



2022 Annual Report

People rise higher against challenging winds when tethered to community.

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2021

Agenda

Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council
Annual General Meeting, Friday, 28th October 2022 at 5.30pm

Welcome

Acknowledgment of country - President Ian Japp

Apologies:

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:

Seconded:

Reports:

President's Report (Ian Japp)

Executive Officer's Report (Corey Iredale)

Treasurer's Report (Catarine Monteleone)

Motion: That the reports be adopted.

Moved:

Seconded:

Motion: That the financial statements be adopted.

Moved:

Seconded:

Volunteer of the year:

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

Announcement of Board of Management:

President:

Vice President:

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Committee:

Committee:

Committee:

Committee:

Committee:

Meeting Closed:

President's Report

It is my pleasure to present the 2022 Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council President's Report. The last 12 months has seen SMECC open itself up to a range of significant partnerships and challenges while consolidating our core activities here in Twelfth Street. We are on the cusp of some exciting new programs that include developing language programs in Robinvale, building a significant social enterprise relationship with Food Next Door, and in partnership with the Mildura Base Hospital to present the multicultural festival later this year.

Many of these projects were instigated by Mr. Andrew Kilroy, our recently departed Executive Officer (EO). On behalf of the board, I would like to publicly thank Andrew for his energy and drive, forward thinking and vision for SMECC. He leaves the organisation in a stronger position than the one he found when he began his brief tenure. His departure also creates a profound sense of déjà vu for myself and the board as is almost exactly 12 months since we began advertising last year for a new EO. I would like to reassure the members and staff that the board is doing its utmost to find a suitable replacement, and also take this opportunity to thank senior staff members interim EO Corey Iredale, Julyn Chan, Frank Piscioneri and Hine Billing for "guiding the ship".

The last year has seen the continuation and expansion of our food relief program, ongoing involvement in the provision of vaccinations, pastoral care, award nominated language classes, youth group, employment support, sporting programs and an Art Exhibition featuring works from a range of ethnic communities. This exhibition was very successful and is ongoing, with works being displayed for sale in the foyer.

On some levels it seems we have come through Covid only to be met with the difficulties wrought on our communities by a number of other crises; economic, armed conflict, cost of living. This is reflected in the huge demand for food that the SMECC staff have had to manage and overcome, such that we became, in effect the default food-relief provider for the Sunraysia region. The fact that we were able to do this is a credit to all the staff and volunteers and is to be highly commended.

SMECC was also "touched" by the war in Ukraine. Here I would like to specifically acknowledge the work of our Swan Hill staff who provided all manner of aid and assistance to a distraught Ukrainian family escaping the current conflict and settling in Swan Hill. This is emotionally challenging work but vital and necessary.

From the Board's perspective, in the next few months the board will be revisiting and updating the strategic plan. We will be also undergoing governance training for board members and senior staff and undertaking a review of the performance of the board.

On behalf of the Board of management I would like to sincerely thank, once again, our talented, devoted and selfless staff for the contribution they make to improving the lives of the communities that seek our help. I truly believe the SMECC staff make our region a better place to bring up our children and to live full lives. I also thank the board members who volunteer their time freely and without whose efforts SMECC would not have the strategic and financial stability that it currently does. A very special thank you to our departing Treasurer, Catarine Monteleone, whose professionalism and clear thinking have been invaluable.

Executive Officer's Report

The 2021/2022 financial year has seen SMECC continue its growth trajectory with its operating income at a 100% increase from the previous year to this year. This growth has been supported by our continued effort in supporting the Mallee multicultural community in dealing with COVID-19, through vaccination clinics, access to Rapid Antigen Testing kits and provision of related interpreting services.

SMECC has continued to expand on its Food Hub operations to improve food security in the community, with the number of weekly distributions of food hampers peaking at approximately five hundred during Covid-19 restrictions. In addition, 400 cooked meals were also distributed weekly to community members from the commercial kitchen located within the Food Hub. The Food Hub was supported by Foodbank Victoria, the Regional Food Hub Consortium and donations from local farmers and supermarkets, which is greatly appreciated.

