

Burke and Beyond

Annual Report 2025-2026

Inclusion that Counts



BURKE & BEYOND

Supportive Progressive Accountable



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Our Impact



8,892

ACTIVITIES



46,352

HOURS OF SERVICE
DELIVERED



740

ACTIVE GOALS

President and CEO Report

We are pleased to present this Report to Members, Participants, Parents, Carers, Volunteers, Staff and Board Members of Burke and Beyond Association Incorporated.

Firstly, a special thank you to everyone involved with Burke and Beyond for their contribution to the organisation's growth and success. The amazing ongoing commitment and enthusiasm of our Leaders, Teams and Board Members means that we have been ready for any opportunity that comes our way. More particularly, however, is that we are in a position where we can support and encourage our wonderful group of participants to learn and develop so they can be the best they can be.

Each year we report that life in the disability sector is challenging and none more so than the past 12 months, with a number Service Providers closing their doors, unable to cope with the many changes, requirements and more stringent reporting and audit expectations. This has been particularly difficult for participants and their families. Whilst we at Burke and Beyond are facing some of the biggest hurdles of our existence, we have been very prudent and wise in our decision making and invested in our future knowing that at some stage the sector will be under extreme pressure.

Experience has shown us that our sector goes through peaks and troughs and at this time, things are not as easy to navigate as they may have been in some past years. It will become even more difficult in the year ahead. We have done and are doing everything we can to ensure we can continue to provide outstanding service and comfort to our Burke and Beyond family.

There are several key reporting points which we would like to share with you. These relate to:

- *Our Finances:* We are again happy to report that we are in a very sound financial position with a strong asset base including a solid investment portfolio. This financial year has been somewhat more difficult for many reasons, none the least of which has been NDIS funding levels. Our diversified investment strategy implemented two years ago has proven to be a critical part of our income stream, which has essentially topped up NDIS funding. The annual financial report from our Treasurer is included as an important part of this report. Our Board, Risk, Audit and Finance Sub-Committee remain committed to ensuring our ongoing success and will take every opportunity to grow, strengthen and protect our financial position.
- *Our Team:* We have an outstanding team of people who have given everything they could; often in their own time to ensure the best possible outcomes for everyone. These people have again been totally dedicated and selfless in ensuring our Participants have met or progressed towards achieving their goals, hopes and aspirations. This is the type of spirit which shapes our culture, our people, our future and makes us a great place to be.
- *Our Profile:* We continue to maintain an excellent reputation amongst parents, families, schools and at all levels of Government. Our profile is so well known that we have had to protect our brand on numerous occasions as other providers have tried to use our name or variations of this. Because we have trademarked Burke and Beyond, we have been able to stop others from copying our work. The Board will continue to do everything possible to ensure that we secure our brand and reputation as an outstanding service provider. We will continue to represent the culture we have come to know at Burke and Beyond and ensure that those who work with and for us will know and feel part of our family.

- *Our Board:* Our Board has provided outstanding strategic direction for our organisation. They have worked together to secure the best outcomes that could be achieved. They have contributed in many ways, not only through the Board Governance process, but through sub-committees designed to deliver on our selected strategies. We have a great mix of highly skilled, passionate and diversely talented individuals who are dedicated to our success, and we are incredibly lucky to have them setting the direction for Burke and Beyond. The Board will face many big decisions in the next year or so and will do this with the same sense of purpose and dedication as they always have.

This coming year and the immediate future will be the most financially challenging time we have faced in many years as the Federal Government's changes to NDIS funding models are implemented. This will cause us to make many changes to our structure and operational footprint. We are acutely aware that this will not be easy to navigate and will place immense pressure on our Board and Leadership Team. Unlike many other providers we have been preparing for this likely scenario for some time, and we know it won't be easy. One thing that won't change is our commitment to our vision and mission.

Burke and Beyond continues to have an excellent reputation in all the areas we serve, and we will continue to ensure we protect this well-earned position.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our efforts in what has been a very busy year, in fact the busiest we have experienced. Special thanks to our site teams, volunteers, carers and our hard-working Leadership Team who gave up a significant amount of their personal time to support participants and their families, ensuring we are the best we can be.

