

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL WAGGA WAGGA



MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WAGGA WAGGA



ANNUAL 2020 - 2021 REPORT



Chief Executive Officer Message

Well, this year has certainly been anything but normal. With borders being closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic there has been no new humanitarian arrivals since April 2019. I would like to thank the staff who have continued to maintain a high level of service delivery in this difficult and ever changing times. Many of our group activities have either been cancelled, postponed or paused. But as you will see we were still able to undertake activities and community events in adherence to NSW Health directives.

The annual report highlights the services and activities undertaken in the 2020 – 2021 financial year. In addition, it showcases the work which has been achieved through productive partnerships and engagement with the communities of Wagga Wagga and region. I hope the report provides a sense of achievement for all and highlights how when working together we can achieve a community that is cohesive and harmonious.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Board of the Multicultural Council. The Board's dedication, compassion and hard work has once again resulted in positive outcomes for the people we serve.

In unity and harmony

Belinda Crain

Personnel

Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga

Wagga Wagga	
Belinda Crain	Chief Executive Officer
Daniel Harris	SETs Client Services Case Worker
Luke Delaney	SETs Client Services Case Worker
Thom Paton	SETs Community Capacity Building Worker
Mick Rumble	Employment Pathways -Project Coordinator
Andrea Daly	Employment Pathways – Support Worker
Geeta Parajuli	Administration Officer
Catherine Dean	Finance Officer
Debbie Robinson	Refugee Health Practice Nurse

Staff Changes

Ben Thompson resigned as the Employment Pathways Coordinator in April 2021

Mick Rumble stepped up to take the Employment Pathways Coordinators position in April 2021

Debbie Robinson resigned as the Refugee Health Nurse in April 2021

Chair Report Message

This has been a tumultuous year for the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga, as it has continued to serve the needs of its clients whilst coping with the rigors of the COVID-19 pandemic. I must congratulate Belinda, our CEO, and staff for the wonderful way they continued to provide such valuable service.

Thanks are also due to the Board of Directors, who have at all times provided governance of the highest standard. Last year we reviewed and updated the constitution and this year we had held planning sessions. We are currently ranking their recommendations for implementation by the incoming Board. Next year the Board's main governance task will be to review and update the Strategic Plan.

The annual report shows the breadth and depth of the activities undertaken by MCWW. They are well worth the read. They also show the way we engage with local communities and organisations. These are very productive partnerships. They also show that MCWW is dependent on small grants to serve its clients, and I congratulate Belinda on her ingenuity and persistence in securing those grants. They also draw attention to our need for a Business Manager to further secure such partnership grants.

The Board has suffered a decline in active numbers during the past year, including the departure from Wagga Wagga of our Chairperson, Yapa Bandara, which is why I am writing this report in an Acting Chairperson capacity. At this AGM we will need to rejuvenate the Board, so I am hopeful that this AGM Report will enthruse new prospective members.

Ray Goodlass, Acting Chairperson



Settlement Engagement and Transition Service (SETS) Client Services

SETS – Client Services provides clients with settlement-related information, advice, advocacy, and assistance to access mainstream and other relevant services. Services will be delivered in accordance with a needs-based approach. Typically client needs will align with the nine priority areas identified in the National Settlement Framework.

SETS – Client Services has a key role in facilitating acquisition of English language skills, supporting engagement with education and training, and building employment readiness with services complementing other settlement and mainstream services.

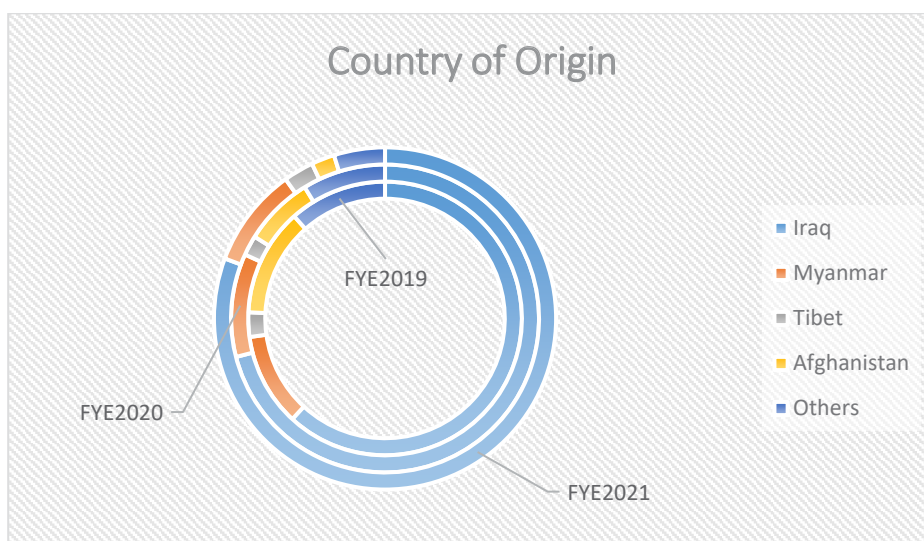
The meaningful value of MCWW to the community was recently measured in an unintended outcome of the Covid procedures. From January 2021, MCWW requested that every individual sign in on arrival. Guests were given the opportunity to use the QR code or sign in sheet on arrival. This is the first time that MCWW has had a count of the number of entries to the office of clients, stakeholders and community members accessing the service.

