



COMMUNITY LIVING ASSOCIATION INC.



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners | 4 |
| History of the Turrbal People..... | 4 |
| CLA’s History | 6 |
| Our Purpose | 6 |
| Mission Statement | 8 |
| CLA’s Funding Partners | 9 |
| President’s Report..... | 11 |
| Community Living Association | 14 |
| CLA Reconciliation..... | 14 |
| Dual Disability Training Workshops 2017 | 15 |
| Working with Parents with Intellectual Disabilities | 16 |
| ARROS | 17 |
| Braking the Cycle..... | 17 |
| Fun and Games | 17 |
| Worm Farm | 17 |
| ARROS Connecting Constituents with GivIt! | 18 |
| ARROS Groups and Events | 18 |
| “Click” the Musical | 19 |
| SES Volunteering | 19 |
| NDIS Information for Young People..... | 20 |
| Other Accomplishments | 21 |
| Community Connections..... | 22 |
| Reconnect Program | 23 |
| School Social Work..... | 25 |
| Disability Support..... | 27 |
| Transitions Group..... | 29 |
| Special Thanks..... | 30 |
| Community Living Program..... | 31 |
| Adventure Holiday Group | 31 |
| Parent Group..... | 32 |

| | |
|--|----|
| You and Me Relationships Group | 33 |
| Swimming Group | 34 |
| Walking Group | 34 |
| People of the Airwaves | 35 |
| Micah Moonlight Ball Recap | 35 |
| Moonlight Walk Recap..... | 36 |
| Well Beans Group | 36 |
| Literacy for Everyday | 38 |
| Shared Meal..... | 38 |
| The Nundah All Stars Group..... | 39 |
| BEROS..... | 41 |
| Nundah Community Enterprises Cooperative | 43 |
| NCEC Outcomes | 43 |
| The Re-Gen Project | 45 |
| SQW Hospitality | 46 |
| CLA Student Experiences | 47 |
| Housing | 49 |
| Village Housing..... | 49 |
| Independent Youth Housing Group LTD | 50 |
| CLA Brokerage Arm | 51 |

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Community Living Association Inc. would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work. We acknowledge the Turrbal people of the north of Brisbane, the Juggera of the south and other traditional groups in the surrounding areas.

We acknowledge all of our ancestors, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and non-Indigenous, past and present, for shaping who we are and guiding us into the future. We welcome you to the community we share. We acknowledge this country as a 3 flag nation.



History of the Turrbal People

The Turrbal people are the self-identified traditional custodians of the North Brisbane area and linguistically relate to a poly-block of languages - the Yuggerra (European translated Yuggerra) and Gubbi-Gubbi dialect - which is spoken as far inland as Moggill, North to the Pine River and South to Logan (Steel, 1983, p. 121). An Indigenous people's language belongs to country and creates traditional lore, custom and the country from which it originates, i.e. flora and fauna species. The 'TURR' in Turrbal is translated as 'NO' whereas 'BAL' describes an Indigenous peoples place marker. Central to an Indigenous people's name and linguistic grouping is the root that is an indicator of one's immediate family and their familial reproduction under this name. Underlying this immediate connection is the kinship net-work that connects a people to country. This connection is directly descended from the mother's side, hence the Indigenous expression, "*skin of my country*". (Dr. Peter Whalley, Interview. March 19, 2010. Senior Lecturer QUT Oodgeroo Unit).

Nundah was originally pronounced in the language Yuggerra as both Nyanda and Nandah meaning 'chain of water holes' (Steel, 1983, p. 129). This definition stands in relation to a major Indigenous pathway that was effectively used as a coastal trade route, a site for Corroborres and a meeting spot for various Indigenous groups who travelled North and South along the Coast, as well as for those Indigenous peoples travelling inland (Steel, 1983, pp.123-131).

Post-colonial Nundah was initially named Zion Hill in relation to the presence of the German Moravian Missionaries (who later relocated to the Bunya Mountains) to which local

Indigenous Tribes referred to as 'Umpie Daggur' (houses of white men); Zion Hill was later renamed The German Station but was officially re-named Nundah during the 1890's reflecting both local Indigenous historical interest and the connection to Turrbal country.

Pre-colonisation (Steel, 1983, pp. 123-126) there were a large number of Bora Rings or Bools located within the Nundah area; this indicated that a dense Indigenous population were present on country. Bora Rings are traditional initiation sites where young Indigenous men are welcomed into manhood through customary ceremonious rituals such as circumcision, scarification, the learning of sacred song, stories, dance and traditional law. Indigenous people are not homogenous groups but consist of separate nations all-encompassing differing languages, traditions, lore and symbology. Therefore Bora Ring ceremonies are conducted in a variety of ways reflecting a particular Indigenous group (Family Representative Committee, 2006, pp. 4-6). Indigenous groups were distinguished from one another by the directions of the incisions (scarification) that were made upon the breasts and arms during initiation ceremonies i.e. the Turrbal people were differentiated by a fleshy protuberance made upon the wrist by continually casting fishing nets (Dr. Peter Whalley, Interview. April, 17, 2010. Senior Lecturer QUT Oodgeroo Unit) and also displayed chest scars which were arranged in vertical patterns with scarring added to the shoulders of males at the time of a Bora Ring ceremony (Steel, 1982, p. 126). The Turrbal people were known to have participated in Bora Ring ceremonies at Nudgee, Keperra, and Samford neighbouring the Garumngar people. The Bora Ring at Keperra lent itself to the suburbs name as 'Kipper' means young man in Turrbal.

Bora Rings still presently exist in Brisbane and can be located at Toorbul Point, Samford, Samsonvale and Mount Esk Pocket (Petrie, 1902, p. 55).

The Turrbal people displayed a continuous connection to country in the Nundah area. The Duke of Yorks camp, that self-identified themselves as Turrbal people, was located in Yorks Hollow which at the time was a gully that passed through Victoria Park and the Royal National Association Showgrounds (RNA). This Indigenous campsite was traditionally known as Barrambin. Another two known Turrbal campsites were located at Toowong and was called 'Baneraba' and Newmarket known as 'Buyuba' meaning 'shin and "[referred] to the straight reach of Enoggera Creek in the vicinity of Bancroft Park" (Steel, 1982, pp. 124 – 125). The Turrbal people of Barrambin, Baneraba and Buyuba were Riverine people and consisted of between fifty to sixty men who utilized a wide array of local resources that were located upon country. Indigenous groups that subsisted along coastal inlets were recorded as having high population densities due to the availability of marine resources producing a picture of "a stable and well developed coastal settlement patterns" pre-colonisation (Whalley, 1987, pp. 19-24)

** CLA has compiled this history as part of its commitment to Reconciliation processes in Australia. We recognise that much of the material is sources from European records and may contain inaccuracies.*

**CLA continues its support of Reconciliation by supporting annual Sorry Day activities with Noonga Reconciliation Group.*

CLA's History

Community Living Program (CLP) was established in 1987 as part of the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (CRS). The program, which was attached to the Taringa Rehabilitation Centre, was to support young people with an intellectual/learning disability towards independence. In 1987 the program was moved to the Spring Hill regional unit, its first community-based setting.

People with an interest in the program (Friends of CLP) became concerned when the CRS decided to cut back CLP's resources, and decided to seek funding under the new Disability Services Act (1986). Funds were granted in 1989 for a research and development project. The Friends of CLP incorporated as the Community Living Program Inc. on the 23rd of June 1989. On the 20th January 1995, CLP changed its name to Community Living Association Inc. (CLA) when it began to sponsor a range of other projects.

CLA now manages:

- Community Living Program
- ARROS
- Community Connections
- Community Projects Team (Co-ordinating NCEC, The Shed, Volunteers and other Projects)
- Village Housing
- Research work
- Beros
- CLA Brokerage Arm

Our Purpose

Community Living Association (Inc.) aims to:

- To contribute to the relief of poverty, sickness and other misfortune and to the promotion of the well-being of individuals, groups or communities who are disadvantaged and vulnerable either socially, physically, intellectually or emotionally (hereinafter called social welfare); in particular those people who experience a learning (intellectual) disability.
- To undertake, or carry out any other benevolent work or purpose.

