# Annual Report 2012-2013



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# LCSA's Partners

LCSA acknowledges its partnerships in 2012-13 with government, collegial peak bodies, sector networks and commercial organisations:

Community Services, NSW Department of Family and Community Services, providing funding for:

- Core Operations (Sector Development Funding)
- Transition Resource Project (Community Builders Funding)
- communitybuilders.nsw website

**Australian Community Indicators Network (ACIN)** 

**Australian Neighbourhood House and Centre Association (ANHCA)** 

Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)

Forum of Non-Government Agencies (FONGA)

**Fiscal Policy Studies Institute** 

Home Power Savings Program, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

**International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres** 

**Internet Vision Technologies (IVT)** 

**People Advantage (Role Requirement Frameworks)** 

The Bradfield Nyland Group (LCSA MSO)

The Local Community Services
Association is a state-wide,
representative body whose purpose is
to prevent social exclusion and
promote social inclusion and
community strengthening through
supporting, developing and
promoting neighbourhood centres
and other community based and
community managed organisations
which focus on community
development, social inclusion and
community-focussed services.

# LCSA's Purpose

# LCSA's Aims

- 1. To actively maintain, develop and promote locally managed, integrated/generalist community services.
- 2. To advocate and represent the interests of members.
- 3. To identify issues affecting members and develop strategies to deal with them.
- 4. To link members and encourage mutual support and action.
- 5. To support and resource members to meet the needs of their communities.
- 6. To effectively and efficiently manage LCSA.

# President's Report

The 2012-13 financial year can be summarised by the twin themes of engagement and evaluation. It has been a year of steadily building on existing accomplishments rather than generating new initiatives. It contains one significant achievement and ends with a considerable fiscal challenge.

### **Engagement**

By choosing the theme of Authentic
Engagement for its 2012 annual conference,
LCSA signalled the importance of
neighbourhood and community centres in
stimulating and sustaining community
engagement. The conference enabled LCSA
members to explore the unique perspective
locally based organisations bring to community
engagement.

At a time when the theme of engagement is becoming popular across all sectors including governments and corporations, it is vital that community based organisations assert the value and vitality of local democracy. It is vital that community engagement means even those who experience the greatest disadvantage, for whatever reason, are able to participate as citizens and that their identity not be reduced to that of clients or customers of services. To this end LCSA welcomes initiatives such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the NSW government's renewed focus on place based approaches for community services.

LCSA strongly believes that its members have a significant role to play in generating authentic place based community engagement both as individual centres and through the initiatives of



**Gretchen Young** 

LCSA, such as Results Based Community Planning.

LCSA has gathered considerable resources on community engagement from across the world which it makes available through its website. It is also developing its own body of expertise. As a new financial year begins, we shall be announcing a significant community engagement initiative at the 2013 annual conference.

LCSA has continued its own engagement with colleagues in Australia and across the world through its national and international initiatives.

#### **Evaluation**

Our passion for locally based community engagement also means we are passionate about measurement and evaluation. This is particularly important as historically the measurement of outcomes in the community strengthening, community development, community engagement areas have been notoriously difficult.

In partnership with the Department of Family and Community Services, LCSA made an

important start through its work with Mark
Friedman in relating Results Based
Accountability™ to the work of neighbourhood
and community centres and the consequent
establishment of the Community Builders
evaluation framework. Member's use of this
framework has been ably assisted by the
Transition Resource Project team of Lyn Lormer
and Can Yasmut. Lyn and Can have also been at
the forefront of the development of the Lasso
electronic data collection tool, specifically
designed to assist LCSA members to collect data
for Community Builders funded programs.

However, LCSA has not been content to rest on the laurels of its achievements to date and continues to explore all available avenues to enable neighbourhood and community centres to measure and evaluate their service effectively.

To this end LCSA sent a delegation consisting of me as President, Vice President Andrew Tuck and Senior Project Officer Can Yasmut to Canada in January to attend the Evaluating Community Impact workshop presented by Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement. This gave us valuable insights into evaluation initiatives in the North American context and also provided some contacts which are developing into valuable and productive relationships.

Over the past year LCSA staff have contributed to community sector wide outcomes measurement workgroups nationally, initiated by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), and in New South Wales, initiated by the Forum of Non Government Organisations (FONGA).

### **Challenges**

LCSA's strategic direction continues to be guided by the neighbourhood centre renewal strategy. Midway through the financial year it became apparent that LCSA may not receive any project funding beyond the end of the financial year and the Committee made the

decision to invest accrued surplus funds to continue to employ the Transition Resource Project Team until the end of 2013.

Like many of our member organisations LCSA is learning to adjust to a rapidly changing and unfamiliar financial environment. It has already undertaken some scenario planning and elected to invest in exploring the opportunities of this new environment rather than simply protect its current role and function. How it undertakes this will be the major challenge of the next financial year.

#### Gretchen Young, President

### **THANKS**

Thank you to members of the Management Committee for their leadership of LCSA over the past year. I especially thank Julie Williams who is retiring from the Committee this year after 18 years of outstanding service including 10 years as Secretary and also Karen Howell and Dale Donadel who are retiring as regional representatives.

Thank you to the Executive Committee which effectively bears the governance responsibility for LCSA and provides fine direction and guidance for the Executive Officer.

