

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



NIECH
NETWORK OF INNER EAST
COMMUNITY HOUSES



NIECH

NETWORK OF INNER EAST
COMMUNITY HOUSES

ABN: 74 084 095 496
ACN: A0018668T

niech.org.au

City of Whitehorse Houses – Breast Cancer Awareness Week (Box Hill Hall Town Hub front lawn)



WHITEHORSE COMMUNITY HOUSE

6 Assets - 3 Drivers
- Individual
- Community Groups + Government & Non Govt
- Physical & Economic
- Cultural
HOPE - Care - Relationships
Share it, Support it, Thrive!

Circle Practice
Principles
- Rotate Leadership
- Share Responsibility
- Rely on the Whole
Practice
- Speak with Intention
- Listen with Attention
- Take Care of the Group

Assets Based Community Development Training

List Of Member Houses

Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning Centre Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre			
Ashburton Community Centre Balwyn Community Centre			
Bennettswood Neighbourhood House Bowen Street Community Centre			
Box Hill South Neighbourhood House Burwood Neighbourhood House			
Camberwell Community Centre Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre			
Clota Cottage Neighbourhood House Craig Family Centre			
Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre Fusion Oakleigh Youth and Community Centre			
Hawthorn Community House Kerrie Neighbourhood House			
Kerrimuir Neighbourhood House Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre			
Living and Learning @ Ajani Louise Multicultural Community Centre			
Mount Street Neighbourhood House Mackie Road Neighbourhood House			
Notting Hill Neighbourhood House Power Neighbourhood House			
Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre Trentwood at the Hub			
Warrandyte Neighbourhood House Waverley Community Learning Centre			
Wavlink			



NIECH Committee 2022-2023

President

Klaudia Lozo
Louise Multicultural Community Centre

Vice President

Lisa Sun
Waverley Community Learning Centre

Treasurer

Julie Melia
Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Association Secretary

Pam Mills
Box Hill South Neighbourhood House

Ordinary Members

Amber Fleming
Wavlink

Mary Liston
Bowen Street Community Centre

Nandini Sengupta
Notting Hill Neighbourhood House

Networker

Nikki Maddern





Agenda

Thursday 14 September 2023

1:30pm meeting at Canterbury Community Centre

Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country

Introduction of NIECH Committee

Welcome Guests and Apologies

Minutes of last Annual General Meeting (15/09/22)

Presentation of Reports

- President’s report
- Networker’s report
- Treasurer’s report

Confirmation of Auditor for year ending 30 June 2024

Election of NIECH Committee of Governance for 2023-2024

Close of Meeting



Holi Day Celebrations at Notting Hill Neighbourhood House March 2023





Minutes of NIECH AGM

Thursday 14 September 2023

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 15 September 2022 @ 1pm
@ Bennettswood NH

MINUTES

Present:

Klaudia Lozo, Louise MCC; Pam Mills, Box Hill South NH; Geraldine Farrell, Trentwood NH; Julie Melia, Bennettswood NH; Amber Fleming, Wavlink; Mary Liston, Bowen St CC; Laura Orr, Carol Berger, Power NH; Cara Hardwick, Power NH; Nandini Sengupta, NottingHill NH; Cheryl Webster, Burwood NH; Alex Mills, on behalf of Alamein NLC; Kevin Hoang, on behalf of Amaroo NH; Janine Saligari, Amaroo NH; Nikki Maddern, NIECH Networker

Guests:

Mark Tyrrell, Inner Eastern Melbourne DFFH; Kylie Hughes, Inner Eastern Melbourne DFFH; Fiona Read, Access Health;

Apologies:

Laura Orr, Kerrie/Mackie Rd NH; Colin Bostock, Monash Council; Ruth Kenrick Smith (Be Connected Digital Lead); Maureen McConnell, CHAOS Networker; Jennifer Schoof, City of Whitehorse Council; Lisa Sun, WCLC; Tracey Martin, Canterbury NC; Heather Cole, Access Health; Annette Worthing, DFFH; Jill Hitchcock, Alamein NLC; Mel Fry, Kerrimuir NH; Simone Schweigert, Clota Cottage

Klaudia Lozo (NIECH COG President) opened the meeting at 1.30pm, welcomed everyone and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

Minutes of Previous AGM:

THAT the Minutes of the last NIECH Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 15 September 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved:	Julie Melia, Bennettswood NH	
Seconded:	Amber Fleming, Wavlink	ACCEPTED

President's Report, Klaudia Lozo

Motion to accept President's Report:

Moved:	Pam Mills, Box Hill South NH	
Seconded:	Cheryl Webster, Burwood NH	ACCEPTED

Networker's Report, Nikki Maddern

Motion to accept Networker's Report:

Moved:	Nikki Maddern, Networker	
Seconded:	Pam Mills, Box Hill South NH	ACCEPTED

Minutes of NIECH AGM Thursday 15 September 2022



Minutes of NIECH AGM

Thursday 14 September 2023
continued

Treasurer's Report and audited Financial Statements 30 June 2022, Klaudia Lozo

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and audited Financial Statements 30 June 2022:

Moved: Geraldine Farrell, Trentwood @ the Hub
Seconded: Amber Fleming, Wavlink **ACCEPTED**

Auditor for 2022-2023

Motion to appoint Jason Lyster as the Auditor for NIECH for the 2022-2023 Financial Year.

Moved: Cheryl Webster, Burwood NH
Seconded: Mary Liston, Bowen Street CC **ACCEPTED**

Launch of NIECH Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Condensed version of NIECH Strategic Plan is on page 20 of the 2021-2022 NIECH Annual Report. Outlines our vision, our values and the three key areas we will be focusing on over the next 3 years. The Strategic Plan was developed over an 18-month period with input from all Member Houses.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Mark Tyrell (DHHS) conducted the election of the committee.

Mark declared all positions on the NIECH Committee vacant.

Nominations for the committee were called for under Rule 36 of the NIECH Constitution.

7 nominations were received prior to the AGM, 3 for office bearers as follows:

President: Klaudia Lozo, Louise Multicultural Centre
Vice-President: Lisa Sun, Waverley Community Learning Centre
Treasurer: Julie Melia, Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

plus 3 nominations for ordinary committee members:

Mary Liston, Bowen Street Community Centre
Amber Fleming, Wavlink and
Nandini Sengupta, NottingHill Neighbourhood House

Association Secretary: Pam Mills, Box Hill Sth Neighbourhood House

Mark then asked if there were any nominations from the floor - no nominations were made. Mark declared all nominees elected.

He congratulated the new committee and thanked them for accepting the challenge of guiding the Network through the coming year.

Klaudia thanked Tracey Martin from Canterbury NC and Jill Hitchcock from Alamein NLC for their service to the NIECH Committee and NIECH Network during the past year.

Mark then passed the chairing of the meeting to the re-appointed NIECH President - Klaudia Lozo.

Formalities of the Meeting Closed at 2.10 pm



President's Report

The 2022-2023 financial year has been a very busy and eventful one for the Network of Inner Eastern Community Houses (NIECH). This year's annual report showcases the vibrancy and hard work of our members and highlights NIECH's achievements across the network. I am proud to be a member of the NIECH network and particularly proud of the work that has been achieved this year.

Last year, the Committee of Governance presented the Strategic Plan for 2022-2025. I can report that NIECH has worked steadily throughout the year to fulfill actions against the strategic plan. This financial year the focus has centred on Information and Referral and Community Development Practice. The NIECH website and members section of the website serve to connect member houses with information and opportunities to enrich their services and strengthen sustainability. This portal is used as the primary platform for communication with members throughout the network.

The network has also encouraged and enabled stronger community ties through ongoing implementation of our sector model, principles, and standards through projects NIECH has undertaken throughout the financial year. As President, one of my goals this financial year was to engage with as many member houses as I could by visiting them with our networker, Nikki Maddern. I extend my thanks to managers and houses/centres for your hospitality and frank discussions. Personally, it has been a very educational exercise for me – it has been wonderful to learn about all the great work that you do with your community, the positives, and some of the challenges post-COVID. But most enlightening has been learning about what members understand about NIECH and the role of the networker.

One of the greatest learnings I have taken away is that most of our members understand the role of NIECH, and the expectations of the networker, but for a couple, NIECH as a network is irrelevant. Despite the challenges of reconnecting as a community, NIECH continues to be resilient and optimistic. Instead of lamenting how things have changed, the NIECH Committee of Governance and Nikki Maddern have been busy securing our future as an organisation. NIECH's vision is to continue to be an active and supportive network of vibrant and diverse neighbourhood houses working creatively and collaboratively to strengthen our communities. We aim to continue to develop and implement projects that assist our member houses to work innovatively to strengthen communities.





