

Foodbank braces itself

MEGAN BAILEY
9956 1038

FOODBANK Geraldton is expecting more demand for its services this year than ever before.

Foodbank Geraldton manager Pat Hodges said the rising cost of electricity and food meant more people would struggle at this time of year.

The fact that the service would this year be extended to Cue and

Newman was expected to place further strain on demand.

"We have already seen an increased demand for food," Ms Hodges said.

"The demand for services at Geraldton Resource Centre is growing every day.

"A lot of people will be struggling because of the cost of bills coming in, there are a lot of pensioners, carers and disabled people who will

be struggling to pay their bills at Christmas time."

But several local businesses have this week helped Foodbank out.

GNC Concrete this week donated \$5000, enough for 500 Christmas food hampers and Geraldton Fish Market donated 1500 salmon patties, its second such donation in six months.

Director Steve Easton said the company decided to help after see-

ing reports in the *Guardian* that Foodbank was crying out for donations.

Foodbank ambassador Shane Hill said while the State was often seen as one of the country's wealthiest, the fact that Foodbank was going to Newman meant not everyone was enjoying the resources boom.

Foodbank will be collecting food until December 23.

On December 12 The Good Guys

will give a 15 per cent discount to customers who bring in three non-perishable items to the store's Foodbank bin.

The Good Guys will also give a percentage of the day's profits to the Foodbank Christmas Appeal.

Foodbank is also urgently seeking 15 volunteers to help prepare Christmas hampers by December 16. For information on how you can help call 9964 8011.