



WYNDHAM COMMUNITY & EDUCATION CENTRE

Improving Lives. Strengthening Communities.



Annual Report
2022



Improving Lives. Strengthening Communities.

INTRODUCTION

Wyndham Community & Education Centres Inc. is proud to present its 2022 Annual Report, which highlights the organisation's ongoing commitment to improving lives and strengthening communities.

We recognise the hard work and dedication of our staff, volunteers and Board which enables us to offer a range of programs and services to meet diverse local needs. This report is testament to the organisation's unwavering vision and commitment to making a positive impact, and we are excited to share our accomplishments with our community and stakeholders.

Acknowledgement of country

Wyndham CEC acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we operate to deliver programs and services. We pay respect to Elders past and present and acknowledge any emerging future Elders and leaders. We acknowledge that these lands were never ceded. We take inspiration from First Nations wisdom and knowledge in caring for country and community since time immemorial.



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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



As Covid disruptions began to subside across 2022, the Board continued to be committed to supporting the staff and leadership team of Wyndham CEC as we navigated our transition back to in-person programming and services.

2022 also marked the first year of our new five-year Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and the board is pleased to see the progress made in continuing Wyndham CEC's mission and vision. The new five-year plan saw a focus on services across the western Melbourne and Geelong regions in addition to our ongoing work in the Wyndham area.

Strategic partnerships with organisations working in our sector and region, also continue to be made across all levels. At the board level, we continue to strengthen our ties with other community centres operating in the Wyndham Area and with Wyndham City Council through collaborative partnership meetings and engagements.

2022 also saw the board move to welcome a new co-opted member, George Yengi. George brings with him a plethora of experience and insight through his ongoing work with our diverse communities and young people in Wyndham. Diversity of perspectives and experiences is a crucial element for any board of governance, and the board is privileged in being able to continually strengthen this.

Despite delays in the construction of the building on 12 Synnot Street caused by Covid-19 disruptions, senior management and staff continued to work collaboratively with the various stakeholders involved to push ahead with the process. We currently have an expected completion date for the building in the first half of 2023.

This is yet another indication of the resilience that the organisation has shown in the past few years during, and emerging from Covid, in maintaining our trajectory of sustainable growth and impact. Reflected in this is also the resilience of the communities we serve. Our communities have experienced sizeable difficulties financially, socially, and physically and many continue to experience such hardships. Yet it has been equally inspiring to see our communities continue to rebuild and support one another in overcoming such challenges.

On behalf of the board, I would like to extend my thanks and acknowledgement once again to all our staff members who have continued to work tirelessly in ensuring Wyndham CEC continues to support our communities in times of change and growth. To Jennie Barrera our CEO, and the senior management team Fiona Bolton, John Sheen and Adrian Cully, the board thanks you for your continued dedication to both our people and our vision.

The recovery, resilience and progress exhibited by the organisation in 2022 has laid strong foundations for future years and the board and I are excited for what 2023 will bring.

Jeffrey Lai
Chairperson, Board of Governance

CEO'S REPORT



After 2020 and 2021, our 2022 year initially continued to be disrupted by COVID-19. However, over the course of the year, we transitioned all staff, students, clients and volunteers, back to our venues and to face-to-face programs and services.

The pandemic has taught us ways to work differently, and Wyndham CEC has maintained a hybrid model of working where possible for staff as well as introducing flexible ways of working; opportunities embraced over the course of the last three years. Our staff and communities' resilience and ability to adapt quickly to change has been amazing to watch. Despite these positives, we acknowledge just how hard the last few years have been for many facing financial hardship, social isolation, and health challenges.

It has been wonderful though, to welcome back our community members and, to have international borders open again. Wyndham CEC managed to continue all services and retain all staff during the pandemic apart from our full offering of Saffron Kitchen.

