

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022



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STORIES OF

HOPE

“(I appreciate the) Friendly nature of everyone. I feel unjudged.”
Emergency Relief Recipient



Chair Report 2022

Kate Cross, Interim Chairperson, MarionLIFE Board of Governance

Over the past year MarionLIFE has continued to offer a growing range of services and opportunities to build relationship with all those who are seeking connection within our community.

As an organisation we are continually looking at improving, upskilling, and getting feedback from all those who are affiliated with our organisation to ensure that we are purposefully and effectively serving our audience moving forward.

Earlier this year we farewelled Peter Fowler who faithfully served as Chairperson on the board for almost 5 years. Peter was a wonderful leader who provided wisdom, guidance, and support to attendees, volunteers, staff, and the Board over many years at MarionLIFE. We wish Peter all the best in his new pursuits and pray that his new ventures bring fulfilment and joy to his life.

Our team, led by Leighton Boyd, is fortunate to include many professionals who are passionate about our mission, values and uphold the ethics of MarionLIFE. We are pleased to see such a diverse range of skills, passion, and expertise within our team, and are proud to be able to utilise these gifts to serve our community.

The MarionLIFE Board of Governance has been blessed over the previous 12 months with many fresh ideas, relationships and opportunities arising from the skills and knowledge of both new and existing Directors. We are also actively seeking two new Board Members to fill our Secretary and Chairperson positions to complete our Board.

We are grateful for, and acknowledge, the support we've received at MarionLIFE over the past year from all our incredible volunteers and benefactors, without these time and financial commitments, we would be limited in our opportunities to reach out and support our community.

We are also blessed to have strong relationships with Marion Church of Christ, Local, State and Federal Government representatives, and like-minded organisations who we enjoy working in collaboration with.

I am confident that the coming year will continue to bring new opportunities for growth, both relationally and organisationally, for which I am excited to see unfold.

As Interim Chairperson, I look forward to continuing to serve and support all aspects of MarionLIFE as we move forward.

Yours truly,

Kate Cross
Interim Chairperson

MarionLIFE Community Services Director's Report 2022

This past year, 2021-22 was MarionLIFE's 36th year in operation, and I continue to be encouraged by our staff and volunteers who serve their community and the resilience and joy of local people we have the privilege to meet through the centre. Thank you for your support and trust of us to do this work – it is the many individuals, community groups and funding bodies that believe in both what we are doing, and the way we are doing it, that makes MarionLIFE possible.

Our Mission: MarionLIFE Community Services is a not-for-profit community organisation that strives to provide meaningful, flexible and responsive care, support and pathways to individuals and families in need.

Our Vision: We aim to express the love of God through relationships and services that enrich lives, maximise independence and provide hope.

MarionLIFE Community Services Inc. Board of Governance

Peter Fowler – Chairperson (part-year)

Kate Cross – Vice-Chair, then Interim Chair, and Compliance

Peter Hartley – Treasurer

Janine Lambert – Partnerships (part-year)

Rebecca Scott – Public Image

Robert Ewers – Human Resources

Nick Andrews – Collaborations

Leighton Boyd – (Executive) Director and Acting-Secretary

A warm welcome to Peter Hartley who joined our Board in the last year, he has a strong alignment to our organisation's values and significant financial acumen – we are grateful to have him fill this key role for MarionLIFE.

A thank you to Peter Fowler and Janine Lambert who both finished up their time on the Board this past year. Janine created some amazing local connections for the organisation in her time on the Board and we highly valued her heart and passion. Peter helped guide the organisation to stability and growth in his time as Chair, and we are very grateful for his conscientious approach and servant leadership.



Our work continues across these focus areas:

- Crisis Support – meeting immediate need and facilitating connection into ongoing supports
- Community Development – working with the strengths of the people in our neighbourhood
- Social Groups – sharing life, conversation and this usually involves food too!
- Adult Community Education – courses in digital literacy and preparing for study and work
- Refugee Support – Boost Business Program and other partnerships with ARA

We are also pleased to host staff on site from Australian Refugee Association (ARA - Refugee Support), Uniting Communities (Financial Capability support), Life Without Barriers (Alcohol and Other Drug support) and UnitingCare Wesley Bowden (Financial Counselling). These connections provide ease of access to community members seeking support services, and we are pleased to be continuing with each of these relationships for another year.

Thank you again for your support – I encourage you to read our full Annual Report to learn more about the stories and people that are MarionLIFE Community Services and I look forward to continuing to connect with you in the year ahead.

You can make a tax deductible donation towards our work online at www.marionlife.org.au/donate

You can learn more about MarionLIFE by visiting our website www.marionlife.org.au

Yours Faithfully,

Leighton Boyd
Director



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STORIES OF

HOPE

"It makes me get up and have
contact with people."
Women Together Attendee



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Rebecca Hird, Acting Services Coordinator
Kylie Fergusen, Community Connections Case Worker

MarionLIFE is now half way through the two year pilot of the Department of Human Services Community Connections Program. This is a new state-wide project which supports people who aren't eligible for NDIS or My Aged Care, aged between 18 and 65, and are experiencing loneliness and disconnection in their life. As the name suggests, it's about supporting the participants to grow in confidence, find their voice and learn new skills. It involves goal setting and taking small steps to move closer to their goal. Ultimately, we help participants to identify and move past barriers in their lives, and create new social connections that are meaningful to them.

Participants of the program are supported by MarionLIFE and our Southern Adelaide community partner organisations Anglicare SA, Baptist Care SA, Uniting Communities across a 12 week period. During the past year MarionLIFE has walked alongside 26 people through the Community Connections Program. We have seen participants getting involved in their local community:

- Through activities like MarionLIFE's Community Meal, Women Together or local fitness groups.
- Facilitating connection to groups for carer or mental health support.
- Access to subsidised transport.
- Supported enrolment in Adult Community Education Courses.
- Supported interests in in community participation, giving back and volunteering.

As one participant said, "I have gained so much confidence in myself."

Or another, "I am getting out of the house, it's the first time I have been in a big group in a long time."

MarionLIFE is excited to continue to provide the Community Connections Program over the next year and we look forward to contributing to its continued development during the pilot phase.



MARION MUGS

Olivia Wells, Community Development Worker
Liz, Darren and Margaret, Marion Mugs Volunteers

Marion Mugs is a treasured program at MarionLIFE - now meeting together for six years! Each Monday morning at 9:30 our group meets for a cuppa, biscuit, and a chat. Since COVID Mugs has been a bit quieter, but on average we see somewhere between 15 – 30 people attend each week. Folks who come to Marion Mugs feel free to pop in or stay the whole morning.

Marion Mugs is a wonderful place to socialise, engage in conversation, and laughter. Everybody feels welcome. We had many highlights this year and welcomed several new people into the group. Tragically, a few valued members of our group passed away due to health issues. We miss their contribution to our weekly meet up. Some of our favorite memories from this past year included an outing to Oaklands Reserve, which was a lovely day, with lots of food and drinks and our wonderful Christmas Breakup at the end of 2021 as well, with special food and mince pies.

Some comments from Marion Mugs attendees about what they appreciate about the group:

"Friendships, joy, happy days mixing around"

"Meeting my friends and having a chat"



STUDENT PLACEMENTS

Rebecca Hird, Acting Services Coordinator
Tristan Prentice, MarionLIFE Youth Facilitator

MarionLIFE considers it a real privilege to work in collaboration with Flinders University to provide placement for social work students at the centre. Students work throughout their placement supporting our staff, volunteers and participants while having an opportunity to not only learn and reflect on their skills and knowledge but also to gain practical hands-on experience.

Many students join us unfamiliar with the role social workers can play in the community centre environment and quickly find a diverse range of opportunities for our community to seek support and build connections. All students worked across the centre, providing support in Emergency Relief, in groups (Marion Mugs, Community Meal, Women Together and Brekky for Blokes, MarionLIFE Youth) while also working on administrative and research tasks. A few highlights include:

- Students Kayla and Tanika were our first round of students this past year and supported Women Together to share their cooking knowledge, exploring recipes from around the world. Later in their placement they assisted the group by organising an excursion to the Living Kurna Cultural Centre where the group enjoyed learning about forms of Aboriginal art.
- Summer students Sophie and Ana spent time organising the Marion Mugs excursion to the Oaklands Wetlands and shared in front of house at Community Meal.
- Erin and Fran joined Brekky for Blokes and shared a cuppa, conversation and of course the preparation of breakfast. They also spent extra time updating important documents that support the referral information used in our Emergency Relief Service.

The MarionLIFE Youth Program hosted students Michael, Harrison and Alice in the past 12 months, from Torrens University, National College of Australia, and Kirana College. All three have supported and assisted the program and learnt the craft of youth work by getting firsthand practical experience in the field for their future employment pathway. We are also grateful for the Social Work students who supported MarionLIFE Youth this year.

Our students work very hard during their time at MarionLIFE and we really value their support and contribution. We enjoy sharing in their learning journey and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

MARIONLIFE YOUTH

Tristan Prentice, MarionLIFE Youth Facilitator

MarionLIFE Youth has continued across three main areas this year:

- Our Youth Drop-In space for 10-17 years continues to run with success providing for the needs of local youth Friday afternoons.
- Our Youth Events team that supported local schools and local youth community events like Junction Australia's 'Summer Splash', 'Time to Spare' and 'Spring into Spring'. We also supported the Marion RSL to run two youth bowls sessions, and helped with City of Marion youth events including the opening of Capella and Peterson Reserves.
- Our Youth GO Program, which supports the connection of young people from the City of Marion's 'On@Com' Come and Try sport activities to local sporting clubs. This is achieved by providing bespoke support to families across areas including initial fee funding, equipment, uniforms and registration support. We had 21 participants in the first round were able to help reduce or remove barriers that some young people have connecting with local sporting clubs.

As part of our programming, we have a life skills theme each Term that is shaped by the young people who attend, and we engage workshop providers accordingly. We are thankful for the workshop providers. This year we were able to journey with local young people around positive activities they can do with their friends, local connections and supports available and creative ways to tell their story and plan for the future.

We are so thankful to our volunteers and having a bus service to be able to pick up youth to bring to youth centre. We are particularly thankful to our volunteer bus driver Colin who supports the program by helping young people wanting to attend overcome the transport barrier. We are also thankful for the number of schools that welcomed us to run activities for their students. We were able to continue running MarionLIFE Youth this year through the support of the Carthew Foundation, City of Marion, Wyatt Trust and Mordialta Trust – thank you!

