

Connected communities

Annual Report 2022/23



SCHS is committed to creating healthy, connected communities.



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Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work and live. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We recognise, celebrate and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Australians. We acknowledge their unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land and waters, as we strive for equality and safety in community services and health care.

Statement of Diversity

Sunraysia Community Health is committed to improving the health of our community and being accessible to all with a specific focus on groups in the community that are under-represented in healthcare participation and over-represented in clinical risk; and supporting these people by providing access to services and programs across their lifespan from birth to older age.

Child Safe Commitment

Our organisation is committed to child safety. We want children to be safe, happy, and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. We are committed to the safety, participation, and empowerment of all children. We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.

Board Chair and CEO statement

It is with pleasure the Annual Report for 2022-2023 is presented to SCHS clients, our community and stakeholders.

As the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic began to subside, the learnings of the previous two years were taken and integrated into current and new practices. With immense pride, achievements have continued to be accomplished. Our organisation has adeptly navigated external dynamics and cultivated a culture of learning and innovation, a testament to the dedication of our exceptional staff. Practices, structures, and processes have consistently been evaluated to ensure agility, responsiveness, and relevance is maintained in meeting the evolving needs of our community, both now and in the future.

The pandemic prompted introspect regarding the operational dynamics of senior leadership teams within our organisation, embarking on a journey to redefine work environments that foster innovation and collaboration across SCHS. Our belief is that optimal organisational performance arises when each employee assumes

responsibility and accountability, acknowledging both individual and collective capacities, experiences, and expertise.

The establishment of the Executive Members Table (EMT) and the Health Equity Unit (HEU) in 2022 has united cohesive teams with a resolute focus on SCHS' future. These initiatives underscore our unwavering commitment to providing inclusive and equitable care for the community, particularly those who require more robust support. These committees promote transparency and collaboration, resulting in shared decision-making and a harmonised perspective that fuels innovation across service delivery, quality and safety standards, sustainability efforts, and client outcomes.

Our dedication to nurturing interconnected communities has been a cornerstone of our endeavours throughout 2022-2023. Collaborating with institutions such as La Trobe University and McMaster University, Canada to adapt from the successful evidence based Canadian CP@ clinic into the Australian context to implement the Community Paramedic Model. This pioneering approach is the first of its kind in Australia. The model has garnered significant community acceptance and has expanded its presence to encompass five locations in Sunraysia. The integration of activities such as

walking groups, vaccination clinics, and a weekly community meal has enriched the program's impact. The central objective of the model is to empower at-risk community members with increased access to health and wellbeing services and fostering self-management within their local environment.

SCHS appreciates the value and knowledge of those with lived experiences. In 2022, the Community Connector Program was initiated, which harnesses the insights of individuals who understand the challenges of accessing health and social care services within the community. These Community Connectors bridge the gap between healthcare professionals and individuals who might encounter obstacles in seeking care. These staff have brought specific expertise to our programs, which has significantly contributed to the embedding of a Social Determinants of Health framework across the organisation.

Our commitment to equitable health is unwavering. The Priority Primary Care Centre (PPCC) launched in May 2023 and offers urgent medical care as a bulk billed service. The clinic operates in collaboration with Murray Primary Health Network, Department of Health, and Mildura Base Public Hospital. The PPCC is part of the Victorian Government's initiative to alleviate strain on hospital emergency

departments. Additionally, the HomeBase Youth Hub, inaugurated in June 2023, now stands as a hub for community youth, offering onsite health and youth services, regular activities, and a community-facing social enterprise storefront at 89-91 Pine Avenue.

The Alliance of Rural and Regional Community Health (ARRCH) collectively persists in collaborative efforts to address formidable challenges within the community health sector. Together, these organisations are redefining and reinforcing the role of community health in the broader healthcare landscape. The Community Health First initiative unites all 24 of Victoria's registered community health services across diverse settings, striving to enhance health and wellbeing outcomes for all Victorians. SCHS supports the efforts of this campaign, advocating for the unique

contributions registered community health services offer within Victoria's intricate health and care system.

November 2022 saw a change of leadership on the SCHS Board, with Leonie Burrows OAM retiring after 18 years of service to our organisation. Leonie leaves a legacy of growth and transformation, including the development of the Thirteenth Street facility, strong and sound governance structures and processes, and supportive leadership as Chair for the past 10 years. A debt of gratitude is owed to Leonie and SCHS will be forever grateful for her contributions. A Director Scholarship has been established in her honour, financially supporting SCHS Directors in their educational journey in skill and knowledge improvement. The Board were delighted to learn that Leonie was awarded a MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION for service to the Community of Mildura in June 2023. A very well-deserved honour.

I, Glenis, have now been elected as Board Chair and am delighted to serve the SCHS Board, organisation and community. I feel privileged to follow in the footsteps before me and look forward to shaping the future of service delivery and caring for the Sunraysia region.

Gratitude is extended to the Board of Directors, executive and senior leadership team, dedicated staff, and the generosity of our funders and partners. Their unwavering support and visionary leadership continues to propel SCHS towards excellence.

Sincerely,
Simone Heald and
Glenis Beaumont



Executive staff



Simone Heald
Chief Executive Officer

Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife, GDip. Childbirth Education, GDip. Adolescent Health and Wellbeing, Masters of Business Administration, Masters Health and Human Services Management, GAICD

Simone was appointed CEO in early 2016 and has 35 years of health experience and 13 years of experience within Executive Management roles. Simone has extensive experience in the community and social health sector with a strong understanding of disadvantage and related issues. She has developed strong local and regional partnerships and is respected in the community for her experience, qualifications and passionate advocacy work.

Departmental responsibilities:

Research, Evaluation and Impact Unit

Marketing and Communications

Service Development



Julia Morgan
Acting Chief Corporate Officer

MBA, Adv Dip Management, Dip Accounting

Julia brings over 15 years of senior leadership experience in acute and community health services in both public and private settings. Julia's previous roles include CEO of the Mildura Base Hospital and Executive Director Corporate Services of Mallee District Aboriginal Services. Julia is committed to using her skills, qualifications and experience to help ensure strong strategic direction, good governance and sound oversight.

Departmental responsibilities:

Quality and Safety

Information Communication and Technology

Human Resources

Finance Services

Building and Procurement



Janet Hicks
Chief Operating Officer

Master of Enterprise (Executive), Professional Certificate in Health System Management, Critical Care Certificate, Bachelor of Applied Science (Nursing), General Nurse Certificate, Registered Nurse

Janet joined the SCHS team early in 2023 and has a wealth of senior leadership experience in healthcare operational management, performance improvement and clinical governance. Janet's previous roles include Acting CEO of Robinvale District Health Service and Chief Nursing & Midwifery Officer at Mildura Base Public Hospital. Janet has a strong commitment to improving health outcomes for our local community and building leadership capability within organisations.

