

Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc

42nd Annual Report

2018/2019



**21 Sturt Street
Telopea NSW 2117
Phone: (02) 9684 4250**

*A message from
the outgoing committee*

DANC has been through a year of tumultuous transformation due to the change in focus by our main funding body – a change that was explained by our President at last year's AGM and is briefly outlined again below.

Around two years ago, the NSW Government announced that centres like DANC would need to transition to a focus on Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) in order to continue to receive funding from the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), previously FACS).

DANC receives almost all of its funding from DCJ and therefore had to change from a general community organisation that served community members of all ages and backgrounds, to an organisation with its main focus on vulnerable children, young people and their families.

For DANC that was a major change of direction which is now nearing completion. It has been demanding and, at times, painful for all who frequent the Centre whether as participants in activities or as staff, volunteers or the management committee members.

During the transition period it became obvious that the funding from DCJ is insufficient to provide both effective management of the Centre as well as pay social workers and other experts to carry out the work with TEI clients.

As a consequence, DANC and a neighbouring community service organisation, Christian Community Aid (CCA), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding whereby CCA will provide expertise and other resources to allow DANC to provide quality services.

The end of the organisation's 42nd year (2018/2019) sees these changes implemented in broad terms and the outgoing committee is confident that it has been possible to secure the future of the Centre for years to come for the benefit of the whole community residing in Telopea, Rydalmere, Ermington, Dundas and Dundas Valley.

THANK YOU!

*2018/2019
Management Committee
Members*

Ken Bullock

Christine Davis

Denise Fagan
(resigned April 2019)

Kim Heng

Janette Hoye

Graham Moon

Bicky Winkler
(resigned September 2019)

*2018/2019
Staff at DANC*

Permanent, casual and temporary staff as well as contractors who have been engaged at DANC are listed below in alphabetical order.

A star indicates that this person was at DANC at the end of the 2018-2019 reporting year.

Amy Armstrong

Aracely Barreras*

Shuhong (Shirley)

Cheng*

Richard Collis

Jennifer Egan

Carolyn Hua*

Dulcie Lupton*

Chris May

Jazzie Quinn*

Dalal Al Rady*

Patrick Soosay

Glenda Thomas

Gunjan Tripathi

STAFF 2018/2019



Throughout 2018/2019 the neighbourhood centre has been open five days a week both mornings and afternoons.

This has only been possible due to the dedication of staff and with the help of a small army of volunteers and interns.

Regular opening hours at the end of this reporting year was 10am to 5pm.

There are plans to expand the hours of service to include activities during some evenings and occasionally on weekends.

Amy Armstrong (centre) commenced at DANC as an intern and then stayed on as a casual for a while. Here she is farewelled by staff member Shuhong (Shirley) Cheng (left) and volunteer Rhonda Tucker (right)

Staff and volunteers enjoying lunch in DANC's outdoor area.



A new relationship

As mentioned on page 2, DANC has entered into a relationship with Christian Community Aid (CCA) which is located at 12 Lakeside Rd, Eastwood.

CCA is a not-for-profit community organisation that has been delivering services for over 50 years. Its motto is “Enabling better lives” and, like DANC, CCA receives government funding.

DANC’s centre manager

Aracely Barreras was appointed Centre Manager at DANC in June 2019 and took up the position in late August. Aracely was well qualified for the position having a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California majoring in psychology and a Master of Arts in marital family therapy from the University of San Diego. Additionally, Aracely has had extensive experience working in community organisations in the US and Australia.



Since her appointment Aracely has been working on a variety of projects ranging from governance to developing the future program for the centre.

The column of text on the right provides an insight into some of the activities planned for DANC’s 43rd year.

Next year at DANC

Some of the services planned for DANC’s 43rd year include:

- Material aid provision for disadvantaged families, such as food essentials at low cost, no interest loans, financial counselling, emergency relief
- Various targeted intervention programs aimed at young people, including resilience program and a therapeutic art and craft group
- Counselling and case management
- Family strengthening activities
- Self-management & Recovery Training Groups (SMART)
- Supported playgroups
- More English for parents and carers as well as their preschool children

2018/2019 TEI activities HIGHLIGHTS



DANC has throughout 2018/2019 had a staff member dedicated to the support of youths in our area.

Regular activities align with the school terms and there are special activities during school holidays.

Below are some of the activities that involved youths in 2018/2019:

Street Gym is a weekly activity that engages young people in physical activities (see photo above). The youth worker keeps a keen eye out for troubled youths that may benefit from assistance from a social worker and s/he offers help as needed. During the year Street Gym was run by first Richard Collis, then Chris May and currently by Jazzie Quinn.

Homework help is also weekly during school holidays. The program is run in partnership with the library. Currently, Dulcie Lupton is involved in this activity.

Youth choir has run weekly and involves children and young people learning to sing. The choir master is funded by PAYCE.

