

# MORELLA COMMUNITY CENTRE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Picture used designed by YURATU MATHANHA SENIOR WOMEN'S GROUP





WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE COUNTRY THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA, AND RECOGNISE THEIR CONTINUING CONNECTION TO THE LAND, WATERS AND COMMUNITY.

WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THE KAURNA PEOPLE AND THE KAURNA ELDERS PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING WHOSE LAND WE LIVE ON.

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# FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE...

Who would have thought a year ago we would still be very much working within restrictions in response to COVID19 and that at times during the year to come we would need to play a different role to support our community through very unfamiliar circumstances.

We've seen additional lock downs, social distancing requirements change, introduction of face masks as part of our everyday activities and even our venue become an SA Health testing site in the lead up to the Christmas closure as a local response to the Parafield Cluster. All of this has impacted in some way on the way we do business, how our community interacts with us and our capacity to quickly respond to opportunities and threats.

We have a Strategic Plan that informs our overall direction and annual business planning over a three year period. While one could have reasonably expected to see this Plan find itself defunct overlaid with a worldwide Pandemic, we have continued to progress many of the areas; in fact bringing some actions up earlier as a response to Covid19. This includes a brand new Webpage for the centre which can be updated by the staff team as required.

We acknowledge that our organisation has fared pretty well from a financial and other resources perspective over the past twelve months and in many ways this is attributable to the many State and Commonwealth Government supports that were available to us. The Management Committee also recognises the staff team that have during a very unpredictable year still looked for and successfully attracted; new partnerships, new programming opportunities, and new sources of funding to the Centre and its community.

We have seen some significant funding changes over 2020/2021 particularly to the 'Adult Community Education' (ACE) Program which has had a significant impact on our capacity to deliver programs that meet the needs of our community.

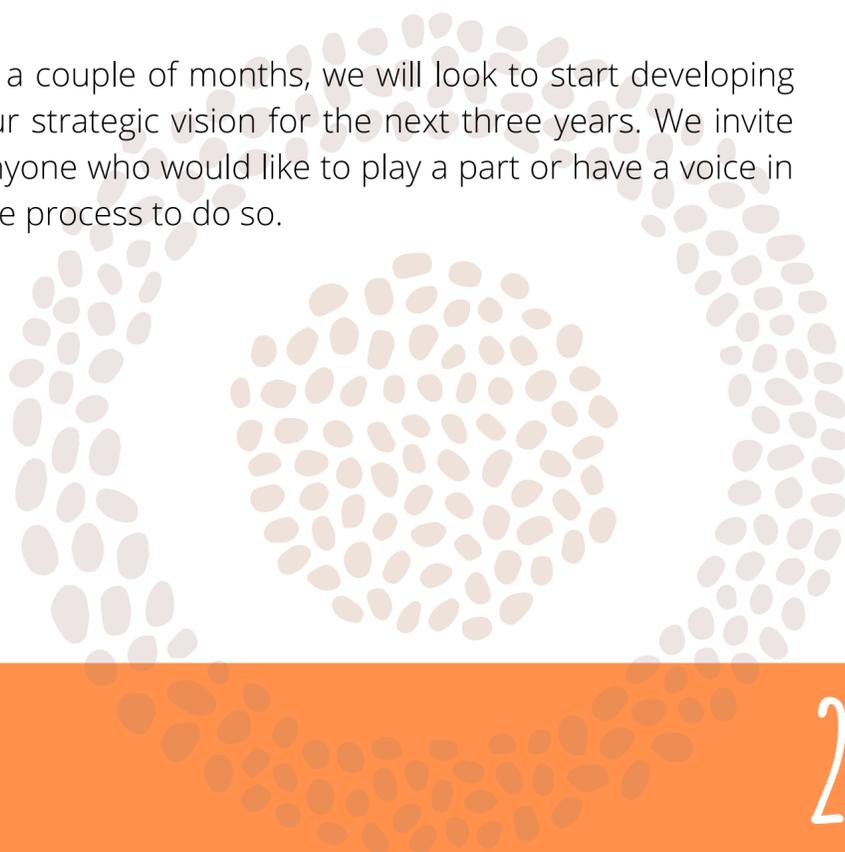
.We have however been the recipient of some smaller grants which have allowed us to deliver some unique initiatives through the year including a Place Making Project (Department of Human Services – Coordinated by Community Centres SA), and Supporting Stronger Communities Grant (Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association.)

We have also been successful in our application to be a Community Connections Partner, a new program with the Department of Human Services. Additionally, we have been offered a further year on our Building Thriving Intercultural Communities Project, which is now scheduled to finish in June 2022.

Approaching the end of the Financial Year in mid-May we undertook our second Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES) review. As the team wanted to have the same reviewer as 2018, in order to fit in with their schedule we did nearly two months earlier than required. It was clear that the huge amount of work that went into the review in 2018, including setting up better document control and review systems had paid off for this review. This time we did have an initial area to the previous review around cyber security. At the time of writing this report, we have completed all essential requirements.

The Management Committee wants to acknowledge the breadth of work undertaken by the staff team this past year, acknowledging it's probably been one of the busiest and most challenging years in the Centres history. As we now are in the final year of our current Strategic Plan, what's been really pleasing to the Management Committee is the relationship development the staff have committed to and undertaken with different communities and service organisations. Three years ago management committee, staff, and stakeholders met to identify priorities for our organisation, with many of these priorities centering on our connection with our local Aboriginal community. As we reflect on the past year it is clear that while there is still plenty to be done, that we have started on a journey of ensuring Aboriginal voices are central to the work we do and inform what we do in the future.

In a couple of months, we will look to start developing our strategic vision for the next three years. We invite anyone who would like to play a part or have a voice in the process to do so.



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S

## REPORT

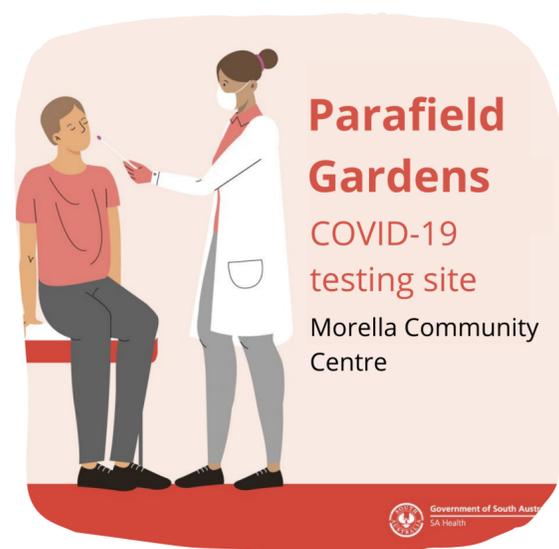
This year continued on from the last with COVID19 having a significant impact on how we did business and worked with community. Early in the financial year it seemed we'd fared pretty well from the potential fallout of a worldwide pandemic. In the **July to October** period, Morella featured a couple of times on television, first filming a segment for **South Aussie with Cosi** in our Community Garden. Later **ABC** filmed a segment at Morella about *ACE Foundation Skills funding cuts/changes* interviewing a number of MP's, Community Centres SA CEO **Kylie Ferguson**, and one of our team (**Hari Chettri**) who had written some words around the impact of these changes on community.