Four thousand five hundred and sixty-six (4566) entries were recorded on the sign in sheets between January and June in 2021. This is a staggering number of interactions for an office comprised of five staff members funded by SETS and two staff funded by NSW Family and Community services. This number does not include those entries recorded by the QR code and entries to the office between July and December 2020.

Based on this information MCWW can estimate with confidence that the office has in excess of 10,000 entries during the reporting period. A true reflection the MCWW's importance to the community and value it provides to the funding partners.

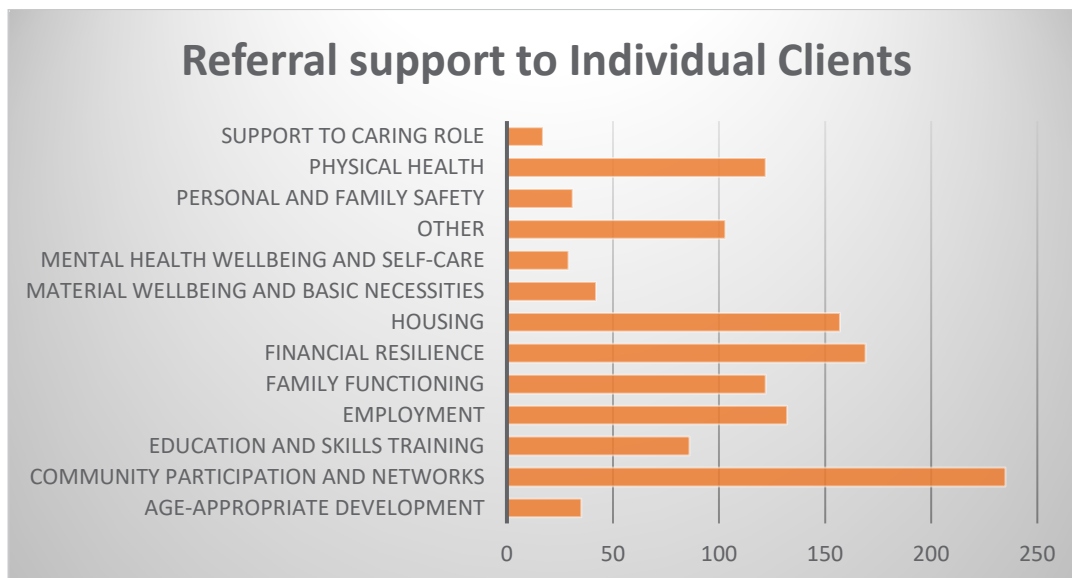
So who are we helping?

The below graph highlights the changing demographics of SETS eligible clients. Since 2019, the proportional increase of our Yazidi client base has grown to 80% of our total clients. The same period has seen in the proportionate decline in Afghan clients. Client's from Myanmar have maintained a consistent presence within the client profile throughout the last three years.



What do we do?

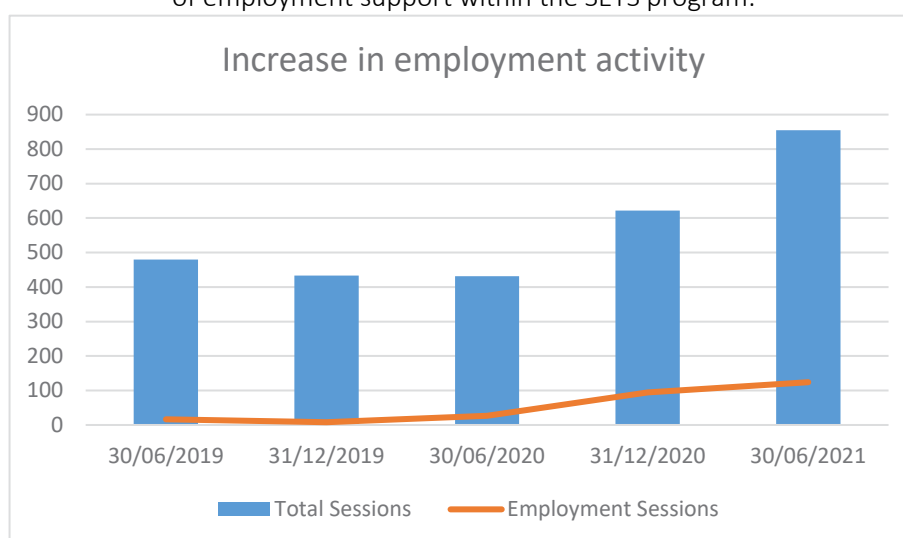
Here is a table that demonstrates the types of support clients receive through the SETS program. The data has been recorded by case workers identifying the referral pathways provided to clients during our sessions.



Community participation covers a range of activities; birth registration and Citizenship applications are the main reason why this support is so high. It can include other activities like sport, social engagement and currently Census submissions.

Next is financial resilience which covers Centrelink, bills and fines. Housing has been busy in the current rental market. To the client's credit, it has also included several house purchases. Migration support is not represented well here; Legal referrals are not an option with the data system. It is probably a mix of family functioning and other referrals on the chart.

