

the drum

YARRA

ANNUAL REPORT
2019 - 2020



... in our
wildest
dreams





Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people of Australia. We acknowledge they have never ceded sovereignty, remain strong in their connection to land, culture and in resisting ongoing colonisation.

the drum respectfully acknowledges that we deliver services and programs on the stolen lands of the *Wurundjeri, Boonerwrung, Taungurong, Djajawurrung* and the *Wathaurung* people of the Kulin Nations.

We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As a team and organization predominately comprised of settlers, we are committed to supporting First Nation people in their quest for decolonisation and sovereignty.

Acknowledgement of Country..... 2

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The future in our wildest dreams

2019/2020 has been a year unlike another experienced by young people and the wider community. Not in our wildest dreams did we envisage the Covid-19 pandemic.

The theme of our annual report this year is inspired by the work of *Irresistible*, a podcast on transformative justice.¹ Their work is an important reminder for those striving for a different reality why we must have a vision, even as the pandemic ravages life as we know it. So, we are presenting the wildest dreams from young people. They have told us what they would like to see happen. We hope you will listen to them and become an accomplice in their struggle for a better world. We will be striving to centre their vision and wisdom in our service delivery actions for the next year.

2019/2020 has been a year of stark contrasts. The first half of the year was characterised by young people leading our service delivery actions with optimism. We'd secured additional funding to create a recording studio in North Melbourne and international superstar Lizzo connected with young people at RYMS. Our Block Parties were gaining momentum, with young people wanting them in their neighbourhood. Then came Covid-19. We had to develop an entirely two-pronged strategy to engage and connect with young people. We, and much of the youth sector, made the difficult decision to cease face to face service delivery to help keep young people and our team safe.

Our commitment to young people experiencing structural forms of disadvantage means we know social inequality exists. Covid-19 has magnified and intensified this disadvantage. Our political leaders' mantra is "we are all in this together", but we have seen the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on young people. It has specifically impacted young people of colour, those living in public housing and young people identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Intersex (LGBTQI).

Despite these challenges, young people continue to rise and envisage a different reality. They have organised themselves and their community around the Black Lives Matter movement. They have volunteered tirelessly to distribute food and material resources for members of their community hardest hit by social restrictions.

In our team, our workforce transitioned seamlessly to online engagement. Using their creativity and experiential knowledge they have responded to young people's unique needs and interests. Whilst we have learnt a lot on the way, and we know that online engagement isn't for all young people, we remain committed to them leading the way. It's time to turn to their narratives about what they need and want to see.

1 You can learn more about *Irresistible* on their website and podcast found [here](#).



The first half of the year was characterised by young people leading our service delivery actions with optimism.

The future in our wildest dreams

Young people envisioning the future they wish to see²

Anonymous

15 years old, Fitzroy

Connected to Richmond Mix,
Richmond Girls Club and RYMS

I grew up in Fitzroy and have been coming to **the drum** programs for one and a half years now. I come for the fun mostly but also because I like to support the younger children to participate in the opportunities that the drum gives us.

In my wildest dreams I want a world that has diversity and where racism doesn't exist. It would be a world where everyone feels safe to be whoever they want to be and to express themselves without having to worry about being judged. I want us as a generation to be good role models and mentors for the next generation so that kids don't make the same mistakes. I want every kid to know they have the power to change the world for the better.

Living in the flats, people look down on us and that makes us not want to tell people where we come from. I want the kids to know that living in the flats isn't a bad thing. It doesn't have to hold you back from opportunities and it doesn't have to be permanent. But for kids to believe that, we need to challenge stereotypes the community and government have about people who live in the flats.

We need to be careful about how we talk about communities from the flats and young people of colour because this affects children's sense of hope and mental health.

In my wildest dreams the kids in the flats grow up in a safe environment. I think this is the most important thing for kids. Every kid should feel safe and have a safe home and community. Being around the flats and especially in Richmond, kids sometimes see things that they should never have to see. Everyone in the community, including older youth, has a responsibility to make sure that kids are safe and don't have bad influences around them.

Every kid needs people around them that they can trust and talk to about their experiences so they can learn to make good decisions even when they have bad influences around them. They need people that don't judge them. That is why **the drum** and other places need to keep hiring young people who come from the same backgrounds and experiences as the kids they are working with. They make good role models because they can truly understand and connect with the kids. They can have greater impact on them.