Thank you to the LCSA staff team for their constant efforts to raise the standing of our sector and enhance the role and function of each LCSA member organisation. They provide, on request, a constant stream and wide variety of support and assistance to LCSA member organisations, much of which is unseen except by the recipients.

Thank you to our many partner organisations and particularly the Department of Family and Community Services which funds LCSA.

# Executive Officer's Report

opportunities.



When I started working on this Annual Report, I felt somewhat deflated as we had few achievements to report compared with recent financial years. Indeed it has not been a year of bold new initiatives nor, with one obvious exception, of stunning achievements. Nevertheless, as we view what has been accomplished, we can be confident that we have made some strong and steady progress and laid the groundwork to address future challenges and

LCSA's strategic direction continues to be guided by the neighbourhood centre renewal strategy. We seek to advocate for and support our members in:

- 1. Renewed membership
- 2. Renewed community engagement
- Using the full range of community development strategies
- 4. Providing quality services grounded in evidence based practice
- 5. Adequate data collection to demonstrate service achievement and contribution
- 6. Promoting networks of partnerships
- 7. Achieving good governance and policy development
- 8. Gaining adequate funding, through:
  - current funding sources
  - capacity to compete in tender processes

The individual sections of this Annual Report demonstrate LCSA's specific activities and achievements in several of these strategy areas, so here I shall simply highlight some of the most important.

A collective sigh of relief was heard in the offices of neighbourhood centre state peak bodies across the country when the legislation establishing the Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Deductible Gift recipient Fund was passed by the Senate on the additional last sitting day of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Parliament. This will enable neighbourhood centres to tap new funding sources from donors and philanthropic trusts and goes some way to "levelling the playing field" in the competition for potential donors' funds. It is timely achievement given the NSW government's emerging social investment strategy.

The Transition Resource Project team have made a significant contribution to enabling LCSA members to develop the evidence base for Community Builders Funded Activities and data collection. Through their interaction with regional groups and individual organisations, Lyn and Can have also contributed significantly to enabling member organisations to increase their capacity in governance, collaboration, community development and community engagement.

LCSA's understanding of and resources for community strengthening coupled with its growing information and communication technology expertise was instrumental in its successful tender to manage the communitybuilders.nsw website.

LCSA is engaged in a number of formal committees and working groups which are concerned about measurement and evaluation. These include the Keep Them Safe Evaluation Steering Committee (NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet), Measuring Oucomes of Community Organisations (ARACY), and the Working Party on Measurement and Evaluation (FONGA). In addition I presented to the Centre for Social Impact's Measuring Social Outcomes Conference held in Sydney in February, a Queensland Council of Social Service workshop in Brisbane in April and the Keystone Regional HACC Conference in June.

This involvement convinces me governments will have to be encouraged, lobbied, cajoled and pressured to take population wide indicators seriously and both governments and non-government organisations still slip too easily into confusing population and program accountability.

In the current environment the role of peak bodies is changing rapidly and this change is likely to be accelerated over the next few years. LCSA is encountering an increasing number of consultancies and for profit enterprises competing in areas where we are providing services and resources to our members. It also appears that government soon require peak bodies to act more like consultancies than they have done traditionally. The end of the Transition Resource Project and our failure to secure funding to trial Results Based Community Planning more will force LCSA to examine its own business model critically and to make the changes it will need to do in order to best support its member organisations as they face a future full of opportunities and challenges. This will be a priority in 2013 -2014..

Brian L Smith, Executive Officer

#### **THANKS**

Thanks to our President Gretchen Young and the LCSA Executive Committee and Management Committee. They lead LCSA with clarity of vision and purpose while providing an environment which encourages innovation, demands quality and optimises the role and contribution of LCSA staff.

As Executive Officer of LCSA, I still believe I work with the best team in the world.

Can Yaşmut and Lyn Lormer's engagement with our membership has been outstanding, particularly their contribution to regional meetings. They both combine sensitivity to members' needs with insights into the range of attributes which make strong community development organisations.

Debbie Carstens completed her work on the Results Based Community Planning pilot at the end of 2012. Her leadership and skills have provided us with a quality community development tool.

Asha Fonseka consistently tackles administrative challenges large and small with equal enthusiasm, dedication and efficiency while providing a welcoming first point of contact for everyone who phones our office.

Ji Yongqiu guides us through the intricacies of our developing relationship with colleagues in China with great skill, tenacity and wisdom.

While our accountants, John Ferguson and Jungha (Anna) Kim are not LCSA staff, we regard them as part of our team and are well served by their commitment and diligence.

# Transition Resource Project



Lyn Lormer



Can Yasmut

The Transition Resource Project was funded by Communities and Early Years for three years to June 2013. The project's aim was to provide support to services formerly funded through the CSGP program in their transition into the Community Builders funding stream.

# Assisting organisations to understand their service specifications and report against the agreed targets and outcomes

The 441 Community Builder's projects have now been through the second year of the three year funding cycle and it has been a priority of the TRP to ensure that neighbourhood and community centres are in a position to provide both output data and participant feedback regarding community strengthening activities as outlined in their individual service specifications. The TRP has worked to raise awareness about how these activities contribute to the funding program's key result areas of strong communities being respectful, trusting, resourceful, participatory and connected.

In the past year the Transition Resource Project assisted 296 individual services (150 by phone, 66 by face-to-face visits and 80 by responding

to email/website inquiries) with transition related issues.

