


annual review
2017/18

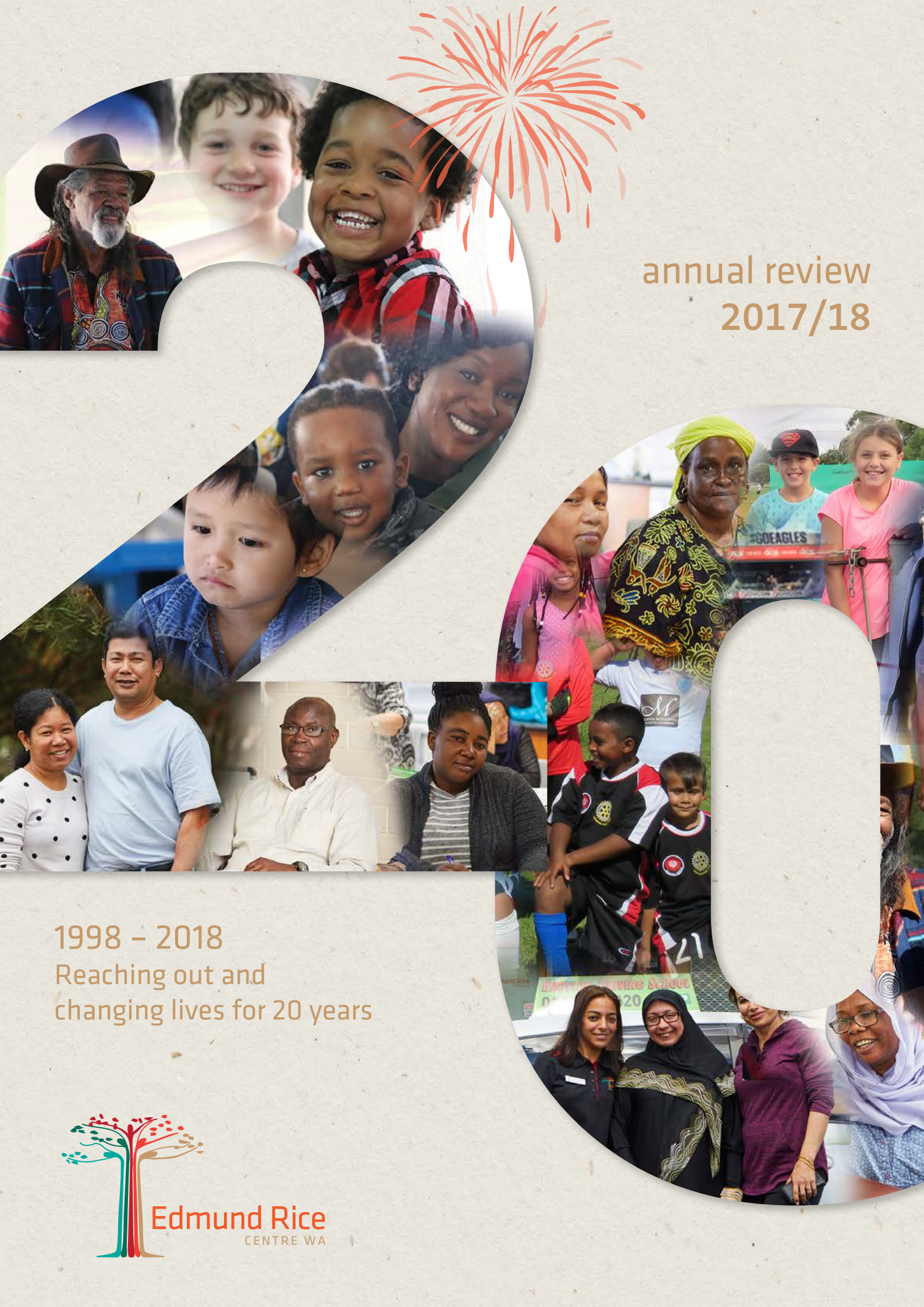
1998 - 2018
Reaching out and
changing lives for 20 years

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CENTRE WA

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About ERCWA

The Edmund Rice Centre WA was established in 1998 to provide essential settlement services and community education activities in Perth's northern suburbs. We assist people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Our services have expanded throughout the metropolitan area with a particular emphasis on young people and youth leadership as a way of ensuring a positive future for all.

We have an excellent reputation for offering "grass roots" services that help address the unmet needs in the community.

Our Vision

Inspired by Edmund Rice, our vision is to enable people to feel included, to be active participants and to make a positive contribution to society.

Our Mission

We seek to empower the people whose lives we touch through education and development of community with a special focus on youth leadership.

Our Values

Diversity

We welcome, respect and value each person regardless of colour, race, creed or ability and foster harmonious relations between cultural groups.

Personal Dignity

We acknowledge the dignity of each person by acting with compassion, respect and sensitivity, thus fostering a sense of self-worth.

Safety

We create a safe place for all who engage with us.

Empowerment

We enable social change through individual empowerment and community development.

Our Reach

- Edmund Rice Centre WA 
-  Adult Programs
 -  Youth Programs
 -  Integrated Services Centres

 Yanchep

 Butler

Banksia Grove 

Girrawheen 

 Koondoola

Balga

Mirrabooka

Bedford

  Cannington

 Thornlie

During the reporting period we helped **4,270 people** from refugee and migrant backgrounds, as well as **172 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people**.

Some of our dedicated staff and volunteers without whom we could not operate.



Chairman's Message

As the Edmund Rice Centre WA (ERCWA) celebrates its 20th birthday I am delighted to report that our programs continue to reach more of the people in our community who seek our assistance.

Like many not-for-profit organisations who serve the community, we are reliant on funding from state and federal governments via program grants. Over the past year some grants have been reduced or delayed, which has affected the delivery of programs to the people who seek our assistance: refugees, migrants and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Board of ERCWA continues to review the delivery of programs to ensure that the necessary funding is available. ERCWA has joined a consortium of like-minded organisations and applied for a major federal government grant that, hopefully, will ensure that we can deliver key programs into the foreseeable future.

ERCWA programs are simply outstanding; they provide significant benefit in the community by developing leadership, skills, independence, self-confidence and personal and cultural respect. Our programs provide our clients with pathways to the lifestyle and career opportunities which are open to the broader Western Australian community.

We sincerely thank our many funders, supporters and partners for their ongoing support; your assistance enables us to deliver these vital services which would otherwise not be possible. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

I wish to acknowledge the support and contribution of our retiring patron, Dr Ken Michael, and extend a warm welcome to our new patron, Mr Ron Alexander.

