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THE YOUTH JUNCTION INC. TIMES

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YOUTH JUNCTION INC. FINANCIAL YEAR 2008-2009

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Chairman's Review.

BY MARILYN DUNCAN

THE past year has been both exciting and pioneering in the delivery of integrated services to young people at the Visy Cares Hub. Having completed our third full year of operations we have introduced our tenth tenant organisation - Melbourne City Mission Jobs Services Australia - to compliment the existing diverse range of services for young people in Melbourne's West. Program delivery by The Youth Junction Inc. staff has developed in response to the demand to divert young people from the Criminal Justice System, with the addition of the Legal Services Board funded Youth, Community and Law Program being launched in September 2009.

THIS year there have been 87 staff making up the team of practitioners within the services and supported by 58 volunteers, many of whom are on youth work practice placements from Victoria University. 16,800 contacts have been made with young people ranging from face to face work, including outreach work, group work, emails and telephone calls, school based early intervention programs and youth events. In the forthcoming year, we will continue to ensure the physical building is the optimum environment for young people by installing a disability lift in March 2010, modifying a larger space to make room for further targeted services and develop our programs and activities to offer better outcomes in education, family relationships, housing, health career pathways, legal advice and social wellbeing.



Our History and Future at the Visy Cares Hub.

BY GENERAL MANAGER
 KAREN HART

HAVING launched the Visy Cares Hub in May 2007, the organisation has continued to develop and expand at a rapid rate. The Youth Junction Inc. managers of the Visy Cares Hub became an Incorporated Association in 1999 and the aspirations and dreams for the centre have become a reality n a day to day level. The objectives for which the entity was established are as follows.

A PLACE where young people are empowered, to develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually so that they can contribute as active citizens in the community and wider world.

IMPROVING the conditions of life of young people is in the interests of social welfare and justice. The advancement advancement of opportunities for education, improved housing, study support, leadership, health and community capacity initiatives through youth provision and Combating the distress and effects caused by poverty and social exclusion of young people, in particular but not exclusively, through the provision of advice, information and support on matters relating to their health, personal and social education, wellbeing and welfare, thus enabling them to take up enhanced opportunities in their lives.

THE continued drive of those involved, to create a colocated youth centre of excellence, built on solid foundation and ensuring that young people's aspirations become a reality, allows us to move to the future with confidence, developing and expanding services for young people. Much work lies ahead as young people continue to arrive into the West from other parts of the world. As the area continues to rate as one of the most disadvantaged in Australia, with an increase in unemployment, housing and health issues, there is a growing need to channel energies into building the capacity of the local community, particularly for young people. The Visy Cares Hub is at the frontline of responding to

those needs and aims to tackle the social problems and celebrate the diversity to create a more harmonious community.

General Managers Report for 2009

BY KAREN HART

IT has been another busy and productive year at the Visy Cares Hub. We have been making resources stretch much further throughout 2009 to provide opportunities to young people that enhance their life choices and chances in education, employment and wellbeing.

The impact of the economic crisis has led to an increase in numbers of disadvantaged young people accessing services across Melbourne's West and this sharp increase in contacts with young people from 13,000 in 2008 to 16,800 in 2009 reflects the demand for assistance in the areas of education, legal, CALD, health and employment support at the Visy Cares Hub. Young people have also looked for opportunities to socially connect with their peers through our recreational, arts and sports programs and we have been delivering more evening programs and out of school learning support much more this year than in previous years.

We are very grateful for the ongoing support that philanthropic, business and government organisations have provided to us throughout 2009 to help sustain our services to young people, despite the

global financial downturn that has affected all areas of giving.

With this help and support, many young people have continued to take up opportunities that have improved their connection to their families and communities.

There has been a shift this year from not only looking at what we do as an organisation, but the impact of this on the lives of young people throughout the West and beyond.

