

*"I was an empty shell when we first met,
hardly hanging on. But you helped me
find myself. You have shown me
so many things - how to feel again and
how to start loving myself."*

Dan (TaskForce Client)

Dear Carly,

It's hard to find the words to tell you how I feel. I want to deeply thank you for all that you have done for me. Those two simple words don't even begin to say how much I appreciate you.

Working with you has had a huge impact on my life. I was an empty shell when we first met, hardly hanging on. But you helped me find myself. You have shown me so many things - how to feel again and how to start loving myself. You never gave up on me and that is something I will never forget.

You are a kind-hearted, generous person with a heart of gold - a very rare find in people nowadays.

I believe people come in and out of our lives for a reason, and you came into my life at a time when I really needed it.

The biggest thing you have taught me is to believe in myself, that I can do anything I want if I put my mind to it - that is something I'll never forget.

So from the bottom of my heart, thank you for helping find my purpose and something to live for.

Dan

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ABOUT TASKFORCE

Established in 1973, TaskForce provides specialist support for Victorian young people, adults and families in serious need.

Our core services focus on addressing social issues of addiction, unemployment, mental health and high risk taking behaviours. We are committed to supporting clients to transition back into 'mainstream' services and employment that will best enable them to reach their potential.

Most of those who access our services have long-term complex issues: all have experienced significant disadvantage or a crisis in their lives. Many have fallen through society's cracks and are placed in the 'too hard' basket.

Through services, such as counselling and various outreach programs, we work hand-in-hand with individuals, families and groups to build stronger, healthier communities.

A not-for-profit charity, TaskForce receives funding primarily through federal and state governments, local government tenders, philanthropic trusts, foundations and donations from our generous supporters.

“Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.”

Maria Robinson

VISION MISSION VALUES

TASKFORCE

Where hope finds help.

OUR VISION

Giving life changing opportunities for those most in need.

OUR MISSION

How do you get a second chance when society often doesn't care about you in the first place?

TaskForce is committed to creating positive outcomes for people disengaged or living on the margins of the community. Whether they have been born into poverty and disadvantage, overwhelmed by a major crisis, trapped by addiction, mental health circumstance or are simply seen by some as too difficult to deal with, it is our goal to help provide them with the life changing opportunity to meet their full potential, no matter how tough the circumstances. We never give up on giving people a chance to realise their true potential.

OUR VALUES

Our Values are the cornerstone of the TaskForce culture.

They reflect the behaviours that shape how we work with our clients, our partners and each other, thereby creating a culture that maximises the organisation's effectiveness and relevance.

1

Client Centred

We strive to support our clients and their extended networks to change their circumstances. We will collaborate so that our full range of services and supports are wrapped around them enabling each to reach their full potential.

2

Innovation and Best Practice

We will be cutting edge in all that we do, leading to evidence-based best practice within the sector. Our people will be passionate and motivated to make a difference.

3

Thought Leadership

We are committed to addressing the tough moral challenges faced, and sensitivities that abound in our sector, leading consequent debate and adapting as broader positions held by society evolve.

4

Honesty and Integrity

We do our utmost to communicate openly, honestly and respectfully. We collaborate and share accountability with colleagues and clients alike. We acknowledge that as we learn, mistakes may be made but that this learning will make us stronger.

5

Trust, Respect and Self-care

We collaborate to create a work environment built on trust and respect, where our people and consortium partners are supported and challenged to lead best practice. We recognise that responsibility for self-care is also a foundation to achieve excellence in the services we deliver.

“Rarely do we invest the time to open the book of another’s life. When we do, we are usually surprised to find its cover so misleading and its reviews so flawed.”

Richard Paul Evans

PRESIDENT REPORT



Like most charities, TaskForce’s overarching goal is ‘Mission fulfilment’. I am pleased to report that we continue to successfully pursue our Mission to assist vulnerable members of the community and to achieve positive outcomes for, and importantly, with our clients. We have an incredible diversity of services, which often complement each other and seeing the consequent teamwork in action is most gratifying for the Board. It is noteworthy that all our programs this year were able to operate on a financially sustainable basis with each securing sufficient funding to cover their individual direct operating expenses. The Board’s primary responsibility is to ensure our Mission remains relevant and to oversee the health of the organisation within a strong governance framework – this we continue to do.

Whilst TaskForce faces a variety of challenges, it never ceases to amaze me how our staff are always able to meet and successfully address these; this is a credit to them and their leadership. These days ‘innovation’ features in many headlines.

TaskForce innovates by good analysis and planning and then decisively adapts to new and changing circumstances, finding solutions to roadblocks that arise. This is done with professionalism, determination and compassion. As reported last year, the ending of government funding for our core Youth Connections program was a major risk for the business, yet during the course of this year we adapted and found new opportunities to continue our Mission.

I would like to highlight the importance TaskForce places in establishing and refining good policies and processes. These were reviewed earlier this year in our Quality Innovation Performance (QIP) and Registered Training Organisation (RTO) re-accreditations, which were both successfully achieved with very favourable comments by our independent and external reviewers.

As mentioned above, TaskForce cannot pursue its objectives without a very capable and dedicated staff. We are fortunate to have such a passionate team committed to helping people facing major difficulties in their lives and I sincerely thank them. They continue to be very capably and energetically led by CEO, Ray Blessing and in turn he has benefitted from a very supportive and competent Executive team.

I again thank the TaskForce Board for its dedication, hard work and continuing support. The Board are all volunteers who have work, family and other commitments but give their time willingly. It remains a settled group with each member on a Board sub-committee where their individual expertise and experience can be best capitalised upon.

Finally, I wish to thank our supporters and friends – their contributions come in many forms and all play an important part in our being an on-going successful community organisation.

John Bower

CEO REPORT



“I was an empty shell when we first met, hardly hanging on. But you helped me find myself. You have shown me so many things - how to feel again and how to start loving myself.” (Dan, TaskForce client)

Perhaps nothing encapsulates the work of TaskForce more than these words. Written by a client to one of our case workers (the full letter is featured on the inside cover of this report), they tell a story like so many: of people barely surviving on the fringes of society, trying to grapple with drug or alcohol dependence, looking for help as they struggle to regain their lives.

The letter also highlights how important the work we do is and why we must continually seek to provide appropriate services to those most in need.

The past year has been one of growth and innovation for TaskForce. Thanks to state and federal government funding we expanded some services and initiated new ones. The quality of our work was reinforced in June following a successful quality assessment by accreditation agency, Quality Innovation Performance (QIP) who provided us with incredibly positive feedback about our services and programs.

