



Our Vision

Thriving, cohesive and empowered communities in the West

Our purpose

Using a Community Development framework, Network West will support, strengthen and advocate for the Neighbourhood houses in the Western region of Melbourne.

Statement of Purpose

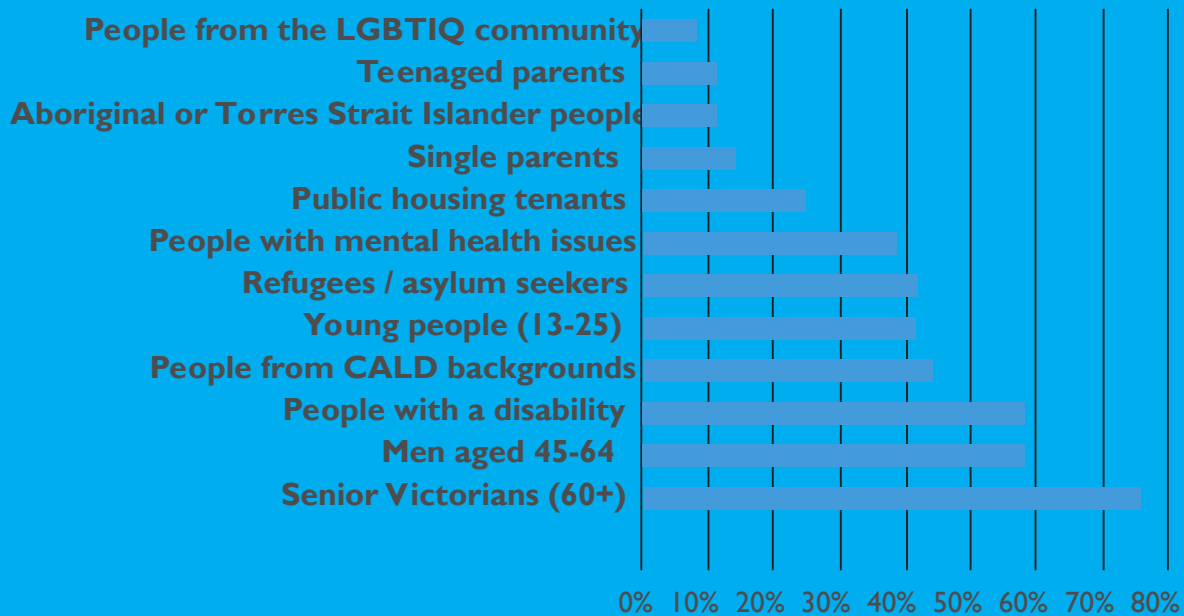
Recognising the diverse nature, and the autonomy of each member of the Association, the purpose for which the Association is established is:

- To act as a mutual support network and information sharing group for all Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres which are members of the Association
- To provide an advocacy role in representing the interest 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 Committees
- 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.



OUR MEMBERS

	AREA	POPULATION	% GROWTH by 2041	HOUSE
Melton City Council	527 km ²	164,984	142.2	Djerriwarrah Community House Fraser Rise Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation Stevenson House Bridge Rd Community Centre Kurunjang Community Hub
Brimbank City Council	123 km ²	208,945	10.2	Cairnlea Community Hub and Hunt club CommUnity Plus Delahey Community Centre Duke St Community House Good Shepherd Community House Korroroit Creek NH St Albans/ Tin Shed Sydenham NH West Sunshine Community Centre Westvale Community centre
Hobsons Bay City	65 km ²	96,459	16.8	Altona Meadows Community Centre Louise Joel Arts and Community centre Cooperative South Kingsville Community centre Joan Kirner House and Spotswood Community centre



PARTICIPATION

16,702 people participated in Neighbourhood House activities in the west in an average week in 2018

