

Rotary needs a 500m2 warehouse!

Inner Melbourne needs an **Emergency Relief Network**, ie.

- a **warehouse of around 500m2** in **South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Richmond, CBD, Prahran** (or nearby)
- with roller door for furniture truck access,
- clear open single level floor & minimal office space with male & female amenities

to house donated furniture, appliances and household goods which will be redistributed to families & individuals in need who are introduced by local support agencies.

Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network is being sponsored by Rotary Prahran but will involve up to 20 Rotary clubs in inner Melbourne, all providing funding, volunteers and donated goods from 2020 long into the future.

The key to establishing a sustainable Emergency Relief Network is affordable premises, so that monies raised through fundraising, grants & philanthropic bequests do not have to fund a huge rent commitment & can instead fund transport, logistics and operational overheads.

Ideal Premises

Include older style warehouse destined for redevelopment in a couple of years that is hard to let at commercial rates but whose owner would welcome State Land Tax relief if rented to a not-for-profit eg. Rotary. Ref: <https://www.sro.vic.gov.au/land-tax/apply-charitable-exemption>

How much rent could RIMERN afford?

Unlike Op Shops that generate funds, RIMERN will be funded by Rotary Club subscriptions, local government grants and occasional donations from philanthropists or private donors, insufficient to commit to a commercial rate of rental or to guarantee the performance of a long lease at commercial rates.

Currently with 5 member Clubs committed to this project, the maximum annual rental RIMERN could afford would be \$20,000 but we are hoping to secure premises on a peppercorn rental for 2 years to allow us time to get established, then if the tenure can be extended, to negotiate a higher amount or if the premises are to be redeveloped, RIMERN will then have time to find alternate premises & relocate after the initial term.

Why this search area?

RIMERN will support clients in need from the cities of Port Phillip, Stonnington, Yarra, Glen Eira, Caulfield and Melbourne and be staffed by volunteers from the same catchment areas.

While there are premises available further afield, these areas are geographically unsustainable for RIMERN and in some cases already serviced by the other Emergency Relief Networks.

Other Emergency Relief Networks

Eastern Emergency Relief Network (EERN) Mitcham was established 25 years ago, supported by Rotary Nunawading, Box Hill Central & City of Whitehorse.

EERN (pictured below) began in rent free premises and now has purchased their own 2 warehouses.



As well as having it's beginnings in rent free premises, EERN has a furniture truck provided by the Jack Brockhoff Foundation.



Western Emergency Relief Network (WERN) Derrimut, was established 5 years ago by a group of Rotary clubs operating in the cities of Brimbank; Hobson's Bay; Hume; Maribyrnong; Melton; Moonee Valley; Moorabool; Moreland and Wyndham. Mentored by EERN, WERN also began in rent free premises for 4 years & is now paying a modest rent, allowing them to commence operations very inexpensively.

NB. WERN's truck lease is funded by a trucking organisation

The Challenge

Donations of furniture are already promised, member agencies have clients in need to refer, RIMERN has seed funding from Rotary Prahran & 4 other Clubs, but without affordable premises nothing can proceed.

If you have access to around 500m2 floor space with a roller door access at a modest or no rent, please contact: Susie Cole, president@rotaryprahran.org.au or call 0414 907 263