President's Report

continued

It is with a heavy heart that I report that Nikki has resigned. Nikki has been an outstanding contributor to the NIECH network. She is a motivated, positive, passionate, and hardworking individual who has pursued new opportunities for our network over the past five and a half years. Nikki has brought professionalism, considerable talent, and energy to the role, transforming the work of the NIECH network. NIECH has been privileged and grateful to have enjoyed Nikki's passion, good humour, and dedicated commitment to our mission and values. She has been instrumental in getting over \$338,000 worth of additional funds for NIECH to put back into our network through community projects enabling member houses the opportunities to collaborate and partner with each other. I also want to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of additional staff that NIECH has employed for the BeConnected project, Ruth, Tom, Dev, and more recently Jimmy. Ruth deserves a special mention, she has been a powerhouse across the network in the digital training and mentoring space, delivering training to hundreds of people over the last four years. Notable achievements for the network and network for this financial year include:

- Capacity Building Be Connected Grant to deliver train digital mentors across the network. Small portion has also been used to fund digital literacy support and workshops in public housing.
- Lion Club Grant was used to buy Christmas hampers for public housing in Nunawading and paid for street libraries installed across 3 public housing sites.
- DFFH Community Events Grant to deliver community events across three public housing sites.
- Suburban Rail Loop Grant to deliver events and activities at Elizabeth Street Housing site for over 55s.
- Get Online Grant from BeConnected to deliver MyGov and MyAgedCare workshop to public housing residents.

I also want to acknowledge the members of our Committee of Governance (CoG) who, on top of attending regular COG meetings have also undertaken some extra duties with the review of the networker position description and hours and updating of NIECH policies. Thank you all for your wisdom and expertise, your goodwill and generosity with your time, and your commitment to NIECH's vision and values. There are some new challenges ahead on the horizon for NIECH, but if we continue the current path, working creatively and collaboratively we will strengthen our network and our communities.

I'd like to thank the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) for the financial support they continue to provide to NIECH. I'd also like to acknowledge the support NIECH has received from Annette Worthing, Kylie Hughes, and Mark Tyrrell from DFFH.

In conclusion, I want to pay tribute to Nikki for her dedication and hard work for the network. She has provided another year of "service above and beyond the call of duty". Managing the workload, expectations, and projects is no easy feat. I am often in awe of how she does it all and I have also learnt a lot from her! Nikki, thank you for all you have done for the network over the last five and half years, on behalf of NIECH, best wishes with your future endeavours.

Klaudia Lozo
President



Networker's Report

I am pleased to present my final report as the Networker for the year ending June 30, 2023.

During the last 12 months, NIECH has focused on reconnecting with and enhancing the connection between Member Houses, continuing to provide information and resources to Members, seeking funding and project opportunities for the Network, capacity building, and partnership development.

It has been a busy, yet productive 12 months for NIECH. The details of some of the projects, events, and network-wide activities are outlined in detail later in this report, but in summary, we have:

- Secured funding and successfully delivered our fourth round of Be Connected Capacity Building Skills – training over 420 Digital Mentors across the Network during the past 4 years.
- Secured funding via the Suburban Rail Loop initiative and have successfully delivered a community development project at Elizabeth Street Burwood.
- Organised and subsidised ABCD (Assets Based Community Development) training for the network.
- Used the funding received from DFFH and a Lions Club grant, to deliver five community events across five social housing sites in the Inner East.
- Secured funding and successfully delivered a Get Online Week event at the Eastbridge social housing site to residents over the age of 55.
- Injected just short of \$40,000 from our grants back into Member Houses that participated in the delivery of the SRL and DFFH community events.
- Worked collaboratively and formed positive partnerships with a suite of services including Church groups, Bunnings, ER Services, CALD services, other Be Connected providers, and several NFP organisations.
- Delivered several governance sessions online to Committee Members in partnership with the CHAOS Network.
- Launched the NIECH website and use this as the primary means of communicating with our members.
- Designed and delivered a number of workshops and provided 1:1 IT support to social housing residents across three social housing sites (assisting over 50 residents to access the PSB, My Gov and My Aged Care apps) using a portion of our Be Connected funds.



Halloween at Notting Hill Neighbourhood House 2022

Louise Multicultural Community Centre AGM Nov 2022



Networker's Report

continued

- Recruited and supervised 4 staff – including Ruth as our Be Connected Digital Lead, Tom and Devyani as 1:1 IT support for our social housing program, and more recently Jimmy and Tom as our new Digital Leads, for our new Be Connected program.
- Supervised Sharni (a student on placement).
- Represented the Network at Statewide Networkers meetings, LGA meetings, Over 55's Social Housing Steering Committee, COW Digital Literacy Committee, and the recently formed, Be Connected National Steering Committee.
- Worked in partnership with DFFH to review and update NH-specific frameworks.
- Conducted visits to more than 70% of our Member Houses and provided support alongside LGA and DFFH to Members that were experiencing difficulties.
- Almost completed scanning and uploading over 30 years' worth of NIECH's archived documents/history onto the Cloud (thanks to our wonderful volunteer).

The NIECH Network consists of 29 Neighbourhood Houses & Learning Centres, across 4 local government areas (Monash, Whitehorse, Boroondara, and Manningham). The complete list of NIECH Member organisations is available in this report. Thank you to Member organisations for your attendance at, participation in Member meetings, and for your contribution to the connected, supportive, and vibrant NIECH network.

As always, there are many people to thank for their contribution to NIECH over the past year.

Firstly, I would like to thank the 2022-2023 NIECH Committee – Klaudia Lozo, Lisa Sun, Pam Mills, Amber Fleming, Mary Liston, Nandini Sengupta and Julie Melia for their commitment to their roles as NIECH Committee Members and to the NIECH Network. A special thank you to Klaudia Lozo who has been an active President and leader and has provided me with ongoing support, words of wisdom, and a lot of laughs!

I would also like to thank Ruth Kenrick Smith for her commitment to and successful delivery of our Be Connected initiatives. Ruth has now trained over 400 Digital Mentors during the past four years, establishing NIECH as one of the lead organisations in the Be Connected space. Ruth has recently resigned from her position with NIECH, and I wish her nothing but the best for her future adventures. An overview of Ruth's work during the past 12 months is included in this report.

Thank you to Maureen McConnell (CHAOS Networker) for your support, guidance, and wisdom and to our local council colleagues for their advocacy and support of Houses and Centres in their LGAs. Thank you to our DFFH colleagues, Annette Worthing, Kylie Hughes, and Mark Tyrrell. You have been incredibly supportive of NIECH and our Network, providing funding opportunities, information resources and support on the ground. I have personally appreciated your collaborative approach and support, during the past 5.5 years.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the committees, staff, and volunteers of the NIECH Member organisations. Many of you put in far beyond the requirements of your role, with minimal recognition and resources. On behalf of the communities, you work with I would like to acknowledge the work you do and to say Thank you.

Thank you to Lee Hew from Doncaster Hill Design for his assistance and patience in designing and formatting this Annual Report.

As Klaudia has mentioned, after 5 ½ years, this is my last year in the role as the NIECH Networker. I will vacate the position at the end of Term 4 and hand the reigns over to someone else. It is time for new adventures!

The past 4 years have been particularly busy, juggling the role of the Networker, trying to meet Member expectations and needs, whilst building the capacity and sustainability of both NIECH and the Network. It has been challenging at times, but overall, a wonderful experience. I have personally grown and learned a lot about the sector and have met some wonderful people including some of our members, volunteers, committee members, students, partner organisations, and the people we have worked with via our community projects. I thank you all for the experience and your support.

I vacate the position as the Networker, who is proud of the work I have accomplished and what we as a network have achieved throughout the last 5 ½ years – increased funding, capacity, projects, partnerships and sustainability.

Thank you again.

