



# DIVRS

Darebin Information,  
Volunteer & Resource Service

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



*Building stronger communities through volunteering and support*

# CONTENTS

WHO WE ARE	2
OUR IMPACT	3
A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON	4
A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER	5
OUR TEAM	6
EMERGENCY RELIEF AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT	7
COMMUNITY PROFILE	10
TAC L2P PROGRAM	11
MIGRANT DRIVER PROGRAM	12
URBAN FOOD PROGRAM	13
OUR VOLUNTEERS	15
BE INVOLVED	20
TREASURER'S REPORT	20
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	21
GRATITUDE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	27



# WHO WE ARE

## OUR PURPOSE

Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service (DIVRS) is a not-for-profit volunteer-driven community organisation that provides free services, programs, information and support to the Darebin community. Our programs reduce financial stress, social isolation and barriers to accessing information; build capability; promote health and wellbeing and sustainability; and provide 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 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 contribute to the development of social policies and services that impact on the residents of our community.

## OUR VALUES

### RESILIENCE

Our ability to bounce back, strengthening through growth and knowledge

### COLLABORATIVE

Working together will all people and organisations to achieve shared goals

### FEARLESS

Being bold, unafraid to take risks, active and being courageous

### RESPECT

Recognising and valuing each other and the contributions everyone makes

### SOCIAL EQUITY

Distribution of resources based on need

*"Treats everyone with respect.  
Understanding and non-judgmental"*

**Darebin resident**

*"Feel I am very well looked after  
when I come in  
- the staff and volunteers take  
extra care to make me  
feel welcome"*

**Darebin resident**

# OUR IMPACT



Over 10,000 volunteer and student hours of service



835 households supported



5,209 conversations providing information and support



33 no interest loans approved



\$335,218 of direct support, up 22% from last year



Extended our outreach to students and to public housing and rooming house residents



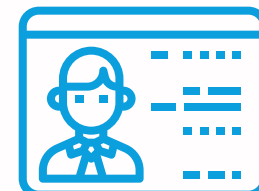
Over 6,000 pantry parcels and food bags packed and distributed and over 1,900 food vouchers distributed



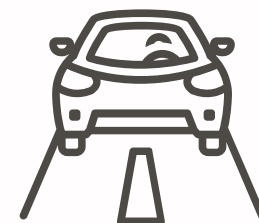
Almost 1,000kg of fresh produce harvested or donated



400 food deliveries to people with accessibility needs or isolating



Helped 23 people get their licence



1,300 hours of driving experience for young people and for adult learners from a migrant or refugee background



17 community garden sessions and 7 urban food workshops

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

2021 has been a year of change and renewal for DIVRS. In December 2020, we farewelled our Executive Officer, Frances Trimboli who returned to her hometown in northern New South Wales. During her three years with DIVRS, Frances introduced new programs with a focus on the health and wellbeing of our community and developed strong partnerships with the Council and tertiary education providers in Darebin. I would like to acknowledge the contribution that Frances made during her time with DIVRS as her leadership placed DIVRS in a very strong position to respond to the growing demand for our services from people experiencing disadvantage in our community.

Our new Executive Officer, Christina DiPierdomenico commenced in January 2021 and has already made great progress in building the capacity and strength of DIVRS with a highly motivated team of staff and volunteers. This year has been particularly challenging with long periods of lockdown due to the COVID pandemic. Under Christina's leadership, the team has found innovative ways to deliver services both remotely and face-to-face in a COVID-safe way.

Delivering services during COVID has been particularly challenging, given the limited space in our current premises. We continue to make finding suitable premises a top priority as the lack of space is restricting our ability to meet the growing demand for our services and for volunteers to connect with each other and with the community.

There have been some changes on the Committee of Governance during 2021 and I would like to thank the following people for their contribution and service to DIVRS: Joy Banerji served on the Committee for nearly five years being Deputy Chairperson for one year and Chairperson for two and a half years; Andrew Thackrah served as Secretary for five years and Terry Zhu served as Treasurer for over two years. During the year, we welcomed Olivia Greenwell as the new secretary and Adam Hanson as our new Treasurer. We have also been providing governance training to a group of young professionals who are seeking to be leaders in the community. Committee member, Judy Lazarus has been guiding and mentoring the team through this period of change with her extensive governance experience and I would like to acknowledge Judy's contribution in building a strong and sustainable association. Our new team brings the right mixture of professional skills that will build a strong governance framework for DIVRS.

As part of our renewal, the Charter has been updated, a full policy review has been undertaken and the Committee is seeking approval from members of the association to amend our Constitution to allow for sustainability, succession planning and a diverse membership group into the future.

Finally, the Committee of Governance and staff will work together in the second half of 2021 to clarify our vision for DIVRS and develop the 2021-2025 strategic plan.

We are confident that with these changes, a new strategic plan and building on the success of the last four years, DIVRS will continue to grow and provide services to help build a thriving and connected community in the City of Darebin.

**Anna Morgan**  
**Acting Chairperson**



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I felt much joy starting with DIVRS in January this year, an organisation that's been working with the Darebin community for more than 30 years and whose purpose and values I resonate with strongly. I've loved getting to know our volunteers, students and staff - amazing and wonderful people who give generously of their time, skill, expertise. I discovered a hive of activity from people dropping in and calling us for the wide range of emergency relief and community support we provide, to food packing and delivery, flourishing gardens, getting more young people on the road and driving, projects, outreach and many ideas for the future.

I also discovered the resilience and courage of those who work here to continue to serve the community through the challenges of lockdowns and the limited space of our current premises and adapting to new ways of working. In fact, with the more than 10,000 volunteer and student hours of service over 2020-21 DIVRS:

- Provided \$335,218 of direct support through food, material aid, advocacy, information and referrals to low income Darebin residents and residents requesting help. This is a 22 per cent increase on last year.
- Increased our accessibility through being available by phone; through outreach at the East Preston Community Centre and to students and to public housing and rooming house residents and through weekly food deliveries for people with accessibility needs or isolating.
- Made time for conversations with people we work with through our emergency relief and community support program, providing an opportunity for connection as well as practical support.
- Allocated 2,326 seedlings and harvested or had donated through our urban food program almost 1,000 kg of fresh fruit and veg. This was an additional 10% of fresh, nutritious, locally grown produce to include in our food parcels for people experiencing food insecurity.
- Rescued and distributed 8,910 kg of fresh food through our food parcels.
- Helped 23 people gain their probationary licence and provided 1,300 hours of driving experience for young people and for adult learners from a migrant or refugee background.
- Adapted our service to remain open for food parcel pick up and keep our produce gardens growing with the May/June snap lockdown.

