

# MORELLA COMMUNITY CENTRE



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023



**Morella Community Centre  
operates on Kaurana land.  
We acknowledge Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander peoples as  
the First Peoples of Australia.  
We pay respect to them, their  
cultural and spiritual heritage,  
and to Elders past, present and  
emerging.**

**Morella welcomes people from all cultures,  
faiths, backgrounds and experiences, and  
celebrates all identities, genders, sexes,  
orientations and abilities.**

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## ABOUT MORELLA

**Morella Community Centre** officially opened in 1984 and since opening, has evolved to become quite an integral part of the Parafield Gardens and Salisbury Downs Community. We operate within a Collaboration Agreement with the City of Salisbury and are independently run by our own Management Committee which is made up of community members, staff representatives and other stakeholders.

### ***At Morella, we value:***

**Respect** – We believe all people should be treated with dignity

**Diversity** – We value our diverse community and the strengths, knowledge, skills and uniqueness of people

**Life-wide Learning** – We believe everyone has the right to access opportunities that encourage people to grow and learn

**Integrity** – Our professional and community reputation is important to us and we are committed to being responsible, transparent and ethical

### ***We do this by:***

- Delivering programs and services that create opportunities for our community.
- Working collaboratively with partners to create and maximise opportunities for our community.
- Providing an environment that is welcoming, inclusive and safe.
- Fostering a culture where everyone's voice is heard

# A WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

It seems that as each year passes – what comes to mind first when writing this report is how busy Morella Community Centre has been over this past year. Exciting, innovative programs have again provided opportunities for people from a range of diverse backgrounds to come together to learn and connect in a supportive environment.

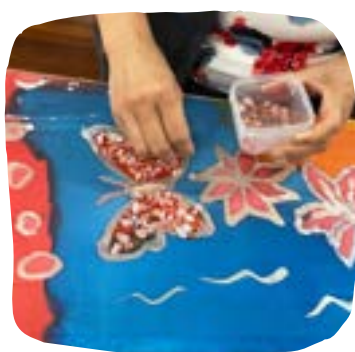
This would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of not only Alison, the Coordinator of the Centre but also the Project Leads, other staff members and volunteers who make up the ‘team’.

As a Management Committee, we are very much part of the team, always with a focus on Morella Community Centres values of Respect, Diversity, Inclusion and Life Wide Learning. We start each year with a Strategic Planning Day which includes not only the Committee but also the whole staff team, other organisations and most importantly some of the participants of the Centre. This year was no exception and with the facilitation of Caro Madder from Grassroots consulting we had a full and rewarding day which culminated in identifying Strategic Plan Key Themes which subsequently have formed our Business Plan for 2023. Input provided on planning day was supported by Community members and other stakeholder feedback as to what they would also like to see continuing or other areas developing to meet the needs of the local Community and promote social inclusion.

The end of January saw us hold a ‘welcome’ back to Morella event for community members where existing and new members most kindly provided feedback as to what they enjoyed and what they would like to see as something new at the Centre. This invaluable information was also incorporated into our Business Plan where it met the identified Key Themes.

If I may – the following quote was direct feedback from Community Needs Analysis – *“please continue to be a welcoming, friendly, safe, relaxed and inclusive space – we love it here!”* And one more – *“Organisations/Programs (assuming management support) want to continue partnerships and collaborate to respond to emerging needs and opportunities”*.

All feedback is helpful and it is heartening to know that participants of the Centre feel welcomed and safe and the other organisations wish to continue to work with us. As was identified in this feedback, – “assuming management support”, - As a Management Committee, we endeavour to provide that much needed support in the spirit of meeting the Centres obligations to provide a service to community members and embrace the connectedness this can provide in their own neighbourhood. These obligations are met through effective and efficient Governance, which includes Strategic and Business Planning, Leadership and Management, Community Engagement, Stakeholder Engagement, Responsibility and Accountability and duties of the members carried out with integrity and ethically.



All Community Centres are reliant on resources which are available at any given time and Morella is no exception. When we consider what we may require in meeting the needs of community, we apply for grants on the basis of 'How can this support our community? What has changed in the community where needs are not being met? How can we provide innovative programs to meet those needs? Do we have supportive policies and systems in place to accommodate the business functioning of the Centre? When successful in securing identified resources, this helps us to build on existing programs and develop new ones, encourage continued and new participation of community members and develop partnerships with other organisations to support those needs.