We continue to be a meeting point for local youth and are proud to connect with local schools to support youth who need respite. We are excited about the future of the drop-in service, our events sessions, getting youth connected to local sporting clubs easier as well as looking at other ways MarionLIFE Youth can impact the youth including some new ideas and families in our community.

STORIES OF

HOPE

"I am getting out of the house, it's the first time I have been in a big group in a long time."

Community Connections Participant



WALKING GROUP

Olivia Wells, Community Development Worker Gill, Walking Group Volunteer Team Leader

The Walking Group has been running since March of 2022 and came about through the initiation of our wonderful volunteer, Gill, as a partnership between Junction Australia and Marion LIFE. Since it started, between 15 – 25 local people come along. We meet 9:30am at MarionLIFE each Tuesday and head off together on a walk along the Sturt River Linear Trail either towards Oaklands Reserve, or up to Sturt Road. We walk for one hour, then we head back for a cuppa and morning tea.

The Walking Group is an opportunity for people to connect with others in their neighborhoods, have a chat, and get moving in a healthy and achievable way; everyone walks at their own pace and for however long feels comfortable. Some of the participants in the group are folks who might not exercise by themselves and as an added bonus friendships have been made and have extended outside of the group. We have been amazed by the depth of support that the group offer each other. The group provides an environment to share and connect in a non-judgmental, safe, and caring way.



COMMUNITY MEAL

Ruth Pares, Community Meal Volunteer Team Leader

This year has special meaning for me, as I have been fortunate to celebrate 10 years as a MarionLIFE volunteer and being the Community Meal Coordinator. As many may know, I come from a different country, and I wanted to thank our participants and volunteers for allowing me to cook over 200 times for them. It has been an honour. I wanted to say “Gracias” by cooking with my Mum, also a Community Meal volunteer, our traditional Venezuelan dish “Pabellon” as main and “Tres Leche” for dessert. Thankfully, our participants and volunteers seemed to enjoy them! Plus the live entertainment from Tequila Carnival, a fantastic Venezuelan & Australian musician duo.

As many of our participants, I started to come to Community Meal as I was going through a rough patch. Everyone, participants, and volunteers, were very welcoming and made me feel I belong and for that I will be forever grateful. As I reflect on these 10 years, I cannot stop thinking of everyone who has come through our door, volunteers, and participants and that have helped shape what our Community Meal is today. We have seen many come and go and many stay and some we welcome back. We have seen some of our little people become teenagers. We have touched so many lives and hopefully made a difference in a few. We had to adapt our menus to cater for all palates, our service delivery to make it COVID-Safe but our essence still remains – the love of our community and sharing our life stories over a plate (or two) of food and of course dessert twice a month where everyone is welcome.

Here are a few things our Community Meal attendees have said about coming along:

“The Community Meal provides a healthy meal, new friendships are formed & support for each other. It’s important for mental health & wellbeing.”

“I enjoy the community meal and talking to other people.”

“(I enjoy) Being around others from local community. Connections.”



BREKKY FOR BLOKES

Olivia Wells, Community Development Worker
James, Brekky for Blokes Volunteer Team Leader

On the second and fourth Friday of each month, Brekky for Blokes has again this year brought together men from the community for a chat and breakfast. Our wonderful volunteer team for Brekky for Blokes are dedicated to ensuring it goes ahead and together provide a wonderful environment that welcomes new participants who attend. The group has put in an amazing effort into building a supportive and wonderful community.

Each Brekky we are privileged to host around 20-30 locals and there is room for more – we welcome any men from the surrounding neighborhood to join us, either as a guest or a volunteer. Here are comments from a few of our participants about coming along to Brekky for Blokes:

“I like meeting people.”

“I like the company.”

“I like the Community Meals and Brekky for Blokes to have a chat with people.”



COMMUNITY GARDEN AND TOOL LIBRARY

Olivia Wells, Community Development Worker
Denise ‘Havachat’, Community Garden and Tool Library Volunteer Team Leader

Our wonderful volunteer, Denise, has for another year opened the Garden Tool Library to the community each Tuesday from 9am-2pm. As a partnership with Junction Australia, Denise manages the bookings for local Junction tenants and the wider community. Hiring is open to anyone in the area, is low cost (free for Junction tenants) and can be arranged through MarionLIFE reception.

The MarionLIFE Community Garden is also open on Tuesday. People are welcome to pop in, contribute to the garden (including growing veggies), or simply come to enjoy a cuppa, a biscuit and a chat.

STORIES OF

HOPE

“The Community Meal provides a healthy meal, new friendships are formed & support for each other. It's important for mental health & wellbeing.”

Community Meal Attendee



WOMEN TOGETHER

Rebecca Hird, Acting Services Coordinator
Olivia Wells, Community Development Worker

This year The Women's Group continued to meet each week on a Wednesday from 1.30-3pm. The group brought together women all over the world and is run as a partnership with Australian Refugee Association. We welcome all women of all backgrounds to join and share in the Women Together space.

