



# DIVRS

Darebin Information,  
Volunteer & Resource Service



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



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# OUR VISION

A **THRIVING AND CONNECTED** DAREBIN COMMUNITY

# OUR MISSION

**WE CONNECT PEOPLE TO OPPORTUNITY,  
COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT**

We reduce financial stress and social isolation.  
We increase access to community information and build capability.  
We promote health and wellbeing, inclusion and sustainability.

# OUR PURPOSE

Through free programs and services, DIVRS provides:

- Resources and support to Darebin residents on no or low income or in financial stress. Our aim is to work with them to strengthen their financial independence, encourage self-reliance and increase capability.
- Programs and services that advance the education and skills development of Darebin residents.
- A volunteer service that promotes social inclusion and strong networks creating opportunities for participation in the City of Darebin.
- Local capabilities and knowledge to address disadvantage and sustainability, contributing to the development of social policies and services that impact on the residents of our community.





# OUR VALUES

## ADAPTIVE

We adapt when we need to by building on our strengths and knowledge



## RESPECT

We recognise and value each other, people's choices and the contributions everyone makes



## COLLABORATIVE

We work with all people and organisations to achieve shared goals



## FEARLESS

We are bold, unafraid to take risks, active and courageous



## SOCIAL EQUITY

We believe in sharing resources



# OUR SDG

What we do contributes to these Sustainable Development Goals

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



## OUR IMPACT IN 2021-22



17,483 volunteer and student hours of service equating to over \$716,000 (at \$41 per hour).



Over 1,300 households supported



Over 5,700 conversations providing information, support and advocacy



62 no interest loans approved



\$361,731 of direct support



Rescued just over 20,000kg of fresh produce that would otherwise go to landfill



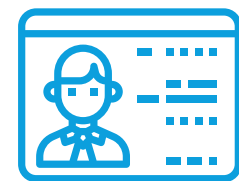
Almost 10,000 pantry parcels, fresh food bags and outreach food parcels packed and shared and 713 food vouchers provided



2,489kg of fresh produce harvested or donated



1,047 food deliveries to people with accessibility needs or isolating



Helped 15 people get their licence



1,042 hours of driving experience for young people



40 community garden sessions, 3 DIVRS garden excursions and 4 urban food workshops

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

2021-22 has been a year of consolidation, building on the renewal process that was undertaken the previous year when we revised our Constitution, Charter and policies and in the second half of 2021 developed our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. The first year of the Strategic Plan has been successfully implemented and DIVRS continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of our community here in Darebin. Changes to program delivery that were introduced during the COVID pandemic have enabled the organisation to be more agile and adaptable. This has resulted in an operating model that is in a stronger position to withstand future risks and challenges.

This year we have focused on building the profile of DIVRS by broadening our engagement in the community and we have begun a journey to transform DIVRS into an organisation that focuses on empowering our community to thrive, strengthen financial independence and have the skills, knowledge and motivation to act. We have developed a Theory of Change and in 2022-23 we will engage people in shaping a Community Development Framework.

As the organisation matures, we will develop evidenced based systems that measure the real social impact of our programs.

The organisation is in a very strong financial situation which gives DIVRS the ability to increase its capacity to meet the growing demand for services. However, we continue to find the lack of space a major barrier to reaching our full potential and we continue to work with Darebin Council to find suitable new premises. Our financial reserves will contribute to the cost of asset replacement, the fit-out of any potential new premises and employing more staff to deliver services and programs.

The success of the organisation is due to the hard work, commitment and dedication of the staff and volunteers at DIVRS and the leadership of our Executive Officer, Christina DiPierdomenico. Thanks go to Christina and the DIVRS team for an outstanding effort.

My thanks also go to my fellow Committee of Governance members for their support and their contribution to the important role of governance. Each member brings a unique set of complementary skills that strengthens the performance of the Committee. We continue to build our knowledge and skills and will be introducing an evaluation framework in 2023 to ensure our decision making is timely and effective.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the DIVRS Association, Darebin Council, Federal MP Ged Kearney and State MP Kat Theophanous as well as the businesses and other organisations that have supported and worked with DIVRS to achieve our vision of building a thriving and connected community in Darebin. We are looking forward to working with you in 2022-23.

**Anna Morgan**  
**Chairperson**



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It's always a joy to be in the welcoming and energetic hub that is DIVRS. This year we've been bringing our ideas to life in line with our vision for a thriving and connected Darebin community.

We piloted new projects like seeding schools and explored barriers to participation in our L2P Program for learners and volunteers. We developed the volunteer financial assistance and capability team to provide more comprehensive support for people in financial stress. We extended our outreach programs to new locations in placed-based areas of need. We increased our Urban Food growing space so we can grow and share more fresh leafy greens with people. We began new partnerships and strengthened existing ones. And we started a three and half year community development project working with public housing residents in East Preston and East Reservoir.

We've been out and about in the community at local festivals, picnics and open days. We bring seedlings and information to share and love the community feeling in gathering.

Through our strategic planning we refreshed our mission and values, reflecting our strengths-based, collaborative approach. Feedback obtained through our planning is that DIVRS's strengths include care and compassion, responsiveness, adaptability, passion, inclusivity, our wonderful volunteers and making positive change with the community.

We articulated our Theory of Change which shows at a high level how we do what we do and the outcomes and impact we want to see in the world: a connected, inclusive community where people and planet thrive. The foundations that guide everything we do are:

- Asset Based Community Development - We start with what's strong rather than what's wrong.
- The Global Goals - What we do contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Person Centered - We work with the whole person and meet them where they are at.
- Power of Volunteerism - We're about relationships and contributions.

Our volunteers and students donated 17,483 hours of their time, skill and expertise, a 70% increase on the previous year. We had more than 200 people volunteering across the year. Through doing so, we've been able to connect people in Darebin in financial stress or impacted by systemic exclusion or disadvantage to opportunity, community and support.

- Worked with over 1,300 households providing more than 17,000 instances of support (material aid, food, advocacy, information, referrals, financial and bill help and more). This is a 21% increase on the previous year.
- Reached over 13,500 individuals (non-unique) in the 12 months across more than 5,700 emergency relief and community support visits.
- Packed and shared almost 10,000 pantry parcels, fresh food bags and outreach food parcels. Delivered over 1,000 food parcels to people isolating or with accessibility needs.
- With flexibility and adaptability, we were able to stay open and provide food and connection for people in our community during the 2021 lockdown in the second half of the year.
- Grew, harvested and had donated 2.5 times the produce through our Urban Food Program compared to the previous year. This was almost 2,500kg that supplied an extra 11% of fresh, nutritious, organic local produce for food relief.
- Propagated more than 6,000 seedlings for our community resource gardens and to share with schools and locals at community events.
- Over 1,000 hours of supervised driving and 15 licences in the L2P Program.
- And much more!

We refreshed our website, working with a volunteer to update the content to connect with the people who use our site. And we gave it a facelift to be vibrant and engaging. We also updated our flyers and posters.

As always, we're grateful for the support and partnership of so many in the Darebin community; individuals, community organisations, businesses, government and education providers. It's how we work together that has resonance and impact.

To our volunteers, students, staff and committee members. Thank you for your commitment, energy, enthusiasm and kindness, for being bold and innovating where there have been challenges, for sharing your insights and creativity and ensuring DIVRS is able to serve our community now and into the future.