THE WAY FORWARD

Understanding how to best support clients, and their carers or families underpins the way in which we develop services. We believe the key to achieving ‘life changing opportunities to those most in need’ comes from continually asking ourselves how we can do better. Our strategic plan provides a solid framework around which to plan and grow services. We have begun revising this plan to ensure we are well positioned for the emerging challenges set to face us over the next five years. In the coming months an external consultant will be working with us as we gather feedback from our Board, staff and stakeholders to better understand community needs and areas of greatest need.

Thanks to additional funding from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, we expanded our youth alcohol and drug services in the Bayside region and simultaneously introduced a new four-year

program with federal government funding to support unemployed youth across inner Melbourne find work.

We were delighted to be selected as a provider for the state government’s pilot Navigator program in Casey/Cardinia regions, aimed at supporting young people aged 12-17 not connected to schools, or at risk of disengaging. We will work with a number of other agencies to encourage this group back onto the education path to achieve their full potential.

Additional Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) funding enabled us to grow services and expand our partnership with the Prahara Community Learning Centre, while a \$60,000 capital grant from the Department of Health and Human Services will enable us to provide improved disability access at our Bentleigh clinic.

NEW INITIATIVES

In May TaskForce launched a new program, Pumped for Parole, initially with two parolees undertaking a fitness program at a local gym. The session offers an innovative way of engaging with clients outside a clinical environment and provides a healthy outlet for participants. Feedback has been positive and we will look to expanding the program over the coming year.

TaskForce’s art program continues to impress with incredible standards of work being produced by our clients. In August 2015 we launched the Open Studio Art Activity Group, providing 20 clients with mental illness and substance abuse issues, opportunity to attend our open studio program each week, providing them with a much-needed place to address social isolation, build a sense of belonging and develop their social and artistic skills, all within a safe and supportive environment.

Building on the success of our art program in partnership with PCLC, we now offer clients the chance to achieve accredited Certificates I and II in Visual Arts, creating a pathway to diploma and art course and ideally, employment in art-based occupations.

Our annual art exhibition at the Kingston Art Gallery in October 2016 is the perfect environment in which to showcase the talents

of so many budding artists, including those from TaskForce and other local community agencies who will also participate in the event.

OUR CHALLENGES

The scourge of ICE has greatly impacted our clients: about 50 per cent of those using our drug and alcohol support services are impacted by ICE, with many of these co-occurring with anxiety related issues. We will continue to seek state and federal government funding to develop effective supports for individuals and families affected, aiming to minimise the harsh impact this substance has on so many and to restore hope and health for those impacted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TaskForce gratefully acknowledges the generous support it receives from federal, state and local governments. Without their assistance, we simply couldn’t provide the services we do, or assist those who come to us seeking help.

In particular, I would like to thank staff from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services; Elzbieta Zorska (Program and Service Advisor, Bayside) and Paul Maher (Regional Manager Mental Health and AOD Services, Southern Metro Health), TaskForce is fortunate to have a skilled and dedicated team working across its services, supported by an energetic and committed Executive team; Angela Stathopoulos, Peter Stockton, David Paton, Tracey Fenton, Danny Alcock, Kate Forer, Fiona Grinwald and Natalie Siegel. We are also grateful for our committed and dynamic Board, led by John Bower, which provides governance advice and is as passionate about our clients and work as we are. I thank them for supporting the TaskForce staff in enabling access to the support, education and resources needed to provide outstanding services.

Ray Blessing

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Despite having spent time in prison for armed robbery, Andrew* counts himself lucky.

“The first time (in prison) was a lesson learned for me. I had been using drugs since I was 13 and was fortunate not to have gone to prison at an earlier age.”

The 28-year-old still carries the guilt of letting down his family: “The impact on my family was heartbreaking. I have a really supportive and close family and I never want to let them down like that again.”

Andrew is now keeping to his word. In the months since leaving prison, he has begun studying remedial massage and sports therapy with a goal to one day use his skills at an AFL club. He is also managing his own cleaning business (in partnership with his mother) while enjoying time playing football at a local club.

Andrew came to TaskForce two years ago while on bail in the months leading up to serving prison time. When a parole condition stipulated he must attend weekly counselling sessions with a drug and alcohol community organisation, he didn’t hesitate in nominating TaskForce.

“My first experience with TaskForce was so positive and has been the same since going back earlier this year.”

For Andrew, his weekly meeting with TaskForce counsellor Tony Johannsen offers more than understanding advice: it’s about having someone trusted he can talk to that isn’t family or friend. Best of all he says, there is no judgement.

When TaskForce launched a pilot well-being program for its Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) clients, Andrew didn’t hesitate to join.

The program encourages male clients on parole to maintain a healthy lifestyle by offering weekly group personal training sessions at a local gym. This is followed by a group discussion with a drug and alcohol counsellor.

Program coordinator, Tony, cites Andrew as one of the group’s most enthusiastic members.

“Andrew saw the program as a way to improve his fitness, personally and for the football team he plays for,” says Tony.

“He is great at motivating himself and takes seriously his responsibility to his family to stay out of prison, and to his footy team to always play his best.”

A recent injury and study commitments has seen Andrew curb his fitness regime, but once recovered he says he is keen to get back to the TaskForce exercise program.


“I loved going and being around others who were like me – we all had something in common, but there was no judgement and we understood why each of us was there.

“The exercise was such a benefit: it was a physical, rather than a mental outlet and enabled me to really destress.”

Andrew welcomes the encouragement from TaskForce to study and keep his life on a positive track.

“I want to live life to the fullest,” he reflects, “rather than spend it dawdling along off my face.”

*Not his real name

A person with curly hair, seen from behind, looking out a window. The person is wearing a red t-shirt. The window is on the left, and the view outside is bright and slightly blurred. The person's arms are resting on a surface in front of them.

“My first experience with TaskForce was so positive and has been the same since going back earlier this year.”

AOD SERVICES REPORT

AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Investing time and energy to build a committed and competent Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) counselling team has made an incredible difference to the quality of services TaskForce provides. Our ongoing focus to improve clinical governance has resulted in well-documented and consistent practice across our services.

TaskForce AOD clinical services operate throughout the southern metro region in various partnerships and consortiums. From Bentleigh and South Yarra throughout the metropolitan south-east (City of Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia) as a provider in the South Eastern Consortium of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (SECADA) consortium and in the Peninsula as the lead for the Stepping Up consortium. We offer confidential counselling to individuals, and their families, Care and Recovery Coordination and Intake and Assessment. We also offer services to those involved with the criminal justice system, working collaboratively with clients, Corrections Victoria and community partners to provide professional support within a safe and sensitive environment.