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

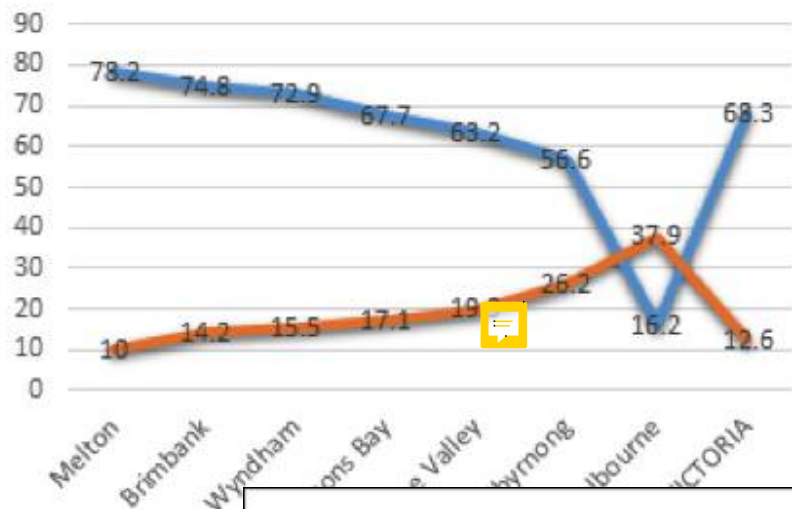


775 volunteers help out every week contributing \$120,737 of value per week.



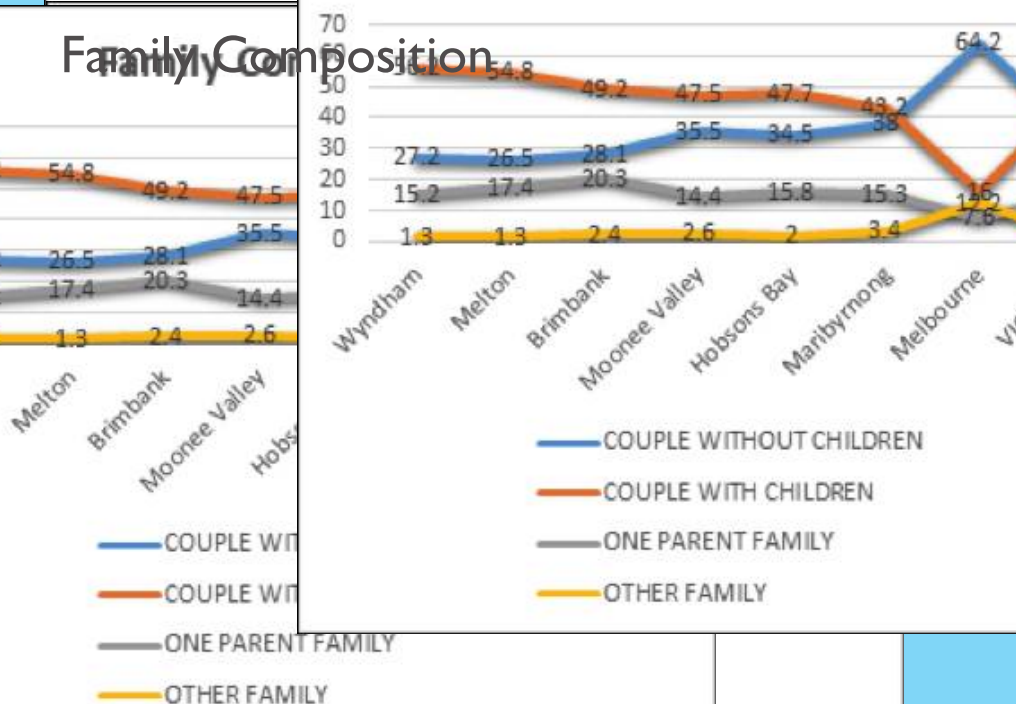
OUR REGION

Travel to work



Growth corridors of **Wyndham, Melton and Brimbank** are up to 10% more reliant on vehicles than the state average, and are predominantly young families with children.

Family Composition







CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Network West has had a very eventful year. This has been the year of changes!

In 2019 we farewelled Sandra Di Giandomasso as the Networker. Sandra was a major asset to Network West, ensuring the Network was a leader in supporting, strengthening and advocating for Neighbourhood Houses in the Western Region.

We welcomed our new Networker Sandy Joffe. Sandy came to the position with a wealth of

experience as a Community Centre Coordinator and Community Development Worker. Sandy's past employment included 10 years as Chief Executive Officer at the Port Philip Community Group and more recently Executive Officer at Broome Circle Community Centre. I am confident that Sandy will continue in Sandra's shoes in ensuring the Network is a leader in supporting, strengthening and advocating for Neighbourhood Houses in the Western Region.