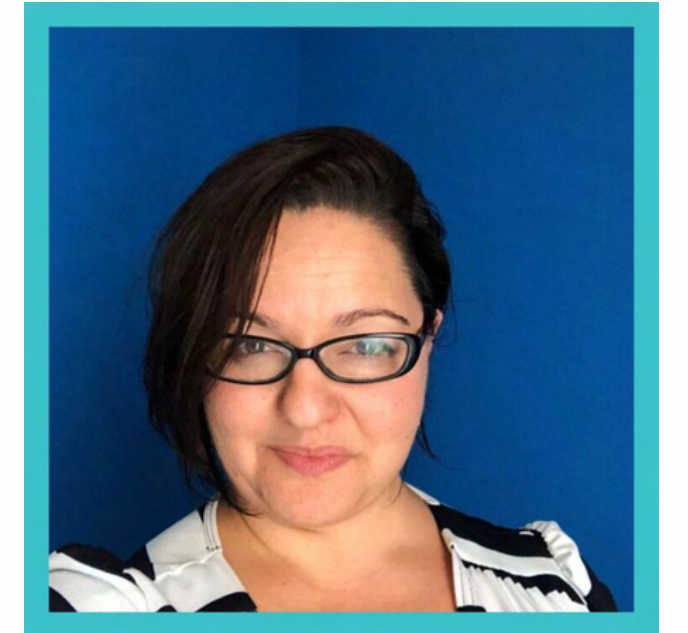
We welcomed 70 new volunteers since December, with a focus on growing our community support and food services teams to meet increased demand for our services and support our focus on health and wellbeing, such as introducing a nutrition team. Driving in our TAC L2P Program and Migrant Driver Program resumed as did community garden sessions at the East Preston Community Centre garden. It was wonderful to see people connecting and we made it a priority to stay connected with our volunteers and find ways for them to connect with each other, in and out of lockdowns.

The COVID pandemic meant we weren't able to operate our tax help program or the popular SMILE program that involved health checks and social inclusion activities, delivered in partnership with LaTrobe University and its student nurses. We will look for ways for these to return in 2021-22.

It's been heart-warming to be part of a community that's worked together to support each other. We can truly do more, together, and we're grateful for the support and partnership of so many in the Darebin community; individuals, community organisations, businesses, government and education providers. We're also grateful Darebin council has continued to support our work as the lead Emergency Relief agency and for the increased support from federal government.

Thank you to our volunteers, students, staff and committee members. We've navigated the year with compassion, care, connection and much learning along the way. I'm looking forward to our journey ahead and bringing our ideas to life. It truly is a privilege to work alongside all of you to support our community.

**Christina DiPierdomenico**  
**Executive Officer**



# OUR TEAM

## VOLUNTEERS

Aaron Cole  
Abigale DeBono  
Akiko Saito  
Alejandra Sanchez  
Alessandro Guerra  
Alexandra Trethewey  
Ali Schnabel  
Alice Fox  
Alison Pomroy  
Amrita Chandra  
Amy Jones  
Anita Queay  
Ann Eller  
Anthony Tsui  
Arras Quang  
Bashirah Basari  
Ben Shueltz  
Bernie Hartley  
Brett Scapin  
Cam Geeves  
Camille Gerrard  
Caroline Sheehan  
Catherine Buckley  
Cathy Arter  
Catie Payne  
Charlene Trestrail  
Cheryl Davies  
Chris Stephen  
Chrisopher Long  
Christine Banks  
Claire Diprose  
Clare Grant

Colleen Moses  
Corinne Davis  
Cristina Goncalves  
Daniel Wookey  
David Hayes  
Dawn Butcher  
Dawn Lowery  
Desitny Nichols  
Eddie Edmonds  
Edwina Landale  
Eleanor Guerra  
Elisa Arduca  
Elisa Midolo  
Ellen St Ruth  
Ellie Watt  
Emily Deklerk  
Emily Maiorino  
Emily Purcell  
Emma Lewis  
Eve Giles  
Faye Velluci  
Gemma Boccabella  
Georgia Perisanidis  
Gloria Hernandez  
Hannah O'Connell  
Haylee McCormick  
Heather Robinson  
Helen Bloustein  
Helen King  
Holly Ansell  
Holly Gallagher  
Honora Crosbie

Hudson Pearce  
Iman Devos  
Isabelle Chabaud  
Jackson Bradshaw  
Jade Burraston  
Jan Washfold  
Jane Caruna  
Jay Aggarwal  
Jay Blair  
Jaylene Quiaonza  
Jeanette George  
Jenny Martin  
Jim Kirkpatrick  
Jodi Page  
John Chandapillai  
John Hillier  
Josephine Podesta  
Josh Edelman  
Joy Banerji  
Junko Ito  
Kamalesh Raeannon  
Karen (Anjie) Christousous  
Kasia Odell  
Kathryn Mackenzie  
Kiara Hurst  
Kim Cadigan  
Kimberley Ng  
Kiri Malarski  
Lachlan Strong  
Laurie Eaton  
Lee Templar  
Leigh Kronman  
Leisha Graham  
Liz Fitzgerald

Lynette Mackenzie  
Maha Elfin  
Malcolm Thomas  
Mandy Gregory  
Manuel Goncalves  
Margaret Ashton  
Margarita Rebage  
Mark Bruin  
Matias Torres  
Michael McCormick  
Michelle Flood  
Mikayla Lane  
Mithun Eqbal  
Molly Fairweather  
Moragh Gillen  
Nancy Mills  
Nathacha Subero  
Nathan Edis  
Neha Nagarkar  
Neil Benham  
Nicky Sudano  
Nicla Nannipieri  
Nicole Cook  
Nikita Brockmuller  
Niren Goviden  
Nour Kawji  
Oliver Caruana-Brown  
Oliver Strano  
Othelia Cavanagh  
Paul Daly  
Penny Fowler  
Priyantha Wirasekara  
Puneet Deol  
Rachael Carlisle