The City of Salisbury Council has supported and backed the development of not only the approval and build of the Cultural Kitchen but also for a Yarning Circle to be built this coming year. It is timely to extend our sincere thanks to the Council for their support and foresight in helping make these projects come to fruition. When consideration needs to be given to many aspects of such builds, imagine the Risk Management assessments which needed to be carried out – then it is a huge thank you to the Council team. A huge thank you also to the people who had the vision in the first place to develop the Kitchen, to those who helped design the concept, the important input from Morella participants and what they would like to see included. Our huge thanks also to Uncle Frank Wanganeen, Kurna Elder and Violet Buckskin, Cultural Consultant and Artist for their guidance and design of the Yarning Circle.

This year, Salisbury Council undertook a review of the Governance of Community Centres. The outcome of this is a positive one for Morella Community Centre Incorporated. This review was completed at the end of June. It is pertinent to acknowledge in this report, the Management Committee has recently signed a Variation to the Collaboration Agreement with council and this will provide continuity for the next three years, with a review yearly and subject to reporting back on our Business Plan and meeting objectives for the community, which in turn, align with Council's strategic plan. A commitment to this shared support and working relationship with a clear understanding of our Delegation of Authority and that of the Community Development Co-Ordinator, Alison, who is employed by council will see us work towards and achieve our objectives.

We will do this by continuing to focus on communication, commitment and co-operation between the Committee, Co-Ordinator and staff team to ensure innovative programs and opportunities which focus on our Strategic and Business Plans come to fruition in the best interest of the community we serve.

Jackie Hinton  
Chairperson

# FINANCE REPORT



The 2022/2023 audited report show an end position of a \$7,000 net profit, attributable somewhat to the increased interest being received on investment account.

While overall income has reduced this past year, this has been in response to the end of significant funded projects. It is worth noting that a significant amount of funding for the 2022/2023 year was received in 2021/2022.

We have seen an increase in our own income streams of administration and pleasingly Hall Hire, which has returned to higher than pre-Covid levels and likely to increase over coming years even further. As an organisation facilitating access to its limited spaces is often a juggle. While venue hire is an important source of raising revenue to pay operational expenses we need to balance this with maintaining space available to provide our own programming, space for partnership initiatives and ensuring community can access the services it needs and wants as appropriate from the venue.

In recent times we have been successful in securing grants from the Department of Human Services and we are delighted to receive this funding across three areas – funding for developing Governance & Sustainability, funds for a three-year (potentially nine years in total) Community & Neighbourhood Development Program and continued funding for the Community Connections Program. We are grateful for these funds and the confidence shown to Morella in our ability to be able to deliver on these programs and meet the desired outcomes for participants and the wider community.

Our ACE program continues to grow with the support of Skills SA funding to deliver the English programs and Pathway programs, both on-site and off-site to ensure broader participation opportunities.

The Management Committee acknowledges the ongoing work and commitment of Finance Officer Ruth Tucharke, one of the longest standing members of the Morella team. We also acknowledge the contribution of Jasmin Ibrihim who took on the role of Treasurer for most of the past two years and Karen Derby who has provided additional support to the Finance Officer. Ensuring good financial systems takes a team of people behind the scenes.

Morella Community Centre  
Management Committee

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORDINATOR REPORT



It always feels like a bit of a privilege to get a chance to sit back and reflect on the year that was, and this year is no different. We've seen the end of some multi-year projects, been fortunate to secure resources for new projects, partnered with some great organisations and individuals to deliver programs and events and had the chance to walk alongside some pretty amazing community members.

I've been in this role many years and I know I'm very fortunate to be in a job I really enjoy, that's challenging, constantly evolves and allows you to learn about yourself and others in a really meaningful way. The icing on the cake is working with a management committee, staff team, many stakeholders and partner organisations that believe passionately in contributing to creating stronger communities.

The portfolio of work Morella is involved in seems to expand every year, often in response to the changes within community and their expectations of us.

It's hard to identify particular highlights in a year that has had so many, but I do want to tell the story of Uncle Kula (**pictured**). We enjoyed working with Artist Pat Ingram this last year, who delivered a number of different Art Workshops at the Centre. Some of these workshops explored the creation of little birds made with marine debris. In addition to the little birds a larger Magpie was made, symbolic of the friendship Morella has with the magpies who often are found in our gardens singing, basking in the sunshine and drinking from any pool of water available.