# Consultation, training and resources relevant to the CB Program

Data Reporting: this year saw services move out of the trial period and into full compliance, collecting and reporting data over the entire year. Data reported included both snapshot data (people connected to information, assisted referral services and community infrastructure) and whole of period data (all other activities described under the Community Builders Program). In consultation with the sector the TRP facilitated suggestions and feedback to FACS for improvement of the data portal and the way services receive reports back from their data submitted.

The response rate of outcomes surveys has been at a satisfactory level. However there are ongoing concerns about the wording of some questions and alternative delivery methods such as interview, translation into other languages and group responses. The TRP has worked with a cross section of funded services in focus groups to address these concerns and gather feedback for FACS.

The project team attended 5 Communities and Early Years information sessions on the newly introduced Performance Monitoring Framework for Community Builders funded services. The team assisted funded services to transition to this new compliance requirement.

Data Collection: The Transition Resource
Project continued to develop data collection
tools for the minimum data sets required for
compliance purposes. In respect to the rule
'Collect data once and use it multiple times' the
TRP developed and rolled out an electronic
data collection and management system
designed to assist services collect and present
data in a highly efficient and accurate manner.
This tool (LCSA Lasso) was designed to facilitate
the extraction of appropriate data for reporting
purposes as well as for other purposes such as
community need assessment, quality
improvement and planning.

Over the last financial year the number of LCSA members using the Lasso tool to regularly collect and report data grew from 25 to 100.

The following sector resources have been produced:

- Community Builders and RBA
- Reporting on outcomes not process
- Dual accountability
- Community Development vs. Welfare
- Good governance and strong community organisations
- Electronic data collection for all CB fundable tasks

Joint Data Project: The TRP also participated in a joint project with the Metro West Region of FACS and a range of regional peaks in Western Sydney to understand the patterns emerging from the Community Builders reported data. The sector was involved in this process through a half day seminar and workshop. This will continue as ongoing project.

# Opportunities for skill development and learning in community development and engagement

The TRP attended 27 regional network meetings throughout NSW during the year. The focus at these meetings was to build organisational capacity by addressing issues

such as policy development, planning processes, introducing Human Resource Management systems and discussing collaborative approaches. A further 15 workshops were held on using the opportunities created by the Community Builders Program for services to enhance their role in community development and engagement.

#### **Lasso Engagement**

The uptake of Lasso steadily increased in the first half of the year. In March 2013 the project team embarked on a strategy to further promote Lasso and to interact with services willing and ready to use this Community Builder data collection tool.

By June 2013 the team had interactions with a total of 109 services on Lasso. 40 of these interactions involved site visits and intensive support. Focussing on contacting organisations not previously using Lasso (12%) and those who had downloaded Lasso but were not using it (65%). These interactions resulted in

- 25% of organisations in this time period who started using Lasso
- 17% of organisations contacted in this time period now using Lasso continuously and regularly.

### **Evaluation**

As the transition from CSGP to Community Builders enters its final year, the TRP team has made the following observations:

- Community Builders funded services have a unique opportunity to engage at neighbourhood level to facilitate collaborative action and work with community to achieve identified outcomes. This increases community capacity and resilience and leads to less government intervention. The community development principle of working with people rather than doing for people is highlighted under this model.
- The collection and reporting of output data enables the generation of aggregated data across regions and states for the first time.
- Also for the first time, outcomes (is anyone better off?) are being measured. This is a

challenge because concepts such as trust, respect, connectedness, participation and resourcefulness are difficult to quantify. A way forward could be the use of indicators to assess the contribution ALL funded activities make towards the five key result areas.

LCSA will continue to work in partnership with FACS to develop a rigorous evaluation approach that ensures funded services can demonstrate their contribution to community strength and identify and promote best practice across Community Builders funded activities.

### The outlook and challenges for 2013-2014

The final year of the Community Builders contract period arrives with uncertainty concerning the intentions of the Department of Family and Community Services beyond the current Service Specifications.

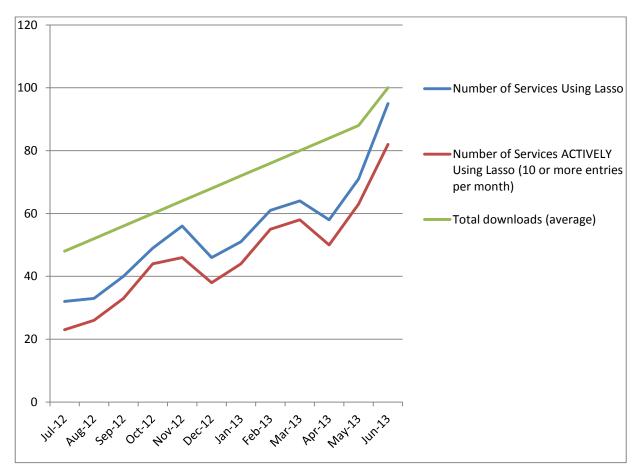
While the TRP finished with the end of the funded project on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013, the project team will continue until the end of 2013 through combination of accrued members funds and fees for the provision of specific services.

During this period the project team will complete the Good Practice Guide for Community Builders services. We anticipate this will make a significant contribution to the evidence base for the community development practice of neighbourhood and community centres funded through Community Builders.

