



ConnectGroups
helping support groups & individuals



ConnectGroups
Support Groups Association WA Inc.

Annual Report 2017



Department of **Communities**

Mental Health Commission



We are the voice for Support Groups in Western Australia since 1983





Contents

Vision

- 1 ConnectGroups Mission and Values
- 2 Summary of the Year
- 3 Chair Report
- 4 Awards and Partnerships
- 5 CEO Report

Strategy

- 6 ConnectGroups Strategic Plan
- 7 Performing to the Strategy

Financial Position

- 13 Revenue Resources
- 14 Summarised Financial Report

Our People

- 15 ConnectGroups Patron

Board of Management

Staff and Volunteers

Acknowledgements





We are ConnectGroups

As the state Peak body of Support Groups, we support the long-term sustainability of our members. We link individuals and families to our extensive network. Together we strive to improve the lives of those most vulnerable.

Goal

To assist individuals to alleviate isolation, helplessness, suffering and distress by facilitating the development and maintenance of Self Help and Support Groups, and to promote self-help within the community.

Purpose

To benefit the community through assisting Self Help and Support Groups in their efforts to provide relief for people suffering from diseases or life-disrupting circumstances, and thereby promote the prevention or management of human diseases through education and awareness.

Mission

To support, nurture, advocate for and build capacity in Self Help and Support Groups in Western Australia.

Vision

For Self Help and Support Groups to be widely recognised, promoted, supported and valued for the benefits they bring to the community in the prevention and management of adverse mental health conditions associated with stress caused by diseases or life-disrupting circumstances.

Values

❄ Service

❄ Passion

❄ Teamwork

❄ Excellence

❄ Respect

❄ Sensitivity

❄ Integrity

"Whatever the journey you are going through there is always a Support Group to connect to."



Summary of the year

Membership

657 member groups
across Western Australia:

- 282 Associate members
- 347 Affiliate members
- 28 Allied members



37 new and emerging
Support Groups were
provided with guidance in the
set up process



55 new members

Sector Development

25
Sector Development
workshops conducted



232
Individuals attended



77%
Increase in
participants' confidence



Volunteers



13

Volunteers



1,228

Volunteer hours

Newsletters



11

Editions

833

Subscribers

Social Media



484
Likes



61
Followers



270
Followers

Website



55,987
Visits



24,011
Self Help and Support
Groups' Directory Visits



19,398
Downloads

2016/2017 Customer Perception Survey The Department of Local Government and Communities

94% Received useful information.

97% Satisfied with the service.

93% Reported the service met their needs.

91% Developed support networks.





Chair Report



There are some years that by the end of which you are compelled to feel gratitude. This past year is one such year. As such this Annual Report constitutes a series of thanks so very well deserved.

I am representing the whole organisation in expressing, above all, gratitude for our very existence. This organisation has a long and proud history. Being a caretaker of its legacy is a privilege that I am afforded during my tenure as Chair. It can be easy in our varied roles to be so intensely focused on the duties at hand that we do not have the opportunity to pause and take stock of things from a distance. Reflecting from this gentle distance as we approach our AGM and the year that has come to pass, I am awash with a sense of gratitude.

We are still here after more than 34 years doing the work that the Founders of this organisation envisioned. We continue to honour, respect and serve people from all walks of life and with a range of needs to provide support and strength to one another through a Support or a Self Help Group. The groups provide a fountain from which members gain strength, insight, solace and connection. Research tells us that reducing isolation and disconnection is fundamental to the thriving of individuals and communities. ConnectGroups is fiercely committed to supporting and advocating for our members.

I would like to thank the Department of Communities, especially the Honourable Simone McGurk and Mr Scott Hollingworth for their support in ensuring that we continue to deliver services to Support Groups under the appropriate funding stream. The process was long, and we salute them for the right outcome and for continuing to be a longest funder of the organisation. Primary liaison and negotiator was our indefatigable CEO Antonella Segre. May she long continue to fight the good fight for ConnectGroups with efforts stoked by a red-hot

belief in the value of Support Groups. Her operational team: Juanaili, Josephine, Christine, Fiona, Amanda and Danielle deserve acknowledgement for their tireless efforts in ensuring that we are highly responsive, respectful and resourceful to our members. ConnectGroups has a dynamic and generous advocate in our Patron Lyn Beazley. We thank you, Lyn, for your generous contribution and ambassadorial advocacy for ConnectGroups to be the best that it can be and for the strength inside each of our members to be championed. Consistent grant support for our work also continues from the Mental Health Commission and Lotterywest, and with support from Hesta. We thank you all.

