

reaching out, changing lives



Annual Review 2020–21



Welcome to the Edmund Rice Centre WA

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 ethnicity, creed, sexuality, gender or ability, and foster harmonious relations between 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



Multicultural Community Centres

The Edmund Rice Centre WA acknowledges the traditional owners of Wadjak country and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.

We pay our respects to Elders both past and present and to their stories that have sustained them over many thousands of years.

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Leadership Success



The Edmund Rice Centre WA is extremely proud of former staff member and program participant, the Honourable Ayor Makur Chuot MLC, who became Australia's first South Sudanese–Australian member of parliament when she was sworn into the Western Australian parliament in May.

Ayor participated in ERCWA's Developing Community Leaders Initiative (DCLI) from May 2019 to March 2021. This program develops young people, predominantly from CaLD backgrounds, into strong community leaders who have an active presence in their own communities and in the wider Australian community. The program provides structured training, employment, education and professional development opportunities to help young people take the lead in initiating and contributing to community programs and initiatives. During this time Ayor worked with the WA Police African Leaders Advisory Group and the Mirrabooka Police District Youth Advisory Group.

Ayor worked as an administrative assistant at ERCWA from 2015 to 2017 whilst studying for her accounting degree.

In her inaugural address to parliament, Ayor gave 'special thanks to Edmund Rice Centre and Christina Ward—Mamma Chris, my Australian mum—who always looked out for us, for me and my family, always wanted the best for us and ensured that we had as much opportunity as possible to succeed in our new country.' This support from Chris Ward, our community services manager, and others at ERCWA has helped Ayor and her family achieve many things. Her sister, Akech Makur Chuot, plays for the Richmond Football Club in the AFLW, and her brother, Mangar Makur Chuot, won gold in the 200 metres at the Australian Athletics Championships in 2014.

Ayor's successful election into Western Australia's parliament is also evidence for our current participants in the DCLI that political aspirations can be achieved by young people from diverse cultural backgrounds. We are looking forward to witnessing her achievements in the Western Australian parliament, in a leadership role for all Western Australians.



ERCWA Board (left to right): Richard Hennessy, Amy Berson, Kevin Bowman, Aleksandra Miller, Rosemary Sayer, Bruce Larson, Jim Elliott and Vivian D'Almeida.

Chairman's Message

There is an old sporting saying, 'when the going gets tough the tough get going' and I am delighted to confirm that the staff and volunteers at ERCWA have over this past 12 months demonstrated through their professionalism and unflinching commitment to our participants and to each other, that they are up to the task. COVID, as it extends into two years, has made life tough, particularly for those less fortunate in our society. The emotional and mental health challenges are not only tough on community members but also our staff who assist our participants with these and other life issues. I thank them all for their commitment to our values and being wonderful role models.

Over the past year we have managed to survive through two COVID snap lockdowns and the inconvenience and disruption that it brings in delivering our services to those in need.

In addition to being COVID conscious, the senior management team was also required to take on extra duties over the past year while a new general manager was appointed. The fact we managed to successfully continue delivering services while dealing with a range of issues, some COVID related, is largely due to the commitment of Christina Ward (as acting GM), Joe Moniodis and Karen Wilson (our senior team). I acknowledge their continued support and significant contribution to ERCWA and thank them sincerely.

ERCWA staff and volunteers have yet again met the challenge of providing quality community programs and where necessary modified them and their delivery to ensure our participants were given the opportunity to access them. They have continued to demonstrate their commitment to our vision and values. I wish to acknowledge their significant role in helping to make ERCWA the highly regarded organisation it is today.

I am delighted to welcome Amy Berson to the role of general manager, who in just a few short months has demonstrated

sound leadership and a preparedness to tackle the tough issues while working with the ERCWA team to find appropriate solutions.

ERCWA Board members have been intimately involved with several key issues over the past 12 months and I thank them all for their significant contributions and professional input. Rosemary Sayer, Vivian D'Almeida, Jim Elliott, Kevin Bowman and Richard Hennessy along with Amy Berson, who resigned to accept the opportunity to lead the ERCWA team, have all made outstanding contributions during this challenging year. I am delighted to welcome Aleksandra Miller to the Board and look forward to working with Aleks as we strive to build ERCWA into a stronger and more effective community support organisation.

The Board has in recent times, along with staff and volunteer input, constructed a new strategic plan which will guide ERCWA over the next few years. A key component is the recognition that we must find additional funding. This is essential if we are to maintain and improve our ability to deliver our critical services ensuring our diverse communities have an environment where everyone is respected, empowered and safe.

On behalf of the Board and staff of ERCWA I extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our amazing volunteers whose generosity and commitment enable us to deliver community programs and support to those in need in a timely and professional manner. My sincere thanks.

I acknowledge and thank all our wonderful donors, funders, and supporters without whose financial assistance we could not undertake specific and comprehensive programs.

Bruce Larson
Chair ERCWA Board of Management
September 2021

General Manager's Message

It is with great delight that I present to you ERCWA's Annual Review for 2020-21, my first in the role of general manager.

Over my career I have worked as a program manager in the development sector for 20 years both in Australia and overseas. My experience ranges across different areas including development through sport, child rights, youth leadership, education, disability, health, and gender. I have also been fortunate to work on programs in Uganda, Bangladesh, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the Caribbean region. All of these opportunities have provided me with broad and valuable experiences in different ways of working and approaches to achieve community development outcomes.

In addition, it is with a unique perspective that I have recently taken up the general manager role, having been involved with ERCWA since 2005, when I was the inaugural multicultural sports coordinator for a few years, before returning to the organisation as a Board member in 2016. The growth in the organisation since I was first involved in 2005 has been immense, particularly in the scope, reach and number of youth programs.

I believe the strength of ERCWA has been the ability to stay focused on the core values of diversity, personal dignity, empowerment and safety as it has grown, and our ability to maintain some of our initial programs, including adult English classes and our women's programs, despite challenging funding environments over the years. I have been amazed to see that a number of volunteers and staff who were involved with ERCWA back in 2005 continue to be involved and contribute to the strong ethos of ERCWA.

One of our new English volunteers recently told me that as soon as she entered ERCWA she felt like it was home, a sentiment echoed by many participants, staff and volunteers. It is this sense of belonging, pride in our work and focus on our participants that this annual review aims to capture.

I hope you enjoy reading about the work we have achieved in 2020-21. We are extremely grateful to our funders, donors, partners and supporters for their contributions to this work and I am extremely proud of our team of committed, talented and competent staff and volunteers who have delivered high quality programs to those in need, despite the uncertainties created by COVID-19.

I look forward to leading ERCWA through the next phase of its development, as we begin implementing our new strategic plan.

Amy Berson
General Manager



Patron's Message

All those at the Edmund Rice Centre WA are to be congratulated for the manner in which they have addressed so many new and emerging challenges and continue to deliver essential support and encouragement where it is desperately needed.

In particular, they have provided settlement support to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, especially refugees and migrants, via casework, community education, sports, leadership and other development activities.

We also supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, at-risk youth, and many in the general community in Western Australia to confidently participate in our community.

The challenges have included pandemic issues with two snap lockdowns, pivoting back to full time programs with some restrictions, then back to full time, with our community requiring significant assistance whilst adapting remarkably well.

The support of all connected to the Edmund Rice Centre is recognised in enabling our community to achieve consistency, dignity, and sustainability in their pursuits in the wider community.

The support of committed staff and all facilities and operations requires significant funding from government and the wider community. This is very much appreciated, we can assure our supporters funds are wisely invested in those of most need.