Through early and preventative intervention engagement with young people aged 12-25 years, our efforts have allowed more young people to stay in school. Our Homework Zone delivered by Perri Broadbent-Hogan and supported with volunteers, now connects with students from 25 schools around the West, many of whom have multiple and complex learning needs. This is a growth area and we are delighted that the Centre for Multicultural Youth - Learning Beyond the Bell and Ansvr Insurance support our efforts to expand this program to help meet the growing demand.



Ardoch Youth Foundation

BY AUDREY FERNANDEZ

ARDOCH Youth Foundation a not for profit community organisation, works to bring schools, communities and businesses together to develop programs and generate resources in the form of financial grants, donated goods and volunteer time. These resources are used by our partner schools to improve student wellbeing and learning. In 2009, Ardoch Youth Foundation's LinCS 'Linking Communities and Schools' Project in Melbourne's West supported seven schools.

OUR programs and supports this year include: Volunteers in Classrooms - fully trained, screened and supported volunteers who provide additional educational, social and emotional support to students in a class environment. Breakfast Clubs - an opportunity for all students to enjoy nourishing meals in a safe and welcoming environment.

LUNCHTIME Activities - to prevent bullying and facilitate participation for students who may be isolated and lonely during lunchtimes. Literacy Buddies - a pen pal program between students and corporate volunteers to develop literacy skills and positive working role models. Basic Needs support - providing basic needs such as food, clothing and toiletries to families in need.

HEALTHY Eating Program - a mobile kitchen trolley for use in classrooms. Feedback from Asst. Principal, Western LinCS Partner School "The volunteers show our children that people are interested in them. They give them time, direction and the support that can often be lacking in a busy classroom. The activity programs provide students with opportunities not available from us directly and not accessible after school hours. Resources enhance the appearance of the school and in turn enhance the learning environment for our children".

Melbourne Citymission

BY RICHARD DZWONKOWSKI

MELBOURNE Citymission Jobs Services Australia; Youth At Risk Program Sunshine, commenced at the Visy Cares Hub on 01 July 2009. The centre is staffed by Richard Dzwonkowski who manages approximately 150 clients.

The success of the program has been greatly assisted with other services within the Visy Cares Hub. A large number of clients have accessed support services such as Sunshine Legal services, HeadSpace, and Housing services and Victoria University. Clients have provided feedback to Melbourne Citymission, stating that they are impressed in the way they can access services without needing to go to many different areas or suburbs and get their issues addressed under the one roof. The fundamental success of this approach has been the consistency of clients to get to know the services at The Visy Cares Hub and the feeling that they are part of a family.

Melbourne Citymission has started to form partnerships with Victoria University, assisting clients in career exploration, resume workshops and case support. The home work support program delivered provided many clients with assisting them in improving their literacy skill levels and have assisted many clients to obtain successful placements in further education and training.



Brimbank Youth Services & the YMCA

BY MARLISE HARRIS

Brimbank City Council's Youth Services, Brimbank Youth Services YMCA, has enjoyed a very busy year filled with a diverse range of programs and new initiatives.

The success of many of these projects can be directly attributed to the strong relationships and networks built between tenants of the Visy Cares Hub.

Highlights have included; 'Sudanese Lost Boys Soccer Fundraising Day for the Victorian Bushfire Victims,' which involved the Sudanese Lost Boys Association, Youth Junction Inc., Brimbank City Council and Centre for Multicultural Youth.

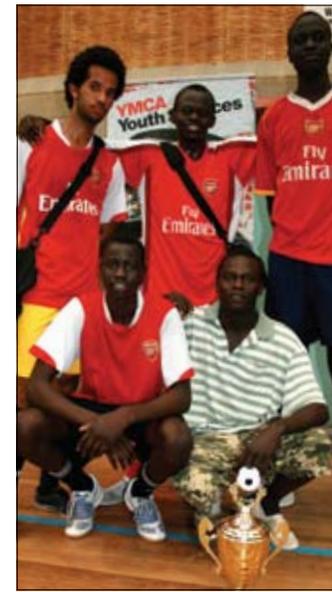


Our first 'Brimbank Fashion Week', involving Councils Brimbank Youth Services YMCA and Brimbank Central. Students learnt the skills to design and sew, before showcasing their pieces on the catwalk at a local shopping centre. The items were sold through silent auction, with the proceeds going to the Butterfly Foundation.

