



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023





We acknowledge and pay our respect to the traditional owners of the lands across the areas that we serve, particularly the Gadigal of the Eora Nation – traditional owners of the land where the LCSA office is located in Redfern, New South Wales.

Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.

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President's Report

On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge that the Local Community Services Association (LCSA), through its members and communities, work and operate on Aboriginal lands throughout NSW and we would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians and their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

The years seem to be flying by, and once again, LCSA has continued its advocacy work for you as its members throughout 2022-23. In this short report, I cannot begin to acknowledge all the work that has been done throughout the year.

With the State election, LCSA published a Policy Platform that was distributed widely, particularly to politicians, which enabled some meetings. Although increased funding has not eventuated, we are still continuing to advocate for realistic funding for services, with an emphasis on the development of social

infrastructure funding. I also acknowledge the engagement work done, and ongoing, by Member organisations in their local areas.

Due to the Pandemic and the recent natural disasters, LCSA was fortunate to receive project funding to run a series of training for Members around trauma informed community development and disaster capacity development. This had good uptake and was relevant, as we continue to live in an environment where nature can change our communities in a very short time. Centres continue to play an integral role in disasters as the local place-based organisations with the relationships in the communities that they work in. Some of the project funding was in partnership through grants and the Social Sector Transformation Fund.

It has been great to keep up with you through the regular LCSA Members Forums. It is a place where current issues can be discussed, and some education can be gained. Remember, it is your forum, and if you have any suggestions, please let the LCSA employees know your ideas.

This year, I was privileged to attend the World Community Development Conference in Darwin. (This was funded by my employer). LCSA was also in attendance, and it was an enriching and informative conference. I was touched when speaking to an Aboriginal man whose country was in Central Australia, who said to me that he did not realise that all the same issues that affect his community, happen all around the world. It proves that for all our alleged differences, at the heart of it all, we are the same. I came back with a renewed interest in adopting a human rights approach in my work, which came out of a talk about housing in Scotland.

Continued thanks must go to the Staff Team at LCSA - Can Yaşmut, Anthony Brown, Maddy Williams, Bronwyn Hutchings and Keummi Joo. Special thanks to Julie Williams for being the Public Innovation Coach, and to our now indispensable volunteer, Vivian Hanich. Due to the project funding nature of our sector, we farewelled Keummi as a permanent member of staff after this year's LCSA Conference and, at Christmas, we will farewell Bronwyn.

Also, thank you to the LCSA supporters, funders and partners (who will be acknowledged later in this report).

Further thanks go to those Members and colleagues who served on the LCSA Board throughout this year – Skye Sear (Vice President), David Beddoe (Secretary), Paul Sekfy (Treasurer), Fran Stead, Tairyn Vergara, and Tina Reynolds.

As this will be my final report as President of the LCSA, I want to acknowledge you, whose roles in your communities and the people that you work with continues to be an invaluable asset. The people who come through the doors of your Centres have your employees, volunteers, board members, supporters and funders to thank for the service(s) that they receive. Every success for the future and thank you.

Margaret Tipper

President

Local Community Services
Association (LCSA)



Executive Officer's Report

As we entered an era when COVID19 is treated as an endemic rather than a pandemic, our members have never stopped working through this public health crisis as local, essential services, serving their communities. It has been our duty to support them through these tumultuous times, exacerbated by natural disasters, the rise in the cost of living and an unprecedented demand on their services. We have arrived in a new policy environment that can be characterized by a broad public recognition of Neighbourhood and Community Centres (NCCs) we have not seen before.

2023 was an election year for New South Wales and a change in government has opened up opportunities for new conversations about getting the much-needed resources into our sector. When Maddy Williams joined our team in August 2022, to lead LCSA's Policy and Research work, we prioritised the LCSA Policy Platform as the key document in the lead up to the election. We are

delighted, and indeed fortunate, to have Maddy join the team. She brings significant analytical acumen and policy development skills to her role, which already contributes greatly to our organisation, our entire membership and the sector at large.

A well-informed, evidence-based approach to the Policy Platform saw us getting public support from the Greens NSW and Independent MP Alex Greenwich, recognising the need for core funding for NCCs as an investment into social infrastructure in perpetuity. Making a distinction between social infrastructure and service delivery is the essence of our policy ask, calling for investment into NCCs as a network of essential services.

NCCs have demonstrated to the public that together we form a network – indeed the social infrastructure - that the community and the government can rely on in times of crisis, but also in times of peace and calm.

Our Policy Platform also calls for a Community Investment Fund that would enable new organisations to be established in geographic

areas where historically there has been gaps. This includes metropolitan growth areas in Greater Western Sydney.

It suffices to say that we have only made the important first steps of a long journey. As part of our post-election strategy we are meeting with members of both the Upper and Lower House to garner further support for our cause. Simultaneously we support our members in their own advocacy efforts, both in person and with resources such as the Political Engagement Guide - a special thanks to Mark Riboldi and the Australian Community Radio Association, whose political engagement guide was the inspiration to develop our own; and to Vivian Hanich, who joined LCSA as volunteer and amongst other valuable contributions to the LCSA, pulled this document together.