The younger the people who work with and lead the community are, the more hope we give to the young generations.



2 Note for the reader the narratives of young people have been gently edited for syntax and expression, but their vision and experiences remain their own.

Trey (He/him)

12 years old, Collingwood

**Connected to Collingwood Drop in
and RYMS**

I'm Trey, an Aboriginal young person from Collingwood, Melbourne. I'm in Year 7 and I go to school in the city. I have been a **drum** participant for over 2 years and attended Collingwood Youth Drop-In and RYMS since they started. It is a safe place to speak your mind, try new things and hang out with friends and mentors. **the drum** should keep running programs because they're giving young people a chance to be themselves. I want younger kids to have fun and get the same opportunities that I have.

In my wildest dreams I want every child and young person to be given equal opportunities and to know they deserve to be accepted for who they are. My perfect world is a place where everyone is treated equally, no matter what. We should give everyone the same opportunity to get an education, especially those that experience extra challenges in their lives like financial struggles, homelessness and family violence.

People who have less are treated differently but they shouldn't be. Young people are being bullied because they have less than others and this makes them different. It's bad for their mental health and we are still losing young lives to bullying. But how can young people learn to treat each other equally when adults and the government do not? We could start by having the government and adults give everyone the same opportunities and resources, no matter where they live or where they come from.

This is especially important for children and young people, so they have an equal chance from a young age.

We shouldn't make people's lives into politics! People shouldn't have to vote or protest to be treated equally! The government needs to make decisions and laws that suit everyone and brings us closer to equality.

Covid-19 is obviously one of the biggest challenges everyone is experiencing. It has been even harder for children and young people. Especially for young people in the high-rise buildings in Melbourne. Lockdown has been difficult because we don't have a backyard or outdoor space to run, get fresh air and care for our pets. A lot of the young people here don't have the same resources that other people have such as the Internet. For the children and young people living in the towers, this negatively impacts on their education, work and ability to connect with friends and family.

Some people have really difficult lives because of inequality. It shouldn't have taken a global pandemic for everyone to see it. People need to care more about those who have less!

Did you know that since the Covid-19 lockdowns there has been new animal life in our oceans because of less plastic pollution? I saw online that there were thousands more sea turtles in Australia this year. This shows how destructive humans are to nature. We shouldn't have to be locked down so that our animals can be safe! In my wildest dreams ... humans care about our animals and nature!

PERRY PARK



“In my wildest dreams I want every child and young person to be given equal opportunities and to know they deserve to be accepted for who they are. My perfect world is a place where everyone is treated equally, no matter what.”

TREY



“We want people to use their privilege to educate themselves and others.”

ABOL (right)
with ADENG (left)

Abol (she/her)

11 years old, Richmond

Connected to the Richmond Mix and Richmond Girls Club programs

My name is Abol. I am 11 years old and I'm from Richmond. I am South Sudanese, a writer and captain of my school. I got connected with **the drum** through *Helping Hoops* and have been participating in Richmond Girls Club and the online groups.

In my wildest dreams young people, especially those from minority communities, will know they deserve to have a voice. I dream that one day, when a child or young person notices something is wrong in their neighborhood or society, they can go and talk to the people who have the power to make change. I think people in power should look to people with lived experience for answers and ideas, because they have knowledge and authenticity.

Even though there are some opportunities to have a say many of us don't know how about them. I think the people in charge need to go to youth workers and groups to make sure minority young people can participate and be heard.

Growing up in Richmond, I am surrounded by drugs, crime and bad influences. Especially after the opening of a safe injecting room, crime rates in Richmond have gone up and the community feels less safe. More needs to be done to address these side effects, like updating and looking after security cameras. Safe injecting rooms could be built in other areas so that drug users don't have to come all the way to Richmond. A lot of people know North Richmond as the "junkie place" and don't want to visit because they are scared. It is

hard for me because it makes me embarrassed to live here. But Richmond is my home and I love it.