Nikki Maddern
NIECH Networker

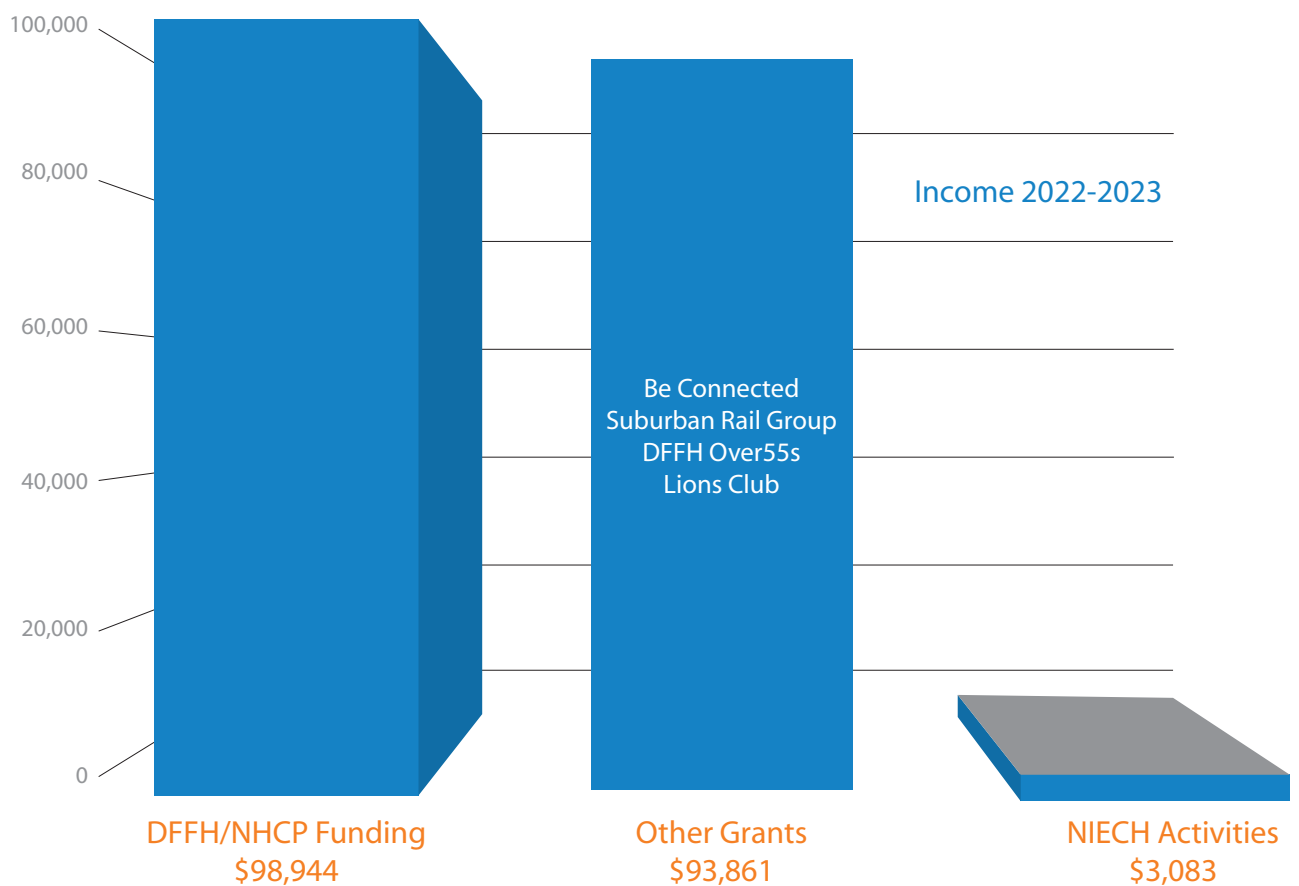


Treasurer's Report

The Committee of Governance of the Network of Inner Eastern Community Houses (NIECH) has determined that the accounting policies and processes used for the preparation of the financial statements of NIECH are appropriate to meet the needs of the annual financial reporting.

The Audited Financial Reports have been prepared by Morella Tyson Pty. Ltd., who have expressed the opinion that the financial reports present a true and fair view of the financial position of NIECH as at 30 June 2023.

Audited financial statements for 2022-23 show an increase of \$41,946 in income and a deficit of \$20,487 with a retained surplus now sitting at \$140,512. The balance sheet also shows income in advance for current projects that NIECH has received this financial year to be expended in the new financial year. This does not include all monies from the Suburban Rail Loop Grant as this grant is partly paid with the remainder paid in arrears on completion after 20th October 2023.





Treasurer's Report

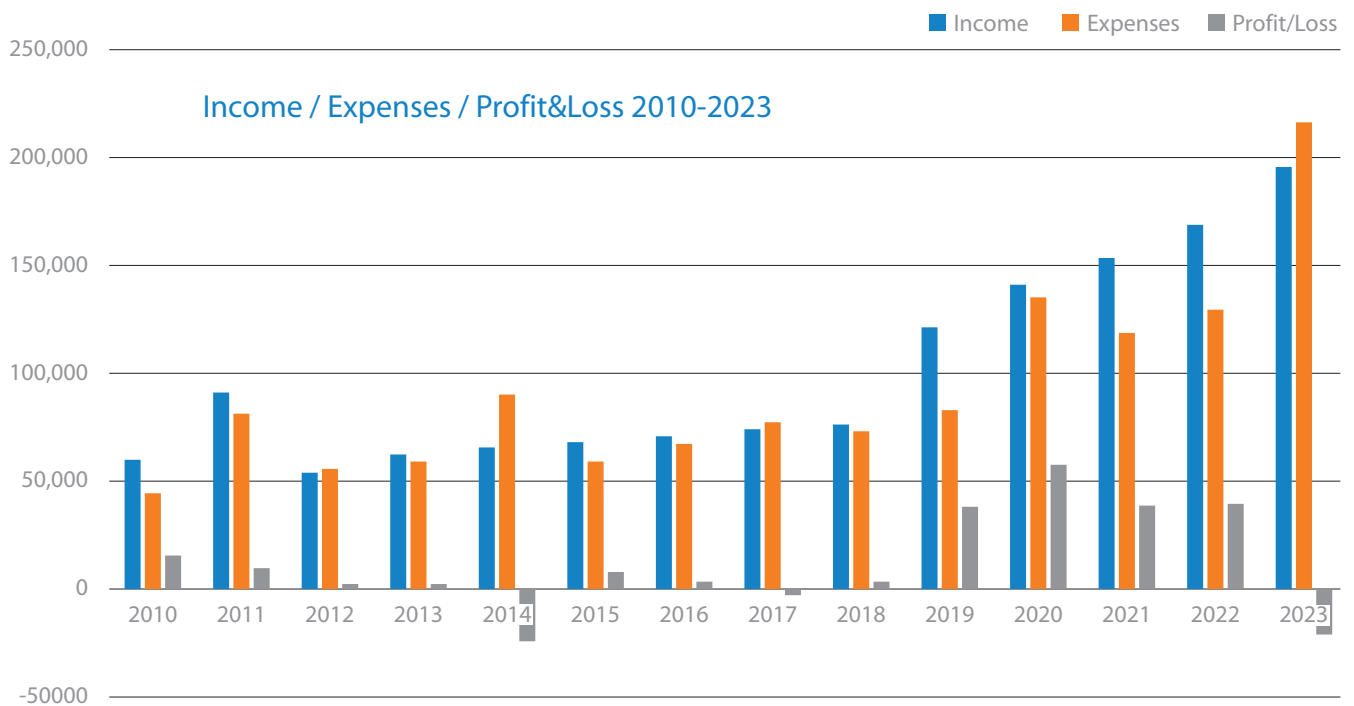
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Expenditure recorded an overall increase of \$78,134 due to employing additional staffing costs for projects in the social housing space, including Be Connected and Suburban Rail Loop grants. Our financial position remains good with healthy bank balances in cash and cash equivalents of \$186,325. NIECH can comfortably meet its financial obligations.

The financial records are routinely updated on Reckon by Nikki Maddern and our BAS/Super/PLSA is submitted by bookkeeper, Nicky Albert. This financial year, NIECH accounts have been fully audited by Jason Lyster from Morella Tyson Pty. Ltd.

During the past 5 years, NIECH has continued to see steady growth in revenue with the NIECH Networker securing over \$338,000 in project grants, including \$51,000 of new grants for Be Connected which will be received in 2023-4. Nikki's success in seeking and securing significant funding for community development projects has created opportunities for new partnerships and collaboration between member houses. I take this opportunity to thank Nikki for her outstanding contribution to the network and for her proactive procurement of funding.

Julie Melia
Treasurer



Income & Expenditure Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
INCOME		
Be Connected Project	51,000	50,000
DFFH/NHCP Funding	98,944	92,854
Suburban Rail Loop	26,043	-
Other Grants	16,818	7,989
NIECH Activities	1,650	2,590
Interest	1,433	508
	195,887	153,941
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Be Connected Project	43,576	33,020
Suburban Rail Loop Project	26,043	-
Community Grants Expenditure	16,235	-
Salaries and Superannuation	113,879	95,321
Audit	500	455
Depreciation	2,995	2,995
IT	1,102	1,298
Subscriptions/Memberships	1,448	1,393
Stationery/Photocopying	1,032	688
Rent	1,086	909
Phone	560	550
Members Meetings & Training	5,425	5,158
Workcover	797	680
Write back staff replacement provision	1,697	(4,195)
	216,375	138,271
	(20,487)	15,670
Retained Surplus at the Beginning of the Financial Year	160,999	145,329
RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	140,512	160,999

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.




Asset and Liabilities Statement

as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	75,058	93,652
Investments	3	111,267	110,525
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		186,325	204,177
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4	-	2,995
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		-	2,995
TOTAL ASSETS		186,325	207,172
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Grants in Advance		9,457	16,818
Current tax liabilities		5,381	1,832
Provisions		30,976	27,523
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		45,813	46,173
TOTAL LIABILITIES		45,813	46,173
NET ASSETS		140,512	160,999
Retained Surplus at the end of the financial year		140,512	160,999
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		140,512	160,999

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements are prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

(a) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Office furniture and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated immediately for the assets of the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

(c) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its assets to determine whether there is any 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 value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income and expenditure statement.

(d) Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the entity's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

(e) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity 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) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and deposits held at call with banks.

