

NETWORK WEST



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

NETWORK WEST - ABOUT

Network West aims to strengthen Neighbourhood Houses in the western region of Melbourne using a community development framework.

Network West provides support in the areas of governance, management, operational and program development to 50 Neighbourhood Houses / Community Centres in the western metropolitan region of Melbourne. Network West covers the municipalities of Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley, Hobsons Bay, Brimbank, Wyndham, Melton and Melbourne.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

Recognising the diverse nature, and the autonomy of each member of the Association, the purpose for which the Association is established is:

- To act as a mutual support network and information sharing group for all neighbourhood houses & Community Centres which are members of the Association
- To provide an advocacy role in representing the interests of member Houses in development of community development practice and in sustaining viability and growth
- To support individual houses in developing effective operation of their organisation
- To encourage and work towards developing partnerships to enhance the work of member houses
- To provide training, access to training and resources, and professional development opportunities for Houses
- To develop and implement policies and strategies for the Management Committee
- To promote the philosophies of the Neighbourhood House Sector within the wider community
- To work with other networks and organisations to strengthen and enrich the Neighbourhood House Sector at regional, state and national levels.

Special thanks to Network West Committee of Governance:

Ellen Kessler (Chairperson)
Maria Hanson (Treasurer)
Mark Orrill (Secretary)
Helen Rodd
Melissa Baker
Mary Francis
Pat Rayner



LtoR: Mark, Helen, Ellen, Sandra (Networker), Maria, Mary, Melissa & Pat

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Ellen Kessler

In 2018, more than ever the relevancy of Neighbourhood Houses has been questioned. 'How can a model developed more than 30 years ago be relevant today', people ask. We challenge this and say that Neighbourhood Houses are needed more than ever to create a place of connection for people of all cultures, ages, genders and abilities. Neighbourhood Houses are places where you can 'rub shoulders with your neighbour'. Resilience begins with knowing your community, those around you. In the age of technology, many people have lost that human connection; most of us don't even know who our neighbours are. With media creating fear and distrust of those who look/speak/pray different to us, it is the local Neighbourhood House that provides the space for us to get to know those different from ourselves in a safe, welcoming, learning and social environment.



It was in recognition of the importance of Neighbourhood Houses that the Victorian State Government this year increased funding to existing Neighbourhood Houses and offered grants to new ones. It is this recognition of the work we can do that makes Neighbourhood Houses still relevant and in fact, vital.

Integral to Neighbourhood Houses are the Neighbourhood House Networks and the Networkers they employ. The Network works to link the houses with each other and to provide support from governance to volunteers to advocacy and funding. In the west, Network West supports 50 Neighbourhood Houses across the Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham Local Government Areas. The Network West region differs from others with the variety of governance models used as well as the number of unfunded Neighbourhood Houses in the region.

Network West utilised our Strategic Plan to direct and achieve meaningful outcomes for the West in 2017/18. The Network facilitated valuable orientation and innovation tours for newcomers to the sector, provided training on Identifying Family Violence, volunteer management, evaluation, and risk assessment. This training assists the sector to gain the skills and knowledge needed to successfully deliver community development initiatives. Training is also a means of bringing Neighbourhood Houses in the Network together.

Partnerships were strengthened throughout the 2017/18, particularly those with regional DHHS teams and local Councils. Network West joined NHVic's state government budget campaign to successfully advocate for further funding. The Networker met with local state MPs, contributed to the local print media and worked with the western metro region Local Government Areas to increase awareness and secure funding across the Neighbourhood House Sector.

The 2017 Network West AGM was combined with a highly successful biennial Forum where professional development, networking and best practice was shared across the sector. Each municipality in the Network West sector was represented at the Forum as well as key stakeholders. More than 80 participants attended the Forum and rated the workshops and AGM highly.



The new website was also launched at the AGM. The website has proven to be a valuable communication tool, allowing the Network to post important sector information and regular newsletters. Our social media presence has increased to engage an even wider community.

