## Annual Report 2017-18 Silver Jubilee Edition





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strategic plan 2018-21



#### **OUR VISION**

#### EMPOWERING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE INCLUSION IN A UNIFIED AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY.

#### **OUR VALUES**

#### DIVERSITY RESPECT EMPOWERMENT INTEGRITY INCLUSION RESILIENCE

#### **OUR OBJECTIVES**



#### Ensure our services meet the holistic needs of our clients and community.

Codesign services with our clients and community to meet their needs and expectations. Increase access and reach of services for our clients and community. Ensure empowerment and protection of human rights of our clients.



#### Develop progressive programs building on the existing skills and knowledge.

Enhance the quality and extent of the services through partnership. Share our expertise with other services to increase their understanding of the needs of our clients. Progress Diverse Care<sup>™</sup> to meet emerging needs in the community.



## Develop a sustainable organisation that is effective and efficient.

Ensure all the services delivered are researched, planned, implemented and evaluated. Develop appropriate infrastructure to support the organisation. Develop a comprehensive funding and financial sustainability framework.



## Undertake continuous innovation and quality improvement.

Develop skills, knowledge and resources to build on the capacity of SMRC and its people. Develop evidence-based practice focusing on the community needs.

Ensure robust organisational structure and progressive operational processes.

#### message from the chairperson



#### Mr Brian Oates, JP CHAIRPERSON, CEO

2018 has been our Silver Jubilee Year.
 We engaged the community in some great, innovative events: a very well-attended Open Day in February, and International Women's Day in March. The VMC used the SMRC office to announce a significant funding initiative and to hold a regional consultation forum.

Involving broad consultation, SMRC developed a 3-year strategic plan to complement our vision and values of empowerment, resilience, respect, diversity, integrity and inclusion, to match our new culture. Our 4 strategic objectives focus on meeting clients' needs, innovation, sustainability and continuous improvement. They have become the drivers in the minds of the staff and Board (we printed them as place mats for our meetings!).

Financially we have travelled well with a modest surplus this year, after making much-needed investments in assets and infrastructure required to improve our services and keep us focused on meeting our clients' needs. This is my final Chairman's report as we have agreed to a new Constitution to ensure that opportunities exist for new leaders. I am pleased to have reintroduced our Board mentoring program and look forward to the Board growing in expertise. I have enjoyed my 20 years with the SMRC. It is always a pleasure to leave a place in a muchimproved state.

I thank fellow Board members who helped revitalise this organisation, SMRC members who trusted and supported us in those hard-fought elections, all volunteers who are truly valued, the management and staff, the hard-working and dedicated people so passionate about our services, the CGD councillors and staff, and the Government and VMC for their support. Many thanks also to all our clients, the most important people in the SMRC.

We can all look forward confidently to the SMRC continuing to provide vital services and support to vulnerable people who join us in Australia's most successful multicultural municipality.

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but building the new."

Looking back to July 2017, I have to say this is the most improved period I have seen in my 20 years with SMRC, and it was certainly a turning point.

The Board's decision to appoint an interim manager, crisis accountant and external auditor, and start staff training were all good initiatives. The 2016/17 financial result was the best for many years. We then worked on the organisation's first comprehensive budget for the financial year. The Board refocused on policy development, a new strategic plan, and developed a priority action list. We were in a great place to move forward with a new management team and culture.

It's said, "If you want to change a culture, hire a good new CEO." Ramesh Kumar was born for this job and we were so pleased to welcome him here. The organisation's new executive team welcomed Caroline Radowski as Client Services Director, Rakesh Sharma as Corporate Services Director, and Sue Brown as Business Improvement and Communications Manager. Bill Collopy was promoted as General Manager of Social Enterprises, and Shree Vijayan joined recently as Finance Controller.

## a reflection from our CEO



Ramesh Kumar, CEO

This resulted in 68 key ideas. It is quite satisfying to report that 82% of those ideas have either been implemented or are progressing towards completion.