Funding is challenging and variable and we urge all our donors, funders and sponsors to stay with us to help fill the gaps and continue to encourage us and empower us to provide critical services.

We work in partnership with all levels of government along with other agencies and associations to assist people to reach their full potential.

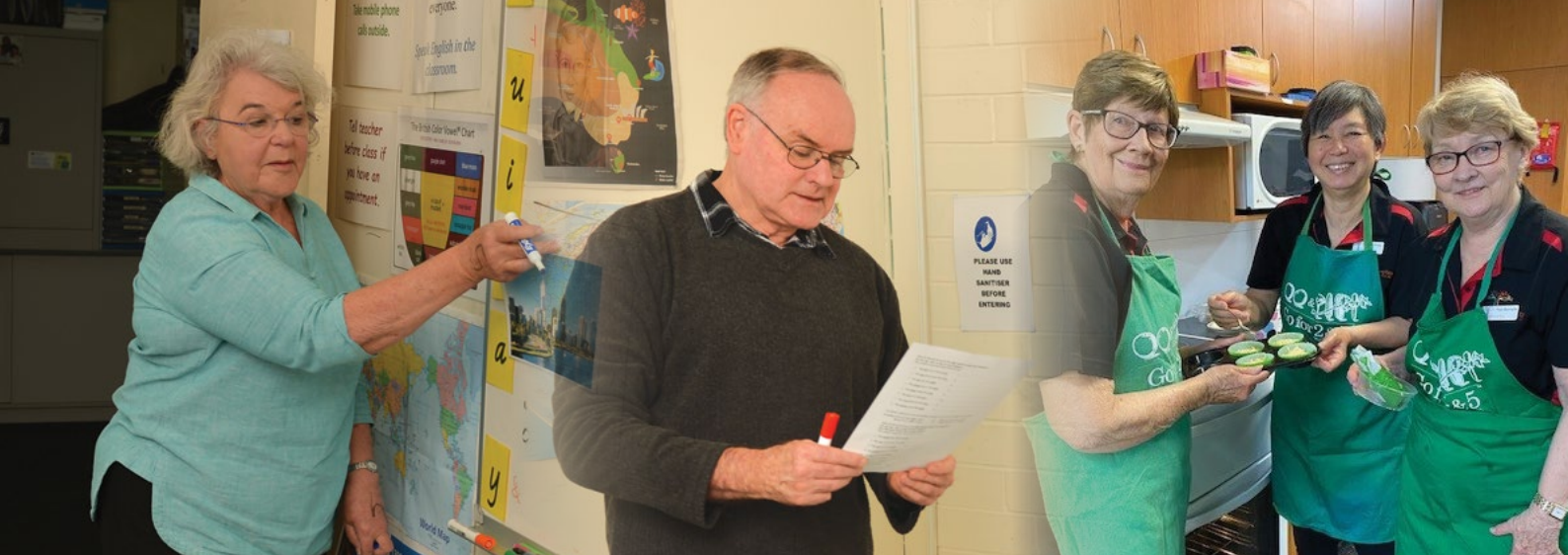
Thank you to all our supporters, staff and participating communities who continue to enable people to feel included, be active participants and make a positive contribution to society.

Ron Alexander
Patron



Photography credit

ERCWA would like to thank Vivian D'Almeida for giving so generously of his time and skills to provide many of the photographs in this annual review.



Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are the heart of ERCWA.

It is their effort and inspiration that has allowed us to operate successful and innovative programs for over 20 years.

Volunteers not only provide valuable teaching, coaching and coordination skills, but by developing relationships, sharing stories and committing to supporting social justice, our volunteers are empowered to:

- raise awareness of the causes of poverty and injustice and the need for human rights to be respected and advanced
- advocate for the needs of groups who are systemically excluded locally and globally
- promote social action that engages people in the work for social change.

In 2020–21 our 46 volunteers have contributed more than 7,000 hours of their time, which equates conservatively to \$241,840 of in-kind support.

Volunteer Hours		Value
Language for Living in Australia	4,000	\$160,000
Computing	360	\$10,080
Women on Wednesdays	360	\$14,160
Women Together	360	\$12,120
Moorditj Koolangka	240	\$7,560
Youth Work Interns	1,440	\$25,920
Youth Arts & Leadership	480	\$12,000
Total	7,240	\$241,840

We are so grateful for this contribution; just saying thank you seems very inadequate. Working with these amazing, humble and passionate individuals every day is a pleasure and a privilege. We thank you!

Profile: Steve Bowman

‘Volunteering is a rewarding opportunity, and you can help bring about change in people.’

Edmund Rice Centre WA founder and former director Steve Bowman has continued to give back to ERCWA in his retirement. Steve teaches one conversation class a week and works alongside two other teachers in a foundation English class for beginners.

English language classes were at the heart of ERCWA when it commenced operations 23 years ago, and still are today, so for Steve it is a case of returning to his roots and working face to face with clients on a regular basis. Steve has always felt his teaching background gave him the skills to help others.

‘Volunteering enables both students and teachers to develop beneficial relationships with each other. It is a very enriching experience.’

Apart from his work at the Edmund Rice Centre WA, Steve volunteers with four other organisations, mostly associated with refugees and migrants, and maintains his passion for growing orchids.



Language for Living in Australia

We provide English tuition to meet the needs of everyday life.

Computing Classes

We teach the computer skills that are essential for everyday life.