NEW INITIATIVES

Following the success of our Drink Driver Education Program, in July 2015 TaskForce launched a Drug Driver Education Program at sites in Bentleigh, Dandenong and Pakenham. Supported by strong community demand in 12 months we delivered the program to 353 participants and provided 100 drink and drug drive assessments, licence eligibility reports and interlock reports.

As part of our commitment to prevent and/or reduce the harms associated with drug use, in October 2015 we introduced a Needle and Syringe Program (NSP), providing clients with access to clean needles and safe disposal. The program aims to minimise the spread of blood-borne viruses, such as HIV and hepatitis B and C. All TaskForce clinicians and reception staff received NSP training through the Pennington Institute's Anex program, which works with people and families directly affected by problematic drug use.

Throughout 2015-16, we piloted a dual diagnosis initiative to make it easier for clients to manage recommendations by the justice system that they complete both drug and alcohol and mental health counselling with a psychologist (dual diagnosis clients).

With some clients preferring to see one clinician who can undertake both services, TaskForce liaised with justice staff to receive referrals for clients to use two of our drug and alcohol counsellors, who are also psychologists. The pilot will be evaluated late 2016.

We continued to pilot an innovative well-being program, which encourages male clients on parole to maintain a healthy lifestyle and integrate into the community. Working in partnership with Life Hub gym at Moorabbin, participants attend a weekly group personal training sessions followed by a group counselling discussion with a drug and alcohol counsellor. We plan to attract further participants next year before evaluating the program.

A partnership with Windermere Children's and Family Services in Cardinia enabled us to provide an innovative support program for families experiencing family violence and mental health/drug and alcohol issues. Windermere's Engaging Families Cardinia uses an assertive outreach model to engage and link clients with the necessary supports. The program focuses on safety, harm minimisation and improved parenting capacity to break the cycle of family violence in future generations.

ON THE JOB LEARNING

In 2015-2016, TaskForce continued its strong commitment to provide counselling experience to psychology students with the opportunity to develop their skills and learn about the drug and alcohol sector. Throughout the year, three psychology students from Monash University completed a placement with us, with a fourth student to complete a placement in August 2016. The successful initiative saw the organisation offer full-time employment to an Australian College of Applied Psychology (ACAP) counselling

student after completion of the six-month student placement.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Thanks to additional funding from the Federal Government's Department of Health, our Breaking the Barriers outreach program supported 84 mothers and expectant mothers in 2015/2016, often dependent on alcohol or other drugs, to access the services and treatment they need.

PHARMACOTHERAPY CLINIC

TaskForce enjoys a strong association with the Jasper Family Medical Practice in Bentleigh, in particular with Dr Peter Drake who operates a clinic at our Bentleigh office twice a week. The clinic focuses on people who have been dependent on opiates with substitute medications prescribed to help stabilise and reduce dependence on illicit drugs. Between July 2015 and June 2016, this service provided more than 2,300 care sessions. In addition to prescribing medications, consultations also offer advice on risk reduction, harm minimisation and general health information. TaskForce is planning to expand the clinic in 2016/2017.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

TaskForce is always looking at ways in which to continually build our clinical depth and support staff with professional development and quality supervision. A skilled and knowledgeable workforce will better enable us to develop evidence-based approaches to our services that are innovative, will enhance client opportunity for real change and which maximises their potential for independent and positive living.

RECOGNISING VOLUNTEERS

Our AOD program is fortunate to have the support of a dedicated team of volunteers who make an enormous difference to the lives of our clients. In particular, we would like to thank Udo Polzin, Glenys Pattinson, Teresa Ma, Sarah Darley, Irina Donald and Lynne Burley.

“I admire people who choose to shine even after all the storms they’ve been through.”

PIECING TOGETHER MIND, BODY AND SOUL

When asked to describe what her life might be like without TaskForce, Jenny* doesn't hesitate in her reply: "I would be living as an alcoholic with a warped sense of reality. They (TaskForce) have helped me slowly put my mind, body and soul back together."

After years of working with psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors and outreach programs, Jenny came to TaskForce cynical and frightened to reveal her true self. After losing her mother and brother to suicide, her life had unravelled into a haze of heavy drinking and occasional drug use. She felt lost and fearful. Those she loved most had gone and she didn't know where to turn.

Thankfully, it was the local police who recommended she seek help from TaskForce. Jenny has never looked back.

The 24-year-old says there are no words to express her gratitude for the organisation and its "amazing" team of staff.

"I suffer Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and it takes a lot for me to trust people," she admits. "But when I came to TaskForce, it immediately felt right. Here was a group of people who really cared, who wanted to help and wouldn't give up on me. I couldn't believe it.

"I have been in and out of rehabilitation, seen counsellors and been involved with outreach programs, but I have never come across anything like TaskForce."

Jenny was just 20 when her mother passed away. It was not only devastating but immediately forced her into an unfamiliar world.

"I suddenly needed to learn how to be an adult, but I was drinking so heavily that I just couldn't cope."

TaskForce stepped in and slowly, and with great sensitivity, began to teach her simple life skills, like getting appointments in order, seeking help for her alcoholism and finding support to assist with her PTSD. They also helped to find accommodation and over time have supported her to find work (Jenny now works casually).

Jenny's TaskForce counsellor, Jade Llewellyn has only positive things to say about the young woman she meets with up to twice a month and whom she regards as inspiring.

"Jenny is very goal orientated and always achieves what she sets out to do," says Jade. "She has gone from someone who was shy, withdrawn and unsure of herself and her future, to someone who can look after herself, find a job and work out things on her own."

"There is now direction in her life and when we meet we look at putting in place strategies that work towards positive relationships and what resources she needs to achieve what she wants."

For Jenny, those regular catch-ups are vital.

"I love my time with Jade - she is fantastic. After years of dealing with people and programs that I've been told would help and haven't. Suddenly, TaskForce comes in and has a way of doing things and supporting people that genuinely works. They brought something completely different to the table, and I just connected to it."

*Not her real name

"When I came to TaskForce, it immediately felt right. Here was a group of people who really cared, who wanted to help and wouldn't give up on me."

This image is used for visual purposes only, and the person is not related to the case study.

YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES REPORT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBS AND PERSONAL GROWTH

TaskForce provides a range of programs and services aimed at supporting people to gain skills and experience to better prepare them in transitioning to employment and/or further training. We work in partnership with job active providers and other support agencies to ensure client outcomes that focus on building personal and professional skills.

EXPANSION AND GROWTH

The past year has been an exciting one for our youth and employment services.