The 'Zotung Community Family Day' was supported by Brimbank City Council and Centre for Multicultural Youth. Over 500 Burmese participants enjoyed a day of recreation, traditional music and dance in West Sunshine.

Brimbank also enjoyed its busiest National Youth Week ever, where an event was held everyday across different local areas, to ensure maximum accessibility.

It has been an eventful year, and we



look forward to creating more opportunities for Brimbank's young people in the coming year.

HEADSPACE WESTERN MELBOURNE

BY CARLA VAN LAAR

Over the past 12 months, headspace Western Melbourne has brought together an integrated and collaborative team of co-located and affiliated services including primary care, mental health, drug and alcohol, and vocational services to provide support to young people.

Since opening its doors in November 2007, headspace Western Melbourne has seen 1,600 young people in its clinical program, which has resulted in over 6,000 occasions of service. In response to the large and increasing demand for services, a group of very skilled clinicians has been recruited to work at hWM. Additionally, the Access Team plays an integral role in the clinical service, offering initial engagement and assessment, supportive counselling as well as providing brief interventions, casework and linkages to young people.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

BY YOUNES BENHIM

Victoria University - Youth Cares Hub has case managed over one thousand clients and was able to career counsel and assist the majority of the clients into gaining entry to their chosen course throughout 2009. New and exciting pilot programs were delivered for young people who were disengaged from education aged from 15 to 24. These workshops focused on personal development and career/education options including getting ready to go back to study, resume writing, body image and the media, self esteem, sexual health, budgeting, leadership, professional ethics and behaviour, traineeships, and apprenticeships. The programs had made a positive contribution to every disengaged young person who came into VU at the Visy Cares Hub, which we envisaged would give them a new lease of life capacitating them to reconnect their life choices and chances.



THE YOUTH JUNCTION INC. YOUTH PROGRAMS

IN 2008, The Youth Junction Inc. piloted a Leadership Program with young people accessing the centre and found there to be a strong need to increase Leadership training in young people, specifically from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. In 2009, The Youth Junction Inc. partnered with Victoria University Youth Work Students, the Migrant Resource Centre, WYPIN, and Good Shepherd Youth & Family Services to facilitate a range of Leadership Programs within local secondary schools, and 3 full day training at the Visy Cares Hub with disengaged young people and newly arrived young people. The program will also be taken back into educational settings throughout the West of Melbourne throughout 2010.

2009 saw a rapid increase of youth unemployment, an increase of school fall out, and youth homelessness impacted by the economic crisis. The Youth Junction Inc. received funding from the Optus foundation.

2009 saw a rapid increase of youth unemployment, an increase of school fall out, and youth homelessness impacted by the economic crisis. The Youth Junction Inc. received funding from the Optus foundation in 2009 to increased the number of computers available for young people and. On average, over 20 young people access the computers per day and youth work students from Victoria University assist with resume writing, online job search, and the creation of social networking sites. The educational resources available have also increased traffic into the building from the wider community with parents and guardians appreciative that a saving of educational costs can be made. These resources have meant that young people will return to education in 2010 without the stigma associated to not being able to afford resources.

Police Youth & Citizen's Club

Staff within the Visy Cares Hub and Police Citizens Youth Club PCYC and forces with Victorian Police members to re-develop the Police, Youth and Citizen's Club in Sunshine which will see the creation of a new Street Surfer Bus which is an outreach model of support for young people to assist those who are disengaged from education and employment within locations they accumulate. This will take our service of intervention to



ROBERT STARY CRIMINAL LAWYERS

BY ANDREW HALPERN

2009 was another successful year for Robert Stary Lawyers. The firm has grown and now has an office in Geelong and a new office in the CBD of Melbourne. Concerning our Sunshine office we are particularly proud of our achievements in 2009. First and foremost, our assistance to the marginalised and underprivileged continues, as does our assistance to the local youth who have faced legal difficulties. We have also achieved some outstanding results for our clients at the local Sunshine court and those who have appeared in the city courts as well as other regional courts. Our Sunshine lawyers, Andrew Halphen and Bridget Coath look forward to another outstanding year and are also thankful for the continued support from the other services at the Visy Cares Hub.

