

# Annual REPORT 2020



**Wyndham**  
Community &  
Education Centre Inc.  
*Improving lives - Strengthening communities*

Wyndham Community & Education  
Centres Inc. is pleased to present its 2020  
Annual Report.

We thank staff and volunteers for their work  
that enabled us to continue to offer quality  
programs and services to meet local needs.

In a year of unprecedented challenges  
the organisation never wavered from  
its vision to 'improve lives and  
strengthen communities'.



**Wyndham**  
Community &  
Education Centre Inc.  
*Improving lives - Strengthening communities*



# INDEX

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

02

CEO'S REPORT

03

YEAR OVERVIEW

05

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE REPORT

07

TREASURER'S REPORT

08

PARTNERS, FUNDING BODIES & SPONSORS

09





## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present this annual report for the 2020 year on behalf of the Board of Wyndham Community & Education Centre Incorporated.

The Board's priorities during the 2020 year were to support the CEO and senior management to do the important work of keeping staff safe and ensure the financial viability and sustainability of the organisation during the enormous disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am pleased to report that with an enormous amount of work, this has been achieved and with the exception of our full Saffron offering, all programs and services have gradually opened face-to-face in 2021.

We managed to keep the majority of our staff employed and working successfully from home or in the case of Saffron staff, still engaged by the organisation until kiosks could open.

We also managed a good surplus for the 2020 year and have managed to continue to grow the organisation, engaging several new staff during the 2020 year through successful projects and grants.

I have decided to step down from my role as Chairperson of the Board at this AGM. It has been an honour to hold this role since 2008 and to volunteer for the community since I retired from formal work in 2007. It's a pleasure to continue to be part of this great organisation shaping programs and services along with my Board colleagues, to achieve the important vision of improving lives and strengthening communities. It's time to let someone else take on the role of Chairperson.

On behalf of the Board, I express my thanks to CEO, Jennie Barrera and her senior management team, Fiona Bolton and John Sheen for the outstanding work throughout a very challenging 2020. I also extend that thanks to the staff who played such a key role in continuing to deliver important programs to the community under difficult circumstances. I thank you all for your great work and for rising to the challenges the pandemic created for everyone. The Board is so proud of all of you!

I also sincerely thank my fellow Board members for their work on behalf of the organisation and for their ongoing support of me in my role as Chair of the Board.

At the time of writing, there are still current and future challenges as we emerge slowly from the pandemic. Our strategic planning will be a strong focus in the coming months as we work to ensure the strategic direction and sustainability of the organisation over the next five years.

I look forward to watching the organisation thrive.

Pauline Anderson  
Chairperson

## CEO'S REPORT



How many times have we heard that 2020 was a year we will never forget? It really was a year like no other! The year of the P words: (un)precedented, pivot and pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic certainly had a profound impact on the entire Wyndham CEC community; as it did on so many other organisations, businesses and individuals. It tested our resilience as an organisation and as a community.

By the end of March 2020, most of our staff were working from home and most services had moved to online or remote platforms. Our staff were nimble in adapting to the unpredictability we faced. Despite such unpredictability, Wyndham CEC's response was focused and strong.

Staff adapted quickly and adopted ways to keep themselves, their families and the communities they work with safe and well. Nevertheless, the virus directly impacted several staff and their families. Staff were committed to ensuring their clients and students continued to receive quality services. Our IT team was instrumental in making all of this happen seamlessly; ensuring staff, students and clients had access to digital devices. Our expert teachers created a digital learning centre to build the capacity of their colleagues; they moved quickly but did so in a well-supported way.

Senior management's focus on the key priorities of staff health and well-being, as well as keeping our people employed required constant focus and ongoing monitoring. Our community was one of—if not the hardest hit—across Australia. We had the highest number of local cases of any municipality during the middle part of 2020. Our local community endured the long, hard lockdown with the health and economic situation of many under constant strain. We met the local and global challenges of the crisis from a

position of strength and I'm pleased to report we delivered a good financial result for the 2020 year that will assist us in the months ahead.

