

GREEN CROSS PROJECT INC WINTER NEWSLETTER - 2024



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

EDITION NUMBER 7

It is with great delight that I can report that Green Cross Project Inc (GCPI) launched another vehicle (GCOB-4) at the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation's head office in Collingwood on 15 April 2024.

This initiative responds to urgent concerns highlighted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, indicating a widening gap in cancer mortality rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their non-Indigenous counterparts.

Again, I reiterate my deep appreciation to our generous members and supporters, including Lady Potter AC CRMI, Mrs Trish Cameron OLJ and Dr Warrington Cameron, the Alfred Felton Bequest, All Saints Anglican Church Opportunity Shop and the van's supplier, Alan Mance Motors.

It has been wonderful to hear how much Monash Health has been using our vehicle, visiting various locations across their catchment, and providing a wide range of health and outreach services and referrals to their hospital network.

It is encouraging to learn more about the locations where the vehicle is used and see a strong network of support and assistance offered to various local groups.

Finally, there is still time for those who have not had the chance to review their membership or donate to GCPI. Please take a look at the details on page 4 of this newsletter.

Anthony Kennedy OAM
Chairman
GCPI



GCPI PROVIDES PRE-EASTER GIFTS

In early March 2024, GCPI delivered two hundred Easter Egg packs (prepared by Peter Westfield, Michael Hines CLJ, and Cynthia Hines CLJ) to Monash Health and cohealth as a pre-Easter gift for these organisations' clients. The packages, each labelled with a GCPI sticker, were distributed via the various outreach services.



Image above: Easter Hampers prepared for Monash Health and cohealth.

The packages were well received, and both organisations were genuinely excited to have the gift packs handed out to those being visited by the bus.

The visit also provided an excellent opportunity to engage with the staff and to learn more about the specific programs where the vehicles were being used. Future gift packs will include socks and toiletries.

GCOB 4 OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

Despite improvements in outcomes for non-Indigenous Australians, statistics reveal a stark reality—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals are 14% more likely to be diagnosed with cancer and 45% more likely to succumb to the disease. This health promotion van is a strategic response to address these disparities head-on.

It is pleasing to see that this initiative is building on the success of our previous collaboration with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Control Health Organisation (VACCHO) in 2020. The partnership increased community engagement and awareness of the COVID-19 vaccine. VACCHO is pleased to renew its partnership with GCPI.

During the launch, the CEO of VACCHO Dr Jill Gallagher AO said that the vehicle “will play a pivotal role in boosting engagement in the health and wellbeing space and help promote preventative health checks such as life-saving cancer screening and increased access to eye health checks”.

This collaborative effort signifies a significant step toward enhancing access and engagement with health services. The vehicle launch symbolises a shared commitment to breaking down barriers and fostering health equity for all. This is consistent with the ethos of the organisation and the members of the Order of St Lazarus, which established GCPI.



Image above: GCPI members, the Very Rev Monsignor Stuart Hall EV, Mrs Heather Sanderson, Mrs Mary Armstrong, Mr Ian Armstrong OAM JP and Mr Anthony Kennedy OAM.



Image above: VACCHO Secretary Jim O'Shea, the Very Rev Monsignor Stuart Hall EV, Mrs Heather Sanderson, Mrs Mary Armstrong, Mr Ian Armstrong OAM JP and Mr Anthony Kennedy OAM, Mr Max Carr and CEO of VACCHO Dr Jill Gallagher AO.

MONASH HEALTH MAKING GREAT USE OF GCOB-1

GCPI frequently engages with its delivery partners. In March 2024, Dr Ann Tomlinson and Mrs Cythnia Hines caught up with Monash Health, and we were pleased to receive a report that GCOB-1 has been extensively used over the past six months.

Dr Ann Tomlinson advises that GCOB-1 has been used at least “four times a week, visiting various locations across the Springvale and Dandenong areas”. By regularly visiting the same locations, locals now engage with Monash Health’s various services, including Allied Health Services, Care Coordination, Nursing and HACC Support and Social Connection services.

