

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024





We acknowledge and pay our respect to the traditional owners of the lands across the areas that we serve, particularly the Gadigal of the Eora Nation – traditional owners of the land where the LCSA office is located in Redfern, New South Wales.

Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.

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President's Report

I want to begin my report by acknowledging the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands and waters on which LCSA members live and work and our respects to the ancestors and Elders of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, past and present. Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

As LCSA members and their communities navigate the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, cascading natural disasters, and the rising cost of living, there is still much to celebrate within the NSW neighbourhood and community centre movement.

August 2023 brought an exciting milestone, the first face-to-face LCSA Conference since 2019! Under the theme 'Reconnect & Reimagine - Working with local communities into the future', we gathered to explore innovative ways to work alongside communities, grow our workforce, and build a resilient and sustainable sector for years to come. The feedback from attendees highlighted the power of coming together to engage in learning, peer support, and networking, showing just how meaningful these connections are to our members.

Throughout the year, LCSA and its members have continued advocating passionately for our centres and the communities they serve. This year saw some inspiring highlights, including the formation of the Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Centres, our impactful Pre-Budget Submission, Anthony D'Adam's compelling Parliamentary speech in March, and the Neighbourhood Centre Week panel in May. Each achievement represents a step forward in strengthening the visibility and value of our centres across the state.

A collaborative spirit defined this year, especially in developing our new Strategic Plan. With input from LCSA's Board, staff, volunteers, and members, we

shaped a vision that underscores Neighbourhood & Community Centres as essential to thriving communities in NSW. This plan will guide our continued advocacy, ensuring that centres receive the recognition and resources they need to remain vibrant social infrastructure.

An exciting foundation for this future lies in our updated Neighbourhood Centre Policy. The 2024 LCSA Neighbourhood and Community Centre Policy, launched at our August conference in Sydney, provides a renewed vision of who we are, what we do, and how we operate. This policy couldn't come at a better time, aligning with our 50th anniversary, a moment to celebrate the impact of LCSA and look forward to many more years of meaningful community service.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the incredible team of LCSA staff and volunteers. Thanks to your expertise, commitment, and passion, this organisation consistently achieves remarkable results. I'm also deeply grateful to my fellow Board members for your steadfast support and visionary leadership during a dynamic and rewarding year. It has truly been a pleasure working alongside each of you.

I am excited to see what the next year will bring!



Skye Sear
LCSA President

Executive Officer's Report

The year 2024 marks LCSA's 50th anniversary since we have grown out of NCOSS as an independent organisation. We commenced this year with a clear intention to reflect on where we've come from, where we are now and where we are going.

It is with a sense of pride that LCSA notes a significant increase in the public recognition of our member organisations: the recognition that a capable and diverse community services sector is heavily relying on locally-governed and locally-based community development organisations.

We have seen the role of neighbourhood and community centres (NCCs) during the COVID19 Pandemic, in the preparation, response and recovery of natural disasters and in the much-needed service response to the cost-of-living crisis. This has highlighted the importance of local social infrastructure in times of need but also in the building of strong and resilient communities. It is our aspiration to make this public recognition of our members count.

In the past 12 months we have progressed our advocacy for core funding for NCSs in NSW. In partnership with DCJ we have commenced the development of a shared vision for NCCs, which is likely to culminate in a social compact between our sector and the government.

We are committed to strong, collegiate partnerships with our fellow peak bodies. We remain actively engaged with our national and international federations (ANHCA and IFS respectively), as we believe in the fact that we are first and foremost a part of a movement as well as a network of vibrant local community organisations.

As our President Skye Sear has acknowledged in her report, we have embarked on a journey to review LCSA's guiding strategic documents such as the Strategic Plan, the Neighbourhood and Community Centres Policy and the LCSA Constitution. This year we have also finalised and published the 2022 LCSA Members Census Report, which gives a detailed overview and baseline data of our membership.

We have established constructive working relationships with Minister Kate Washington and the incumbent NSW Labour Government. In February 2022 the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Centres was established by a non-partisan group of politicians who saw the value of our policy platform as a key element in shaping both social policy and having independent, locally-governed community development organisation forming the largest secular social infrastructure in NSW. Being Senator Anthony D'Adam's idea, the Parliamentary friendship group could not have happened without him and the other two co-chairs Jenny Leong MP and James Griffin MP. We thank them for their leadership and support. The panel discussion at our Neighbourhood Centre Week event in May 2024 was a fitting occasion for our members to meet the Co-Chairs who formed a panel and answered our members' questions.

The LCSA Conference was held in Coogee, Sydney in August 2023. It was the first time since the outbreak of COVID19 that we gathered as a sector for our historically annual event. It was wonderful to see so many LCSA members and supporters come together for three days of learning, networking and sharing experiences. Unfortunately, we overestimated the attendance which resulted in a financial loss, which saw us try to recover financially throughout the year. Through diligent financial management we succeeded in minimising the financial impact on the organisation. We shall reflect on this experience to ensure that future conferences aim to find the right balance between providing a meaningful event and retaining affordability for our members.

