



Springvale

Neighbourhood House

2018

Annual
Report



Photo above - Welcome Cafe end of year breakup party, 2017

This report can also be viewed online at: www.snh.org.au
 Hard copies of this report can be obtained from our offices:

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Manager Quote

"As the only neighbourhood house in Victoria with our very own Chinese Lions (see photo above), based in the most multicultural municipality in Australia, Springvale Neighbourhood House is always a busy hub of cultural celebration, cross-cultural connection and most of all, a place where everyone is welcome regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, ability, or visa status"

Melanie Virtue, Manager, Springvale Neighbourhood House



Our Programs

Our Vision

To continually empower the members of our evolving & diverse community to address their needs and to fully participate in Australian society while celebrating and preserving their culture.

Our Mission

To support and resource community groups and organisations undertaking social, cultural and community development activities.

To provide language, literacy and education programs, accessible to all members of our community.

Springvale Neighbourhood House achieves our vision and mission through provision of the following programs and services for our community.

Our Community Engagement Program

Empowering community groups through accessible and affordable meeting spaces, leadership support and resourcing.

Our Learning Program

Changing lives through accessible and affordable English and digital literacy classes. Enriching lives through teaching of cultural skills - Mandarin language, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese painting, Tai Chi and Qigong.

Our Events & Activities Program

Breaking down cultural barriers and celebrating our diversity through facilitating, resourcing and assisting community groups to share their culture through performance and celebrations.



Melinda Hamilton
Chairperson



Hayat Doughan
Deputy Chairperson



Mohamed Mohamed
Deputy Chairperson



Betty Wilderman
Secretary



Wilfredo Zelada
Treasurer



Heather Duggan



Huot Seng Tran

**SPRINGVALE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE
COMMITTEE
2017-18**



Workineh Alamo



Shirley Shen



Tere-Marika Matareka



Maria Cruz



Fathia Hassan



Gianna Costin



Meteka Tumu

Welcome



Welcome to our House!

As chairperson of Springvale Neighbourhood House, I am proud to say that our house is truly part of the community, with our group members representing the cultural diversity of the City of Greater Dandenong.

Last year we had 47 member groups, this has grown to 59 with new groups from the following cultures joining as members – Samoan, Bangladeshi, Cambodian, African, Indian, Sudanese, Salvadorian, a multicultural women's network and a Rohingya soccer club. Most of these are established groups who have joined as members after hearing about the support services that we offer.

We are continually changing to meet the needs of our community. This year we have more refugees and asylum seekers coming to our House as group members, students and participating in activities. The largest increases have been in people from Myanmar (Rohingya & Burmese) and East African countries. We've started new classes for Rohingya & Burmese speaking women and men; and we have employed a part-time Rohingya/Burmese speaking education assistant to work with the tutor and liaise with the students.

There has also been an increase in new arrivals (migrants, refugees & asylum seekers, over-seas visitors) attending our Welcome Cafe – so many that we have started a second session. Luckily we had a new group of volunteers who are helping the tutor in these popular conversation & friendship sessions.

Responding to walk-in enquiries, we have started a second Mandarin language class and an additional Tai Chi Qigong evening session.

When we hold our Annual General Meeting or cultural events such as Diwali, we have to book the nearby community function centre as we have too many participants to fit into our House which has a meeting capacity of 120 people!

Over the past year, almost 2,000 people came to our House each week. Over half came to participate in our classes, activities and programs, the other half come to be part of their social/cultural group.

I am grateful to the Governance committee members, staff and volunteers who make our House accessible to so many people each day.

Quote

"I'm amazed at what you do there – how well you engage people of so many different backgrounds.

I believe Springvale would be the most diverse community hub in the most diverse municipality in one of the most diverse countries on earth. That makes Springvale Neighbourhood House something incredibly unique and special. I hope it will continue to flourish and welcome everyone long into the future.

So well done to you and all of the team, the volunteers, and the community leaders and members there at Springvale Neighbourhood House."

Matthew Bulloch, Community Funding Officer, City of Greater Dandenong



Our Community

Local Government: Greater Dandenong – population 152,052
Postcodes: Springvale & Springvale South – population 34,483

Socio-Economic Disadvantage:

2nd most disadvantaged local government area in Victoria

Cultural Diversity:

The most culturally diverse local government area in Australia

Languages Spoken at Home:

In order of language spoken at home by most Springvale/Springvale Sth residents: Vietnamese, English, Khmer, Cantonese, Punjabi, Mandarin, Greek, Italian, Hindi, Sinhalese, Arabic

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



63

Hours Open
per Week



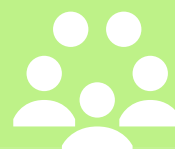
1,826

Visitors
per week



59

Cultural
Groups



13

Committee
Members



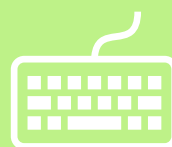
1,342

Program
Participants
per week



175

English Language
Students
in 2017-18



82

Digital Literacy
Students
in 2017-18



3,200

Event
Participants
in 2017-18



1,410

Social Media
Followers



130

Volunteers
per week



243

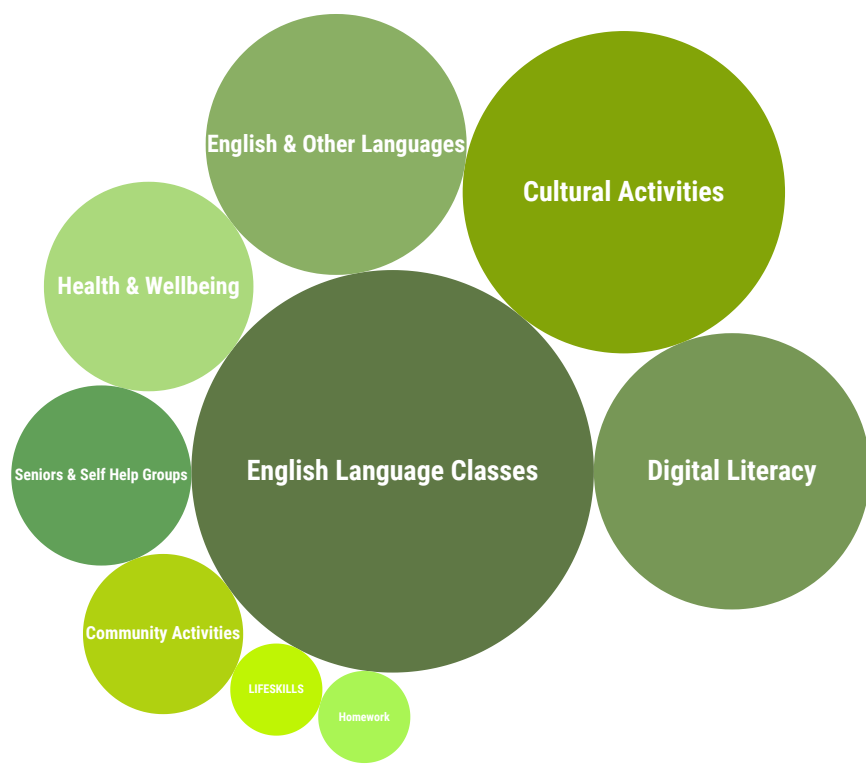
Flu Vaccines
Administered



568

Excursion
Participants

Our House



Number of Participants Per Week

In the past year, an average of 1342 people participated each week in classes, community groups and activities at Springvale Neighbourhood House. The chart (left) shows the popularity of each activity.

The House is open seven days each week with programs, groups and activities running between 9am – 9pm.

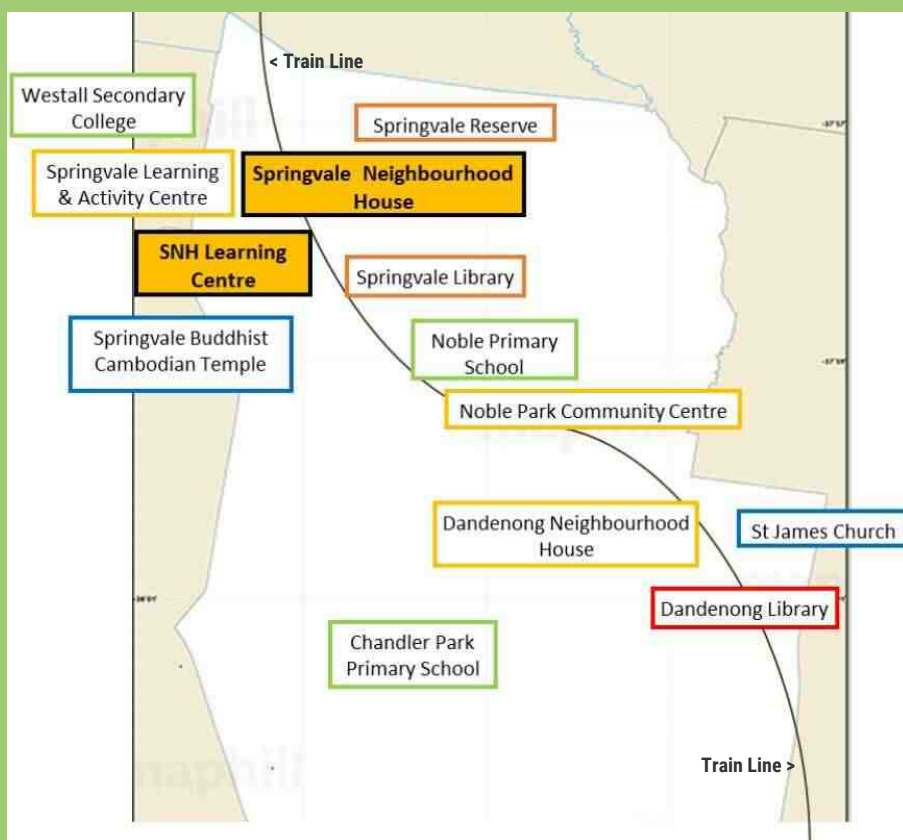
We have two large meeting rooms at the House, and at our training centre we have a training room and computer lab.

To make our programs more accessible, we also run classes at another 11 sites including neighbourhood houses in Dandenong and Noble Park, primary schools in Keysborough and Noble Park, a secondary college, libraries in Dandenong and Springvale, a community facility, a Buddhist temple and a Christian church (see map below).

