

ANNUAL REPORT

1996-1997



KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

89 McCracken Street, Kensington 3031

Telephone: 9376 6366 9376 7280 Fax: 9376 8444 Email: kwgp@vicnet.net.au

KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION INC.

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1996/97 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS

Willy Maddock
Debbie Gath
Helen Frawley
Amando Tores

Cathy Sage
Maureen Fagan
Nafisa Amini

1996/1997 WORKERS, VOLUNTEERS AND COMMITTEE

Lyn Healy, Freda Tarr, Joyce Morgan
Wendy Toohey, Yvonne Phung, Nafisa Amini
Amina Diria, Cathy Byrne, Fionulla Hickland,
Shukri, Trudi Brunton, Cathy Lang,
Mary Anne Misfud, Thuong Vuong, Loan Le, Hai Huynh,
Carmello Misfud, Beryl Forster, Kenny Reardon, Ruby Guy,
Debbie Gath, Sandro Onofrio, Ella Butler,
Edna Lunn, Kim Lan Hua, Chi Tran, Willy Maddock,
Hoa Mai Pham, Anne Henning, Heather Barnes,
Jan Hase, Wendy Lampert, Judith Dahl,
Catherine Gow, Paul Mayfield, Murry Sayers, Cheryl Smith,
Ich Nguyen, Dan Basso, Nigel Lampert,
Sylvia Tollit, Amy Lau Chi, Lisa Vuong, Tanya Martin,
Carolyn Fuller, Anne Zammut, Donna Moore, Temalesi Longanimasi,
Joy Fraser, Karla Montavalda, Amando Tores, David Graetz
Trinh Nguyen, Le Thi Nguyet, Sen Nguyen, Robert Firth,
Sally Banks, Brian Scanlon, Maureen Fagan, Albie Kennedy,
Christine Madden, David Maddock, Bisharo Mahommed,
Hamdi Mohammed, Ann Beck, Helen Frawley, Bernadette Suter,
Allison Rowles, Jan Copping, Mr. Lim, Peta Murray,
Karen Aldis, Heidi Weilguny, Helen Lee, David Alderson,
Fransesco & Natalie Patti.



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- ▶ To provide a welcoming environment which is universally accessible and free of discrimination, to foster personal growth and development.
- ▶ To provide an environment which encourages self-determination by which individuals may seek choice and take control of their own lives.
- ▶ To encourage enhancement of skills and knowledge to develop each individual's potential as members of the community.
- ▶ To provide an environment where people may develop community networks and supportive relationships.
- ▶ To provide the opportunity for individual self expression, social interaction and personal achievement and growth.
- ▶ To provide access to information and facilitate sharing of resources.
- ▶ To provide opportunities (services and activities) which promote a creative, purposeful and self-fulfilling utilisation of leisure time.
- ▶ To provide quality child care including full-time, part-time and occasional care.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1996 has been a challenging year for the Kensington Women's Group Child Care Association Incorporated, as we've striven to continue to provide high quality programs for all our participants, children and adults. This will remain a challenge as funding cuts continue with both the Commonwealth and State Governments placing less importance on small community organisations.

Representatives of the Management Committee and the staff have spent many hours over and above the regular monthly meetings, searching for ways to increase funding and reviewing the budget.

The Child Care has undergone significant staff changes as the Co-ordinators resigned and changes in government regulations have required a restructuring of staffing arrangements. Andrea Shea and Donna McMahon resigned and Anne Henning was appointed the new co-ordinator on June 14th 1996. As a consequence of government regulations, Barbara Bonke also resigned and Anne McLachlan was appointed as a level 3 child care worker. The Child Care Regulations required additional level 3 staff so Heidi Weilung joined the staff at the beginning of 1997. Yvonne Vuong resigned to take up Family Day Care.

There remain unresolved issues relating to the change from a Co-operative to an Association. There was a Compliance visit as part of this process, and due to the loss of some records the matter has not yet been resolved.