Many years ago our relationship with the magpies was a little more hostile, with staff and community members often swooped in the car park during breeding season. We'd often have signs on the building warning of the magpies, offer umbrellas for fearful community members to get them safely to their cars and one staff member had even designed an ice cream tub hat to wear when in the car park.



It was noted at one point in time during the height of COVID that the magpies no longer swooped anyone during breeding season. That they often remained in place when anyone went outside and that they would often come up to the doors to hang around when they were locked. A staff member at the time mentioned “yes they seem to have stopped since we started feeding them and leaving water out for them on hot days, in the creche garden.” While this may seem a bit of a random highlight, I think for me Morella’s story with our magpies is symbolic of how we may all need to work a little differently to create more meaningful connections. That we need to look beyond the surface, including at times what may appear to be hostile behaviours and actively look to identify what we can do differently to improve the relationships with those around us.

Before we know it we will be pulling together the report for Morella’s 40th year, a significant year for any organisation. I feel really positive that we have an impactful year ahead of us. If the Business Plan is any indication Morella certainly has a busy year planned.



In closing I’d like to acknowledge a number of people:

My City of Salisbury colleagues, not just my immediate Community Centre and Hubs Team, but also those from the various teams from across council who support the work done in community.

The entire team at Morella from committee members through to staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly to shape an organisation and services that walk meaningfully alongside community.

The community organisations and services, government departments and individuals that collaborate with us on a regular and adhoc basis.

Most of all I’d like to thank the many individuals that walk through the doors of Morella each year and particularly those who share in such a generous way that it impacts positively on everyone around them.

Alison Davies  
Community Development Coordinator  
City of Salisbury



Morella  
Community  
Centre

90 Kings Road,  
Parafield Gardens  
Kaurna Country

Diversity  
Integrity  
Respect  
Lifelong Learning

ORAL & WRITTEN  
COMMUNICATION SKILLS

PATHWAY TO CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES INDUSTRY

ORAL & WRITTEN  
COMMUNICATION SKILLS

LEARNING IN THE  
KITCHEN

COMMUNICATION  
SKILLS  
FOR WORK AND STUDY



# THE YEAR THAT WAS

*Mapped to our Business plan priority areas and objectives*

### **Objective: Morella knows who is in the community and what their needs are**

Community organisations like Morella have to have a deep understanding of their community in order to plan programs, services and other initiatives that are relevant. Our last Strategic Plan originally covered July 2019-June 2022, but given the impact of COVID during this period, the Census held in 2021 and the end to some of our funded projects we extended the Plan's life for an additional year. During this past year with the support of external consultant Caro Madder of grassroots Consulting, we have spent considerable time looking at the demographics of our community, consulting with centre participants, stakeholders and the wider community and sought to understand the synergies between Morella's organisational objectives and the emerging strengths and needs of our community. All this information has shaped a new three-year Strategic Plan which identifies seven key strategic themes. This will then help inform the Annual Business Plans for the next three years.

Creating opportunities for ongoing conversations with community is deliberate and helps the organisation keep abreast of emerging needs and issues. Regular activities like our community lunches and pizza days provide not only valuable opportunities to chat informally, but also give community members a chance to make further connections, explore and participate in volunteering and enjoy a free meal. We regularly invite other service providers to these activities, offering the opportunity for them to chat with community or take advantage of the time to provide a warm referral for their clients to Morella.



### **Welcome to Morella - Open Days**

Encouraging new community members to have a look at what the Centre offers and meet the team, has seen us hold two low key open days over the past year. Our first held in January themed around wellbeing provided an opportunity for community members to learn more about Morella, feed into the Strategic Planning Process and participate in a range of self-care activities. Our second open day was themed around gardening and sustainability, somewhat responding to a theme community has identified as interested in during earlier consultation. This event included hands on activities delivered by other organisations, including making a self-watering bucket with The Food Centre, native plants giveaways with the Green Adelaide Team and propagation activity with Bringing Back the Butterfly.