We also acknowledge the sector support we receive from organisations like WACOSS and the City of Melville; we travel this shared journey of service with you and value being part of the community with you. My gratitude to the ConnectGroups Board for your dedication, generosity and insights and mention Emilia Hay and Godfrey Baronie particularly for representing members on the Board. We welcome new Director Nicola Nolan to the Board, and Andrew Bannon who has returned to the Board after time interstate.

My final and most important thanks go to the ConnectGroups members across the state for placing your trust in us and for being the reason why ConnectGroups continues to be of value and of service after three decades. You are the reason we exist and we are most proud to be the organisation you come to when your spirits and fires need stoking.

I am pleased to confirm that in accordance with the transitional provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA), alterations were made to the ConnectGroups Rules of Association so that the rules comply with the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA). The altered Rules of Association have been lodged with and approved by the Commissioner for Consumer Protection.

ConnectGroups is in safe hands and continues its tradition of strong contract management and timely acquittal. We have highly skilled financial oversight by our Treasurer Brian O'Keefe who reports that *"ConnectGroups' overall financial position has improved with a small surplus being recorded, our level of retained earnings and reserves means we are well placed. All required statutory and compliances have been met for the year."*

I thank Brian, the Finance Coordinator Fiona Hughes, and our Auditor, Australian Audit, for ensuring sound financial practices that meet the requirements of our Constitution.

In Gratitude.

Pearl Proud, Chair

Awards and Nominations

*2017 Health Organisation
Award, Health Consumer
Excellence Awards
Finalist*

*2017 Western Australian
Association for Mental Health
Good Outcomes Awards
(Innovation Category)
Finalist*

Partnerships

Department of Communities
Mental Health Commission
Department of Health
Western Australian Council of Social Service
WA Primary Health Alliance
Lotterywest
Bankwest
Health Consumers' Council WA
People with Disabilities WA
Men's Health and Wellbeing
Linkwest
VolunteeringWA
Act Belong Commit
WAAMH
CoMHWa
City of Melville
Melville Cares
Carers WA
North Metropolitan TAFE
UWA Citizenship Centre
Department of Finance – FaCS Team
Community Employers WA
HESTA
Pharmacy 777 Network
Suicide Prevention Australia
South West Metropolitan Partnership Forum
Fremantle Family Services Network



CEO Report



Thank you on behalf of ConnectGroups and the people we serve – individuals and families who are seeking to engage with others experiencing similar challenging situations – and Support Group members

who look to us for relevant, current and high level service provision.

It has been another busy and successful year for ConnectGroups as we continued to expand the breadth of our services; set our strategic direction for the next two years; and created new partnerships with similar minded NGO's. 2016 /2017 was also a year of intense activity and new initiatives that have enabled us to engage with new and emerging Support Groups.

It has also been a confronting year for ConnectGroups and its members which pushed us to work harder than ever to promote the rights of our Support Groups and their members. We campaigned consistently to be a courageous voice for Support Groups in WA and where possible influenced policy. Our conversation with government and key stakeholders is ongoing and aimed at ensuring that those individuals and families, and Self Help and Support Groups receive the equitable care and support that they need and deserve.

Highlights

ConnectGroups delivered strong sector development activities following its previous years' service delivery review and taking into account the recommendations provided by its Consultative Group. This provided an avenue for further growth and expansion.

Several major projects were rolled out across the year – chief among these was the consolidation of our partnership with Pharmacy 777; the Fiona Stanley Community Link, in partnership with the Health Consumer Council, and the concept development of a Labyrinth to meet the needs of those residing south of the river.

Presentations at state, national and international conferences strengthened our evidence base; identified Peer Support Group themes that are nationally and internationally consistent and enabled the organisation to work towards policy responses.

Participation at cross-sector events allowed the organisation to make inroads across issues that impact on our Support Group members and allowed us to push the conversation forward with Government agencies in addressing key issues affecting our over 600 member groups.