Departmental responsibilities:

Adult and Older Adult Programs

Child, Youth and Community Services

Clinic Programs

Strategic Innovations

Farewell Simone Heald

7 years of leadership excellence

In June 2023, SCHS Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Simone Heald announced that her time as CEO had come to an end as she would be relocating to Melbourne to be closer to her family and take on a new role as CEO at North Richmond Community Health.

Simone has had an amazing seven-year journey with SCHS beginning in 2016. During her time at SCHS, Simone has been the driver of significant change. Under her leadership, services have flourished, and innovative programs have come to life, such as the Family and Child Hub, HomeBase and more recently, the successful Community Paramedic Model.

Simone has developed strong regional partnerships and guided the organisation through challenging times such as the COVID-19 pandemic. She has led from the front, always put the needs of the community first and has made every staff member feel valued.

The Board, and SCHS staff members are incredibly grateful to Simone for the energy, vision, heart, and dedication she has shown to the organisation and the community over the past seven years. Her leadership and laughter will be greatly missed.

years of dedication

Simone has had an amazing seven-year journey with SCHS beginning in 2016. During her time at SCHS, Simone has been the driver of significant change.



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Strategic Plan

Vision

Health and social equity for our community

Mission

To explore and deliver innovative solutions to health and social needs

Values



Compassion

We treat people with empathy, respect and dignity and we care about our clients, our people, and our community.



Justice

We promote equity, peace, and a genuine respect for people in our community.



Excellence

We are prepared for change an strive for continuous learning and quality improvement.



Accountability

We commit to responsible and open decision-making, taking responsibility for our decisions and actions, being reflective and open to feedback



Collaboration

We work as a team and actively communicate and build constructive relationships to achieve positive outcomes.

Strategic Priorities

Priority 01

Provide high quality, timely, safe and appropriate services that are person-centred and meet client's needs.

Priority 02

Engage and work in partnership with our community and other providers to address the social determinants of health.

Priority 03

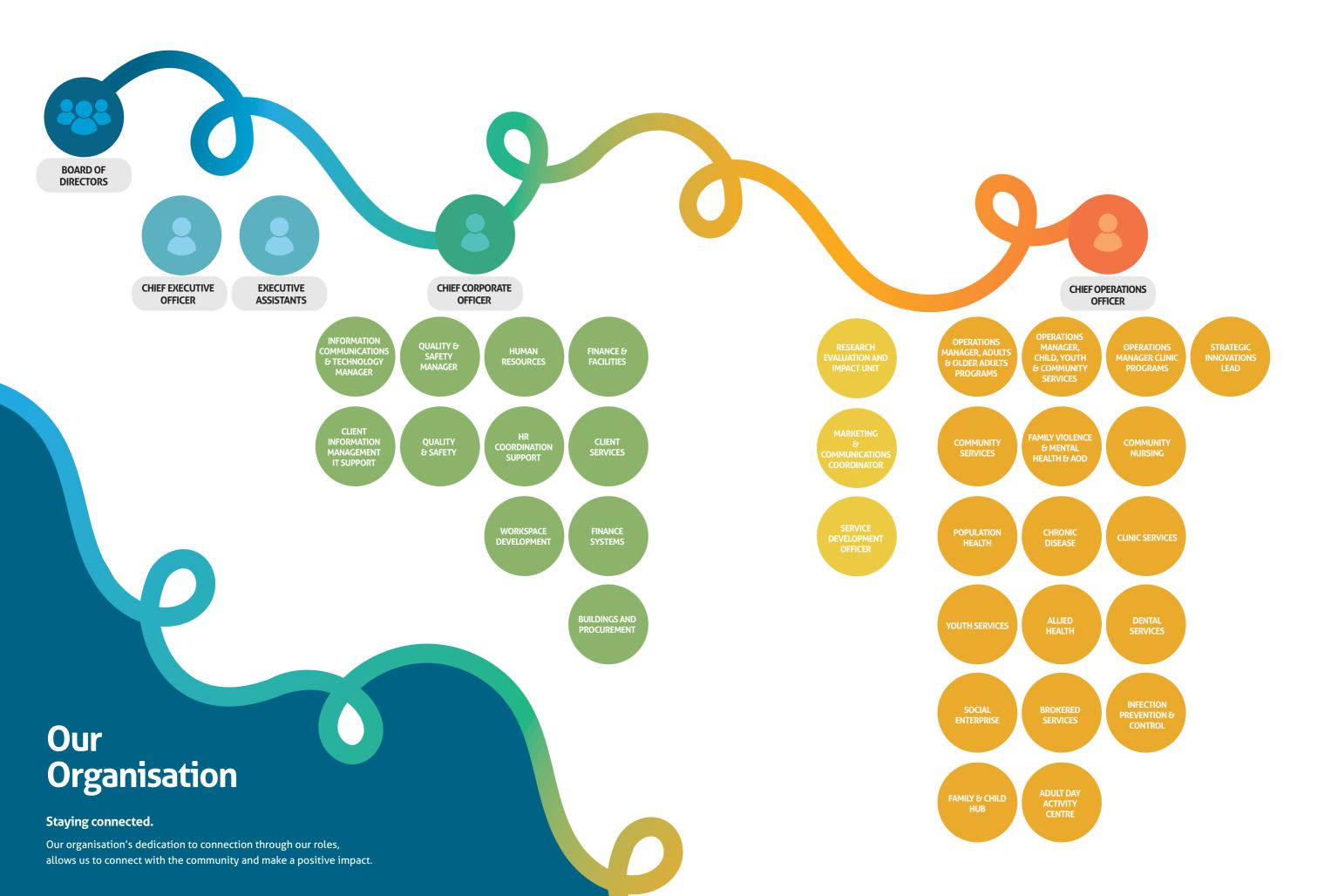
Harness the diversity and capability of our people and integrate our efforts through high performing teams.

Priority 04

Generate and adopt leading practices for innovative health solutions.

Priority 05

Ensure that we have the financial resources and human capital to develop and sustain a visionary agenda into the future.



Board Governance

Board of Directors

Membership:

Glenis Beaumont (Board Chair),
Darren Midgley (Deputy Board Chair),
Trevor Willcock (Treasurer),
Brian Smith, James Adams, , Courtney
Biggs, David Harris (appointed
07/11/22), Anne Mansell (appointed
07/11/22) and Julia Morgan (appointed
07/11/22, leave of absence taken).

Retired Directors: Leonie Burrows OAM and Diane Schmidt – both retired 07/11/22.

Darren Midgley took leave from the Board effective 02/06/23.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee assists the Board to discharge its duty with respect to overseeing all aspects of good corporate and clinical governance.

Membership: Darren Midgley (Chair), Brian Smith (Acting Chair effective 02/06/23), James Adams and Anne Mansell.