- To promote, establish carry out and support and to assist in promoting, establishing, carrying out and supporting any social welfare program designed to contribute to the alleviation of poverty, sickness or other misfortune including those undertaken by Statutory Authorities, voluntary Welfare Organisations and other community groups.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to determine and achieve what is important to them.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to stand up for themselves, individually and collectively in the community and to have their say in representing their interests, issues and needs to all sectors of the community and government.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to improve the social and economic conditions of their lives, for example: income, housing, health, transport, sporting, recreational, artistic etc.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to develop a safe and secure life in the community.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to develop their family, friend, partner and community relationships and connections.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' achieve a state of good psychological and physical well-being.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' achieve a sense of personal potency and of personal meaning.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' achieve a sense of meaningful use of time for example; employment, community service etc.
- To collaborate with other organisation's in the achievement of C.L.A.'s objectives.
- To document and record C.L.A.'s work and endeavours.
- To identify and initiate creative responses to the needs and issues of people with 'learning difficulty'.
- To assist community members build better communities through the inclusion of people with learning difficulties.
- To assist families in their commitment to family members with a learning difficulty.
- To support young people and their families where those young people are at risk of homelessness, or early school leaving or other social disadvantage that could lead to poverty, sickness or other misfortune.

Mission Statement

CLA Inc. will seek to carry out its' objectives in ways that are:

- Respectful, kind and encourage one's own control;
- Flexible, innovative and responsive, leading and giving hope;
- Diverse, fun and address the whole self;
- Written down and shared with others;
- Well-resourced and heading toward self-sufficiency;
- Co-operative and collaborative and value all opinions;
- Seek feedback and question deficiencies; and
- Challenge society and change it, acting politically.
- Stable, keeping core values and vitality

CLA's Funding Partners

| Grants | Funded By |
|---|--|
| Community Living Program | Dept of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Service (QLD) |
| ARROS | Dept of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Service (QLD) |
| ARROS: Transitions Funding | Dept of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Service (QLD) |
| Brisbane Emergency Response Outreach Service | Dept of Community, Child Safety and Disability Service (QLD) |
| Community Connections | Dept of Social Service (Federal) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconnect | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Welfare Workers | Dept of Education and Training (QLD) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee for Service | Kelvin Grove High School Kedron State High School |
| Village Housing | Dept of Housing (QLD) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Housing (LTCHP) | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Unit (CAP Headlease) | Dept of Housing (QLD) |
| CLA and NCEC collaboration | Dept of Education/ Employment/ Workplace /QLD |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilling Queenslanders for Work | |

ORGANISATIONAL CHART

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF CLA (INC.)

Elected annually from Membership. Meet monthly.

Nine people

Committee CLA Inc.

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Five other Board Members

→ Memorandum of Understanding with:

- Nundah Community Enterprises Co-operative Ltd
- Independent Youth Housing Group Ltd and
- Women with Intellectual and Learning Disability – Sexual Violence Prevention Inc.
- Micah Inc.



CLA Brokerage Arm

Co-ordinator CLA

[Research Work

[Village Housing Worker

[Financial Administrator

Admin Staff

Brisbane Emergency Response and Outreach Services

- Team Leader
- Outreach worker
- In house worker

Community Connections

- Reconnect
- Team Leader
- Youth & Family Workers
- CLA Associates
- Volunteers
- School Social Work

ARROS

- Team Leader
- Outreach Social Workers
- Accredited Mental Health Social Worker
- CLA Associates
- Volunteers
- Mentors

Community

Projects Unit

- Team Leader
- Co-ordinating
 - NCEC
 - Other Community Projects

Community Living

Program

- Team Leader
- Community Living Social Workers
- CLA Associates
- Volunteers

President's Report

It is with pleasure I present CLA 2016-2017 President's Report. I begin the report by acknowledging the traditional owners of this land and celebrating CLA's joint work with Noonga Reconciliation Group.

I also acknowledge Sarah MacDonald who was President for the first half of year until she stood down earlier this year. We thank Sarah for her contribution over a number of years. I would also like to acknowledge Danny Thomas who has been a member of the Management Committee and acted as Vice-President for a number of years. This year Danny decided not to re-nominate and have a well-deserved rest. We thank him for his commitment and contribution over many years and know he will continue to contribute his knowledge and skills in new ways.

Every year at CLA there are a host of things that are happening. A few highlights: Nundah All Stars wrote and performed their 6th Musical 'Click'. Congratulations to all of Nundah All Stars and to the Mary McKillop students who participated and the school that provided their hall. The Nundah Musical group musicals are written and developed by constituents of CLA.

Our key partner Nundah Community Enterprises Co-op continues to develop and this year they began a coffee cart at Nundah library, a new food truck and a new Parks Crew.

Several constituents of CLA – Paul O'Dea, Danny Thomas, Michael Cherry, Katie, and Tim Roskam – became peer leaders with the QDN-CLA 'On the Grid' project. Congratulations to Paul, Danny, Michael, Katie, Tim.

Another key partner IYHG, the housing co-op has just purchased another unit. Congratulations IYHG!

CLA has also run several Skilling Queenslanders for Work training sessions this year. They have been very successful with 67% of participants gaining employment, a number in the new Parks Crew. A partner in the Skilling QLDers projects has been the Hendra Pony Club where the projects are based.

While talking about NCEC I would like to acknowledge Iain Scott who is finishing up as the Parks Supervisor this year. Well done Iain, you have made a great contribution.

Brisbane Emergency Outreach Service which was funded as a one year trial by Department of Child Safety had its funding renewed for another two years. BEROS is a joint project with

Micah Projects and we congratulate Chloe Warrell and all the CLA and Micah staff involved in BEROS.

Reconnect and ARROS Transitions were also refunded for twelve months till June 2018 and we acknowledge the work done by Jess Burke and the ARROS team and Tania Lawrie and the Community Connections team.

CLA continues its long relationship with WWILD-SVP – we have continued to trial the Wellbeing Group together.

During the year CLA has offered training to others in the area of Dual Disability, and Parents with an Intellectual Disability, and we have supported a group of constituents to present on ‘What makes a Good Worker’. In all our training or public speaking CLA supports and encourages constituents to be peer educators.

Paul O’Dea has continued to represent CLA as our organisational representative to ASID – Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability and is on their National Board.

Community Living Programme continues to be a hive of activity. Shared Meal grows, Literacy group continues, and Adventure Holiday had two more camping trips this year. This year we also collaborated with Kyabra around a new housing project at Bracken Ridge. This collaboration has led to three young men being accommodated in some fantastic new housing.

We are pleased to provide our premises for the meetings of the Noonga Reconciliation Group and Cate Ryan and Eden McNamara continue to play a significant role in supporting Noonga Sorry Day event at Kalinga Park.

A number of constituents and staff were also involved in the Moonlight March and we are pleased to support constituents’ engagements in these activities.

As we come to the end of this calendar year towards Christmas, I wish to say a big thank you to all the CLA constituents, family members, partners, volunteers, staff and fellow committee members who have contributed to this year.

The end of the calendar year also marks half-way in the financial year. The next financial year 2017-2018 is when many constituents of CLA will move into the NDIS.

CLA’s challenges in 2017-18 are:

1. To work really hard to support people to get the best out of the NDIS to support their choice and control and their economic and social participation.

2. To provide the best support we can to people who continue to be constituents of CLA to achieve what they want for a good life.

3. To remain a sustainable organisation into the future.

I thank you.

Leona Berrie
President, CLA Inc

Community Living Association

CLA Reconciliation

CLA continues with a commitment toward reconciliation and acknowledges the need for a culturally safe and competent workplace for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities. CLA is an active member of Noonga Reconciliation Group Inc. and partners and collaborates around organising an annual National Sorry Day Event at Kalinga Park. The Ceremony acknowledges the experiences of the Stolen Generation and this year marked the 20th Anniversary of the handing down of the Bringing Them Home Report.

The ceremony is a time to reflect on past harms caused by government policies of forcible removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. The ceremony also offers opportunity for First Nations young people to celebrate and share resilience and culture through dance, music, story-telling and poetry. Thanks and acknowledgement to the contributions from performers, speakers, school communities and the general public in addition to the volunteers and social work students who continue to make this event possible.



