

SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC  
COMMUNITIES COUNCIL



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council President's Report. The last 12 months has been a period of consolidation for SMECC as we respond to both internal and external forces, many of which have been beyond our immediate control. Internally there has been a pressing need for stable and strong leadership and the appointment of Akesa Kei as the Executive Officer early this year has provided a period of stability that has been missing. Externally, the old issues for SMECC remain - in particular is the challenge of on-going funding and operating in the face of uncertain revenue streams.

One of the highlights this year has been a collaboration between staff and board members, guided by a not-for-profit consultancy, to create the new Strategic Plan 2023 that will assist in guiding our activities over the next three years. The document will be made available online as of next week.

It remains my belief that SMECC provides a vital service to our region. With the increase in the cost of living and other pressures, the demand for many services has increased, but unfortunately this does not translate to an increase in income. We have limited resources but do what we can and I believe we do it very well.

So, on behalf of the board I would like to acknowledge all the wonderful, talented and committed staff members and volunteers who are the engine room and lifeblood of our organisation. It has not been an easy year by any definition and their contributions are often profound and always appreciated.

Sincere thanks to outgoing staff members in particular Julyn Chan, Corey Iredale and Frank Pisconeri. We wish them well.

Thanks to my fellow board members for generously providing their advice, time, experience and passion. There are so many organisations competing for board members in regional towns like ours, so I am very thankful that they choose to be part of this inspiring organisation.

Dr. Ian Japp  
Chair



# TREASURER'S REPORT



I am please to present the 2023 Financial Statements for Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC). These Financial Statements have been audited by Natasha House, registered company auditor at Crowe Audit Australia, and are presented as a true and accurate position of the organisation as at June 2023.

The reported loss for 2023 of \$466,514 is down from the reported profit of \$1,741,710 in 2022 on a like for like basis. Whilst this may seem disconcerting at first glance, the downturn can best be explained by the booking of \$821,765 "funds in advance" income in 2022, in accordance with treatment required by relevant accounting standards.

As you may be aware, the nature of non-profit organisations such as SMECC is the applying for and receiving of relevant government grants. Given the unpredictable nature of government funding, the SMECC Finance Committee and the Board continue to take a conservative approach with the budget. You will note an estimated budgeted loss of \$801,987 in 2024. This is further noted in the Findex Audit Report. The Board acutely aware of the position and is monitoring finances closely.

Our Ramsay Court accommodation reflects revenue of approximately \$200,000 annually. The good news is that this is not reliant on the whims of government grant approval processes and the Board is working on a strategy to replicate this income stream.

The Food Hub while being a success story for SMECC continues to operate at a small loss of approximately \$9,000. SMECC in collaboration with other service providers is reviewing the current structure of food relief in the region and will look at ways for this service to be better resourced for the region.

Cash at Bank as at 30 June 2023 was \$1,645,800 down from \$2,077,886 in 2022, which is in line with the trading result and as expected.

Real Property Plant & Equipment on the Balance Sheet as at June 2023 is \$4,379,465 while liabilities are only \$954,381 leaving SMECC in a strong balance sheet position.

Please Note:

Current Ratio: 3.85

NET Tangible Asset Ratio: 0.85

Overall a good position in which to be.

- All Federal and State taxes have been paid
- All Superannuation obligations have been remitted
- All Staff leave provisions have been kept up to date
- All Creditors have been paid when due

Thank you to the team at SMECC, especially Maree Buckingham, Frank Piscioneri and Akesa Kei for preparing and administering all matter for SMECC. Thank you to the Finance Committee and the entire Board for entrusting me with the stewardship of the SMECC finances.

John De Luca

Treasurer (as of May 2023)

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

SMECC's ability to continue thriving in times of uncertainty is a testament of our values, upheld by the proactive and forward-thinking board, the passion and empathy our staff continually project and the shared vision we've been able to build with our valued partners, and Multicultural communities in our collaborative approach.

The foundation of this organisation was built 44 Years ago, when multicultural community leaders of Sunraysia came together to advocate to the mayor and other councilors about the challenges they were facing. Some of the issues highlighted all those years ago included employment and language barriers. Today, these challenges still exist and have been exacerbated by the effects of Covid-19 and the recent floods. This tells us that the work we're doing is still relevant and vital to the social and economic inequalities that exist in our region.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to amplifying the voices and needs of our multicultural communities and committing the resources we have, to addressing the challenges our multicultural communities face. Our relationships with community leaders and partnerships with various service providers have not only endured but flourished. These relationships have catalysed a surge in community engagement and promoted greater social cohesion, fostering an environment where every voice is heard and valued. The continuity and growth of our key services that provide wrap around support for our multicultural communities have been instrumental to improving social cohesion and overall community engagement in our region.