In my wildest dreams young people will be heard, have influence and they will be safe. This is because I believe every child should grow up in an environment where they feel safe and proud to live in. In Richmond, we feel safe at program but we deserve to feel safe all the time. Increased policing has made us feel more scared. I think that the police shouldn't have guns because we don't have weapons. I know what they will say "the police's safety is important," but it shouldn't be more important than our safety. We feel the same fear but they have guns and we don't. We are all part of the human race.

I think there is a need for more mental wellbeing support in schools and the community. But it is so important these workers are from diverse backgrounds and can relate to our stories because that way they will be able to have better impact.

Racism and colourism is a big thing. If we work together, we have the power to defeat it but only if people want to. We don't want people to feel sorry for us; We want people to use their privilege to educate themselves and others. They should use their privilege to stop racism from happening. We need to start talking about racism and colourism with children and young people so that they can understand from a young age and avoid making racism a habit. We need schools in Australia to teach students about racism, colourism and its history in Australia and across the world.

In my wildest dreams, no one is treated differently because of their race, or for the colour of their skin. Everyone appreciates each other's culture without appropriating it.

Impacts of covid-19 on young folks we've engaged with

The visions of young people in our annual report illuminate an acute awareness of the social forces they navigate, and how they limit their ability to thrive. Collectively, the young people's wildest dreams include:

- » Spaces to be free and to try new things
- » Not having expectations or negative assumptions limit their explorations or dreams
- » An acknowledgement of racism and colourism, and a striving to eliminate them
- » Being heard
- » Seeing themselves in those working with them
- » Living free of stigma because of where they live
- » Growing up safe and not being affected by traumatising events

They believe it is possible for disadvantage to be addressed structurally through political leadership, leadership within the community and youth sector, and by those in positions of power. They want to be part of this change and actively strive for this every day.

Covid-19 has intensified structural disadvantage. The relationships we have with young people and grass roots organisations have identified specific experiences causing more intense or unique harms.

For all young people

Families are under increased financial pressure due to loss of employment, and this is felt by young people. Stage three restrictions are adversely impacting relationships within families as young people spend a prolonged time in often confined spaces and their parents are forced into the role of teacher. The isolation from friends and missed opportunities for social connections are contributing to poorer mental health. As the restrictions continue there is increasing uncertainty about their educational and employment prospects, particularly for year 11 and year 12 students. Year 9 and year 10 students struggling to engage with academic curriculum and expectations are increasingly vulnerable to disengagement from online learning. This increases the likelihood that they will be told VCE is not available to them. All of the restrictions are diminishing young people's ability to do developmentally appropriate activities such as connecting with peers and exercising higher levels of independence. As a service, we are aware that the economic impact of Covid-19 will see young people bear increased generational debt, and likely lead to increased levels of their unemployment as the economic fall-out of Covid-19 continues.

The impacts specific to young people living in inner city public housing

Social distancing is not an option for all young people and community members who live in public housing. The department responsible for the estates only introduced sufficient amounts of hand sanitiser, increased cleaning and distribution of masks after the outbreak of Covid-19, despite advocacy by residents and community organisations.

Many young people come from large families living in over-crowded conditions. They are now expected to do home schooling. The physical challenge of this is compounded by little to no access to the Internet and technical devices needed to support education.

Some young people and their families are not leaving their flats at all out of fear of the virus. Some did not leave their flats for weeks during the first lock down. It is extremely difficult for large families to purchase enough food and reduce the number of visits needed to the supermarket when restrictions are in place. Their precarious economic position means these families do not have the funds to purchase such large quantities of food.

Young people and their families wouldn't leave their flat, or did so reluctantly, out of fear of racialized policing. Young people reported increased police presence during the restrictions. Fears and concerns about racialized policing intensified as young people of colour and their communities felt the impact of George Floyd's death. Many became

politicised or increased their activism, with a younger and more diverse group engaging with the Black Lives Matter movement. Many felt a connection between the experience of First Nations people, African-Americans and African diaspora in Australia. Young people living in public housing estates feel overpoliced and treated differently because of their skin colour and because they live in public housing.

Those young people and their families already struggle to navigate Centrelink. At times they even missed out on payments due to their misunderstanding of how to use Centrelink's systems. They experienced further delays in payments as Centrelink struggled to handle the increased demand for welfare payments during Covid-19's outbreak.