ERCWA Board members have again made significant contributions towards achieving our vision and goals. I sincerely thank immediate past Chairman Jim Elliott, Kevin Bowman, Katherine Bromfield, Amy Berson, Richard Hennessy and Rosemary Sayer, and Natalie Drew who joined the Board this past year and took on the role of Board Secretary.

No doubt 20 years on, our Director Steve Bowman, who was instrumental in establishing the Edmund Rice Centre in Mirrabooka, can reflect with pride on the many changes and the growth that he has overseen during that time. It is testament to his leadership that ERCWA is what it is today. Congratulations Steve on another outstanding year, ably supported by Deputy Director Christina Ward, Finance Officer Karen Wilson and of course all our wonderful staff. I thank you all for your dedication and highly effective support of ERCWA over the past 12 months.

On behalf of the Board and staff of ERCWA I extend our sincere appreciation to all our volunteers whose commitment and generosity enable us to deliver programs and support to those in the community who require our services. You are truly amazing. Thank you.

Bruce Larson
Chairman
Edmund Rice Centre WA



Board of Management. Back Row (L-R): Richard Hennessey, Amy Berson, Bruce Larson.
Front Row (L-R): Kevin Bowman, Natalie Drew, Stephen Bowman, Rosemary Sayer, Jim Elliott. Absent: Katherine Bromfield.

Director's Review 2017-2018

In April 1998 the Edmund Rice Centre WA (ERCWA) opened its doors and began providing services for migrants from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds. 2018, then, is an important milestone in our history. Like guide posts on a pathway, milestones present an opportunity to reflect on the preceding years and more importantly, to acknowledge all who have contributed to the work of ERCWA. Pages 3 to 5 of this annual review provide a snapshot of some of the key people and moments in our history.

Milestones assist people who make up organisations like ours to set directions for the future. Our board is currently framing our goals and discussing strategies that will create future pathways for ERCWA and the people we assist. Like all successful organisations, we recognise the importance of acknowledging our past, giving thanks for the present and ensuring that we remain true to our vision, mission and values. I encourage you to refer to these statements on the inside front cover of this review.

Throughout 2017- 2018 the Board of Management and our staff and volunteers have continued exploring ways to make our services relevant to all who access our programs. We have a strong desire to be really “present” for others, to show genuine compassion and to strive to transform ourselves and others. We continue to review and update our feedback methods so that we can involve our participants in the design of our programs. Everyone has worked hard to ensure our policies

and procedures support the efficient, organised and safe operation of programs wherever and whenever they are delivered.

The program reports in this review demonstrate our way of working, which reflects the values and vision that Edmund Rice passed on to us.

I would like to thank the many staff and volunteers who throughout the year have given generously of their time and talents in the service of others and the members of the Board of Management for their ongoing support and advice.

Throughout the year we have worked with many service partners including local, state and federal government departments as well as non-government organisations in the delivery of our programs, as shown on page 24. We acknowledge the support of the Oceania Province of the Christian Brothers, the Edmund Rice Foundation, private donors and our philanthropic supporters. I express my gratitude on behalf of all associated with ERCWA and look forward to continuing to build these partnerships to deliver positive outcomes for all.

Stephen Bowman
Director, Edmund Rice Centre WA

“Were we to know the merit and value of only going from one street to another to serve a neighbour for the love of God, we should prize it more than silver and gold.”

Edmund Rice

Twenty years serving the community

Twenty years ago, a man was inspired when he saw a great need for more education-based services for people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. He could see how to make people more welcome, and with decades of teaching experience, he could see how to help people bridge the gap from being 'a new arrival' in Australia to becoming a contributing member of society.

In a small building in Perth's northern suburbs, with the support of the Christian Brothers, current director Stephen Bowman opened the doors of what would become the Edmund Rice Centre WA. He was inspired by the life and vision of Edmund Rice, the Irish businessman who more than 200 years ago responded to the needs on his doorstep by dedicating his life and resources to the liberation of the poor through education.

Steve and volunteer teachers and helpers Betty and Alan O'Neil, Pat Chinnery, Sue Catling, Mary Britton, Matt Lobo and Brothers Geoff Seaman, Peter Thrupp and Phil O'Loughlen taught English, computer, art and craft classes on a part-time basis. In the process, they created what Steve called "common ground" where people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds could come together and learn.

"We created a new family and a sense of belonging for those in need."

From those humble beginnings approximately 4,500 people of all ages and backgrounds now participate in year-round programs at the Edmund Rice Centre. These include English, Computer Studies, Life Skills for Living, Driver Education, Settlement Assistance, Women Together, Youth Sports, Arts and Leadership Training programs, alongside leisure and cultural programs. ERCWA has forty-one full-time, part-time and casual staff and a team of forty-six volunteers.

As it has grown to meet increasing demands all over the Perth region, those involved with ERCWA have never lost their unique sense of community and desire to teach and lead at the grassroots level.

Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world.

Eleanor Roosevelt



Inaugural staff, volunteers and supporters, early 1998.



Refugee youth leisure program in 1999.

Highlights

April 1998: The doors opened for English and computer classes on the 28th April for 24 students with four volunteer teachers over three days a week. The annual budget was \$31,000.

1999-2000: Sport and activity programs were gradually introduced after school for children of parents attending the English classes.

"We've never been about child-minding. Everything we do is about providing a pathway to a better education and a fuller life."

2001: At the request of parents, programs were introduced for young children from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background.

"I began to realise that this organisation was going to be bigger than I initially planned."

2002: The Centre started to apply for grants and funding as demand for the programs grew. New programs such as arts and crafts were introduced.



With seven staff and 16 volunteers Steve instigated a formal external review to help guide the organisational structure and philosophy.

"The work done during this year was pivotal in the Centre setting up an advisory council, an interim board and finally an incorporated body. We introduced strong governance and risk management systems."

2003: The reputation of the Edmund Rice Centre continued to grow. Steve received the Multicultural Ambassador Award from the State government for working to promote multiculturalism and eliminating racism in the community.

The Centre employed its first case worker to manage a Settlement Grants Program.

2004: The Lifeskills and Household Management program was developed for people from a refugee background. This program continues in Mirrabooka and began in Cannington in 2007.

2005: The book *Feast and Friends – Women & Food from across the World* based on the Women Together program was published by Fremantle Arts Press. The book was compiled by Lorraine McGinniss and tells the stories of nine women and their favourite recipes.

