

ANNUAL REPORT 2006



Kensington Neighbourhood House

(Registered as Kensington Women 's Group Child Care Association Inc.)

Kensington Women's Group Child Care Association Inc.

Statements of Purpose

- To work within the principles of Community Development and Social Justice.
- To provide quality Adult Community and Further Education as a registered ACE organisation.
- To provide a welcoming environment which is universally accessible and free of discrimination, to foster personal growth and development.
- To alleviate social isolation particularly the aged, frail and persons with disabilities by encouraging self-help support group development.
- To encourage the enhancement of skills and knowledge, particularly those from lower socio-economic groups and residents whose first language is not English.
- To provide an environment which encourages self determination by which individuals may seek choice and take control of their own lives.
- To provide culturally appropriate access to information, advocacy, linkages and resources, particularly for the unemployed, homeless and victims of domestic violence and others living in circumstances where they are unable to adequately provide for themselves and their family.
- To provide quality occasional childcare.
- To provide services to alleviate poverty by accepting donations of clothing, toys and food to be redistributed to those in need, particularly children.
- To assist in the development of each individual's potential as members of the broader 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.

HOUSE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Increased House Program

During 2006 we continued to increase the range and hours of program activities on offer. Looking back to 2002 we calculated that the hours of activity had increased by an impressive 35% over four years. Even more impressively this has been achieved without any additional worker or co-ordination hours.

House Activities

The main focus of House Programs continued to be Arts and Crafts, Health & Fitness, Social Groups and Morning Childcare.

Arts & Crafts

Weekly Arts and Crafts classes included Mosaics, Creative Writing, Painting & Drawing, Knitting, Haiku and Guitar. Mosaics grew into two classes, one for Advanced and the other for Beginners. Painting & Drawing also grew into two classes as word of mouth about tutor Alex Rowland's excellent reputation spread. Other Arts and Crafts activities offered as one-off workshops were Heeblestone Sculpture, Singing, Bag Making and Screen Printing.

Health & Fitness

Health and Fitness classes included the ever popular Gentle Exercise & Light Weights with Carol Weiland-Monaghan, a Walking Group, Yoga, Latin Dance, Massage, Reflexology, Relaxation and a Women's Health and Beauty workshop.

Gardening/Environmental

We introduced gardening and the environment into the program via quarterly Seasonal Gardening talks and a Bonsai demonstration. School Holiday Activities were also introduced. These proved to be very popular and have now become a regular part of the program.

Social Groups

The Elderly Vietnamese and Indo Chinese and Wednesday Lunch groups continued to meet regularly. These groups provide an important social and focal point for its members – many of whom have been coming to the House for years. The trips out in particular are looked forward to with much anticipation. Both groups warmly welcome new members.

Child Care Service

The Morning Childcare service maintained its four sessions per week throughout the year. Our wonderful and valued childcare workers Ann Morrison, Roman Salew and Mei Han continued to provide a stimulating program for the children in our cosy homely setting. Parents often relay stories of their children's eagerness to get to childcare to play with both the staff and their friends.

Student Placements

During 2006 we had two students do placements at the House. Lucie Groen-O'Connor did a Year 11 placement and helped out in most of the classes and activities during that week and was a much welcome addition to the child care service as well who felt she was a natural for the work.

Andrea Main, a third year Melbourne University student, also did a Community Ambassador Leadership Program placement at the House which involves volunteer work within the community. During that time Andrea assisted us with her computer skills, developed a newsletter for the Child Care service as well as a range of flyers for various programs. She also assisted within the English as a Second Language classes. Andrea moved on to working for the House as the sewing teacher for the African Women's Sewing Group and was much appreciated in that role by all.

FURTHER EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

2006 has been characterised by change and growth in the further education area. We offered an increased number of courses, expanded our range of offerings, farewelled some staff and welcomed new teachers. As always, our focus is on meeting the learning and development needs of the community in a well-resourced and supportive setting.