We will continue to use our privileges and access to decision makers to strive for a world where young people can achieve their wildest dreams. We hope to do this through our services and by exposing the challenges young people face so we can all do our bit to dismantle these systemic barriers.

Safe Spaces for Young People:

Collingwood Youth Drop-in, 253 Hoddle Street & Richmond Mix, 110 Elizabeth Street

The *Collingwood Youth Drop-in* and the newly established *Richmond Mix* programs provide a safe space that enable us to build strong relationships and trust with young people. Our programs respond to young people's call for a space to be safe, and for activities that allow them to explore and connect.

We know they want this because they tell us so. Trey, a young person from Collingwood, told us, "I come because it is a safe place to speak your mind and try new things."

Abol, a young person from Richmond, said she believes "the drum has been good in making program a safe and fun place for us to hang out... We feel safe at program, but we deserve to feel safe all the time."

Both our programs give young people agency. Those who attend choose and support the planning of activities and projects!

We've been working to ensure there are youth specific spaces available on the estates. In Collingwood, a partnership between Probuild and the drum saw the refurbishment and revitalisation of the Collingwood Youth Space and Family room. The pro-bono redevelopment of the Youth Space makes the space safer, brighter and more welcoming a place to use. These changes have benefitted local young people and the hundreds of community members who utilise the space for grass-roots community activities.

We are excited about the commencement on construction of the Richmond Youth Hub, which is due for completion in late 2020. The need for a Youth Space was advocated for by Mubarek Imam and Nyayoud Jice during their terms as Youth Peer Leaders in 2018/19. We hope the Hub will be a safe, youth-specific space for Richmond young people to connect with one another, run programs in and support one another – a space young people can have ownership over and feel proud of.

By Sandra



Collingwood group photo



"the drum has been good in making program a safe and fun place for us to hang out
... We feel safe at program, but we deserve to feel safe all the time." ABOL

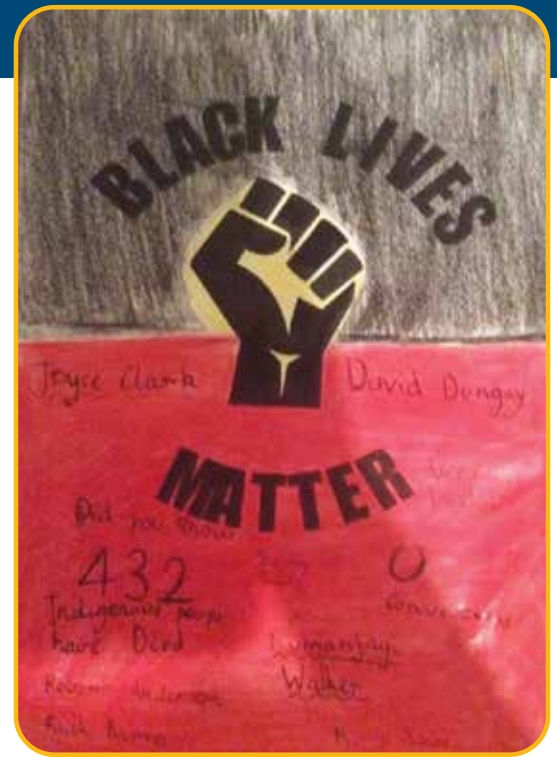
Richmond Girls Club, City of Yarra, 110 Elizabeth Street

In its second year the focus of *Richmond Girls Club* shifted to skill-based, female-specific workshops curated by and for young women. Highlights in 2019/2020 included:

- » Afrobeat workshops with Grace Kwabo
- » A series of Makeup Workshops with Dijok Mai, Aisha Ahmed and Rosie Kalina
- » A Netball Clinic in partnership with Netball Victoria

Partnerships are central to our work, especially in the Covid-19 environment. The *Richmond Girls Club* partnered with Fitzroy Learning Network to run a Craft Club on Zoom. Doing this we were able to engage young women from Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond in Term 2 of 2020. We sent out 60 craft packs to young women (aged between 8-18) with an invite to the weekly Zoom sessions to craft together.

The craft activities were curated by the young women and included origami, embroidery and DIY felt keychains. A highlight was our Black Lives Matter session, held in response to the want by the young women to explore and discuss George Floyd's death and the consequent protests.