LCSA publicly supported the 'Yes' vote for the constitutional referendum on a First Nations Voice to Parliament. Although the majority of Australian people voted 'No', the struggle for truth telling, reconciliation and self-determination continues.

When the TEI Recommissioning Process commenced soon after, in early 2024, DCJ announced a policy to increase TEI funding directly invested into Aboriginal-controlled Organisations to 30% of the overall funding pool. In response, the

LCSA Board released a public statement in support of this transition of funding to ACCOs. We thank our partners and fellow peaks Absec and SNAICC for their advice in developing this statement.

We see it as our priority to support all our members in their endeavour to become the best version of themselves. We believe that our task is broader than ‘sector development’ in the traditional sense. Rather than ‘doing for’ our members, we prioritise ‘doing with’ our members, whatever is necessary at any given moment in time. We are applying a ‘community development’ approach to ‘sector development’.

Thus, reviewing the Neighbourhood and Community Centres Policy, which was originally written in 2003, required a thorough process of putting our members at the centre of the conversation from the very beginning. We started with table discussions at the LCSA Conference, followed by conversations at the monthly LCSA Members Forums. We developed a policy white paper for discussion and consultation with members and other stakeholders. A focus group of

It has been quite a catalytic year for LCSA and I thank the LCSA Team and the LCSA Board for their ongoing dedication to our organisational

objectives, and for their tireless efforts to make us as strong as we can be. I also wish to thank our funding body DCJ for their continued support, as well as all our partners for their collaboration. Finally, I wish to thank all our members for staying true to providing social services with a community development posture, and for upholding the values of NCCs in local communities.

I commend this Annual Report as an account of our achievements for the year. It is merely a summary, yet it will give you a true insight into the diversity of our activities throughout the year.

Sincerely,



Can Yasmut
Executive Officer

Who We Are

Local Community Services Association (LCSA) is the peak body of Neighbourhood & Community Centres in NSW.

Our Values

LCSA embraces the values of diversity, integrity, connectedness and inclusion. Our values underpin our work and are integral in achieving our purpose and strategic priorities.

Our Purpose

LCSA is a membership organisation representing the diverse interests of locally governed not-for-profit organisations in NSW. Our purpose is to provide collaborative leadership. We do this by connecting and resourcing members and communities to promote social justice principles in public policy, service delivery and day-to-day community life.

What We Do

As a leading membership organisation, LCSA has several critical roles:

- Engage with and represent the interests of members.
- Support members to build capacity including community engagement, community development and organisational governance.
- Promote engagement, collaboration and communication between our members, communities, government and other stakeholders to support secure regional connections and local communities.
- Share and disseminate sector information and resources to members and stakeholders.

Our Vision

LCSA's overall vision is for vibrant local community organisations supporting stronger, more inclusive communities.

To achieve this vision, LCSA will:

- retain its existing membership base.
- explore ways to grow its footprint by engaging more with other community development organisations and local government.
- work hard to ensure Neighbourhood Centres are well resourced across the state.
- work to convince political leaders to recognise the value of Neighbourhood Centres and their resources and legislate them as essential social infrastructure.
- support and encourage its members to work within a Community Development Framework
- resource LCSA members so that they can make a significant impact on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- promote its network as Champions of Social Justice.

LCSA Board*

Office Bearers

President	Skye Sear (The New School of Arts Neighbourhood House)
Vice President	Tairyn Vergara (The Parks Community Network)
Treasurer	Paul Sekfy (Coffs Harbour Neighbourhood Centre)
Secretary	David Beddoe (Community Management Advisory Project Inc.)

Ordinary Members

Margaret Tipper (WESTIR Ltd)
Fran Stead (Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre)
Tina Reynolds (Orana Support Service Inc.)

LCSA Staff

Can Yasmut	Executive Officer
Maddy Williams	Policy & Research Manager
Anthony Brown	Communications & Engagement Manager
Bronwyn Hutchings	Capability Building Manager
Keummi Joo	Project Support Officer
Julie Williams	Public Innovation Coach
John Ferguson	Accountant

Volunteers

Vivian Hanich
Lyn Lormer

Student Placements

Amy Tseng (National Chengchi University, Taiwan)
Jasmine Tsai (National Chengchi University, Taiwan)
Sean Tsai (National Chengchi University, Taiwan)

**As elected at the LCSA 2023 AGM.*

2023-2024 Highlights

76

people participated in online Training Sessions



308

people attended LCSA Members Forum meetings



7

delegates engaged in learning through the Taiwan Exchange Study Tour



23

MPs joined the inaugural NSW Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Centres



332

Community Wellbeing Surveys completed during a snapshot month



117

people attended the TEI & FCS Recommissioning Information Forum



78

people attend the LCSA Neighbourhood Centre Week online Panel Discussion



40+

mentions of LCSA Members in NSW Parliament according to Hansard

Projects & Partnerships



Community Sector Disaster Capability Project

LCSA partnered alongside AbSec in the Community Sector Disaster Capability (CSDC) Project, led by the NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS).

The aim of the project was to build a collaborative, networked approach so that local community organisations working with vulnerable population groups could bring their expert knowledge and connections into play, develop their capacity to identify, assess and mitigate risks for the clients they are working with, and help strengthen ongoing interactions with formal disaster management systems.

The Project was hosted in place-based organisations in three regions - Hawkesbury, South Coast and Northern Rivers, and worked with the community services sector in each region to:

- Develop activities and resources to increase understanding of the strengths and risks for local communities, especially vulnerable people.
- Strengthen local organisational capacity and networking to assess disaster risk for vulnerable population groups and work with these groups to reduce these risks.
- Promote ongoing collaboration to influence formal emergency management processes, promoting inclusion of the community sector and the vulnerable populations they support in planning and preparatory risk reduction.

The project was jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments under the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction, through a Disaster Risk Reduction Fund grant.

[Photo: Team members of Resilient Lismore at the Disaster Ready Together Summit held in the Northern Rivers]

Community Strengthening Data Project

LCSA is funded by the NSW Department for Communities and Justice (DCJ) to deliver the TEI Community Strengthening Data Project (CDSP). The objective of the project is to develop a Community Strengthening Data Set that complements the data reported in the Data Exchange (DEX) under the Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) Program, and showcases activities that are designed to build strong and resilient communities, preventing issues from arising in first place. Participating organisations in the project collect data by distributing a Community Wellbeing Survey to community members and stakeholders. Outcomes for the project this year included:

- August/September 2023 Snapshot Month and Report.
- 2 x Community of Practice (CoP) online forums with participating organisations.
- 33 TEI services set up to use of the Community Wellbeing Survey ongoing.
- A total of 332 survey responses were received across NSW during the snapshot month.

Connected Communities Project

LCSA worked with the Australia Red Cross (ARC) on the Connected Communities project, funded through the Disaster Ready Fund Round 1. The project finished up in June 2024.

The project's aim was to work alongside Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities and Neighbourhood Centres to co-design and deliver resources aimed at strengthening CALD community's resilience, their preparedness for

increasing disasters and the capacity to reduce disaster risks.

The project areas were Woolgoolga, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Port Stephens, Singleton, and Muswellbrook.

One of the key resources developed through the project is language specific guides and fact sheets on disaster preparedness which are hosted on the LCSA website – [Disaster Management Resources](#).

Student Placements

LCSA hosted 3 student placements for 6 weeks in July/August 2023 thanks to the ongoing partnership with Professor Frank Wang and LCSA's involvement in the IFS Asia Pacific Network. Amy, Jasmine and Sean, were from the Graduate Institute of Social Work at the National Chengchi University in Taiwan.

During their time with LCSA the students learnt about the community sector in NSW, experienced community development practice and gained valuable insights into how Australia addresses social challenges compared to approaches used in Taiwan. Areas of interest for the students and their studies were issues to do with poverty, homelessness, ageing, domestic violence, gender & sexuality.

The students attended LCSA meetings, visited local Neighbourhood & Community Centres in Sydney, participated in local activities and events and spent a week in Western NSW regional areas visiting some of LCSA's members as part of a study tour.

For LCSA and Amy, Jasmine and Sean, this experience has been a mutually beneficial and exciting exchange of knowledge and understanding through the work of community development, social policy and practice. We look forward to further opportunities to explore and build on this developing relationship between our two countries.



Policy & Advocacy



Formation of Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Centres

On the 8 February 2024, LCSA welcomed the formation of the inaugural Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Centres within the NSW Parliament.

LCSA and our members have worked hard to connect with state Members of Parliament (MP) in order to highlight the need to support neighbourhood and community centres (NCCs) with greater recognition and resources. This was done through roundtable discussions, visits to Centres, meetings, phone calls, direct emails and social media. The response from many MPs was very encouraging as they wanted to know more about the current funding and policy environment for organisations in their electorate.

This increased level of engagement with MPs led to the creation of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of

Neighbourhood Centres, which is co-chaired by Anthony D’Adam (Labor Member of the Legislative Council), Jenny Leong (Greens Member for Newtown) and James Griffin (Liberal Member for Manly).

A group of 23 MPs representing all the major parties have committed to participating in ongoing meetings and events with the aim to raise awareness of the work that NCCs do, and to call for ongoing and sustainable core funding in line with other states in Australia.

We look forward to continuing our work with the Friendship Group and are optimistic about the possibilities that may open up to LCSA and our members as a result.

[Photo: LCSA staff present a briefing on our Pre-Budget Submission to members of the Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Centres at NSW Parliament House]

NSW Neighbourhood & Community Centre Policy

LCSA embarked on a project to update the LCSA Neighbourhood Centre Policy, which was first published in 2003. While the original document was still relevant, it needed updating to better reflect the priorities and directions of the current NCC sector and the increasingly complex social policy context that we operate in.

The first member consultation on an updated Policy was held at the LCSA Conference in August 2023, which culminated in the development of a White Paper for discussion and feedback from members

and other key stakeholders. Discussions were also held at Member Forums and input was provided through a small Focus Group of members.

The final NSW Neighbourhood & Community Centre Policy was due to be launched at the LCSA Conference 2024. We encourage all members to engage with this document and circulate it amongst your management and staff and to use it when applying for funding, talking with government representatives, developing partnerships or speaking to the media.