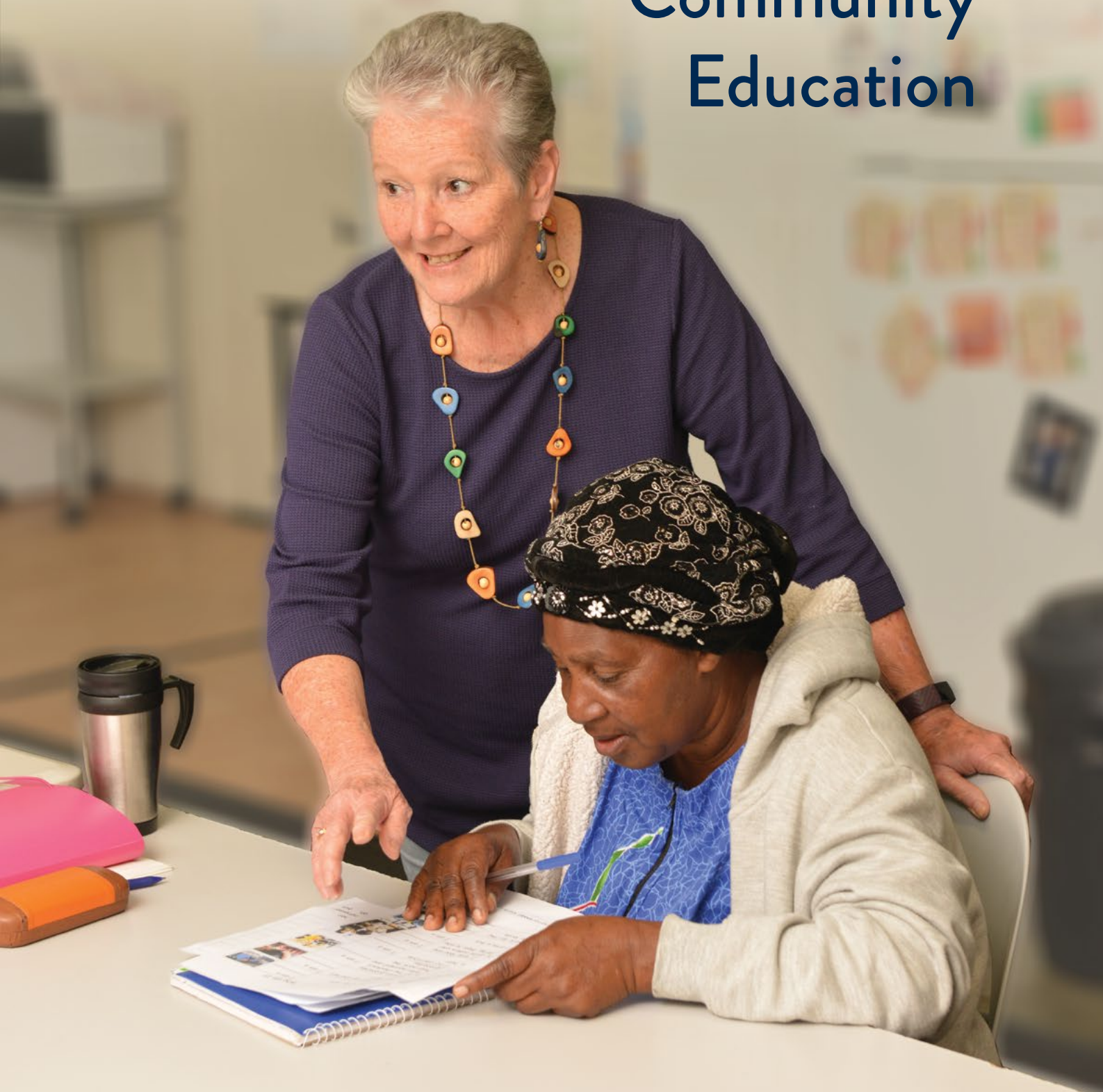
Women on Wednesday

By helping refugee women we help the whole family.

Women Together

We bring women together from many cultures to reduce social isolation.

Community Education



Language for Living in Australia

Our English classes are for refugee adults and migrants who wish to supplement their language skills after attending other educational institutions.

The Language for Living in Australia program is based on the three touchstones of the Edmund Rice Charism: presence, compassion and liberation.

Our two-and-a-half-hour classes run on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at ERCWA in Mirrabooka. They consist of speaking, listening and writing tuition. We also hold conversation classes.

Language for Living classes are divided into six levels, from foundation to intermediate.

In this reporting period we taught 90 participants who are from 20 different countries. We create a welcoming environment so that participants feel very much at ease socialising with people from other cultures.

This program could not run without our volunteers, all of whom are qualified language teachers. We have 20 teachers and eight teacher assistants.

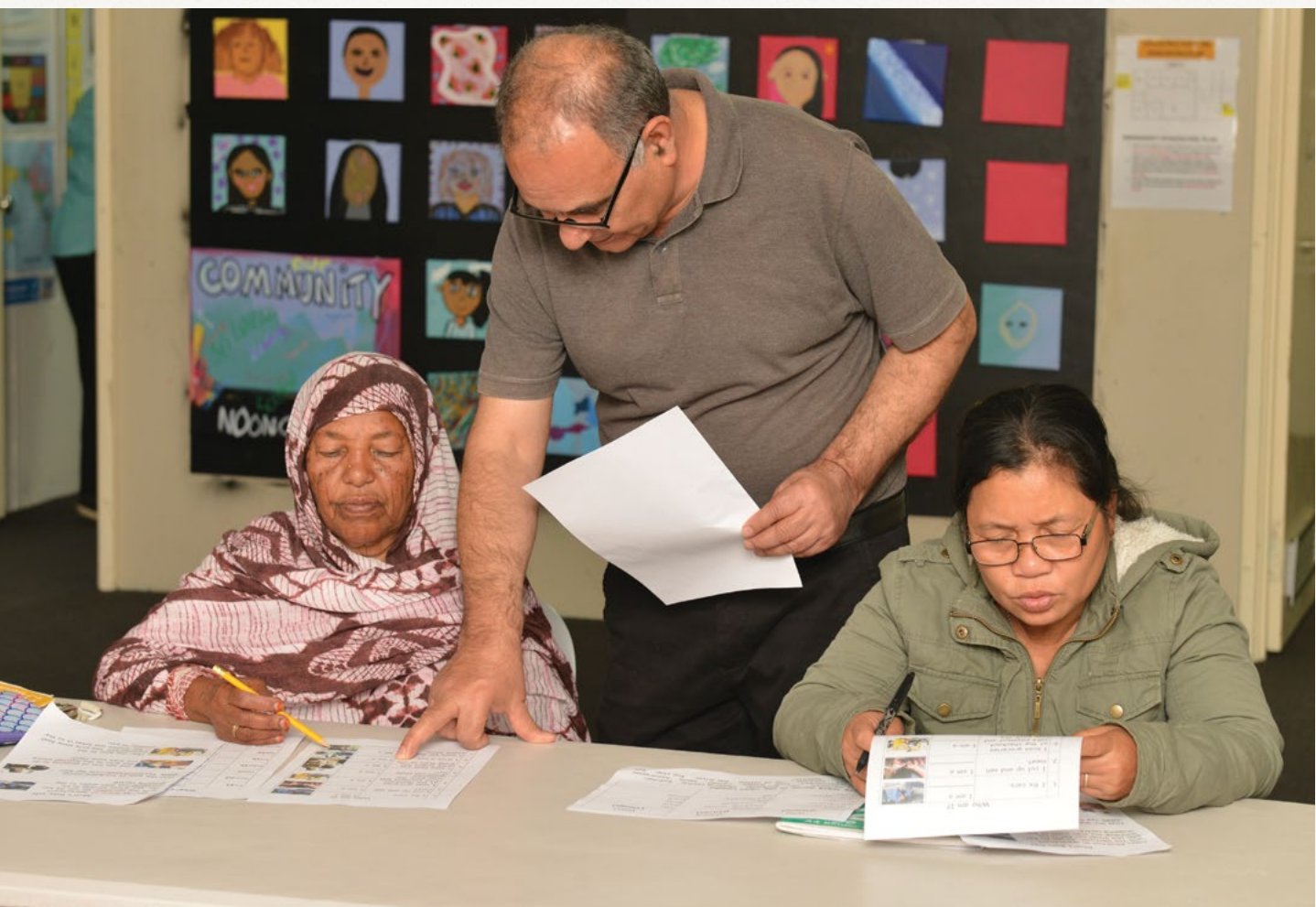
COVID-19 restrictions affected our classes this year; some had to be cancelled, and once we could resume, we had to reduce the number of participants per class because of social distancing protocols. Not wanting their students to miss out, our generous volunteers took on extra classes with lower numbers. Term four last year saw classes return to normal.

In response to the challenges of the past year, our teachers have developed lesson packages for use in the event of further lockdowns. Lesson packages were developed for each of the levels for a four-week period. This included the possibility of delivering English lessons through Zoom. We continue to refine this process.

