

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 – 2024

Greenacre
Community
CENTRE INC





ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 2024

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Greenacre Area Community Centre acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this land and commit to building a brighter future together.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



PH: 02 9750 7982

Greenacre area
Community
CENTRE INC

PH: 02 9750 7982

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday
9.30am - 5.00pm
Saturday Closed
Sunday Closed

ACTIVITIES / PROGRAMS WE OFFER

- School Holiday Activities
- Work Development Order (WDO)
- English Classes and Courses
- Community Development
- Community Events - Festivals & Celebrations
- Information & Referral
- Yoga
- Playgroup (0-5)
- Parenting Classes
- Drop in Support
- Tax Help
- Volunteering
- Counselling
- Food Share
- Gentle Exercise

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OR LOW COST

We were constantly reminded of the profoundly vital role GACC plays in the fabric of our community.

What a remarkable and unforgettable year that we all had.

It's my great privilege to be writing this report and recognising the achievements that we had together serving you.

Our communities had an incredibly challenging year, which meant the growth mindset was used to transform lives by uplifting a sense of belonging and safety within our broader communities as cost-of-living rose.

We pivoted our programs to create experiences and opportunities for our communities in offering new opportunities and experiences.

Further to that, we were faced with a significant challenge to vacate our current premise by June 2023. This was one of the toughest decisions as a committee to make, but we had to lean into the challenges, with support from our local parliament members, funding body, peak bodies and council, to help us extend the time until a new location is found.

Moreover, these challenges also served as a reminder of the importance of prioritising the needs of our community within Greenacre and surrounding and doing all we can to promote their voice respectfully.

We constantly were reminded of the profoundly vital role GACC plays in the fabric of our community and how uniquely we need to continue offering a sense of connection, belonging and a host of protective factors to promote wellbeing for our kids, families, and broader communities.

Certainly, 2023 reinforced the need to place a prominent level of focus on domestic violence. We collaborated with various support groups to help promote safety now more than ever. Since April 2024 when our new Child & Family Counsellor position was officially filled, we have managed a large number of cases involving domestic violence.

The Playgroup Co-ordinator did a marvellous job of supporting families and their children each week, in spite of the challenges presented by the move to a new location, by continuing to provide quality programs to enhance the development of their young children and connect them with the right services.

In planning for our future workforce, we commissioned a review of our current employment policies/practice and this has resulted in a Metrics Report and HR Roadmap to guide us into the future.

I'd like to thank Maria Votano, the Executive Officer, for her pivotal contribution, commitment, and hard work over the past year, which led her team to achieve such magnificent success.

I thank our committee members for their dedication and invaluable hard work during this year. They have served GACC with wisdom and empathy.

A huge welcome to the new staff who has joined the team this year and look forward to working with each and every one of you, to make our 2024/25 even better success.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to our funding body DCJ for their dedicated service and ongoing support to the Greenacre community.

I thank all other funding bodies, supporters, and donors who have contributed to supporting GACC this year. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

I am humbled to be part of this great committee as a chairperson, and to be supported by amazing and inspirational people that curate meaningful, transformational experiences. I look forward to continuing to serve this amazing community of Greenacre and surrounds.

Yours Sincerely,
Mich.

Micheline Abou-Yaghi, Chairperson

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Canterbury
Bankstown
Says NO
to Domestic
Violence

Domestic Violence Line
656 463



The move brought opportunities for forming new collaborations and strengthening existing ones.

2023/2024 has been an extraordinary year. We were once again faced with the challenge of finding affordable and sustainable premises to relocate our service. The search took a lot longer than expected, due to a lack of available community venues in our target area. Fortunately, we successfully negotiated with Council for additional time to find something suitable. After much searching, we settled on a small commercial office in the main street of Waterloo Road. Unfortunately though, the new premises offer office space only and no meeting rooms and halls for programs and activities and this necessitated looking for additional venues in the community. I would like to thank the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and our peak body, the Local Community Services Association (LCSA), for their support during the negotiation process.

