



## **Media Release**

**17 May 2018**

### **Byford free food market given a helping hand**

After Byford local Murray Dixon lost his house and savings to a sour business deal he was overcome with gratitude for the help he and his wife received from friends and the local community.

So, in 2016 when a Byford Baptist Church Elder asked him to assist organising some food for a family in need, he did not hesitate to help out.

From helping just one family the Byford Baptist Church Free Food Market idea was born and now, 18 months later, more than 70 families are turning to the not for profit service on a weekly basis to assist them put food on the table.

The free food market has recently been bolstered with assistance from P&N Bank's Helpings &nds program.

"The surge in the number of people in the Byford area requiring assistance is a concern," Murray said.

"We find that most people are embarrassed the first time they come, but when they realise that the volunteers have also had to ask for help at some stage in their lives, they relax.

"Our local Aldi, IGA and Coles provide a lot of the food, but we still need to buy about \$150 worth of food per week from Foodbank just to keep up with the demand, so we're relying on donations in order to have enough food for our families."

P&N Bank is assisting the Byford Baptist Church Free Food Market with a \$2,000 grant from its Helping &nds initiative.

P&N Bank Maddington Branch Manager Joy Evans said the Bank was delighted to be able to acknowledge the Church's significant and vital role in the community.

"This Helping &nds grant from P&N Bank will enable the small group of Byford-based volunteers to continue providing essential food items for local families in need in a comfortable, non-judgemental environment that enables their clients to relax and feel worthy," Joy said.

"This is what our Helping &nds program is all about.

"As WA's largest locally owned and operated bank, this is why we exist; to enrich the lives of our members and the communities in which they live."

The Byford Baptist Church Free Food Market operates from the Byford Baptist Church on the corner of South Western Highway and Stanley Road Byford, every Thursday from 12.30 to 2.00pm.

For more information on P&N Bank's Helping &nds program visit [pnbank.com.au](http://pnbank.com.au).

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### P&N Bank

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- the largest locally owned and operated bank in Western Australia.
- Best Mutual 2018 RFI Australian Lending Awards.
- was ranked "Bank of the Month" in Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec 2017 and Feb 2018 in Roy Morgan Customer Satisfaction Awards. (Highest customer satisfaction of all banks in Australia)
- is an Approved Deposit Taking Institution (ADI) regulated to the same high standards of security as other banks, by such government agencies as APRA, ASIC, the Reserve Bank of Australia, AUSTRAC and the ACCC.
- is run on a customer-owned banking model. Profits are reinvested for the benefit of those who bank with P&N, its members.
- has 14 branches in WA and offers a wide range of financial products and services, including home loans, personal loans, term deposits, credit cards, financial planning, insurance and foreign exchange.
- offers all three digital wallets – Apple Pay, Samsung Pay and Google Pay™
- is a member of COBA (Customer Owned Banking Association) and the Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM).