

VICTORIA PARK  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

Supporting a caring  
and connected neighbourhood

# ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report  
2024/2025

[www.vicparkcc.org.au](http://www.vicparkcc.org.au)

YEAR OF REPORT 24/25







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# Executive Summary

*Victoria Park Community Centre (VPCC) continues to be a cornerstone of community connection, inclusion, and innovation.*

## Overview

Over the past year, VPCC has delivered an extraordinary range of programs and events that reflect the diverse needs, interests, and strengths of our local community. From early childhood education and inclusive playgroups to mental health support, cultural celebrations, and leadership development, VPCC has created spaces where people of all ages and backgrounds feel welcome, supported, and empowered.



**82**

**PARTNERSHIPS**

**840**

**VENUE BOOKINGS**

**26,444**

**CENTRE USERS**

*“Helped newly arrived migrants increase their confidence with English. Some even attended job interviews and secured jobs”*



# Cont'd

Our offerings have included accredited education, wellbeing workshops, financial literacy for women, language and cultural exchanges, and vibrant community events such as the Vic Park Portrait Prize, Family Fun Fest, Seniors Week, and the Women's Summit.

In the second half of the financial year, VPCC achieved a significant milestone by becoming a **registered charity** with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). This status enhances our transparency, strengthens our governance, and opens new pathways for funding and public support.

Our volunteer systems received a comprehensive overhaul, ensuring robust recruitment, onboarding, and support mechanisms. A standout initiative has been the formation of our volunteer walking group, which now supports the distribution of the Southern Chronicles—a locally owned, independent newspaper edited by Kate Neill. The publication reaches readers across the City of Belmont and Town of Victoria Park, amplifying community voices and stories.



## Family & Early Childhood Support

- Little Big School preschool sessions
- Playtime Playgroup for children with complex needs and life-limiting conditions
- Messy and sensory play for preschool-aged children
- Parenting programs and Sunday schools



## Cultural & Social Inclusion

- Noongar language classes
- Language and cultural exchange programs
- Inclusive music rehearsals
- LGBTQIA+ youth group
- Indonesian Youth Association
- Bible study groups and spiritual gatherings
- History groups and cultural discussions



## Education & Empowerment

- STEM club
- TED Talk meetups
- Careers days and business networking
- Financial literacy education for women
- Empowering Inner City Leaders initiative
- Linkwest sector training
- NEAMI International collaboration
- AAC Youth Project
- MENTall
- Accredited Education: Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care



## Health & Wellbeing

- Recovery and support groups
- Mental health training and arts therapy
- Wellbeing workshops, meditation, yoga, and exercise classes
- Dancing in the Dark – movement and joy through music

This year also marked a bittersweet moment as we farewelled Bess, our Community Development Facilitator. After three years of dedicated service, Bess leaves behind a legacy of warmth, creativity, and tireless commitment to the Vic Park community. From supporting countless initiatives to being a friendly face around the Centre, Bess brought passion, enthusiasm, and heart to everything she did. As she embarks on her next chapter, we know she will achieve wonderful things—and she will be deeply missed by all of us.

Through partnerships with local organisations, sector leaders, and grassroots groups, VPCC has facilitated meaningful engagement, fostered resilience, and strengthened social cohesion. Whether through a violin concert, community mural project, a cooking class, or a support group, every initiative has been rooted in our commitment to community-led care and collective growth.

As we look ahead, VPCC remains dedicated to expanding opportunities, deepening inclusion, and amplifying the voices of those who make our community thrive.

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve at Victoria Park Community Centre throughout 2025. My goal was to leave a meaningful legacy, and I feel deeply rewarded by the lasting memories, valuable learnings, and genuine connections I've made along the way. These will stay with me as I embark on my next journey.

*To the incredible VPCC staff, volunteers, and community—thank you for making this chapter unforgettable.*

As we look ahead, I encourage everyone to keep building, connecting, and contributing to this vibrant community. Your involvement is what makes VPCC truly special.

Mary Francis  
Manager





# From the Chair

2025 was a year for consolidating the governance of Victoria Park Community Centre. In December 2024, we welcomed Acting Manager Mary Francis and held our AGM where we elected our board. January 2025 saw governance training for the board and handover for staff in preparation for Kerri's parental leave and the arrival of little Stevie, born 15th March.

## 2025 Board Members

Renee Darbyshir – Chairperson  
Leila Saba - Vice-Chair (outgoing 2026)  
Niamh Joyce – Secretary  
Stephanie Chu – Treasurer  
Peter Batty – Ordinary Board Member  
Hayley McGillivray – Ordinary Board Member (outgoing 2026)  
Glen McLeod-Thorpe – Ordinary Board Member  
Ella Ross – Ordinary Board Member.

## 2025 Achievements

Acting Manager Mary Francis hit the ground running in 2025 with achievements including:

- Registering VPCC as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission (ACNC)
- Developing VPCC as a Child Safe Organisation
- Kicking off the review of staff pay levels in the SCHADS award
- Improving data security and record-keeping – migration of board docs to Sharepoint and setting up board email addresses.

Key milestones for the VPCC board included:

- A board strategy day held in June, facilitated by Linkwest CEO Jane Harwood, who taught us how to govern well. This day built our team cohesion and role awareness.

*Photo. L - R. Jane Harwood (CEO Linkwest), Peter Batty, (Board member), Stephanie Chu (Treasurer), Hayley McGillivray (Board member), Renee Darbyshir (Chairperson), Mary Francis (Manager), Glen Thorpe (board member), Niamh Joyce (Secretary) Leila Saba (Board member)*



- Introduction of two subcommittees in July – Finance & Risk Management (FARM) and Continuous Improvement and Culture (CIC) - to streamline our processes and 'do the work' of governance. Subcommittees are open to anyone in the community with interest or skills in these areas. I invite you to get in touch at [board@vicparkcc.org.au](mailto:board@vicparkcc.org.au) if you're interested in joining a subcommittee.

## Staffing

We've had some staff changes in 2025, as is the usual rhythm of a community centre. In July we farewelled Community Development officer Bess Chetkovich (resignation). We thank Bess for her wonderful contributions to VPCC - her strong community engagement, marketing expertise, and amazing events such as the Vic Park Community Portrait Prize. In November we will say farewell to Mary, as Kerri returns to the role of Centre Manager.

## Financial sustainability

This year saw a small financial surplus and a deficit budgeted for 2026. We continue advocating to state and local governments about the pressure of rising costs, where grant funding is no longer sufficiently meeting our operational costs. The board takes our financial responsibilities very seriously and is working diligently to mitigate financial risks.

## Looking forward in 2026

- Strategic Plan 2026 – we will be collaborating with community, hirers, and staff on a shared vision and strategy for the next 5 years
- We'll oversee development of a Growth Strategy to improve financial sustainability
- Succession planning for board roles including Chairperson and Treasurer roles opening in 2027
- We appreciate your continued support – stay tuned for new fundraising events, and please get in touch if you would like to contribute to VPCC in any way, big or small.

## Acknowledgements

I want to acknowledge the passion and commitment that each member of the board has brought to our work together over the year. Special thanks go to Niamh in your role as Secretary, and Stephanie as our Treasurer, for your exceptional dedication to the good governance of VPCC - we could not have achieved so much this year without you both!

Finally, the board would like to thank the small but mighty team of current, former, acting, and returning staff at VPCC for their efforts to ensure the quality of our relationships, programming, and communications are consistently high. VPCC is the 'little place with a big heart' and it is our staff and volunteers that are the beating heart of the Centre.