The move to new premises was tinged with excitement and sadness at leaving the community centre in Roberts Park, which had been our home for almost 6 years. Emptying a very large space and co-ordinating all aspects of the move, including disposing of surplus furniture and other items was a mammoth task, which required a whole team effort. I'd like to extend my thanks to the staff team for continuing to maintain programs (and their sanity) during this busy period. I'd also like to express my deepest appreciation to our volunteer team, led by our very capable and committed volunteer Ted.

The move brought opportunities for forming new collaborations and strengthening existing ones and we are particularly grateful for the co-operation and support of our community partners for giving us the space for our programs. A special thank you to: Banksia Rd Public School, The Church of Christ, Good Shepherd Anglican Church, Greenacre Uniting Church and the Mt Lewis Bowling Club. Many thanks also to the Church of Christ for allowing us to store our excess items on their site; we really appreciate your on-going support.

Unfortunately, our Food Share Program was not able to be relocated and we made the difficult decision to suspend this much needed service. We're still searching for a venue that meets the logistical requirements for the program.

Facing a significant change to our service delivery model, with the risk of diminishing visibility and potential impact on the community and our clients, we set about developing a Marketing/Communication Strategy to manage the impact of the move. I am pleased to report that we now have a comprehensive Communications Strategy to guide us into the future.

Amongst our other achievements this year, has been the review of our current employment policies and practices. This ensures the organisation has a comprehensive understanding of our workforce and an enhanced awareness of our business requirements, to continue providing the best for our community and meet the changing needs of the organisation. The Employee Metrics Report, produced by an external consultant shows we are tracking well and provides a roadmap for future planning.



Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Maria Votano for leadership in the Watson Women's Network Hospitality Traineeship Program.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

(CONT.)

Earlier this year, DCJ commenced the recommissioning of the Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) programs, with new contracts due to commence from 1 July 2025. Our Centre has participated in information sessions, service provider forums and consultations as well as providing feedback via surveys and submissions. As we go to print, we learned that the Minister and DCJ announced an extension of 6 months to all existing Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) contracts, meaning that all current contracts are in place until 31 December 2025.

We are committed to participating in, and contributing to, our local community networks and this year we continued our participation and involvement on various networks including: Canterbury Bankstown Domestic Violence Liaison Committee; Playgroup Forum, Canterbury Bankstown Child and Family Interagency, Watson Women's Network (hosted by the office of Tony Burke, MP) and various other ad hoc sub-committees and working groups.

I am delighted to report that through my involvement in the Watson's Women's Network's initiative, our Centre is providing on-going support for the Certificate III in Hospitality course for women, which started in October 2023. Since the beginning of the program, we have hosted the class at our former premises and after the move we successfully negotiated a space at the Mt Lewis Bowling Club. I would like to thank the club for showing tremendous flexibility, assistance and on-going support.

Of course, we can't do what we do without the support and dedication of our hard-working staff team, volunteers, teachers/facilitators, community partners and collaborators. I'd like to extend my thanks and appreciation for all they do. I encourage you to read the reports on the following pages to find out about all of the work we do to support and strengthen our connection with the community.

Last but not least, thank you to the Management Committee for your work to serve our community, especially the Office Bearers for the additional work.

Maria Votano, Executive Officer

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income for the 2023-2024 Financial year was \$516,176.87 compared to \$551,687.57 in the 2022-2023 financial year.

Hall hire income for the period July to March 2024 (when we vacated our former premises) was \$18,349.34 representing a decrease of \$26,807.75 from the previous year.

One off grant received in this period total \$2,205.70 as follows:

- Canterbury Bankstown Domestic Violence Committee (auspice) \$2,205.70

The operating result for the year was a profit of \$298.35, which reflects that the allocated budget's fund amount was used properly.

Further information about financial matters can be found in our Audited Financial Report 2023/2024.

The Centre currently has 2 committed regular volunteers and we thank them for their work.

We are paying volunteer travel expenses as required by law, with funds from our Volunteer Grant.

All committee members are volunteers also and we thank them and our funding bodies for their continued support during this year and into the future.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Noman, Treasurer



Hall Hire Income
\$18,349



Total Income
\$516,176



Grants
\$2,206



Profits
\$298

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



My name is Hania Masoud, I have joined Greenacre area Community Centre on 16th April 2024 as a Child and Family Counsellor. This annual report covers the period since my employment from 16/04/2024 – 30/06/2024. I am a certified registered counsellor at the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation Australia (PACFA Reg Certified Practicing #26770). I am also a Yoga Teacher where I use yoga to help clients do some movements if they are in a stagnation state. I am a facilitator for the parenting program Circle of Security (COSP) and a facilitator for the young adult's program LoveBite Relationship through the NAPCAN organisation.