Submissions

LCSA Pre-Budget Submission

LCSA lodged our [Pre-Budget Submission](#) to the NSW Government for consideration in the 2024-2025 NSW State Budget. It has the same recommendations as the LCSA Policy Platform, with updated staff costings and an additional recommendation calling for a funding increase of 25% to the Targeted Earlier Intervention program.

LCSA briefed the Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Centres on our Pre-Budget Submission in March 2024. It was a small but highly engaged group that were very supportive of the

submission. It prompted an open discussion of ideas about ways to support neighbourhood and community centres, including possibilities to pursue ongoing, increased and/or additional funding for the sector.

It was disappointing that the NSW Government did not adopt the calls of LCSA and other social sector peak bodies in 2024-2025 State Budget, though not surprising. We remain committed and quietly confident advancing our policy recommendations in upcoming budgets over this term of government.

Other LCSA Submissions:

- 'A stronger, more diverse and independent community sector' (Submission, Nov 2023)
- [Portable Long Service Leave for Community Service Workers](#) (Submission, May 2024)

Engagement with NSW State Government and MPs

As part of LCSA's ongoing advocacy work, we have sought to strengthen and maintain our relationships with core decision makers.

LCSA met with The Hon. Kate Washington MP (Minister for Families and Communities, Minister for Disability Inclusion and Member for Port Stephens) on 3 occasions to discuss our Policy Platform and to highlight important issues impacting neighbourhood and community centres (NCCs) in NSW.

LCSA arranged meetings with 7 State Government MPs to discuss our Policy Platform and Pre-Budget

Submission and highlighted the critical need for ongoing support for NCCs. Our members have also actively engaged with Ministers and their local MPs to voice their concerns regarding the increased demand placed on community organisations to meet the current needs.

The result of this increased engagement with the NSW State Government and MPs can be seen in Hansard (the official transcripts of proceedings in the NSW Parliament), where LCSA members were referred to over 40 times in 2023-2024.

Meetings & Events



LCSA Connecting Communities Conference 2023

After 4 years without a face-to-face conference, LCSA members and guests gathered together at The Crowne Plaza in Coogee Beach on 28-30 August for the LCSA Conference 2023. The event kicked off with two engaging pre-conference workshops from Carolyn Cousins & Amanda Tattersall, followed by a very moving smoking ceremony performed by Uncle Dean Kelly outside in the courtyard under the stars.

The exuberant Wendy Harmer was our emcee for the event, with Minister Kate Washington providing the opening keynote presentation. The Minister acknowledged the vital work of neighbourhood and community centres in NSW, particularly in the last few years during multiple disasters and expressed her commitment to work with LCSA and the sector to support positive outcomes for local communities.

Other keynote speakers included Teela Reid, Dr Angela Jackson, Professor Frank Wang and a panel discussion with TEI peak body representatives – Joanna Quilty (NCOSS), Can Yasmut (LCSA), Susan Watson (Fams) and Kate Munro (Youth Action). Attendees had the opportunity to participate in table discussions to help reshape the NSW Neighbourhood Centre Policy for the future as well as engage in a diverse range of workshops.

75% of responses from attendee feedback indicated that the event met or exceeded their expectations, with one delegate commenting “It is always exciting to meet up with colleagues from other agencies, share stories, gain knowledge and eat good food. I feel very privileged to attend this conference. Missed it during COVID.”

[Photo: Minister Kate Washington MP addresses delegates at the LCSA Conference 2023]

LCSA Members Forum

The LCSA Members Forum is held online on the first Tuesday of each month and continues to provide an effective way for our network to engage in open discussion around topics and issues that impact the work of NCCs in NSW. There were 11 meetings held in 2023-2024, with a total of 308 people attending over the course of the year, averaging exactly 28 participants per month.

IFS Asia Pacific Network

The IFS Asia Pacific Network (APN) is a collective of individuals and organisations across the Asia Pacific region, united by the shared values of community development, social justice, inclusion, diversity and democratic principles. The network aims to promote collaboration, develop partnerships, enhance cultural exchange, encourage diverse perspectives and experiences, foster community-driven development and global networking.

In 2023-2024, the IFS APN held 9 online meetings, with attendance ranging from 7 to 17 participants per session, representing countries including Australia, Taiwan, India, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

Meetings featured presentations by community development experts and discussions on both

This year we had guest speakers from Service NSW, Social Planet, Wesley Mission and R U OK? present on a range of topics, along with LCSA staff providing regular input and updates. Unsurprisingly, this year LCSA used the Members Forum to discuss the TEI Recommissioning process with members, which allowed for greater understanding and opportunities to address questions and concerns people had.

regional and global issues. These included topics ranging from cultural exchange, community health, disaster response, housing, homelessness, and Indigenous issues.

A significant development with the IFS APN has been the strengthening of the relationship between LCSA and representatives from Taiwan. This partnership led to the first IFS APN Exchange Study Tour to Taiwan in October 2023.

Moving forward, the IFS APN will look to explore further collaboration with the International Association for Community Development (IACD) as it continues to expand and strengthen its ties in the region.