2006: The Edmund Rice Centre was informed that it would have to vacate its premises at 22 Chesterfield Road and for the last half of the year we conducted programs from the City of Stirling Library, the Herb Graham Recreation Centre and 16 Brewer Place in Mirrabooka.

2007: The Edmund Rice Centre moved to its current premises at 18 Brewer Place in Mirrabooka with financial support provided by the Christian Brothers and Lotterywest.

The Integrated Services Centres were established at Koondoola and Parkwood Primary Schools. Edmund Rice Centre provided the Multicultural Community

Liaison Worker, Christina Ward, at Koondoola. Christina later became the ERCWA's Deputy Director.

Youth leadership programs were introduced.

2008: The 10th anniversary of the Edmund Rice Centre was recognised. During the year over 2,000 adults and children attended one or more of our 11 programs and activities. The annual budget had grown to \$800,000.

The Centre's Lifeskills and Household Management program was selected as a model of best practice by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and featured in its book *Empowering Refugees – a Good Practice Guide to Humanitarian Settlement*.

The Edmund Rice Centre received the WA Government's 2008 Multicultural Community Service Award.

Driver education programs were introduced.

2010: The Edmund Rice Lions, Australia's first multicultural AFL team, was formed.

Long term funding was secured for the Moorditj Koolangka (Strong Children) Program through the Annie Millicent Foundation.

The Centre gained funding for a housing assistance program for people who had recently arrived in Australia.

2011: A major external review of the services and operation of the Edmund Rice Centre was conducted and *Setting Directions for the Future* was launched. This key document guided the development of the Centre for the next five years.

Kevin Rudd, the Foreign Minister, visited the Edmund Rice Lions team. He praised the staff and volunteers for "helping to make new refugees feel welcome and part of the Australian family."

2012: To cope with the ever-expanding programs, the Board of Management negotiated the purchase of 9 Brewer Place in Mirrabooka as a centre for English classes and the youth program office. A grant was obtained from Lotterywest to purchase the 12 and 24 seater buses.

Dr Ken Michael and his wife Julie were delighted to accept our invitation to become patrons.

The Banksia United Aboriginal soccer team went to Alice Springs for the National Football Dreaming Festival.

2013: The Butler Falcons, a female AFL team, was launched in the suburb of Butler.

Staff and a large number of students continued to attend the Darlington Arts Festival each November. The event is hosted by the Darlington Committee and is greatly enjoyed by the families who attend.

2014: Professional development days were initiated for all staff and volunteers. The days continue to be conducted and focus on learning more about Edmund Rice, the Aboriginal Story and training in our policies and procedures. Donella Brown together with both internal and external facilitators provide valuable input into these days.

2015: The new *Strategic Plan for 2015-2018* was launched with a special focus on sustainability, high quality services and the development of staff and volunteers.

We began the Youth Pathways program for students aged 15-24 years to assist with their educational and employment goals.

2016: In June 2016 we launched our new logo, new name Edmund Rice Centre WA, and the tag line *Reaching Out, Changing Lives* to acknowledge our growth into regions outside Mirrabooka and to better represent what we do.

The Common Goal program was commenced in partnership with the WA Police, Football West, the Department of Sport and Recreation and the



communities of the Mirrabooka and Cannington mosques.

2017: The Aboriginal Youth Arts Program commenced in partnership with the Wadjak Aboriginal Resource Centre and Sudbury House.

2018: Ron Alexander accepted our invitation to become Patron following Ken's departure.

"My hope for the future is that Australia maintains its commitment to welcoming and settling people from a refugee and migrant background by building a tolerant and generous country."

"I also hope that the Edmund Rice Centre WA can secure committed core funding into the future to enable it to continue its grassroots work that assists thousands of people."



Patron's Message

In 2018, the Centre welcomed Ron Alexander as its patron. As a former Director General in the Western Australian government, Ron has combined his passion for sport and education to forge a successful career both professionally and in a voluntary capacity. His journey crosses many disciplines including professional sport, sport management, coaching and community service. He was recently named Western Australian of the Year in sports.

Over the last 20 years I have watched the Edmund Rice Centre, under the directorship of Stephen Bowman, grow from its humble beginnings in Mirrabooka to become a larger, more vital part of the Western Australian community.

I have seen first-hand the impact that the Centre's grassroots programs for people from a Refugee and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background can have. I am passionate about providing pathways, particularly for our young people, so that everyone can participate fully in our community and that is the basis of services provided by the Edmund Rice Centre.

In its work, ERCWA emphasises the importance of education, building a sense of community and helping people feel a sense of belonging. This is what I have assisted people with all my life. I am continually impressed with how the Centre finds new and innovative programs to introduce learning and skill sets to people from different backgrounds ranging in age from 8 - 80 years.

I am proud of my long association with the Edmund Rice Centre WA and I look forward to assisting in any way I can as Patron.

”

Ron Alexander
Patron, Edmund Rice Centre WA

Our Highlights



Harmony Camp

In December 100 people joined our annual Harmony Camp at Camp Kelly in Dwellingup. On Saturday morning six Aboriginal people led by Uncle Frank welcomed us to country. There was dance, storytelling and music. Everyone enjoyed a bush walk and learnt about gathering bush food and how to be careful of some animals. It was the first time that many of the families had experienced the Australian bush. We shared our own life stories, faith stories and discovered the similarities that exist between faiths. In the evening we shared a multicultural meal followed by dance and Karaoke and concluded the weekend with a multi-faith service.

Funded by Lotterywest and Aquinas College, Supported by the Edmund Rice Centre staff and volunteers.

The Harmony Art Collective

In March this year Bella Ndayikeze, who coordinates the Youth Leadership and Creative Arts program, and four of our young leaders, Odete, Mediatrice, Immaculate and Paw S'kar, attended a two-day art workshop with internationally renowned illustrator Jeremyville. The City of Stirling supported this great initiative by providing space at the Herb Graham Centre, Mirrabooka

The workshop was part of the Harmony Art Collective – a collaboration between SBS, the Department of Home Affairs and aMBUSH Gallery – which unites disadvantaged youth aged 15-24 through art.

Young people, including many newly arrived migrants and Indigenous Australians, participated in workshops in different towns across Australia, facilitated by four internationally acclaimed Australian artists who were selected as art ambassadors and role models for this project.

The artists, Luke Cornish (aka E.L.K), illustrator Georgia Hill, urban cartoonist Jeremyville, and mural artist Fintan Magee collaborated with youth in workshops around Australia, bringing young people together to celebrate cultural diversity, creativity and belonging.

