

2022 Year in Review – Victorian Community Hubs

Community hubs are designed to create social cohesion in some of the most disadvantaged communities. They are welcoming places where families from diverse backgrounds, particularly women with preschool children, can connect, share, and learn together.

Hubs are embedded in primary schools and harness existing school infrastructure, local government, and community services. Hubs bridge the gap between families and the wider community, connecting families with each other, their schools, local services and support, and providing a gateway to health, wellbeing and education services.

This report highlights the achievements of our community hubs in Victoria. For a national view, please read our 2022 Year in Review at <https://www.communityhubs.org.au/news-events/2022-year-in-review/>.

The 41 hubs in Victoria are located in primary schools in Brimbank (five sites), Casey (five sites), Dandenong (five sites), Geelong (three sites) Hume (15 sites) Shepparton (three sites), and Wyndham (five sites)¹. A complete list of host schools is shown in Table 1, Appendix A. In Term 1 2023, we will welcome one new replacement hub in Shepparton.

Local support for hubs is provided by City of Hume (Hume) Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project (Shepparton), and The Smith Family (Brimbank, Casey, Dandenong, Geelong, and Wyndham).

In 2022, Victorian hubs engaged with families in a variety of ways. They delivered early childhood programs and conversational English classes, as well as vocational pathways including education and training opportunities for hub participants.

Key highlights from 2022:



4,644 families engaged with Victorian hubs



3,145 early childhood sessions were conducted across 40 hubs



3,205 conversational English classes ran across 16 hubs



152 local organisation partnered with Victorian hubs



151 jobs were secured by hub participants



506 referrals were made to early childhood services, such as maternal and child health

¹ Community hubs are funded by the federal government through the Department of Home Affairs, the Scanlon Foundation, state governments and participating schools. Hubs across nine Victorian LGAs are funded by the state government Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH), DFFH will fund hubs until 2024.

Engagement

Engagement activities provide hub leaders with the opportunity to build strong relationships with families and facilitate connections to their school and local services. Hub leaders develop the hub space and the program offerings to address the needs of their host school and the local community. Activities include 'coffee and chats', sewing and craft, and gardening as well as food hamper collections.

Across 2022, hub leaders made 3,139 referrals to external support services with the most common being family support (499), emergency aid (420) and preschool (378). In addition, the Victorian community hubs partnered with 152 local organisations. For a complete list, see Table 2 Appendix A.

Early childhood

Early childhood programs such as playgroup act as a soft entry point for families to attend other hub activities, form friendships with community members or be referred to external services. Early childhood activities often take place in a hub, providing families with a comfortable and safe environment to connect.

In 2022, Victorian hubs offered early years programs that were either place-based or online. In addition, 17 hubs ran targeted school readiness programs like 'Pre-Prep' and 'Prep class garden session'.

The aim of the Prep Parents workshop is to strengthen the relationship between the school, teachers and parents to work together for the students learning and education which will set a good foundation for their future learning and outcomes. During the workshop, parents learn about the curriculum and the teaching strategies that are happening at school, as well as learning effective strategies that they will be able to use at home to support their children's learning and have better outcomes.

Parents discuss with the teacher about their concerns and the barriers that they are facing with their children's learning and wellbeing. The Hub and the teacher support the families with their concerns and the parents were given support in parenting tips, developing daily routine especially minimise the screen time and going to bed early as well as parents been encouraged to pack a healthier lunch box for their kids and learned about the importance of healthy eating habits. This workshop will strengthen the relationship between parents and teachers as well as getting teachers and parents working together for the child's learning and education. Teachers learn about families, barriers and struggles that they are faced with. Parents are learning as well about the curriculum and how they will be able to support their children education.

Hub leader, Meadow Heights Primary School, Hume

English

English language activities enable migrant families to build English language skills and increase confidence to participate in the community. Various types of English classes are delivered including conversational and introductory sessions to formal accredited classes.

In 2022, 39 Victorian hubs delivered English sessions place-based, offsite, or online, with at least 454 adult attendees², 58% of whom were women with a dependent child. Hubs are a welcoming and familiar space for participants to learn English, and through these sessions 22 referrals were made to the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP). In addition, 39 partner organisations worked with hubs to deliver conversational and formal English classes.

Vocational pathways

Hubs help create career pathways and nurture core skills by delivering informal and formal training activities. Across 2022, vocational activities included participants gaining a food safety certificate, taking part in accredited courses or participating in sewing classes or work ready sessions.

For some, working or volunteering in hubs is their first employment experience and in 2022, 657 people volunteered in a Victorian hub. Hubs also referred 328 people to education and training services and delivered 840 formal and informal training sessions. They also engaged 34 partner organisations to equip participants with work ready skills, and 151 jobs were secured by hub participants during the year.

For more information, visit www.communityhubs.org.au or contact:

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² Based on regular attendees in CHA-funded English classes in Term 1 and 2, and new attendees in Term 3 and 4 2022

Appendix A: Host schools and partner organisations - Victorian community hubs

Table 1: Host schools – Victorian community hubs, 2022

LGA	School name
Brimbank	Deer Park North Primary School
Brimbank	Holy Eucharist Primary School
Brimbank	St Albans Heights Primary School
Brimbank	St Albans Primary School
Brimbank	Stevensville Primary School
Casey	Cranbourne Primary School
Casey	Fountain Gate Primary School
Casey	Hampton Park Primary School
Casey	Holy Family Catholic School Doveton
Casey	St Therese's Primary School
Dandenong	Dandenong Primary School
Dandenong	Dandenong South Primary School
Dandenong	Dandenong West Primary School
Dandenong	Springvale Rise Primary School
Dandenong	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
Geelong	Bell Park North Primary School
Geelong	Northern Bay College - Goldsworthy
Geelong	Northern Bay College - Peacock
Hume	Bethal Primary School
Hume	Broadmeadows Valley Primary School
Hume	Campbellfield Heights Primary School
Hume	Coolaroo South Primary School
Hume	Craigieburn South Primary School
Hume	Dallas Brooks Community Primary School
Hume	Good Samaritan Catholic Primary School
Hume	Holy Child Primary School
Hume	Meadow Heights Primary School
Hume	Meadows Primary School
Hume	Mount Ridley College
Hume	Roxburgh Park Primary School
Hume	Roxburgh Rise Primary School
Hume	St Dominic's Primary School
Hume	Sunbury Heights Primary School
Shepparton	Gowrie Street Primary School ³
Shepparton	Mooroopna Park Primary School ⁴
Shepparton	St Georges Road Primary School
Shepparton	Wilmot Road Primary School
Wyndham	Davis Creek Primary School
Wyndham	Dohertys Creek P-9 College
Wyndham	Point Cook P-9 College
Wyndham	Truganina South Primary School
Wyndham	Wyndham Park Primary School

³ Left the network in 2022.

⁴ Starting operations in 2023.

Table 2: Partner organisations – Victorian community hubs, 2022

Organisation name	
	Department of Transport Victoria
ABC Goulburn Murray	Diversitat
Above and Beyond Counselling & Support	Doveton Neighbourhood Learning Centre
Access to Care	DPV Health
AFL SportsReady	Duke Street Community House
AMES Australia	Early Learning Association Australia
Anglicare Australia	Eat Up
Arab Council Australia	EdConnect Australia
Arabic Welfare Incorporated	Elly's Music Playtime
Ardoch	Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
Arthur Mawson Children's Centre	Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District
Australian College of Professional Studies	Foodbank Australia
Australian Electoral Commission	Foundation House
Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights	Foundation Learning Centre
Australian Sports Commission	Free to Feed
Australian Vietnamese Women's Association	GOTAFE
Bakers Delight	Goulburn Valley Health
Banksia Gardens Community Services	Goulburn Valley Libraries
Barwon Health	Government House of Victoria
Berry Street	Gowrie Victoria Broadmeadows
Bethany Community Support	Greater Dandenong Library
Bohollow Wildlife Shelter	Greater Shepparton City Council
Brimbank City Council	Hampton Park Community House
Broadmeadows Aquatic and Leisure Centre	Hampton Park Library
Brotherhood of St. Laurence	Helping Hand Helping Hearts
Bunjil Place Library	Homestead Community and Learning Centre
Bunnings Warehouse	IPC Health
Burke and Beyond	Jan Phillips
Business Bloom International	Jesuit Social Services
CareWorks SunRanges	Kangan Institute
CatholicCare	Keysborough Learning Centre
Centrelink	KS Environmental
CFA	Launch Psychology
Chisholm Institute of TAFE	Life Saving Victoria
Chobani	Lifehouse Church
City of Casey	Meadow Heights Education Centre
City of Greater Dandenong	Melbourne City Mission
Communities for Children Facilitating Partners	Melbourne College of Further Education
Craigieburn Secondary College	Melbourne Polytechnic
Dallas Neighbourhood House	Mercy Health
Dandenong Community and Learning Centre	Merinda Park Learning and Community Centre
Dental Health Services Victoria	MiCare
Department of Education and Training Victoria	Migrant Resource Centre North-West Region Inc
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Monash Health

Table 2 (continued): Partner organisations – Victorian community hubs, 2022

Monash University Museum of Art	Stephanie Alexander
Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	Steps Into Life
Multicultural Health Connect	Stows Waste Management
North Dandenong Neighbourhood House	Sussex Neighbourhood House
Notre Dame College, Shepparton	Tennis Australia
One FM	The Fathering Project
Partners in Training	The Good Foundation
Picnic 4 Peace	The Multicultural Network
Playgroup Victoria	The One Box
Primary Care Connect	The Royal Children's Hospital
RACV	The Salvation Army
Reclink Australia	The Sixth Child
Refugee Legal	The Water Well Project
Relationships Australia	Toolbox Education
RiverConnect	Toy Libraries Australia
RMIT	UnitingCare
Rural Australians for Refugees	VicRoads
Second Stitch	VICSEG New Futures
SEDA College Victoria	Victoria Police
Services Australia	Victorian Arabic Social Services
Shepparton Festival	Victorian Electoral Commission
Shepparton Sailability	Victorian Mandali Community Language School
Sheriff's Office Victoria	Visy Cares Learning Centre
Sing&Grow Australia	Volunteers West
SisterWorks	Wellsprings for Women
South East Community Links	WEstjustice
Springvale Learning and Activities Centre	Woolworths Supermarkets
Springvale Neighbourhood House	Wyndham City Council
St Dominic's Broadmeadows Parish	Wyndham City Library
St Paul's African House	Wyndham Community and Education Centre
St Vincent de Paul Society	YMCA
Start Outdoors	