

# Southern Gazette

 **Community**

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**BELMONT**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2010



Rachael Aldridge, recovery worker from the Richmond Fellowship and Carol Hanlon, CEO of Belmont Business Enterprise Centre.

## Old clothing a first step back

A SHELTER for Perth's vulnerable mentally ill received a donation of clothes last week from Belmont's Business Enterprise Centre to help get them on their feet.

The Ngulla Mia (meaning 'our place') service operated by the Richmond Fellowship and funded by Lotterywest, provides shelter for mentally ill people who are either homeless or at risk of being homeless.

Belmont BEC chief executive Carol Hanlon said a range of men's and women's business wear from the Belmont Clothes Library, operated by the BEC, would help people in Ngulla Mia find employment.

Richmond Fellowship recovery worker Rachael Aldridge said 85 per cent of homeless in Australia had a mental illness and they tended to "fall through the cracks."

"Often they will not have many possessions or fresh clean clothes," she said.

Ngulla Mia has capacity for 34 residents and works in partnership with the Inner City Community Mental Health Service who refer people to the service.

Community groups wishing to borrow clothes from the Belmont Clothes Library to start their own service can contact the BEC on 9479 3777.