Black Lives Matter poster by Abol,
Richmond Girls Club participant

"George Floyd's death really enlightened me on racism. I can't believe it took his death to start this racial justice movement. It's 2020, we should be past that and an 11-year-old shouldn't have to protest just to be heard.

Then I saw the statistics on how Aboriginal people have mass incarceration rates and how there has been 432 deaths in custody and only nine convictions. I thought to myself Australia is no different from America. The only different is Australia managed to hide these things from the world.

Nobody saw how in 2015, David Dungay said "I can't breathe" 12 times when he was pinned down and injected with a sedative that ended up fatally killing him. It's been 5 years and still no charges have been filed. Because of these 432 deaths there are 864 families who are grieving and how have not received justice. But that is just the way it is." – By Abol

By Sandra

City of Yarra, RYMS (Real Youth Music Studio)

Through *RYMS* young people's confidence and skill in their music continued to grow. There were so many milestones for young people last year. Many had their first performance in front of an audience. Each performance further energized them to continue to work on their craft at program.

To celebrate the first year of *RYMS*, we held our first *RYMS* End of Year Showcase in partnership with Nike. On a high vibe night, *RYMS* young people performed songs they created throughout the year to an audience of 90. In the crowd their family, friends, volunteers and community members cheered them on. Each performer was gifted a pair of Nike shoes. The night was as incredible party with a photobook, food truck, mocktails and a dance party with DJ Style'n'Grace. A worthy celebration for the young people, staff and volunteers who worked so hard to build *RYMS* over the past year!

In 2019/2020 we welcomed incredible local and international artists. Inspiring performers brought excitement and joy to the young people as well as invaluable opportunities for the young people to connect with and learn from their role models including:

- » Remi
- » Junglepussy
- » Ntombi
- » Pookie
- » Whosane
- » Baasto
- » Sensible J
- » Baker Boy
- » KLP
- » Lizzo

RYMS Showcase



The surprise visit from Grammy winning singer and performer Lizzo was an unforgettable experience for young people. Not only did they get to meet their idol Lizzo, but they also got to perform for her. Lizzo took the time to answer their questions, pose for pictures with each young person, make a TikTok with them and, as the young people requested, sang their favourite song “Truth Hurts”.

Since Covid-19 transformed all of our lives *RYMS* has been online. We’ve hosted a series of livestreamed Q&As and performances on Instagram with local artists Baasto, Pookie, Thando, Niasha and Legend the Rapper. We’ve also provided resources to young people to keep them writing and inspired. *RYMS* also ran online Zoom sessions with young people and distributed “*RYMS @ Home*” activity books to encourage young people to stay connected and be creative while in isolation.

By Christobel



Lizzo with *RYMS* participants



RMS with Baker Boy, Remi and KLP

Reaching out, showing care from afar

We've responded to social distancing requirements to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by supporting young people to remain safe and socially connected. We did this by redeploying resources to deliver care and activity packs.

Our care & activity packs have included a range of items to keep young people busy and support their wellbeing and schooling while at home. Items have included books, stationary, art & craft materials and fitness equipment. This was made possible through the generous donations from businesses and community.

Between March and June 2020 we delivered team monthly care and activity packs to Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond young people – a total of 354 packs to 103 young people.

Young people have told us the care & activity packs brought joy and relief during the lockdown. It's our way of reminding the young people that we are thinking about them during these trying times.

We couldn't have done this without the support of 15+ donors and supporters. We'd like to acknowledge the following organisations for their donations to, or collaborating with us on, the distribution of items:

- » Allen and Unwin
- » Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House
- » Carman's Kitchen
- » Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- » Harper Collins Publishers Australia
- » Helping Hoops
- » Ikea
- » Lush Northland, Lush Melbourne Central and Lush Southland
- » Melbourne United
- » Nike
- » The Little Bookroom
- » The Wellington
- » Typo
- » Yarra Libraries