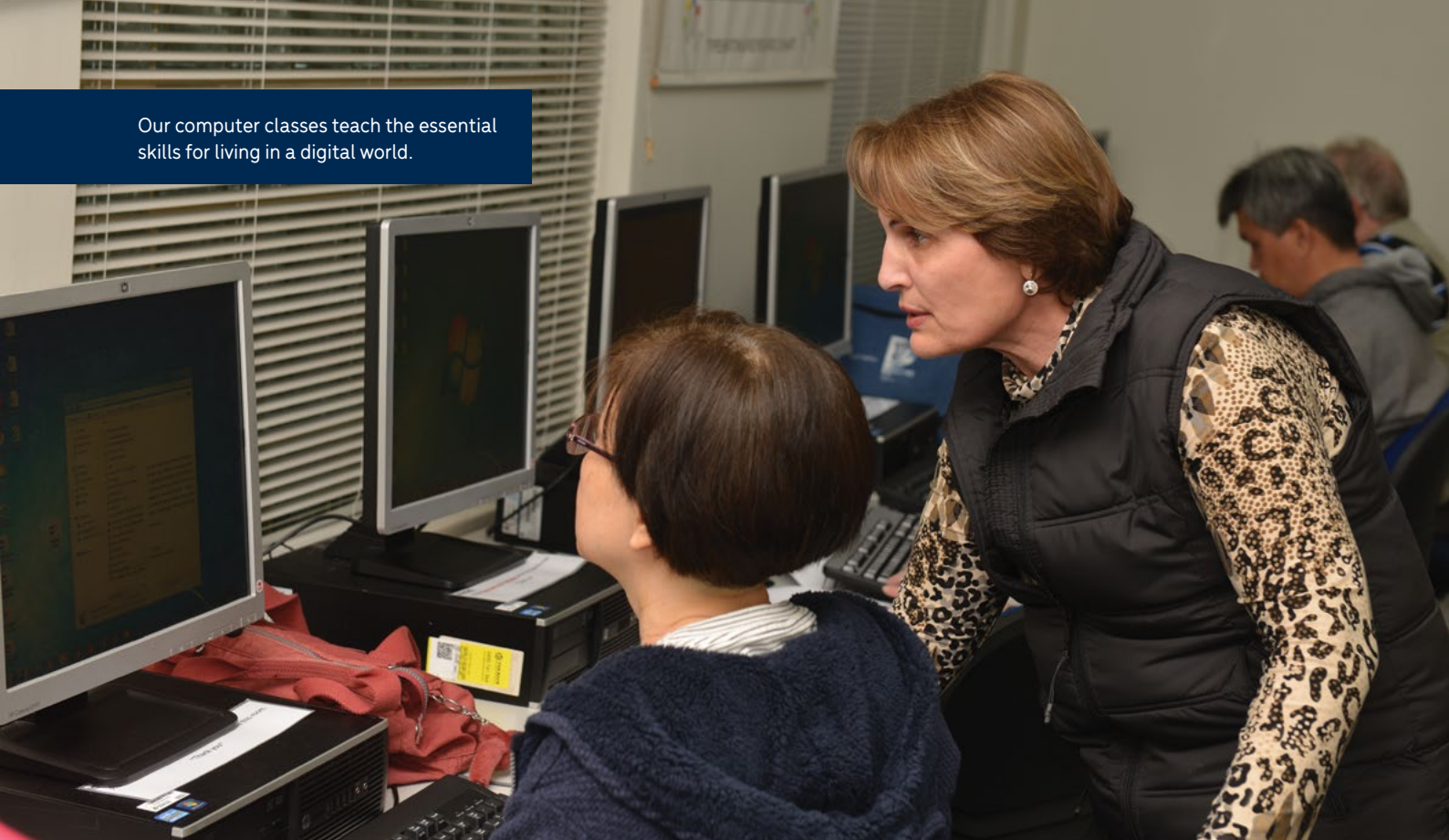
Language for Living in Australia is funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests.



 Department of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries
Office of Multicultural Interests



Our computer classes teach the essential skills for living in a digital world.



Computer Studies

This program is for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds who may not have the English literacy skills to attend a more advanced training course, or haven't had the opportunity to learn the fundamentals necessary to be able to use computers and the internet.

Most government services have moved towards online access and away from face-to-face interaction. This makes it essential for people to have the computer skills to access important government services, including employment and housing information.

We teach general computer knowledge, mouse and keyboard skills, using Microsoft Office, setting up and using email, how to manage documents, and effective and secure use of the internet.

Three classes are held every Thursday – two for beginners and one for intermediate students. There is a high demand for these classes and there is a waiting list every term.

Many of the participants are job seekers, and the connection between students has led to information sharing and, therefore, job opportunities.

Due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements, some classes were reduced from 12 participants per class to eight, but we increased the number of classes so that all our participants could be accommodated.

Our teacher is assisted by two volunteers.

The program is funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests.



"The class has helped me not only improve my computer and spelling skills, but also my self-confidence."

"I know I have a lot more to still improve and learn but this class made a huge positive difference."

Women on Wednesdays

Women on Wednesdays (WOW) is a program developed to assist women who have come to Australia as refugees.

The program's name was chosen for all the 'WOW moments' that happen...the learning, the sharing and the fun times enjoyed by all.

WOW runs Wednesday mornings during school terms and is held at ERCWA.

The fun and joy of the program comes from the great multicultural group of women who attend. Sessions typically have between 12 and 15 women who came to Australia from many countries.

Sadly, lockdowns reduced the number of sessions we could offer and there was some hesitancy and uncertainty amongst the participants.

There were several guest speakers and subjects included the Mirrabooka Police Community Engagement Unit, cervical cancer and Hepatitis B.

Highlights were two excursions. The first was called 'A glimpse into historical Perth' which gave the women a chance to see some of Perth's early architecture and understand some history. We also visited Sculptures by the Sea in Cottesloe again this year and really enjoyed ourselves.

WOW is funded by donations and run by volunteers.

"The excursion about Perth's early history was very helpful. I now know more about this city that I now call home and can tell my children."





"It is such fun being with this group. We have a great time."

Women Together

From our coordinator:

"During COVID-19 lockdowns I received lots of phone calls and text messages from women informing me that they couldn't wait to return."

Our Women Together program is an opportunity for women of all nationalities to build camaraderie through sharing stories, compassion, care and laughter while creating many cherished memories.

During this period we also helped the women with their paperwork and appointments, as well as just 'being there' to listen to each other.

As well as craft and cooking, this year's activities included: meditation, exercise, singing, dancing and bingo which helped with English and Aussie slang. We also hosted guest speakers.

This year our outings included:

- a mystery tour via the beach to the coordinator's home. The women loved the opportunity to visit the family home of an Australian
- picnics at Crawley foreshore and Woodbridge Park with lunch prepared and provided by the participants.

Each week an average of 14 participants met at ERCWA. Several of the women say that if they didn't have Women Together, they would be sitting at home very lonely.

Women Together is funded by donations and run by volunteers.





Settlement Services

Step by Step

We help smooth the way for newcomers as they establish new lives in Australia.

Multicultural Community Centres

We provide support services for refugee families, at school and in the community.

Driver Education

Gaining a drivers licence is life-changing for our participants.

Step by Step



A life changed

A young Afghan man was assisted with citizenship workshops and attended almost every class. He finally went to his test and passed. Very happy and grateful for the help he had received, he said, "I am so happy now I feel I am really Australian. I feel to cry when I got my citizenship. It make my cry."

This program is funded by the Department of Home Affairs.

Our settlement services, called Step by Step, are provided by generalist caseworkers at ERCWA. Step by Step is a partnership between ERCWA, MercyCare (Mirrabooka) and Save the Children.

We provide clients with settlement-related information, advice, advocacy and assistance to access mainstream and other related services

We assist humanitarian entrants, family stream migrants with low level English, prospective marriage and provisional partner visa holders and their dependents, who have been in Australia for up to five years.

Our services help smooth the way for these newcomers as they continue their journey to establish new lives and lifestyles, while still embracing their own cultural values and religious beliefs.