Due to infrastructure funding received by the state government for the refurbishment of the Ramsay Court facility for seasonal worker accommodation, works were completed in late 2021, enabling accommodation for 60 workers, with the first workers arriving in January 2022.

During the 2022 financial year, SMECC continued to successfully deliver programs to multicultural communities in the areas of playgroups, youth activities, English classes, driver education, and employment. Seasonal Worker Accommodation Program was undertaken from March 2021 through until February 2022, then subsequently funded as the Informed Supported Workers Program, which will cease in January 2023.

For the next financial year, SMECC has received funding to establish an office in Robinvale delivering a workforce program including English, computer and learner driving classes, with an onsite presence for our pastoral care program.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the State Government for their continued support over the last twelve months and believe that SMECC will continue to flourish with their ongoing support.

Finally, I would like to celebrate the heart and soul of SMECC, who are our amazing staff. They are truly an amazing group of people who give so much to SMECC and the community.

Corey Iredale
Interim Executive Officer

Treasurer's Report

The 2022 Financial statements have been prepared and audited by our appointed auditor, Mr Malcom Matthews from Crowe Audit Australia Accounting; in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

2022 commenced with a series of lockdowns impacting on service delivery that provided opportunities to broaden our reach to deliver outreach work to our community. The Food Hub provided wholesome and nutritional meals to members of our community that were vulnerable, including people who had not previously experienced challenges before the pandemic. Outreach work with the vaccination program ensured our community was safe, by providing a safe space in collaboration with local organisations to educate and administer the Covid-19 vaccinations.

The main programs for the financial year 2022 were; the Seasonal Worker Accommodation Program to provide Pastoral Care Services, connecting 2,973 seasonal workers to the community, to the value of \$500,000, the Community Food Relief Hub to the value of \$245,833 and The Hands Up for a Diverse Mallee Region funding, providing Cultural Sessions, Youth Activities, Driver Mentor Lessons, Strategic Engagement Coordination and Playgroup Programs to the value of \$555,497. These programs have provided invaluable support with healthy meals, education, awareness and advocacy to the multicultural community.

The opening retained earnings balance for the 2022 financial year was \$1,923,533, with SMECC's revenue for the financial year totalling \$4,537,688, and expenses totalling \$2,795,978, resulting in a surplus of \$1,741,710, compared to a surplus of \$1,368,955 in 2021. This is a positive outcome of \$372,755 due to significant growth of programs delivered to our community. The surplus includes funding that was received; to be utilised for program expenditure incurring in 2023, as per accounting standards. The financial statements show an increase in revenue of \$1,295,709 and an increase in expenses of \$922,954. The closing retained earnings balance for 2022 is \$3,665,243.

Revaluation of property, plant & equipment assets was undertaken with an increase of \$754,514, driven by the completion of Ramsay Court. The completion of the Ramsay Court redevelopment has enabled accommodation for seasonal workers within our community.

I thank the Board, Management and staff for their tireless efforts in delivering essential supports to our community throughout these challenging times; and look forward to a rewarding year in 2023.

Catarine Monteleone
Treasurer

Program Report

July 2021 - June 2022

Employment

277 Clients supported

65 Job entrants (minimum 15 hours per week)

15 Secured jobs (minimum 6 months)

72 Employment partnerships



Education

Driving Program

129

Students



416

Driving hours provided



6

Education Sessions



56

Licences



English Class



111

Students
Registered



Ethnic background:
Burundian, Congolese,
Afghan, Malay and Burmese

"The conversation and reading English class that Danielle developed, has also helped many others in their journey to get their goals, either school or job. With this class, we learn confidence to speak and not scared. We do many vocabulary activities and increase our knowledge and words with much discussion. This class helped me most in English and life. I have no family here, this class is my family now".