Dual Disability Training Workshops 2017

During 2017 we have held 10 workshops through south east Qld and in north Qld:

- Mon 20th Feb – Brisbane
- Mon 3rd April – Logan
- Mon 8th May – Sunshine Coast
- Mon 24th July – Caboolture
- Mon 28th aug - Brisbane
- Mon 18th September – Ipswich
- Mon 16th oct – Caboolture
- Thurs 26th oct – Townsville
- Fri 27th Oct - Cairns
- Mon 20th Nov – Ipswich

The aim of the workshop is to improve people's understanding of the lived experience of intellectual disabilities and mental health disorders/ issues, and appropriate support of these people experiencing dual disability. It utilizes the bio-psycho-social and community-based mental health model to support people experiencing dual disability.

Topics covered include:

- Developing knowledge of the lived experience of Intellectual Impairment/Disability
- Good communication when supporting people with intellectual disabilities
- The experience of mental illness for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- Appropriate community mental health response and support of people with dual disability in terms of prevention, early intervention, crisis response and recovery approaches.
- Group work with people with intellectual disability.

The workshops have been very popular with most of them sold out. We were also asked to go to north Qld to present the workshops by 2 community organisations, who agreed to host them.

I would like to thank our self-advocate presenters who have shared their wisdom and lived experience with the attendees, and were often the most highly praised aspects of the workshops: Michael Cherry, Caroline Wicks, and Jill Goodman. The plan is for the workshops to continue in 2018.

Working with Parents with Intellectual Disabilities

During the last year we have been facilitating training workshops for workers and students within the CLA community and professionals from other agencies including disability service agencies, child safety services and other family support agencies. The aim of this full day workshop is to enhance knowledge, explore the complexities and develop skills for working alongside parents with an intellectual disability and their children.

The workshop brings together evidenced-based best practice and theory with many practical and creative activities. It has also been a great opportunity for reflective discussion and the sharing of worker experiences and feedback from participants has been extremely positive.

Feedback from evaluation:

“I found this training really helpful to my current work situations”

“I now have new perspectives on the broader issues, constraints and strengths within families”

“I will use new approaches especially around communication and rapport building”

“The presenters were well organised, had a good balance of research and activities and were very well-informed and passionate”

“I will use the approach of identifying informal support circles”.

Our plan is to continue to hold workshops in Brisbane and also to extend to other areas including the Gold Coast and northern NSW.



ARROS



Braking the Cycle

Throughout the past year, 4 ARROS constituents have participated in the “Braking the Cycle” program through PCYC. The program aims to provide young people with increased employment opportunities, community connection and driver education. This is achieved via a volunteer driver mentor program designed to support learner drivers without access to a supervisor or registered vehicle to complete their logbook hours. The program has helped constituents obtain their learner’s licences and drivers licences!

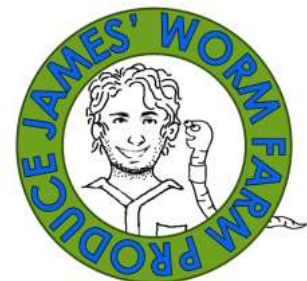
Fun and Games

This past year has brought many fun activities for ARROS constituents. Many have participated in CLA group activities such as:

- Swimming group
- Walking group
- Wolf Pack – going to the gym
- The Nundah All Stars – for those talented musical individuals!
- Horse riding at Mt Tamborine
- Attending the Micah Ball

Worm Farm

James continues to run his successful worm farm business of over 6 years. Earlier in the year, Kathy from Morayfield Nursery asked to sell James’ worm juice, and it has been selling quickly! James’ worm juice is also for sale at the Espresso Train Café, Nundah. James continues to research and think about new ways to improve his popular product.



ARROS Connecting Constituents with GivIt!

Many ARROS constituents were supported to access GivIt donations of much needed items this year. GivIt allows community service providers to request essential items for their clients, whilst respecting their privacy and safety.

This year numerous ARROS constituents were kindly provided with:

- A new fridge
- A bed frame
- A bed mattress
- A laptop
- Funky couches for the ARROS counselling room
- Cooking utensils, including an electric beater
- Baby gates
- Double stroller
- Disposable nappies

Thank you to the community for their ongoing generosity!

ARROS Groups and Events

In 2017, ARROS began looking at a new way to support its constituents and make them feel celebrated and acknowledged. We started running small events for constituents. From helping a constituent bring together family and friends for their birthday to getting a group to go to the Micah Ball, these events promote social connection, social skills and let the young person know they are valued.

One of our events is focused on getting our young women together to meet up to go on an outing or get together to talk about their experience in transitioning to independence.

“Click” the Musical

ARROS constituents joined the Nundah All Stars this year to perform in the hit, “Click the Musical”. Constituents spent many hours attending rehearsals, which all culminated in a fantastic night of singing, dancing and celebration! A fun time was had by the performers and those who had the pleasure of watching. Constituents had family and friends come to cheer them on.



SES Volunteering

An ARROS constituent is celebrating one year of volunteering with the SES (Queensland State Emergency Services)! By joining the SES, he has made a life changing commitment to actively contribute during disasters and emergencies locally and statewide. He regularly attends various training activities for the SES. Well done!

NDIS Information for Young People

As National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is going to roll over in Queensland soon, ARROS would like for all of our young people to stay tuned. In the beginning of this year, ARROS held a NDIS Information Session in a small group of four. In the session, we shared the information about what NDIS means and how people can participate in this. Dalton, Katy, Maddie and Kaj, with the support of ARROS workers, did some fun activities together and drew out their goals and aspirations. This information session is helpful for the young people to get ready for NDIS and connect with each other as well.



Other Accomplishments

ARROS constituents have achieved many great things this year.

This includes a constituent who joined us in January! She has had her 18th birthday, transitioned into independent living (with a perfect first inspection), committed to almost 50 hours of driving through the “Braking the Cycle” program and is working on her diploma in hospitality.

We also celebrate Katy, who now has a new car and has obtained her license!

Another ARROS constituent has had his 18th birthday, and continues to work hard in his TAFE studies.

Another ARROS constituent completed the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. The program supports young people to enter the workforce through a paid traineeship. He received training on a community project at the Hendra Pony Club that helped maintain and improve the environment for riders! It was a huge accomplishment, with him now graduated from the program and in the workforce.

Well done and congratulations on all of your accomplishments.

Community Connections

Community Connections (fondly known as Coco's) is one of CLA's Youth Teams. We operate programs that fall under 3 broad areas.

1. Reconnect
2. School Based Social Work
3. Disability Support

Community Connections works alongside young people and families where there are issues that could lead to early home leaving and/or early disengaging from school. Using an early intervention and community development framework, our work also encompasses group and project work and creating links with the school and wider community.

We are continuing to work with young people aged 12 – 25 years who receive funding from Disability Services, and this aspect of Community Connections continues to grow with ongoing referrals from DS for individual support and a range of group activities to respond to identified needs.

The Reconnect service goes from strength to strength, and along with the school based Social Workers at Kelvin Grove State College, Kedron State High School, West End, Virginia and Gumdale State Schools, help maintain our relationships with schools.

We have continued to invest energy in strengthening our existing, and building new partnerships to support our work with vulnerable and at risk young people. We would like to acknowledge and thank all of our stakeholders for their support over the past 12 months.

- We continue to work alongside Picabeen Neighbourhood Centre, Jabiru Youth and Community Services, Youth Outreach Service and ZYPSS (Zillmere Young People's Support Service) as BNYA (Brisbane North Youth Alliance) to seek opportunities to expand support options to young people in Brisbane North.
- Several groups at local High Schools (some co-facilitated with school staff and other community agencies) including Peer Skills, BRITA Futures, Independent Students groups, and the Transitions Group.
- Facilitating the Northside Intercultural Youth Working Group to link youth work supports for EALD young people across north Brisbane.
- Provided support and participated in the National Sorry Day event hosted by Noonga Reconciliation Group Inc.

Reconnect Program

Reconnect is a federally funded program supporting young people aged 12 to 18 to be connected to their goals, relationships and communities of choice. We have had another year of work, work, work, work, work (in the words of Rihanna) and been committed to finding ways forward in the face of tricky problems.

We always try to make space for the CLA principle of celebration and take this opportunity to acknowledge some of the growth and achievements from young people that have accessed support over the past 12 months:

- Finding ways to pay off debt, manage bills and strengthen budgeting skills
- Graduate from school
- Improve their cooking skills and food knowledge
- Grow in confidence to manage the responsibilities of life, including phone calls, appointments, online reporting and all sorts of everyday tasks
- Starting university, TAFE and other courses
- Working towards their mental health recovery and taking steps to maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Pass their learners licence test, start driving lessons and for a couple, passing their practical test – woo hoo!
- Settling into their own accommodation, as well as navigating share house relationships
- Provide feedback to the National Reconnect program evaluation
- Start working and holding down their jobs
- And finding ways to have better relationships with the people they love and that love them.

