



TaskForce

Where hope finds help.

Celebrating
40 Years

2013 Annual Report

Celebrating 40 years



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Vision, Mission & Values

TaskForce

Where hope finds help.

Our Vision

Giving life changing opportunities for those most in need.

Our Mission

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



I am again pleased to report that TaskForce had a most successful year. Central to everything we do is the pursuit of our Vision to give life changing opportunities for those in categories of social need for which we have appropriate expertise and skills. This continues to be done in ways that are aligned with our established and well defined Values.

TaskForce met most of the operational objectives that had been established for the year and financially we again ensured there was no operating deficit. With Australian financial markets performing more strongly, our investment portfolio which provides TaskForce with a financial safety net, gave us a positive return.

As highlighted last year, consolidation of the Not-for-Profit (NFP) sector remains a priority of government no matter what its political persuasion. It is generally felt there are too many organisations with too little differentiation, all competing for the same government grants and donor dollars. There is a particular aversion from funding bodies to finance administration costs though NFPs are facing ever more costly, red tape and regulatory requirements. TaskForce continues to seek ways to adapt to these

President's Report

realities - participation in Consortiums is one avenue we continue to engage in, another is increased focus on good governance practices within the organisation - a priority in the new year.

In 2013 TaskForce celebrated 40 years of incorporation. The highlights of the celebrations were an event with the key note address by the Victorian Minister for Community Services, Mental Health, Disability Services & Reform, the Hon Mary Wooldridge and the launch of a book on our history. We were fortunate that most efforts and costs associated with both were covered by pro bono support and special donations by a number of organisations and individuals - I sincerely thank them all.

Another key project during the year was the acquisition of the building adjoining our Moorabbin premises. This has enabled our management and administration groups to relocate from our now downsized leased Prahran building thereby lowering costs and driving greater efficiencies, particularly now our operational focus is growing in the outer south-eastern growth areas of Melbourne. Again considerable pro bono assistance allowed this to be completed at lower than normal commercial cost for which we are most appreciative.

I thank the Board (Committee of Management) for their exemplary hard work and ongoing support. Regeneration of the Board continued during the year: Eddie McFall and Andrew Davenport resigned - their contributions are much appreciated. Chester Allan, who has long commercial experience and significant involvement in

community initiatives, joined the Board, as did Trevor Williams. Trevor, a former investment banker, has a long time association with TaskForce managing our investment portfolio at Deutsche Bank as well as assisting other NFPs.

The staff and Executive group, very capably led by CEO Ray Blessing, continue with their dedicated work providing specialist support for people in serious need. During the year the excellence of their work was recognised by a number of awards and philanthropic grants. I congratulate them on this and thank them for their great efforts so passionately undertaken. Our CFO, Sunder Madabushi, completed his two year engagement; after an extensive overseas trip, he will take up a position in Alice Springs helping disadvantaged indigenous communities. David Paton, from the Australian Drug Foundation, replaces Sunder and I welcome him to the team.

Last but not least I wish to thank our supporters and friends - their contributions are varied and play an important part in our being a highly successful community organisation.

John H. Bower

CEO's Report

We live in a society where there is a growing gap between the incomes of the rich and poor. This was verified in a study conducted by the Australian Council of Social Services in 2012 estimating that over 2 million people, including 575,000 children, lived in households below the most austere poverty line. This gap is further exacerbated by the level of youth unemployment at 11.6% in May 2013. Having a person with a job is one of the keys to family stability and harmony.

In these circumstances, charities such as TaskForce have a critical role to support the most vulnerable in society, particularly as governments pursue the task of bringing public spending under control. Our clients are children who have dropped out of school or adults who have a combination of justice issues, drug and alcohol and/or mental health issues. Many of these issues are further complicated by unemployment, low levels of income and a shortage of suitable and safe accommodation.

TaskForce celebrated its first 40 years of community service with a public event in April 2013. The event had a display of client art work and a video of client stories as a centrepiece surrounding the launch of 'How the Light Shines In', the History of TaskForce Community Agency, written by Tom Valenta. The story is recognition of the many staff and volunteers who have contributed to positive life changing experiences for some of the most vulnerable people in our community. It is important to learn from history and the evidence is that TaskForce, through its tough times, has built a resilience and foundation that is very sturdy and suited to the changing times that we now operate in. TaskForce has maintained a focus on counselling, education and employment outcomes as part of our successful strategy.

In order for governments to address the demand for improved service, reform is underway to improve outcomes, efficiency and connection between services to better use existing resources to support vulnerable families. Reform of the AoD sector by the Victorian Government is gathering pace and TaskForce is working with partner agencies to participate effectively in the recommissioning process. TaskForce recognises the need for improved cross sector partnerships and making it easier for clients to move between services in a seamless fashion. TaskForce has supported trials of the new client assessment tools and is positively embracing the new direction for AoD services.

We continue to develop and adapt our services to address the needs of our clients. A great example is the growth of our Money4Jam program. Originally developed out of a close partnership with Corrections Victoria, this skills based program supports people referred from Corrections Victoria by providing training in food preparation. It increases their skills and employment outcomes and is coupled with support and counselling. The success of this program was recognised earlier this year when Money4Jam received the Award for Projects Involving Diversity, Indigenous and Aged or Prisoners in this year's Corrections Victoria Community Work Partnership Awards.