Ongoing relationships with fellow Peak bodies have enabled us to enter into dialogue and to advocate for Support Groups across a range of policy areas from aged care reform; mental health reform, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander SEWB reform. We look forward to continue building on these relationships.

Maintaining a strong public profile across social media campaigns showcasing the work achieved for identified high need target groups: men, chronic conditions, and LGBTI and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities.






We still have a challenge ahead of us with Government funding decreasing but thanks to ConnectGroups Directors, leadership teams, and all of our staff and volunteers whose commitment to our purpose makes such a difference to improving the physical and mental health of the community, we will stand strong.

None of our work would be possible without the generosity of our supporters: the Department of Communities, the Mental Health Commission, and Lotterywest.

A final thank you to our Support Group members for whom we strive to ensure that your contribution is forever recognised and respected.

Antonella Segre, CEO

Strategic Plan

Advocacy and Representation	Sector and Member Development	Information Management	Linkage and Coordination	Organisational Sustainability and Engagement
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate on behalf of Self Help and Support Groups on issues affecting the sector • To be used as the primary source of information about Self Help and Peer Support Groups in WA • Provide representation reflecting the diverse views and interests of the sector • Maintain a consultative mechanism to obtain and disseminate members views • Research and identify sector needs 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide resources to start and maintain Self Help and Peer Support Groups • Ensure and facilitate training for: new Self Help and Peer Support Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -specialised training for members and our community -funded programs • Ensure development of appropriate information and resources for members • Ensure that development and training services for members meet their needs • Develop a "conduit" capability for channelling funds from providers to members 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster and develop quality information to members via a range of communication and engagement methodologies • Maintain awareness of new developments and trends in funding and governance policies in WA relevant to members, and ensure the information provided is in a format suitable for their needs • Build an effective Marketing and Communications capability • Ensure stakeholder engagement 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an efficient Self Help and Support Group referral system • Foster and support networks of Self Help and Support Groups with similar interests and conditions • Provide effective local links with key state and national bodies in a consultative capacity • Develop Member accessibility to IT/ accounting/ member management • Maintain collaborations and partnerships with other Organisations 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster new business partnerships, sponsorships and opportunities • Maintain strong relationships with ConnectGroups members and funding providers • Apply high business standards, operational procedures and maintain good Governance practice • Evaluate and measure our effectiveness at all levels • Attract and retain competent, committed staff and Board Members • Maintain a stable office presence with scope for expanded use by members and community



Performing to the strategy

Continuing to deliver on our strategic directions has led ConnectGroups to achieve great outcomes.

Sector Capacity Building



ConnectGroups Sector Development Program's primary purpose is to enhance and support a more sustainable system

to ensure positive outcomes for Self Help and Support Groups.

The 2017 calendar was developed to advance the capacity of those individuals, families and carers who are actively engaged with their Self Help and Support Groups by equipping them with the appropriate information, tools and resources safeguarding their long-term sustainability.

25 Sector Development workshops were conducted and 232 individuals attended during the 2016/17 period. Both the Perception Survey and Results Based Accountability (RBA) evaluation revealed a high satisfaction rate and increase in knowledge base. Results Based Accountability revealed that in 77%, participants' confidence in the topic(s) had increased post-attendance and 58% strongly agreed that it benefited them. The following training sessions were facilitated in 2016/17:

Workshops:

- How to start a Support Group
- Maintaining your Self Help and Support Group
- Seeds of Sustainability: Ensuring the Longevity of your Support Group
- Conflict Resolution
- Succession Planning
- Governance

Mini Bites Series

These bite-sized, interactive sessions focus on a specific skillsets or topics and are delivered to

small groups to allow for one-on-one training and assistance. Mini Bites were delivered multiple times throughout the year. Mini Bites facilitated in 2016/17 were:

Self Help and Support Group

- Talking your story up
- The Art of Facilitation
- Top Tips for Setting up a Support Group

Media and Marketing (interactive action learning)

- Creating a Facebook Page for your Support Group
- Facebook – Learning your way around
- Creating a Facebook Group
- Creating a Twitter Account
- MailChimp Basic and Intermediate level

Governance

- Stepping Stones for Board Members
- AGM 101
- Transitioning to the New Incorporations Act (interactive action learning)

Forums

The Forums were developed with the objective of bringing together Support Group members, service providers, NGOs, Local Government representatives and individuals to engage in robust conversation around key issues, and to identify strategic recommendations and solutions.