We would like to thank Brian, Asha, Debbie and Yongqiu for their collegial support and the LCSA regional representatives who assisted us in the organisation of training and workshops in the regions.

Lyn Lormer & Can Yaşmut

## The overall uptake of Lasso since July 2012



# Authentic Engagement

**Speaker Graeme Stewart** 

**The theme** of the 2012 Conference, "Authentic Engagement", focussed on an important part of LCSA's neighbourhood centre renewal strategy which is relevant to each of its

members.

An excellent range of keynote speakers and workshop leaders drew from their own experience of community engagement to provide helpful insights and examples of best practice. A theme that recurred throughout the conference and which is essential to grassroots community development is the role and importance of people as citizens rather than consumers.

An age which has an overwhelming focus on services tends to reduce people to clients or consumers of services whereas community development takes their subjectivity seriously and engages them as citizens.

The conference drew the largest attendance of recent years with 220 participants and its atmosphere reflected the continuing strengthening of positive mood in the sector following the establishment of Community Builders which had marked recent conferences. This was reinforced by the contribution of Community Services Chief Executive Maree Walk.

In evaluating the conference we took two new approaches. We focussed solely on outcome measures and collected the data for the evaluations electronically. The electronic collection of participant data was an experiment to determine the feasibility of adding outcome data through the surveys of participants to Lasso electronic data collection.



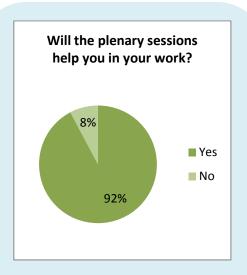
The graphs taken from the evaluations show the value of the conference to the ongoing work of the participants. The conference continues to be an important point of communication, critical reflection, training, information sharing, and networking for LCSA members across NSW.

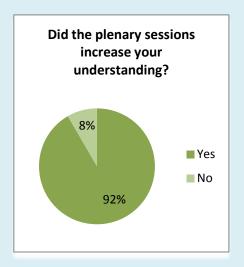


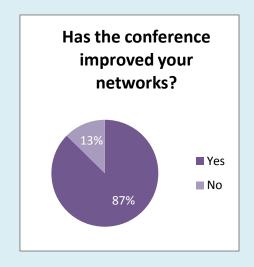












# Member Resources

A quick glance at the Current Projects and Tools and Resources pages of the LCSA website indicate the wealth of resources LCSA continues to access and create for its member organisations.

This year we completed a thorough update of the policies and procedures of the Policy Development Project to bring them in line with recent legislative changes. Member organisations have the opportunity to access the policies which are recognised across the sector as a very a high quality resource which is easy to use and implement.

The Role Requirement Frameworks which have been developed through our partnership with People Advantage are effective and robust tools for empowering centre managers in the human resources arena. Those who make the initial effort to learn how to use them will be rewarded with smoother, quicker and more effective processes for defining jobs, recruitment and performance appraisal. Locally based services who chose to use Role Requirement Frameworks have an easy to use tool which rivals that available to human resources departments in much larger organisations.

The Transition Resource Project team have continued to trial and develop the Lasso electronic data collection tool which has been developed in partnership with Internet Vision Technologies. This tool has received a lot of interest from other community services, government departments and neighbourhood

centres in other states. This year we have been concentrating on obtaining sufficient participation within the Community Builders program to obtain adequate feedback on its use and fine tune its operation. Concurrently we have been exploring options which will make the Lasso app available on mobile phones and which will incorporate participant feedback surveys.

Two of LCSA's best resources are active processes it has developed to enable LCSA community organisations to achieve specific ends.

Results Based Community Planning is a process LCSA has developed and piloted over the past two years which contextualises Results Based Accountability™ population accountability as a community engagement and community development tool. This enables communities to identify the results they wish to achieve and appropriate indicators and then develop interconnected strategies which contribute to achieving these results. Our piloting of this process has given us confidence in its use and capacity, but we are still exploring options for funding its implementation.

LCSA has also developed and trialled the Organisational Development Index, which enables organisations to identify the development challenges which are specific to their organisation within its context and to focus their goals and energy on meeting these challenges.

# Neighbourhood Centres

Week



This year LCSA departed from a long standing practice and did not seek to align the theme chosen for Neighbourhood Centre Week with a national theme. This choice was made by these factors:

- the timing involved in agreeing on a national theme and consequent promotional material always places difficult time constrains on delivering that material:
- we wanted to use a theme which was relevant to the current context of LCSA member centres with the challenges and opportunities generated by Community Builders renewable funding;
- we built on the community engagement resources we had gathered and developed over the past two years.

Thus the theme chosen for this year's Neighbourhood Centre Week was the same as the 2013 annual conference, "Communities

Shaping the Future". In developing this theme LCSA provided a range of ideas for activities through which neighbourhood centres could engage with their communities either in new and creative ways or older, tried and tested ways. These included:

- video resources which explore the principles of good practice in community engagement;
- community visioning to unlock a community's own vision of its future;
- forums to create engagement with local politicians outside the combatative environment of election campaigns;
- a local award for people who have contributed to shaping their community in a positive manner;
- inviting community participation and building trust;
- connecting through social media.

We also produced a new range of clothing merchandise for centres.

# National and International

LCSA continues its engagement with national and international colleagues with the twin aims of shared learning and mutual benefit.