In **July**, we launched the **Safer Communities Project** and in **August** we launched in collaboration with **Uncle Frank Wangutya Wanganeen** his video and presentation on how to **acknowledge country in Kurna**. Over the same time period, we were implementing all the changes required by the Department for Innovation and Skills to the ACE Foundation Skills Programs which would commence back in October, with a very different target group.

A highlight of those initial months personally and for a number of staff was participating in **Sharon Gollan's (with Kathleen Stacey)** two day *Cultural Respect and Safety Training - Developing respectful service responses in working with Aboriginal people*. Attending this session alongside other centre staff, management committee members, council staff and other stakeholders, I found it to be one of the most meaningful professional and personal development opportunities that I have ever participated in. Walking away from this session forced you to look internally and externally at what we needed to change to create a safer and more inclusive environment for all in our community.

In November we got nervous as we saw positive tests for COVID19 had come through and that our centre was central to many of the hotspots mentioned. With a number of people coming into the centre unaware of the warnings and hotspot information, we made a decision to cease programs for a week..

This was followed only days later by the snap lockdown by SA Health and Government, which only lasted three days. Back in the centre for just a week or so and starting to bring back some of our programs, I received a phone call asking whether the centre could potentially **host SA Health staff to deliver COVID19 Testing at our venue**. A tentative response of "we could probably make it work" was met with a phone call within an hour that explained the Parafield Airport Testing site was already packing up and relocating to our venue.



So there we were **first week of December**, just reopening after a closure, completing our last couple of weeks of our new ACE programs, planning for 2021 and an eye to the imminent holiday break. All of a sudden the team was back to delivering some activities online and cancelling other programs, supporting hire groups to find alternative venues and once again reassuring/informing participants and community members. What had been earmarked as a time to ensure we were really prepared and plan additional activities for the New Year in line with some recent project funding received was quickly high jacked.

As we returned early in 2021 we quickly started planning new project activities including our 'Thriving past COVID19' a **Building Stronger Communities Grant** (funded by our national peak body ANCHA) and **Place Making Project** (funded by DHS through a partnership with our State Peak Body Community Centres SA.) A couple of staff starting working on a Tender for a new program with DHS, called the Community Connections Program and **by late April**, we were informed we had been selected as a **Partner for the Northern Region**.



**In January**, we were also informed an infrastructure project idea submitted to the City of Salisbury was going to be funded through a Commonwealth Government initiative. This will result in the building of a **Cultural Kitchen** in the rear of Morella's Garden, a long desired and anticipated community resource that will activate the rear garden space into an additional learning and event space.

We're fortunate that the management committee of Morella prioritises and invests in the continuing development of the staff team, particularly as it relates to achieving our Strategic Plan. In addition to the session with Sharon Gollan (offered twice during the year) we also participated in training delivered by **Rosemary Wanganeen** around understanding grief and trauma, a session on personal wellbeing delivered by one of the Sonder team and we were privileged to attend a tour through Adelaide, planned and guided by Uncle Frank Wangutya Wanganeen.

In the background over the year, we worked with **Jordan Lovegrove** from Karko creations to design and launch a functional and accessible webpage. In addition, we've used social media and online platforms in very different ways to promote and deliver community activities. We were delighted to work with **Scott Rathman Junior** once again with his band Dingo's Bel to deliver a limited live ticket event that was streamed on Facebook. At Christmas we normally hold a celebration attended by centre staff and management committee members along with their families, to acknowledge the work undertaken over the year.

Unable to hold a large event we approached local artist Sam Gollan (Meiwi Aboriginal Art) to instead create art pieces as gifts. We have since had Sam involved in the Place Making Project.

While we have collaborated with many organisations this past year, I want to specifically acknowledge the work undertaken with the **Yuratu Muthanha Senior Women's Group** alongside **Incompro** staff member **Alison Cain**. Initially, we'd planned on them being a part of our 2021 Harmony Day Event, but after that was canceled we started looking at alternative opportunities to work together. We've delivered a number of activities and events over the year in partnership with this group of women at Morella and at other sites. This group has positively shaped our provision of Intercultural activities which includes regular silk painting workshops. Their ideas and participation have resulted in meaningful community opportunities, including a Harmony Week Activity held at Morella and a Reconciliation Week Event held at Salisbury High School.

In closing, I'd like to thank everyone who has connected with Morella in some way this past year. It has been an eventful year, often challenging but overall one that has seen us undertake some really meaningful and impactful work. I'd like to acknowledge both the Management Committee and Staff teams who have given so much of themselves over the past year (and longer.) In-house we've often joked that "no one ever signed up for COVID" and the additional work and stress has resulted at times. As we enter the 2021/2022 year, I want to remind our entire to be kind to ourselves, knowing that we're nothing to others if we don't look after ourselves.

*Alison Davies*



# TREASURERS REPORT

As Treasurer, it is my pleasure to once again report as to the financial state of Morella Community Centre (MCC) for the 2020-2021 Financial Year. Again we had to endure short stints in lockdown, the results of the Covid-19 outbreak. This, of course, had an effect on all people involved, their finances and the finances of Morella Community Centre.

The Federal Government kept up their support:

## **Federal Job-keeper Scheme and ATO Cash Boost Program**

MCC received a total of \$221,650 under the Federal Job-keeper Scheme and a further \$29,372 from the ATO Cash-boost Scheme for the 2020-2021 Financial Year. The Job-keeper Scheme ran from July 2020 to March 2021. The ATO Cash Boost ran from July 2020 to September 2020. A total of \$251,021.50 was received.

A substantial part of the Job-keeper Income had to be utilised for the wages of employees under lock down and beyond as per the Federal Government rules.

Part of the wages had to be paid through our Grant income, therefore we had some additional funds which were utilised for a variety of Expenses and future Liabilities, namely:

1. Provision for Long Service Leave an additional \$19,000
2. Provision for Strategic Projects, this account was set up to fund any Strategic Projects deemed necessary for the continuation of programs within MCC, an additional \$37,000.
3. Garden Project, this was running extremely low on funds, therefore an additional \$10,000 was added to the account to ensure it's continuation.
4. Provision for Employment Expenses an additional \$5,000

## **Budget compared to Actual Profit & Loss for 2020-2021.**

The 2020/21 Budget shows a prediction of a Surplus of \$1,917 however MCC ended up with a Surplus of \$18,336.

It was extremely difficult to do a budget in a year with the Covid-19 outbreak and the effects this has had on predicting our financials and financial position on the 30th June 2021. We did receive some additional Grant funding and more funds from the Government through the Job-keeper & ATO Cash Boost Schemes.