- All Grown Up 2 - targeting Seniors and Aged Care Providers
- Finding a Common Thread – Open space Forum for Support Groups
- Stories from the Field - targeting mental health specific Support Groups



Referral Service

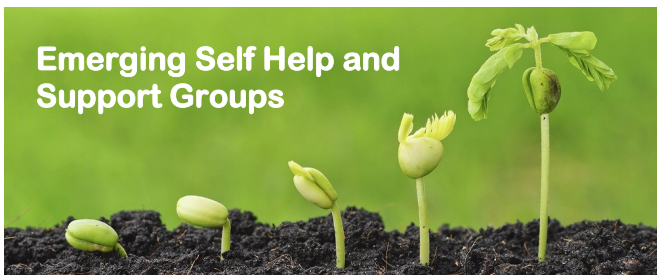


ConnectGroups continues to provide support to those individuals and families seeking a direct referral to an existing Self Help and Support Group or looking to

set up a Self Help and Support Group having identified a gap. The data collected demonstrates that across this financial year 24,011 visits were made to ConnectGroups online directory. This is a clear indication that the service is meeting an identified need for those individuals and families seeking support across a range of health, mental health, and emotional conditions.

The follow-up Referral Service involves conducting a follow-up call to the individual two to three weeks after initial contact in order to enhance service provision and provide further assistance to the individual or family. Callers are invited to access the follow-up service and can opt-out if they do not want to be contacted. ConnectGroups' website continues to be the preferred referral pathway and ConnectGroups ensures its currency through the volunteer program.

Emerging Self Help and Support Groups



As part of ConnectGroups core service provision to individuals and families, intensive support was provided to those individuals seeking to establish a group or were in the planning phase.

37 Emerging Self Help and Support Groups received face-to-face support as a form of direct intervention. Strategies and advice were provided to them about how to best engage with the wider community to attract new members to

their groups, how to apply sound governance and financial management principles, how to engage and retain committee members, how to promote themselves, and how to implement succession planning.

Self Help and Support Groups Consultative Group

The Consultative Group was established in 2012 as a direct response to ConnectGroups Consumer Engagement Strategy. The aim of the group is to work closely with the organisation, contributing to its research projects, events, advocacy programs and grant initiatives. The Consultative Groups represents Self Help and Support Groups at a grassroots level, identifying needs and opportunities to be actioned

2016/2017 saw the redevelopment of the Terms of Reference of the Consultative Group, with new members identified and invited to join. The Consultative Group has provided feedback on the small grants programs Assessment Panels; as well as other priority areas for the Support Group sector.

Volunteer Program

The Volunteer Program continues to be expanded beyond maintenance of the database, to a series of project-based initiatives including: telephone promotion of ConnectGroups events (Workshops, Mini Bites and Forums), telephone surveys to identify counts of incorporated and non-incorporated members, as well as the identification of number of participants per Support Group.

This year, ConnectGroups was the successful recipient of a grant from VounteeringWA to celebrate its volunteers as part of National Volunteer Week. It was an opportunity to reflect on what volunteering means and to recognise past and present volunteers. The Patron of ConnectGroups, Professor Lyn Beazley OA, provided a keynote address based on her own experience as a volunteer.





Major Events

2016 Self Help and Support Groups National Awareness Day Events

Networking Day



The 2016 ConnectGroups annual networking event for Self Help and Support Groups was circus-themed and reflected the balance, flexibility, and juggling involved in running a Self Help and Support Group.

Shaun Nannup delivered a beautiful Welcome to Country, and Dr Ann O'Neill, founder of angelhands, gave an inspirational keynote address on 'Resilience'. Four breakout Mini Bite sessions were delivered on the day: "Self Care" by Emilia Hay, "Talking Your Story Up" by Maxine Drake, "Mergers and Strategic Partnerships" by Jennifer Chaplyn and "Community Engagement" by Liz Nicholas.