In April youth services expanded with the introduction of Transition to Work, a new Department of Employment initiative that supports disengaged young people aged 15-21 with intensive, pre-employment opportunities to improve readiness for work, an apprenticeship or traineeship. The program is offered to those living in Melbourne's inner and south-east regions, with sites located at Chelsea, Bentleigh, Brunswick, Flemington and Collingwood.

TaskForce is proud of the way it successfully works with young people to provide education and training opportunities. Therefore, in June we were delighted to be selected by the state government as one of the community agencies to pilot its new Navigator program. TaskForce will deliver services in one of eight Navigator sites selected from a mix of metropolitan and non-metropolitan Department of Education and Training (DET) areas.

The program targets disengaged young people aged 12-17 years who have become disconnected from either an education or training pathway. Underpinned by a philosophy that believes all young people should have access to an inclusive education system that enables them to gain the necessary skills to make a living and, more importantly, create a life. Navigator services will actively work with these people, and their support networks to encourage them to return to learning. TaskForce will partner with selected school communities in the Casey and Cardinia regions, and a number of other community agencies, to support this group back into education and the chance to reach their full potential.

WORK FOR THE DOLE SUCCESS

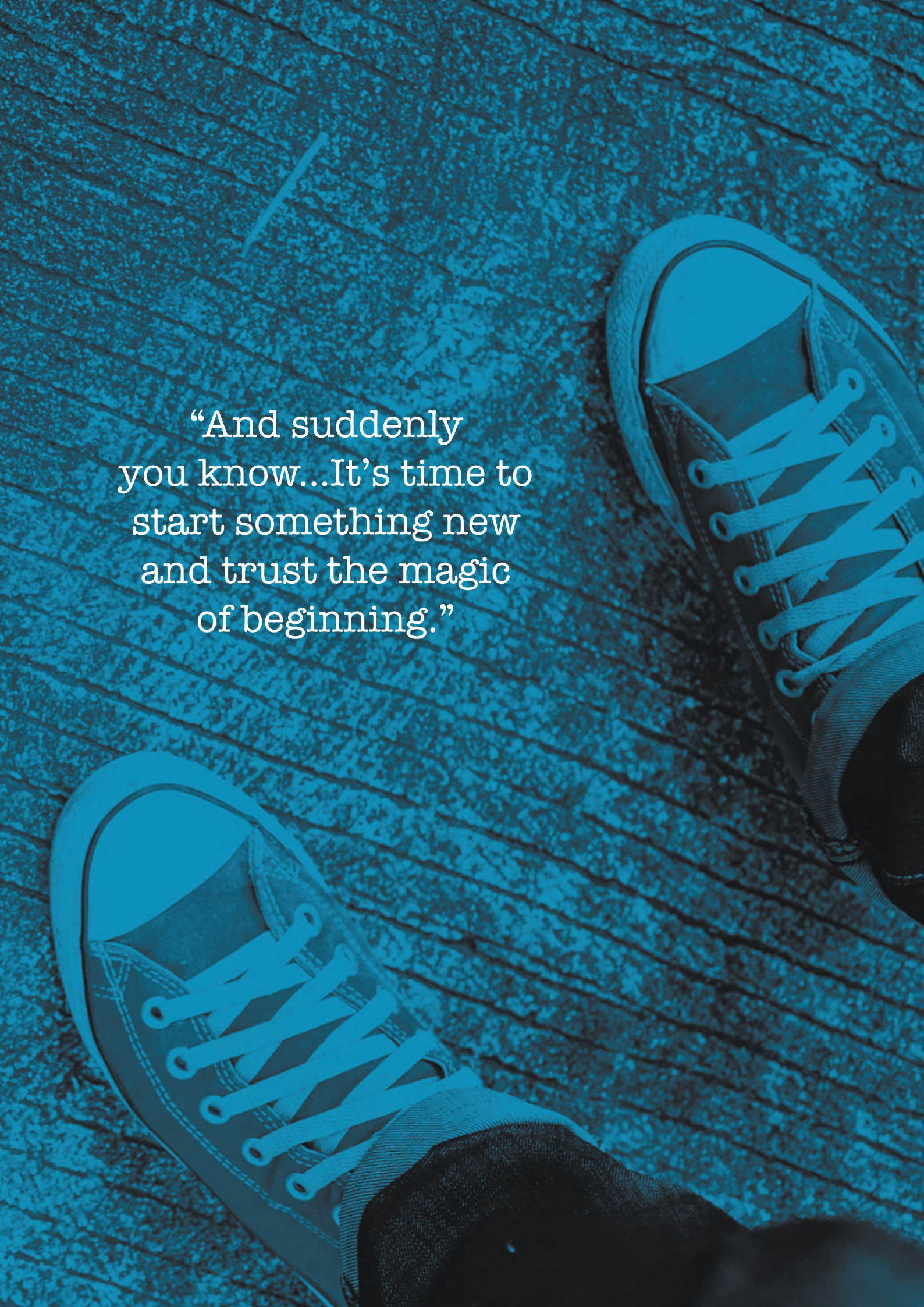
TaskForce's Work for the Dole programs provides job seekers with opportunities to gain skills and experience to enhance their employment prospects. With programs offered in; Bentleigh, Prahran, Frankston North, Narre Warren and Thornbury, over the past year we achieved outstanding results with an average 40 per cent of program participants gaining employment. This success was noted by jobactive (the Australian Government's employment service to help people into work) recognising TaskForce as a provider of choice for services that help individuals transition into the workforce, and is a credit to our facilitators, who work tirelessly to ensure participants gain the skills and self-confidence necessary to find a job.

One of the Work for the Dole's most successful initiative is Money4Jam, an innovative enterprise open to people serving a community-based or parole order. The program provides opportunity to learn new skills (workplace communication, cooking, budgeting) and be trained to prepare a range of foods from tasty, nutritious meals to jams and preserves, the latter of which are sold in selected stores across Melbourne.

Due to the program's success, and to provide increased opportunity for people to participate, we increased staff from two to six and expanded to five the training days offered at our Bentleigh kitchen. As well, we prepared meals for older people living alone who are members of the Thornbury and Narre Warren bowling clubs; those attending the Frankston North Community Centre and Prahran's Community Learning Centre, and those living at the Horace Petty public housing estate in Prahran.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

All TaskForce employment and youth services are based on a collaborative model, which brings together the skills and experience necessary to deliver programs. We work closely with a number of consortia, referral and advisory agencies, to ensure detailed understanding of, and access to, current systems and relevant services. These long-standing relationships and established partnerships contribute significantly to the success of our programs.



“And suddenly
you know...It’s time to
start something new
and trust the magic
of beginning.”