We have emerged stronger and more resilient in 2021 as we slowly emerge from the pandemic; bearing in mind that at the time of writing, it's not over yet. There are many learnings, both good and bad that we can now take into the future, particularly around the way we work, as we move through different phases and stages of the pandemic towards full recovery.

2020 marked the fourth year of our current Strategic Plan (2017-2021) and despite COVID, we managed to still make significant progress against the goals and deliverables we had set. The Board and senior management have already commenced a process for development of the next five-year plan.

Congratulations to Craig Spicer from our Jobs Victoria team who was the recipient of the 2020 Exceptional Staff Performance Award and Lar Paw Talor, volunteer of the year. The 2020 Anne Mitchell Scholarship was awarded to Year 12 student, Jayde Ahmar and eight students received Sandy Mein Scholarships in 2020: Aleasha Dunlop; Emmanuel Majur; De Hsaing; Kava Manoa; Tyrese Jones; Malakai Gowler; Sanve Ramadan and Romeo Amunsden Paora. Sincere thanks to the Mein Family and friends for the ongoing commitment to the Sandy Mein scholarship fund. Assisting our VCAL students facing financial barriers to complete their education was more important than ever in 2020.

## CEO'S REPORT

The pages in this report provide an overview of the work done under challenging circumstances in 2020 across education, vocational training, youth, community strengthening, employment, projects, Junubi Wyndham, Neighbourhood House activities and business services.

Despite much of the year learning remotely, our VCAL students still managed to do incredibly well in their end of year results with 94% of VET units of competency completed and 87% of VCAL units completed. Their teachers and the entire VCAL staff team, did an outstanding job supporting them particularly when they returned face-to-face in term 4.

Likewise, our teachers and trainers across training services rose to the challenge and managed to keep their students engaged by pivoting to online and remote blended delivery models very successfully. Client services and case management staff also managed to successfully service their clients remotely in challenging circumstances. Our multilingual staff from settlement services and Junubi Wyndham were critical in the

health response that occurred across the municipality in addition to their usual work.

Wyndham CEC works collaboratively with a range of stakeholders and partners from local, state and federal government to other community service organisations, education, training and employment providers and agencies. We didn't see each other often in 2020 except on ZOOM or Microsoft Teams but we nevertheless maintained strong partnerships and relationships.

Finally, special thanks to my senior management team and to our Executive Assistant; they always go above and beyond but 2020 highlighted just how extraordinary and committed they all are. Likewise, I thank our Board of Governance for their support during this challenging year. Our Board Chairperson has decided not to stand for a Board position at this AGM; I express sincere thanks to Pauline Anderson for taking on this leadership role over the last 13 years. What an extraordinary contribution!

Wyndham CEC can only achieve great outcomes through the hard work of our committed staff and volunteers, including our Board. I thank you all sincerely for your team work and commitment during 2020 and I look forward to welcoming back our volunteers during 2021.

It is with pleasure that I table the 2020 Annual Report for Wyndham Community & Education Centre Inc.

Stay safe and well.

Jennie Barrera  
Chief Executive Officer



# YEAR OVERVIEW

# 2020

## *A year like no other!*

In a year like no other, Wyndham CEC continued to provide a wide range of education programs and community services to the local community.

