



2023-24' Annual Report



34+ YEARS IN THE
COMMUNITY



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A message from our Chairperson

2Connect Youth & Community has enjoyed yet another successful and exciting year and I continue to take great pride in my association with this wonderful organisation.

Our programs have continued to address a vast array of social issues facing young people in today's society. These include:

- guiding young people along the pathway to employment through connection to appropriate training, work experience, traineeships and apprenticeships;
- providing education and practical support around domestic and family violence;
- providing guidance and strategies to overcome mental health issues;
- facilitating reconnection to home and/or school;
- providing emotional and practical support for young people and their families who are struggling with alcohol and other drugs;
- celebrating diversity and providing strategies to deal with discrimination and social isolation/exclusion;
- delivering support to those at risk of becoming homeless;
- training young people to manage their finances.

As our organisation grows (we now have offices in six locations), we have encountered some new challenges which we continue to address. In 2024, we conducted a Workplace Culture Review which provided all staff members with the opportunity to identify areas in which we could improve and to make suggestions as to how to achieve those improvements. I would like to thank all staff for their valuable contributions to this important process. We are still working through the findings of the review.

None of our successes would be possible without the dedication and skill of our fantastic staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their professionalism and genuine commitment to our clients. In particular I would like to thank our CEO, Valentina Angelovska, whose leadership continues to propel 2Connect to a bigger and better future.

I would also like to pay tribute to and thank my fellow board members Mr. Terry Lynch, Mr. Craig Smith and our newest member Mr. Jeremy Gadsden. Their input and wisdom have been highly valuable to me and the entire organisation. I would encourage others in our community to consider joining us.

In conclusion, I would like to wish everybody associated with 2Connect Youth & Community the very best for the year ahead. I look forward to an even bigger and better year for 2Connect in 2025.



Robert Lindsay OAM
Chairperson
2Connect Youth & Community

A message from our Chief Executive Officer

We are really proud of our team achievements in 2024 in engaging and empowering over 11,000 participants!

We had excellent success in empowering people and creating change for positive futures! Our reputable and high-quality services evolved and grew even further this year. Highlights from the past year include:

- Excellent feedback and evaluations re satisfaction and goals achieved from participants across all of our services areas
- Successfully achieving Australian Services Excellence standards accreditation
- Developments and growth in our Burwood and Belmore outreach services to address increased client needs
- Outstanding outcomes across all of our service areas

We are thankful for our dedicated team- compassionate and skilled staff & volunteers, and dedicated passionate board members. Thankyou also to the faith & support of our partners and donors! We look forward to an exciting future!

Valentina Angelovska - CEO, 2Connect Youth & Community



Who We Are

2Connect Youth & Community is a leading non-profit organisation that has been empowering young people, families, and communities in South-East Sydney for over 33 years. Our services focus on the Georges River, Bayside, and Sutherland areas, and surrounds, delivering holistic ways to address pressing community needs.

Our Vision

We are dedicated to building more resilient communities and improving the quality of support for young people and families in our local community.

Our vision is for young people, families & communities to be empowered, safe, healthy and content. Our services address key areas such as mental health, well-being, homelessness, relationships, education, and employment.

As we keep growing and responding to the evolving needs of our clients, we work closely with local partners and young people to ensure that more people can achieve positive futures.

Our Mission

At our core, our mission is to create lasting, positive change.

Our strategic goals emphasise community collaboration and leadership in evidence-based capacity building as we continue to adapt to emerging challenges.

34+ YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY



1 Youth Services

Youth & Family Support

Youth & family services are provided via Reconnect, as well as, through projects from other funding we receive. Reconnect is our specialist family focused and longest-running service which has been operating successfully for 24 years. We delivered accessible, culturally appropriate, and family-focused early intervention for young people at risk. We also provided support intervention for domestic & family violence. We provide counselling, case management, mediation, group work to young people aged 10-25 and their families, to improve safety and wellbeing. 1,904 participants were engaged and supported.



1904 participants were engaged and supported across Youth & Family services.