Bella was chosen to travel to Sydney for the official launch of the Harmony Art Collective's exhibition on March 13th at Darling Harbour. She spoke firsthand about the positive experiences she and the girls had gained from being able to engage with their creative side through the task of creating collaborative artworks.

The artworks were displayed outdoors in Darling Quarter, Sydney, from March to May 2018. An estimated 1 million people viewed the exhibition.



ERCWA's Bella Ndayikeze speaks at the Harmony Art Collective launch in Sydney. The collective brought together young people to celebrate cultural diversity, creativity and belonging.

Because of Her We Can - Aboriginal Youth Arts Program

Working alongside Girrawheen Senior High School's Yokayi program and prolific Noongar artist/performer Karla Hart, we developed this project as part of NAIDOC Week 2018. NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Entitled *Because of Her We Can*, girls from the Aboriginal Youth Arts program put together a dance performance which was filmed; the video screened on the digital tower at Yagan Square throughout NAIDOC Week. This year's theme celebrated the role women play as active and significant role models in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls at a community, state and national level.

The project was developed and funded by the ERCWA's Aboriginal Youth Arts program.



Performers from the *Barber Shop Chronicles* set creative challenges for participants of the Creative Arts program with improvisations (above) and music (below).

Barber Shop Chronicles Workshop - Creative Arts Program

In collaboration with the Perth International Arts Festival, the Creative Arts program presented a two-day theatrical workshop with actors from the *Barber Shop Chronicles*.

Originating in London, the *Barber Shop Chronicles* is a fly-on-the-wall look at the social role of the barber shop where African men gather to talk about life, family, music and sport. The production uses razor sharp dialogue and upbeat music to tell the stories from six barber shops.

Participants learnt about traditional African music and took part in improvisations with the actors. They also designed and painted their own barber shop signs.

We were invited to the dress rehearsal of the *Barber Shop Chronicles* show which took place in the Octagon Theatre at the University of WA.

It was great fun and a terrific learning experience.

» Settlement Services

The Department of Social Services' Settlement Grants Program funds programs that support humanitarian entrants who have lived in Australia fewer than five years. The programs facilitate access to mainstream services and support successful settlement. ERCWA's activities covered by the program include casework, advocacy and referral, information sessions and active workshops.

Settlement Casework

ERCWA provides generalist casework, referral and advocacy services to clients who live in the north metropolitan area. Our services operate five days a week and we reach out to the most vulnerable clients, especially those with limited English, to enable them to successfully settle in Australia.

In this reporting period we provided 745 one-on-one sessions. We provided casework services for clients from Myanmar, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Egypt. Most clients were experiencing several complex issues, which may have included:

- Family matters including youth, aged care and domestic violence
- Financial hardship and income support
- Legal and police matters
- Migration information and referral
- Taxation, or
- Australian citizenship applications and Australian passport applications.

We also conducted seven group information sessions which were attended by 155 clients. The sessions covered drugs and alcohol; scams and consumer protection; budgeting and utilities; ambulance cover; consumer credit and signing contracts; and loans and debt.

Funded by the Department of Social Services.

Comments from Casework Clients

"I was able to get my citizenship because of the support and help I received, now I feel more secure and reliant on myself."

"I was able to secure a home for my family from Homeswest because of the help I received, I am very happy."

"Because of this program I was able to find work, now I can provide for my family."



In this reporting period we provided 745 one-on-one sessions with clients needing help with a range of settlement matters. Pictured below: Mr Maung Maung Than, whom we helped find employment, with his wife Mrs Than Than Mar.

Case Study: On-line job search program success



Mr Maung Maung Than arrived in Australia with his wife in January 2015. He was born in the small village of Kungking in Myanmar but was forced to flee his home due to persecution. He made his way to Malaysia where he worked for seven years as a welder. Australia accepted the couple as refugees and they arrived on a humanitarian visa to make Australia home.

Like many new arrivals Mr Than had limited English skills which made it difficult for him to find work. However, he studied hard and after completing the initial English courses provided by

the government, he undertook further English studies at TAFE and then in 2016 he achieved a Certificate III in welding.

ERCWA helped Mr Than secure employment in his chosen field. He took part in the online job search program which helps participants develop their resumes and improve computer literacy. Mr Than attended one-on-one sessions at the Centre and developed a resume showcasing his passion and skills in welding.

His determination, hard work, experience and support from the Edmund Rice Centre WA enabled Mr Than to secure a position with Alloy Steel International in Malaga last year.

Driver Education

The driving program assists clients to get their WA driver's licence, thereby giving them independence and confidence.

Most of our clients have come from countries where they would not have ever dreamt of driving a vehicle, taking their children to school by themselves in a car, visiting the doctor or doing their grocery shopping independently. Being able to drive develops a vital pathway for employment opportunities and social integration.

This year, 71 clients were enrolled in our 36-hour program that ran throughout the school year.

As well as practical instruction, we provide a Drive Safe theory class every term. Over the 20 hour period of these classes people can ask questions, clarify areas they are not clear on and build their confidence before sitting the driving test.

The classes cater for individual needs at the right English and comprehension level.

Our clients came from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Iran and Syria. Most were female because we give priority to women with children who may be single or have a husband working.

Most clients passed the driving test.

We have 12 driving instructors who deliver the practical lessons. They come from Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Ethiopia, Burma, Eritrea and Mauritius and all speak more than five languages.

Funded by the Department of Social Services.



Gaining a driver's licence gives independence and confidence. For some clients it's an opportunity they would never have had in their home country.

Comments from Driving Students

"Being in this program has changed my life by giving me a WA driver's licence."

"A dream come true. I never would have thought I would drive a car."

"Being from my home country, I was also thinking cars and driving is only for men, but now I feel equal."

"Not having to be dependent on my husband anymore is just a great feeling."





Social, cultural, historical and recreational activities are important for helping participants feel at home in Australia.

Lifeskills for Living in Australia

The Lifeskills Program was developed by ERCWA in 2003. Its purpose was to provide education about the upkeep and maintenance of a home in Australia. Over the years the program has expanded to cover education about broader topics including safety at home, understanding and using appliances, learning how to look after a garden, safety at the beach, preparing healthy food, and health and hygiene.

During the period, over 80 Lifeskills workshops were delivered in Mirrabooka and Cannington. Our clients were from Burma, Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Somalia.

The sessions were informative, relaxed and enjoyable. In this environment, social networks and new friendships were formed. We encouraged newcomers to help themselves and other newly arrived families.

