



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021 – 2022

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Blacktown Area Community Centres Inc. (BACC) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land in which we work, The Darug People.

We pay our respects for their Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge our gratitude that we share this land today, our sorrow for some of the costs of that sharing and our hope and belief that we can move to a place of equity, justice and partnership together.





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# VISION STATEMENT

**BACC ENVISAGES AN EMPOWERED COMMUNITY THAT IS WELL RESOURCED, INCLUSIVE, DIVERSE AND SAFE.**

# MISSION STATEMENT

**TO PROVIDE A WHOLISTIC RANGE OF STRATEGIC, ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE INITIATIVES THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY.**

**GUIDED BY SOCIAL JUSTICE PRINCIPLES, BACC EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY LIFE.**

# AREAS OF FOCUS

- LEADING STRATEGIC CONVERSATIONS THAT SHAPE DECISIONS REGARDING BLACKTOWN
- CONTRIBUTING TO COORDINATED RESPONSES THAT IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE IN BLACKTOWN
- PROVIDING QUALITY OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE IN BLACKTOWN, DRIVEN BY EVIDENCE AND WITH A STRONG FOCUS ON AREAS WITH LITTLE OR NO EXISTING SUPPORTS

# KEY ENABLERS

- SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
- ROBUST POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
- PROACTIVE MECHANISMS FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY
- AN EMBEDDED CULTURE OF REFLECTIVE PRACTICE
- DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL

# OUR VALUES

## SAFETY

THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF OUR COMMUNITY IS FUNDAMENTAL TO BACC'S WORK

## INTEGRITY

BACC IS COMMITTED TO BEING HONEST, PROFESSIONAL, ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT IN EVERYTHING WE DO

## HUMILITY

BACC UNDERSTANDS THAT WE ONLY EXIST TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY. WE ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO IMPROVEMENTS AND SEEK HONEST FEEDBACK

## EMPOWERMENT

BACC PROMOTES SELF DETERMINATION BY BUILDING CAPACITY, CAPABILITY AND RESILIENCE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

## RESPONSIVE

BACC CONSULTS AND ADJUSTS TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

## RESPECTFUL

BACC RESPONDS WITHOUT ANY BIAS AND JUDGEMENT AND ACTIVELY RESPECTS THE DIGNITY OF ALL INDIVIDUALS

## INCLUSIVE

BACC ENCOURAGES, VALUES AND RESPECTS DIVERSITY

## PARTNERSHIPS

BACC has worked collaboratively in partnership with many local organisations and workers. Together we create a synergy that allows a breadth and depth of community and project work not possible by a lone worker or organisation.

During 2021-2022 we had the great pleasure of working with the following:



Ability Options	Hebersham Public School
Aboriginal Catholic Services	Holy Family Catholic Primary Pre School
Aboriginal Health Service	Junaya Family Development Services
All Hours Medical Centre	Kids Early Learning Blackett
Australian Taxation Office	Kids Early Learning Mt Druitt
Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation	Kids Early Learning Willmot
Bidwill Community Garden	Kingdom of Little Angels Childcare Services
Bidwill Public School	Kingdom of Little Stars Childcare Centre
Bidwill Uniting	KU Hebersham Pre School
Blackett Public School	KU Shalvey Pre School
Blacktown City Council	Lethbridge Park Community Centre
Blacktown PCYC	Madang Avenue Public School
Blacktown Police	MECA
Blacktown Women's and Girls' Health Centre	Mission Australia
Botanic Gardens	Mt Druitt Chemist
Catherine Villa	Noumea Public School
Catholic Care	OCTEC Employment Service
Chipmunks in the Park	Parents Next
Commonwealth Bank (Mt Druitt Branch)	Plumpton High School
Connect Child & Family	Relationships Australia
Dawson Public School	Riverstone Police
Dawson Public School Pre School	Rosie's Place
Doonside Technology High School	Salvation Army
Dr Kapoor Adesh	Services Australia
Dr Kodsi Surgery	Seven Hills High School
Edmund Atalla MP	Shopsmart Pharmacy
Emerton Medical Centre	St Albans Anglican Church
Emerton Public School	SydWest
Evans High School	The HIVE
Family Drug Support	The Meadows SaCC
Family Links	The Social Outfit
Fusion	Tregear Playgroup
Graceades Cottage	Tregear Presbyterian Church
HEADSPACE	Tregear Presbyterian Pre School



Uniting Burnside HIPPY Bidwill  
WASH House  
Wesley Mission  
Western Sydney Local Health District

Willmot Public School Community  
Willmot Takeaway  
Yawarra Community & Child Care Centre  
Yenu Allawah Aboriginal Family Centre

*We thank all our partners for their commitment and enthusiasm  
for our community programs and the support they provide to  
BACC.*

## **MEMBERS**

BACC is an Incorporated Association with membership open to user-groups, residents, workers, students and any individual who wants to take an interest in any of our activities and objectives in the Blacktown local government area. New members are always welcome.

## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

BACC is managed by a Management Committee. Members of the organisation annually elect the Committee which is responsible for the overall planning and policy of BACC. The Committee meets regularly. Staff provide reports to the Committee and contribute to discussion but do not vote.