Omer Ntunzwenimana (student)

"It's been an eye opener for me. Unless we have any reason to talk to people from other countries we don't know what they are going through. Keep up the good work Dani and thank you letting me be part of it."

Paulette (volunteer)

80 students have been positively impacted by conversation classes over the last 1.5 years with 20 regularly attending every Friday. An additional class has recently been organised on Tuesday. 7 of the students have found the confidence to apply for jobs due to this class; 2 of which still make time to attend the class. 3 students have been featured in ABC online news stories regarding their success.



Cultural Training

Due to Covid lockdowns, only a limited number of training sessions went ahead.

7

Trainings

180

Attendees



Client Services

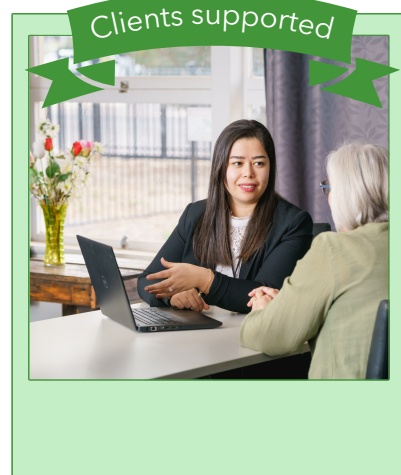
(Mildura, Robinvale and Swan Hill)

Settlement Engagement Transition Support

Supported on

- Immigration matters
- Physical and Mental Health issues
- Financial management
- Housing referrals
- Addictions
- Family violence issues
- Educational challenges
- Employment barriers
- Safe driving

572



Complex case outcome

Fahim is a 32-year-old Afghan male who fled prosecution from his home country in Afghanistan. Fahim came to Australia 5 years ago with his parents and siblings on a humanitarian visa. SMECC assisted the family throughout the settlement program. While Fahim was establishing himself he became a contractor and sponsored his family. Two years ago, Fahim lost his mother, and he could not cope with the loss.

Fahim became addicted to drugs; this impacted his relationship with his family. He lost his job, his house, perpetrating Family violence, and was arrested by police and charged for possession of drugs. He was removed from his family home and admitted to a mental health unit for a month.

The SMECC support worker referred Fahim to counselling and attended meetings with him on a fortnightly basis, for support and assistance with language. The Court has indicated that if Fahim continues to stay drug free, which he has been for the past 2 months, he will be able to return to his family home in 4 weeks.

To protect the privacy of certain individuals name and identifying details have been changed



Encompass

- Information sharing through community clubs including promoting Encompass to the public via radio/podcast
- Supporting elderly clients in providing information on local services and aged care services
- Sessions held in Greek, Italian and English

62

Clients supported

Seasonal Worker Accommodation Program

Main issues faced by seasonal workers:

- Exploitation on wages
- Insecure housing
- Overcrowded housing
- Lack of medical access for undocumented workers

2973

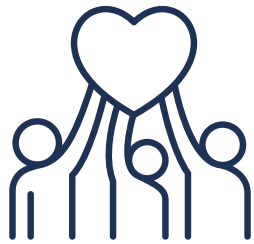
Clients
supported

252

Stakeholders
contacted



Community Development & Engagement



14

Community groups supported

Challenges:

- Access and availability for affordable and suitable housing.
- Lack of cultural competency and/or knowledge of regulations for various visa categories among service provider staff, health personnel, and private business workers such as real estate agencies.

Highlights:

- Established the Sunraysia Multicultural Response Group (SMRG) consisting of 18 community group leaders and 7 emergency service representatives.
- Organised a community dinner during refugee week with 90 members, from Congolese, Burundian, Filipino, Malaysian, Aboriginal, and mainstream Australian communities attending, thanks to a partnership with AMES Australia Mildura and Mildura Rural City Council.
- Supported 3 creative artists to sell their wares and products under the Multicultural Art brand.
- Connected 7 clients to the not-for-profit organisation Many Rivers, which offers free business advice and microfinancing.
- Connected businesses and their workers with migration/visa advice in the Donald area. 16 clients were referred to a migration agent regarding skilled migration options.