**Christina DiPierdomenico**  
Executive Officer



# OUR TEAM

**We acknowledge everyone who has volunteered with, been on placement or worked at DIVRS over the year. Thank you!**

Alessandro Guerra	Cathy Arter	Georgia Perisanidis	Jon Cina	Matias Torres	Robyn McLachlan
Akiko Saito	Catlin Rohr	Giulia Holland	Josh Edelman	Mayen Pane	Roger Sparvell
Alana Stiles	Charlene Trestrail	Glen Newman	Josie Podesta	Meg Robinson	Ruben Stoney
Alastair Rice	Cheryl Davies	Greg Ward	Joy Banerji	Michael Horacek	Safiyyah Wazeer
Alex Matthews-Peat	Chloe Connelly	Gus Abbou-Issa	Julia Lopilato	Michael Richey	Sally Parsons
Alex Trethewey	Chris Slatter	Hannah Bolton	Junko Ito	Michael Sara	Sally Jungwirth
Alfred Ye	Chris Stephen	Hannah O'Connell	Justine Rowe	Michaela Bourke	Sam Ferraro
Alison Pomroy	Christine Banks	Hans Brian Ramsy	Kamalesh Raeannon	Michelle Flood	Sam Johnson
Amanda Hiorth	Christopher Long	Haylee Earl	Kari Matthews	Mikayla Lane	Sam Zamanian
Amanda Ngo	Claire Diprose	Haylee McCormick	Kate Hume	Mithun Eqbal	Samm Elmes
Amrita Chandra	Clare Grant	Heather Robinson	kathryn McKenzie	Monique Lemon	Sarah Ball
Anastasia Gonis	Claudia Grinzi	Helen Bloustein	Kevin Vaezi	Nancy Mills	Sarah Cowell
Andrew Dallafore	Colleen Moses	Helen King	Kiara Hurst	Nathacha Subero	Sarah Nesbitt
Angela Moran	Collette Parker	Holly Ansell	Kim Cadigan	Neha Nagarkar	Scarlett Curnuck
Angie Iizeth Caicedo	Consuelo Quevedo	Honora Crosbie	Kim Ng	Neil Benham	Simon Jane
Angus Nevein	Corinne Davis	Hudson Pearce	Kiri Malarski	Nicola Loyer	Simon Le Page
Angus Price	Craig West	Isabelle Chabaud	Kristyn Keall	Nicole Imberger	Sophia Lopilato
Anjie Christodoulou	Danielle Belleville	Jacinta Firman	Lachlan Strong	Niren Goviden	Sophie Cubit-Jones
Ann Eller	David Hayes	Jacob Mullins	Laura Nix	Nour Kawji	Stacey Clarke
Anthony Huber	Dawn Butcher	Jake Duyvestyn	Laurie Eaton	Octavia Nakos	Stella Bazio
Anthony Tsui	Dawn Lowery	James Kanggara	Lee Templar	Paul Daly	Stephanie Brush
Arras Quang	Eddie Edmonds	Jan Washfold	Lillian Smith	Becky Feng	Stephanie Lam
Ashleigh Herbert	Edwina Landale	Jane Caruana	Lindy Stirling	Priyani Madan	Stuart Brennan-Smith
Atiq Maner	Eleanor Guerra	Jay Aggarwal	Lisa French	Priyantha Wirasekara	Sue Humphies
Bashirah Basri	Elisa Whittaker	Jay Blair	Liz Fitzgerald	Prue Evans	Tanya Brown
Ben Schuetz	Ella Gleeson	Jaylene Quiaonza	Luciana Jaldin	Rachael Sinclair	Tatsuya Tomizawa
Benjamin Hooper	Ellie Watts	Jean James	Lucy Walker	Rachel Carlisle	Thanh Huynh
Bernie Hartley	Eloise Young	Jess Hooper	Ly Le	Rebecca Paige	Thomas Olejniczak
Brett Scapin	Erica Clarke	Jessica Ridout	Lyn Campbell	Renee Stevens	Tracey Carrol
Brian Ramsamy	Erin Lewis	Jim Kirkpatrick	Lynette Mackenzie	Rhona Radan	Tugba Bulut
Bridget Kuch	Faye Velluci	Joanne Lee	Malcolm Thomas	Rhonda Barson	Urmila Ravikumar
Cam Geeves	Fiona Crockett	Jodi Page	Manuel Goncalves	Rhonda Otto	Vicky Kachrimanis
Caroline Barker	Gayle Paech	John Chandailai	Margaret Ashton	Rita Dimasi	Wendy Billington
Carrie Thomas	Gemma Watson	John Hillier	Margaret Ferns	Rob Castagnini	William Giaz
Catherine Buckley	Georgia Burke	John Pinniger	Mary Pou	Robin Steward	Yen Le
					Zac Aarons

## COMMITTEE OF GOVERNANCE

Anna Morgan, Chairperson  
 Ellen McNaught, Deputy Chairperson  
 Retta Berryman, Secretary  
 Adam Hanson, Treasurer  
 Amanda Wilczynski, Committee Member  
 Brook Sturdy, Committee Member

And with thanks to former committee members Judy Lazarus and Olivia Greenwell

## STAFF

Bianca Lyndon, Project Officer  
 Christina DiPierdomenico, Executive Officer  
 Claire Hardi, L2P Administration Officer  
 Emma Harvey, Seeding Schools Project Officer  
 Fiona Scoullar, Health and Wellbeing Program Leader  
 Holly Gallagher and Kim Ng, interim co-Urban Food Coordinators  
 Jade Purtell and Joseph Lorback, L2P Community Engagement Project Officers  
 Julie-Anne O'Brien, L2P Program Coordinator  
 Michelle Casamento, EPCC garden manager  
 Olive Moynihan, Community Development Officer  
 Vanessa Nitsos Chan, Urban Food Coordinator



# EMERGENCY RELIEF AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our Emergency Relief and Community Support program provided over 17,000 instances of direct support to the Darebin community. That equates to \$361,731 of support through food, material aid, advocacy, information and referrals to Darebin residents on no or low income, in financial stress or experiencing systemic exclusion or disadvantage.



**5,742 CONVERSATIONS**



**484 INSTANCES OF ADVOCACY AND FINANCIAL HELP**



**40 INSTANCES OF COMPLEX SUPPORT**



**62 NO INTEREST LOANS APPROVED**



**10,000 FOOD PARCELS AND 713 FOOD VOUCHERS**



**300 HOLIDAY HAMPERS**

We again saw an increase in people seeking emergency relief and community support. This year, DIVRS provided more than 17,000 instances of support, a 21% increase on the previous year. Unsurprisingly, the number of people we worked with was up between July and December and through another lockdown, reaching about 300 people each week.

Building on the strengths of our hybrid in-person and remote service delivery model we were able to remain open for people to pick up food parcels. People we work with and our volunteers valued the opportunity for covid-safe connection.

With the support of the Darebin Council transport team, from September to November during lockdown we added a second food parcel delivery day with priority given to people who were immune comprised or isolating. We worked with Council to ensure Rapid Antigen Tests were distributed. We were also part of our peak body's (CISVic) first podcast. Our Program Leader and one of our Community Support Worker volunteers who is also a vaccinator provided tips and insights into speaking with people about covid vaccination in an informative, non-judgmental way.



*"Thank you for helping us and we appreciated the food that you sent at this difficult time of our lives and thank you for everything you do for the community."*  
- Community member

## CONNECTING PEOPLE TO INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Across the year, there were more people in acute financial stress and who experienced complex issues. Housing continued to be an issue for people; poor housing conditions, cost of rent, public housing wait lists and safety. We saw the impact of cost-of-living increases in May and June, with an increase in people seeking help for mental health, all forms of material goods and transport and medical expenses.

Our team consists of trained volunteer Community Support Workers and NILS officers and social work and community services students on placement. They had more than 5,700 conversations with people to provide information, referrals, advocacy and support and to work with people to build capability.

One of the things people value in working with us is that we make time to listen.

Ashley\* arrived at DIVRS in some distress. She spoke about how difficult things had been for her recently. This had been exacerbated by an ex-partner re-entering her life and she needed to ensure her and her children's safety.