## **MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (2021-2022)**

Chairperson: Barbara Shorthouse

Vice Chairperson: Anthony Ellery

Secretary: Josephine Rechichi

Treasurer: Daniel Gobena

Ordinary Member: Robert Fitzgerald

Ordinary Member: Kooryn Sheaves



## MEMBERS OF STAFF

### Executive Officer

Nafiye Mind

### Programs' Manager

Jaime Mack

### Administrative Officer

Michelle McCarthy

Kylie Jacobs (maternity leave locum)

### Finance Officer:

Lynelle Newman

### Community Engagement Team

Coordinator: Helen Gledhill

Community Engagement Officer: Amanda Eltringham

Community Engagement Officer: Katherine Fletcher

Community Engagement Officer: Rose Leona

Community Engagement Officer: Samantha Connolly

Coordinator: Sivane Kemal

Youth Engagement Officer: Coralee Leontios

Youth Engagement Officer: Nathan Waters

Youth Engagement Officer: Shinai Anderson

### Early Childhood Team

Coordinator: Donna Smith

BRCC Educator: Geraldine Uthayakumar

BRCC Educator: Janaya Ebsworth-Hickey

BRCC Educator: Jenni McKinder

BRCC Educator: Mary Johns

BRCC Educator: Ramanpreet Kaur

BRCC Educator: Sadia Anis

BRCC Educator: Serife Gemikonakli

BRCC Educator: Sue Kazangis

BRCC Educator: Sylvia Chen

Paint Blacktown REaD: Kylie Jacobs

Paint Mt Druitt REaD: 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.

- ♦ John O'Brien
- ♦ Lynette Watkins
- ♦ Pamela Laidlaw
- ♦ Margaret Ryan

## FACILITATORS

BACC is lucky to work with skilled and trained facilitators who provide information, resources and support to our group attendees. During 2021-2022 we were fortunate to work with the following:

- ♦ Roscilin Ratha
- ♦ Mici Beer

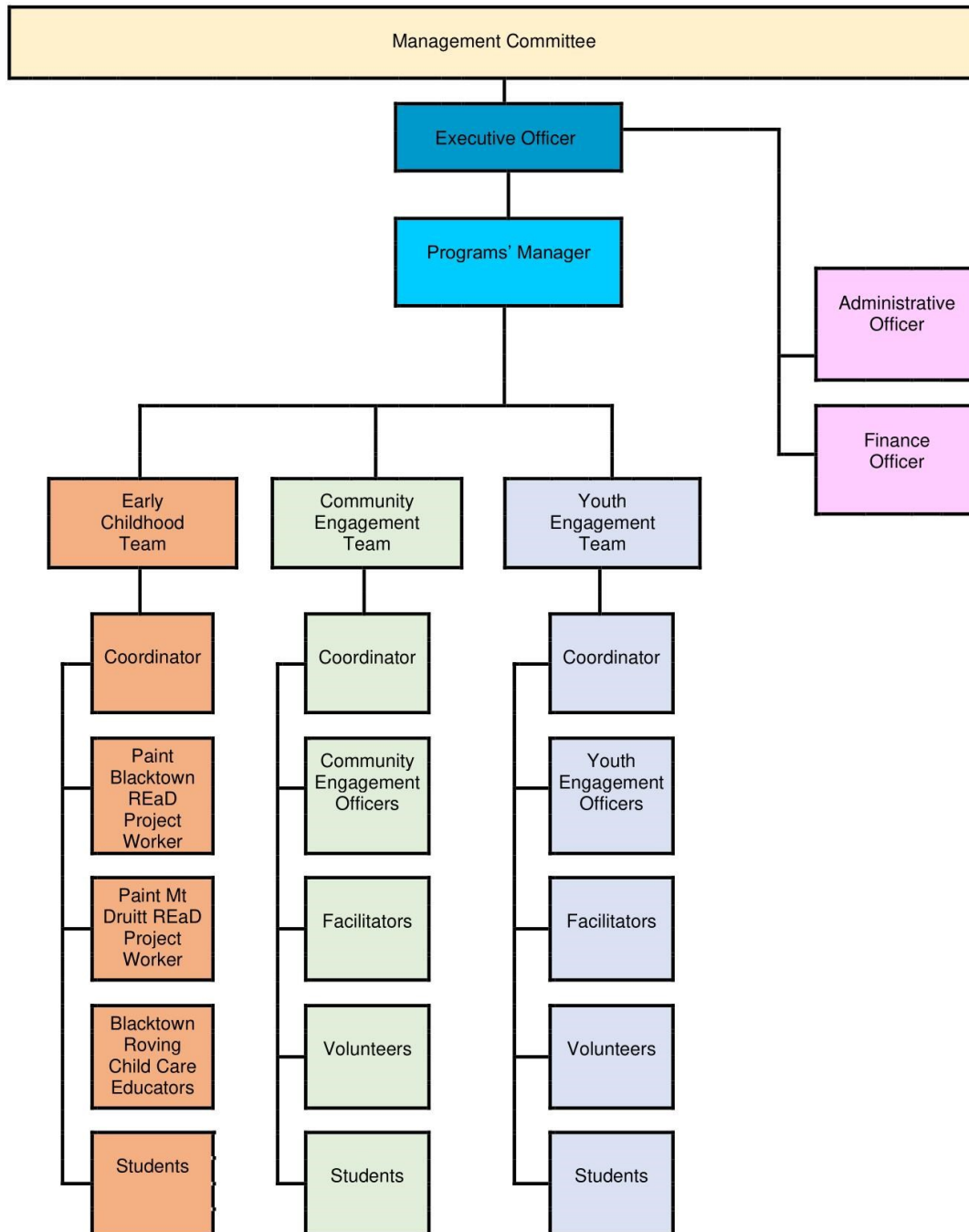
## STUDENTS

Due to COVID related changes to our work we were only able to offer one student placement. We look forward to a return to business as usual where we can continue this important role.