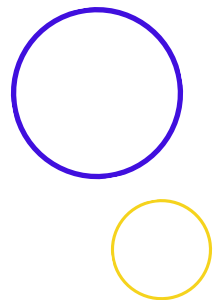
Finally, we particularly want to recognise our dedicated and professional Board of Management for volunteering their time, expertise, and energy, much of it after hours, to ensure we see a long-term future for Burke and Beyond. Anthony Murdoch (Vice President/Vice Chair) Ray Cummings (Treasurer), Jonathan Edmonds (Secretary), Joe Morrison, Davina Bate, Simone Garrad and Natalie Nie have demonstrated their commitment and enthusiasm to ensure our success. One thing that never changes is that it is "inclusion that counts".



Trevor Eddy
President and Chairman



Lisa Sawatzky
Chief Executive Officer



Treasurer Report

It is once again my pleasure to present the Financial Report for the 2025–2026 financial year to our Members, Participants, Parents, Carers, Volunteers, Staff and Board Members of Burke and Beyond Association Incorporated.

The sector has again faced significant challenges. Constrained pricing continues to affect service delivery, while reductions in NDIS plan funding has limited some participants' attendance and the range of supports available to them. We have continued to engage with Government about the need for adequate funding to support the delivery of quality services for people with an intellectual disability.

Our investment portfolio remains strong and has supported the organisation to maintain the delivery of quality services by supplementing inadequate Government funding. Investment income contributed to the organisation's revenue for the year and strengthened our capacity to continue supporting the people we serve.

Financial forecasting remains challenging because NDIS Plan outcomes are unpredictable and there is limited clarity about how funding decisions will be made under the new legislative framework as the reform agenda progresses.

We have continued to operate efficiently and have reduced overhead expenditure by streamlining the leadership structure. We have addressed operational inefficiencies and continued to review our service mix, staffing levels and non-operational workforce requirements. During the transition to a more sustainable operating model, the Executive Team has assumed broader responsibilities while developing additional service offerings.

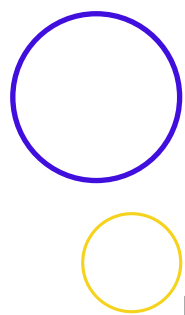
Despite these uncertainties, Burke and Beyond has remained adaptable and resilient while continuing to respond to significant changes across the operating environment.

The hard work, commitment and determination of our staff and Board have contributed to positive outcomes and the ongoing viability of the organisation despite a challenging operating environment.

As we look ahead, the Board will continue to closely monitor financial performance, investment returns, funding reform and service sustainability. Our priority remains the responsible stewardship of the organisation's resources so that Burke and Beyond can continue to provide high-quality, responsive supports to the people we serve.



Ray Cummings
Treasurer



General Manager Service Delivery

I am pleased to present my Report for 2025–2026, a year of resilience, adaptation and continued commitment to high-quality supports. I acknowledge our Participants, Staff, Families, Executive and Leadership teams, whose dedication makes a meaningful difference every day.

The disability sector continued to evolve throughout the year, with changes to NDIS funding arrangements creating additional complexity for Participants, Families and Providers. Our teams demonstrated exceptional adaptability, responding with care, flexibility and practical problem-solving to help participants understand their budgets, maintain continuity where possible and continue working towards meaningful outcomes.

We continued to refine service models, strengthen operational practices and pursue new opportunities. Teams embraced change while keeping participant outcomes and continuous improvement at the centre of service delivery.

We celebrated the achievements of participants throughout the year and the progress they made towards their individual goals. Across all sites, participants accessed ongoing work experience opportunities, strengthened social and community connections, developed practical skills across all areas of life and took part in meaningful activities aligned with their interests and aspirations. Participants also built confidence in making choices, communicating their preferences, travelling within the community, managing everyday routines and taking greater responsibility for tasks. For some, achievement meant trying something new or participating more independently; for others, it involved sustaining a placement, contributing to a team, sharing a talent or forming new friendships. Each milestone, large or small, reflected persistence, personal growth and the value of support tailored to the individual. Participants' independence, contributions and willingness to embrace new experiences remain at the heart of our work.

We look forward to the Participant Awards Night, where we will come together to enjoy an evening of fun and celebration while recognising participants' achievements, talents and personal milestones.

Beyond Gardening was successfully established, giving participants practical, nature-based experience through purposeful projects. *Beyond Rhythm* also grew, with community performances showcasing participants' talents, confidence and creativity while strengthening inclusion.