Ashley spoke with a Community Support Worker over a cup of tea. We provided her with a food parcel, a Share the Dignity bag, referrals and our time. Ashley left DIVRS feeling she had been heard and that she was looking after her family.

We developed the volunteer Financial Assistance and Capability Team (FACT) to help people understand their financial situation and reduce anxiety around it, do some basic budgeting, ensure they are accessing available payments, paying bills to address immediate needs such as car registrations and medical costs or applying for a No Interest Loan (NILS) - 62 were approved - and referring to a financial counsellor where needed. The volunteers are trained as both NILS officers and as Community Support Workers.

We received funding from Darebin Council to employ a social worker to provide complex support for people at DIVRS and locations of place-based need in Darebin. This will begin in August 2022.

We ran a Winter Warmers campaign for two weeks in June, providing households with a \$50 Kmart voucher. People said they would use it to buy heaters, blankets, bedding, coats and underwear. Across the year, we shared tips on how to reduce energy costs and helped people apply for the Power Saving Bonus or Utility Relief Grants.

This year we were able to offer remote Tax Help and completed 6 tax help sessions. We also made 10 Big Group Hug deliveries.

We worked with a family with four children. They are asylum seekers who arrived in 2013. Their visa status changed in late 2021 and since then they haven't received any income. We've been working regularly with them since March 2022, communicating through an interpreter. They've not been able to pay rent, car registration or school fees. They only pay for urgent medical expenses (the father has cancer).

We share food with the family fortnightly, paid for a car registration through our flexible funding and distributed free rapid tests. We've made multiple referrals to other organisations. The family also accesses supports from other organisations for food and to help with school uniform, petrol and other bill expenses.

One of the key ways we work with this family is being warm and welcoming and making time to connect.

We also raised awareness about the issues asylum seekers on no income experience with our local MPs as systemic change is needed.



## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Our outreach fresh food programs offer place-based services in areas of need, increasing awareness of DIVRS and access to food for locals. Fortnightly on Wednesday mornings we are at the East Preston Community Centre with fresh fruit and veg and frozen meals. We also trialled having a volunteer Community Support Worker there at these times. From September, we partnered with Jika Jika Community Centre to deliver the program on the alternate Wednesday to reach nearby public housing residents, most of whom are older.

We evaluated the pilot fresh food program at LaTrobe University delivered in 2021 and in partnership with LaTrobe, expanded the program in 2022 for all students who live on campus. Almost 200 students participated over semester one, with over 350 grocery bags shared. We had a Community Support Worker with the outreach team available to speak with students. The team also focused on speaking with students about healthy eating, nutrition and what to cook with the produce.

DIVRS continued to work closely with the High Risk Accommodation Response (HRAR) team at Your Community Health and Tenants Victoria, providing over 70 mixed fresh and pantry food parcels for their visits to rooming houses and public housing.

We partnered with Your Community Health's dietetics team to pilot and deliver three cooking demonstrations at the East Preston Community Centre in March. The aim was to engage people interested in gaining cooking skills and learning about healthy eating in an inclusive environment. The demonstrations will become a formal cooking program in the second half of the year for people on low income experiencing poor mental health.

## FOOD PARTNERSHIPS

DIVRS continued partnerships with food rescue organisations Foodbank, Secondbite and Ceres Fair Food which provided over 20,000kg of fresh produce which would otherwise go to landfill.

We developed new partnerships with Northcote Bakeshop who donate bread weekly and FareShare, who provide healthy frozen meals.

In collaboration with Jika Jika Community Centre, we started a partnership with Boomerang Bags Thornbury/Northcote. Boomerang Bags is a global grass roots movement that brings people together to repurpose material into functional bags to reduce plastic ending up in landfill. Over the year they supplied us with over 400 handmade produce bags that we shared with people.

We participated in research into food insecurity by SecondBite and by the Victorian Food Relief Taskforce.



# COMMUNITY PROFILE

DIVRS worked with over 1,300 households through community information, support and emergency relief reaching more than 13,500 people (non-unique)

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

Each December we ask our community about our service and their experience of food security. This year, we collected 199 responses.

### KEY INSIGHTS

- 54% of people in contact every fortnight.
- 58% working with DIVRS for more than a year.
- 40% of people heard of DIVRS through word of mouth.

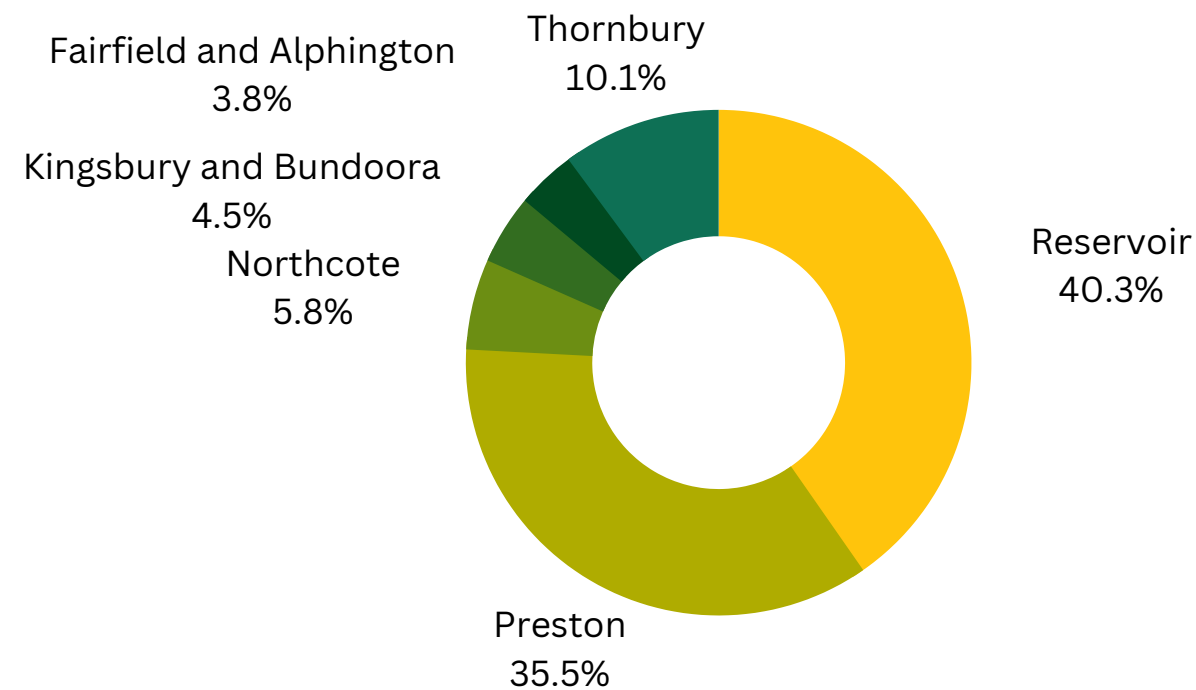
### FOOD SECURITY

We define food security as 'when all people, at all times, have physical, social and financial access to necessary, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life'. We asked people if they had experienced any effects of food insecurity in the last fortnight.

- **56% said they experienced food insecurity**
- **45% were worried there was not enough food to eat**
- **41% were unable to eat healthy and balanced food**
- **51% said they had less than \$100 per fortnight to spend on food after paying regular expenses**

People said utility bills, covid restrictions and rent were the top three contributors to their experience of food insecurity.