While our shift to policy and research was strategic and intentional, our commitment to Sector Capacity Building and professional development continued through the ongoing employment of Bronwyn Hutchings, who originally under the SSTF Program, developed the Trauma-informed Community Development Training

program in partnership with Carolyn Cousins from Tuned In Consulting.

Bronwyn identified further training opportunities and ensured that these are offered to our members, as you will read further on in this report.

LCSA is the state-level link of a national and international network, as a member of the Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANHCA) and the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres (IFS) respectively. What all levels of our world-wide network have in common, is the commitment to Community Development as a practice and posture in service delivery and the struggle for social justice.

I would like to thank our Project Support Officer Keummi Joo for her diligence in convening the IFS Asia Pacific network meetings on a monthly basis. The connections we have made with colleagues from other countries as a result, are invaluable. It is an enriching experience for all participants to have an open forum where international and intercultural learning can occur.

Thanks also to our Public Innovation Coach Julie Williams for joining the LCSA delegation to the IFS Conference in Lille, where she presented on the role of NCCs in Natural Disaster Management. Her presentation was based on

her lived experience as the Manager of Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre and her leadership both in her local community and in the broader community sector.

One direct outcome from the new international connections was the partnership with colleagues from National Chengchi University in Taiwan, under the leadership of Prof. Frank Wang, whom many LCSA members would meet at the 2023 LCSA Conference. Five of his students came to NSW to complete their student placement later in the year – three of them with LCSA (Amy, Sean and Jasmine) and two with Counterpoint Community Services (Kikki and Daniel). Thanks to former LCSA staff, now volunteer, Lyn Lormer, who generously made herself available to support and supervise the students. Together we started planning for the first International Study Exchange Tour to Taiwan in October 2023. A wonderful relationship, and I am confident good things will grow from here.

I wish to acknowledge and thank Anthony Brown, who leads the Communications and Membership Engagement work of LCSA, for his continuous steady and diligent approach to his profession, with patience and skill. During the months of March and April, when I took some leave, Anthony accepted the role of Acting Executive Officer in my

absence, which he fulfilled with competence.

I would like to thank the Department of Communities and Justice for their ongoing confidence in LCSA, signified by the State Peaks Program as our core funding and the project funding we receive for the TEI Community Wellbeing Survey. We value the collegiate relationship we have with our contract managers, Jie Chen and Brett Martin for the abovementioned projects respectively, and their teams.

Finally, I thank the LCSA Board for their strategic vision for the organisation and their ongoing support for the team's efforts.

The last year was a year of change, with a trajectory towards good things to come!...and we will continue to do our best to empower our members to be the best version of themselves.

Can Yaşmut

Executive Officer

Local Community Services Association (LCSA)

Who We Are

Local Community Services Association (LCSA) is the peak body of Neighbourhood & Community Centres in NSW.

Our Values

LCSA embraces the values of diversity, integrity, connectedness and inclusion. Our values underpin our work and are integral in achieving our purpose and strategic priorities.

Our Purpose

LCSA is a membership organisation representing the diverse interests of locally governed not-for-profit organisations in NSW. Our purpose is to provide collaborative leadership. We do this by connecting and resourcing members and communities to promote social justice principles in public policy, service delivery and day-to-day community life.

What We Do

As a leading membership organisation, LCSA has several critical roles:

- Engage with and represent the interests of members.
- Support members to build capacity including community engagement, community development and organisational governance.
- Promote engagement, collaboration and communication between our members, communities, government and other stakeholders to support secure regional connections and local communities.
- Share and disseminate sector information and resources to members and stakeholders.

Our Vision

LCSA's overall vision is for vibrant local community organisations supporting stronger, more inclusive communities.

To achieve this vision, LCSA will:

- retain its existing membership base.
- explore ways to grow its footprint by engaging more with other community development organisations and local government.
- work hard to ensure Neighbourhood Centres are well resourced across the state.
- work to convince political leaders to recognise the value of Neighbourhood Centres and their resources and legislate them as essential social infrastructure.
- support and encourage its members to work within a Community Development Framework
- resource LCSA members so that they can make a significant impact on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- promote its network as Champions of Social Justice.

LCSA Board

President	Margaret Tipper (WESTIR Ltd)
Vice President	Skye Sear (The New School of Arts Neighbourhood House)
Secretary	David Beddoe (Community Management Advisory Project Inc.)
Treasurer	Paul Sekfy (Coffs Harbour Neighbourhood Centre)
Ordinary Members	Fran Stead (Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre) Tairyn Vergara (The Parks Community Network) Tina Reynolds (Orana Support Service Inc.)

LCSA Staff

Executive Officer	Can Yasmut
Policy & Research Officer	Maddy Williams (started August 2022)
Communications Officer	Anthony Brown
Project Support Officer	Keummi Joo
SSTF Project Manager	Bronwyn Hutchings
Public Innovation Coach	Julie Williams
Volunteers	Vivian Hanich (started September 2022) Lyn Lormer

Projects & Partnerships

LCSA invests in strategic relationships that increase our capability to support our members and add value to the community sector where there are gaps or opportunities to innovate and develop new ideas to improve community outcomes. This year we collaborated on a number of funded and unfunded projects with government, peak bodies, philanthropic and member organisations which allowed us to provide a diverse range of training, communities of practice, research and events.

