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ANNUAL REPORT

The Youth Junction Inc



Our Mission

We work with and for vulnerable Victorian young people to support choices in education and employment, and the reduction of disadvantage. We identify and advocate around systemic blockages and work to support systemic literacy in young people through a range of collaborative, innovative and integrated service responses.

Workshops

Workshops available to young people at The Visy Cares Hub:

Barista Training
Cut and Shine Barber Program

Soccer - BOP
Cooking Program



403

**YOUNG PEOPLE
THE YOUTH JUNCTION
SUPPORTED**

The Visy Cares Hub is a thriving youth service support facility and proudly occupied by the following services:

The Youth Junction Inc
Youth Now
CMY (Centre for Multicultural Youth)
Inclusion Melbourne
Melbourne Health
YSAS
St Josephs Flexible Learning Centre

Orygen
Hearspace
Brimbank City Council
Brimbank Youth Services
West Justice
Heads Together



Programs

Skills First Reconnect

The Reconnect program strives to support Victorians experiencing disadvantage. The program assists participants to overcome the barriers preventing them from engaging in education and training and provides support into further study or employment pathways through wrap around case management support.

Youth Umbrella Project (Y.U.P)

The program addresses recidivism and offending behaviour of young people aged 12-24 years who have had contact with, or have a demonstrated risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related trauma in youth (P.A.R.T.Y)

P.A.R.T.Y. Program is about prevention and awareness. It's about learning from real people and their experiences. This P.A.R.T.Y. is about experiencing what happens when young people make a decision that changes their life forever.

Through workshops involving the Royal Melbourne Hospital and survivors, the aim of the program is to reduce injury and recidivism in the lives of young people.



President's Address 2021 (9 February 2022)

For over fifteen years, the Youth Junction has focused on providing access to education, economic, social and health outcomes for young people living in the West. This is through our work supporting the reduction of crime and risk-taking behavior and the provision of services at our co-located site The Visy Cares Hub Sunshine. The Hub has become a landmark where like-minded services are able to provide for the needs of a very vulnerable youth cohort.

The Hub has had a variable year with numbers up until July 2021 of discreet attendees (10,630) being very similar to previous years. Circumstances changed in August and we, along with our tenant organisations, adapted and refined what was needed so that great outcomes for young people could continue to be achieved. While many of the services were required to be delivered remotely the building itself has continued to be a focal point for our youth community. There were some minor movements in our tenants this year, however, we have continued to maintain full occupancy.

This year regrettably we saw the Youth Community Law Project come to the end of a long and successful program. However I am pleased to report the commencement of two new programs, Skills First Reconnect, and the Empowering Communities Project in Brimbank which are in addition to our other suite of programs. During the financial year, the Committee of Management also worked with our CEO to refine the strategic goals to best meet the changing needs of the community. Understanding that the community services sector is also changing in terms of funding and access, we expect that we will need to be collaborative and integrative to maximise potential service outcomes.

The focus will be on:

Creating financially sustainable and commercially distinct services that meet and comply with legal, ethical and governance standards, to provide responsive and agile services for young people.

Growth in our stakeholders and partners across Western Melbourne.

Improvement of our risk management capability.

The Committee of Management has always benefited from the voluntary contribution of representatives from the corporate, education and welfare sectors, and my thanks go to the Committee for their expertise and ongoing support in an environment that has become increasingly difficult and almost entirely remote.

In closing I would like to on behalf of the Committee, acknowledge not only the business-as-usual work undertaken by the CEO Jo Malcom-Black and staff during this year, but also their commitment to adjusting the service delivery to meet the increased complexities and demands in an ongoing challenging environment.

Marilyn Duncan

President

The Youth Junction Incorporated.



Letter from CEO

In 2020/2021 it was again evident that change is constant, and that a pandemic response will be relevant for some time to come. From a very much on-site multi-tenant service centre to the 2021 realities of the organisation as a virtual drop in and information point for those in crisis, Covid Safe planning became a business as usual activity for the Youth Junction. Our organisation's values, innovation, collaboration, compassion, empowerment and accountability have been needed and well utilised in everything that we did.