The committee assessing child care centres for Accreditation reviewed our Centre on 26 July 1996. The uniqueness of our Centre was captured in the report from which I quote:

"What a pleasure to visit such a multiculturally diverse and sensitive Centre! It was a pleasure to visit this Centre and observe the effective and sensitive communication evident between staff, parents, children".

The Centre has been Accredited for one year. The Management Committee congratulate Anne, Thuong, Yvonne and Anne on their wonderful effort and hard work.

The 1996 Federal Budget has some bad news for community child care centres. On the 30th June 1997 the Operational subsidy will cease. For our Centre this means a loss of \$15,000. Christine Madden, our accountant, has worked with Anne to ensure we can continue operating. We are extremely grateful to Christine for her many hours of voluntary work which she gave unstintingly. We are determined to work with the parents to keep our McCracken Street Child Care Centre open.

The Neighbourhood House has had a very successful year. Yet once again we are faced with challenges as changes and reviews in funding arrangements effect our workers, and our programs. The Council of Adult, Community and Further Education no longer fund a 0.5 co-ordinator, which is Catherine's position. The salary must be gained from the co-ordination component of the numerous programs. This places enormous pressure on the Neighbourhood House and is unsuitable for Catherine as her position is dependent on the success of submissions. This year with stringent budgeting her position has been assured.

The Department of Health and Community Services is conducting a review of the Neighbourhood House Co-ordination Program, which funds Carolyn's position. We anxiously await the result of this review.

In the midst of these complex and time consuming issues, the Kensington Women's Group Child Care Association Inc. continues to offer high quality programs in response to the ever changing face of Kensington. We are proud of our professional and dedicated staff, who have the welfare and interests of the participants at heart.

Let me conclude this report by thanking the members of the Management Committee, for their generosity and the responsibility they take to keep the Neighbourhood House and the McCracken Street Child Care Centre functioning and responsive to the Kensington community. I would like to say a special thanks to Willy who has moved on from Kensington. We really appreciate all you have contributed to the Neighbourhood House and the Child Care. We wish you all the best in your new appointment.

Helen Frawley
President



NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE REPORT

During the last twelve months, despite many obstacles and hurdles placed in our way, Kensington Neighbourhood House has managed to continue to provide a range of social, cultural, recreational, educational and vocational courses and activities for the residents of Kensington and surrounding areas. The organisation of the range of activities and courses has been carried out by two co-ordinators, Carolyn, whose position is funded by Department of Human Services, and Catherine, whose position was funded by Department of Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE).

The last twelve months has seen massive changes within the Further Education/Adult Education program in the region which has had impacts within the Neighbourhood House. Kensington Neighbourhood House is now part of the Central Western Adult, Community and Further Education Region. With the amalgamation of regions, changes in staff and changes in funding provision to Community Providers, combined with increasing expectations and student contact hours, it has been a very challenging year.

Prior to 1996, the Neighbourhood House received a salary for further education co-ordination (19 hrs per week), currently held by Catherine, plus funding for courses. 1996 saw the removal of the salary which was replaced for *12 months only* with an administration grant. 1997 saw the total grant removed with the expectation that Centres such as ours, must competitively tender for courses and allocate money from these courses for co-ordination. This has resulted in all courses being financially very tight. It would be absolutely impossible to conduct the diversity of courses which we do without a co-ordination position. Co-ordinating courses involves the selection and employment of teachers, development of curriculum and time-tables, producing numerous detailed submission and tender documents, provision of student policies and guidelines, overseeing the moderation of courses in order to ensure that educational standards are maintained, completing quarterly statistics on student contact hours, complete financial reports and course evaluations for funding bodies and supporting teachers in the provision of high quality educational and vocational courses, as well as supporting students to successfully complete courses.

1996 saw the Centre offer night cooking classes in five week blocks. These classes were very successful and enjoyable for those who participated but unfortunately they were not financially viable and with the reduction in ACFE funding it was impossible to continue to conduct these classes in 1997. Another change in 1997 has been the reduction in child care being offered with classes. Again because of funding restrictions, it is only possible to provide child care with the English as a Second Language classes. The reduction in the provision of child care, particularly with the accredited vocational courses may have a big impact on women's access to courses. This will be monitored during 1997. In conjunction with the new financial arrangements all classes and activities have seen an increase in donations. Prior to this year, we asked all participants at the Centre to donate \$2 per week. This has been raised to \$3 per week for 1997. It is very unfortunate that this has had to occur but there has been no increase for at least four years.

The Department of Human Services is currently doing a review of all organisations funded under the Neighbourhood House Co-ordination Program. Over the last ten years, this program has expanded in a very ad-hoc fashion, and there is little consistency or logic in the organisations that are funded, and the extent to which they are funded. At this stage, the Minister (Denis Napthine)

has declared that no new money will be allocated to the program, and that present resources will be spread to make the funding more equitable. This may mean a reduction in funding for some houses. We believe that all neighbourhood houses should be allocated a realistic funding level of co-ordination plus on-costs and administration, but that this should not be done at the expense of Houses who already receive funding for full-time co-ordination. The demands on Neighbourhood Houses has increased dramatically over the last few years with de-institutionalisation and integration and now gambling problems affecting families and individuals within our communities. There is also increased accountability and corresponding paper-work, and it is therefore not realistic to cut co-ordination hours when there is even more work to do. Perhaps some of the money generated by the gambling industry should be diverted to fund the Neighbourhood House Co-ordination Program at a realistic level for all!

On a more positive note during 1996 the Further Education Program co-ordinated the following courses:

English as a Second Language I (Elderly)
English as a Second Language II (Intermediate)
English as a Second Language III (English through drama)
Literacy for Horn of African Women

All the English as a Second Language courses were accredited courses for the first time though the CGEA (Certificate in General Education for Adults). The CGEA enables ESL students to gain state and national recognition of their language skills.

Thanks to Jan Hase, Wendy Lampert and Jan Copping for their excellent teaching, flexibility and sense of humour in what were sometimes difficult times!

1996 also was the provision of accredited vocational education courses and subjects:

Community Information Workers Certificate
Introduction to Computers
Community Development & Financial Counselling/Consumer Advocacy
First Aid Level 2 (occupational purposes)
Desktop publishing (three modules out of the Advanced Certificate in Office Administration, Electronic Publishing).
As well as piloting 'Leaping Forward: life options course for women'

Thanks to Cheryl Smith, David Alderson, Murray Sayers and St John's Ambulance for professionally conducting these courses

During the year a submission to gain another computer was successful and we are now connected to the internet, thanks to the support and expertise of Trudi Brunton. In 1997 Catherine is planning to conduct an after schools program for secondary school students utilising the internet as well as developing materials for all the English as a Second Language classes to utilise the internet.

Apart from the furious processes of tendering for grants to conduct classes and maintain a co-ordination position, 1996 saw much work in drafting up the McCracken Street Child Care Association Inc. (Child Care Centre and Neighbourhood House) Policies and Procedures document, which will be endorsed in 1997 once the new Committee of Management is in place.

The development of Centre policies has been vital in ensuring that we operate a very professional and very public organisation. Our next challenge in 1997 is the development of our business plan for the next three years. It is now an expectation of Adult, Community and Further Education (funding body) that all community providers of adult education programs have a business plan which specifies the core business of the agency, and includes a situation analysis, the setting of strategic directions, targets and performance measures, key strategies, action plans and monitoring and adjustment processes.

The Committee of Management remains committed to targetting our activities towards those in the community who have less resources and options. We have therefore continued to run many low-cost multi-cultural activities (where Anglo-Saxon Australians join with people from many different cultural backgrounds to learn and share together) such as craft (with special thanks to Alli Rowles), cooking, community lunches and daytrips, including daytrips for young parents run in conjunction with Holy Rosary. These multi-cultural activities have had some financial support from the City of Moonee Valley, and we appreciate their involvement and support. We also ran several ethno-specific groups, Middle-aged Indo-Chinese Women's Group, the Kensington Elderly Vietnamese Group and the Somalian Women's Group, to help the participants learn about their new country and enable them to take an active part in our community. We organised swimming, walking, gentle exercise and pre and ante-natal exercise classes all on a weekly basis, to encourage participants to keep bodies supple and fit (and ward off arthritis as we get older!). Victorian Health Promotion Foundation has contributed financially to these 'Keep Fit' classes, but we would also like to acknowledge 'in kind' support from Doutta Galla Community Health Service and the Kensington Primary School.