Rama Ragg-Hansen  
Rebecca Paige  
Renne Stevens  
Rhonda Barson  
Rhonda Otto  
Rita Dimasi  
Rob Castagnini  
Robyn McLachlan  
Roger Cripps  
Roger Sparvell  
Rosa Davies  
Rosa Romeo  
Ruben Stoney  
Sally Jungwirth  
Sally Radcliffe  
Sam Arter  
Sam Ferraro  
Sammantha Elmes  
Shannon Parsons  
Simon Jane  
Simon Le Page  
Sophia Lopilato  
Stacey Clarke  
Sue Humphies  
Tanya Brown  
Tatsuya Tomizawa  
Terry Daly  
Thanh Huynh  
Thomas Olejniczak  
Tracey Carrol  
Wendy Billington  
Zac Aarons

## COMMITTEE OF GOVERNANCE

Anna Morgan, Acting Chairperson  
Olivia Greenwell, Secretary  
Adam Hanson, Treasurer  
Judy Lazarus, Committee Member

And with thanks to former committee members Joy Banerji, Andrew Thackrah and Terry Zhu and to working group members Amanda Wilczynski, Brook Sturdy, Ellen McNaught, Lauren Pinchen and Retta Berryman

## STAFF

Bianca Lyndon, Project Officer  
Christina DiPierdomenico, Executive Officer (2021)  
Fiona Scoullar, Health and Wellbeing Program Leader  
Frances Trimboli, Executive Officer (2020)  
Julie-Anne O'Brien, TAC L2P Coordinator  
Michelle Casamento, EPCC garden manager  
Vanessa Nitsos Chan, Urban Food Coordinator

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



# EMERGENCY RELIEF AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**OUR EMERGENCY RELIEF AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM PROVIDED 14,146 INSTANCES OF DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE DAREBIN COMMUNITY. THAT EQUATES TO \$335,218 OF SUPPORT THROUGH FOOD, MATERIAL AID, ADVOCACY, INFORMATION AND REFERRALS TO DAREBIN RESIDENTS ON NO OR LOW INCOME, IN FINANCIAL STRESS OR EXPERIENCING VULNERABILITY.**

This year we continued to adapt to respond to community need and manage the challenges presented by the pandemic and the limitations of our premises.

The increased demand for emergency relief due to COVID-19 continued with lockdown 2.0, with the team completing an average of almost 600 conversations in the first few months of the year. This started to ease as restrictions eased and lockdown lifted. We operated a remote service between July and November 2020 offering support over the phone and food vouchers. Many of the people we work with experienced loneliness and were unsure of the covid restrictions and where to get help. People valued the opportunity for social connection as our community support team checked in with people during this time and made time for conversation.

To help manage demand, we moved from weekly to fortnightly food access, increasing the value of our vouchers and food parcels accordingly. From December 2020 we operated a hybrid phone and in person service, making us even more accessible. Given covid restrictions and site limitations, we weren't able to reintroduce our community grocer model. Instead, we make a time for people to pick up food parcels to promote physical distancing. We also introduced a weekly delivery service for people with accessibility needs or mobility barriers, or those needing to isolate, making over 400 deliveries.

With the lockdown in May and June 2021 we were again able to adapt our service and remain open for people to pick up food parcels, with all other services operating remotely. We also introduced a second delivery day. Through a combination of JobSeeker ending and the lockdown, we saw a 25% increase in demand compared to the first half of 2021, supporting about 100 households each week.



**5,209 CONVERSATIONS PROVIDING INFORMATION AND SUPPORT**



**970 REFERRALS**



**DISTRIBUTED 6,043 PANTRY AND FRESH FOOD PARCELS AND 1,906 VOUCHERS**



**225 INSTANCES OF ADVOCACY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT**



**33 NO INTEREST LOANS APPROVED**



**DISTRIBUTED 300 HOLIDAY HAMPERS, 219 THROUGH DIVRS AND THE REST TO ORGANISATIONS IN DAREBIN**

**61 VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS ACROSS COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND FOOD SERVICES TEAMS**



**OVER 400 DELIVERIES**

**TO PEOPLE WITH ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS OR NEEDING TO ISOLATE**



*"There is no end of praise in the public sphere for the many government agencies during this crisis, which is richly deserved, however there is little for the people working quietly in the background such as all the people of DIVRS. You make a difference in a chaotic world. There is an old saying that may be apt. It's not what you say that matters, it's what you do that really matters!"*

**Darebin resident**



# CONNECTING PEOPLE TO INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Our Emergency Relief and Community Support team had more than 5,200 conversations with people to provide information and support. The team consists of trained Community Support Workers and No Interest Loans Officers and social work and youth work students on placement from LaTrobe University and RMIT.

We're able to talk with people about what they need and issues they may be experiencing. We provide information and referrals and also work with people to build capability and financial capacity. This includes:

- Advocacy for energy, utilities and other bills and helping people ask for payment plans.
- Helping people apply for utility relief grants and other government grants and payments that may be available to them.
- Financial health checks and applying for no interest loans.
- Connecting people to other supports such as health and housing, navigating Centrelink, legal help, employment help, mental health resources and more.

This year, additional covid related funding meant we could help people address immediate needs such as medical costs and school uniforms; and help people build capacity such as paying for training costs or work wear and transport costs so people could attend work or education.

During lockdown 2.0, and again in the May/June lockdown there was a sharp increase in international students seeking support. People who had never accessed emergency relief before also sought help. Our approach in working with people is person-centred, and whether remote or in person we are welcoming and non-judgmental.

The digital divide was stark. Many people, including people over 65 or living in public housing or rooming houses, do not have internet at home (and during lockdowns public internet such as at libraries was not available). This impacted people's ability to connect, participate in online activities and access services. We helped where we could through conversation and talking people through online and digital processes.

We saw more people experiencing financial stress and impacts to mental health. We also saw more people who had multiple or complex issues. We worked closely with our team to support their mental health and wellbeing so they felt able to support the Darebin community.

*"Compassionate and caring,  
that's what we want,  
to be listened to"*  
**Darebin resident**

## SNAPSHOTS OF HOW WE SUPPORT PEOPLE

### Supporting people to pursue employment

Joe\* began to access emergency relief in lockdown 2.0 when he lost employment. His mental health was poor. We helped him with regular food, a no interest loan and general support and regular check ins. His mental health improved and with our support, he felt he could look for work. He has now found work and we are no longer supporting him.

### Building digital capability and providing digital support

In March our team helped 40 people apply for the \$250 power saving bonus to help pay electricity bills. This is an online application. We completed the application on behalf of 35% of people and built capability with the other 65% so they could do so themselves.