Audit and Finance Committee

The primary objective of the committee is to assist the Board of Directors to fulfil its responsibilities under the ACNC Act, the Corporations Act and relevant requirements of applicable laws, regulations and rules. The committee oversees financial reporting, risk management, internal controls and the internal and external audit functions.

Membership: Trevor Willcock (Chair), Glenis Beaumont, Courtney Biggs and David Harris.

Nominations and Remuneration Committee

The function of this committee is to assist the Board to discharge its duty with respect to overseeing all aspects of membership and Board Director and senior executive remuneration.

Membership: Glenis Beaumont (Chair), Darren Midgley, Brian Smith, and Trevor Willcock.



Our Board



Glenis Beaumont
Commenced 2019

Glenis is the SCHS Board Chair, appointed in November 2022 and is also the Chair of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee.

She is a member of the Audit and Finance committee and an attendee of the Governance Committee.

Glenis is currently the Acting CEO of Mallee Sexual Assault Unit and Domestic Violence Service.

Qualifications MBA, GAICD, RN, RM

Glenis has extensive corporate experience in rural health services complemented by recent roles in the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. Glenis' career-long focus has been service development, systems improvement, clinical governance, risk management and quality outcomes within a health setting.



Darren Midgley
Commenced 2017

Darren is the Deputy Board Chair, the Chair of the Governance Committee and a member of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee. Darren is a Registered Nurse and CEO of Rural Care Australia. Darren elected to take leave from the SCHS Board, effective 02/06/2023.

Qualifications MBA, Grad. Dip Bus Admin., BN, RN, Dip. Mgt, GAICD, MAICD

Darren is a Registered Nurse and has held the position of Chief Executive Officer at Rural Care Australia for over 14 years. Darren is a graduate researcher currently enrolled in the Professional Doctorate (Public Health) at La Trobe University and Chairs the La Trobe University Rural Health School Advisory Committee. Darren has a passion for primary care and an interest in the domains of health, business and governance.



Brian Smith
Commenced 2012

Brian is a member of the Governance Committee and is the current Acting Chair, effective 02/06/2023. He is the Chair of the Project Consulting Group meetings (as required) and is an Engineering Consultant.

 ${\it Qualifications\ Dip. CivEng}$

Brian is an Engineering Consultant with over 35 years' experience in engineering and project management. After a period of consulting nationally as a specialist design engineer liaising with engineers and architects, Brian's immediate past experience has been that of Senior Manager of Assets and Planning in the Engineering sector of Lower Murray Water.

Our Board



James Adams
Commenced 2019

James is a member of the Governance Committee and is a practicing Lawyer.

Qualifications G.Dip Legal Practice, LLB

Experience James has been a practicing lawyer with Ryan Legal since October 2016 following completion of his Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice at Adelaide University and obtaining his Bachelor of Laws from the University of South Australia.



Courtney Biggs
Commenced 2020

Courtney is a member of the Audit and Finance Committee and is a Certified Practicing Accountant.

Qualifications CPA, B. Applied Finance

Experience Courtney is a Financial Adviser with over 18 years' experience in the financial services sector and is also a CPA. Courtney is a former Compliance Manager and brings a corporate/ business lens to the board. She is passionate about our community and, improving health & social outcomes.



Trevor Willcock
Commenced 2021

Trevor is the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Treasurer, and is a member of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee. Trevor is the current chief executive of Mildura Airport.

Qualifications Dip Management Accounting, Dip Hospitality Management

Experience Trevor is an experienced Chief Executive Officer with a demonstrated history of working in companies with a wide range of activities. He is skilled in Negotiation, Business Planning, Strategy and Commercial Management. He is also a strong business development professional in aviation, hospitality, and property. Trevor brings a business and commercial focus to the Board and has extensive experience across the Aviation and Hospitality sectors, both locally and internationally.



David Harris
Commenced 2022

David is a member of the Audit and Finance Committee and is the General Manager Operations at SuniTAFE.

Qualifications B.Bus (Prop), GAICD

Experience David joined the Board in November 2022 and brings a wealth of experience across several sectors including Real Estate, Financial and Education. Previously held roles include qualified electrician, valuer, state manager (LJ Hooker), regional commercial manager (Crowe Horwath) and several roles within SuniTAFE.



Anne Mansell Commenced 2022

Anne is a member of the Governance Committee and is the current Chair of the Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network.

Qualifications B.Arts, Grad. Cert Bus Man, Dip Corporate Governance (AICD) Grad Dip. Planning

Experience Anne joined the Board in November 2022 and is the former CEO of Dried Fruits Australia and Mildura Development Corporation. Anne commenced her career as a registered nurse and retains a strong interest in community health. With over 30 years' experience in horticulture and regional development, Anne is currently a Committee Member of Loddon Mallee Regional Development Australia, La Trobe Mildura Regional Advisory Board, and the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre.



Retired Members

Leonie Burrows OAM Retired November 2022

Board Chair: BA Information Science, BBus, GAICD, FLGPro, AAIM, MAICD, ALGMA.

Leonie was a Board Director from 2004 and the SCHS Board Chair from 2012 until November 2022 when she retired from the Board.



Diane SchmidtRetired November 2022

Audit and Finance Chair; CPA, B.Bus Accounting, GAICD & MAICD

Di was appointed Board Director in 2020 and was the Chair of the SCHS Audit and Finance Committee and a member of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee until her retirement from the Board in November 2022.

Board attendance

Board attendance

Details of attendance by Board Directors and independent board committee

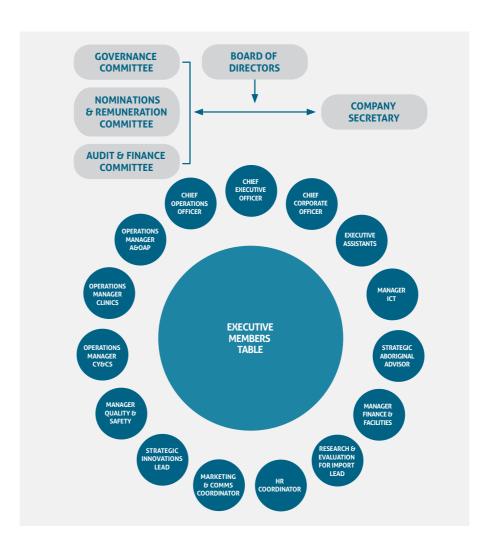
members of Sunraysia Community
Health Services at Board, Board Audit and
Finance Committee, Board Governance
Committee, and Board Nominations and

Remuneration Committee meetings held during the period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023, are as follows;

Board Directors	Во	ard	Audit &	finance	Gover	nance		ntions & eration
	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended
Darren Midgley	8	7			3	3	1	1
Brian Smith	10	8			3	3	1	1
James Adams	10	9			3	3		
Anne Mansell	7	6			2	1		
Glenis Beaumont	10	10	6	5			1	1
Trevor Willcock	10	9	10	9			1	1
Diane Schmidt	3	3	3	3				
Courtney Biggs	10	9	10	9				
David Harris	7	6	6	6				
Leonie Burrows	3	3	3	3				



Executive Members Table



In August 2022, the SCHS
Executive Members Table
was formed. Alongside the
CEO, members from across
the organisation meet weekly
to lead the evolution of SCHS
towards a well governed,
strong, and agile organisation
that supports its workforce
and delivers outcomes for the
community.