I have been working in the community for the past six years through different organizations. Working with the community is very important to me and rewarding.

Hania Masoud, Child & Family Counsellor

The Family Empowerment Program (FEP):

The Family Empowerment Program (FEP) is funded through the Department of Community and Justice (DCJ) as part of the Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) initiative, to support local children, parents and families who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing vulnerability.

Program Objective: Deliver a range of holistic, evidence-based services and activities to local children and parents/carers in the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA, that improve family functioning and wellbeing by reducing vulnerability, increasing the capacity of parents and promoting healthy child development.

The program is coordinated and facilitated by the Child and Family Counsellor/Caseworker who is registered through the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA) as a Counsellor and Psychotherapist. Families can self-refer to the program or through established referral pathways through our partnerships with a range of local schools, community organisations and Government services. In line with the TEI program frameworks, the FEP can offer a range of flexible, client centred services that meet the needs of local families.

The FEP seeks to increase the capacity of local families and achieve the following outcomes:

Social and Community:

- Parents have increased formal and informal social networks, and a sense of belonging in their community.
- Parents have increased awareness and stronger ties with local community organizations and services.

Empowerment:

- Parents have increased confidence in their parenting skills
- Increase of confidence in parents being able to advocate for their child and family needs

Education and Skills:

- Decrease in numbers of children who are “developmentally vulnerable” (as per AEDC).
- Increased numbers of children successfully transitioning to school, with less identified vulnerabilities.

Health:

- Parents report increased positive attachment to their children and overall improvement in familial wellbeing.
- Parents report a decrease in negative symptoms relating to mental health concerns.
- Parents report having an increase in strategies and coping skills, in relation to mental health concerns and family stress.

Safety:

- Familial wellbeing and protective factors are increased as families' report having appropriate support, information, intervention and referral pathways.
- Vulnerability is identified early, and appropriate referrals/supports are put in place.
- Parental and family risk factors which would indicate a need for a ROSH report, are decreased.

As the Child and Family Counsellor, my primary role is to provide:

Counselling, Intake and Assessment

The FEP provides individual counselling to parents/carers, adolescents and children, as well as family counselling sessions and couples counselling. In recognition of the many barriers that families can experience in accessing services, the FEP is one of the few community organisations in the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA to offer a free counselling program.

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (CONT.)

I also provide short-term intake and assessment/casework support, to families who are experiencing homelessness or financial hardship and leaving situations of family domestic violence. I am working with different organisations such as Legal Aid, Thread Together, St. Vincent's De Paul, Rize Up, Good Sheperd Anglican Church, Muslim Women Association, Bankstown Women's Health Centre, local primary schools and many more to support our clients with emergency relief such as food, furniture, clothing and support letters for a variety of reasons.

Our counselling service is in high demand in the Canterbury Bankstown area, and we receive many referrals from a variety of agencies as well as private legal firms due to shortage of free counselling services. The waiting list is minimum two weeks for new clients. I help clients with all types of Traumas, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Relationship and Family Therapy, Stress Management, Anxiety, Depression, Sexual Abuse, Grief and Loss, and Family Domestic Violence (FDV). I facilitate the Circle of Security Parenting Program to many family members in both languages Arabic and English.

I attend to many other requirements though counselling which need some casework such as preparing a subpoena, appearing in courts with clients, and attending weekly or fortnightly scheduled case conference meetings with DCJ and many other organisation pertaining clients' circumstances.

The delivery of our counselling service is face to face; however, we offer telephone, Zoom and sometimes I meet clients the nearby park if clients are sick with a flue. We always adhere to Covid-19 rules and regulations while delivering our counselling service.

In the short period between 16 April and 30 June 2024, we provided:

- **Intake and Assessment:**
Total of 10 services (including casework support).
- **Counselling:**
Total of 23 counselling services to children, parents and families.