No Annual Report would be complete without mentioning the two camps run each year by the Neighbourhood House. Last July, 95 people joined together for a holiday in Swan Hill, staying at the Pioneer Settlement. There was plenty to see and do and all age groups seemed to mix together well and enjoy themselves. It was great to go somewhere a little warmer in the winter, as the previous year we experienced snow! In January, 110 people set sail in two big buses and one 20-seater to holiday at Koala Park Resort on Phillip Island. We have had many years of experience in running camps bearing in mind the various cultural and religious requirements of the people attending. The camp had its own swimming pool which was very busy during the extremely hot weather, and, when it was cooler in the early evening, many people tried their hand at tennis and/or basketball. We also visited several of the beautiful beaches, saw the pelicans being fed, cruised through the shops in Cowes, had a scenic drive to Inverloch, and, of course, saw the penguin parade. The last night we traditionally have a party, and this year it started with a 'fancy sock parade', with many weird and wonderful 'designer' socks on parade. This camp, as others before it, was a great success because so many people from so many different cultural backgrounds, worked creatively together to ensure it was a success. Thankyou to Holy Rosary for allowing Helen to be involved in running the camps. And thankyou to Helen, too. We could not manage without her input and hard work.

Last year the Committee of Management supported Catherine's work with the 'Women & Imprisonment Group' organising the 1996 Wring Out of Fairlea which was an outstanding success with over 2,000 people attending. The Committee also supported Catherine's work with women rebuilding their lives after imprisonment. Thank you to the Committee of Management for your support with these very critical issues. Catherine also conducted a number of training and information sessions for Neighbourhood Houses on 'the role of Neighbourhood Houses in

supporting women leaving prison', including at the 1996 ANHLC (Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres) Statewide Conference.

There are many people who contribute to the running of a Neighbourhood House, and we would like to thank all volunteers who have helped with office and administration duties, especially Freda and Joyce. The House would fall down without the constant attention of Carmello and Amando with their hammers and screwdrivers. Thankyou to you both. And to Lyn Healy, what can we say? The garden looks great and it is very appreciative of your loving tender care, as are we all. Thankyou. We are very grateful for the use of Kenny's bus and appreciate the help and support of the Reardon family. Without this help, many of our activities and excursions would be impossible. As you enter "The House" you will have noticed our new identification sign in the front garden. We thank Mr. Lim for his creativity in painting the image on the board and to Marston & Cook Pty. Ltd., for supplying the board. Also we would like to thank all the child care staff : Anne, Thuong, Yvonne, Heidi and Anne for, taking numerous telephone messages, putting up with our mess and our noise and for their co-operation, support and tolerance. Thank-you. In conclusion, we would like to thank the Committee. From a management point of view, it has been an extremely difficult year, with many and varied problems to grapple with. The committee have worked hard to understand the often complex issues, and have managed to maintain their sanity and sense of humour at the same time.

We are very proud of our achievements over the last 12 months. Despite an adverse climate, we have remained focused on the aims and objectives of this House. We also see many challenges in the year ahead, many directly related to changes in State and Federal Government policies which are impacting on communities. Of particular concern is the increase in racist attacks and racism itself, increasing levels of unemployment, social division and spiralling levels of poverty. We know that we do not confront these challenges alone. As a community we need to work together to create a just and equal society.

Catherine Gow
Further Education Co-ordinator

Carolyn Fuller
Neighbourhood House Co-ordinator



McCRACKEN STREET CHILD CARE CENTRE REPORT

I would like to thank everyone for attending our Annual General Meeting tonight. I would like to introduce myself, as this is my first AGM as co-ordinator of the Child Care Centre. My name is Anne Henning and I started my position here last May after teaching in various children services and overseas in Japan. The Child Care Centre has certainly had many changes over the time I have been here and I believe the Centre has overcome many challenging problems due to the hard working committee and staff adaptations during this time.