Despite our dedication and achievements, we have encountered a spectrum of challenges along this journey. Financial obstacles, structural adjustments, and operational hurdles have tested our resilience and determination. However, it is through these challenges that we have fortified our resolve and adapted our strategies to better serve the multicultural communities we represent.

With the leadership of our Board of Management, our passionate staff, and the perseverance of the multicultural community leaders, we continue in our vision to create an empowered and harmonious community.

Yours sincerely,  
Akesa Kei





# ADVOCACY

4,508	Resource Distribution
3,706	Information Sharing
989	Client Support Services
120	Multicultural Festival of Stories celebrating Multicultural connections
162	Immunisations
150	Asylum seekers supported
30	New and existing partnerships with Service Providers and Multicultural Community Groups

# CAPACITY BUILDING

309	Students enrolled in English, digital literacy, life skills classes
240	Cultural awareness training
100	Water Safety
108	Driver Mentor students with 435 hours of driving lessons
306	Jobseekers Assisted



# SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Nourish Sunraysia aims to provide our diverse multicultural community with access to locally grown culturally appropriate healthy food. which in the past has seen community members traveling long distances to purchase food they love to eat

As a result, Nourish Sunraysia will increase the community's access to healthy, locally grown, culturally appropriate food, training younger generations in whole-of-food cycle sustainability, from farm to market.

SMECC will partner with Vic Health and the Food Next Door (FND) co-operative, which is committed to nurturing land and nourishing people. Partnering new migrant and refugee farmers with unused farmland, FND trains and supports them, using regenerative farming practices to strengthen resilience in the community.

The partnership will foster a true collaboration, including business viability and sustainability. All food produced will be processed packaged and sold to the community via the Nourish Sunraysia Food Hub.

Community members can express their preferences on the food that they want to be featured in the Nourish Sunraysia store by completing an online survey and sharing their ideas.



# SETTLEMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

102,254	Food provided within the Mallee region
9,795	Food hampers delivered
439	Individuals and families supported in settlement outcomes
323	Recreational activities participants
208	Playgroup attendees
50	Youth supported
30	Men's group participants
20	Women's group (50+ years) participants
27	Food distribution partners
10	Food supplier partners
15%	More women referrals for specialist family violence support





# HIGHLIGHTS

## VOLUNTEERS



1,456

Volunteer  
hours

\$39,960

Social impact  
value

## Sunraysia Multicultural Festival (Dec 2022)



4000+ Visitors

20+

Cultural  
representations

## Learn Local Awards



2022 Victorian Learn Local  
Innovation Award Winner

2022 Victorian Learn Local  
Leadership Award Winner

# OUR PARTNERS



Jobs, Skills,  
Industry  
and Regions



Department  
of Health



Mildura Rural City Council



Australian Government  
Department of Home Affairs



Families,  
Fairness  
and Housing

MSAU  
MDVS



Regional  
Food Security  
Alliance



Sunraysia Community Health Services; CatholicCare; Foundation House;  
Aligned Leisure; Services Australia; Mildura Arts Centre; Arts Mildura;  
Mallee Sports Assembly; Mildura Sporting Precinct; Ladd's Boxing Gym;  
The Orange Door, Mallee; Hands Up Mallee; Access Migration Advisory Services;  
Refugee Legal; Victorian Electoral Commission; Christie Centre;  
Fareshare; IGA; Woolworths; ALDI; Coles; Local farmers and growers;  
Welcoming Clubs; Greening Mildura; Center for Multicultural Youth;  
Red Cliffs Community Resource Center; Mildura Community House; and more.

**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC**  
**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue	2	2,519,584	4,434,500
Other income	3	163,090	101,972
Interest revenue calculated using the effective interest method		23,816	1,216
Cost of Sales		(1,096)	-
Administrative expenses	4	(231,511)	(116,037)
Depreciation		(169,993)	(169,715)
Finance Costs		(30,508)	(49,253)
Motor vehicle expenses		(39,612)	(65,632)
Occupancy expenses		(139,947)	(91,637)
Program Costs		(708,826)	(449,598)
Employee benefit expense		(1,840,621)	(1,849,987)
Travel expenses		(10,890)	(4,121)
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus before income tax expense</b>		<b>(466,514)</b>	<b>1,741,710</b>
Income tax expense	1(b)	-	-
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus after income tax expense attributable to members</b>		<b>(466,514)</b>	<b>1,741,710</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Net gain on revaluation of property, plant and equipment		-	759,294
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	759,294
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members</b>		<b>(466,514)</b>	<b>2,501,004</b>