Evidence Based Parenting Programs

The FEP has conducted 4 sessions of The Circle of Security Parenting Program (COSP) in June and the remaining 4 were conducted in July 2024. These were delivered face to face to local families in small groups.

Community Networks

The FEP is a member of the following networks in which I participate.

- Bankstown Child and Family Interagency, including the Transition to School Working Group
- Canterbury Bankstown Domestic Violence Liaison Committee.

With Thanks

I am grateful to deliver the counselling, casework and parenting program services to our vulnerable community members. We are offering services to help them reduce their anxiety, enhance their parenting skills, and learn how to tackle challenges in life. We are thankful to our many community partners and funding body (DCJ) and in particular want to acknowledge the ongoing support of our dedicated EO, Maria Votano.

Hania Masoud, Child & Family Counsellor

PARENTING SUPPORT



- Building social connections for parents
- Improving family skills and confidence

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

- Promoting healthy family relationships
- Increasing access to support services



GACC COMMUNITY PARTNERS



- Bankstown Legal Aid
- Thread Together
- St. Vincent's De Paul
- Rize Up
- Good Sheperd Anglican Church
- Church of Christ
- Muslim Women Association
- BCRG
- Bankstown Women's Health Centre
- Greenacre PS
- Chullora PS
- Banksia Rd, PS
- Chullora Marketplace
- ATO
- TAFE
- Greenacre Library
- Greenacre Citizen's Centre
- Greenacre Early Childhood Centre



Domestic Violence Vigil held in Bankstown in November 2023

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING PROGRAM

The Community Strengthening Program is funded through DCJ as part of the Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) initiative and other funding sources. The “Community Strengthening” stream aims to build cohesion, inclusion, and wellbeing across all communities.

All services within this program connect vulnerable and disadvantaged community members with the broader community and strengthen the community. The program is coordinated by the Community Strengthening Coordinator. Within TEI’s Community Strengthening stream, there are different service types and this Report will discuss these categories.



Service Type: Community Connections

(I) EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING

Customer Service Skills

The course was run in partnership with Bankstown TAFE across October and November 2023.

8 women participated in the course held at the community centre. On completion, some women went on to enrol in other courses and some engaged in either volunteer work and/or paid employment.

Introduction to Computers

The course was run in partnership with Bankstown TAFE across July, August and September 2023.

13 women enrolled in the course and 10 completed the course. Many of the women had no experience with computers prior to joining the course. On completion, some women enrolled in further studies/pathways to further training and employment.

Community English Engagement

The course was run in partnership with TAFE from July to November 2023 and covered the following topics:

- Basic English languages skills
- Basic Writing skills
- How to access further learning
- Support Services at TAFE NSW, including Counselling, Disability Support and Library Services.

A total of 8 students participated in the course. On completion, students received a Statement in Education and Employment Pathways.

Women's Hospitality Course

The Certificate III in Hospitality course commenced in October 2023 and is an initiative of the Watson Women's Network, of which we are active members. Our centre

played a key role in supporting the establishment of the course by providing accommodation for the fortnightly theory classes as well as ingredients for the fortnightly cooking class.

Most course participants (8) were recruited through our centre and are now well on their way to completing the course in October 2024.

For most of the women going back to the classroom was a new and somewhat anxious experience, however the safe and supportive environment and wonderful teaching staff enabled them to form bonds and friendships with each other; offering help and support along the way to help break down social isolation and education and employment barriers.

(II) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Banksia Rd Public School Fete

We participated in the event to support the fundraising efforts of the school's P&C and the event was a great opportunity to engage with the community and provide information about our services and programs.

We also distributed a Community Wellbeing Survey to gather data on community wellbeing in the local area, such as sense of belonging, participation, trust and access to services and resources.

Close to 100 surveys were collected and data will be used to inform program planning and service delivery.

IWD

On 6 March 2024 we recognized International Women's Day with an indoor event at the community centre. This year's theme was "Count her in: Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress." The theme reminds us of the importance of removing visible and invisible barriers to women achieving their goals.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING PROGRAM (CONT.)

The event provided a platform to facilitate a group discussion with women about their lives, living in a new country and their social supports and networks.

Delicious cupcakes made by centre staff were enjoyed by all!