We also run Australian citizenship test workshops on a regular basis, teaching the content of the citizenship test resource booklet and running mock tests.

In addition, we provide generalist casework support for humanitarian entrants and family stream migrants who have been in Australia longer than five years. We also provide online training in driving hazard perception, MyGov and email skills. In total, approximately 110 clients have been assisted in these areas through funding from the Office of Multicultural Interests.



ERCWA case worker Feloora Kiani (centre) and general manager Amy Berson meet with a participant

Multicultural Community Centres

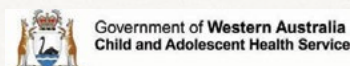
The Multicultural Community Centres (MCC) were established in 2007 in response to the growing need for continued support services for refugee families – for their social, health and psychological needs at school and in the community.

Students who are enrolled at the Intensive English Centres at Thornlie, Koondoola and their surrounding schools are eligible for assistance by the MCCs.

Child minding and transportation are offered to ensure that the most isolated and vulnerable families in the community can attend the programs.

The service is a collaboration between the Department of Education, the Department of Health and ERCWA.

The programs are funded by the Government of Western Australia Child and Adolescent Health Service.



Koondoola MCC

In this reporting period the Koondoola multicultural community workers provided 235 case work sessions, onsite and in family homes, to students and families from Koondoola and Nollamara primary schools.

We also provided 120 outreach support contacts to ensure clients could access group work, health appointments and support services. We provided services to families from Burma, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

There were 17 parenting sessions for the Karen Mothers Group and four parenting sessions for the Tigrayan Mothers Group. Topics covered in the parenting groups were budgeting, before and after school routines, homework support, Centrelink, scam fraud, citizenship, swimming and safety, domestic violence, craft and food label education.

There were 18 after-school sessions. In the school holidays we held three family excursions with a total of 89 participants.

Five school holiday activities were held, with a range of activities from workshops to excursions, which attracted 58 children.

The multicultural community workers provided case management to help families with a range of needs.



"We are appreciative of Alice and Mani being at Nollamara Primary School and value the seamless way they have both become members of our school community. Their highly competent organisational skills and ability to coordinate support effectively is valued!"

Natalie Tarr, Principal
Nollamara Primary & Intensive English School



Thornlie MCC

In this reporting period, Thornlie MCC provided 810 case work sessions to 77 families from Myanmar, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Burundi and Eritrea.

Sixty-five parent group sessions and interactive workshops were held, covering the following topics:

- practical English
- pathways to citizenship course
- learners permit and hazard perception training/ practice
- computer skills
- life skills.

Thirty-seven students attended the Steps junior and Steps transitional programs. Twenty-six after-school sessions and two school holiday events were also held.

The activities assist in developing creativity, critical thinking, social strategies and wellbeing. Steps also encourages learning, integration into the community and a smooth transition to high school.





Driver Education

Gaining a drivers licence is a life-changing achievement for our participants. It gives them independence, freedom and security.

The program offers clients 36 hours of subsidised practical driving lessons delivered by a qualified driving instructor of their choice. We have nine driving instructors who are multilingual and of different nationalities including Afghan, Iraqi, Eritrean, South Sudanese and Mauritian.

During the year we also ran eight courses of our Keys for Life theory classes, which are delivered by a facilitator and a volunteer. The classes prepare participants for the learners permit test.

We also offer hazard perception training one-on-one, and in small groups, to prepare clients for the hazard perception test.

This program is funded by the Department of Home Affairs.

Gift of Independence

A young mother of four children needed to learn to drive as her husband had found a job and could no longer assist with school runs. After a lot of encouragement she enrolled in our driver education program and gained her licence. The more she drives, the more confident and in-charge she feels. **She is now encouraging other women in her community to follow her example.**



Security of Employment

A young man's job depended on his getting a drivers licence. When he passed, he was so happy that tears ran down his face as he repeatedly said to us, **"My life has changed. You have changed my life!"**

How we helped our participants this year

Steps to gaining a licence	ERCWA program	Enrolled	Passed*
1: Learners permit	Keys for Life theory classes	67	58
2: Hazard perception test	Hazard perception training	71	42
3: Practical driving test	Driving lessons	51	37

*Not all participants were ready to sit their tests during the reporting period.



Aboriginal Programs

Moorditj Koolangka

Cultural and recreational opportunities for seven to twelve year-olds.

Banksia United

A multi-sport program for children aged six to 16.

Aboriginal Arts

Creative activities for children, youth and Elders.



Banksia United encourages physical activity and builds self-confidence in children aged six to 16.

Banksia United



Indoor rock climbing challenged Jonny to overcome his fear.

The Banksia United program is offered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth. Through our activities we encourage physical activity and positive interactions amongst participants, while building their self-confidence.

The program exposes participants to a number of different sports free of charge, and offers a bus pick up service to and from the activities. This year we offered judo, swimming, wheelchair basketball, rock climbing, badminton and parkour.

We have 34 registered participants and held 34 sessions during the period.

A highlight was our invitation to the Maritime Museum to take part in a promotional photo shoot. As a follow-up from the shoot, several participants were invited to take part in some promotional filming by Channel 7 for the opening of the new WA Museum Boola Bardip. This resulted in positive coverage for the museum and Banksia United.

Our participants were given an exclusive tour of various exhibits by the Minister for Culture and the Arts, the Honourable David Templeman MLA.

Banksia United is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services and HBF.

This program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

hbf

"It's really great."

"I love Banksia United."

Moorditj Koolangka



A highlight for this year was the Djinanginy Ngany (Seeing Me) project which explored self-expression. Becky poses for her portrait.

Moorditj Koolangka (Strong Children) is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Mirrabooka area aged between seven and twelve years old.

The children are picked up on Wednesday afternoons during the school term and we provide a wide variety of activities including visual arts, music, Noongar culture and language, excursions and sport. We have between eleven and 16 regular participants, and two volunteers who are former participants.

Highlight

The Djinanginy Ngany (Seeing Me) project explored the self-expression and identification of participants through portrait photography and pattern. The participants learnt basic portrait photography from Duncan Wright and various drawing techniques from coordinator Esther McDowell.

The project culminated in an exhibition at the Perth Centre for Photography during NAIDOC Week 2020. The exhibition was accompanied by a poem by Noongar author Cassie Lynch, which was written in response to the children and the project progression.

This program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

**"I love learning my language, so I can go and teach my cousins and other younger ones."
Jazmine, 11 years**

Adina's work was used for all the marketing and promotional material.



Aboriginal Arts

This year we expanded our programs to reach beyond youth, to embrace more groups in the community and offer arts to all.

This has been an important development that allows us to reach more people who may not have had access to other services before, including mothers and Elders.

We have 26 participants under the age of 25, ten clients over 35, and 15 clients over 50.

Boorloo Hustle

Boorloo Hustle is a collaborative project between Whitelion and ERCWA's Aboriginal Arts to bring culture to youth through dance and hip-hop. Rap workshops were facilitated by Hustle 'n' Grind Music's Jaydan Ahmat (ZeroEmcee), Nyuma (Big Rak) and cultural/contemporary dance workshops were delivered by Corroboree for Life's Ash Penfold and Whitelion's Alana McGaw.

One highlight was a visit to Noongar Radio where ten of the Boorloo Hustle participants spoke on the Hustle and Grind show. They talked about their experiences on the arts program, personal highlights and what they hope to achieve in the future. Following the interviews, the song that our participants had created was premiered live.

We also visited Yagan Square in Perth for NAIDOC Week to see the music video screened on the tower. Participants were very excited to see their work up on display for the whole city.