## **Balance Sheet ending 30.06.2021**

MCC is in a good financial position with an Equity of \$73,662. MCC has provisions in place to cover certain future costs e.g. Provisions for Long Service Leave, Employment Expenses and Strategic Projects.

## **Budget for 2021-2022**

A Budget is an estimation of revenue and expenses over a specified future period of time - Estimated Income:

1st Programs and Admin \$9,375

2nd Grants Income \$493,373

ACE Foundation Skills is now named ACE Pathways, we have now added F & CD & Community Partners

3rd Hall Hire Income \$21,950

Total estimated Gross Profit/Surplus \$520,798 before any Expenses are deducted (See below)

## **Expenses**

Most of the expense lines are associated with Programs & Grants, except for items like Electricity, Photocopier maintenance, Insurance, Bank charges, Cleaning & Sanitary Services, etc

The largest expense is Employee & Volunteer Expenses at a total of \$433,355

This Budget shows a slight deficit of \$10,330 for the 2021/22 Financial Year, however it is worth keeping in mind that in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Financial years we had a cumulative surplus of around \$30,000.00.

This slight deficit is partly due to substantially lower Hall Hire Income, a decrease in interest on our Investment Account, Increases in the cost of utilities, Etc.

## **Retirement**

At the time of reading this report I will have retired as Treasurer of Morella Community Centre.

My role as Treasurer has been a rewarding experience for me over the last three years and I express my gratitude for the opportunity for the role afforded to me, it has been a great pleasure to be part of the Morella community, the interaction with staff, volunteers and participants of the Centre.

**Jildert Deijnum**

**MCC Treasurer Management Committee**

# ANNUAL BUDGET FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-2022

<b>Income</b>		<b>Administration</b>	
<b>Programs</b>		Telephone/Fax	400
Garden Group	450	Photocopier Maintenance	2,580
Exercise/Fitness	4,455	Catering	2,034
Yoga	2,205	Gas & Electricity	4,080
Language/English	1,135	Insurance	6,324
Computing Classes	585	Bank Charges	564
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>8,830</b>	Auditor/Accounting Costs	2,020
<b>Administration</b>		Sundry Expense	300
Refreshments-Drinks	545	Subs/Memberships/licences	1,304
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>545</b>	Professional Expertise	1,750
<b>Grants Income</b>		External Consultants	10,950
ACE- Pathways	117,872	Social Cohesian Activities	5,000
Dept of Social Services Grant	139,940	Auditing	300
Safer Communities Grant	91,083	Computer/Printer Expense	300
Community Partners	103,428	Miscellaneous Program/Resources	5,985
F & CD	41,050	Stationery	4,380
<b>Total Grants Income</b>	<b>493,373</b>	Advertising/Marketing	3,526
<b>Hall Hire</b>		Centre Events	17,700
Hire Income	21,950	<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>69,497</b>
<b>Total Hall Hire</b>	<b>21,950</b>	<b>Employee &amp; Volunteer Expenses</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>524,698</b>	Staff/Volunteer Support	3,900
<b>Cost Of Sales</b>		Training/Professional Develop	1,500
<b>Programs</b>		Wages & Salaries	367,142
Yoga	3,900	Superannuation	36,714
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>3,900</b>	WorkCover	7,269
<b>Total Cost Of Sales</b>		Other Employment Expenses	13,649
<b>3,900</b>		Provision for Long Service Leave	3,181
<b>Gross Profit</b>		<b>Total Employee &amp; Volunteer Expen</b>	<b>433,355</b>
<b>520,798</b>		<b>Cleaning</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		Cleaning Services	12,000
<b>Programs</b>		Sanitary Services	1,735
Program Costs	3,300	Materials & Services	1,740
Intercultural Training- Ex Consult	7,500	<b>Total Cleaning</b>	<b>15,475</b>
Project Management	4,000	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>533,127</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>Operating Profit</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>		<b>-12,330</b>	
<b>Interest Received</b>		<b>2,000</b>	
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>2,000</b>	
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>		<b>-10,330</b>	

*Note: A more detailed budget and full audited Financial Statements are available on request*

# ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION (ACE)

## Accredited and Non- Accredited Courses funded by the Department of Innovation and Skills

The 2020 – 2021 ACE Foundation Skills Programs commenced in Term 4 2020 with reduced funding, lesser student intake and change in enrolment and reporting processes. The ACE team prepared to implement the changes to the Department of Innovation and Skills funding prior to commencement. This included developing program plans that reflected learning strategies do develop required skills to achieve the approved pathway outcomes and the implementation of the Upfront Assessment of Needs process as a part of the enrolment process.

### The Funding Changes

30% reduction in funding

50% reduction in participation intake

Immediate pathway outcomes expected from 70% of participants

### Our new target group

Participants who considered in the category of moderate and high readiness for employment

Unemployed or underemployed seeking some upskilling for better employment opportunities

Unemployed but have existing skills and very few barriers

Career transition

## *Impact to our community with the changes in enrolment and outcome*

- The impact of Covid-19 and related lockdowns meant participants who were connected virtually to the centre wanted to come back to face to face learning. This impacted the Wellbeing of community members post Covid19. particularly our Non-Accredited target group.
- Staff had minimal opportunities available around the area for non-eligible participants to be referred into due to reduction in services and alternative options within the community.
- Community members who have low readiness for employment, low level English language and Literacy and those that require significant upskilling to seek employment were no longer eligible

## The Outcomes

Despite significant changes to the funding, the ACE team is proud of their achievements and more importantly the achievements of our participants. An impressive 59 participants out of 63 enrolments from our Accredited courses and 65 from a total of 67 enrolments from our Non-accredited achieved at least one of the below pathway outcomes as a result of the program:

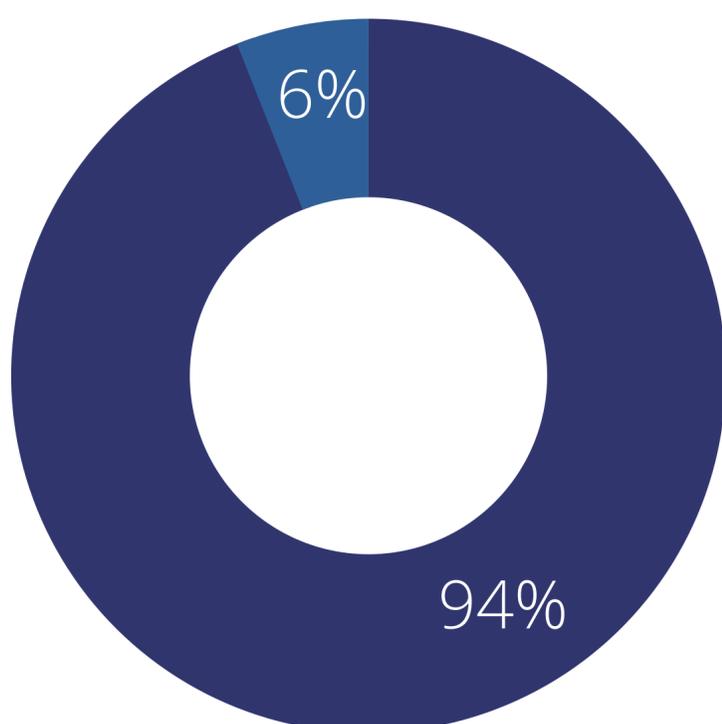
- Measurable improvement in foundation skills through Upfront Assessment of Need
- Enrolled in VET or a Skilling South Australia project
- Commenced employment