This year we had many wonderful moments including dancing, celebrating significant cultural events and most importantly, sharing our cooking with each other. Based on the recipes shared, the group has been working towards creating a cookbook including pictures, the stories behind the recipes and a bit about who we are. We hope to have the cookbook designed, finalized, and published by the end of the year to share!

The group also participated this year in some workshops held at the Living Kurna Cultural Centre. These workshops were a time of fun, sharing and learning as the group participated in Aboriginal art and basket weaving. We also spent time exploring the beautiful land and learning about the significance of land to the Kurna people.

Some of the comments shared about the Women Together:

"It makes me get up and have contact with people."

"Having a purpose, a reason to be out. It's my relaxation."

BOOST BUSINESS PROGRAM

Ksenija Bould, Boost Program Lead



Now in the second year, Boost is going from strength to strength. With its expansion across the Adelaide metropolitan area, Boost has seen 50 referrals from five different referral sources and participants from the Middle East, Africa, South America and Asia. Boost has supported a diversity of participants who are new arrivals to Australia including single mums, a father and daughter businesses, artists, business support interpretation and translation services, caterers, an app developer, fashion, beauty and entertainment businesses. Of the 38 participants who have engaged in the program's one-off workshops and business coaching, five business have achieved commercialisation and regular trading. In its first year, Boost also attracted support from 11 businesses who all added value to Boost either through discounted fees and products, free access to services or pro bono specialist expertise.

All of the Boost businesses have a great story of achievement to tell whether it's participants finally securing paid employment as a direct outcome from Boost alongside the development of their own business, to mothers having the courage to step out of their home kitchen to share their culinary skills as a caterer for corporate and community events. Boost facilitated participants going through the various steps from establishing their business, building social connection, digital skills and most importantly self-worth along the way.

Driven by the early learnings and increasing demand for places in Boost, in mid-2022, Boost underwent a modification to its program model to introduce a Business Ready Hub. The Hub provides a group-based experience to learn and connect over the course of the early business development stages. The Hub is proving to be a very worthwhile improvement to Boost enabling greater numbers of participants to engage in the program, and most importantly bond with others with shared refugee/migrant experiences and business aspirations. The Hub supports Boost's ability to scale and support a much greater number of prospective businesses, which going forward into the year ahead we anticipate will bring event further sustainability to the program.

Despite the language and digital skills barriers many of the participants experience, along with little to no understanding of Australian business culture or operations, their resilience and entrepreneurial spirit has no bounds. I am looking forward to the next chapter for Boost to see where this incredible journey can take us all. We continue to be grateful for the support of the Westpac Foundation and our connection with the Australian Refugee Association – we really enjoy the collaborative relationship we have as while we mutually work towards assisting participants to achieve their business aspirations.

Comments shared by Boost Participants:

"I know so much about running a business that I didn't know before."

"Boost has changed my life."

"Boost taught me about a whole industry I didn't even know about, and now I am running a business as a Virtual Assistant."

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Rebecca Hird, Acting Services Coordinator
Elsie, Emergency Relief
Volunteer Team Leader

Emergency Relief has continued to be a flexible and responsive space to our community. We have had a privilege of providing support to over 3,500 people in Southern Adelaide in the past year. Adapting to support those who are in isolation and are unable to come into the centre, has been critical to supporting people during the pandemic and the winter cold season. While many are facing challenges caused by of the rising cost of living, fuel prices and housing shortages for some these challenges are combined with situations of homelessness, domestic violence and physical and mental health difficulties. This means that our Emergency Relief team is often working with our most vulnerable members of our community.

People come to Emergency Relief with a variety of needs from material items such as food and hygiene products, referrals to other services or connection to social groups. Our community has voiced a significant increase in rental costs and our team have noted a rise in those requesting referral to housing support. It is quite common for people to describe the cost of rent as the cause for food insecurity. Despite these challenges, the community continues to be strong and resilient, and it is a privilege to listen to people, share their stories and provide support where needed.

Our volunteers in Emergency Relief do a wonderful job at supporting people and encouraging them to continue to see their strengths in all situations. We are so grateful to our volunteers for all their hard work in this space. We are also grateful to the extraordinary community members and groups who support our Emergency Relief Service with donations of food, hygiene, and blankets, we truly appreciate your generosity.

Feedback from a community member:

“I visited your office this morning for the first time and I would like to thank you for the great work you doing for me and my kids and the community. I feel much more secure now and have peace of mind and will be sleeping tonight with knowing I have food for tomorrow. Thank you again.”
Emergency Relief Recipient

“(I appreciate the) Friendly nature of everyone. I feel unjudged.” Emergency Relief Recipient.



CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Liz, Christmas Day Lunch
Volunteer Team Leader

On Christmas Day in 2021 our 12 amazing volunteers plus 30 community members joined together for lunch. Again, we used biodegradable takeaway shell in case we could not hold lunch in person due to COVID (though thankfully we were able to have the lunch together in person).

Attendees had a choice of turkey/veg or roast chicken/veg & dessert, pudding with custard &/or ice cream. Plus there were many soft drinks, lollies, nibbles and door prizes as well.

A big thank you to all volunteers who helped make the day possible – we received very positive feedback from all who attended.

“Christmas Day Lunch is honestly a highlight of my festive season.”
Christmas Day Lunch Volunteer.