The Executive Members Table creates an environment of collaboration and shared decision making while enhancing the communication flow between the Board, senior executives, staff, and the community.

With the guidance of EMT, the organisation has gone from strength to strength and continues to find new ways to deliver on our mission: To explore and deliver innovative solutions to health and social needs.



Alliance of Rural and Regional Community Health (ARRCH)

SCHS is a proud member of The Alliance of Rural and Regional Community Health (ARRCH). ARRCH was formed by 11 Chief Executive Officers from regional and rural community health services. Each member is an expert in the Social Determinants of Health, specialists in rural and regional health service delivery, and a service provider deeply connected and invested in its local community.

ARRCH provides health and wellbeing services across 82.5% of Victoria and the purpose of this alliance is to collectively improve health and wellbeing in communities by reducing health inequity and influencing sector change.

How ARRCH works:

Reach the most disadvantaged - We prioritise healthcare access and community support to people who need it most.

Relationship-based - We build relationships and connections across lifetimes and generations as we work with the complexity in people's lives.

Strong community connection - We engage and support people on their terms, in their homes, in the community, and other places where they feel safe and respected.

Agile and responsive - With our partners we find a way to innovate to address

the social determinants of health and community capability.

Upstream Investment - We target the root causes of health inequities to reduce the social and economic pressure on people, communities, and government.

Clinical capabilities - We provide high quality primary care and multidisciplinary clinical services in the community, with robust clinical governance. We care for people when and where they need it and have the expertise to keep Victorians healthy and out of emergency departments.





ARRCH Strategic priorities:

Create
and secure
investment for social
determinants of health
models and systems
of care

Improve access to rural and regional primary and specialist care Advocate for
a health and
wellbeing economy
in rural and regional
Victoria

Continue
to build a
contemporary,
sustainable
community health
platform

ARRCH partners:



























Health Equity Unit

The health and wellbeing of the Mildura community remains at the forefront of the work of **Sunraysia Community Health** Services (SCHS).

Despite decades of government investment in health services, people living within the Mildura region continue to experience poorer health and social outcomes when compared with state averages. Population scale disparities such as this are preventable and can be directly attributed to the non-medical factors that impact an individual's health, also known as the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH).

In 2022 SCHS established the Health Equity Unit (HEU) bringing together an interdisciplinary team with the purpose of being responsive to the changing needs of the community through exploring, incubating, and translating practical approaches to address health inequities surrounding the SDoH in the community and facilitate health sector change.

Addressing health and social inequities requires innovative and agile solutions that are responsive to localised needs and directly impact upon SDoH. HEU provides ongoing monitoring and evaluation of implemented solutions to ensure impact at the individual and community level.

The Health Equity Unit:

Provides a forum to build the knowledge and the capability of staff.

Embeds knowledge around the SDoH within the way SCHS works.

Supports programs within the organisation to transition to a SDoH approach in their practice.

Provides research and evaluation as evidence for change.

Supports programs to evaluate practices and outcomes for impact.

Listens to the voice of the community to drive change

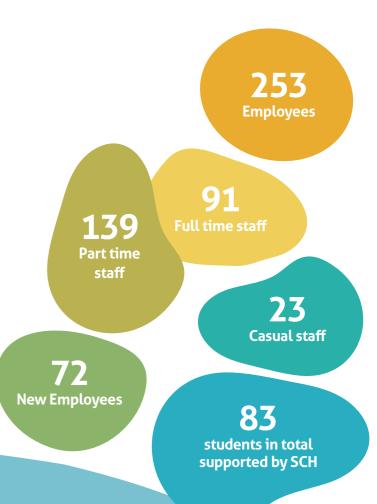
The establishment of HEU provides support and guidance to the organisation to understand the impact government policy and societal structures have on the health and wellbeing of the community. Members are responsible for supporting SCHS to develop evidence based and SDoH informed strategies that result in health and wellbeing improvements for the community.

HEU provides ongoing monitoring and evaluation of implemented solutions to ensure impact at the individual and community level.

Our people

The staff at SCHS continue to go above and beyond to impact the lives of individuals and families in the community.

They are the driving force behind our successful programs, initiatives, and outreach efforts. As we reflect on the achievements of the past year in this Annual Report, we are immensely proud of our staff and volunteers for their commitment to their clients and the role they have in shaping a healthier and happier community.



"After living away from Mildura for ten years, it was a pleasure staff and promotes a positive workplace culture. I am proud to work within an organisation that is aligning their values with the social determinants of health, to keep striving for

I really love our community and being able to serve them, with these common values at the heart of what we do, is what keeps me coming



Our community

The Community is instrumental in shaping SCHS programs and services through participation, engagement, and feedback. We continue to work hand in hand with our community, striving for better health outcomes and a brighter future for all.

SCHS remains committed to developing positive community-led services and programs with meaningful and lasting outcomes that strengthen the community by connecting people, groups, agencies, and organisations.

2,704 visits to the sexual health clinic

The Family and Child Hub service was accessed 6,682 in the last year

Dental clinic services provided 3,863 times over the year

Hecht Adult Day Activity Centre had over 15,000 total visits

6,494 visits to the GP clinic

SCHS services were accessed 220,024 times in the last financial year





Connected Communities Community Paramedic Model

The Community Paramedicine at Clinic (CP@clinic) is an innovative, evidence-based chronic disease prevention, management, and health promotion program developed by McMasters University, Canada.

Through a collaborative partnership with La Trobe University and McMasters University, Canada SCHS was able to commence a pilot of the program in August 2022. The pilot was successful and SCHS has since built an adaptation of the model, which is the first of its kind in Australia.

The Community Paramedic model operates in easily accessible community locations and led by community paramedics that have undergone specific training.

Community members attending weekly drop-in style clinics can benefit from social connectedness and health checks that include health education and support with service navigation.

Following the consult, a report is forwarded to the client's GP.

The clinics have also adapted to site-specific needs. Community sit down meals are now offered at two sites to facilitate social connectedness and address food insecurity. Each clinic now routinely provides COVID-19 vaccines, seasonal Japanese Encephalitis and Flu vaccines. Additionally, walking groups have evolved at two sites, as has emergency food relief.