Community End of Year Celebration

Over 50 community members attended the event on 14 December 2023, together with teachers, facilitators and volunteers involved in supporting the centre.

Students from the Women's Hospitality Course prepared and served a delicious lunch which was enjoyed by all.

Santa was on hand to hand out a variety of toys to eager children. Toys were kindly donated by All Saints Orthodox Youth Committee, Belmore and were very much appreciated by all.

Entertainment was provided by the wonderful choir of The Greenacre Seniors Entertainers.

(III) SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

“Fostering Integration Program.”

We supported the rolling out of the Arab Council's “Community and Civic Connection: Understanding and Navigating Life in Australia Project” in December 2023.

The program works with stakeholders and aims to facilitate participation, integration and social cohesion of both newly arrived migrants and CALD communities in Australia. The primary focus of the program was to enhance understanding of local, state, and federal Australian services and processes, while mitigating isolation and disconnection within the community.

Many questions were raised during the presentation which was attended by 12 family groups, highlighting the need for more such programs in the community.

Big Games Little People

The first of a series of place activation initiatives to facilitate place-based engagement.

The event was held in McGuiggan Place on Waterloo Rd, Greenacre. It's a central location visited by many locals throughout the day. The mornings are very popular with parents of young children as they make use of the play equipment available.

Over 25 families engaged with our activities including face painting, giant games and balloon twisting.

We took some surveys to gather data on future activities for this space.

Several families registered for our weekly playgroup.

School Holiday Activities (SHA)

In this period the Centre provided 6 SHA's for primary school aged children with a total of just over 50 engagements across the following activities:

- Lawn Bowling
- Roller Skating
- Children's Yoga
- Craft & Jewellery Making

A big thank you to Mt Lewis Bowling Club for providing free lawn bowling lessons for the children. The children enjoyed learning the technical aspects of the activity and parents loved watching their children engage in the activity.

Yoga

The Yoga class continued to run each week and although not specifically for women, all participants currently attending are women.

The teacher is a trained and qualified Exercise/Fitness instructor.

Close to 130 attendances were recorded for the year.

Gentle Exercise

Service Type: Community Centres

The Gentle Exercise class continued to run each week and although not specifically for women, all participants were women.

The teacher is a trained and qualified yoga instructor.

The class ran from February to June 2024 due to change in teachers in the first half of the year.

Close to 60 attendances were recorded for this period.

SERVICE TYPE: COMMUNITY CENTRES

(I) SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Work Development Order

The WDO Program is an initiative of Revenue NSW and supports eligible community members to pay off their fines by engaging in a range of activities suited to their needs. People can self-refer but most referrals come through Revenue NSW and other community organisations.

The program often acts as a referral pathway and soft entry point to some of our other services.



Women's Hospitality Course

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING PROGRAM (CONT.)

Access to Internet & Drop-in Support

Up until March 2024 when we relocated to new premises, the centre offered a welcoming space to community members to use computers, internet, photocopier or simply drop in for a tea/coffee and chat with staff and if appropriate they got linked in with one of our services or with an external service.

Unfortunately there is limited space in our current premises for this service.

Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteers have assisted the centre in a variety of roles, including supporting the playgroup, assisting with childminding for the English classes, providing the Tax Help Service and assisting with general maintenance of the centre.

Whatever role they are engaged in, we value their work and commitment! We're always sad when they leave, but we're happy they are moving on to further study or employment

Community Engagement – Social Housing

In May 2024 we developed and submitted a proposal to Homes NSW advocating for the provision of material support, information, referral and capacity building to vulnerable children, families and communities in Greenacre and surrounds.

The proposal presents an opportunity for collaboration to address/service the needs of social housing residents in Greenacre and surrounding areas.

We asked Homes NSW for access to enable our centre to provide services to children and families living in social housing accommodation across the Greenacre and Chullora areas, in particular those estates housing families with children and young people. In addition to this we asked for access to an appropriate community room on selected estates from where GACC can deliver a range of services, including but not limited to:

- Food share
- Information and Referral
- Group programs and/or community information sessions.

The outcome has not yet been advised.