Another exciting achievement was the completion and implementation of the Next Step Curriculum. It provides teams with clear, structured lesson plans and defined learning outcomes, supporting consistent, purposeful learning that can be adapted to participants' individual goals, strengths and interests. The curriculum strengthens skill development and gives participants meaningful opportunities to apply their learning in everyday life, work and the community.

In response to evolving needs, we are broadening flexible support options while retaining strong group-based services. Priorities include in-home and employment-related support, out-of-hours social groups and weekend activities. These value-for-money options aim to build independence and community connection while remaining sustainable, high quality and person-centred.

Staff development was another highlight. We welcomed new team members, supported internal progression and invested in ongoing learning. Their professionalism and commitment to participants remain fundamental to our success.

The Staff Awards Night was a special opportunity to celebrate the outstanding work our teams do every day and formally recognise their achievements. It brought colleagues together to acknowledge dedication, innovation, teamwork and the positive impact staff have on participants and the broader Burke and Beyond community.

Collaboration with participants, families, support networks and community partners continued to create inclusive environments where people feel respected, valued and empowered, extending opportunities beyond our services into the wider community.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on innovation, sustainability and excellence. A key priority will be developing our suite of services to provide participants and families with greater choice and flexibility, including expanded in-home supports, after-hours support options and opportunities beyond traditional service times. We will continue shaping these services around individual needs and goals, helping participants build independence, sustain community connections and access meaningful support where and when it is needed.

Our achievements reflect the collective efforts of participants, families, staff, leaders, the Executive Management Team and Board of Directors. Together, we create opportunities, achieve goals and make a positive difference.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to another successful year at Burke and Beyond. I look forward to navigating the opportunities and challenges ahead together, with participants at the heart of every decision.

Deanne Ray
General Manager Service
Delivery



Quality and Risk

The past year has been one of significant reflection and improvement for Burke and Beyond. Across the organisation, we have continued to strengthen the systems that support safe, high-quality and person-centred services while creating meaningful opportunities for participants.

We have continued to strengthen our complaints and feedback processes, recognising that feedback - whether positive or critical - is an important opportunity to learn. Improved systems for recording, investigating and responding to complaints have helped us identify broader organisational improvements and ensure people are treated respectfully and kept informed throughout the process.

Risk management and workplace safety remained key priorities. Our organisational Risk Register was regularly reviewed and reported to the Board, supporting a clear understanding of emerging and ongoing risks.

Continuous improvement has remained closely connected to innovation. *Beyond Gardening* has grown from a new idea into an exciting Social Enterprise that provides practical training, work experience and pathways towards employment for the young people involved in the program.

As we look ahead, our focus will remain on strengthening participant voice, maintaining robust governance and safeguarding systems, supporting our workforce and ensuring financial viability in our ever-changing climate while continuing to align with Burke and Beyond's Trademark - Supportive, Progressive and Accountable.

Danielle Coulson
Executive Manager, Quality and Risk

Participant Advisory Committee

Our voices matter, we are an important part of making Burke and Beyond the best it can be!

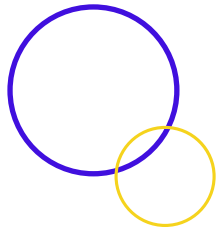
This year, we have continued to meet as Burke and Beyond's Participant Advisory Committee (PAC).

The PAC gives us a chance to represent participants, share our ideas and have a say about things that affect us at Burke and Beyond. We don't always agree on everything, and that is okay. What is important is that everyone gets an opportunity to speak and different ideas are listened to.

One of the things we worked on this year was the new Easy English Service Agreement. We also talked about Burke and Beyond's Strategic Plan. We discussed what putting customers first means and shared ideas about how Burke and Beyond could reach more people.

We have also had opportunities to be involved in decisions outside our PAC meetings. Marie represented participants as part of the Staff Awards process, helping recognise staff who make a difference.

Members of the Participant Advisory Committee



Beyond Gardening



From Little Things, Big Things Grow

You could say the concept for *Beyond Gardening* began as a seed: a small group of participants who shared an interest in gardening and a desire to learn more.

With the encouragement of the Burke and Beyond team, these young people enrolled in a landscaping course at Doveton Neighbourhood Learning Centre. There, their interest was nurtured as they developed practical skills, knowledge and hands-on experience.

Before long, they were ready to branch out and apply what they had learned in a real work environment. They had the skills, interest, physical ability and motivation. Their confidence had flourished - they just needed the opportunity to grow.