With funding support from a range of philanthropic funds, we have been able to further develop and trial the Money4Jam program in other settings and with other vulnerable groups such as at-risk youth and indigenous groups. This support is also allowing us to undertake work to have the training formally accredited, which in turn will allow the program to access more stable funding opportunities.

Through TaskForce's dynamic team at Moorabbin, we have established an exciting Art Therapy program, which culminated in an art exhibition being held at the Kingston Art Gallery and Prahran, showcasing a wonderful exhibition of clients' work. Thanks must go to Art Therapist Juliette Goodall, who has passionately led the program and delivered great outcomes. We acknowledge the tremendous support of Westpac Bank, particularly Jayd Kewming and his staff at the Collins Street branch, where our clients' work is on display.

TaskForce's innovative 'Allied Health Services' has also grown and provides services to Job Service Australia providers including MatchWorks and Salvation Army Employment Plus. This service supports job seekers with long-term mental health and/or addiction issues, providing counsellors in a setting to work both one-on-one and in group scenarios as clients prepare to transition back to employment. This program fills a service gap for people with AoD and/or mental health issues who face multiple barriers to employment.

The development of our new web site and production of the TaskForce video were significant additions to our communication activities during the past year.

It was very pleasing that the Federal Government, through the Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations, extended the Youth Connections program to December 2014. TaskForce delivers Youth Connections programs across Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs, where we are successfully engaging young people disengaged or at risk of disengaging from education. TaskForce delivers the services in consortiums that include Youth Xpress, South East Youth Connections and the Peninsula Youth Services - all operating to deliver positive outcomes for young people.

TaskForce continues to build strong relationships with our stakeholders, philanthropy supporters and consortium partners. We are truly fortunate to receive outstanding support from the Federal Government through its Department of Health and Ageing and Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. We additionally have wonderful support from Victoria's Department of Health, Department of Justice, Skills Victoria and Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE). We are dedicated to relationships built on trust with individuals and agencies that share our values and commitment to holistic client services.

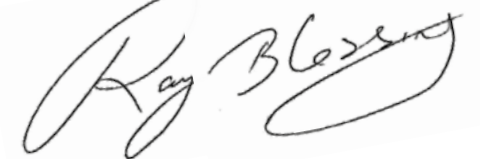
TaskForce has built a skilled and dedicated team working across our services, supported by an energetic and committed Executive Team, which includes; Salli Englander, David Paton, Tracey Fenton, Danny Alcock, Denise Abadee, Tracy Shoshan and Natalie Siegel. Decisions at TaskForce are made through a consultative framework with shared accountability and ownership and the support

and leadership we receive daily from the Executive Team is truly appreciated.

The long-term success of TaskForce is ensured by a highly competent, professional and dynamic Board, led by our President John Bower, from whom I receive great guidance and support. The TaskForce Board is passionate about our clients and committed to providing our staff with the education, tools and resources they need to deliver the best possible services. We are fortunate to have a Board that is governance-focused and allows the Executive to deliver results in line with our annual budget and strategic plan.

We appreciate the ongoing support from the Friends of TaskForce and the Burnett Family for funding our staff scholarships. The Money4Jam program has received significant support from the following Trusts: Helen Macpherson Smith Trust; RM Ansett Trust; Phylliss Connor Memorial Trust; Danks Trust; and RE Ross Trust.

Finally, I look forward to the year ahead where we will continue to deliver services to the most vulnerable in our communities; respond positively to Government reforms; and work with community agencies to continue to innovate for client benefit. We will continue to work to support the change process and ensure our consumers are at the heart of every service we deliver and the programs we provide.



Ray Blessing



CFO's Report

which returned increased revenue of almost 50% on 2011-12 results. The TaskForce Allied Health Program (formerly Wrap Around Services Program) also experienced a solid increase in revenue and this program has further potential growth in the 2013-14 financial year.

TaskForce remains an agency with a strong people development focus and staffing costs in 2012-13 again accounted for 70% of total expenditure. This figure includes wages and the investment in the training and development of our staff.

Two significant events impacted on the financial results for the year; the purchase of a building and subsequent renovations.

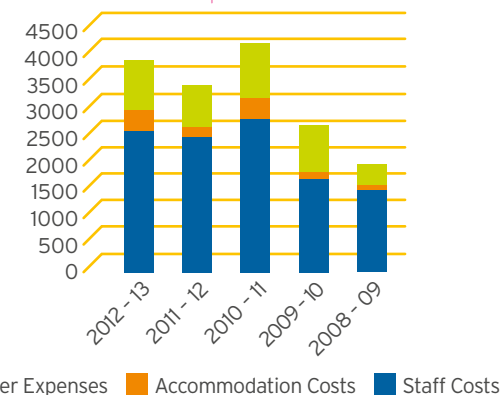
In January the opportunity arose to purchase land and buildings at 423 South Road Moorabbin, adjacent to premises already owned at 421 South Road.