(g) Trade Debtors

Trade debtors include amounts due from members. Debtors expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets.

(h) Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of the recognition of the liability.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023 *continued*

(l) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.


Grant 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).

(j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at Bank – NIECH Office Account	299	38
Business Easy Saver Account	74,759	93,614
	75,058	93,652
3. INVESTMENTS		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	111,267	110,525
4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Office Equipment – at Cost	12,993	12,993
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(12,993)	(9,998)
	-	2,995
Office Furniture – at Cost	254	254
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(254)	(254)
Total property, plant and equipment	-	-
	-	2,995



Annual Statements give true and fair view of financial position and performance of incorporated association

We, Klaudia Lozo and Julie Melia, being members of the committee of Network of Inner Eastern Community Houses, certify that –

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Network of inner Eastern Community Houses Inc during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2023.




Klaudia Lozo
President



Julie Melia
Treasurer

Dated this 7th day of September 2023



Statement by members of the committee for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Network of Inner Eastern Community Houses as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Network of Inner Eastern Community Houses will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



Klaudia Lozo
President



Julie Melia
Treasurer

Dated this 7th day of September 2023



Independent Assurance Practitioner's Review Report



Morella Tyson Pty Ltd

A.C.N. 005 309 142
Chartered Accountants

PO Box 5202 Laburnum Vic 3130
Suite 7, 109 Whitehorse Rd Blackburn Vic 3130
Ph: (03) 8351 3222
Email: office@morellatyson.com.au

INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK OF INNER EAST COMMUNITY HOUSES

Report on the Financial Statements

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Network of Inner East Community Houses, which comprise the Assets and Liabilities Statement as at 30 June, 2023, and the Income and Expenditure statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Assurance practitioner's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements. I conducted my review in accordance with Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2400, *Review of a Financial Report Performed by an Assurance Practitioner Who is Not the Auditor of the Entity*. ASRE 2400 requires me to conclude whether anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with ASRE 2400 is a limited assurance engagement. The assurance practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making enquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

In Association:

Abacus Professional Group Pty Ltd

- Certified Practising Accountants – K Jenkins & Assoc. Pty Ltd G Philp & Assoc. Pty Ltd
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Independent Assurance Practitioner's Review *continued*



Morella Tyson Pty Ltd

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Chartered Accountants

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Ph: (03) 8351 3222
Email: office@morellatyson.com.au

Conclusion

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Network of Inner East Community Houses as at 30 June, 2023, and of its financial performance for the year then ended, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Network of Inner East Community Houses meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Jason Lyster CA

7 September 2023

Blackburn VIC 3130

In Association:

Abacus Professional Group Pty Ltd

- Certified Practising Accountants – K Jenkins & Assoc. Pty Ltd G Philp & Assoc. Pty Ltd
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Neighbourhood Houses in NIECH

Real Impact. Real Value.

INCOME \$7,667,048

VALUE \$28,479,366

This figure includes the value of:

Improved quality of life through social connection: **\$12,785,662**

Volunteer contributions: **\$2,334,989**

Emergency relief provided: **\$850,988**

Services provided: **\$2,507,396**

Adult Community Education: **\$8,802,686**

Early childhood education and care: **\$726,563**

Kinder provided: **\$279,942**

Social enterprise goods & services: **\$191,139**

Emergency relief value includes:

- Food and groceries: **\$797,348**
 - Food vouchers: **\$9,600**
- Cash/prepaid or gift card: **\$6,960**
 - Bill payments: **\$12,000**
 - Fuel Vouchers: **\$120**
- Public transport cards: **\$540**
 - Clothing: **\$10,320**
- Personal care & hygiene items: **\$10,260**

Services value includes:

- Computer/internet usage: **\$22,968**
- Facilities use or hire: **\$1,040,676**
- Résumé assistance: **\$16,560**
 - Tax Help: **\$4,700**
- Auspicing other organisations: **\$28,461**
- Community lunch, frozen or other meals: **\$146,280**
- Fee for service activities: **\$1,181,251**
 - Power Saving Bonus: **\$66,500**

This community value equates to:

\$3.71 for every \$1 of income

\$12.16 for every \$1 of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding

Over **\$505.50** for every hour the neighbourhood houses are in use

Employment value

109.2 FTE jobs

including 78.6 direct and 30.6 indirect Full Time Equivalent positions



These values are produced by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria based on data provided by Neighbourhood Houses in NIECH in the 2022 Neighbourhood Houses Survey. Only a limited range of activities where a determinable valuation method exists are included.

Just some of the value to communities from selected Neighbourhood House activities

Basis of calculation

The 25 Neighbourhood Houses in NIECH provided in excess of \$28,479,366 of value to the community for 2022. This is based on data provided through the Neighbourhood House Survey 2022.

This figure includes the value of:

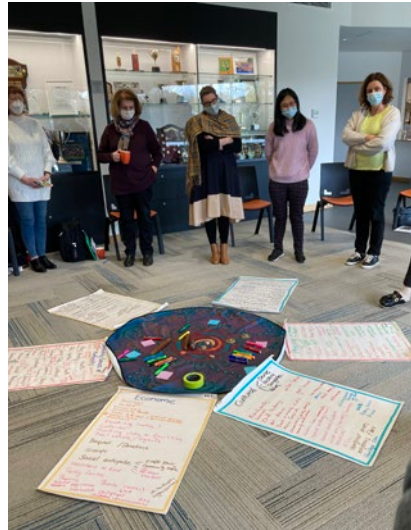
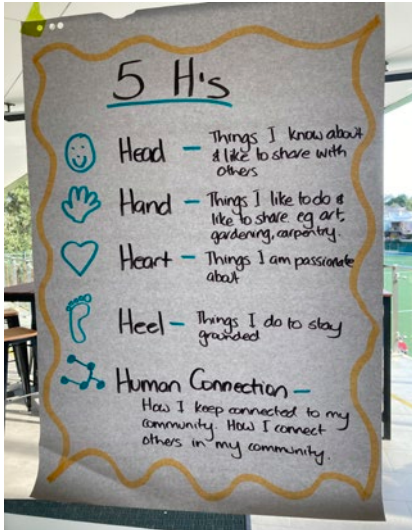
- Improved quality of life through social connection: based on **7,251** participants in programmed activities per week
- Volunteer contributions: based on **1,091** volunteer hrs per week
- Food and groceries: based on **39,768 kgs** of food relief provided in 2022
- Food vouchers: based on an average of **\$800** of vouchers provided per month
- Cash/prepaid or gift card: based on **\$580** cash/card value provided per month
- Bill payments: based on **\$1,000** of participant bills paid for per month
- Fuel Vouchers: based on an average of **\$10** of vouchers provided per month
- Public transport cards: based on average **\$45** of travel cards value per month
- Clothing: based on **\$860** of clothing provided per month
- Personal care & hygiene items: based on **\$855** of items provided per month
- Internet usage: based on **957 hrs** of individual computer/internet use per month
- Facilities use or hire: based on **1,426** hours per month valued at **\$61/hr**
- Resume assistance: based on assisting with **46** resume's/ month
- Tax help: based on completing **47** tax returns for 2022
- Auspicing other organisations: based on auspicing **45** organisations or groups in 2022
- Community lunch, frozen or other meals: based on providing **1,219** meals/ month
- School aged breakfast programs: based on providing **0** breakfasts/month
- Fee for service activities: based on **\$1,181,251** fees paid for unsubsidised activities in the period covered by the applicable annual reports
- Power Saving Bonus based on **266** \$250 payments claimed for community members
- Government subsidised Adult Community Education: based on **\$510,893** of ACE funding from ACFE and or DET
- Childcare provided: based on **\$726,563** total annual childcare income
- 4-year-old kindergarten: based on **139,971** total annual kindergarten income
- Social enterprise goods & services: based on **191,139** enterprise sales income in the latest annual reports

Additionally:

- Community value for every \$1 of 2022 Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding based on **645** funded hours/week
- Community value for every \$1 of income based on **7,667,048** annual income
- Community value for every hour the Neighbourhood Houses were in use based on Neighbourhood House buildings in use for **1,309** hrs per week

Direct and indirect full-time equivalent employment positions created based on **2,986** hrs total weekly paid hours of employment.