In the June/July school holidays 2016, we embarked on the delivery of our first community based Peer Skills workshop with young people keen to develop their communication, problem solving and help seeking skills. It was a BLAST! Thanks to Counsellor Allan of the Northgate Ward for the contribution to this project.

This year's Participatory Action Research continued our question to find out "what would it take for young people to successfully complete and submit private rental applications" – now with the focus of working out how to make electronic and web-based resources. We thank local Graphic Designer, David Ryan from Molly Dookers for his creative contributions and Phil Crane for his insight on the art of Action Research. Our discovery is the need for additional funding to design an interactive resource that can be access state-wide. Let's see what we can do by next year!

In collaboration with our colleagues across the inner north Brisbane region, we also delivered projects for Community Park Day 2016; Sexual Violence Awareness Month 2016 –

The Clothesline Project; National Youth Week – Art Competition 2017; Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Month – Banner Making Project 2017.

The Reconnect Team also continues to work closely with our local schools to support young people to remain connected to their families and places of learning. Some of the group and project work we've undertaken includes:

- The 2016 year 7 and year 8s groups at Kedron SHS to strengthen their relationships and communication skills as they transition to high school
- Running the Peer Skills workshops with the 2016 Year 9s at Kedron SHS
- The 2017 Year 9 students from Kedron SHS's EAL/D unit, practicing stress relief and resilience building techniques
- Mental Health Week and Harmony Day Celebrations at Kedron SHS
- The Independent Student's Group at Craigslea SHS to create a place at school for young people living independently, or who manage extra responsibilities at home, to connect, gain access to safe & reliable information and share skills and knowledge about what it takes to be independent

Lastly, we take this opportunity to farewell Senior Social Worker, Glenn Rollbusch from his post at Centrelink, which he'd held for 30 years. Glenn has been an ally to the young people and families of Brisbane North for many years and his commitment to collaborative practice with community organisations is noteworthy. Glenn's knowledge, efforts and caring social work approach will be missed.



Kelvin Grove State College

Community Connections relationship with Kelvin Grove State College (KGSC) continued this year, with the social work role that supports young people at risk of early home and/or school leaving increasing from two to three days in 2017.

Throughout the year, approximately 60 young people engaged in support, which varied from one off support to more ongoing work with young people and their families, both within the school and through outreach into homes and the community. Young people have accessed support to address issues around family conflict/stress, mental health, experiences of school refusal, being an Independent student, sexuality, grief and loss, homelessness and financial disadvantage.

In 2017 KGSC created the SHED (Support, Health, Empowerment and Development) space, which is a hub where young people can access assistance from the Chaplain, School Nurse, Social Worker and Defence Transition Officer. This has enabled young people to easily access support and for the social work role to work more collaboratively within the school community. With this change, there has been an increase in referrals from KGSC staff as well as young people self-referring. A key benefit to working within the SHED has been the increased capacity to engage creatively and collaboratively with young people experiencing school refusal, through providing a safe space to enable their return to the school environment. This work continues to evolve with collaboration between young people and families, KGSC staff, the Chaplain, School Nurse and Child and Youth Mental Health.

I would like to thank all the young people and families who have allowed me to walk alongside them in their journeys throughout the past year, the staff at KGSC for being so welcoming, supportive and respectful of my role in the school community, and to my colleagues at CLA for all the incredible support throughout the year. Without this, the support this role offers young people would not be possible.

Kedron State High School

In 2017, Community Connections, Kedron SHS and Australian Catholic University have combined resources to provide a 2 day a week Social Worker in the school community as well as 2 social work students. The Social Worker provides individual, group and family support as well as supervises the social work students on their placement. This role supports young people and their families across a broad range of needs, including homelessness, family conflict / disruption, anxiety / depression, learning needs, peer relationships, financial disadvantage, and school refusal. The support can be brief or ongoing and includes outreach to family homes where appropriate. The presence of social work students in the school has increased capacity to provide support past the 2 day a week position and has played an important role in facilitating access to community resources and events in the school community, notably the highly successful Mental Health week festival.

We would like to thank students and staff of Kedron SHS and the social work students and staff of ACU for their support and we look forward to an ongoing relationship into 2018.

School Welfare Worker

Community Connections provides social workers to 3 primary schools across Brisbane under the Department of Education and Training School Welfare Worker funding. Gumdale, Virginia and West End State schools each access 2 days support a week for students experiencing a range of issues, including family disruption, grief and loss, peer relationships, learning and social support needs, anxiety and emotional dysregulation. This has been an ongoing relationship for several years and we are looking forward to continuing the relationship into 2018. Many thanks to the students, their families and the staff of these schools for their ongoing support.

Disability Support

Community Connections provides disability support to young people aged 12 – 25 years who have intellectual and /or cognitive disabilities. The majority of young people supported have individualised funding through the Department of Disability Services. The focus of this support is to increase independence, find and maintain employment, build peer relationships, and to live a good life. Alongside individual and family support we provide a number of group activities to support young people's transition from school and to increase resiliency and social connection.

Individual Support

This year we have seen a significant increase in funded hours for many of the young people at Coco's. We have supported a number of people to transition from school, identify and work towards goals, access and link with communities, organise and attend appointments, find or maintain meaningful roles, and move out of home and into independent living.

This year, our work has revolved around three key areas of support which will continue into the future.

Firstly, supporting young people to develop independent living skills such as:

- Cooking
- Cleaning
- Money management and budgeting
- Public transport
- Planning and organisation
- Shopping

Secondly, supporting young people to create and maintain healthy and supportive relationships. This includes relationships with:

- Family
- Friends
- Partners
- Workers
- Colleagues
- Other service providers
- Government departments

Lastly, a significant aspect of the work involves health and well-being. This includes:

- Identifying and understanding emotions
- Healthy expression of emotions
- Education about healthy lifestyles and alternatives

- Emotional support

“Cocos is good” – young person

Men's Group

This year, Coco's started the Young Men's Resilience and Capacity Building project. Each week, Men's group does fun activities around the community which is decided by the participants. Their favourite activity is fishing, and we have done activities such as bowling, golf, driving range, beach days and BBQ days. The focus of the group is to facilitate healthy peer relationships, develop skills such as planning, problem solving, and negotiating, and facilitate exposure to a range of activities that support relaxation and fun. The group participants plan where they want to go, budget for the cost of the activity, plan and shop for lunch ingredients, cook and pack up from lunch.

Some of the participants said...

“The BBQ's are alright... I mean they're nothing to write home about but they're okay.”

“I like fishing”

Transitions Group

Community Connections facilitates a group program in Everton Park State High School to support year 11 and 12 students in planning and preparing for the transition from high school. Many young people find the period when they finish school to be quite difficult. This is often due to change in routine, social isolation, unable to find or maintain employment and less supports offered. This is especially difficult for young people with a disability.

The group meets fortnightly in a local community venue to discuss and undertake activities related to maintaining peer relationships post school, identifying skills and talents that can be developed into employment or self-care activities, and processing feelings about the upcoming transition.

The relationship with the school and the group participants has meant we have been able to support access to My Future, My Life funding to access resources to build skills around employment / self-employment options, as well as supporting young people and their families to apply for Support for School Leavers funding from Disability Services.

Transitions Group

Community Connections and Community Living Program continued the Everton Park High School Transitions project throughout the year with year 11 and 12 students. This group was started as young people with a disability often experience poor post school outcomes such as social isolation and mental health issues, due to the lack of support established for them after school ends. This year, the group was held at the Community Place at Stafford. This allowed the group to utilise the kitchen to learn food preparation and healthy eating. Whilst historically the group focused on agency visits, we found more positive outcomes when focusing on psychosocial education and skill building such as communication and relationship building skills. This group has been led by the young students and all the topics have been of areas of interest to them. Some of the topics covered were social media and cyber safety, life after school, relationships and emotional learning, self-care, seeking support when experiencing difficulties, fitness and physical activities.