**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC**  
**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	544,427	1,235,737
Trade and other receivables	6	7,700	243,016
Other assets	8	29,024	-
Financial assets	7	1,101,373	599,133
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,682,524</b>	<b>2,077,886</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	9	4,379,465	4,471,481
Right-of-use assets	1	509,979	415,486
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	0	<b>4,889,444</b>	<b>4,886,967</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>6,571,968</b>	<b>6,964,853</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables			
Employee benefits	1	275,670	314,914
Lease liabilities	1	152,544	143,254
	1	8,977	13,120
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	3	<b>437,191</b>	<b>471,288</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
	1		
Borrowings	4		
Employee benefits	1	2 77	2 87
Lease liabilities	2	-	4,104
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	1	<b>516,913</b>	<b>405,073</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	3	<b>517,190</b>	<b>409,464</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	4	<b>954,381</b>	<b>880,752</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves			
Retained earnings	15	2,418,743	2,418,743
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>3,198,844</b>	<b>3,665,358</b>
		<b>5,617,587</b>	<b>6,084,101</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  
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**SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC**  
**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	Note		
Receipts from customers		<b>3,185,136</b>	3,626,158
Payments to suppliers and employees		<b>(3,293,273)</b>	(2,878,328)
Interest received		<b>23,816</b>	1,216
Interest paid		<b>(27,964)</b>	(49,253)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<b>(112,285)</b>	699,793
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	19		
Payment for property, plant & equipment		<b>(71,022)</b>	(162,228)
Investment in financial assets		<b>(502,240)</b>	(500,756)
Net cash used in investing activities		<b>(573,262)</b>	(662,984)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Repayment of borrowings		-	(333,779)
Repayment of leases		<b>(5,763)</b>	-
Net cash used in financing activities		<b>(5,763)</b>	(333,779)
Net decrease in cash held		<b>(691,310)</b>	(296,970)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		<b>1,235,737</b>	1,532,707
Cash at the end of the financial year	5	<b>544,427</b>	1,235,737

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF  
SUNRAYSIA MALLEE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL INC**

**ABN 37 282 486 762**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and statement by members of the board of management.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial report of the Association is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

(a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and

(b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic), the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Committee's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, which has been given to the board of management of the association, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

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# MINUTES

## **Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council**

### **Annual General Meeting, Friday, 28th October 2022 at 5.35pm**

Acknowledgment of country - President Ian Japp

Apologies: Dr Anne Webster MP, Sundram Sivamalai, Ali Cupper, Heather Green, Simone Heald, Tom Crouch, Teresa Jayet, Loris Davis, Dr Mehdi Sanati pour OAM, Kate Maloney, Dale Harvey, Frank Piscioneri, Karina Nolan, Miranda Lamattina, Joelle Brown, Joshua de Bell, Martin Hawson, Cr Jason Modica, Cr Liam Wood, Cr Stefano De Pieri, and Evelyn Cowling.

Attendees: Ian Japp, Nina Smart, Catarine Monteleone, Daniel Whitford, Charmaine Calis, Charles Albanese, Claire Kelly, Corey Iredale, Ratna Savitri, Juvelina Guterres, Julyn Chan, Walaa Sabri, Sharon Pastore, Michael Mack, Kunnika Powell, Danielle Hren, Mitchell Rayson, Jackson Mugenzi, Margaret Burrell, Emmie Dowling, Jason Spratt, Ofa Hakalo, Fabian Anthonimuthu, Jane MacAllister, Claire Galvin, and Helen Nolen.

Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting - October 27th, 2021

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on October 27th, 2021 be accepted as true and correct.

Moved: Daniel Whitford

Seconded: Claire Kelly

Reports:

President's Report (Ian Japp)

Executive Officer's Report (Corey Iredale)

Treasurer's Report (Catarine Monteleone)

Motion: That the reports be adopted.

Moved: Charmaine Calis      Seconded: Charles Albanese

Motion: That the financial statements be adopted.

Moved: Daniel Whitford      Seconded: Charles Albanese

Volunteer of the year: Margaret Burrell

Special Business: - No notice of any special business has been given.

Announcement of Board of Management:

Chair: Ian Japp

Member: Nina Smart

Member: Daniel Whitford

Member: Claire Kelly

Member: Charmaine Calis

Member: Charles Albanese

Meeting Closed: 6.00pm