Nationally, LCSA's membership of ANHCA has delivered significant benefit to many of its members through the success of the national Deductible Gift Recipient Campaign.

LCSA has been involved with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) through the Executive Officer, Brian Smith's contribution to the the Steering Committee of *The Nest*, the National Action Plan for Young Australians. Brian and Senior Project Officer Can Yasmut are also members of ARACY's Measuring Outcomes of Community Organisations (MOCO) workgroup. Brian continues his participation in the Australian Community Indicators Network and attended the Natstats 2013 Conference in Brisbane.

LCSA susccessfully tendered to provide a consultancy service to its collegial peak body, the Community Centres and Family Support Network Queensland (CCFSNAQ). We have been working with CCFSNAQ on its relationship with government, branding and communication and the establishment of a Results Based



Sheng Yunchang and Brian Smith completing Mr Shen's "World Peace" painting in Xiamen

Accountability™ planning and evaluation framework.

Internationally LCSA has been very active. In January 2013 President Gretchen Young, Vice President Andrew Tuck and Senior Project Officer Can Yasmut attended the Evaluating Community Impact workshop presented by Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement in Alberta Canada.

This experience gave them insights into the way the community sector operates in north America and the way practices of funding, measurement and evaluation have developed there. They have formed some good contacts with Canadian colleagues, particularly from Tamarack.

In developing an understanding of the way the community sector operates in different funding environments LCSA is seeking to identify the the insights and practices which will be able to inform our sector in Australia as its funding environment faces radical changes.

In June Lyn Lormer had planned a holiday to France and the UK. We discovered she was going to be in France at the same time as the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres' (IFS) Committee Meeting meeting in France.

Lyn was able to attend this meeting and the 2013 Congres of the Centres Sociaux de France which was attended by 3,000 delegates.

Lyn also visited successful community development projects in the United Kingdom and we are confident the learning from these projects can inform community engagement practices in Australia and the body of knowledge relating to community engagement which LCSA is developing.



Delegates at the 2013 Congres in Lyon

In May 2013 Executive Officer Brian Smith and China Liaison Officer Ji Yongqiu followed up contacts which had been made in China on the previous visit and new contacts which Yongqiu had developed through her research into communities and community organisations in China. As a result we visited communities in three cities, Xiamen, Zhenjiang and Chengdu.

At the Jinshan community in Xiamen we were privileged to meet Sheng Yunchang, poet, artist, calligrapher and outstanding community leader. Mr Sheng has pioneered new forms of community leadership first in the Jinshang community and now in the Jinshan community.



Local paper in Falmouth records Lyn Lormer's visit

Mr Sheng presented LCSA with a painting symbolising world peace and in a further, moving symbolic gesture invited Brian to complete the painting. Brian shared his vision of a China-Australia community dialogue whereby people and communities from each country could better understand each other and learn from each other.

In Zhenjiang we renewed our connection with the city authorities some of whom we met in 2012 and were treated to some generous hospitality while having some thought provoking discussions with leaders from four different communities about what makes a strong community.

In Chengdu we were accompanied by staff of the Vantone Foundation, a non-government organisation committed to working with locally based non-government organisations to produce eco-communities. We are continuing to engage in conversation with the Vantone Foundation exploring the possiblity of a partnership to introduce Results Based Accountability™ to China.

# National DGR Campaign

Through the past seven years of campaigning for Deductible Gift Recipient Status for neighbourhood centres by the Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres (ANHCA) Association and its constituent bodies, including LCSA, we often felt we were facing an impenetrable wall.

We are pleased to report that while we have not been able to tear this wall down completely, in that we have not yet achieved our original aim of Deguctible Gift Receipient (DGR) status as a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) for every neighbourhood centre, we have been able to create a significant crack in it through legislation which enables ANHCA to establish a national DGR fund. This fund can be used as a vehicle for tax deductible fundraising by all neighbourhood centres which are members of LCSA and equivalent state peak bodies in other states.

LCSA has been actively involved in this campaign through its Executive Officer, Brian Smith. During this financial year the campaign has focussed on personal representation to key federal ministers whose departments had to find reductions to offset the potential loss of tax revenue generated by the listing of the ANHCA fund. This was a particularly difficult and sensitive exercise in the fiscal climate which prevailed throughout the financial year.

LCSA expresses its thanks to the Assistant Treasurer, the Hon. David Bradbury MP, who knows and understands neighbourhood centres from his interaction with them in his electorate and who appreciates their significance. David's staff, and in particular Krystian Seibert, worked tirelessly to secure the conditions for the ANHCA fund to be listed.

Deductible gift recipients Schedule 10 Main amendments Part I

#### Schedule 10-Deductible gift recipients Part 1-Main amendments Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 1 Subsection 30-25(2) (after table item 2.2.4) Aurora Education Foundation Limited the gift must be made after 30 June 2013 2 Subsection 30-25(2) (table item 2.2.40, column headed "Special conditions") Omit "and before 2 August 2013". 8 3 Subsection 30-45(2) (after table item 4.2.4) 10 the gift must be made after 25 April 2013 11 4 Subsection 30-45(2) (after table item 4.2.7) 12 Australian Neighbourhood Houses & the gift must be made 4.2.8 Centres Association (ANHCA) Inc. 5 Subsection 30-80(2) (after table item 9.2.10) 13 14 The Australia Foundation in support of the gift must be made Human Rights Watch Limited after 30 June 2013 6 Section 30-105 (after table item 13.2.3A) 15 13.2.4 Layne Beachley - Aim for the Stars the gift must be made Foundation Limited after 30 June 2013 13.2.5 Social Traders Ltd the gift must be made after 30 June 2013 Tax Laws Amendment (2013 Measures No. 2) Bill 2013 No. , 2013

## The page of the legislation which includes ANHCA in the table of DGR recipients

The success of this campaign means we now enter a new phase. Our efforts will be concentrated on establishing the fund and ensuring our members can make full use of it and we shall continue to press for individual neighbourhood centres to achieve DGR status through PBI.

