

ANOTHER YEAR OF ADAPTABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Annual Report
2020-21



**“One of the most
vital ways we sustain
ourselves is by building
communities of
resistance, places
where we know
we are not alone.”**

Bell Hooks

(American author and social activist)



Neighbourhood Houses Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria, their diversity, histories and knowledge, and their continuing connections to land and community. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and community members, past, present and emerging.

Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.

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LINKING OUR WORK TO THE GLOBAL GOALS

NHVIC is committed to highlighting how the work of neighbourhood houses contributes towards progressing the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We want to demonstrate that local community development work has a global impact– everything we do is part of a bigger picture! Throughout this report, you will see the following icons displayed where the Global Goal is relevant to the work being described.

To find out more about the SDGs, visit globalgoals.org



WHO WE ARE

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria is the peak body for the neighbourhood house sector, representing a membership of close to 400 independent, community-based organisations across Victoria.

We are a trusted source of:

- strategic leadership
- state-wide advocacy
- advice and information
- timely research and data analysis
- professional development
- sector promotion



Our vision

Strong, safe and vibrant communities that value diversity and gender equity.



Our mission

Support Victorian neighbourhood houses in the ongoing development of vibrant, inclusive and connected communities through effective community development.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2021

Our challenge

Establish a strong and sustainable peak body that supports neighbourhood houses to achieve their vision and purpose through timely targeted advice, support, advocacy and sector promotion.

If we:	By:	This will result in:	Which will eventually lead to:
Build our business sustainability through effective and robust governance practices	Effectively using data and key measures to evaluate and drive decision making	Robust focused policy and strategy advice about and to the sector	Increased stakeholder recognition of quality NHVic contribution to the Victorian community
Strengthen our leadership capacity to represent and advocate sector views to our critical stakeholders	In partnership with the members, develop stakeholder management, engagement and marketing strategies	Increased member and stakeholder confidence in NHVic advice and increased engagement with NHVic activities	NHVic being the preferred point of contact for sector policy and strategy advice
Expand and increase our advisory and sector support resources	Focusing our research capabilities, sharing our learning and support resources	Enhanced peak body and sector resilience and relevance in a rapidly evolving social context	More effective support and resources directed towards the sector

Overall this will contribute to:

Enhanced individual and societal appreciation of the value of neighbourhood houses as significant contributors toward achieving social cohesion in Victoria.

OUR PEOPLE

Board

President	Angela Stathopoulos - Prahran Community Learning Centre
Vice President	Greg Ferrington - Wyndham Park Community Centre
Treasurer	Merial Clark - Noble Park Community Centre
Secretary	David Pearce - West Footscray Neighbourhood House
Ordinary Members	Desmond Lavery - Castlemaine Community House
	Jennifer Keerie - Milpara Community House
	Julyne Ainsley - Duke Street Community House
	Ramona Barry - Bridge Darebin
	Sandra Joffe - Network West
	Tennille Hall - Pangerang Community House

Staff

Chief Executive Officer	Nicole Battle
Chief Operating Officer	Cameron MacRae
Business Support Specialist	Victoria Larsson
Communications Manager	Petro Tsalikis
Communications Officer	Emma Wordsworth
Human Resources Manager	Sonya Davis Jennie Huxley (until April 2021)
Financial Inclusion Associate	Lee Kerr
Finance Officer	Misa Le Vo
First Nations Community Education Liaison	Kathryn Coff
Policy and Research Manager	David Perry
Project Manager	Melinda Spiteri
Special Projects Officer	Emily Harnett



Children taking part in the community garden at North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House



FROM OUR CEO

In writing this report, it is impossible not to reflect on some of the challenges that both NHVic and the sector have continued to experience over the past 12 months as a result of the global pandemic.

The ongoing impact of COVID-19 has certainly challenged all of us, both personally and professionally. So many of the things that we love and rely on for our emotional and social wellbeing have been impacted. Spending time with family and friends, catching up with colleagues for coffee, travel – all of these have well and truly been put on hold as Victoria works to overcome the impact of COVID-19.

Unfortunately, however, the pandemic has done nothing to stop the level of need that is being experienced by many people in our communities. If anything, it would appear that most houses have experienced a surge in demand – both in terms of the number of people and families presenting for support, as well as an increase in the level of need that is being reported. Loneliness, mental health, food insecurity, unemployment, digital exclusion, family breakdown and/or violence – these are just some of the issues that our houses have found themselves having to respond to on an increasingly regular basis,

particularly given that many people have found themselves isolated from their traditional support structures, including extended family and friends, as a result of the pandemic.

All of this has obviously taken an enormous toll on neighbourhood house staff and volunteers. However, despite the fatigue that many of us are feeling, I am incredibly proud of the way in which the sector has continued to respond. In our recent survey, we calculated that even during difficult, reduced settings, houses continued to provide community value worth \$1.1 million per day. That is just gobsmacking!