This purchase was seen as a strategically significant opportunity for TaskForce to unify administration and client services at our main centre. Following Board approval, the purchase was completed and funded with monies redeemed from our long term investment.

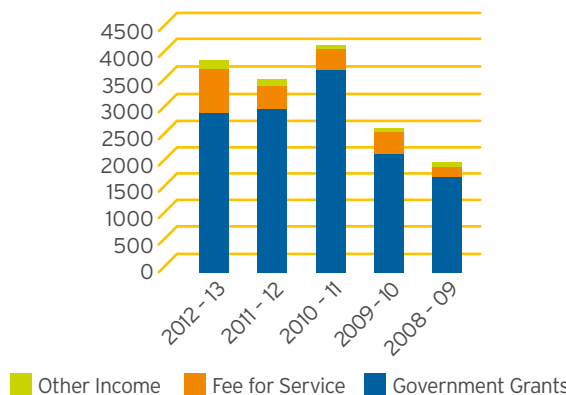
Following the purchase of 423 South Road and subsequent renovations, Head Office staff relocated to Moorabbin in June, resulting in a mutually beneficial closer working environment for clinical and administrative staff. The renovations have been capitalised and will be depreciated over future years, however the costs of relocation have been brought to account in 2012-13.

We await net investment results, however it is anticipated that the more favourable global economic conditions in this financial year will result in a positive return.

Five Year Expenses Chart



Five Year Income Chart



For full audited financial statements please refer to TaskForce website www.taskforce.org.au



From the Executive:

Over the past 12 months TaskForce has ensured that our partnerships have continued to thrive and be successful. We have gained recognition across Melbourne as demonstrating a benchmark for effective partnerships and consortiums.

Our Youth Connections services consist of three varied partnership models that provide disengaged youth innovative and engaging programs to assist them in returning to education and employment and support them with the challenges that life may present. In 2012-13 TaskForce Youth Services staff worked with over 1,600 clients and their families across Southern Melbourne. We increased our presence in the Cardinia Shire especially the outer regions such as Koo Wee Rup and Emerald; these areas have limited service provision for young people and our Youth Connections team has been welcomed by both community and local services. We also expanded our delivery of 'Caring Again' - a support program for people who are primary carers for their grandchildren or nieces/nephews - to three groups across Southern Melbourne.

All Youth Connections programs were delighted to have their contracts extended to the end of 2014. This allows the continued opportunity to work with many of the young people in this target group who present with complex social and emotional problems, often exacerbated or caused by experience of, or exposure to, family violence. This contributes to the difficulty these young people face in participating and remaining in school and/

or training, hence they are over-represented in the cohort which Youth Connections programs service. Our staff provide a service that young people are keen to access, which is successfully providing pathways to sustainable education or employment options.

In 2012-2013 we increased our partnerships in education with the development of a peer education program in partnership with Sharc; delivery of Youth Mental Health First Aid in partnership with Alfred CYMH's, Cities of Stonnington and Port Phillip. We further increased our delivery of foundation courses with the employment of two new trainers who have also been incorporated into our Money4Jam programs.

This year TaskForce completed the re-registration process conducted by The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to continue our delivery of accredited training. This process took up a great deal of our time and effort and I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the Education team for all their hard work, effort and patience during this process.

As a Learn Local provider we continue to deliver a variety of pre-accredited programs that assist us with engaging clients and provide positive activities for people to participate in. Included in these programs is 'ArtSpace' - an art program, 'My Life in the Spotlight' - a program for young people interested in the performing arts, 'Intro to Horticulture' - a horticulture program for young men. Our thanks to the ACFE Board, Chair Rowena Allen and our local Southern

Partnerships & Strategy

Metropolitan Region of ACFE, for their continued support with funding and professional development opportunities and we look forward to a continued successful relationship.

develop and grow new programs that we hope will become sustainable in the future.

Our staff provide a service that young people are keen to access and which is successfully providing pathways to sustainable education or employment options.

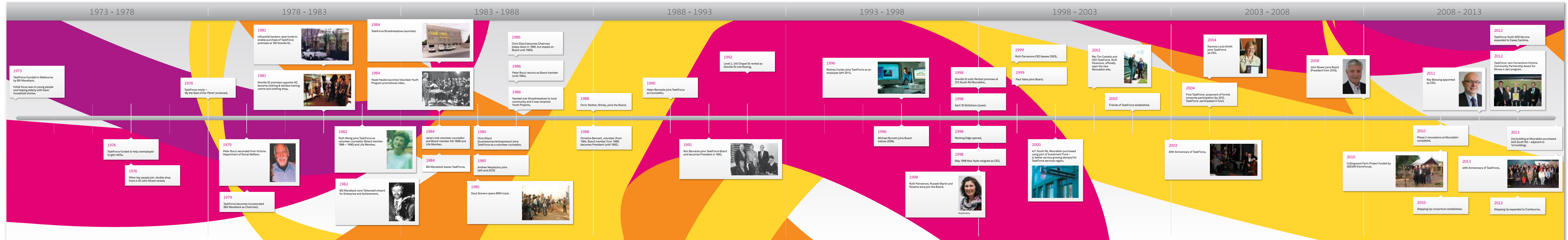
2012-2013 also marked the three year review cycle for QIC (Quality Improvement Council). The review process enabled us to examine our processes and procedures across the Agency. The development of new programs and changes to current programs meant this periodical review was both timely and necessary in our ongoing quality process. I would like to thank all TaskForce staff for their support and contribution during the review.