Community Strengthening Data Project

In November 2022, DCJ formally adopted the TEI Community Wellbeing Survey as an optional data tool for all TEI funded services delivering Community Strengthening program activities. Subsequently it was agreed that TEI services will use 2 snapshot months a year (February and August) to distribute the survey in their communities.

20 organisations conducted Community Wellbeing Surveys during the Snapshot Month of February 2023, with a total of 379 responses collected across NSW. The quantitative data from the snapshot month shows a high level of Sense of Belonging, Trust, Community Participation and Access to Resources/Services.

At this point in time, it is premature to draw state-wide themes from the data. The small sample of participating communities across the state makes it difficult to compare between different activities and communities. It is anticipated that the participation of TEI services and hence local communities will grow over time, making the sample sizes much more meaningful for both local conclusions and broader comparisons across communities and regions.

Ultimately the most important aspect of conducting the survey is providing community members with the rare opportunity to comment on the strength and wellbeing of their community and to have a voice about the things that matter to them. It's therefore seen as part of good community development practice rather than solely as a data collection exercise.

Two Communities of Practice (CoP) meetings were held with participating organisations to ensure improvement of the survey by discussing and resolving any issues arising.

The snapshot month reports are available on the [LCSA website](#).

The Community Strengthening Data Project is funded and in partnership with the NSW Department of Communities & Justice.

20

organisations conducted
Community Wellbeing
Surveys during February
Snapshot Month

379

survey responses
received from people
across NSW



2 Communities of
Practice meetings held



1 Snapshot Month
Survey Report published

Trauma-Informed Community Development Project

In 2021, LCSA secured funding through the Department of Communities and Justice's Social Sector Transformation Fund (SSTF) for the Trauma-Informed Community Development Training Program.

Funding ended for the project in January 2023.

The project was funded in two parts:

1. Developing Resilient Communities Project Small Grants
2. Trauma Informed Community Development Training

Developing Resilient Communities Project Small Grants

The Developing Resilient Communities Project Small Grants were allocated in January 2022 with projects reporting back to LCSA in March 2023. We were able to offer 10 grants of \$5000 to member organisations to assist in their development of community-led resilience projects and enhance their community leadership capacity through community conversations.

A diverse range of projects were developed by the 10 organisations who received a grant.

These projects helped to provide opportunities for community to come together and connect and share through locally run events; intergenerational storytelling through digital media; self-care and safety packs being distributed to flood & bushfire recovery centres for women in unsafe situations; community-led development of a 'community safety approach' to building disaster preparedness, resilience and recovery; coordination of a resilience program that significantly increases community awareness, preparation, coping and post-crisis resilience.

Trauma-Informed Community Development Training

LCSA worked with a content writer over July and September 2022 to develop training and resource materials for an online course on trauma-informed community development.

A pilot session was conducted with 18 representatives from the organisations funded through the Small Grants, who also assisted in the co-design process of the training.

Following the pilot, the training was redeveloped into two modules and offered to all LCSA members in late 2022 and again in 2023 with 62 people participating in total.

The training considers what trauma-informed community development is, what we mean by trauma and its effects, acknowledging the impact individual trauma has on community-based trauma. Principles and strategies are discussed, along with understanding what a traumatized community looks like, adapting to change, what creates resilient communities, diversity of need and creating trauma-informed scaffolding.

Feedback on the training has been very positive, with some changes being incorporated into the sessions based on responses.

"It was really great training that allowed space to think and reflect on individual and organisational practices and to also understand the different levels of trauma and the combined impact that this can have."

62

people completed
Trauma-Informed
Community Development
training

47

people participated in the
Developing a Resilient
Team training

51

people attended
Accidental Counsellor
training

58

people did the
Introduction to
Psychological First Aid
training

28

people completed the
Psychological First Aid
for Bushfire Recovery
training

A range of stand-alone disaster resilience training was also offered as part of the TICD Project.

Developing a Resilient Team

This training looked at staff and self-care during and after a crisis. It offered tools for both individuals and organisations to develop coping strategies to improve team and self-care following a range of natural and non-natural disasters.

Accidental Counsellor

Two Accidental Counsellor training workshops were conducted in October 2022 and in May 2023. The workshops are designed for non-counsellors who are working in helping kinds of workplaces.

The session aims to ensure participants will:

- have an understanding key elements of listening styles, including reflective and active listening as well as mirroring.
- know how to recognize their limits and put in place good boundaries.
- be able to identify referral options and supports.
- understand their own 'empathy neuron' and self-care.
- recognise the signs of trauma (including anger) and some tips to manage out of a conversation.

Introduction to Psychological First Aid

This training was delivered by Phoenix Australia, who have been Australia's National Centre of Excellence in Posttraumatic Mental Health for the past 25 years.

Psychological First Aid for Bush Fire Recovery Training

Phoenix Australia was funded through the National Bushfire Recovery Project to deliver the Psychological First Aid for Bush Fire Recovery training for free to eligible workers who have a role in supporting their community's ongoing recovery from the 2019/2020 Australian bushfires, as well as from COVID-19 and other disasters.