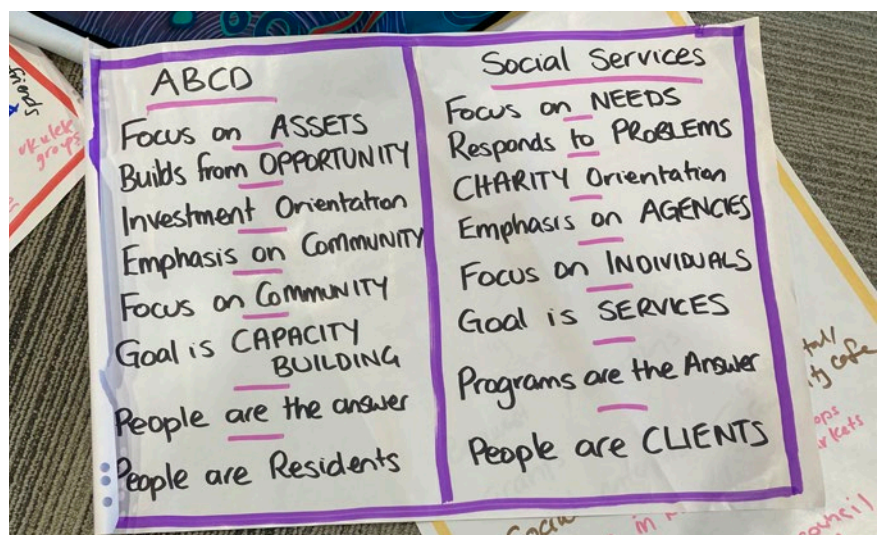
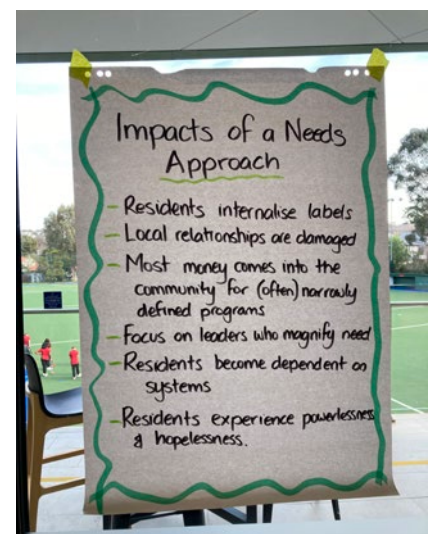
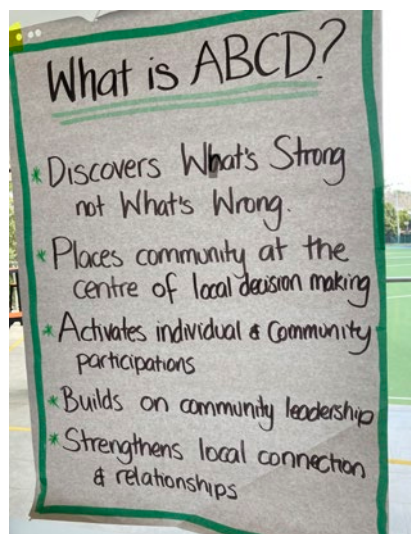
NIECH Activities/Projects and Events



Assets Based Community Development Training

On 28 July 2022, 18 Managers and/or Program Co-ordinator's from our Member Houses participated in a full day workshop delivered by the Jeder Institute @ the Matlock Centre in Canterbury. This training session was funded by NIECH.

The fundamentals of community development work were explored in a group setting, allowing Member's to share their experiences (there was over 120 years' experience in the group!) and their challenges, whilst providing the opportunity for Member's to connect as a network.



NIECH Activities/Projects and Events

- **Mustang Court Community Event September 2022**

Alamein NLC led the community event held at Alamein NLC in September 2022 for Mustang Court Estate residents. Residents were transported to Alamein NLC where they shared a Community Lunch and became familiar with Alamein NLC. This event led to the establishment of a fortnightly group which several of the residents now attend at Alamein NLC.

- **Victory Boulevard Community Event**

A Xmas event was scheduled to be held by Alamein NLC at the Victory Boulevard Estate in December 2022. Due to ominous weather and a lack of space on site, the event was modified and residents were individually engaged via door knocks. Hampers and information about local services and resources were provided to each resident on site.

In June 2022, NIECH received funding from DFFH to design and deliver a community event for social housing residents across 5 identified social housing sites (Eastbridge in Nunawading, Luckie Street in Mitcham, Mustang Court in Ashburton, Victory Boulevard in Ashburton and Elizabeth Street in Burwood), all before 31 December 2022.

This project was led by NIECH who sub contracted Louise Multicultural Centre, Box Hill South NH and Alamein NLC, in partnership with a suite of services, to deliver the events across the five social housing sites. Our primary focus was on engaging residents aged over 55.



NIECH Activities/Projects and Events



DFFH Community Events

• Eastbridge Community Event – September 2022

Louise MCC and Box Hill South led the community event held at Eastbridge on Saturday 10 September 2022 and what a success it was!

Partnering with the Cancer Council Victoria, the City of Whitehorse Churches Group, the City of Whitehorse Men's Sheds, the Migrant Information Centre, Bunnings Nunawading, the Big Watermelon Knox, the City of Whitehorse Sustainability Team, NIECH's Be Connected program, DFFH, an African Drumming Group and Bennettswood NH's Ukulele group – the event provided something for everyone.

Residents received free plants, pots and seedlings donated by Bunnings, free fresh fruit and vegetables provided by the Big Watermelon, free lunch provided by the COW Churches group, free entertainment provided by the drummers and ukulele group, free hats and sunscreen from the Cancer Council, free face painting, free IT help sessions with our Be Connected Digital Lead and showbags that contained information and resources about all COW Neighbourhood Houses and other local resources.

The event was well attended and we received positive feedback from both the residents and other services both during and after the event.

On behalf of NIECH thank you to Louise MCC, Box Hill South NH, DFFH, Sharni (student on placement with Louise MCC that assisted with the planning and delivery of the event) and to the other organisations that delivered such a successful event.



NIECH Activities/Projects and Events

• Luckie Street Community and Xmas Event

A Community Event was held by NIECH at Luckie Street Estate on 5 November 2022, followed up with a Xmas Event on 2 December 2022. The events were led by Louise MCC and Box Hill South in partnership with Koonung Cottage, the Cancer Council Victoria, the City of Whitehorse Churches Group, Bunnings Nunawading, Eastern Food Rescue, NIECH's Be Connected program, DFFH, and entertainment.

Residents received free plants, pots and seedlings donated by Bunnings, free fresh fruit and vegetables provided by Eastern Food Rescue, free lunch provided by the COW Churches group, free entertainment, free hats and sunscreen from the Cancer Council, free face painting and craft session, free IT help sessions with our Be Connected Digital Lead and showbags that contained information and resources about all COW Neighbourhood Houses and other local resources.

At the Xmas event we provided each resident with a Xmas Hamper, raffle prizes and Santa Claus was on site!

The events were well attended and we received positive feedback from the residents.

On behalf of NIECH thank you to Louise MCC, Box Hill South NH, DFFH and to all of the other organisations that worked collaboratively to deliver the events.



NIECH Activities/Projects and Events



NIECH/Be Connected/IT Support for Social Housing Residents

In 2022, NIECH identified a service gap/need for IT access and support for residents in social housing cohorts across the Inner Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. NIECH developed a model to meet this need, that incorporated employing two Digital Mentors (using our own Be Connected funds) to provide a service to residents on site, for 4 hours, one day per week.

Between July and September 2022, two Digital Mentors (Tom and Devyani) provided this service initially to residents at the Wattle Hill site and then to residents at the Eastbridge site. The uptake of this service at Wattle Hill was quite poor but the demand for this service at Eastbridge was high. During this three-month period, our Digital Mentors assisted 14 residents to set up devices, access WiFi, access the Power Savings Bonus, My Gov, My Aged Care, Be Connected and other useful sites.



Between October 2022 and June 2023 our Digital Lead (Ruth) took on this role (using surplus Be Connected funds and the NIECH Suburban Rail Loop Grant) and provided individual sessions and workshops to residents at Eastbridge and Elizabeth Street every fortnight. Ruth has assisted over 45 residents one on one, has successfully delivered three workshops across the sites and has provided a 1:1 service at the Community Events that were held at Eastbridge, Luckie Street and Elizabeth street.

Via this project/service NIECH has assisted a total of 33 social housing residents access the \$250 Power Savings Bonus.

NIECH is currently a participant in the Good Things Foundation/Be Connected National Steering Committee and we have been advocating for free WiFi across all social housing sites and free IT support for residents over the age of 55 particularly from non-English speaking backgrounds.



NIECH Activities/ Projects and Events

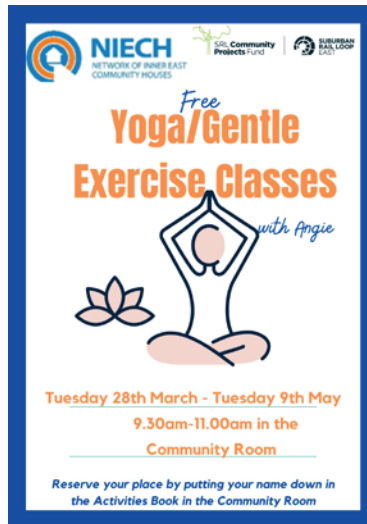


Suburban Rail Loop Project

In October 2022 NIECH secured a grant through the Victorian Government's Suburban Rail Loop Project to deliver a suite of events and activities to residents at the Elizabeth Street social housing site in Burwood. This project ends in October 2023.