That opportunity came through the support of the City of Greater Dandenong Community Grants Program. Grant funding enabled Burke and Beyond to purchase specialised gardening equipment and establish a dedicated gardening trailer. With the generous assistance of volunteer Ian Belcher, the trailer was carefully customised to meet the individual needs of the young people involved, making the equipment safe, accessible and practical to use.

Beyond Gardening shows what can take root when participants' interests, skilled staff, dedicated volunteers, community partnerships and innovative thinking are given the right conditions to grow. It is about much more than maintaining outdoor spaces - it is about planting the seeds of confidence, growing connections as well as creating opportunities for the future.



Balwyn Living and Learning

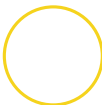
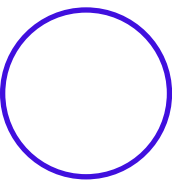
The 2025–2026 year has been a period of significant change and development at the Balwyn site. With a leadership change, we thank Louise for her many years of dedication and wish her all the best in her future endeavours. Throughout these transitions, staff worked collaboratively to ensure participants continued to feel supported, welcomed, and engaged.

A strong focus throughout the year has been strengthening person-centred practice by ensuring programs reflect participants' individual needs, interests, and goals. Staff have worked to identify participants' strengths and areas for development, creating opportunities to build independence, confidence, practical life skills, social skills, and community participation. New activities introduced throughout the year have added variety to weekly programs while supporting learning, engagement, and skill development.

A key achievement has been the continued growth of independent living skills through Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre (KNLC), Central Ringwood Community Centre (CRCC), onsite programs, and community-based activities. Participants have developed confidence in cooking, meal preparation, washing dishes, ordering food and coffee, using technology, and participating more independently in community settings. These experiences have strengthened communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and everyday living skills. Onsite responsibilities have also encouraged accountability, teamwork, routine, and pride by giving participants meaningful opportunities to contribute to the running of the service.

Social and community engagement has remained a priority through Coffee Club, Book Club, and expanded volunteer opportunities. These activities have supported communication, relationship building, confidence, and a sense of belonging while encouraging participants to engage with their wider community.

Service improvements have included ongoing training and collaboration with Allied Health professionals, and strengthening staff knowledge of communication, behaviour support, and person-centred approaches. In addition, changes to staffing ratios have enabled staff to provide more individualised support, monitor participant progress more closely, and build stronger relationships while increasing participant engagement and confidence. Visits from the *Beyond Rhythm* band have also created enjoyable opportunities for music, social connection, and collaboration across sites.



Community partnerships have continued to enhance our program by providing meaningful learning and participation opportunities. KNLC has supported cooking, independent living, and rhythm and movement programs, while CRCC has provided technology and life skills courses. Meals on Wheels partnerships in Balwyn North and the newly established Canterbury program have expanded volunteer opportunities, helping participants develop teamwork, responsibility, communication, and work-readiness skills. Partnerships with Alphington Lawn Bowls and The Shed at Alphington Community Centre have broadened recreational and practical learning experiences.

Looking ahead, Balwyn will continue strengthening our connection with the Box Hill, Ringwood and Dandenong sites through shared activities, staff collaboration, and participant visits. Coffee club/barista training will continue to build practical hospitality skills, while curriculum-based programs and community partnerships will support individual goals, such as volunteering, recreation, independent living, and social inclusion. Ongoing garden growth and art installations around the site will also create opportunities for practical skill development, creativity, teamwork, pride, and connection.

Overall, our achievements and improvements throughout 2025–2026 have strengthened the Balwyn service and reinforced its commitment to person-centred, high-quality support. Despite a year of transition, the dedication of staff and the resilience of participants have ensured continued growth across the program. Moving forward, Balwyn remains committed to creating meaningful opportunities that build independence, confidence, community participation, and lifelong learning for every participant.

Tamika Jongebloed
Acting Site Coordinator



The Next Step Box Hill

Over the 2025–2026 reporting period, Burke and Beyond's Box Hill site continued to support young people to build independence, confidence and community participation through practical, hands-on learning. Programs focused on life skills, education, vocational pathways, social connection and employment readiness, helping participants work towards individual goals in inclusive community settings.

Box Hill is proud of our continued partnerships, which provide access to accredited education, vocational training and practical skill development.

Certificate I in Adult Literacy and Numeracy: Participants developed reading, writing, communication and numeracy skills for everyday life, further education and employment. The program promoted confidence, problem-solving, independence and lifelong learning.