Education Support

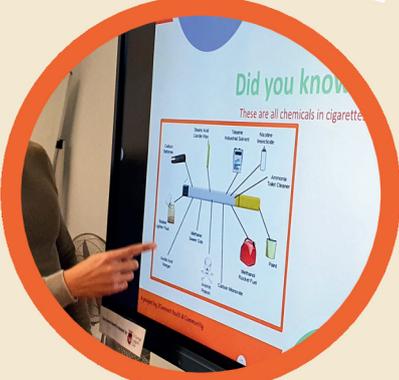
We delivered support to over 60 students at risk of disengaging from school and/or at risk of becoming early school leavers. Students at risk were engaged with in mentoring and structured life skills as well as personal development programs. Over 4125 students across 25 schools were engaged for U-Turn The Wheel, a youth driver education program in 2023-24'.



60+ at-risk early school leavers were supported with mentoring. 4125+ students were engaged with driver education.

Alcohol & Other Drugs (AOD)

In addition to counselling and case management for young people and families, we delivered broader education and community development initiatives included group workshops/education, awareness campaigns and strategies around reducing the harms related to AOD. 2Connect chaired the local Community Drug Action Team & Local Drug Action Team, delivered harm prevention educational programs and sessions to thousands of young people, worked in schools, and produced videos and information resources on various AOD concerns and how to stay mentally healthy and more resilient.



Did you know?
These are all chemicals in cigarette.

| Youth Services



Mental Health & Well-Being

We provided a number of tools and strategies to help young people in the community to improve their mental health and wellbeing. In addition to providing mental health support through many of our services and programs, we provided specialist one-to-one support and group work through our School Wellbeing projects with our local network of over 30 partner schools.



Youth Employment

Transition to Work provided intensive support to young people aged 15-24 to obtain employment, apprenticeships, traineeships, work experience or education. In 2024, we provided youth employment services and client numbers increased. Our Transition To Work services reached more than 300 disengaged young people and in our locations, covering Sutherland, Bayside, Georges River, Canterbury-Bankstown, Inner West/Burwood. Young people were supported to meet employment goals and overcome barriers.

“ I'm gonna be honest TTW has a way better system and I'm truly thankful that I got to be apart of it and reminded that there are Australians like you still giving us hope

-Transition To Work Client

“ Because you taught me to accept myself, I am now more confident in who I am and what I want

-Transition To Work Client (LGBTIQ+ identified)

“ Aussie blokes like me don't take the chance to reach out like I have done with you and now that I see the difference it has made in my life I want to help make that difference in others lives as well, you helped me realise I start that process with ME

-Transition To Work Client



Diversity

2Connect continued to assist young people to celebrate their Diversity as always. Throughout 2024, young people of diverse cultures, genders, sexualities, abilities, and backgrounds were supported through all our services. We also continued our long-standing work in anti-racism education and running of LGBTIQ+ youth services & GLISTEN (established for over 23 years!). We also facilitated youth groups and support groups for young people.

Community Services



Supported over 93 people who were at-risk or homeless. Over 53% of brokerage support to people who are culturally and linguistically diverse.

Preventing Homelessness

One key outcome of several of our services focuses on ultimately preventing homelessness. Helping Hand is our long-established service specialising in the prevention of homelessness for people aged 16 years and over who are at-risk or are already homeless. In 2023-24, we supported over 93 people who were at-risk or were homeless; with over 53% of brokerage support provided to people who are culturally / linguistically diverse and over 5% of people who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. We continued convening the St George and Sutherland Housing Interagency, and worked in partnership with over 20 support agencies to resolve issues of a wide spectrum of people. We maintained the St George and Sutherland Homeless Help Website and produced the St George and Sutherland Low Cost Accommodation List, distributed fortnightly to a current mailing list of over 110 subscribers, including both organisations and individuals.



Cultural Harmony

Diversity is a reason to celebrate, however many young people can find barriers or discrimination against them due to their identity. Through peer-led initiatives like educational campaigns, workshops, school assembly talks, and event stalls during calendar-based occasions like Harmony Day and Youth Week, we continue to raise awareness, share anti-racism strategies, distribute resources, and encourage community involvement to recognise, prevent and stop racism and promote cultural harmony.



One of our leading community projects, Cronulla Outreach (supported by Sutherland Shire Council), saw over 490 participants attend throughout 2023-24.