#### 2018 has been a year of significant milestones that are worth celebrating.

We commemorated our Silver Jubilee Year through numerous events including Open Day (Feb), International Women's Day (Mar), National Youth Week (Apr), National Volunteer Week (May), Refugee Week (Jun), Unity in Diversity Festival (Oct), and the HIPPY graduation yet to come (Dec). I wish to thank our staff, community and stakeholders for their support and enthusiastic involvement.

We grew our community links through a Youth Advisory Group (YAG), Consumer Advisory Group (CAG), the Seniors Leadership Forum, and a reinvigorated South East Regional Settlement Planning Committee. The aims are to further strengthen collaboration amongst the diverse range of agencies, to respond to current and emerging needs in the community, and to ensure that SMRC continues to deliver appropriate services. Internally, staff embraced the alignment of our teams with our future service focus: Social Participation, Economic Participation and Health and Wellbeing. This led to more concentrated efforts and excellent performance in all areas, with more social support programs (such as Allied Health services including Podiatry and the LIFE! program), a more responsive Settlement Access and Intake service, and the establishment of 3 new social enterprise initiatives (Dandy Makers Market, Cooking Collective and The Hive). Our volunteer coordination efforts doubled in size with the Palliative Care program, and we saw a potential expansion of Diverse Care<sup>™</sup> into other metropolitan Melbourne areas.

We are enormously grateful for the feedback and support from our stakeholders about our progressive services and positive experiences. This has been reflected in numerous funding opportunities from both federal and state governments, enabling SMRC to look forward towards a more sustainable future focused on **making stronger communities**.

"Every person you meet has a lesson to teach, a story to tell and a dream to reach."

#### This reflection encapsulates SMRC's reason for being and why celebrating twenty-five years of making stronger communities is so significant.

SMRC's vision of empowering our diverse communities, to ensure inclusion in a unified Australian society, has driven our team to excel in the delivery of all programs (as seen in our outcomes on p. 14). This has happened in the midst of enormous surrounding change.

#### Change is always a challenge but it can also be a positive experience.

With a new management team on board, we took the staff on a journey of Positive Change that involved a consultative and empowerment approach, to ensure that progressive developments within the organisation were proactive and needs based.

This approach was extended to our clients, volunteers and external stakeholders as we developed our 3-year strategic plan that has become our blueprint for SMRC's future direction. We asked our staff to dream about how they would like to see SMRC develop into the future.

### our staff

At SMRC our staff are pivotal to what we do and how our services are delivered. It is their expertise, passion and drive to provide the best outcomes for our clients that makes SMRC an employer of choice. We wish to acknowledge their tireless efforts toward making stronger communities.





SMRC launched to staff the Wisdom & Wellness Program aimed to empower our team with capacity to improve their performance, knowledge to act with wisdom and an opportunity to focus on their own wellbeing.

Several training workshops were conducted in 2018 including:

Compliance and OHS Fire Warden and Emergency First Aid Child Safe

Capacity Building Client Service Training Human Rights Seminar Assessing clients for NDIS

Wellness Biggest Morning Tea Bowel Cancer Awareness Tai Chi Sleep Awareness Diabetes Education (LIFE!) Top 8 Challenge

#### our volunteers

SMRC wishes to acknowledge and thank our 151 volunteers who tirelessly assist our teams to deliver the numerous services to the community. We are grateful for the generous contribution of our volunteers and the impact they have made on the lives of our clients, and we thank them very much!

> "The key to our success rests in people like you, who embody the spirit of giving, and by all the things you do."



## about SMRC

Known for our understanding of diverse cultural groups and our advocacy to protect their human rights in Australia, SMRC has been an instrumental player in the settlement of newly arrived refugees and continued integration services to migrants through social participation, economic development and health and wellbeing programs.

These innovative programs along with our social enterprise initiatives such as Diverse Care<sup>™</sup>, are not only recognised in the sector but have enabled SMRC to be a sustainable organisation for over 25 years.



### our services delivery framework

Our service delivery takes on a life course approach, specifically ensuring the inclusion of more vulnerable people and groups such as women, people with different abilities, youth and elderly. We aim to provide services for people at every stage in life.

This framework, adapted from the ecological model of social determinants of health, show our core outcomes for clients in the red circle and our impact on the community as a whole in the outer circle.