With regards to participant enrolment numbers, we were oversubscribed for our Accredited programs and undersubscribed to our Non-accredited programs. There have been a number of contributing factors including:

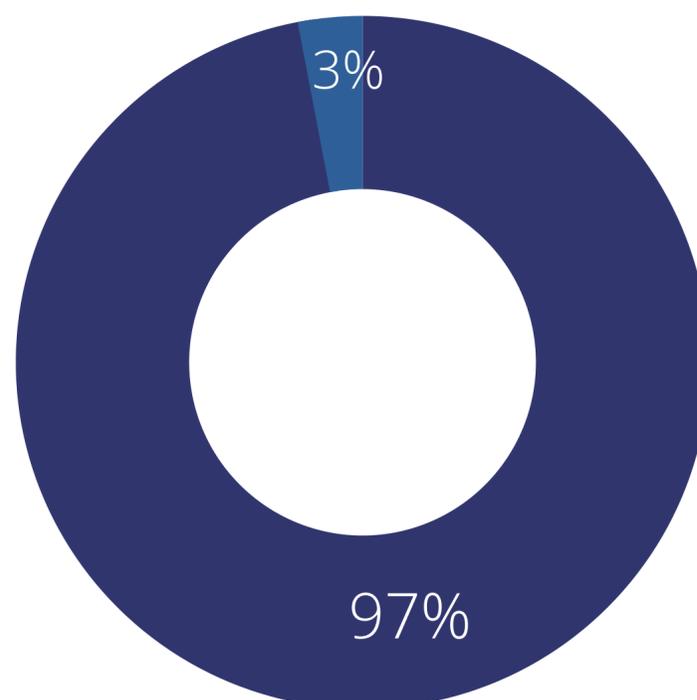
- The UAN process established they were not suitable for ACE, hence were referred to alternative Non-ACE courses. This may be due to the outcome of the oral, reading, writing, and numeracy assessment and the identification of multiple barriers to achieving the expected outcome within the short timeframe.
- Higher than normal interest in Accredited programs, this may be because COVID-related job losses may have resulted in community members' desire to reskill.

It is also worth noting that the team conducted 158 Upfront Assessment of Needs through one-on-one assessments. Each UAN process took an average of 80 minutes to complete.

**PATHWAY OUTCOMES  
ACCREDITED PROGRAMS**



**PATHWAY OUTCOMES  
NON - ACCREDITED  
PROGRAMS**



- Outcomes achieved
- Outcomes not achieved

## Interskills

In the accredited courses, the participants aimed to complete one unit of competency from Foundation Skills Training package. Assessment is based on the structured activities and tasks they undertook during the program.

Interskills (RTO 6653) was the issuing Registered Training Organisation for these programs, the participants on completion received a Statement of Attainment for the unit they completed. Internal and external quality monitoring imposed through regular communication and audits ensured a successful delivery, assessment and quality of the course meeting national standards.



## Stakeholders

The team worked closely with Job Active Providers, Parents Next Providers, Disability Service Providers, Employment Service Providers, and various community organisations to provide the local community a safe and flexible learning environment to follow their learning and career aspirations. For many of our participants meeting with RTOs that provided subsidised training during the “where to from here” sessions created the seamless connection to an accessible entry point to formal education, many taking on courses like Certificate III or higher courses in Disability, Early Childhood Education, Education Support, Youth, Hospitality and so on.

Also worth noting the mentor and support provided by the staff team to link participants to useful wrap-around services such as Sonder, SaverPlus, Maxima, TAFESA English language programs helped with their goals. Information about various support services such as Centrelink subsidies, skills/qualification transfer/recognition services, student loans, resume help also played a critical role to successfully reduce barriers to seek job opportunities resulted in many of our participants successfully gaining employment.

# BUILDING THRIVING INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITIES

A priority of the project team this year has been to increase the number of workshops, events and other activities we deliver, that:

- Centre Aboriginal voices and ideas in the planning
- Increase access to information about Aboriginal culture and history in Australia
- Increase intercultural participation

## *Acknowledgement to Country in Kurna Language*

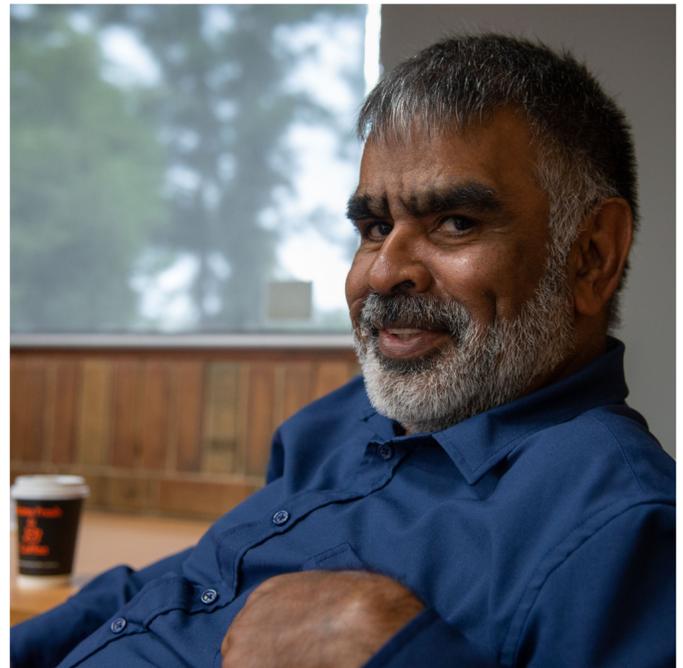
Local Kurna Elder Uncle Frank Wangutya Wanganeen consistently expresses his passion regarding the revival of the Kurna Language. He led the BTIC project team on the planning and development of a video that shares his perspective on connection to Kurna language and the difference between a Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country.

This video has then been used as a resource to support the delivery of workshops he has facilitated across a range of different organisation and services, including; Children's Centres, Salvation Army Plus, ARA's youth ambassadors, local government representatives and other community centres.

Workshop attendees have provided really positive feedback, with many indicating they would use the information learned in the future and a desire to attend other workshops.

DELIVERED FROM 7 DIFFERENT SITES INCLUDING COMMUNITY CENTRES & SERVICE PROVIDERS

68 PEOPLE ATTENDED



Uncle Frank Wangutya Wanganeen

## *Kurna Yarta Tour*

Another initiative planned and led by Uncle Frank was this tour for staff and family of Morella Community Centre. The tour aimed to bring awareness of historical and cultural sites of the Kurna people and give insight to those attending as to why these sites are of importance.