More than **480** students continued studying English language through remote or mixed mode delivery



**47** young people successfully completed their VCAL studies in 2020



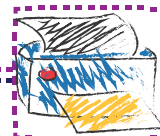
There were **935** individual enrolments in pre-accredited programs



More than **70** Early Childhood Education & Care students continued their studies via remote learning



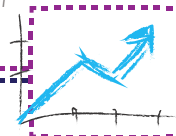
Jobs Victoria placed **68** local people in jobs



Our settlement team had over **7,400** client contacts across the year and delivered **123** community information sessions



Junubi Wyndham had on average **150** client contacts per month, delivered a range of online programs and services and distributed digital devices to **85** clients



The Wyndham Learning Festival went online with over **135** virtual events



Curriculum was developed for three new Skills for Work & Study programs



A partnership was formed with Werribee Mercy Hospital to deliver the Walk Through Health programs for women and men



Wyndham CEC was re-funded for the ongoing delivery of Reconnect, Junubi Wyndham, Engage!, Strategic Partnerships & Fresh Start.

## *2020 Student Awards*

Winner of the Anne Mitchell Scholarship – Jayde Ahmar

Awarded Sandy Mein Scholarships – Aleasha Dunlop, Emmanuel Majur, De Hsaing, Kava Manoa, Tyrese Jones, Malakai Gowler, Sanve Ramadan and Romeo Amunsden Paora

2020

## YEAR OVERVIEW

### *Staff & Volunteer Awards*



*Winner of Wyndham CEC's Exceptional Performance Award – Craig Spicer*

Craig started at Wyndham CEC in 2011 as the Community Strengthening Coordinator. He transitioned to JobsVic in 2016 helping to get local people into local jobs, especially those who face barriers to employment. Craig is a big Western Bulldogs fan.



*Winner of the Volunteer Exceptional Performance Award – Lar Paw Talor*

Lar Paw joined Wyndham CEC as a student in 2014. In 2015 he did a Pre-accredited course 'Work in a Café'. This led him to volunteering in our social enterprise kitchen Saffron, helping Joanna prepare meals at Wayaperri House.

Lar Paw was also a very enthusiastic member of the Peace Choir in 2019.



# NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE REPORT



*In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wyndham CEC delivered a range of neighbourhood house programs and services that provided education, support and advice to community. Programs and services included the following:*



*An ongoing social media campaign to ensure the distribution of COVID-19 pandemic information in community languages*



*The distribution of digital devices to Wyndham CEC students in need*



*The establishment of the Wyndham CEC Digital Learning Centre to support teachers and trainers upskill in digital delivery*



*Junubi Wyndham supported the delivery of food and care packages to community members and in partnership with Wyndham CEC's IT team, distributed digital devices to families for online learning needs*



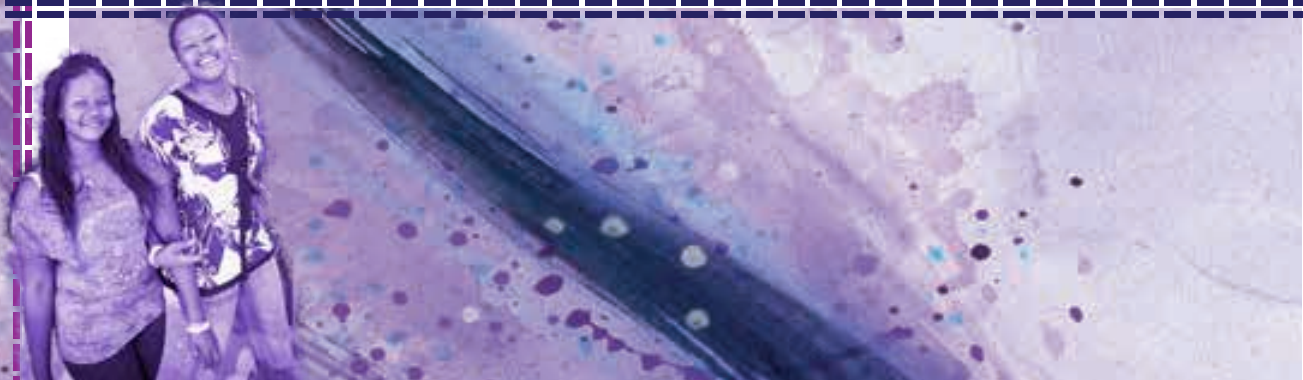
*Wyndham CEC collaborated with other trusted community agencies to ensure a consistent approach to providing communities in Wyndham with information, support and advice in terms the COVID-19 pandemic*

