

# At-risk youth connected

The 'Connect the Service Puzzle for Youth at Risk – Outreach to Mentoring' project aims to deliver a new framework for identifying, engaging with and providing linked services to young people considered vulnerable to the risk factors associated with young offenders.

Centre for Participation project manages this justice diversion program in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, local community service organisations, and the Horsham Rural City Council.

Project objectives include reducing the risk of re-offending of existing youth offenders, and preventing at-risk youth from becoming engaged with the criminal justice system.

## Appendix

- Participate – Edition 1, April 2018
  - Audited Financial Statement 2017/18

CONTACT US ON

-  03 5382 5607  
 info@centreforparticipation.org.au  
 P.O. Box 267 Horsham, VIC 3402  
 centreforparticipation.org.au

FIND US ON

-  @centreforparticipation



Engagement = social cohesion?

None of our achievements would have been possible without the commitment and skills that our board, volunteers and staff bring to the Centre for Participation. It is a privilege to provide leadership to such a wonderful and passionate group of people.

Chair Kevin Mills and CEO Julie Pettett  
better, do better".  
until you know better, then when you know  
Maya Angelou goes "Do the best you can  
being the best we can be. As the quote by  
us and for holding us accountable for  
Thank you for believing in us, for inspiring  
supporters we say thank you.

## Program partners

Centre for Participation

Grampians Community Health

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN

Horsham Rural City Council

Cooperatiw

Headspace  
Horsham College - Alternative

## Pathways

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# Umiting Wimmera

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Chair and CEO Report

The Centre for Participation change lives and communities through local opportunities in community support, volunteering, learning and partnerships.





## COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

### Partnerships key to success

**Our Community Transport Program has seen its Wimmera Southern Mallee Community Transport Service strengthen and evolve.**

The service to date has and will continue to change transport options for people in the Wimmera Mallee. There have been three routes operating since

the service launched on November 1, 2017; Route one Kaniva to Horsham, Route two Edenhope to Horsham and Route three an after-hours hospital to home service.

'Route two, a volunteer companion service assisting people to access the existing public bus service, experienced limited success, therefore, will be replaced with

a dedicated vehicle,' Program Coordinator Barry Crewther said.

'Route one's successful Wednesday service will increase to a two day service. I'm confident these changes will increase patronage. Thank you to our volunteers, stakeholders, partners and Transport Victoria for partnering with us to make this service possible'.

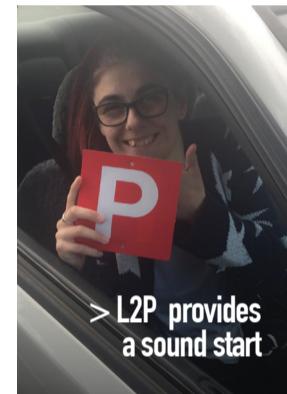
### Daphne hits the road!

#### The Licensing the Wimmera program saw 45 learners spend over 1178 hours on the road.

There are many reasons learners access the program to get the driving experience they need. Matching them with our trained volunteer mentors is key to the program's success.

Daphne Williams entered the program in 2017 finding her regular drives with mentor Marg McEachran increased her skill levels and confidence.

Daphne hit the road in July 2018 after passing her test, 'I was a little nervous, but so happy I passed,' she said.



## Learning

# 1,637

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN 31,190 HOURS OF LEARNING

### Learning doors open

**We know that learning is the key to opening different doors and helping people create the future they want.**

By boosting literacy and numeracy, computer skills and vocational skills, we can better equip people for a career or more diverse job options, or encourage them to pursue further learning.

Centre for Participation courses are targeted towards people who may have experienced gaps in education or financial difficulty, or those who simply require updated professional skills.

We provide non-discriminatory learning opportunities that build skills, knowledge and confidence via localised, pre-accredited courses through the Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board with funding from the

Department of Education and Training.

Courses take place in a friendly and encouraging environment with small class sizes. Students have access to the latest resources and we continue our focus on individualised tuition.

This builds confidence and greatly facilitates educational progress.

Cultural awareness training in partnership with the Wimmera Primary Care Partnership is available for community organisations.

And, in conjunction with Uniting Wimmera and Woodbine, we provide pre-accredited training to people with a disability to develop living and social skills.

We also partner with a number of external training providers, ensuring we have the capacity to flexibly respond to the evolving

learning needs of our community.

Learning programs from early 2019 will have a major focus on hospitality utilising our new training facility, harmony food van and social enterprise café.

**Adult community learning provides learning access for people who might not otherwise engage, helping close gaps around equality, opportunities and prosperity.**



## Volunteering

# 6,276

VOLUNTEER  
PARTICIPATION HOURS

### Career Pathway

#### Referral Success through the Volunteering Resources Program.

The goal of the Volunteering Resources Program is to encourage volunteering and provide resources and support for organisations and people wanting to volunteer.

While volunteering provides immense personal satisfaction, an opportunity to gain new skills and expand social networks, it can also lead to paid employment.

For Jo Bibby, volunteering did lead to a new career. As a previous Electorate Officer at former Member for Lowan Hugh Delahunt's office, the role was full on so Jo was enjoying a break from work, 'but there are only so many times you can weed or mow.' she said.

'I had been thinking about volunteering for a while when I drove past and spotted a sign in the Centre window stating 'want to volunteer? Come talk to us', so I did' she said.

During the volunteer information session Jo saw a position we were advertising on behalf of Wimmera Healthcare Group and thought 'I can do that'.

Jo started volunteering every Tuesday morning for 3 hours. 'Volunteering gave me a sense of purpose and the chance to interact with others, and it's nice to give back and not expect anything in return.'

However, Jo's skills and dedication were quickly recognised leading to her being offered one day per week paid employment in the Medical Workforce Unit.



**PATHWAY:** An opportunity to volunteer got Jo Bibby out of the house after retiring from working full time for 40 years, and later developed into paid employment.



## Partnerships

### Building community strength

**Strengthening and celebrating our communities was the focus of a Strengthening Communities forum at the Centre for Participation in March.**

The Strengthening Communities Forum partnered with several guest speakers to give community groups or organisations who are powered by volunteers an opportunity to explore ways they could strengthen their future direction.

Workshops explored good governance, identifying

and managing risk and the ongoing issues facing a Committee of Management were the focus of one of the workshops, as was Unlocking the Power of Events which gave groups practical tools and techniques to deliver successful events.

Money Matters examined what to look for when it came to finances and why this is important and volunteer management, and the associated tools, resources and good practice were also explored during the Recruiting



Robbie Millar leads a grants discussion at the forum