Wyndham CEC's vision and mission continued to be met and we made good progress against the first year of our new five-year Strategic Plan 2022-2026. In outlining a five-year future horizon, our Plan focuses its strategic goals on growth and consolidation of services in the Wyndham, western Melbourne, and Geelong regions, and on expanding, our senior secondary offering. Strategically, we are focused on the value of lifelong learning and demand for skills for employment or further education. This is supported by the breadth of our community services and wrap-around support services delivered by our service units across Wyndham CEC.

A big thank you to our senior secondary team who worked hard to transition to the new senior secondary qualifications following the Firth Review and recommendations. From 2023, the new VCE Vocational Major replaces Intermediate and Senior VCAL, and the new Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) replaces Foundation VCAL.

This gives students more educational choices and prepares them for further study or employment. Our results in 2022 were excellent with 100% of VET Units of Competency completed and 94% of VCAL Units of Competency completed!

The construction of our new building at 12 Synnot Street, Werribee was unfortunately delayed in 2022 given disruptions to the construction industry because of the pandemic. Funded by the Victorian Government through the Multicultural Infrastructure fund, we expect the building to be finished in the first half of 2023.

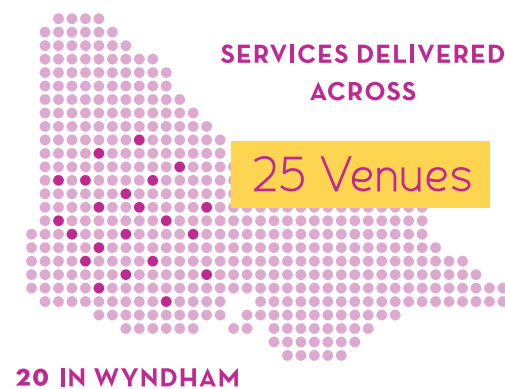
Congratulations to Sandra Rodrigues who received Wyndham CEC's 2022 Exceptional Staff Performance Award. Several of our students also received scholarship awards including Paige Miles who was awarded the Board's annual Anne Mitchell Scholarship and six students who received Sandy Mein scholarships: Alizay Williams, Calvin Recalde, Frank Mugisha, Lencho Tulu, Masiu Palavi, and Teliyah Sherriffs. We thank the Board and the Mein family and friends for their ongoing funding and commitment to these scholarships. These scholarships assist our secondary students to complete their education. I would like to thank all staff and volunteers for their work throughout 2022. I acknowledge the role of our partners, sponsors, stakeholders, and funding bodies in Wyndham CEC's ongoing success.

Finally, thank you to our Board of Governance led by Chairperson, Jeffrey Lai, for your stewardship of the organisation, particularly over the last few tough years. Your commitment to achieving the best for our community is exceptional.

Dr Jennie Barrera,
Chief Executive Officer

YEAR OVERVIEW

In 2022, Wyndham CEC continued to provide a wide range of education programs, employment services and community development initiatives for the local community.



Settlement Services

supported on average

480

CLIENTS
per month

AND



supported on average

5,749

CLIENT CONTACTS
in a year

Junubi Wyndham
had on average



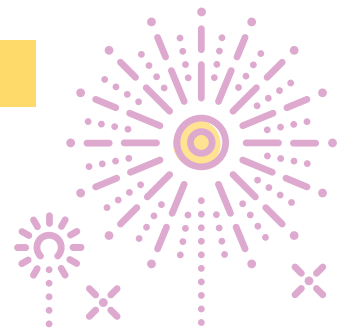
80 and **960**
CLIENTS PER MONTH and **CLIENTS IN A YEAR**

THE WYNDHAM LEARNING FESTIVAL
included

70 events

ATTENDED BY

1,288
people



2022 Awards

Exceptional performance of our staff was recognised by the following awards:



Sandra Rodrigues

Winner of Wyndham CEC's
Exceptional Performance Award -



Hsa Blu Htoo Ko

Winner of the Victorian Multicultural
Commission's Refugee Young Leader
of the Year Award



Say Htoo Eh Moero

Winner of the Committee for Wyndham's
John Nicol Community Service Award



Eh Su & Lesley Nallawalla

Winners of Joanne Ryan, MP -
Lalor Hero Awards

EDUCATION & TRAINING

As Director of Education, I am pleased to report on the achievements of the training services unit over the past year. Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, our dedicated team has continued to deliver quality education and training programs across Wyndham and Greater Geelong.