STORIES OF HOPE

“Boost taught me about a whole industry I didn’t even know about, and now I am running a business as a Virtual Assistant.”
Boost Participant

ON SITE PARTNERSHIPS

Leighton Boyd, Director

We value working in collaboration and partnering with other organisations', because it gives greater access to support and connection opportunities for our community. Indeed, we feel that complex challenges people face are better addressed for co-locating and we are delighted to have the following partners in this work.

UnitingCare Wesley Bowden

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 and tax debts.

In a caring and non-judgemental way, the UCWB team will listen to you and help you understand your available options.

Life Without Barriers

Life Without Barriers provide a free Alcohol and Drug Counselling Service on site at MarionLIFE. The service provides one-one individualised counselling sessions for people with identifiable alcohol and/or other drugs dependency.

Drug and Alcohol Counselling Service is voluntary and Life Without Barriers collaborates with our agencies, ensuring a comprehensive and holistic approach in meeting the client's need, safety and recognising/addressing the needs of client's children where applicable.

City of Marion

In partnership with the City of Marion, the MarionLIFE Youth GO Program is a support program for young people aged between 5-17 years old who live in the City of Marion. It's a "kickstarter" providing a pathway to join a local sporting club, which may involve covering the fees of registration, weekly game costs, uniform, practice equipment initially. The support help open conversations to explore sustainable future participation. MarionLIFE Youth GO Program is an extension of the City of Marion's On@CoM and Vibrant Communities Program.

Uniting Communities

A free Financial Wellbeing Service is provided on site at MarionLIFE by Uniting Communities. This service offers independent and confidential advice and programs designed to help you better manage your finances.

Uniting Communities can help you with things like: budgeting, emergency assistance and No Interest Loans.

Junction Australia

The Garden Tool Library hosted on site at MarionLIFE is in partnership with Junction Australia. Local residents can borrow battery operated whipper-snippers or lawn mowers to help maintain their outdoor areas at home.

Australian Refugee Association

The Australian Refugee Association (ARA) provide a free service from our centre providing refugees with information, support and referrals to assist them to settle into Adelaide. This service is provided on Wednesdays, drop-in and run by both an Arabic Speaking Case Manager and a Spanish Speaking Case Manager who use an interpreter to support people with other languages.

Community Centres SA

MarionLIFE has partnered with Community Centres SA a couple of projects to be delivered for local people in Southern Adelaide; iDrive and ACE Courses. The iDrive program provides support for people to work towards their Provisional driver's licence, and ACE Courses are provided for adult learners who are preparing for work or study.



ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Rebecca Wu, ACE Trainer

In the last financial year, we were able to run two courses each term for three terms, as part of a one-year pilot program with Community Centres SA. Those courses being Kickstart Your Employment, and Digital Skills for Work and Business.

Running these courses as part of a consortium meant that we were able to connect with other centres, and have administration support from CCSA. It also meant that for the first time as a facilitator, I was part of a wider team beyond the wonderful staff here at MarionLIFE.

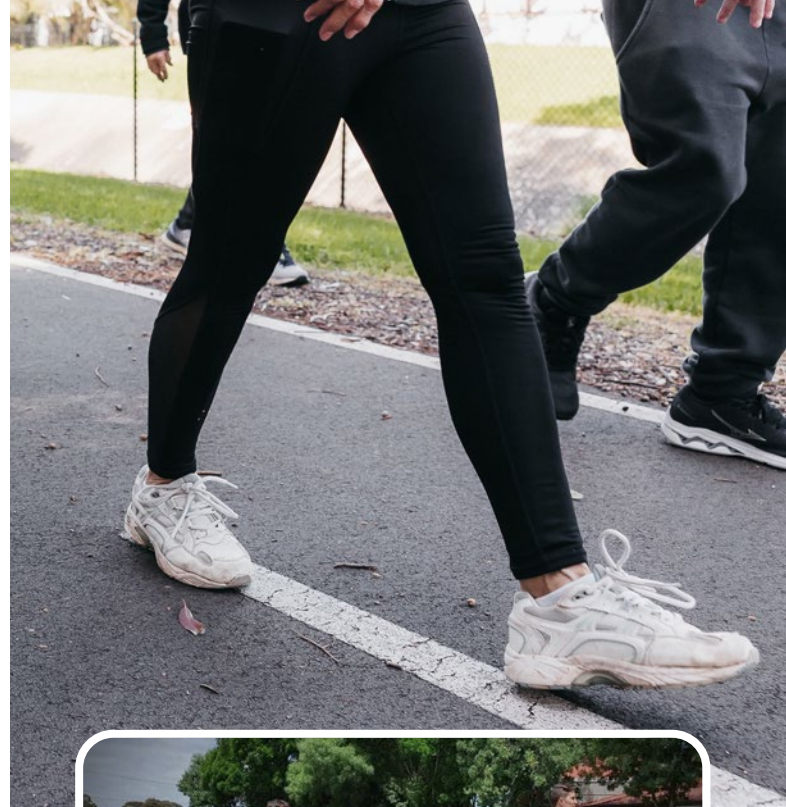
In total we had 38 people enrolled across both courses across the year. Many of these participants have since entered employment after attending the courses, or have engaged with further study. One of these people included the wonderful addition to our team of staff here at MarionLIFE, Silvana Morcos, who has also recently completed a certificate in Business & Entrepreneurship – it is these types of success stories that I enjoy most as part of my role. Thank you as well to Ksenija, Boost Program Lead, who attended sessions each term as a guest speaker for both courses.