LCSA was able to negotiate this course being offered to our members for free. Twenty-eight people took up this opportunity.

It was encouraging that Phoenix Australia and the project funding bodies, including State and Federal Governments, recognise the increasing role Neighbourhood and Community Centres play in responding to disaster and emergency situations, especially this year in relation to the ongoing floods and bushfire recovery.

Zero Hunger in Schools

The Zero Hunger in Schools Project is a partnership between Capgemini, United Nations Association of Australia (NSW Division) and LCSA. The project involves schools, community centres and other local stakeholders being connected by an app called YumYum, which provides a secure and sustainable way to arrange delivery of food donations that is currently ending up in landfill to children at school who are hungry and at risk of lower educational outcomes.

Five LCSA Member organisations participated in piloting the Yum Yum App between September and November 2022 to test the user-experience.

The pilot found that:

- 117 children were known to have attended school with insufficient food.
- 108 children were provided with food through the pilot participants using the YumYum app
- participants found the YumYum user-friendly, with some suggestions for improvement.

The project's next steps involve implementing findings from the pilot and scale the initiative in NSW.



Community Sector Disaster Capability Project

NCOSS, in partnership with LCSA and AbSec has been funded by the NSW Government to promote and support the role of local community service organisations in disaster risk reduction. The project informs an integrated model for the social sector in disaster management, strengthening connections between local community, community service organisations and formal disaster management systems.

The Program aims to build a collaborative, networked approach so that local community organisations working with vulnerable population groups can bring their expert knowledge and connections into play, can develop their capacity to identify, assess and mitigate risks for the clients they are working with, and can help strengthen ongoing interactions with formal disaster management systems.

Expressions of interest were called for host organisations in the three regions – Northern Rivers, South Coast and Hawkesbury in March. Three assessment panels were convened to consider the applications involving representatives from NCOSS, LCSA and AbSec along with an independent person from the NSW Reconstruction Authority.

As part of the project, LCSA conducted a session on the introduction to the Harwood Approach with contracted agencies as well as the NCOSS project partners. LCSA had requested a clause in the host organisations contract to ensure a community voice was a key aspect of each project.

LCSA Member Census

The LCSA Members Census aims to give LCSA baseline information on who we are, what we do, and the impact of Neighbourhood and Community Centres (including Sector Development organisations and Councils) across NSW.

Much has changed in the years since LCSA, in conjunction with the Australian Neighbourhood and Centres Association (ANHCA), conducted the 2010 Census and it is important that we have a current comprehensive picture of the extent and success of the work being achieved by Neighbourhood and Community Centres.

LCSA conducted a census in 2020 to establish a new baseline, followed up with another census this year. We are aiming to continue the census every second year to create an ongoing database of information and to identify trends in our sector.

We had 71 members complete the survey this year. That is just over 40% of our membership and a slight increase on the 2020 participation, which had 66 members complete their surveys. We are hoping to increase the participation to 50% or more in the coming years.

We thank our members who took the time to complete the survey.

Supporting Stronger Communities Grants Program

LCSA partners with our national peak body, the Australia Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANHCA), to provide our members with the opportunity to apply for the Supporting Stronger Communities (SSC) Grants Program. The SSC grants provide up to \$10,000 for member organisations to tackle poverty and disadvantage in towns and cities with a population greater than 15,000 people.

3 rounds of grants were made available over the 12-month period with 5 LCSA Member organisations received funding.

The SSC Grants Program is a partnership between ANHCA & the Sidney Myer Fund.

Training & Special Events

Where possible, LCSA partners with government, training or service providers to host relevant information sessions or special events for our members over and above our normal projects. This year we were able to host the following online sessions:



- **Introduction to the Child Safe Standards** - Information session (webinar) hosted by NSW Office of the Children's Guardian. Attended by 70 LCSA Members.
- **Privacy & Information Security for NGOs** - A forum by NSW Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ) designed to extend understanding of the cyber security landscape and provide simple strategies for NGO's to implement. Attended by 45 LCSA Members.

Policy & Advocacy

LCSA works with our members to promote social justice principles in public policy. This includes developing our own policy platform and advocating for the interests of our members to government on key issues affecting the sector and vulnerable communities in NSW.

LCSA took a public-facing policy platform and campaign to the 2023 state election in NSW. A state election strategy provided an opportunity to talk about what Neighbourhood and Community Centres (NCCs) do and what the sector needs.

The aims of our state election strategy were to:

- Advocate for our policy goals
- Build visibility of our network of Neighbourhood and Community Centres (NCCs)
- Build or strengthen local relationships
- Increase and coordinate the advocacy capability of our members.

These aims were pursued through the creation of an LCSA Policy Platform and by supporting and empowering members' local advocacy.



LCSA Policy Platform 2023

The first part of the strategy was to create a policy platform to take to MPs in the lead-up to the election. LCSA developed the platform after consultation with its interstate counterparts Neighbourhood Centres Queensland and Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.

To read LCSA's Policy Platform 2023 [\[click here\]](#).