I am also incredibly proud of the work of the NHVic team in continuing to provide support for houses so that they can continue to make the magic happen on the ground. Over the past twelve months, the NHVic team has gone above and beyond to ensure the latest COVID rules were communicated and that your enquiries were answered efficiently, while working hard to deliver ongoing professional development and an array of exciting projects which are outlined in this report. As I reflect on this work, it is impossible for me not to be exceptionally proud of my team. Each and every one of them continually goes above and beyond to ensure that our members receive the highest level of care and support.

I am so incredibly grateful for their dedication and for their passion. I couldn't do what I do without you.

At this time, I would also like to acknowledge the NHVic Board, and in particular the contribution of the four outgoing Board members – Merial, Des, Ramona and Julyne. Thank you so much for your stewardship and support. Like all voluntary associations, NHVic very much relies on the willingness of passionate and dedicated volunteers who so generously donate their time and energy for the good of the sector. Special thanks to Angela for performing the role of President so beautifully. It has been a privilege to work with you.

In closing, whilst the previous twelve months may not have been exactly what any of us envisaged, I am certainly beginning to feel excited for what the next twelve months will hold. To this end, I hope that everyone takes some time to relax and recharge as 2021 begins to draw to a close. Please spend some time with family and friends and doing the things you love, because moving forward, I know that the work of neighbourhood houses is only going to become more important as Victoria looks to recover from the devastating impacts of COVID-19.

Yours in community,

Nicole Battle
Chief Executive Officer

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As we have all heard many times throughout the past two years, the unprecedented challenges faced by all throughout the pandemic have been difficult, tiring and just plain hard to deal with on many levels.

However, I am not going to dwell on the pandemic any longer. We have demonstrated time and time again the resiliency of our amazing sector through continued leadership, support and advocacy.

NHVic has had numerous key achievements over the past 12 months. Our partnership with Good Shepherd to roll out the Power Saving Bonus and No Interest Loans, the continuation of the 'Safe Seats Safe Kids' project, and the launch of the Carer Friendly project, just to name a few.

It was wonderful to see over 200 people attend the Sector Luncheon in May with keynote presentations from The Hon. Penny Wong and CEO of Gender Equity Victoria, Tanja Kovac, as well as the inspiring award presentations. The feedback received was incredibly complimentary and we look forward to hosting more events in the future.

NHVic is strongly committed to providing value to its members and ensuring continuous improvement under the expert management of our CEO Nicole Battle and her highly dedicated team. The Board is tasked with supporting Nicole and her team to work towards enhancing individual and societal appreciation of neighbourhood houses as significant contributors toward social cohesion in Victoria.

I thank my fellow Board members with whom I have served and value highly the contribution they have made. We have had some big challenges this year and no

doubt will face more, however we are well placed to face them with a good financial position, quality governance procedures, effective policies, and we are about to embark on a new strategic planning process to continue to guide us into the future. It is a challenging yet exciting time with so much capacity to build stronger communities.

Our Purpose Priorities are on track and continue to be the focus of the Board. They are:

- provide informed policy advice to government and the sector
- lead gender equity in communities
- enhance member capability through planned professional development and advisory services
- enhance community understanding of the essential role played by neighbourhood houses

All the best to you all.

Angela Stathopoulos
President

Pictured with CEO Nicole Battle and Senator Penny Wong in May 2021.



Repair café at Woodend Community House



Learn Local hospitality training at Frankston North Community Centre



SECTOR IMPACT

The following state-wide data was captured across
four days in August 2021
when neighbourhood houses were operating at a reduced
capacity due to Victoria's COVID-19 restrictions.

Despite this, neighbourhood houses still delivered:

\$1.1 million a day
in community value



60%

of houses provided **food relief**,
including fresh produce and pantry
items, amounting to

40
tonnes!



3,492
referrals

ensuring community members
are connected to appropriate
support services

32%

of houses are involved in a
social prescribing program, where
GPs/health practitioners refer community
members onto neighbourhood houses to
improve their health and wellbeing

91,073 **visits**

despite the impacts of
density quotients, patron caps
and reduced activity

SECTOR IMPACT

5,046

people employed through
neighbourhood houses

1,292

community groups were supported
by neighbourhood houses

2,211

partnerships between neighbourhood
houses and other organisations to
achieve community outcomes



3,414

Volunteers contributing

16,183

hours in 4 days

22%

operate at least one
social enterprise to address
local economic, social and
environmental needs including:



Cafes



Catering
services



Op/book
shops



Newspapers



Repair shops



58

neighbourhood houses provided
relief during a disaster in the last two
years (e.g. bushfires, floods) such as
facility use, advocacy, referrals,
counselling services, distribution of
clothing and essentials

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

1 JULY 2020 - 30 JUNE 2021



OUR MEMBERS

372

Full members

29

Associate members

20

Local Government
associate members

SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS



1,554

registrants across 15
online events



49

sector updates sent out to
keep members informed



589

registrants across 15
professional development
webinars



6,302

visits to the COVID-19
support page on the
NHVic website



65

recently appointed
managers undertook
Mentoring2Management course



215

email enquiries responded
to, providing COVID
support

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

1 JULY 2020 - 30 JUNE 2021

STRENGTHENING OUR SECTOR



94

meetings attended by NHVic CEO Nicole Battle with senior public servants, MPs and Ministers, advocating on the sector's behalf



542,067

combined reach across all NHVic social media platforms



46,096

unique visitors to the NHVic website



230

attendees at our sold-out Neighbourhood House Week Sector Luncheon



1,685

Individual reports produced



Thank you for all the help and support over the pandemic. You have been my go-to place for training, support and information during this time. Running the centres can be a lonely place... I don't think you always realise how important your organisation is to us little houses.