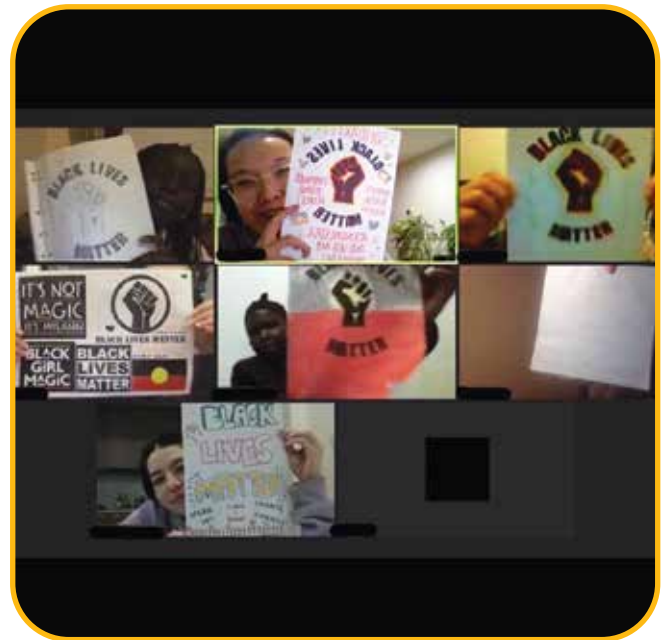
"Thank you we appreciate it. I mentioned you guys in my school-work about people who help youths and talked about good things." DENG, Collingwood young person

In April 2020 we moved our programs to the online realm since April 2020. It was a hard decision, but necessary to keep young people safe. We've been working hard to translate pre-existing relationships we have with young people and their families as they adjust to engaging with services, their peers and school remotely. Our programming is intended to keep young people connected and optimistic as Covid-19 changed everything.

By the end of April we were running 4 programs online:

- » Instagram live Q&A and discussions
- » RYMS Online Catch Up
- » RYMS Live Music Sessions
- » FLN x the drum Craft Club

We've continued to centre young people's unique strengths and experiences in our service design and delivery. Our Youth Peer Leaders and Peer Leaders have curated our programs and online engagement strategies including the popular Instagram Panels. We've redeployed program budgets for things like catering to fund young people to facilitate activities. We've used Insta-polling to hear from young people the activities and events they want during the pandemic.



Some young people are engaging online, others aren't. We are learning as well go and young people are definitely missing "in real life" programs; they tell us this all the time. We are continually adapting, with young people leading the way.

We've had to be efficient, flexible, adaptive and reprioritise to respond to Covid-19. We've worked with internal and external partners to respond to young people. We bring a wide lens when responding, we work at the community level.

At a practical level this has looked like:

- » Creating 37 paid roles for young people to curate and deliver online content
- » 105 young people connected to City of Melbourne engage with online closed groups
- » 2 highly engaging Instagram panels viewed 1021 times

We've had to be efficient, flexible, adaptive and reprioritise to respond to Covid-19. We've worked with internal and external partners to respond to young people. We bring a wide lens when responding, we work at the community level. At a practical level this has looked like:

- » Prioritising those most impacted by Covid-19
- » Participating in local level networks to identify community need and develop emergency response plans for inner city estates
- » Responding to acute social disadvantage with material relief in the form of food, brokerage, toys, craft activates
- » Supporting residents of public housing estates to self-organise
- » Engaging with health providers to do health promotion activities about Covid-19

Our work is intersectional, crosses generations and multi-faceted. We've made mistakes but are always striving to improve the ways we work and collaborate with young people and their families.