Service Type: Community Support

(I) ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

Information and Referral

The Centre provides information and referral services on a range of topics and issues either face to face, over the phone, via email, through Facebook and through engaging with our groups. This service enables community members to grow in their understanding of services available to them and empowers them to seek out these services and access them as required.

In this period the Centre assisted 770 clients with either direct information or referral to other agencies/community services for assistance. The majority of clients are of a CALD background and most live in the Greenacre and surrounding areas. The rest are spread out across the Canterbury Bankstown Local Government area.

In this period, we saw an increase in enquiries about emergency relief (food/telephone and electricity assistance

and demand for our counselling service was also up. Other key issues included health, children's services, education (courses), and WDO.

Food Share

Our Food Share program aims to support vulnerable local community members by providing each client with a bag of fresh food and pantry staples for a \$2 donation.

The food is supplied through Foodbank and residents in the Canterbury Bankstown Local Government Area can pick up their pre-packed bag ready to go. Volunteers assist with the sorting and packing.

130 clients collected a total of 1438 bags to March 2024. The program was temporarily suspended from April to June as unfortunately our new premises do not have the space to offer this service. The search for a suitable venue for our food share program continues.

TAX Help Program

The Centre provided the ATO accredited TAX Help Program during tax season, from July to October.

The program assisted eligible community members with their personal tax affairs to comply with ATO legislation. Thank you to our wonderful volunteer Iveta for her excellent service!

Community Networks

The Community Strengthening Co-ordinator is a member of the Canterbury Bankstown Multicultural Interagency.

The Interagency co-ordinates International Women's Day, Refugee Week, Poverty Week etc and is a valuable resource for workers in the field to connect with each other and hear from expert guest speakers on a wide range of topics affecting CALD communities.

Community Strengthening Co-ordinator

Information and Referral Stats

770 CLIENTS ASSISTED



Majority CALD background



Majority: Greenacre & surrounds



Some: Canterbury Bankstown



Emergency Relief
↑



Counselling demand
↑



Health / Education / Children's / WDO

Food Share Snapshot

130 CLIENTS RECEIVED **1,438** BAGS

From June to March 2024 (operation ceased due to relocation)



\$2 donation per bag



Fresh food + pantry staples



Packed by volunteers



Residents across the LGA

SUPPORTED BY **FOODBANK**



GREENACRE AREA COMMUNITY CENTRE (GACC) SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP REPORT



GACC SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP

What are Supported Playgroups?

Evidence shows that supported playgroups encourage stronger parenting skills and enhance the parent-child relationship. They also improve the well-being of children and create new opportunities for children to learn and become more engaged in play.

The Greenacre Area Community Centre Supported Playgroup provides a weekly playgroup, which includes evidence based programs, information and referral, support for families and children and access to external service providers such as community nurse, toy library etc.

Playgroup Library supported families with a range of children's books. Each week, children borrow a book of their choice from the library and exchange it the following week.

Playgroup Relocation

In April 2024 our centre relocated to new premises and the playgroup moved to the Church of Christ hall in Waterloo Road. This meant we've had to pause the playgroup for the month of April to allow staff to pack and move to new premises. Unfortunately we couldn't take everything with us to the new premises, due to lack of storage space and some of our toys and furniture items were donated to community groups in the area.

We love our new venue and have a great collaboration with the new hosts who have been very generous and have kindly allowed us to modify the storage space to suit our needs.

Information about relocating the playgroup was shared with families in late 2023 and some families were looking forward to continuing in the new venue. However, a few families have indicated they may not attend playgroup

when it will be in new venue, because it is going to be in a church.

Playgroup Structure

The Supported Playgroup offers a structured program once a week from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Typically, the first 40 mins are for free play, where activities are set up for targeted goals. Then children are encouraged to pack up, followed by morning teatime, dancing time and circle (yarning) time.

Staff and Volunteers

In this period Tanjina Ferdous stepped up as the acting Playgroup Co-ordinator supported by Playgroup Assistant Nouha Toulan, following the resignation of our talented and creative Playgroup Co-ordinator Sumrah Khan in May 2023. The program was supported by various volunteers during this period including Grace, a local psychology student.

She volunteered for an extended period to gain experience with young children. Ayesha, another volunteer gained valuable skills to assist her in developing a career pathway in children's services. Whatever the motivation, we value each and everyone's unique contribution!

