

Centre staff get lift from renovations

BY RICHARD HAMWI

NEWTOWN Neighbourhood Centre renovations are nearly complete and its staff could not be happier.

A new lift close to its entrance is being tested before the final few touches are put in place.

Executive officer Lisa Burns said expanded services were in a pipeline along with a freshening of the centre.

“Some things have been put on hold but the renovations will be completed soon,” Ms Burns said.

“We are trying to be more about building the community’s capacity. With the renovations we want to point out how proud Murrumbidgee Council has been.”

Community development coordinator Richelle Figliuzzi said the centre was a vital community service because it kept residents connected.

“It’s all about social inclusion and reaching people that can be socially isolated,” she said.

ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

- The centre services about 200 people a week at the front counter while 31 staff members work across three premises
- The Newtown Festival is one of the centre’s major events and a valuable fundraiser which helps to keep it running
- Each year the centre website newtowncentre.org gets about 2 million hits.
- For more details call 9516 4755

Even with a broad range of community services on offer – from English classes to knitting groups – Ms Burns said centre staff were most proud of their advocacy work.

“It’s little things like making a phone call for people to get an outcome,” she said.



Richelle Figliuzzi (left) and Lisa Burns form the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre.

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