Staff group photo

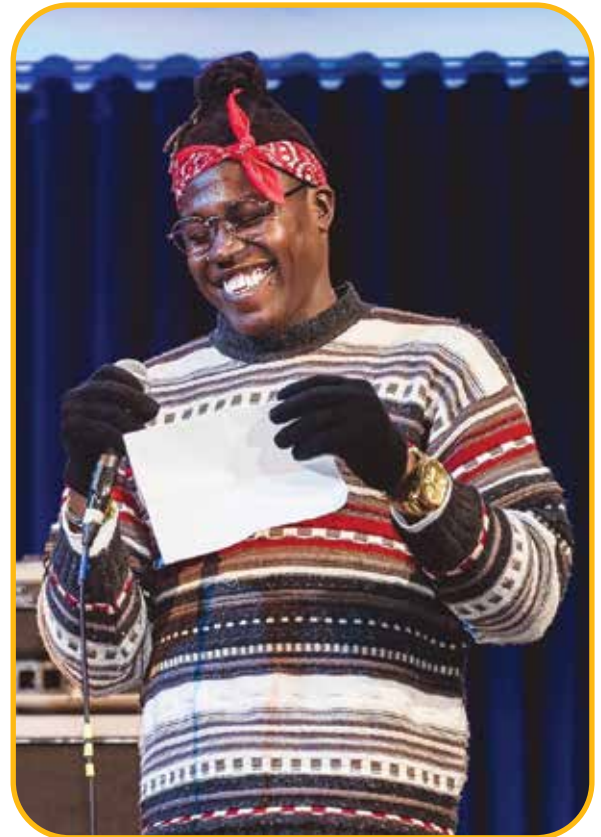
the drum delivers programs for young people and communities connected to Carlton, Collingwood, Kensington, North Melbourne & Richmond public housing estates. We also deliver activities for LGBTQI+, QTPOC and International students in the City of Yarra and City of Melbourne. The mentoring team delivers initiatives for young people and families across the wider Melbourne area.

Akolda Bil

Peer Leader
(he/him pronouns)

Akolda is an artist, youth worker and community leader of South Sudanese background. Akolda spent his early childhood living in Egypt before settling in Newcastle, NSW in 2003, later relocating to Fitzroy in Naarm/Melbourne in 2011. Akolda recently finished his Diploma in Community Services and is driven by a want to work side by side and empower young people. He wants to be a positive male role model for his community, something he lacked when he was growing up. For Akolda, music, art and connecting with community has been important for his personal development and this motivated him to pursue a career in youth work.

In Akolda's wildest dreams, all young people have better opportunities and good role models in their lives. "I want young people to feel free and have a voice to speak about issues they and their communities experience. I want young people to be leaders."



Chantelle Higgs

General Manager of Youth and Community (she/her pronouns)

Chantelle utilises her experience co-developing, delivering, and coordinating innovative social change activities and campaigns to support and enable the work of the youth, community and the drum team. Drawing from her passion for working alongside young people deftly navigating structural barriers, and from theoretical knowledge from a Masters in Sociology (by research), she remains committed to identifying and responding to these systemic challenges. Young people continue to inspire and teach her.

In Chantelle's wildest dreams young people would be surrounded by adults who show them positive regard, are fierce in their commitment to doing the work required to dismantle white supremacy and other forms of privilege and help to redistribute power and resources for their visions to be achieved.

Christobel Elliott

Youth Development Practitioner
(she/her pronouns)

Christobel is a vocalist, music producer, creator and youth worker born in Meanjin (Brisbane) with a Sudanese, Eritrean, Egyptian, Greek, English, Norwegian and Scottish cultural background. She has a Bachelor of Psychology and strong connections to the Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond communities. Christobel believes that having a creative outlet is crucial to wellbeing and is passionate about engaging young people through music, fashion and the performing arts.

Christobel's wildest dream for young people is for them to be given the space and support to be leaders in their own stories. "I want young people to believe in themselves and their abilities and be confident to explore and learn about the parts of themselves that makes them unique."



Fardowsa Nur

Peer Leader
(she/her pronouns)

Fardowsa is a young leader who remains active in her local community through volunteering and her work as a Youth Peer Leader with the drum. Fardowsa loves working with people. She has experience in early childhood education, having recently completed her Diploma in Nursing. She describes her role with the drum as “a dream come true”. She is a strong believer that young people need to use their voices to help their peers and communities. Fardowsa was born in Kenya and lived there before moving to Collingwood, Naarm/Melbourne where she still lives. She is a passionate Collingwood Football Club supporter and loves escaping to the countryside on her days off.

Idil Ali

Senior Youth Development Practitioner
(she/her pronouns)

A passionate advocate for the local African and Muslim community, Idil seeks to guarantee the drum’s work supports community-level self-direction and autonomy. Idil is committed to ensuring young people have access to leadership and participation opportunities, that organisations deliver these, and they provide inclusive and affirmative pathways. Idil remains dedicated to building solidarity across communities marginalised by imposed social categories and to making a sustained difference.