Uncle Frank took the team from Morella on a guided tour of local and Adelaide City Kurna Country. In this professional/personal development session, staff (paid and volunteer) and even some of their family members learnt about historical and cultural sites in Adelaide and along the Karrawirra Parri (River Torrens) as well as the importance of these locations to the Kurna people.



***"I use to think it wasn't culturally acceptable for me to do the acknowledgement of country in Kurna language as a non-aboriginal person. Now I think it is showing respect and helping keep the Kurna language"***

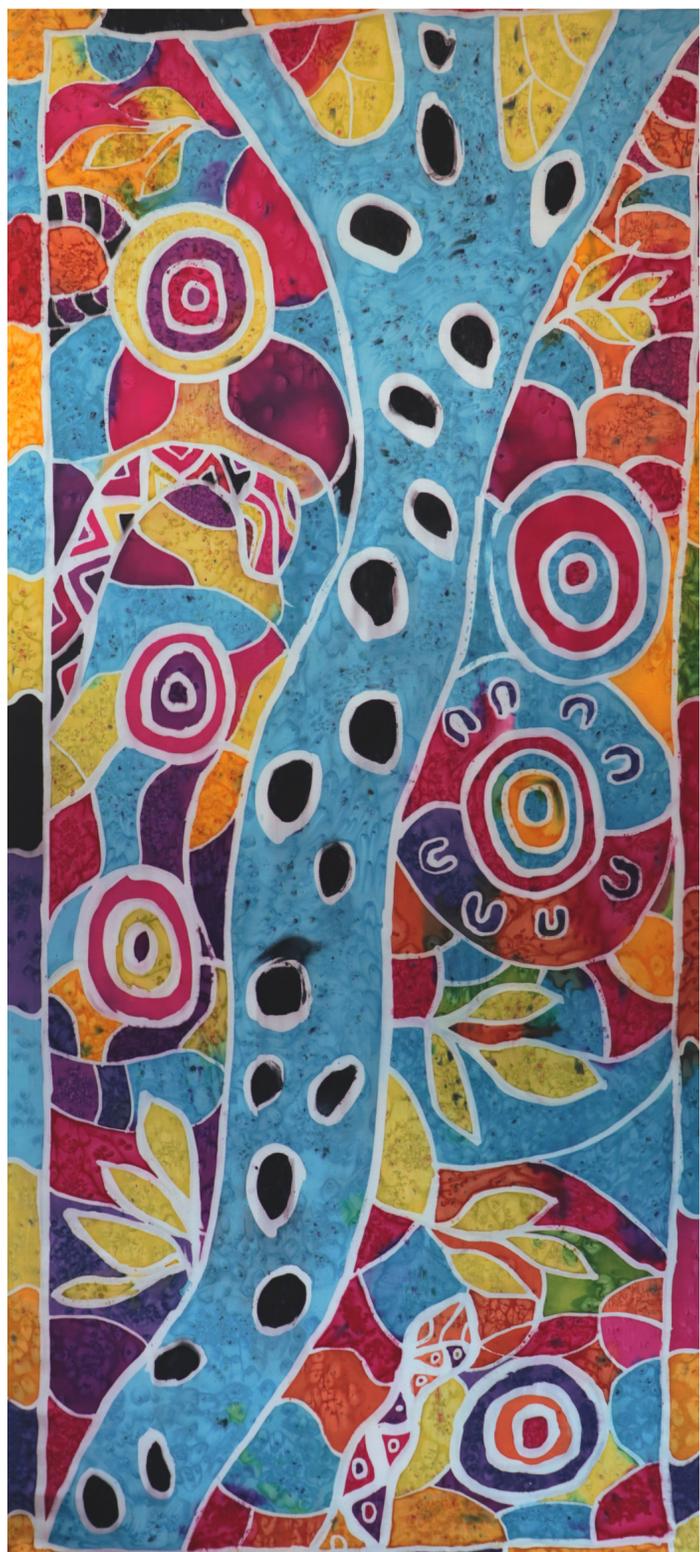
- Acknowledgement to Country participant -

# Harmony Week Celebrations

Harmony Week 2021 started with an event held at Morella Community Centre, co-hosted with the Yuratu Mathanha Senior Women's Group. Due to social distancing restrictions in place, we were still unable to hold a large scale Family Fun Day, so instead we held a smaller event with two sessions people were invited to attend .

Attendees at this event represented a high level of diversity across age, culture, ability and religion.

Local Kurna Elder Uncle Frank Wangutya Wanganeen opened the celebrations with Welcome to Country. Attendees were treated to refreshments, music by local Aboriginal musician Scott Rathman Jnr and traditional Henna Art by Adelaide's Jai Henna. One of the highlights of the event was the silk paintings designed prior to the event by Yuratu Mathanha Senior Women's Group. These were then painted by the community members attending the event and now hang proudly in the foyer of the Centre.



The second event the team was involved in was a collaboration with Parafield Gardens High School, with planning and elements of the event undertaken with Student Representative Council (SRC) members. This year's theme was 'Youth Standing Up Against Racism', which made the school the perfect venue, and the students the perfect group to work and engage with. The SRC group ensured that they raised the history of Harmony Day - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

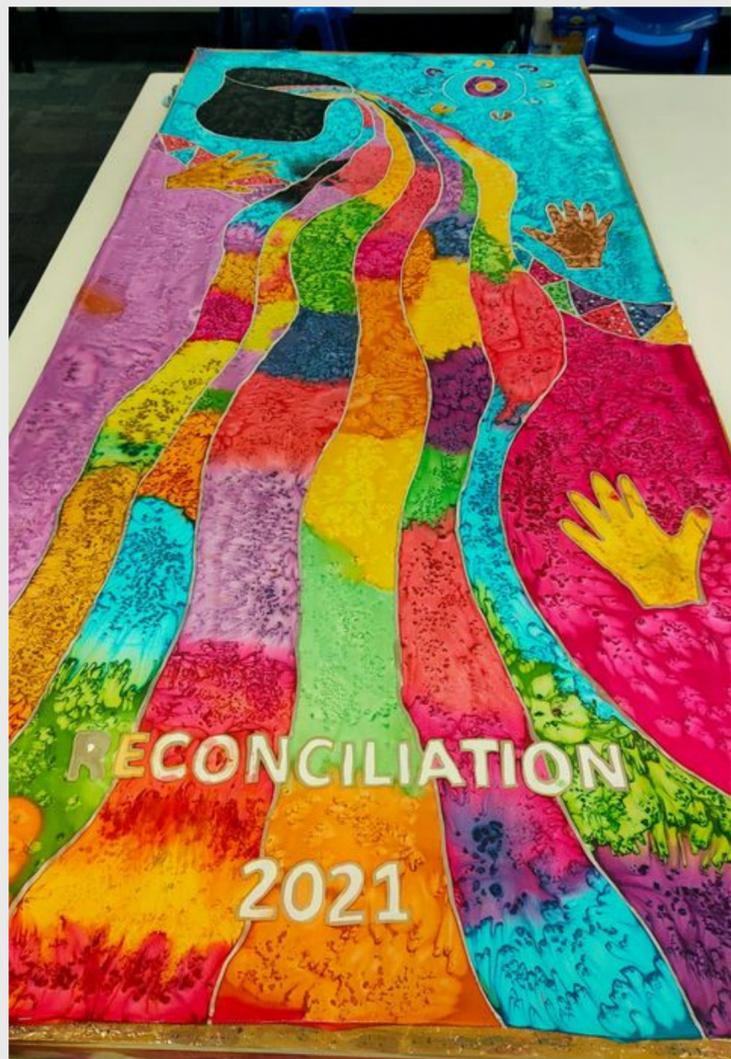
The third Harmony Week event was held at Parafield Gardens Children's Centre and featured an instrumental performance by San Ureshi. The musicians took the children on a musical and cultural journey engaging in song and dance using the erhu, guzheng and percussion instruments. Two sessions were delivered to ensure all children attending the Centre got an opportunity to see the performance.