Three new Committee members were elected at the AGM, they are: Melissa Baker, Pat Rayner and Mary Francis to join Maria Hanson (Treasurer), Mark Orrill (Secretary), Helen Rodd and Ellen Kessler (Chairperson). Thank you to all Committee members who contributed to our dynamic Committee of Governance leading Network West this year. We bid farewell to Mark Orrill who secured a position in state government. The Committee appreciated Mark's astute business sense and minute taking, as well as his warmth and kindness.

Once again, we could not have achieved as much as we have in the sector without our hard working and motivated Networker, Sandra Di Giantomasso. Sandra has worked tirelessly throughout the year to support the Network and the Committee, and we commend her for being such a creative advocate for the West.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Maria Hanson

Network West financial results and all associated records have been audited by S.E OBLIUBEK Chartered Accountant and an Annual Report has been provided to the committee. There have not been any issues reported as a result of this audit.



The year ended with Net Assets of 111,213.00 an increase of 13,893.00 from the previous year. The following income and expenditure reflect the major movements that impact the results:

	2018	2017	variance	movement
Income				
State Government Grants	101,156	95,821	5335	↑
Memberships	10,909	10,073	836	↑
Interest	2827	1920	907	↑
Total income	114,892	107,814	7078	↑
Expenses				
Wages & Salaries	72,150	51,654	20,496	↑
Associated Wage On Costs	9143	11,548	2405	↓
Consultants & Contractors	5750	7530	1780	↓
Professional Development	698	1039	341	↓
Projects	6673	3,316	3357	↑
Total expenses	94,414	75,087	28,379	↑

Network West's net profit at 30 June 2018 was \$13,893.00, which was lower than at 30 June 2017, largely due to higher salary costs, due to the increases in award rates in line with the Equal Remuneration Order.

In accordance with Network West's operating procedure, a full budgetary process was undertaken prior to the commencement of the 2019 year, with regular review taking place throughout the year.

Network West continues to maintain a term deposit account with Bendigo Bank which was opened during the 2017 financial year. The purpose of this account is to ensure funds are being accumulated in order to accommodate for any unforeseeable circumstances including increased costs to any expenditure items and in order to maintain the proposed wage increases due to the Equal Remuneration Order.

Many thanks to Sandra Di Giantomasso & Jan Thorpe for their ongoing work in ensuring policies, procedures and financial reports are fully communicated and circulated to the Committee of Governance. Many thanks to my fellow Committee of Governance members for all of your ongoing dedication and support to the Network.

NETWORKER'S REPORT – Sandra Di Giantomasso

2017-2018 was my second year as Networker and coincided with the rollout of the second year of our strategic plan. It was a big year! We had over 80 people attend our biennial Forum that showcased the fabulous work of our sector along with engaging presentations around the themes of access and equity and community citizenship. A special thanks to Wyndham and Melton Councils for sponsoring the event and the steering committee who helped to organize it.



As noted in the Chairperson's report, we were able to consolidate our strategic plan putting Network West in a strong position regarding organizational, governance and financial outcomes. In partnership with our Members and key stakeholders such as DHHS regional teams, Network West was able to offer Members professional development opportunities around community development practice.

Network West is only as good as its Members, and we are fortunate to have some of the most hardworking, creative and innovative people in the West. Thank you to everyone who has given me advice along the way, had discussions with me about the sector or just had a cup of coffee with me! Each interaction, like ripples in an ocean, can lead to better outcomes for our communities in the West.

This financial year was also a momentous one with the biggest injection of funding by the state government into our sector. Thanks to Neighbourhood Houses Victoria for coordinating the campaign. It vindicated the often thankless work that committees of management, coordinators, staff and volunteers do in providing safe, creative and welcoming spaces for people. The next challenge for Network West and its Membership is how we continue to service the needs of our communities within the increasing complexity of our sector, rising inequities and growth in population in the western region.

