

KENSINGTON WOMENS GROUP  
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE  
89 McCracken St  
KENSINGTON 3031  
PH 9376 6366

PLEASE RETURN



*Kensington  
Neighbourhood House  
1999  
Annual Report*



# KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION INC.

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## *1999 WORKERS, VOLUNTEERS AND COMMITTEE*

Lyn Healy  
Michelle Alchin  
Wendy Toohey  
Carmello Mifsud  
Nafisa Amini  
Carolyn Fuller  
Maureen Fagan  
Mary Anne Misfud  
Sen Nguyen  
Beryl Forster  
Norma Martinez  
Albie Kennedy  
Sandro Onofrio  
Kim Lan Hua  
Chris Hooper  
Maria Martinez  
Kathleen Zeimer  
Morki Kamil  
Sue Millet  
Helen Rollinson  
Sagal Kamal  
Carolyn Smyth  
Denise Henderson  
Christine Madden  
Katherine Bennet  
Dianne Fitzgerald  
Debbie Gath  
Joy Fraser  
Daniel  
Catherine Fitzgerald  
Marie Wellam

Brian Scanlon  
Ruby Guy  
Chu Tran  
Helen Frawley  
Joy Fraser  
Amando Torres  
Michelle Turner  
Natalina Patti  
Jean McCaughey  
Kenny Reardon  
Marta Elliot  
Vicky Cockburn  
Chi Tran  
Colleen Reardon  
Wendy Lampert  
Maureen Flannery  
Fran Pruckner  
Jose Martinez  
Terry Lawless  
Annie Quail  
Anne Callaghan  
Paul Mayfield  
Leah Supple  
Margaret Bergen  
Trevor Bennet  
Ruth Harrison  
Elle Valdebenito  
Anne Harkin  
Kylie Mahoney  
Lesley Hoatson  
Nima Mohamud

# HISTORY OF KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP

## CHILD CARE

A **neighbourhood house** is a house or other similar building that hosts a variety of programs, activities, both educational and recreational and services involving a diverse range of people from the local community. The first Neighbourhood House began in Victoria in the early 1970's to bring people together and enhance their opportunities. They support individuals and groups within the community, particular those who are disadvantaged. Neighbourhood houses are managed by community based committees of management. There are now over 400 neighbourhood houses in Victoria, which have developed in different ways in different areas. Neighbourhood houses were started for varying reasons. Kensington Women's Group was started as a support group for women, but others began as a common interest group, or people who get together to learn something specific i.e. literacy. Because there was no government policy about neighbourhood houses, there was no set pattern for growth or development, or for funding. Volunteers ran many originally. Money was sought from anywhere possible to pay co-ordination and to run programs. Originally a little money came from churches or local government.

Kensington Women's Group was lucky to be approved for full-time funding from the Federal Government under a Family Support Scheme, but this was unusual. By the early 1980's, some neighbourhood houses managed to get some funding from Community Services Victoria (CSV). By 1986 CSV had developed a Neighbourhood House Co-ordination Program to provide selected houses with some co-ordination, plus an annual amount to cover gas, electricity etc. It is important to realize that houses are all different and get funding from a variety of sources in varying amounts.

Thanks to the hard work of many of our members, Kensington Women's Group ChildCare Association Inc., now receives funding from a range of government bodies as well as through fundraising and donations for various classes and activities. Since the changes in local government boundaries, the City of Moonee Valley have also supported us, despite the fact that the majority of our participants live within the City of Melbourne's boundaries. Geographically our House now lies within the jurisdiction of the City of Moonee Valley.

We have grown from a volunteer run organisation focused on the support needs for women in Kensington, to a large and well established Association which offers occasional child care, accredited educational and vocational classes as well as support groups, recreational activities, self help and community education and organisational activities. Our House has a lively community spirit and our members share they lives, cultures and knowledge with one another. We have over 140 people participate in our programs and activities each week. We hope this will continue for many years to come.

Christine Madden (our local Accountant) continues to support us with her time and expertise.  
Thank you Christine.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who have done so much this year. Amongst the volunteers are the Management Committee members Debbie Gath, Jose Martinez, Maureen Fagan, Ellie Vaidebenito, Joy Fraser, Dianne Fitzgerald, Ruth Harrison and cooped members Francisco Tores and Sue Millet.