### Stakeholder and Community Voice

Our engagement of Caro Madder of grassroots Consulting saw her coordinate our Strategic Plan Development. Caro utilised surveying as a complementary tool for collecting data to feed into the Centre's strategic planning processes. Surveys were crafted for Community Members and Strategic Partners and tailored, with Centre staff, to the experience of both.

The surveys were administered by participants completing hard copy surveys and online google surveys. Raw data was collected in the form of original completed survey forms. Google survey responses were collated in an electronic report. Grassroots consulting sorted and synthesised the data into high-level themes to add to information generated in conversations with staff and Committee members and at the Strategic Planning Day. Some of the feedback we received is summarised below.

### What did strategic partners tell us?

Morella Community Centre is a welcoming, inclusive, intercultural space where they and their participants feel safe & supported. Professional staff. Useful indoor and outdoor spaces. Keep doing what you do so well!

Organisations/ Programs (assuming management support) want to continue partnerships and collaborate to respond to emerging need and opportunities.

Additional activities could be useful that enable people to learn new skills- work-ready, driving, workforce requirements for young people-how to get a TFN etc

Support required for people experiencing mental illness, drug and/or alcohol addiction, cost of living pressures, raising children in a new country/ challenging context, young people 16-25yrs.

#### Respondents:

- Maxima Joblink
- RDNS
- SAHMRI
- SAMFS
- Winda Creations
- Meiwi Aboriginal Art
- Wonky Lines Counselling

- BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Temple)
- The Smith Family
- Sonder
- Recovery4Life
- Department for Education
- Modbury South PS

- Baptist Care
- GoodStart Early Learning Parafield Gardens
- City of Salisbury
- Australian Institute of Technology Transfer
- Green Adelaide (North Education Team)
- Wellbeing SA

## What did community members tell us?

Responses on 'crime and safety' ranged from community is safe/peaceful through to concerns for safety, crime and high police presence in neighbourhood.

Cultural welcoming activities for Aboriginal peoples and/or people who have recently arrived, together and apart.

Support for low barrier community activities - low/no cost, with childcare or that welcome children, that people can get to (may need help with transport), inclusive of people with emerging English literacy.

Activities that support community members spending time together- lunches, gardening, cooking, sewing, events, sharing

Community members want to live in a green neighbourhood with well-kept private property, parks & trees.

Activities that enable people to learn new skills- work-ready, sewing, cooking, gardening, languages, nutrition

Community members have passions that they may wish to share if asked



**Objective: To operate within our Values and Objectives – Ensuring our community and other stakeholders know who we are, what we do and how we operate**

Developing a strong presence is important to an organisation who increasingly wants to connect with the wider community, develop partnerships of benefit and bring awareness to the work we do. Often the work of community centres is not well understood beyond those that connect regularly with them and even then, it's not uncommon for participants to see the centres focus as aligned to what their own involvement is. Long term community members attending the centre for the first time not uncommonly say "I've driven past this centre for so many years and never knew what it was."

Over recent years Morella team members have made it a priority to get out and about in community, participating at Family Fun Days, culturally specific events and various community expos. Additionally, we've held our own activities and events at Morella often in partnership with other stakeholders.



## Did you see us at any of these events?

**St Kilda Family Fun Day, Salisbury Fringe Carnival, and Saturday Sessions** - The centre was part of free community events organised by the City of Salisbury by holding interactive stalls to connect with community and lots of family craft activities to join in with Uncle Frank Wanganeen.

**Men's Wellbeing and Services Expo** - Celebrating Men's Health Week held by the Northern Men's Wellbeing Network, we held a stall aimed at engaging men through Blokes Brunch and CCP and connecting with other organisations who work closely with men.

**Re-Think your Carer Expo for Women** - Aimed to promote ACE programs, the stall included a general display, information on programs, and volunteering opportunities.

**AFSS Children's Day** - This event held at The Garden Recreation Centre next door to Morella. Provided us the opportunity to connect with Aboriginal families and organisations.

**Sonder Closing The Gap** - aimed to build the profile of the Community Centre, build rapport with other Aboriginal organisations and community. The stall included a general display, giveaways, and a competition naming the Kurraka (Magpie, in Kurna language).