Social, cultural, historical and recreational activities are also part of the program. During the period, the most popular workshops were about women's health and cyber security. Outings to the Perth Zoo and Sculptures by the Sea at Cottesloe Beach were also popular.

Funded by the Department of Social Services.

"I felt happy when we were at Sculptures by the Sea. I have never been along the coast to look at the beautiful beaches here. It feels very special to be here and to look and know my previous home country in Africa was across all that water!"



Program co-ordinator Donella Brown assists a student from Balga Senior High School.

Building a Future Together – A Youth Pathways Program

This program caters for youth from a refugee background aged from 15 to 24 years. It provides one-on-one casework, mentoring and tutoring to students who need help and guidance to progress at school.

This year our students came from Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Khurdistan, Thailand, Burma, Vietnam and Indonesia.

The young people in this program engage in activities that are less formal than in a classroom setting which gives them the opportunity to increase their confidence and improve their English. Most importantly, it gives students the opportunity to explore what their options are after they leave school.

During the reporting period we worked with Irene McCormack Catholic College, Aranmore Catholic College, Balga Senior High School, Mercy College and at the Edmund Rice Centre in Mirrabooka.

Funded by the Department of Social Services.

"Before I got help from Miss Donella, I was unable to do much homework from school on my own, I feel really happy with Miss Donella."

"I really feel much happier."



Mundaring Weir Excursion: STEPS students learnt about local history and explored the area.

Integrated Services Centres

The Integrated Services Centres (ISCs) are located at the Thornlie and Koondoola Primary Schools. They were established in 2007 as a response to significant gaps in service provision for refugee families in school settings. The services are available 50 weeks per year to the families of students attending the Intensive English Centre (IEC) at each primary school.

The ISCs are a collaboration between the Department of Education, Department of Health and Edmund Rice Centre WA. The centres provide culturally appropriate and holistic services to assist families with complex health, mental health, settlement and transitional needs. A small team comprising a clinical nurse, a senior social worker, a multicultural community liaison worker (MCLW) and an administration assistant works at each school. ERCWA employs the MLCW and administration assistant.

Our work focuses on general settlement issues, practical settlement support, advocacy and arranging referrals to other agencies. Issues may include housing and tenancy, legal and financial concerns, English language and literacy, transport, community education and linking families to support networks. This service is offered through case management, outreach support, information sessions and women's groups.

In this reporting period the MLCWs at Koondoola and Thornlie ISCs provided 1075 case management sessions to 202 families.

Our teams also provide afterschool and holiday activities for students and their siblings. This

Afghan Community Member and Interpreter:

"I have been engaged as an interpreter with the women's group for the past year. During this time, I have witnessed astonishing changes among the Afghan women. They have benefitted in every aspect of resettlement by being informed about the new environment and equipped with the necessary information and knowledge to assist them to navigate towards a smooth resettlement."

encourages learning and integration into the local community. In this reporting period we ran 24 school holiday programs.

The afterschool programs at both schools have been very successful. Thornlie ISC's STEPS afterschool program ran 20 sessions attended by 20 children. Themes included educational and group games, dental hygiene, sports, cyber bullying, and home and personal safety. We work on developing creativity, critical thinking, social strategies and wellbeing.

The afterschool Learning Club at Koondoola, supported by Koondoola teacher volunteers, ran 25 sessions. Each session was attended by 10 to 14 children whose teachers and parents all reported improved educational outcomes.

The weekly women's support groups build community resilience by teaching the women about life in Australia, parenting and other support



Koondoola participants learnt about native Australian flora on a visit to Kings Park.

services, understanding the education system as well as cooking and sewing. The groups foster confidence and strength by giving the women the information and knowledge to become independent, which helps them and their families become integrated into the Australian community. We provide child minding and transportation to the weekly groups, if required, to ensure the most isolated and vulnerable women in the community can attend.

The highest number of enrolments at Koondoola IEC are families from Afghan and Karen ethnic groups. During this reporting period there were over 600 attendances at the women's group sessions.

IEC students attending the STEPS program at Thornlie were asked to comment on what they thought of, and learnt from, the program.

"Learnt to be friendly and play together and not fighting."

"Learnt a lot of things, how to create and follow rules."

"Having fun and learning things after school."

"STEPS was really important for me and I learnt many things like... how to make a roller coaster. Also, we went for adventures."



Top left: Senior Constable Zainon (Zen) Mohamad Kassim talking to STEPS students about cyber-bullying, personal and home safety. Centre: The Koondoola Women's Group learns about food labelling. Below: A practical healthy cooking session can also be fun.

» Community Education

Education is the cornerstone of the Edmund Rice philosophy. Education removes barriers to equity and promotes the benefits of multiculturalism to the wider community. Opportunities open up through the acquisition of new skills and increased awareness of vocational options and pathways.

The sense of achievement that comes with education has a positive impact on other areas of life, such as a greater openness and willingness to investigate higher education, employment opportunities, and the confidence to engage in community activities and programs.





English language proficiency is essential for everyday life and for employment and education opportunities.

Language for Living in Australia

We provide adults from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds with opportunities to develop their English language proficiency.

Lessons make use of everyday home and living themes, teach grammar and punctuation, and speaking, listening and writing skills.

During the period we delivered six streamed English classes every week and taught approximately 75 students a day.

Our students, who range in age from 25 to 60, came from many countries including Sudan, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Syria, Iraq, Vietnam and Myanmar.

Some of our clients have not received any education in their own countries due to conflict or persecution. By providing the gift of education each can develop language skills that enable them to shop, read, use public transport, use money, and pursue employment and further education.

We have a dedicated volunteer group of 16 qualified teachers and 8 teacher assistants many of whom teach classes on more than one day a week. They contribute a staggering 2,000 hours in volunteer time each year.

The program is in high demand and always has a waiting list.

Comments from English Language Students

"I see my future bright since I joined this program."

"My English has improved a lot, I now am very confident in talking English."

"I have made friends from China, Congo, and Somalia. I like to meet people from lots of places. If I stayed home I would get very stressed and depressed."

"The teachers make me comfortable and my life is now different with lots of people to practise English together."

"The program has helped me so much. I can now write my name and introduce myself."

"I used to only spend time with people from Congo and Rwanda because they could understand me but everyone here is my friend and I speak to everyone."

The Language for Living in Australia program relies on private donations and fundraising.

Computer Studies

The Edmund Rice Centre recognises that computer literacy is an essential living skill for newly arrived people. So when the Computer Studies program lost its core funding support in this reporting period, the board decided to fund the program from the centre's donations. Unfortunately, we had to reduce the number of classes offered and charge students a fee, but despite this, there were approximately 130 enrolments in the program.