Throughout the year, some feedback from the young people has been that they find that: "It's friendly and we feel like we can say what we want without being judged and they listen to us", "I enjoy being here" and "it's an escape from school". When asked what we do in the group, comments were "playing fun games with cards" "talking together about different topics" "talking about my interests" and "we enjoy the food". They also had the following conversation when discussing what we had learnt throughout the year which included: "Dealing with emotions" "Where to get help for example, Headspace and Kids helpline" "we learnt about relationships" and "And how relationships can be positive and negative"

Teachers involved in the Transition from School Project has said the following: "There is clear evidence that students who have been on the program have developed skills that will help them as they leave school and enter the community.

These skills include healthy relationships, communication, keeping safe, internet safety how to access help for health issues through agencies such as headspace and other community organizations.

While students are at school they have access to and direction from teachers, when they leave this support diminishes. Students with a disability are vulnerable and it is vital they be given every opportunity to gain life skills required to safely transition into the community post school.

The program that CLA offers for students provides these skills allowing them to confidently make the transition knowing that support can continue."

Special Thanks

Community Connections would like to say special thanks to:

The current Community Connections Team –Cate, Renee, Eden, Laura, Courtney, Kat, Taki, Jo, Sarah, Jane, Ben, Tess, Anna, Katelyn, Bri

Hannah, Nikki, Katelyn, Tallulah, Caitlin and Reece for their contributions while on student placement.

CLA Inc, in particular Morrie O'Connor, the Management Committee, Carmel, Sylvia and Mandy, and the workers at CLP, ARROS and BEROS.

Susan Allen, external facilitator for our Strategic Planning days.

Brisbane City Council

The Department of Social Services

The Department of Communities, Disabilities, and Child Safety

The Department of Education and Training

The Mantana Foundation

The School and Learning communities with which we engage.

Elders and community members from the various Indigenous communities in the Brisbane North area.

Elders and community representatives from the various communities that have supported the ongoing work with young people and families from diverse cultural backgrounds.

To all the young people and families who have shared their stories with us.

Community Living Program

Adventure Holiday Group

Bestbrook Farmstay

2017 saw the return of our intrepid adventurers to the alluring rural escape of Bestbrook Farmstay. A trip, said by some, to be even better than the last, the Adventure Holiday Group of more than 30 strong, trekked beyond the Great Dividing Range for another agricultural adventure our constituents are not soon to forget. Standard camping fare made the trip a success with a delicious pancake breakfast and marshmallows by the fire, and not to forget the classic damper making experience provided by genuine drovers over a blazing, bellows – blown fire. For some, this weekend saw their first crack of a whip, or the honing of their boomerang skills, for others, the weekend was the opportunity for a good bush walk and an evening in front of a classic movie (Sound of Music of course). Constituents took the opportunity to live amongst the animals for a few days, whether that be taking part in the petting zoo or make friends with the many canine hosts that peppered the park. The holiday ended with a well-earned picnic lunch beside Lake Moogerah and a walk along the dam wall.

Mt Tamborine Rainforest Skywalk

On the 29th July the Adventure Holiday Group visited the Rainforest Skywalk at Mt Tamborine.

We enjoyed a leisurely walk amongst the tree tops, at times 40 metres above the forest floor! This gave us the opportunity to observe lots of different things not often seen from the ground. Following this we took a short drive down to Cedar Creek Falls where we had a picnic lunch alongside a curious goanna. We then walked down to a lookout which had some spectacular views of the waterfall. The outing was thoroughly enjoyed by all, so much so that we made the journey up Mt Tamborine again for our camp at Thunderbird Park.

Thunderbird Park Camp

In early October the Adventure Holiday Group enjoyed a two-night camp at Thunderbird Park on Mt Tamborine. The group was split between bunkhouses and tents, and despite a brief storm shortly after arrival the campers were determined to set up their tents for the full experience. Those with more camping experience offered a helping hand to those with less, cooperating to get the camp set up and the gear unloaded. The park's camp kitchen and recreation room allowed the group to stay warm and dry, and allowed AHG members to socialise with other campers and bunkhouse guests.

The group enjoyed a game of minigolf on the park's 9-hole course on Saturday morning before splitting up to enjoy just a few of the many activities offered at the park. A few group members enjoyed an intense game of laser skirmish, while others chose to cool their feet in the creek or rest in the bunkrooms. One particularly adventurous camper took on Thunderbird Park's Tree Top Challenge! On Saturday night the group enjoyed marshmallows around the campfire, chatting and joking as the group slowly dwindled and people went off to bed.

After a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning the group once again cooperated to take tents down and get the gear packed back up. Before long all of the tents were packed up and the gear was loaded back onto the trailer and ute. Once everything was packed the group moved on to the Tamborine Mountain Country Markets. A few members of the group meandered around the stalls while others got a bite to eat. When everyone was well-fed and shopped out, it was time to pile back into the cars for the drive back to Brisbane.

Parent Group

The parent group has continued to meet up on a regular basis at the Kedron Wavell Club this year.

Participants describe the group as being a very positive source of support and friendship. They explain how it is good to have a space whereby individuals feel very comfortable with each other – and know that others will understand you, relate to you and empathise with you. Participants have also explained how they appreciate sharing common experiences of parenting with this group, which is often not replicated in other areas of their lives.

The next parent meet up will be our Christmas lunch in December. From next year, the parent group will continue to self-manage the group meet-ups. As a worker, I would just like to say how much I have valued attending the morning teas and feel very privileged to have got to know such caring families. It has been wonderful sharing insights as well as laughs along the way, and I'd like to thank all the participants for being so positive, open and engaged with the group.

You and Me Relationships Group

The You and Me Relationships group has been developed to support individuals with an intellectual/learning disability to develop healthy relationships, increase capacity to recognise risks in relationships, and to empower participants through group involvement and interactions.

Currently the You and Me program is being held for women at WWILD and will continue until November. For the last year Robyn Evans (WWILD) has been developing and has completed a comprehensive training program for potential You and Me facilitators which incorporates an intensive 3 day training program as well as facilitator manual and resources package.

A reference group was created, comprised of WWILD manager Leona Berrie, group facilitators from WWILD Jane Barrett and Jill Olver and Katie Hudson from Community Living Association as well as Kerri Mansfield, a previous You and Me participant. This group came together on a regular basis to review the new resources and training materials which were being developed. Facilitator training workshops were then conducted this year at Homelife Association, Caboolture and Mercy Community Services, Woolloowin, and were very positively received. These organisations then trialled the program with the newly developed manual and resources- one men's group and one women's group was run. During the program, these organisations also received ongoing support from WWILD facilitators and on completion, they provided evaluation back to WWILD. Minor changes to the program were incorporated based on feedback. The facilitator training has since been provided to workers at WWILD and currently to workers at CLA.

Feedback from participants has been extremely positive and indicates that participants very much enjoy being part of the group and that that this active learning experience and involvement is contributing to program aims.



Swimming Group

Swimming group has been tremendously successful this past year, with numbers reaching 10+ in the warmer months. We have had lots of new and enthusiastic faces join us from across CLA which has just been incredible. The group took a break between June and October and we have just resumed swimming but people are keen to get back in the pool and swim until their hearts content. It is a pleasure running this group with such amazing constituents and I look forward to the group getting bigger and better than ever as we head into Summer.

Walking Group

This year again saw the CLA constituents eager to explore further parts of Greater Brisbane alongside the idea of improving their health walking in the lap of nature. The group visited a number of diverse places like the bushes of Boondall Wetlands, a walk around at the Kalinga Park, the pleasant sea view at the Shorncliffe Pier, the Senses Trail and Downfall Creek at the Raven Street Park Reserve, Riverwalk at the Southbank Parklands as well as the beautiful Nudgee beach. The members of the group were enthusiastic in exploring the natural wonders of Brisbane and have reported improvement in health and are glad to share the social connections with other members of the group.



People of the Airwaves

People of the Airwaves is a small group comprising 5 individuals who are constituents of CLP and 2 individuals from WWILD. The group meets every month and takes the opportunity to record a 1 hour radio program which is then edited and put together by Kim Stewart. Kim then arranges for the completed program to be aired on 4ZZZ, a community digital radio show on the first Tuesday of every month.

Mick explains the group allows people to hear what those with a disability go through in life. It has become a platform for self-advocacy and allows members the opportunity to speak up for themselves on various topics. It provides an opportunity via the radio for the group to explain to others the challenges and difficulties faced by individuals with a learning difficulty.

