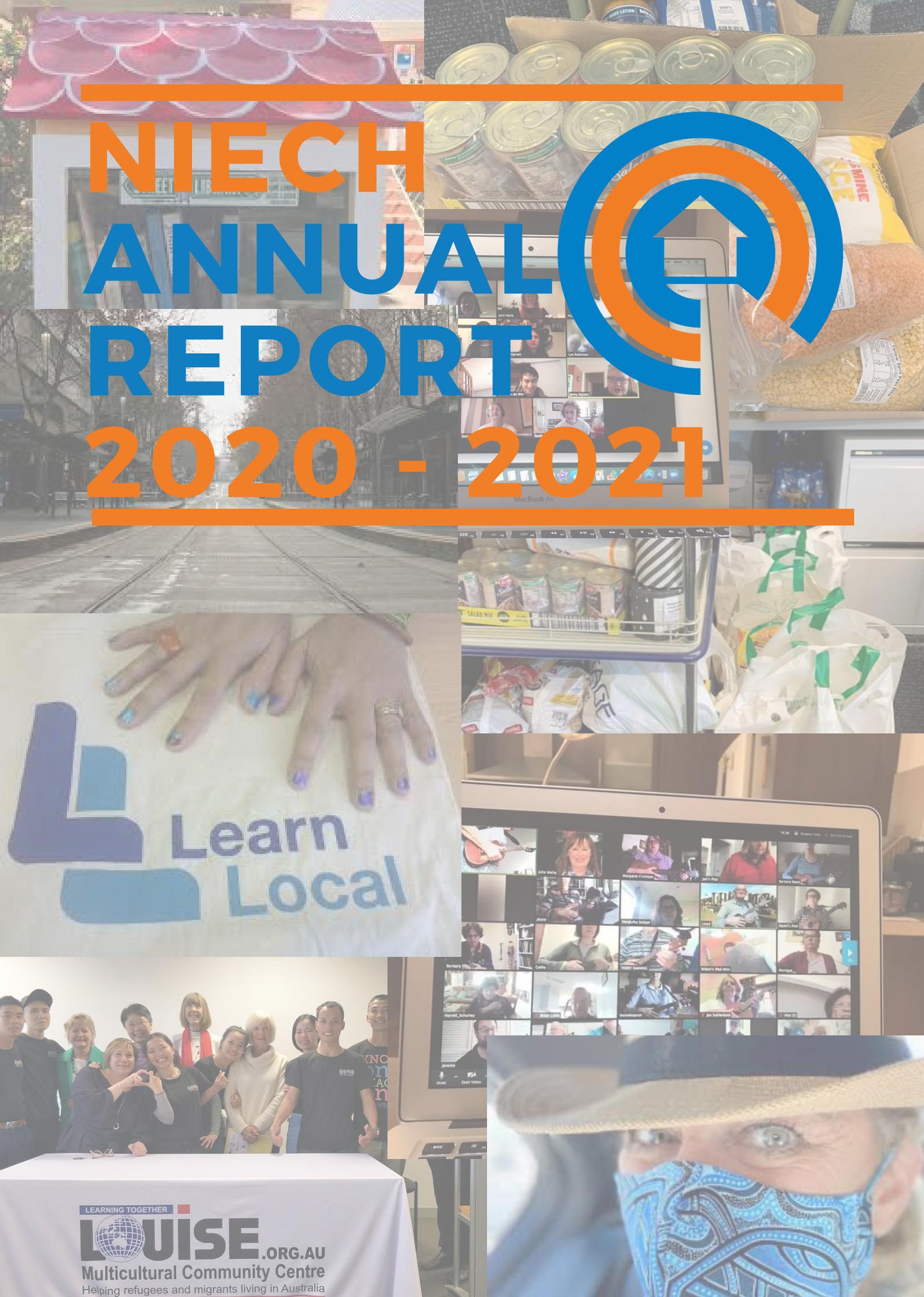


NIECH ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021



N I E C H



**Network of Inner Eastern
Community Houses
ABN: 74 084 095 496
ACN: A0018668T**

Niech.org.au



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



Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre



NIECH Committee 2020 – 2021

President: Shima Ibuki, (until April '21)
Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre

Acting President: Klaudia Lozo, (From April '21)
Louise Multicultural Centre

Vice President: Jill Hitchcock,
Alamein Neighbourhood Learning Centre

Treasurer: Klaudia Lozo,
Louise Multicultural Centre

Association Secretary: Pam Mills,
Box Hill South Neighbourhood House

Networker: Nikki Maddern

Ordinary Members:

Lisa Sun,
Waverley Community Learning Centre

Tracey Martin,
Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre

Petra Van Vliet, (Until June '21)
Kerrimuir Neighbourhood House





Active Network, Vibrant Houses, Strengthened Communities
networker@niech.org.au www.niech.org.au

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 15 September 2021
1pm Meeting
via Zoom

AGENDA

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Apologies

Minutes of last Annual General Meeting (15/10/20)

Presentation of Reports

President's report

Networker's report

Treasurer's report

Confirmation of Auditor for year ending 30 June 2022

Nicole Battle CEO NHVic

Election of NIECH Committee of Governance for 2021-2022

Close of Meeting



NIECH
NETWORK OF INNER EAST
COMMUNITY HOUSES
ACN A00018668T



Active Network, Vibrant Houses, Strengthened Communities
networker@niech.org.au www.niech.org.au

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 15 October 2020 @ 1pm
via Zoom (audio recorded and recording will be available on NIECH website)

MINUTES

Present:

Shima Ibuki, **Surrey Hills NC** (President); Klaudia Lozo, **Louise MCC**; Lisa Sun, **Waverley CLC**; Jill Hitchcock, **Alamein NLC**; Tracey Martin, **Canterbury NC**; Geraldine Farrell, **Trentwood NH**; Rachel Morley, **Ashburton CC**; Carol Berger, **Power NH**; Julie Melia, **Bennettswood NH**; Vendulka, **Bennettswood NH**; Helen Moore, **Amaroo NH**; Tim O'Leary, **Surrey Hills NC** (SHNC Board Member); Amber Fleming, **Wavlink**; Mary Liston, **Bowen St CC**; Cheryl Webster, **Burwood NH**; Laura Orr, **Kerrie Rd/Mackie Rd NH's**; Rosemary McCoon, **Kerrie Rd NH**; Jan Jacklin; Elizabeth McLaughlin; Petra Van Vliet, **Kerrimuir NH**; Nikki Maddern, **NIECH Networker**

Guests:

Mark Tyrrell, Inner Eastern Melbourne **DHHS**; Colin Bostock, **Monash City Council**; Nicole Battle, **CEO NHVic**; Ruth Kenrick-Smith, **Be Connected Digital Lead**, Louisa Mitchell, Rose Babic

Apologies:

Pam Mills, **Box Hill South NH**; Barbara Ghiani, **Kew NLC**; Chris Mountford, **Living & Learning@Ajani**; Peter Nash, **Amaroo NH**; Winston Chee, **Dixon House NC**; Deb Austin, **Balwyn CC**;

Shima Ibuki opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.