Our funding from ACFE increased during 2006 with additional hours available to meet unmet need, and pre-apprenticeship training funds for vocational training. ACFE equipment and works and services funding enabled us to upgrade facilities in our training rooms and office and we were allocated a laptop computer and projector to be used to support students' learning. Thanks are due to the Western Region of ACFE for their efficient and timely responses to identified need in their region. Learners benefit from having a learning environment that reflects the standard of larger education facilities and employment settings.

Our Certificate 111 in Children's Services saw eight students graduate and another two obtain statements of attainment. The Honourable Bronwyn Pyke, Minister for Health, presented the graduates with their certificates, and congratulated them on their achievement. We were able to commence a part-time childcare course in July. This course filled rapidly and will finish in June 2007. Margot Njoku is coordinating and teaching both these courses and the success of the students reflects her hard work and commitment. We welcomed Jenny Arceri as a childcare teacher in February, replacing Melissa MacMaster who took up a position with Lady Gowrie Childcare. Thanks to Jenny for her excellent work with our students.

Our ESL classes offered English language training to 49 students. We farewelled Anne Every in September as she left to prepare for the birth of her baby, and welcomed Melissa Phippen who moved seamlessly into the role of ESL teacher. In July an ESL Reading and Writing class commenced and has become a valuable learning environment for African women who want to improve their literacy skills for employment. The ESL Conversation class continued strongly during 2006, under the leadership of Sue Michell, and while numbers in the Literacy class remained small Joan Higgins was able to support students who are native speakers of English improve their literacy skills for work and community involvement.

As always, our *Introduction To Computer* classes were fully subscribed by local community members keen to improve their technology skills. Danny Castano and Basil Theophilos, as their teachers, helped them achieve computer literacy in a supportive and interesting setting. The computer facility moved to our upstairs classroom in term 4, and thanks to our IT support person, Phil Brandon, the students now work with better hardware in a more comfortable environment.

Further education opportunities have continued to grow at Kensington Neighbourhood House in 2006 allowing students to learn new skills, and connect with each other and their community. Thanks to Karyn and Carolyn for their flexibility and generosity in supporting further education programs at the neighbourhood house, and to the committee of management for their guidance and hard work.



Sandra McCarthy

The Child Care service did however receive a one-off grant from Melbourne City Council in 2004 which has been spread over a number of years and has allowed a fourth session of child care to operate as well as employing a third worker for one session a week which has a higher number of children with a disability on that day. The growing need for children with special needs or developmental issues to be able to access the service and receive adequate support has been a growing issue over the past 2 years. The Service operates with 10% of its children requiring additional and 'Inclusion Support' but receives no funds to be able to provide this level of particular and special support. This inequity has been raised in a number of arenas and we will continue to do so in order that all children can access quality and adequately resourced childcare.

The service has been able to tap into the pool of both graduated Certificate III students as well as current students for childcare placements. The additional part-time Certificate III course in Children's Services has seen a number of students do their placements with our childcare service and so we thank Liang Wei Qui and Ivy Lai for their contribution and work during 2006. Mei Han, also a graduate from the course in 2005, worked as our third childcare worker of a Thursday morning during 2006. Mei has only just recently left that position.

Currently we still maintain our extremely competent, committed and wonderful staff – Ann Morrison and Roman Salew – who work enthusiastically within limited circumstances. Iza Davies is also now replacing Mei Han on a Thursday and her contribution and work is also warmly appreciated.



The 2006 Annual Camp was at Southcombe Lodge in Port Fairy from October 2nd to October 5th. During that trip the women performed some very beautiful songs on the last evening. This trip saw them taking a long walk around the Island to the lighthouse, a day bus trip to Portland as well as a boat trip out into the bay. The group, despite the age of its participants, runs a self-catered camp and so the meals over these few days is delicious and sorely missed by the co-ordinator on return to Melbourne.