Special Outcomes through partnerships:

- Symposium in November 2021 which resulted in further research by Agriculture Victoria and La Trobe University into the 'real footprint' of seasonal workers in Sunraysia. SMECC Pastoral Care Program was instrumental in facilitating this work, which included a trip to Mildura and Robinvale in the first half of 2022.
- Delivered an information session on Free Interpreting Services to 6 Ray White Mildura Real Estate staff thanks to a partnership with TIS National within the Department of Home Affairs. Ray White Mildura signed up for free interpreting services after the session.
- Collaborated with community stakeholders to deliver Covid vaccination clinics.

Playgroup



- Age group: 6 months to 5 years
- 50 parents & 58 kids enrolled
- 35 kids & 29 parents participate weekly



Sessions:

- 52 face to face
- 12 park for play
- 12 Ready Steady Go Kids
- 3 kinder enrolments



Activities included:

- Storytime
- Puzzles
- Arts & Crafts
- Sport
- Singing, etc



Youth

25 Youth supported

(Age group 10 to 18 years)

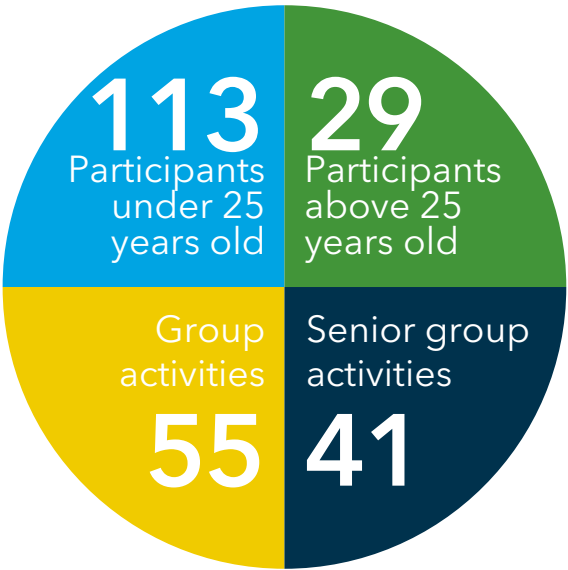
Most attended activities:

- Soccer
- Swimming
- Basketball
- Excursions



Inclusion in Sport & Physical Activity

COVID restrictions and lockdowns affected client mental health that challenged their participation in physical activities. This program enabled to break down barriers between mainstream and newly arrived communities to enhance social participation and integration. The clients are appreciative of the opportunity to be participating with locals through sports.



Volunteers

Programs supported:

- Food hub
- Conversation class
- Computer life skills class
- Youth
- Playgroup
- Driving program



Food Hub

165,620

Food in (kg)

153,328

Food out (kg)

12,811

Food hampers (box)

15

Food donors

24,395

Adults

20,397

Children

6,733

Families

1,827

Individuals

Food distribution partnerships



Client feedback:

"SMECC can help anyone who needs help with food. The food is of good quality and everything you need to make meals. Thank you to all the friendly staff".

Deanne Lindsay

"Just wanted to say a big thank you for the food parcel which was left for me very much appreciated so thank you again".