Minutes of Previous AGM:

Correction to be date on previous Minutes to be made.

THAT the Minutes of the last NIECH Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 5 September 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Geraldine Farrell, Trentwood @ the Hub
Seconded: Mary Liston, Bowen Street CC

ACCEPTED

President's Report, Shima Ibuki

Motion to accept President's Report:

Moved: Tracey Martin, Canterbury NC
Seconded: Cheryl Webster, Burwood NH

ACCEPTED

Networker's Report, Nikki Maddern

Motion to accept Networker's Report:

Moved: Shima Ibuki, Surrey Hills NC

Seconded: Klaudia Lozo, Louise MCC

ACCEPTED

Treasurer's Report and audited Financial Statements 30June2020, Klaudia Lozo

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and audited Financial Statements 30June2020:

Moved: Klaudia Lozo, Louise Multicultural Centre

Seconded: Cheryl Webster, Burwood Neighbourhood House

ACCEPTED

Auditor for 2012-2021

NIECH COG proposed a motion to seek a new Auditor for the 2020-2021 FY. A SGM must be held and Member's need to vote on this motion. Klaudia Lozo to confirm new Auditor and a SGM will be held in early 2021.

Moved: Klaudia Lozo, Louise Multicultural Centre

Seconded: Petra Van Vliet, Kerrimuir Neighbourhood House

ACCEPTED

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: Shima Ibuki, Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre

Vice-President: Jill Hitchcock, Alamein NLC

Treasurer: Klaudia Lozo, Louise Multicultural Community Centre

plus 3 nominations for ordinary committee members:

Tracey Martin, Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre

Petra Van Vliet, Kerrimuir Neighbourhood House

Lisa Sun, Waverley Community Learning Centre

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.

Mark then passed the chairing of the meeting to the re-appointed NIECH President - Shima Ibuki.

Formalities of the Meeting Closed at 1.40pm

President's report

President's Report (July 2020 - April 2021)

Much of 2020 and in 2021 up to the time I left the network at the end of April, seemed to be spent in a holding pattern for NIECH.

I am very grateful to the Committee who, at the last AGM, agreed to continue in their roles for another year, to give NIECH stability and continuity in a turbulent year. Despite having their own heavy workloads due to the demands of their own Houses, managing COVID safety, protocols, the significant administrative and technical changes due to oscillating between online and onsite learning, community emergency programs, and many other things - the Committee continued to support and care for the network and each other. I feel privileged to have worked with all of you and thank you all for your selflessness in putting the network before your own needs in every meeting we had during the last 12 months.

I especially would like to thank the following Committee members: Pam Mills for handing over the President role to me two years ago and for continuing on the Committee. As many of you know, Pam is calm, wise and too self effacing for her talents! Thank you to Klaudia Lozo who has variously been Vice President, Treasurer and then President - depending on the needs of the team. Klaudia is a driver of decision making - something every Committee needs! - and has unwavering support for the network. Thank you too to Vice President Jill Hitchcock who has been a great support to me and always ensures careful and thoughtful consideration of matters. Thank you too to Tracey Martin who joined the Committee to fill the vacancy after Leila Ragg moved to the CHAOS network.

Lockdown and working offsite was isolating for many of us. I especially want to acknowledge the unfortunate timing for Nikki, during a time when the lease for office space at Waverley Community Learning Centre was not renewed, and due to COVID, Nikki was virtually stranded without other space and left working from home. Nikki stayed motivated and focussed during this time, supporting a number of Houses with significant challenges, organising regular zoom sessions and seeking opportunities and grants for the network. I am sure that many Houses are grateful to Nikki for her consistently caring and competent support.



President's report

It's also important to mention the NIECH Committee reiterated their support for Neighbourhood Houses Victoria and we thank Nicole Battle for her support and active interest in our network, as well as Cameron MacRae who supported our Treasurers and Book Keepers workshops led by Merial Clark. Thank you to Ryan Dickinson who continued to support the network with our new website which was designed to simplify the comms process from Nikki to the network and between network members. I hope that the website continues to be developed and utilised.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Houses and their managers and staff who make up our network. I have learnt much and been amazed by the work that you have all done during the last difficult year, not only in transitioning learning online but also in looking outside of your Houses for ways in which you can support the vulnerable. Your work has been profound to your communities and to many individuals who needed crucial support. In a way, COVID has provided an opportunity for Neighbourhood Houses to shine, and you have done this, in many different ways. I hope you are all proud of what you do and how vital your work is to the fabric of society. Behind all of this, please acknowledge Nikki Maddern's work in supporting you and helping your Houses to navigate the rules, best practice and opportunities so that you can do your work securely. We are very lucky to have Nikki as our networker.

I wish the NIECH network all the best and was personally sad to leave the committee and network when I left Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre, but I'm confident that NIECH will continue to grow and achieve.

Shima Ibuki
NIECH President



Acting President's report

I took on the role of Acting President when Shima resigned from the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre and NIECH. I had hoped that the mid part of 2021 would mark the start of “annus mirabilis” to put to rest the year that was. Unfortunately, not to be.

In the face of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past twelve months, Neighbourhood Houses have demonstrated that they are resilient organisations, who work in agile ways to stay connected to and supportive of their communities. It has forced Neighbourhood Houses to really focus on determining what are the most valuable aspects of the services and programs they offer to our community and how they can continue to provide them, both during this crisis and beyond.

Our network is fortunate to have Nikki Maddern as our networker. Nikki has remained positive, motivated, and committed to supporting member Houses, organising regular Zoom catchups, and identifying and pursuing new opportunities across the network. Some notable achievements for the NIECH network this financial year include securing another round of funding for the BeConnected project, which NIECH was able to meet targets and complete before the end date; IR forum; appointing a new auditor for our finances; and starting the strategic planning process for a new NIECH Strategic Plan.

The work undertaken in preparation of the strategic planning sessions has been a significant undertaking. I take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the exemplary efforts of Jill Hitchcock and Nikki Maddern for all their work leading up to our strategic planning sessions.