Access

To increase access to our classes, Springvale Neighbourhood House ensures:

- All classes are based in community venues – neighbourhood houses & community centres, libraries, primary & secondary schools, Christian church & Buddhist temple.
- Childcare provided at Parental English classes at local primary schools
- Classes are held in 13 venues across 5 postcode areas – Springvale, Noble Park, Dandenong, Keysborough and Clayton
- All classes are within walking distance from public transport – train & bus
- All venues have disability access & facilities



A typical Week

at Springvale Neighbourhood House



Monday

- Yoga & Meditation
- Welcome Cafe
- Life Skills Class
- La Voz Feminina
- Mandarin 4 Beginners
- Advanced Mandarin



Wednesday

- Huong Que Vietnamese Dance Group
- Multicultural Women's Group
- Fayaa Oromo Women's Group
- Community Leaders Forum
- VICAFAMEN Vietnamese Elderly Activities
- Al Emaan Muslim Women's Group
- PlanetShakers



Weekend

- Rohingya Soccer Club
- Maya Dance Group (El Salvadorian)
- Somalian Youth Group
- Lighthouse Group (African)
- AA Resurreccion (Spanish)
- Lion Dance Class
- Chinese Tai Chi
- Aust Latin American Discussion Group
- United Filipino Elderly
- Tai Chi Qi Gong
- Aitutiki (Cook Island)
- Goan Group (Indian)
- Hararian Association
- Fayaa Oromo Women
- Spring Community Church
- Oromo Community of Melbourne
- Mada Borkana (Afghan)
- Vic Eritrean Assoc



Tuesday

- Learn to Sew for Men & Women
- Rohingya Women English Class
- Burmese Women's Sewing Group
- Australian Chinese Music Band
- Las Iluminadas Group
- ADEC Carers Groups (Turkist/Arabic)
- Advocacy for Oromio Group
- Save Children Cambodian Fund



Thursday

- Chinese Painting & Calligraphy Class
- Learn English Next Steps Class
- Springvale Chinese Opera Group
- 4th Dimension
- Multicultural Women's Sewing Group
- Rohingya Women's Computer Class
- Tai Chi Qi Gong Class



Friday

- Learning Lounge (digital literacy)
- Lakhanda Sri Lankan Elderly Group
- ADEC Carers Group (Chinese)
- Hararian Homework Group
- Al Ehssan Muslim Womens Support Group
- Somalian Cultural Youth Group

**Weekly
Classes**



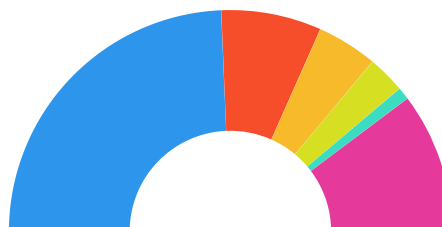
**44 English Language
Classes**

**Weekly
Classes**



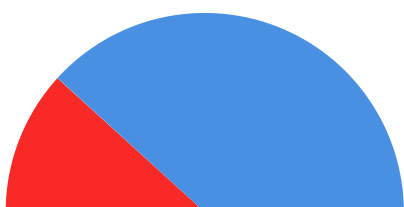
**17 Digital Literacy
Classes**

Our Neighbourhood House Participant Survey was completed by 666 people who attended Springvale Neighbourhood House during the census week. That is just under half of all people who came to our House during that week. Eighty percent of survey respondents live in the City of Greater Dandenong and almost half live in the suburbs of Springvale and Springvale South.



● Lyndhurst

Language Spoken At Home



● English ● Other

● 0-19 ● 20-44 ● 45-64 ● 65-79 ● 80+

Reason for Coming

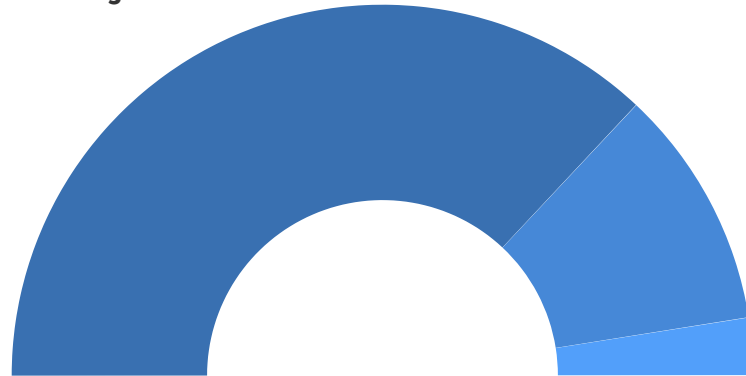
Goal	Percentage
Make Friends	90%
Meet People	80%
Personal Wellbeing	40%
Help Community	60%
Learn New Skill	60%
Independence	50%
Improve Health	40%
Improve Job Skills	40%

Activity	Percentage
Social Group	100%
Course/Class	90%
Support Group	60%
Exercise/Health Class	50%
Advice/ Help	40%
Volunteering	30%
Use a Service	20%
Job Training	10%
Childcare	5%

Finance

Sources of Income...

Learning: 74%

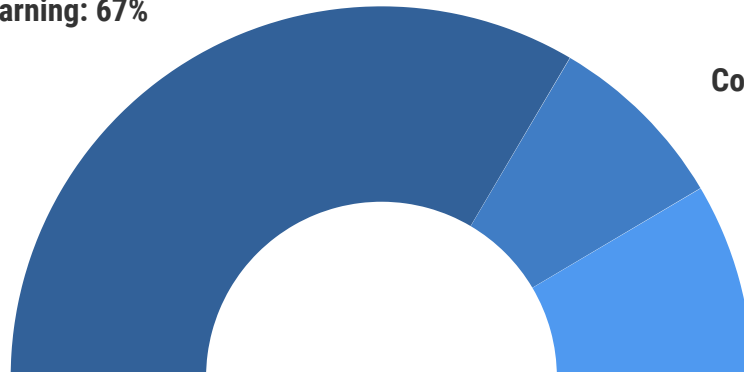


Community: 21%

Other: 5%

Annual Expenses

Learning: 67%



Community: 16%

Admin: 17%

SOURCE OF FUNDS (thousands \$)	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
ACFE	322.2	246.1	186.7	171.4	259.1	350.0	279.5	201.2	241.8
Skills.Vic	0	68.1	239.4	421.7	515	492.1	472.0	529.7	487.9
State Govt	62.1	75.8	66.7	69.6	73.6	77.7	81.7	93.8	110.7
COGD	54.3	54.5	56.1	59.5	63	64.9	66.9	74.5	77.9
Community	80.1	75.4	70.7	79.7	80.5	76.5	71.4	24.8	31.2
Special Projects	16.2	7.2	7	5.9	5	3.5	55.9	41.8	82.5
Reserves	0.0	16.3	0	0	141.60	0			
Total	534.9	543.4	626.6	807.8	1,137.8	1,064.7	1,027.4	965.8	1,032.0
SOURCE OF FUNDS (thousands \$)	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Staff Costs	400.0	436.0	478.3	606.6	916.5	766.8	714.5	746.7	793.5
Admin and Support	88.3	88.8	106.6	139.5	214.30	208.6	213.2	192.30	188.7
Special Projects	33.2	18.6	22.5	22.6	7.0	10.9	41.7	50.5	74.0
Reserves	13.4	0	19.2	39.1	0	78.4	58.0	-23.2	-24.2
Total	534.9	543.4	626.6	807.8	1,137.8	1,064.7	1,027.4	965.8	1,032.0

Finance

Treasurer Report



Springvale
Neighbourhood House



*Proud of our
diversity*



Again I am honored to be presenting the 2017-2018 Treasurer Report for Springvale Neighbourhood House.

We acknowledge the support of our stakeholders, partners and our funding bodies who enable us to provide our community with programs and services that allow them to continually grow and develop.

This financial year Springvale Neighbourhood House have increased our income by \$66,000 with expenses increasing in line with this by \$67,000 from 2016-2017.

The audited financials are showing an overall deficit of \$24,222 at the end of this financial year. We do not see this of concern with the continuing development of our training programs and facilities and planning in place for new systems to be implemented through into 2019 to enable Springvale Neighbourhood House as we continue to provide increased support to the community of City of Greater Dandenong.

The Springvale Neighbourhood House have throughout the year been working on new internal systems to refine the finance reporting that we prepare monthly for our Committee of Governance and annually for the financial auditors Morton Watson and Young. These changes have enabled us to report on our compliancy obligations, legislations and funding requires.

A copy of the Audited Financial Statements is included as an insert to this report and a full copy of the Treasurer's Report will be distributed at the 2018 Annual General Meeting and will be available online after the meeting.

FINANCIAL POSITION (thousands \$)					
Financial Year Ending:	Jun-10	Jun-13	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-18
ASSETS					
Cash & Receivables	532.9	603.4	862.1	733.6	674.2
Fixed Assets	64.5	89	52.1	42.7	43.5
Total Assets	597.4	692.4	914.2	776.3	717.7
LIABILITIES					
Payables	103.6	147.7	113	127.7	110.8
Staff Entitlements	92.9	111.5	335	205.6	188.1
Total Liabilities	196.5	259.2	448	333.3	299.0
EQUITY					
Annual Results	13.4	39.1	58	-23.2	-24.2
Accumulated Reserves	387.8	394.1	408.2	466.2	442.9
Total Equity	401.2	433.2	466.2	443	418.7
Total Liabilities & Equity	597.7	692.4	914.2	776.3	717.7

Our Learning Program

Advanced English as a Second Language Class



The Advanced English class is for adult students with good oral communication skills who wish to improve their reading, writing, spelling and grammar.

This year, the classes consisted of students with overseas professional qualifications, as well as those completed certificate courses who have yet to find employment, including Australian native speakers who need to be more confident in writing & communicating in English.

Students come from many cultural backgrounds including Australian, Indian, Sri Lankan, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Ethiopian & Iranian.

As adult learners, the students learn together, teach each other – supporting, inspiring and sharing experiences. They share food & recipes, and make presentations of cultural practices.

The students participated in the My Story project organised by the City of Greater Dandenong libraries. They participated in a 6-week workshop series facilitated by a professional storyteller. Creating, writing and narrating their stories enhanced their communication skills. Their stories will be published in a booklet of stories and a CD which will be launched in the Adult Learners' Week 2018.

Benefits for Students:

- Students form friendships and social connections
- Participation in community events and festivals organized by SNH. Networking helps to gain employment
- Participate in the international dress parade at the Harmony Festival
- Pathways to further study/ volunteering as tutors at community libraries /volunteering at community events

Social Value Activities:

- Volunteering as tutors in EAL conversation classes
- Volunteering at SNH organised events: Harmony Festival, Biggest Morning Tea, Snow Festival
- Donating clothes to be sent to Bangladesh for the Rohingya community
- Students with better IT /English skills assist others during lessons
- Providing a network of friendship and support for each other in times of illness and need

Student Employment Status



- Fulltime
- Part-time
- Casual
- Volunteer
- Carer



STUDENT OUTCOME

A kidney specialist from Sri Lanka, who had passed the Australian Medical Council examinations, was required to pass the Occupational English Test, in order to practice here. She had been unsuccessful a few times and enrolled in our advanced English class to get assistance. At the end of last year she was successful due to her persistence and is now registered as a doctor in Australia

Our Learning Program

Preliminary Course in Spoken and Written English



Highlights

The students participated in a number of out of class activities throughout the year. They gathered at the Dandenong Library to celebrate the new library strategy action plan 2018–2021. They enjoyed a welcome ceremony with an Aboriginal performer playing the didgeridoo and mimicking the iconic Australian animals, a librarian reading a national story and the Mayor of the city council delivering a speech.

Visiting the Heritage Hill museum and gardens in the heart of Dandenong was a unique opportunity for the students to have a glimpse into domestic life of a local doctor's family who was the owner of Benga house from the 1920s to 1940s.

Maria Mastroianni who received the volunteer of the year award took the students around the house. The students could put their hands on an old fashioned prototype of the washing machine. Following the tour there was a relaxing walk around the fascinating gardens with their manicured lawns, vegetable beds and 150 year old fig trees.