I look forward to seeing you in 2026!  
Renee Darbyshir



# IMPACT SNAPSHOT



**26,444**  
Centre users

**40**

Regular Groups

**840**

Sessions that promote  
safety, diversity and  
collaboration



**2566**

Hours of community  
venue usage



*“Coming to Playgroup has allowed us to learn, grow and explore new things. I feel comfortable, safe and welcome whilst here, I have made social connections within my community since attending.”*

Playgroup participant



### Project Partners

Kalyakoorl, Family Children Connect, Multicultural Women's Network, Southern Chronicles, EmpowHer, Vic Park Collective, AACE Youth project, Indigo Junction, Ashiana Humanitarian Network, Emergency Relief Network, Volunteer WA, Vic Park Centre for the Arts, LinkWest, Greenhouse Education, Victoria Park Bunting Library, Activate Mental Health, Catch Music, Hannah's House, Hope of God Church, Lifestreams Community Services, International Friends, Pitter Patter Music, St Marys Outreach Service, Messy Playhouse, Mind Buzz, No Lights No Lycra, OnSide, Narcotics Anonymous, Playgroup WA, WA Disabled Sports Association, Naemi International, United in Diversity, Ashiana Humanitarian Network, Edith Cowan University, Curtin University, Men in the Hood and so many more....

**960**

Playgroup attendances

## Regular hirers

St Mary's Outreach Service, Narcotics Anonymous, Catch Music, SEMAS Academy, Pitter Patter Music Together, Lifestreams Community Services, No Lights No Lycra, Christ Embassy, Hannah's House, Reach Her Inc, Edith Cowan University, HOPE of God, Activate Mental Health, Mind Buzz, Vic Park Youth Accommodation, WADSA, Little Big School, Lighthouse Church, Aim Fun Learning, Communicare, International Friends, Messy Playhouse, Onside, Yuna Yoga, Town of Victoria Park, Independent Disability Support Workers.

# 14

## Largescalecommunity events



### VPCC HOSTED

#### Families & Children

- Little Big School: Preschool sessions
- Playtime Playgroup (for children with complex needs)
- Messy & sensory play for preschoolers
- Parenting programs
- Sunday schools

#### Health & Wellbeing

- Recovery & support groups
- Mental health training
- Arts therapy
- Wellbeing workshops
- Meditation & yoga
- Exercise classes
- Dancing in the Dark

#### Education & Empowerment

- Certificate III in Early Childhood Education & Care
- STEM clubs
- TED Talk meetups
- Careers days
- Financial literacy for women
- Empowering Inner City Leaders
- Linkwest sector training
- NEAMI International collaboration
- AACE Youth Project
- MENTall

#### Culture & Inclusion

- Noongar language classes
- Language & cultural exchange
- Inclusive music rehearsals
- LGBTQIA+ youth group
- Indonesian Youth Association
- Bible study groups
- History groups
- Community Mural

#### Community Life & Events

- Community meals & cultural dinners
- Cooking classes
- Games nights
- Screenings & discussions
- Online gaming events
- Community rehearsals & occasions
- Local fundraisers
- Business networking
- Violin concert

#### Signature Events

- Family Fun Fest
- Women's Summit
- Portrait Prize
- Homelessness week



*"I love that we can attend as a family, meet new people from our community and learn about other places and cultures. It's also an opportunity for our kids to see community in practice, to pitch in in ways that make the feel proud of contributing"*

Cultural dinner attendee



**\$84,200**  
of volunteer hours  
contributed

**82**  
Partners

- 93% felt safe and welcome in the space.
- 92% learned something new.
- 72.5% said VPCC made them feel connected to the community.
- 72% felt the activities had a positive impact on their health and wellbeing
- 70.5% had opportunity to contribute to their community

## Strategic Objectives

### Program for impact

Plan and partner intentionally to achieve strategic and community goals  
Align programs to meet the needs of our diverse community  
Demonstrate our impact through improved evaluation processes.

Increased communication of our impact to funders, partners and community.

Recognition of our work and its impact by external people and organisations.  
Key programs have qualitative and quantitative evidence of their impact.  
Utilise program data systematically to map community connections and broader impacts.

### Foster community capacity through collaboration

Amplify the work and stories of other VC Park groups and organisations.  
Establish our best position and role in the local ecology.  
Extend our reach through partnerships, advocacy and mutual exchange  
Encourage locals to bring their ideas, passions, cultures and networks into the Centre.

Continue to play a key role in local committees and convening groups.  
A network of strong, reciprocal, supportive friendships and partnerships  
A track record of online community building and engagement.  
A strong community of volunteers, contracted workers and staff with skills, cultures and social circle that grow our networks and capabilities.