I would also like to thank our member houses for taking the time to complete the survey leading up to the planning sessions. Participation rates were impressive and the Committee of Governance (COG) values member thoughts and opinions.

2021 has been a year of change for the Committee of Governance with two of our elected members leaving the fold to move onto new endeavours.

Our President, Shima Ibuki left the network at the end of April. On behalf of the COG, I take this opportunity to formally acknowledge and thank Shima for her commendable leadership and enormous contribution to NIECH over the last few years. Shima has graciously written a report which you are able to read in this document, an example of Shima's professionalism, caring and dedication for the network.

The COG also lost another member at the end of the financial year, Petra Van Vliet.

I thank Petra for her contributions to the COG over the last year.



Acting President's report

I would like to end this report by acknowledging, once again, Nikki and the great work that she had done during the year amidst the challenges of lockdowns, restrictions, and storms. NIECH is lucky to have her as our networker.

I also wish to acknowledge the unswerving work and dedication of the members of the COG. I am in awe of the level of experience, expertise, knowledge, and support within this group of women.

My other thanks to Mark Tyrell from DFFH for his support, Nicole Battle and staff from NHVic for their leadership and assistance and lastly my sincere thanks to all of our member houses who continue to support and contribute to NIECH by their attendance at meetings and forums.

I am feeling very positive about NIECH and its future. I look forward to continuing to work with Nikki and the NIECH COG to assist our network wherever we can.

Klaudia Lozo



Networker's report

I am pleased to present my report for the Network for the year ending June 30, 2021.

What a year it has been!

Reflecting upon the past 12 months several words come to mind to describe the NIECH Network – persistent, resilient, committed, innovative, responsive, caring, creative, connected and supportive. Our Members' have demonstrated a “can do” attitude and have maintained an unwavering commitment to their communities, despite the challenges of COVID-19. It has been a rollercoaster of a year, full of uncertainty and change. We have spent more time working from home/social distancing than we have actually working face to face.

This has been very challenging for most of us, however you have all have remained committed to the cause, that is your communities, delivering a suite of services and programs, some of which have been highlighted throughout this Annual Report.

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

During the past 12 months NIECH has:

- Successfully delivered the \$50,000 Be Connected Building Capacity Skills project
- Secured a \$1,500 Be Connected Get Online Week Event grant and successfully delivered online events in October 2020
- Rolled out the Be Connected Digital Devices Grant and provided digital devices, data and support to 11 isolated individuals across the Network during lockdown
- Continued to offer Treasurer and Book-keeper sessions to Member Houses
- Used a range of strategies to share information with and support its Members' particularly in relation to COVID-19 – such as providing PPE, COVID updates and Zoom “catch ups”
- Delivered a HR forum with Employsure, Jobs Australia and NHVic Assist
- Delivered zoom sessions in conjunction with CHAOS for Committees during periods of lockdown in 2020
- Applied for an Australia Post Health & Wellbeing Grant on behalf of the Network to run a post COVID Staff wellbeing day (outcome unknown at time of writing)
- Appointed a new Auditor
- Formed a sub committee to review NIECH's policies and procedures and
- Commenced the review of NIECH's Strategic Plan.



Networker's report

As the Networker I continued to provide individual support to NIECH Managers/Co-ordinators and Committees', attend meetings with the Combined NH Networker's, LGA's, DFFH/CHAOS and meetings with potential partners or funding bodies (predominantly via Zoom).

The last year has seen a number of staffing changes in the Network:

- Sue Dunne retired and Simone Schweigert was appointed as Manager at Clota Cottage
- Lisa Sun from WCLC welcomed a new baby boy into the world and was replaced by Vrinda Fernando during her maternity leave
- Shima Ibuki resigned as the Manager of Surrey Hills NC and the President of the NIECH COG and Ellen Prior was appointed the Manager of Surrey Hills NC
- Chris Mountford retired and Kalli Taifalos was appointed as the Manager of Living & Learning @ Ajani
- Helen Moore resigned as the Program Co-ordinator at Amaroo NH and
- Petra Van Vliet resigned from the NIECH Committee and Manager of Kerrimuir NH at the end of the financial year and Mel Fry was appointed as the Manager of Kerrimuir NH.

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

Firstly, I would like to thank the 2020-2021 NIECH Committee – Shima Ibuki, Klaudia Lozo, Jill Hitchcock, Pam Mills, Lisa Sun, Tracey Martin and Petra Van Vliet for their commitment to their roles as NIECH Committee Members' and to the NIECH Network. Thank you for your individual support and listening to my ideas and complaints! Thank you especially to Klaudia Lozo who took on the role as Acting President after Shima's departure in April 2020. Klaudia has juggled the role of Acting President and Treasurer for NIECH whilst still running Louise Multicultural Centre and has done a sterling job!

I would also like to thank Ruth Kenrick Smith for her commitment to and successful delivery of our Be Connected initiatives. Ruth played an integral role in the delivery of the Digital Devices project, facilitated the Get On Line week Events and recruited and trained almost 100 Digital Mentors, ensuring we met the requirements of our Be Connected grants.

Thank you to our local council colleagues for their advocacy and support of Houses and Centres in their LGA's and our various State Government colleagues, ACFE and DFFH (particularly Mark Tyrrell and Kylie Hughes).



Networker's report

Thank you to Maureen McConnell (CHAOS Networker) for your support and advice, and to our peak body, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, for their support and opportunities for our Member's this year.

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.

It has been an incredibly challenging year for all of us, but you have remained committed and connected to each other. On behalf of the communities you work with I would like to acknowledge the work you do and to say Thank you.

I look forward to working with you all again in the coming year.