Rebecca the horticulturist gave detailed information about the plants with some rare ones grown by local residents and donated to the city council. The students had a great time and learnt a lot about a sustainable method to make compost.

Course Details

The class is held at St James Hall in Dandenong 3 days a week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The course focuses on improving learners' basic reading, writing, speaking and listening skills so that they could undertake further studies of their choice or join the workforce. It covers a range of activities from everyday life, such as using public transportation, looking for a house, calling a plumber or an electrician, paying bills, making inquiries over the phone or making an appointment.

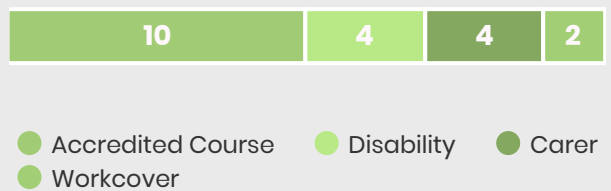
Students

The ten students attending this class are mature aged. The majority of them did not finish primary school in their own countries while six did not even go to school at all and seven are illiterate in their own language.

Culture:

The group is multicultural with students originating from Cambodia, Vietnam, Chile and Afghanistan.

Student Employment Status



STUDENT OUTCOME

"My students learnt a lot about Australian life in the early 1900's during an excursion to Heritage Hill Museum. They were able to experience the daily life of early pioneers of the area, including using early prototype of the washing machine, using butter churns and other kitchen utilities such as a wood-fire stove and an ice chest fridge." Julia, Tutor

Our Learning Program

Preliminary Course & Certificate I in Spoken and Written English



Left to right : Ronya Harbib, Bee Ling Goh (tutor), Mary Bilal, Thi Khanh Ly Nguyen

Highlights

On 25 October 2017 three students from my Preliminary Course in Spoken & Written English, Certificate I in Spoken & Written English & English for Study and Work were each awarded Student of the Year in their classes for their commitment in studying English to achieve their goals.

Social Value

Two students are volunteering at Waverley Industry.

Students

Majority of students live in Springvale and surrounding suburbs. They are mainly from Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, China and Hong Kong. A few are from Ethiopia, Iraq, Romania, Turkey, South America and Myanmar.

Some attend English class because they want to improve their English either for social reasons or a requirement at their current workplace and others are referred by job agencies for various reasons. Some also came through word-of-mouth and wanting to improve their English to get into another course of study or find work.

After a few classes they started to feel more comfortable because they are treated with respect. They are also streamed according to their levels and capabilities.

The friendly environment allows them freedom and confidence to ask for clarification which will lead to better understanding.

Having a teacher who is able to communicate in three Chinese dialects also assists in breaking the barrier of learning.

There are eight students in the Preliminary Course in Spoken & Written English; 15 in the Certificate I in Spoken & Written English and 10 students in the English for Work & Study course.

Culture

The majority of students are from Asian background and they have quite similar background and culture with a little variation.

They mainly celebrate and share their culture through sharing food, recipes and remedies.

Student Employment Status



- Fulltime
- Part-time
- Casual
- Volunteer
- Carer

STUDENT OUTCOME



"My husband took me to Springvale Neighbourhood Learning Program 2 ½ years ago. I had NO English, but after 2 years I can speak, understand, read and write a little. I also do Food Handling Certificate with help from my teacher. I learn English because I want find a job. Two months ago, I have interview and get job for 3 days in a factory making bread. I am very happy. Thank you teacher." Ronya, Preliminary Certificate in Spoken & Written English student

Our Learning Program

Parental Literacy & Digital Literacy

Parental Literacy

This course focuses on improving students’ macro skills such as reading, writing, speaking and listening along with enhancing their employability skills.

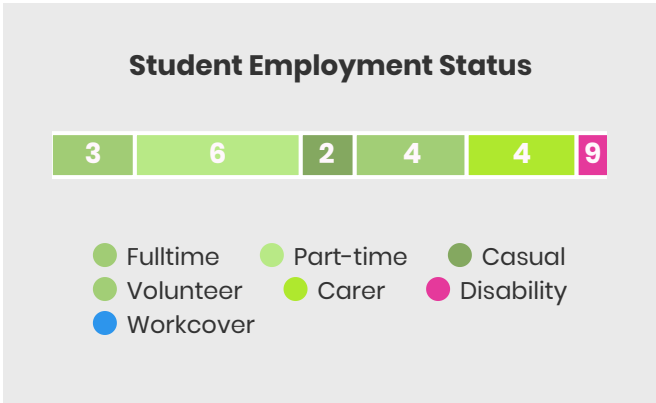
Three of the students have had no formal education, and five are illiterate in their own language.

Many of the students are referred from Work Cover and Job Active agencies. By attending the classes students have the opportunity to improve their self- confidence and self-esteem. A couple of the students have started volunteer work.

Learn computers First steps & Learn computers Advanced

These courses focus on improving students’ digital literacy skills. Students learn about Windows Operating system, Microsoft Office programs and using Internet and email.

These courses provide the students a chance to improve their language skills and computer skills through various classroom activities. Students learn how search and apply for jobs through various job search sites such as seek.com.



Students

The students are of various ages and cultural background. Some of them have been referred through Work Cover and job active agencies, and some of them have joined the course because their friends suggested the class for them.

The class helps the students to have a platform for socialising, learning new things from various classroom activities as well as learning from each other. The friendly classroom atmosphere gives the students a sense of belonging in a positive and relaxing learning experience.

Culture

The students are of various cultural backgrounds. Cultural events such as Harmony Day and Biggest Morning Tea let the students to celebrate their cultural background and learn about other cultures. Refugee and Multi faith celebrations give the students an opportunity to listen to various life stories and religious believes.

Highlights

- Participation in the following activities:
- Harmony Day
 - Biggest Morning Tea
 - Multi faith- refugee celebration
 - A couple of the students started volunteering
 - Peer support & encouragement throughout lessons

Social Value

All of the students are amazing in helping with the new students. They try their very best to attend the classes regularly despite their health, social and family commitments.

Active participation in all the cultural activities and events are part of Springvale Neighbourhood House Learning Program.



STUDENT OUTCOME

"Kien has shown significant improvements in classroom learning and encourages others with their learning. She tries her very best to attend all the classes and encourages her friends also to start studying. She has started working as a volunteer at a local nursing home. Always having a positive attitude towards learning and an excellent team player." Rani, CSWE I tutor

Our Learning Program

Certificate II in Spoken and Written English



Students Garage Sale table at the Biggest Morning Tea

Highlights

The confidence students displayed as they spoke into a microphone to ask questions in front of a large crowd at the Biggest Morning Tea.

Learning what you need to do to be prepared for any emergency, a training session taken by Red Cross first responders.

The way students help and respect one another.

Social Value

Students contributed with enthusiasm and felt pleased after successfully participating in running a stall at the Biggest Morning tea to raise money for cancer research.

A culture of helping one another exists in the class, e.g. students provide feedback to others, help them to understand areas of difficulty and give a lift to someone who needs it. A recent example is where two students helped another with her spoken presentation by advising her to speak slowly and say each whole word. The recipient of the advice was delighted when the tips led to an excellent, clearly understood talk and the givers of the advice felt satisfied – a win, win situation.

Excursions & Activities

Lake Mountain

Biggest Morning tea

Koori Heritage Museum, ACMI, laneways and city arcades

Cherry farm and Safety Beach

Course Details

Modules in spoken English such as telephone exchanges, understanding and giving instructions and information. Modules in written English including understanding and writing informal texts news and information texts and stories.

Students

Four men and 14 women students range in age from 21 to 80. Many have experienced the unimaginable anguish of war torn conditions.

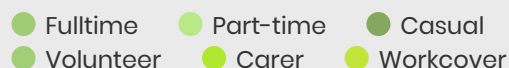
Some come to class to improve their English in order to become employed and others come so that they can participate fully in an Australian society. Students particularly wish to improve their listening and speaking skills and great emphasis is placed on this.

Culture

Students come from Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Serbia, Somaliland, Chile, Argentina, Pakistan and Korea.

Sharing Information about their cultures such as customs, festivals, animals and food is integrated into our learning and occurs almost daily. As they interact, students are also learning to understand different accents and focusing on their own pronunciation in order to be understood.

Student Employment Status



In class Activities

- RediPlan – preparing for any emergency (information session fun by SES volunteers)
- How and when to use the defibrillator.
- Happiness workshop

STUDENT OUTCOME

"In my class I learn everything (speaking, reading, writing, listening) and this is very helpful because I never spoke English before. I enjoy class and I'm now feeling comfortable, but one thing has not changed – speaking English with my family. My plan for the future is to speak better. I love to come to class because all the people are positive. My plans for the future are to visit my sisters overseas, play soccer in a good club and finish school to get into The Police Academy." Marina, CSWE II student

Our Learning Program

Certificate III in Spoken and Written English



Highlights

Happiness Workshop: delivered by a psychologist Hala Yassin. The content was very interesting, useful and relevant. Theoretical information was well-balanced by a number of practical tasks involving students. Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Biggest Morning Tea: The students participated in three Biggest Morning Tea events, two of them held in Springvale and one at Noble Park. They contributed by cooking food, donating sale items, holding stalls or donating money.

Our Stories Project: The students took part in an exciting and rewarding project run over six sessions. The aim was to create an English Learning Kit for future learners – consisting of a book of stories written by the students and a CD. This was an excellent learning opportunity. Some sessions were conducted by Lana Woolf, professional story-teller and coach. The students learnt some interesting storytelling techniques aimed at enhancing and enriching their narrative abilities.

Social Value

Here are some ways in which the students help or have helped others:

- Some of those who drive give a lift to/from school;
- They teach each other different skills, eg cooking, gardening, using digital technology;
- Some students regularly visit friends in nursing homes;
- Some volunteer at churches, temples, nursing homes;
- Some offer donations to temples, churches and charities;

Course Details

9 modules:

Advanced learning strategies, Comprehending & participating in casual conversations, Comprehending & negotiating complex exchanges, Comprehending & participating in interviews, Comprehending & conducting presentations, Comprehending & participating in discussions, Composing formal correspondence & texts, Comprehending news stories & advertisements, Comprehending & giving complex instructions.

Students

They are motivated, open-minded and keen to learn. The atmosphere is very positive with a spirit of belonging and co-operation. The course helps improve their English language skills and confidence in everyday life situations. The students increase their general knowledge when covering the range of topics.

Sessions provide excellent opportunities for discussions and sharing views. Many students have developed strong friendships with their classmates. They spend time together and help each other outside the class. Most students live on a low income, therefore low fees are a definite advantage of doing the course at Springvale Neighbourhood House.

Culture

The students represent 12 different countries, namely Argentina, Chile, China, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Russia, Serbia, Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea and Vietnam.

- Each student delivered a spoken presentation on their country;
- Students had numerous opportunities to share their customs, traditions, values, beliefs and life experiences
- At end of year party students share their traditional food and listened to their traditional music.