Community Development

We continued community development projects based on specific on-going local issues and needs. This included participating in community events, school outreach, advocating to promote youth education and youth leader consultations. Our Social Justice Youth leaders continued to provide an advisory service for 2Connect Youth & Community. Our youth workers and leaders were also engaged with outreach in public spaces, often crossing paths with students of the 30+ local schools we work with in Georges River, Bayside and Sutherland Shire, and participated in community events including Youth Week, NAIDOC Week, Lugarno Lions Community Fair, R U OK? Day and more.



It is great as I get to make friends with others of different ages as it doesn't really matter

—Cronulla Outreach Participant

Financial Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Revenue	2,064,153	2,692,436
Other income	-	2
Employee benefits expense	(1,670,453)	(1,430,524)
Service delivery expenses	(34,784)	(27,614)
Brokerage expenses	(56,841)	(47,321)
Occupancy expenses	(138,653)	(172,501)
Other expenses	(96,533)	(88,314)
Profit for the year	66,889	926,164
Total comprehensive income or loss for the year	66,889	926,164

For the year ended 30 June 2024

The above statement of profit or loss should be read in conjunction with the full FY24 Financial Statements.

2023-24 One Year Highlights

Youth & Family Support

1904 participants were engaged and supported across Youth & Family services.

Youth Employment Support (Transition To Work)

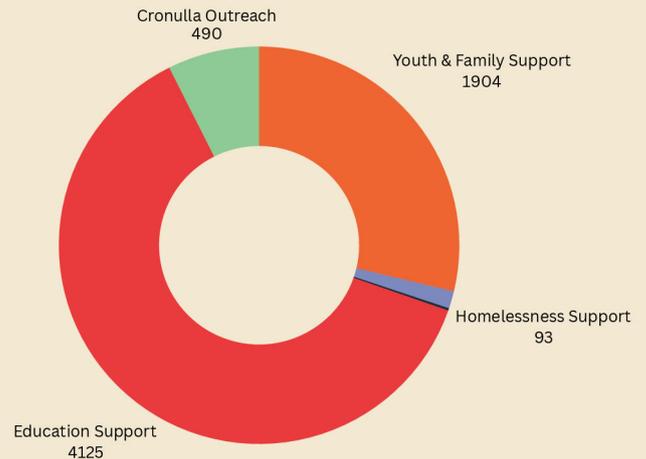
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Community Development

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Education Support

60+ at-risk early school leavers were supported with mentoring. 4125+ students were engaged with driver education.



Homelessness Support

Supported over 93 people who were at-risk of homelessness or homeless. Over 53% of brokerage support to people who are culturally and linguistically diverse.

Diversity

One of our LGBTIQ+ Youth Groups, GLISTEN, has been operational for over 23+ years! These groups still run monthly!

Thanks to our Contributing Partners

A huge thank you to all our 2023-24' funding partners - we could not do this incredible work without you!

- NSW Department of Communities & Justice
- NSW Department of Education
- NSW Health – Southeast Sydney Local Health District & Ministry of Health
- Australian Government Department of Social Services
- Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
- Australian Government Department for Industry Health Energy & Resources
- Alcohol & Drug Foundation
- Bayside Council
- George River Council
- Sutherland Shire Council
- Odyssey House NSW
- Rotary Club
- STRIPE
- Commonwealth Bank Australia
- Individual & company donors



Thanks to our Board



Robert Lindsay OAM

Thankyou to Chairperson Robert Lindsay OAM for his guidance, dedication and strategic oversight to keep 2Connect Youth & Community moving forward with purpose.



Terry Lynch

Thankyou to long standing Board Member and Treasurer Terry Lynch for his commitment and contributions as a vital part of our journey at 2Connect Youth & Community.



Craig Smith

Thankyou to long standing Board Member and Secretary Craig Smith for his invaluable support as 2Connect Youth & Community continues to create positive impact.



Jeremy Gadsden

A warm welcome and thankyou to Board Member Jeremy Gadsden whose presence will help shape 2Connect Youth & Community's direction and impact going forward.

Contact Us



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<https://2Connect.org.au>



2Connect
YOUTH & COMMUNITY

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