Some of the key locations where Monash Health takes the vehicle include:

Afri Aus Care Inc (Wheeler’s Hill and Springvale) - is a not-for-profit community service organisation run by a group of qualified professionals, many from migrant backgrounds. The organisation was founded to help those experiencing hardship after arriving in Australia.

The organisation recognises the unique challenges faced by individuals from diverse backgrounds when seeking help for mental health issues, and strives to provide comprehensive assistance and support.



Image above: GCPI’s van at the official launch.

Viv's Place is an Australian-first-permanent housing designed specifically for women and children escaping family and domestic violence and homelessness.

Sundowner Park - a local caravan and cabin accommodation.

Bob's Place - a crisis accommodation service, which offers short stays, intensive case management, and advocacy for families, couples, and singles. Accommodation options at Bob's Place include four family units, nine single units, two rooms for couples, and three women's-only rooms.

Cornerstone Centre in Dandenong aims to meet individuals' practical, social, and spiritual needs in challenging situations. It also provides a safe environment that fosters a sense of belonging, growth, and healing. It cares for and caters to those suffering from family violence, mental health challenges, drug dependency, homelessness, poverty, and social isolation.

Monash Health has also advised that it is seeking to commence visiting another site, Hampton Park, with assistance from the local Baptist Church.



Images above and below: courtesy of Afri Aus Care Inc's (Facebook).



KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBER - CYNTHIA HINES CLJ

What achievements of GCPI have you been most proud of?

We recently launched a new fourth bus in conjunction with VACCHO (Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation). It will be within reach of members of the Aboriginal Community in regional and urban areas all over Victoria, providing cancer screening, retina testing, oral health checks, and other medical services for which there is such a desperate need. The bus is beautifully decorated with artwork by Yorta Yorta artist Lynette Briggs, to be easily identifiable to members of the Aboriginal Community.

Seeing the work done by the dedicated team at Monash Health using their Green Cross bus also makes me feel very proud. The bus is often on the road three to four times a week, providing a mobile community health service to the homeless, needy, and marginalised, including refugees. The team is looking for ways to work with us to increase their services.



Image above: GCPI Committee Member Mrs Cynthia Hines CLJ.

I am proud of several other activities I have been involved in. Every year, GCPI purchases and packages 200 Christmas gifts for distribution amongst the homeless. This is a wonderful thing. Another source of pride was persuading (easily, I have to say) my old boss to donate 100 pairs of socks to the homeless. Socks are very much needed for those whose only means of transport is their feet!

Many homeless people suffer chronic poor foot health owing to poor footwear. We have recently talked to one of our partner organisations (cohealth) about other small gifts we could provide, such as toiletry packs, which are very much needed. These small things can help those in need and attract them to services they might otherwise be wary of using.

What do you like/value most about GCPI?

The way GCPI works with its partner organisations is to go out into the community to reach those in need. This provides an essential service to people who would not otherwise have access to health care. It's truly impressive and deserving of support by the Order. There is great potential for GCPI to collaborate with other health service providers. It's very exciting.

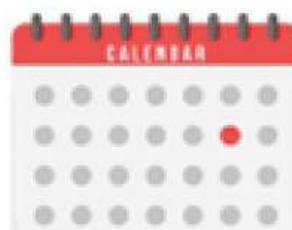
How long have you been a member of the Committee of Management?

It's been about two years. I joined during the COVID lockdowns. In the first year, we only met online. Since then, meeting in person at Dr Hollingworth's Offices in Collins Street has been good.

What encouraged you to join the Committee of Management?

Before joining, I was unaware of the work being done by GCPI, but I was curious. What I heard sounded good. After joining, I was quickly impressed by the work and dedication of all involved - particularly our collaborators and came to see GCPI as a worthwhile cause.

SAVE THE DATE



**GREEN CROSS PROJECT
INC'S ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING WILL BE ON**

26 AUGUST 2024

**AT ST PETER'S EASTERN
HILL EAST MELBOURNE**

DONATE NOW

To make a tax-deductible donation to GCPI, please email the Chairman with the amount and your contact details.

Acc Name: Green Cross Project Inc

BSB: 013 030

Account: 4404 37353

Chairman

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Are you LinkedIn with GCPI

If not please visit the GCPI page:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12464138/>