Extra commitments have made it necessary for me to resign from the Management Committee. It has been an enriching experience to work with such a committed Management Committee and dedicated staff. It is rewarding to be with people who are committed to enhancing the opportunities of the local community especially those who don't have the same access to education and other opportunities. I value your support and all I have learnt from you these last four years. It will stand me in good stead in the years ahead. Thank you I know The Kensington Women's group will continue to make a vital contribution to the people of Kensington.

**Helen Frawley**

**President**

**Kensington Women's Group ChildCare Association Inc: 2000.**

## *NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE and FURTHER EDUCATION REPORT*

1999 saw the Kensington Neighbourhood House enroll 674 people from over 22 different cultural backgrounds with varying abilities. Of the 674 enrolments, 630 were women, a third of whom were over sixty.

The main cultural groups attending the House were those from Anglo-Saxon, Vietnamese, Somalian and other Horn of Africa States as well as those from South American and Spanish speaking countries.

We ran 28 different classes/programs in 1999. The average attendance for each program works out at 24. Because we ran 3 programs (**Camp**- which has been running for 24 years, the **Vietnamese Group** – which has been running for 8 years and a **Special Research Project for Somalian Women** – which ran for only one year) the average attendance figures for all other classes/programs is actually 15. We believe this figure is very encouraging when compared with other Community Service program attendance.

One of the even more encouraging points that is apparent at Kensington Neighbourhood House has nothing to do with output, but everything to do with student/participant feedback. Last year we had a lot of changes and for the most part the feed back was positive and supportive. The members of the “House” have been very loyal.

This year has been full of challenges yet again. Michelle Turner began the year with renewed energy. It lasted about a month, when she had an accident that saw her off work for 11 weeks and still recovering. During the year without the constant presence of Michelle Turner, the Committee, volunteers and staff, especially Michelle Alchin worked double time to ensure the House ran smoothly.

Michelle Turner would like to thank everyone at the House, Committee, volunteers, staff, and all the participants, all of whom were extremely supportive to her throughout her absence and on her return to work.

This year the programs, courses and activities included –

Pre & Postnatal exercises (in conjunction with Doula Galla Community Health Service, in the hall of Christ Church Kensington). Craft, Gentle Exercise (at Kensington Primary School), Walking, Swimming (At Footscray Leisure Centre), trips to Victoria Market, a Young Womens group (a special thankyou to Anne Callaghan who facilitated and motivated this group), massage classes, and lunches on Wednesday.

We cater for the aged and those with disabilities in all our activities but we also run ethno-specific groups. This year our Elderly Indo-Chinese and Vietnamese group continued with its usual enrolment of between 120-150 and the Somalian women enjoyed special luncheons and a regular sewing class. There is some news from some of these on our special contribution page.

One of the programs we run at the House that reaches over 100 of our participants is our camp. This year we went to Flinders for 5 days, taking people from multicultural backgrounds, with

they can't be thanked enough. 3 exiting Somali students have found employment with the City of Moonee Valley Family Services.

1999 saw the House and the Primary School developing closer links in providing education for the local community. The School has always been accommodating of us running our childcare course from there. An addition to this last year was an **Introduction to computers** being conducted from the school's computer lab in the library. It was fantastic that the school made their computer facilities available to us – it made for a more successful computer course generally – and it was great to see the kids getting a kick out of seeing their mums in class and poking their heads in say hi.

The positive impact on families can be far reaching : seeing their mothers studying, achieving an educational goal that they have set for themselves and perhaps reentering employment in some capacity, is one of the most rewarding and important aspects about women re entering education, particularly in our community based setting. Again it's to do with feeling good, feeling proud of yourself and family members picking up on that.

We continue to encourage the participation of Somali women in the House. During 1999 funding was received from Adult Community and Further Education to conduct research into this particular group's needs. This needs analysis is beneficial as a planning tool and to seek further funding. However, having centralised and organised information given to us during interviews and surveys ultimately helps us to gain an understanding of cultural needs and issues specific to this ethnic group in learning how to live in our society. As worship is central to the Muslim daily activity, the House is happy to make available a quiet room for Muslim prayer time during the middle of the day for women studying here, or at the school or just walking by.

A special thankyou to:

- Kensington Joint Congregation for the use of their hall to run activities and classes
- Kensington Primary School for their gymnasium and classrooms
- Kenny Reardon for continual use of his buses, and his and Colleen's driving skills, without which many of our activities would be impossible.
- Dousta Galla Community Health Service for working with us on some of our programs
- Committee of Management members for their hard and continual work throughout the year.
- Christine Madden for her advice and support with our finances.
- Kensington Legal Service for their advice and support
- All the Volunteers without whom the House couldn't run smoothly
- Melbourne Community Care for their transport services (a big Thankyou to Lyn, the bus driver)
- Melbourne Aged Care Services (esp. Anna Poulentzas) for allowing Chu to come and translate for us at the Vietnamese group.

Lastly, this year has seen a new Government take office. The Statewide review of the functions and roles of Neighbourhood Houses, their coordinator's and their networks has been completed. It is being used as a tool to give direction to further funding. There has been an increase to the funding for Neighbourhood Houses, but the amount of total funding still remains on the thin edge of very little, considering the quantity and quality of services we provide. As an individual House

## *Special Contributions to the Annual Report*

These reports have been included to give the members of the Association and the participants of the Kensington Neighbourhood House the chance to express how they have seen the year come and go.





I have been The Neighbourhood House since 1996 to learn more English and attending a lot of activities.

During the times I come to The Neighbourhood House my pronunciation and conversation have improved, so I'm glad to come here to improve my communication skills.

### The Neighbourhood house

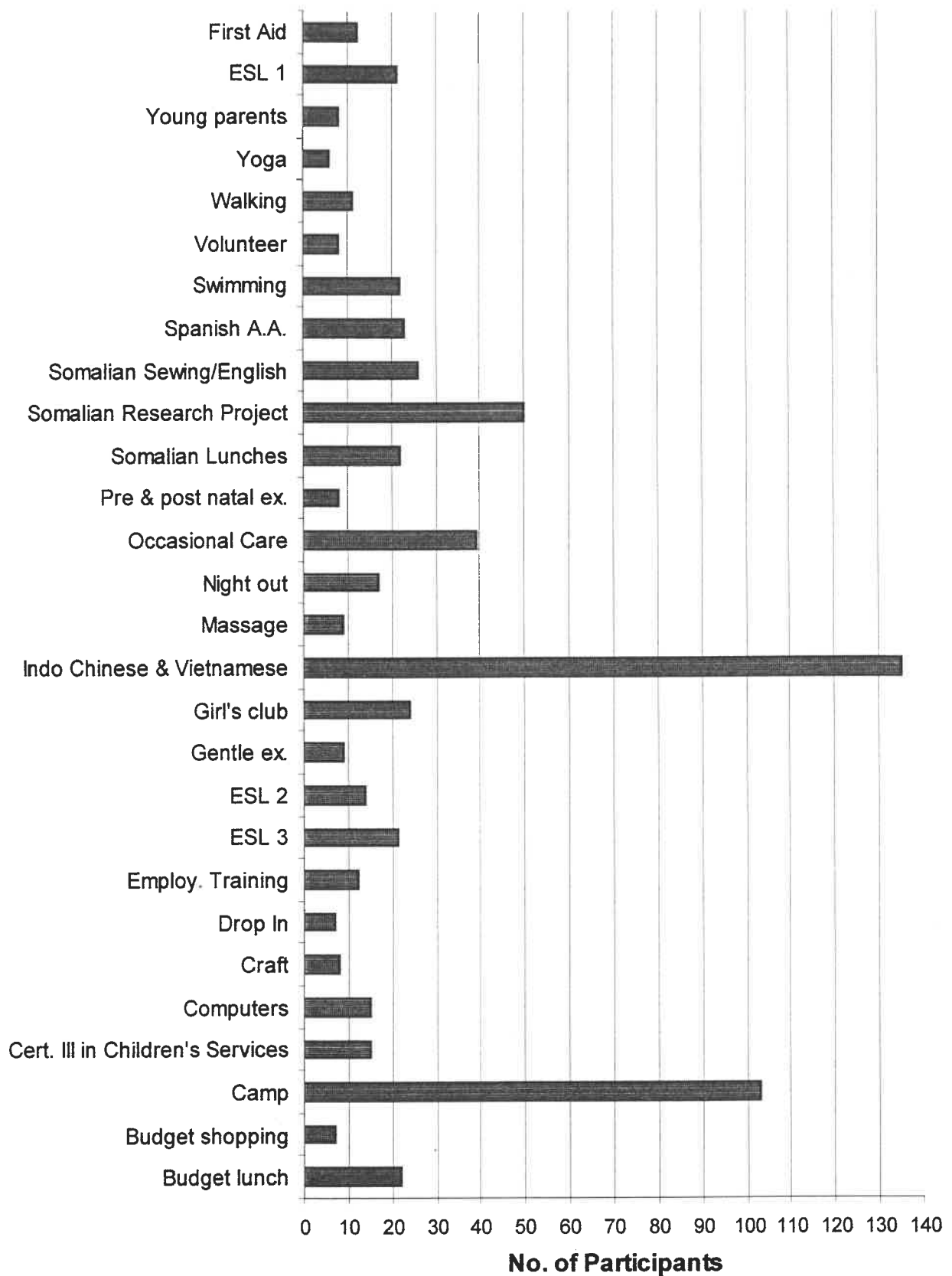
This house it offers me the opportunity to learn different skills and also offers swim class for recreation.