Designs of these art pieces and the cover page is by the Yuratu Mathanha Senior Women's Group and painted by community members

# Reconciliation Week @ Salisbury High School

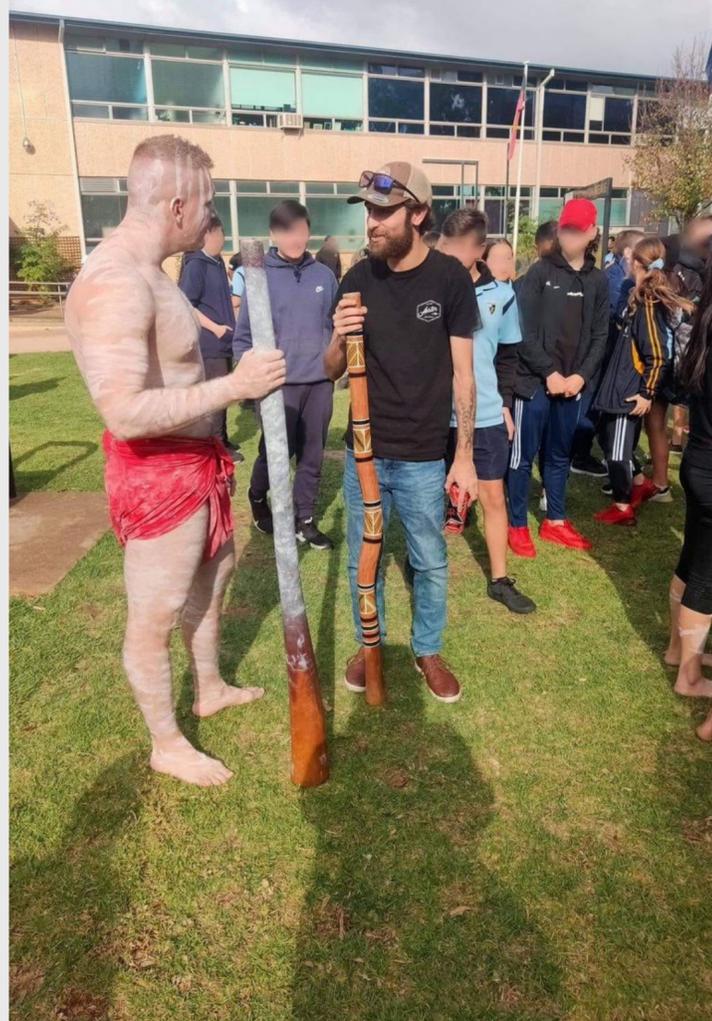
## Sista Girlz Group and Yuratu Mathanha Senior Women's Group



Working with the Yuratu Mathanha Senior Women's Group this year has resulted in new connections across community and opportunities to work with some amazing people. A highlight this past year was working with the women and the Sista Girlz Group from Salisbury High School with Poppy Pitson to support their planning and delivery of a whole of school community Reconciliation Week Event.

The 'Sista Girlz' Group were involved with planning inclusions for the event and took the lead among their peers to ensure engagement in the various activities throughout the day. The young women were fabulous hosts to the Centre staff and other individuals who were part of the event activities and helped with the set up and pack of the day. They shared their private safe space at the school with Centre staff and the event videographer and interviewed some of their peers in relation to what reconciliation meant to them.

A photo booth was onsite for the students to use ready made props to capture their feelings on reconciliation. The Sista Girlz group had created additional props that were meaningful to them and we had note pads for students to write down their feelings towards reconciliation.



Yuratu Mathanha Senior Women's Group designed a reconciliation piece on silk for students to paint. A number of students from diverse cultures took part in bringing the canvas to life throughout the day and many engaged in conversation with the Yuratu Mathanha ladies around the story behind the design.

We enjoyed seeing the interaction between the Yuratu Mathanha ladies and the Aboriginal students as they were coming in throughout the day. You could see the connection they all had with each other and the respect the younger generation showed the ladies when they spoke to them.

Scott Rathman Jnr provided music for the students to enjoy during the day and the event finished with an amazing cultural performance and smoking ceremony by Kuma Kaaru. This performance was made extra special by the fact that a couple of the school's students are a part of this performing group and were able to perform in front of their peers.