- **43%** new to DIVRS
- **11%** identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- **13%** experienced homelessness
- **22%** from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds from 60 countries
- **45%** live with a disability
- **5%** asylum seekers
- **92%** on a government payment or no income
- **3%** international students
- **56%** live on their own or are sole parents with dependants
- **70%** public or private rental



## WHERE PEOPLE LIVE



*"Always there and always an abundance of food. Appreciate how kind the staff are and the check ins and chat."*  
- Community member

# TAC L2P PROGRAM

The TAC L2P program matches young people aged 16-21 who don't have access to a car or supervising driver with a volunteer mentor to gain the 120 hours of driving experience they need to get a probationary licence.

The program contributes to improved road safety, increased access to education and employment and enhanced community engagement for young people and mentors.



**36 MENTOR DRIVERS**



**50 HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DRIVING LESSONS**



**1,074 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER DRIVING**



**60 ACTIVE LEARNERS ACROSS THE YEAR**



**15 LICENCES GAINED**



**52 LEARNER/ MENTOR MATCHES**

The L2P Program provided over 1,000 hours of supervised driving for young people in Darebin despite three months of not operating due to lockdown. (Some of our mentors were able to help in our food team while driving was suspended.)

When we were able to be back on the road, we helped learners arrange priority testing during a time of long delays for licence testing at VicRoads.

DIVRS hosted a mentor training session in April and 12 mentors were trained for the Darebin program across the year. L2P mentors participated in additional training such as youth mental health first aid. We created new mentor and learner resources and developed a new mentor assistance protocol to provide improved debriefing and support for volunteers.

We also introduced a What's app group for mentors to communicate with each other. This has been a great way for mentors to connect, support each other and check things like parking restrictions on a public holiday.



*"I want to thank you, Cheryl and the program for investing your time in me. I can't tell you what it means to finally have my Ps. I couldn't have done it without you!"*

*- Learner driver*



*"We love piloting new initiatives and having an L2P car available on-site at PRACE in Reservoir makes access to the program easier for the young people they work with and provides an additional location to Northcote."*  
 - Julie-Anne, TAC L2P Program Coordinator

For the last few years, we have partnered with PRACE College in Reservoir which has a program to help young people disengaged from mainstream education. Youth workers are trained as mentor drivers to help learners in that program get driving experience.

This year, we piloted having one of the L2P cars on site at PRACE to make access to the program easier for those learners. It also provides a location in the north of Darebin for other mentors and learners to access an L2P car. We'll review the pilot at the end of 2022.

With some additional L2P funds we employed a community engagement project officer for six months to explore barriers to participation in the L2P Program in Darebin for young people and for volunteers from Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities and young people in residential care. We spoke with over 20 organisations.

Through doing so, we increased awareness of the program and referral pathways. With the input of those we spoke with, we identified actions we could take locally and others for the Department of Transport to consider. We'll progress our actions in 2022-23.

Finally, new members from Victoria Police and Darebin Council's transport team joined the L2P advisory committee, further strengthening community involvement in the program.

Over the last two years our learners and mentors have demonstrated adaptiveness, patience, resolve and what we can do when we work together to support each other. For example:

One of our learners started in the program in March 2020. Lockdowns impacted her participation significantly. Her mentor was able to provide driving time in addition to the weekly two hours each time restrictions eased to help her catch up, in between the learner juggling work and study commitments.

When the mentor took a break to complete some overseas travel, another mentor stepped in to drive with the learner, also providing additional driving hours.

The learner got her licence in April 2022.

# URBAN FOOD PROGRAM

The Urban Food Program strengthens our local food systems, ensuring they are secure, healthy, sustainable and fair. We facilitate urban food production, home food growing and community gardening so fresh, nutritious produce can be shared with Darebin locals experiencing food insecurity.



**GREW AND HARVESTED 1,480KGS OF HERBS, FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**



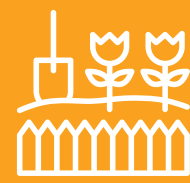
**LOCAL FARMERS AND PRODUCERS DONATED 1,009KG OF PRODUCE**



**PROPAGATED 6,654 SEEDLINGS**



**40 GARDENING SESSIONS AND 4 WORKSHOPS**



**3 SCHOOL EXCURSIONS INTO THE DIVRS GARDEN**

Our Urban Food Program grew this last year. We increased our growing space at the Alphington Food Hub, run by Melbourne Farmers Market. In April, we added the Oakhill Food Justice Farm, a new community garden built by Sustain in Preston. Along with the backyard at our DIVRS Preston hub and the Newton St Community Garden at the East Preston Community Centre (EPCC), we now have four growing sites across Darebin with 63m<sup>2</sup> of bed space – more than four times the growing space in just three years.

Our Darebin Urban Growers (formerly Backyard Basics) grow and harvest produce at these sites, increasing food security, fostering community togetherness and social inclusion and addressing climate change. We focus on growing leafy and salad greens which are hardest to source via food rescue and highly nutritious.

During the lockdown in the second half of 2021 we ran a Fruit Taxi service, picking up already harvested fruit from some Darebin Fruit Squad households. From November, we reactivated the Darebin Fruit Squad, with new volunteers coming on board. Thanks to the squad we harvested everything from lemons and grapefruit to pears and loquats.

The Urban Food Program grew and harvested almost 1,500 kg of fresh herbs, fruit and veg. Combined with another 1,000kg of donations from our partners and local farmers and producers, this is over \$27,000 of produce we were able to share with people experiencing food insecurity.

Our volunteer propagation team propagated almost 6,500 seedlings for planting in our gardens and to share with schools and the local community at the EPCC Open Day, RezzaFest and the Reservoir Big Picnic.



*"In June we had a plant stall at the Alphington Farmers Market. We had a fabulous morning connecting with the local community, sharing the story of the DIVRS Urban Food Program and signing up some eager new volunteers."*

– Holly, Urban Food Coordinator



*"The students we worked with seemed really engaged and one of the kids asked me if there would be more sessions and if he could come back and visit the garden sometime, because he found the excursion really interesting!"*

- Seeding Schools Volunteer

They also supplied our plant stall in June at the Alphington Farmers Market where we shared the story of the DIVRS Urban Food Program and signed up some new volunteers.

We reduce waste and contribute to the circular economy by composting food waste from food rescue donations – almost two tonnes this year. We use the compost to fertilise our gardens. We also gladly received donations of pots, seeds, cuttings, equipment and compost bins.

We ran four workshops in early 2022 once Covid restrictions were lifted, sharing garden-related knowledge with our volunteers and the Darebin community. EPCC hosted compost and worm farming, fruit tree pruning and care, and a propagation activity, which were all well-attended. We also ran a Darebin Fruit Squad training workshop for new volunteers.

We ran 40 community garden sessions on Wednesday mornings at the Newton St Community Garden. Locals and our volunteers come from diverse backgrounds and nations to work together including Italy, Philippines, Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, UK, America and China.

Garden sessions often end over cups of tea and sometimes a community lunch where people chat about plants, food and share their life stories and locals take home cuttings and fresh herbs and greens.

## SEEDING SCHOOLS PILOT

With funding from VicHealth we employed a project officer and piloted our Seeding Schools program. The program aims to support primary school students learn about growing fresh food locally, nutrition, reducing food waste and food security. We adapted our plans early on with the late 2021 lockdown to:

- Collaboratively develop three online learning activities with volunteers and schools. These are available on our website.
- Share 650 seedlings with schools for students to take home or plant in the school garden.

Then in 2022 we developed and hosted three fun and hands-on excursions to the DIVRS growing garden. Students completed activities in composting, growing seedlings and understanding where our food comes from and the benefits of growing food locally.

Four primary schools and one early learning centre, all located in Preston and Reservoir, participated in the pilot. Given the schools socio-economic demographics, it provided students with access to opportunities they may otherwise not have had.

We learned much through this pilot. Without ongoing funding we're not able to continue the excursions. We will look at other ways we can work with schools.