Sandra Wilkinson, South Kingsville Community Centre



'Recycling Shipping Pallets' course at Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre



Chinese New Year celebrations at Notting Hill Neighbourhood House



HIGHLIGHTS

Helping community members access the Power Saving Bonus



NHVic, in partnership with Good Shepherd, was one of several community service providers selected to assist the State Government in rolling out its Power Saving Bonus (PSB).

The PSB is a financial relief initiative, offering eligible Victorians a one-off payment of \$250 to assist them with costs of living, noting that household bills have increased due to Victorians spending more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

223 neighbourhood houses took up the opportunity to opt-in as PSB Outreach Providers. Their role was to communicate the bonus to their local communities, targeting those who might otherwise miss out, and provide one-on-one assistance with the online application process. This has demonstrated the important role neighbourhood houses play in ensuring vulnerable Victorians don't get left behind in an increasingly digitised world.

In recognition of the time and resources taken to assist community members with this process, neighbourhood houses are receiving some financial remuneration for their involvement (\$400 upfront and then \$10 for each successful application).

Since May 2021, in six months, engagement with the Power Saving Bonus through neighbourhood houses has proven incredibly successful, despite periods of lockdown:

4,192

successful applications processed, amounting to...

\$1,048,000

in assistance to vulnerable Victorians.



When a community member came into Echuca Neighbourhood House seeking support, upon chatting about their situation, I asked if they had also heard of the Power Saving Bonus. They hadn't, but were so grateful I'd mentioned it to them as their financial struggles had impacted their ability to 'think straight'.

We went through the application process together, as they sighed relief and started crying.

"You don't realise how much this will help me get back on track."

Just having that extra \$250 go towards their electricity bill made their entire day and helped make the weight on their shoulders just that little bit lighter. For a quick five minute application, it made a huge difference."

Gemma Rowley, Echuca Neighbourhood House



Lily D'Ambrosio MP  @LilyDAmbrosioMP

...

This is great news! With more than 400 neighbourhood houses across the state, we're making it easier for Victorians to get the Power Saving Bonus.

HIGHLIGHTS

Reuniting the sector to celebrate Neighbourhood House Week

Due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, NHVic was unable to host a conference in 2021. However, when restrictions were eased in early 2021, NHVic quickly jumped on the opportunity to reunite the sector in-person and planned a luncheon in time for Neighbourhood House Week.

Held on Tuesday 18 May at the prestige Hotel Windsor in Spring Street, Melbourne, the event provided an opportunity for neighbourhood staff and volunteers to relax, enjoy a two course meal, and catch up with one another for the first time in well over a year, since the beginning of restrictions.

Following a Welcome to Country by Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Colin Hunter, The Hon Senator Penny Wong took to the stage and paid tribute to the sector's response during a challenging year.

"As you know, 2020 presented unprecedented challenges to the more than one thousand neighbourhood houses across Australia," Senator Wong said.

"In areas affected by the summer bushfires, neighbourhood houses rallied to provide vital support in cooking meals and providing clothes, to delivering mental health programs for bushfire victims."

The then-Minister Luke Donnellan and Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio also spoke, followed by a guest talk by Gender Equity Victoria CEO Tanja Kovac. In a moving first-hand account, Tanja shared her own experience of when she became a mother several years ago, and the amazing support she received from her own local neighbourhood house.

Our annual awards were presented, providing plenty of inspiration (see page 24). Tanja went on to present the Fiona Richardson Award for Gender Equity, having been Chief of Staff to Fiona before she passed away in 2017.

The crew from youth radio program Brimbank Live (winners of the Reducing Inequalities Award) were set up and conducting interviews on the day. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed the light hearted event, rating it on average 4.45 out of 5.



HIGHLIGHTS

Opening hearts and minds



NHVic engaged proud Yorta Yorta woman Kathryn Coff to help improve NHVic's engagement with Aboriginal-run houses, as well as to build knowledge and understanding across the sector. In April 2021, Kath commenced a 16-week online series 'Yarning with Kath', each week focusing on a different topic including world view, culture, colonisation and white privilege.

Routinely attended by around 30 to 40 neighbourhood houses each week, the sessions involved some very honest and difficult conversations, where everyone was able to contribute free of judgement in a safe, nurturing and supportive space. Strong bonds were formed amongst participants, and due to demand, a fortnightly Community of Practise evolved following the end of the series.



I am thankful for the sessions with Kath. I look forward to them every Thursday and even move commitments around as to not miss one. After each session I take myself for a walk and reflect on the days learnings. Some days there are tears, other days there is appreciation, but every session has me moving forward with my new found knowledge. Kath is an amazing person. I have appreciated her openness, knowledge and friendliness.