# STANDING TOGETHER PARAFIELD GARDENS - SAFER COMMUNITIES PROJECT

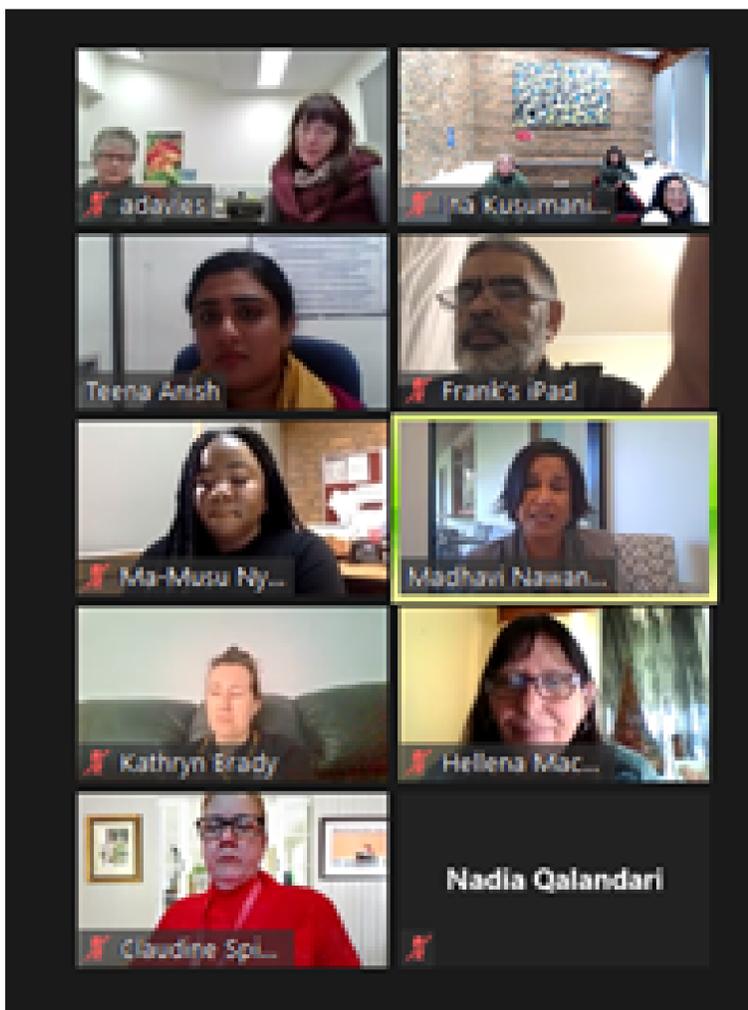
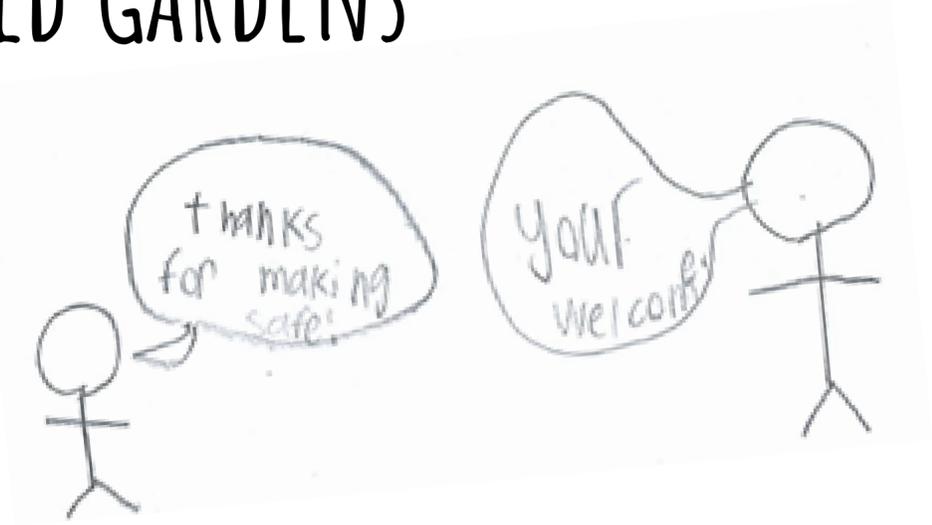
## Summary:

This project aims to improve communities' access to culturally and religiously safe services and organisations, potentially providing a safe haven when children or young people experience racial/religious intolerance.

## The Project:

Key outputs of the project include:

- An environmental scan determining the scale and impact of racial and religious intolerance experienced by families, children and young people in the Parafield Gardens area
- The development of a Cultural Safety Framework and a Safe Zone Self-Assessment Tool which can be accessed and used by various community organisations
- The delivery of free training workshops aimed at supporting organisations to apply the Cultural Safety Framework in their own environments
- Creating a pool of resources to support organisations to work in a culturally and religiously safe way



Project Launch via Zoom

## Where are we at?

After the launch via Zoom, the year predominately focused on creating relationships with local schools and other organisations that deliver services locally, delivering on the first major output of the project and commencing the delivery of activities that support building an understanding of cultural and religious safety.

Project outcomes achieved to date:

- Environmental Scan undertaken to understand the extent and impact of racial and/or religious intolerance on adults, children and young people.
- Increase awareness of self-care strategies for people experiencing religious and/or racial intolerance related behaviour.
- Sessions for young people to identify racism and respond to racism
- Training and support to organisations to deliver services in a culturally safe manner.
- Delivery of community activities that promote social cohesion.
- Commenced development of a Cultural Safety Framework through a co-design model



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

## *Summary:*

This project aims to support people to increase independence in the home and to build stronger, meaningful social and community connections.

## *The Project:*

We were successful in securing our tender to become a community partner within the Community Connections Program (CCP). CCP is funded by the Department of Human Services and commenced May 2020, running through until July 2023.

Morella Community Centre will be working with participants who may be at risk of or experiencing isolation and loneliness due to a number of reasons, to assist them in taking steps to reconnect. We can do this by:

- Linking to local community activities including volunteering,
- Finding support groups unique to participants needs
- Connecting / reconnecting with people around them
- Supporting connections to other services – including in home support

Since the commencement of this project, we have been establishing new connections, building relationships and identifying gaps in existing services, with the possibility to develop new programs should we establish a need for them within the community.

We are excited to be involved in a new project like CCP and look forward to being a part of helping the Program grow and develop. Watch this space!



# COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden provides an invaluable resource to the Centre and community and is accessed by very different groups over most weeks, including; children attending creche, participants from our Friends of the Garden Group and some of our vocational pathway programs.

The Friends of the Garden group has always been one of our most inclusive groups and although membership has changed since COVID19 it still sees a diverse group of people from different cultures, religions, ages and ability attending. This group has contributed ideas for many of the one off workshops we've seen on gardening over the year and will be the lead Morella group contributing to goods on our newly installed grow cart.

# COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Over the past twelve months we have delivered a number of one off workshops exploring various themes and topics. A number of these workshops (but not all) were delivered through our 'Thriving past COVID19' project which has been funded by Community Centre's national peak body ANCHA.

While many of these workshops aim to provide community members with an opportunity to participate in a session that in some way promotes well-being and also learning something they could then replicate at home, others are being delivered in response to identified safety issues in our community. An example of this are the sessions with The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service, who had approached us to deliver some additional fire safety sessions after a couple of deaths occurred locally in the months preceding. The deaths would have been preventable with recommended fire safety equipment and practices in place. Sessions delivered have included:

- Garden Spaces and Native Plants
- Fire safety and You - Two Sessions
- Green Waste Management
- Herb Garden and Pot Decorating
- Native Bee Workshop - With Sophie Thompson
- Kokedama Workshop
- Peace Lillies - naked roots



# COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

The Building Thriving Intercultural Communities Project and Safer Communities Project provide opportunities to participate in a range of professional and personal development activities. These training workshops and other sessions are accessed by a range of community organisations and service providers in the North (and sometimes further afar). The aim is attendees will apply learning in their work environments resulting in safer and more inclusive services being delivered. A couple of the years highlight sessions are below.