One of the people we helped was Myrtle\* (who had been referred by her neighbour). Myrtle was concerned that 'everything was online' and she thought she was too old to learn. We completed the application on Myrtle's behalf and arranged for a cheque to be posted to her. We referred Myrtle to in person courses she could take to help her use her mobile and be online.

### Providing food means people can focus on other matters

When Anne\*, a part-time carer for her grandchildren, came to DIVRS her pantry was bare and she had not eaten for a few days. We addressed her immediate need - providing fresh food and pantry goods. We then worked with her over a couple of months providing information and referrals to address family related and legal matters. We also helped her apply for a no interest loan which was approved.

### Reducing financial stress

We worked with Mary\* for about three months. Mary was studying and experiencing anxiety over her financial situation, which was also affecting her study. We provided fortnightly food parcels, information and referrals to other services and social support through regular conversations. Through working with her in this way, Mary was able to complete her course and she reduced her need for emergency food relief as she is better able to budget.

# OUTREACH PROGRAM

In the first half of 2021 we extended our outreach program to offer place based services in areas of need, increasing access to DIVRS and healthy nutritious food. Next year we intend to add community support to the outreach program.

## EAST PRESTON COMMUNITY CENTRE



In March 2021 we restarted our outreach fresh food program at the East Preston Community Centre. Between March and June we supported 75 local households with fortnightly fresh food. Almost all households are new to DIVRS.

- 43% are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- 48% are aged 65 and over
- 23% live with a disability
- 55% of people live on their own

## LA TROBE UNIVERSITY



In April and May we piloted an outreach fresh food program at La Trobe University, supporting 39 students experiencing food insecurity who live on campus. The pilot ran in April and May and stopped due to the May/June lockdown.

## SUPPORTING THE HIGH RISK ACCOMODATION RESPONSE (HRAR)

We worked closely with the HRAR team at Your Community Health and the Tenants Union, providing fresh food and pantry items for their visits to rooming houses and public housing, and accompanying them on some of these visits to check in on how people are and help people know more about DIVRS and how they can connect with us.

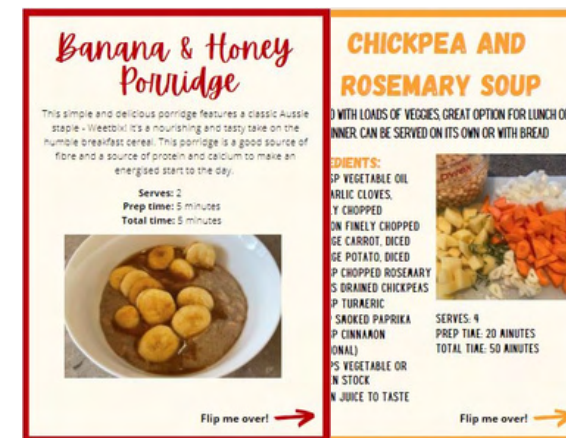
# NUTRITION TEAM

We welcomed new volunteers who shared an interest in health, nutrition and wellbeing, and so formed a nutrition team. Our projects included:

**Info Cards** that provide information about nutrients, storage and ideas for cooking food found in our food parcels.



**Recipe cards** with ingredients contained in our parcels.



**No Cook Packs** for people sleeping rough or who do not have access to utilities. Parcels provide breakfast, lunch and dinner options, with a focus on food that is high in energy, fat and protein.

# REDUCING FOOD WASTE



RESCUED **8,910KG** OF FRESH PRODUCE FROM LANDFILL

DIVRS continued partnerships with food rescue organisations Foodbank, Secondbite and OZHarvest and started a new partnership with Ceres Fair Food.

All these food sources that would otherwise go to landfill are instead distributed to the community through our food parcels.

# COMMUNITY PROFILE



**835**  
HOUSEHOLDS  
SUPPORTED

**48%**  
NEW TO  
DIVRS

BORN IN  
**58**  
COUNTRIES



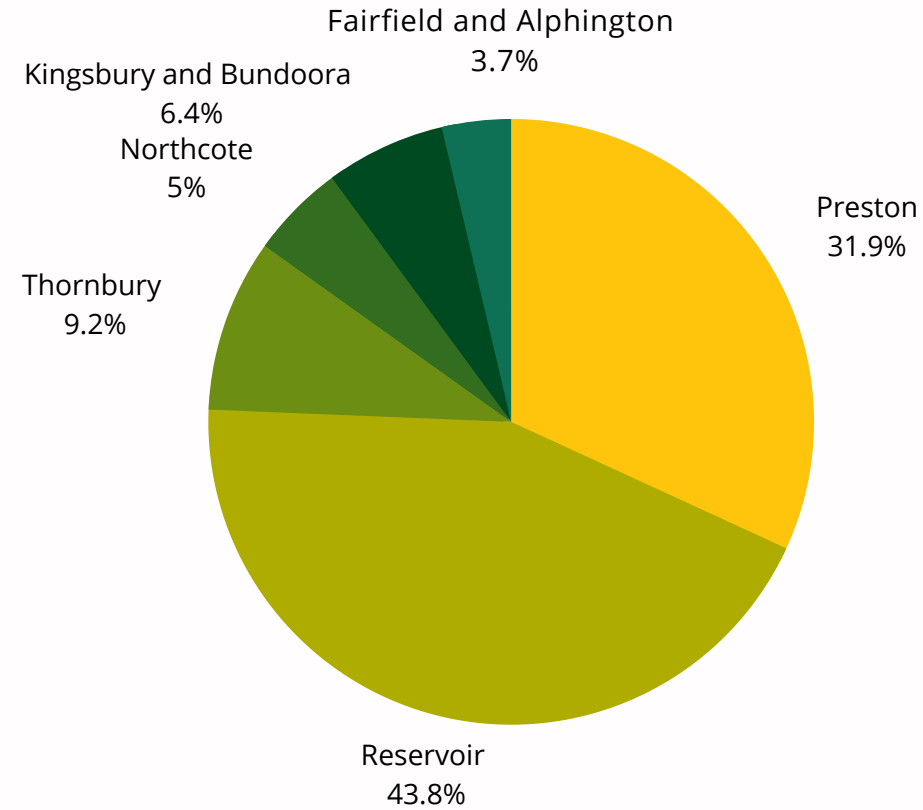
SPEAK NEARLY  
**40**  
LANGUAGES

*"Food boxes are healthy,  
beautifully packaged"*  
**Darebin resident**

- 13% of people experienced homelessness
- 9% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 3% are asylum seekers
- 52% live on their own or are sole parents with dependants
- 10% are international students
- 37% live with a disability
- 85% are on a government payment
- 10% have no income

*"Helped with Telstra, my utilities,  
food, I wasn't even aware of the  
help I was able to get with my bills"*  
**Darebin resident**

## WHERE THEY LIVE



## COMMUNITY SURVEY

Each December for the past three years we ask our community about our service and their experience of food security. This year, we collected 148 responses.