Cheryl Findlay, Watsonia Neighbourhood House

March 4 Justice



On 17 March 2021, NHVic attended the 'March 4 Justice' rally in Treasury Gardens, one of 40 rallies held across the country attended by over 100,000 Australians. Sparked by high profile allegations, the rallies focused on the issues of gendered violence, sexual assault, discrimination and gender inequality.

NHVic CEO Nicole Battle said: "We thought it was really important to take a stand on behalf of our sector which is

made up of a predominately female workforce, and is built on the legacy of many pioneering women.

Like many, I've been pretty disgusted by recent events in our political landscape, but the issues of domestic violence and workplace sexual harassment have been around for a long time, and women are saying enough is enough. It was really promising to be amongst so many Victorians coming together in solidarity, to create a cultural shift."



HIGHLIGHTS

Making neighbourhood houses 'Carer Friendly'



In June 2021, in partnership with Carers Victoria, NHVic launched the 'Carer Friendly' program to help make neighbourhood houses more informed, compassionate and inviting spaces for Victoria's carers.

Supported by the State Government, this educational program will result in more social and support opportunities for over 730,000 Victorians with unpaid caring responsibilities. Carers are ordinary people who attend to the diverse needs of family or friends with disability, terminal illness, long lasting injury or mental health issues.

The Carer Friendly program involves neighbourhood house staff and volunteers undertaking a series of online learner modules which focus on a range of areas such as:

- identifying carers
- services available to carers
- barriers for carers
- carer benefits

Once the modules are completed, the neighbourhood house receives a Carer Friendly decal to display on their front window, signalling to carers that they are welcomed, and that the house is a safe space to share their experiences and seek support.

As a carer myself, I believe neighbourhood houses are perfectly set-up to be carer friendly organisations. It is who we are. Because of my carer background, I already knew much of the information that was included, and felt that it was presented in such a way that was informative and interactive, thus engaging the experienced as well as the 'newbie'. The downloadable resources were a great benefit as well, giving access to information all in one place. Well done to the organisers.

Lou Makin, Ararat Neighbourhood House

To date, **90** individuals across **65** neighbourhood houses have undergone the training modules, amounting to **180** hours worth of training.

42 local government areas now have at least one Carer Friendly house, such as Orana Neighbourhood House in Wantirna South, pictured with their Carer Friendly decal.



HIGHLIGHTS

No Interest Loans



In 2021 NHVic partnered with Good Shepherd to make their No Interest Loans (NILs) more accessible to community members through neighbourhood houses.

NILs provide individuals and families on low incomes with access to safe, fair, affordable credit with no fees and charges applied. They can be used for essential goods and services such as household items, medical or dental procedures, education essentials and car repairs.

For the first time someone really understands the horrible situation I'm in, and is there to support me and be that guiding light that I have been searching for. All going to plan, hopefully I can finally head towards being able to move forward in my life into a much brighter future for my son and I.

A community member accessing NILs

A project manager, Lee Kerr, was employed to manage the program and support community members directly in applying for their loan or referring them onto other appropriate services.

In six months, NHVic has supported Good Shepherd with:

131 NILs referrals made
265 referrals made to other programs

Keeping kids safe on our roads



Entering its second year, the Safe Seats Safe Kids program offers parents and guardians free child car restraint safety checks at neighbourhood houses across the state.

This \$4 million State Government initiative is being implemented by NHVic in partnership with Kidsafe Victoria.

Research shows that 70 per cent of child car restraints are incorrectly installed, posing a serious risk to a child's safety each time they're on the road.

In fact, data reveals that life-threatening injuries in a car accident can be four to six times greater if a child is seated in a poorly installed restraint.

On average, six children under the age of 13 are killed, and around 160 are seriously injured in vehicles on Victorian roads each year.

Despite periods of lockdown, from July 2020 to June 2021 the program achieved:

6,089 checks completed
845 events
63 local government areas (29 metro and 34 regional)



HIGHLIGHTS

Putting climate action on the agenda



Climate change was a key priority for NHVic in 2021 after forging an exciting partnership with Museums Victoria and The Royal Society of Victoria.

The aim of the Climate Change and Environment Program was to generate community conversations and greater local action on the issue of climate change in communities across Victoria. It included:

Thriving Future Workshops

Presented by Kate Phillips from Museums Victoria, this workshop series explored the many faces of climate change and how community organisations can have an impact on a local level.

36 houses took part in the workshop series, providing very positive feedback.

National Science Week Grants

A funding pool from Inspiring Victoria – an initiative of The Royal Society of Victoria and the Federal Government – was made available to support houses in delivering events for National Science Week. As part of the theme, ACCLIMATISE, the events had to showcase local initiatives or projects in any of the sciences associated with sustainability.

The following houses received grants to run a diverse range of fun, educational activities: Alphington Community Centre, Anglesea Community House, Aspendale Gardens Community Services, Balla Balla Community Centre, Castlemaine Community

House, Charlton Neighbourhood House, Greenhills Neighbourhood House, Haddon Community Learning Centre, Hamilton Community House, Iramoo Community Centre, Japara Neighbourhood House, Kerang Neighbourhood House, Living and Learning Pakenham, Rosewall Community Centre, South Kingsville Community Centre, The Centre: Connecting Community in North and West Melbourne, Whittlesea Community House, Wycheproof Community Resource Centre, Yarram Neighbourhood House

Climate Action Award

A new category was added to the annual NHVic Awards to recognise the valuable work houses are doing to champion climate action (see page 25).