### **Objective: We will deliver programs, services and other initiatives that promote inclusion and belonging for all in our community**

Morella operates in a community that demonstrates high levels of diversity and in line with its values and objectives seeks to make a positive impact not only on the community members who participate in our programs, but also their families and the wider community. While we are accountable to those who provide financial and other resources to support the activities of the organisation and need to ensure everything we do demonstrates compliance with relevant legislation and laws Ultimately we are accountable to our community, providing safe and equitable access to our programs and services where people feel safe to be their authentic self.

### **Safer Communities Project**

The Safer Communities project which officially finished up 30th June 2022 delivered its final and most critical output in the beginning of this financial year, the Cultural Safety Framework. The framework was presented to 20 organisations at the launch in the presence of many community members.

### **Highlight**

Among many organisations and community members who contributed passionately to the project, worth mentioning is Parafield Gardens High School's commitment to creating a space to listen to the voices of the young people through the framework consultations. Since the launch, the school has been using the framework as a tool to evaluate and extend on its current cultural safety practices through further school consultations, trainings and operational changes.



The Framework and other resources can be accessed from our website  
<https://morella.org.au/resource-library/toolkits/>



### **Twilight Family Night**

In collaboration with the Islamic Society of SA (ISSA), we hosted a twilight community event which saw approximately 600 people in attendance.

Morella has collaborated on other initiatives with ISSA in the past, but this was a much larger event aimed at providing an opportunity for ISSA to engage with community about needs and opportunities.

The cultural kitchen was used to prepare food for those attending, there were activities for children, information and small business stalls and lots of giveaways.



## GARDEN ACTIVATION PROJECT

### STAGE ONE MORELLA OUTDOOR CULTURAL KITCHEN

It is exciting times at Morella with the continued development of the Morella Outdoor Cultural Kitchen which became operational late last year.

In September 2022 we held the unveiling of the kitchen with around 100 attendees, representing local dignitaries, program participants and service providers.

Since April 2023 we have had a willing and enthusiastic group of regular participants who thrive in the environment and enjoy using the Pizza oven, the charcoal grill and in more recent times the Tandoor oven. Several partners and stakeholder groups have also welcomed the opportunity to use this space to have meetings, bring their clients along and share lunch, often cooked by Morella participants and volunteers.

To all the 'Activation team' for their enthusiasm for cooking up a storm in the kitchen (figuratively speaking, of course!) our appreciation and many thanks for all your efforts.



#### Showcasing culture and sharing

One of the objectives for creating a cultural kitchen, was to create opportunities for community members to have access to traditional cultural cooking equipment.

A community member who showed other centre participants how to make Afghan Kebabs on the Charcoal Grill expressed how demonstrating something he could do to the other attendees helped make him feel like he was contributing to community. "Please don't all learn how to make these yourself, because then you won't need me to come anymore."



#### Catering for community

We've catered for a number of groups and events since the kitchen was officially opened. As we wrapped up the year in 2022, we provided end of year catering for a number of groups including, the Spanish Speaking Seniors Group, the Northern Nunga Network, InComPro Aboriginal Association, Community Connection Partners and the City of Salisbury's Library and Community Centre/Hub Staff Teams.

## STAGE TWO GARDEN AREA SPACE ACTIVATION

### Yarning Circle Development:

After numerous requests from community over recent years for the installation of a Yarning Circle, plans are now well underway. Community engagement and design development has been led by Violet Buckskin from Winda Creations. Violet facilitated 2 community sessions with Aboriginal Elders and the Yarning Circle for Women's Group on various elements of the yarning circle, including; where it should be located, accessibility requirements, materials to be used and incorporation of Kurna symbolism. There is a desire to also incorporate symbolism of the many new cultural groups who access Morella, which will likely be done through a separate art project once the yarning Circle is installed.

### Community Art Projects

In addition to the Yarning Circle a number of other smaller projects have been underway, including smaller art projects to dress up the recycled cable reels now in place:

- Norris Ginger, a centre regular has commenced a wood burning project on the top of cable reel. The artwork will be inclusive of Aboriginal symbolism.
- Centre participants and community members have come together to contribute ideas for a mosaic design for the top of another cable reels. The same group will get the chance to bring the design to life.

Other remaining elements of Stage 2 of the Garden Activation include the incorporation of a Bush tucker Garden, lots of colour and the exploration of a mural and children's mud kitchen.



### Yarning Circle for Women

This program led by Violet Buckskin has offered the opportunity for women of diverse backgrounds to come together and learn about Aboriginal culture and each other.