Certificate II in Work Education (Hospitality): Participants built vocational and workplace skills through classroom and practical learning, including customer service, food preparation, workplace communication, teamwork and industry practices.

Hospitality Training: Participants gained hands-on experience in food preparation, kitchen safety, food handling, cleaning procedures, customer service and teamwork in a supportive environment.

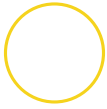
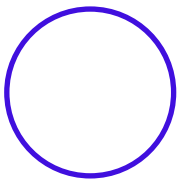
Computer Skills Programs: Participants strengthened digital literacy through practical activities such as word processing, internet safety, email communication, online research, data entry and basic software use.

Customer Service Training: Participants developed communication, professional presentation, teamwork and problem-solving skills, including how to greet customers, respond to enquiries and follow workplace procedures.

Trade Skills Programs: Participants developed practical trade and vocational skills through woodworking, basic construction, maintenance tasks, tool handling and workshop-based projects that promoted problem-solving, teamwork and independence.

Horticulture Programs: Participants took part in planting, propagating, garden maintenance and outdoor care, building practical skills while supporting wellbeing, responsibility, teamwork, sustainability and community participation.





Podcasting: Participants planned and recorded Podcast episodes, explored topics of interest, conducted interviews and used recording and editing tools while developing communication, social and teamwork skills.

Retail Styling: Participants built retail and visual merchandising skills through product displays, stock presentation and customer service. They also supported the Winter Solstice Festival and Lightshow, which attracted approximately 3,000 visitors and provided a valuable public engagement experience.

The site continued to strengthen collaboration with Allied Health Practitioners. These partnerships supported staff to build confidence in delivering effective, person-centred supports aligned with participant goals and needs, while promoting consistency across support environments and improving outcomes for participants and families.

Environmental improvements enhanced accessibility and inclusion, particularly for participants who use wheelchairs, reducing barriers to programs, activities and community participation. KMT's generous donation of refurbished computers also expanded access to digital learning, supporting technology use for communication, learning, employment preparation, research and recreation.

Partnerships with Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre (KNLC), Clota Cottage, Box Hill Baptist Church and Box Hill Institute continued to broaden educational, vocational and community-based opportunities.

Over the next 12 months, the Box Hill site will focus on expanding educational and vocational opportunities, increasing capacity to support participants with higher support needs, strengthening partnerships and developing more on site programs. Key priorities include continued engagement with Box Hill Institute and other training providers, further growing the KNLC partnership, developing catering opportunities and using the Balwyn site as a shared resource to increase collaboration, social connection and program diversity across Burke and Beyond.

Lyndi Nuthall
Site Coordinator



The Next Step Dandenong

The 2025–2026 financial year focused on turning the previous year's foundations into lasting outcomes. After resetting our sites and stabilising our team in 2024–2025, we shifted toward embedding change, growing our community footprint, and creating genuine pathways into skills, employment, and independence.

Our priorities were to:

- strengthen our standing in the Southern Region through active community partnerships
- deepen programs so they build measurable skills and employment outcomes, including a structured Curriculum
- continue building a stable, well-supported staff team who can deliver consistent, high-quality care, and
- move from planning into delivery on our Social Enterprise initiatives.

We also welcomed several new staff, strengthening the team's diversity of skills and experience.

Following last year's integration of our Lonsdale Street and Bryants Road sites, our combined model settled into everyday practice. Participants and staff now move between campuses routinely, based on individual goals rather than logistics, and families have told us this flexibility better matches programs to participant needs.

This year we broadened our ACFE-funded program offerings in direct response to participant interest and family feedback, including:

- Podcasting, Video, and Content Creation
- Coding and Game Design Fundamentals
- Money for Life (Practical Financial Literacy)
- Barista Skills and Hospitality Basics
- Horticulture and Landscaping
- Cooking, Nutrition, and Kitchen Safety

Across the year, participant interest shifted from traditional industry-based courses toward multimedia, particularly content creation, gaming, and coding. In response, we worked with ACFE partners to bring gaming, coding, and podcasting programs directly to site, with strong success.





The City of Greater Dandenong Council remained one of our strongest allies. *Beyond Rhythm* performed at several Council events, while our seat on the Council's Disability Advisory Committee kept Burke and Beyond visible in local disability inclusion conversations.

We also strengthened relationships with Southern Migrant Resource Centre, Art Access Victoria, and Dandenong Youth Services, while adding new connections to expand community engagement and practical experience opportunities.