Neighbourhood Centre Week 2024

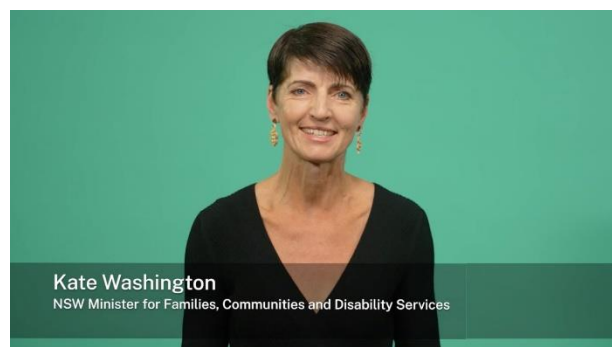
Neighbourhood Centre Week (NCW) is a nationwide initiative to celebrate the role of Neighbourhood Centres in local communities across the nation.

To celebrate NCW (13-19 May 2024), LCSA hosted an online panel discussion and Q&A with Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Centres Co-Chairs Anthony D'Adam, Jenny Leong, James Griffin, and LCSA members.

The event was a great success, with 78 LCSA members in attendance. It was the first opportunity for the Co-Chairs to introduce themselves to LCSA members and explain their interest in NCCs. Our members asked questions directly of the co-chairs, including on how friendship groups work and their benefits, how they can support the group's work and ways to get recognition of NCC work across the breadth of government.

Minister Kate Washington also provided a [video message](#) to acknowledge the important work neighbourhood centres do during NCW 2024, which was widely shared on social media [image below].

According to 'Hansard', LCSA member organisations received 14 mentions in the NSW Parliament during NCW 2024.



Taiwan Exchange Study Tour

15-24 October 2023, a delegation of seven representatives from LCSA and member organisations participated in a six-day study tour to Taiwan as part of the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centers (IFS) Asia-Pacific Network.

This cultural exchange tour provided an invaluable opportunity to observe and learn about community development in Taiwan, with a particular focus on best practices for supporting disadvantaged and Indigenous communities.



During the tour, delegates explored various social work programs, including initiatives targeting homelessness, public housing, and Indigenous community development, while gaining insights from local practitioners, academics, students, community leaders, and volunteers. In return, delegates shared presentations about the work of neighbourhood and community centres in New South Wales.

The study tour was a transformative experience for many participants, providing lessons that went beyond traditional academic, professional development, or conference settings. It offered a unique and deeply educational experience, combining community development insights with cultural immersion, underscoring the value of nurturing international networks, partnerships and collaboration.



Training & Support

Accidental Counsellor Training

LCSA hosted two Accidental Counsellor training workshops, facilitated by Carolyn Cousins from TunedIn Consulting. The sessions were conducted in October 2023 and in May 2024 with a total of 47 people completing the training.

Designed for staff or volunteers who are non-counsellors working in neighbourhood and community centres and community service organisations, the training aims to ensure participants will:

- have an understanding of the key elements of listening styles, including reflective and active listening as well as mirroring.
- know how to recognize their limits and put in place good boundaries.
- be able to identify referral options and supports.
- understand their own 'empathy neuron' and self-care.
- recognise the signs of trauma (including anger) and some tips to manage out of a conversation.

Feedback from the training was very positive, with one participant commenting 'Thank you for a wonderful workshop today. It was very engaging, I appreciated the breakout rooms and chances to share in a smaller group'.

Trauma-Informed Community Development Training

LCSA hosted two Trauma-Informed Community Development training workshops, facilitated by Carolyn Cousins from TunedIn Consulting.

The sessions were conducted online in November 2023 and March 2024, with a total of 29 people completing the training.

The content of this training considers what trauma-informed community development is, what we mean by trauma and its effects, acknowledging the impact individual trauma has on community-based trauma.

Principles and strategies are discussed, along with understanding what a traumatised community looks like, adapting to change, what creates resilient communities, diversity of need and creating trauma-informed scaffolding.

This was the sixth time LCSA has run this 2-day course, with feedback from participants always very positive. The training is evolving as ongoing suggestions and input are incorporated into future sessions.

Getting Started & Community Innovators Online Labs

A partnership between LCSA, Social Planet and The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation enabled us to bring the Harwood Getting Started Labs and Community Innovators Labs to LCSA members for an affordable price.

The Labs provide interactive learning experiences that teach individuals the practice of 'Turning Outward' so they can take action, create meaningful and sustainable change and unleash the potential of their community.

The Labs are hosted online in six weekly two-hour sessions that are aimed at those who are interested in learning a different approach to creating community-centered change for good.

Three Getting Started Labs were run in August/September 2023 and one Community Innovators Lab in May/June 2024. Altogether, 27 LCSA members took up the opportunity to participate in this innovative learning experience.

Introduction to Disaster Management Training

NCOSS approached LCSA, as its CSDC partners, to develop a training/information program for the community sector. Consultations and community conversations identified that many NGOs, even those in disaster prone areas, were not aware of the different agencies involved in disaster and emergency management (DEM), how they interacted and what possible roles an NGO may have in disaster prevention, recovery and response.