ACE Course participants let us know they valued:

“Meeting and talking with other and hearing their points of view. Learning new skills.”

“The trainers at the centre are very kind and willing to provide any assistance that is necessary.”

“I liked the informality and felt very safe and supported to share my thoughts and opinions. Also, it was totally unexpected to get morning tea provided, it was wonderful. This course exceeded all my expectations. I felt very fortunate to have access to this program for free.”



MARIONLIFE HUNGER WALK

Leighton Boyd, Director

A Very Big Thank You to every one who fundraised for the 2021 Hunger Walk! Our annual event is to raise awareness and help fight hunger. People in our community are resilient, resourceful and strong, but due to challenges in their life many people walk into MarionLIFE hungry. More than just seeking food, people are seeking connection, community, and the chance to transform their life for the better.

Thank you to those who took up the challenge to walk in their local neighbourhood and raise funds for this work. In 2022, we changed the name to MarionLIFE Walk of Hope to honour the courageous individuals and families who walk through our doors everyday looking for hope. We have the privilege of coming alongside and equipping people on their journey towards a brighter future and value your support through this event each year.



TAX HELP

Ed Jackson, Tax Help Volunteer

Each year from late-July through to late-October MarionLIFE offers Tax Help. We had around half a dozen appointments per week in 2022. This service provides support for people to have tax completed for free. The Australian Tax Office supplies training and resources for our organisation.

We would like to acknowledge Ed Jackson, who is finishing up as our Tax Help Volunteer in 2022 after an amazing 19 years in role, thank you Ed!



PROPOSED COMMUNITY HUB

Leighton, Director

A proposed Community Hub for the Inner South of Adelaide will support an estimated 72,000+ visits per year and provide a space for over 20 community organisations to provide support and services for this fast-growing region. The project will provide up to 100 jobs during construction.

There is a gap in the Inner South for people to conveniently access support, without requiring transportation to the Outer South or the City. MarionLIFE Community Services and Partners are proposing a new Community Hub to meet this need. Currently our small centre is at capacity assisting over 3,500 people through our Emergency Relief Service, and a further 12,000 visits across other courses and programs offered onsite. Additionally, offices on site are utilised by four other likeminded community organisations with further enquiries to co-locate also having been received.

The Proposal is not simply for a new MarionLIFE Centre, but a Community Hub for the Inner South, a place where people can connect, and access Services if needed. We have sought to think about not just the immediate need in Southern Adelaide, but the need for the coming decades. In-principle support has been received from organisations including Junction Australia, Uniting Communities, Australian Refugee Association, Foodbank South Australia, Community Centres SA, UnitingCare Wesley Bowden, Relationships South Australia, Life Without Barriers, Baptist Care SA and Lutheran Care.

Funding is currently being sought from both Government and non-government to support this proposal to progress.

VOLUNTEERS

Leighton Boyd, Director Kubra Ozsü Clarke, Admin and Communications Officer

Volunteering at MarionLIFE is a rewarding, encouraging and often heart-warming way to add value to your community, learn new skills and make new friends. Volunteers are valued at MarionLIFE and perform a variety of tasks, training relevant to each volunteer role is provided.

We are able to offer volunteering opportunities in areas including: Emergency Relief, Reception, Admin, Youth Support, Meal Programs.

We would love to hear from you, if you are interested in volunteering at MarionLIFE! Please contact us by phone 82770304, email info@marionlife.org.au or drop by in person to 887 Marion Rd, Mitchell Park to receive a Volunteer Application Form.

What volunteers say about their time at MarionLIFE:

"What I love about volunteering is walking away feeling like I made a difference in someone's day, having a good laugh, meeting different people, hearing different stories and working in a fun environment."

"People leave the centre with hope and are happy. I have only been (volunteering) at MarionLIFE a short time and seeing people happy makes it worthwhile and it has also helped me with my struggles."

"Volunteering with MarionLIFE is incredibly rewarding and everyone who works and volunteers here contributes to the inclusive and rewarding community we have here."

STORIES OF

HOPE

"I visited your office this morning for the first time and I would like to thank you for the great work you doing for me and my kids and the community. I feel much more secure now and have peace of mind and will be sleeping tonight with knowing I have food for tomorrow. Thank you again."

Emergency Relief Recipient

PROPOSED COMMUNITY HUB FOR INNER SOUTH



For more information please visit our website marionlife.org.au/communityhub

FINANCE REPORT

Steve Sherrah, Finance Officer

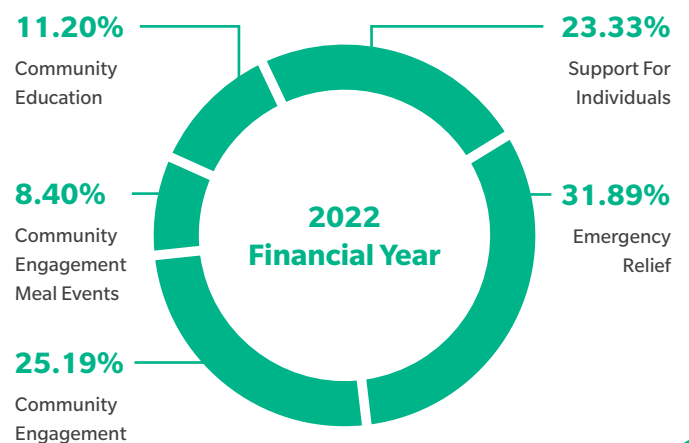
The income of MarionLIFE is a combination of Gift Deductible Donations, and funding from both Private Trusts and Government Funding. This Income is then applied to the programs and running costs of the organisation to facilitate the positive outcomes in people's lives. The resources available to MarionLIFE are finite and are acquitted within program/grant guidelines and a budget.