I acknowledge the broader sector in it's dedication to provide service to vulnerable people in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environment. Staying across current issues has meant that service providers became deeply connected to knowledge about infection control, workforce planning, legal guidelines, and access issues to health-related needs. While much has been different about how we operated in this financial year as opposed to the last, we were able to:

1. We provided targeted case management support to over 403 young people between the ages 15 to 25. 24% identify as being of culturally and linguistically different backgrounds, and a further 3.5% identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity.
2. We completed service delivery of our very successful Youth Community Law Project in June 2021. In total, over its 15 year provision, we supported over 11000 people around offence specific complex case management, with an average 74% completion rate compared to the as compared to the 42% completion rate recorded for young people completing a Community Corrections Order.
3. We initiated the Department of Education and Training's Skills First Reconnect program in Hume, Maribyrnong and Brimbank providing service to almost 80 young people.
4. We successfully tendered for the Department of Education and Training's Empowering Communities' lead agency for the Brimbank project. This is the Youth Junction's first foray in Community Development activities.
5. We were able to re-tender for the Youth Umbrella Project for a further year.
6. We advocated for our community, in providing a response to the Victorian Youth Strategy, and a submission to the Enquiry into the Victorian Criminal Justice system.
7. We supported increased access to vaccinations for the young people we support, and for the broader Brimbank community. With our advocacy we staged and supported six different pop up vaccination events at the hub between September and December. These efforts enabled 127 community members to get first, second and booster Covid vaccinations.
8. We supported awareness and access to information about the Covid 19 public health issue through targeted and specific social media campaigns and fact sheets, and were funded to provide two brief periods of emergency food relief to CALD young people, thanks to Multi-cultural communities funding.



Letter from CEO (continued)

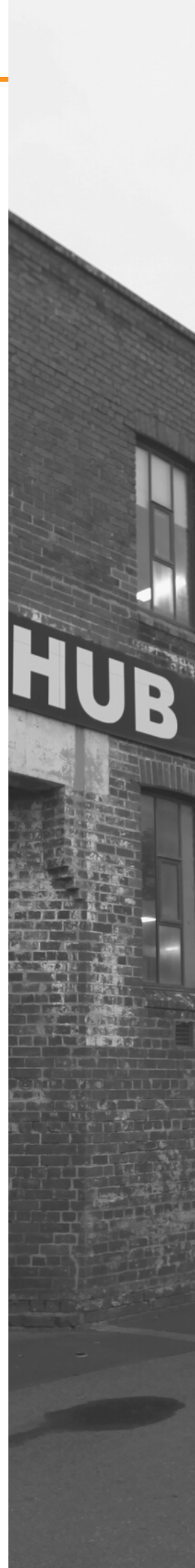
With stay at home orders in place for much of the year, the site became in essence a base for services like the Youth Junction, Headspace, and Orygen to deliver remote services or significantly restricted on site services to young people. We have also looked closely at the kinds of support that we provide to ensure that we are current. Many site-based organisations, including ours, have spent the year working in a format that was primarily remote. Senior Managers continued to meet regularly throughout.

Addressing challenges facing young people was more changeable during the second year of the pandemic, and the challenge was to continue to provide access and information when many doors are shut. We were able to change the P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) Program to briefer, COVIDsafe sessions at the hub with remote support by the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

I acknowledge the funding provided for our programs from the government, private donors and philanthropic organisations. Support for these services is essential to supporting a very vulnerable cohort of young people to navigate changeable environments.

Lastly I would like to thank the staff and volunteers not only for their duty of care to our client base, but also for the quality and the dedication of their service when decisions around format have been very changeable. I also express my thanks to The Youth Junction Inc. Committee of Management for their support of the need for an agile service.

Jo Malcolm-Black
CEO



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**YOUNG PEOPLE
ACCESSED SERVICES AT
THE VISY CARES HUB**

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**YOUNG PEOPLE WERE
ASSESSED FOR
THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS**

.....

**YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVED
OUTCOMES IN
EMPLOYMENT**

.....

**YOUNG PEOPLE
COMPLETED ACCREDITED
& PRE/NON CREDITED
TRAINING**



**THANK YOU TO
OUR SPONSORS &
SUPPORTERS**

THE YOUTH JUNCTION INCORPORATED

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021**

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue and other income			
Grants received	3	828,148	1,451,301
Other revenue	4	569,698	558,807
Government subsidies received	4	-	100,000
		<u>1,397,846</u>	<u>2,110,108</u>
Less: Expenses			
Depreciation expense	5	(290,121)	(326,028)
Employee benefits expense	5	(1,030,144)	(1,451,359)
Occupancy expense		(63,647)	(84,844)
Building repairs and maintenance expense		(946)	(1,683)
Advertising expense		(1,533)	(3,248)
Cleaning expense		(35,328)	(35,762)
Gas and electricity expense		(23,185)	(17,122)
Telephone and IT expense		(62,459)	(75,771)
Consultancy expense		(49,286)	(13,449)
Other expenses		<u>(126,218)</u>	<u>(157,958)</u>
		<u>(1,682,867)</u>	<u>(2,167,224)</u>
Deficit before income tax expense		(285,021)	(57,116)
Other comprehensive surplus / (deficit) for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive deficit		(285,021)	(57,116)