A big thank you to Jan Thorpe and her team at Wingate Avenue for mentoring, housing the Networker position and collegiate support. Lastly, thank you to my committee of governance who have provided robust discussions and ethical considerations in managing the organization. Your diligence, ethics and hard work have allowed the Networker role to grow as our sector grows.

NETWORK WEST HIGHLIGHTS SHOWCASING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

✓ Two Orientation and Innovation Tours



Orientation and
Innovation Tours

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ Innovations Forum - Over 80 participants and guest presenters
- ✓ Volunteer Management Training - (with Volunteer Resource Bureau | Volunteer West)
- ✓ Identifying Family Violence Training - (with Western Integrated Family Violence Comm)
- ✓ NDIS Introductory Session (with DHHS Brimbank/Melton | NDIS | Barwon Network | Duke Street Community House)
- ✓ Evaluation Workshop (with DHHS Brimbank/Melton & DHHS Centre for Evaluation)
- ✓ VMIA Risk Assessment Session



ADVOCACY

- ✓ With the support of Network West Members, Network West met with 7 local MPs for the NHVic 2018 Budget and Election Campaign
- ✓ Worked with 6 LGAs in profiling the work of Neighbourhood Houses and gaining extra funding
- ✓ Wrote letters of support for NHs applying for new funding
- ✓ Assisted in The Leader newspaper campaign

NHVic 2018 Budget & Election Campaign:
WE DELIVER! WILL YOU?



ADVOCACY

thamarbyrnongleader.com.au

MARIBYRNONG

Hopes high for funding boost

Paul Shapiro

A NEIGHBOURHOOD house worker says she is "hopeful" of more State Government funding coming into the sector following a meeting with a Labor MP.

Neighbourhood house advocates push case for cash support to Labor MP

masso said she was "positive" and "hopeful" after meeting Mr Pearson. "He said he was supportive of the campaign and he understands what the houses contribute to the community," she said.

ton and Wingate Avenue Community Centre in Altona. "Like almost every house in Victoria, we're in low socio-economic areas," she said.

needed" as both houses were in low socio-economic areas.

Plumpton

thamarbyrnongleader.com.au

02 NEWS

FOOTSCRAY

Help to get a handle on English

Volunteers help international student learn new language

Chanel Zagon

VIETNAMESE student Anh Ha doesn't know where she would be without the help of the volunteers at Anglia Neighbourhood House in Footscray.

Ms Ha has been attending English classes at the house every week for the past nine months, learning to read and write in the hope of one day getting a job.

Before attending the classes, Ms Ha struggled to converse with people and had trouble with day-to-day tasks, such as understanding mail and community.

When she came across Anglia Neighbourhood House at its Biggest Morning Tea last year, the student felt there was no better way



improve her English and become more involved in the community. "Life in Australia has been made easier because I can read and understand English much better," Ms Ha said.

There are many classes that help you learn or improve your English language skills. Co-ordinator Max Higgins said the house supported various people in need, including those with a cultural background, refugees or immigrants, and members of the community.

English and computer classes. The house receives State Government funding to be open four days a week but, like other Neighbourhood Houses across Maribyrnong, funding remains scarce.

Ms Higgins supports the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria campaign calling on the Government to inject an extra \$70 million into the neighbourhood house sector across four years.

She said funding would go a long way, enabling the house to employ staff and provide greater resources.

"We could be open every day and with longer hours or even have people work on the weekends instead of relying on volunteers, and provide more programs and services," Ms Higgins said.

thamarbyrnongleader.com.au

04 NEWS

YARRAVILLE

Stretched to breaking point

Community centre needs more funding to provide stability

Paul Shapiro

LIKE most neighbourhood houses across Victoria, Yarraville Community Centre is meeting the needs of the community on the smell of an oily rag.

The house, which serves more than 2000 people each week, receives enough State Government funding for one full-time position.

However, those hours are stretched across four sites and as a result the house is understaffed and under resourced.

It offers community services such as free public access to computers, occasional child care, cooking classes, and service referrals, which are available seven days a week, including evenings.