TAKING EACH DAY AS IT COMES

Mary* was just three-years-old when she first entered foster care. It would be six years before she was reunited with her mother, however that reunion was tinged with challenges, as Mary's mother was still suffering from substance abuse.

A turbulent childhood saw Mary leave home at a very young age and at 16 she moved interstate with her boyfriend. But again life proved difficult, with addiction challenges still part of her life, only this time the issues were with the boyfriend.

After moving to New Zealand, Mary fell pregnant and the couple's son was born. Soon after they decided to move back to Sydney. It wasn't long before they mutually agreed to separate.

Alone, with a young son to raise, Mary struggled.

"I couldn't keep up with life's financial demands. I soon lost my house and eventually moved into government housing. My son and I moved so often that he attended five different primary schools."

As Mary's life unraveled, she suffered depression and in time, became addicted to drugs. She became pregnant with her second son.

But life has a way of throwing up opportunities to those willing to accept them. And by chance, Mary stumbled across TaskForce, who referred her to Breaking the Barriers, the organisation's outreach program for mothers and expectant mothers who may be dependent on alcohol or other drugs.

Working on an outreach basis, TaskForce supports clients to access the treatment and services they need to get their life back on track.

"I've now been seeing my TaskForce counsellor for more than two years and I can't express how much she has helped me and my boys. She has given me back my strength and belief in myself and life. I know that I can survive, and will."

Now 36 with three beautiful boys of her own, Mary says she takes each day at a time.

"I love my children, no matter what. They are my reason for living, for not giving up and fighting as hard as I have to give them a home so they can play outside and feel safe."

*Not her real name

"I can't express how much she has helped me and my boys. She has given me back my strength and belief in myself and life. I know that I can survive, and will."



This image is used for visual purposes only, and the person is not related to the case study.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES REPORT

PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT

Why people withdraw or become disengaged from education can be contributed to by many factors: for some it's academic failure, illiteracy or family conflict, while for others it may be low socio-economic status or drug and alcohol abuse. It is known that such disengagement often leads to long-term welfare issues and an increased probability of becoming involved with the criminal justice system.

At TaskForce, we are committed to working with those at risk to provide them with access to accredited and pre-accredited courses to gain meaningful education and training. We also team with other community providers and employers to design innovative programs matched to future employment needs and expectations.

HEALING THROUGH ART

TaskForce's art therapy program provides clients with the opportunity to explore art as a form of therapeutic expression.

Established in 2011, the program offers a safe and supportive environment in which clients with alcohol and other drug issues can use art as a means for healing, relaxation and enjoyment. For many, the simple techniques of painting or drawing are enough to trigger steps towards recovery, allowing them to express feelings in colour and images rather than words.

Thanks to additional Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) funding, over the past year we have continued to develop our art program and now provide sessions every Monday for 10 clients in need.

In 2015, our art program received international attention from a delegate of health professionals from Thailand, in Melbourne to research drug and alcohol programs.

Attending a presentation held by Turning Point – Eastern Health's internationally recognised specialist alcohol and drug organisation – the delegate publicly praised TaskForce's Education and Training Manager, Angela Stathopoulos and Visual Art teacher, Juliette Goodall for the program's quality and the outstanding results it produced. The delegates, all health professionals working in state-run hospitals and rehabilitation centres, also visited our art studio, engaging in private art sessions, and observing groups actively participating in the program.

In April, we were thrilled to see the first of our Certificate I in Visual Arts students graduate from the course they began in February 2015. These eight clients have now started their Certificate II in Visual Arts.

Each course is designed to teach basic creative and technical skills underpinning all types of visual arts and offers a direct pathway into Certificate IV, diploma and degree art courses.

Now in its sixth year, TaskForce's annual art show continues to impress with the breadth of talent it attracts and sense of community collaboration it creates. Thanks to a solid relationship with the Kingston Art Centre, which is a strong supporter of TaskForce services, the annual exhibition provides the perfect venue and opportunity for our artists, and those from other Learn Local service providers, to come together in a powerful display that highlights the way in which art can be used as a therapeutic means to assist people as they aim to overcome the impact of addiction, domestic violence, mental illness and social isolation.

Feedback from our art program is overwhelmingly positive, with such comments as:

"This group improved my self-worth and offers a lovely, relaxing space where we all express ourselves."

"It is a safe haven."

"The art group helps me feel connected. Before engaging in art therapy, I found myself isolated, lost for direction and returning to old habits. The group gave me an opportunity to reconnect with my artistic side and produce work for the exhibition. Art therapy enabled me to work through my issues in a very powerful and healing way. I rediscovered my confidence and purpose."

NEW INITIATIVES

Targeting students at risk of leaving school early, or not completing their secondary studies, TaskForce successfully teamed with the Prahran Community Learning Centre to develop a new support program that aims to prepare participants to return to mainstream education wherever possible.

Aimed at students aged between 13 and 15 (Years 7-9), the Youth Education for Life and Learning Access (YELLA) south-east project is an academic intervention service designed to ensure student educational and behavioural goals are carefully designed in consultation with the individual, primary caregiver and relevant professionals. With the necessary support, we believe all students can be successful and achieve their academic goals.

The YELLA program offers two accredited qualifications – Certificate I, II and III in General Education for Adults and Certificate I and II in Visual Arts and enables participants to engage in education and training pathways matched to their needs and aspirations.

“There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”

C.S. Lewis

TASKFORCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TASKFORCE EXECUTIVE TEAM



John Bower
President
(Board Member: 2008 – current)



Rosetta Isma
Vice President
(Board Member: 1998 – current)



Dennis Liberis
Treasurer
(Board Member: 2013 – current)



Deborah Dobbie
Board Member
(Board Member: 2008 - current)



Chester Allan
Board Member
(Board Member: 2012 – current)



Trevor Williams
Board Member
(Board Member: 2013 – current)



Hyacinth Hancock
Board Member
(Board Member: 2013 – current)



Carrick McLellan
Board Member
(Board Member: 2013 – current)



Starting from the back left:
**Peter Stockton, Angela Stathopoulos,
Ray Blessing, David Paton,
Danny Alcock, Kate Forer, Fiona Grinwald,
Natalie Siegel, Tracey Fenton**



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Despite a challenging and changing economic and political environment, TaskForce continued to grow in a sustainable manner in 2015-2016 and recorded a \$96,686 surplus for the financial year.

Widespread sector changes throughout 2014-2015, including the ending of funding for Youth connections programs, necessitated a conscious drive to offset the income loss with new funding sources that would enable us to continue to deliver our mission. Our Education and Employment programs reported healthy growth and our presence in Melbourne's south-east was enhanced with a number of new partnerships that subsequently led to program growth in the region.