Work experience placements remain highly valued, giving participants real workplace exposure, confidence, and clearer employment goals.

We are grateful to the following organisations for making placements possible:

- Myuna Farm
- Cornerstone
- Heatherton Christian College
- Climate Rentals Solutions
- Vinnies Distribution Centre
- Kingston City Church and
- ControlTech Solutions.

Building on this year's progress, our priorities for the year ahead include:

- bringing the *Beyond Gardening* Enterprise to full operation after its Term 4 launch, supporting participants into paid work.
- progressing *Beyond Rhythm* into a sustainable Social Enterprise with performance and events opportunities.
- embedding the structured Curriculum so skills development remains consistent and measurable across both sites.
- building on momentum in multimedia and digital programs through further partnerships in gaming, coding, and content creation, and
- continuing to grow and support our staff team to ensure consistent, high-quality care.

Our direction remains shaped by what participants and families tell us matters most: real skills, real choices, and real connection to community. We look forward to continuing that work in 2026–2027.

The Next Step Ringwood

Throughout the 2025–2026 reporting period, the Ringwood site continued to provide meaningful opportunities that supported participant growth, independence, health and wellbeing, community engagement, lifelong learning and skill development through our newly developed Curriculum Program. Our focus remained on empowering participants to build confidence, increase independence and actively participate in their communities.

At the beginning of 2026, we welcomed three participants from the Box Hill site. They settled into the Ringwood site exceptionally well and quickly became valued members of the group, developing positive relationships with both peers and staff.

A key achievement was the introduction of a structured Curriculum Program covering Independent Living Skills, Communication, Work Skills, Travel Training, Advocacy, Consent and Safety as well as Numeracy and Literacy. These programs enhanced participants' confidence, independence and ability to navigate everyday life with greater autonomy.

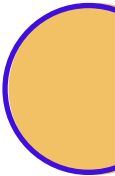
Participants demonstrated increased confidence and self-esteem; improved independence in daily living; stronger communication, social interaction and decision-making skills; greater ability to travel safely and independently; increased understanding of personal rights, consent and safety; improved readiness for employment, volunteering and community participation; and stronger self-advocacy, inclusion and connection within the community.

Community connection and engagement remained central to service delivery. Participants continued contributing through our long-standing partnership with Pinchapoo, supporting initiatives for vulnerable individuals and families. Weekly volunteering at Vinnies in Ringwood, the Epilepsy Foundation in Croydon and The Local Umbrella Café in Croydon enabled participants to develop workplace skills including responsibility, teamwork, communication, customer service, hospitality, barista skills, money handling as well as food and beverage preparation.

Celebrating achievement continued through the Participant of the Month initiative, recognising individual growth, effort, participation and personal accomplishments.

Our commitment to education and sector development was strengthened by hosting placement students from TAFEs and training institutions, providing real-world disability sector experience while supporting future workforce growth. Several placement students were recruited by Burke and Beyond after demonstrating strong skills, professionalism and alignment with organisational values.





A proud achievement was supporting Ringwood participants to present to Certificate in Disability students at Box Hill Institute in Lilydale. Participants shared their experiences, personal goals and how Burke and Beyond supports them, providing valuable lived-experience insights. This opportunity built confidence, public speaking, self-advocacy and leadership skills whilst making a lasting impact on the TAFE students and elevating Burke and Beyond's profile in the community.

In 2026, we re-established our partnership with VALID (Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability). Monthly sessions increased participants' understanding of disability rights, self-advocacy, informed decision-making, inclusion, choice and control, while encouraging participants to express their views and have a stronger voice in matters affecting their lives.

We continued collaborative relationships with Orana Neighbourhood House and Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre (KNLC), creating pathways into supported ACFE-funded pre-accredited training. At Orana, participants developed cooking, food preparation, nutrition and kitchen safety skills while building confidence, teamwork, independence and social connection. At KNLC, participants enrolled in Sport and Recreation, Work Skills, Customer Service/Hospitality, Computer Skills, Retail Styling and Floristry. These programs supported practical industry and life skills, digital literacy, creativity, customer service, teamwork, problem-solving, wellbeing, vocational exploration as well as readiness for employment and community participation.