Nikki Maddern
NIECH Networker

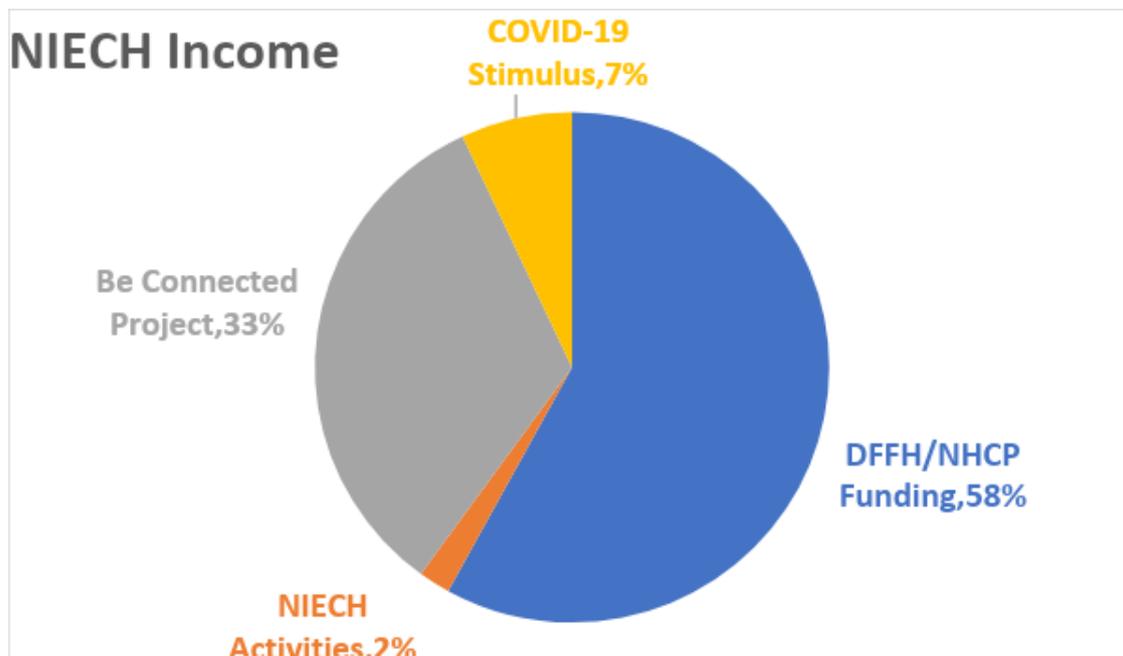


Treasurer's Report

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

The Audited Financial Reports have been prepared by JMLC Accountants and Business Advisors who have expressed the opinion that the financial reports present a true and fair view of the financial position of the NIECH as at 30 June 2021.

Audited financial statements for 2020-21 show a surplus of \$34,848 with retained earnings now sitting at \$145,329. This is due to the Networker's diligence in seeking alternative income sources by applying for various grants; and the ATO's Cash Flow Boost.

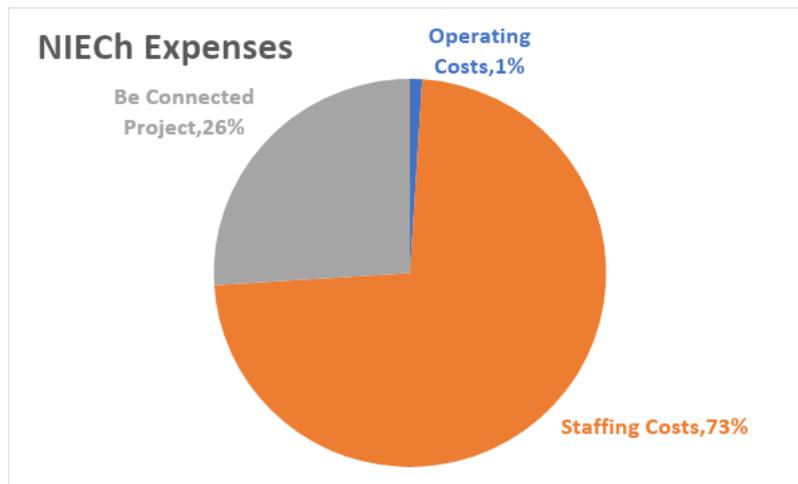


Our expenditure recorded an overall drop of approximately 12%, due to spending a good portion of the year working from home, our budgeted expenses for items like the BeConnected Project, costs associated with meetings and training were also reduced.

Payroll is NIECH's largest expense category which accounts for approximately 73% of our overall expenditure. Our financial position remains good with healthy bank balances in cash and cash equivalents of \$171, 255. NIECH can comfortably meet its financial obligations.



Treasurer's Report



Our financial records continue to be routinely updated on Reckon by Nikki Maddern and our BAS/Super/PLSA is submitted by bookkeeper, Nicky Albert. This financial year, NIECH financial accounts have been fully audited by Jason Lyster from JMLC Accountants and Business Advisors.

This is my last report as Treasurer of NIECH.

I take this opportunity to thank the Committee of Governance members for their support and especially Nikki Maddern for her excellent bookkeeping skills and making the role of Treasurer easy to handle.

Klaudia Lozo
Treasurer



Financial Report

NETWORK OF INNER EASTERN COMMUNITY HOUSES

ABN 74 084 095 496

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
INCOME		
Be Connected Project	51,636	36,264
DHHS/DFFH/NHCP Funding	90,069	90,290
NIECH Activities	1,635	3,875
Interest	1,104	1,302
COVID-19 Stimulus	10,000	10,000
	154,444	141,731
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Be Connected Project	31,834	38,822
Salaries and Superannuation	87,957	84,618
Audit	700	690
Advertising	-	346
Bank charges	-	(5)
Depreciation	1,818	5,645
Equipment	-	633
IT	679	2,065
Subscriptions/Memberships	1,093	1,228
Stationery/Photocopying	548	1,327
Rent	306	1,241
Phone	633	608
Members Meetings & Training	2,871	8,365
Workcover	563	612
Write back staff replacement provision	(9,406)	(10,210)
	119,596	135,984
NET CURRENT YEAR SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	34,848	5,747
Retained Surplus at the Beginning of the Financial Year	110,481	104,734
RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	145,329	110,481

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Financial Report

NETWORK OF INNER EASTERN COMMUNITY HOUSES

ABN 74 084 095 496

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	61,195	49,080
Investments	3	110,060	89,016
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>171,255</u>	<u>138,097</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>171,255</u>	<u>138,097</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables		1,033	6,230
Current tax liabilities		1,985	2,116
Provisions		22,909	17,525
Others		-	1,745
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>25,926</u>	<u>27,616</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>25,926</u>	<u>27,616</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>145,328</u>	<u>110,481</u>
Retained Surplus at the end of the financial year		145,329	110,481
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>145,329</u>	<u>110,481</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Financial Report

NETWORK OF INNER EASTERN COMMUNITY HOUSES

ABN 74 084 095 496

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

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.



Financial Report

NETWORK OF INNER EASTER COMMUNITY HOUSES
ABN 74 084 095 496

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

(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.

(i) 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.

	2021 \$	2020 \$
2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at Bank - NIECH Office Account	1,584	1,428
Business Easy Saver Account	59,610	47,652
	<u>61,195</u>	<u>49,080</u>
3. INVESTMENTS		
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	<u>110,606</u>	<u>89,016</u>
4. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Office Equipment - at Cost	7,463	5,645
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(7,463)	(5,645)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Office Furniture - at Cost	539	539
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(539)	(539)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>



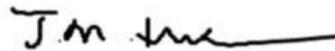
Financial Report

NETWORK OF INNER EASTERN COMMUNITY HOUSES
ABN 74 084 095 496

**ANNUAL STATEMENTS GIVE TRUE AND FAIR VIEW OF FINANCIAL
POSITION AND PERFORMANCE OF INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION**

We, Jill Hitchcock and Klaudia Lozo, 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 Louise Multicultural Community Centre Inc during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2021.