Commencing with one clinic and eight clients in August 2022, the program has now expanded to five regular clinics, two weekly walking groups and two weekly community meals, reaching more than 150 people per month.

At the community level, the implementation and adaption of the model has demonstrated the capacity to be flexible and agile to specific community needs, existing resources, and funding opportunities. This has been evidenced through the integration of partnerships with local organisations that we thank for their ongoing support: Community Connectors program, Mildura Rural City Council, Mildura RSL, Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities, Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre, Mildura Community House and Merbein Library.

160 community clinics

543 consultations provided to 115 individuals

Average of 70 participants access Community Paramedic services each week

58% of clients are over 65

40 food relief hampers are provided each week

34% of clients did not have a regular GP

19% of clients have been linked or referred to a GP

23% connected to other healthcare services

26% of clients have been referred to social support services for assistance with food, income, or housing.





Family Medicine

160 Community Paramedic clinics

543 consultations provided

40
food hampers
provided weekly





Community Connector program

In 2022 SCHS launched the Community Connectors Program which is funded by Homes Victoria and employs local people with lived experience.

Community Connectors are provided training in their roles, so they are equipped with the knowledge and resources they need to navigate and connect with professional supports and community networks.

The Community Connectors team at SCHS help to build a connected and supported community and work collaboratively with other teams in

the organisation such as the Community Services team by attending clinics, walking groups and community meals weekly. They have demonstrated a unique ability to become the direct link between community members they meet and healthcare professionals.

Community Connectors have a strong connection to networks within the public housing areas and unlike many traditional settings they adopt a mobile approach, actively engaging within community members in different spaces such as neighborhood houses, libraries, parks, and community resource centers.

Community Connectors have a deep understanding of their community, and their insight enables them to build trusting relationships with people and identify their individual needs.



"Sometimes the people in the community just want someone to talk to and for someone to listen and I really enjoy hearing other people's stories about their life and this brings so much spark to someone when they feel connected and can talk freely."

Bre Mcfarlane, Community Connector

100 Voices Survey Report

The 100 Voices Community
Conversation Campaign was
developed as the co-design
platform for the Mildura-Swan
Hill Community Connector
Program. This campaign
focused on consultation with
community members living in
public housing and other lowcost accommodation settings,
to inform and develop a timelimited health prevention
campaign.

Central to its mission is enhancing health literacy, forging connections, and fostering engagement across an array of public and community health subjects. The Mildura-Swan
Hill Community Connector program
channelled its efforts into food security
and public health campaigns and
messaging. This strategic alignment
allowed for collaboration with existing
local initiatives, namely Food For All
in Swan Hill and CP@clinic in Mildura,
Red Cliffs, and Merbein.

Championing community co-design as its cornerstone, the Mildura-Swan Hill project initiated its journey with an insightful survey to delve into the needs of those residing in public housing. By concentrating on the social determinants of health—

community members engaged in survey

135

such as healthcare access, housing, financial stress, social support, and transportation—the survey sought to uncover local concerns and requirements. Moreover, the community was encouraged to propose resources, programs, or concepts they believed can uplift their community. The information provided by the 135 community members who engaged in the 100 Voices conversations will be used to develop and deliver tailored programs to each community location including Merbein, Red Cliffs, Robinvale, Nyah, Swan Hill and Lake Boga.





HomeBase Hub

In June 2023, HomeBase officially relocated to a central location that accommodates the needs of young people in the community. The HomeBase Hub provides youth services in a central location and runs youth led activities Monday to Friday every week.

By providing a safe space, resources, and dedicated mentorship, the Youth Hub empowers young people to explore their passions, develop essential life skills, and build meaningful connections. With a commitment to holistic well-being, the HomeBase Hub plays a pivotal role in supporting mental and emotional health of young people in the community.

Dedicated young people from
HomeBase have worked with the youth
services team to establish a burgeoning
social enterprise, a dedicated
storefront, screen printing area and a
podcasting studio. The shopfront will
soon be open to the public and people
can purchase handcrafted items made
by HomeBase with plans to expand and
offer coffee and food options.

The Hub provides a safe and supported space where young people can benefit from social connectedness, safe relationships and a shared healthy meal with transport home. Young people attending the hub can access professional support from the onsite youth services team.

The new HomeBase Hub location provides:

Washing and Laundry facilities

Commercial Podcasting Studio

AOD Support & Health Navigation

Vaccinations

Study space and support

Social Enterprise

Personal hygiene packs

Phone chargers and free Wi-Fi

Cooked meals and food relief

Activities such as art and music

Screen printing

Youth leadership group

2217
healthy meals

609
participants
across all
programs

298
activity
sessions
delivered

young people engaged in Hoops program

This financial year HomeBase Integrated Youth Services have:

Seen 609 unique participants across all programs

Delivered 298 activity sessions

Provided 2217 healthy meals to young people

Engaged 56 young people in leadership development activities

Worked with 16 young people in the youth-led committee

Engaged 55 participants in technical skills and training

Engaged 112 young people in the HomeBase Hoops program

Delivered 5 sexual health and 35 Alcohol and Other drug education sessions

Supported 21 young people in the opportunity to participate as a volunteer or take on a leadership role within HomeBase

Received assistance from 13 community volunteers

Provided families with over 100 family pool passes, 30 fuel vouchers and 300 student bus passes

Completed 59 referrals to other specialist service providers

We would like to give special thanks to those that have supported HomeBase:

Engage! provided 3 years of funding to support HomeBase deliver activities with a focus on youth participation and engagement, leadership and development, and celebration.

YacVIC – provided funding to assist young people in areas affected by recent flooding. Through this grant, HomeBase delivered youth engagement activities, including access to musical instruments, excursions, and creativity through the HomeBase mural project. Resources were also provided to young people and their families to ensure that the flood had less of an impact on their lives, including additional staffing, pool passes, fuel vouchers, bus tickets and food.

Youth Commitment Program –
Department of Justice and Community
Safety Crime Prevention grant
that since Covid, redirected funds
into assisting with the staffing and
resources to deliver HomeBase
activities for the past financial year.

Living Local – Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions grant supported the purchasing of furniture and appliances for the new HomeBase Hub.

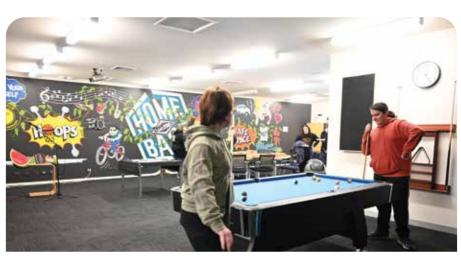
Gandel Foundation – Philanthropic funding that was granted to assist with the development and furnishing of the new HomeBase Hub.

Victorian Department of Health – supports the employment of skilled people to support the young people in our community to live enriched lives.