Our computer skills courses for beginner and intermediate levels are suitable for people from diverse backgrounds with little or no knowledge of computers and are designed to give students basic IT skills. We have some people in our classes who have never used a computer before, or lack confidence in using one. Others come to improve their proficiency to help them find employment.

Subjects include general computer knowledge, typing and accuracy, using email and the internet, word processing, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and on-line banking, shopping and paying bills.



Computer Studies teacher assistant Julie (front left) and teacher Tia Hattar (centre front) with graduating students.

Comments from Computer Studies Students

"Thank you for teaching me about computer intermediate skills. It was a great class and great learning experience."

"I really like this class, I feel very confident and have improved my computer work. I wish to have more hours and keep going to help me get a job in the future thank you."

"I'm very pleased to be in your class because I'm learning every day something new."



The ladies from Women Together visited Mercedes College and delighted staff and students with their performance of the Persian harvest dance.

"My first session was so welcoming, warm and friendly environment. I felt so safe and happy."

Women Together

Being at home without friends and facing a language barrier is one of the hardest things for a newly arrived woman in Australia.

The Women Together program provides an opportunity for women from refugee, migrant and Australian born backgrounds to meet, socialise and share cooking and craft skills. On average, 14 to 16 women from countries such as Afghanistan, Italy, Spain, Chile, Vietnam, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan, and Iran met at the centre each week.

The year included several special highlights. Celebrity chef, Vince Garreffa, came and cooked for us one day. He not only cooked but asked the women to talk about their lives. As a migrant himself, who also faced difficulties in his new home, he showed great empathy.

Attending a performance by the WA Ballet at His Majesty's Theatre was a highlight. The women were in awe of the building itself and simply loved dressing up to attend the performance which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The program could not run without the core group of women volunteers who co-ordinate the weekly meetings and create a home-like environment. The group said: "Compassion is important to us. Some of the ladies who come to the centre don't have families: we are their family."

Supported by Aquinas College Ladies Auxiliary and private donations.

» Youth Services

Our youth services began in 1999 with a Saturday leisure program for newly arrived refugee children. We then established a weekday sports program and, in 2006, a youth leadership program.

Our Aboriginal children's program began in 2003.

In 2011 the Local Parks Program was launched; a collection of five local parks programs offering a variety of sports at grassroots level. Local Parks

helps young people from low socio-economic backgrounds get into mainstream sporting clubs.

Opportunities then emerged to launch other programs to improve the transition process into mainstream sport and provide development opportunities that these young people may not otherwise have access to.

Our youth services go from strength-to-strength.



The Local Parks Program introduced badminton this year which has been very popular.



ERCWA AFL player Aker Athoi with Tendai Mzungu, coach of the Fremantle Football Club's Next Generation Academy which develops multicultural youth.



Above and below: ERCWA Male Academy in an AFL match against All Saints College.



Youth Leadership Nature Academy at Yanchep National Park.



Youth Leadership Program

Mirrabooka: 57 participants, 48 sessions

Butler: 43 participants, 33 sessions

The Youth Leadership Program challenges the young people already participating in our programs to become more fully involved in the community.

We provide pathway opportunities for positive lifestyle choices to enable our young people to develop into leaders and positive role models.

In addition to the regular training sessions, two weekend camps were held which were attended by participants from Mirrabooka and Butler.

As part of our program a young person can progress from youth leader to senior leader and take part in training such as internships and other employment opportunities.

During the period our programs covered coaching and playing AFL football and soccer, conducting sports activities for young participants, fundraising for Edmund Rice youth programs and the development of a justice group for young leaders.

Highlights for the year included:

- participation in a WA Police forum on issues in the South Sudanese community,
- umpiring training sessions for the participants in our AFL umpiring academy (we currently have 10 umpires active in the community),
- scoring and administration at the weekly community Beat Ball program at the Herb Graham Centre,
- attendance at the AFL Multicultural Round where our juniors played a game at half time, and
- our ERCWA cook-off which promotes healthy lifestyles through the *Go for 2&5* message.

All these activities give our youth leaders the opportunity to meet different members of our communities.

Funded by the Department of Social Services' Communities for Children program through the Smith Family, Edmund Rice Foundation and Healthway.

Case Study: Andiya and the Nature Academy

Andiya was a participant in our Youth Leadership Program when she became an intern and took over responsibility for the nature academy project. She was on a steep learning curve. Working with the First Hike Project, which takes groups of refugees on their first bushwalking experience, she had to organise two workshops (bush survival and map reading skills) along with a nature walk.

Andiya learned quickly and through the comprehensive training provided by the leadership program, she was able to facilitate the attendance of 13 people at the nature workshops and 11 people on the walk.

Working closely with First Hike, her duties included developing a transport plan, risk management, and providing information to the participants.

As a result of the experience and confidence she gained from this collaboration, Andiya independently organised a nature walk for the mothers of Youth Leadership participants, and this was a great success also.



ERCWA Youth Leaders have many opportunities to extend themselves with new skills and experiences.

She then arranged an early morning fishing trip which required her to learn how to rig and use fishing gear, which she mastered very quickly. Nine people attended the trip, seven of whom went fishing for the first time.

Funded by the Department of Social Services Communities for Children through the Smith Family; Edmund Rice Foundation and Healthway.

Creative Arts

- 46 sessions
- 96 participants

The Creative Arts program, which gives young people the opportunity to express themselves through various creative activities including art, dance, media and design has grown in popularity this year.

Highlights included drumming and leadership with actor Patrice Naiambana and workshops with New York artist Jeremy Ville.

We conducted 10 weeks of Capoeira (Brazilian style dance and martial arts) which has encouraged physical and mental wellbeing.

We also ran a healthy cooking activity – a great opportunity to encourage good eating habits. We provided healthy recipes for the participants to take home and held a follow-up session with their parents.

We were also very lucky to undertake some activities with Joan Dellavalle. When Joan heard about the Creative Arts program she offered her assistance. Joan held a book reading featuring the science fiction fantasy novel *A Wrinkle in Time* which was attended by 60 children. Joan gave



The Creative Arts program gives participants the opportunity to express themselves through art, dance, media and design. Pictured is a storytelling session with Joan Dellavalle (second from right).

a copy of the book to each child, and provided cinema tickets for 12 children to see the movie of the book.

The biggest highlight was a two-day workshop with actors from the *Barber Shop Chronicles* who were performing at the Perth International Arts Festival. See the highlights page in this review for the full story.