Jill Hitchcock

Vice President



Klaudia Lozo

Treasurer

Dated this 26th day of August 2021



Financial Report

NETWORK OF INNER EASTERN COMMUNITY HOUSES

ABN 74 084 095 496

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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 2021 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:



Jill Hitchcock

Vice President



Klaudia Lozo

Treasurer

Dated this 26th day of August 2021



Financial Report

JMLC

Accountants and Business Advisors

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, 2021, 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.

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Principal
Jason Lyster – B.Com CA

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



Financial Report

JMLC

Accountants and Business Advisors

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, 2021, 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

30 August 2021

Blackburn VIC 3130

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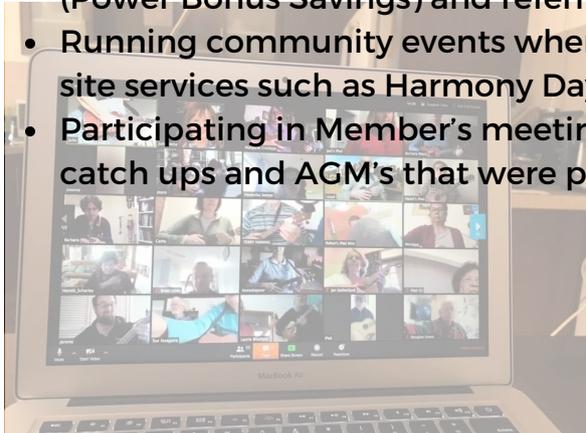
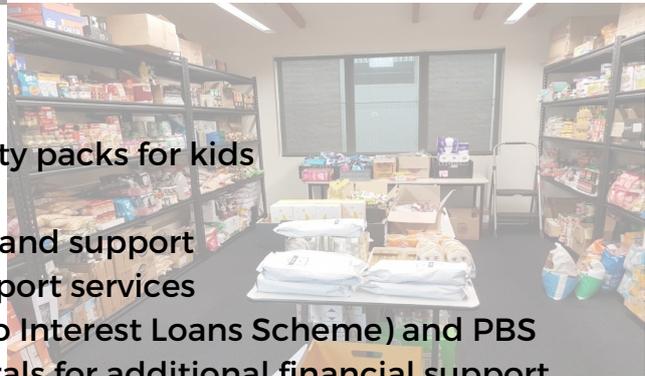
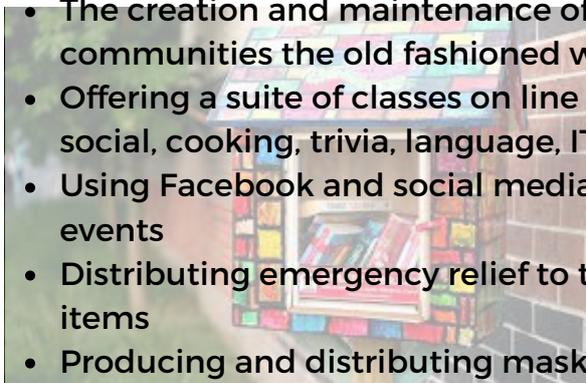


THE NETWORK'S COVID RESPONSE

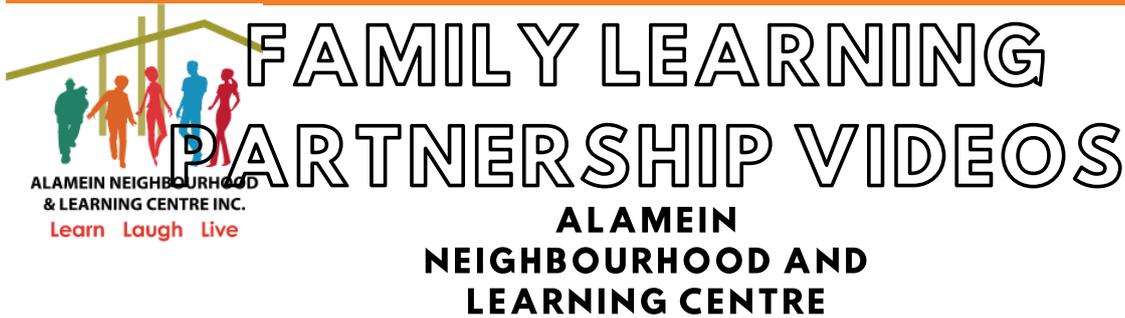
During the past 12 months our doors have been open, then closed, then open, then closed, then open...

We have been physically distanced from each other and our communities for a large portion of the year, however the Members of the NIECH Network have remained connected to their communities, by demonstrating resilience, commitment and a “can do” attitude.

- Our Member Houses have supported their communities by:
- The Digital Devices Project - we purchased and allocated 10 devices to socially isolated individuals across the Network
- Running Be Connected Digital Mentor training sessions on line
- The creation and maintenance of “phone trees” - checking in on our communities the old fashioned way via a phone call
- Offering a suite of classes on line including exercise, art, craft, music, social, cooking, trivia, language, IT classes/groups
- Using Facebook and social media to provide updates, create groups and events
- Distributing emergency relief to those in need - food, meals and pantry items
- Producing and distributing masks across the Network
- Setting up Street libraries
- Setting up DVD libraries
- Distributing Pampers packs
- Preparing and distributing Activity packs for kids
- Offering free courses on line
- Providing information for health and support
- Facilitating referrals to other support services
- Providing information re NILS (No Interest Loans Scheme) and PBS (Power Bonus Savings) and referrals for additional financial support
- Running community events when we have been permitted to have on site services such as Harmony Day, Community BBQ's and outdoor events
- Participating in Member's meetings, Committee Meetings, Member catch ups and AGM's that were predominantly held on line



HOUSE ACTIVITIES



In 2020, Alamein Neighbourhood & Learning Centre Inc. (ANLC) received funding from the Department of Education & Training to run a Family Learning Partnerships program. The program aimed at assisting families to overcome barriers to participation in education and training. As part of our program we created 2 videos to support parents and children, 'How to Set Up a Study Area' and 'What to Put in my School Bag'.