### Evolve governance for financial sustainability and accountability

Maintain and establish strategic, funder and stakeholder relationships.  
Ensure longevity through appropriate growth, strategic delivery and governance processes.  
Promote an organisational culture of learning, empathy, quality and innovation at all levels.  
Ensure ongoing strong strategic financial leadership.

Diversified funding streams.  
Un-tied cash reserves to allow for updates, innovation and new initiatives.  
Healthy project/program margins.  
Demonstrable success in attaining regular grants and operational funding.  
Staff achievement, growth, fulfilment and autonomy to invent.

## Our Directions

### Communicate our stories to grow our influence

Regularly articulate what we do and its impact.  
Highlight the Centre's work through various media and channels.  
Continue to build a digital community outside of the Centre's walls.  
Utilise our staff skills to develop a compelling, creative identity for the Centre.

Increased social media metrics and Centre user conversion rates.

Regular engagement with the neighbourhood, surrounds and other aligned organisations - online and offline.  
Better leverage of our partnerships to share our stories, raise visibility and extend reach.

## How we Measure Success

# 2024/25 Report

**VICTORIA PARK  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Supporting a caring  
and connected neighbourhood

Strategic Plan 2022-2025

## Strategic Objectives

### Program for impact

Communicate our stories to grow our influence

Foster community capacity through collaboration

Evolve governance for financial sustainability and accountability

## Evidence.

- Over 20 fortnightly meetings with Town of Victoria Park (ToVP) to collaborate and receive feedback. Bi-annual compliance reporting with all data provided
- Quarterly review meetings with Department of Communities (DoC). Bi-annual compliance reporting with all data provided.
- Newspaper articles by Southern chronicles published.
- Social media references from other community groups giving us 'shout-outs for great work
- Awards received from ToVP

## Any further action required:

Consider carrying forward into next Strategic Plan, community and impact mapping

## Evidence.

- The organisation structure and position descriptions have been reviewed to ensure responsibility of marketing and coms is articulated. This is evaluated termly and at bi-annual staff review.
- Marketing has a budget allocated to ensure both print and socials are distributed/boosted as required
- This year's snapshot gives specific details of program numbers

## Any further action required:

Operational systems and procedures to be reviewed regularly. Use technology, innovation and best practices for optimum results.  
This item is business as usual and doesn't need to be on next iteration of strategic plan.

## Evidence.

- VPCC actively participates in 5 sub-committees/working groups as well as attending relevant networking and information sessions hosted by key organisations.
- We work with 82 partners to deliver community-based outcomes
- Robust volunteer intake, management and appreciation procedures making us legally compliant are now in place.

## Any further action required:

This is a requirement of our operational funding by ToVP and DoC. This should be considered as core function of VPCC, business as usual not strategic.

## Evidence.

- Over this year we became a registered charity under ACNC regulations and guidelines. This now forms part of our annual compliance.
- Quarterly review meetings with Department of Communities. Bi-annual compliance reporting with all data provided.
- Newspaper articles by Southern chronicles published.
- Social media references from other community groups giving us 'shout-outs for great work
- Awards received from ToVP

## Any further action required:

Compliance and governance are a requirement of being an incorporated entity, our core funding and the Charities Act. Financial growth and sustainability need to be considered as part of all plans strategic and otherwise.

# From the Treasurer

*The audited financial report for the year ended 30 June 2025 has been finalised by IS Assurance and circulated to members.*

## Financial Performance

During the year, VPCC recorded a surplus. It is important to note that this result largely reflects accounting adjustments and recognitions of transactions from previous years, rather than operational growth. Last year, VPCC recorded a deficit of \$11,128.59 and the budget for current year projected a deficit of \$8,768.00.

Total income for the year was \$400,321.84, sourced from:

- Operational Grants \$188,362.09 (46%)
- Project Grant \$119,217.76 (30%)
- Other Income \$97,361.99 (24%)

Expenditure totaled \$358,617, primarily directed towards:

- Operations (67%)
- Program delivery (33%)

VPCC's reserve/ cash balance remains strong, with liquidity sufficient to cover current liabilities approximately three times over. While this provides a solid foundation, the Board remains focused on ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

## Looking ahead

The Board has recently undertaken a strategy day with a focus on financial sustainability and reducing the operational deficit. This strategic planning has set the direction for the coming year, including initiatives to strengthen financial management and diversify income streams.