Similar to 2021, the year began with a successful completion of a Skills First contract audit, which confirmed our compliance with all requirements and standards. This is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our compliance and reporting staff and volunteers, who have ensured that our programs and services are of the highest quality.

The pandemic presented significant challenges, but we have adapted and innovated to continue delivering essential services to the community. Our English language programs have continued to support individuals in developing their language skills, despite the disruption to in-person classes. Our pre-accredited short courses have also been delivered online, allowing individuals to gain valuable skills for study, work and life.

In addition to these programs, we have continued to deliver training for early childhood education and care roles. This is an important area, as the demand for skilled workers in the sector continues to grow. Our training equips individuals with the knowledge and skills required to work in this rewarding field.

Throughout the year, we have also undertaken a range of resource development projects, including the creation of new materials to support our programs and services in pre-accredited and senior secondary programs. This is essential work, as it ensures that our programs remain relevant and effective in meeting the needs of the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our CEO and the other members of the senior management team for their ongoing support and guidance. Their leadership has been instrumental in ensuring that we continue to deliver high-quality education and training programs. I would also like to thank our Education Manager, RTO Manager, VCAL & Youth Manager, training services staff and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to their roles.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to supporting our local community. We will continue to adapt and innovate, while maintaining our focus on delivering high-quality education and training programs where there is demonstrated community need.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

As Director of Community Services, I am pleased to present the reports of our Community Strengthening, Junubi Wyndham and Project Services units, as well as providing an outline of our Neighbourhood House activities in 2022.

I'd like to personally acknowledge the work of staff across these units who strive to provide better outcomes for our local communities.

Community Strengthening

The Community Strengthening unit delivered services online with some transitioning to face to face in the latter half of 2022. Making use of digital platforms, we facilitated information sessions to build community capacity. This included a focus on health information, employment law/rights and responsibilities, citizenship/migration law, prevention of gambling harm, and family well-being and prevention of violence.

During 2022, the unit strengthened its collaborative partnerships in the interests of clients. This included a partnership with Ararat Rural City Council for new arrivals in Wyndham who were interested in a transition to a regional town. The team linked clients to employment, education and housing opportunities in the city.

The unit continued the work of connecting agencies and services through networks. These include the Hobsons Bay Intercultural Services Network, the Wyndham Anti-racism Support Network, the Wyndham Humanitarian Network, the Wyndham Interfaith Network, and the Western Strategic Outcomes Network. These networks are critical for maintaining strong, collaborative relationships in terms of our existing work and for calls to action to meet future community needs.



Junubi Wyndham

Throughout 2022, Junubi Wyndham, continued to provide a critical role in supporting South Sudanese young people and their parents in Wyndham. This involved a range of in-person and online activities across the year.

For young people, the Junubi Wyndham team provided homework clubs in Manor Lakes and Point Cook, provided a range of school holiday programs and supported many local sports teams including the Wyndham Lions Basketball team, Junubi Stars Basketball team, African Stars Netball team and a number of locally based soccer clubs. In addition, Junubi Wyndham continued to engage with local schools to ensure South Sudanese young people are supported whilst undertaking their studies.

Junubi Wyndham's work is also strengthened by many existing and new partnerships including Victorian Legal Aid's (VLA) - Youth Citizenship in the West project to assist young people who face barriers to completing the process of acquiring Australian citizenship. Community safety was also high on the agenda therefore building strong relationships with Victoria Police was considered one of the top priorities in 2022 and will continue into 2023.

We would like to thank both the community members and government agencies that form the Local Reference Group, which provides valuable input to guide the work that we do.



Project Services

The Projects Service unit managed to stabilise after the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic with fifteen staff involved in the delivery of a number of programs including the *Community Employment Connectors*, *Victorian African Community Action Plan Employment Brokers*, the *New Arrival Settlement Program - Grampians Pilot*, *Jobs Victoria Employment Services* and *Reconnect*.