We were very fortunate to have a volunteer working at ANLC who is also an artist. We employed her to draw scenes from the scripts written by the project manager. In the theme of the family learning partnership, the video voice over and editing were done by children of ANLC staff members, who did this as work experience. They created short, fun videos that educate adults and children and are an appropriate level for native and non-native English speakers.

The videos had official launches on Zoom and participants were invited to contact ANLC to receive a schoolbag checklist and then to stay up-to-date with our programs (go on our mailing list).

Feedback regarding the videos from local parents and organisations has been positive, with one parent saying, 'The content from the video was really helpful. It was easy for me to understand. The school gave me a lot to read, but there was so much. I could not get through all of it and I did not know to put extra clothes in her bag. The video told me this and it really saved my daughter because she had an accident at school. She needed new clothes to put on. I was so happy I watched the video before and knew she needed extra clothes.'

In the future, we will be using the videos with a local kindergarten in their transition to school orientation sessions. Links to the videos can be found on ANLC's website, where the links are found. We also hope to create more videos to have a suite to support and engage parents and our students.

Links to the videos:

<https://www.alameinnlc.com.au/course/what-to-put-in-our-bag/>

<https://www.alameinnlc.com.au/course/how-to-set-up-a-study-area/>



HOUSE ACTIVITIES



HOUSE ACTIVITIES



Festival of Cultures 2.0: Reunion Barbeque!

LMCC's 2021 Festival of Cultures was adapted into a multicultural themed barbeque held at Surrey Park on Thursday 18th March. Staff, volunteers, participants and committee members gathered at the park for a celebration of diversity through the sharing of culturally diverse food and good conversation, while observing the 1.5 metre rule of course!

Even though we recommenced face-to-face in February, some of our tutors and students are still doing their classes via Zoom and haven't been back to the centre since last year. Others have been retired for some time. The barbeque was the perfect opportunity for them to catch-up face-to-face in an open and safe environment.

Nobody celebrates diversity through food better than LMCC! We enjoyed everything from Asian skewers to Middle Eastern kofte to Mexican style beef and salads to Croatian style sausages and pastries courtesy of our Centre Manager.

It was a really lovely day and hopefully we will have more opportunities to celebrate like this in the future! (Sarah Price – Louise Multicultural Centre)



HOUSE ACTIVITIES



Did you know that 49 percent of Australians were born overseas or have one parent at least who was? Australia has become a country in which integrated multiculturalism works well in society. Harmony Week is to celebrate Australia's diversity, social and cultural inclusion by respecting cultural differences.

This year's theme for Harmony Week was "Everyone Belongs". Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia. The multiculturalism of Australia is the collaboration of cultures between the Australian culture and the one which migrants have brought with them.

Harmony Week values diversity and differences, regardless of cultural background, race, gender, religion or sexual orientation. Everyone should be respected and accepted the way they are.



HOUSE ACTIVITIES



Sinhala and Tamil New Year Celebrations @ Notting Hill NH

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate our first Sinhala and Tamil New Year at Notting Hill Neighbourhood House on Sunday the 18th of April 2021. Sinhala and Tamil New Year is a Sri Lankan holiday that celebrates the traditional New Year of the Sinhalese people in Sri Lanka.

The event began with the traditional lighting of the oil lamp, followed by a short video documentary (explaining the cultural holiday) and a captivating Sri-Lankan dance.

Before everyone feasted on the delicious home-cooked Sri-Lankan food, we hosted a series of fun games including Kana Mutti Bindeema (Breaking Pots), Banis Kaema (Donut Eating Contest), Spoon and Lime race and Tug of War!

A big thank you to local neighbours Ramona, Layani, Menik, Pasi, Vidu and Natasha for coming together for many weeks to organise this wonderful event. Well done team!

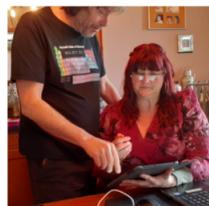


NETWORK WIDE PROJECTS – BE CONNECTED

Digital Devices Project

During lockdown in mid 2020, NIECH secured a Digital Devices grant of \$5,000 – part of the \$1.2 million Federal Government Be Connected funding - to buy and loan out 3 smartphones and 7 tablets that included data (which NIECH paid for each device for 6 months) to socially isolated or disadvantaged older Australians.

Neighbourhood Houses across the Inner East Network identified community members who couldn't stay in touch with friends and family, access vital support services, or find out critical Covid-19 information because they lacked devices. 10 individuals were identified by Member Houses, who were socially isolated, unable to attend their usual programs or activities at their local Neighbourhood House and were not digitally literate. NIECH in partnership with Box Hill South NH, Fusion YS, Mount Street NH, Power NH, Burwood NH, Alamein NLC and Living and Learning @ Ajani helped several individuals in their local communities to stay connected during the latter part of 2020 and into 2021.



NIECH

Loan Device Project

Images are of the devices being set up and prepared for delivery during the Victorian lockdown.

The borrowers are from one of our recipient Houses - Box Hill South Neighbourhood House



NETWORK WIDE PROJECTS – BE CONNECTED

A service user receiving one of our loaned devices

Ruth Kenrick-Smith and the NIECH Networker were faced with significant obstacles when trying to facilitate this project.

COVID lockdowns, low stock/supply of devices, incorrect deliveries, having to post out devices with instructions to individuals that were not tech savvy, the logistics of establishing loan agreements and negotiating data plans were

some of the issues, just to mention a few! Despite this, the project was a success and very well received by the Houses and individuals involved in the Digital Devices project.



All participants, like wheelchair bound 81-year-old Petula, were supported by Ruth via Be Connected lessons and lots of friendly tech help, which reduced their isolation and loneliness, and increased their mental health and wellbeing. Many linked into zoom sessions with their local Neighbourhood House and reported that having access to technology had significantly improved their sense of connectedness, their technology skills and many were now shopping online!

On behalf of the Network, thank you Ruth for your support and playing an integral role in this project's success.