# Treasurer's



Tairyn Vergara

LCSA's main source of funding in the 2012-13 financial year came from the Department of Family and Community Services. LCSA is funded under the Sector Development Program and also receives funding from the Community Builders program for the Transition Resource Project. This is the final year of that project.

Membership fees also contribute to LCSA's income and in 2012-13 membership fees totalled \$51,551. This is a continuation of the slight decline noted in last year's annual report with 2011-12 figures being \$52,165 and 2010-2011 \$56,542.

LCSA continues its basic financial strategy of running its regular operations within the core funding budget and using Members Funds to fund special projects of significant benefit to member organisations. In the current financial year this strategy has enabled the last six months of the Results Based Community Planning pilot, the continuing relationship with Management Support Online (MSO) and People Advantage (Role Requirement Frameworks and associated Human Resource Management), our relationship with the national peak body, the Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres

# Report

Despite more constrained financial circumstance, with interest income diminished, LCSA managed to achieve a small surplus in its Members Funds and, for the first time, its annual conference while breaking even in its funded project and sector development work.

Association and the continuing development of the Lasso data collection tool. Each of these projects provides a significant return on membership fees for those member organisations which use them.

The financial statements in this year's Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards in line with the requirements of the bodies to whom we report.

The complete audited financial statements are included in this report and provide a more detailed account of the overall financial position and performance of the organisation.

Thank you to LCSA staff for the responsible approach they have applied to the fiscal care ensuring LCSA continues to be in a stable position to move forward into the future and be well prepared for the challenges we face as a sector.

I nominate Greg Middleton of Meagher Howard and Wright as the auditor for the 2013-14 audit.

Tairyn Vergara, Treasurer

# LCSA Committee 2012-13

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President: Gretchen Young Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre

Vice President: Andrew Tuck Coast Community Connections

Secretary: Julie Williams Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre

Treasurer Tairyn Vergara The Parks Community Network

Ordinary Member Naomi Rees Maitland Neighbourhood Centre

Ordinary Member Sharon Parker North Kiama Neighbourhood Centre

Public Officer Tairyn Vergara The Parks Community Network

**Regional Representatives:** 

Blue Mountains Kris Newton Mountains Community Resource Network

Central Coast Andrew Tuck Coast Community Connections

**Cumberland/Prospect** 

Blacktown Margaret Tipper Community Resource Network

Far North Coast Skye Sear The New School of Arts Neighbourhood House

Hunter Naomi Rees Maitland Neighbourhood Centre

Illawarra Sharon Parker North Kiama Neighbourhood Centre

Marrickville/Canterbury/

**St George Shelley Ross** Kogarah Community Services

Mid North Coast Trish Wallace Forster Neighbourhood Centre

**Nepean** Lisa Foster St Mary's Area Community Development Project

Riverina Murray Peggy Elliot Gundagai Neighbourhood Centre

South West Sydney Dale Donadel Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre

Sutherland Karen Howell Menai Community Services

Western NSW Alison Conn Wellington Information & Neighbourhood Centre

**Ordinary Members:** 

Vivienne Bruce Southlakes Carers

**Co-options** There were no co-options to the Management Committee in 2012-13

The following regions did not elect representatives in 2012/13:

Inner Sydney/Inner West, Macarthur, North-East Sydney, New England, South East NSW,

# **Audited Financial Report**

LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION 66 025 175 245

> FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

> > Meagher Howard & Wright Certified Practising Accountants Suite 505 55 Grafton Street BONDI JUNCTION NSW 2022

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### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Your executive committee members submit the financial report of the Local Community Services Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2013.

#### **Executive Committee Members**

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Gretchen Young Tairyn Vergara Andrew Tuck Julie Williams Naomi Rees Sharon Parker

#### **Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:

LCSA is a not for profit association whose purpose is to prevent social exclusion and promote social inclusion and community strengthening through supporting, developing promoting neighbourhood centres and other community based and community managed organisations which focus on community development, social inclusion and community focussed services.

#### Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

#### Operating Result

Committee Member:

The profit after providing for income tax amounted to \$13,062.00.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Executive Committee.