The **Youth holiday** activities program has this year involved a variety of crafts and games, including badminton, pool and table tennis as well as clay modelling and board games.

A **Short Film Making** activity will be run by a professional film maker in January 2020. It will consist of several independent modules but youths who complete them all will have covered the essentials of film making and be able to make a short film. Another activity that has been planned in 2018/2019 and will commence in the next holidays is called “**Board games for life**” and will involve learning new but oldfashioned board games that are similar in outcome to Monopoly in that they teach a variety of life skills.

A current short term program is **Art & Craft Therapeutic program** which over four weeks teach the skills required to make origami cranes, dream catchers, key rings and pallet coasters while weaving in professionally facilitated conversations about Wishes and Future, The Importance Of Sleep, Drive and Motivation, and Protective Factors.

DANC hosted **Links to Learning** for four terms – a program that encourage students to stay at school while also giving them life skills.

2018/2019 TEI activities – HIGHLIGHTS



About 20 adults and 14 young people aged 11-17 attended an evening with conversation about drug and alcohol. Two youth workers spoke to the young people who all got a bag with fliers promoting healthy choices as well as information about where to go for health related issues. The bag also contained a drink bottle, wrist band and a pencil case with a portable charger in it. The adults experienced the effects of alcohol and drugs through interactive games and answered quizzes as shown on the photos.



Adults who attended the “Let’s talk together session” were quizzed on facts about alcohol and drug abuse.



Glasses distort the vision to make it feel like the wearer is drunk while stacking blocks.

This event was a partnership with Parramatta Community Drug Action Team, Hope Connect, Hume House, YMCA and DANC.

A CASE HISTORY

DANC works with Juvenile Justice NSW to assist young offenders turn around and get back on track. “JKL” was one such person. He had joined a group of “wrong” friends and left school early and had had little parental supervision in his teenage years. After committing some petty crimes JKL was eventually arrested and brought before the courts. Juvenile Justice NSW and DANC’s youth workers assisted the youth through a series of steps which included attending a round table conference with police and the victims. While this intervention hopefully will have lasting effect, DANC’s social workers are convinced that it would have been more effective if his family had had access to the TEI type services DANC now will offer.

2018/2019 TEI activities – HIGHLIGHTS



In 2018/2019 DANC ran a mini trial teaching **toddlers and pre-schoolers English** through play while parents and carers attended an adult English class. The trial was successful and DANC will now extend the trial into 2020.

DANC ran two **playgroups** in 2018/2019, namely one for children 3 and under, and another for pre-schoolers.

Mums-and-Bubs is an exercise program that aims to get mothers working out with their children close by. It was offered in the playgroup time slot.

Parents of young children attended **Parenting Groups** with themes such as

- Healthy eating
- Child safety
- Gardening with kids
- Role modelling



School readiness was incorporated into the playgroup for 3-5year-olds and included developing fine and gross motor skills, basic literacy and numeracy, science and group work.

In co-operation with CCA, DANC facilitated a visit by a **play van** which parked in Sturt Park across from the neighbourhood centre.

DANC registered 16 children for a program called **Auskick** which was run in co-operation with AFL Community Club.

A qualified teacher volunteers at DANC to offer **English** lessons at intermediate level. Called *More English for parents and carers*, the course covers listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar and pronunciation.

Learning materials are authentic brochures, leaflets, newspaper articles and television programs that cover topics with information that parents and carers need but which may not have been available to non-English speaking parents.

Amongst the topics for the 2018/2019 classes were:

- Go4Fun health program
- Composting/worm farming
- 1000 books before school
- E-cigarettes
- Keeping kids active
- Sydney Water restrictions
- School readiness incl. separation anxiety
- Parental self-care
- Pocket money
- Fire danger symbols
- Return and Earn (bottles/cans)

2018/2019 ADULT ACTIVITIES

DANC hosts a range of self-managed adult group activities.

Participants come from neighbouring suburbs or even further afield.

During 2018/2019 the following groups operated out of, or within, DANC's facilities at 21 Sturt St, Telopea.



- Waratah Creative Crafters
- Patchwork and quilting group
- Guitar class
- Computer class
- Community Choir
- English class
- Art class
- Chinese folk dance
- Happy Salon dance
- Dundance group
- Table tennis
- Tai Chi
- Ponds walking group



2018/2019 FINANCIALS

The Dundas Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc Financial Report for the year ending June 2019 will be tabled at the Annual General Meeting. It was audited by chartered accountants C M Pitt & Co on 25 October 2019.

The income totalled \$212,356.32 while expenses were \$212,356.32. Current assets amounted to \$145,056.85 while current liabilities were \$98,791.92. Employee related expenses amounted to 82.5% of outgoings.

The centre is grateful to all who contributed funds or in-kind and especially our funding body, Dept Justice & Communities and our landlord, Parramatta City Council.

The centre also wishes to acknowledge the invaluable contributions from employees, volunteers and partner organisations.

Thanks to all