Our goal has been to enhance the health, wellbeing, and social connectedness of the residents, by introducing a range of activities and programs that our Neighbourhood Houses deliver, connecting residents with other services and creating a sense of community on site.

During Term 1 and Term 2 this year, NIECH in partnership with Louise Multicultural Centre, Box Hill South Neighbourhood House, Waverley Community Learning Centre, Bennettswood Neighbourhood House, Be Connected and Yarra Valley Body Mind and Spirit have worked collaboratively to successfully deliver the following activities and events:



Art & Craft Workshops

Thursday 23 February - 30 March
10am - 11:30am
Community Room

Learn basic techniques to paint and mix colours to create a beautiful pot for your plants.

Learn to make Chinese Lanterns as we celebrate Harmony Week

Reserve your place by putting your name down in the Activities Book in the Community Room.

Be quick! Numbers are limited to 6 people.

Meet and Greet

Come along and meet NIECH and hear about what activities and events we will be offering on site this year

TUESDAY 14th February 10.30am-11.30am
in the Community Room

- **An Introduction to Yoga** (delivered by Yarra Valley Body, Mind and Spirit/Angie Fisher). This class was delivered weekly for six weeks, in Term 1. Three Chinese male residents were regular participants. The "star" student was an 86-year-old resident Mr Liang, who has very limited English skills but was able to copy the movements, learn new things and communicate with the facilitator via Google Translate.

- **Craft Classes** (delivered by Louise Multicultural Centre) for five weeks during Term 1. An average of four residents attended weekly and enjoyed painting terracotta pot plants and making Chinese lanterns, whilst chatting and connecting with the facilitators and each other.

NIECH Activities/ Projects and Events



• **Harmony Day Event** (delivered by Waverley Community Learning Centre) on March the 23rd 2023. This was one of the most well received events delivered in Term 1. Almost half of the residents attended and were entertained by Drummers, a Chinese Dragon, Dancers and Chinese Opera singers. A range of foods from different countries and activities such as craft sessions were also provided on the day.



NIECH Activities/ Projects and Events



• **Community Gardening** – A community garden was set up on site by NIECH/the Networker in partnership with DFFH in Term 1. Planter boxes were filled and seedlings such as Asian Greens were planted. Several residents have taken an interest in the community garden, planting their own seeds and taking on the responsibility of tending to the garden. A total of four gardening sessions were delivered in Term 1 and two sessions in Term 2, helping a couple of residents cleaning up and planting out their own gardens.

• **1:1 IT Support and Workshops** (delivered Via NIECH's Be Connected program) – Our Digital Lead, Ruth Kenrick-Smith provided 4 sessions of 1:1 IT Support on site, to residents during both Term 1 and again in Term 2. Ruth assisted with setting up mobile phones, accessing My Gov and My Aged Care websites, demonstrating how to use translation apps and provided individual resources and support.

• **Art Classes** (delivered by Bennettswood Neighbourhood House) weekly sessions were held for the duration of Term 2. Three residents were regular attendees, learning how to draw with pastels and pencils and create their own masterpieces. Again, participants thoroughly enjoyed the class and the opportunity to socially connect.

• **English as a Second Language Classes** (delivered by Waverley Community Learning Centre) – These classes were well received by the Chinese residents and were delivered for 8 weeks during Term 2. Classes were supported by a Mandarin speaking Community Development Worker (Jimmy) who has been employed by NIECH. Participants were taken to WCLC, the local library and a local coffee shop to connect them with activities outside of Elizabeth Street.

NIECH Activities/ Projects and Events



- **Biggest Morning Tea Event** (delivered by Box Hill South Neighbourhood House) on 24 May, on site. Entertainment was provided by Duxie and Luxie (local musicians) and several residents attended this event. A High Tea was provided and again it was a great opportunity for residents to connect and chat over a cup of coffee or tea.



- **A Chatty Café** (led by Louise Multicultural Centre) was set up on site, during Term 2. This had not been a part of our initial program planning but evolved from interactions and experiences with residents and their desire to just chat and connect. The Chatty Café has been very popular and is now being delivered on a fortnightly basis, with an average of eight participants per session.



- **Come and Try Ukulele** (delivered by Bennettswood Neighbourhood House). Towards the end of Term 2, Bennettswood NH delivered a Come and Try Ukulele session for residents. This session was well attended, and 8 weekly classes will be delivered on site in Term 3.

Extensive planning, co-ordination, collaboration and flexibility has been demonstrated by the Member Houses that have delivered the

NIECH Activities/Projects and Events

activities and events during Term 1 and 2. They have all done an outstanding job, engaging and supporting the residents and providing opportunities for them to learn, access support, develop new interests, friendships and social connections.

Several programs and events have been scheduled to be delivered in Term 3 and during the first two weeks of Term 4, before the project comes to an end. These include: Knitting and Crochet classes (to be delivered by Burwood NH), Botanical Art Classes (to be delivered by Box Hill South NH) to design and paint

two Street libraries which will be installed on site, Ukulele classes (to be delivered by Bennettswood NH), three more gardening sessions to plant new seedlings and assist individual residents gardening (to be delivered by NIECH/Networker), three 1:1 IT support sessions and a Get Online Week Event (to be delivered by NIECH/our Digital Leads), fortnightly Chatty Cafes (to be delivered by Louise MCC) and an end of project Event/celebration.

A full report on these activities and events will be provided in the 2023-2024 NIECH Annual Report.



NIECH Volunteer – Shelaan

Shelaan has been working hard behind the scenes for the past 12 months as a volunteer for NIECH. Shelaan has been scanning 30 years of archived NIECH documents (by hand/page by page) and has demonstrated an incredible level of commitment to such an onerous task. Shelaan is working on her last box of documents then everything will be uploaded onto NIECH's database and the Cloud.

NIECH would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank Shelaan for her patience and commitment to getting the job done. Thank you Shelaan.



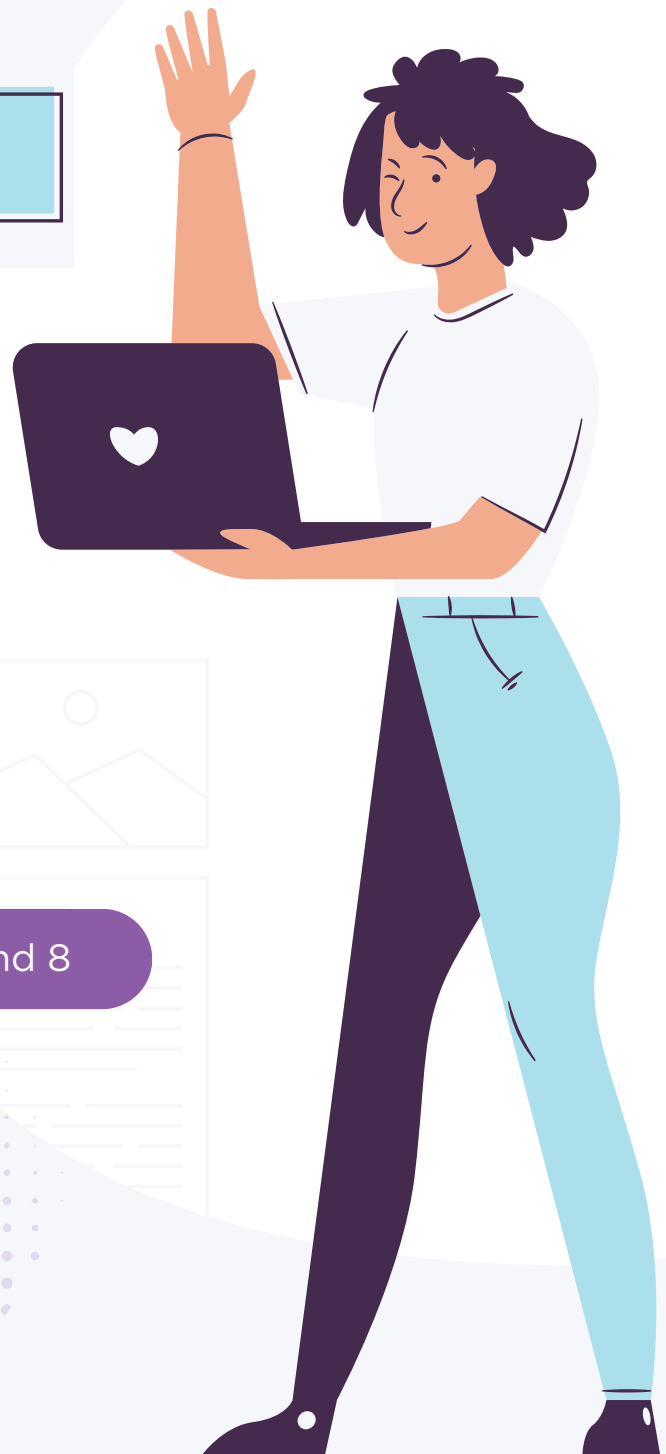
NIECH/Be Connected Get Online Week Event

NIECH secured a Get Online Week grant in August 2022 and our Digital Lead, Ruth Kenrick- Smith, delivered an event in October 2022 at Eastbridge social housing site.