Boorloo Hustle is funded by the Crown Foundation and the Packer Family Foundation.



PACKER FAMILY
FOUNDATION



Photo: Emma Pegrum

Weaving Culture

Weaving Culture was created as an avenue for migrant, refugee and other women of CaLD backgrounds to come and learn about Noongar culture from Noongar yorga (women) through weaving and yarnning.

This year we were excited to have moorditj yok (strong woman) Aunty Sharyn Egan come along for three weeks to share her extensive weaving knowledge. She taught the participants how to use hay and yarn to weave an animal.

Weaving Culture is a partnership with Sudbury House and funded by the Krishna Somers Charitable Trust.

**"Boorloo Hustle
has helped me
connect to my culture
as well as getting me
out of my comfort
zone."**

**"It's fun,
funny and just
feels
like me."**





Youth Services

Through sport, the arts and leadership training, our youth services offer development opportunities that our participants may not otherwise have access to.

- Common Goal
- Arts
- Developing Community Leaders Initiative
- Leadership
- Basketball
- Coaching and Officiating
- Outreach
- AFL
- Local Parks
- AFL Umpiring Academy

Common Goal

Sport has enormous power to bring people together and at ERCWA we are very proud of Common Goal.

Common Goal is a partnership between ERCWA, the WA Police Force, Football West, mosques and local government authorities. Common Goal soccer academies ran in five locations: Lynwood, Southern River, the Swan Valley, Mirrabooka and Clarkson.

Common Goal was launched in 2016 at the request of the WA Police Muslim Community Advisory Group to address the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse communities. It promotes social cohesion and harmony by bringing communities together through soccer, the world game. The program caters for young people aged eight to over 18 and provides leadership and sporting opportunities for disengaged youth in local communities.

Members of the WA Police Force attended 72 sessions.

Common Goal teams played in six soccer tournaments, three of which were organised by ERCWA.

Highlights

We hosted the second edition of the Common Goal World Cup, bringing 12 community teams together – Afghanistan, Iran, Jamaica, East Africa All Stars, South Sudan, Bangladesh, Mexico, Syria, Ghana, United Arab Emirates and two Common Goal teams entering as Australia Green and Australia Gold.

In partnership with the City of Stirling, MercyCare and the Red Cross, Common Goal hosted the Refugee Week Soccer Tournament. Eight community teams competed: Common Goal Green, Common Goal Gold, Afghanistan, Chinh, Karen, Syria, Burma and Somalia. This was a highly successful event and Common Goal Gold made the semi-finals.

"Common Goal feels like home. It's the best soccer team and has helped me make more friends."

515 participants

182 sessions

136 volunteer hours

Who we are

Seventy-two cultures are represented at Common Goal. The most represented are Afghan (22%), Indian (6%), Somali (5%), Indigenous Australian (5%) and Ethiopian (4%).





Common Goal academy player Mohammad (in green shirt) has become a great leader among his peers, on and off the field.

Mohammad's success story

Mohammad started in the Common Goal Mirrabooka junior academy in 2017 at the age of 12. He has grown to be a skilful player and a great leader among his peers. Though he has never played club soccer, Mohammad consistently outplays other young people his age. At the age of 13, he was the youngest player in the Common Goal academy, with skills that allowed him to play with other young people over 15 on our visits to the Banksia Hill Detention Centre, Common Goal World Cup Games, games against Trinity College and the Africa Down Under Tournament. Mohammad has matured beyond his peers in his leadership and football skills, and he is now the captain of Common Goal Mirrabooka. His presence on the field empowers players and makes them push their limits; all the players look up to him and aspire to be like him.

Funders:



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



Australian Government

This project received grant funding
from the Australian Government.

Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Arts

ERCWA launched a pilot arts program in 2010 in Mirrabooka. It was a creative music project that gave young people the opportunity to write and produce their own music cost-free.

In 2014 we added cooking, dancing, design and theatre. The program became instantly popular with participants as it gave them an opportunity to express themselves fully and push the bounds of their creativity and talent.

The program covers a range of media types such as painting, story writing and telling, drawing, music, theatre and crafts.

Our arts programs operate in five locations across the Perth metropolitan area: Ellenbrook, Butler, Banksia Grove, Lynwood and Mirrabooka.

Highlights

This year we made 13 arts excursions, including:

- Paint pouring techniques using various materials
- Two workshops with the Perth Festival and Performing Line WA, which provided exposure to the performing arts
- Hip hop workshop with Propel Youth Arts
- Shirt design workshop with StreetX. Participants drew, coloured and doodled what human rights means to them. StreetX printed T-shirts using the artwork
- Five-week healthy cooking program as a creative arts workshop
- Storytelling project through the Australian Film, Television and Radio School.

Funders:



Australian Government

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.

Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Social Services

160 participants

159 sessions

23 volunteers



"I like having fun in the arts program. I can draw and paint and I enjoy it."





Developing Community Leaders Initiative

The Developing Community Leaders Initiative (DCLI) develops young people, predominantly from CaLD backgrounds, into strong community leaders with an active presence in their own communities and the wider Australian community. The program increases their involvement in social, civic, and economic life.

The DCLI provides structured training, employment, education and professional development opportunities to help young people take the lead in initiating and contributing to community programs. This includes participation in civic institutions such as boards of management across the community (e.g., local clubs and associations, community groups and other not-for-profit groups) as well as youth and community councils organised by government and non-government agencies.

Participants receive regular mentoring to help with their personal and professional development. Opportunities for participants to expand their networks is a key part of the program; they often attend networking events and forums. The project coordinators regularly meet with influential people to open doors to wider opportunities for participants.



Emerging Leader Derek Nannup,
WA Young Person of the Year 2020

Highlights

- Emerging Leader Ayor Chuot was elected to the WA Legislative Council, the first person of African descent to be elected to Parliament in Australia.
- Emerging Leader Fatima Payman was nominated for the #3 senate ticket for the Federal Labor Party in the upcoming federal election.
- Emerging Leader Derek Nannup won the WA Young Person of the Year. This is the second year in a row an Emerging Leader from the DCLI has won this prestigious award, following Brenda Amato's win in 2019.
- Emerging Leader Viola Abi was elected to the Board of Directors of Crime Stoppers WA.



"I have grown so much. I have a job now and more confident – I'm supported not only by ERCWA but through the connections I have made."

Dear Joe

...You do great work with those young leaders. A very important initiative in these bad times. Of course, I will be happy to talk and keep an eye out for your programme and the associated activity...

Best wishes, Kim

The Honourable Kim Beazley AC,
Governor of Western Australia

Funders:

This program is funded by the Department of Home Affairs.





Leadership

Our leadership program began in 2006 in Mirrabooka to develop young people into influential leaders who make positive contributions to society.

Our ethics-based leadership programs explore various topics and themes such as healthy cooking, public speaking, research, critical thinking, project planning and creative work. The Leaders often volunteer at events run by ERCWA and external organisations, including government and non-government agencies.

Our leadership programs run in six locations – Banksia Grove, Mirrabooka, Butler, Lynwood, Ellenbrook and at Al-Ameen College. The Al-Ameen College Future Leaders Program runs through the school terms.

Highlights

The Leaders have grown their confidence and independent thinking skills while developing a sense of community and cultural awareness.