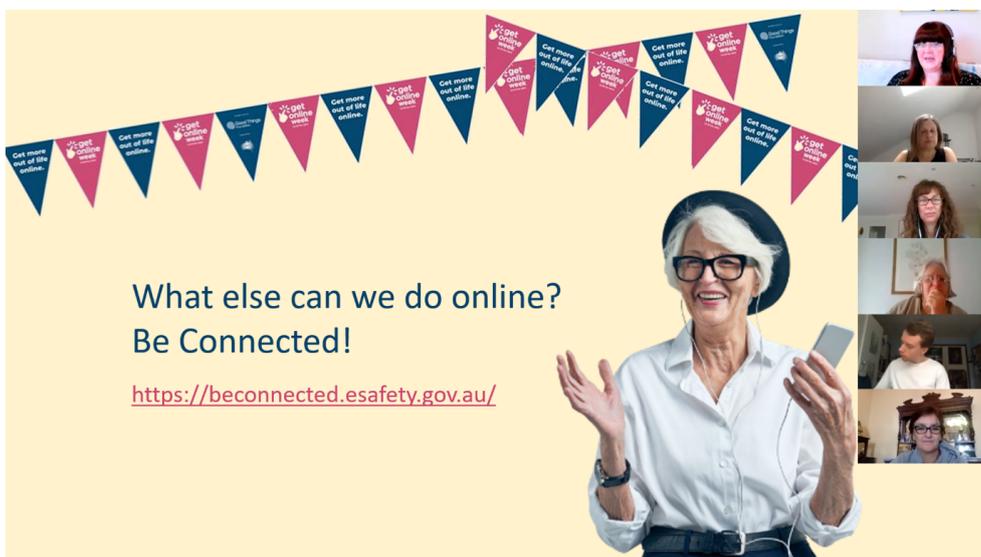
NETWORK WIDE PROJECTS – BE CONNECTED

Get Online Week 2020

NIECH secured a \$1,000 Be Connected Grant to host an event during Get Online Week in October 2020. Due to COVID restrictions, our Lead Digital Mentor (Ruth Kenrick-Smith), had to “pivot” and hosted two events online between 19-25 October.



Both sessions were well attended. Ruth ran a number of games and quizzes that incorporated the use of YouTube, Google Maps, Arts and Culture activities and introduced participants to the Be Connected platform. The 16 participants really enjoyed the sessions and Ruth did a great job given the restrictions and difficulties associated with trying to engage participants using IT who are not IT “savvy!”



“Thank you so much for hosting the session this morning – you did a great job. We had no idea what to expect but found it very informative as well as a lot of fun. We thought it terrific only being a small group as it felt as if we knew everyone after only a short while into the session. I was thrilled to win the quiz especially with the gift card which was really unexpected.”



Good Things Foundation Grant

BE CONNECTED BUILDING CAPACITY SKILLS PROJECT

2020-21



NIECH

PROJECT PLAN



Be Connected

Every Australian online.

Background and Purpose

Since 2019, NIECH has joined forces to work with Good Things Foundation to deliver the Australian Government Initiative - the Be Connected Program.

PARAMETERS AND OBJECTIVES

But in 2020, due to the uncertainty brought on by the global pandemic the Good Things Foundation Capacity Building Grant on offer was slightly downsized. Instead of instructing and supporting one hundred volunteer Digital Mentors (DMs) over a twelve month period, we were offered a nine month period in which to train eighty DMs. The overall goal of this project was still the same. To train-the-trainers so that they could assist Australians aged 50+ to access the Be Connected online resources and improve their technology skills so that they would be less digitally isolated.

SCOPE AND MANAGEMENT

The NIECH Committee of Management elected to split the workload into two parts for this project and employ a Lead Digital Mentor as well as a Community Development and Partnership Worker to collaborate on delivering the program. The plan was to recruit and train fifty Digital Mentors from across the NIECH Network and thirty from external organisations or services. The CD/Partnership role was primarily tasked with establishing partnerships and sourcing opportunities to train groups of DMs within the social inclusion space. Finding and nurturing these partnerships was beneficial, not only for the Be Connected project, but also for individual Houses and the Network as a whole.

Lead Digital Mentor Ruth Kenrick-Smith was engaged to administer and deliver the training package, and provide ongoing support to the Mentors and Neighbourhood Houses that offer Be Connected sessions. Nikki Maddern took on the role of overall management of the project as well as that of the Community Development Worker.

CHALLENGES

Repeated Victorian Covid-19 lockdowns meant reaching, training, and supporting Mentors has been a challenge.



With Neighbourhood Houses forced to close for lengthy periods this year, both socially distanced in-person sessions and videoconferencing instruction has been difficult for many Digital Mentors and for the Lead Digital Mentor as well.

Some Houses have been able to translate their programs to online delivery, whilst others have had to cancel sessions altogether because the learners are unable to use videoconferencing tools – either because of lack of sufficient data or hardware, fears around privacy, or the inability to ‘leap’ their learning forward enough to use a sophisticated video calling program.



Reluctance by the public to return in person to Neighbourhood Houses during the intermittent open periods and social climate has also impacted the ability for some training and Be Connected programs to viably go forward.

SIDE GIGS

Alongside the main Capacity Building Project, Nikki and Ruth took on the Be Connected **Digital Device Loan** scheme and the **Get Online Week** funding. Delivering each of these mini-projects presented unique obstacles.

Obtaining the correct loan devices during a time of scarcity of supply and the emerging worldwide silicone chip shortage was a four month headache for Nikki. Finding an appropriate data plan for each device also took a great deal of negotiation.



Introducing technology to beginners for Get Online Week while we were in a lockdown situation was also a tricky undertaking. But Ruth enticed new learners with music trivia using YouTube which was well received.

Measuring Progress

RESULTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our strong support and training for Mentors via Zoom videoconferencing has been critical to our success. Our Facebook Group share page, Mailchimp newsletters, and personal contact via phone & email have assisted in cohesion and communication with our Mentors during these difficult times. Recently we have also made forays into LinkedIn, as several people have told us that they promote their Be Connected work in this space.

We are proud to have deepened our purpose by striking up meaningful partnerships. The City of Whitehorse allowed us to facilitate the training of sixteen Community Programs staff who support vulnerable or isolated older people. Also we've regularly liaised with their Community Development Office for Healthy Ageing and were able to publicise our program in the Council Newspaper. Additionally, we have continued our involvement in the ongoing work of health promotion practitioners from Inner East Link Health who are working in the social and digital inclusion space for nearby Community Housing residents.

We also responded to the Covid crisis by providing Zoom training and tech support for Houses and personal help for Participants



Our Impact and Reach

The Digital Mentors we have trained are mostly spread across 3 Neighbourhood House Networks that span 3,56470km² of North and Eastern Melbourne. Primarily from the NIECH network, we are now supporting and training Digital Mentors from the CHAOS and NENH networks as well.

Zoom has allowed us to extend our training to Digital Mentors across regional Victoria and in TAS, QLD, SA & NSW as well. We have also trained a few volunteers who are stuck overseas due to Covid-19 and are enduring the long wait to return to Australia.

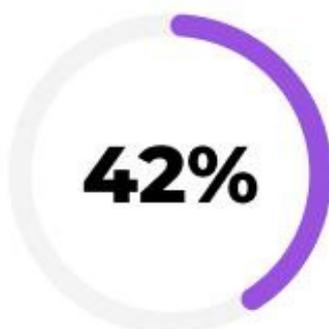


The majority of our Digital Mentors were trained online via videoconferencing.