I believe this suburb is very lucky because have this house.

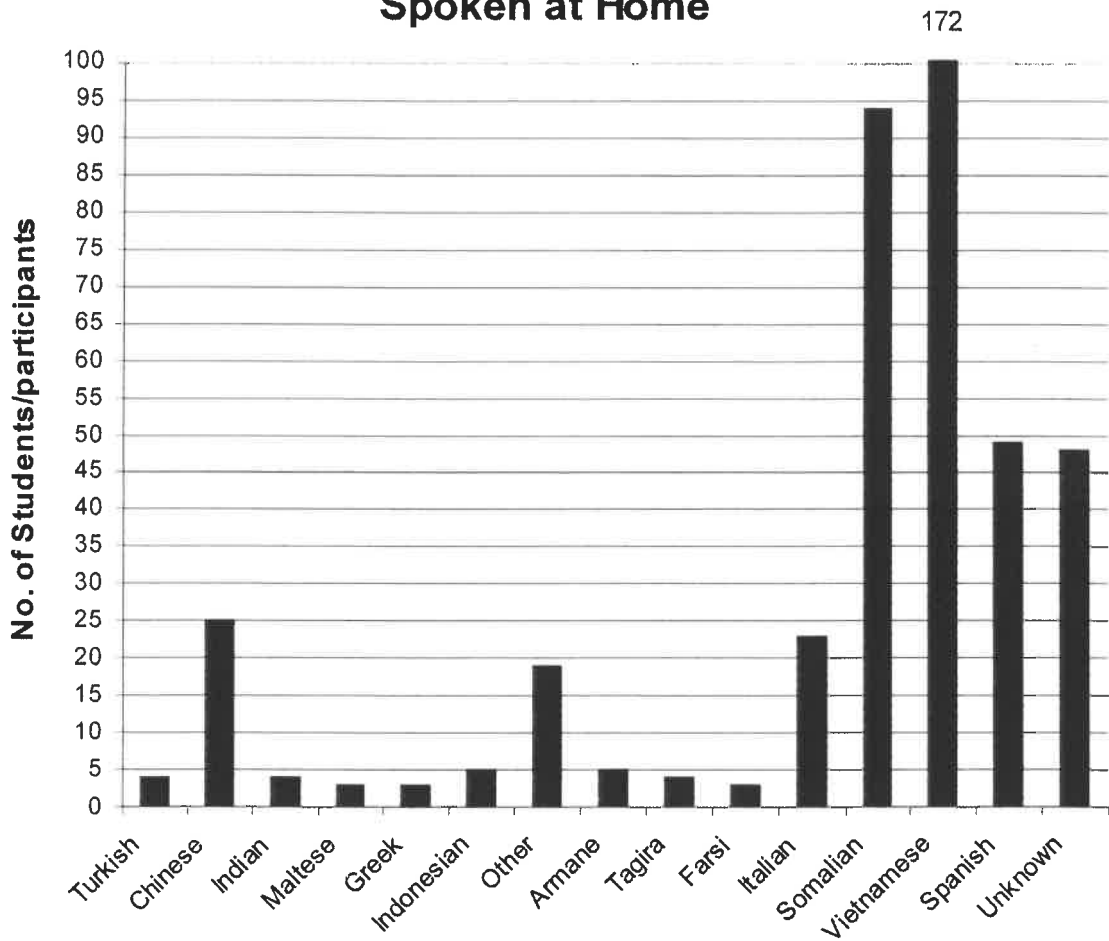
I would <sup>the</sup> (to) come Neighbourhood house because I meet a friends, I speak English, and I meet my teacher, when I speak English not correct my teacher fixes mistakes for me.