SUNSHINE YOUTH HOUSING

BY MARK GOODIE

SUNSHINE Youth Housing (SASHS Western Network) The aim of Sunshine Youth Housing is to provide, within a case management framework, transitional support and a range of related support services linked to housing in order to help young people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, to achieve the maximum possible degree of self-reliance and independence. Within this aim the goals are to: resolve crisis; re-establish family links where appropriate; and re-establish the capacity of clients to live independently of SYH. Our service has had a great year and is truly established at the Visy Cares Hub. This has enabled pre-

Sunshine Youth Legal Centre

BY JUDY DREDGE

YOU should really check out The Sunshine Youth Legal Centre (SYLC) has really gained momentum throughout our first year of delivery of legal related services at the Visy Cares Hub. SYLC is both a community legal centre and a teaching clinic, exposing Victoria University law students to the operation of the law in a social context. This program has been a wonderful work experience opportunity for students while serving a role of great importance to the youth within Melbourne's Western Region. We focus on disadvantaged youth aged sixteen to twenty five who present at the Visy Cares Hub with law connected issues and concerns. In addition, throughout 2009, we have expanded our services to partner with The Youth Junction Inc. in deliv-

ering the Youth, Community and Law Program that educates young people about the consequences of anti-social and illegal activity in order to divert them from further involvement in the Criminal Justice System. Students under the supervision of a qualified and experienced lawyer have helped clients throughout the year with a variety of legal issues such as traffic fines, wage recovery, intervention orders, motor vehicle accidents, infringement notices and mobile phone contracts.



Centre for Multicultural Youth

THE Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) is a community based organisation that advocates for the needs of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. In supporting young people CMY combines policy development and direct service delivery within a community development framework. This approach gives CMY strong connections with young people and their communities while enabling positive change on a local, state and national level. CMY have been based at Visy Cares Hub since

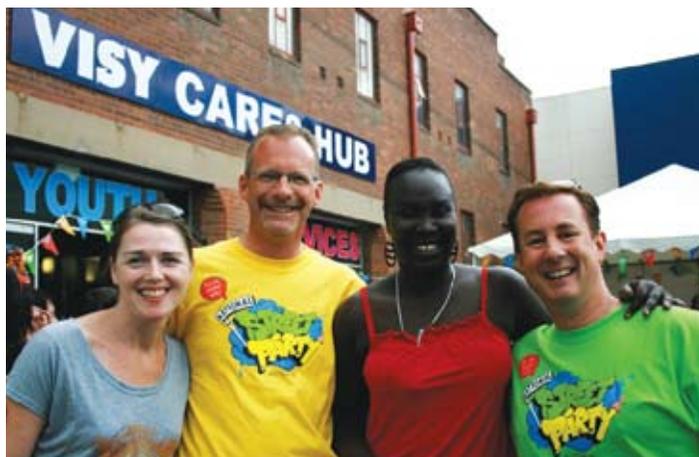
2005 and delivers programs such as Reconnect, UCan2, Learning Beyond the Bell (LBB), Brimbank Young Men's Project, Stand Up 4 Rights, Homelands and Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP).



The Youth Junction Inc. Financial Report

THE YOUTH JUNCTION INCORPORATED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2009

	2009	2008
Grants received	\$107,229	\$ 115,324
Other income	\$223,851	\$ 224,289
	\$331,080	\$339,613
Employee benefits expense	(\$ 197,668)	(\$ 167,374)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	(\$187,761)	(\$180,289)
Building repairs and maintenance expenses	(\$12,402)	(\$5,566)
Cleaning expenses	(\$22,541)	(\$20,398)
Gas & electricity expenses	(\$26,060)	(\$18,661)
Occupancy costs	(\$20,454)	(\$26,725)
Telephone & IT expenses	(\$29,991)	(\$23,559)
Other expenses	(\$41,495)	(\$33,399)
	(\$538,372)	(\$475,971)
Loss before income	(\$207,292)	(\$136,358)
Tax expense (income tax benefit)		
Income tax benefit	—	—
Loss from continuing operations	(\$207,292)	(\$136,358)