- ♦ Ehlena Medcalf



## ORGANISATIONAL CHART







## SUPPORTERS

BACC has been and continues to be supported by many individuals, community groups and corporate businesses. It is with this valuable support that we are able to improve and extend the services we offer.

During 2021-2022 we received generous donations from:

- ◆ Advance Rehab
- ◆ Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Australia
- ◆ Big W (Plumpton)
- ◆ Blacktown City Lions Club
- ◆ Dominos Pizza (Quakers Hill)
- ◆ Food Bank
- ◆ Good360
- ◆ Good Start Early Learning Centre (Woodcroft)
- ◆ Hebersham Public School
- ◆ Hillsong
- ◆ Hoyts (Blacktown)
- ◆ Hoyts (Mt Druitt)
- ◆ Issa's Barber Shop (Mt Druitt)
- ◆ Jellyfish Childcare Centre
- ◆ John Palmer Public School
- ◆ Kids Early Learning (Doonside)
- ◆ Kids Early Learning (Doonside North)
- ◆ Learning Blocks Childcare Centre (Quakers Hill)
- ◆ Lend Lease (Plumpton)
- ◆ Mayoresses Gift Appeal (Blacktown City Council)
- ◆ Montessori Early Learning Centre (Quakers Hill)
- ◆ Mt Druitt Rotary Club
- ◆ Officeworks (Blacktown)
- ◆ Oz Harvest
- ◆ Oz Kindy Early Learning Centre
- ◆ Raf Flores - Rafflores Media
- ◆ Raging Waters Sydney
- ◆ Rapid Relief Team Ltd Australia
- ◆ Rebel Sport (Mt Druitt)
- ◆ Sargent's Pies
- ◆ SES (Mt Druitt)
- ◆ Share the Dignity
- ◆ Sydney Community Group
- ◆ The Meadows Public School
- ◆ Westpoint Blacktown
- ◆ Westside Petroleum (Doonside)
- ◆ Wiggles and Giggles Childcare Centre
- ◆ Woolworths (Eastern Creek)
- ◆ Woolworths (Emerton)
- ◆ Woolworths (Marayong)
- ◆ Woolworths (Plumpton)
- ◆ Woolworths (Westpoint)
- ◆ WSLHD
- ◆ Zone Bowling (Blacktown)
- ◆ Zone Bowling (Rooty Hill)

*Thank You!*





## 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held on Wednesday 20th October 2021 via MS Teams.

### Apologies:

Nil

### Present:

Kooryn Sheaves, Anthony Ellery, Daniel Gobena, Josephine Rechichi, Barbara Shorthouse, Robert Fitzgerald, Tom Nance and Nafiye Mind.

### Minutes

Meeting Open: 3.45pm

Chairperson: Kooryn Sheaves

Minute Taker: Nafiye Mind

Welcome: Kooryn Sheaves welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

**Acknowledgement of Country:** Kooryn Sheaves acknowledged the oldest and longest known culture of the Traditional Owners of the land, The Darug People, and paid her respects to their Elders past, present and future. Kooryn acknowledged her gratitude for sharing the land and reminded everyone about some of the costs of that sharing. Kooryn shared her belief that we can move to a place of equity, justice and partnership together.

### Minutes of 2020 AGM

Nil amendments

Motion by Kooryn Sheaves: *The minutes of 2020 AGM are a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

Moved: Josephine Rechichi

Seconded: Anthony Ellery

## 2020-2021 Annual Report

Nafiye Mind presented the 2020-2021 annual report. Nafiye and Kooryn acknowledged the hard work of the staff in achieving the outcomes as highlighted in the annual report.

Motion by Kooryn Sheaves: *The 2020-2021 Annual Report is accepted by the members of the Association.*

Moved: Robert Fitzgerald

Seconded: Anthony Ellery

## Financial Report

Barbara Shorthouse presented the audited financial statements and acknowledged the work of Lynelle Newman (BACC Finance Officer).

Motion by Barbara Shorthouse: *The 2021 Financial Statements are accepted by the members of the Association.*

Moved: Anthony Ellery

Seconded: Robert Fitzgerald

Motion by Barbara Shorthouse: *Ross Fowler and Co to continue as auditor for 2021-2022 financial year*

Moved: Anthony Ellery

Seconded: Kooryn Sheaves

## Returning Officers Report

Kooryn Sheaves stepped down as Chairperson and invited Tom Nance to act as Returning Officer.

Tom after acknowledging the Traditional Owner of the land and paid his respects to Elders past and present, Tom acknowledged the hard work of BACC and spoke about his own very positive experience working with staff and different projects.

Tom declared all positions vacant and informed the meeting of the nominations received.

Kooryn Sheaves  
Robert (Bob) Fitzgerald  
Josephine Rechichi  
Barbara Shorthouse  
Anthony (Tony) Ellery  
Daniel Gobena

Tom reminded the meeting that the BACC Constitution clearly states that “if insufficient nominations are received to fill vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and further nominations are to be received at the annual general meeting”. Due to COVID restrictions and the changes to how the AGM was held no nominations were called from the floor.

Tom acknowledged that the MC would look at recruiting suitable members throughout the year.

Tom congratulated new and old committee members and noted that discussions by Management Committee to fill vacancy will continue.

## Public Officer

Motion by Kooryn Sheaves: *Nafiye Mind continue as Public Officer of the Association*

Moved: Barbara Shorthouse

Seconded: Anthony Ellery

## Appointment of Signatories for Annual Statement(s) and other Reporting Obligations

Motion by Kooryn Sheaves: *Nafiye Mind be authorized to complete all reporting obligations including ACNC*

Moved: Josephine Rechichi

Seconded: Daniel Gobena

Meeting Close: 3.57pm



## EARLY CHILDHOOD TEAM

Our Early Childhood Team aims to support families by focusing on early literacy activities and providing access for children to attend childcare while parents attend community groups or activities. Children are supported in the early years to reach their full potential by the time they start Kindergarten.