Funded by the Department of Social Services' Communities for Children program which is administered by the Smith Family.



The Aboriginal Youth Arts program increases confidence and develops new skills while learning about Noongar culture. This six Noongar seasons mural is a community project in Mirrabooka.

Aboriginal Youth Arts Program

This program brings opportunities to Aboriginal youth; it uses the arts to increase self-confidence and self-esteem by developing new skills and learning about Noongar culture and family connection.

Amongst the activities this year was a three week basic photography course in the girls' Tree of Life program. All the girls enjoyed learning how to use a camera effectively and they produced some excellent photos.

The boys' Tree of Life program undertook a five week hip hop workshop. The boys were encouraged to think about music and writing that had meaning for them, and they produced some very honest lyrics. They learnt about music and rhythm and how to record their own beats.

The major highlight for our year was the Noongar six seasons mural project. The mural, which is at Fragrant Reserve in Mirrabooka, celebrates the six seasons of the Noongar people. It also incorporates major events from different cultural groups in the area.

During 12 months of planning and artistic work we worked with over 60 community members (mainly youth) and conducted 20 workshops with five different groups. A community painting day attracted over 40 people who helped paint the mural.

The program is funded by the Crown Resorts Foundation and the Packer Family Foundation.

Moorditj Koolangka

- 37 sessions
- 32 participants

Moorditj Koolangka provides after-school cultural, leisure and lifeskills activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children between the ages of seven and eleven.

Culturally relevant activities included:

- drawing/mural workshop about the six Aboriginal seasons with Kylie Graham,
- bushwalks with Esther and Richard McDowell to local areas, and
- discovering traditional bush foods and endemic plant life.

Earlier this year we created some lovely artwork while teaching the children about Wagyl stories. The Wagyl design was later interpreted and used in the design of the City of Stirling banner for the annual Banners on the Terrace on St George's Terrace in Perth.

The program continues to enjoy a great relationship with Sacred Heart College in Sorrento and during the second half of 2017 they hosted us twice, once for NAIDOC Day and then a Christmas party at the end of the school year.

Funded by the Department of Social Services Communities for Children through the Smith Family and the Annie Millicent Foundation.



Children from the Moorditj Koolangka program with artworks they created after learning Wagyl stories; and right: the Interpreted artwork by Yabini Kickett for the 2018 City of Stirling Banner on the Terrace.



Butler Falcons Program

- 37 training sessions
- 111 participants

The Butler Falcons girls' Australian Rules Football team gives young women from multicultural backgrounds the chance to be part of a team, improve their health and well-being and form friendships. The program works with young people at the Butler Community Centre and develops them, not only in playing and understanding the game of football, but also in leadership, coaching and umpiring through our coaching and officiating academies.

Many well documented barriers exist that hinder culturally and linguistically diverse youth from entering mainstream pathways, including transport, cost, cultural and religious discrimination. The Butler Falcons Program helps break down these barriers.

Throughout the year there were also opportunities to play matches against local clubs and attend a high-performance camp for female players.

Funded by the AFL through the Jim Stynes Foundation, Healthway, Edith Cowan University and the City of Wanneroo (in-kind venue support). The program is supported by the West Australian Football Commission, West Perth Football District and Fair Game.

City of Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts is the Butler Falcons' #1 Ticket Holder.

The Edmund Rice Lions

- 40 training sessions
- 108 participants

The Edmund Rice Lions Australian Rules Football program provides transitional teams for participants from diverse cultural backgrounds. During the reporting period 12 players progressed to junior and senior clubs. The team is coached and managed by an ERCWA coordinator, youth workers and supported by the ERCWA youth leadership group as well as past Lions players.

Extension opportunities have included attending AFL and WAFL matches. One highlight was playing during half time at Domain Stadium when the West Coast Eagles played Hawthorn.

Six Lions players joined the Coolbinia Bombers AFL Club and dominated in their age groups.

Six girls from the Lions played for the Balga Bombers in the Subiaco District competition and they also made a significant contribution.

Funded by Department of Social Services Communities for Children through the Smith Family, the Australian Football League and Edith Cowan University.

Supported by the City of Stirling, the WA Football Commission, Healthway and Fair Game.

Hon Janine Freeman MLA is the Lion's #1 ticketholder.



An Edmund Rice Lions mixed team played at half time of a West Coast Eagles /Hawthorn game at Domain Stadium.

Local Parks Program

- 5 local programs
- 648 participants

The Local Parks program provides free grassroots activities in parks and recreation centres in the Cities of Stirling and Wanneroo to encourage young people to participate in sport. Our aim is to develop leadership skills and provide possible career pathways for CaLD, Aboriginal and at-risk youth aged from 5 to 18 years.

We have formed partnerships with state sporting associations, local clubs and sport & recreation providers to increase participation of our young people in mainstream sport.

The sports offered included netball, badminton, volleyball, soccer, tennis, swimming and wrestling.

ERCWA is also a financial assessor for the state government KidSport initiative which pays up to \$150 towards club fees for those young people who would not otherwise be able to join a club.

Funded by the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries, Healthway and a Crime Prevention Grant from the WA Police.

Supported by the City of Stirling, the City of Wanneroo and Fair Game.



A partnership with Tennis West allowed us to offer tennis for the first time this year.



Participants enjoyed playing volleyball thanks to our partnership with Volleyball WA.



The Common Goal girls attended a Matildas game with Inspector Kate who spoke to them about her career with the WA Police.

Common Goal Academy

- 44 weeks per year
- 180 participants at each location

Common Goal is a strategic partnership between the ERCWA, the Western Australia Police Force and Football West, with the involvement of local governments and community organisations.

Common Goal uses soccer as a means to develop young people who are between 8 and 18 years of age. Weekly training and development sessions are held at Queens Park Primary School in partnership with Canning Mosque and at Fragrant Gardens Reserve in partnership with Mirrabooka Mosque.

Leadership development and team building occurs through soccer matches with multicultural teams and local clubs, thereby improving social cohesion and harmony. Excursions to soccer matches and related activities develop bonds with mentors, coaches and authority figures, including WA Police.

Common Goal provides a welcoming environment for youth who may not be ready to enter mainstream sporting clubs for a variety of reasons, such as cost, transport, and a lack of cultural awareness and sensitivities at the local club. To help alleviate this, we invite local soccer clubs to participate in the project to provide a pathway for our players to join their local club.

Funded by WA Police, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, City of Stirling (in-kind venue) and City of Canning (in-kind venue and youth workers).