Mohamed Chamas

Peer leader – website and social media
(he/they)

Mohamed Chamas is a digital designer interested in semiology, spiritual practice, language, identity formation and therapeutic creative expression. They are an Honours’ graduate from RMIT in Media and Communications.

“My wildest dream is to change – for the better – the way we regard ourselves in relation to our environments through arts and design. A memorable moment during my time as a Peer leader was when I was connecting with my community and holding a space for their wellbeing. During a bittersweet final event, I felt what I was doing was truly meaningful and able to directly and effectively help people in need. “

Sandra Tay

Youth Services Coordinator – City of Yarra
(she/her pronouns)

Sandra is a Chinese-Singaporean migrant and youth worker living and working on Wurundjeri land. She has a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Media & Communications and Screen & Cultural Studies, a Master's in Public Policy and has worked with children and young people on inner-city public housing estates since 2013. Sandra is experienced in youth advocacy and champions a youth-led approach in her work. When she isn't working or volunteering in the community, you'll find her watching footy, op shopping or sewing.

In Sandra's wildest dream, no child or young person is left behind because of circumstance. She wants every young person to have equal opportunities to participate in community and, if they wish to, become leaders.

Shan Berih

Youth Peer Leader (he/him pronouns)

Shan is a 20-year-old youth peer leader from the North Melbourne Estates. An active community member and volunteer for many years, Shan has a very strong connection to the local community and been involved many of the drum's programs. Being young person herself, Shan uses her knowledge and understanding to better **the drum's** responses to young people's needs and wants.



Sabrina Adem

Peer Leader (she/her pronouns)

Sabrina is passionate about her local community. In addition to her work with the drum she's been an active volunteer in surrounding areas for several years. Sabrina speaks two languages and understands three.

Our funders

- » Bendigo Bank Clifroy
- » City of Yarra
- » Youth Week funding from Department of Health and Human Services

Our donors

- » Two Birds
- » Lush
- » Allen and Unwin
- » Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House
- » Carman's Kitchen
- » Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- » Harper Collins Publishers Australia
- » Helping Hoops
- » Ikea
- » Kensington Neighbourhood House
- » Lush Northland, Lush Melbourne Central and Lush Southland
- » Melbourne United
- » Nike
- » The Little Bookroom
- » The Wellington
- » Typo
- » Yarra Libraries



Students and Volunteers who enriched our work

- » Kathleen Duffy
- » Louie Miller
- » Neil Cabatingan
- » Olivia Jansz
- » Ali Choudhry
- » Patrick Salima
- » Sasha Hodge
- » Sirak Keeghan
- » Thao Ly
- » Idil Ali
- » Remi Kolawole
- » Anastasia Roussis
- » Sean Jeffery
- » Jason Voss
- » Ben Schuetz
- » Cameron McCrae
- » Jarrad Butcher
- » Jayden Pinn
- » Jayden Walsh
- » Jessica Harris
- » Penny McConvell
- » Selina Yi Zhao
- » Tae Wootton-Tasker
- » Yasmin Rose Simonsen
- » AJ Duot
- » Mashood Qureshi

Our believers and fearless champions

Helen Marcou, Bakehouse Studios
Janelle Morse, Morse Code
Joshua Tavares
Karen Field & Robert Ricconi,
drummond street
Olivia Allen & Rupert North, City of Yarra
Raffy, JUDAH.
Remi Kolawole
Tynille Catanzariti, Nike



our volunteers

Community engagement and community partners

- » Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House
- » City of Yarra
- » CoHealth
- » Collarts
- » Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- » Collingwood Underground Roller Disco
- » COM Community Engagement
- » Department of Human Services
- » Drummond street
- » Fitzroy Legal Service
- » Flemington Kensington Legal Centre
- » Helping Hoops High Rising Hip Hop
- » JUDAH
- » Melbourne Arts Centre
- » Melbourne International Film Festival
- » Minus 18
- » Netball Victoria
- » Polytechnic
- » Probuild
- » Queerspace
- » Reclink
- » School Focused Youth Services
- » SIGNAL
- » St Josephs Primary School
- » The Huddle
- » The Push
- » The Wellington
- » Visionary Images
- » Yarra Libraries
- » Yarra Youth Services