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

'Our Place, Our Purpose' is a community development project with residents of public housing, newly arrived and culturally and linguistically diverse community members in East Reservoir and East Preston.



**6 DOOR-KNOCKING  
OUTREACH  
ACTIVITIES**



**6 COMMUNITY  
MORNING TEAS IN  
EAST RESERVOIR**



**OPEN DAY BBQ AT  
EAST RESERVOIR  
COMMUNITY HUB**



**3 MEETINGS INVOLVING  
STAKEHOLDERS AND  
COMMUNITY GROUP**

With our commitment to working in areas of place-based need and given our existing work with public housing residents through community support and emergency relief, we were delighted to receive funding from Darebin Council alongside Your Community Health (Your CH) for the three and a half year Our Place, Our Purpose project. We work collaboratively with Your CH, Council and other local organisations and DIVRS's focus is working with public housing residents.

We work with the community in East Reservoir and East Preston to support and facilitate community-led initiatives that build community connections, improve social and emotional wellbeing and celebrate people's cultural and linguistic diversities.

Our Community Development Officer started in March. An initial focus has been getting to know residents in these neighbourhoods and

developing an understanding of the ideas and changes people would like to see in their community.

The project has established ongoing community activities to build relationships and establish connections between residents of public housing through morning teas and community open day events. In June we celebrated the reopening of the East Reservoir Community Hub in Whitelaw Street.

We will be supporting residents to establish initiatives that promote wellbeing and advocate for needs and rights in their neighbourhoods. We are building a stronger relationship with the Preston Office of Housing to support this work. We also refer and link community members to organisations and programs that support their physical and mental health, access to food and essential services.

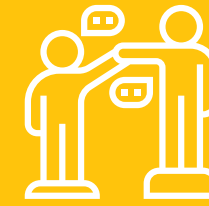


*"I'm very excited to work with public housing residents in East Reservoir and East Preston to facilitate community decision making and support initiatives that strengthen the local community."*

- Olive, Community Development Officer

# OUR VOLUNTEERS

As a volunteer powered organisation, we simply could not do what we do without the wonderful people in our community who give their time, skill, experience and energy. Thank you!



**ONBOARDED 112  
NEW VOLUNTEERS**



**140 PEOPLE ON  
AVERAGE VOLUNTEER  
EACH MONTH**



**17,483 VOLUNTEER AND  
STUDENT HOURS**



Our volunteers and students are from all backgrounds, experiences and ages from late teens to late 70s. They make a difference every day. Roles include parcel packing, food relief driving, managing outreach programs, delivering big group hug items, community information and support, emergency relief, financial help, reception and administration, driver mentoring, garden harvesting, maintenance and growing, seed propagation, policy and research, grant writing and projects.

We provided placements for students across social work, youth work, community services and health promotion from LaTrobe University, RMIT, Melbourne Polytechnic and University of Flinders.

We continued our volunteer-led projects in nutrition and food literacy, sustainable practices and data collection.

We continued promoting volunteer leadership across our programs, providing on-the-job skill development and mentoring for future employment. This includes team leader roles across our Urban Food, Community Support and Food Services programs, co-designing and facilitating our seeding schools' excursions, managing outreach programs and developing and leading community engagement projects.

We provided training such as courses in cultural awareness, family violence, mental health and urban growing and workshops in composting and propagation.

And as part of our welcoming culture we make connecting with each other a priority including what's app groups, morning teas, cuppa and a chat, newsletters and an end of year celebration to say thank you!

## CELEBRATING A DECADE OF VOLUNTEERING WITH DIVRS

There's something very special about being able to celebrate 10 years of service to the community. Thank you to our amazing L2P volunteer driver mentors Rhonda, Manuel, Philip and Cheryl for your passion and commitment and having a positive impact at DIVRS and in the Darebin community.



**Meet Rhonda**

"I started volunteering for L2P when my husband was deteriorating with a degenerative condition. This program was something very positive in my life.

I still do enjoy helping and watching the young people develop not just driving skills but also some life lessons over the time we are together."



**Meet Manuel**

"I like being involved in community programs, helping young people get their driving licence and seeing their smiling confidence when they arrive at VicRoads after finishing the driving test. I enjoy mentoring and it feels good to be involved with a team of other mentors and the driving instructor who works with the young people in the program.

Find out what it's like to be a mentor for yourself by experiencing it. I did, and I'm still here 10 years on."



**Meet Philip**

"Working with young people keeps an old bloke like me, young. Teaching driving means I need to remember how less skilful a driver I was when I was learning.

It is a sense of achievement for me when a learner gets their licence and even a greater achievement for the learner."



**Meet Cheryl**

"Volunteering in the L2P program has become the highlight of my week, being able to give back to the community you live in is a great feeling.

I have made some lifelong friends in this program and have regular contact with many of the learners I have mentored.

I've mentored 17 learners and have taken over from other mentors and helped 13 others to obtain a licence in the program."

## GET TO KNOW OUR VOLUNTEERS

I have been volunteering since my retirement and I wished to extend my participation to a food bank operation. I also decided to take on an additional role to work at the La Trobe University outreach program and that was fun bringing back fond memories of working with students in my working career. Folks at DIVRS are easy to get along with and I made great friends with my colleagues as they are easy going and always willing to share a joke. On top of that there is always time for a coffee break to chat over nitty gritty.

I always believe in the value of sharing to enable better relationships, well being and the world around us. I can say DIVRS has always been one of the very best places to work.



**Meet Anthony**

Hi I'm Chris and I am a part of the Urban Food program at DIVRS's Preston hub. I work with other volunteers in the garden, helping with composting, growing, planting and harvesting for the food relief program. I have also been assisting with research around upscaling the work being done within the Urban Food program.

I got interested in volunteering after I heard about Fruit Squad and thought it was pure genius. Preventing waste, making use of an untapped resource AND providing a community service - it's brilliant.

I love the people at DIVRS. It's such a welcoming environment where volunteers are appreciated and everyone has something important to contribute.

**Meet Chris**

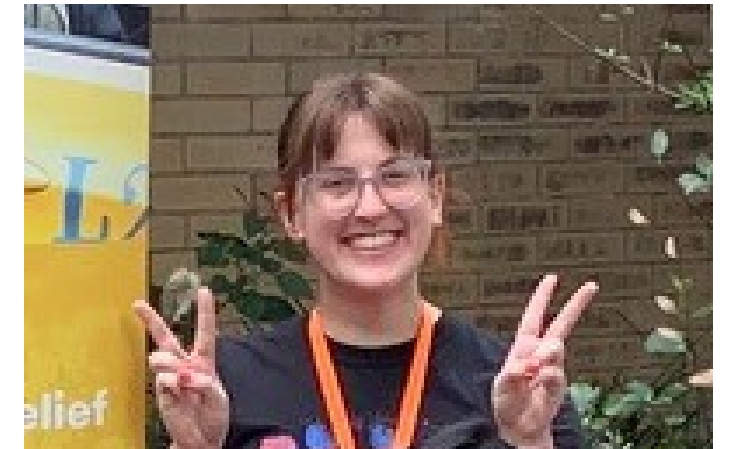


Hi, my name is Ruben. At DIVRS I have been a volunteer Community Support Worker (CSW) since early 2019. Before joining the CSW team, I was driving the van to and from FoodBank and packing food parcels out in the back warehouse. As a CSW I listen, support access to the food relief program, provide internal and external referrals, and engage in community advocacy. Over the past few years the role has changed immensely, from face to face, to over the phone, and now using what we've learnt from both.

What got me interested in volunteering at DIVRS was wanting to be more connected to the community I'm a part of and to contribute to local processes of equity. Through DIVRS I am given an opportunity to show solidarity. What I like most about volunteering at DIVRS is the exchange of information and skills which happen everyday, in the garden, over the phone, in the intake rooms and out the front.