The group introduces different topics and interviews guest speakers with knowledge on the particular topic. Many of the topics address some of the issues that face both members of the group, the community, and listeners of the program. Some of the topics that have been addressed include domestic violence, issues of housing, working with a Co-op and what is involved in a radio program. This year People of the Airwaves spoke with members of the police force and experts on dementia, with one of the highlights for group members being an interview with a young musician by the name of MC Wheels.

Micah Moonlight Ball Recap

2017 saw CLA constituents once again join the festivities of the annual Micah Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance held in the Plaza Ballroom of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. All of the attending constituents (and workers!) relished the opportunity to get dressed to the nines and enjoy a long night of food, friendship, music, and dancing.

Festivities began at the CLA offices, where constituents had the opportunity to have their hair and make-up done by staff and students while enjoying pre-ball food and drinks. The excitement built as the hour drew near and many individual and group photos were taken. Finally the time came to pile into the cars and make our way to the Convention Centre for the main event!

The vast Plaza Ballroom at the very top of the Convention Centre offered spectacular views of the city lights, but more spectacular by far was the scene inside: scores of beautifully decorated tables arranged around a central stage and dancefloor which would soon host dancing of a calibre rarely seen! The group made the most of the opportunity for more individual and group photos with the professional photographer, and after a brief introduction and Welcome to Country, the celebrations began and the band was soon in full swing.

Once the dancing began, there was no stopping it! Even as the meals were brought out and people filtered back to their tables they were dancing in their seats. The band knew exactly what to play to keep the party going, to the point that it seemed like some people would not have a chance to finish their meals! Dinner was followed by more dancing, singing, and partying until desserts were brought out (and even then, some attendees chose to wait a little longer before they stopped dancing just long enough to eat). The dancing continued late into the night, and though the group slowly dwindled the party raged on!

Highlights of the night included a speech by Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, and of course the food and music! Once everyone was danced out the group trickled back to the cars to head home, and although the night was over it will not soon be forgotten!

Constituent Feedback:

“I enjoyed everything. I liked the dancing and the food.” – Brett Jones

“Great dance. A great speech. A fun night. Great food.” – Taurean Lea

“I had a great time. It was a good night. I enjoyed mixing with everybody. I didn’t get a chance to dance, but I still had a great time. I enjoyed mixing with all my friends from CLP. It was really good to see Ms Palaszczuk! I didn’t expect to see the Premier at our dance!” – Alistair Rigley

“The food was good. The dancing and music was good as well. I was doing my Michael Jackson moves on the dancefloor. The highlights for me were being with friends, getting involved, and joining in with the time of our lives!” – Stephen Thompson

“It was good to go. It was fun and I enjoyed myself. My favourite part was seeing other people happy and enjoying themselves!” – Aaron Canavan

“I had a really good night! I really want to go again! I really liked seeing everyone and being with my friends!” – Michael Cherry

Moonlight Walk Recap

Continuing CLA Healthy 2017 initiative, MS Moonlight Walk began on an enthusiastic note. All the participants – the constituents and family members, the workers and student workers across CLA – took part in the event with full energy.

There was a dress-up and refreshments meet at the CLP premises before leaving for the location. The constituents had a hair-spray and make-up session.

We made our way to the Southbank Ferris wheel where we all completed the 5 kilometre MS Moonlight walk. We had a cheer squad at the start of the walk doing a fantastic job by doubling up as the team for meal preparation at the venue.

All the participants carried the moonlight lamps in their hands and posed for photos at multiple points during the entire walk. The event turned out to be a memorable evening as participants gathered up for a barbeque after the walk and spent good time. Many congratulations to everyone who participated in the walk!! 😊



Quotes from Constituents who attended:

Taurean Lea, “It was fun. Good way to exercise.”

Paul, “It was a good walk. Got a bit pain in my legs, but it was fun. Would like to do it again.”

Shayne, “We were walking and talking together. Liked clicking pictures in my camera.”

Well Beans Group

Community Living Association (CLA), in partnership with WWILD, has been facilitating a wellness group for people with intellectual disabilities that runs for 10 weeks.

The main goals for this group included support participants to develop their awareness and understanding of individual mental wellbeing so they can actively work towards increasing

feelings of happiness and wellness in their lives. We would like to offer opportunities for peer learning where individuals are encouraged to share self-care strategies that they find most effective. Within the group we would also like to provide opportunities for people to make new social connections as this has a major impact on resilience and wellness.

This year we have successfully run our first men's wellbeing group. This led to a second men's group being developed expanding on the first, into areas of social connection. One of the aims of this group was to develop the skills to form and continue a friendship group past the involvement of workers. The groups achieved this and have both expanded their membership and are continuing to meet.

We have also run another female wellness group with offers of participation being extended to other organisations for the first time.

We have also started presenting this model of wellness group at professional forums at several locations within Brisbane, and in Cairns and Townsville.

The Well Beans group looks forward to continuing into 2018, and hopefully expanding further!

Literacy for Everyday

2017 has seen a lot of changes for the Literacy for Everyday group. While a couple of volunteers, Kath Guttler and Helen Campbell, moved on from the group early in the year, October saw two new tutors, Linda and Trish, join the ranks. The group spent some time working out of the CLA training room while the Shed was under renovation, but has since moved back to the fresh space. Over the year the group has established and strengthened its relationship with the Nundah Library. Students have established new goals, as well as continuing to work towards existing goals. Students have made great progress both within the group and outside it, which they have shared and celebrated with the group.

The Literacy for Everyday group would like to thank all of the volunteers and tutors, past and present for their support and contribution. The group would also like to thank Matt and Amelia at the Shed for continuing to welcome the group into the space.

Shared Meal

Shared meal is an opportunity for constituents to meet once a fortnight and share a meal either by contributing a meal they have prepared or paying for it. There are approximately 15 to 20 constituents who attend on an evening and share good food and great company. Many of the members comment that it is the good food, a great social get together and catching up with good friends, which are some of the factors that make the evening enjoyable and the fact that everyone gets on well with each other.

This year the group was joined by students at Mary McKillop College again. The students contribute to the meal and join in providing activities which include games and entertainment with members. This was also identified as a highlight for members, stating “the students are great”. Both the members and the students have an enjoyable evening. We would like to thank the Mary McKillop students for their support over the year. There have been a couple of other constituents who have started attending shared meal also and have been really enjoying their time there.

We have enjoyed great salads put together by Carolyn, chicken drumsticks created by Christian, Stephen’s wonderful stew, Jamie who provides jelly and of course apple pie and custard provided by Mick which is always missed when he is unable to attend.

The group is currently in the process of organising their annual Christmas celebration, which is a toss-up between seeing the Christmas lights again or having a party to end the year.

We would like to thank Dave the volunteer who provides drinks and prepares a wonderful salad, Stephen M who assists with the dishes and tidying up the kitchen, Kerri who does the food shopping for Shared Meal, Adele who makes the potato bake which is a favourite of many and those, and those that assist with preparation on the night. Lastly we would like to thank those members who attend and make the night enjoyable sharing their stories and good food.

The Nundah All Stars Group

2017 proved an exciting year for the Nundah All Stars, with new friendships formed and audiences dazzled by the debut of their newest Musical Spectacular experience, “Click”. The All Stars decided that this year they should take another opportunity to grace the stage, and ideas buzzed with how the performers could show their stuff. Song options were offered up by many keen participants, from Disney to old-school Dance-numbers, songs were chosen for the blossoming production and it was decided that the theme of television would best fit the bill for the compendium of performances.

Rehearsals commenced in the shed, constituents worked together to block a performance for each of our group numbers. Laughter was shared among the All Stars, as we practiced our animal noises for fan-favourite the “Bear Necessities” and we broke a sweat as the people from Stage Six, supported us with warm ups. Just the first in the many friendships and relationships made in our journey toward the performance. The performers waited throughout the weeks with anticipation for each recurring rehearsal, practicing with brushes in front of the mirror in the between times.

Hidden talents began to emerge among the group; the previously quiet Taury, electing to take on a solo performance and stunning others with his astounding singing abilities. The rehearsals allowed Ali to come out of his shell and show what he was made of, with a number of solos which blew us away. Kerri took the opportunity to take the stage brought the audience to tears with a rendition of Rainbow Connection we’re not soon to forget.

It wasn't simply singing that brought this performance together, however, as Steve's professional prop-making stood to prove. The performance would not have been the same without the sensational props that decorated our set including a boat, a drum kit and even and beautiful green jalopy. The All Stars worked together to create a number of other props for the performance, and fun was had all round during our prop-making workshops.