This has continued to be an unusual time with the impact of COVID-19; programs have needed to adapt and change, and we have welcomed the funding provided to continue to provide services to our community. We are thankful for the continued support from the differing levels of Government to provide Emergency Relief to our community and we wish to acknowledge and thank the Carthew Foundation, Coopers Foundation, Morialta Trust, Wyatt Benevolent Institution, Westpac, plus churches, schools, community groups and individuals who donated to this work, which enables us to meet the needs of our community.

We welcome opportunities to discuss additional funding for our programs and note we are able to provide a tax-deductible receipt for funds received – donations can be made online via www.marionlife.org.au/donate. Our Financial Statements were audited

in the 2021/2022 Financial Year, and will be available under MarionLIFE's page on the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission website www.acnc.gov.au. We thank the Marion Council, the State Government of South Australia and Federal Government of Australia for their continued support.

MarionLIFE Expenditure Chart



PEOPLE IMPACTS AND COMMUNITY NEED

Foundation of Practice

CULTURAL SAFETY & DIVERSITY



- Working with Aboriginal communities and culturally diverse groups, to ensure we build respectful and safe relationships which honour the strengths and experiences of these groups without imposing assumptions or judgments on individuals.

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION



- Creating innovative and alternative ways to connect with diverse groups, including those living with disability, ensuring barriers are reduced by listening to people's needs and tailoring the service approaches to ensure meaningful participation.

STRENGTHS-FOCUSED



- We know the incredible strengths and assets that exist across our neighborhoods and are passionate about supporting the community to tap into these and discover more opportunities for involvement & driving change.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



- We passionately uphold that community members are best placed to support the community and create meaningful and sustainable change for the better - not professionals or services. Services can be used to enhance and support this work when open to collaboration.

COLLABORATION



- Working in collaboration with others externally - professional services, community groups, government etc. - gives our community the greatest access to resources, information and holistic support. We love collaborating and working in partnerships.

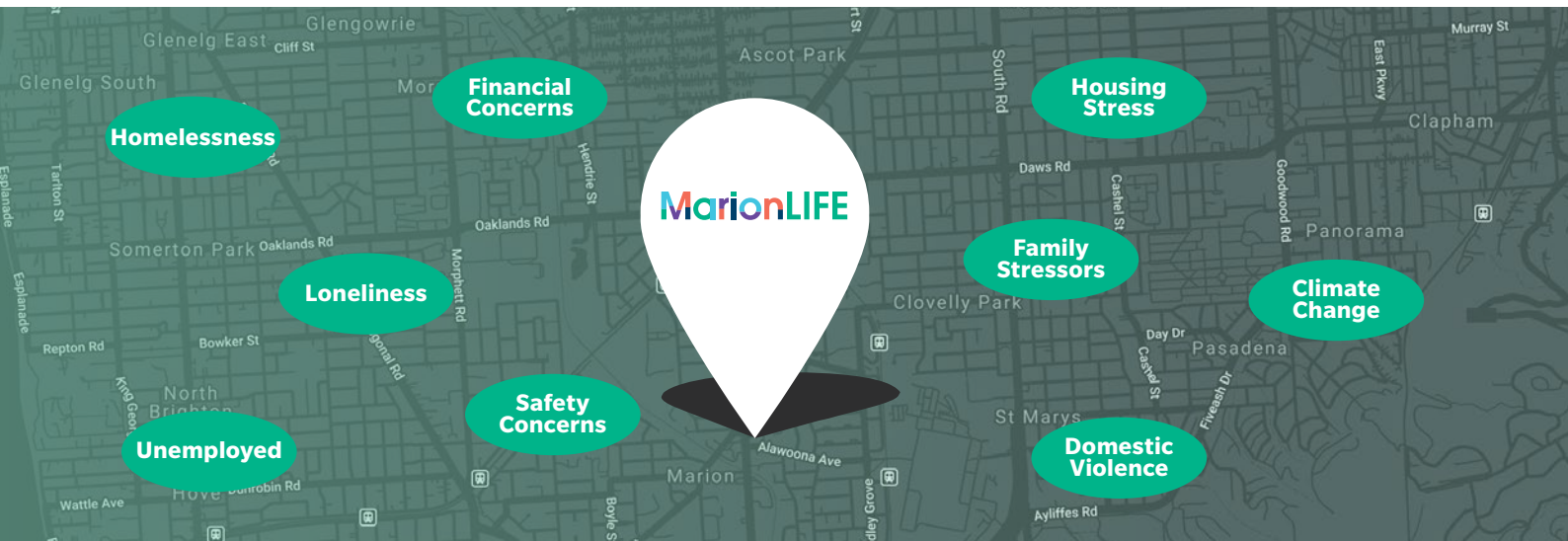
PLACE-BASED PRACTICE



- We are not only committed to and embedded in the South. We are part of the community; we know and listen to what challenges are faced daily - we pay attention to trends and issues to help direct where resources/ supports are targeted.