The platform's four-point plan aims to achieve the overarching goal to recognise NCCs as essential social infrastructure and appropriately resource them. This would happen primarily through the provision of core funding from the NSW Government and a formal partnership between the Government and LCSA to enshrine place-based consultation with NCCs and collaboration on related policy areas.

LCSA met with five MPs across the Coalition, Labor and the Greens.

- Rob Stokes (Liberal) Member for Pittwater; Minister for Infrastructure; Minister for Cities
- Natasha-Maclaren Jones (Liberal) NSW Upper House; Minister for Family & Community Services
- Kate Washington (Labor) Member for Port Stephens; Shadow Minister for FaCS
- Jenny Leong (Greens) Member for Newtown; Greens spokesperson for Housing & Homelessness
- James Griffin (Liberal) Member for Manly; Minister for Environment and Heritage

While the major parties expressed that LCSA's Policy Platform was reasonable, both were reluctant to make any funding commitments to LCSA and the social services sector.

Local and Regional Advocacy

The second part of the strategy was to empower LCSA members' advocacy efforts at the local or regional level. This was achieved by:

- Multiple members' forum presentations on the strategy
- Offering assistance to LCSA members on their own advocacy efforts
- Publishing a [Guide for Community-led Political Engagement](#) for NCCs, adapted from the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia's political engagement guide
- Coordinating election roundtables

NSW Candidate Roundtables

LCSA partnered with NCOSS to convene six roundtables across NSW over two weeks on our shared advocacy goal of core funding for all NCCs in NSW.

Electorate	Host
Tweed	Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre
Ballina	Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Lismore	Northern Rivers Community Gateway
Penrith	Nepean Community & Neighbourhood Services
The Entrance/Wyong	Yerin Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Services
Bankstown/Lakemba	Canterbury City Community Centre

Each roundtable:

- Explored the needs and aspirations of each NCC and the critical role they played in recent disasters and other crises.
- Examined how the NCC fit into the larger context of LCSA and NCOSS' state-level policy priorities.
- Gave candidates and media the opportunity to understand the issues and hear from Centre Managers, advocates, and key community members with lived experience.

Positive outcomes of the Candidate Roundtables include:

- Awareness-raising and commitments - Many candidates (particularly minor party and independents) were unaware of the lack of core funding for NCCs. Some committed to advocating for either ongoing funding for their local NCC or core funding for all NCCs in NSW
- Relationship strengthening between LCSA and NCOSS, laying the groundwork for policy and advocacy collaboration opportunities in the future.
- Relationship building and strengthening between LCSA and Centre Managers
- Some media coverage, particularly in the Northern Rivers.



Candidates for the NSW Electorate of Ballina participate in a roundtable discussion with LCSA, NCOSS and staff from Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre, along with local community representatives.

Political Support Outcomes

At the Penrith roundtable the Greens NSW announced their support for the full implementation of LCSA's Policy Platform (See: [Supporting the Social Sector](#)).

Independent MP for Sydney, Alex Greenwich, also released his statement of his support:

"I support the LCSA's policy platform in full. Neighbourhood and Community Centres offer so much to communities across NSW, particularly in times of crises and natural disasters, but receive no dedicated funding to keep the doors open and pay a minimum number of staff members. I commit to advocate for core funding for all Neighbourhood and Community Centres in NSW in the next term of parliament."

Ongoing Advocacy

In district meetings in May/June 2023, LCSA members agreed that LCSA should continue to pursue our policy platform over this term of government to secure major party support.

Submission to Philanthropy Inquiry

In May 2023, LCSA made a submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Philanthropy. Our submission reflected the needs and priorities of small-medium charitable organisations that form the majority of our membership.

To inform the submission, LCSA:

- Consulted with LCSA staff and the LCSA board.
- Consulted with LCSA members.
- Detailed LCSA's experience with philanthropy
- Undertook desktop research.

LCSA made five recommendations. To read our submission [\[click here\]](#).

Communications & Engagement

Modern communication channels allow LCSA to connect regularly and easily with our members who represent the largest community-led infrastructure in NSW. Many of our activities, such as monthly online forums, district and regional meetings, and the international Asia-Pacific Network, aim to bring people together to discuss issues, collaborate and learn from each other.

Members Forum

The LCSA Members Forum is held online on the first Tuesday of each month and provides an effective way for our network to engage in open discussion around topics and issues that impact the work of Neighbourhood and Community Centres in NSW.

The LCSA Members Forum was held on 11 occasions with a total of 313 people joining in over the course of the year with an average attendance of 28 participants per meeting.

This year our guest speakers included Eleanor Harris (NSW Council of Social Service), James Schlunke (Capgemini) Eleri Morgan-Thomas (DCJ), Mark Riboldi (The Policy Lab), Brett Martin (DCJ), Karen Connor (DCJ), Maria Losurdo (The Women's Cottage), Chris Leung (The Smith Family), Chris Smith (Shared Reading NSW) and Anthony Shannon (DCJ).

District Meetings

LCSA hosted 2 rounds of online meetings for each of the 7 districts in NSW. 75 organisations were represented during each round of meeting, where members had the chance to share current challenges faced by their organisation or local community. Presentations and discussions were facilitated by LCSA staff about our policy and advocacy work, while Anthony Shannon from DCJ joined in with the latest news, information and data relevant for each district.