We also farewelled Ellen Kessler, the outgoing Chairperson of Network West. Ellen was a wealth of knowledge to the Network during her five years on the Committee of Governance. Lastly, we farewelled Jan Thorpe who had the role of Bookkeeper for the Network. Jan was the glue that held our finances together over many years, with a deep knowledge of the Networks finances.

On the 14th March, Network West held a Strategic Planning Forum for

NETWORKERS REPORT

Having come into this role in March 2019, many of the achievements of Network West for the past financial year were initiated by my predecessor, Sandra di Giantomaso. Sandra's energy, organisational capacity and commitment to social justice shines through the organisation, and I am deeply grateful for the warm welcome extended by her and Ellen Kessler, our then chairperson.

During my first

~~Over the following~~ three months, changes kept on coming following the retirement of our bookkeeper Jan Thorpe. Jan had been Network West's bookkeeper since the organisation's incorporation in September 2006 and held much of our institutional knowledge. We thank her for her service over the past thirteen years. As outlined by Treasurer Lana Bedford, the ~~impact~~ ^{impact} of Jan's leaving included engaging a new bookkeeper, transitioning to a new online accounting system and appointing a new auditor.

There was one more change to come – the end of Network West's tenancy at Wingate Avenue. Wingate Avenue Community Centre has hosted Network West for thirteen years, and provided great support over that time, but good things end,

and change creates opportunity. Now comfortably settled at Spotswood Community House, my thanks to the team at Williamstown Community Education Centre for extending such a warm and generous welcome.

One final farewell and thanks is due to Ellen Kessler, outgoing chairperson of Network West. Ellen contributed enormously to Network West over the five years she was on our Committee, and generously shared all she knew when I started in the role.

Despite her massive workload,

Maria Hanson accepted the role of chairperson and her efficiency, interest, care and support have been invaluable to me.

The new DHHS funding for Neighbourhood Houses has increased the number of houses in our region to sixty, forty four of which are funded by DHHS, including seven newly funded houses. As the SEIFA index map shows, our region is one of relative disadvantage, and the task of community building in houses is significant. <https://profile.id.com.au/g21-region/seifa-disadvantage>





THE CHALLENGE

IF WE

BY

To establish a resilient, sustainable network supporting neighbourhood houses to achieve their purpose through timely targeted advice, governance, support, advocacy and sector promotion.

advocate for regional sector concerns to critical stakeholders

using data to effectively inform public perception and government policy

understand the needs of the NH sector

listening, engaging and researching the houses in our region

build our sector's community development (CD) capacity

supporting effective CD initiatives and aligning CD theory and practice

Promote and support effective governance practices within the network

Identifying, modelling and sharing effective governance practices to and with our members

Treasurer's Report



The 2018/19 financial year was a turning point for Network West. With a new networker, a new financial policy and framework, new accountant, new auditor and a new treasurer it is fair to say a lot of time and effort has been directed into ensuring an improved financial management system.

The Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Funding (NHCP) is the main source of income for the Network and this year we received an additional one-off grant of \$10,000 in recognition of the additional information,

support and advocacy that the Network has provided to the newly funded Neighbourhood Houses. Combined with the collection of membership fees, the Network has continued to support the needs of its members.

Operating expenses increased over the twelve-month period largely due to an increase in wages in line with the Neighbourhood Houses Collective Agreement together with the Fair Work Equal Remuneration Order and paying our new Networker at a higher increment level. This pay rate is in line with

the other Networks across the state and allowed us to attract the right candidate for the role.

I am pleased to report that Network West recorded an operating surplus of \$17,638 with an overall combined Net Asset of \$128,852.

Network West is in a strong financial position moving forward, allowing us to continue to support the region.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members and the two hardworking, dedicated and passionate Networkers that I have had the pleasure to work with this financial year: Sandra Di Giantomaso and Sandy Joffe.

I wish you all the very best and thank you for welcoming me into the Network West family.

Lana Bedford Treasurer