Student Employment Status



- Fulltime
- Part-time
- Casual
- Volunteer
- Carer
- Disability



STUDENT OUTCOME

"Firstly, I have the opportunity to practice and improve my English language skills in a wide range of contexts. Secondly, I can interact and spend time with others, which is very important to someone who is retired. Thirdly, what I learn in my English class helps me understand what I study in my U3A courses, namely effective communication, creative writing, behavioural science and philosophy."
 Bruno, CSWE III student

Our Learning Program

Certificate III English as an Additional Language - Access

Certificate I & II in Spoken and Written English



Culture

The Cultural Literacy Kitchen enabled students to acquire the knowledge and skills promoting communication with the community. They actively participate in activities with a focus on our set modules and learning outcomes. (see photo above)

Most of the students have lots of cultural practices originating from their countries of origin. They celebrate Chinese New Year, Children's Day, Mother's Day & International Women's Day.

The students have shown enthusiasm and motivation in cultural days as well as The Biggest Morning Tea which brings memories of their departed loved ones who have been victims of the killer disease Cancer. The students have dedicated their contributions in memory of their families affected by terminal illness. The students have dedicated The Biggest Morning Tea contributions remembering the loss of their loved ones and this is one very important message for others that they remember their lost ones by using their culinary skills and are able to help others to the best of their ability.

Social Value

The students have a sharing session and each brings produce from the garden, creating a very interactive environment and a variety of learning experiences. There are some students who visit nursing homes, others are involved in fundraising activities in their churches or temples in order to raise money for orphanages in Vietnam or Cambodia.

Students

Adult learners are from Vietnam, Cambodia, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Eritrea, El Salvador, Afghanistan and India.

Ten of the students have no previous formal education before joining Springvale Neighbourhood House English language classes.

They are exposed to a flexible learning environment and most have some experience in a workplace environment.

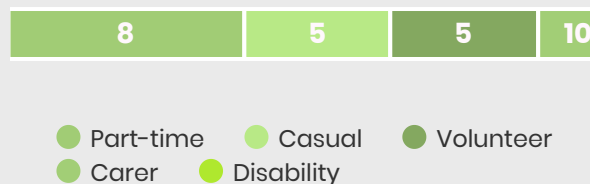
There are very positive classroom learning sessions with conversational skills, reading, writing, listening and speaking skills to help the learners to communicate with others in their daily lives. The students share experiences, cultural knowledge, hobbies and cultural cooking.

Since some students are already doing volunteer work, the classes have given them more positivity towards their learning attitudes.

Highlights

The students raised \$8000 for the Victorian Cancer Council through their own hard work and contributions. They took responsibilities for a very successful Biggest Morning Tea this year. A single student's contribution of \$1000 just by selling food at a stall at the event. Most of the students have wholeheartedly contributed towards cancer victims and The Biggest Morning Tea; they would like to dedicate this event to their families who have become victims of various forms of cancer.

Student Employment Status



STUDENT OUTCOME

"The students raised \$8000 for the Victorian Cancer Council through their own hard work and contributions. Another \$2000 was added through Springvale Neighbourhood House community group donations."

Our Learning Program

Learn English - First Steps



Class Details:

The class is a pre-accredited adult English class for students who have not acquired basic English language skills in spoken and written English.

The vision of the class is for students to be able to learn English in a safe, friendly environment.

Students:

The class is multicultural with majority of the 12 students from Vietnamese and Chinese backgrounds. Other students are from Iraq and Kenya. They enjoy learning basic English in a relaxed classroom setting.

We discuss the differences between their cultures and Australian culture during conversation sessions.

Highlights:

The students enjoyed learning how to use the internet during Get On Line week. (see photo above)

Social Value:

The students enjoyed collecting grocery items for Springvale Neighbourhood House's food drive for Anti Poverty week.

Learn English - Next Steps

Class Details:

The class is a pre-accredited adult English class for students who have acquired basic English language skills in spoken and written English.

The vision of the class is for students to be able to learn English in a safe, friendly environment.

Students:

The majority of the 16 students in this class are older members of the Chinese community who come together to learn English in a relaxed classroom setting.

We discuss the differences between Australian and Chinese cultures during conversation sessions.

Highlights:

Everyone writing a short story about their childhood and putting it into a booklet for all the class to share. (see photo below)

Social Value:

The students enjoyed collecting grocery items for Springvale Neighbourhood House's food drive for Anti Poverty week. They agreed on a class target of 100 items and achieved this, keeping a weekly tally of their donations.



STUDENT OUTCOME

"After joining our English Class with the Learning Lounge, seeing the excitement on my student's face after she learnt to use a computer for the first time and was able to look up pictures of her favorite flowers. Other students learnt how to use Google translate to assist them in their English language classes."
Melinda, Pre-Accredited English Language Tutor

Our Learning Program

English for Work and Study



Highlights:

The group activity that we are doing in the class brings the group together, breaks down any barriers in a smooth and speedy process. It's a lot of fun, bringing about laughter in the group and getting everyone involved and talking to each other in a way that they don't usually do in the traditional working environment. This process is a fantastic way to clear the mind of participants, raise their energy levels and begin the process of opening up to new ideas. The process really helped students as they are friendly. One student helped two other students to get full time job.

As most of the students are working full time in the morning so they are not able to participate in the excursions, but other students enjoyed the 'Cherry picking and Arthur Seat' excursion organised by SNH.

Social Value:

Sreyda, one of the student is working at packaging industry. In spite of a day's hard work she is regular in attending evening classes. There she met two more students- Dara and Van Bay who were working part time in a bakery. Sreyda helped the students in getting full time jobs at her work place.

Some of my students have also previously participated in raising funds for 'The Biggest Morning Tea-Cancer council'. They set up a stall and sold home-cooked cultural food.

Class Details:

The class is a pre-accredited adult English class to develop better workplace communication skills.

Through interactive language activities, learners increase self-confidence to communicate in English. In addition, it improves learner's interaction with the community and provide access to network in volunteer work or to obtain employment.

Students:

Students that attend this class are culturally and linguistically diverse. There are students from Vietnam, China, Korea, El-Salvador, Sri Lanka, Rohingya and various other countries.

All students are adults, ranging from 25 up to 80 years old. While some are here to learn English to better integrate themselves into Australian society, there are some who want to upgrade their communication skills for better employment prospects.

The positive and flexible learning sessions enable students to deal with day to day situations. Several students have said in the past that the class gives them more confidence to take new challenges. Moreover, this class provides student with an opportunity to broaden their social network and gives them sense of belonging.



STUDENT OUTCOME

"I was delighted to hear that one of my students, Sreyda helped two of the other students get full-time jobs at her workplace. What a great outcome of coming to this course" Nidhi, English for Study & Work Tutor

Our Learning Program

Mandarin Language Class



Class Details:

Springvale Neighbourhood House started these classes in 2017 due to demand from walk-in community members wanting to learn Mandarin.

These classes are weekly Mandarin language classes which are

- Beginner – First Steps
- Intermediate – Next Steps

Mandarin is one of the most frequently used languages in China and there is growing demand from community members to learn this language.

Students:

The students are from mixed cultures, Australian, Cambodian, Malaysian, Vietnamese, Chinese, German and Australian.

They want to learn Mandarin language for many reasons:

- Help their own language
- Help keep an active mind as you age because it uses a different part of your brain
- Because he has lost his original language and wants to re-learn
- To communicate better with family members in China who do not speak English

Learn to Sew for Men & Women

Class Details:

The class is a weekly skills development course to bring men and women together to learn and socialise through sewing.

Men and women can learn together and meet new friends with similar interests. People can learn a new skill where no one is judging or showing impatience.

The sewing class is also a great way to learn English in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Culture:

The students are from mixed cultures, Australian, Chinese, Indian, Spanish, Greek and Sri Lankan. They enjoy talking about our different cultures, swapping ideas and recipes.

Highlights:

Students finishing their first ever garment on the sewing machine and progressing onto making an item of clothing for themselves.

Social Value:

People with mental health issues and who are socially isolated being able to feel comfortable socialising with people outside of their usual environment.

People who are feeling isolated and alone are able to join in and make new friends. People wanting to gain a new skill at their own pace.

STUDENT OUTCOME

"I was delighted to hear that one of my students, Sreyda helped two of the other students get full-time jobs at her workplace. What a great outcome of coming to this course" Nidhi, English for Study & Work Tutor

Our Learning Program

Life Skills Class



Class Details:

This class meets weekly at Springvale Neighbourhood House and another class meets weekly at Dandenong Neighbourhood House.

The class is designed to allow for flexible selection of units from a bank of specific literacy and numeracy units. The aim is to maximize the opportunities for learners with intellectual disability to engage with learning, due to the diversity of intellectual disabilities of learners, which can be accompanied by physical disabilities. Students participate in excursions to practice literacy and numeracy skills in the real world.

Students:

It is an adult literacy and numeracy class for learners with evidence of permanent cognitive impairment /intellectual disability which may be accompanied by additional conditions such as autism, mental health conditions, physical disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and social/emotional issues.

Highlights:

This year, the Life Skills students made a mosaic bird-bath for the House garden (see photo above). They work together to design the pattern and added their handprints to the bird-bath stand. They also joined in celebrations and multicultural activities run by Springvale Neighbourhood House. They really enjoy the end of year party which is attended by all community groups.

Chinese Calligraphy & Painting

Class Details:

The class is a weekly Chinese calligraphy and Chinese painting classes run by members of our community – Teacher Yuan and Teacher Chen and facilitated by our fabulous office volunteer Nhan.

Learning Chinese calligraphy is a form of meditation as learners concentrate on brush strokes and gentle hand movements to capture the nuances of each of the characters.

Students:

The group has more than doubled in size this year as more people learn about the ancient Chinese arts of calligraphy and Chinese brush painting. An average of 15 students attend the weekly classes.

Highlights:

This year two of the learners entered artwork into the Noble Park Community Art Show.

Culture:

The students are from mixed cultures, Australian, Chinese, Vietnamese, German and Greek and Sri Lankan.



STUDENT OUTCOME

"The Life Skills students enjoyed working together as a team to design and make a mosaic bird-bath. They added their names and hand-prints to the bird-bath stand which is now proudly displayed in the Neighbourhood House garden." Melinda, Life Skills Class Tutor

Our Learning Program

Parental Literacy Class

Culture:

This class is culturally diverse. The largest number of students are Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, but enrolled students also hail from Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh, and Vietnam. Students enjoy hearing about experiences of the other pupils in their own country, and learn much from each other, leading to the discovery of many similarities, but also subtle differences between the cultures, weather patterns, landscapes and political differences which exist in each other's countries. A highlight for this class are when on special days students share foods from their own countries with each other. Students are very proud to showcase the cuisine from their country of origin, and genuinely appreciate the opportunity to sample food from each other's countries.

Highlights:

The students have shared many happy moments together during class time. A highlight of the class was the special Eid celebration which occurred at the conclusion of Eid. Students enjoyed socialising with each other, and the non-Muslim members of the class were very interested to find out further information about Eid, and the significance to Muslims of adhering strictly to their fast during this period. A variety of scrumptious food was on offer, and students strengthened their communication skills while exchanging various recipes with each other.

As equally enjoyable as the Eid celebration was the celebration students took part in around Christmas time. During the last term of the year, interspersed with their usual lessons students heard about the significance of Christmas, and how it is celebrated in different ways in different countries. At the Christmas party, traditional Christmas fare such as fruit mince pies, marzipan cake and candy canes were popular with the adults and children alike!