## *Bi-Cultural Awareness & Safety for Inclusion - Workshop for service providers*

**Delivered by Rosemary Wanganeen from The Healing Centre for Griefology**

This workshop introduced the Seven Phases to Integrating Loss & Grief as an 'holistic approach' to help to transform Aboriginal disadvantage into Aboriginal prosperity. Facilitator, Rosemary Wanganeen shared her own personal and professional story, to show how an understanding of Aboriginal perspectives on loss and grief inform, explain and offer practical solutions to Aboriginal disadvantage. Rosemary covered;

- the profound relationship between suppressed unresolved loss and grief in Aboriginal communities, and Aboriginal disadvantage
- how grieving processes in traditional Aboriginal culture prevented social, emotional, and physical diseases and disorders

practical strategies for service providers to use this information to ensure their practice is effective, they work respectfully and effectively with other service providers, and help Aboriginal clients forge a path from disadvantage to prosperity.

15 staff participated in this workshop representing the following organisations; Baptist Care, Anglicare, ARA, The Smith Family, Novita - Hippy Program, Interskills, City of Salisbury and Morella Community Centre.

## *Community Forum - With Reconciliation SA & Act Now Theatre*

This Community forum helped facilitate conversation of anti-racism. CEO of Reconciliation SA Shona Ried kick started the conversation about racism, how it is experience with statistics and its impact on people. This was followed by the interactive Forum Theatre Performance "Responding to Racism" which focuses on addressing, preventing and building resilience against racism. The session equipped people to explore racism and the effect that it has on others, what individuals can do on an interpersonal level to respond to racism and discuss cultural safety and how it can be supported in the community.



***"Making our office a more culturally sensitive space and creating a comfortable environment for any of our Aboriginal families who might visit us"***

Response: Actions that I will be taking as a result of participating in this workshop (Bi-Cultural Awareness & Safety for Inclusion)

# WORKING WITH FAMILIES, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

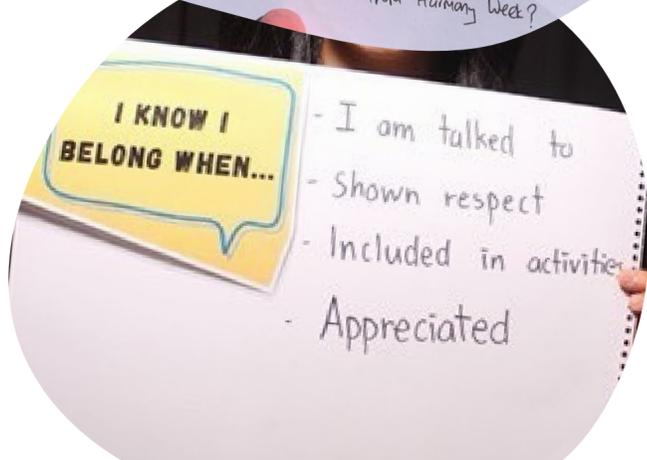
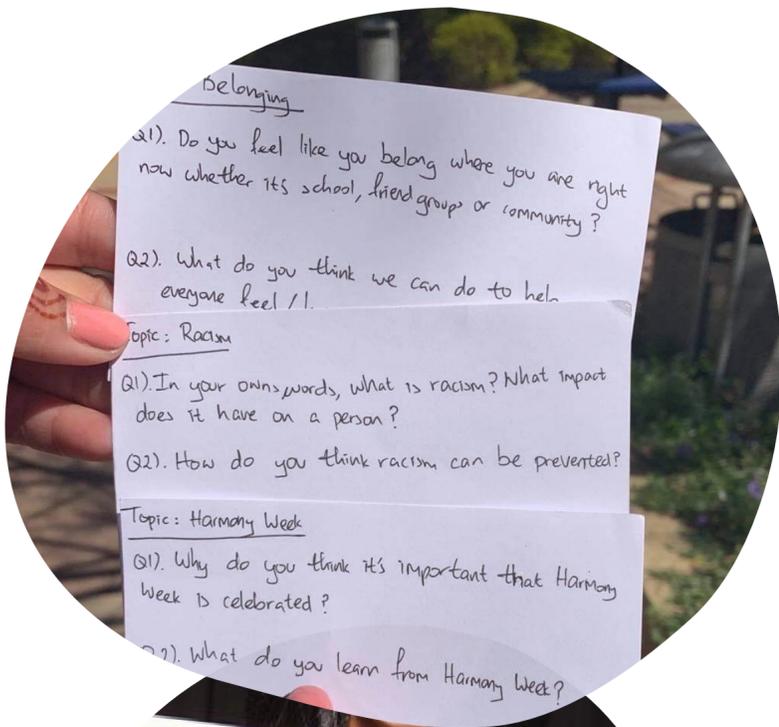
As the Safer Communities Project saw a focus on working with families, children and young people, we have increased activities offered over the past twelve months aimed at engaging and involving these groups.

In the April School Holidays we saw a return to school holiday programming through the Building Thriving Intercultural Communities Project, delivering three programs with an Intercultural theme.

Various workshops, small activities and larger events have been delivered from multiple sites and services across the Northern and wider region including Community Hubs, schools, Children's Centres, other Community Centres, local parks and at other service providers sites working with families and children.

We have continued delivering a regular weekly Community English Program at Parafield Gardens Children's Centre. Our partnership with the Children's Centre goes back a number of years now and has resulted in some really significant outcomes for community over that time.

Some highlights from over the past year follow.



## Harmony Week event @ Parafield Gardens High School

Harmony Week celebrates cultural diversity in Australia. "Youth standing up against racism" was the 2021 theme. The 21st of March is observed as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Morella supported Harmony Week activities at the Parafield Gardens High school, with the aim to understand young people's perspectives on inclusiveness, respect, racism and belonging.

Students were able to contribute through recorded video interviews and photo booth activities. The Safer Communities project used the feedback and input from students towards the environmental scan.

# *Like Me, Like You - In partnership Reconciliation SA*

**Held at Riverdale R-7 School and Parafield Gardens Primary School**



Like Me, Like You is an interactive performance introducing primary school age children to the idea of diversity. It explores all of the different people, cultures, and stories that make up Australia today - from the First Nations people who have been here for thousands of years, to the new migrants who've just arrived!

Students met three characters who took them through a series of short scenes with songs, dance, puppets and stories about what makes you, like me, like you.

The play highlights similarities of children despite the various ethnic backgrounds they may come from. The facilitators encouraged children to share experiences that have made them feel excluded because of their religious or cultural background, unfortunately there were many experiences of racism shared.

It was incredible to see young children's ability to identify what racism is, call it when they saw it. It was moving and somewhat inspirational to see children coming up with strategies on how they would respond to victims and perpetrators of racism.

## *Flag hoisting & Kaurua Language session © Parafield Gardens Children's Centre*

As a thank you for providing some of the 'children's voices' within the environmental scan, Uncle Frank visited the Parafield Gardens Children's Centre to talk to the kindergarten students. Uncle Frank raised their new Aboriginal flag and taught the Niina Marni song to the children.

After Uncle Frank shared his knowledge of land and Kaurua language. Uncle Frank also gifted all the children who attended their Kaurua birth order names as certificates.





## CONTACT US



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