I'd like to write about my second language before I came to Australia I learned English reading and writing, I couldn't speak. I came to the Neighbourhood House my friend introduced, it was very good and friendly for me specially my teacher, Chris. She <sup>is</sup> gentle and patient and all staff in the Neighbourhood House are very nice. I really want to learn more English for conversation to talk with my children my friends and my neighbours too. Finally I will try to come to the Neighbourhood House usually to study English first and meet some different friends.

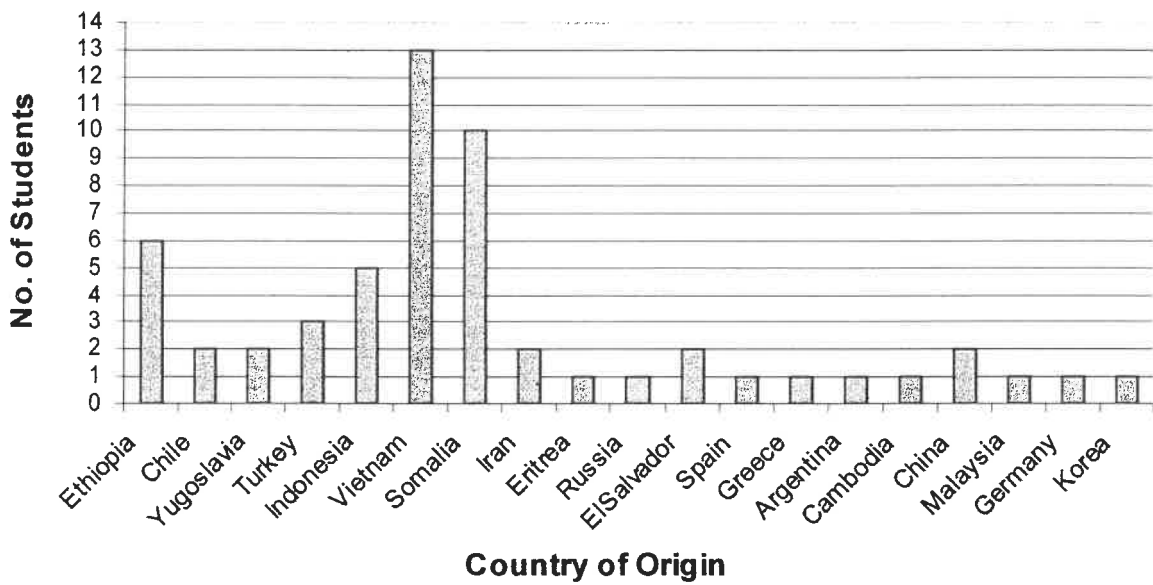
# Kensington Neighbourhood House Enrolments 1999