### KEY INSIGHTS

60% of people used our service every fortnight.  
65% have been supported by DIVRS for more than a year.  
54% 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.

- **61% of people said they experience food insecurity**
- **58% were worried there was not enough food to eat**
- **34% ate less than usual because they or their household ran out of food**
- **23% were hungry but did not eat because of access to food**

People selected rent, utility bills and medical expenses as the top three contributors to their experience of food insecurity.

48% of people said they had less than \$100 per fortnight to spend on food after paying regular expenses.

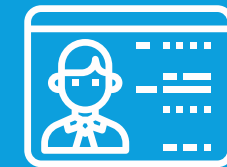
# TAC L2P PROGRAM

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 license. With the 2020 lockdown and snap lockdowns in 2021, the program wasn't able to operate for about six months. When the program resumed there were several challenges such as backlogs at VicRoads and with driving instructors, loss of skills for some young people after a long period of not driving and needing additional professional lessons and rescheduling mentor training for new volunteers.

With our mentors' support, we were able to get back on the road quickly after each lockdown providing almost 1,000 hours of driving experience. We also arranged priority testing, helping 18 learners gain their licence. Some of the tests were scheduled for South Morang, a new test area for us, and mentors and learners needed additional support to drive in the area and feel comfortable when taking their test. Finally, some of our mentors were able to help out in our food services team during the May/June lockdown while the driving program was suspended, helping DIVRS to stay open to provide food for the community.



**54**  
ACTIVE  
LEARNERS



**18**  
LICENCES  
GAINED

**95**  
LEARNER/  
MENTOR  
MATCHES

## SUPPORTING OUR LEARNERS

- More than halved the program wait time for a learner to start driving with a mentor from an average of 12 months to 4 months.
- Continued to partner with PRACE Adult education centre to deliver the program to six students.
- Liaised with local education providers to share information and act as a referral pathway for students to participate in the program.



**37**  
MENTOR  
DRIVERS



**102**  
HOURS OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
DRIVING LESSONS

**967**  
HOURS OF  
VOLUNTEER  
DRIVING

## SUPPORTING OUR TAC L2P MENTORS



- Developed a mentor resource page with information and links to resources including mental health, driving tip sheets, road rules and to celebrate licences being achieved.
- Linked mentors into the community support team to be able to drop in to support their learners, such as available resources and referrals to assist them, debriefing and advice.
- Existing mentors undertook refresher training and we held three training sessions for new volunteers. We also facilitated opportunities for mentors to access additional training such as cultural awareness.
- Partnered with local businesses and organisations to support the program including Grand Wash Auto providing 12 months of free car washing for the two L2P cars and a discount to all DIVRS volunteers and Umberto Espresso Bar hosting a mentor morning tea gathering, providing free delicious coffee and pastries.

# MIGRANT DRIVER PROGRAM

DIVRS's Migrant Driver Program helps adult learner drivers from a migrant or refugee background gain the knowledge and driving experience required to obtain their Victorian drivers' licence. This was a pilot program that started in January 2020.

Due to covid, we suspended the program between March and May 2020, and again from July to December. This 10-month suspension affected program development including recruitment of and training for learners and mentor drivers.

We reconfigured the pilot to use the funding for paid professional lessons for all learners in the program until 30 June 2021. We will look for funding to reintroduce the program in 2022.



5 

LICENCES  
GAINED

17

PARTICIPANTS

  
220

HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL  
DRIVING LESSONS

# URBAN FOOD PROGRAM



## FRUIT SQUAD

Darebin Fruit Squad is a collective action by members of the Darebin community to minimise waste and ensure the harvest from urban fruit trees contributes to reducing food insecurity in our local area. We had 12 active members who work seasonally.

## VEG SQUAD

Veg Squad is a team of 45 at-home volunteer growers in Darebin. DIVRS supplies seedlings and our volunteers plant them in their backyards, eventually harvesting the bounty to share with Darebin residents through our food relief parcels. During lockdown 2.0 we encouraged growers to share their vegetables with their neighbours, and share photos of their bounty with us on social media.

## BACKYARD BASICS

A team of 18 volunteers manage the garden design, planting, growing, maintenance and harvesting of our three growing sites.

- Our main backyard on High St Preston.
- The East Preston Community Garden on Newton St.
- Melbourne Farmers Market in Alphington.

Through the year the program was affected by site closures or restricted services at our growing sites, particularly between July and November when we were unable to maintain our garden or harvest fruit. By May, we had found a way to keep our gardens going in a COVID-safe way during lockdowns meaning we could maintain propagation and harvesting.



**2,326 SEEDLINGS ALLOCATED,  
VALUED AT \$1,535**



**709KG OF PRODUCE HARVESTED,  
VALUED AT \$7,981**



**295KG OF PRODUCE DONATED  
THROUGH MOVING FEAST AND  
LOCAL FARMERS, VALUED AT \$2,260**

The Urban Food Program is strengthening local food systems, ensuring they are secure, healthy, sustainable and fair. We facilitate home food growing, community gardening and urban food production so fresh, nutritious produce can be distributed to local Darebin residents experiencing food insecurity through our food parcels.

# URBAN FOOD WORKSHOPS



- DIVRS hosted 2 'Planning bees' and one 'Garden together' day via Zoom. Volunteers were able to ask a horticulturalist questions about their own garden and make garden plans for the DIVRS growing sites.
- Fruit Squad #101 delivered by a volunteer and the program leader.
- Quince Processing Day where volunteers learnt how to preserve quinces (bottled fruit).

# SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Urban Food Program provided 51 free seedlings to East Reservoir Primary School. We had an active pod network set up for 9 months including one school garden rep, the Urban Food Program Leader and a DIVRS volunteer providing gardening advice and help to the school.

We recognised the Schools Program was an area that needed more resources and in late May we were successful in securing a Vic Health grant. This will allow us to extend on our schools network and offer excursions and other learning opportunities for students in Darebin.