Many different people,



from those seeking employment to those with disabilities, seek the house's services regularly. Manager Chris McCall said it took volunteers and paid staff working overtime to get the job done.

"Everyone does a bit extra, everyone is pushed to meet the needs and demands of the community," Ms McCall said.

Ms McCall has backed Leader's Fund our Houses campaign to get the government to increase funding to neighbourhood houses.

More funding means we'll be able to run more programs," she said. "We'd also be able to provide ongoing stability to ensure we're here for the community."

Last month, Maribyrnong Council, spearheaded by Yarraville Ward councillor Mia McGreggor, resolved to advocate for the municipality's five neighbourhood houses.

"Neighbourhood houses play a significant role in supporting the community, being a well-kept secret of our district."

Ms McGreggor said the council would be working with the State Government to increase funding to neighbourhood houses.

More funding means we'll be able to run more programs," she said. "We'd also be able to provide ongoing stability to ensure we're here for the community."



Yarraville Community Centre manager Mia McGreggor, Evangelina Bineda and Susan Stojanovic at the house.

Last shot to help houses

Time to come good on election promise



SEVEN last year Budget to go before the new State Government. It was a promise to inject an extra \$70 million into the neighbourhood house sector. The promise was made by the Labor Government. The promise was made by the Labor Government. The promise was made by the Labor Government.



Paul Shapiro and Chanel Zagon

NEIGHBOURHOOD houses across Maribyrnong say they will be able to stay open longer and deliver more services thanks to a \$21.8 million funding injection by the State Government.

The State Budget announcement comes off the back of Leader's Fund our Houses campaign, which called on the government to come good on its pre-election promise to better invest in Neighbourhood Houses.

More than 96,000 people use Maribyrnong's five houses—West Footscray Neighbourhood House, Duke St Community House, Anglia



Neighbourhood House, Braybrook Maidstone Neighbourhood House, and Yarraville Community Centre—each year.

"It's been a long time coming but it's a fabulous outcome for all neighbourhood houses," Braybrook Maidstone Neighbourhood House manager Vivienne Conn said.

West Footscray Neighbourhood

House spokeswoman Helen Rodd was overjoyed funding had finally been secured after what had been a 12-year freeze.

"It's been a hard-fought battle, the funding has been frozen for so long," Ms Rodd said.

"But it's marvellous, the funding is incredibly important to us and valuable for the west."

Earlier this year, Leader revealed the majority of neighbourhood houses were underfunded and stretched for resources. Many relied on volunteers and paid staff doing unpaid overtime to meet the

needs of the community.

The cash injection is the biggest investment in neighbourhood houses in Victoria's history.

As a result, existing houses will be able to stay open longer and better serve their communities by providing vital childcare, employment, training and volunteering services. It will also allow mobile neighbourhood house networkers to spend more time with individual houses.

Families and Children Minister Jenny Mikakos announced the investment to celebrate last week's

Neighbourhood House Week.

"We said we'd deliver for neighbourhood houses and this budget provides the biggest funding increase to co-ordination hours ever," Ms Mikakos said.

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria chief executive Nicole Battle welcomed the announcement. "Each week almost 200,000 Victorians visit a neighbourhood house in their local community—we're thrilled the Andrews Government has delivered this significant and much-needed funding boost," she said.



WORKING for MEMBERSHIP

- ✓ Attendance at 18 local network meetings
- ✓ Redeveloped membership and nomination forms
- ✓ Responded to approx. 74 individual requests

Individual Membership Requests 2017-2018		
<i>Whilst not a definitive list of every request made to the Networker 2017-2018, this table gives a snapshot of types of requests and is based on 74 enquiries.</i>		
Type of Request	Examples of support	% of total requests
Governance and management support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Induction with new coordinators - Presentations at advisory board / CoMs - Industrial Relations enquiries - Human Resources assistance (proformas for PDs and contracts) - Child Safety Policy development 	41
Program Development / Training and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resources on evaluation frameworks - Data analysis - Training enquiries & professional development 	24
Funding support / advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NHCP program guidelines and funding - Letters of support for grants - Advocacy work for NHVic budget and state campaign 	22
Linking external stakeholders to NH sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing NH contacts to external stakeholders - Presentation at Victoria Polytechnic on NH sector - Organizing guest speakers at local networks 	14