Employment continues to grow within the case work. The table below shows the proportionate increase of employment support within the SETS program.



A quick word of thanks.

To those community members that have provided their language expertise throughout the year. Every time you have come and assisted the SETS staff with language support it has made the conversation richer and the work more beneficial. We are truly grateful for your support.



Settlement Engagement and Transition Service (SETS) - Community Capacity Building

The objective of the SETS Community Capacity Building Program is to equip and empower local community groups and individuals within these communities to address their identified settlement needs in order to improve their social participation, economic well-being, independence, personal well-being and community connectedness more broadly.

The Multicultural achieves these objectives through regular consultation with each settlement community, ongoing training and development opportunities provided which are tailored to the specific needs and goals identified during consultations.

This has included both needs identified within specific individual communities or responding to needs reported across multiple communities. Common goals that were identified within the consultation across all communities included:

- Participation and engagement in opportunities within the broader community to increase both social and professional networks

Each of the settlement communities has selected a group of representatives/ leaders with all of these representative groups being in regular contact with Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga. Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga's email distribution network consists of over 500 individual community contacts and forms an integral role in the dispersal of information and the promotion of engagement opportunities; all elected leaders are on Multicultural Council of Wagga

Wagga's email distribution network and receive regular updates on current opportunities, resources, information, programs and events. Each of the community groups have also adopted communication methods to further increase the dispersal of information. In most case this has been closed groups on social media platforms (such as messenger and WhatsApp) where community members can translate and distribute important information to all community members. The method used to share information and opportunities has allowed both individuals and or groups to engage directly with other stakeholders or has led them to directly contact MCWW for additional support to connect if required.

- Opportunities to engage in both formal and informal training pathways

Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga has facilitated a range of opportunities for community members to engage in both formal accredited education pathways with registered training organisations and informal training pathways through mentoring arrangements. For example, Multicultural council of Wagga Wagga has seen a large increase in community members investigating starting small businesses or avenues for self-employment, with over 30 individual businesses seeking support within the last financial year. Each of these individuals/small business have been supported in engaging with relevant support services such as the Business Enterprise Centre and Thrive Refugee Enterprises to engage in Small Business Mentoring arrangements.

- Strengthening networks to increase communal knowledge and identifying where to access information

Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga has supported each community in undertaking opportunities for further collective skills development and strengthen both social and professional networks through the engagement with service providers to increase independence and access to community resources. This has included hosting information sessions or workshops with relevant service providers when responding to community issues, concerns or opportunities that are raised.

- The ability for communities to host events for days of cultural significance and developing programs to respond to identified community issues or opportunities.

Multicultural council of Wagga Wagga has worked closely with community representatives to provide tailored program of training and support to assist community leaders develop their administrative and operational skills through the facilitation of a range projects and events that have been identified during the consultations with each of the groups.

This has included support around program planning and management in the initial stages of setting up a community groups, event planning and management skills to deliver events, development of administrative skills including record keeping, financial accountability and meeting contractual obligations through the supported process of both applying and delivering projects and events that have received external funding support.

An example of a project that responded to the needs of multiple communities was the Tech Savvy Communities Project which was pursued after leaders from a range of cultural communities reported the need to increase digital literacy competence and confidence within their communities. MCWW in partnership with the Wagga Wagga City Library and Red Cross developed the program which employed in language facilitators to deliver a number of digital literacy workshops across 3 communities. Facilitators were provided with training, resources and support in the lead up to delivery of the project. 3 sets of classes incorporating 4-6 sessions were facilitated in each community which lead to 536 individual points of engagement across the program between November 2020 – May 2021.



Another example of this was that MCWW received feedback across all community groups that community members were experiencing additional barriers in entering and engaging the employment market with many Job active agencies within the region not offering face to face services. In response MCWW facilitated a “Jobs Club” Digital Literacy and Employment services program one day a week between July 2020 – November 2021

This program aimed to support individuals from Refugee and Migrant backgrounds develop capacity in a range of employment related skills including developing and updating resumes and cover letters, setting up profiles for online employment platforms, practicing interview skills, and improving general computer skills.

21 sessions were delivered within this program with an average of 5.57 participants attending each week (117 engagements from 3.07.20 – 27.11.20).

Employment Pathways

Employment Pathways is a NSW Government initiative funded by the Department of Communities and Justice. The programs target is to work with vulnerable community members who reside in Social Housing Estates of Wagga Wagga including Tolland, Koorinal, Ashmont and Mount Austin to address barriers to gaining sustainable and meaningful employment

It was with great sadness that Ben Thompson left us this year. Ben has gone onto further his career with State Training. Ben was the driving force that made Employment Pathways the successful program that is today. I am fortunate enough to be able to take on this position as I had worked with Ben to build up this program for the past 2 years.

June 2021 we received the good news that we had secured funding for another year. This in turn has allowed our current and new clients to remain supported.

We formed an initiative program WEC (Wagga Employment Connections). This like-minded group was formed to actively secure traineeships for our clients. So far we have had 2 of our clients secure an administration traineeship with Wagga City Council, and 1 client undertaking a traineeship in Community Service with the Anglicare Community Resource center in Ashmont.

We have started to link in with Community Corrections working with parolees to find employment with supporting them to overcome their barriers, such as homelessness and mental health.