Common challenges expressed by members at the district meetings included:

- Staff recruitment and retention
- Massive increase in demand for material relief
- Increase in housing and homelessness issues
- Increase in domestic and family violence
- Demand from new sections of the community – the working poor and those under rental or mortgage stress.

LCSA will continue to explore how to best support LCSA members across all districts through these bi-annual meetings.

92

email communications
sent to LCSA Members

1300

Facebook Followers

731

Twitter Followers

313

people attended LCSA
Members Forum
meetings

75

organisations
participated in 2 rounds
of District Meetings

IFS Asia Pacific Network

The IFS Asia Pacific Network (APN) brings together individuals and organisations who hold the same values on social justice and inclusion, diversity and democratic principles from all over the Asia Pacific region under the expanded network of the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centers (IFS).

APN meetings focus on exchanging knowledge and sharing experiences for developing skills and strategies in community development, enhancing cultural exchange and understanding, improving global networking, and looking at potential projects to collaborate around Asia and the Pacific regions.

This year eleven APN meetings took place online where presentations included The University Social Responsibility Project in Taiwan, Terminology of Community Development in Australia, Victoria Neighbourhood houses' Social Return on

Investment Report, Social Enterprises Project, 'Vison for All' in India, and Locality's Economic Contribution report in England.

Around 7 to 12 people participate in APN meetings each month, representing Australia, Taiwan, India, and Sri Lanka. We expect to develop more opportunities to connect with South Korea, Japan, New Zealand, and the South Pacific region in the future.

Something that has continued to grow and develop out of the APN over the last 12 months is the strong connection and relationship that's building between LCSA and representatives from Taiwan. In July 2022 we joined with Counterpoint Community Services to host Professor Yi-Yi Chen from the National Taiwan University along with 6 of her students who were visiting Australia (pictured below). In the second half of 2023 LCSA will host 3 Taiwanese student placements for 6 weeks and help coordinate a study tour to Taiwan with LCSA members later in October.



Professor Yi-Yi Chen from the National Taiwan University with 6 of her students visiting Counterpoint Community Services whilst in Sydney with LCSA Staff.

Neighbourhood Centre Week

Neighbourhood Centre Week (NCW) was celebrated across Australia from 8-14 May 2023, with this year's theme being **'Locals Connecting Locals'**. LCSA promoted this annual event amongst our membership and widely on our social media channels to draw attention to the important work of Neighbourhood and Community Centres. LCSA staff spent the week visiting and supporting events hosted by our members throughout the Sydney region, The Blue Mountains and Central Coast.



Representation & Influence

LCSA leads and collaborates with government agencies, peak bodies and key stakeholders on strategic priorities for the sector in order to influence and improve policy and service delivery outcomes for our members and communities in NSW. This includes contributing to joint planning, participating in advisory groups, forums, committees, representation on various boards, as well as attending important briefing sessions, meetings and events.

In 2022-2023, LCSA was involved in the following roles and activities:

- Forum Of Non-Government Agencies (FONGA) bi-monthly meetings hosted by NCOSS
- TEI Peaks bi-monthly meetings with DCJ
- Community Strengthening Evidence Review - consultation meetings with DCJ & Centre for Social Impact (CSI)
- RMIT research project “Strategies for Inclusive Neighbourhood Centres’ Advisory Group
- NCOSS (SSTF Symposium) Conference 2022 Advisory Group
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Reference Group with NSW Electoral Commission
- ANHCA State Peaks EO/CEO Forum
- ANHCA State Peaks Research & Policy monthly meetings
- ANHCA State Peaks Communications monthly meetings
- International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centers Conference



A delegation of LCSA staff and members from Australia participated in the IFS International Conference gathering in France to strengthen and contribute to the global network of community-based organisations working for social justice.



Treasurer's Report

I present the annual financial report for the 2022 – 2023 year for our association.

This year, once again, we have managed to operate within our overall budget, meet the required outputs for our funded activities and achieved a modest surplus. We have managed to consolidate a small but highly effective staff team and ensure that we meet all our financial obligations in a timely manner.

The funding received was not as great as the previous year since the funding from both the Social Sector Transformation Fund (SSTF) and the Social Sector Support Fund (SSSF) were only available in the previous year.

LCSA received funding from the NSW Dept of Communities and Justice of \$551,138 compared to \$697,009 in the previous year. The two program areas were the State Peaks Program and the TEI Program (Data Project).

There was some other income and fees for service, however there was no conference income in the year.

The total income for the year was \$606,997 compared to \$825,791 for the previous year.

LCSA recorded an operating surplus of \$15,875 for the year ended 30 June 2023. I commend the Executive Officer, the Finance Sub-committee, and the able support of our bookkeeper for this outcome.

LCSA's Balance Sheet shows a sound financial position at the end of the reporting period with a cash balance of \$387,557 and members funds (equity) of \$286,236.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. A summary is included in this Annual Report and a full report may be accessed on the LCSA and ACNC websites. I acknowledge the work of our Auditors, Meagher Howard and Wright.

I also want to thank my fellow Finance Sub-committee members, Margaret Tipper and Tairyn Vergara for their ongoing assistance and our Executive Officer for his diligence in relation to monitoring of a demanding budget and risk management.