Participants' health and wellbeing remained a priority through weekly programs at Blackburn Tennis Club, KNLC Sport and Recreation and the Gym program at Legacy Health and Fitness. These activities improved physical fitness, coordination, strength, confidence, teamwork, social connection and overall wellbeing, supporting active and balanced lifestyles.

Our long-standing partnership with Box Hill Institute continued, with participants enrolling in the *Healthy Me*, *Ready for Hospitality*, *Employable Me* and *Performing Arts* courses. These ACFE-funded courses supported healthy living, workplace readiness, hospitality skills, creative expression, personal growth and future employment pathways.

Highlights included the Life Saving Victoria – Resuscitate a Mate training session, where participants gained knowledge in emergency response, CPR awareness and personal safety. Friday afternoon group discussions explored different types of disabilities, promoting understanding, inclusion, peer support and team building. Participants also attended a Recycling and Waste Management education session, increasing awareness of environmental responsibility and sustainable practices.

Moving forward, the Ringwood site remains committed to innovation, collaboration and continuous improvement. We will continue building partnerships with local businesses, community organisations and educational institutions to expand opportunities for skill development, employment, volunteering, social inclusion and lifelong learning.

By increasing visibility and engagement within the local community and continuing to evolve our person-centred programs, Ringwood will support participants to achieve their goals, build independence and lead fulfilling, meaningful lives.

Veronica Paouros
Site Coordinator

Outreach and Social

Outreach and Social embraced a clear focus: Growth and Connection.

In a changing NDIS environment, our team has remained forward-thinking and committed to creating meaningful opportunities for current participants while welcoming new faces.

Through Outreach and Social, our staffing team has continued to grow in skill, confidence and creativity. This growth has had a meaningful impact on participants. With stronger support networks around them, participants are better positioned to work towards their goals, build independence and experience positive change at their own pace.

Participant and family feedback has continued to shape the way our programs and services are delivered.

The Winter Holiday Program saw our Outreach service thrive over five action-packed days during the Burke and Beyond closure period. The program provided valuable opportunities for social connection, ensuring participants remained engaged while exploring new activities and experiences.

The increased In-Home Support offering creates an exciting opportunity to provide care, coaching and practical guidance within participants' homes. This support helps participants build skills in secure, familiar environments while also providing reassurance and guidance to families.

A sincere thank you goes to our staffing team for their dedication, flexibility and genuine care throughout the year. Their commitment to creating safe, engaging and meaningful experiences has been central to the growth of Outreach and Social and to the positive outcomes achieved by participants and families.

As we look ahead, Outreach and Social will continue to grow with purpose, strengthen community connections and champion opportunities that support participants to live, learn, connect and thrive.

Elyce Morison
Outreach and Social Coordinator



> Our Partners <



4TK Australia	Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre
Art Access Victoria	Kingston City Church
Alphington Community Centre	KMT Group
Ashwood School	TunzaFun Knox
Belmore School	Legacy Health and Fitness Gym
Bendigo Bank Inner East	Lions Club of Boroondara Central
Blackburn RSL	Living and Learning Centre - Pakenham
Blackburn Tennis Club Inc.	Maroondah City Council
Box Hill Baptist Church	Meals on Wheels - City of Boroondara
Box Hill Institute	Monash Health
Bulleen Heights School	Monash SDS
Burwood East SDS	Myuna Farm
Central Ringwood Community Centre	Noble Park Community Centre
Chisholm TAFE - Dandenong	Officer SDS
City of Greater Dandenong Council	Officeworks
Climate Rentals Solutions - Hallam	Orana Neighbourhood House
Clota Cottage	Pinchapoo
ControlTech Solutions	Regis Blackburn
Cornerstone Centre	Rowville Community Centre
Croydon SDS	Salvos - Forest Hill
Dandenong Youth Services	Southern Migrant Resource Centre
Doveton Neighbourhood Learning Centre	Springvale Community Hub
Eastern Ranges School	Springvale Park SDS
Eastern Volunteers	Springvale Service for Children Toy Library
Ethnic Community Council of Victoria (ECCV)	The Local Umbrella
Emerson School	VALID
Endeavour Hills SDS	Vinnies Distribution Centre - Dandenong South
Epilepsy Foundation Op Shop (Croydon)	Vinnies Ringwood
Gabrielle Williams MP	Voice at the Table
Glen Allen School	WISE Employment
Heatherton Christian College	Yarra Ranges SDS
Heatherwood School	
Jesuit Community College	

> Our Registration <



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CERTIFIED

ORGANISATION



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