This group has offered a connection to culture for Aboriginal women who have been disconnected from culture, a sharing of culture, and a safe space for women to learn.

Some of the sessions including the Bush Rub Workshop.



**Pat's Art Workshops - Textile Artist Pat Ingram**

With a focus on wellbeing and intercultural participation we offered a number of different community art workshops over the year facilitated by Pat's Art. Pat is a textile artist who has a passion for sustainability, often incorporating recycled materials into her art.

Initially we offered a small number of workshops incorporating embroidery and jewellery making, but with significant community interest ended up delivering a suite of different sessions:

- A number of the women attending the Centre from Afghanistan are experienced seamstresses and embroiderers and have often indicated their desire to see sewing workshops at the Centre. Pat worked with the ladies on a group quilt project, where the women embroidered individual patches depicting personal messages which were then sewn together on one quilt. On a number of the sessions, attendees brought along friends and family to join in.
- Pat's own personal passion of late has been the making of native birds using washed up land and marine debris. After attendees of a jewellery making workshop saw examples of the birds and wanted an opportunity to make them a number of sessions were scheduled, resulting in a number of little birds and a large Magpie being made by attendees.



### **Objective: To offer initiatives that have individual, community and organisational benefits**

Morella Community Centre strongly believes that individuals are the experts in their own lives and as such are best placed to identify their own unique needs, priorities, supports needed and solutions. Much of the programming we offer is aimed at building the capacity of individuals to develop skills and knowledge that are timely and relevant. We see value in offering opportunities that bring diverse community members together to learn from each other and connect beyond the subject of any particular workshop or program.

We also recognise that a contribution we can make to building community capacity is to share our own learning and development opportunities, seeing others that all operate in our shared community as partners and collaborators.

### **Life Skills and Wellbeing Workshops**

A particular focus over the past year has been the delivery of various community workshops that have incorporated lifeskill development and wellbeing activities in one.

Delivered from Morella Community Centre and Burton Community Hub the content of these workshops included practical activities with immediate relevance to the participants lives and most sessions included something to take home.

We partnered with a range of different community organisations and services to offer these including; **The Food Centre, NAWMA, Metropolitan Fire Service, University of SA, Uniting Communities, Palmers Education, Joe's Connected Garden and Sight for All**

Sessions covered topics including:

- Creating your own herb garden
- Reducing cost of utility bills
- Cooking on a budget
- Managing your money (budgeting)
- Reducing Food Waste
- Making Zero waste gifts
- Peace Lilly Planting
- Fire Safety at home and Hoarding Fire Safety
- Community Health Check Up – Eye Health Session and Blood pressure and Blood glucose check
- Family First Aid Session



### ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Adult Community Education (ACE) through the Skills SA projects delivered twenty fully funded courses that were designed considering community's vocational interests embedding language, literacy, numeracy and employability skills. Learning in a community-based learning environment gave participants the confidence to take on new study, employment and utilise other support services to manage barriers and reach their goals. In addition to the economic and social objectives these courses created a safe space to build intercultural and inclusive learning and connections in community.

The project saw **181 enrolments** within a period of 8 months. New and long-term migrants from around **40 countries** reveals the huge cultural diversity within our courses. We also saw a higher number of parttime/self-employed community members participant in courses, the identified goals were to try a new career or learn new skills for their current employment. In additional to foundation skills improvement, we have celebrated many successful participant pathways into VET and work opportunities.

Six of our courses were delivered in partnership with Salvation Army Parafield Gardens, Para Hills Community Hub, St Augustine's School Hub and Polaris Business Centre. Their venue, resources and staff expertise added value to the course content. Various locations also meant broader accessible educational opportunities to community.



Our creche continue to provide vital support to the ACE project delivery. It enables early access to study and work preparation opportunities for primary caregivers of young children. Our creche provides fun, safe and nurturing environment for the children's development and social connections.

The ACE team have continued to strengthen relationships with local service providers, RTOs and community organisations to not only increase intake into our courses but also provide wrap around support to our participants as and when required.