Many students have expressed an interest in an excursion to the city as a class group, so this is something that will definitely be pursued this year.

Class Details:

The class was originally introduced in an effort to allow parents whose children attend the culturally diverse Noble Park Primary School to access English classes on-site. These classes cover all aspects of reading, writing and listening. The modules covered this year include Preliminary Learning Strategies, Decoding Letters, Decoding Words and Simple Sentences, and Giving Personal Information.

Students:

The majority of students in this class are parents at Noble Park Primary School. However, this year the class has also been opened up to the outside community. The age range of the students spans from women in their early twenties, to women in their fifties. The class is composed entirely of women.

Pathways:

The majority of students in this class are carers for young children. One of them is a carer for young children, and an elderly parent, as well as working a small number of hours each week. At this stage, many of the students have expressed that their priorities lie with taking care of their children and household. Some hope to gain skills which will stand them in good stead for the workforce, which they have expressed an interest in joining when their children are a bit older.

Social Value:

The most heartening aspect of teaching this beginner group of students is to see the way the more experienced learners support and encourage the less adept learners. Students who are not overly confident are often helped along by others within the class group.

It is obvious that many of the students enjoy the opportunity to socialise outside the confines of housework and child care. An example of this is a young woman who has previously been diagnosed with depression who seems to come to life when given the opportunity to talk to other women within the group.

STUDENT OUTCOME

"Many of the students enjoy the opportunity to socialise outside the confines of housework and child care. An example of this is a young woman who has previously been diagnosed with depression who seems to come to life when given the opportunity to talk to other women within the group." Vanessa, Parental Literacy Tutor

Our Learning Program



Learn Computers - Next Steps

Class Details:

The Learn Computer Next Steps is an intermediate computer class is run at Springvale Library.

Students:

There are 10 students in this class and more than half of them are over 50 year old. They are a hard working group and very excited to learn new things.

The first few weeks are spent to learn to understand the students, and realize that different students have different ways of learning.

Some students like to learn by themselves, some like to work in groups and share their knowledge, special students (usually fast learners) like to learn by teaching the others, a bit like a teacher's aid.

Most of the students have not been exposed to computers or the internet before, so they are very enthusiastic to learn new things.

The students really enjoy learning computer skills and surfing the internet. They find that it can help them in with everyday life, for example: using WordArt and online pictures to design invitation cards, and sending emails.

Office Skills

Class Details:

The Office Skills computer class is a weekly class run at Springvale Library.

Students:

There are 9 students in the class and most of them have some basic knowledge about computers. This class is suitable for students who have a basic knowledge and interest in mathematics.

These students are very active in learning new things. They've learnt how to use Excel to design worksheets, calculate employees' salary, etc. They can organise name lists in alphabetical order. Using Microsoft Word for writing letters, and to organise their documents using mail merge for business. They are also able to design slides in PowerPoint for a presentation.

The students realize this is very useful class where learners could have an opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge. Most of the students are fast learners. They show great interest in learning difficult tasks.

Highlights:

A teaching highlight for this year was to explain to them that there's usually not just one "right" method for getting something done. Problem-solving can take many different forms. Giving my class the opportunity to observe other people's work helped them ultimately understand that processes can work well in many different ways. Prompting us to ask ourselves questions like: "Why do we do it this way? What if there was a better way?" This encouraged them to think about and practice ways they could quickly adapt to a new situation.

Empowering the learners to offer different solutions will give them the confidence they need to apply for real life situations.

STUDENT OUTCOME

"Besides getting benefit from doing this course for my personal life with using computer, I have the confident that this course will continue to improve my skills to better my employment opportunities.

My prospects to engage in further studies will further compliment my career path and help me achieve my goal in my future life." Alexander, Office Skills Student

Our Learning Program

Computer Classes - Beginner to Advanced



Class Details:

Weekly computer classes – beginner, intermediate and advanced, run at Springvale Neighbourhood House's Learning Centre in the computer training room.

Students:

Students are mostly older women who are retired in the City of Greater Dandenong area.

Students learn how to use computer, phone, and tablet. They also learn how to use social media websites such as Facebook, Youtube.

Culture

We have many students from Vietnam and China. We also have students from different parts of the world. We often celebrate new year from other countries.

Highlights:

- Biggest Morning Tea event for Cancer Council.
- Students are more confident in using smart phone. Some are now using smart phone to pay bills.

Social Value

- 3 are helping the students in English classes
- A couple of students are volunteering at the Springvale Buddhist temple
- Many students have donated, contributed to the success of the Cancer council's Biggest Morning tTea event.

Class Details:

Learn computers – First steps (3 classes)

This is an entry level course that introduces learners to basic concepts of Information technology. The course has 2 parts (Semester I and Semester II), the students can participate in 1 or both parts:

Semester I

- Introduction to Hardware and software,
- Use of the Internet,
- Google Chrome browser and its applications,
- Email & Microsoft Word.

Semester II

- Review of Semester I,
- Basic level Excel,
- Basic level PowerPoint

Students:

The 28 students in these courses come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Our centre offers easy access to education and training for those who needs go back to work or re-engage with learning.

The students gain social relationships and employability skills in a friendly environment.

Culture

The students come from all over the world, during the year we learn about Chinese New Year, Ramadan, Diwali and special celebrations that they may have. They show videos of their own town, country or a special food the they want to share with their classmates.

Highlights:

- Harmony day because they can learn about the different cultures and celebrate living in Australia as a one nation.
- Biggest Morning Tea as many students have donated, contributed to the success of the Cancer council's biggest morning tea event.

STUDENT OUTCOME

"The most rewarding outcome for this year was to see one of my students continue working in his field after he had accident. He achieved this with the help of this computer course which allowed him to use his skills in a different way." Graciela, computer tutor

Our Learning Program

Learning Lounge - Digital Literacy for Older People



Class Details:

The Learning Lounge provides community members the opportunity to learn something new every week!

Our learning lounge provides adults with a weekly digital literacy session which is self-paced, with learners identifying their individual learning goals for each session.

Learners receive hands-on support from one of our community volunteers or VCAL students from Westall Secondary College.

This year we taught learners how to:

- Download and use Centrelink and MyGov apps
- Use all functions on their smart phone, including loading apps
- Buy and sell safely on Ebay using Paypal
- Use Facebook to stay in touch with family and friends
- Setup Gmail and Facebook accounts for social communication
- Use MS Word to create letters, invites and promotional material.
- Learn to use Ipad, Tablet or smartphone better; including get started using apps.

Classes are between 6 and 18 people, with some learners attending every week and others coming only when they have something to learning.

Classes are multicultural including learners from Anglo, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Indian, Burmese, Chilean, German, Italian and Anglo-Australian backgrounds.

STUDENT OUTCOME

"The most rewarding outcome for this year was to see one of my students continue working in his field after he had accident. He achieved this with the help of this computer course which allowed him to use his skills in a different way." Graciela, computer tutor

Our Groups

Advocacy for Oromia



Vision:

Advocacy for Oromia is a self-help group established to improve the settlement process and advance the wellbeing of Australian Oromos. Our vision is to see a world where all people are empowered to manage their problems and create opportunities for themselves and others.

Culture:

Our members are Oromo refugees and migrants who face difficulties due to language barriers and cultural differences. The people are able to resolve their issues and concerns to control their lives, it also helped to improve the settlement process and advance the wellbeing of our people. The Oromo are an indigenous Cushitic people from Oromia, East Africa. They are the custodian of the Gadaa System, Irreechaa thanks giving, Shanan-Oromo postnatal care through celebrations and performances.

Highlights:

The main events for our group this year have been:

- Irreechaa celebrations
- Oromo mental health education
- Oromo postnatal care-Shanan
- Oromo Martyrs day
- Oromo service day
- Oromo youth day
- Oromo elders events

Social Value:

Our group has helped one another through support, networking and community education. Our activities maximised community participation in decision making and contribution. Our group provided health, mental health, human rights and community orientation and information to assist people to take action and resolve their own concerns.

Members & Meetings:

We have 65 members and we have had six meetings this year. We also had 5 outings/excursions and 3 training & information sessions.

Al Emaan Women's Organisation

Vision:

- To Educate, Support, Empower women of Muslim Backgrounds.

Members:

- Our group members are females, from migrant and refugees backgrounds.
- The benefits are socialising, getting out of isolation and inclusion in the community.

Culture:

- The culture of our members include Lebanese, Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan, Turkish, Palestinian, Jordanian, Fujian and others. We try to keep our culture alive by having cultural and religious celebrations, and organising Multicultural events.

Social Value:

- Providing access to community events.
- Volunteers assisting members with transport & other help.
- Fundraising to help Syrian refugees, orphans, and women experiencing family violence.
- Community inclusion by organising social gathering
- Promoting harmony by Multicultural events



Highlights:

- Ramadan Iftar in SNH.
- Project "Belonging together" ..
- Australia day Parade.

Members & Meetings:

We met 35 times during last 12 months with our 29 members. We had 5 excursions, including 2 organised by Springvale Neighbourhood House.

Other activities included:

- English conversational classes.
- Early childhood services information session
- NDIS information session

Our Groups

AA Resurreccion

AA Resurreccion meets weekly to help us to recover from alcohol addiction.

Thanks to our fellowship we have been able to stay sober and help others recover from alcoholism.

We thank Springvale Neighbourhood House because we have a place to conduct our meetings and we have to say that the environment is perfect and we are truly grateful. Springvale Neighbourhood House has helped our group to keep the message of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) alive and to be able to give others what has been given to us!

A new life without alcohol addiction! We look forward to continuing with our commitment to stay sober and to help others to do the same! We highly appreciate the important contribution to us from Springvale Neighbourhood House.



Highlights:

On celebratory events, we all bring cultural food to share.

Members & Meetings:

We meet weekly at Springvale Neighbourhood House. The main events for our group this year have been: Iftar dinner, Cherry Farm and Melbourne Museum excursions.

Al Ehssan Muslim Women's Group

Vision:

A social support group for women from Arabic speaking background.

Culture:

Our group consists of women who come from several countries including Egypt, Eritrea, Palestinian, Iraq, Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Somalia, and Morocco.

Our group cultural origin is of Arabic speaking background. We follow the teachings of the Quran.

Social Value:

We help women who are having difficulties in areas such as illnesses, isolation and family violence. We support each other in raising our children while integrating in the community. We give each other social support and help with translations. We also co-ordinate carpooling our members to meetings, shopping or medical appointments. We have contributed to charities at Springvale Neighbourhood House.

Arabic Carers Group – ADEC

Vision:

ADEC Arabic Carers Group exists to provide a safe and easy access to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) clients with disability and their carers and provide information sessions also is social meeting to enable them to share their experiences.

Social Value:

We seek to provide a fun and safe environment to members to talk about their needs.

We give an opportunity to members to learn about services.

Our purpose is to:

- Reduce isolation
- Increase awareness about carers
- Increased self-esteem

Culture:

Arabic speakers. We share culture specific food and learn about Australian services in Arabic languages which make it easier for us.



Members & Meetings:

Our 15 members met 7 times at Springvale Neighbourhood House.

We had 3 outings and 6 guest speakers:

- Health record session
- Elder Abuse session
- MAC session

Our Groups

Australian Chinese Music Band

Vision:

Our group exists to get together, meeting each other at our convenience. We encourage other people to join us. . We are happy to show our friends how to play music with us together.