### social participation

Information and Referral Strategic Parternships School Holiday Program Family Support (VT Uniting) Homework Support Program Co-location for Ethnospecific Organisations

Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY)



## economic participation

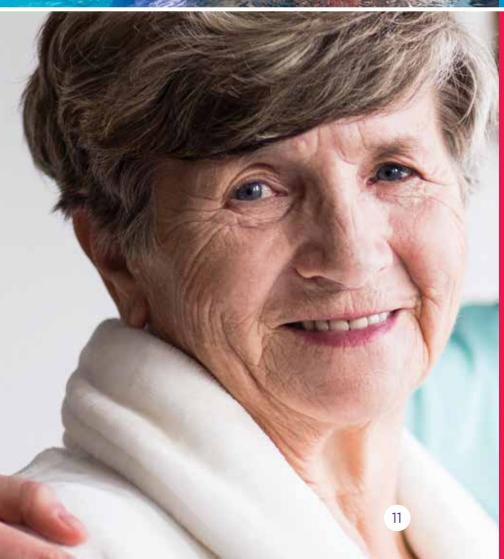
The Learning Space Driver Education Education and Employm Assistance

Micro Enterprise

Volunteer Coordination







## health & wellbeing

Support for Carers Program Palliative Care Support Life! Program Centre-based Respite Centre-based and Outing Program Friendly Visiting Program Access and Support Community Visitors Scheme Social Support and Seniors Access Equality Groups Seniors Clubs and Ethno-specific Aged Care Organisational Support Podiatry Positive Aging Programs Access, Equity and Diversity Casey Men's Group

## SMRC social enterprises

Diverse Care™ Dandy Makers Market Cooking Collective The Hive

SMRC has supported my sister and me as we adapt to a new life, a new school, new friends and the enormity of opportunities and challenges that living in Australia brings. Shakila and Baran Mohammadi.



**Hippy** opened our world and imagination. It gave me the excuse to turn off the TV, bond with my child while developing her skills to be school ready. I loved it so much that I became a tutor for other parents.

Indira /Ameli<u>a.</u>



I treasure my time enabling our future leaders to see that opportunities from hard work and determination put in today open the doors for tomorrow.

Ali, homework support coordinator.

**The Learning Space** has helped me with my English, meet new friends and teach me skills that I am putting into new business opportunities.

Hussein, Artist, Learn and Earn graduate and new Dandy Makers Market stallholder.

## what we do

My family is feeling settled now that I have gained employment. Thanks to SMRC for helping me get an understanding what my employer expects of me.

Azzat, employer recruitment program recipient.

SMRC helped me gain the confidence to obtain my drivers licence. Now I have my L plates and have met friends who understand this achievement, I cannot wait to get my licence. *Fatima, On The Road recipient.* 

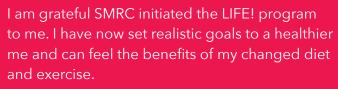
6

P

1110

111

LPIM



Helena, Life! participant.

## SMRC outcomes

A snap shot of just some of our organisation's successes over the past 12 months:



being assisted by Diverse Care<sup>™</sup>

social participation 2,133

access and intake service

**on the road** participants who gained their Learners

on the road participants who gained their Licence

Students living here less than 5 years receiving homework support

9

Families provided with intensive family support



# health & wellbeing 644,218 Service hours delivered to our

26 Social Support Groups

Service hours provided to help clients at home stay connected



Carer support participants receiving

2,508 respite hours

Since March 2018, *LIFE!* Program delivered

30 groups to 300

participants

participation 10.359

ecomomic

Service hours worked by our 151 13 volunteers over programs

Program volunteers who speak 35 languages

The Learning Space averages over

participants per week gaining pathways to the 3 E's - English, Education and Employment



**Positive Changes** was an internal campaign to enable staff to embrace the new management and new way of thinking about how SMRC conducts business. It encouraged reflection and conviction as well as embracing a new outlook and fresh way of looking at progressive processes and change. It involved updated corporate branding through to new organisational structures.

Our year of positive change has brought our team closer, and our strengthened desire to make stronger communities through innovative services is more in tune with our clients' needs.