We would like to thank **Adelaide Botanic Gardens, Clearview Honey, Provenance Nursery, Megan's Kitchen, Bilqis Beauty & Boutique and Patch of Plenty** for delivering specialist topics to enrich our course content.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

The Community Connections Program (CCP) was initially funded from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023 as a Development Phase. Following strong participant outcomes and the findings of an independent evaluation undertaken by Flinders University's Centre for Social Impact (CSI Flinders), successful partners have been funded for an Embedding Phase from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025. We have been lucky enough to be one of these partners along with Anglicare SA, Baptist Care, Centacare and Uniting Communities.

Our team has supported participants who are at risk of /or experiencing disconnection in taking steps to reconnect and thrive. This is facilitated by:

- Goal setting
- Linking to community activities including volunteering
- Finding support groups unique to participant needs
- Connecting/reconnecting with people around them
- Supporting connections to other services

To date we have supported over 35 participants to work towards achieving wellbeing, social and educational goals, as well as delivered workshops to encourage social connection and wellbeing. Our Blokes Brunch Program was nominated for two awards in late 2022. We received a Highly Commended Award in the Community Sector Awards and made it to the top four finalists in the Community Achievement Awards.

We are excited to continue to provide the Community Connections Program to eligible community members over the next two years.



### **Community Connections Program - Professional Development for sector workers**

Between January and June 2023, we coordinated a number of Professional Development opportunities for CCP partners and other local community organisations who we often refer participants to or receive referrals from. These opportunities were scheduled in response to the identified training needs of staff working in Community Connections roles.

#### These sessions included:

- Foundations of LGBTIQ+ Inclusion - Shine SA
- Mental Health First Aid - St John Ambulance Service
- Cultural Intelligence - Multicultural Communities Council SA
- Disability Inclusion - JFA Purple Orange
- Accessible Events - JFA Purple Orange
- False Narratives of Aboriginal Families - Wonky Lines Counselling
- What is Trauma? - Wonky Lines Counselling



### **Australian Citizenship Test Preparation Course**

In response to an identified gap, Morella sought funds from the Community Connections Program - Flexible Funding pool to deliver Australian Citizenship Preparation Courses. This past year we delivered 2 courses at Morella and in partnership with Playford College Community Hub at their site in Elizabeth North. A total of 53 participants attended these 3 courses.

The course was designed and delivered by Clare Knox based on the Australian citizenship test resource: Our Common Bond with modifications to suit learners' levels, including the opportunity to practice online. The provision of creche has made this course accessible to more community members.

A number of different service providers have referred clients to the course including the Afghan Association of South Australia, the Australian Refugee Association, Relationships Australia, and other CCP partner organisations.

Since attending at least 4 participants have gone on to pass the Citizenship Test.

The demand for this course remains high with more than 22 participants registering for the next class. In response to this demand and to explore sustainability of these types of courses, we have worked with Clare Knox to offer a Train the Trainer type Workshop to be delivered in the future.

**Objective: Morella has the appropriate processes in place, knowledge, skills and resources to carry out our business**

In today's world community organisations are expected to run as professionally as any business, Morella is no exception. While we have participated in the Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES) accreditation for a number of years now and will go through the accreditation process again over the next twelve months, we see our responsibility in continuing to develop a strong, sustainable and professional organisation as going well beyond (ASES) requirements.

**Community and Neighbourhood Development Program:**

Historically Morella Community Centre has not been a direct recipient of funds from the Department of Human Services through the Community and Neighbourhood Development Program. Instead, funds had been received by The City of Salisbury and indirectly supported the Centre through Coordination staffing and access to some programming funds. When The City of Salisbury made the decision not to apply for the funds given it was still working thorough the Governance Review, the Morella Managment Committee made the decision to apply.

A successful tender application sees the Morella Managment Committee with 'core' funding over an initial three years, commencing July 2023. For the first time the organisation will have staffing that is dedicated to achieving community development outcomes in line with its annual business plan, rather than just staff who are project based.

**Governance and Sustainability Project:**

During the year there was a unique opportunity offered through the Department of Human Services to apply for funds to strengthen not-for-profits governance and/or sustainability.

As an organisation that has experienced considerable growth and change in recent years, the Management Committee saw this as an opportunity to deliver a project that would provide time and resources to:

- review our various systems and information requirements for the organisation,
- investigate opportunities to streamline and strengthen systems, and
- facilitate a quality change management process to move to systems that are more efficient and effective overall for the organisation.

The project scope incorporates looking across Finance, Human Resource, Marketing and IT systems and procedures, automating and integrating with other systems as required.





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