Outside of lockdown we were able to conduct in-person training sessions at Warrandyte, Notting Hill, Ashburton NH's, and City of Whitehorse's Mountain View Cottage.

Our DM leadership base mostly comes from our Neighbourhood Houses

This reinforces the role of Neighbourhood Houses as key providers of quality digital support to Victorians.



CALD communities are being reached by our multilingual Digital Mentors

The training has been inclusive and has attracted over a third of trainees from CALD backgrounds. They have gone on to take Be Connected into many diverse communities.

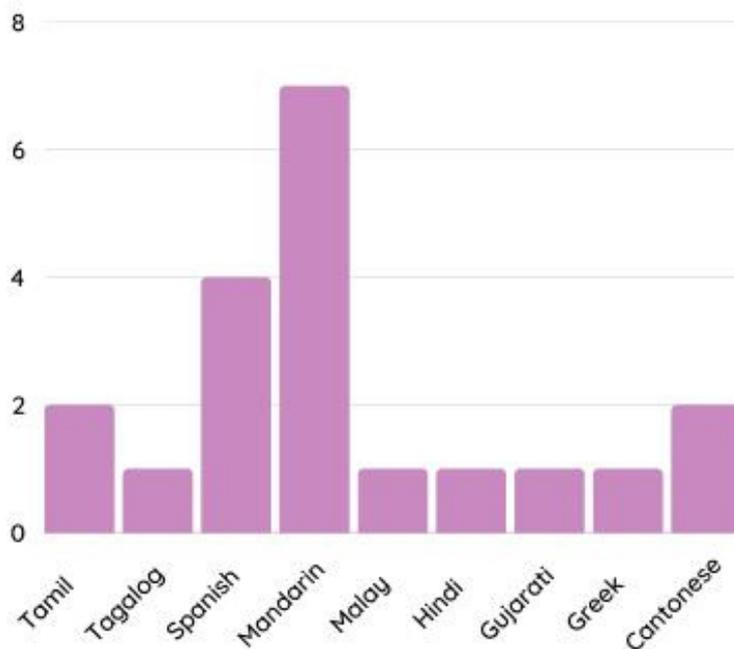
4%

DMs identify as having a disability

4%

DMs identify as Indigenous Australians

Language Groups of CALD Digital Mentors



This project has benefitted a broad range of demographically diverse communities across Northeast Melbourne.

From Southern Indian migrant communities whose first language is Tamil; to groups of older people in the forested fringes of Melbourne suburbia; to the ageing Greek population nearer the city who are largely disconnected from current technology.

Highlights



ELTHAM LIONS CLUB

NIECH supported the Club's Seniors Play Days program by training two Digital Mentors and by having the LDM attend as a guest speaker.

MOUNTAINVIEW

The NIECH trained team also uses Montessori principles and person-centred practices to empower elderly clients to learn technology.



Find out what's available at your local Neighbourhood House

Celebrate Neighbourhood House Week with the 10 neighbourhood houses in Whitehorse. Meet new people, catch up with friends and try something new.

Neighbourhood and community houses provide support to people in our local communities.

This includes running classes in a variety of activities, including fitness, craft, art, computers, children's activities, educational classes, foreign languages and music.

Box Hill South Neighbourhood House manager Pamela Mills said neighbourhood houses in Whitehorse provided "a continued sense of community" during the COVID-19 lockdown.

"(This) was incredibly important during the long periods of forced isolation by providing online classes and social groups, weekly social welfare telephone calls, assistance with providing food and masks, books and puzzles," she said. "This allowed people to feel connected and engaged with others, thereby lessening the impact of isolation and loneliness."

Some special events and 'come and try' classes will be held during Neighbourhood House Week from 8-14 May throughout Whitehorse.

Check with your local neighbourhood house for times and details.



Start using technology safely

Local Neighbourhood Houses are helping older people learn to connect digitally.

If you're a bit scared of technology and you haven't used it much before, you're not alone. Nearly three million Australians never go online and nearly double that figure have limited digital skills, many of them older people.

Neighbourhood Houses across the City of Whitehorse run free Be Connected classes or one-to-one sessions where people can learn at their own pace and feel supported along the way. Be Connected is an Australia-wide government initiative for older people who want to start using technology safely so that they can participate more in life and stay connected with each other.

"This is so much better than waiting for my son to help me," said Walter, who has been

learning how to use his mobile phone for two months. "I can ask questions without feeling stupid and it's easy to understand."

"Coronavirus has helped many people understand just how essential it is to have digital skills and how isolating and even dangerous it can be for people to not have online access," Good Things Foundation national director Jess Wilson said.

Once people get online to do the simple things, then they can move on step-by-step to paying bills, accessing MyGov or contacting family members.

Training sessions are also run for volunteers to become digital mentors. To become a digital mentor, email beconnected@niech.org.au or phone 0480 155 710.

Look for the  in the list below for the Neighbourhood Houses that offer these sessions.

Whitehorse Neighbourhood Houses

-  Avenue Neighbourhood House @ Eley, Blackburn South: 9808 2000 or www.theavenue.org.au
-  Bennettswood Neighbourhood House, Burwood: 9888 0234 or www.bennettswoodnh.org.au
 - Box Hill South Neighbourhood House: 9898 8270 or www.bhsnh.org.au
 - Burwood Neighbourhood House: 9808 6292 or burwoodcommunityhouse@bigpond.net.au
-  Clota Cottage Neighbourhood House, Box Hill: 9899 0062 or www.clotacottage.org.au
-  Kerrimuir Neighbourhood House, Box Hill North: 9899 7660 or www.kerrimuirhouse.org.au
 - Koonung Cottage Community House, Blackburn North: 9878 6632 or www.koonungcottage.org.au
-  Louise Multicultural Community Centre, Box Hill Town Hall: 9285 4850 or www.louise.org.au
-  Mitcham Community House: 9873 4587 or www.mitchamcommunityhouse.org
-  Vermont South Learning Centre: 9803 2335 or www.vslc.org.au



Acknowledgements

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

The Victorian State Government (DHHS)

Boroondara City Council

Manningham City Council

Monash City Council

Whitehorse City Council

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic)

Community Houses Association of Outer Eastern Suburbs (CHAOS)

And all Committee members, Staff, Volunteers and communities of NIECH Member Houses, for their contribution to the active, vibrant and diverse Network of Inner East Community Houses.

Thank you.