In 2012-2013 we were successful in a number of applications to philanthropic bodies who provided funds and support for a variety of new programs including 'Tucker for All' - an indigenous life skills program, delivery of Mental Health Education to young people and support for developing Money4Jam into an accredited course. Without philanthropic funding these pilot programs would not have been possible and we would like to thank them all for their support in allowing us to

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my staff, the TaskForce Board, CEO and Executive Team for their support and assistance in making our services successful and well respected throughout Victoria, particularly in the Southern Region of Melbourne. It is through their hard work and innovation that TaskForce is a leader in youth service provision and a leader in delivery of successful partnerships. Our programs would not work as efficiently and effectively without our partners and the ongoing support they provide to our services. I thank everyone for their support in this challenging year and look forward to providing continued successful and effective services in the coming year.

Tracey Fenton

TaskForce Community Agency 40 Year History





2012-13 has been a remarkable year of growth, change and development, not only within the 4Cs team but across TaskForce at large. This can be marked by reflecting on the following;

- In November 2012 Money4Jam was nominated and successful in being awarded a Corrections Victoria 2012 Community Work Partnerships Award for Diversity. The Award was presented by Andrew McIntosh Minister for Corrections and Gaming at the MCG recognising the outstanding work achieved by all those involved in the program. We anticipate the program will continue to grow and create more opportunities for participants into the future. We were also lucky to gain philanthropic funding to employ a trainer to incorporate Certificate of General Education into the program. This fantastic resource has enhanced the educational outcomes of the program and allowed us to deliver to indigenous communities and clients in Pakenham and Dandenong.

From the Executive

Counselling & Community Services

- In May 2013 we relocated all Counselling staff into a newly refurbished office at 423 South Rd Moorabbin, administration staff previously located in Prahran moved to Moorabbin. The transition went extremely well with all staff enjoying the new environment. It has been great having both 4Cs and the forensic teams located in the same office and there has been great team support, communication and sharing of ideas and resources.
- Group activity continues to be a focus and is seen as a crucial element for AoD services at Moorabbin. Through a combination of peer support and structured therapy, groups enable participants to be challenged and overcome issues such as isolation, depression and anxiety as well as provide some structure and daily routine. Groups we currently run are Art Therapy, Acupuncture, AoD Psycho Education (Vito's group), AWaRE (Alcohol Wellbeing and Risk Education), DrugWise, Parent Forums (in the community), Friends and Family Peer support (BEST in partnership with Odyssey House) and many other community events.
- In July we commenced a Youth AoD program in the Cardinia Casey region. This pilot program was put together after a noticeable increase in young people presenting with substance misuse issues. This pilot was very successful with local services providing a plethora of referrals and increase delivery of education programs to local schools and youth services and positive outcomes in the lives of our clients.
- 4C's targets were exceeded in all areas this year which is a fantastic achievement by the team. It has been an extremely challenging year for staff in terms of new synthetic substances on the market and uncertainty with regard to funding due to the Victorian Government AoD reform. The resilience and quest for learning and development that has been demonstrated by all staff is reflective of the quality outcomes that clients are continuing to achieve. The clinical AoD team at Moorabbin maintain TaskForce Values and I am very proud to be managing such an incredible group of people who ensure our clients' journey through our service is as streamlined and seamless as possible. From the first point of contact with TaskForce at reception we pride ourselves on listening to client needs. Recovery is an individual process and does not have a beginning or an end.

Every day I am inspired by the unwavering and unconditional support provided by staff, participants and the wider community to those facing significant barriers or obstacles along their journey. TaskForce continues to fly the flag in the face of adversity and provide support and opportunities for members of the community to rise to the challenge and improve their quality of life.

Danny Alcock



The past year has seen significant growth within the Forensic Program. I would like to acknowledge our incredibly skilled and committed staff whose fantastic work continues to enable TaskForce to exceed targets and deliver great outcomes.

Resulting from our enhanced community profile and strong relationship with the Clinical team, we have witnessed considerably higher rates of referrals from the courts, corrections, COATS, police, self-referrals and other key stakeholders. As a result our episodes of care have increased by 100 over the past 12 months.

In the preceding year we received funding for an additional two positions, which has again been funded for a further 12 months, enabling the staff to develop and facilitate a greater range of programs supporting clients in achieving their goals. Additionally, we have invested in a full time Forensic Youth Outreach Clinician position to further enhance the range of services the program delivers. This ensures timely access to a broader consumer group, reducing offending and increasing community safety. Through the provision of outreach services, clients who have difficulty in attending site-based services have a heightened opportunity to complete their respective orders and succeed in achieving aspirations.