Several residents attended the event and were provided with showbags, resources and information about the Be Connected program. Ruth was assisted by a Student from Louise MCC. Residents enjoyed lunch, learning about a range of apps and tools for their mobile phones and connecting with each other.

NIECH 2022-2023

BE CONNECTED BUILDING CAPACITY SKILLS PROJECT



Good Things Foundation Grant Round 8



Introduction

Since 2019, NIECH has been working with Good Things Foundation to deliver the Australian Government Initiative - The Be Connected Program.

During 2022-23, our objective was to recruit, train and guide 100 volunteer Be Connected Digital Mentors (DMs). Subsequently, these DMs were empowered to aid individuals aged 50 and above throughout the NIECH Network and beyond. Our training enabled them to utilize the resources offered by Be Connected to contribute to the mitigation of the digital divide amongst digitally excluded groups.

Nikki Maddern took charge of the project's comprehensive management while leveraging her expertise in the capacity of Community Development Worker. Ruth Kenrick-Smith, as Lead Digital Mentor, maintained her responsibility for coordinating and delivering the training curriculum. She also provided administration services and extended assistance to the DMs and the Houses.

Achievements & Side Gigs

Hitting the targets

With great pride we have once again successfully attained our objectives and fulfilled all of the criteria set out in the Capacity Building grant for 2022-2023. This accomplishment showcases our commitment and dedication to the Be Connected program and the effective strategies which we have employed to meet the specific targets and expectations. It reflects the efforts put forth by the NIECH team and underscores our capability to execute education projects with persistence and collaboration.

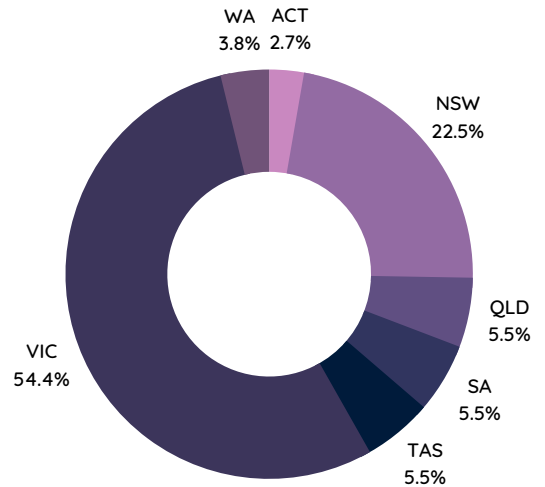
Delivering where it matters most

We have reached community members in three different Social Housing settings, who face digital disadvantage and language barriers, with essential resources and technology support. Moreover, alongside the main Capacity Building Project, Nikki and Ruth delivered the Get Online Week mini-project which assists older community members in navigating the digital landscape and guides them toward programs in NIECH Houses. This underscores NIECH's commitment to addressing digital disparities across diverse segments of society.

OUR IMPACT & REACH

Training all over Australia

Zoom has opened up a remarkable avenue for us to bridge the gap of distance and reach potential DMs regardless of their physical location, ensuring that Be Connected is accessible to the widest spectrum of Australians.



Harnessing the power of digital tools to equip our DMs

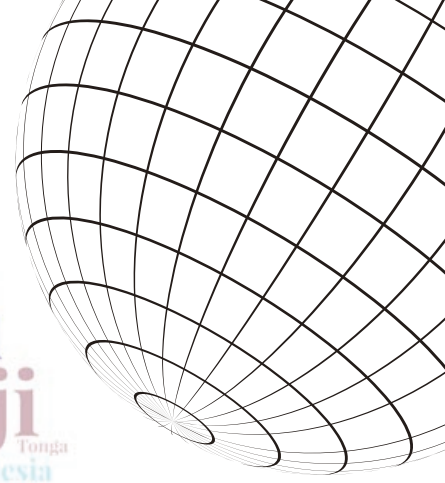
We were able to provide flexible and accessible online training experience for the 80% majority of our Mentors. Plus we conducted tailored in-person training sessions for Yr 12's at Diamond Valley College, and partnered-up with Identity Digital for their Corporate Community Assistance program.

64% of our Digital Mentors are women, while 36% are men

14 Is the age of our youngest trained DM, while our oldest is 77

23% DMs identify as having a disability (up 12% from last year)

4% DMs identify as Indigenous Australians (up 2% from last year)

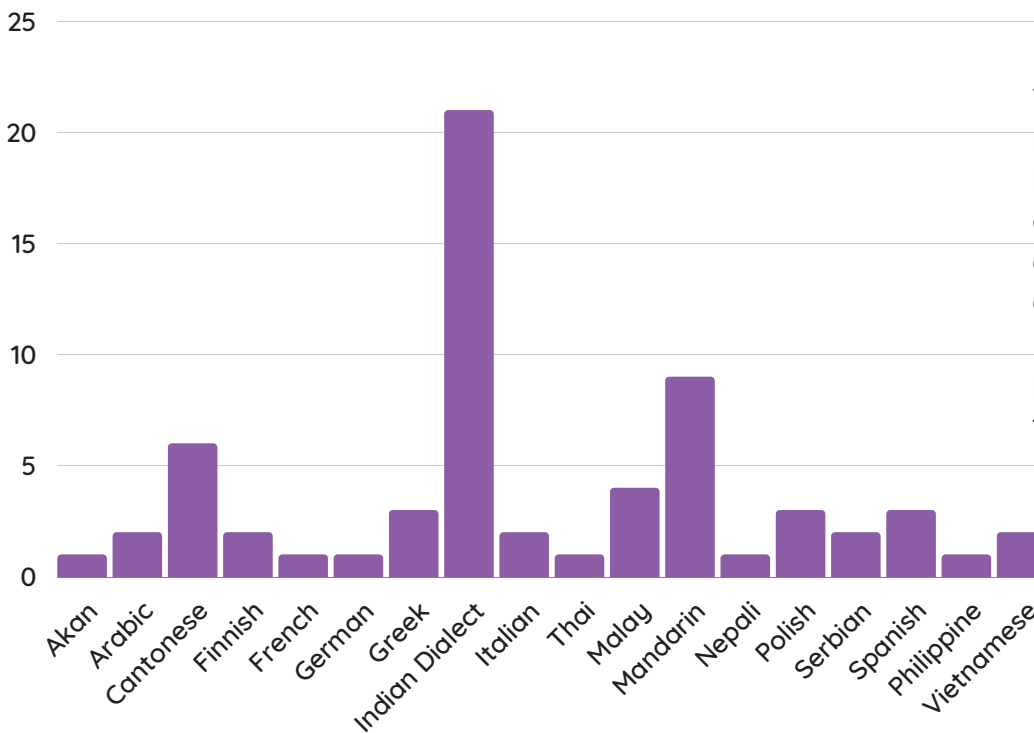


50%

CALD communities are being reached by our multilingual DMs

The training has attracted only slightly fewer DMs from CALD backgrounds than last year. However Fifty per cent of our Digital Mentors have extended their Be Connected training into a multitude of varied communities throughout Australia (see above).

Language Groups of CALD DMs



This year our project has benefited a broader range of demographically diverse communities across the NIECH Network (and the rest of the country), than ever before.

Highlight of the year



The Working Community Program at Diamond Valley College

The Working Community Program is based on a partnership model that facilitates local school, community, and industry relationships. The aim is to support Yr 12 VCAL students to develop a range of transferrable skills including teamwork, leadership, and communication skills. It does this through outdoor activities, engagement with community organisations, brokering connections with local businesses, and finally, the opportunity for students to present their work at an end of year presentation.

In 2023, the group has been working with the Nillumbik Historical Society, local aged care, several trade businesses, and has an ongoing partnership with Diamond Creek Neighbourhood House. Fifteen VCAL students undertook a 2 week youth-focused version of the Be Connected Digital Mentor training with NIECH's Lead Digital Mentor. This was specifically designed to support the student's work with older people throughout their WCP course and develop their technology, teaching & communication skills. Feedback was that "it was really well received by the students" and there is a strong possibility for an invitation back for the 2024 program.

A photograph of three women of diverse backgrounds looking intently at a device together. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The woman on the left has dark hair in a bun, the woman in the middle has short dark hair, and the woman on the right has short blonde hair.

Outcomes

Moving Ahead

In July of this year, NIECH successfully secured a fresh Capacity Building Grant through the Be Connected program. This was paritally due to our solid track record and to the hard work of Nikki Maddern in reimagining the project paramters for 2023-24.

In this iteration, NIECH's commitment involves the training of a minimum of 70 Digital Mentors fluent in Mandarin, along with an additional cohort of 25 mentors.

To facilitate this initiative, we have enlisted the services of two new Lead Digital Mentors, now that Ruth Kenrick-Smith will be leaving to work in her family business. Our new LDMs Jimmy Xu and Tom Fagernes will be specifically recruiting and training individuals within our network. NIECH's ultimate aim is to cultivate a substantial pool of Mandarin-speaking volunteers which can then be tapped into by Network Houses to offer IT support, assistance, and potentially even teach classes to individuals from Mandarin-speaking backgrounds.