We are still working closely with other service providers such as Anglicare, Clontaf, DCJ Housing, DCJ Out of Home Care, Tolland and Ashmont community hubs and Eastern Murrumbidgee Alliance.

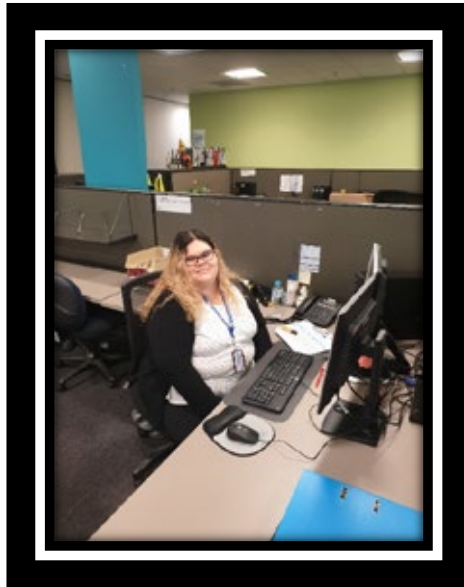
Also we have formed a strong relationship with DCJ in working together to form a Tolland Working committee. We have been doing Thursday BBQ's in Tolland for the last 6 months. But due to Covid this event has been cancelled. These BBQ's bring the Tolland community an opportunity to meet together have a yarn and voice their concerns that they have about Tolland.

We have identified some of the barriers that disadvantaged school leavers have is engaging with them prior to them leaving school. Job ready for when they leave school. Some of this involves, resume writing, mock interviews, and assisted in handing in resumes to other businesses.

Post placement support is provided to clients that are in employment. This involves following up with employers to find out any issues that may be addressed such as, lack of attendance/lateness, work performance and mental health and lack of transport.

One of the biggest challenges we have come across this year is mental health and Covid Restrictions. Due to our strong rapport we have with our clients they feel supported in discussing their mental health issues, lack of affordable housing and asking for support and referring them to the appropriate services.

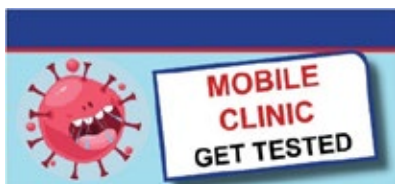
This is a great program where we are able to assist a client achieve their goals by gaining employment which enables them to afford suitable housing which gives them stability to maintain mental health and wellbeing and to break the generational cycle.



The Refugee Health Assessment Centre

The RHAC aim is to provide quality, coordinated, primary health care to meet the needs of Refugee/Humanitarian entrants prior to transitioning to local GP's.

Since March 2019 there have been no new referrals to the Refugee Health Assessment Centre due to Covid 19, clinic's ceased operation in September 2020 as all patients had transitioned to local GP's.



2 Mobile Testing Clinic's held in July 2020

The Multicultural Council partnered with the Child Family Health Nurse to facilitate a series of workshops.

Nutrition

Newborn and infant nutrition (breastfeeding and formula)

- Transitioning to solid food (age, why, how, examples, picture handouts)
- Nutrition for growing children
- Australian Guide to Healthy eating
- Healthy family foods
- Transitioning from bottle to cup
- Constipation

Growth and Development

- Introduce Child Family Health Nurse service again and the support offered
- Discussing Growth and development, what are milestones?
- Age appropriate milestones identified for 6-8wks, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 2, 3, & 4 yrs.
- When to talk to your Doctor/Child Family Health Nurse

First Aid training for parents and babies presented by NSW Health

Date 27/04/2021

Target Group

- Yazidi parents of children aged 0-2 years' old



Leaders in Cultural Diversity (LinCD) Program

Here are some of the projects and activities supported through funding provided by MNSW

Made to Share Project

The Made to Share project was undertaken in partnership with Wagga Wagga City Council.

Food is key to our survival. But it also helps us thrive. This past year, the process of cooking and baking provided much-needed comfort and connection. Creating food let us grieve, celebrate, love, support, mend, discover, heal and remember. We shared meaning, experience, belonging, joy, growth and kindness with others. Food brought friends, family and cultures together.

The **Made to Share** online recipe collection builds on 2020's newfound respect for home cooking by celebrating the importance of homemade food in our community. The project taps into the traditions and sustainable food practices of our region's rich cultural diversity. **Made to Share** examines relationships between memory, history, culture, religion and food. It reveals what, how and why everyday people are cooking in our local neighborhoods.

Made to Share showcases a series of easy yet inspiring family recipes. These recipes have been handed down through generations to the people who carry them in their hearts and will now share them with us. They represent the very best of regional food from around the world, made right here in our community.