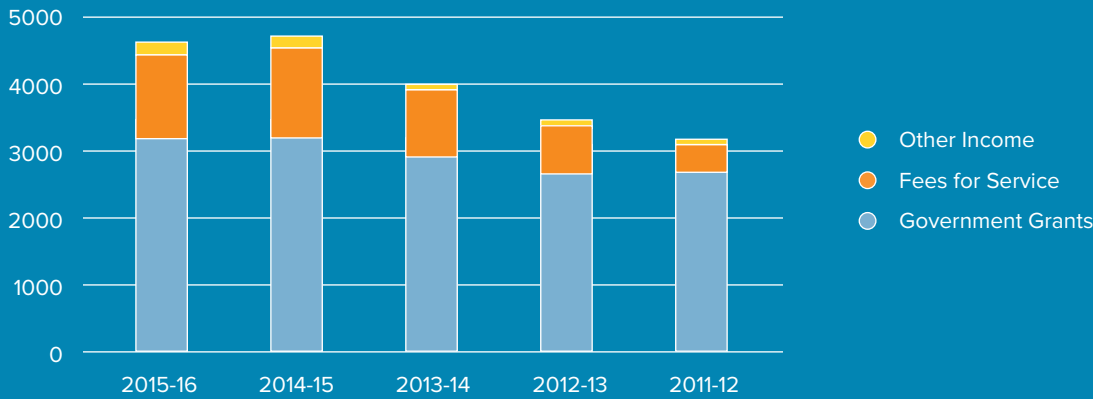
We experienced significant expansion in our Education programs, due in part to increased funding from ACFE, but also from an improved focus on Drink & Drug drive programs and an ACFE funded project Back to Front. The Back to Front program is aimed at small not for profits and investigating how they can share essential back of house services and make savings, thus releasing much needed funds to grow services.

Staff development continues to be a key priority for TaskForce as the organisation responds to the challenging and demanding environment in which we work and the increasing need for a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. In the past year staffing costs exceeded \$2.8 million representing almost 80 per cent of our total expenses (excluding payments to consortium partners). This figure includes investment in education and development programs to ensure staff have the skills and competency needed to deliver the best possible services.

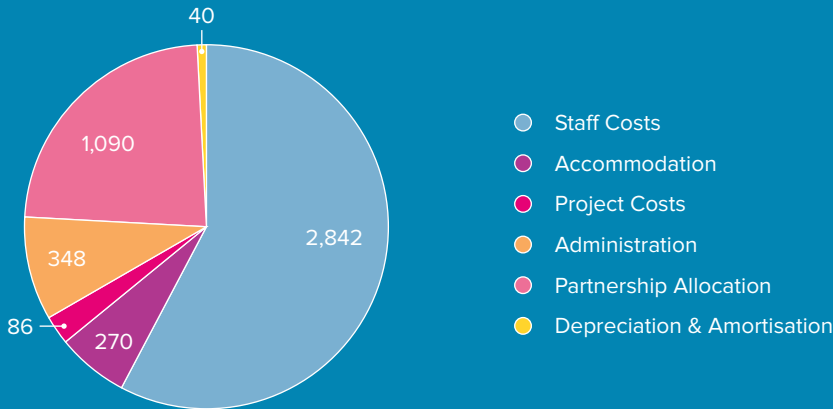
The TaskForce balance sheet remains healthy, with the organisation free from any long-term debt. Total equity is now in excess of \$2.6 million and we anticipate further growth in 2016-2017.

David Paton
Chief Financial Officer

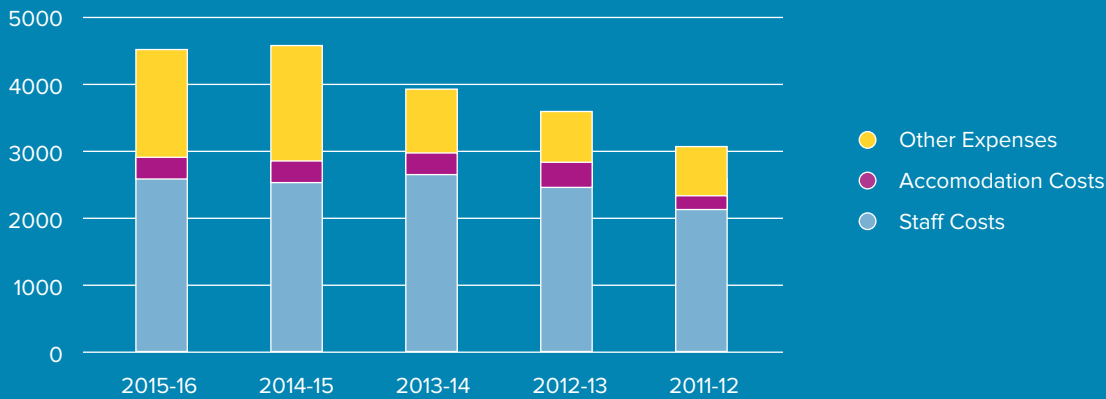
Five Year Income Chart



2015-16 Expense \$000's



Five Year Expenses Chart



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016	2015
INCOME			
Core Funding			
Government grants - State		2,309,985	2,094,736
Government grants - Commonwealth		584,268	1,261,674
Government grants - Work for the Dole		394,270	
Fees for Service			
ACSO Coats		294,134	257,674
Charitable foundations		95,820	77,323
Non government organisations		705,830	625,901
Local government		114,184	110,426
Seminars training and workshops		101,500	252,961
Other Income			
Donations		15,543	12,519
Rent received		55,745	122,651
Profit on sale of assets		-	22
Sundry		97,274	9,987
TOTAL INCOME		4,768,552	4,825,876
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Staff costs		2,841,912	2,749,772
Accommodation		269,829	300,838
Project costs		85,526	111,659
Administration		348,067	442,698
Partnership allocation		1,090,170	1,107,993
Depreciation & amortisation		39,658	37,607
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		4,675,162	4,750,567
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		93,390	75,309
Net Fair Gains / (Losses) on measurement of investments	6	3,296	48,631
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		96,686	123,940
Add Accumulated Surplus 1 July 2015		1,470,512	1,346,572
Add Revaluation Reserve Moorabbin Building		1,071,871	1,071,871
CAPITAL AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR		2,639,069	2,542,383