Heyfield Community Resource Centre are leading an innovative project seeking to design and implement a more sustainable and equitable local energy model for Heyfield.

HIGHLIGHTS

Building up our new leaders

In 2020, NHVic launched a new professional development course, titled 'Mentoring2Management'.

Held fortnightly across eight weeks, the course aims to develop the sector's newest leaders in a number of important strategic areas such as leadership, governance, advocacy, communications, finance, strategic planning and project management, all while building a sense of comradery and belonging within the sector.

After a successful pilot towards the end of 2020, the course was held three times across 2021, with 65 staff having now completed it.

“

I was privileged to be in the Mentoring2Management program. As someone reasonably new to my role, it gave me the opportunity to be part of a unique program that was run and facilitated by the best in their field, while meeting and sharing with other managers that I may not have otherwise. Nicole and her team offered not only valued training in many areas relevant to our sector, but also brought a wealth of experience and personal contributions which made the training so much more worthy.

Donna Dowler, Foundation Community Centre

“

Not knowing how the year 2020 was going to progress and what we would be doing, I signed up for every online professional development workshop/course on offer. The standout opportunity for me was the Mentoring2Management course. It was a fantastic consolidation of eight strategic topics that were well considered, insightful, beautifully timed with the right amount of expertise and group discussion. I was able to learn from those in the know and my colleagues.

Jan Phillips, Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre



Wingate Avenue Community Centre have strongly supported their CALD community living in the Ascot Vale public housing estates during the pandemic



'Garden to Plate' cooking demonstration at Caulfield South Community House



'Stretch and Strengthen' class at Balwyn Community Centre



OUR AWARDS

This year the NHVic Awards program was expanded to capture the important work happening in the areas of Climate Action, Reducing Inequalities and Social Enterprise. The categories now have a strong correlation with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Presented at our Sector Luncheon on Tuesday 18 May 2021, each winning organisation received \$500 to continue their important work.



Reducing Inequalities Award

Sydenham Neighbourhood House – Brimbank Live

Brimbank Live is a digital radio platform supporting young people to connect and learn through media production. Participants receive training in writing, hosting and production of radio shows and podcasts. It is aimed at young people experiencing structural disadvantage, to unpack issues that are important to them, on their terms. Conceived during the pandemic as a way of supporting young people to feel connected, the platform provides opportunities to showcase the talents of young people and provides a space for learning about mental health, gender and racial diversity, and career pathways.

Finalists:

- Castlemaine Community House - Castlemaine Pride
- Glen Park Community Centre - Proud Houses



Community Resilience Award

Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House – Rural Minds

The Rural Minds workshops aim to upskill people in remote rural communities so they are able to identify and support themselves, their family, friends and neighbours when mental health issues arise. The facilitator will often travel a five hour round trip to deliver the workshops to some of the most isolated and severely affected communities impacted by drought, bushfires and COVID-19, across the East Gippsland and Wellington Shires. The workshops provide a tool box of resources, information and strategies, tailored specifically for agricultural communities, delivered by people working in the agricultural industry.

Finalists:

- Eaglehawk Community House - 'Happy Food Helper' Program
- Wyndham Park Community Centre - Strength through Adversity

OUR AWARDS



Climate Action Award

Anglesea Community House - Anglesea Resale Shed

The Resale Shed has played an important role in helping the local community understand the benefits of a circular economy and creates opportunities for the community to participate in climate action. The Resale Shed helps divert an estimated 144 tonnes of non-organic material from landfill each year. Volunteer community groups, including disability support services groups, manage the day to day sales, and to date, the Resale Shed has raised over \$200,000 for local community groups.

Finalists:

- Heyfield Community Resource Centre - MyTown Microgrid Feasibility Study
- Maldon Neighbourhood Centre - Climate Ready Maldon



Fiona Richardson Award for Gender Equity

Alphington Community Centre - Women in the Shed

Women in the Shed is designed by women, for women, and is all about women building the skills they need to pursue their own practical needs and projects - whilst being inspired by each other in a small class environment. Participants explore a wide range of hand and power tools as they work on self-selected projects that utilise timber, tiles or metal. The program is designed to build skills and confidence, encourage community friendships, and expand possibilities for women of all ages. It enables women to have the confidence to tackle basic tasks at home, particularly valuable for women who live alone, and gives them the skills to explore alternative micro-business opportunities.

Finalists:

- Timbertop Children's and Community Centre (City of Melton) - Gender Equity Awareness Project
- Wellsprings for Women - Girls on the Move

OUR AWARDS



Social Enterprise Award

Bridge Darebin – Moon Rabbit

Moon Rabbit is an environmentally innovative social enterprise café in Preston. The café is a training site for Bridge Darebin's Tiered Transitional Training (TTT) program, a tailored work-readiness program for young people with additional learning needs. Moon Rabbit serves the community by providing an income stream for Bridge Darebin's underfunded community programs, and by providing affordable, accessible package-free food through their Bulk Foods Collective. When COVID-19 hit the hospitality sector hard, Moon Rabbit launched zero-waste takeaway, delivery and a brand new mobile café, staying true to their connection with people and planet.