<https://wagga.nsw.gov.au/community/annual-events/fusion/made-to-share>



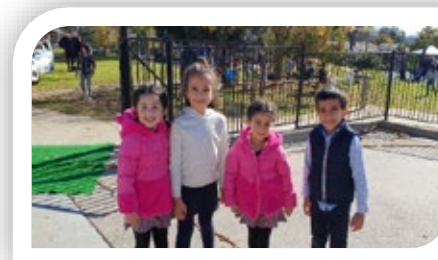
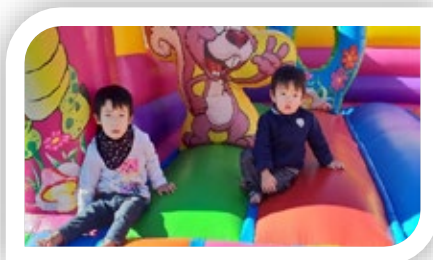


Refugee Week 2021 was a huge success with over 1500 people coming together to celebrate. Refugee Week is a unique opportunity for us all to experience and celebrate the rich diversity of our refugee communities who have settled in Wagga.

Refugee Week provides a platform where positive images of refugees can be promoted in order to create a culture of welcome throughout the country. The ultimate aim of the celebration is to create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration enabling refugees to live in safety and to continue making a valuable contribution to Australia.

The aims of Refugee Week are:

- to **educate** the Australian public about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia;
- to help people **understand** the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia;
- to **celebrate** the contribution refugees make to our community;
to focus on how the community can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees;
- for community groups and individuals to **do something positive** for refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people, within Australia but also around the world; and
- for service providers to **reflect** on whether they are providing the best possible services to refugees.



1145 occasion of case work support were provided to individuals not eligible for SETs services.

A significant amount of time and resources has been spent providing education, information to assist the communities to manage during the Covid pandemic.

TOTAL	Employment	269
	Justice	424
	Financial	103
	Language	0
	Education and training	60
	Transport	28
	Health	17
	Housing	107
	Family and support	128
	Civic participation	9
	TOTAL Client Served	1145



Annual Grants Program

The Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga supported a number of our cultural communities in their application to Wagga Wagga City Councils Annual Grants program.

The **Kachin Community of Wagga** were successful in the application for funding within the Wagga Wagga City Council Annual Grants Program to support the purchase traditional musical instruments that are not currently accessible to any of the Burmese cultural groups locally. The addition of these instruments adds to the pool of instruments that are available to local communities at times of cultural significance and in participating in events within the wider community such as Fusion Multicultural Festival, Refugee Week and Harmony Day these events offer a platform to build community harmony, foster relationships and unity.

The **Jieng Language Learning Hub** were successful in an application of funding within the Wagga Wagga City Council Annual Grants Program to purchase digital technology equipment to continue to provide opportunities to learn and practice Dinka language and cultural practices remotely. Through the project the Jieng Language Learning Hub have also been supported to purchase a number of in language resources, extending the scope of learning opportunities the group was able to deliver previously.



The **Rvwang Community of Wagga** successfully received funding within the Wagga Wagga City Council Annual Grants Program to host the inaugural Mvnor festival. Traditionally the Rvwang Community host this celebration when settling in a new and safe environment, to show appreciation to the community who live there. With members of the Rvwang Community initially settling as refugees in Wagga Wagga 10 years ago the hosting of the Mvnor festival will provide an opportunity to continue to build strong connections with the wider community of Wagga Wagga and pay their respect to the traditional custodians of the land while also maintaining traditional customs and traditions to pass on to the next generations within the community. Initially planned to be hosted in 2020 the festival has been postponed until 2022 due to restrictions relating to COVID-19.

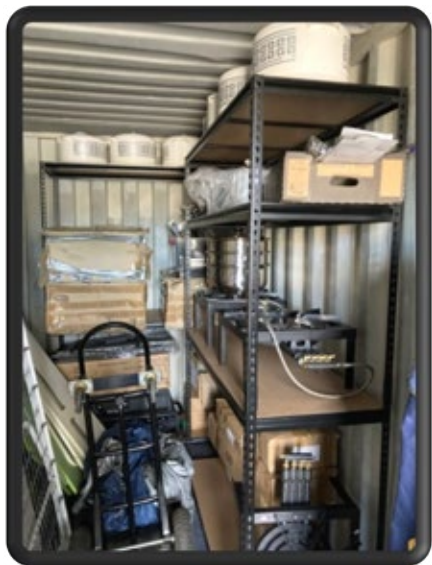
The **Tibetan Community of Wagga** successfully received funding through the Wagga Wagga City Council Annual Grants Program to host their 2021 Losar Celebrations. The event was a huge success, reaching capacity and featured Grammy nominated musician Tenzin Choegyal. As the most recent settlement group in Wagga the local Tibetan community used the event as a platform to strengthen their connections to a wider network of community organisations, groups and individuals. Promoting cross cultural understanding through the sharing of music, dance and traditional food.



The Tibetan Community of Wagga Wagga were also successful in receiving funding through the Wagga Wagga City Council Annual Grants Program to host a number of events in recognition of International Day of Human rights. These events were planned as a platform to both raise awareness of continuing struggles for human rights across the world, while showing solidarity with other ethnic communities who reside locally in Wagga Wagga. The Tibetan community of Wagga Wagga hosted an event on the evening of the 10th of December (International Human Rights Day). The event featured a range of short films, speeches and presentations from community members and Amnesty International. A second family day event that was planned was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID -19 restrictions in place at the time, though is planned to be held in December 2021.

Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga were successful in receiving funding through the Wagga Wagga City Council Annual Grants Program for the Equipping Community Cooks to Connect project. This project provided support in purchasing a variety of culturally appropriate cooking equipment to support a diverse range of community cultural groups in their ability to host and cater for community celebrations and

gatherings at times of cultural significance. These resources provided a great asset in assisting communities to come together to build social cohesion and community harmony and provided a platform to connect, learn and share.



The Rwwang Community of Wagga successfully received funding from Riverina Water Community Grants program to support the constructing of a set of adapted Mnvor Pillars. This structure is of great cultural significance and forms the visual centerpiece for traditional celebrations. The community are currently in the process of the consultation and planning phase after engaging the services of a local civil engineer. On completion of this project it will provide an eye catching and enduring asset that could be used regularly at a variety of public gatherings of local celebrations as well as events attended by the wider community such as Fusion Multicultural Street Festival, Refugee Week and Harmony Day to celebrate our cultural diversity.



Through the support of the Community Road Safety Grants funded by Transport for NSW Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga facilitated the “Steering to Safety” program which aimed to increase road safety awareness and understanding within the local refugee and migrant communities by delivering a range of workshops and information sessions covering a variety of topics to support safer road use. On the announcement of the applications success, consultations were conducted with a range of cultural community leaders and key stakeholders, including Wagga Wagga City Council’s Road Safety Officer, representatives from Legal Aid and the local NRMA branch to identify each workshop topic.

A brief description of each of the project activities is presented below:

Safe Driving course – January School Holidays

One of the biggest barriers that young people from new and emerging communities face is finding a fully licensed driver that can supervise the required 120 hours needed for their logbook. The Safer Drivers Course is a great program designed for Young People under 25; the course is 5 hours long and is divided into 2 parts, a 3-hour theory session and a 2-hour practical session. 6 young people from the Yazidi, Somali and Burmese communities participated in this program during the January School holidays. The first component of this workshop engaged these young drivers in peer group discussion to adopt safer driving behaviors with key messaging and strategies to minimise their risk behind the wheel. Following the completion of the first workshop the participants engaged in a practical component putting their learnings in practice with a qualified instructor with a focus on using their knowledge gained in risk management strategies and assisting them to adopt low risk driving behaviors. Feedback provided from the young people who participated highlighted that they enjoyed participating in the course with young people from the wider community as it highlighted that the skills developed in the course as well as the questions and concerns they held were age relevant and common across all community groups. Participants also provided feedback during the practical module that it was great to have an instructor outside of their community/family provide instruction/tips and gave them confidence on the road. As part of participating in the 2 workshops the learner drivers received 20 hours of log book credit which greatly assisted each of the young people in working toward their required log book hours.



Child Restraint Checking Day - 20.02.21

Multicultural Council partnered with Wagga Wagga City Council's Road Safety Officer and a local accredited child restraint fitter to provide a child restraint checking day where community members were able to have their child restraints and fittings checked by an accredited fitter.

This also provided an opportunity to engage parents who attended in conversation around other road safety tips and provide additional resources.

12 families participated with representatives from the Burmese, Yazidi, Afghan, Tibetan and Ethiopian communities.



Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga supported 11 individuals from the Yazidi, Nepali and Sri Lankan communities to attend a Supervisors and Learner Driver Road Safety Forum hosted by Wagga Wagga City Council and the local branch of NRMA. Additional language support was provided to assist the Yazidi community members engage in the forum.

Topics discussed at the forum included:

- Learning about the laws for learner and provisional licence holders from NSW Police
- Learning tips and tricks from a qualified driving instructor
- The benefits of car safety features
- Learning basic car maintenance for the learner driver

Some additional unintended outcomes that eventuated from this engagement included 3 attendees registering for the Free2 go programs which provides young drivers with free roadside assistance cover. Two of the young people attending also booked into the next Safe Drivers Course Multicultural Council were facilitating as a result of hearing about the program during the forum.



10 Most Misunderstood Road Rules – 08.04.21

Following consultation with the Wagga Wagga City Council’s Road Safety Officer it was identified that there are some road rules that even experienced drivers find confusing. A presentation on the 10 most common misunderstood road rules was delivered with topics including roundabouts, giving way to pedestrians when turning, Mobile Phones, Merging, Keeping left, Using Headlights and fog lights, U-turns, Safe Following Distances, School Zones and Yellow Traffic lights.

7 participants attended the session with representatives from the Yazidi and Burmese communities with language support being available for community members.



Safe Driver Course April school holidays

After the success of the first young drivers program, Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga engaged a further 6 young people from diverse community groups within the NRMA Safe Driving Course Program to help support these young drivers adopt safer driving behaviours.

Presentation on What to do after a motor vehicle accident and an explanation of what different types of Motor Vehicle insurance cover – 25.05.2021

Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga has seen a large increase in community members engaged in delivery or carrier service employment such as Menulog, Uber and Taxi driving.

With the increased time on the road for individuals who are engaged in these industries a local insurance provider facilitated an information session around “What to do after a motor vehicle accident” and “What types of insurance cover is available for motor vehicles”

This session included providing translated resources that had been provided by Legal Aid NSW and additional language support was provided for Yazidi community members.

All 7 participants from the Yazidi and Tibetan communities that attended this presentation are engaged in carrier or delivery employment.