An engaging Panel Discussion took place, posing the question, "Where do you see Support Groups in 10 Years?" Panel members included Shaun Nannup, Ray Peters formerly from the Department of Communities (former Department of Local Government and Communities),

Harinder Grewal from The City of Melville, Margaret Doherty from Mental Health Matters 2, Pip Brennan from the Health Consumers' Council WA, Louise Howe from the Mental Health Commission, and Samantha Connor from People with Disabilities WA.



National Self Help and Support Groups Awareness Day Expo



ConnectGroups held its annual Self Help and Support Groups National Awareness Day Expo on Friday the 23rd of September 2016. The event, funded by Lotterywest, was an opportunity for Self Help and Support Groups to showcase their services and raise awareness about their cause. The event was again held at the Perth Cultural Centre in the CBD and 25 Support Group members hosted stalls and engaged with the general public.



Small Grant Programs



The Pay it Forward Plan is a ConnectGroups' small grants program available to members. It is an early intervention and prevention mental health initiative. The objective of PIF is to empower and encourage Self Help and Support Groups to achieve positive mental health outcomes and support the Groups' mission and sustainability.

All projects must demonstrate clear mental health outcomes, and in alignment with the Mental Health Commission's "Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025" (the Plan).

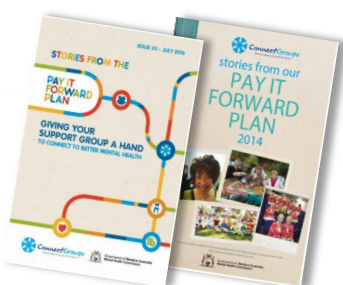
Summary



The Assessment Review Panel was pleased to award funding to the following organisations:

Round 1

- Mankind Project
- Alongside
- angelhands
- Sands WA
- Connect2Heal
- Transmen
- Older Womens Network

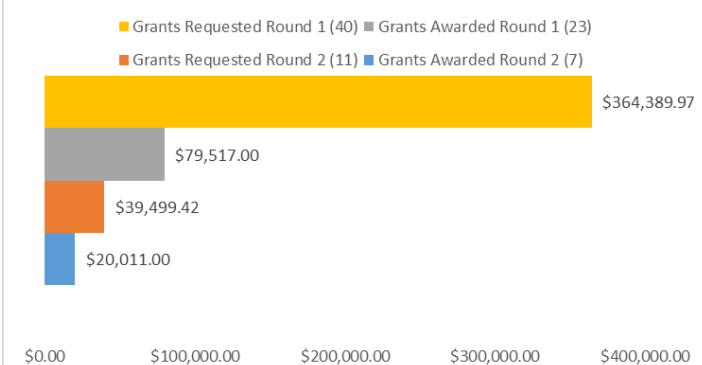


- Depression Support Network Albany Inc
- Endometriosis Perth Sisterhood of Support
- H.O.P.E.S. - Helping Other People Who Have Experienced Suicide
- Haemophilia Foundation WA Inc.
- Langford Aboriginal Association - Art and Yarning Support Group
- Linking Together Carer Support Groups South West (Carers WA)
- Northcliffe - Self Help Group for Mental Health
- Eastern Suburbs Autism Network
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Inc (PFLAG)
- Recovery Rocks Community Inc.
- Rockingham Special Families (WA Special Families)
- Blackwood Parent Support Group
- South West Autism Network (SWAN)
- ARMS (WA) - Mothers separated from children through adoption
- Deafblind West Australians Support Group
- Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre - Bouncing Back Group

Round 2

- angelhands
- Henri Nouwen House
- LADS
- ME/CFS and Lyme Association of WA
- Perth Active Depression Support Group
- Transfolk of WA (rebranded from Transmen)
- Wongan Hills Therapy Group

PIF Awards 2016/17



The Pay it Forward Plan remains a unique opportunity for mental health-focused peer Support Groups to seek small grants funding to



ensure their long-term sustainability and to support the mental health journey of their members. By promoting best practice at every stage, the Pay it Forward Plan demonstrates that limited funds can lead to exceptional outcomes.