**The Dream Space** enabled staff and SMRC stakeholders to have an opportunity to provide an insight into where they felt SMRC should focus attention and pathways to follow. Resulting in a list of 68 actions, SMRC has successfully fulfilled 82% of the dreams turning them into reality. Dreams such as developing new social enterprises including Dandy Makers Market, the Cooking Collective and The Hive; a staff wellness & professional development program and a new website just to name a few. SMRC continues to encourage feedback to ensure our services meet and exceed the needs of our clients.



## our jubilee year

**International Women's Day** celebrated the strong women in our community and the important role women play in our society. Attended by over 150 people, the event was put together by SMRC staff who relished the opportunity and responsibility to host such an impactful function. 'It's not just the number of guests; the plethora of agencies they represented speaks volumes of the diversity of audience that our event attracted. It's another great example of how our organisation is so connected and appreciated by our stakeholders', said Ramesh Kumar, SMRC CEO.



silver jubilee 1993 - 2018

**Harmony Day 2018** was a time to reflect and bond together. To symbolise the diversity of the organisation and the unification of our roles, our tree of life was painted by Rosina using the handprints of all the staff. This Tree of Life proudly hangs in our office corridor to remind us all that we make a great TEAM.



**Open Day 2018** provided the opportunity to introduce a new-look management team to SMRC stakeholders and the local community. The event was attended by over 120 members of the local community. Attendees engaged in a Q&A session with settlement experts, heard personal stories from SMRC clients and participated in workshops that showcase key services available at SMRC.

## our jubilee year

SMRC held a 'Big Day Out' to Olinda for **National Volunteer Week** as our way to thank our volunteers for their invaluable support and tireless passion to assist our clients to feel welcomed and settled. SMRC wishes to recognise our 151 volunteer workforce as the cornerstone to SMRC's program successes.



silver jubilee 1993 - 2018

**National Youth Week** was recognised by some of our inspiring students attending our Homework Support Program. Having formed some great friendships, this group planned, designed and performed in their own 'young & free' runway show that featured the beauty and the challenges of multiculturalism in Australia.



Looking after someone else can be very demanding and isolating. That is why our **Carers Support Program** provides care and some time out with peers for the carers. A visit to a wild life sanctuary at Phillip Island was one of many fun activities held in the year to ensure social, physical and emotional support of the carers themselves.





**One World Festival** continued the celebration of Refugee Week with a youth sport program attended by over 400 participants who enjoyed basketball, badminton and a soccer tournament at a local leisure centre. In its 7th year, the event continues to grow as it encourages cross cultural awareness through food, music and, of course, sport.





Youth Arts and Writing Prize provided an opportunity for our younger members of the community to reflect artistically the role of multiculturalism in our society as part of Refugee Week. Receiving nearly 100 entries, stories to inspire and artwork reflecting true emotion resonated with the Art Judges (Barat Ali Batoor and Rosina Lazzaro) and Literacy Judges (Kate Forster and Fleur Ferris).

## our jubilee year

#### silver jubilee 1993 - 2018

**Seniors Week** is a time to celebrate aging positively and encouraging social integration. At SMRC we offer over 26 different social support groups, including social gatherings celebrating our diverse cultures through dance and food.



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**SMRC staff** work hard to ensure our clients feel empowered and included in their community. So the end of the year is a great time to gather together and celebrate both the season and our achievements.





Over two years, HIPPY children work through weekly or fortnightly packs of play-based, educational activities with their parents and family. They are encouraged to ask questions and try new things, developing their confidence and passion for learning, which enables schoolreadiness. **Graduation Day** is a proud day for everyone involved, including parents who are so impressed with the program, they become tutors!



**RU OK? Day** is our day of action dedicated to reminding everyone that any day is OK to ask, "Are you ok?" and support those struggling with life's ups and downs.



**Citizenship** for our clients is an important step in a long journey to settlement in a new country. SMRC is proud to host classes for our clients to become citizen ready.

#### our new look

SMRC underwent a number of positive changes throughout 2018 including a new look and feel to our corporate image.

We began to tell our story using the faces of SMRC as they reflected our vision and illustrated the diversity of our clients' journey.