A pilot session was held in June 2024, with 35 participants from across the sector, including representatives from the indigenous community,

multi-cultural organisations, family support and neighbourhood centres and peak bodies.

Representatives from NSW Police, NSW SES, NSW Rural Fire Service, Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), NSW Reconstruction Authority and Australian Red Cross helped to develop the 4-hour training session by providing presentations.

LCSA will continue to develop and refine the Introduction to Disaster Management Training package and make it available to members and community sector partners in the coming years.

Support Services

TEI Support

LCSA provided support for members who are funded through the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) program. This was particularly significant at a time when DCJ conducted a TEI Recommissioning process. Apart from one-on-one assistance with our members around TEI, we helped to support or coordinate the following activities:

- TEI Recommissioning Information Forum (20 March 2024)
- TEI Recommissioning Forums (Western NSW & Hunter/Central Coast)
- TEI Evaluation Working Party Meetings
- TEI Recommissioning Advisory Group Meetings
- TEI Name Change Workshop (LCSA, Fams & Youth Action)

Other Support Activities:

- Public Innovation & Coaching
- Strategic Planning
- Governance Support
- Training
- Presentations & Guest Speaking
- Representation & Advocacy
- Consultation
- Information, Referral & Advice



Leadership & Influence



LCSA participates in regular Networks, Advisory & Reference Groups, Working Party's and Forums to help lead and influence positive change and outcomes for the community sector and our members.

Some of our regular engagement in these activities for 2023-2024 include participation in:

- Forum Of Non-Government Agencies (FONGA) (Bi-monthly meetings hosted by NCOSS)
- TEI Central Council (Bi-monthly meetings with DCJ and TEI Peak Body CEOs)
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Reference Group (NSW Electoral Commission)
- Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANHCA) State Peaks CEO/EO Forum
- Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANHCA) State Peaks Communications Forum (monthly meetings)
- International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centers (IFS)
- NSW Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing (MACA)

[Photo: In November 2023, LCSA hosted Strategic Planning days in Sydney for the ANHCA Board, which also included the CEO's and EO's of all the state peaks]

Treasurer's Report

I present the annual financial report for the 2023 – 2024 year for our association.

This year, we have managed to operate mostly within our overall budget and meet the required outputs for our funded activities, however we incurred a modest deficit. This was due to a budget overrun in the 2023 conference with attendance falling substantially short of our reasonable prediction. Our analysis, post the event, pointed to several factors not the least of which was that this was the first conference since Covid and there has been much change in both practice and priorities amongst our membership since. The Board and Executive Officer have taken note of this analysis and have substantially changed our planning and assumptions around conferences into the future.

LCSA received funding from the NSW Dept of Communities and Justice of \$553k compared to \$537k in the previous year. The two program areas were the State Peaks Program and the TEI Program (Data Project).

There was some other income and fees for service. The total income for the year was \$762k compared to \$607k for the previous year. Whilst membership income was slightly down other projects and fee for service income and some efficiencies allowed the Board to minimise the deficit. LCSA recorded an operating deficit of \$26,122 for the year ended 30 June 2024.

I commend the Executive Officer, the Finance Subcommittee, and the able support of our

bookkeeper for this disappointing but acceptable outcome. LCSA's Balance Sheet shows a sound financial position at the end of the reporting period with a cash balance of \$356,708 and members funds (equity) of \$260,114.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. A summary is included in this Annual Report and a full report may be accessed on the LCSA and ACNC websites. I acknowledge the work of our Auditors, Meagher Howard and Wright.

I also want to thank my fellow Finance Subcommittee members, Margaret Tipper and Tairyn Vergara for their ongoing assistance and our Executive Officer for his diligence in relation to monitoring of a demanding budget and risk management. I remain grateful for the continued opportunity to participate on the LCSA Board in support of our exemplary membership who pursues local community development and advocacy.



Paul Sekfy
LCSA Treasurer

Financial Statements

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024.	2024	2023
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Conference Income	130,549	-
Fees for Service	28,898	21,045
Grants	552,946	537,228
Membership Income	38,510	43,910
Other Income	10,913	4,814
TOTAL INCOME	761,817	606,997
EXPENSES		
Accounting Fees	22,375	21,750
AGM Expenses	-	592
ANHCA & IFS	6,006	-
Audit Fees	3,000	2,700
Bank Fees	184	134
Coaching/Consultancy	767	4,150
Computer Expenses	392	1,063
Conference	170,876	-
Conference/Lille France	-	12,219
Conference/Forums	1,710	5,921
Depreciation	200	-
Donations	-	44
EC Meeting Expenses	23,682	8,113
Insurance	7,540	6,179
IT Expenses	3,082	3,697
Lodgement/Legal Fees	214	300
Meeting Expense	506	443
Moving Expenses	26	-
Office Expenses	354	-
Personal Protection Equipment	-	1,080
Printing/Photocopier	245	78
Program Cost	11,416	880
Rent	24,620	23,903
Resources	1,002	1,441
Salaries & Oncosts	451,752	462,551
Staff Travel	31,799	13,065
Stationary	1,049	87
Storage	6,547	6,182
Subscriptions	3,110	3,853
Telephone/Internet	3,746	2,243
Training	1,800	-
Venue Hire	227	-
Video Conferencing	78	235
Website	9,632	8,221
TOTAL EXPENSES	787,939	591,121
Surplus/(loss)	(26,122)	15,875
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	286,236	270,360
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	260,114	286,236

Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2024	2024	2023
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	356,708	387,557
Trade Debtors	6,997	-
Other current assets	30,360	74,860
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	394,065	462,418
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plants, and equipment	979	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	979	-
TOTAL ASSETS	395,045	462,418
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade Creditors	2,816	-
GST Collected	17,967	19,027
GST Paid	(4,507)	(9,925)
Income in Advance	19,282	42,120
Provision for Annual Leave	39,546	41,486
Time in Lieu Accrued	-	1,043
Other current liabilities	28,972	57,039
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	104,076	150,790
NON-CURRENT LIABILITES		
Provision Long Service Leave	30,855	25,392
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	30,855	25,392
TOTAL LIABILITIES	134,931	176,182
NET ASSETS	260,114	286,236
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained earnings	260,114	286,236
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	260,114	286,236

The Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of the Local Community Services Association was prepared and presented by Meagher, Howard & Wright (CPA) Suite 806, Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Bondi Junction, NSW 2022 on 12 September 2024.

A detailed audited financial report is available for members on the [LCSA website](#) to view or download or can be obtained by contacting the LCSA Office.

LCSA Strategic Plan 2024-2027

VISION			
Local community led development, engagement and participation is the backbone of strong and healthy communities. LCSA is the lead advocate for Neighbourhood Community Centres (NCCs) and community development in NSW, so that NCCs are recognised and resourced as essential social infrastructure.			
KEY STRATEGIC AREAS AND GOALS			
Community Development	Membership	Influence	Governance
LCSA is the leading voice for community development, and collaborative practices	As a membership organisation, LCSA partners with members to act on issues that impact on them and their communities	As a peak body and part of an international movement, LCSA advocates and influences policy and practice to support strong, resourced communities	LCSA is a strong, well managed organisation that models and supports effective governance in members
<p>LCSA is recognised by funders, other peak bodies and organisations, and the broader community as the peak body and leading voice for community development</p> <p>Community development is better understood and used in the sector</p> <p>Community development is understood and valued outside the sector</p> <p>National and international partnerships on community development are created/ maintained.</p>	<p>Reviewed and updated LCSA membership</p> <p>Membership support and LCSA advocacy and action based on an understanding of members, their circumstances, and needs</p> <p>Informed and engaged members</p> <p>Capacity building for members</p> <p>Regional member structure and member led initiatives.</p>	<p>Collective advocacy on issues impacting members and their communities</p> <p>Strategic advocacy with partner agencies and other peaks to influence government policy and actions</p> <p>Research to develop an evidence base for the work of NCCs and to influence policy development and advocacy</p> <p>Proactive and responsive policy development and advocacy in response to current and emerging issues.</p>	<p>A clear definition of NCCs and accompanying policies</p> <p>An updated LCSA Constitution</p> <p>A strong, positive LCSA organisational culture</p> <p>A good governance model for LCSA and the NCC sector</p> <p>Good practice in internal governance that models effective governance.</p>
WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE			
<p>A shared understanding of community development and social infrastructure between LCSA and NSW Govt.</p> <p>An updated Constitution including an up-to-date definition of membership</p> <p>Advocacy partnerships with NCCs and regional networks, and with peak bodies and other large organisations</p> <p>LCSA and member organisations meet criteria of good governance</p> <p>Resourced regional structure</p>			

Our Funders & Partners

Thanks to our funders, partners & supporters who have collaborated with us this year to provide funding, resources, training, projects, services, research, and input to strengthen the work of LCSA and our members:

NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)

NSW Reconstruction Authority

NCOSS, AbSec, Fams and Youth Action

Service NSW

NSW Electoral Commission

Australian Red Cross

Domestic Violence NSW

SNAICC (National Voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children)

Paul Ramsay Foundation

Community Data Solutions, LiveUp, Shared Reading NSW

The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation & Social Planet

Capgemini & United Nations Association of Australia (NSW Division)

NSW Parliamentary Friends of Neighbourhood Centres Co-Chairs:

- Anthony D'Adam (Labor MLC)
- Jenny Leong (Greens Member for Newtown)
- James Griffin (Liberal Member for Manly)

Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANHCA) and our fellow peak bodies in:

- Tasmania (Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania)
- Victoria (Neighbourhood Houses Victoria)
- South Australia (Community Centres SA)
- Western Australia (Linkwest)
- Queensland (Neighbourhood Centres Queensland)

International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres (IFS)

Sidney Myer Fund (Supporting Stronger Communities Grant Program)

Georgie & Melanie Stayches (Fetching Events)

Professor Frank Wang (National Chengchi University, Taiwan)

Professor Michelle Villeneuve (Sydney University: Centre for Disability Research and Policy)

Dr Amanda Tattersall (University of Sydney)

Carolyn Cousins (TunedIn Consulting)

Grace Leotta (Affirm Consulting)

Jaya Manchikanti (PhD Research Candidate – Role of Community Development in relation to the UN SDGs)

Thanks also to those individuals or organisations who didn't get a mention here but have supported us and our members in some way throughout the year.