I want to acknowledge Margaret Tipper's knowledge and sage advice with regard to compliance matters. I am grateful for the continued opportunity to participate on the LCSA Board in support of our exemplary membership who pursue local community development and advocacy.

Paul Sekfy

Treasurer

Local Community Services Association (LCSA)

Financial Statements

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
INCOME		
Conference Income	-	72,930
Fees for Service	21,045	28,500
Grants	537,228	656,359
Membership Income	43,910	40,650
Other Income	4,814	27,353
TOTAL INCOME	606,997	825,791
EXPENSES		
AGM Expenses	592	-
Audit Fees	2,700	2,600
Bank Fees	134	260
Bookkeeping	21,750	20,228
Coaching/Consultancy	4,150	2,000
Computer Expenses	1,063	5,472
Conference	-	64,428
Conference/Lille France	12,219	-
Conference/Forums	5,921	900
Consultants/Program Dev	-	3,750
Donations	44	-
EC Meeting Expenses	8,113	4,321
Electricity	-	1,806
Insurance	6,179	6,871
IT Expenses	3,697	6,049
Lodgement/Legal Fees	300	-
Management Fee	-	15,000
Moving Expenses	443	-
Meeting Expense	-	2,000
Office -Shared Services	-	441
Personal Protection Equipment	1,080	1,854
Planning Day	-	14,744
Postage/Courier	-	1,689
Printing/Photocopier	78	227
Program Cost	880	50,453
Removals	-	400
Rent	23,903	64,983
Rent – Shared Expenses	-	11,515
Resources	1,441	1,919
Salaries & Oncosts	462,551	454,325
Staff Travel	13,065	1,305
Stationary	87	-
Storage	6,182	529
Subscriptions	3,853	2,329
Telephone/Internet	2,243	-
Video Conferencing	235	385
Website	8,221	7,640
TOTAL EXPENSES	591,121	754,760
Surplus/(loss)	15,875	71,031
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	270,360	199,329
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	286,236	270,360

Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	387,557	497,547
Other current assets	74,860	5,904
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	462,418	503,451
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plants, and equipment	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	462,418	503,451
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade Creditors	-	2,200
GST Collected	19,027	15,070
GST Paid	(9,925)	(7,543)
Income in Advance	71,628	76,200
Provision for Annual Leave	41,486	41,974
Time in Lieu Accrued	1,043	336
Other current liabilities	27,531	50,358
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	150,790	178,595
NON-CURRENT LIABILITES		
Provision Long Service Leave	25,392	54,496
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	25,392	54,496
TOTAL LIABILITIES	176,182	233,091
NET ASSETS	286,236	270,360
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained earnings	286,236	270,360
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	286,236	270,360

The Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of the Local Community Services Association was prepared and presented by Meagher, Howard & Wright CPA Suite 506, Level 5, 55 Grafton Street, Bondi Junction, NSW 2022 on 25 August 2023.

A detailed audited financial report is available for members on the LCSA website to view or download or can be obtained by contacting the LCSA Office.

Our Funders, Partners & Supporters

Thanks to all the organisations and individuals who have contributed and worked with us this year to provide leadership and support for locally governed not-for-profit organisations in NSW:

- NSW Department of Communities and Justice
- Multicultural NSW
- Resilience NSW / NSW Reconstruction Authority
- NCOSS, Fams, Youth Action, AbSec & Justice Connect
- WESTIR, MCRN, WSCF, Inner Sydney Voice, Community Industry Group, Sector Connect
- International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres (IFS)
- Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANHCA) and our fellow peak bodies for Neighbourhood Centres and Houses in Tasmania (Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania), Victoria (Neighbourhood Houses Victoria), South Australia (Community Centres SA), Western Australia (Linkwest) and Queensland (Neighbourhood Centres Queensland)
- Sidney Myer Fund (Supporting Stronger Communities Grant Program)
- Paul Ramsay Foundation
- The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation
- Active Care Network
- Community Wellbeing Survey Communities of Practice
- Westwood Spice
- Alex Greenwich MP & Jenny Leong MP
- United Nations Association of Australia - NSW Division & Capgemini
- Carolyn Cousins (Tuned In Consulting)
- Georgie & Melanie Stayches and Fetching Events
- Settlement Services International (SSI)
- NSW Electoral Commission
- RMIT University
- Centre for Social Impact (UNSW)
- Phoenix Australia
- NSW Office of the Children's Guardian
- Community Broadcasting Association of Australia and Mark Riboldi
- The Women's Cottage, The Smith Family, Shared Reading NSW
- Australian Red Cross

Thanks to all those who didn't get a mention here but have partnered or supported us and our members in some way throughout the year.