Supported by Football West, WA Police Muslim Community Advisory Group, Fair Game, Canning Mosque, Mirrabooka Mosque and the Perth Turkish Youth Association.



The street basketball program promotes a healthy active lifestyle and cross-cultural friendships.

Edmund Rice Eagles Street Basketball

- 44 sessions
- 115 participants

This program operates at Butterworth Reserve in Koondoola. This program introduces the participants to basketball and then helps them move into mainstream clubs, while providing extension and development opportunities.

The program is for people between the ages of 6 and 12 years who are from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD), Aboriginal and low-socio economic backgrounds.

It engages participants in an active, healthy, safe and welcoming environment, whilst encouraging positive interactions, cross-cultural friendships and harmony.

The program delivers the weekly basketball sessions at local parks so that children from the local area, who in most cases have difficulties getting transport, can walk down and participate. It is free of charge and open to all.

Banksia United Multi-sport Program

- 39 sessions
- 127 participants

Banksia United is a partnership between the Edmund Rice Centre WA and Relationships Australia's Moorditj Yarning Program. It was launched as an Indigenous soccer program in 2011 to provide opportunities for local Aboriginal children and youth along with their families in the Banksia Grove area. It used sport as a medium to foster leadership abilities, build relationships and community capacity and provide a positive alternative to the many negative influences on young people.

In late 2017, in consultation with participants, it became a multi-sport program to cater for different needs by introducing a new sport every six to eight weeks. In early 2018 we delivered a six-week swimming program in partnership with the Royal Life Saving Society. With 32 participants, it was a successful launch of the new concept.

The Banksia United Multi-sport Program is for Indigenous youth in Mirrabooka and surrounding suburbs. It introduces them to various sports using the Local Parks system, with the aim of transitioning the children into mainstream sporting clubs.

Funded by Department of Social Services Communities for Children through the Smith Family and Relationships Australia.

Supported by the City of Wanneroo.



A six-week swimming program with the Royal Life Saving Society launched the new multi-sport concept.



Local police officers regularly visit the Banksia Multi-sport program to get to know the community.

Student Placements 01/07/2017 to 30/06/2018

- Servite College
- Mercy College
- Trinity College
- West Coast Institute
- Edith Cowan University
- Murdoch University
- Notre Dame University

School staff hosted for PD

- Catholic Education Office
- La Salle College
- Trinity College
- AMEP

We thank our funders and sponsors

We thank every one of our sponsors and supporters who so willingly gave to ERCWA in financial contributions or in-kind support which allows us to continue our vital community work.



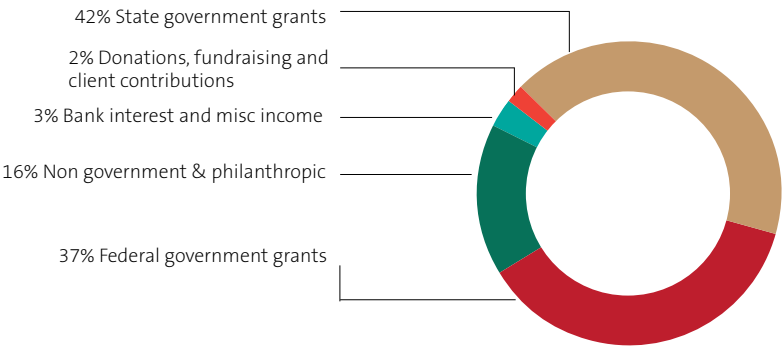
We also thank our partners:



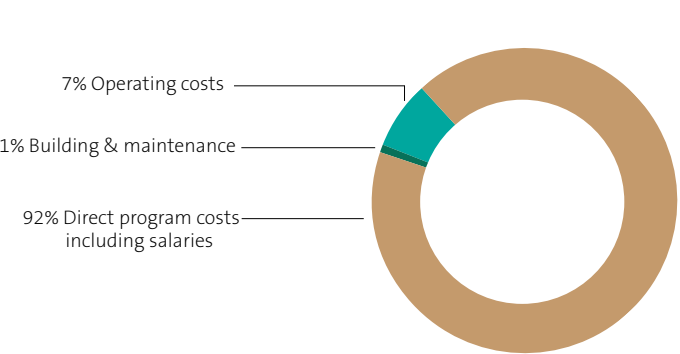
Financial Summary

Audited accounts are available on our website.

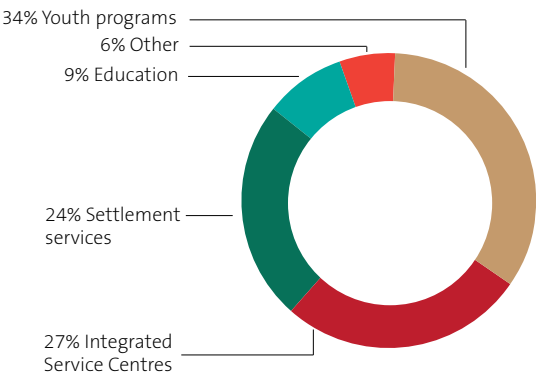
Income



Expenditure



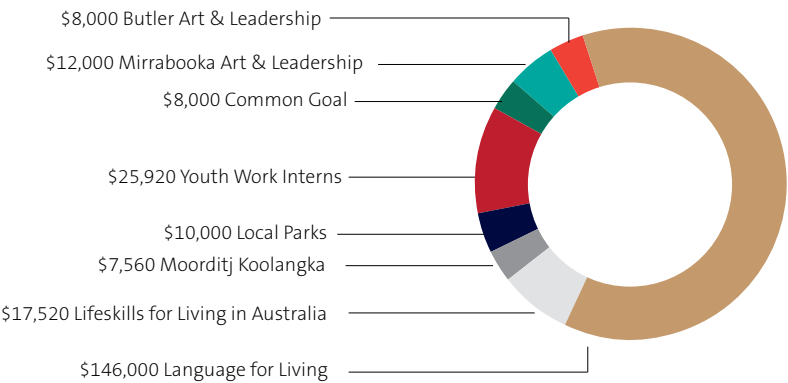
Expenditure - Salaries



Volunteer hours and in-kind support

Over the reporting period (1 July 2017 to June 2018) there were:

- Total volunteer hours: 4,880
- Total value of volunteer hours: \$235,000





P: (08) 9440 0625

F: (08) 9207 1178

info@ercwa.org.au

18 Brewer Place Mirrabooka WA 6061

PO Box 613 Mirrabooka WA 6941

www.ercwa.org.au

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