Culture:

With most members being of Chinese origin. We have 10 members from South East Asian Countries and also from main land China. They come to play music and sing together with Chinese musical instruments: Pipa (Oud), Yang Qing (Dulcimer), Erhu (a 2 string fiddle), Guzheng (a zither) and bamboo flute. They share the way of life in Australia being happy, free and feeling as part of Australia.

Highlights:

Our highlights this year include bringing happiness to senior citizens using Chinese musical instruments with Chinese and Aussie songs. We attended various schools concerts, festival celebrations, aged homes, day care centres and RSLs. Many people were amused by the music generated by our instruments. They always come to us asking and touching the instruments that we play. We also explain to the audience names of our instruments and how they sound when playing solo.



Australian & Latin-American Discussion Group

Vision:

The Australia & Latin-America Discussion Group is an independent, not-for-profit community organisation, whose aims are to promote the study of social, political, and economic issues of Australia and Latin America. We also facilitate collaboration opportunities for our members that will assist them to achieve the goals of promoting understanding and diversity.

Social Value:

The group provides opportunities for members and friends to interact and discuss a wide-ranging of Latin American and Australian issues that have impact in our lives. Discussions are conducted in a friendly and respectful environment.

Culture:

We keep our culture alive in our activities discussing the relevant Latin America and Australia historic dates, celebrating special events, etc.



Highlights:

1. We celebrated our Second Anniversary this year.
2. Three excursions using the SNH bus.
3. Two excursions using other means of transport.
4. Celebrating members' birthdays.

Members & Meetings:

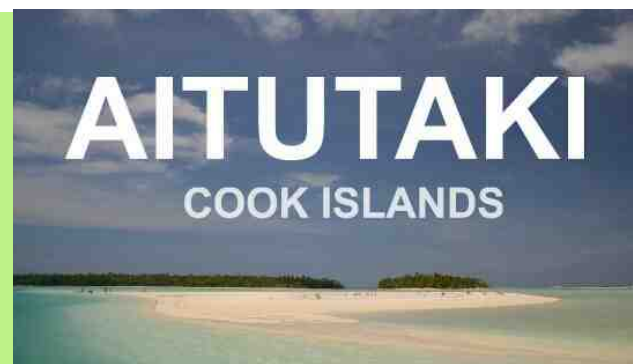
We have 9 group members and met 29 times in the past year.

Aitutaki Enuu

Aitutaki has 67 members with 8 new this year.

Our group provides social connection, support and activities for Cook Islanders who live in the local area.

We meet weekly at Springvale Neighbourhood House and use the SNH bus.



Our Groups

Bangladeshi Senior Citizens Club



Highlights:

- Group started Nov 2017
- BBQ at Jells Park
- Day trip by train to Wendouree, Ballarat
- Social gathering with a dinner held at Glen Waverly Centre

Vision:

- To connect with senior citizens of Bangladesh origin living in Victoria.
- To organise social, recreational and welfare related activities for the members
- To arrange programmes for health and wellbeing of its members.

Members:

- 85 members, met 14 times in the year and one excursion.
- Full member: Bangladeshi origin individual 65 years of age and spouses irrespective of their age.
- Associate member: Bangladesh origin individual 60 years of age and their spouse irrespective of their age.

Culture:

Ethnically Bangladeshi people are Bangalee. Bangladeshi culture is Bangalee culture. We arrange cultural programme for our members.

Social Value:

Members communicate with each other and exchange knowledge to improve their life style of positive ageing.

Bourio Anatolies Group

Vision:

Bourio Anatolies group started 25 years ago as Ability Bunch. It is a group of people with all abilities from different ethnic backgrounds based within Greater Dandenong and surrounding suburbs.

Culture:

It is all range of background from Australian, Greek, and Fijian background.

Highlights:

- Touring our original performance 'Heroes of the Past & Present' around the suburbs and in the city with the Thespiis.
- Commenced making the 2nd film of "Who is he".
- Been selected as the panel for the 2018 Other Film Festival.

Social Value:

There are people with disability and abled people with different skills. We all enjoy doing drama in all range of skills, techniques, acting and filming.

Members & Meetings:

We had four members and met more than 20 times during the year, including rehearsals and performances.



Our Groups

Burmese Women's Sewing Group

Vision:

The Burmese Women's Sewing Group get together as a way to reduce social isolation in the community and provide a safe space for the women to come together, meet new people, make friends and learn new skills or become aware of services available in the community to support them.

Culture:

Group members come from Burmese ethnic Muslim minority cultural communities, including Kayin, Chin, Kachin and Mon.

Highlights:

1. Weekly sewing groups
2. Cherry Farm & Mount Martha Lookout excursion

Social Value:

The group reduces social isolation for its members and provides support to each other through shared childcare, social outings and assistance with navigating the Australian service system.

Members & Meetings:

The Burmese women's group has been meeting for the past four years at the Springvale Neighbourhood House.



Chinese Carers Group – ADEC

Vision:

Our vision is to empower people with Chinese background with language and culture barrier, and have no access to mainstream service.

Culture:

Our members are all from China.

Social Value:

By coming to meetings, they have a chance to gain and share information, to relax, to encourage and help each other.

Activities included:

- Information session from Centrelink
- Careless week in October
- End of year celebration

We like to join other groups in Neighbourhood House so just to get to know other cultures.



Our Groups

Fayaa Oromo Women's Group



Highlights:

Fayaa Oromo Group participated in Harmony square and AAMI park cultural celebration for Harmony Day. At these events members wore Oromo traditional clothes, shared Oromo food and coffee, performed Oromo dance and provided cultural education and awareness.

Vision:

Fayaa Oromo Group aims to preserve Oromo culture and language through community interaction, skills sharing and education. Our group has 12 women and 18 youth. Our goal is to bring women out of isolation and encourage youth to stay connected to their cultural heritage by providing social support and education.

Culture:

We are Oromo origin. Oromo people are the largest and ancient ethnic group of Ethiopia and Horn of Africa. Oromo people are very welcoming, generous with diverse cultural arts, clothing, dance and food based on region. Our group keeps our culture alive by participating in community events and activities, social interaction and youth education on cultural food, art, dance and religion.

Social Value:

Our monthly women's social circles are a place to express concerns, share skills and resources, and become resourceful to one another and community in general. Weekly youth education programs teach Oromo language, religion, cultural cooking, art and poetry. We provide transportation for elderly members to participate in meetings, social events and activities.

Huong Que

Vision:

The group exists in providing a dancing culture of traditional Vietnamese dancing to maintain social communication and good health.

Members:

Our group consists of Vietnamese members.

Benefits for members who join our group include:

- Maintaining interest in traditional Vietnamese dance.
- Leaving their comfort zone.
- Improving physical and mental health.

Culture:

We keep our culture alive by learning, practising and performing traditional Vietnamese dance.

Social Values:

We perform in nursing homes, Springvale Neighbourhood House, local schools & community events.

We believe that a good method for communicating and understanding each other is through weekly meetings, shopping together or rehearsing for an upcoming performance.



Highlights:

- Performance at Harmony Festival.
- New Year Festival for council, schools and Vietnamese community.
- Performing at nursing homes in Springvale and Noble Park.

Meetings:

Our 12 members meet every Wednesday. We have enjoyed many outings and excursions and attended two information sessions at Springvale Neighbourhood House.

Our Groups

Hararian Association



Highlights:

- Participating in the international day
- Celebrating cultural events with members
- Running weekend language school
- Organising regular sport events

Meetings:

- 130 group members
- 5 meetings
- 2 excursions
- 2 information sessions

Vision:

To maintain Hararian culture and pass on to the next generation; assisting them to become responsible citizens in the community and participate and play a role in the development of a sound cross cultural environment.

Members:

Mainly Hararians who share the Hararian culture. The members will benefit in maintain their culture.

Culture:

Hararians are from the eastern region of Ethiopia. The group maintain their culture by celebrating festivals unique to the group, week-end language school to pass on the language/culture to the young Hararian Australian, and forming a chanting group.

Social Value:

- Teaching Hararian language during to the young members of the community
- Running sessions to youth citing the danger of drugs/alcohol
- Collecting used clothes/other items to be donated to needy people through charitable organisations.

Island Roots Performing Arts Group

Vision:

Our vision is to teach and celebrate our cultural music and dance to younger members of our community. Island Roots provide social and spiritual support for our members and extended families.

Culture:

We continue to be busy every weekend performing all over Melbourne and the wider Victorian region. Our young children have developed so well into our Cook Islands culture and we are so proud of them each time they perform.

Social Values:

We celebrate and share Cook Island culture through music and dance.

We are thankful to Springvale Neighbourhood House for allowing us a room to have our quarterly meetings each year. In December this year, Island Roots will be travelling to the Cook Islands for a 3 week dancing holiday.



Members:

Our group consists of over 80 members who are Cook Islanders. We are growing each year with new members.

Our Groups

Lakhanda Sri Lankan Elderly Group



Highlights:

This year we celebrated Sri Lankan New Year with lots of happiness, friends, games and food.

Vision:

We offer friendship and support for elderly members of the Sri Lankan community.

Membership:

The Lakhanda Elderly group has 70 members. We meet regularly attend our fortnightly meetings at Springvale Neighbourhood House. We like to come to Springvale Neighbourhood House because of the friendly environment and it is a good venue for our meetings.

Culture:

We share food, play cultural games, have information sessions, read Sri Lankan Newspapers, and record plays for community radio. Mostly, we look after each other.

The radio play we record is in Sinhalese and is for our monthly Lakhanda Elderly radio program on 3SER.

Las Iluminadas

Vision:

We are a group of South American origin who come together to avoid isolation by sharing meals, speaking, and listening to music together.

Members:

Our 20 members are of South American origin. We formed about 15 years ago. We had 20 meetings in the past year and attended three training & information sessions.

Culture:

We are of Spanish speaking background who enjoy sharing cultural food and annually celebrate South American Latin Festival at Sandown Racecourse.

Highlights:

1. We celebrate our member's birthdays.
2. Traveled to Queensland for 5 days
3. Went on a 1 day snow trip to Lake Mountain

Social Value:

We believe in visiting our individual members when they are unwell and sick. We also offer transport for members who have mobility disabilities.

Our Groups

La voz Feminina



Social Value:

We donate knitted items such as beanies and blankets for residents of nursing homes and KOGO (knit one, give one woollen hats, scarves & blankets for homeless & others in need).

Vision:

Our group's vision is to allow the mature women of Latin American community to come together to socialise and share skills and knowledge of arts and craft.

Members:

Our members consists of 25 women from different ages coming from different Latin American backgrounds. Those who feel isolated at home and have limited English gather to socialise and share our common interest in arts and craft.

Culture:

To keep our language and culture alive, we celebrate our National Day in September.

Highlights:

3 events we enjoyed the most this year were Mother's Day, National Day and Christmas.

Maya Dance Group & Dance School

Vision:

Our little school was founded in 2002. We enjoy taking our audience on a journey about El Salvador's culture and traditions during performances.

Members:

We currently have our 3rd and 4th generation of dancers. Our 12 members are children aged 3-12 and young adults in their 20s who were born in Australia.

