



Mission Australia Victoria



Mission Australia is a community service organisation that has been transforming the lives of Australians in need for more than 150 years. Today our 550 community and employment services help more than 300,000 Australians a year to get back on their feet.

Our services strengthen families and children, empower youth, strive to solve homelessness and provide employment solutions.

In 2011 Mission Australia in Victoria focused on developing innovative and responsive services for young people in danger of falling through the cracks. With youth unemployment remaining stubbornly high in parts of the state, we tackled the "drop-out factor" to re-engage young people not "learning or earning".

Mission Australia did this through driver education programs, which helped Aboriginal youth and young people with low literacy levels to gain their driver's licence – a passport to employment in regional areas.

We also continued to develop social enterprises that provide training, real workplace experience and personal support to disadvantaged job seekers. Our Urban Renewal enterprise went from strength to strength, working with partners to reinvigorate communities and create local opportunities through landscaping and constructions projects.

Charcoal Lane, our social enterprise restaurant in Fitzroy, Melbourne, offering Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth the chance to build careers in hospitality, continued into its third year. In 2011 trainees and staff from this restaurant catered for and served at two Taste of Reconciliation events that brought Victorians from all walks of life together over a meal.

In 2011 our Early Learning Centres increasingly became community hubs, connecting families with services. Among them was our Aim'n High program to help young mums in Dandenong to continue their studies.

By continuing to work with government, business, volunteers and other community service organisations, we can create a fairer Victoria for all.

Transforming lives in Victoria

In 2011 Mission Australia strengthened families and children, empowered youth, strived to solve homelessness and provided employment solutions to Victorians through the following services:

PATHWAYS TO STRONG FAMILIES AND HEALTHY, HAPPY CHILDREN

Communities for Children (CfC):

We delivered CfC in Dandenong. This Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) initiative brings local organisations together to start children on a path to good physical and mental health as well as positive school experiences and community engagement. During the year we launched Learning Links at CfC in Dandenong, providing mentoring and coaching to early childhood workers to improve local service delivery.

Early Learning Services (ELS): During 2011 we provided high-quality childcare through eight Mission Australia ELS centres. Springvale South was also the first of seven ELS centres to receive a natural make-over thanks to a generous grant from The Abbott Foundation. The outdoor area of this centre was transformed into a discovery garden, complete with raised garden beds, picnic tables, bike track, sandpits and swings designed to connect children with nature. Cranbourne underwent a similar transformation later in 2011.

Aim'n High: Early in 2011 we launched the Aim'n High program, developed with Hallam Senior Secondary College and the South East Local Learning and Employment Network, and run from our Doveton ELS centre. This program enables teenage mothers to study VCE-level English and Human Development four days a week. It also provides parenting education to the mothers while caring for their children during school hours.

PATHWAYS THROUGH A SUCCESSFUL YOUTH

Arise Youth Mentoring Program: In 2010-11 Mission Australia commenced the Arise Youth Mentoring Program. Designed to support at-risk school students affected by the devastating 2009 bushfires, it was delivered by volunteer mentors.

Ignition: Mission Australia launched the Ignition website (maignition.com.au), which is designed to help young people with limited numeracy and literacy skills to gain their driver's licence, and therefore increase their chances of gaining employment.

L2P and Aboriginal Driver Education Program (ADEP):

We also operated the L2P ('L Plates to P Plates') program, which involved 62 volunteer mentors working with 65 learner drivers, and ADEP in Baimsdale. During the year our ADEP team helped to change the government identification process and policies for Aboriginal people without a birth registration. In September 2011 this program was recognised with a Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) Wurreker Award.

PATHWAYS AWAY FROM HOMELESSNESS

Catalyst Clemente: We celebrated when five students who had completed Catalyst Clemente, our education program run in partnership with the Australian Catholic University in Victoria, moved on to mainstream university studies. This free program assists people who have experienced significant barriers to education, including homelessness.

PATHWAYS FOR LIFE AND WORK-READY SKILLS

Greener Futures: In June 2011 we completed the largest household energy-saving retrofitting program in Australia. Funded by Jobsfund, over two years Greener Futures completed more than 1,500 energy-saving retrofits in low-income households in the Cities of Dandenong and Casey in south-east Melbourne. Over the life of the project, 84 long-term unemployed locals received six-month placements with Greener Futures. At the end of the financial year more than 80 per cent of participants had transitioned into permanent work and/or study.

Urban Renewal: We continued to operate Urban Renewal, our landscaping and light construction social enterprise that provides employment and training opportunities for young people through community development projects.

In 2011 Urban Renewal transformed an open space opposite the Dandenong Public Transport Hub into a Pop-up Park consisting of a sports field, community garden, orchard and barbecue area. Urban Renewal's first foray into commercial landscaping was delivered over six months and employed 23 trainees from disadvantaged backgrounds.

While working on the site, the participants gained a Certificate II Landscaping through Chisholm TAFE and MEGT. Other Urban Renewal projects throughout Melbourne included a 1km Plenty River Bike Path for the City of Banyule, the East Reservoir Community Garden for the City of Darebin and the Hastings Immediate Improvement Works to Office of Housing properties. During the year 83 per cent of Urban Renewal trainees transitioned into employment or training. This enterprise is a great example of our Community Services and Employment Solutions divisions working together to help people overcome barriers to employment.

PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT

Getting to Work: This program resulted in 22 highly disadvantaged young people from refugee communities receiving sustainable employment with local employers in Dandenong.

Building Links: In July 2010 we launched Building Links, which aimed to move 40 unemployed Victorian youth into traineeships with some of the state's biggest builders. The trainees spent a day per week at TAFE studying a Certificate I and II in General Construction or an allied trade. Building Links was a social enterprise developed under the Federal Government's Changing Places banner and formed part of the former Victorian Government Respect Agenda.

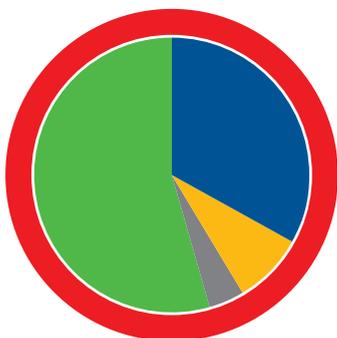


In 2011 Mission Australia Community Services delivered 24 services in Victoria, which supported 10,418 individuals and 85 families. Among them were three services specifically for Aboriginal Australians. We also operated eight Early Learning Services in areas of high disadvantage.

Pathways	Individuals assisted	Families assisted
Pathways to sustainable employment	5,289	25
Pathways to strong families and healthy, happy children	4,000	–
Pathways away from homelessness	19	–
Pathways through a successful youth	1,110	60
Total	10,418	85

In addition to the work completed by our Community Services division, seven Mission Australia Employment Solutions teams worked with 8,258 job seekers in Victoria, delivering the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' Job Services Australia, NEIS and ACCESS programs.

PERCENTAGE OF SERVICES BY PATHWAYS



■ EMPLOYMENT / WORK AND LIFE-READY SKILLS 33.3%
■ FAMILIES AND CHILDREN 8.3%
■ HOMELESSNESS 4.2%
■ YOUTH 54.2%

ONE OF MANY GOOD NEWS STORIES:

2011 was a stellar year for Marley Kennedy. Not only did she complete her traineeship at Charcoal Lane, gaining a Certificate III in Hospitality, but the young woman was also recognised for the dedication she had shown while working at our social enterprise restaurant.

She won the Apprenticeships Plus Monthly Apprentice/ Trainee Award for March and was later a finalist in the Koorie Student of the Year in the Victorian Training Awards for “outstanding achievement”, particularly during Charcoal Lane’s Taste of Reconciliation Lunch on Melbourne’s Sandridge Bridge. Marley topped off the year by winning the Employability Award at Mission Australia’s inaugural Social Enterprise Awards.

During 2011 Marley became something of a spokesperson for the Fitzroy restaurant, talking about her training experiences in local newspapers and on Aboriginal TV station NITV.

“I wanted to connect with the Indigenous side of it all, to be able to pass on my knowledge about our culture and food to others,” she said.

“Without the support of Charcoal Lane I wouldn’t have the same confidence that I do now. I’ve been able to meet some really great people who have inspired me to have careers just like them.

“I feel like I’m embracing a positive outlook. I have cousins up in Albury who look at me and see that if I can do it, they can do it.”

Since opening in July 2009, Charcoal Lane has served dishes to almost 30,000 diners and hosted more than 100 events, including the Taste of Reconciliation Dinner. Specialising in contemporary Australian cuisine, Charcoal Lane scored 14/20 in The Age’s prestigious *Good Food Guide 2011*.

Thank you

Mission Australia would like to thank the following for supporting our work in Victoria during the 2011 year:

- > Accenture Foundation
- > Accor
- > Bell Charitable Fund
- > Citi Australia
- > Drake International
- > Eureka Benevolent Fund
- > Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Trust
- > Future 2 Foundation
- > Jayco and HM Headers
- > Jones Family Foundation
- > MaxiTRANS
- > Medibank Private Community Fund
- > Middletons
- > Places Victoria
- > Qantas Foundation
- > Rabo Direct Melbourne Rebels
- > Red Rocketship Foundation
- > Spotlight
- > Sugar Australia
- > TAC
- > The Abbott Foundation
- > The Alfred Felton Bequest (ANZ Trustees)
- > The Bennelong Foundation
- > The Collie Foundation (ANZ Trustees)
- > The Foundation of Graduates in Early Childhood Studies
- > The Marian and E H Flack Trust
- > The William Buckland Foundation (ANZ Trustees)
- > Victoria Racing Club
- > Zoos Victoria

Government

- > Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development
- > VicRoads
- > Department of Human Services
- > Department of Planning and Community Development
- > Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- > Sustainability Victoria
- > National Green Jobs Corps partners:
 - City of Greater Shepparton
 - Maroondah City Council
 - Parks Vic, Shepparton
 - Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

If your business or organisation would like to support Mission Australia's work in Victoria, please contact our Relational Fundraising team on (03) 8615 2200

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