PEOPLE IMPACTS AND COMMUNITY NEED

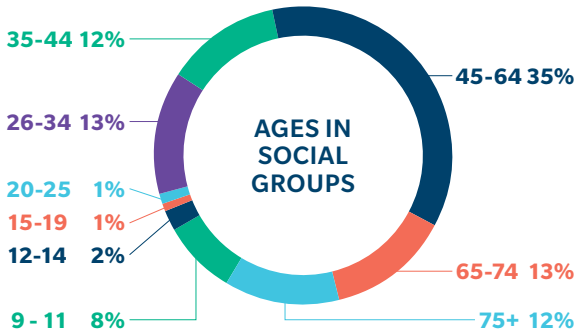
Community Context



- Top Community Concerns:
 - Loneliness
 - Safety
 - Housing Stress
 - Climate Change
- Key reasons for seeking Emergency Assistance:
 - Financial & Food insecurity
 - Housing; Homelessness
 - Un/underemployment
 - Family/Relationship stressors
 - Domestic Violence
- 1,200 Community Housing properties in surrounding suburbs
- 29% households without internet connection in Mitchell Park
- Increasing % of 15–64-year olds on Job Seeker
- Increase number of renters in surrounding suburbs
- Currently variety of services and supports are unavailable in the Inner South, with many services requiring travel to the Outer South or City
- New housing developments in the Inner South, increasing population in the area

Current Work

MarionLIFE is a Community Centre rooted in the inner south of Adelaide and serving the wider Southern region. Our community is diverse, and our services and programs reflect this. We are passionate about supporting people to engage with their wider neighborhood, create new connections, and facilitating community to support each other through life's ups and downs. Many of our programs are run by community volunteers, who have a desire to see others belong and make meaningful connections.



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MarionLIFE programs working across areas of need:

- Social Groups
- Education & Skills Courses
- Youth Work
- Emergency Crisis Support
- Casework-based Services

3,500

people annually supported in crisis and emergency support.

100+

volunteers

12,000

annual visits across social groups, courses and case management.

22%


CALD participants from 37 diverse backgrounds.

Close partnerships (onsite & events):

- Australian Refugee Association - Settlement Support
- Life Without Barriers - Drug and Alcohol Counselling
- Uniting Communities - Financial Capability support and NILS loans
- Uniting Care Wesley Bowden - Financial Counselling
- Junction Housing
- City of Marion

What community most like about MarionLIFE:

- Increased Social Connection
- Lifelong Learning
- Volunteering & belonging

 Phone:
8277 0304

 Email:
info@marionlife.org.au

 Website:
www.marionlife.org.au

 Donate:
www.marionlife.org.au/donate

 Facebook:
www.facebook.com/marionlifecommunityservices

 Twitter:
www.twitter.com/MarionLIFEinc

 Instagram:
www.instagram.com/marionlifecommunityservices

 YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrConZeep5d_JqmMEFDoKJw

 LinkedIn:
<https://au.linkedin.com/company/marionlife-community-services>

MarionLIFE

SUPPORTERS

MarionLIFE appreciates the support of the following groups who either donate to us or partner with us for service delivery. Can you or your organisation become a supporter of MarionLIFE? Contact us today to discuss – we would love to hear from you and work together to serve the community.

Anglicare SA

Ascot Park Primary School

Australian Refugee Association

Beaumont Tiles

CareWorks SA

Carthew Foundation

City of Marion

Centrelink

Clovelly Park Primary School

Coles Park Holme

Colonel Light Gardens Uniting Church

Community Centres SA

Coopers Foundation

Danks Trust

Department for Industry, Innovation and Science

Department of Human Services SA

Department of Social Services

Emmaus Christian College

Flagstaff Hill Baker's Pantry

Foodbank SA

Hindu Society of SA

GIVIT

Good360 Australia

Good Shepherd Microfinance

Inner Wheel Holdfast Marion

Junction Australia

Life Without Barriers

Lions Club of Edwardstown

Lions Club of Marion

Lions Club of Marion City

Louise Miller-Frost MP

Marion Church of Christ

Marion-Warradale Uniting Church

Monteverdi Singers

Morialta Trust

Nadia Clancy MP

Officeworks

Once & Again Café

OzHarvestSA

Patritti Wines

Rotary Club of Edwardstown

Rotary Club of Holdfast Bay

SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre

SA Council of Social Service

Safe Pets Safe Families

Share the Dignity

Spendless Shoes

St Elizabeth's Anglican Church

StreetSmart Australia

Sunedin Specialist School

The Village Co.

TerryWhite Chemmart Marion

Temple Christian College

Tonsley Future Energy Consortium

Tonsley Village

Toward Home Alliance

UnitingCare Wesley Bowden

Uniting Communities

Volunteering SA&NT

Westpac

Wyatt Trust / Lions Club of Richmond