Highlights:

- Performing at cultural events and showcasing our culture in events such as Harmony Festival. We had an amazing time thanks to Springvale Neighbourhood House
- Our group organised an event homage to El Salvador in Springvale Reserve
- Our homage to El Salvador event will go ahead again in 2018. We expect more people to attend where they can learn and enjoy our culture through traditional food, music and dancing.



Culture:

We perform traditional dances from El Salvador. We aim to keep our culture alive by educating the future generations about El Salvador through dancing.

Social Value:

Our group has performed at community centres and charitable events including Salvador's Hope- where donations were taken to help the women and children in El Salvador. We also performed at 2 charities at St Dominic's Broadmeadows and St Bridget's in Fitzroy.



Madda Borkana

Vision:

We hold monthly meetings to learn about our culture and our language.

Members:

Madda Borkana has 18 members plus family members. We enjoy meeting together. We plan to continue using the room weekly or monthly.

Highlights:

This year our group enjoyed meeting and connecting as a community. Springvale Neighbourhood House helped us by making us welcome. Highlights of our year included outdoor activities for kids and Eid celebrations.

Our Groups

Multicultural Women's Group



Highlights:

- Excursion to the National Gallery of Victoria.
- Mother's Day outing to Heritage Hill Museum followed by lunch at Beletti Restaurant in Dandenong
- Italy's Republic Day celebrations at Springvale Neighbourhood House

Vision:

To support and contribute to the wellbeing of seniors in our community.

Members:

Our members are mostly Italians and 1 Dutch member. We are from various regions of Italy. We welcome all seniors to our group. Our ages are from 60-85 years. The group meets to socialise meet new friends, to stay connected with other seniors in the community. Enjoy social activities: monthly outings, information session on our health and wellbeing.

Culture:

In June each year we celebrate our Culture Republic Day. Some members wear our traditional costumes. We all bring a plate of our favourite food to share. We enjoy singing and dancing to our traditional songs. It is a very special event for our group.

Social Value:

Our group offers social support and the opportunity to participate in recreational activities, outings to places of interest. We also help with transport to our meetings and outings for our more elderly senior members.

Multicultural Women's Sewing Group

Vision:

To help the community in learning to sew, knit, craft and embroider. We encourage those who feel lonely and isolated to gather and socialise with other members of the community while sewing.

Culture:

We are multicultural group with members who attend on an ad hoc or weekly basis. During the past year, we have had members from India, Lebanon, Vietnam, China, Iran, Turkey, Ethiopia, Burma and Australia.

Social Value:

We have donated our products to groups in need and we often visit those who feel unwell.

Members:

We have 35 members who attend sewing sessions 40 times in the past year.



Highlights:

Our highlight included sewing chef's hats and aprons for a children's centre in Mulgrave and helping other women experience and learn something new.

Our Groups

Multicultural Women's Friendship Group



Highlights:

- Yoga
- Play group
- Shared Lunches

Vision:

We are a social support group. We aim to provide a safe environment for women to have a chat and enjoy each others company. We provide a yoga class and information from guest speakers.

Members:

Any women from all walk and background are welcome.

Our 35 members met 36 times over the past year to enjoy yoga and sharing food at lunch time. We had guest speakers from service agencies to give information about their services.

We went on two excursions and had 6 information sessions.

Social Value:

We help and support each other. When someone is in trouble we will help them out in whatever way we can. We are there for each other,

Rohingya Women's Group

Vision:

To provide support and friendship for women from the Rohingya community and their family members.

Members:

The Rohingya Women's Group is a new group who joined Springvale Neighbourhood House in 2017.

Social Value:

The women enjoy social activities, communal lunches and learning English. They value learning as they believe it is going to open many doors for them as they settle into Australian life.

The women meet twice a week for a total of 4 hours. Their tutor teaches them written, spoken and conversational English. Springvale Neighbourhood House provides the tutor and a childcare worker for these sessions. with financial support from the LUCRF Community Fund.



Highlights:

The group have also had the opportunity to go on excursions with their children such as a trip to the Melbourne Zoo, Melbourne Museum & Imax Cinema, and Cherry Picking & Beach excursion.

Our Groups

Save Cambodian Children Fund



Culture:

Cambodian background. We sponsor Cambodian musicians and singers every year to perform in our annual charity events.

Proceeds from the tour are used to build schools in rural Cambodia and support schooling projects for the poorest of the poor communities who otherwise will have none.

Bringing artists to perform for the Cambodian diaspora helps maintain our cultural heritage, while enhancing the relationship between our two nations.

Vision:

Our aim is to empower marginalised, young Cambodians by providing education so necessary for them to improve their lives.

Members:

Cambodian-Australians who live and work in the City of Greater Dandeong and who share a similar interest in helping empower the rural children through providing education. We're all volunteers who spend time, energy, and money to help children get an education. Therefore, we're very grateful for the use of Springvale Neighbourhood House facilities

Social Value:

We helped many volunteers in the community who have offered their time and skill to assist us organising charity events throughout Australia by giving them opportunity to meet, network and learn new skills. This has helped many gain employment and inspire others too!

Highlights:

Through our annual fundraisers in various states, we have managed to build two schools, one in Battambang and another in Pailin, for the children of the poor and remote communities in the two provinces.

The two schools were inaugurated in July attended by donors from Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra who made self-funded trips with SCCFA chair, Seda Douglas, to witness the milestone events.

Samoan Solidarity Group

Vision:

Settlement of our customary land in Samoa. To repeal the Law LTRA 2008.

This act was introduced by the Prime Minister to sell and lease to the China People.

Members:

Our 50 members are Samoan Citizen who lives here in Australia.

The difference is we are Samoan and we have our lands and family back home to be looked after. The benefit is to get back our own land benefiting our new generation.

Culture:

Samoan Culture - we have different groups everywhere here, we have different churches, Advisory council, Miss Samoa Org. varieties of activities, sports, dances, Ball and Independent Day.



Social Value:

- Donation for Samoa and individual help.
- Help the Youth Organization participate fund raising for our council and contribute to our Samoan community.

Highlights:

- Attend and support the Independent day
- Cricket competition
- Youth rally and Miss Samoa Celebration.

Our Groups

Spirit of Enterprise Project

For the Spirit of Enterprise Group, the past year has been mainly one of planning as we have continued to work with the Architects and Landscape Architects involved in the new City of Greater Dandenong Library and Community Precinct in Springvale. This building and its surrounds will be a significant symbol of the final marker on the Enterprise Trail which was completed by the group last year. It will tell the story of the Spirit of Enterprise, the welcome people were given when they arrived, and the richness of our community because the City was so diverse and welcoming.

We are very excited about the concepts we have discussed with the Architects and look forward to our combined ideas coming to fruition. Once completed, we are planning a large community event to celebrate the project which has taken over ten years to complete.

We are also very excited to announce the City of Greater Dandenong submitted a bid highlighting our project for the United Cities and Local Government International Award in Mexico City. The objective of the award is to recognise leading cities and individuals who have distinguished themselves through their contribution to culture as a key dimension in sustainable cities. This award was recognition for their contribution to culture through the Spirit of Enterprise.



While the project didn't win the award, the Jury asked that it be highlighted as one of good practice, and was the only Australian project recognised. Comments from the Jury were:-

"The Jury wants to praise an outstanding initiative about migration and cultural identity - The Spirit of Enterprise. "This project has evolved over time to demonstrate that welcoming, supporting and respecting other cultures brings strength, cohesion and cultural richness to communities. The Jury request that UCLG Committee on Culture promotes it as a good practice" Having worked alongside the City of Greater Dandenong for many years we were delighted to receive this recognition. Acknowledgement of community working with Local Government and the success of our work over the last twelve years.

Springvale Lion Dance Group

Vision:

Bringing traditional Chinese Lion Dance to festivals, add colour to any celebration.

Culture:

Our 12 group members are of different ages from 18-68 mainly Chinese from China, Cambodia and Vietnam.

We have fun by performing and at the same time bring happiness to people around us, and mostly the communities.

Highlights:

- Performance at primary school
- Age care centre in Springvale
- Harmony Festival in Dandenong
- Outing to Kangaroo Island in Dandenong

Social Value:

We worked out difficulties among us. We sold homemade food at the Biggest Morning Tea to raise money for Breast Cancer Research which was organised by Springvale Neighbourhood House.



Our Groups

Oromo Community in Melbourne Inc.

Vision:

To provide cultural activities and assistance for the Oromo community in the South East Region of Melbourne.

Members:

The Oromo Community in Melbourne (formerly SERMOCAVA) has 78 members.

Highlights:

Our group's activities this year included community meetings, Family Day, Irrechaa (Thanks Giving Day), different showings and the teaching of native languages.

Family Day is celebrated among our community on the last Saturday of December in order to entertain children with their families who have completed their study for the year.

This year our group really enjoyed the Harmony Festival and participated in the International Cultural Dress show organised by Springvale Neighbourhood House. We like coming to SNH because the staff responds to any issues and guides us well!



Social Value:

We provide different services to our community members, such as training in literacy and numeracy, community celebrations, conferences, etc.

Somali Cultural Youth Group

Vision:

To provide a safe space for Somali young people to come together to share and learn more about their culture.

Members:

The Somali Cultural Youth Group has 65 members and 7 new members joining us this year.

Social Value:

During the year we hold Somali language classes for 6-15 years.

Highlights:

Our group have celebrated the EID Festival giving support to our members during the festival. We attended the Harmony Festival in Dandenong in March where our group joined the dress parade in our cultural dress.

Our group likes coming to Springvale Neighbourhood House because it's close to where we reside. We feel welcome and enjoy learning. We enjoy sharing food and exchanging ideas. Springvale Neighbourhood House has helped our group to carry out our programs and is a great support for our group giving us a place where our community can gather and hold events.



Our Groups

Springvale Chinese Opera Group

VISION:

To share the enjoyment of the traditional ancient Chinese opera singing.

CULTURE

All members of our group are from China. We share the same interest and support each other, express our feelings through singing.

SOCIAL VALUE

We support and stand up for each other in the group and form friendships through our love of performing Chinese opera. Our 8 group members met around 30 times last year.



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Harmony Festival in Dandenong
- Chinese New Year in Springvale
- Chinese Elderly Association in Springvale.



Springvale Chinese Dance Group

VISION:

Create an opportunity for retired people to exercise as well as having fun in Chinese Dancing.

CULTURE:

Most of our 18 members are Chinese from China, Vietnam and Cambodia.

We come to meet every week to socialise with others with the same background to feel happy, healthy in a fun exercise way.

SOCIAL VALUE:

We support each other in the group. We help raise money for Cancer Council Australia at the Biggest Morning Tea which is organised by Springvale Neighbourhood House. Our dancing exercise helps us to stay fit and active.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Performance at Lexington Garden Retirement Centre.
- New Year Festival in Springvale.
- Mid-autumn Festival in Dandenong.

Spring Community Church Group

VISION:

We are a Christian group that love and respect people of all background. We enjoy listening and helping people with basic needs such as friendship and offer people the opportunity to share their daily life and give them encouragement with hope and positivity.

MEMBERS:

Everyone is welcome. They can have friendship and a sense of belonging. We have 10 members who have met 26 times over the past year.