Late in 2006 the group lost, without warning, its access to on-site Cantonese and Vietnamese speaking interpreters. This facility had been part of the Neighbourhood House's resourcing and support for this group for many years and had been available through a Line of Credit with the Victorian Interpreting Service through the Department of Human Services (DHS). When Neighbourhood House funding was transferred in 2006 from DHS to the Department of Victorian Communities (DVC) this facility was not considered nor provided for. The loss of this service to the group has been enormous. The Neighbourhood House has had some limited access to volunteers for interpreting – with many thanks to Po Kwong and Kim Huynh – but this has proven tricky where specialist health and other information requiring trained interpreters has been required. The issue was raised with DVC in the latter part of 2006 but remains unresolved.

This group and the Kensington Neighbourhood House relies heavily on the generous volunteer time given by Po Kwong for the Chinese speaking members, as well as Kim Lan Hua and Sa Thi Nguyen. Of course, the group owes most to the incredible commitment of Chi Tran, who has been their overall volunteer leader for decades.

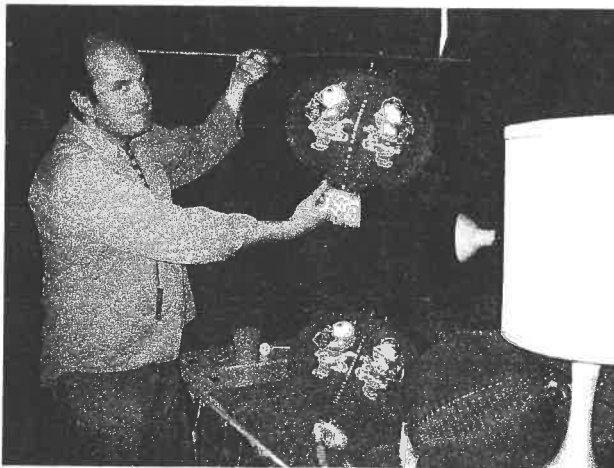


Saturday December 9th 2006 was an extremely hot day which was also overcast from the fallout from the terrible bush fires that were still raging at that stage. Despite the heat over 40 people attended the matinee show and over 80 came to the evening performance. A large number of women from the Vietnamese and Chinese group, in their 70s, came out in the evening and heat to attend the performance as well as quite a number of them making up the Chinese Women's choir. Sa Thi Nguyen and Kim Lan provided wonderful individual vocal performances and Chi Tran gave a moving history of both her journey to Australia and Kensington as well as the group's time as part of the House.

Lord Mayor John So (City of Melbourne) attended the evening performance and stayed on for the after-show supper which had been organised mostly by the Vietnamese and Chinese group. Cr. Jim Cusack (Moonee Valley City Council) also attended the evening performance.

We have so many people to thank that made these performances possible – both 'in front of the curtain' and from 'behind the scenes. Annabel Rattigan was someone who read about the impending performance and came forward offering her considerable contacts and skills for the promotional and graphic design work. Annabel then connected with Lucy Graham who presented us with a wonderful and professionally designed brochure. Thanks need again to go to Emilie Collyer and Ben Grant who worked over and above their agreed hours and with a patience and enthusiasm for community developed performance that was a joy.

Without the grant from the City of Melbourne we would not have been able to document, develop and then bring to performance this 30 year history and the many stories and voices that lie within the House now and from the past. Many thanks also go to Vicky Guglielmo (City of Melbourne's Program Manager for Community Cultural Development) who provided much support in such a personable manner for the project.



**KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE
ASSOCIATION INC.**

**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2006**

	Note	2006 \$	2005 \$
INCOME			
Grants - DVC - Neighbourhood House		73,730	62,254
Grants - DHS - Occasional Care		7,817	7,623
Grants - DHS - Capital Grant		5,000	-
Grants - DVC - Sport and Recreation		2,100	783
Grants - City of Melbourne		24,266	1,416
Grants - Dept. of Education - ACFE/OTFE		86,439	81,380
Grants - City of Moonee Valley		26,456	21,667
Grants - North Melbourne Language & Literacy		500	683
Grants - Other		2,010	-
Grants - Victorian Multicultural Commission		1,500	1,600
		<u>229,818</u>	<u>177,416</u>
Rental Income		1,352	902
Donations		48,353	53,909
Interest received		5,371	4,256
Workcover Reimbursement		-	2,500
Sundry Income		400	-
TOTAL INCOME		<u>285,294</u>	<u>238,983</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Administration Expenses		<u>19,757</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Employment Expenses</u>			
Professional Development		78	430
Wages & Salaries		51,613	51,327
Superannuation		4,474	5,183
Workcover		1,640	1,489
Other Employment Expenses		1,172	1,014
Provision for annual leave, sick leave, long service leave		3,516	(432)
Travel Allowance		-	48
		<u>62,493</u>	<u>59,059</u>
<u>Finance Expenses</u>			
Bank Charges		-	-
Legal & Accounting		5,280	5,435
		<u>5,280</u>	<u>5,435</u>
<u>House Utilities & Maintenance</u>			
Electricity		856	421
Gas		641	677
Water Rates		491	430
Insurance		1,384	1,239
Maintenance		3,452	1,962
Cleaning		3,692	3,675
		<u>10,516</u>	<u>8,404</u>

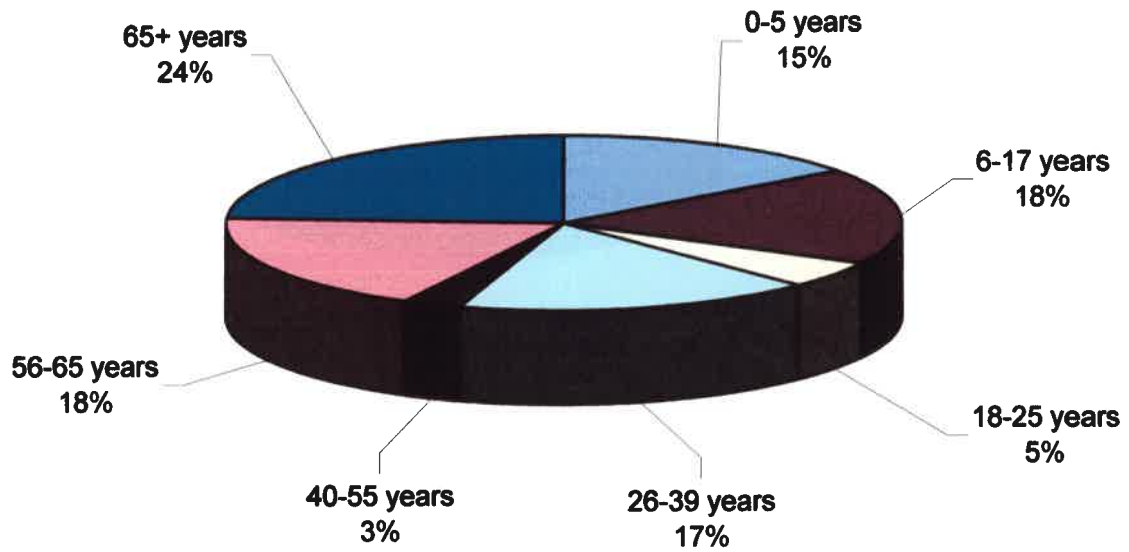
**KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP CHILD CARE
ASSOCIATION INC.**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006**