Certificate IV in Community Services Scholarships

ConnectGroups launched its fifth cycle of students participating in earning a Cert IV in Community Services – ten (10) Support Group facilitators/leaders engaged in this cycle. Eligibility was based upon membership in a Self Help or Support Group, and that the individual occupied a facilitation, leadership or training role within the Group. The qualification upskills peer Support Group facilitators recognises existing skillsets, builds local capacity through acquisition of relevant tertiary units, and contributes to employment opportunities in the sector.

The following Self Help or Support Group representatives were successful in earning scholarships:

Lynne Devine - ARMS

Megan Rowley - ME/CFS

Brian Thom - ManKind Project

Maree Green - HeartKids of WA

Dee Claydon - Ashdale Special Families

Ron Deng - MHM2/MIFWA/Helping Minds

Sue Joslin - Older Women's Network (OWN)

Emma Arnett - Rockingham Special Families

Kathryn Budzinska - The Grief Centre of WA

Joanne McCormick - Endometriosis Perth Sisterhood of Support



Funding the scholarships builds capacity in the sector, and contributes to the workforce development of peer support and community service workers. The model is tailored to the needs of scholarship recipients and is heavily supported by ConnectGroups and North Metropolitan TAFE to ensure a safe, relevant and

successful experience, and participant retention. The program is a ConnectGroups' workforce development initiative, is allocated from Pay it Forward Plan funding, and supports Action Area 8 of Mental Health 2020 reform to build a sustainable workforce.

Dream it Forward Program



The Dream it Forward (DIF) program is a grassroots community-led small grants program focused on addressing the social, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families, and their communities across WA based on needs identified by the community for the community.

In July 2017 ConnectGroups released the latest edition of "Stories from Our Dream it Forward Program". The book contains the stories of DIF grant recipients from 2015-16 and showcases the outcomes of community-led projects focused on the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families, and communities.

DIF's current round was promoted in 2016/17 and awarded in July 2017.

The Universal Truth of Healing Workshop



As part of the Dream it Forward Program, ConnectGroups, in partnership with "WISDOM in Your Life", was delighted to once again offer 'The Universal Truth of Healing' workshop to 35 members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The healing workshop was facilitated by Shaun Nannup and Roslyn Snyder and addressed culturally-safe approaches to healing and transformation using the experiences of art, storytelling, writing and poetry.

Suicide Prevention Grant MHFA Training



The Mental Health Commission contracted ConnectGroups to facilitate delivery of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) to its members. Self Help and Support Groups in Western

Australia represent priority target populations as identified in Suicide Prevention 2020: Together We Can Save Lives. This capacity building program's objective was to improve community-wide mental health literacy in order to disrupt suicidal ideation and mitigate mental distress.

Three rounds of MHFA training were delivered to seventy (70) individuals representing twenty-six (26) unique Self Help or Support Groups.

Training was coordinated by ConnectGroups, and delivered by Blooming Minds Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The role of Self Help and Support Groups in the community highlights the complexity of conditions, and their role addressing mental health service delivery gaps. The Suicide Prevention small grant addressed that gap and supported ConnectGroups to ensure that a large number of its members representing peer support, and who strive every day to prevent mental distress escalation and encourage recovery, are better equipped to do that work within the community.

Conferences and Presentations



ConnectGroups presented "Support Groups as a Health Promotion Model" at the World Congress on Public Health in Melbourne 3-7 April 2017. The Congress was attended by over 2,700 delegates from 83 countries and organised by the World Federation of Public Health Associations. As part of its 50th year Anniversary, the Federation made a call for all governments to support public health professionals and their organisations to carry out their work to further public health functions and

quality health systems as global public resources, and to hold all sectors accountable for the health impacts of their policies and actions in order to achieve sustainable development goals.

ConnectGroups CEO Antonella Segre's take away message was "to make the invisible visible". It made her reflect how the work of ConnectGroups and its Support Groups members still remains largely invisible, and that it is our responsibility and priority to make it more visible. This will be achieved through unity for it is unity that creates strength. ConnectGroups recognises Support Groups as networks of hope and knowledge within which individual members share a vision that leads to transformative change. These changes have significant impact on individuals, families, carers and the community.



17th International Mental Health Conference 2016

***"The Dream it Forward
Program, a Specialised
Response to Addressing
Mental Health and Wellbeing"***

ConnectGroups' CEO, Antonella Segre, and Project Coordinator, Christine Hendricks, participated in the 17th International Mental Health Conference on the Gold Coast, Queensland, auspiced by the Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Association. The team presented "The Dream it Forward Program, a Specialised Response to Addressing Mental Health and Wellbeing" in the Indigenous Wellbeing conference stream.