We launched a new website, produced new marketing material, reference handbooks, program flyers, used innovative ways to tell our message through promotional product marketing and invested in some building signage at our HQ in Dandenong.





Care workers who speak your language











#### our locations

SMRC expanded our service access points across the South East. This expansion enabled SMRC to transfer valuable service programs to the communities that need them most. We thank the City of Greater Dandenong, City of Casey and Shire of Cardinia for their support.



SMRC, Dandenong 39 Clow St, Dandenong VIC 3175
 SMRC, Narre Warren 48 Webb St, Narre Warren VIC 3805
 Selandra Rise Community Hub 7/9 Selandra Blvd, Clyde North VIC 3978
 Lynbrook Community Centre 2 Harris St, Lynbrook VIC 3975
 Living & Learning Pakenham Inc. 6B Henry Street Pakenham 3810

#### governance and leadership

SMRC is governed by a Board of Directors who are volunteers from local communities and local agencies. The Board provides governance and sets strategic directions for the organisation.



Mr Brian Oates (JP) (MAICD) CHAIRPERSON



Mr Pravin Ramdany (MA Commerce (Professional Accounting), BA (Admin (Acct)), MAICD, MIPA, LCC (UK), IAB (UK), Grad Dip Theo.) DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON



Ms Helen Horvath TREASURER



Ms Jing Jing Wang (B Comm/Arts, MBA) ASSISTANT TREASURER



Ms Lynette Keleher (GAICD) SECRETARY



Mr Malik Atif Mahmood (MAICD) ASSISTANT SECRETARY



Mr Wicki Wickiramasingham (JP) (CMC) ELECTED BOARD MEMBER



Mr Ismail Demiri (JP) ELECTED BOARD MEMBER



Mr Hafez Abdul Wahab ELECTED BOARD MEMBER



Ms Alice Lau (LLB, BA, MAICD) APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER



Mr Abdullahi (Aden) Ibrahim APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER

#### management team

SMRC is proud to have such a skilled and dedicated Management Team who provide the operational leadership for our day-to-day services.

We wish to acknowledge their guidance in delivering our vision and nurturing a culture that reflects our values in all aspects of our work.



Ramesh Kumar CEO



Caroline Radowski DIRECTOR, CLIENT SERVICES



Bill Collopy GENERAL MANAGER, SOCIAL ENTERPRISES



Sylvia Wan MANAGER, HEALTH & WELLBEING



Wendy Fox MANAGER, SOCIAL PARTICIPATION



Sharon Smith MANAGER, ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION



Shree Vijayan FINANCIAL CONTROLLER



Cynthia Thomas HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR



Susan Brown MANAGER, COMMUNICATIONS AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT



Dermot Gleeson MANAGER, ICT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

#### supporters and partners

#### We thank the following government funding bodies for their continued support of the SMRC:

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Department of Health

Department of Social Services

Department of Health and Human Services

#### We thank the following organisations and individuals who generously contributed to the SMRC:

Amazon Australia Azta Group Badminton Victoria Berwick District Woodworkers Club Inc. Bunnings Dandenong Bunzl Outsourcing Services Cansons Centre for Multicultural Youth Crown Posture Bedding DLA Piper Australia Hesta Super Julian Hill MP (Member for Bruce) Kate Forster Malik Atif Mahmood Marmara Meats Officeworks Dandenong South Precision Light & Air Pty Ltd United Nations Assoc. of Australia (Victoria) VT Uniting Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust

#### We thank the following organisations and individuals who have partnered and supported the SMRC: Advocacy for Oromia Doveton College Outlook Gardens Aged Care