**Meet Ruben**



**Meet Bec**

Hello everyone! My name is Bec and I work in the food relief and nutrition team. Outside of DIVRS I am a dietitian, I am currently completing my Honours in Nutrition science. I have a keen interest in research. In particular, the areas of food security. DIVRS was a great choice for me to learn more about this area and understand the practical side of emergency food relief.

Volunteering at DIVRS is always a great way to start my mornings, when I volunteered on Mondays it was a perfect kick-start to the week. What makes DIVRS especially enjoyable is working with a diverse range of people, who are all passionate and care for what they do. Working in the garden creates a fabulous atmosphere and it is great to know that the work you do is making a positive contribution to the community.

## GET TO KNOW OUR VOLUNTEERS



### Meet Chris

Hey, I'm Chris and I work in the food services team. From right away I have loved volunteering at DIVRS. It is very rewarding knowing that you are playing a part in ensuring that families have access to fresh food that week. Whatever is going on in your own life, it is nice to step outside of that and focus on improving other's lives in your community.

It has also involved fresh air, exercise and working in a team of people from, sorry for the pun, diverse backgrounds. I leave DIVRS each week with a sense of satisfaction that I accomplished something and have helped others. Volunteering has also improved my self esteem and increased my communication and team work skills.

Hi! I'm Helen, a retired teacher. After kicking around at home for a while, getting into the retirement groove and casting off the cares of education, I started feeling the need for a bit of meaningful activity to fulfil my new lifestyle, and that's where DIVRS entered my life. After erratic searching for over a year I stumbled across some ads placed by DIVRS, did some research and applied. It was my first job application for 15 years! I have filled the position of Receptionist for over 2 years. I love being part of the Emergency Relief and Community Support Team. It's fulfilling to know that what I do has such a positive effect on peoples' lives, doing it has a positive effect on mine.

The job is diverse and busy! What do I get from volunteering? I get social contact with a broad range of people from many backgrounds. I have the opportunity to work in an extraordinary team that problem solves together to provide support for people. Most importantly, I have found a niche in which I feel wanted and needed outside of my family.



### Meet Helen



### Meet Bernie

When I moved to Darebin from the country at the beginning of covid lockdown in 2020, I wanted to contribute and get to know the community. DIVRS was mentioned to me by a friend, it piqued my interest, so I decided to follow up.

Initially I was part of the food services program making up food parcels. During this period DIVRS linked me to a course about Urban Farming. I really enjoyed it, so joined the Urban Food team.

Now I am the (self-styled) compost kid on Thursdays! At the end of the week there is a great deal of food waste from food rescue donations. I make sure it's cut up and composted. My other duties include watering the garden and occasional planting.

Volunteering at DIVRS was a fresh start for me. Volunteering gave me a sense of purpose, greatly improved my psyche and outlook of life. Mixing with lots of different people was a great spiritual uplift and there's a great sense of community, kindness, and inclusion.

Hey, I'm Vicky, and I volunteer in the food program at DIVRS. Being able to work in an environment where other volunteers share similar values means a lot to me, and DIVRS ticks that box!

I am interested in nutrition education, so volunteering here also helps me learn and educate others about nutrition. More specifically about fruit, vegetables and pantry foods that we offer here.



### Meet Vicky

# GET TO KNOW OUR VOLUNTEERS

We love when our volunteers go on to get work directly related to their experience and time at DIVRS and celebrate this!

I reached out and applied to volunteer with DIVRS in 2020, as I was unable to work due to COVID-19 restrictions. I was studying nutrition at the time and thought I would see what was out there, and how I could help. Prior to joining DIVRS I was volunteering as an English tutor for CALD communities, it was wonderful, but online - I wanted to see how I could be in community and on the forefront. This was my first experience volunteering in emergency food relief, and what a wonderful and fulfilling experience it was. I started out preparing food parcels, then this turned into leading the fresh food pop up at the East Preston Community Centre.



**Meet Hannah**

I instantly felt welcomed and part of the team when I arrived to DIVRS, it's an environment that encourages people to grow no matter who you are or where you've come from. Bianca, the Food Services Program Leader, is the backbone of the team and always makes sure everyone is supported.

The most enjoyable part of volunteering with DIVRS was the people I met in the community. Always sharing their stories and up for a chat - these people are selfless and made the experience memorable. I gained so much knowledge from the conversations I had with people along the way. It improved my confidence, communication skills and knowledge of the food relief sector. I always speak so fondly of DIVRS, as it was the start of my journey and helped me get to where I am today. The organisation had a huge impact on my career, and I have ended up working as a Nutrition Project Officer at VACCHO and a Nutrition Policy Advisor at Nutrition Australia.

## Meet Tatsi



How to be flexible. DIVRS does not shoo people off even when they have issues outside of DIVRS's services. DIVRS staff kindly refer them to other services or provide information for them. At the current job I am trying to follow the DIVRS way.

Communication. People who know me know that I am a bit shy and introverted. I had not been good at talking with strangers. Now I talk with people I've never met daily. I am surprised by my own change. Volunteering at DIVRS helped me develop self-confidence and skills to communicate with people. Through many NILs interviews, phone calls, intake interviews and greetings at the food parcel booth, I gradually learned skills that are essential to community workers: asking questions; helping people feel safe and respected; eye contact and more.

Being a DIVRS volunteer is the best internship/workplace program I have ever had. Through volunteering at DIVRS I learned to think outside the box. I learned I don't know what I don't know. I learned the importance of networking with other organisations. And I learned how exciting and fun it is to work in the community sector.

After volunteering at DIVRS I got a full-time job as Outreach Officer at the Consumer Policy Research Centre. Now I have worked at the current job and have realised how valuable the training I got at DIVRS was. Here are great skills I learned at DIVRS.



**Meet Haylee**

I started volunteering for DIVRS once I had completed my student placement for Diploma of Community Services. My placement gave me great insight into the working of a community service, and when it was finished, I wanted to continue learning and gaining experience in the area.

Volunteering at DIVRS gave me the opportunity to gain an understanding of community needs, and as a Darebin community member myself, it gave me great personal satisfaction to take part in supporting fellow community members. My experience volunteering at DIVRS was integral in being appointed as a Community Support Worker at St Mary's House of Welcome. Working directly with people allowed me to become comfortable interacting with a diverse range of people, and my time at DIVRS will always be valuable to me.

## BE INVOLVED

### VOLUNTEER

Interested in volunteering and working with the local community? We welcome people from all backgrounds and experience.

Find out more at:  
<https://www.divrs.org.au/volunteer>

### BECOME A MEMBER

Any person who supports DIVRS's purpose can become a member. By doing so, you contribute to community direction of a local organisation working with the people of Darebin.

Complete the form online [here](#).

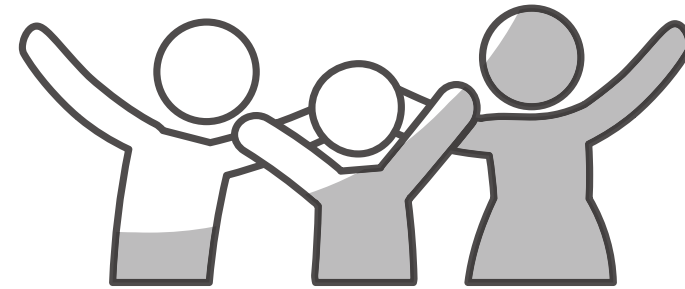
### DONATE

You can donate through our website at  
<https://www.divrs.org.au/donate>

You can also donate fruit and veg through our urban food program.

### PARTNER WITH US

We can do more, together. If you'd like to invest in the work we do or partner with us to help our local community thrive and connect, get in touch.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

The audit report, prepared by Collins & Co, expresses the opinion that the report gives a true and fair view of DIVRS's financial position for the 2021-2022 financial year (FY22).