This conference brought together leading clinical practitioners, academics, service providers and mental health experts to deliberate and discuss mental health issues confronting Australia and New Zealand. Additionally, information was gathered around priorities and mental health reform direction at the national level with an emphasis on the commissioning role of the 31 Primary Health Networks, and their impact on the mental health landscape and service provision.





Financial Position

Funding Resources Received

Funds Description	2017 \$	2016 \$	
Department of Communities - Core Funding	358,397	352,753	
Mental Health Commission - Core Funding	207,061	203,800	Note 1
Mental Health Commission- MHC378 - one off grant	-	200,000	Note 2
Mental Health Commission- MHC433 - one off grant	-	16,730	
Mental Health Commission - MHC498 - one off grant	100,000	-	
Health Department - one off grant	-	-	Note 3
Linkwest - one off grant	-	29,180	
Lotterywest - One Off Grants	77,628	14,182	
City of Melville	4,100		
WA Primary Health Alliance	49,975		
Total	797,161	816,645	

Notes:

1. \$117,640 was brokered to our members through the Pay it Forward Plan (\$90,906 during the 2015/16 year).
2. \$69,015 was brokered to our members through the Dream it Forward 2 Plan (\$15,985 in the 2015/16 year).
3. \$18,810 was brokered to our members through the Live it Forward Together Plan (\$31,190 2015/16 year).

Abridged audit report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

Scope

I have audited the abridged financial report of ConnectGroups Support Groups Association WA Inc for the year ended 30 June 2017 as set out on the following page in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the information reported in the abridged financial report of ConnectGroups Support Groups Association WA Inc is consistent with the annual special purpose financial report from which it is derived and upon which we expressed an unqualified audit opinion in our report to the members. For a better understanding of the entity's financial position and performance, as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year, and the scope of our audit, this report should be read in conjunction with the annual special purpose financial report and our audit report.

Alastair Abbott CA

Registered Company Auditor No. 486826 Australian Audit

ConnectGroups Support Groups Association WA Inc

ABN: 23 041 552 831

Abridged financial report for the year ended 30 June 2017

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017			STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE IN- COME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017		
	2017	2016		2017	2016
	\$	\$		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			Operating income	2,896	9,931
Cash assets	707,132	731,295	Grants	682,004	650,169
Receivables	2,883	550	Interest income	12,673	17,255
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	710,015	731,845	Other income	6,079	439
NON CURRENT ASSETS			Employment expenses	(495,238)	(445,540)
Property, Plant & Equipment	15,396	53,887	Program expenses	(75,369)	(60,280)
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	15,396	53,887	Administration expenses	(73,507)	(81,242)
TOTAL ASSETS	725,411	785,732	Depreciation	(38,491)	(13,498)
CURRENT LIABILITIES			Finance costs	(148)	(140)
Payables	297,779	376,554	Other	11	80,901
Provisions	53,375	57,578	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	20,910	157,995
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	351,154	434,132	Income from brokering	205,465	142,532
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			Expenses from brokering	(205,465)	(142,532)
Provisions	5,203	3,456			
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	5,203	3,456	Total changes in equity	20,910	157,995
TOTAL LIABILITIES	356,357	437,588	STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
NET ASSETS	369,054	348,144	FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017		
EQUITY			Cash flows from Operating Activities		
Retained Earnings	202,038	190,149	Receipts from operations	751,953	840,305
Reserves	167,016	157,995	Payments to suppliers and employees	(788,789)	(747,363)
TOTAL EQUITY	369,054	348,144	Net cash generated by (used in) operating activities	(36,836)	92,942
			Cash flows from Investing Activities		
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY			Purchase property, plant & equipment	-	(2,456)
Beginning Retained Earnings	190,149	190,149	Interest received	12,673	17,255
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	20,910	157,995	Net cash generated by investing activities	12,673	14,799
Transfers to reserves	(9,021)	(157,995)	Cash flows from Financing Activities		
Closing Retained Earnings	202,038	190,149	Net cash generated by financing activities	-	-
			Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(24,163)	107,741
			Cash at beginning of financial year	731,295	623,554
			Cash at end of financial year	707,132	731,295

The Abridged Financial Report has been derived from the audited special purpose financial report that is prepared in accordance with note 1 to that report.