*Community Strengthening supported our volunteers from the communities Burma to continue their activities from home, including basket making and traditional weaving*



*Young people from African backgrounds were supported to raise awareness of mental health within their communities*

*Interfaith communities were supported to transition to digital platforms*





## TREASURER'S REPORT

While 2020 was a year where all faced significant challenges, uncertainty and a restricted ability to operate, at Wyndham Community and Education Centre we were able to continue to offer valuable services and support to our students and clients. Thanks to some assistance from governments, and the ability of our people to adapt and innovate, the financial results for the year were not adversely affected.

In 2020, our revenues were up from \$9.4M to \$11.8M as we continued to deliver our range of services and programs. We were able to record a surplus of \$2.5M which will allow us to face a still uncertain future with confidence that we can deal with any further challenges that may arise. Our audited financial reports also show Total Assets of \$15.1M, Total Liabilities of \$7.9M and Total Equity of \$7.2M, so we have been able to maintain a sound financial position and I am assured that we will continue to manage our assets in a prudent and responsible manner.

I would like to express my thanks and admiration to our managers, staff and volunteers for their fantastic efforts. With the other members of our board of governance, I look forward to the future for Wyndham CEC with optimism and anticipation of exciting days ahead.

Ian Keeling  
Treasurer



# PARTNERS, FUNDING BODIES & SPONSORS

ACEVIC	Adult Learning Australia	African-Australian Family & Parenting Support Services
AMES Australia	Australian Government Department of Education, Skills & Employment	Australian Government Department of Health
Australian Government Department of Home Affairs	Brimbank City Council	Centre for Family Research and Evaluation - Drummond Street Services
Cloverdale Community Centre	Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY)	cohealth
commUnity+	Chris Hopkins Photojournalist	Department of Education and Training
Department of Health & Human Services	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	Department of Justice and Community Safety
Djerriwarh Community & Education Services	Energy & Water Ombudsman (Victoria)	Equal Ed
Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission	Family Safety Victoria - Department of Health & Human Services	Free Theatre
Fresh Select	Good 360	The Gordon Institute of TAFE
Hobsons Bay City Council	The Huddle	IPC Health
Job Prospects	Laverton Community Integrated Services	Let's Feed
Maribyrnong City Council	Melton City Council	Mercy Health Victoria
MiCare	Multicultural Affairs & Social Cohesion - Department of Premier & Cabinet	North West Compliance Community of Practice
Office of Youth - Department of Premier & Cabinet	Play It Forward	Public Pedagogies Institute
Department of Family, Fairness & Housing	Reclink Australia	Services Australia - Centrelink
Sandy Mein Scholarship Fund	Uniting Wyndham	Utopia Refugee Health
The Smith Family	Vertech Hume	Victoria Police
V/Line	Victoria University	Victorian Multicultural Commission
Victoria University Polytechnic	WCIG	Werribee Football Club
Vinnie's NILs	Western Strategic Outcomes Network	Western United Football Club
Werribee Open Range Zoo	Whitelson	Williamstown Community & Education Centre
WEstjustice	Wyndham City Council	Wynbay LLEN
WorkSafe Victoria	Wyndham Interfaith Network	Wyndham Park Community Centre
Wyndham Humanitarian Network	Wyndham Park Primary School	Yarraville Community Centre





 **wyndhamcec.org.au**  
 **@wyndhamcec.org.au**  
 **@wyndhamCEC**

20 Synnot Street,  
Werribee VIC 3030

P: (03) 9742 4013

F: (03) 9749 8400

E: [enquiries@wyndhamcec.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wyndhamcec.org.au)



**Wyndham**  
Community &  
Education Centre Inc.  
*Improving lives - Strengthening communities*