Community Support Fund

Final report outcomes summary

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## Benambra Hall Upgrade

The Benambra Hall kitchen area has been redeveloped to a modern standard through demolition of aged infrastructure, extension to the kitchen area and upgrades to the kitchen finishes and appliances.

The improvements are to encourage a wider range and number of community events at the Benambra Hall and increase local participation in community life using the facility as the primary community gathering space. The upgrades have increased the range of activities and events that can be held at the Hall and increased the facilities appeal for private function hire, in turn increasing revenue for the Committee to invest back into the maintenance of the building.

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| Disclaimer: The information above is provided by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources |

## Foodbank Victoria

Foodbank Victoria supported and assisted families in crisis and young people by providing emergency food relief to disadvantaged Victorians, including low‑income families, the unemployed and single parent families in metropolitan Melbourne, rural and regional Victoria.

The CSF‑funded Foodbank Victoria program provided funding to support purchase of two refrigerated trucks to address capacity issues currently facing in the emergency food relief sector. The new trucks increase the amount of nutritious and timely food being provided to the disadvantaged Victorians who received the assistance .

In July 2015, Foodbank Victoria reported that over the last financial year there have overall been a 18 per cent increase of food distributed by Foodbank within Victoria, and also a significant increase in the amount of fresh and nutritious produce sent to regional and rural communities which has been largely attributed to Foodbank Victoria’s increase truck fleet.

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## Community Facilities – Supporting Growing Communities – Bushfire Areas

The Community Facilities – Supporting Growing Communities Program – Bushfire Area was implemented in April 2010 to provide funding for community infrastructure as well for capacity building initiatives in communities affected by the 2009 bushfires.

The funding was allocated for two key purposes:

* Provision of community infrastructure (identifies as high priority through Community Recovery Plan) that was not able to be funded due either to the strict legislative criteria that governed the Victorian Bushfires Appeal Fund (VBAF) or where no other source of government funding was available.
* Capacity building initiatives to support bushfire –affected communities as they transition from recovery.

The program delivered priority community infrastructure and services in areas impacted by the 2009 bushfires that were unable to be funded through other sources. Funded projects strengthened community connectedness and networks, helped reduce social isolation, fostered collaboration between community groups and improved access for community members to a range of cultural, recreational and social activities and facilities. Community capacity was strengthened as a result of a high level of community participation and ownership of projects.

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## Community Renewal and Expansion of Community Renewal

To support the ‘Resilience in Young People and Volunteering’ project to build leadership skills, resilience and self belief of young people in three community renewal locations, including Frankston North, Hampton Park and Whittington.

In 2015‑16 the project has delivered:

* 24 wellbeing workshops focussing on self development, goals, motivation and leadership of young people.
* 4 Finding Heroes workshops to teachers and youth workers to bring a greater focus on wellbeing into the classroom.
* 4 leadership workshops to increase leadership and engagement in community activities such as volunteering.
* Over 1470 instances of participation\* have been recorded.

 (\* participants attend multiple workshops)

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## PilchConnect

PilchConnect (now known as the Not‑for‑profit (NFP) Law program of Justice Connect) is a service that provides free or low cost support to not for profit community organisations on a range of legal and regulatory issues. This initiative provided funding towards the operations of PilchConnect from 2012‑13 to 2015‑16.

With the support of the Victorian Government, NFP Law:

* continued to expand the free resources and materials available on the NFP Law Information Hub, which provides over 100 NFP‑specific resources and is a comprehensive, self‑help web portal to support NFP organisations to meet their compliance requirements and legal issues.
* provided free or low cost legal advice to eligible NFP organisations by providing telephone legal advice from in‑house lawyers or referring complex matters to its network of pro bono resources consisting of 52 member law firms plus more than 1,000 barristers from the Victorian Bar.
* supported NFP organisations to build their capability, particularly to meet their legal and compliance requirements, by delivering free or low cost training sessions across a wide range of topics including governance, starting not‑for‑profit organisations, risk management and volunteer management.
* has encouraged a growing commitment to increase access to NFP‑specific legal advice for organisations operating in regional and rural Victoria. NFP Law delivered dedicated training sessions in these areas.
* worked collaboratively with the Victorian Government and provided advice to build a shared understanding of the reasons for NFP non‑compliance, including conducting Compliance Surveys which gather data on why Victorian NFP organisations face challenges in meeting their regulatory obligations.
* has provided high quality advice to government on the legal and regulatory framework for Victoria’s NFP sector by making evidenced‑based law reform submissions.

#### Please note – In 2013, PILCH merged with the Public Interest Law Clearing House NSW to become Justice Connect. The PilchConnect program was renamed the Not‑for‑profit (NFP) Law program.

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## Pre‑commitment Implementation Project

YouPlay, Victoria’s voluntary pre‑commitment scheme, commenced state‑wide on 1 December 2015. Victoria is the first state in Australia to implement a state‑wide networked pre‑commitment scheme for gaming machines and it is also the first state‑wide voluntary pre‑commitment scheme to be implemented worldwide on this scale, which has generated a lot of interest both nationally and internationally.

YouPlay is an important harm minimisation and consumer protection measure available on all gaming machines in Victoria, including the Melbourne Casino. It enables people to make informed decisions about their gaming machine play and it can assist them to stay in control of their gambling behaviour.

Players can use YouPlay to set time and money limit and to track their play on gaming machine across the state. Players who use YouPlay receive regular updates about their spending and how they are tracking against their limits at the gaming machine as they play and they can also access detailed information and reports about their playing activity and limits at kiosks in venues, privately online or via the YouPlay helpline.

As at 30 April 2016, there have been:

* 818 654 gaming machine sessions using YouPlay;
* more than 2.5 million responsible gambling information messages delivered to players advising them of their losses;
* 8 130 registered YouPlay cards issued to 3 545 individual accounts;
* 15 274 casual cards activated; and
* 1 731 player who have set a personalised message to be displayed when they approach their playing limit.

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## Victorian Community Support Grants

The Victorian Community Support Grants (VCSG) Program provided funding to local councils and community organisations with the aim of building stronger, more active and inclusive neighbourhoods and communities.

The program supported projects across three funding streams: Building Community Infrastructure, Strengthening Communities, and Project Planning. The Strengthening Community grants primarily funded community planning projects and leadership and capacity building projects. VCSG planning projects mainly funded infrastructure feasibility and community planning projects. VCSG met its objectives of providing accessible multi‑use community infrastructure and increasing community capacity by funding projects that were community driven with broad local consultation and engagement and delivered practical benefits for communities.

The program achieved its intended outcome as follows:

* Delivered priority infrastructure, activities and services in areas of high need.
* Encouraged greater community participation in local planning and decision making.
* Strengthened skills that help people lead and volunteer in community projects.
* Provided quality and accessible shared multi‑use community infrastructure.
* Supported collaborative and organisational partnership approaches in addressing community issues.
* Encouraged greater participation in a range of social, learning, recreational and cultural activities.
* Leveraged investment into community initiatives.

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