Supported Playgroup Programs

Greenacre Area Community Centre Supported Playgroup programs are aligned with Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) to meet the National Quality Standard (NQS). Our playgroup embedded practices that strongly focus on play-based learning, as well as early literacy and numeracy and children's wellbeing.

GACC SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP REPORT (CONT.)

Parents and carers are encouraged to assist their child in selecting a developmentally appropriate activity that they demonstrate an interest in. Freedom to request additional art/craft resources means the children and parents are engaged and able to express their individual creativity in a meaningful way. Staff and volunteers scaffold children's learning throughout the session to achieve their next learning level. It provides a demonstration for parents and carers to support their children's learning at home.

Evidence-Based Programs (EBP)

Evidence-based programs such as 3a Approach, Let's Read and Let's Count are embedded in Supported Playgroup to stimulate children's learning, aligning with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). In addition, the Abecedarian strategy, 3S (See, Show, Say), have been focused during reading time to improvise children's reading skills.

Modelling has been a continuous learning strategy adopted in the playgroup environment to demonstrate to parents how they can scaffold their children's learning at home.

Evidence Based Parenting Programs

Triple P Program was run in July 2023. 10 families participated in the program run in collaboration with Prosper Project Australia through strong and Safe Families.

Tuning In to Kids was run from July to September. 5 Families participated in the program which was run in collaboration with Prosper Project Australia through Strong and Safe Families.

Tuning In to Kids was run from August to September. 5 Families participated in the program run in collaborating with Prosper Project Australia through Strong and Safe Families.

Topics covered include: Better understanding of children, learning how to manage children's emotions, preventing behavior problems, teaching children how to deal with conflict, learning how to help children develop emotional intelligence.

Achieving School Success was run from October to November. 7 Families participated in the program run in collaborating with Prosper Project Australia through Strong and Safe Families.

The program consisted of 4 sessions covering the following topics:

- How the Australian education system works
- How to support child's learning and school success at home
- How to help children succeed at school
- How home life can affect a child's learning

A total of 27 families participated in the above Parenting Programs

Events

NAIDOC Week - 12 July

Children took part in themed art and craft activities.

Book Week - 23 August

Children came dressed up as their favorite character costume from their favorite book and took part in art and craft activities.

Child Protection Week

Children took part in craft activities to learn about safety. Information flyer was distributed to families.

Father's Day - 30 August

Children took part in craft activities and made customized cards for their fathers with their photos in it.

R U OK - 13 September

To encourage children to open up their emotions, they participated in mindfulness craft activities.

Grandparents' Day - 25 September

Children took part in card making and colouring in activities for their grandparents. Some grandparents joined in the activities.

Children's Week - 18 October

Children took part in themed craft activities such as painting and colouring in.

Remembrance Day - 8 November

Children took part in craft activities reflecting the significance of the day including painting and colouring in.

End of year Celebration - 13 December

Children and families enjoyed the party and shared food. Children engaged in various art and craft activities and expressed their creativity through card making, painting, and colouring in.

International Women Day (IWD) - 6 March

Families took part in an informal discussion with GACC staff team about IWD and what this means to them following by cake cutting and sharing food. Children engaged in various art and craft activities during this session, including card making for their mums, painting, and colouring in.

Reconciliation Week - 29 May

Children engaged in various art and craft activities and expressed their creativity through card making, painting, and colouring.



GACC SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP REPORT (CONT.)

Networks & Staff Development

The Acting Playgroup Coordinator participated in the Canterbury-Bankstown Child & Family Interagency monthly meetings.

The Acting Playgroup Coordinator participated in an information session on the new model of care for Child and Family Health Nurses in December 2023.

Month	Attendance
July 2023* School Holidays	68 participants
August 2023	121 participants
September 2023* School Holidays	93 participants
October 2023* School Holidays	69 participants
November 2023	143 participants
December 2023	64 participants
January 2024	School Holiday Break
February 2024	92 participants
March 2024	9 participants
April 2024	Playgroup paused for move to new premises
May 2024	48 participants



RELOCATION REPORT

Goodbye!