Through this program we aim to support young people who are experiencing food insecurity and help people better understand Emergency Relief.



# GARDENING PROGRAM AT THE EAST PRESTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

At the East Preston Community Centre (EPCC) garden we run open gardening sessions for the community to attend. We engage local residents and support and encourage a positive, social, creative and productive time together. We ran 17 garden sessions between March and June with 11 local residents participating.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Wicking Bed Workshop led by the EPCC garden manager and a Wicking Bed Expert.
- EPCC Open Day Potting Activity led by the EPCC garden manager.
- Invited East Preston locals to join a cooking workshop, developed in collaboration with Your Community Health and using fresh herbs grown in the onsite community garden. People had lunch onsite and food to take home with them too.



# OUR VOLUNTEERS

As a volunteer driven organisation, we simply could not do what we do without the wonderful people in our community who give their time, skill, experience and energy. In a year of challenges, our volunteers and placement students showed up with kindness and care, adapting to new ways of working to deliver services remotely and in person in COVID-safe ways to support each other and our community. Thank you!



**10,411 VOLUNTEER HOURS EQUATING TO \$260,275 (AT \$25 PER HOUR)**



## VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

- We had an unprecedented increase in volunteer enquiries with over 230 enquiries. From December to June, 70 new volunteers joined DIVRS. At 30 June we had over 160 volunteers and students across all our programs.
- To meet growing demand for our services and increase our reach and accessibility, in 2021 we grew our community support and food services teams fourfold, using scheduling and hybrid working to deliver programs and services in COVID-safe ways.
- Volunteers are from all backgrounds, experiences and ages from early 20s to late 70s. In this annual report we invite you to get to know some of them.
- Volunteer roles include food and parcel packing, food relief driving and deliveries, logistics, community support, emergency relief, reception and administration, driver mentoring, garden planting, harvesting and growing, tax help, no interest loans officers, outreach, nutrition and projects.

## STAYING CONNECTED

In a time where social inclusion and connection was more important than ever, we made it a priority to stay connected with our volunteers and for them to connect with each other. Some of our initiatives included:

- When on site in non-lockdown periods, food services daily crews stop for a coffee and a chat mid-morning, often joined by our urban food and community support volunteers.
- Our community support team attend an online meeting each day to check in, discuss matters, hear from other organisations and services to increase their knowledge to better support the community and share information.
- Our urban food volunteers use whats app groups to keep connected and organise activities.
- We held planning days in urban food and food services for people to connect, share information and plan for the future.
- We released the first edition for the year of the DIVRS Digest – our quarterly volunteer newsletter.
- We held a morning tea for our mentor drivers who generally volunteer on their own with their mentee.



# 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 Paul and Dawn for your passion and commitment and making a positive impact at DIVRS and on the lives of people in the Darebin community.



## PAUL'S STORY

Paul knew he wanted to volunteer somewhere local using his knowledge and skills from his experience in the workplace, and DIVRS's Emergency Relief food program was a perfect fit.

"The scale of the program has grown enormously from a food storage cupboard since 2010 when I joined", said Paul.

There is now an enthusiastic and committed food packing team, which Paul leads as Food Store Coordinator, ordering fresh and grocery food items, managing storage and liaising with suppliers, ensuring we have the quantity and variety of food to provide to the community all year round.

Volunteering continues to be a significant part of Paul's life. He said:

"I enjoy working with motivated and dedicated colleagues and using my skills for the good of the community.

"For me, volunteering is a real sense of reward seeing results of the collective efforts of the DIVRS crew whereby we are making a difference, and with a touch of laughter and humour along the way."

## DAWN'S STORY



Dawn has been involved in the TAC L2P program since it started at DIVRS back in 2010. Over the 10 years she has provided 800 hours of mentor driving and helped 10 young people obtain their drivers licence.

When we asked Dawn to reflect on her 10 years of service and what she enjoyed about volunteering with the TAC L2P Program she said:

"While I love the licence at the end of the journey for the young driver, it's the interactions on the weekly basis and the rapport and trust that can grow between mentor and driver that is rewarding.

"Some amazing conversations are to be had and I am grateful to play a small role in someone's personal development."

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR VOLUNTEERS

## MEET EMILY



Emily volunteered with our food services and urban food teams. She wanted to figure out where to take her dietetics studies and give back to her community through being involved with a community organisation working with food and nutrition and offer her knowledge and skills in a safe setting.

“Seeing how DIVRS has created its own mini food system to combat food relief, as well as all of the other things the organisation is doing to support local community members, has been truly inspiring and confirmed my interest in working with systems and communities, shifting the onus of health from individuals to environments and systems” she said.

Emily has now moved to Darwin to work as a public health nutritionist with Aboriginal communities.

Moragh was a social work student on placement with DIVRS in the community support and emergency relief team. Moragh is passionate about working with people and supporting her local community.

“I really enjoy volunteering here. As a community support worker I talk with people about how we can help them by providing information, help paying bills, advocacy and connecting them with other supports,” Moragh said. “It’s a real sense of community for everyone involved and it’s a good feeling knowing that what you’re doing has a huge impact.”

## MEET MORAGH



## MEET MANUEL

Manuel has been a mentor driver for the TAC L2P program for 8 years, supporting 5 young people obtain their drivers licence. What he enjoys most about being part of the program is the chance to pass his driving experience to the younger generation and support people who don't have the help or finances for regular driving lessons. Manuel said another plus to mentor driving is he can keep up to date with any changes to driving rules or protocols.

Manuel said: “For me, the best part is the pleasure of seeing their smile after they get their licence.”



# GETTING TO KNOW OUR VOLUNTEERS

## MEET AMRITA



Joining the DIVRS team in June 2020, Amrita volunteers with food services and you can also find her harvesting and composting in our DIVRS garden.

She said "DIVRS is a hub of knowledge and a great way of finding out what is going on in Darebin". Being onsite at DIVRS also provides her with a point of connection to her community, giving her an opportunity to give back and support the program and make connections in the team and with her community.

"Being at DIVRS is a rewarding experience, a place where the values are tangible and that's special. It's a nice change from office life" said Amrita.

## MEET MARK



Mark joined the Emergency Relief and Community Support team in January 2020, initially as a social work student and then as a volunteer Community Support Worker. He had a great experience while on placement and wanted to keep helping during a tough time with the pandemic.

Mark said: "What I like most about volunteering at DIVRS is the friendly environment. I also get to interact with many community members who experience a wide variety of challenges, which makes each day at DIVRS interesting."

