



## **2019-2020 Management Committee Statement**

The Management Committee of BACC Inc. present this brief statement in lieu of this year's annual report. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges the likes of which we have not seen previously, be they personal or professional, at a community, national or global scale. As we all try and navigate the new normal in our lives, the management committee want to acknowledge the amazing efforts of the BACC Inc. staff, led by Nafiye Mind, in pushing through the complex and constantly changing situations that the pandemic placed on the organisation and the wider community services sector.

In March of this year, we received notification from our funders that we were able to continue paying the staff of BACC during the COVID-19 restrictions. As you can imagine this was a great relief for the management committee and staff, as staff wellbeing during this time was of paramount concern to us. Under the direction of Nafiye, the team showed great creativity, drive and dedication to come up with novel ways to continue to meet the needs of the community. Whilst the BACC venues had to remain closed to normal business, the team put together a range of health and safety measures to make sure that team members who had to be on site were working in as safe an environment as possible.

As the year progressed, staff were primarily working from home, but keeping in contact with one another daily and meeting virtually at least once a week. This period of working from home allowed staff to review and update policies/procedures as well as our programs and activities. Much time was spent on ensuring service delivery models for children and their families aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework and 3a Principles. The Community Engagement and Youth Teams were able to deliver BACC groups online too and we are pleased to report that these attracted good numbers of participants. From cooking demonstrations to youth catch-ups, BACC's social media presence during 2020 has really helped our community stay positive and connected. Truly a job well done.

In late April Doonside cottage was also able to open so that our staff could run the Food Pantry and Essentials program- a critical service for many families doing it tough during COVID-19 - attracting on average more than 50 families per week. By the middle of 2020, we were happy to see BACC Inc. increase its face to face service delivery. With encouragement and support from The Department of Communities and Justice, BACC's Youth Engagement Team delivered our school engagement program at a youth detention centre which proved to be a great success. BACC and the detention centre are looking to secure funding to continue the program after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Our Early Childhood team partnered with Relationship's Australia to produce a number of videos of Rooby Roo and our educators, singing, dancing and performing nursery rhymes.

BACC successfully applied for JobKEEPER to help with staff remuneration. This enabled Nafiye and our bookkeeper Lynelle to forward plan and budget for an uncertain future, foreseeing a range of possible scenarios and mapping out how BACC would be able to continue providing our services in different ways to meet different situations.

By June, the Youth Engagement team were also attending Doonside cottage and Marayong House once a week to facilitate the food and essentials programs, and by term 3 the Community Engagement Team and Youth Engagement Team were once again running a wide range of face to face COVID-Safe groups and activities. BACC's COVID-safe practices included regular safety checks of the BACC venues, the purchase and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the regular use of cleaner, disinfectant, hand sanitiser, thermometers and gloves.

With other organisations beginning to offer groups again, BACC's Roving Child Care team also ensured that COVID-Safe practices were in place for the safety of staff, group participants and children. This included undertaking venue inspections and other risk management procedures. With the fluctuating numbers of cases around NSW, BACC's programs needed to adjust to fall in line with stricter social distancing measures, and some needed to revert to online as the risks of face to face were too hard to manage. It is a credit to the resilience and flexibility of our team members that they have been able to adjust to changes at short notice as the year has progressed. We are pleased that we were able to access EAP through The Department of Communities and Justice at no cost to BACC. This online support proved valuable and was accessed by many staff.

Throughout all that this year has thrown at us, the BACC team have been nothing short of heroic. We acknowledge that this year has not only been a challenging one for the organisation, but on a more personal level, has been an overwhelmingly difficult one for many of our staff and community members. With all that has happened over the course of this year, we as the Management Committee of BACC could not be prouder of the efforts by the BACC Team. We thank you all for your strength, your understanding, your passion, and your commitment to supporting our community.

Whilst we cannot foresee what the next 12 months will hold for us, we are confident that whatever may come, the BACC staff are best suited to meet the challenges head on and will continue to lead the way in best practice community service delivery across the Blacktown LGA.

With thanks,

Management Committee of Blacktown Area Community Centres Inc.

**Chair:** Kooryn Sheaves

**Vice Chair:** Robert Fitzgerald

**Secretary:** Josephine Rechichi

**Treasurer:** Barbara Shorthouse

**Ordinary Members:** Anthony Ellery, Julie Anne Wood, Daniel Gobena

**The Management Committee of BACC Inc would like to acknowledge all staff individually.**

## **MEMBERS OF STAFF**

**Executive Officer**  
Nafiye Mind

**Administrative Officer**  
Michelle Elks

**Finance Officer:**  
Lynelle Newman

**Community Engagement Team**  
Coordinator: Helen Gledhill  
Community Engagement Officer: Amanda Eltringham  
Community Engagement Officer: Imani Kottegoda  
Community Engagement Officer: Katherine Fletcher  
Community Engagement Officer: Rose Leona

**Youth Engagement Team**  
Coordinator: Sivane Kemal  
Youth Engagement Officer: Coralee Leontios  
Youth Engagement Officer: Joshua Waters  
Youth Engagement Officer: Nathan Waters

**Early Childhood Team**  
Coordinator: Donna Smith  
BRCC Educator: Ayodhya Ettipola  
BRCC Educator: Bernadette Carroll  
BRCC Educator: Geraldine Uthayakumar  
BRCC Educator: Jenni McKinder  
BRCC Educator: Layla Alfar  
BRCC Educator: Mariane Boustany  
BRCC Educator: Mary Johns  
BRCC Educator: Muneeba Arshad  
BRCC Educator: Ramanpreet Kaur  
BRCC Educator: Serife Gemikonakli  
BRCC Educator: Sue Kazangis  
BRCC Educator: Supreet Kaur  
Paint Mt Druitt REaD: Kylie Jacobs  
Paint Mt Druitt REaD: Samantha Connolly  
Thrive @ 5 in Doonside: Kylie Jacobs

## **VOLUNTEERS**

BACC relies on volunteers for the provision of activities and services. Volunteers contribute skill and expertise to a variety of duties within the organisation and give generously of their time.

The Management Committee (who also serve in a volunteer capacity) and staff greatly appreciate the commitment and dedication of our volunteers.

Our volunteers contribute not only their skill and expertise but also their understanding of their community. The contribution they make to the social fabric of this community is irreplaceable.

- Johnny
- Lynette Watkins
- Margaret Ryan
- Irene Deignan
- Anne-Maree Neal
- Cathy Ward

## **FACILITATORS**

BACC is lucky to work with skilled and trained facilitators who provide information, resources and support to our group attendees. During 2018-2019 we were lucky to work with the following:

- Anne-Maree Neal
- Alyce Neal
- Chris Bartlett
- Irene Deignan
- Johnny
- Lynette Watkins
- Margaret Ryan
- Cathy Ward

**We thank you all.**