It is noteworthy that, at present, NIECH is the sole organization in Australia undertaking the task of providing training tailored to Mandarin speakers. This signifies our pioneering role in addressing the specific needs of our community with this successful long-term relationship with Be Connected and Good Things Foundation.

Our Network

Mount Street Neighbourhood House

On Saturday 25 March, Mount Street Neighbourhood House held an Art & Craft Extravaganza in the grounds surrounding the House. This event was funded by the SRL and Monash Council and included over 30 art and craft stalls, children's painting marquee, demonstrations, entertainment and food stalls. Held in stunning weather the local community came out to join in the activities and enjoy the different art and crafts on offer. Visitors included Monash Mayor Tina Samardzija and Deputy Mayor Nicky Luo.



Community courtyard opening



Seesaw and cubby

Craig Family Centre - Community Courtyard

In 2022, the Craig Family Centre was successful in securing a 'Suburban Revitalisation – Living Local' grant from the Victorian State Government for the redevelopment of their Community Courtyard. The Bendigo Community Bank of Ashburton, Balwyn, Canterbury and Surrey Hills provided further funding to ensure the project was completed.

The Community Courtyard is a busy outdoor space that is 'home' to numerous playgroups, a variety of community programs aimed at families with children aged 0-5, and a range of community events and activities.

The area was reinvigorated by Lucas House and Garden in Ashburton, to include a multi-sensory playground

for all abilities, new gardens beds with green, sustainable plants, a safe and compliant impact-absorbing fall zone, fully furnished cubby house and increased outdoor seating.

The key objective was to create a safe, multi-purpose space where families can meet, play together and connect with other locals in a social, supportive and stimulating environment.

Celebrations and an official opening of the new Community Courtyard were held on Friday 5 May 2022. The event was attended by many local families. Special guests included Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP, Member for Higgins and Julian Byron, Chairperson of the Bendigo Community Bank.

Our Network

continued

The Over 55 Complex Client Capacity Building Project

The Over 55 Complex Client Capacity Building Project, funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, was undertaken from July 2021 to December 2022 by Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning. The project represented a place-based approach to building the capacity of five Over 55 public housing estates, located in Ashburton, Burwood East and Nunawading, to address health issues, anti-social behaviour, safety concerns, social isolation and insufficient support services for renters. These estates were identified as being in need of capacity building as they had a number of renters residing there experiencing multiple and complex issues such as drug and alcohol, mental health and cognitive issues, who could benefit from the opportunity to have increased engagement and support from local services.

A range of engagement and longer term activities were conducted at the estates, including BBQs, meet and greet opportunities, and mini expos with a range of local service providers and residents. Project workers Shima Ibuki and Alex Mills were able to refer residents to a broad range of local services and supports, including local churches and other neighbourhood houses, for longer term support and residents were able to meet others on the estates to improve their local connections.



Our Network *continued*



Trentwood Community House Repair Café 2023

Trentwood Community House hosts the North Balwyn Repair Café on a monthly basis. Over the last year, it has emerged as a central point of interest in our local community, serving as a hub for repairing and acquiring repair skills, thereby diverting items from ending up in landfills. All visitors are encouraged to assist in the repair of their items thus passing on new skills. The Repair Café is efficiently managed by a dedicated team of approximately 15 volunteers each equipped with diverse expertise in areas like sewing, soldering, mechanics, and more. With a consistent average of 40 successful repairs per month, this initiative significantly enriches and benefits our local community.



Living and Learning @ Ajani



Hub Cafe

Our Network

continued

Fusion Youth & Community Centre



Homeschooling Games Group



Homeschooling Games Group

Bennettswood Neighbourhood House



Community Garden



Homeschooling Games Group



Cyanotype Workshop



Bennettswood Neighbourhood House

Wavlink



Our Network *continued*

Mackie Road Neighbourhood House

Mackie Road Neighbourhood House held our annual Open Day in March this year. With close to 800 community members attending it was our largest event yet, made possible by the team of staff and volunteers who helped out on the day. Fun was had by all with activities such as face painting, Becky Bubble, Animals of Oz, Karate demonstrations, Scouts climbing wall, a visit by VicPol and much more!



Face painting at Mackie Rd NH Open Day

Kerrie Road Neighbourhood House

Kerrie Road Neighbourhood House received funding from the Victorian State Government Living Local grants program to upgrade their playground space and revitalise their Playgroup. A team of volunteers built and painted a new cubby house, and refreshed the outdoor area with a coat of paint. The Playgroup families are loving the improved area!



Animals of Oz at Mackie Rd NH Open Day



Mackie Road Neighbourhood House Open Day



Vic Pol at Mackie Rd NH Open Day



Becky Bubble at Mackie Rd NH Open Day



Kerrie Road Neighbourhood House cubby house



Kerrie Road Neighbourhood House working bee



Kerrie Road Neighbourhood House Playgroup

Our Network

continued

Clota Cottage



Clota Cottage Neighbourhood House community garden



Planting day with Bunnings and staff volunteers

Notting Hill Neighbourhood House



Singapore National Day 2022



Cooking with Neighbours



Coffee with a Cop

Our Network

continued

Louise Multicultural Community Centre

Box Hill Heritage Walk

This term LMCC ran a Heritage Walking Tour excursion exploring Box Hill's past and present. Many students and members of the community attended and gained a fascinating insight into the suburb. We were guided around Box Hill Town Hall, visiting the old council chambers, and learning about the building's history.

Afterwards we walked up Whitehorse Road, stopping to see historical buildings like Tait's Corner and looking at photographs of the old shopping strip. We then made our way down to walk past the old Box Hill Brickworks, an impressive factory that is still standing after 100 years!

Lastly, we ended our tour at Surrey Dive and learnt all about its mysterious and dangerous past. No one was brave enough to go for a swim, but everyone had a fantastic time! We were all able to have a coffee and lunch provided by LMCC at Surrey Park. The day was a great success, and everyone who attended was able to leave with new knowledge and stories to share.



Coffee and Conversation

In our final week of classes for Term 2, LMCC held its first SRL excursion for students to travel up the recently reopened train line and explore the newly built Union Station. It was great to have students refamiliarise themselves with using a Myki card and making sure to get on the correct platform after the

train line had been closed all year. After arriving at the station, we then walked to Zimt Café on Union Road for coffees and conversations. Everyone had a great time meeting new people, sharing stories, and practicing English together. It was a great way to connect with others and end a busy term full of learning!



Our Network

continued



Box Hill South Neighbourhood House

Box Hill South Neighbourhood House run a fortnightly social group supporting families and individual's living with Dementia. This group have called themselves "Café of Connections" after launching in August 2019. The group consists of 6 couples and 8 volunteers and enjoy using the whole Neighbourhood House for their activities.



Café of Connections



Café of Connections

Our Network

continued



Louise Multicultural Community Centre
Manager 2022



Kerrimuir Neighbourhood House garden



Community lunches



Ukulele group at Luckie Street Community and
Xmas Event



Community lunches



Supporting Victoria's Neighbourhood Houses

1st Sep 2022

The Andrews Labor Government is continuing to support the vital work of Neighbourhood Houses as hubs for community connection, the delivery of essential services and the well-being of Victorians.

The Government is reaffirming its enduring support for the valuable work of the community hubs with \$19 million in additional funding over three years - as well as ongoing annual funding of \$6.6 million - for the network of nearly 400 Neighbourhood Houses right across the state.

Neighbourhood Houses encourage community connection and cohesion by bringing local people together to socialise in a safe, inclusive and convenient space, participate in recreational activities and deliver essential services.

The hubs provide childcare, employment, education, training and opportunities to volunteer in local communities.

During emergencies, Neighbourhood Houses provide critical support to communities through services like food relief.

The Neighbourhood Houses have been particularly important during the pandemic, with many distributing personal protective equipment, providing advice and acting as testing or vaccination sites.

The hubs are also instrumental in providing accessible education to the community, ensuring people from a diverse range of backgrounds have the opportunity to study and learn new skills that enable people to achieve their potential.

In 2022-23, the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program is investing record funding of more than \$42 million a year to almost 400 Neighbourhood Houses, 16 Neighbourhood House networks and the peak body Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Colin Brooks

"We are proud to continue to support Neighbourhood Houses, enabling them to play a vital role in successfully building vibrant Victorian communities."

"The powerful role of Neighbourhood Houses has never been more evident than the way the sector stepped up to provide assistance to Victorians through the pandemic."

Our Network

Waverley Community Learning Centre

Holi Day Celebrations at Notting Hill
Neighbourhood House March 2023



Halloween at Notting Hill
Neighbourhood House 2022

KEEP OUT



Wavlink 2023

Wavlink

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The Network of Inner East
Community Houses would
like to acknowledge:



Families,
Fairness
and Housing



Be Connected Network
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