## MEET KIM

Kim is our gardener extraordinaire in our Urban Food Program. She works in two very important areas of the garden - propagation and garden planning. Kim works across all of our sites, supporting our propagation team Christine and Lynette and our garden facilitators Michelle and Holly.

Kim has a beautiful, productive garden at home and has been able to share her knowledge and love of permaculture with the team.

"Growing food with DIVRS has been a joyful, meaningful and rewarding experience" said Kim.



# GETTING TO KNOW OUR VOLUNTEERS

## MEET GEORGIA



Georgia is incredibly passionate about road safety and everybody having fair access to resources no matter their circumstances or situation. As soon as Georgia got her full licence, she wanted to volunteer as a mentor driver to help young people get driving experience and promote excellent driving habits that will last long into their independent driving journey.

Georgia said: "I absolutely love spending time with my learner and not only helping them safely reach their goal of obtaining their licence but also hopefully being a positive figure in their life. It's a wonderful feeling being a part of such an incredible program like TAC L2P that offers both opportunity and human connection – two essential things I believe are imperative to wellbeing."

Corinne volunteers with our Urban Food Program, preparing gardens, collecting donations, generating program awareness among the community and learning from the experienced gardeners! Learning about food waste and food security motivated Corinne to start a neighbourhood veggie garden swap. When she saw DIVRS had an organised program for the initiative she was hoping to create, she was more than happy to jump on board.

"Working toward supporting the community via sustainable gardening with the community is the highlight of my week" said Corinne.

Corinne feels that volunteering is the most significant impact we make in our community and it offers the opportunity to learn and share with others.

## MEET CORINNE



## MEET MARGARET

Margaret is part of a team of Fruit Squad volunteers who harvested 75kg of quince from trees in the local community in May. The fruit was preserved and went into food parcels distributed to local households as part of our Emergency Relief Program.

"It was particularly satisfying knowing that without our efforts all of that fruit would have gone to waste," said Margaret. "Now instead it can be enjoyed by many in the Darebin community."

# 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/get-involved>

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 2020-2021 financial year (FY21).

DIVRS saw an increase in income in FY21 of \$245k (41%), driven primarily by increased COVID-19 funding (\$238k). Although the impact of COVID restrictions on DIVRS saw a reduction in Operating Income for the period (-\$30k), this reduction was offset by an increase in Federal Government JobKeeper assistance (\$56k).

A significant portion of the additional income received (44%) in FY21 was allocated to the ongoing support of the Emergency Relief Program where spending was more than double the prior financial year (FY20), resulting in an increased allocation of \$109k to the program (FY21: \$213k, FY20: \$104k).

DIVRS saw decreases in overhead expenses including in Salaries and Wages which decreased by \$17k due to a period of transition to the new Executive Officer, and a significant decrease in the depreciation expense (\$40k) due to a large portion of DIVRS's assets being fully depreciated in FY20.

DIVRS is in a strong financial position with a net surplus of \$239k. There is an increase in current assets in FY21 of \$215k, with a portion of this (\$65k) currently allocated to support emergency relief in the future. Our accumulated funds are needed to support future relocation and refit of a new premises in the short to medium term and ongoing replacement of assets to continue to deliver services to the community.

Being newly appointed as Treasurer for DIVRS and a member of the Committee of Governance, I would like to thank the Chairperson, Anna Morgan, the Executive Officer, Christina DiPierdomenico, and other committee members for their ongoing support and collaborative approach in assisting me to meet my obligation to oversee the financial administration of DIVRS.

**Adam Hanson**  
Treasurer

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

**ABN 80 927 699 259**

**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

**DAREBIN INFORMATION, VOLUNTEER & RESOURCE SERVICE INCORPORATED (DIVRS)  
ABN 80 927 699 259  
SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Committee of Governance's Report	1
Income and Expenditure Statement	2
Statement of Financial Position	3
Statement of Changes in Equity	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6
Statement by Members of the Committee of Governance	8
Independent Auditor's Report	9
Certificate by Members of the Committee of Governance	11

Your Committee of Governance presents the special purpose financial report on the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

**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	From 23 April 2021
Vacant	Vice chairperson	
Adam Hanson	Treasurer	Appointed 7 June 2021
Terry Zhu	Past Treasurer	Resigned 4 April 2021
Olivia Greenwell	Secretary	Appointed 7 June 2021
Dr. Andrew Thackrah	Past Secretary	Resigned 14 March 2021
Joy Banerji	General member	Chairperson from 1 July 2020 to 23 April 2021 Vice Chairperson from 23 April 2021 to Resignation on 21 July 2021
Judy Lazarus(OAM)	General member	Vice Chairperson from 1 July 2020 to 29 October 2020
Simone Condon	General member	Resigned 29 October 2020
Tony Lander	General member	Resigned 29 October 2020

**Principal Activities**

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

Darebin Information Volunteer Resource Service is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organisation that delivers free services and programs for vulnerable populations in Darebin, reducing financial crisis, social isolation and barriers to accessing community information.

DIVRS through a variety of services provides:

- Resources and support to low income Darebin residents who suffer from financial stress or crisis. Our aim is to strengthen their financial independence and increase resilience.
- Programs and services which advance the education and skills development of disadvantaged and other 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 promote resilience, 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 surplus for the year attributable to the Association amounted to \$238,798 (2020: \$47,551). The surplus is partly due to an increase in funding received due to COVID 19 which will support the growing demand for Emergency Relief Services in future financial years. The association has been accumulating funds to meet the need for more space to deliver services safely and effectively. These funds will contribute to the cost of new premises and asset replacement.