The employment team supported over 300 community members to enter into the workforce and conducted over 5,000 appointments with over 1,000 clients. Significant outreach and collaboration across Wyndham and Hobsons Bay enabled the team unprecedented access to communities to support and empower them to engage in education and employment opportunities more than ever before. Businesses also continued to approach the team to support them with locally based recruitment drives based on word of mouth referral from other employers who have previously been supported.

This year we completed delivery of the community education programs under the Wyndham Citizens' Academy, the *Walk through Health* and *Walk through Education* programs, which empowered community members to access, navigate and help shape the health and education systems, respectively. Filming of these programs was also undertaken which will be used as a community resource to be released in 2023.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

In 2022, many of the Neighbourhood House activities that were delivered online during COVID moved to face-to-face, which for many people, was a welcome relief from feeling isolated and disconnected from their community during that time. Of particular significance was the range of community strengthening programs that deepened our ties to community including:

- Strengthening Edible and Community Gardening in Wyndham
- Wyndham Learning Festival & Global Learning Festival
- Neighbourhood House Carers program
- Growing resilient communities through hands-on sessions to further explore the role of neighbourhood houses in supporting resilient communities
- Strengthen leadership within the Wyndham community via mentor workshops and events.

In addition to on-going Neighbourhood House activities such as careers advice, community health support and settlement support for clients ineligible for other programs, Wyndham CEC also celebrated key community events such as Adult Learners Week, Cultural Diversity Week, International Women's Day, Neighbourhood House Week, Seniors Week and Volunteers Week, and dignity drives during Homelessness Week and advocating during 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.



TREASURER’S REPORT

FUNDING BODIES & SPONSORS

Wyndham CEC would like to thank the following funding bodies and sponsors:

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

- Department of Employment & Workplace Relations
- Department of Health
- Department of Home Affairs

STATE GOVERNMENT OF VICTORIA

- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Family, Fairness & Housing
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions / Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions
- Department of Justice and Community Safety

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Wyndham City Council
- Ararat Rural City Council

WYNDHAM LEARNING FESTIVAL SPONSORS

- Victoria University Polytechnic
- Pacific Werribee

OTHER

- Bunnings, Werribee
- Sandy Mein Scholarship Fund
- Let’s Feed
- Big W



PARTNERS

Wyndham CEC acknowledges the following partners:

AMES Australia	Public Pedagogies Institute
Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY)	Services Australia - Centrelink
Chris Hopkins Photojournalist	St Andrews Primary School
cohealth	Tarneit Senior College
commUnity+	The Gordon Institute of TAFE
Consumer Affairs Victoria	The Grange P-12 College
Davis Creek Primary School	The Huddle
Deakin University	The Smith Family
Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services	Truganina South Primary School
Energy & Water Ombudsman (Victoria)	Uniting Wyndham
Equal Ed	Utopia Refugee Health
Fair Work Ombudsman	V/Line
Foundation House	Vertech Hume
Fresh Select	Victoria Police
Gambler's Help	Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Right Commission
Good360	Victorian Multicultural Commission
Hobsons Bay City Council	WCIG
Homestead Senior Secondary College	Werribee Football Club
Hoppers Crossing Basketball Club	Werribee Open Range Zoo
Hoppers Crossing Secondary College	Werribee River Association
Institute for Sustainable Industries & Liveable Cities, Victoria University	Werribee Secondary College
IPC Health	Western English Language School
Job Prospects	WEstjustice
Laverton Community Integrated Services	Williamstown Community & Education Centre
Laverton P-12 College	Worksafe Victoria
Mannor Lakes P-12 college	Wynbay LLEN
Mercy Health Victoria	Wyndham Central Secondary College
MiCare	Wyndham City Council
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	Wyndham Netball Association
Neighbourhood Houses Victoria	Wyndham Park Community Centre
Pacific Werribee	Wyndham Park Primary School
Play It Forward	Yarraville Community Centre
Point Cook Senior Secondary College	

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