Advocacy for Oromia Afri Auscare Inc Ali Rahimi's Taekwondo Centre Alkira Secondary College Amazon Australia AMES Australia Anglicare Arcare Association of Hazaras in Victoria Australian Filipino Community Services Australian Hazara Women's Friendship Network Australian Red Cross Australian Tax Office Baladi Bakery Baptist Church Dandenong Barat Ali Batoor Benetas Home Care Berwick Calvary Community Care Berwick Fields Primary School Better Living Homecare Brotherhood of St Laurence Bunnings Dandenong South Bupa Aged Care Cambodian Association of Victoria Cambodian Australian Christian Church Cambodian Community Welfare Centre Cardinia U3A CatholicCare Cardinia-Casey Community Health Carers of Africa Casey Cardinia Libraries Casey Multi-Faith Network Casey North Community Information and Support Service Centre for Multicultural Youth Centrelink CGD Families and Children Services Child Wise Chisholm Institute City of Cardinia City of Casey City of Greater Dandenong City of Kingston CN Design & Print CommUnity Plus Community Support Options - Monash Health Consumer Affairs Victoria Coptic Village Hostel Council of the Ageing (COTA) Cranbourne Carlisle Primary School Dandenong High School Dandenong Library Dandenong Market Dandenong Neighbourhood House Dandenong Polish-Australian Seventh-day Adventist Church Dandenong Primary School Dandenong South Kindergarten Dandenong South Primary School Dandenong West Primary School Daughters of Jerusalem Department of Health Department of Justice Department of Social Services DHS/Child Protection Diabetes Victoria

Doveton Neighbourhood Learning Centre EACH Economic Development Jobs Transport and Resources Enliven **ERMHA Eastern Region** Estia Health Aged Care - Keysborough Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria Family Life Fatemiya Cultural Centre Federation of South Sudanese in Victoria Fitness Worx Fitzroy Legal Services Football Federation Victoria - Futsal referees Foundation House Frankston City Council Gamblers Help Southern Genesis Dandenong Girl Guides Victoria Good Shepherd Hampton Park Community House Hampton Park Secondary College Hepatitis Vic Holmesglen Indonesian Womens Friendship Network Jesuit Community College Julian Hill (Member for Bruce) Kingston Aged Care Service (KACAS) Knox City Council Koo Wee Rup Regional Health КРМĞ Leader Community Newspapers Group Life Saving Victoria Lions Club Mulgrave Living & Learning Pakenham Lyndhurst Secondary College Maurice Blackburn Solicitors Maya Dance Group Mayibuye mecwacare Melbourne Artists for Asylum Seekers Melbourne City Football Club Melbourne University Melbourne Victory Mental Health Association Mesag Association Migrant Information Centre Mitlassan Photography Monash Health Monash Refugee Health Clinic Mount Eliza Aged Care Service (MEACAS) Mount Eliza Centre MS Australia Myuna Farm Narre Warren Baptist Church Nasir Community Association Nirodah Noble Park English Language School Noble Park Primary School Noble Park Secondary College OASIS Office Works Dandenong South Omid Cultural Association OROMO community in Melbourne

Outlook Gardens Aged Care Outlook (Vic) Inc. Palliative Care South East Parks Victoria Payam Dari Community School Planett Pty Ltd. Prahran Mission Precision Light & Air Pty Ltd. Qurban Ali - Graphic Design RACV Insurance Refugee Council of Australia RMIT Ruscare Ltd SCOA SEEK Limited Company SELLEN Sheriff's Office Victoria Shifting the Game Shire of Cardinia Soccer World Social Sports South East Badminton Association South East Community Links South East Melbourne Primary Health Network South East Volunteers South Eastern Region Melbourne Oromo Community Association in Victoria, Australia (SERMOCAVA) South Sudanese Equatorian Association Sports Staff One Springers Leisure Centre, Keysborough Springvale Indo-Chinese Mutual Assistance Association Springvale Rise Primary School St Anthony's Primary, St Francis Xavier College, Noble Park Star Community - Star News Group Tai Kwan Do Association Teams 11 The 4Cs TLC Aged Care Tzuchi Melbourne UNHCR Union of Greater Upper Nile States Uniting Age Well Uniting (Komac program) Uniting Connections VicRoads VAAN (Victorian Afghan Associations Network) Ventana Hispana VicRoads Victoria Police Victorian Afghan Association Network Victorian Arabic Social Services Victorian Government Victorian Multicultural Commission Villa Maria Catholic Homes Volleyball Victoria WAYSS White Ribbon Australia Windermere Wintringham Specialist Aged Care Women's Health in the South East (WHISE) Yarram Oaks Primary School Youthlinks YMCA



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