Two key operational grants, provided by the Town of Victoria Park and the Department of Communities, will continue next year, supporting the ongoing operational costs of the Centre.

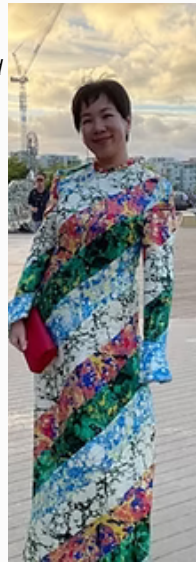
Recognising that operational grants alone do not fully cover wages and core expenses, VPCC and the Board remain committed to careful financial stewardship. Our focus will be on building a resilient financial future, expanding revenue sources, and leveraging the Centre's charitable status to access grants and funding previously unavailable to us.

## Acknowledgements

I extend my sincere thanks to our bookkeeper, staff and center manager for their dedication and support throughout the year. Their professionalism has been crucial in helping VPCC maintain financial stability and plan effectively for the future.

In summary, VPCC's financial position remains stable, and we are well placed to continue our work in the year ahead.

**Stephane Chu - Treasurer**



# Financials

## Victoria Park Community Centre Inc.

### Statement of Profit and Loss

For the year ended 31/03/2023

	2022	2021	2020
<b>Income</b>		0	0
Fundraising Activities and Sponsorships	0	104,000	104,000
Event, Donations and Sponsorships	0	104,750	104,000
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>208,750</b>	<b>208,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Depreciation	0	100,000	100,000
Repairs and Maintenance		0,000	0,000
Printing and Communication	0	10,000	10,750
Insurance		0,000	0,750
Utilities		0,000	0,000
Other		100,000	100,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>210,000</b>	<b>211,450</b>
<b>Change in net assets/(liabilities) carried forward from 2021</b>		<b>0,000</b>	<b>0,000</b>
<b>Net result/(loss) after accounting for other financing costs</b>		<b>(1,250)</b>	<b>(3,450)</b>

For more information please refer to our full financial statements.



# Financials

## Victoria Park Community Centre Inc

### Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 March 2022

	2022	2021	2020
<b>Assets</b>			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	25,000	25,000
Trade receivable		0	0
Prepaid expenses		0	0
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	\$	25,000	25,000
Intangible assets		0	0
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current liabilities			
Trade payable	\$	25,000	25,000
Accrued liabilities		0	0
Provision for doubtful debts		0	0
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Long-term debt		0	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Reserves		25,000	25,000
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>

For a complete copy of the financial statements, please refer to the full financial statements.



# Financials

## Victoria Park Community Centre Inc.

### Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	2019	2018
Balance at 1 April 2019	10,000	10,000
Profit/(Loss) for the year	10,000	10,000
Balance at 31 March 2020	20,000	20,000
Balance at 1 April 2018	10,000	10,000
Profit/(Loss) for the year	10,000	10,000
Balance at 31 March 2019	20,000	20,000



# Financials

## Victoria Park Community Centre Inc.

### Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Receipts from the members	100,000	75,000
Receipts from suppliers and employees	(100,000)	(100,000)
Interest earned	-	-
Dividends and interest	100,000	100,000
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Receipts from the sale of assets	10,000	5,000
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	<b>10,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Net Cash Flows</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>
<b>Operating and Other Transactions</b>		
Net cash from operations comprising of assets	100,000	100,000
Receiving from the bank	10,000	5,000
Net cash from operations comprising of liabilities	<b>110,000</b>	<b>105,000</b>

For a complete copy of the full financial statements, please refer to the full financial statements.



# VICTORIA PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Supporting a caring  
and connected neighbourhood



Department of  
**Communities**



TOWN OF  
**VICTORIA PARK**



A safe, inclusive environment  
where young people could  
gather, learn and lead.

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