### Blacktown Roving Child Care

Blacktown Roving Child Care (BRCC) is a mobile service that provides valuable support to parents, families, carers and anyone else that has care of a child or children. Mobile childcare, often an overlooked type of education and care, has so many benefits to the community that other forms of education and care might not have. Working within this particular type of services means BRCC needs to deliver sessions with an eye for detail and provide a safe and enriched program in a minimal risk environment.

Our BRCC team delivers effective, relevant and age appropriate programs that cater to the needs of children and their families. All Roving Educators are fully trained with a minimum requirement of Certificate III in Children's Services. Our team have a comprehensive knowledge of services working within the Blacktown local government area and provide childcare sessions in a variety of venues.

#### Funding Bodies:

- ◆ NSW Department of Family and Community Services (TEI)
- ◆ NSW Department of Education and Communities (SSP)
- ◆ Department of Social Services, Australian Government (C4C)

**In 2021-2022 we provided a total of 242 sessions of childcare to 410 children**

Targeted Earlier Intervention Programs (TEI)	
Total number of sessions delivered	123
Total number of Children	231
Total number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children	12
Total number of Children identifying as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)	111

TEI funded sessions provided to:

- ◆ BACC
- ◆ Emerton Public School
- ◆ Mission Australia
- ◆ The Meadows SaCC
- ◆ Western Sydney Local Health District
- ◆ Catholic Care
- ◆ Fusion
- ◆ SydWest
- ◆ WASH House
- ◆ Connect Child & Family
- ◆ Junaya Family Development Services
- ◆ The HIVE
- ◆ Wesley Mission

### Start Strong Pathways (SSP)

Total number of sessions delivered	53
Total number of Children	119
Total number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children	1
Total number of Children identifying as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)	59

SSP funded sessions provided to:

- ◆ Connect Child & Family
- ◆ Mission Australia
- ◆ MECA
- ◆ St Albans Anglican Church
- ◆ The HIVE
- ◆ The Social Outfit
- ◆ Tregear Presbyterian Church

### Communities for Children (C4C)

Total number of sessions delivered	66
Total number of Children	60
Total number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children	46
Total number of Children identifying as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)	3

C4C funded sessions provided to:

- ◆ Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation
- ◆ Blacktown City Council
- ◆ Family Links
- ◆ MECA
- ◆ Tregear Presbyterian Church
- ◆ WASH House
- ◆ Western Sydney Local Health District



## Paint Mt Druitt REaD

Paint Mt Druitt REaD aims to motivate and increase the capacity of parents/carers of children 0-5 years to support early language and literacy development. This aim is achieved through a whole of community approach to branding literacy initiatives across Mt Druitt Suburbs with the postcode 2770 under the Paint Mt Druitt REaD banner.

### Funding Body:

- ♦ Communities for Children (C4C), Department of Social Services (Australian Government)



49

Swap Boxes  
Maintained

7

REaDing Mat/Tent's

7

Rooby Appearances

4

New Official Supporters  
Recruited



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Our Community Engagement Team aims to improve the community's connectedness and capacity and provides a space for residents to meet. The team works directly with community members to increase their ability to participate in their community and build links within the community with a focus on including disadvantaged groups.

**Targeted Earlier Intervention** Funded by: NSW Department of Communities and Justice

<b>24</b> Assisted Referrals	<b>2 187</b> Individuals provided with information/advise/referral	<b>40</b> BACC packs distributed
<b>339</b> Recipients of Christmas Hampers and/or Toys	<b>77</b> Attendees at our social support groups	<b>198</b> Individuals accessed Food Pantry
<b>94</b> Attendees at our Centre Based events	<b>119</b> Responses to community survey/ consultations	<b>47</b> Families attended Supported Playgroups
<b>&gt;1 000</b> Attendees at NAIDOC	<b>30</b> Recipients of Social Isolation activity packs	<b>165</b> Individuals enrolled into Parenting Programs
<b>50</b> Recipients of Children Protection Week activity packs	<b>6</b> Services provided outreach from our centres	<b>34</b> Attendees at Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
<b>7</b> Regular attendees at Blacktown Lesbian Information and Social Support (BLISS)		<b>167</b> Individuals accessed Essentials Program
		<b>68</b> Recipients of Children's Week activity packs
		<b>13</b> Interagencies/networks/forums attended

The Targeted Earlier Intervention program focuses on ensuring better short, medium and long term outcomes for children, young people, families and communities who are experiencing or are at risk of vulnerability.

BACC provides support through the two service streams of the program;

#### ♦ **Community Strengthening**

The team provides programs and activities that build cohesion, inclusion and well being across all members of our community and activities that empower and support our Aboriginal communities.

These include (but are not limited to):

- Information/advice/referral
- Events
- Centre based social support groups
- Assisted referrals
- Material aid (food pantry, essentials program & BACC packs)

The team also actively participates in local networks, forums and interagencies to ensure collaboration with local services to identify gaps and reduce duplication.

#### ♦ **Well Being & Safety**

The team provides activities that support families and provide opportunities for personal development through this stream.

