 meals, made 62 shopping trips, and telephoned more than 320 locals in its first 30 days.

Craig Foster from Play For Lives recently visited Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre to find out more about Peninsula Caring. Peninsula Caring is partnering with Play For Lives to find Champion Ambassadors, and local sport clubs to collect and donate pantry items or pack and deliver hampers. We are asking local sporting organisations to mobilise their members, and individual athletes to play for lives, now that they can't play for points.



## **Background Peninsula Caring**

The foundations of Peninsula Caring were created when Kevin Parker and Gina Hockley came together with Steven Lowrie (CEO) & Lisa Smajlov (Community Partnerships) from RNC in response to COVID-19. Kevin had started a Facebook group called Balmain Caring as a way to connect and support locals and Gina posted in Balmain Living Facebook group about an elderly woman in distress with only a tissue box in her trolley as she could not find everyday essentials.

Lisa Smajlov said “Many people in our community have been impacted by this virus. We’re seeing entire families, young people, couples, students, all with no income during this time and no friends or family coming to support them”.

A grassroots initiative, led by Lisa, along with Gina and Kevin, pulled together a team of volunteers who make and deliver hampers, secure donated food and personal items, make phone calls for a chat, run errands and shopping trips, as well as supporting admin required for a coordinated community response of this size. We need help with donations and a Champion Ambassador program to help promote Peninsula Caring.

The Peninsula Caring free service is at risk with no direct extra funding received to date from local, state or federal government. We rely on donations to support the community. A simple \$10 donation provides a hamper for a local in need. Our GoFundMe is taking donations to help our community’s most vulnerable to get through these extraordinary COVID-19 times.

Play for Lives: <https://www.playforlives.org>  
Peninsula Caring: <https://www.rozellecentre.org.au/peninsulacaring>  
GoFundMe: <https://www.gofundme.com/manage/peninsula-caring>

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### **Contact for media:**

Lisa Smajlov  
Community Partnerships  
Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre  
754 Darling Street  
ROZELLE 2039

9556 9501  
community@rozellecentre.org  
[www.rozellecentre.org.au](http://www.rozellecentre.org.au)



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# Peninsula Caring

WITH ROZELLE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE ARE PARTNERING WITH PLAY FOR LIVES

Can your local sport group:

- be our local champion ambassador?
- collect and donate pantry items?
- pack and deliver hampers?

To get involved contact: Lisa call 9556 9501 or email [communityrozellecentre.org](mailto:communityrozellecentre.org)