INFORMATION AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Launch of new website with updated resources and information
- ✓ Increase in social media coverage and profile of Network West and its Members
- ✓ Disseminated 9 monthly newsletters

IMPACTS - NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES IN THE WEST*



LIFELONG LEARNING

29 595

Sessions delivered per year (including pre accredited and accredited vocational education & training, digital literacy, English as an additional language, literacy and numeracy and volunteer training)

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

248

Community members on committees of management

SOCIAL CONNECTION FOR SENIORS

36 348

Sessions delivered to Senior Groups (60+) every year

EARLY INTERVENTION IN FAMILY VIOLENCE

60 060

Sessions delivered in parenting groups and family support programs

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OUTCOMES

416 156

Sessions in health and wellbeing courses (e.g., walking, yoga, social connection) every year

**Extracted from NHVic Survey 2017*

NETWORK WEST – STATS & FACTS

Emerging Challenges for the Western Metro Region

(incorporates LGAs Maribyrnong, Melton, Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Wyndham, Moonee Valley and parts of Melbourne)

- ✓ Fastest growing region in Australia (Lead West: Regional Economy)
- ✓ Among the highest rates of overseas born in Australia (Lead West: Community Profile)
- ✓ Most culturally diverse area in Victoria -130 different nations have made their home in the West (Lead West: Community Profile)
- ✓ Higher than Vic average of younger people 0-15 years old (Lead West: Community Profile)
- ✓ Lower than average Seniors 65+ (Lead West: Community Profile)
- ✓ Asylum Seekers - Four LGAs are in the top 10 in regards to numbers of asylum seekers on bridging visa E. Brimbank (Ranked 2), Wyndham (Ranked 7), Maribyrnong (Ranked 8), Moonee Valley (Ranked 10) - www.socialstatistics.com.au (March 2018)
- ✓ Melbourne's West - worst youth unemployment in Victoria 18.3% - BSL Report 2018

LGA	predicted population growth % 2018-2051 (profile id)
Brimbank	10.9
Hobsons Bay	18.08
Moonee Valley	39.74
Maribyrnong	71.92
Wyndham	90.40
Melton	207.88

Network West Membership Structure

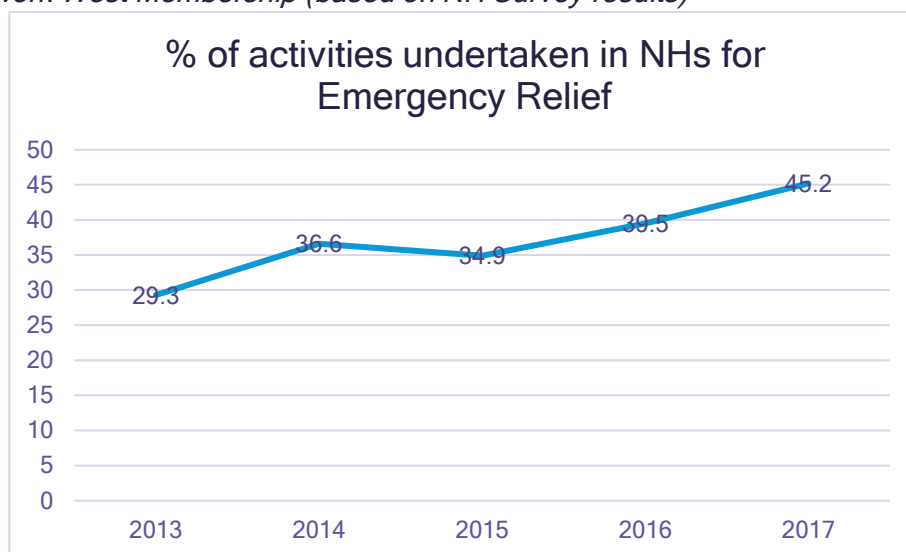
Network West is an anomaly across the state in regards to governance structure. Network West has a higher than average rate of Council managed centres.