- Seventy Leaders attended the inaugural Youth Leadership Conference in October. This event provided an opportunity for the Leaders to build their professional and networking skills while empowering them to develop their self-confidence in a safe, inclusive and engaging environment.
- The Leaders produced advertisements expressing what freedom of expression means to them as part of the Human Rights Campaign, completed in conjunction with the Museum of Freedom and Tolerance.
- Sustainable goals project – This project was completed in conjunction with the United Nations Association of Australia WA, using the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to create artwork which was later displayed at the UN Gala Evening 2021 in Perth.

Funders:



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



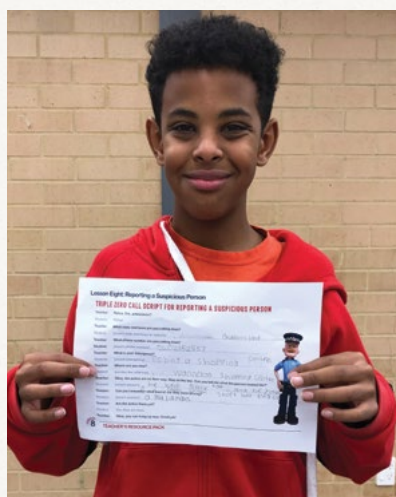
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Department of Social Services



"Since joining the program, I have gained self-confidence, a better understanding of how to look after my mental and physical health, and the ability to public speak. This Leadership Group has helped me with communication and interpersonal skills such as negotiation, teamwork and management."

306 participants

339 sessions

19 volunteers

Basketball

Our basketball program, located at Butterworth Park in Koondoola, started in 2013. It's an opportunity for young people aged five to over 18 to participate in a structured basketball program, and enjoy being healthy and active.

The program offers grassroots and high-performance sessions.

A basketball team called the Edmund Rice Eagles has been established and plays matches against local clubs and schools, and other ERCWA teams. One such match was a friendly match against our newly launched Ellenbrook basketball program team, soon after restrictions were eased in WA. The Eagles won 46–20. While the match was of a high standard and both teams fought hard throughout, the friendship and camaraderie among the Eagles players was very noticeable. Although WA had just come out of a lockdown, team spirit was at an all-time high with the Eagles.

Highlights

- The participants of our basketball program took part in a one-day 3-on-3 basketball extravaganza in November 2020 at the Herb Graham Recreation Centre.
- Players from the Perth Wildcats visited us to run a clinic, and signed autographs. This was a wonderful opportunity that motivated the participants to dream big and pursue basketball as a career.

99 participants

42 sessions

Funder:

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services



Opportunities for Henry

"The ERCWA Basketball program has been pivotal for Henry from the age of five. Henry wouldn't be playing basketball if it wasn't for this program, giving him the confidence to play and fall in love with the game. Now at the age of ten, Henry is playing in state championships and the WA Basketball League. This program has been crucial as I could not afford to pay club fees as a single mother."

Players from the Perth Wildcats explaining some finer points of basketball and motivating our players to be their best.



Coaching and Officiating



Coaches training session delivered by the Western Australian Football Commission



The captain of the Fremantle Dockers Academy congratulates Ydidya for her excellent officiating during a match between the Nic Naitanui Academy and the Fremantle Dockers Academy

Through our Coaching and Officiating academies, we identify youth who display leadership qualities and encourage them to enter the coaching and/or officiating pathways, which provides additional opportunities such as paid coaching or umpiring.

The Coaching Academy has trained 43 coaches who have coached junior and youth teams, while our Multicultural AFL Umpiring Academy has trained 26 umpires.

The Coaching and Officiating program is dedicated to strengthening, supporting and coaching the ERCWA youth staff to deliver holistic training sessions at all ERCWA youth programs. Coaches are empowered to develop tailored lesson plans for their respective programs to help young people reach their full potential. Our Coaching and Officiating coordinator ensures quality delivery across all our coaching and officiating programs.

Highlights

- A first-time strength and conditioning session was delivered to all ERCWA youth staff by a previous youth program assistant, Julian Ramos. Julian holds a BSc Exercise, Sports & Rehabilitation Science (Hons).

Funders:



Outreach

The youth Outreach program supports, and advocates for, at-risk young people across a multitude of issues including psychosocial needs.

The Outreach team works with the coordinators of our 26 youth programs across Perth. They help coordinators to address any problems experienced by program participants before they grow into a crisis.

The Outreach team also works with young people on the periphery of our programs, and young people in the community who are referred to us by external agencies such as the WA Police Force, the youth justice system and schools.

Highlights

The Outreach team delivered three intervention sessions at a metropolitan high school following difficulties engaging culturally and linguistically diverse students.

The Outreach team delivered cultural awareness workshops for all teachers and staff at the school. Feedback from these workshops has been incredibly positive and the schools have reported improvement in student engagement.

Funder:



This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.



Two of our Outreach team members, Santa Mandera (left) and Shingie Dumba.



AFL

"Thank you for coming to Ellenbrook. My son has become more vocal since he started training with the team."

Our AFL programs operate in three locations: Ellenbrook, Balga and Butler.

These programs are open to young people aged eight to over 18 years, with a focus on those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities, Aboriginal and Torres Islander people and at-risk youth.

The programs provide free and accessible sporting and development opportunities. We use footy as a vehicle to strengthen community harmony and promote cross-cultural understanding, foster friendships and enhance the leadership skills of participants.

This year we held 16 football clinics at local schools.

Eighteen of our players transitioned into a local football club.

Highlights

- At our high-performance female training camp Dana Hooker, Captain of the West Coast Eagles AFLW team, delivered a presentation on pathways into the AFLW, effective training, and what it takes to play at an elite level. Inspiring!
- The annual 2020 Harmony Cup celebrated 10 years of the Edmund Rice Lions program. There were three games: female and male academy vs Swan Districts youth teams, and the ERC Lions and Butler Falcons combined to play the Swan Districts mixed junior team.
- 2020 Naitanui Cup – 14 male academy players took part in the Naitanui Cup which is held annually by the West Coast Eagles.

Funders:



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



Through the Jim Stynes
Foundation

Always great to get along to the Harmony Cup, you put on such a fantastic event. I was super impressed with all the talent coming through in your junior ranks, both boys and girls. It was a cracking game, and a great showcase for all your hard work.

Chris Brown
West Coast Eagles
Game Development Officer

"Footy has helped me make better choices for myself. The game is not only played strategically on the field. As a teenager sometimes life does not make much sense, and we feel pressured by many things."



215 participants

97 sessions

16 matches



Local Parks offers participants many pathways into sport

Local Parks

The Local Parks program allows any child over the age of five who walks onto a local park to achieve a pathway into sport, whether it be playing for a local club, representative, state or national team or participating in sport in other ways such as coaching, officiating or project management.

Our Local Parks programs run in three locations in the Perth metropolitan area – Koondoola, Ellenbrook and Banksia Grove.

The Local Parks programs offer grassroots and high-performance development opportunities, predominantly in soccer and basketball, and often in other sports including swimming, volleyball, badminton and others.

Eighty-one cultures were represented this year. The top five were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Ethiopian, South Sudanese, Sudanese and Afghan.

Police officers attended 30 of our 116 sessions.

We bring communities together

One parent said, "We lived side-by-side with our neighbour for years but did not talk. I am a single mum, and the neighbours are refugees. The program gave me an opportunity to speak to my neighbour while the kids played soccer. I feared them before this."



Funders:



SPORTAUS

Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Social Services

**Krishna Somers
Charitable Trust**

This year we played:

Sport	No. sessions
Soccer	95
Basketball	53
Volleyball	9
Swimming	8
Tennis	4
Total	116

444 participants

35% female

6 matches

AFL Umpiring Academy

The ERCWA Multicultural AFL Umpiring Academy provides training and development opportunities to young adults aged 12 and above from CaLD backgrounds.