Murray PHN – An Australian
Government funded alcohol and other
drugs program aimed at supporting
young people in outreach settings,
offering counselling and education
session in schools, residential care
facilities, and other local organisations.

Strong and Resilient Communities -An Australian Government grant that supports HomeBase with providing a place for young people to gather, increase social participation, engage young people in education, training and work ready activities.







The Family & Child Hub

The Family & Child Hub (FCH) is an innovative model of care that has been informed by community voice and evidenced through research. It is a trusted space for families and provides integrated health care amongst social supports and essential amenities. The Family and Child Hub provides services and programs designed to address the needs of people in the community and support families to thrive.

The FCH service operates at 41 Pine Avenue Mildura, with demand for existing services and new programs consistently growing. Plans for relocation to larger premises to expand services and enable additional co-located services are in advanced development for proposed delivery in 2024. During 2022/23 the FCH delivered 17 different group programs to families and children reaching 269 people.

In 2022/23 the FCH delivered

> 17 group programs

> > reaching 269 people

The Hub currently provides:

Pregnancy & Parent Support

Infant Program

Feed & Change Facilities

Mental Health Services

Maternal & Child Health Service

Immunisation Clinic

Supported Playgroup

Birth Stories

Antenatal Clinic

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies

During the last year there has been significant growth in both the attendance and scope of the antenatal clinic, from 27 to 126 women accessing the program. Women and their partners were also able to access a range of vaccinations through a weekly outreach vaccination service provided by SCHS Outreach Vaccination program.

The Birth Stories program was another new addition to the FCH service offering during 2022/23. This program is delivered by a midwife and provided 21 women the opportunity to tell their birthing story, revisit how the birth happened, understand why decisions were made, explore their feelings, work through birth related trauma, and support future birth options and rebuild confidence in the birthing process.

The co-location of these services supports improved access, brings the required care closer to home and improves family and child experience.

Benefits include:

Increased access to multiple health services co-located in a community centric building, easing the burden of transport and service navigation.

A drop-in service with no referral required, allowing for preventative and opportunistic care.

Access to an integrated suite of services without having to seek out multiple locations.

The integration of medical health and social health services, addressing complexity and supporting health literacy.

An opportunity for families to socially connect and then engage in clinical care at the time that is right for them.

A default space for when life is not OK but there is no diagnosis, referral or the specific need is not clear.

Non-stigmatising entry points through the co-location of universal and sensitive services.

Reduced complex health and social issues and acute health demand by improving access to primary care including health promotion, harm prevention and early intervention.

A focus on the social determinants of health, supporting families through respectful conversations and relationship-based approaches to meet extended social health needs.

Murdoch Children's Research Institute Research in Residence

In May 2023 the Hub obtained the support of Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) through a Researcher in Residence (RiR). This partnership will allow for staff development, improved service delivery and access to funding.

The Researcher in Residence, Dr Kelly Naess is employed by MCRI and embedded within the FCH for two years. This position is part of a larger MCRI grant including RiRs operating across three child and family hubs. During this time, the Researcher in Residence will draw on learnings from the FCH and support from MCRI to firstly develop and implement a measurement, evaluation, and learning framework, and secondly work with the team to identify specific research questions and facilitate the research through to publication. These publication findings will drive service improvement and provide a foundation to advocate for secure funding.

The Family and Child Hub client feedback

"The Family and Child hub truly served as a one-stop hub for me. From prenatal care and postpartum support, everything I needed was conveniently available under one roof. This streamlined approach significantly reduced the stress and logistics involved during such an important time.

What stood out the most was the warm and welcoming atmosphere your staff maintained. I always felt like a valued patient. Even when the staff didn't have immediate answers to my questions, they went above and beyond to find the information I needed and connect me with the right service."



The Family and Child Hub provides services and programs designed to address the needs of people in the community and support families to thrive.



Home and Community Care Program for Young People (HACC PYP)

The HACC PYP Community Care Services program commenced in February 2023 and over 60 Mildura Rural City Council Clients were transitioned over to SCHS.

The program provides services in the community to support people under the age of 65 years and their carers, who have difficulty with activities of daily living. The program supports people to become more independent and increase their participation in the community.

SCHS supports these clients to remain living at home safely with respect, dignity, and choices, ensuring each client receives the service they need. This is achieved by providing social support, domestic assistance, personal care, and property maintenance.

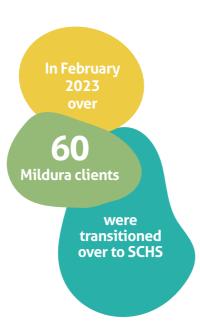
The aim of HACC-PYP is to:

Provide community care services, both in the home and in the community, to support younger people who have difficulty with the activities of daily living and/or their carers to remain as independent as possible.

Provide a coordinated and integrated range of basic maintenance, social support and health services to younger people who have difficulty with the activities of daily living and/or their carers.

Support eligible younger people to be more active and independent at home and in the community, thereby enhancing their quality of life and reducing premature admission to residential care.

Provide flexible, innovative, contemporary, timely and responsive services.





Passionate People

Adult Allied Health

Caring of People with Dementia in their Environment (COPE)

The Care of People with Dementia in their Environment (COPE) is an evidence-based dementia program that has been successfully delivered in a large trial in the US and is now being rolled out across Australia. The program is designed for people with a diagnosis of dementia who live at home, and carers, family members, neighbours or others who are supporting the person with dementia.

COPE is delivered by COPE trained Occupational Therapists who have attended a two day online or face to face workshop, with ongoing access to the COPE Community of Practice and mentoring.

The assessment stage of the program includes an evaluation of the person's roles, habits, interests, abilities, changed behaviours and the home environment, as well as carer concerns and stresses.

Intervention involves identifying and prioritising problem areas and working with the person and carer to develop "written prescriptions". The prescriptions describe the problem, what the carer would like to change and specific strategies to address these.

During the intervention stage, the Occupational Therapist provides training and education in brainstorming and problem-solving techniques, tools and strategies to improve communication, manage changed behaviours, and help with stress management. Intervention

also includes prescription of home modifications and assistive technology.

COPE has been in operation at Sunraysia Community Health Services since January 2023 and over ten families have participated, resulting in reduced carer stress, increased engagement in meaningful activity and allowing people to live in their own home for as long as possible.

Chronic Disease and Aged Care

Regional Assessment Service (RAS)

In July 2023, SCHS transitioned the Regional Assessment Service (RAS) from Mildura Rural City Council. Three new staff members have commenced in this role and joined the Chronic Disease & Aged Care Team.

The RAS team provides assessment services to older people in Victoria.

These assessment services are conducted for those with entry level aged care needs who wish to remain living independently in their own home and community. An outcome of a home support assessment may include referral to one of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) services.