Sue Stackpool

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic



2250

Vaccinations
administered



3254

Clients
supported

Main partners



Financial Statement

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

REVENUE	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue	3,298,535	2,180,131
Other revenue	1,239,153	1,061,848
Total Revenue	4,537,688	3,241,979
LESS EXPENSES		
Administration expenses	116,036	130,359
Depreciation	169,715	77,453
Finance costs	49,253	12,384
Motor vehicle expenses	65,632	44,822
Occupancy costs	91,637	62,099
Program costs	449,597	106,362
Employee benefits expenses	1,849,987	1,436,442
Travel expenses	4,121	3,103
Total Expenses	2,795,978	1,873,024
Net surplus for the year	1,741,710	1,368,955
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Gain on revaluation of property	759,294	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	2,501,004	1,368,955

Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2022

ASSETS	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,235,737	1,532,707
Trade and other receivables	243,016	134,911
Financial assets	599,133	98,377
Total Current Assets	2,077,886	1,765,995
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	4,471,481	3,716,967
Right of use assets	415,486	-
Total Non-Current Assets	4,886,967	3,716,967
Total Assets	6,964,853	5,482,962
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	314,914	1,479,263
Provisions	143,254	86,537
Lease liabilities	13,120	-
Financial liabilities	-	70,200
Total Current Liabilities	471,288	1,636,000
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	4,104	-
Lease Liabilities	405,073	-
Financial Liabilities	401	263,980
Total Non-Current Liabilities	409,578	263,980
Total Liabilities	880,867	1,899,980
Net Assets	6,083,986	3,582,982
Equity		
Reserves	2,418,743	1,659,449
Retained earnings	3,665,243	1,923,533
Total Equity	6,083,986	3,582,982

Financial Statement

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from grants and customers	3,626,158	4,724,534
Payments to suppliers and employees	(2,878,328)	(2,137,181)
Finance costs	(49,253)	(12,849)
Interest received	1,216	1,024
Net cash provided by/(used by) operating activities	699,793	2,575,528
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(162,228)	(1,162,411)
Investment in term deposits	(500,756)	(98,377)
Net cash used by/(used by) investing activities	(662,984)	(1,260,788)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Repayment of borrowings	(333,779)	(43,218)
Net cash used by/(used by) financing activities	(333,779)	(43,218)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(296,970)	1,271,522
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	1,532,707	261,185
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	1,235,737	1,532,707

Minutes

Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council

Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, 27th October 2021 at 5.30pm

Acknowledgment of country - President Ian Japp.

Apologies: Dr Anne Webster, Simone Coombes, Geoff Dea, Chris Forbes, Brett Millington and Tania Ryan.

Attendees: Ian Japp, Nina Smart, Catarine Monteleone, Daniel Whitford, Garth Boyd, Sylvia Nixon, Charmaine Calis, Claire Kelly, Aloysius Kamara, Charles Albanese, Trevor Leighton, Frank Piscioneri, Joelle Brown, Ratna Savitri, Rebeca Rem Ku, Ann Killen, Juvelina Guterres, Corey Iredale, Julyn Chan, Danielle Hren, Miranda Lamattina, Walaa Sabri, Sharon Pastore, Joanne Dichiera, Kunnika Powell, Sundram Sivamalai, Hom Dawadi, Claire Galvin, Sonia Di Mezza, Michael Mark, Jiembra Sheils, Tony Laria, Bruce Thorne, Muttalip Eser, and Richard Foster.

Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting - November 06th, 2020

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on November 06th, 2020 be accepted as true and correct.

Moved: Nina Smart Seconded: Daniel Whitford

Reports:

President's Report (Ian Japp)

Executive Officer's Report (Joelle Brown)

Treasurer's Report (Catarine Monteleone)

Motion: That the reports be adopted.

Moved: Garth Boyd Seconded: Aloysius Kamara

Motion: That the financial statements be adopted.

Moved: Daniel Whitford Seconded: Aloysius Kamara

Volunteer of the year: Michael Mack

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

Announcement of Board of Management:

President: Ian Japp

Vice President: Nina Smart

Treasurer: Catarine Monteleone

Secretary: Daniel Whitford

Committee: Joseph Asirifi

Committee: Aloysius Kamara

Committee: Charles Albanese

Committee: Charmaine Calis

Committee: Sylvia Nixon

Meeting Closed: 5.54pm