COATS and DoH have funded a Specialist Pharmacotherapy program, aimed at assisting clients with methadone treatment and counselling, linking clients to our doctors, enhancing our capacity to work collaboratively

Forensic & Specialist Services

and reducing the harms associated with problematic alcohol and other drugs usage.

The TaskForce Forensic team has increased the number of student placement opportunities available to Masters/PHD students in Psychology across our Prahran and Moorabbin sites. Ten provisional psychologists from Australian Catholic University, Deakin and Swinburne have completed six month placements with us during the year.

A positive distinction between the TaskForce student placement program and that of other organisations is the valuable connection to our RTO. This provided our placement students with the opportunity to attain their Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs with training provided in-house by our RTO. The student placement program provides a rich resource in offering a broader tapestry of client and clinician matching, along with the bonus in attracting quality staff upon completion of their placement.

Importantly, the credibility of the Forensic Program has seen our invitation and successful participation in several pilot programs such as 'Penelope', a web based program designed to reduce the paper based communication required for forensic programs. TaskForce, in collaboration with COATS and Moorabbin Corrections, is working towards streamlining the services for this very important client group. As a mechanism to further streamline services statewide the Turning Point developed Adult Assessment Tool was implemented within our practices.

Notably we have sought to enhance our skills and therapeutic outcomes by undertaking evidence-based training and learning in

addition to regular professional and peer supervision provided by Caraniche, Turning Point; AoD Workforce training, trauma and supervision training.

The support of key agencies is critical to the success of the Forensic Program. These agencies include court support services, COATS, corrections, CREDIT, CISP, ARC, VADDS, Jasper Family Medical Practice, Australian Catholic University, Deakin University, Swinburne Employment Plus, Moorabbin Justice Centre and the Magistrates Court of Victoria.

TaskForce Allied Health Services in the Southern Region continues to provide AoD and mental health counselling for stream four referrals from Job Services providers.

Over the last 12 months, TaskForce has commenced facilitating a Department of Health accredited Drink Drive program to people with drink driving convictions. We provide alcohol assessments along with alcohol education and awareness group programs and court reports. Currently the program is initially operating at Moorabbin and future expansion is anticipated.

My thanks and gratitude is extended to the TaskForce Administrative Team, along with our valued Board of Management, CEO and my Executive Team colleagues, all of whom make it easier to provide the valuable services for our ever growing client programs.

Denise Abadee

TaskForce Allied Health Services

This past year has been a period of metamorphosis for our team. Our growth and transformation led to a name change, so what was once WAS (Wrap Around Services) is now TAHS (TaskForce Allied Health Services). The central aim of TAHS is to translate our commitment to client recovery and wellbeing into real-world outcomes. To this end, a key evolving aspect of our program has been, and continues to be, the creation and implementation of dynamic, multi-level, evidence-based treatment and care interventions.

These interventions address the individual needs and aspirations of our clients and facilitate and support their self-care and positive connections to friends, family and communities.

In seeking to improve both the quality of, and access to, mental health care for our complex job seeker clients, TAHS has enhanced their associations with existing Jobs and Disability Services partners and helped broker new partnerships through a series of information and educational presentations to JSA/DES managers and consultants. As a result of a two-fold increase in counselling referrals since the beginning of this year, the team has expanded from four clinicians in July 2012 to 10 in June 2013. We are also in the process of finalising registration for Medicare funding for the provision of psychological services, an exciting and challenging move that should enable many of our neediest clients to obtain more extensive psychological support.

In order to meet both the clinical objectives of TAHS as well as the requirements of Medicare, our expansion of the clinical team has focused

on securing the services of professionally registered psychologists and social workers. In addition to their strong clinical skills, we are particularly pleased to note that our TAHS team members are from very diverse cultural, experiential and philosophical backgrounds. Consequently, our team practices and directions are informed by a rich blend of perspectives, clinical skills and knowledge, and grass-roots experiences. These qualities have made a valuable contribution to TAHS' aim to provide meaningful, collaborative, multidisciplinary interventions.

TAHS is currently a work in progress and I would like to thank Ray Blessing, TaskForce Board Members, Sunder Madabushi, David Paton and Natalie Siegel for their support during our evolution. While TAHS commences 2013-2014 with great enthusiasm, we nonetheless remember the contrast between the joy of celebrating TaskForce's amazing 40 year achievement and the darkness of our colleague David Harris' tragic passing. David was, and in many ways remains, the heart of the WAS/TAHS program. His charismatic presence is still so strong and his name so often uttered by his TaskForce colleagues, Matchworks staff and the clients that he touched so deeply. As for the team, we honour David's insight, compassion and his extraordinary life-force.

To David!



Salli Engleander



The Board



John Bower - President (Board Member: 2008 - current)

John is semi-retired after a long career in international business with The Gillette Company in Australasia, Europe and Asia. He is now a part-time management consultant and company director. John became President of TaskForce in 2010.



Ron Barnacle - Immediate Past President (Board Member: 1990 - current)

Ron first joined the committee of TaskForce more than two decades ago and has been our longest-serving President. He began his own very successful marketing communications company then had senior roles in the Clemenger Communications Group. He is now a director of several companies and not-for-profit organisations. Ron's long and many contributions to TaskForce were recognised in 2010 when our refurbished Moorabbin clinic was named in his honour.



Sue Bradshaw - Vice President (Board Member: 2005 - current)

Sue has had a successful track record in planning, leading and mobilising key strategic projects, service developments and reviews. She was National Health and Wellbeing Manager at Medibank and has held a range of senior health and community service positions in both Victoria and Queensland.



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

Rosetta is a long serving Board Member with professional experience in corrections and refugee detention. She has a particular interest in Art Therapy and is a passionate and compassionate advocate of new ideas to address social issues facing the community.



Kathy Soros - Treasurer (Board Member: 2010 - current)

Kathy, a Certified Public Accountant, has extensive experience in cost/financial management and tax accounting and has worked in both public and corporate accounting. Kathy currently works for JS Felman & Associates, a public accounting firm providing individual, superannuation and business tax and other financial services. Previously she was a financial executive with Nicholas Kiwi Limited.



Deborah Dobbie - Board Member (2008 - current)

Deborah is a qualified psychologist with considerable business consulting experience providing specialist HR advice and delivery to enhance morale, skills and productivity. Her areas of expertise include Leadership/Management Coaching, Training and Development, Change Management and Psychometric Testing. Deborah also lectures in management on a number of MBA and undergraduate programs.



Chester Allan - Board Member (2012 - current)

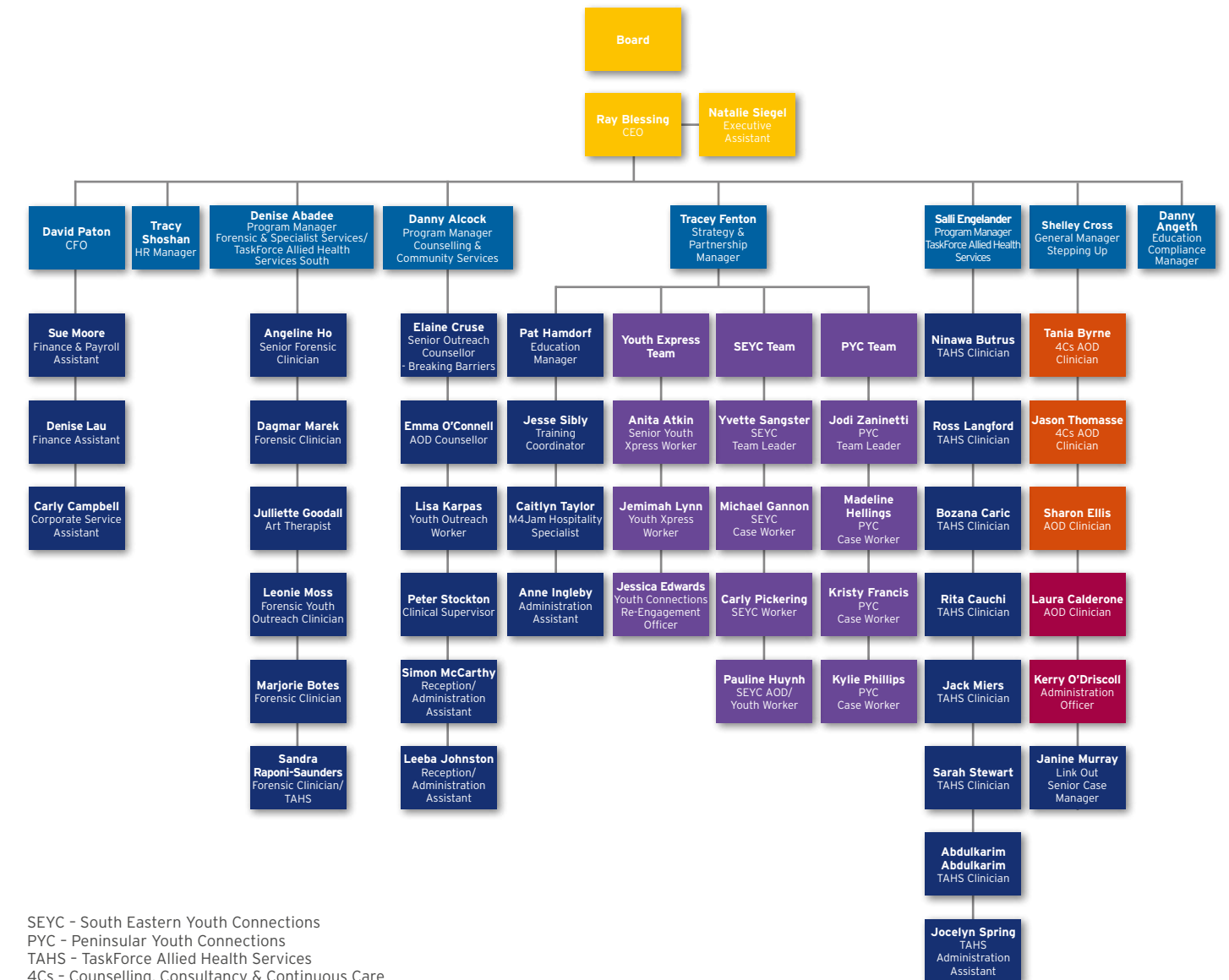
Chester has extensive experience in general management and marketing. After an international career with The Gillette Company in South Africa, SE Asia and Australia/New Zealand, he is now a part-time business consultant. Chester is also a Vice President of the Lions Club, the global voluntary service organisation.