The aim is to promote their transition into mainstream football umpiring. Our program has reached participants from over 18 ethnic backgrounds.

Now in its fifth year, the program continued to provide umpiring training and match day officiating opportunities around Perth.

While maintaining our presence in junior and school football competitions, the umpiring academy expanded into senior competitions in 2021.

Our senior umpires trained with the Perth Football League (amateurs) and were awarded opportunities to be paid to officiate. Through umpiring in the amateur league, our umpires now have a direct pathway to the highest levels of competition in WA.

Highlights

Our umpires gained experience and were paid to officiate in the following matches:

- Naitanui Cup in November (seven umpires)
- Independent Girls Schools Sports Association Football Competition (seven umpires across ten sessions)
- Public Schools Association Football Competition (12 umpires across 17 sessions)

"I am now inspiring young Muslim girls who are sitting watching me, grow up and think 'Oh I want to be like her' and pushing themselves more and more."

Fatoumata Toure



Abulfazl, with an experienced umpire, officiating at his first game of seniors footy in the Perth Football League.

Meet Abulfazl, a new umpire

Abulfazl Ataie had always kicked a footy around but was never involved in organised play, as soccer had been his game. On hearing about our program and the stories of those who have participated, Abulfazl decided to join us. He made his debut as an umpire this year. Not only has he met new people and been paid to umpire, but the sport has become an important part of his life. Abulfazl is excited about helping other young people get involved too.

Funders:

**Krishna Somers
Charitable Trust**



52 participants

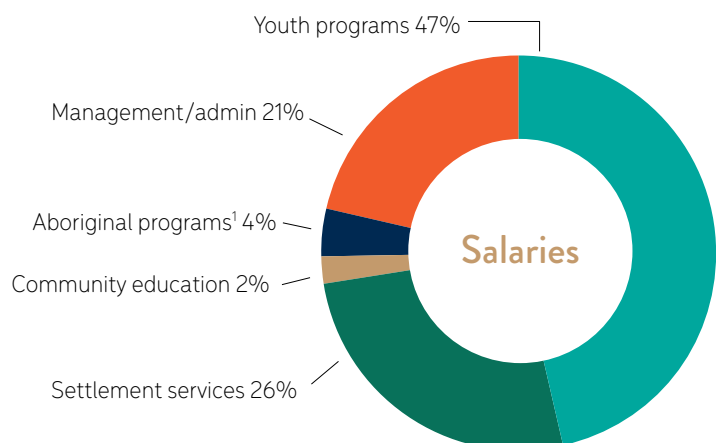
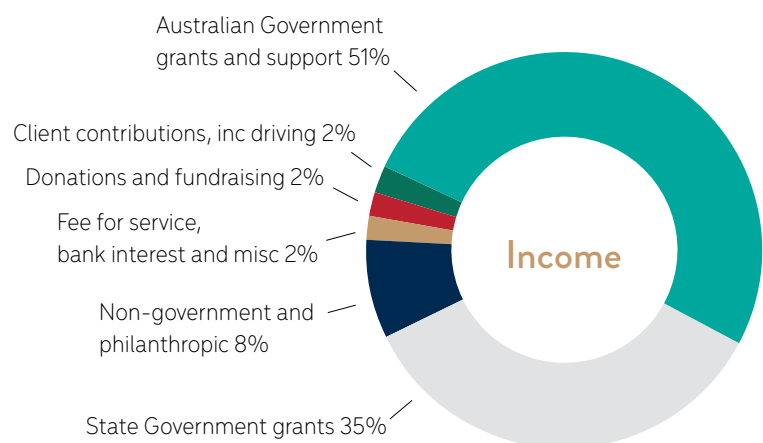
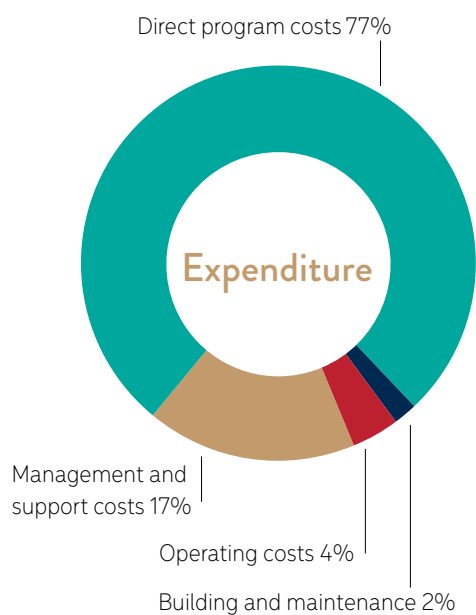
78 matches



ERCWA umpires were the sole officiators at the Nic Naitanui Academy vs Fremantle Dockers Academy matches at Mineral Resources Reserve



Financial Report



¹ Does not include Banksia United.

We thank our funders

We thank every one of our funders whose financial contributions allow us to continue our vital community work.



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Australian Government



Government of Western Australia
Child and Adolescent Health Service



PACKER FAMILY
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Department of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries
Office of Multicultural Interests

Krishna Somers Charitable Trust

We also thank our partners

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

Supported by:



Partnerships with mosques:

- Masjid Ibrahim
- Swan Valley Mosque and Islamic Centre
- Masjid Al-Taqwa (Mirrabooka Mosque)
- Al Majid (Hepburn Mosque)
- Al Hidayah Centre
- Iqra Academy

Partnerships with schools:

- Koondoola Primary School
- Thornlie Primary School
- Nollamara Primary School
- Southern River College
- Clarkson Community High School
- Dianella Secondary College
- Al-Ameen College
- Trinity College
- Anne Hamersley Primary School
- Joseph Banks Secondary College
- Aquinas College
- Independent Girls Schools Sports Assn
- Ellenbrook Secondary College

- Swan Districts Football Club
- Nollamara Tennis Club
- Sister Project
- West Coast Eagles
- Bayswater Junior Football Club

- Balga Market
- The Museum of Freedom and Tolerance
- Perth Festival

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE ERCWA STORY TOO!

The community is at the centre of all that we do.

By reaching out to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community, we are able to change lives for the better. This would not be possible without the generous support of volunteers, sponsors and donors who believe in our vision and our work.

If you would like to make a donation, no matter how small or how big, please make cheques payable to 'Edmund Rice Centre' or deposit directly into:

Edmund Rice Centre
Account BSB: 066 183
Account No: 1009 1408

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Alternatively, please visit the Donate page on the ERCWA website, where you can pay with paypal/credit card:

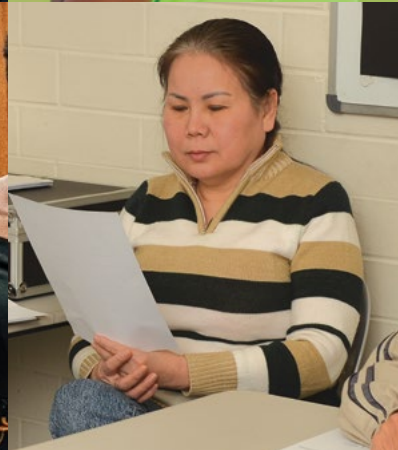
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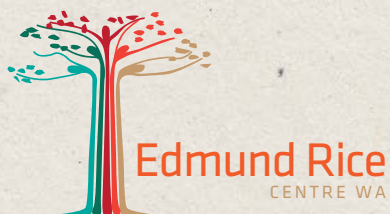
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