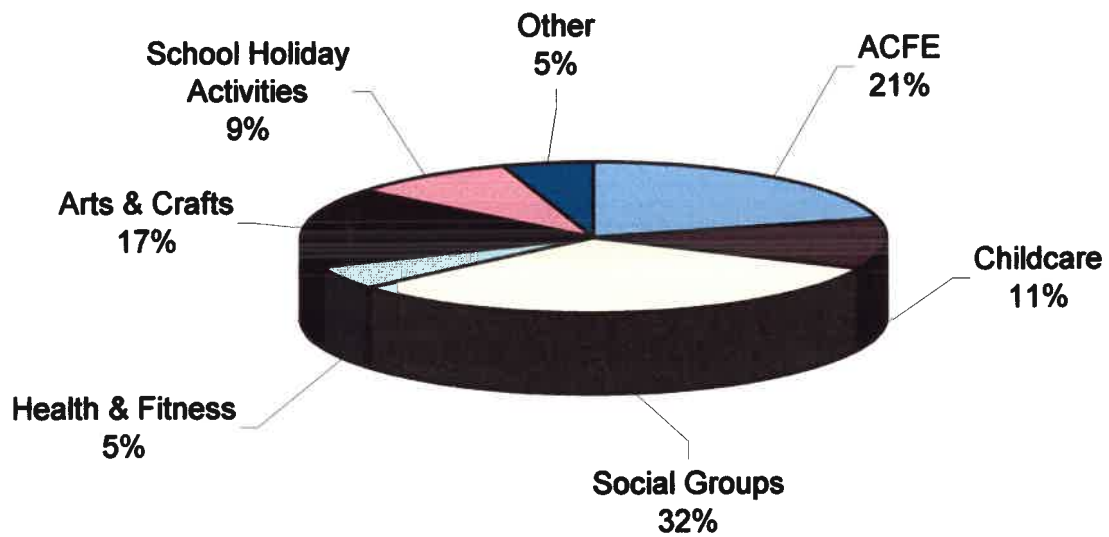
	Note	2006 \$	2005 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	3	113,925	127,634
Trade and other receivables	4	5,450	19,911
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>119,375</u>	<u>147,545</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	113,797	119,559
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>113,797</u>	<u>119,559</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>233,172</u>	<u>267,104</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other creditors	6	9,642	14,423
Amounts received in advance	7	38,488	57,446
Provisions	8	55,366	66,970
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>103,496</u>	<u>138,839</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>103,496</u>	<u>138,839</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>129,676</u>	<u>128,265</u>
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Retained profits		(939)	(2,350)
Capital Reserve & Grants		130,615	130,615
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS		<u>129,676</u>	<u>128,265</u>

Statistics on our House Users

House User Age Groups



Participation in Activities



Management Committee

Denise Farmery	Chairperson
Maureen Fagan	Deputy Chair
Joy Pratt	Treasurer
Lisa Frye	
Hibo Garad	
Rod Horsfield	
Marie Lewis	
Joy Pratt	
Terri Soumilas	
Wendy Toohey	
Chi Tran	
Chrissie Williams	

Staff

Karyn Down	House
Carolyn Webster	Coordinators
Sandra McCarthy	Further Education Coordinator
Kim Huynh	Admin worker
Denise Henderson	Bookkeeper
Ann Morrison	Morning Childcare worker
Roman Salew	Childcare worker
Mei Han	Childcare worker
Letay Tesfu	Cleaner
Zafu Engda	Cleaner

Funding Bodies

Department of Human Services
Department of Victorian Communities
Adult Community and Further Education
Moonee Valley City Council
Melbourne City Council
Victorian Multicultural Commission

Volunteers

Chi Tran	Elderly Vietnamese Group
Kim Lan Hua	Elderly Vietnamese Group
Po Kwong	Elderly Vietnamese Group
Sa Thi Nguyen	Elderly Vietnamese Group
Jack Banston	Desktop publishing
Ken Riordan	Bus Driver
Sheila Byard	Walking group
Filipo LaGrange	Handyman
Kim Huynh	Administration
Jamile Assaf	Administration
Eli Valdebenito	Bag Making

Consultants

Boyd Williams	Nrolls
Phil Brandon	IT Support

Tutors

Anne Every	ESL / Email Made Easy
Melissa Phippen	ESL / ESL Reading & Writing
Margot Njoku	Childcare Course
Jenny Arceri	Childcare Course
Sue Michell	English Conversation
Danny Castano	Computers
Basil Theophilos	Computers
Emilie Collyer	Creative Writing
Harold Haarburger	Massage
Ann Hood	Mosaics / Heeblestone
Thomas Melgarejo	Latin Dance
Jill Snowden	Reflexology
Carol Weiland	Do Weights
Monaghan	
Joan Higgins	Literacy
Alex Rowland	Painting & Drawing
Steve Walton	Guitar
Alana Kelsall	Haiku / Arabic Poetry
Gordon Lindberg	Chess