DIVRS saw a decrease in income in FY22 of \$207k (25%) since the prior period (financial year 2020-2021). This is due to non-recurring COVID-19 funding in the prior period. Operating Income has remained stable.

The Emergency Relief and Community Support Program continues to receive the largest allocation of funds as it is the main contributor to providing direct support to the Darebin community. Although support has remained significant, overall expenses for the program are down \$47k since prior period, reflecting the reduced COVID-19 funding, (even though demand for support continues to be high with cost of living increases).

Most of the increase in Total Expenditure is a result of increase to employee costs (including salaries, superannuation, and leave entitlements) where additional staff were required to support the expansion of DIVRS's programs and services to the community.

Overall, the increase is attributed to the cost of additional staff, as well as annual wage growth, which equates to an increase of \$100k. Some of this increase was also not supported through additional government funding which was a contributing factor to the FY22 deficit of \$14k.

Although FY22 ended with a deficit, DIVRS continues to have a strong asset position to support the increasing demand for Emergency Relief and Community Support Services into the future, and to support any future need for a change in premises for the expanded services.

Now in to my second year as Treasurer for DIVRS and a member of the Committee of Governance, I continue to be encouraged by the commitment to community by the staff and volunteers of DIVRS, and the wealth of experience and knowledge they bring to this organisation.

**Adam Hanson**  
**Treasurer**

**DAREBIN INFORMATION, VOLUNTEER & RESOURCE SERVICE INCORPORATED (DIVRS)**  
**ABN 80 927 699 259**  
**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**DAREBIN INFORMATION, VOLUNTEER & RESOURCE SERVICE INCORPORATED**

**ABN 80 927 699 259**

**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

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Your Committee of Governance presents the special purpose financial report on the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

#### Committee of Governance Members

The names of committee of governance members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Annabelle Morgan	Chairperson	Appointed 15 November 2021
Ellen McNaught	Vice chairperson	Appointed 15 November 2021
Adam Hanson	Treasurer	Appointed 15 November 2021
Retta Berryman	Secretary	Appointed 21 February 2022
Olivia Greenwell	Past Secretary	Appointed 15 November 2021/ Resigned 21 February 2022
Brook Sturdy	General member	Appointed 15 November 2021
Amanda Wilczynski	General member	Appointed 15 November 2021
Retta Berryman	General member	Appointed 15 November 2021 until 21 February 2022
Kate Naish	General member	Appointed 18 July 2022
Judy Lazarus (OAM)	General member	Resigned 14 November 2021

#### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were:

Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service (DIVRS) is a not-for-profit volunteer powered organisation that delivers free services, programs and information for people living, studying, and volunteering in Darebin. DIVRS's mission is to connect people to opportunity, community, and support. DIVRS reduces financial stress and social isolation, increases access to community information and builds capability, promotes health and wellbeing, inclusion and sustainability, and Provides opportunities for community participation.

DIVRS provides:

- Resources and support to Darebin residents on no or low income, or in financial stress. Our aim is to work with them to strengthen their financial independence, encourage self-reliance, and increase capability.
- Programs and services that advance the education and skills development of Darebin residents.
- A volunteer service that promotes social inclusion and strong networks, creating opportunities for participation in the City of Darebin.
- Local capabilities and knowledge to address disadvantage and sustainability, contributing to the development of social policies and services that impact on the residents of our community.

#### Significant Changes

No significant changes in the nature of the Association's activity occurred during the financial year.

#### Operating Results and Accumulated Funds

The deficit for the year attributable to the Association amounted to \$14,075 (2021: \$238,798).

The accumulated funds of \$395,608 (2021: \$409,683) is partly due to an increase in funding received due to COVID 19, which is being used to support the growing demand for Emergency Relief and Support Services in future financial years. The association has been accumulating funds to grow the capacity of the organisation to meet the increase in demand for services. The Association requires more space and staff to deliver services safely and effectively. These funds will contribute to the cost of fit-out for new premises, asset replacement, and investment in capacity building.

#### After Balance Date Events

The COVID19 pandemic may induce some changes in the state of affairs of the association during the financial period ended 30 June 2023. The committee of governance members will take all necessary measures to preserve capital and shepherd the association through this uncertain period.

This matter has continued to evolve since 30 June 2022 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- (a) the entity's operations in future financial years, or
- (b) the results of those operations in future financial years, or
- (c) the entity's state of affairs in future financial years.

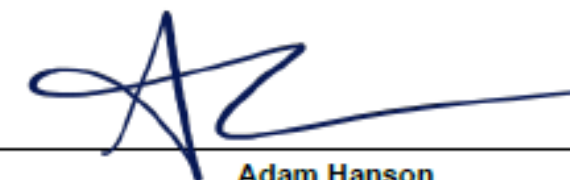
Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee of Governance.

Chairperson



Annabelle Morgan

Treasurer



Adam Hanson

Dated this

31st day of October 2022

DAREBIN INFORMATION, VOLUNTEER & RESOURCE SERVICE INCORPORATED  
(DIVRS) ABN 80 927 699 259  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants	471,340	555,566
Operating Income	161,274	164,990
Interest Received	135	319
COVID-19 Federal Government Assistance Payments	-	108,941
COVID-19 State Government Assistance Payments	-	10,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>632,749</b>	<b>839,816</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Administration Expenses	230	-
Advertising & Fundraising	-	-
Audit & Legal Fees	2,400	2,300
Bank Fees	119	70
Bookkeeping Fees	-	6,300
Consultants	8,541	11,600
Emergency Relief & Foodstore Expenses	165,498	213,047
Computer Expenses	654	1,984
Depreciation	8,817	7,858
Insurance	1,052	1,117
Interest Paid on Business Loan	491	476
Light & Power	4,056	2,883
Membership & Subscriptions	1,857	2,405
Portable Long Service Benefits Scheme Levy	5,158	3,923
Project Expenses	54,919	57,632
Printing & Stationary	943	1,664
Provision for Leave Entitlements	16,442	10,945
Repairs, Maintenance, & Cleaning	615	5,316
Salaries and Wages	330,027	241,737
Staff Training / Workforce Development	6,129	908
Superannuation	32,823	22,835
Telephone & Internet	2,768	2,956
Volunteer Expenses	651	1,167
Worker's Compensation Insurance	2,634	2,095
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>646,824</b>	<b>601,018</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(14,075)</b>	<b>238,798</b>

DAREBIN INFORMATION, VOLUNTEER & RESOURCE SERVICE INCORPORATED (DIVRS)  
ABN 80 927 699 259  
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(14,075)</b>	<b>238,798</b>
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	-	-
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>(14,075)</b>	<b>238,798</b>

**DAREBIN INFORMATION, VOLUNTEER & RESOURCE SERVICE INCORPORATED (DIVRS)**  
**ABN 80 927 699 259**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank	548,837	453,885
Petty Cash	-	149
Accounts Receivable	62,368	3,540
Other Receivables	-	-
Prepayments & Gift Cards and Vouchers on Hand	41,989	64,709
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>653,192</b>	<b>522,083</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Office Furniture and Equipment	27,980	27,980
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(23,535)</u>	<u>(20,791)</u>
	4,445	7,189
Motor Vehicles	78,732	78,732
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(81,157)</u>	<u>(55,083)</u>
	17,575	23,649
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>22,020</b>	<b>30,838</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>675,212</b>	<b>552,921</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and Other Creditors	6,567	11,046
ATO GST & PAYGW Payable	14,197	3,341
Grants Received in Advance	220,172	101,452
Superannuation Payable	-	1,235
Provision for Annual Leave	32,781	16,395
Secured Business Loan: Motor Vehicle	4,954	8,893
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>278,671</b>	<b>142,362</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	933	876
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>876</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>279,604</b>	<b>143,238</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>395,608</b>	<b>409,683</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated funds	395,608	409,683
	<u>395,608</u>	<u>409,683</u>