Greenacre Area
Community Centre INC



As mentioned in previous pages, in April 2024 we relocated our service to a new site at 3/159 Waterloo Rd, Greenacre, not far from our former premises at 87 Waterloo Rd, Greenacre.

After much searching for suitable and affordable premises, we settled on a small office suite with no meeting rooms or space for programs. This meant having to look for additional space at various community locations. We reached out to our community partners and are pleased to report that all of our programs, with the exception of the Food Share program, were relocated within the community, including in schools and church halls. It's been challenging finding a suitable location for our food share program due to the program's logistical and operational requirements, but the search continues.

We are grateful to our community partners, Banksia Rd Public School, The Church of Christ and the Good Shepherd Anglican Church for making their premises available to us. We look forward to working together and continuing to strengthen our working relationship for the benefit of the community.

The move was a mammoth task, which could not have been achieved without the full effort of the staff team and



volunteers, who banded together to get the job done. One of the many challenges in vacating a large hall, was deciding what to do with the excess furniture, resources and toys accumulated over the 5 years. Staff meticulously sorted through everything and whatever could not be taken to the new premises or to the new program locations, was disposed of either by selling or donating to local community groups including, BCRG, Bankstown Women's Health Centre, Canterbury City Community Centre, Prosper Project, Campsie and a local aged care service. The other challenge was whether to leave a brand-new kitchen and appliances in a building that would be demolished, so we set about dismantling this and other newly installed fit out items. The sale of these items generated additional income for our service.

Leaving our former premises that had been our home for the last five years was very sad. Clients were sad and told us they would miss the welcoming space and convenience of all services being under the one roof and the parking. We miss the walk in nature of the service and the homely feel that a neighbourhood centre provides. However, we welcome the opportunity the move to new premises brings and we look forward to making this our home, until such time as a more suitable venue comes along. Our long-term goal is to return to our former operating model, with all services under the one roof and we will continue working towards this.

Since learning of Council's plans to build a Community Hub on the site of our former premises, we engaged in a series of meetings with council, supported by our funding body, our peak representative body and MP's, to try and secure a space inside the proposed Community Hub. It was disappointing to hear council say that the new Community Hub would consist of a Library and some meeting rooms and an anchor tenant in the Community Hub was not part of the plan.

We will continue to advocate for a holistic community centre for Greenacre.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTE	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and bank balances	2	262,268.85	277,050.29
Trade and other receivables	3	19,909.65	19,279.14
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>282,178.50</u>	<u>296,329.43</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant & equipment	4	202.80	393.23
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>202.80</u>	<u>393.23</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>282,381.30</u>	<u>296,722.66</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	97,425.08	130,127.76
Provisions	6	47,271.28	27,368.70
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>144,696.36</u>	<u>157,496.46</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	6	19,182.60	16,606.03
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>19,182.60</u>	<u>16,606.03</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>163,878.96</u>	<u>174,102.49</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>118,502.34</u>	<u>122,620.17</u>
REPRESENTED BY			
RESERVES	7	0.00	4,416.18
RETAINED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		118,502.34	118,203.99
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>118,502.34</u>	<u>122,620.17</u>

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the Committee, the financial report comprising the statement of financial position, statement of profit or loss and Notes to the financial statements:

1. Presents a true and fair view of Greenacre Area Community Centre Incorporated as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) including accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation (NSW) 2010.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Greenacre Area Community Centre Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Michelinne Abou-Yaghi
CHAIRPERSON



Mohammed Abdullah Al Noman
TREASURER

Dated this 28 day of October 2024

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTE	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Grants received		378,290.47	357,721.48
Receipts from activities		32,676.33	48,933.13
Interest received		3,564.33	1,749.89
Payments to suppliers and employees		(429,312.57)	(418,894.57)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	8	<u>(14,781.44)</u>	<u>(10,490.07)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant & equipment		0.00	0.00
Net cash used by investing activities		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(14,781.44)	(10,490.07)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		277,050.29	287,540.36
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2	<u><u>262,268.85</u></u>	<u><u>277,050.29</u></u>



Greenacréarea Community

CENTRE INC

3/159 Waterloo Road
Greenacre NSW
(02) 9750 7982



GACC.ORG.AU