Finalists:

- Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre – Our Kitchen Social Enterprise
- Emerald Community House – The Emerald Messenger



MEMBER SATISFACTION

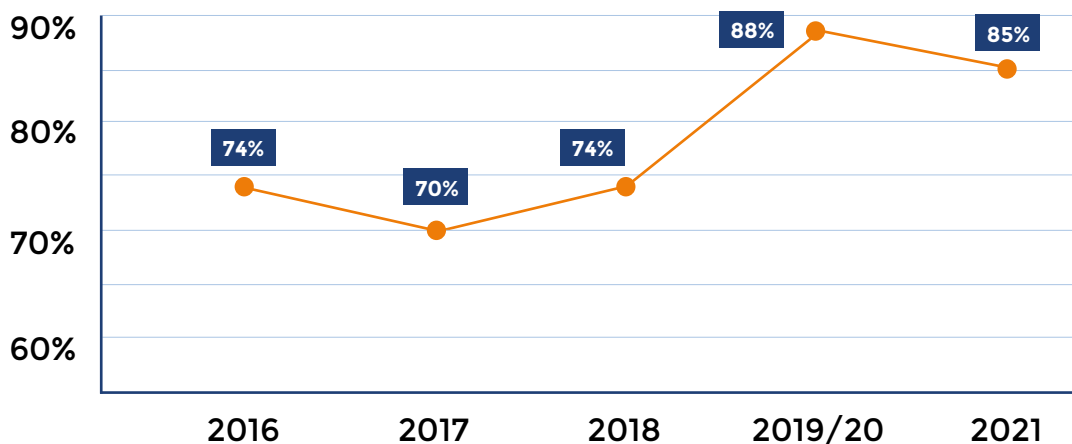
Performance measures

Here is how our members rated us against 15 performance measures in 2021:

Measure	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
Is open and accessible for neighbourhood houses to contact	63%	30%	5%	1%	2%
Consults with Neighbourhood Houses on important matters	48%	37%	9%	4%	3%
Provides quality, accessible sector resources	51%	35%	8%	3%	4%
Responds to enquiries in a timely manner	52%	37%	7%	2%	3%
Keeps neighbourhood houses up to date on changes to relevant legislation, regulation and compliance requirements	66%	26%	6%	0%	2%
Advocates strongly in the interest of neighbourhood houses	65%	24%	6%	1%	4%
Provides timely, quality, relevant information	63%	30%	4%	1%	3%
Provides quality information and support on HR and IR	43%	31%	11%	2%	11%
Raises the sector profile	57%	30%	8%	2%	3%
Builds community development expertise	38%	40%	13%	3%	6%
Provides research and data that is of use to the sector	45%	38%	10%	2%	6%
Provides relevant professional development opportunities	52%	33%	10%	2%	3%
Undertakes projects that benefit the sector	47%	35%	8%	1%	9%
Undertakes relevant advocacy on childcare	25%	37%	12%	5%	21%
Undertakes relevant advocacy on Adult Community Education	33%	36%	12%	1%	19%
Total Responses	50%	33%	9%	2%	6%

5 year trend

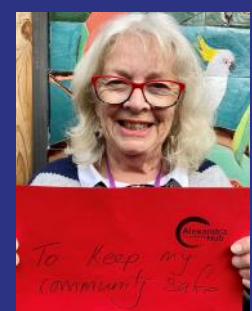
Percentage of responses that rated Neighbourhood Houses Victoria 'Good' or 'Very Good' across a range of performance measures, shown across the last five years:



THERE'S ONE MILLION REASONS TO GET VACCINATED



To demonstrate leadership in our local communities and encourage people to get vaccinated against COVID-19, NHVic asked members their reasons for getting vaccinated. Here are some of the responses we got.



FROM OUR TREASURER

The audit report has been prepared by Sean Denham and Associates who have expressed the opinion that the report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of NHVic as at 30 June 2021.

I am pleased to report that Neighbourhood Houses Victoria is in a very sound financial position with retained members' funds of \$478,054; recording a surplus for the year ending 30 June 2021 of \$123,224.

The income for the year, before COVID-19 Extraordinary Income, was \$1,065,782, a decrease of \$111,881 from previous financial year - in the main reflecting that NHVic was unable to hold our usual annual conference, along with the ups and downs of project funding. The income item 'Fee for Service' represents the 'Safe Seats, Safe Kids' project funding while income for other projects like the Carer-Friendly project and the Power Saving Bonus fall under 'Project Income'.

The Federal Government assistance of Job Keeper and the PAYG Cash Flow Boosts, along with the Victorian Government Business Support Funding, provided an additional \$189,000 income; 60 per cent of this funding was JobKeeper income that was directly passed onto staff as wages from July 2020 to March 2021.