These include (but are not limited to):

- Parenting programs
- Supported playgroups
- Mentoring and peer support (AA & BLISS)



### **NETWORKS / INTERAGENCIES / FORUMS ATTENDED**

- ♦ Aboriginal Transition to Schools Network
- ♦ Blacktown Alliance Against Gambling Harm
- ♦ Blacktown Combined Interagency
- ♦ Blacktown Domestic Violence Forum
- ♦ Blacktown Emerging Communities Action Plan
- ♦ Doonside Community Services Interagency
- ♦ Harmony Day Working Group
- ♦ Outer West Domestic Violence Network
- ♦ Pathways Indigenous Network
- ♦ Refugee Week Working Group
- ♦ Sydney West Child Protection Interagency
- ♦ Thrive@ Five Healthy Minds Network
- ♦ Western Sydney Family Services Network

### **EVENTS HELD**

- ♦ Neighbourhood Week Afternoon Tea
- ♦ International Women's Day Morning Tea





### MAJOR REASON FOR SEEKING SUPPORT (ADVOCACY AND ASSISTED REFERRALS)

- ♦ Children with Additional Needs
- ♦ Domestic Violence
- ♦ Financial Literacy
- ♦ Financial Stress
- ♦ Flood Assistance
- ♦ Food Insecurity
- ♦ Health Concerns
- ♦ Parenting Support
- ♦ Poor Literacy

### BACC PACKS GIVEN TO

- ♦ Blacktown Women's & Girls Health Centre
- ♦ Catherine Villa
- ♦ Rosie's Place
- ♦ WASH House

### GROUPS

- ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
- ♦ Blacktown Lesbian Information & Social Support (BLISS)
- ♦ Coffee and Chat
- ♦ Cultural Learning & Garden Workshops
- ♦ Knitting
- ♦ Qigong
- ♦ Sewing
- ♦ Yoga

### PARENTING PROGRAMS DELIVERED

- ♦ Baby Rhyme Time
- ♦ Bringing Up Great Kids
- ♦ Triple P
- ♦ Tuning in to Kids

### SERVICES USING OUR HUB

- ♦ Family Drug Support
- ♦ Relationships Australia
- ♦ Salvation Army (MoneyCare)
- ♦ Services Australia
- ♦ Wesley Mission
- ♦ Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD)



# BACC

Blacktown Area Community Centres Inc.



## Covid 19 Partnership

Funded by: NSW Department of Communities and Justice

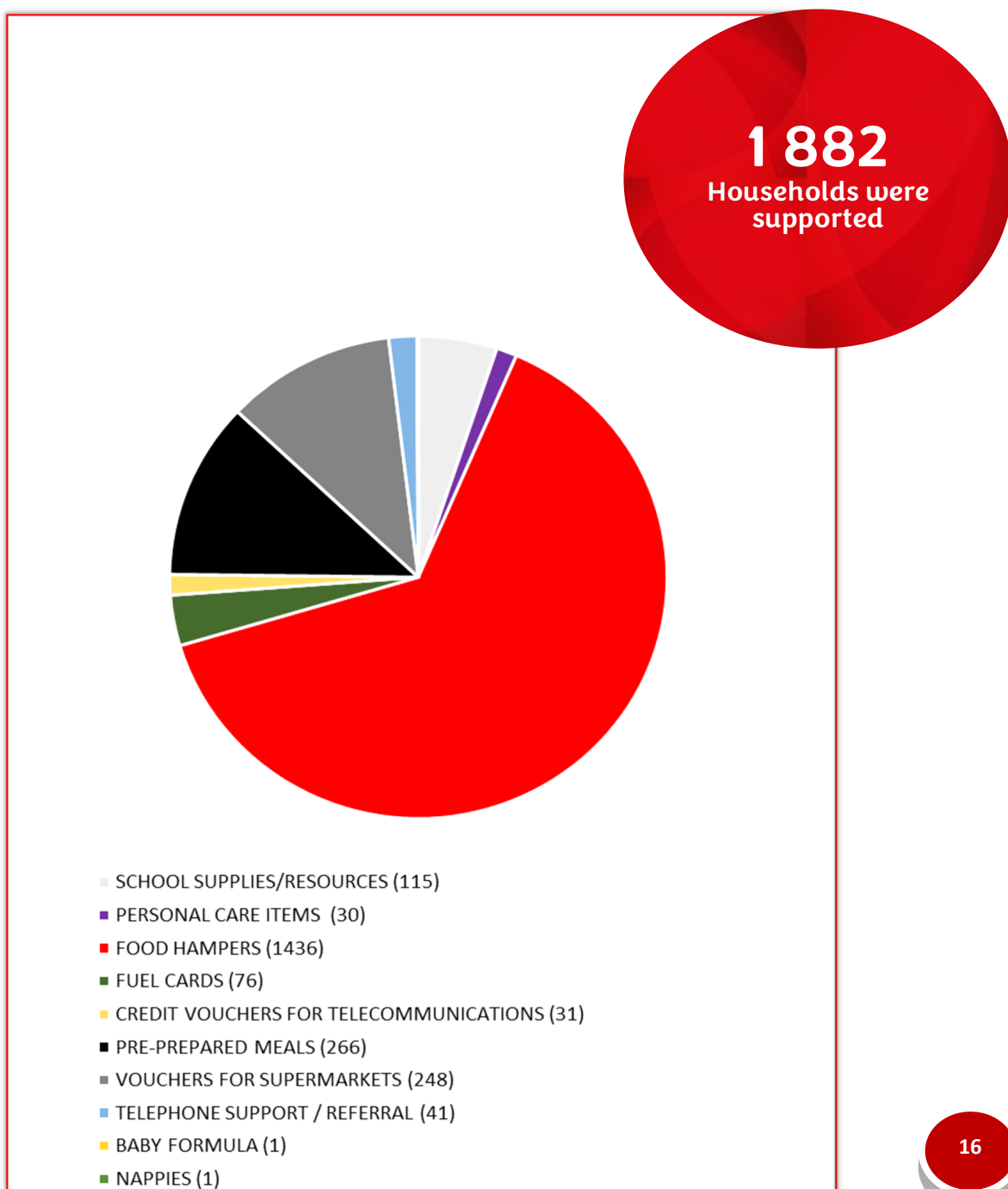
In September 2021, we were provided with additional funding from the NSW Government (COVID 19 Partnership Grants) as we operated across one of the 12 local government areas in Greater Sydney, formerly identified in the NSW Public Health Orders as LGA's of concern.