Given the planned Commonwealth
Assessment reform as of 1 July
2024, the department considers
that consolidating existing aged care
assessment provisions to ACAS (Aged
Care Assessment Services) providers is
in line with the principles of the single
assessment model and workforce that
is coming.

Family Violence, Mental Health & Drug Treatment Services

There has been a consistent commitment to reflection and an ongoing emphasis on expanding services in the areas of family violence, mental health, and drug treatment to align with community needs. The Men's Behaviour Change Program is presently undergoing evaluation, and SCHS is collaborating with experts in the field to restructure this program. Additionally, the forthcoming implementation of the Caring Dads Program is a priority, with staff actively participating in training to become program facilitators.

In the pursuit of continuous improvement, SCHS is reassessing the Non-residential Rehabilitation Program and insights garnered from participant feedback have been instrumental in refining and enhancing the program's effectiveness for the benefit of community members accessing this service.

Pain Rehabilitation

"I'd like to thank Sunraysia Community Health Services. I have been a chronic pain sufferer for most of my life and with the help of the team at SCHS they have given me so much support in helping me cope with what I've been dealing with for many years. With the help from the staff at SCHS they've helped me better restructure my life and appointments with the specialists I have needed. I'm so truly thankful..."

Health Promotion

The SCHS Health Promotion team works to enhance the health and wellbeing of the community by empowering people with the skills they need to live a healthy life. The team actively gets out in the community to engage people in healthy behaviours, acknowledging that where people live, grow, work, and play shapes their quality of life.

10,000 Steps Challenge

It was great to see the annual 10,000 Steps Challenge gain some more momentum in 2022 after a significant drop in participation during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Group pedometer based physical activity programs have been shown to be effective in increasing physical activity level of participants short-term. Results show that they have promise to create long-term behaviour change as evidenced by the increase in participants self-reporting reaching physical activity guidelines.

Given the promising results following this evaluation and the increased accessibility of wearable tracking technology, the Health Promotion team at SCHS will continue the 10,000 Steps Challenge annually to increase physical activity levels of participants, increase the awareness of Physical Activity Guidelines (PAG); and increase self-efficacy of participants in regard to completing regular physical activity and other health related behaviours.

Ride2School Day

The Health Promotion team invited schools to participate in the National Ride2School Day on Friday 24th March 2023. A total of eight primary schools participated with the number of participants varying at each school.

The winning school, Irymple Primary School received 3 scooters which were awarded at the end of the term to students who showed good participation and behaviour in Physical Education Classes. Each school who participated also received a \$300 voucher to improve their supply of sports equipment.

Walk to School Month

Ten local Primary Schools registered to participate in Walk to School month in November, equating to 2,563 students. Schools recorded data on one day per week, so on average 675 kids actively travelled at least one day a week across the ten schools.

The competition involved schools sharing their active travel data from one day a week for the four weeks over November. The data was organised to show the percentage of students utilising active travel during that month. The end results were extremely close, with the winning school having 36% of students actively travelling during November.

The prizes awarded included coloured powder supply (for schools to host their own colour run), sporting equipment vouchers and access to the local indoor pool for the whole

school. It is hoped that these incentives further support the messages of Walk to School Month in supporting school aged children to accumulate the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day along with the other benefits they receive from active travel (social connection, environmental impacts, reduced traffic congestion) building their capacity to participate.

Healthy Eating/Oral Health

Our Health Promotion Public Health Nutritionist worked with Mildura Base Public Hospital to bring their cafeteria into alignment with the Healthy Choices: Policy directive for Victorian Public Health Services.

This was a partnership between the Public Health Nutritionist and the hospital food services staff to create a menu that complies with the Healthy Choices framework and is well accepted by users of the cafe.

Pop Up Play group

SCHS Health Promotion team were invited to participate in Mildura Rural City Council's Pop-up Playgroup event on the 31st of May 2023 that focused on healthy habits in the early years.

The stall focused on healthy eating and packing healthy snacks in lunch boxes that are easily accessible and affordable. Children and carers prepared their own fruit salads with pre-cut fruit varieties and a spiral apple to explore different ways of eating healthy food. Recipe cards and lunchbox ideas were also provided.



2,563
students registered for walk tos chool month

A pop-up playroup was held on 31 May

participating in Ride2School Day recieved a voucher for \$300

Achievements

Victorian Public Health Award

SCHS and partners were the very proud recipients of one of the Victorian Public Health Awards - Supporting Healthy Populations: Active Outreach Vaccination Clinics – Providing Equity of Vaccines to All.

SCHS partnered with key community organisations such as: Hands up Mallee, Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit, Mildura Rural City Council, Mildura District Aboriginal Service, Murray PHN, Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council, Sunraysia Medical Clinic and Victoria Police to respond to the local COVID-19 outbreak, and the low vaccination and testing rates in the community. A unique active outreach model was developed combining vaccination and testing - Active **Outreach Vaccination and Testing** Clinics. With specific focus on reaching cohorts who faced barriers to accessing the universal health system and were therefore under vaccinated. Clinics were facilitated in locations selected by community with the aim to increase vaccinations and decrease impact of the outbreak on community.

The significant outcome of this work was to address health inequities within the community by providing equitable, accessible, and culturally safe access to testing and vaccination. The key to this success was the Community Connectors – who had trusted relationships with community to engage with our services, the authorising environment of the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit – who allowed agencies to work in a manner that was required to access the community with health inequities,

and the willingness of all partners to lead in their areas of expertise.

This award recognises the collaborative work of each key organisation and is a wonderful example of organisational leadership standing up and coming together for the community.

Supporting the leadership of these key agencies were numerous staff who stood in rain, hail, and sunshine, going above and beyond, and stepping up to do their very best.

Share the Dignity Vending Machine

In December 2022, SCHS was successful in its submission of an expression of interest to Australian organisation Share the Dignity to have a Dignity Vending Machine installed at SCHS. The Dignity Vending Machine is a world-first innovation that dispenses a free period pack containing six tampons and two pads at the push of a button, with each Dignity Vending Machine programmed with a delivery delay of 10 minutes to ensure no Period Packs are wasted.

SCHS Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Intake Coordinator Emma Steele led the submission and provided a detailed letter to Share the Dignity highlighting there was a real need for the machine in the community. Emma had received feedback from clients expressing that they often need to make the difficult decision between buying sanitary items or putting food on the table due to financial hardship. Several younger clients had also said that asking an adult experiencing financial hardship

to buy them sanitary products can be uncomfortable.

The Dignity Vending Machine is installed at the SCHS Thirteenth Street location in the restroom in the client waiting area. Anyone from the community in need of sanitary items can easily and discreetly access the machine.





Photo: Top: Emma Steele.