The year's operating expenses totalled \$1,292,442, a decrease from last year of \$155,228, again reflecting that NHVic was unable to hold its usual annual conference. Note that the expense item 'Member Support Services' shows only conference expenses.

On the balance sheet, grants in advance shows funds held over for the Power Saving Bonus project and a small grant from DFFH. Provisions for staff entitlements have decreased by \$46,203, reflecting a reduced liability for Long Service Leave.

I extend my sincere thanks to our Chief Operating Officer Cameron MacRae and commend his skills, comprehensive knowledge and professionalism. Thanks also to the CEO Nicole Battle and the staff of the NHVic team for their commitment and enthusiasm, even while they continue to work from home.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as the NHVic Treasurer for the last three years. I thank the Board and Finance & Risk Management (FARM) sub-committee for their diligence and support. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the NHVic Board, staff and members all the very best for the future.

Merial Clark
Treasurer

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES VICTORIA INC. ABN: 30 174 498 896

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
INCOME		
Grants - (State) Operating	258,989	247,440
Contribution (Members)	165,379	159,321
Sponsorship	9,000	47,800
Conference registrations	4,688	184,434
Fee for service	182,932	99,672
Interest unrestricted	2,114	10,602
Sundry income	230,681	217,108
Project income	406,658	352,287
	1,260,438	1,318,664
EXPENDITURE		
Accounting fees/merchant fees	6,274	6,831
Board/Governance	10,294	10,950
Member support services	18,457	206,244
Operating expenses	32,766	42,372
Depreciation expense	6,682	5,536
Salaries and wages	839,349	834,663
Project expenses	155,406	140,968
Social enterprise	12,646	16,433
Other expenses	55,340	28,445
	1,137,214	1,292,442
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities before income tax	123,224	26,222
Income tax expense	-	-
Other comprehensive income net of income tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	123,224	26,222

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES VICTORIA INC. ABN: 30 174 498 896

	Note	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	2	692,271	555,225
Trade and other receivables	3	57,997	88,825
Total Current Assets		750,268	644,050
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	4	27,549	27,714
Total Non-Current Assets		27,549	27,714
Total Assets		777,817	671,764
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other creditors	5	85,638	53,048
Amounts received in advance	6	110,977	114,535
Provisions	7	97,745	142,753
Total Current Liabilities		294,360	310,336
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	7	5,403	6,598
Total Non-Current Liabilities		5,403	6,598
Total Liabilities		299,763	316,934
NET ASSETS		478,054	354,830
MEMBER FUNDS			
Retained surplus		478,054	354,830
Total member funds		478,054	354,830

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES VICTORIA INC. ABN: 30 174 498 896

	Note	Retained Earnings (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance at 1 July 2019		374,503	374,503
Cumulative adjustment upon adoption of new accounting standards - AASB 15 and 1058		(45,895)	-
Balance at 30 June 2019 (Restated)		328,608	328,608
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the entity		26,222	26,222
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Balance at 30 June 2020		354,830	354,830
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the entity		123,224	123,224
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Balance at 30 June 2021		478,054	478,054

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from grants		258,989	247,440
Other receipts		1,078,811	768,610
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,196,351)	(1,247,008)
Interest received		2,114	10,602
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	8	143,563	(220,356)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for purchase of property and equipment		(6,517)	(5,940)
Net Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(6,517)	(5,940)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		137,046	(226,296)
Cash at the beginning of the year		555,225	781,521
Cash at the end of the year	2	692,271	555,225

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES VICTORIA INC. ABN: 30 174 498 896

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Inc. is a not-for-profit entity. In the opinion of the Board of Governance, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Inc. is not a reporting entity as its users may request the financial information they need. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared for distribution to members and for the purposes of fulfilling the reporting requirements under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Inc. has not assessed whether it has relationships with other entities which, for financial reporting purposes, might be considered subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures as it is not required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 to do so. These special purpose financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards (except for the requirements set out in AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements or AASB 128 Investments in Associates or Joint Ventures).

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. Where applicable they indicate how the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards have not been complied with. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

a. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

b. Income Tax

The Association is exempt from paying income tax by virtue of Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997. Accordingly, tax effect accounting has not been adopted.

c. Property, Plant and Equipment

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

d. Employee Entitlements

Short-term employee benefits

Provision is made for the Company's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled. The Company's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position.

Other long-term employee benefits

Provision is made for employees' long service leave and annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Upon the remeasurement of obligations for other long-term employee benefits, the net change in the obligation is recognised in profit or loss as part of employee benefits expense.

The Company's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Company does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

e. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

f. Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is an indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

g. Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any discounts. The Association has applied AASB 15 : Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) and AASB 1058 : Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) using the cumulative effective method of initially applying AASB 15 and AASB 1058 as an adjustment to the opening balance of equity at 1 July 2019. Therefore, the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be presented under AASB 118 : Revenue and AASB 1004 : Contributions. The details of accounting policies under AASB 118 and AASB 1004 are disclosed separately since they are different from those under AASB 15 and AASB 1058, and the impact of changes is disclosed in Note 1.