**After Balance Date Events**


The COVID19 pandemic is likely to induce significant changes in the state of affairs of the association during the financial period ended 30 June 2022. 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 2021 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- the entity's operations in future financial years, or
- the results of those operations in future financial years, or
- 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 27th day of October 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants	555,566	336,451
Operating Income	164,990	195,074
Interest Received	319	646
COVID-19 Federal Government Assistance Payments	108,941	52,541
COVID-19 State Government Assistance Payments	10,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>839,816</b>	<b>594,712</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Administration Expenses	-	352
Advertising & Fundraising	-	-
Audit & Legal Fees	2,300	2,000
Bank Fees	70	4
Bookkeeping Fees	6,300	6,300
Consultants	11,600	-
Emergency Relief & Foodstore Expenses	213,047	104,025
Computer Expenses	1,984	3,130
Depreciation	7,858	47,434
Insurance	1,117	1,095
Interest Paid on Business Loan	476	-
Light & Power	2,683	4,906
Membership & Subscriptions	2,405	2,190
Portable Long Service Benefits Scheme Levy	3,923	4,186
Project Expenses	57,632	56,477
Printing & Stationary	1,664	10,821
Provision for Leave Entitlements	10,945	6,300
Repairs, Maintenance & Cleaning	5,316	4,784
Salaries and Wages	241,737	258,644
Staff Training/ Workforce Development	908	595
Superannuation	22,835	24,266
Telephone & Internet	2,956	5,572
Volunteer Expenses	1,167	667
Worker's compensation insurance	2,095	3,413
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>601,018</b>	<b>547,161</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>238,798</b>	<b>47,551</b>

**DAREBIN INFORMATION, VOLUNTEER & RESOURCE SERVICE INCORPORATED (DIVRS)**  
**ABN 80 927 699 259**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021**

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank	453,685	281,857
Petty Cash	149	400
Accounts Receivable	3,540	5,934
Other Receivables	-	18,541
Prepayments & Gift Cards and Vouchers on Hand	64,709	559
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>522,083</b>	<b>307,291</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Office Furniture and Equipment	27,980	91,377
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(20,791)	(68,017)
	<u>7,189</u>	<u>23,360</u>
Motor Vehicles	78,732	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(55,083)	-
	<u>23,649</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>30,838</b>	<b>23,360</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>552,921</b>	<b>330,651</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and Other Creditors	11,046	16,933
ATO GST & PAYGW Payable	3,341	7,893
Grants Received in Advance	101,452	105,417
Superannuation Payable	1,235	2,172
Provision for Annual Leave	16,395	23,728
Secured Business Loan: Motor Vehicle	8,893	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>142,362</b>	<b>156,143</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	876	3,623
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>3,623</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>143,238</b>	<b>159,766</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>409,683</b>	<b>170,885</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated funds	409,683	170,885
	<u>409,683</u>	<u>170,885</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 2021**

	Accumulated funds \$	Total \$
Opening Balance as at 1 July 2019	123,334	123,334
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to the Association	47,551	47,551
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>170,885</b>	<b>170,885</b>
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>

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



	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from Grants		551,601	441,868
Receipts from Operating Income		167,384	189,140
Receipts from Other Sources		137,482	44,000
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(686,781)	(507,591)
Interest Paid		(476)	-
Interest Received		319	646
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(i)</b>	<b>169,529</b>	<b>168,063</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for Property, Plant and Equipment		(15,334)	(15,032)
Proceeds from Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment		8,489	-
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>		<b>(6,845)</b>	<b>(15,032)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from Borrowings		11,370	-
Prepayment of Borrowings		(2,477)	-
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities</b>		<b>8,893</b>	<b>-</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		171,577	153,031
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		282,257	129,226
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	<b>(ii)</b>	<b>453,834</b>	<b>282,257</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 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Note (i). Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities</b>		
Net surplus for the year	238,798	47,551
Non-cash flow item: depreciation	7,858	47,434
Non-cash flow item: profit on disposal of fixed assets	(8,491)	-
(Increase)/decrease in accounts receivable	2,394	(5,934)
(Increase)/decrease in other receivables	18,541	(18,541)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(64,150)	(6)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(11,376)	(14,158)
Increase/(decrease) in grants received in advance	(3,965)	105,417
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(10,080)	6,300
	<b>169,529</b>	<b>168,063</b>
<b>Note (ii). Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>		
Cash at Bank	453,685	281,857
Petty Cash	149	400
	<b>453,834</b>	<b>282,257</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.

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 general 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 are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Committee of Governance 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.

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

**c. 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).

**d. 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*.

**e. 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.

**f. Employment Entitlements**

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Contributions are made by the association to employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

**g. Provisions**



Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

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 2 to 7:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service Incorporated (DIVRS) as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service Incorporated (DIVRS) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee of Governance and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee of Governance by:

Chairperson	 _____ Annabelle Morgan
Treasurer	 _____ Adam Hanson
Dated this	27th day of October 2021

**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 2021, 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 2021 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:** 4 November 2021

# 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
- Big Group Hug
- Bunnings, Northland
- Butterworth Bookkeeping
- CERES
- CERES Fair Food
- Christmas Box
- Community Information and Support Victoria (CISVic)
- Cultivating Community
- Darebin City Council
- Darebin Community Legal Centre
- Darebin Emergency Relief Network
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Transport
- Dr Traffic Driving School
- East Preston Community Centre
- FareShare
- Feed Appeal
- Foodbank Victoria
- Ged Kearney MP Office
- Good Shepherd Microfinance
- Grand Wash Auto
- H&A Espresso
- Haven Home Safe
- Heidelberg Magistrates Court
- In2Gear Driving School
- Individual Donors and Supporters
- Inner North Foundation
- Jika Jika Community Centre
- Kat Theophanous MP Office
- Kinfolk
- La Trobe University
- Lala Choir
- Learn Local
- Mayor of the City of Darebin, Councillor Lina Messina
- Melbourne Farmers Markets and the many stall holders who have donated to us
- Melbourne Polytechnic
- Moon Rabbit Cafe
- Moving Feast
- Northcote Bakeshop
- Northcote Lions Club
- Northern Community Church of Christ
- OZ Harvest
- PRACE
- Preston South Primary School
- Preston West Primary School
- Reservoir Neighbourhood House
- RMIT
- Rotary Club of Preston
- Sacred Heart Mission Preston
- Salvation Army Support Services Preston
- SecondBite
- Share the Dignity
- Shut up and Drive Driving School
- SPAN Community House
- St Joseph's Primary School Northcote
- St Stephen's Primary School Reservoir
- TAC L2P Steering Committee members
- The Bridge Darebin
- Tenants Victoria
- Transport Accident Commission
- U3A Darebin
- Umberto Espresso Bar
- Uniting
- Urban Food Steering Committee members
- VicHealth
- VicRoads
- Victoria Police, Northcote
- Your Community Health





Published by the Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service

[www.divrs.org.au](http://www.divrs.org.au)

9480 8200

254 High St, Preston 3027

[admin@divrs.org.au](mailto:admin@divrs.org.au)

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

All photos are published, owned and protected by DIVRS 2021©

DIVRS acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners and custodians of the land we are on and their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this region.