CULTURE:

Cambodian, Australian, Japanese, Chinese International students, new settlers, and new migrants



HIGHLIGHTS

Bible study, Music, and Social outings

SOCIAL VALUE:

- Free Immigration consultation by resisted migration agent.
- Social activities - BBQ, outings. Free Lunch

Our Groups

Springvale Chinese Mandarin Network



Members:

We have nearly 300 members and we met around 40 times last 12 months. Our meetings include:

- Health seminars by guest speakers on liver disease
- Healthy diet seminars given by our doctor members
- Information sessions by guest speakers on welfare policies and services.

Vision:

For new elderly Chinese migrants to have a warm, welcoming place to come to.

Culture:

Our members mainly come from China, some from Taiwan, Vietnam and Cambodia. Our group cultural origin is Chinese. We keep our culture alive by carrying out various activities with Chinese cultural characteristics. Our aim is "health, happy, unity and harmony".

Highlights:

- Tai Chi Health expo and Mid-autumn Festival
- Chinese New Year party
- Harmony Festival performances in Dandenong
- Dragon Boat Festival and Karaoke concert

Social Value:

- Visiting sick members, accompanying them to seek help
- Helping members cure their loneliness through chatting
- Participating in cancer prevention charity activities organised by the Springvale Neighbourhood House

Springvale Chinese Mandolin Music Group

Vision:

For people with the love of instrumental music in the community

Members & Culture:

Our members are all Chinese from China, Cambodia and Vietnam. We met 46 times during last 12 months with our 10 members.

Highlights:

- Performance at primary school
- Age care centres
- Harmony Festival

Social value:

We support each other within our group. By performing, we bring smiles to our community of young and old.



Tai Chi QiGong Group

Vision

Health and well being

Members & Culture

Multicultural group with over 100 members aged 20-90 practising Qigong for health benefits & stress relief

Social value

Stress release and learning to slow down
Friendships made

Our Groups

Turkish Carers Group – ADEC

VISION:

Take information to make them life more quality. And see the community members and socializing with other community

MEMBERS:

60 members who met 11 times last year.

They are carers who look after someone with a disability. They are from CALD backgrounds, and they are isolated through language and cultural barriers compounded by their caring responsibilities.

SOCIAL VALUE:

We provide services and information sessions where they can find the answer to what they need.

We talk about their problems, and discuss with what they need and which service is available for them make them happy and improve their quality of life.

They like to help other aged, lonely or sick in same community because they have language barrier.

CULTURE:

Their back ground is Turkish

HIGHLIGHTS:

Lake Mountain excursion, Cherry Farm, Peninsula Hot Spring ,Phillip Island



UNITED FILIPINO ELDERLY GROUP



VISION:

The reason our group exist is to help those dealing the problems among us, cooperation between our members is also great. When ever the best idea is raised in the group we respond by majority decision.

CULTURE:

Our culture of origin is Filipino. Our members are mainly Filipino, but other nationalities are welcome to join. Few members are from other nationality. Majority of our members can speak and write English as well.

SOCIAL VALUE:

We are introducing to the members some ideas about being elderly, so they can enjoy their last chapter of life. Going out with their friends for regular outings, dancing or just a lunch or dinner with our group members.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- International Fashion parade during Harmony Festival
- Club Anniversary dance every year

We are also great supporters of any Springvale Neighbourhood House activities.

One of our aims in the group is to visit the elderly members who are sick, or lonely. We also help our member who is in grief by contributing small amount to help the family. We also help them in transport or to their grocery and doctor's appointment.

Our Groups

VICAFAMIN – Vietnamese Catholic Family Mutual Assistance Network



VISION:

ViCaFaMAN is a non-political and not-for-profit organisation, operated within the State of Victoria, Australia. Its main aim is to encourage the members to support each other to achieve a peaceful and happy life in this second homeland and serve the community, in particular to the sick and elderly members at home, hospital and nursing home.

SOCIAL VALUE:

The Vietnamese Catholic Family Mutual Assistance Network Inc. (ViCaFaMAN) is a social and charitable association based on Christian faith, consisting of Vietnamese individuals and families, whether Catholic or non-Catholic, sharing Catholic values.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Our Springvale group meet weekly to share social activities including dancing, tai chi and meals. Springvale Neighbourhood House is a good place for our group to meet as it is close to public transport and many of our members live in Springvale.

Victorian Myanmar Muslim Community

VISION:

We provide friendship, support and assistance to Muslim community members from Myanmar.

MEMBERS:

Our group has 400 members with 30 new members joining this year.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Our achievements over the year were holding events such as Iftar (70 people from many cultures came), community fun day for Burmese families, Women's group, cooking classes, and being friends with other groups.

Many of our families participated in the Flu vaccination program at Springvale Neighbourhood House.

We come to Springvale Neighbourhood House for our community meetings and for committee elections.

Springvale Neighbourhood House helps us with reporting, to make sure we are meeting all our funding requirements and they also help us with funding submissions.



Our Groups

WASEMA

Women's Association South East Melbourne Australia

VISION:

To give as many women and community groups access to useful, timely information and stakeholders, so that they may achieve their goals and aims and assist their members as best possible.

Our underpinning values are:

- Women supporting each other in friendship
- Building an inclusive society
- Celebrating diversity
- Finding pathways for women to gain access to education, employment and business
- Finding information, networks and agencies to provide assistance for women's issues

MEMBERS

75 group members who are leaders, project managers, team leaders from several women's and community groups who wish to network and utilize the information and services provided by stakeholders, to assist and encourage multicultural and ethno specific women and men in South East Melbourne to flourish and become even more active and productive citizens of Victoria.

The benefit, is the sharing of information and services while finding like minded individuals and groups that support each other.

CULTURE:

WASEMA is purposely "multicultural". The culture of each participating group and/or individual who is involved with WASEMA is celebrated for their inherent uniqueness.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Monthly Networking/Committee Meeting which address current community issues and allow for networking with stakeholders.

Workshops (Employment)

Ongoing Mentoring Program

WASEMA leaders regularly attend training and information sessions and would estimate that each member attends at least 1 such training information session per month.



SOCIAL VALUE

The networking/committee meetings have provided connections, information and services to individuals within community groups who previously did not have access. The results of which, have assisted them to better their services to their respective groups and which has impacted positively on the individuals that attend these groups i.e. wellness, mental health, inclusion, training and employment opportunities.

Through the workshops (employment), individuals have acquired knowledge, skills and connections that assist them in their quest for employment or to proceed for further training. Several individuals have achieved employment, while others have continued and progressed to formal training.

The mentoring program acts as a guide to the realisation of individual goals and the participants have experienced an increase in their self esteem and self confidence. The program offers support and reinforces steps so that the mentee achieves their aspirations.

EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

Harmony Festival

This year, our Harmony Festival in Dandenong's Harmony Square was successful despite the hot and windy weather.

The festival celebrated the rich cultural diversity of the City of Greater Dandenong through dance, song, music, fashion, food and craft.

The aims of the day were:

- Promote understanding and respect for diverse cultural, linguistic and religious groups
- Celebrate diversity through appreciation and sharing of different cultural experiences
- Engage and bring together a wide audience from the community to increase social connectedness

The Harmony Festival included:

- An international dress parade (community groups wearing their traditional/national dress)
- A multicultural concert (cultural & multicultural singing, dancing and musical groups)
- A cultural souk (community stalls with interactive cultural activities)
- Cultural food vendors
- Stilt-walkers - Bollywood dancer, Eesha the Elephant and the Chinese God of Good Luck

Each of the community stalls were asked to engage people in a free cultural activity. This was very successful with groups providing the following free activities (green highlighted activities are from Springvale Neighbourhood House groups):

The concert included 12 from Springvale Neighbourhood House (SNH) performing groups and 10 other cultural groups

There were 22 performing groups, 25 community stalls in the Cultural Souk and 17 cultural groups in the International Dress Parade.

Dandenong Police estimated around 2,400 people attended the event. The crowd built during the afternoon and was at its peak around 6pm. The attendees represented the cultural diversity of the City of Greater Dandenong.



EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

Cultural Ceremonies & Celebrations

This year, Springvale Neighbourhood House held a number of cultural celebrations and multicultural events to bring the community together.

Some of these events were:

- Diwali Festival of Lights
- Vesak Celebration of Buddha's Birthday
- Refugee Week Celebration - with faith leaders from Muslim, Buddhist and Sikh faiths
- Chinese Lion Ceremony to bring good luck to Springvale Neighbourhood House during Chinese New Year
- Biggest Multicultural Morning Tea - raising money for the Victorian Cancer Council
- Harmony Day
- Diversity Week
- Multi-Faith Christmas Party - celebrating the end of the year
- Iftar community dinners and EID celebrations - hosted by our Muslim groups
- Sri Lankan New Year party with cultural food and games
- Central and Southern America Independence Day celebrations

DIWALI CELEBRATION FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

20TH OCTOBER 2017, 6 - 9PM
Springvale Reserve, Newcomen & Erikson Road






Presented by:




FREE EVENT

Come and make our festival special.

All are invited to join the festival of lights, celebrating new beginnings and triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

There will be lots of fun, music, traditional dances, henna tattoo, sparklers, rangoli, bindi, learn to tie saree, Indian food.

Join with us for this cultural experience of pooja- Arti of Goddess Lakshmi i.e. Goddess of Wealth. Everything is free.

Please RSVP 9548 3972 by 15th October for catering purposes




SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS



OUR HELPERS

Office Volunteers

Springvale Neighbourhood House continued our structured Volunteer Office Administration Program this year with 7 volunteers who increased our ability to communicate in the following languages: Vietnamese, Chinese, Sri Lankan, Burmese and Rohingya, Indian and Spanish.

The aim of the program is to ensure:

- Volunteers have a weekly roster which includes administrative hours, group/class support and English/computer training based on individual volunteer needs assessment
- Onsite health and safety orientation
- External volunteer orientation training with a focus on volunteering and confidentiality
- Compliance for volunteers on CentreLink mutual obligation agreements.

Volunteers are asked to document their interests and what their plans are for the next 2-5 years. This enables SNH to tailor a program to ensure they progress towards their vocational goals.

This program ensures that all volunteers will leave after a 12-24 months period with a better understanding of administration, working in a community setting and a certificate for a training course that will support them for future employment or volunteer positions.

Volunteers quickly become part of our administration team and we could not offer the range of services we do without their dedication!

Community Volunteers

Springvale Neighbourhood House relies on volunteers to help us run programs and events.

This year we had the benefit of 130 volunteers who volunteered for 250 hours each week. Thank you all so much – your weekly volunteering hours combined to an impressive 11,424 hours over the past years of community benefit!

Over 50 volunteers assisted to make our Harmony Festival a success this year. Volunteer activities included:

- Setting up and cleaning up after the event
- Welcoming guests
- Running stalls
- Assisting in the dressing rooms and helping the stage manager
- Providing cultural inclusion activities such as henna hand painting, dress like an Egyptian, Oromo coffee ceremony, Chinese calligraphy name painting, Chinese tea tasting, etc. Cooking & selling food,
- Transporting groups to the venue in our community bus.

Each of our community groups (featured in this report) are run by volunteers. They ensure the groups meet regularly, and plan for activities including craft, information sessions and outings.