Trevor Williams - Board Member (2013 - current)

Trevor is a former investment banker with Deutsche Bank and previously HSBC Bank. He has had extensive experience as a funds manager with a particular interest in the not-for-profit sector assisting clients with strategy development, asset allocation and overall financial management. Trevor is also a Charter Member of the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

The Organisation Paid Employees



Our Stories



Aaron's Story

Aaron commenced the Open Studio Program and individual art therapy sessions in June 2013. He entered his painting in the Interfaith Art Exhibition held at St Nicholas Gallery Mordialloc. On the opening night Aaron's mother said "This is the best he has been in 15 years". Aaron said sharing his artwork with his family at the Interfaith Exhibition was one of the top moments with his family in his life.

"Art Therapy is an amazing form of art that allows you to express to your therapist real life issues in an environment that allows you to express deeply felt issues, in a comfortable and non-confronting way. The realisations made during the session are unparalleled to none. These realisations carry on into my everyday life so much so for the better."

- Aaron



Ash's Story

Ash participates in the Open Studio Art program and the Money4Jam program. Ash's mother said what she loved about TaskForce was the consistency of solid values that each of the staff have instilled in her son. Ash's mother loved his artwork at the Interfaith Exhibition and said it was a real statement of how far he has come.



Rebecca's Story

Rebecca, a client of the Money4Jam program came to the program, disengaged, depressed and with thousands of dollars in fines. After attending her first session in the kitchen and instantly being made a part of the group, Rebecca's spirits began to lift and over the weeks and months her attitude had visibly changed. During this time Rebecca had also been linked in to a 4C's counsellor and had begun working on coping strategies that she could use to deal with her depression and her hectic home life. Rebecca has since completed her Community Work Order and volunteers one day a week as a mentor to new ladies who begin the program.

Jessie's Story

Jessie, now 18, was referred to the Youth Connections program by her psychologist from Parkville Remand Centre in December 2012. Jessie was convicted of her mother's murder, and spent 9 months in Parkville only to be released without conviction. All supports that had been in place while she was in Parkville were stopped immediately. Helen (Psychologist) continued working with Jessie to ensure that supports were put in place even though she was not meant to.

Helen and Jessie met with Jessie's Case Manager, Sally and Team Leader, Renae to commence an initial assessment and to ensure that she was appropriate for the service. She was deemed to be, and as Jessie explained her story to everyone, she continually stated that she didn't bear a grudge to what had happened to her, and she wanted to return back to education as hers had been disrupted.

Sally supported Jessie and their initial appointments were spent organising Centrelink payments, housing, organising and taking her to medical appointments before the subject of looking into alternative education settings was even broached.

Jessie reported that she felt comfortable with Sally and knew she would be a great help to her. During the course of their appointments Sally mentioned various educational options including returning back to mainstream school, TAFE, or local learning centres. Jessie showed interest in a local learning centre.

A phone call was made to them to see if they had availability for next year in their VCAL program. There was one spot available, so an interview was arranged.

Jessie attended the interview, presented well at the interview and did disclose her story to both the youth manager and welfare worker from the local learning centre. They were all amazed at her resilience and how far she had come to overcome this obstacle.

Consequently, Jessie was offered the last spot in the course.

Jessie has been at the local learning centre since February 2013 and is applying to continue her studies at TAFE next year. She will be studying Community Services. Over the course of the year Sally has supported Jessie continually with organising a mental health plan, taking her to psychologist appointments, ensuring her housing remains stable and currently she is on the short list for a permanent house. Brokerage was accessed to help pay her school fees and currently Sally is assisting with the Victims of Crime compensation application. Sally will continue working and supporting Jessie until this process is completed.



Leila's Story

Leila, a 16 year old girl who was homeless (couch surfing with her boyfriend), long term disengaged, suffering from anxiety/ depression with a history of trauma, began accessing TaskForce services in May 2013.

Since this time, TaskForce has assisted Leila to re-engaged into school at Sandringham College and has subsequently been attending all term (every day). Leila has also been able to secure a rental unit with her boyfriend and has been living there for the past few weeks.

TaskForce has been in close liaison with the finance department at Leila's school who in conjunction with TaskForce have supported Leila to develop a budget to ensure payments for her school fees, as well as for her own bills and groceries, are made.

*The names in these stories have been changed to conceal the identity of clients.

Friends of TaskForce

Friends demonstrate their commitment as supporters of TaskForce by making financial contributions to support our ongoing work for the community. Friends are invaluable contributors to our success.

Through the support of Friends this year, TaskForce has been able to:

- 1. Increase the number of programs that we deliver and the number of clients we have been able to support.
- 2. Fund the Burnett Family Scholarship, developing the skill base of TaskForce staff.
- 3. Help TaskForce celebrate 40 years of servicing the community.