In the current year:

Operating grants, donations and bequests

When the Association receives operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15. When both these conditions are satisfied, the Association:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant - recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement;
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Association:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (eg AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138);
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer); and
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES VICTORIA INC. ABN: 30 174 498 896

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the association recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Income from KidSafe Program

The Association has been contracted to deliver the KidSafe Victoria program to fit child restraints in motor vehicles and perform safety checks to ensure children's car seats are correctly installed and used across Victoria. The services are provided to the general public. Revenue is recognised when the service is rendered to the customer. Revenue from these sales is based on the price stipulated in the contract. A receivable will be recognised when the services are rendered. The Association's right to consideration is deemed unconditional at this time as only the passage of time is required before payment of that consideration is due. There is no significant financing component because sales are made within a credit term of 30 to 45 days.

Membership Revenue

Membership revenue is recognised as revenue in the year that the membership is for.

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Donations

Donation income is recognised when the Association obtains control over the funds which is generally at the time of receipt.

In the comparative period:

Grant Income

Grant income received, other than for specific purposes, is brought to account over the period to which the grant relates.

Memberships

Revenue from memberships is recognised as revenue on receipt.

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Donations

Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds which is generally at the time of receipt. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

h. Leases

Exceptions to lease accounting

The Association has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. The Association recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Concessionary Leases

The Association has the use of the premises located at Shop 15, Level 4, 744 Bourke St, Docklands under licence from Development Victoria for \$1 per year, which is to be used for the provision of community child care services under the terms of the licence agreement. The Association has elected to measure the right of use asset arising from the concessionary lease at cost which is based on the associated lease liability.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES VICTORIA INC. ABN: 30 174 498 896

Note 2: Cash and cash equivalents

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Cash on bank	692,271	555,225
	692,271	555,225

Note 3: Trade and other receivables

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Trade receivables	41,567	85,737
Less: provision for doubtful debts	-	(2,730)
Loan receivable - NHV Assist Limited	16,430	5,818
	57,997	88,825

Note 4: Property, plant and equipment

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Office equipment – at cost	47,144	40,627
Less accumulated depreciation	(19,595)	(12,714)
	27,549	27,714

Note 5: Trade and other payables

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Trade and sundry creditors	29,604	19,866
GST payable	41,994	19,876
PAYG Tax payable	14,040	13,306
	85,638	53,048

Note 6: Amounts received in advance

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Grants in Advance	108,500	-
Membership fees in advance	2,477	74,535
Funds held on behalf of ANHCA	-	40,000
	110,977	114,535

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES VICTORIA INC. ABN: 30 174 498 896

Note 7: Provisions

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
CURRENT		
Provision for staff entitlements	97,745	142,753
NON-CURRENT		
Provision for staff entitlements	5,403	6,598

Note 8: Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit from Ordinary Activities after Income Tax

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Surplus after income tax expense	123,224	26,222
Non-cash flows in profit		
- Depreciation	6,682	5,536
- Loss/(Gain) on sale	-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities		
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	30,828	(67,535)
- (Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	32,590	(890)
- (Decrease) in amounts in advance	(3,558)	(221,747)
- Increase in provisions	(46,203)	38,058
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	143,563	(220,356)

Note 9: Impact of COVID-19

The impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is ongoing. It is not practicable to estimate the potential impact, positive or negative, after the reporting date. The situation is dependent on measures imposed by the Australian Government, such as maintaining social distancing requirements, quarantine, travel restrictions and any economic stimulus that may be provided. No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2021 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the Association's operations, the results of those operations, or the Association's state of affairs in future financial years.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF BOARD OF GOVERNANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

The Board Of Governance has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board Of Governance of Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Inc.:

a) the financial statements and notes of Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Inc. are in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012 and the Australian Charities and

Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - ii. complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
- b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Board Of Governance by:

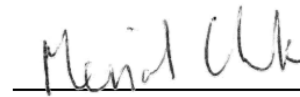
Angela Stathopoulos



Chairperson

Dated: 12 November 2021

Merial Clark



Treasurer

Dated: 12 November 2021

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as auditor for the audit of Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2020, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Sean Denham



Dated: 17 November 2021

Sean Denham & Associates

Suite 1, 707 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES VICTORIA INC.

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report, of Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Inc., which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2019, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the Board Of Governance.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Inc. has been prepared in accordance with Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) including:

1. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
2. complies with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the Association in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the association's reporting responsibilities under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 of the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Board Of Governance are responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board Of Governance either intend to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board Of Governance.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions that may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Sean Denham
Dated: 17 November 2021

Suite 1, 707 Mt Alexander Road
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to these organisations for their support. Their contribution ensures we can support our members to continue delivering meaningful outcomes for Victorian communities:



In particular, the following Departments:

- Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
- Health (DH)
- Education and Training (DET)
- Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)



Main cover photo: Artist Emrhan Tjapanangka Sultan delivering an Aboriginal art class at Highett Neighbourhood Community House. **Other cover photos:** Alamein Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Greenhills Neighbourhood House, Wellsprings for Women. **On this page:** Mount Martha Community House, Castlemaine Community House. **Back cover photos:** Yarrunga Community Centre, Stevenson House, Orwil Street Community House, Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education.

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