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016	2015
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets		421,953	389,504
Receivables		391,133	167,836
Investments at Market Value		769,808	775,854
Prepaid Expenses	2	28,479	12,765
Total Current Assets		1,611,373	1,345,959
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property Plant & Equipment			
Equipment & Motor Vehicles at cost	3	249,126	170,282
Land & Buildings and Improvement		2,032,168	2,021,845
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		2,281,294	2,192,127
Less Provision for Depreciation & Amortisation		(177,172)	(137,514)
Total Non Current Assets		2,104,122	2,054,613
TOTAL ASSETS		3,715,495	3,400,572
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors	4	307,324	256,911
Provision for Employee Entitlements		225,180	178,009
Grants in Advance	5	543,922	423,269
Total Current Liabilities		1,076,426	858,189
LONG TERM LIABILITIES			
Westpac Mortgage			
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,076,426	858,189
NET ASSETS		2,639,069	2,542,383
TOTAL EQUITY		2,639,069	2,542,383

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016	2015
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from Government Grants & Donations	9	3,582,658	3,614,085
Receipts from customers		1,067,537	1,359,103
Payments to suppliers		(2,071,942)	(2,385,822)
Payments for salaries		(2,465,978)	(2,433,373)
Net cash provided by operating activities	8	112,275	153,993
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of motor vehicles		(61,373)	-
Purchase of fixed assets		(27,794)	(35,093)
Proceeds from investments	6	9,342	12,030
Net cash used in investing activities		(79,825)	(23,063)
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held		32,450	130,930
Cash at beginning of the financial year		389,503	258,573
Cash at end of the financial year	7	421,953	389,503

NOTES TO & FORMING
PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report. The Board has determined that the Agency is not a reporting entity as defined in Statement of Accounting Concepts 1 'Definition of the Reporting Entity' and therefore, as there is no requirement to apply accounting standards in the preparation and presentation of this report, they have been adopted only to the extent shown in this note. The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic). The statements are prepared on an accruals basis, whereby items are brought to account as revenue earned or expenses incurred, from the records of the Agency. The following Australian accounting standards have been applied:

AASB101	Presentation of Financial Statement
AASB107	Statement of Cash Flows
AASB1031	Materiality
AASB108	Accounting Policies , Changes in Accounting Estimates and Events
AASB1048	Interpretation of Standards
AASB1054	Australian Additional Disclosures

(a) Income Tax The Agency is endorsed as an income tax exempt charitable entity under Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 so no provision for income tax has been raised.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment The purchase amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Agency, commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold Improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements. Refer (d) below for assets purchased with capital grants. The carrying amount of fixed assets is reviewed annually by the Committee of Management to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount of those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of expected cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to their present values in determining the recoverable amounts.

(c) Employee Entitlements Employee entitlements are calculated and accrued based on the Agency's liability in accordance with obligations calculated under current requirements. Long service leave is accrued for employees based on the likelihood of reaching entitlement. 100% of the entitlement is accrued for all employees with seven or more years service.

(d) Grants Some assets are purchased from funds received as grants and/or donations. When the asset is purchased, the relating grant and/or donation is recorded as income and the asset is fully depreciated in the year of purchase. The Committee of Management of TaskForce consider this non compliance with accepted accounting standards, as appropriate for the organisation.

(e) Provisions Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(f) Cash on Hand Cash on hand includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(g) Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

(h) Revenue and Other Income Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established. Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt. If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

NOTES TO & FORMING
PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

(i) Leases Leases of PPE, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset (but not the legal ownership) are transferred to the association, are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for that period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease term. Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

(j) Goods and Services Tax (GST) Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

(k) Financial Assets Investments in financial assets are initially recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value, which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through an equity reserve.

(l) Accounts Payable and Other Payables Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Agency during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

Note 2: Prepaid Expenses	2016	2015
Rent	13,227	11,974
Other	15,252	791
	28,479	12,765

Note 3: Property, Plant and Equipment		
Equipment at cost	129,434	111,962
Less Accumulated depreciation	(69,889)	(49,938)
	59,545	62,024
Land & Buildings at 421 South Road, Bentleigh at Revaluation Value	1,400,000	1,400,000
Land & Buildings at 423 South Road, Bentleigh at Cost	514,667	514,667
Less Accumulated depreciation	-	-
	1,914,667	1,914,667
Motor Vehicles at cost	119,692	58,320
Less Accumulated depreciation	(53,477)	(48,504)
	66,215	9,816
Building Improvements at cost	117,501	107,178
Less Accumulated amortisation	(53,806)	(39,072)
	63,695	68,106
	2,104,122	2,054,613

Note 4: Payables		
GST & Group Tax Payable	114,254	123,070
Trade Creditors and Accruals	193,070	133,841
	307,324	256,911

Note 5: Grants in Advance / : Friends of TaskForce		
Friends of TaskForce monies historically is used for specific purposes, expended in the financial year after it's receipt. Unspent Friends of TaskForce monies have been transferred to Grants in Advance, to be expended in the coming financial year on Board approved projects.		
Beginning balance Friends of TaskForce	51,396	44,346
Friends of TaskForce Income 2015-16	6,400	10,250
Less expended on specific projects in 2015-16	(5,850)	(3,200)
Balance Friends of TaskForce	51,946	51,396
Sundry project grants	490,740	370,972
Social Club	1,236	901
Balance Grants in Advance	543,922	423,269

NOTES TO & FORMING
PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Note 6: Investment Income

	2016	2015
Refund of Imputation Credits & GST	9,342	12,030
Less Management fee	(7,612)	(7,585)
Unrealised Gain (Loss) on Investment	1,567	44,186
Net Investment Income	3,297	48,631

Note 7: Reconciliation of cash

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash included cash at bank and cash at call. Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows

Cash at bank & on hand	421,953	389,504
	421,953	389,504

Note 8: Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to operating surplus/(deficit)

Operating surplus/ (deficit)	93,390	75,309
Add back		
Depreciation	39,657	37,134
Decrease/ (increase) in receivables and other assets	(223,296)	75,190
Decrease/ (increase) in prepayments	(15,714)	53,339
Increase/ (decrease) in payables and accrued expenses	97,585	(105,762)
Increase/ (decrease) in Grants in Advance	120,653	18,783
Net cash provided by operating activities	112,275	153,993

Note 9: Receipts from Government Grants

Department of Health Victoria	1,649,210	1,290,373
Stepping Up Consortium	629,635	740,207
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	652,820	981,888
ACSO Coats	294,134	257,674
Dept of Infrastructure	15,000	-
Department of Justice	16,140	62,100
Department of Health & Ageing - Health Strategies	325,719	281,843
	3,582,658	3,614,085

Note 10 : Statement of Changes in Equity

Equity as at June 30 2015	1,470,512	1,346,572
Surplus (Net Income) 2015-16	96,686	123,940
Reserve on Revaluation on 421 South Road Moorabbin	1,071,871	1,071,871
Balance of Equity as at June 30 2016	2,639,069	2,542,383

Note 11 : Leasing Commitments

Operating Leases

Lease payments payable being for Motor Vehicles		
- not later than 12 months	38,774	23,187
- between 12 months and five years	38,700	13,933
- later than five years	-	-
	77,474	37,120

being for Office rentals		
- not later than 12 months	107,886	93,638
- between 12 months and five years	71,532	75,499
- later than five years	-	-
	179,418	169,137

FRIENDS OF
TASKFORCE

TaskForce gratefully acknowledges the support we receive from federal, state and local governments, trusts and philanthropic groups, the corporate sector, community organisations and individuals, whose support is financial, in-kind and pro-bono.