The purpose of the funding was to:

- support vulnerable people and diverse communities in the 12 LGAs formerly of concern, including people required to isolate due to COVID 19.
- provide additional funds to increase the support we were already providing to vulnerable people in the community, in response to COVID 19.

*The grant contributed to BACC's efforts to continue to support our community, particularly during a global pandemic.*

The evidence is clear that individuals, families and young people living in the Blacktown LGA experienced increased pressure and hardship, as a result of COVID 19. Data shows vulnerable populations were disproportionately affected by the economic and mental health impacts of the lockdowns .





**200** households were supported

## Covid 19 Community Small Grants

Funded by: Blacktown City Council

BACC received funding from Blacktown City Council to continue to support vulnerable members of our community during the lockdown towards the end of 2021.

This grants funded programs which directly supported the physical health and mental well-being, social connection and safety of vulnerable and at-risk groups.

BACC utilised funds to support members of the community who were required to isolate. To support our commitment to self determination and freedom of choice we provided brokerage in the form of online gift cards to those community members required to isolate and who were able to access online shopping and contactless delivery. For those community members unable to access online shopping or who required emergency support our staff members shopped for the items and delivered these items directly to the community members home in a contactless manner.

## Empowering & Supporting Local Communities Program

Funded by: Multicultural NSW

BACC was successful in its application to Multicultural NSW for additional funds to further support our community during Covid 19 lockdowns. In line with the funding guidelines BACC utilised these funds to assist in efforts to:

- ♦ Decrease the transmission of Covid 19
- ♦ Encourage our community to build resilience, recover from and live with the impacts of Covid 19

We supported community members who:

- ♦ Were required to isolate under "stay at home" Public Health orders by ensuring that their basic immediate needs were met and therefore reducing/eliminating the need for community members to leave their home
- ♦ Had experienced hardship due to a reduction or loss of income

BACC staff:

- ♦ Assisted affected community members by providing brokerage to meet their immediate basic needs including but not limited to, food, nappies, sanitary products, baby formula and medication.
- ♦ Guided community members to apply for immediate financial assistance and link to longer term supports if necessary
- ♦ Encouraged community members to seek support from relevant health professionals where necessary
- ♦ Remained in contact (every three days) with those who lived alone or were identified as at risk because of their personal circumstances