## Languages Other Than English Spoken at Home



## Total ESL Enrolments 1999



KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

REG. NO: A0031462P

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 1999

|   | <u>1999</u>     | <u>1998</u>     |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>INCOME</u>                             |                 |                 |
| GRANTS -Dept Human Services               |                 |                 |
| - Neighbourhood House                     | 45,716          | 44,384          |
| "        "        "    - Capital          | 1,695           | 3,630           |
| "        "        "    - Occasional Care  | 6,345           | 5,203           |
| "        "        "    - H.A.C.C.         | 6,285           | 11,078          |
| Dept of Ethnic Affairs                    | -               | 400             |
| Dept. of Education - A.C.F.E.             | 63,904          | 66,208          |
| Dept. of Premier & Cabinet                | 12,450          | -               |
| City of Moonee Valley                     | <u>18,437</u>   | <u>22,500</u>   |
| Rental Income                             | 1,445           | 1,917           |
| Donations – Neighbourhood House           | 13,884          | 15,686          |
| Fundraising                               | 786             | -               |
| Miscellaneous                             | -               | 52              |
| Interest Received                         | 831             | 1,037           |
| Workcover Reimbursement                   | <u>11,379</u>   | <u>-</u>        |
| <u>TOTAL INCOME</u>                       | <u>183,157</u>  | <u>172,095</u>  |
| <u>LESS EXPENDITURE</u>                   |                 |                 |
| (as per statement attached)               | <u>183,202</u>  | <u>171,267</u>  |
| <u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</u>     | (45)            | 828             |
| <u>ADD ACCUMULATED SURPLUS 1.1.1998</u>   |                 |                 |
|   | <u>56.87</u>    | <u>4,859</u>    |
| <u>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AS AT 31/12/99</u> | <u>\$ 5,642</u> | <u>\$ 5,687</u> |

KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

REG. NO: A0031462P

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 1999

|   | <u>1999</u>                    | <u>1998</u>                    |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>                                    |                                |                                |
| Capital Reserve & Grants                                    | 139,832                        | 139,832                        |
| Add Accumulated funds/(Deficiency):                         | <u>5,642</u>                   | <u>5,687</u>                   |
| <u>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</u>                                  | <u>\$ 145,474</u>              | <u>\$144,591</u>               |
| Represented by:   |                                |                                |
| <u>CURRENT ASSETS:</u>                                      |                                |                                |
| Debtors   | 398                            | -                              |
| Cash on Deposit – Macaulay Community<br>Credit Co-Operative | <u>69,634</u><br><u>70,032</u> | <u>72,725</u><br><u>72,725</u> |
| <u>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:</u>                            |                                |                                |
| Creditors & Accruals  | 1,537                          | 2,644                          |
| Grants Received in Advance                                  | 6,358                          | 18,637                         |
| Provision for - Computer Maintenance                        | 4,000                          | 4,000                          |
| - Audit Fees  | 910                            | 1,300                          |
| - Building Maintenance                                      | 31,120                         | 31,120                         |
| - Staff Entitlements  | <u>5,890</u>                   | <u>57,701</u>                  |
|   | <u>49,815</u>                  | <u>-</u>                       |
| <u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>                                   | 20,217                         | 15,024                         |
| <u>ADD FIXED ASSETS:</u>                                    |                                |                                |
| Buildings (at cost)   | 147,224                        | 147,224                        |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation                               | <u>30,160</u>                  | <u>28,534</u>                  |
|   | <u>117,064</u>                 | <u>118,690</u>                 |
| Fixtures, Fittings & Furn. (at cost)                        | 24,078                         | 24,078                         |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation                               | <u>15,885</u>                  | <u>12,273</u>                  |
|   | <u>8,193</u>                   | <u>11,805</u>                  |
|   | <u>125,257</u>                 | <u>130,495</u>                 |
| <u>NET ASSETS</u>   | <u>\$ 145,474</u>              | <u>\$145,519</u>               |

KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION INC.  
REG. NO: A0031462P

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**

To the Members of Kensington Women's Group Child Care Association Inc.

**Scope**

I have audited the attached financial statements, being a special purpose financial report, of Kensington Women's Group Child Care Association Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1999. The Committee of Management is responsible for the financial statements and have determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of Kensington Women's Group Child Care Association Inc. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial statements have been prepared for distribution to the members for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the constitution. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial statements to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views).

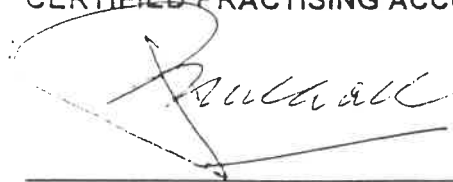
The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

**Audit Opinion**

In my opinion the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in the Notes to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, the financial position of Kensington Women's Group Child Care Association Inc. as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1999, and the results from operations for the year then ended.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2000

**POBJOY MULHALL & ASSOCIATES  
CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS**



19-21 Argyle Place South  
Carlton 3053

JOHN MULHALL  
Registered Company Auditor

CPA