Our Members

Advance Diversity Services
Albion Park Youth & Community Centre
Armidale Neighbourhood Centre
Bankstown Community Resource Group
Bateau Bay Neighbourhood Centre
Belmont Neighbourhood Centre
Belong Blue Mountains Community and Neighbourhood Services
Berkeley Neighbourhood Centre
Berkeley Vale Neighbourhood Centre
Better Connected Community Services
Blacktown Area Community Centres
Bligh Park Community Services
Boronia Multicultural Services
Bucketts Way Neighbourhood Group
Canterbury City Community Centre
Cassia Community Centre
Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre
Cobargo Community Access Centre
Coffs Harbour Neighbourhood Centre
Community Action for Better Living
Community Care Northern Beaches
Community First Step
Community Industry Group
Community Junction
Community Links Wellbeing
Community Management Advisory Project
Community SOS Central Coast
Coolaburoo Neighbourhood Centre
Coonamble Neighbourhood Centre
CORE Community Services
Counterpoint Community Services
Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre
Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre
Crossroads Community Care Centre
Drummoyne Community Centre
Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre
Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre
Dungog Shire Community Centre
Eden Community Access Centre
Edgeworth Memorial Neighbourhood Centre
Engadine Community Services
Forster Neighbourhood Centre
Gateway Family Services
Glebe Youth Service
Glen Innes & District Community Centre
Glossodia Community Information & Neighbourhood Centre
Gosford Regional Community Services
Graceades Community Cottage
Green Point Community Centre
Greenacre Area Community Centre
Griffith Community Centre
Gundagai Neighbourhood Centre
Gunnedah Family Support
Guyra Neighbourhood Centre

Hawkesbury Community Outreach Services
Highlands Community Centres
Hope Connect
Humanity Matters
Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of NSW
Indian Support Center
Inner Sydney Voice
Jubilee Community Services
Karabi Community & Development Services
Kariong Neighbourhood Centre
Kincumber Neighbourhood Centre
Kings Cross Community and Information Centre
Kingsgrove Community Aid Centre
Kogarah Community Services
Kooloora Community Centre
Ku-Ring-Gai Neighbourhood Centre
Kyogle Together
Life Eternal Trust Australia
Lifetime Connect
Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre
Liverpool Neighbourhood Connections
LocalKind Northern Beaches
Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative
(FOCUS Connect)
Macedonian Welfare Association of NSW Inc.
Merana Aboriginal Community Association
for the Hawkesbury
Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre
Mountains Community Resource Network
Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre
Murwillumbah Community Centre

Narrabri & District Community Aid Service
Neighbourhood Central
Neighbourhood Centres of Bellingen Shire
Neighbourhood Hub Macarthur
Nepean Community & Neighbourhood Services
New England Family Support Service
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
Nimbin Neighbourhood & Information Centre
North West Community Services
NSW Spanish & Latin American Association
Older Womens Network NSW
Orana Community Centre
Orana NSW
Orana Support Service
Orange Family Support Service
Our Community Place
Outer Liverpool Community Services
Peppercorn Services
Port Kembla Youth Project
Port Macquarie Neighbourhood Centre
Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre
Prosper (Project Australia)
Resilient Lismore
Richmond Community Services
Riverwood Community Centre
Samaritans Information and Neighbourhood Centre
San Remo Neighbourhood Centre
Scone Neighbourhood Resource Centre
Sector Connect
Shoalhaven Neighbourhood Services
Singleton Neighbourhood Centre

Snowy Mountains Neighbourhood Centre
South Eastern Community Connect
Southern Women's Group
Southern Youth and Family Services
Southlake Community Services
Sugarvalley Neighbourhood Centre
Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre
Sydney Community Forum
Tamworth Family Support Service
Temora Community Centre
The Canopy
The Hills Community Aid & Information Service
The Junction Neighbourhood Centre
The Multicultural Network
The Neighbourhood Centre
The New School of Arts Neighbourhood House
The Parks Community Network
The Place: Charlestown Community Centre
The Settlement Neighbourhood Centre
The Women's Cottage
Think & DO Tank Foundation
Thurgoona Community Centre
Tomaree Neighbourhood Centre
Toukley Neighbourhood Centre
Tripoli and Mena Association
Ulladulla & Districts Community Resource Centre
Unanderra Community Centre
Upper Hunter Community Services
Uralla Neighbourhood Centre
Wardell CORE
Warilla Neighbourhood Centre
Warrawong Residents Forum
Wellington Information & Neighbourhood Services
WESTIR Ltd
Westside Community Centre
Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre
Women Illawarra
Women Up North Housing
Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre
Woodville Alliance
Woolgoolga Neighbourhood Centre
Wyong Neighbourhood Centre Inc
Yarrahapinni Community House
Young and District Community Hub



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Social Media

[Facebook.com/LCSANSW](https://www.facebook.com/LCSANSW)

[Twitter.com/lcsansw](https://twitter.com/lcsansw)