

## FESTIVAL OF MANY – THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who was involved and attended the Festival of Many as we celebrated the achievements of our Boost Program participants, including New Australians with refugee and asylum seeking backgrounds, who have started a business in Australia!

After the festival, we received excellent feedback from the participants, visitors, and the local community. We are proud to deliver the Boost Program in partnership with the Australian Refugee Association and are thankful to receive empowering support from the Westpac Foundation. Once again, our sincere thanks to host site McLaren Vale & Fleurieu Visitor Information Centre, and TIPI Lane for providing the giant tipi and on the ground event support - an unforgettable experience.

We look forward to organising other festivals in the future thank you again for your support of this event and the amazing Boost Program participants.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Community Connections aims to support people experiencing loneliness and disconnection to create new social connections that are meaningful to them and /or remove barriers to existing connections.

Participants of the program will work with our program Team Leader across 12 weeks to help identify and articulate their connection goals and receive tailored support to achieve these. Support may include helping people to get involved in local community activities, find new support groups, meet their neighbours, volunteering or get some extra help at home to meet their connection goals.

People may be eligible for the program if they:

- Live in South Australia
- Are 18-64 years or 49 for First Nations People
- Are not receiving NDIS or My Aged Care

This is a free service, funded by the Department of Human Services, provided by MarionLIFE and other program partners across South Australia. We welcome all people to enquire about the program, including First Nations people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If you would like to enquire about the Community Connections Program at MarionLIFE, please call 0466 528 693 to talk with our Team Leader Rebecca or you can email [rhird@marionlife.org.au](mailto:rhird@marionlife.org.au)

## NEIGHBOUR DAY 2023

Neighbour Day is a day where people are encouraged to reach out and connect with their neighbours and their neighbourhood. It aims to help connect people and communities across Australia, one relationship at a time. In 2023, the theme for Neighbour Day is 'Create Belonging'.

We're celebrating Neighbour Day on Monday morning 27 March from 9am in the car park outside of MarionLIFE and all are welcome to join us – let's help create belonging together in this community.

Please do extend the invitation to your neighbours, and we hope to see you there!

## FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

A **free Financial Counselling** service is provided on site at MarionLIFE by UnitingCare Wesley Bowden. Qualified, independent and compassionate Financial Counsellors can guide you through your financial options and help you plan your way out of debt.

Financial counselling can help you with things like:

- Bills or fines you're struggling to pay
- Being harassed by debt collectors
- Gas, electricity or phone disconnection
- Being evicted from your house
- Car accidents with no insurance
- Tax debts

In a caring and non-judgemental way, the UCWB team will listen to you and help you understand your available options. Referral available through MarionLIFE Emergency Relief Service or please contact UCWB directly on 8245 7177 to make an appointment.

## WALKING GROUP

MarionLIFE Walking Group welcomes everyone for a walk along Sturt River Linear Park Trail **every Tuesday from 9:30am-11am**. There are accessible pathways in the Sturt River Linear Park Trail to make it easy for all fitness levels. Come for a brisk or relaxed walk by the river to meet new friends and finish the walk with morning tea.

No cost or bookings are required. Meet at MarionLIFE Community Garden (entrance via Alawoona Ave). The Walking Group delivered in partnership with Junction Australia.