Our People

ConnectGroups Patron



Professor Lyn Beazley AO FTSE

After graduating from Oxford and Edinburgh Universities, Professor Lyn Beazley built an internationally renowned research team in Neuroscience that focused on

recovery from brain damage, much of her investigations undertaken at The University of Western Australia. Currently Lyn is the Sir Walter Murdoch Professor of Science at Murdoch University.

As Chief Scientist of Western Australia from 2006 to 2013, Lyn advised the Western Australian Government on science, innovation and technology as well as fulfilling the role of science ambassador locally, nationally and internationally.

In 2009, Lyn was awarded Officer of the Order of Australia and was honoured to be inducted into the inaugural WA Women's Hall of Fame. Lyn was amazed and delighted to be named the WA Australian of the Year for 2015 and is honoured to be Patron of ConnectGroups.

Staff

Antonella Segre

Chief Executive Officer

Juanaili Hultzsch

Corporate Services Coordinator

Fiona Hughes

Finance Coordinator

Josephine Caputo

Community Development Officer

Christine Hendricks

Project Coordinator (PIF and DIF)

Danielle Kroonenburg

Outreach Project Support Officer

Amanda Muir

Project Admin. and Communications Officer

Georgia Booth

Administration Officer (Membership)

Board of Management

Executive Board

Pearl Proud **Chairperson**

Professor Dorothy Jones **Vice Chairperson**

Brian O'Keefe **Treasurer**

Rosemary Roach **Secretary**

Board Members

Faye Baxter

Emilia Hay

Godfrey Baronie

Conrad Pires

Andrew Bannon

Nicola Nolan

Former Board Member

Anne Hill

Francis Lynch

Volunteers

Vanessa Wilson

Linda Duffy

Claudia Flores

Tam Kang (Theo)

Susan Steers

Fay Bahemia

Divya Rakhesh

Benjamin Sedighi

Lara Tinley

Susan Holt

Julia Xu

Robert Mulroney

Debbie Dunstan

Fiona Ling

Nicolo Maurogiovanni

Jenny Garkaklis

Stephanie Lu

Leslie Chong

Michelle Yao

Hyeseon Lee

Paula Keech

Pam Heron

Richard Hill

Ebony Draper

Tatianja Hill



Acknowledgements

ConnectGroups Board and Staff thank and acknowledge the Department of Communities, its Minister the Hon. Simone McGurk MLA, Director General Jenny Perkins, Director General Grahame Searle, Executive Director Scott Hollingworth and staff Helen McGinty and Kay Channer; the Mental Health Commission's Commissioner Tim Marney and Director Ray Peters and staff Michael Lenney, and Louise Howe for their constant support and belief in the work that we do and for sharing our vision.

ConnectGroups extends its thanks and gratitude to all of the organisations whose support has been key to its growth and development. A special mention to:

City of Melville

Mayor Russell Aubrey

Christine Young

Lotterywest

Jacquie Thomson

Pauline Logan

Lee Grmas

WACOSS

Louise Giolitto

North Metropolitan TAFE

Lena Charlick

Health Consumers' Council WA

Pip Brennan

Linkwest

Jane Chilcott

Community Employers WA

John Bouffler

Bankwest

Craig Spencer

Hesta

Graham King

Partners and Friends

Anne Hill

Shaun Nannup

Marie Taylor

Men's Health and Wellbeing

VolunteeringWA

Act Belong Commit

Pharmacy 777 Network

MIFWA

Melville Cares

WAAMH

CoMHWA

Carers WA

UWA Citizenship Centre

People with Disabilities WA

Suicide Prevention Australia

Fremantle Family Services Network

Department of Finance – FaCS Team

South West Metropolitan Partnership Forum

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA)

ConnectGroups Support Groups Association WA In.

W: www.connectgroups.org.au

E: info@connectgroups.org.au

P: 08 9364 6909



ConnectGroups
helping support groups & individuals

ConnectGroups
Support Groups Association WA Inc.

Annual Report *2017*