In particular we would like to acknowledge and thank:

GOVERNMENT AND
COMMUNITY AGENCIES

ACSO	Frankston North Community Centre
ACFE (Adult Community & Further Education)	Fruit2Work
Hon Andrew Robb AO, former Australian Minister for Trade and Investment	Grow Your Heart Kitchen
Anglicare	Headspace
Australian Catholic University	Higher Education and Skills Group
Australian Government Department of Education	Inner Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network (IELLEN)
Australian Government Department of Employment	Inner Melbourne VET Cluster
Australian Government Department of Health	Interact Australia
Australian Government Department of Human Services	Jesuit Services
Bayside Glen Eira Kingston Local Learning and Employment Network (BGKLLN)	Kelly O'Dwyer MP Federal Member for Higgins, Minister for Revenue and Financial Services
Biccys Op Shop Supporters Inc	Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Services
Brotherhood of St Laurence	Martin Foley MP, Victorian Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Cardinia Shire	Hon Mary Woolridge MP
Central Bayside Community Health Services	MatchWorks
Chisholm Institute of TAFE	Max Employment
City of Casey	Moir
City of Glen Eira	Monash Health
City of Kingston	Moorabbin Magistrates Court
City of Stonnington	The Nappy Collective
David Southwick MP	Narre Warren Bowling Club
Department of Education and Training Victoria – Adult Community and Further Education	Nick Staikos MP Bentleigh
Department of Education and Training Victoria – Higher Skills Education Group	Odyssey House Victoria
Department of Health and Human Services Victoria	Hon Philip Dalidakis MP, Victorian Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Department of Justice and Regulation Victoria	Prahran Community Learning Centre
Echo Australia	Primary Care Partnership
	The Salvation Army Employment Plus
	Share the Dignity
	Skills Plus
	South East Melbourne Primary Health Network
	Streat
	Thirteen BarMitzvah Program
	Twelve BatMitzvah Program
	Hon Wade Noonan MP, Victorian Minister for Industry, Employment and Resources
	Windana
	Youth Projects
	YSAS

TaskForce acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



TaskForce acknowledges the support of the Federal Government.



PRO-BONO SUPPORTERS

CHE Proximity
Peter C Cowan
Eibhlin Fletcher
GroszCo Lab
KW Doggett
Lithocraft
McCormick Australia
Michael Robinson
Miele
Procter & Gamble
Professional Pathways
Shutterstock
Stocksy

VOLUNTEERS

Lynne Burley
Irina Donald
Stephen Helfenbaum
Teresa Ma
Glenys Pattinson
Udo Polzin

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORTERS

Ansvar Insurance
ANZ Seeds of Renewal
Collier
Danks Trust
Equity Trustees
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal
G & E Ramsey - Perpetual
Kingston Charitable Fund
Kingston City Council
Kiwanis Brighton
Marian & EH Flack Trust
Matana Foundation
RACV
Robert Halliday & Associates
Rotary Club of Bentleigh Moorabbin Central
Rotary Club of Clayton

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As a not-for-profit organisation, TaskForce receives funding primarily through federal and state governments, local government tenders, philanthropic trusts and foundations and donations from our generous supporters.

Our core services focus on supporting people with a range of social issues, including addiction, unemployment, mental health and high risk-taking behaviours. We are committed to supporting our clients to transition back into 'mainstream' services that will best enable them to reach their potential.

But we need your help to achieve this. There are many ways to support our organisation, including:

BECOME A FRIEND OF TASKFORCE

Friends of TaskForce demonstrate their commitment to our organisation by making financial contributions to support our ongoing work in the community. These Friends are invaluable to our success.

Through their incredible support we have:

- Increased educational programs to better support clients
- Directed money to assist in geographical hot spots of troubled youths
- Helped finance activities that receive little or no government funding
- Funded the Burnett Family Scholarship, which is used to develop skills, education and learning of TaskForce staff.

Donations from Friends come in many forms – financial, in-kind or pro-bono and we gratefully acknowledge the support we receive. To make a contribution, or to find out more about becoming a Friend of TaskForce call **(03) 9532 0811** or email **enquiries@taskforce.org.au**

DONATE

Your donation, no matter the size, will make a difference to changing the life of someone in need. It might be to provide education and training to seek employment, or counselling to assist with a long-term drug or alcohol problem. Everyone deserves a chance at life. You can donate online at **www.taskforce.org.au** or by calling **(03) 9532 0811**.

BEQUEST

By making a bequest to TaskForce in your Will*, you have the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy that will continue to make a difference for many years to come. To speak with someone about leaving a bequest to us call **(03) 9532 0811** or email **enquiries@taskforce.org.au**

*Before making or modifying your Will, we recommend you seek independent legal advice from a solicitor or trustee company. This will help ensure your Will accurately reflects how you want your gift to be used.

VOLUNTEER

TaskForce is fortunate to be supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who make an invaluable contribution to our organisation. Our vibrant and growing volunteer community includes participants from all age groups and walks of life, including tertiary students, parents and retirees.

Our volunteers are involved in a range of 'front-of-house' and 'behind-the-scenes' activities – from assisting in art and cooking programs to helping with office tasks.

To find out more visit **www.taskforce.org.au** or call **(03) 9532 0811**.

TASKFORCE LOCATIONS

BENTLEIGH

421-423 South Road
Bentleigh
VIC 3204

T: 03 9532 0811
F: 03 9532 1830

CRANBOURNE

61 High Street
Cranbourne
VIC 3977

T: 03 5991 8001

DANDENONG

50-54 Robinson Street
Dandenong
VIC 3175

T: 03 8738 1490
F: 03 9794 6596

SOUTH YARRA

60 Wilson Street
South Yarra
VIC 3141

T: 03 9826 9888
F: 03 9824 2344

PAKENHAM

46 James Street
Pakenham
VIC 3810

T: 03 5943 3800