Our first challenge in 1996 was the National Quality Improvement Accreditation. This is a process where the Centre is graded in regards to certain principles. There are 52 principles under broad areas such as Interactions (staff, children, parents), Program (Centre philosophy), Learning Experiences, Routines, Developmentally Appropriate Nutrition, Health and Safety and Centre Management and Staff Development.

It was certainly an anxious time for our Centre as this was a new process and we had to adapt and work very hard to achieve appropriate standards in a very short time. Overall our Centre was accredited and we were delighted with a positive review which included the comments "*what a pleasure to visit such a multiculturally diverse and sensitive Centre*". The staff work exceedingly effectively together and the quality of the program is to be commended in reflecting the Centres philosophy in meeting children's individual needs.

1996 also proved to be challenging for us in regards to budgeting and ensuring our Centre could remain financially viable. I would like to extend my gratitude to Christine Madden who worked with me a lot during the year to keep our budget up to date and to make some important decisions with regards to our financial situation. We formalised a budget and have been successful up to date with following it. The major concern for us in 1997 is the loss of operational subsidy - \$15,000 per year loss for our Centre. This will be lost in July 1997 and as a result our fees have gone up by \$10.00 per week now, with a possible increase later in the year. I worked extensively with Community Child Care in 1996 to fight the cuts and attended many meetings, rallies and discussions with local Members of Parliament to examine the impact of losing this money, which unfortunately was unsuccessful!

On a more positive note, I have been working with other Early Childhood professionals to keep up with our industry and current issues. This included a local network of Early Childhood workers, City of Moonee Valley meetings, support groups such as Playworks, Royal Children's Hospital and Community Child Care and Melbourne University co-ordinators meetings. I believe it is important for our small Centre to be involved and a part of the larger network of Early Childhood professionals and support groups and I try to attend as many meetings as possible and viable.

Overall our Centre has adopted a positive, happy and productive environment for children. Our Centre philosophy is as follows:

"Children develop best in an environment which is safe, secure, nurturing and responsive to individual needs. Children must be able to learn at their own rate with opportunities to attempt, learn, succeed and extend. We will always value families backgrounds, cultures, religions, language and individual characteristics".

In closing I would like to thank the hard working team at McCracken Street. Thuong has been such a wonderful support and carer over the year and I value all her hard work. I would like to thank Yvonne, Anne, Nafisa and our new team member Heidi for their hard work. Heidi is our new qualified staff member who has brought some excellent learning experiences and ideas to the children.

I would also like to thank Carolyn and Catherine for helping me settle and deal with many issues during the year.

The Committee of Management - in particular Helen and Willy - have been invaluable in their support, dedication, ability to help with some very difficult decisions during the year.

Our Centre has a wonderful warm feeling and we look forward to a successful and productive year.

Anne Henning
Child care Centre Co-ordinator



**KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE - CHILD CARE CENTRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1996

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
<u>INCOME:</u>		
Grants Received - Department of Health, Housing & Community Services	71,804	78,096
Child Minding Fees	25,454	20,745
Interest Received	97	204
Grant - Dept. of H.H. & C.S. - Capital	4,690	-
Fund Raising	<u>1,804</u>	<u>742</u>
	<u>103,849</u>	<u>99,787</u>
 <u>LESS EXPENDITURE:</u>		
Advertising	375	-
Fund Raising Costs	914	-
Salaries - Co-Ord. & Administration	33,292	32,270
- Full-Time Staff	45,586	27,185
- Casual Staff	2,116	9,561
Housekeeping	4,517	13,538
Cleaning	3,607	3,703
Subscriptions	349	110
Excursions	40	244
Heat, Light, Power & Telephone	1,803	2,168
Depreciation	1,243	813
Audit, Accountancy & Legal	1,530	1,995
Insurance	270	576
Printing & Stationery	292	648
Bank Charges	533	415
Postage	60	68
Repairs & Maintenance	684	14
Rates & Taxes	134	197
Replacements - Toys & Equipment	1,979	3,655
Long Service Leave	(4,300)	(3,800)
Sundries	309	664
Superannuation	4,271	3,082
Workcare Levies	759	1,567
Staff - In Service	<u>165</u>	<u>576</u>
	<u>100,498</u>	<u>99,249</u>
 <u>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT):</u>	 3,351	 538
 ADD: Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit) 1.1.96	 (5,050)	 (6,795)
Transfers of Shares & Reserves ex K.W.G. & C.C. Coop	 -	 <u>1,207</u>
 <u>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) 31.12.1996</u>	 <u>\$ (1,699)</u>	 <u>\$ (5,050)</u>

KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE - WOMEN'S GROUP
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1996

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
<u>INCOME:</u>		
Grant - Dept. Human Services	43,116	44,036
" - Dept. Human Services - Capital Equipment	3,829	-
" - Dept. Human Services & A.C.F. E. - Child Care	5,931	2,759
" - A.C.F.E.	43,443	61,160
" - Vic. Health Promotion Foundation	4,670	3,700
" - A.M.E.P. - Occasional Care	15,859	-
" - D.E.E.T.	-	16,622
" - C.G.F.	-	5,172
" - City of Moonee Valley	6,175	7,880
" - Melbourne City Council	-	5,000
" - O.T.F.E.	30,850	2,177
" - Ethnic Affairs	1,000	-
Interest Received	1,307	1,238
Fund Raising & Donations etc.	3,973	6,636
Camp Fees	<u>8,157</u>	<u>-</u>
	168,310	156,380
<u>LESS EXPENDITURE:</u>		
Amenities	-	222
Salaries	40,154	61,131
Workcover	1,226	999
Superannuation	2,523	3,532
Travel	1,038	750
Bank Charges	202	97
Equipment	3,221	-
Administration	1,743	5,137
Advertising	521	-
Stationery & Postage	1,333	201
Sundries	927	300
Light, Power, Telephone	3,857	2,752
Repairs & Maintenance	862	2,557
Conferences, Seminars & Meetings	136	731
Program Expenses	118,432	71,908
Professional Development	704	1,200
Subscriptions	551	-
Audit Fees	1,050	1,330
Depreciation	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	179,480	153,240
<u>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</u>	\$ (11,170)	\$ 3,140
Add Accumulated Surplus 1st Jan. 1996	30,207	25,860
Transfer of Shares & Reserves	<u>11,170</u>	<u>1,207</u>
Accumulated Surplus 31st Dec. 1996	<u>\$ 19,037</u>	<u>\$ 30,207</u>

KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1996

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>		
Capital Reserve & Grants	122,494	122,494
Add Accumulated Funds/(Deficiency):		
Child Care Centre	(1,699)	(5,050)
Women's Group Outreach	<u>19,037</u> <u>17,338</u>	<u>30,207</u> <u>25,157</u>
<u>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS:</u>	<u>\$ 139,832</u>	<u>\$ 147,651</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>		
<u>CURRENT ASSETS:</u>		
Debtors - Child Care	3,504	3,084
- Womens Group	_____ 3,504	_____ 3,084
Cash on Deposit - Macaulay Community		
Credit Co-Operative - Child Care	16,229	22,386
- Womens Group	<u>54,248</u> <u>70,477</u>	<u>64,386</u> <u>86,772</u>
	73,981	89,856
<u>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:</u>		
Creditors & Accruals - Child Care	2,977	3,430
- Womens Group	1,050	1,330
Grants Received in Advance -		
Womens Group	10,681	10,369
Child Care	8,619	9,507
Provision for L.S.L. - Child Care	-	4,300
" " " - Womens Group	7,400	7,400
" " Building Maintenance	<u>31,120</u> <u>61,847</u>	<u>31,120</u> <u>67,456</u>
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS:</u>	12,134	22,400
<u>ADD FIXED ASSETS:</u>		
Buildings (at cost)	147,224	147,224
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>25,282</u>	<u>23,656</u>
	<u>121,942</u>	<u>123,568</u>
Fixtures, Fittings & Furn. (at cost)	12,485	7,795
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>6,729</u>	<u>6,112</u>
	<u>5,756</u> <u>127,698</u>	<u>1,683</u> <u>125,251</u>
<u>NET ASSETS:</u>	<u>\$ 139,832</u>	<u>\$ 147,651</u>

**KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

**AUDITOR'S REPORT
WOMEN'S GROUP**

In my opinion:-

The accompanying Financial Statements of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of:-

1. The state of affairs of Kensington Womens Group Child Care Association Incorporated - Women's Group as at 31st December, 1996 and the results of its operations for the twelve months ended on that date.
2. That the statements are in accordance with the accounting records and other information supplied to me by Kensington Womens Group Child Care Associated Incorporated.

DATED AT CARLTON

POBJOY, MULHALL & ASSOCIATES



7TH MARCH, 1997

.....
**JOHN MULHALL
PRINCIPAL**

CPA

THANK-YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN
1996/97

Office of Training and Further Education
Central Western Council of Adult, Community and Further Education
Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
City of Moonee Valley
Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commission
Department of Human Services

THANK-YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR 'IN-KIND' SUPPORT

Kensington Primary School
Kenny Reardon
Doutta Galla Community Health Service
Kensington Joint Congregation (Christ Church)
Holy Rosary Church
Holy Rosary Primary School
Dignity Financial Counselling Service
Kensington Community Centre
Kensington Tenants Association
Wombat
Flemington Neighbourhood House
Wingate Ave Community Centre
Marston and Cook Pty. Ltd.



BEYOND THE DOLL'S HOUSE

Photographs scattered throughout this annual report are of some of the dolls which are on display in the main room upstairs, and are a focal point of "The House".

"Beyond The Dolls' House" project originated from the idea that participants of the house should be given the opportunity to, in some artistic way, decorate the new building. An artist, Jenny McCarthy, was employed and she held numerous meetings and discussions with interested participants to decide exactly what form the artistic endeavours should take. Eventually, it was decided that everyone involved in the project would make a doll.

Participants, with the help of Jenny, poured over books, reading about different types of dolls with participants selecting their own preferred method. Metres of calico were bought, hundreds of coloured cottons purchased, and the creations began. At that time, Trinity House, on the corner of Wight Street, was vacant, so the project was organised to run there. Originally, participants met once a week in one of four groups, as there were too many for one big group, but over a period of weeks, the language and cultural barriers were broken down and participants popped in to Trinity House whenever it was most convenient to discuss with and get advice from Jenny, and to share their skills, have a chat and build friendships.

The common theme was 'make a doll' but each person's doll has its own individuality, with all representing the culture, the personality, the looks or the interests of the maker. There are many dressed in 'ao dai', the traditional Vietnamese dress (all with embroidered limbs protruding), there are scenes of Malaysia and El Salvador embroidered on tunnies, a doll with a Maltese flag beaded on to her dress, and made complete with petticoat, undies, hat and handbag. There is a doll with red hair (to match the participant's), a doll with feathers for hair, several bald, a mermaid with rich-coloured satin scales and a wild head of gold-coloured metal ribbon, a doll with one side black and one side white to represent the participant as half-witch-half angel, one with a sari hiding a beautifully embroidered body, one draped in a cape to represent herself as 'Super Woman'. One doll's exquisitely embroidered face took her creator more than 30 hours. Some are embroidered with butterflies, a dove for peace, trees for our environment, a cat because she was born in 'the year of the cat'. Our only male participant in the project machine-embroidered two faces (taken from photocopy of photographs) as the centre of two sunflowers.

When all were completed, they were mounted on or around 'The Tree of Life', made from plywood, painted and attached to the end wall of our main room. They remain a focal point at 'The House', and new participants spend hours looking at the detail and discerning the meaning of the dolls.

The project was entitled "Beyond the Doll's House", not only because of the obvious house and dolls, but also because of the positive on-going and far-reaching out-comes of this project, both for the 'House' and the participants.