Our Members

Active Care Network
ADRA Community Centre Macquarie Fields
Advance Diversity Services
Albion Park Youth & Community Care
Albury City Council (Glenecho & Mirambeena Community Centres)
Armidale Family Support Service
Armidale Neighbourhood Centre
Balgownie Village Community Centre
Bankstown Community Resource Group
Bateau Bay Neighbourhood Centre
Belmont Neighbourhood Centre
Belong Blue Mountains Community & Neighbourhood Services
Berkeley Neighbourhood Centre
Berkeley Vale Neighbourhood Centre
Better Connected Community Services
Blacktown Area Community Centres
Bligh Park Community Services
Boronia Multicultural Services
Bowraville Pioneer Community Centre
Braidwood Life Centre
Bucketts Way Neighbourhood Group
Cabarita Youth Service
Canterbury City Community Centre
Cassia Community Centre
Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre
Cobargo Community Access Centre
Coffs Harbour Neighbourhood Centre
Community Action for Better Living
Community Care Northern Beaches
Community First Step
Community Industry Group
Community Junction
Community Links Wollondilly
Community Management Advisory Project
Community Northern Beaches
Community SOS Central Coast
ConnectAbility Australia
Coolaburoo Neighbourhood Centre
Coonamble Neighbourhood Centre
CORE Community Services
Counterpoint Community Services
Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre
Creating Links
Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre
Crossroads Community Care Centre
Drummoyne Community Centre
Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre
Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre
Dungog Shire Community Centre
Eden Community Access Centre
Edgeworth Memorial Neighbourhood Centre
Engadine Community Services
Far South Coast Family Support Service
Forster Neighbourhood Centre
Glebe Youth Service
Glen Innes & District Community Centre
Glossodia Community Information & Neighbourhood Centre
Gosford Regional Community Services
Graceades Community Cottage
Green Point Community Centre
Greenacre Area Community Centre
Griffith Community Centre

Gundagai Neighbourhood Centre
 Gunnedah Family Support
 Guyra Neighbourhood Centre
 Hawkesbury Community Outreach Services
 Highlands Community Centres
 Holroyd Parramatta Mobile Minders
 Hope Connect
 Humanity Matters
 Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of NSW
 Inner Sydney Voice
 Jubilee Community Services
 Karabi Community & Development Services
 Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre
 Kincumber Neighbourhood Centre
 Kings Cross Community and Information Centre
 Kingsgrove Community Aid Centre
 Kogarah Community Services
 Kooloora Community Centre
 Ku-Ring-Gai Neighbourhood Centre
 Kyogle Together
 Life Eternal Trust Australia
 Lifetime Connect
 Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre
 Liverpool Neighbourhood Connections
 Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative (FOCUS Connect)
 Macedonian Welfare Association of NSW
 Merana Aboriginal Community Association for the Hawkesbury
 Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre
 Milk Crate Theatre
 Mountains Community Resource Network
 Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
 Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre
 Murwillumbah Community Centre
 Narrabri & District Community Aid Service
 Neighbourhood Central
 Neighbourhood Centres of Bellingen Shire
 Neighbourhood Hub Macarthur
 Nepean Community & Neighbourhood Services
 Nepean Multicultural Access
 Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
 Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre
 North West Community Services
 Northern Illawarra Community Connections
 NSW Spanish & Latin American Association
 Orana Community Centre
 Orana NSW
 Orana Support Service
 Orange Family Support Service
 Our Community Place
 Outer Liverpool Community Services
 Peppercorn Services
 Port Kembla Youth Project
 Port Macquarie Neighbourhood Centre
 Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre
 Raymond Terrace Neighbourhood Centre
 Resilient Lismore
 Richmond Community Services
 Riverwood Community Centre
 Samaritans Information & Neighbourhood Centre
 San Remo Neighbourhood Centre
 Scone Neighbourhood Resource Centre
 Sector Connect
 Shoalhaven Neighbourhood Services
 Singleton Neighbourhood Centre
 Snowy Mountains Neighbourhood Centre
 Social Futures
 South Eastern Community Connect

Southern Women's Group
 Southern Youth and Family Services
 Southlake Community Services Inc
 Strong Nation Community Services
 Sugarvalley Neighbourhood Centre
 Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre
 Tamworth Family Support Service
 Temora Community Centre
 Tenterfield Social Development Committee
 The Canopy
 The Hills Community Aid & Information Service
 The Junction Neighbourhood Centre
 The Junction Works
 The Multicultural Network
 The Neighbourhood Centre
 The New School of Arts Neighbourhood House
 The Parks Community Network
 The Place: Charlestown Community Centre
 The Settlement Neighbourhood Centre
 The Women's Cottage
 Thurgoona Community Centre
 Tomaree Neighbourhood Centre
 Toukley Neighbourhood Centre
 Tripoli and Mena Association
 Tumut & District Neighbourhood Centre
 Ulladulla & Districts Community Resource Centre
 Unanderra Community Centre
 Upper Hunter Community Services
 Uralla Neighbourhood Centre
 Warilla Neighbourhood Centre
 Warrawong Residents Forum
 Warrumbungle Shire Council
 Wellington Information & Neighbourhood Services
 Western Plains Regional Development
 WESTIR Ltd
 Westside Community Centre
 Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre
 Women Illawarra
 Women Up North Housing
 Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre
 Woodville Alliance
 Woolgoolga Neighbourhood Centre
 Wyong Neighbourhood Centre
 Yarrahapinni Community House
 Young and District Community Hub



Address

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Social Media

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[Twitter.com/lcsansw](https://twitter.com/lcsansw)