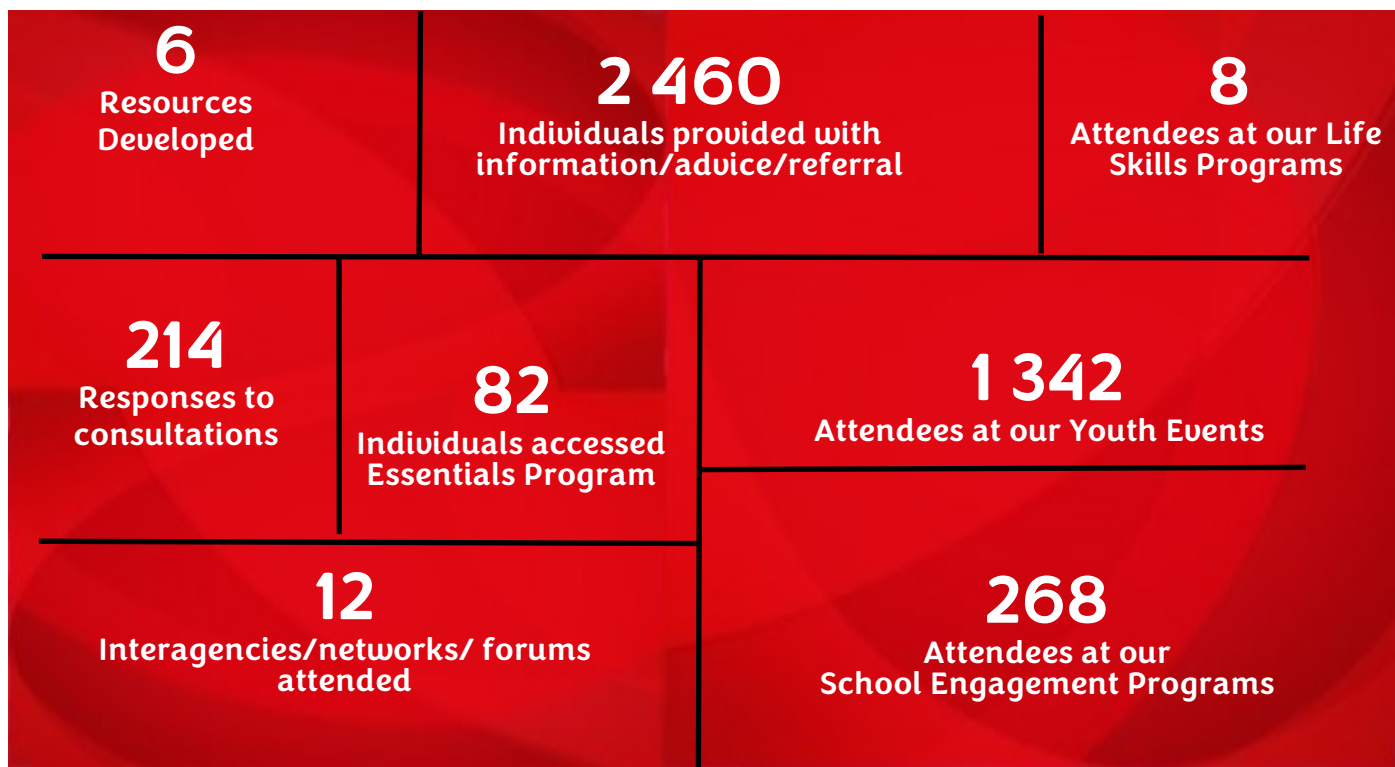


A further **200** households were supported

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TEAM

All our youth programs, activities and events are designed and delivered to support young people to develop a strong sense of self worth and belonging. Our outcomes are focused on self determination, empowerment and an increased feeling of belonging to community, family and school.

**Targeted Earlier Intervention** Funded by: NSW Department of Communities and Justice



Activities/programs within the Youth Engagement Team include (but are not limited to):

- Information/advice/referral
- Resource development
- Events
- Life Skills programs
- School Engagement programs
- Material aid (personal hygiene and school supplies)

The team also actively participates in numerous local networks, forums and interagencies to ensure collaboration with local services to identify gaps and reduce duplication.





## RESOURCES DEVELOPED

- ♦ Mental Health Video
- ♦ Gamble Aware Video
- ♦ Gamble Aware Week Pencil Cases
- ♦ Gamble Aware Week Phone Card Holders
- ♦ Youth Services Card (in partnership with Blacktown City Council)
- ♦ Youth Friendly business cards (in partnership with Headspace)

## EVENTS HELD

- ♦ Harmony Day Stakeholders
- ♦ Harmony Day- Story Sharing
- ♦ International Women's Day Workshop (Seven Hills High School)
- ♦ School Expo (Doonside High School)
- ♦ School Expo (Plumpton High School)
- ♦ Welcome to Year 7 (Doonside High School)

## NETWORKS / INTERAGENCIES / FORUMS ATTENDED

- ♦ Blacktown Alliance Against Gambling Harm
- ♦ Doonside Community Services Interagency
- ♦ Western Sydney Domestic Violence School Teacher's Expo
- ♦ Gamble Aware Working Group
- ♦ Harmony Day working group
- ♦ IWD 2022 Working Group
- ♦ Mt Druitt Blacktown Youth Services Network
- ♦ Mt Druitt Blacktown Youth Services Network Steering Committee
- ♦ Outer West Domestic Violence Network
- ♦ Refugee Week Working Group
- ♦ Western Sydney Youth Sector Network
- ♦ Youth Action NSW



## ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Blacktown has one of the highest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resident populations in New South Wales.

The experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people vary and may be influenced by a range of factors including connection to culture and personal experiences. BACC is committed to facilitating cultural change to guide our thinking and approach to our work. We have continued to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and lay strong foundations for the development of cultural competencies of our staff.

We have explored ways to strengthen our internal processes to create meaningful relationships, enhance respect and promote sustainable opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.





## Adult Literacy

*Research tells us that 40% of the Australian population have literacy levels below what is considered enough to get by in everyday life.*

BACC in partnership with Blacktown Library has been working towards developing a training package to train volunteers to assist adult residents with literacy. While there appears to be some support for residents with English literacy, this program will focus on assisting adults whose only language is English but for various reasons have not remained with the school system and now are unable to read or write English.

## Cultural Diversity

One of Blacktown's key features is its diversity. 188 nationalities, 182 languages and 123 ancestries are represented in the Blacktown local government area.

Challenges such as language barriers, loss of cultural identity and isolation due to distance from family often result in people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds requiring additional support to access services.

BACC continues to support CALD communities and has:

- ♦ Supported and attended Refugee events and activities
- ♦ Supported and attended Harmony Day events and activities
- ♦ Actively encouraged participation from CALD communities
- ♦ Delivered culturally appropriate services informed by our Social Inclusion Policy
- ♦ Ensured the distribution of books (in our early literacy program) and resources in languages other than English
- ♦ Utilised interpreters, translators and bilingual workers where appropriate
- ♦ Developed a calendar of culturally significant days for local CALD communities and committed to acknowledging and celebrating significant days



## Food Insecurity

Food security is defined by the United Nations as when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences so that they can live active and healthy lives. Food security is linked to four interrelated elements:

- ◆ Availability
- ◆ Access
- ◆ Utilisation
- ◆ Stability

While there is no official data available for Blacktown specifically, research shows that COVID 19 has had a significant impact on food security nationwide.

BACC has seen an incredible demand for food hampers and has spent considerable time and resources to develop and implement sustainable responses to this issue.





## Gambling Related Harm

Residents of Blacktown Local Government Area are more likely than most other residents of the greater Sydney region to experience gambling harm. Gambling harm is any negative impact experienced by a person, their family or community due to interactions with gambling products.

Gambling harm is largely reliant on people recognising that they have a problem so it can be difficult to measure. Experts agree that Electronic Gaming Machines (EGM) or Poker Machine profits are a good proxy to estimating levels of gambling harm.