Below: Jane McCracken (Hands Up Mallee), Renee Ficarra (Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit and previously Mildura Rural City Council), Darlene Thomas (Mallee District Aboriginal Services), Joe Clarke (Victoria Police) and Aunty Jemmes Handy (Community Elder and Victoria Police). Key partners unable to attend: Dr Bruce Bolam (Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit), Dr Mehdi (Sunraysia Medical Clinic), Cheree Jukes (MRCC) and SMECC staff.

Priority Primary Care Centre (PPCC)

In May 2023 in partnership with Murray Primary Health Network (MPHN) and Mildura Base Public Hospital (MBPH), SCHS established the Mildura Priority Primary Care Centre (PPCC).

The purpose of the PPCC is to provide short term care to people in the community with conditions that require urgent attention but not an emergency response. The aim of the PPCC is to reduce pressure on the Mildura Base Public Hospital emergency department through a partnership that allows direct referrals from emergency department staff and to support people in the community to access urgent care closer to home.

The Mildura PPCC also offers pre-booked appointments and walk-in presentations that require urgent attention. The centre is supported by highly skilled doctors, nurse practitioners and nurses.

The PPCC is in early stages of establishment but has already seen a positive uptake from the community and other health care providers and SCHS is committed to working towards increased opening hours through the recruitment of additional GPs.



"I was a walk-in for the priority primary care centre after not being able to have a face-to-face appt with my regular GP for 3 weeks. The staff were lovely. Thank you and you are doing an amazing job."

PPCC offers pre-booked appointments and walk-in presentations

Philanthropic Funder

The financial support we receive from philanthropic foundations and trusts each year allows SCHS to continue delivering innovative solutions to the community, implement impactful programs, expand our outreach, and make meaningful contributions to the health and wellbeing of the community.

SCHS is grateful for the incredible support from philanthropic foundations and trusts each year. Their commitment to SCHS' mission has been instrumental in shaping our successes and driving positive change within our community. Thank you for being true partners in our journey, and we look forward to continued collaboration and growth ahead.

hmst

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

Staff thank you

SCHS would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to our exceptional staff and dedicated volunteers for their unwavering commitment to the health and wellbeing of the community.

The contribution from staff is vital to making our vision and mission a reality. The passion and dedication from staff and volunteers have helped SCHS extend support, maintain and enhance existing programs, implement new services and programs and conduct valuable research.

Furthermore, we would like to share a special congratulations to our Years of Service award recipients. Your steadfast loyalty and continuous dedication to SCHS has contributed to our organisation's growth and success.

The contribution from staff is vital to making our vision and mission a reality.

25 years

Sharon Williams

20 years

Kiran McDonald

Anya Rossgregor

Deborah O'Brien

15 years

Jennifer Rudkin

Leah Fleming

John Weaving

Denise Thorkildsen

10 years

Lauren Joyce

Lisa Godfrey

Kristy Middleton

Matthew Gee

5 years

Leanne Hancock

Jeena Jose

Kadiesha Yates

Jayne Hunt

Sonia Lancaster

Jacqueline Pasquale

Lila Wolff

Melissa Wade

Annette Emonson

Madeline Matthews













Financials

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPHREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023				
	2023 \$	2022 \$		
REVENUE				
Grant revenue	19,482,802	19,409,138		
Service revenue	2,890,946	2,599,969		
Other revenue	1,505,876	2,322,917		
Profit on disposal of assets	79,650	-		
Interest income	535,285	48,148		
Fair value increases	51,954	-		
Total revenue	24,546,513	24,380,172		
EXPENSES				
Operating expenditure	22,457,474	21,514,151		
Depreciation & amortisation	1,149,143	1,043,185		
Finance costs	8,099	9,632		
Total expenses	23,614,716	22,566,968		
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	931,798	1,813,204		
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss)	-	-		
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	931,798	1,813,204		

Financials

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUN	E 2023	
	2023 \$	2022 \$

ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,345,074	13,593,032
Trade and other receivables	337,293	313,777
Financial assets	16,295,618	5,232,720
Other assets	759,656	446,291
Total current assets	21,737,641	19,585,820
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	14,774,403	14,044,058
Right-of-use assets	415,188	165,944
Intangible assets	-	347,169
Bonds and deposits	24,167	-
Total non-current assets	15,213,758	14,557,171
TOTAL ASSETS	36,951,399	34,142,991

LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	2,591,381	1,738,609
Contract liabilities	1,539,475	925,431
Lease liabilities	244,684	99,579
Provisions	2,756,436	2,531,848
Total current liabilities	7,131,976	5,295,467
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease liabilities	201,237	102,871
Employee benefits	630,931	689,196
Total non-current liabilities	832,168	792,067
Total liabilities	7,964,144	6,087,534
NET ASSETS	28,987,255	28,055,457

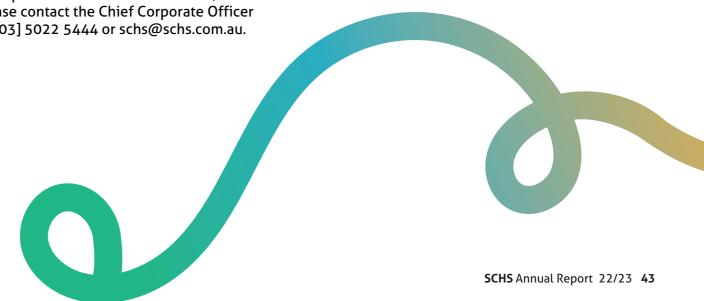
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	27,739,258	27,087,000
Community support fund reserve	1,247,996	968,457
TOTAL EQUITY	28,987,254	28,055,457

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023		
	2023 \$	2022 \$

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from customers	24,701,156	24,366,970
Payments to suppliers and employees	(21,873,598)	(20,992,256)
Interest paid	(8,099)	(9,632)
Interest received	401,967	48,148
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	3,221,426	3,413,230
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	79,650	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,284,100)	(287,141)
Purchase of investments	(16,295,618)	(5,232,720)
Proceeds from maturity of investments	5,232,720	8,840,664
Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities	(12,267,348)	3,320,803
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Repayment of lease liabilities	(202,037)	(133,812)
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(202,037)	(133,812)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH FOUIVALENTS HELD	(9.247.958)	6.600.221

NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS HELD	(9,247,958)	6,600,221
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF FINANCIAL YEAR	13,593,032	6,992,811
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	4,345,074	13,593,032

To request a full financial statement, please contact the Chief Corporate Officer on [03] 5022 5444 or schs@schs.com.au.





schs.com.au



PO Box 2803 Mildura Victoria 3502

Phone 03 5022 5444

Email schs@schs.com.au

Facebook: SunraysiaCommunityHealth

Instagram: sunraysiahealthservice

Our Sites

137 Thirteenth Street, Mildura

H&L Hecht Adult Day Activity Centre - 5 Johns Street, Mildura

233 Deakin Avenue, Mildura

The Family and Child Hub – 41 Pine Avenue, Mildura