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

**DAREBIN INFORMATION, VOLUNTEER & RESOURCE SERVICE INCORPORATED (DIVRS)**  
**ABN 80 927 699 259**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Accumulated funds \$	Total \$
Opening Balance as at 1 July 2020	170,885	170,885
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to the Association	238,798	238,798
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>409,683</b>	<b>409,683</b>
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to the Association	(14,075)	(14,075)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>395,608</b>	<b>395,608</b>

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from Grants		590,060	551,601
Receipts from Operating Income		102,448	167,384
Receipts from Other Sources		-	137,482
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(593,211)	(686,781)
Interest Paid		(491)	(476)
Interest Received		135	319
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities</b>	(i)	<b>98,941</b>	<b>169,529</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for Property, Plant and Equipment		-	(15,334)
Proceeds from Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment		-	8,489
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(6,845)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from Borrowings		-	11,370
Prepayment of Borrowings		(3,938)	(2,477)
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities</b>		<b>(3,938)</b>	<b>8,893</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		95,003	171,577
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		453,834	282,257
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	(ii)	<b>548,837</b>	<b>453,834</b>

DAREBIN INFORMATION, VOLUNTEER & RESOURCE SERVICE INCORPORATED (DIVRS)  
 ABN 80 927 699 259  
 NOTES TO THE STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Note (i). Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities</b>		
Net surplus for the year	(14,075)	238,798
Non-cash flow item: depreciation	8,817	7,858
Non-cash flow item: profit on disposal of fixed assets	-	(8,491)
(Increase)/decrease in accounts receivable	(58,826)	2,394
(Increase)/decrease in other receivables	-	18,541
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	22,720	(64,150)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	5,142	(11,376)
Increase/(decrease) in grants received in advance	118,720	(3,965)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	16,443	(10,080)
	<b>98,941</b>	<b>169,529</b>
<b>Note (ii). Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>		
Cash at Bank	548,837	453,685
Petty Cash	-	149
	<b>548,837</b>	<b>453,834</b>

**Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

This financial report includes the financial statements and notes of Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service Incorporated (DIVRS), a incorporated association, which is incorporated in Victoria under the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

**Basis of preparation**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (Victoria). The Committee of Governance has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and also a not-for-profit association.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the special purpose financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

**Accounting Policies**

**a. Property, Plant, and Equipment**

Each class of property, plant, and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

**Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Association and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

**Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The asset's residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income statement.

**b. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

**c. Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

**Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**d. Revenue**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

**AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities**

The Association applies Australian Accounting Standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

AASB 15 involves the use of a five-step recognition model for recognising revenue, the steps are:

- Step 1 – Identify the contract with the customer
- Step 2 – Identify the sufficiently specific performance obligations to be satisfied
- Step 3 – Measure the expected consideration
- Step 4 – Allocate that consideration to each of the performance obligations in the contract
- Step 5 – Recognise revenue

AASB 1058 measures income by reference to the fair value of the asset received. The asset received, which could be a financial or non-financial asset, is initially measured at fair value when the consideration paid for the asset is significantly less than fair value, and that difference is principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. Otherwise, assets acquired are recognised at cost.

Where the asset has been measured at fair value, AASB 1058 requires that elements of other Accounting Standards are identified before accounting for the residual component. These standards are:

- AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers
- AASB 16 Leases
- AASB 1004 Contributions
- AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities & Contingent Assets
- AASB 9 Financial Instruments

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**e. Income Tax**

By virtue of its aims as set out in the constitution, the Association qualifies as an organisation specifically exempt from income tax under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

**f. Employment Entitlements**

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance

**g. Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is

**Note 2. Related Party Transactions**

The Committee Members act in an honorary capacity and are not paid for their services as Committee Members.

There were no transactions with related parties during the 2022 year.

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

In the opinion of the Committee of Governance, the financial report as set out on pages 3 to 9, satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:

- 1 a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the association; and  
b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service Incorporated (DIVRS) as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service Incorporated (DIVRS) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

*A Morgan*

Chairperson

Annabelle Morgan

Treasurer

Adam Hanson

Dated this

31st day of October 2022

**DAREBIN INFORMATION, VOLUNTEERS & RESOURCE SERVICE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 80 927 699 259**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS**

**Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Darebin Information, Volunteers & Resource Service Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, and the income and expenditure statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Board.

In my opinion, the financial report of the Association is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria), including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1, the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria).

**Basis for Opinion**

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

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

**Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution**

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that I identify during my audit.

**Auditor:** Frederik Ryk Ludolf Eksteen

**Address:** Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd, 127 Paisley Street, FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011

**Signature:**



**Date:** 31 October 2022

# GRATITUDE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**It's through working together with the support and partnership of so many in the community and our funders that we are able to achieve so much. Thank you!**

Alphington Neighbourhood House  
 Australian Motor Club  
 Australian Tax Office  
 Big Group Hug  
 Boomerang Bags Darebin  
 Brett Scapin Photography  
 Bridge Darebin  
 Bunnings Northcote  
 CERES  
 CERES Fair Food  
 Christmas Box  
 Community Information and Support Victoria  
 Cultivating Community  
 Darebin Basketball Association  
 Darebin City Council  
 Darebin Community Legal Centre  
 Darebin Councillors  
 Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
 Department of Social Services  
 Department of Transport  
 Dr Traffic Driving School  
 East Preston Community Centre  
 FareShare  
 Fitstop Preston  
 Foodbank Victoria  
 Ged Kearney MP Office  
 Good Shepherd Microfinance  
 Good Start Early Learning, Dalgety Street  
 Grand Wash Auto  
 Green Collar Productions

Happy Valley Seeds  
 Harold Mitchell Foundation  
 Haven Home Safe  
 Heidelberg Magistrates Court  
 Icecream Social  
 In2Gear Driving School  
 Individual Donors and Supporters  
 Inner North Foundation  
 Jika Jika Community Centre  
 Kat Theophanous MP Office  
 La La La, la chorale francaise de Melbourne  
 La Trobe University  
 Melbourne Farmers Markets and the many stall holders  
 who donate to us  
 Melbourne Polytechnic - Preston Campus  
 Merri Outreach Support Service  
 Moving Feast  
 Northcote Bakeshop  
 Northcote Lions Club  
 Northern Community Church of Christ  
 Oakhill Food Justice Farm  
 Paperloop  
 PRACE  
 Preston South Primary School  
 Purcell Family Foundation  
 Reground  
 Reservoir East Primary School  
 Reservoir Neighbourhood House  
 RMIT  
 Rotary Club of Preston

Salvation Army Support Services Preston  
 SecondBite  
 Share the Dignity  
 Shut up and Drive Driving school  
 Somali Australia Council of Victoria  
 SPAN Community House  
 Sporadical City Mushrooms  
 St Gabriel's Primary School  
 St Stephens Primary School  
 Streat  
 Sustain - the Australian Food Network  
 The Mushroomery  
 Tenants Victoria  
 Tonda Italian  
 Transport Accident Commission  
 Umberto Espresso Bar  
 Uniting  
 University of Flinders  
 VicHealth  
 VicRoads  
 Victoria Police, Darebin  
 Your Community Health





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Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service is incorporated under the incorporated Association Act 1981. It was formerly the Northcote Community Information and Support Service and Northcote Citizen's Advice Bureau and Information Centre No.A0020287B. It is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, ABN 80 927 699 259

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DIVRS acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the traditional caretakers of the land on which we live and work. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.