Committee Member:

Executive / Man / Man

Dated this 27th day of August 2013

Page 1

## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
	11010	•	
INCOME			
Grant Income			
FACS - Sector Development Program		281,425	272,740
FACS - communitybuilders.nsw Website		20,899	-
FACS - Community Builders Transition			
Resource Project		256,502	250,762
	-	558,826	523,502
Membership		51,551	52,165
Policy Income		9,728	21,563
Publications Sales		-	247
Training			2,000
Conference Income		105,853	100,659
MSO Subscriptions		8,428	27,900
IT Strategy			15,000
N'Hood Centre Week		5,519	-
Interest Received		25,260	44,966
	-	765,165	788,002
	-		

# INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
	Note	Ψ	Ÿ
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Salaries & Oncosts			
Wages & Salaries		373,468	346,211
Bookkeeping		16,900	14,960
Superannuation		30,847	30,754
Workers Compensation		2,664	1,818
Prov for Annual Leave		(22,560)	13,620
		-	1,529
Prov. Long Service Leave		10,478	-
Staff Development & Training		1,826	832
Staff Advertising		125	
Staff Amenities		493	2,117
	-	414,241	411,841
AGM & Conference			
Accommodation/Dinner		94,270	86,125
Consulting Training		2,992	-
Entertainment		638	1,386
Prizes		300	-
Set Up		940	1,036
Speakers		638	13,698
Travel		1,581	
Travel Rural Subsidy		799	_
Volunteer Expenses		3,042	
VMS Expenses		13,838	12,124
Workshops		-	4,840
Seminar			597
	_	119,038	119,806
Program Development & Consultants			
ANCHA		6,523	2,863
Consultants Fees		11,890	14,865
Govt. Web Development		13,100	-
MSO Portal		28,514	25,900
Neighbourhood Centre Week		5,369	165
Modern Award		-	227
Program & Policy Development		_	1,204
	-	65,396	45,224

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  $\mbox{Page 3}$ 

# INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
Office Expenses		4.070	4.050
Audit Fee		1,673	1,650
Bad Debts			3,571
Bank Charges		348	382
Cleaning		3,820	1,018
Computer Services & Expenses		1,699	2,615
Copier Expenses		6,198	9,978
Equipment Maintenance		390	1,132
Insurance		6,909	6,964
IT Expenses		647	20
Lodgement Fee		154	
Office Amenities		268	2,960
Phone/Fax/Internet		7,797	7,265
Postage & Courier		1,029	1,367
Printing		152	8,146
Property Expenses		21,000	20,900
Resources			672
Stationery		3,728	2,303
Subscriptions		1,408	1,844
Website	_	25,970	42,318
		83,190	115,105
Publications		7,545	288
Travelling Expenses			
MC Travel expenses		23,509	27,782
Staff Travel		34,790	32,112
Members Training		94	654
CP Travel Expenses		4,300	5,050
	_	62,693	65,598
	-	752,103	757,862
Profit before income tax	-	13,062	30,140
Profit for the year	_	13,062	30,140
Retained earnings at the beginning of the			
financial year	_	503,080	472,939
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year		516,142	503,079
	=		

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

		2013	2012
	Note	\$	\$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	766,579	901,558
Accounts receivable and other debtors	3	19,822	22,011
Prepayments		1,340	2,456
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	-	787,741	926,025
TOTAL ASSETS	_	787,741	926,025
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade Creditors		3,359	3,175
Grants in Advance		80,299	256,502
Accruals		42,000	21,000
Credit Cards		(7,891)	411
Staff Superannuation		952	3,014
MSO Contract		-	7,227
GST on Supplies		20,580	12,263
Membership Subscriptions in Advance		25,411	10,667
Employee benefits	4	23,262	45,821
PAYG Withholding	_	17,252	6,968
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	205,224	367,048
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	4	21,375	10,898
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		21,375	10,898
TOTAL LIABILITIES	_	226,599	377,946
NET ASSETS	=	561,142	548,079
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Reserves	5	45,000	45,000
Retained earnings	6	516,142	503,079
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		561,142	548,079

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  $\mbox{Page 5}$ 

# CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

		2013 \$	2012 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers		534,936	-
Payments to suppliers and employees		(695, 175)	-
Interest received		25,259	-
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	es	(134,980)	
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(134,980)	-
Cash at beginning of financial year		901,557	-
Cash at end of financial year	2	766,577	-

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

#### 1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act NSW. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

#### Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the association assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. The assessment will consider both external and internal sources of information. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of that asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value-in-use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is immediately recognised in profit or loss.

#### Accounts Receivable and Other Receivables

Accounts receivable are recognised initially at the transaction price (i.e. cost) and are subsequently measured at cost less provision for impairment. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets

At the end of each reporting period, the carrying amount of accounts receivable and other receivables are reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that the amounts are not recoverable. If so, an impairment loss is recognised immediately in income and expenditure statement.

### **Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

#### **Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

#### Revenue

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

#### Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liabilities at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association that remain unpaid.

Accounts payable are recognised at their transaction price. Accounts payable are obligations on the basis of normal credit terms.

#### Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

		2013 \$	2012 \$
2	Cash and Cash Equivalents		
	Petty Cash	200	700
	CBA - Cheque Account	9,942	24,892
	CBA Cash Management Account	110,858	120,418
	CBA Investment Account	26	459
	CBA - On Line Saver Account	645,553	755,089
		766,579	901,558
3	Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors		
	Current		
	Trade Debtors	13,914	15,654
	GST on Acquisitions	5,908	6,357
		19,822	22,011
4	Employee Benefits		
	Current		
	Provision for Annual Leave	23,262	45,821
	Non-Current		
	Prov'n for Long Service Leave	21,375	10,898
5	Reserves		
	110001100		
	General Reserve	45,000	45,000
6	Retained Earnings		
	Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial		
	year	503,080	472,939
	Net profit attributable to the association	13,062	30,140
	Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	516,142	503,079

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## STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the executive committee the financial statements as set out on pages 1 to 9:

- Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Local Community Services Association as at 30 June 2013 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Local Community Services Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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

Presiden

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Dated this 29th day of August 2013



#### MEAGHER, HOWARD & WRIGHT

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS
ABN 42 664 097 441

PARTNERS
K.J. WRIGHT J.P. M.COMM. F.C.P.A.
G. MIDDLETON B.COMM. A.CA.