**Clubs in the Blacktown Lga report the 5th highest gaming machine profit in the state.**

(\$95 696 356 from 1 June 2020 to 30 November 2020)

**Hotels in the Blacktown Lga report the 5th highest gaming machine profit in the state.**

(\$81 722 374 from 1 June 2020 to 30 November 2020)

During the 2021-2022 financial year BACC has:

- ◆ Continued to actively participate in the Blacktown Alliance for the Reduction of Gambling Harm
- ◆ Participated on the advisory group to WSCF Gambling Harm CALD Framework
- ◆ Adopted a Gambling Harm Policy
- ◆ Participated in Gamble Aware Week initiatives and events
- ◆ Provided training to all staff on Gambling Harm in Blacktown
- ◆ Highlighted Gambling Harm as a community issue to the sector through local networks





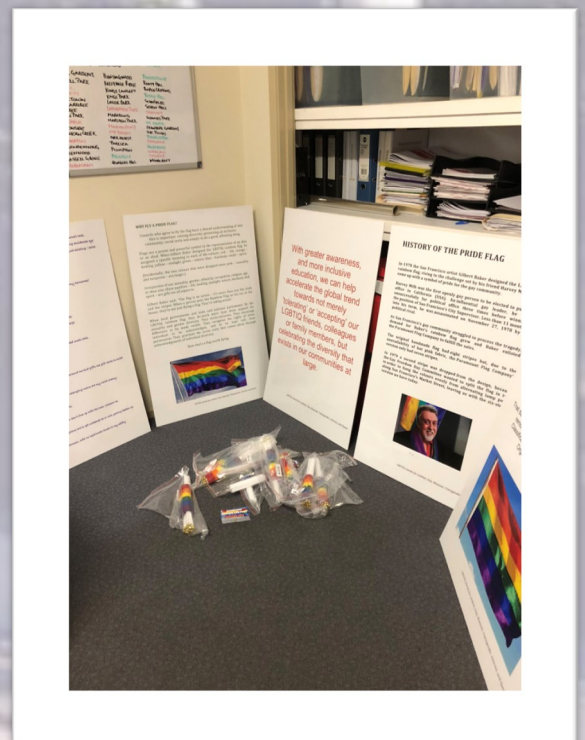
## LGBTIQA+ Communities

Lesbian, gay, trans and intersex community members face a range of challenges that impact profoundly on their health and wellbeing. According to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, some of the barriers identified include:

- ◆ Discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender expression
- ◆ Poor access to appropriate health care services
- ◆ Higher medical costs for some health services
- ◆ Social exclusion and intersections with other social determinants of health, including:
  - Employment status
  - Housing security
  - Socio-economic status

A disproportionate amount of LGBTIQA+ people experience poorer mental health outcomes and have a higher risk of suicidal behaviours than their peers.

BACC continues to advocate strongly for Blacktown City Council, like so many other councils around the nation, to raise the Pride Flag on IDAHOBIT.



**LGBTIQA+ YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16 TO 27 ARE FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO ATTEMPT SUICIDE COMPARED TO THE GENERAL POPULATION, WHILE TRANSGENDER YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FIFTEEN TIMES MORE LIKELY**

BACC'S Financial Report for the year ending June 2022 tabled at the Annual General Meeting was audited by Ross Fowler & Co.



Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors  
Ross Fowler B.Comm. FCA ABN | 96 769 893 959

Blacktown Area Community Centres Inc  
PO Box 4105  
Marayong NSW 2148

Ref: MARAHO 84998\_1

13 October 2022

Dear Ms Mind,

**MANAGEMENT LETTER  
BLACKTOWN AREA COMMUNITY CENTRES INC**

We have completed our audit for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

Our review of the financial books and records did not uncover any material errors or omissions.

Our audit procedures are designed primarily to enable us to form an opinion on the financial statements as a whole, and therefore may not expose errors or weaknesses that may exist in terms of internal controls, procedures and any systems in place. The Committee is responsible to maintain an adequate structure of internal control as the principal safeguard against irregularities which an audit examination may not disclose.

We thank you for your assistance and co-operation provided during the audit.

Should you have any queries with this audit engagement then please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Yours faithfully  
ROSS FOWLER & CO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Fowler'.

Members can contact BACC on 9626 5312  
for the full audited report.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

11 Tindale Street Penrith NSW 2750  
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Email | penrith@rossfowler.com.au  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF  
BLACKTOWN AREA COMMUNITY CENTRE INC  
ABN 85 881 602 738****Report on the Audit of the Financial Report****Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Blacktown Area Community Centre Inc (the association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2022, and the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the association for the year ended 30 June 2022 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Emphasis of Matter- Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the association in fulfilling the committee's financial reporting requirements under the Association Incorporation Act NSW. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the association. Our opinion is not modified in respect to this matter.

**Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the association's financial reporting process.



# ROSS FOWLER & CO

Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors  
Ross Fowler B.Comm. FCA ABN | 96 769 893 959

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKTOWN AREA COMMUNITY CENTRE INC ABN 85 881 602 738

### Auditors' Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

Name of Firm: Ross Fowler & Co  
Chartered Accountants

  
R B Fowler FCA

Address: 11 Tindale Street Penrith NSW 2750

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022

**BLACKTOWN AREA COMMUNITY CENTRE INC**  
**ABN 85 881 602 738**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

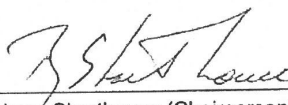
The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 9:

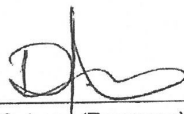
1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Blacktown Area Community Centre Inc as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Blacktown Area Community Centre Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Committee  
Member:

  
Barbara Shorthouse (Chairperson)

Committee  
Member:

  
Daniel Gobena (Treasurer)

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022

[www.bacc.org.au](http://www.bacc.org.au)





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