With Thanks to all our Supporters and Friends of The Youth Junction Inc. throughout 2009

Ansvar Insurance – Community Education Programs
Besen Family Foundation
Brimbank Community Grants
Bunnings Warehouse
Centre for Multicultural Youth
Coles
Department of Justice
Dominion Private Clients
Godfathers Pizza
Helen MacPherson Smith Trust
Ian Potter Foundation
Keane Australia
La Porchetta
Legal Service Board
Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation
Newsboys Foundation
Nulab Professional Imaging
Office For Youth (DEEWR)
Optus Foundation
Passion In Assisting Kids (PIA)
Pitchner partners
Safeway
Slater & Gordon Foundation
Sports Without Borders
Sunshine Magistrates Court
The Pratt Foundation
The Colour Factory
Victoria University
Victorian Council of Social Services
Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust
VicHealth
Westpac Bank
WPIN



YOUTH EVENTS IN 2009

BY JESSIE ROBERTS
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

THE Youth Junction Inc. continued to provide free youth festivals throughout 2009. Our National Youth Week Festival was held at West Sunshine Community Centre on Saturday 4th April and in excess of 400 young people attended the festivities of Hip Hop Dancing, Live DJ, Rap Artists, Photographic and Art Exhibition created by young people from the Visy Cares Hub, we had a full day soccer tournament, 8 teams enrolled and challenged each other for the title, large carnival games, graffiti workshops, skate boarding and basketball competitions. It was a fun filled day.

International Youth Day 2009

Our International youth event on August 12 was a great success, the participants of our programs showcased their talents to their peers, family and the community. Prizes were given to the people's choice award for photography and there were great performances in hip hop dance and the MC participants performed songs, from their recently recorded CD.

End of Year 'Off-Street Festival'

On Saturday 28th November 2009, over 500 young people and their families joined us to watch some great local youth bands perform for free at the Visy Cares Hub as part of Social Inclusion Week and

THE YOUTH JUNCTION INCORPORATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2009

	2009	2008
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$241,714	\$147,676
Trade receivables	\$3,041	\$10,825
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$244,755	\$158,501
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant & equipment	\$1,205,077	\$1,367,702
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,205,077	\$1,367,702
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,449,832	\$1,526,203
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	\$73,250	\$84,495
Grants received in advance	\$143,000	----
Provisions	\$11,120	\$7,954
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$227,370	\$92,449
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables	\$70,515	\$74,515
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$70,515	\$74,515
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$297,885	\$166,964
NET ASSETS	\$1,151,947	\$1,359,239
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained earnings	\$1,151,947	\$1,359,239
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	\$1,151,947	\$1,359,239

the National Street Party. Over 10 bands, solo artists, hip hop dancers, and rap artists performed. Western Edge Youth Arts and a group of young sudanese people launched a DVD with the assistance of WEA documenting their personal journeys from sudan to Australia. This event was supported by local businesses, Brimbank City Council, Brimbank Youth Services – YMCA, The Youth Junction Inc., and a crew of young people who advertised and volunteered throughout the festival.

YAC

Youth Action Committee

THE Youth Action Committee (YAC) was developed to ensure that the Visy Cares Hub programs and services were meeting the needs of the young people utilising it. The YAC has a total of 12 registered members between the ages of 12-25yrs and meets fortnightly at the Visy Cares Hub to discuss youth issues, help organise youth events, and confer and plan new initiatives for young people.

All the members of the committee have different roles, and they work together to initiate discussion, and plan and develop ideas and objectives.

The YAC has been a very important edition to the Visy Cares Hub, as all members have committed to help organise and deliver our youth events held throughout 2009. The YAC also provides valuable information to staff around new and emerging issues and concerns affecting the youth of the West of Melbourne