Safe Driving Course June School holidays

Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga continued to work in partnership with NRMA’s Safe Driver Course facilitators to help support young drivers adopt safer driving behaviors with a further 7 young people from diverse community groups engaged within the NRMA Safe Driving Course Program.

Child Restraint Checking Day 17.07.2021

After the success of the first Child Restraint checking day Multicultural Council again partnered with Wagga Wagga City Council’s Road Safety Officer and a local accredited child restraint fitter to provide a child restraint checking day where community members could have their child restraints and fittings checked. This was also used as an opportunity to engage parents who attended in conversation around other road safety tips and provide additional resources. 10 families participated with representatives from the Yazidi, Afghan, Burmese, Tibetan and Burundi communities. Feedback received from the facilitators included that sessions such as these were vitally important in promoting safe practices and educating community members on unsafe practices, such as the use of the restraint shown in the center picture below. The facilitator also provided feedback that it was great that some community members have participated in multiple checking days, showing the importance that these community members place in learning the correct installation processes for the different restraints that are required as their children get older.

These activities were planned to be delivered earlier, though had to be rescheduled due to facilitators availability.



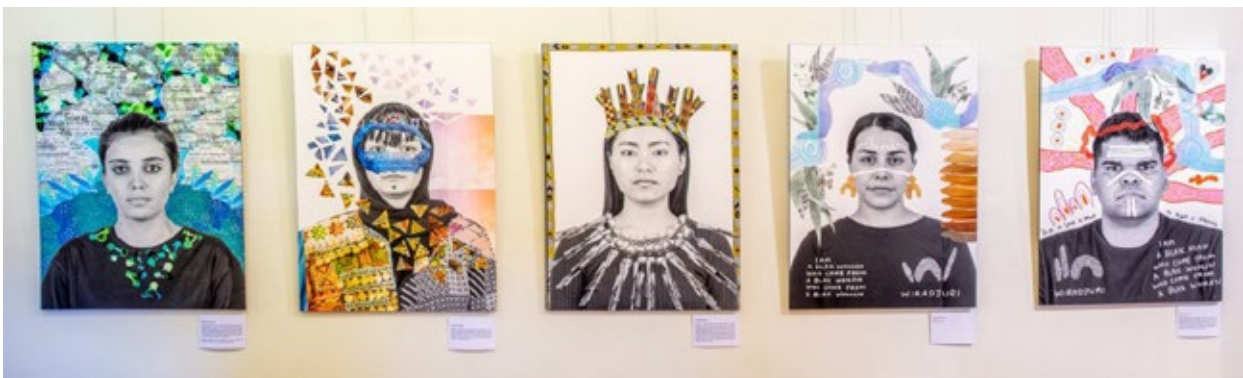
A total of 66 participants were directly engaged in activities over the course of the project, with formal partnerships being established with a number of service providers including Wagga Wagga City Council’s Road Safety Officer, Legal Aid and NRMA. As a measure of the program success these partnerships will continue to deliver road safety programs for diverse communities after the completion of the Steering to Safety project.

Heaps Decent

Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga has continued to work in partnership with Heaps Decent to deliver the “No Borders in the Sky” program aimed at increasing the networks and confidence of young people while developing creative based skills, while celebrating the concept that there is far more that connects us than divides us

In August 2020 three young leaders from the Burmese, Afghan and Yazidi communities took part in a collaborative creative workshop highlighting the contribution of these young leaders in society. Participants made collage additions to their portraits by hand, exploring personal identity, resilience and culture, informed by their individual story and heritage.

The artworks created in this series were featured at the regional arts conference Artstate and has since been transformed into a permanent mural within the Wagga Wagga City Library.



Additional workshop sessions within this program were delivered in July, October and November in 2020 and April 2021 with young people exploring a range of art forms and developing skills in music production and recording, digital art including augmented and virtual reality, stop motion animation and traditional art mediums including drawing and painting.



Sporting Partnerships

The Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga partnered with the following organisations; Cricket NSW, Football NSW and Futsal Wagga and the Oasis Receptions Centre to deliver a range of sporting. The aim of the programs was to provide opportunities for young people to be engaged, develop skills have some fun, get active and make some new friends.

November 2020, we partnered with Cricket NSW and Red Hill Public School to deliver a Cricket skills development program. 29 young people participated in the program over a four-week period.



January 2021, we partnered with Football NSW and Futsal Wagga to host a come and try sports day that was attended by over 50 young people.



March 2021 a 5-week intensive learn to swim program was delivered to students at Red Hill Public School to increase student's confidence and independence in the water.



Celebrating Harmony through Cultural Performances

Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga has worked in partnership with a range of stakeholders to support artists and performers from within the ethno specific communities as a platform to promote harmony and celebrate cultural diversity.

This included working in partnership with the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre to host a large fundraising concert with musicians from the Burmese Community. This was the first time that members from a local refugee community had headlined a performance at Wagga's premier local theatre and the event was a huge success with 250 people attending the concert.



Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga has also supported local Yazidi performers in accessing a number of opportunities including headlining the Artstate Regional Arts Conference where his performance was live streamed internationally.





**MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WAGGA WAGGA INCORPORATED
ABN 86 406 307 065**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2021**

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WAGGA WAGGA INCORPORATED

ABN 86 406 307 065

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & cash equivalents	3	3,578,625	3,361,802
Trade & other receivables	4	38,201	108,511
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>3,616,826</u>	<u>3,470,314</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant & equipment	5	12,538	40,723
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>12,538</u>	<u>40,723</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>3,629,364</u>	<u>3,511,037</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade & other payables	6	25,006	37,201
Deferred revenue		200,000	50,000
Provisions	7	173,175	177,035
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>398,181</u>	<u>264,237</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>398,181</u>	<u>264,237</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>3,231,183</u>	<u>3,246,800</u>
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		3,231,183	3,246,800
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>3,231,183</u>	<u>3,246,800</u>

The Statement of Financial Position is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements.

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WAGGA WAGGA INCORPORATED
ABN 86 406 307 065

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash receipts in the course of operations		1,001,201	1,246,197
Cash payments in the course of operations		(799,808)	(1,246,126)
Interest received		15,429	31,792
Net cash provided by operating activities	8(ii)	216,822	31,863
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		216,822	31,863
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		3,361,802	3,329,939
Cash at the end of the financial year	8(i)	3,578,625	3,361,802

The Statement of Cash Flows is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements.

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WAGGA WAGGA INCORPORATED
ABN 86 406 307 065

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(c) Revenue Recognition (continued)

Program Funding

Grant funding is recognised as revenue under AASB 1058 when the following conditions are met:

- The entity obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution;
- It is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the entity; and
- The amount of the contribution can be measure reliably.

Grant revenue is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when it is controlled. When there are conditions attached to the grant revenue relating to the use of the grants for specific purposes or requiring repayment if the grant is unspent, it is recognised in the Statement of Financial Position as a liability until such condictions are met or services provided.

Interest

Revenue from interest is recognised on an accruals basis.

Donations and other Contributions

Income arising from the contribution of an asset (including cash) to the entity are recognised as revenue upon receipt.

(d) Plant and Equipment

All acquisitions of assets are recorded at the cost of acquisition, being the purchase consideration determined as at the date of acquisition, plus costs incidental to acquisition.

Depreciation

All furniture and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over a 3 year term.

Motor vehicles are depreciated on a straight-line basis over a 5 year term, reflecting the expected useful life of these assets.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the course of the lease period.

(e) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the Associations' liability for employee annual and long service leave benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at current nominal values plus any associated on-costs.

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WAGGA WAGGA INCORPORATED
ABN 86 406 307 065

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
NOTE 5 - PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
Property, plant & equipment - movement		
Balance at the beginning of the year	40,723	78,081
Depreciation	(28,185)	(37,358)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	12,538	40,723
NOTE 6 - TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES		
Trade creditors	15,660	13,140
GST payable	(3,136)	6,725
PAYG payable	12,482	17,336
	25,006	37,201
NOTE 7 - PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for annual leave	101,170	109,630
Provision for long service leave	72,005	67,405
	173,175	177,035

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WAGGA WAGGA INCORPORATED
ABN 86 406 307 065

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

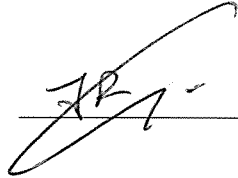
The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report complies with the reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and government funding providers.

In the opinion of the Committee the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga Incorporated as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga Incorporated 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:

Chairperson:



Committee Member:



Dated this 21st day of October 2021

Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The Committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Association's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Committees' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the Committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee 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. The Committee is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility

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 auditor's 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 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 the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

JOHN L BUSH & CAMPBELL

Chartered Accountants



David Rosetta

Partner

Wagga Wagga

21 October 2021

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF WAGGA WAGGA INCORPORATED

ABN 86 406 307 065

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grant funding - SET Client Services	403,135	377,560
Grant funding - Wagga Employment Initiative	100,000	199,068
Grant funding - Multicultural NSW	72,095	72,095
Grant funding - Peer Mentoring	-	159,946
Grant funding - Refugee Health Services	126,775	225,128
Other One-Off and Minor Recurrent Funding	58,658	38,058
Cashflow Boost	50,000	50,000
JobKeeper	105,000	90,000
Interest received	15,429	31,792
Donations	1,600	975
Sundry income	13,628	10,501
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	946,320	1,255,124
EXPENDITURE		
Advertising & promotion	-	2,663
Audit fees	6,600	6,500
Computer expenses	3,367	10,126
Contractors	-	1,859
Depreciation	28,183	37,358
Electricity & gas	605	1,880
Governance & corporate costs	1,189	825
Direct program costs	51,341	87,616
Insurances	8,924	10,657
Motor vehicle expenses	15,264	10,290
Office supplies	10,411	8,596
Rental expenses	83,278	96,206
Repairs & maintenance	-	606
Security / fire systems	-	362
Staff conferences & travel	-	1,807
Telephone/fax/internet	11,084	12,441
Translating & interpreting	13,881	16,661
Water & rates	7,907	6,377
Wages and other employee costs	570,191	712,199
Wages - movement in leave entitlements	80,725	31,054
Superannuation	61,589	68,952
Worker's compensation	7,398	19,854
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	961,937	1,144,891
Net surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	(15,617)	110,233