FINANCIAL PLANNING MARK MAYCOCK

ASSOCIATE
L.J. HOWARD O.A.M. J.P. B Ec. F.C.P.A.

Suite 505 Level 5 / 55 Grafton Street BONDI JUNCTION NSW 2022 PO Box 653 BONDI JUNCTION NSW 1355

Phone: 02 9387 8988 Fax: 02 9387 8388 greg@mhw.net.au

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION 66 025 175 245

#### Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Local Community Services Association (the association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2013, profit and loss statement and cash flow statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information and the statement by members of the committee.

#### Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Local Community Services Association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act NSW 2009 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### **Auditor's Responsibility**

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.



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#### **Auditor's Opinion**

Address:

In my opinion, the financial report of Local Community Services Association presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Local Community Services Association as of 30 June 2013 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act ( NSW 2009 ).

#### **Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution**

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act NSW 2009. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Name of Firm: Meagher Howard & Wright
Certified Practising Accountants

Name of Director:

Greg Middleton ICAA 24953

Suite 505, 55 Grafton Street BONDI JUNCTION NSW 2022

Dated this day of 27th Day of August 2013

	2013 \$
SECTOR DEVELOPMENT	
OTHER INCOME	
Grant Income	
FACS - Sector Development Program	256,097
Interest Received	305
	256,402
EXPENSES	
Staff Salaries & Oncosts	
Wages & Salaries	183,897
Bookkeeping	8,450
Superannuation	13,870
Workers Compensation	1,175
Prov for Annual Leave	(25,704
Prov. Long Service Leave	3,715
Staff Development & Training	591
Staff Amenities	407
Program Development & Consultants	
ANCHA	1,523
Office Expenses	
Audit Fee	1,673
Bank Charges	294
Cleaning	1,090
Computer Services & Expenses	1,199
Copier Expenses	3,099
Equipment Maintenance	390
Insurance	6,909
IT Expenses	224
Lodgement Fee	154
Office Amenities	143
Phone/Fax/Internet	3,771
Postage & Courier	1,012
Printing	152
Property Expenses	10,500
Stationery	1,635
Subscriptions	414
Travelling Expenses	
MC Travel expenses	20,596
Staff Travel	17,697
	258,876

	2013 \$
NET LOSS	(2,474)

	2013 \$
TRANSITION RESOURCE PROJECT	
OTHER INCOME	
Grant Income	
FACS - Community Builders Transition Resource Project	256,502
	256,502
EXPENSES	
Staff Salaries & Oncosts	
Wages & Salaries	182,17
Bookkeeping	8,450
Superannuation	16,31
Workers Compensation	1,41
Prov for Annual Leave	3,14
Prov. Long Service Leave	6,76
Staff Development & Training	1,23
Staff Advertising	129
Staff Amenities	8
Office Expenses	
Bank Charges	5
Cleaning	1,05
Copier Expenses	3,099
IT Expenses	25
Phone/Fax/Internet	4,02
Postage & Courier	1
Property Expenses	10,50
Stationery	49
Publications	4
Travelling Expenses	
Staff Travel	17,09
Members Training	9
	256,419
NET PROFIT	83

	2013 \$
COMMUNITYBUILDERS.NSW WEBSITE	
OTHER INCOME	
Grant Income	
FACS - communitybuilders.nsw Website	20,899
	20,899
EXPENSES	
Staff Salaries & Oncosts	
Wages & Salaries	7,400
Superannuation	666
Workers Compensation	74
Program Development & Consultants	
Govt. Web Development	13,100
	21,240
NET LOSS	(341)

	2013 \$
CONFERENCE	
OTHER INCOME	
Grant Income	
FACS - Sector Development Program	25,328
Conference Income	105,853
	131,18
EXPENSES	
AGM & Conference	
Accommodation/Dinner	94,270
Consulting Training	2,999
Prizes	300
Set Up	94
Speakers	638
Travel	1,58°
Travel Rural Subsidy	799
Volunteer Expenses	3,04
VMS Expenses	13,83
Office Expenses	
Stationery	1,51
	119,91
NET PROFIT	11,26

	2013 \$
MEMBERS	
OTHER INCOME	
Membership	51,551
Policy Income	9,728
MSO Subscriptions	8,428
N'Hood Centre Week	5,519
Interest Received	24,955
	100,181
EXPENSES	
AGM & Conference	
Entertainment	638
Program Development & Consultants	
ANCHA	5,000
Consultants Fees	11,890
MSO Portal	28,514
Neighbourhood Centre Week	5,369
Office Expenses	
Bank Charges	4
Cleaning	1,680
Computer Services & Expenses	500
IT Expenses	169
Office Amenities	125
Postage & Courier	3
Stationery	82
Subscriptions	994
Website	25,970
Publications	7,500
Travelling Expenses	
MC Travel expenses	2,913
CP Travel Expenses	4,300
	95,651
NET PROFIT	4,530