Type of Entity	Statewide (based on 2017 NH Survey)	Network West
Incorporated Associations	86%	52%
Council Managed	7%	40%
Auspiced	5%	2%
Co-operatives or Company Ltd	2%	6%
Registered ACFE Providers	209	17 (represent 8% of total state)

Emerging Trends for Network West Members

- ✓ Emergency Relief activities have gone up over last 5 years (NHSurvey 2017)
- ✓ Referrals are now the top services provided by NHs in the West - top service offered in state in 2017 was room hire. (NHSurvey 2017)
- ✓ Currently 13 unfunded NHs within Network West (37% of the total across the state) - this may change with new funding announcement due in October 2018
- ✓ Higher number of Council managed centres than state average
- ✓ Accredited and pre-accredited training continues to be a major focus (influenced by larger RTOs). Although Registered ACFE Providers in Network West only account for 8% of the total state for Neighbourhood Houses.

Chart 1: An analysis of the NHVic survey from 2013-2017 shows an increasing demand for emergency relief among Network West Membership (based on NH Survey results)



TOP 3 Services Provided - Statewide 2017	TOP 3 Services Provided - Network West
Room Hire 97%	Referral (both formal and informal) 97.6%
Referral (both formal and informal) 91%	Room Hire 97.6%
Public computer / internet access 87%	Public computer / internet access 88.1%

TOP 3 Programs Provided - Statewide 2017	TOP 3 Programs Provided - Network West
Health & Wellbeing	Accredited vocational & education training
Pre-accredited / non-accredited training	Health & Wellbeing
Art & Craft	Pre-accredited training / non accredited

NETWORK WEST MEMBERSHIP

Brimbank City Council 123 kms² Population 205,741 Cairnlea Community Hub CommUnity Plus Neighbourhood House Delahey Community Centre Derrimut Community Centre (YMCA) Duke St Community House Good Shepherd Community House Kororoit Creek Neighbourhood House St Albans Community Youth Club (Tin Shed) Sydenham Neighbourhood House West Sunshine Community Centre Westvale Community Centre	Hobsons Bay City 64kms² Population 93,392 Altona Meadows Community Centre Laverton Community Integrated Services Inc. Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre Outlets Co-Op Neighbourhood Ltd (Newport Community Education Centre) Seabrook Community Centre South Kingsville Community Centre Walker Close & Brooklyn Hall Association Williamstown Community & Education Centre (incorporating Spotswood Community House & Joan Kirner House)	Maribyrnong City Council 31 kms² Population 87,355 Angliss Neighbourhood House Braybrook Community Hub Braybrook & Maidstone Neighbourhood House Maidstone Community Centre Maribyrnong Community Centre West Footscray Neighbourhood House Yarraville Community Centre	Wyndham City Council 542 kms² Population 228,088 Arndell Park Community Centre Featherbrook Community Centre Iramoo Community Centre Jamieson Way Community Centre Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre Penrose Promenade Community Centre Point Cook Community Learning Centre Quantin Binnah Community Centre Saltwater Community Centre Tarneit Community Learning Centre The Grange Community Centre Wyndham Community & Education Centre Wyndham Park Community Centre
Melbourne City Council 36 kms² Population 136,000 The Centre Kensington Neighbourhood House North Melbourne Language & Learning	Melton City Council 527 kms² Population 141,749 Djerriwarrh Community House Hillside Community Centre Melton South Community Centre Stevenson House Taylors Hill Neighbourhood House	Moonee Valley City Council 43 kms² Population 122,968 Chinese Social Centre Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre Flemington Community Centre Wingate Avenue Community Centre	

NETWORK WEST STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2019

MISSION: STRENGTHENING NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES IN THE WESTERN REGION OF MELBOURNE USING A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