We gratefully acknowledge the support we receive from Federal, State and Local Government, trusts and grant making organisations, the corporate sector, community organisations and individuals, whose support is both financial and in kind, pro-bono support.



Government & Community Agencies

ACFE - Learn Local, ACSO, COATS, Department of Education Early Childhood Development, Department of Health Science and Training, Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations, Department of Justice & Corrections Victoria, Department of Health & Ageing, Department of Human Services, City of Stonnington, Interact Australia, Odyssey House Victoria, Youth Projects, The Salvation Army Employment Plus, Mission Australia, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Southern Health, Skills Plus, Wesley Uniting Care, Skills Victoria, Australian Catholic University, Moorabbin Magistrates Court, Southern Direction Youth Services, BGK LLEN, Collingwood Children's Farm, Prahran Community Learning Centre and MatchWorks. Mary Woodridge MP, (Minister for Mental Health, Women's Affairs & Community Services), David Davis MP, (Minister for Health), Elizabeth Miller MP, David Southwick MP and Clem Newton Brown MP, Glen Eira City Council, City of Kingston, Cardinia Shire, Bayside City Council and City of Casey.

Pro-Bono Supporters

Tom Valenta, John Blackman, Professional Pathways, CHE Proximity, Lithocraft, KW Doggett, Udo Polzin, Grosz Co Lab, Miele, Fairy, McCormick, Papermate, Omnigraphics, The Print Press, Bayside Medicare Local, Westpac, Access Pay, Russell Kennedy Lawyers, Paul Yates, Matthew and Rod Bennett, Zalt Group.

Friends of TaskForce

C Allan, V Angliss, R. Barnacle, J Bower, S Bradshaw, E Brande, M & K Burnett and Family, Canton Investment, JS Collingwood, B Daubney, V Delgado, D Dobbie, R Eves, J Healey, G Henderson, J Limb, R & B Martin, E McFall, Meyer Timber, T Nicholas, H Rodgers, J & D Scott, T Skinner, K Soros, P Thomas, R & M Wilson, The Print Press.

Philanthropic Supporters

Helen McPherson Trust, Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust, Equity Trustees, Danks Trust, RM Ansett Trust, The RE Ross Trust, Ansvar Insurance.

We are extremely grateful for the generous support our Friends of TaskForce, volunteers students, businesses, community organisations and government departments who continue to support our work and assist us to save lives!

TaskForce acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



TaskForce acknowledges the support of the Federal Government.



Find us

TaskForce

Moorabbin
421 South Road,
Moorabbin, VIC, 3189
P: 03 9532 0811

Prahran
Level 2, 240 Chapel Street,
Prahran, VIC, 3181
P: 9521 4000

Carnegie
64 Rosstown Road,
Carnegie, VIC, 3163
P: 03 9571 1766

Youth Connections

Carnegie
64 Rosstown Road,
Carnegie, VIC, 3163
P: 1800 609 889

Dandenong
213 Lonsdale Street,
Dandenong, VIC, 3175
P: 1800 335 106

Pakenham
My Place
5-7 Main Street,
Pakenham, VIC, 3810
P: 03 5940 9128

Frankston
22-24 High Street,
Frankston, VIC, 3199
P: 1800 224 557

Stepping Up

Pakenham
46 James Street,
Pakenham, VIC, 3810
P: 1800 828 466

Werribee
40 Synnot Street,
Werribee, VIC, 3030
P: 1800 828 466

Cranbourne
61 High Street,
Cranbourne, VIC, 3977
P: 1800 828 466

Bendigo Region
PO Box 1081,
Castlemaine, VIC, 3450
P: 03 9532 0811

Melton
Woodgrove
Shopping Centre,
Shop R034,
533-555 High Street,
Melton, VIC, 3337
P: 1800 828 466

TaskForce Allied Health Services

Preston
6 Gilbert Road,
Preston West, VIC, 3072
P: 03 9484 7093

Moorabbin
421-423 South Road,
Moorabbin, VIC, 3189
P: 03 9532 0811

Interested in supporting TaskForce?

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

I/We would like to become a Friend of TaskForce.
I would like to make a general donation.
(Please tick relevant boxes)

<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000	\$ _____	

I would like to make a monthly donation. (Please tick relevant boxes)

<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000	\$ _____	

We would like to become a Corporate Partner and make a donation.
(Please tick relevant boxes)

<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000	\$ _____	

Please find enclosed a cheque/money order payable to TaskForce Community Agency Inc. for:

\$ _____

OR I/we authorise TaskForce to bill my/our credit card as follows:

<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard
Credit Card No: _____	Expiry: _____ / _____
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Signature: _____	
Date: _____ / _____ / _____	
Amount: \$ _____	
Your Name: _____	
Address: _____	
Suburb: _____	Postcode: _____
Telephone: _____	
Email: _____	

Please complete the above form and return it to:
Friends of TaskForce
PO Box 2112, Moorabbin Victoria 3189
T 03 9532 0811 F 03 9532 1830 E friends@taskforce.org.au
W www.taskforce.org.au

taskforce.org.au