It also mustn't be forgotten the hard-work put in by Craig, to create a spectacular exhibition of video to accompany the performance. Videos acted as scene dressing for the performance and also a method by which performers with less interest in setting out onto the stage could be a part of the show. Advertisements punctuated the pauses of the performance, allowing those doing it live a little more time to prepare. Without Craig's gargantuan effort to provide video for the event, it would not have been the same.

This event truly allows constituents to connect with the community, the event would not have gone ahead were it not for the generosity of the staff and students of Mary Mackillop College. Offering both their time and space, Mary Mackillop allowed this performance to thrive. Students joined the show to the delight of the constituents and our All Stars were given the opportunity to make friends in unlikely places. There are few opportunities wherein, the sometimes isolated constituents can connect with community members, especially crossing generational barriers. This musical was not only an opportunity for the All Stars to have fun but also a chance for students and constituents alike to expand their social circles and create a more connected community.

The students brought an amazing performance to the table and tied together the show as if they had been with us from the beginning. They also assisted us with technical production aspects of the show and not least of all helped share some laughs with, at this stage, very tired constituents.

When the night was upon us the constituents shared a meal with our new friends from Mary Mackillop and nerves were shared all around, but the performance was unparalleled. Some recall that it was the best they've seen yet and a lot of laughter and tears were shared the show throughout.

Shows like this give the constituents an opportunity to connect with their community and one another in away many other projects are unable to do. Musicals give people, purpose, pride and an opportunity to have fun. Some constituents shared rarely seen smiles because of this event and the friendship and connection with their local community has been invaluable. It is unlikely people will forget the "Click" musical soon.

BEROS

What a year it has been for BEROS!

BEROS is a consortium of two NGOs in Brisbane Community Living Association and Micah Projects.

There are three parts to the BEROS service:

- 1. Case Management
- 2. BEROS Street to home
- 3. BEROS Overnight support

Case management operates Monday-Friday 9-5ish. We hold the one on one relationship with the YP whilst working closely with the system.

BEROS Street to home is our after hours outreach team that operate from 6pm-midnight 7 nights a week (with follow up from Micah safer lives team post midnight available). They respond to YP Self referrals, CSAH, QPS, and residential call outs. They transport YP back to placements or to safe self placing arrangements. The street to home team also do assertive outreach where young people may be sleeping rough and can provide welfare checks and practical supports.

BEROS Overnight support houses up to 2 young people for up to 2 nights at a time who do not have a placement, and are self placing. We also use this space during the day as our office space and occasionally bring YP in to build independent life skills and access practical supports such as showers and laundry facilities.

We officially launched the service after being refunded for 2 years- our BEROS launch was held in October 2016. The launch attracted a large attendance from across the Child Safety and NGO sectors.

The consortium went from three services delivering BEROS to two- CLA as the lead and Micah Projects as the second. Kyabara deciding to exit the program at the end of our trial project in June 2016.

The case management team has presented at 2 conferences:

- Australian Association of Social workers conference in Novemeber 2016: talked about the BEROS program
- Create Voices in Action Conference in Sydney in June 2017: “Finding a Voice for Self-placing Young People through the Therapeutic Alliance”

BEROS continues to receive positive feedback from the sector in relation to our service delivery- including:

- “very impressed with the skill set of BEROS staff”
- “BEROS staff are great at building relationships with young people and CSSC staff”
- “The service is great at locating young people, when no one else can”

And young people have provided their own feedback:

- “I can tell you anything pretty much without being judged or feel unsafe”
- “Youse keep everything I say confidential and its important cause no one is confidential anymore, and I feel safe sharing”
- “They helped me with child safety, and helped me get a placement

CLA has successfully taken over the management of BEROS overnight support:

- Purchasing a property at Wavell Heights (thank you to NCEC for the amazing fence)
- Employing 5 overnight support workers
- Continuing to support young people to access a safe place when they have no other options available to them

We said good bye to 1 of our case managers Tracey Wrigley who had been with BEROS since day one and we welcome Jori Etuale on board in November 2017.

Team identity and cohesion continues to improve across the 24/7 service- with CLA and Micah staff coming together on a regular basis for the following:

- Monthly team meetings
- Quarterly professional development this includes topics based around the following: trauma and attachment, legal issues for young people, drug and alcohol, transitions to independence.
- Group supervision (monthly for overnight workers)
- Whole of service strategic planning (once a year)

Looking forward to a productive 2017/2018- with plans to increase the participation of young people in our service development and empower young people to have a voice.

Thanks from the BEROS team!!



Nundah Community Enterprises Cooperative

NCEC Outcomes

Overview

Nundah Community Enterprises Cooperative (NCEC) provides meaningful work for people with cognitive disabilities who were long-term unemployed, having fallen through gaps in the employment system. This is achieved through the establishment of employment generating businesses. NCEC measures its performance by the sustainability of its businesses (Espresso Train Café and NCEC Parks and Maintenance) and the quantity and quality of employment it creates. NCEC adopts a depth approach to social impact, creating employment for those whom the private market and funded government programs had been unable to assist. Our leadership is demonstrated in being finalists in each year of the Australian Social Enterprise Awards (2013-2016) winning best Australian Social Enterprise in 2015.

Enterprise Outcomes

2016 saw a continued focus to improve business circumstances in our café and catering division. We are pleased to report 2015 and 2016 have been among our best, due in part to a renewed food and customer service focus and increased catering trade. The café was close again to a break even position in 2016. NCEC Parks and Maintenance was again sustained by its own business operations and did not require external subsidy or subsidy from another part of the co-operative. 2016 also saw development of a new second Parks crew, creating employment for Skilling Queenslanders' program graduates. Parks 2 is also a going concern.

Stakeholder Outcomes/Social-Impact

The Co-op continues to operate according to the model outlined in a Social Return on Investment (SROI) report (2011) which found employment in the Coop to be "highly valuable" to its members and achieving a SROI ratio of 3.31 : 1 (indicating that for every \$1 of investment in the cooperative \$3.31 of social value is created). NCEC maintains its commitment to measuring social impact by reporting annually according to quantitative and qualitative measures.

Quantitative Measurements

Measurement of employment and wage creation for calendar year 2016 is as follows:

Work created for members* = 7012 (hours) (*people experiencing intellectual disability/mental illness)

Payments to members = \$103,127

Work positions created/sustained = 19

Turnover generated by Refugee-led businesses NCEC has mentored = >\$100,000.00

Qualitative Measurements

In 2015 NCEC embarked on a three year research partnership with the University of Queensland (UQ) to document qualitative outcomes for workers within the co-operative as well as our model of sustainable job creation. The study had two key findings:

- 1) Most participants acknowledged they had an increased sense of belonging, happiness and confidence in comparison to past experiences of work.
- 2) The Co-operative structure and culture encourages members to have a say, values workers for who they are, and supports their autonomy.

Members' Voices from the Research

"I get a vote I get to vote and have a part/say, if I think somethings not right I can put up my hand and say 'hey I disagree with this'".

"I wanted to find a job that I could fit in...basically something that would help me with my disability... here people really treat you [with] respect and when you need help you can just ask them and talk to them. They can sit down and talk to you about it, and you really know they're listening..."

"Feeling good because you have done something for yourself and proud because you have done something for the community"

"This job has helped me to become the person I am".

(A copy of the report is available on request)

Training and Enterprise Development

Refugee and Asylum Seeker Led Businesses:

NCEC continued support the development of refugee and asylum seeker led businesses established by long-term unemployed including: Hari's mowing, Doostan Persian Kitchen, Mama's Momo's, Northlakes Hand Car Wash and the Mountain Mowing Men. In the calendar year these businesses generated over \$100,000 in turnover.

Hands on Training:

53 people with disability and/or refugee background have accessed paid traineeships in partnership with Community Living Association's Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) program in 2016. Close to 70% have found employment post-training.



The Re-Gen Project

The Re-Gen Project delivered two rounds of traineeships in Conservation and Land Management. The projects were 21 weeks long and engaged 30 people at the Hendra Pony club maintaining the grounds for the safety of horses and riders. Grounds maintenance and small landscaping projects were also carried out at other sites including the Wavell Heights Community Centre and Village Housing. Trainees also achieved Certificate I Conservation and Land Management, First Aid Certificate and construction White Card. Trainees also participated in Job Preparation and Job search activities and 20 of the 30 participants achieved the ultimate outcome of moving into paid employment. This project was funded by the Queensland Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative and has been so successful that CLA have received further funding to run the project again in 2017/2018.

SQW Hospitality

CLA's Skilling Queenslanders For Work Program in Hospitality is currently running its second group for the year, supporting fifteen students to study a Certificate 2 in Hospitality (Cafe and Barista). We have successfully completed our first program of 2017, with some amazing outcomes achieved for participants, including the development of two small businesses and paid work for many others.

CLA's SQW Hospitality Program supports disadvantaged Queenslanders with barriers to employment to achieve accredited training in hospitality, and to gain work in the industry. CLA works in conjunction with Bracken Ridge TAFE to provide valuable practical experience in cooking, coffee making and customer service. Our students come from all over the world and from all walks of life, with the current group being made up of people with disabilities, and people from India, Sri Lanka, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Papua New Guinea and East Timor.

Our SQW Program also works in conjunction with NCEC's Good Food Trailer, enabling course participants to gain a wider variety of work experience; to trial their own food business ideas; and to potentially gain paid employment. The Good Food Trailer has taken on three SQW participants as employees who are already putting their new skills to use.



CLA Student Experiences

“I have had a great experience of being on placement at CLA. CLA is such a welcoming place for everyone, I feel very accepted and included. I have enjoyed being able to get to know so many people, while working in such a strong team environment has been amazing. CLA is also a very nurturing space for students and I’ve always felt very supported in my learning and practice here. I greatly appreciate the opportunities I have had and the diversity of work I have been able to do with CLA.”

- Reece Gunn, Coco’s Student

“I’ve had an incredible time in the ARROS team this past four and a half months. All of the ARROS workers made me feel very welcome from the first day, and the constituents have also been very welcoming! This has been my first social work placement and ARROS constituents have taught me so much. They are definitely the “go to” people if I ever have any questions about how things work around CLA and ARROS. I’ve enjoyed participating in lots of activities with constituents, including the musical, car washing, the MS moonlight walk, catching up for a coffee, visiting constituents at their houses, or even just having a chat on the phone. Thank you to everyone who has made me feel welcome and who have contributed to an interesting placement that has really impacted my life. I’ll miss everyone!”

- Taylor Funk, ARROS Student

“My experience on placement almost defies description. It has been such a wonderful experience, and all of the workers, constituents, and community members with whom I’ve interacted have been very welcoming. The constituents have all been great teachers: always happy to answer any questions I have and understanding when I take a while to catch on. The workers across CLA have all been very supportive, and have encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone while still providing a safety-line to reel me back in. I have definitely learnt more than I expected to throughout my placement, and can certainly say that the experience has improved my skills and made me more confident in my abilities. It is hard to pick highlights from the last few months, considering the many experiences I have had, but I would have to say that the musical and the camp were some of the best! I have immensely enjoyed working with everyone, constituents and staff alike, and hope to see everyone again in the future! Thank-you all for such an amazing first-placement experience!”

- Eli Reynolds-Cushing, CLP Student

“My first placement at CLP has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience. The CLA community is really one of a kind, everyone is so friendly and inclusive of one another and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work at such a welcoming and supportive organisation. I’ve not only learnt so much while being here but have had so much fun in the process, sharing some fantastic experiences with the lovely people of CLA including the musical, camp and shared meal just to name a few! I have been so inspired by the wonderful work both the staff and constituents do at CLA, everyone is so committed and hardworking and being a part of this has been such a privilege.”

- Catherine Forde, CLP Student

“I had a wonderful time on placement at Nundah Community Enterprise Cooperative. I found it to be very challenging and engaging work, with a wide variety of jobs and projects to do. One day I could be working with asylum seeker students at TAFE, and the next I could be planting succulents in the community garden. Being provided so many different opportunities has been invaluable to my ongoing development as a social worker, and the environment, ethos and culture of the Co-op has been a great educative experience.”

- Jamie Sweet, NCEC Student

“Being my first placement, my experience working at CLP is one of a kind. Starting right from the intake process and throughout the placement, the workers across CLA have been very supportive and encouraging as well being the BEST mentors one could ask for. The constituents across CLA have been very cooperative and had a fantastic learning experience working with them. The workers have motivated me to challenge my comfort zone and guided me to improve from mistakes. It would be worthy to say that there has been notable learning throughout the placement as I got ample opportunities to improve my skills and has made me feel more comfortable and confident with my abilities. There have been many instances of fantastic experiences, but I would like to mention the musical as one of the most memorable. I have had immense pleasure working with CLA constituents and staff alike, and hope to work with you all again in the future. Thankyou everyone for such an amazing and rewarding experience!! Cheers to CLA!!”

- Nimeshkumar Parmar, CLP student

Housing

Village Housing

Village Housing is an initiative of CLA that provides long-term housing to Community Living Program (CLP) constituents and other eligible community members.

Village Housing purposely includes people with and without intellectual disability in its aim to create the best life possibilities for people with an intellectual disability. Village Housing hopes to demonstrate that communities can be a place where all people are equally valued and where their gifts and contributions to others can be recognized.

Goals of Village Housing are to:

- Increase housing options for constituents of CLA and other eligible persons in North-East Brisbane;
- Provide safe, affordable and secure accommodation close to public transport and other services;
- Provide supportive accommodation through:
 - A balance of people with and without an intellectual disability;
 - Positive and purposeful interactions with other tenants and neighbours;
 - Engagement of those who are important to constituents in their housing situation; and
 - Engagement of tenants in sharing the management of Village Housing

Village Housing has 10 dwellings, comprising 7 units (1) CAP and 3 houses.

Over the past year we have undergone some minor alterations and upgrades, including internal painting, new flooring, blinds and appliances.

Village Housing continues to offer good quality, well maintained and affordable housing to people on low incomes and pensions.

Village Housing Crisis Accommodation Program

Village Housing utilises one property with Queensland Housing Department funding for crisis accommodation for eligible persons. Village Housing also subsidises a number of people with crisis housing needs in private rental. Funds for this purpose are through donations.

In Home Mentor Scheme

Village Housing also provides support for the In Home Mentor Scheme which provides in house support to people transitioning to independent living.

Independent Youth Housing Group LTD



IYHG is a constituted body which receives ongoing support from Community Living Association. The co-operative have been operating for 28 years and is not for profit and completely run and maintained by its 14 members.

The main goal of IYHG is to provide quality, stable housing for low income earners. IYHG presently has 11 properties in Clayfield, Nundah, Northgate, Woolloowin and Zillmere areas and houses 12 people.

IYHG has continued throughout the year to improve and maintain its' properties. Over the past year we have undergone some minor alterations and upgrades, including new flooring and blinds and have been successful in funding from Gambling Benefit Fund for a bathroom and kitchen upgrade.



CLA Brokerage Arm

The CLA Brokerage Arm is a recognised host provider under the Your Life Your Choice program. It acts as a budget holder for the funding an individual with a disability receives from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

Associated Websites

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>CLA Inc website: www.communityliving.org.au</p> |
|  | <p>Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CommunityLivingAssociation</p> |
|  | <p>GiveNow: http://www.givenow.com.au/sleeprough On this site you can make a donation to support two projects: Young People's Homeshare Project - Each \$2600 raised will provide 12 months supported accommodation for a young person at risk of homelessness. Strong Families Project - Early intervention support for disadvantaged children.</p> |
|  | <p>Strong Families Solar Project: www.strongfamiliesolar.org This project supports children and families from disadvantaged backgrounds.</p> |
|  | <p>Community Crew Resource Hub: www.communitycrewhub.com This site provides information on supporting people with a disability and their families to explore the options of niche volunteer roles or creating a micro business as an alternative way of meaningfully engaging in community.</p> |
|  | <p>Nundah Community Enterprises Co-operative: www.ncec.com.au The Nundah Co-op provides meaningful employment for people with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues.</p> |
|  | <p>Home Share Project: www.homesharebrisbane.com The idea of homeshare is to create an opportunity for the householder to offer affordable accommodation to a homesharer in exchange for some agreed support or company.</p> |

Supported by



Australian Government
 Department of Families, Housing,
 Community Services and Indigenous Affairs



Queensland
 Government
 Department of
 Communities



Australian Government
 Department of Education, Employment
 and Workplace Relations