

# Annual Report 2011



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## Our History

Community Living Program (CLP) was established in 1987 as part of the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (CRS). The program, which was attached to the Taringa Rehabilitation Centre, was to support young people with an intellectual/learning disability towards independence. In 1987 the program was moved to the Spring Hill regional unit, its first community-based setting.

People with an interest in the program (Friends of CLP) became concerned when the CRS decided to cut back CLP's resources, and decided to seek funding under the new Disability Services Act (1986). Funds were granted in 1989 for a research and development project. The Friends of CLP incorporated as the Community Living Program Inc. on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 1989. On the 20<sup>th</sup> January 1995, CLP changed its name to Community Living Association Inc. (CLA). CLA now manages CLP, and has sponsored a range of other projects. CLA also manages:

- Village Housing
- Community Connections (Reconnect, Youth Support Co-ordinator and Youth Connections).
- ARROS

## **Our Purpose**

Community Living Association (Inc.) aims to:

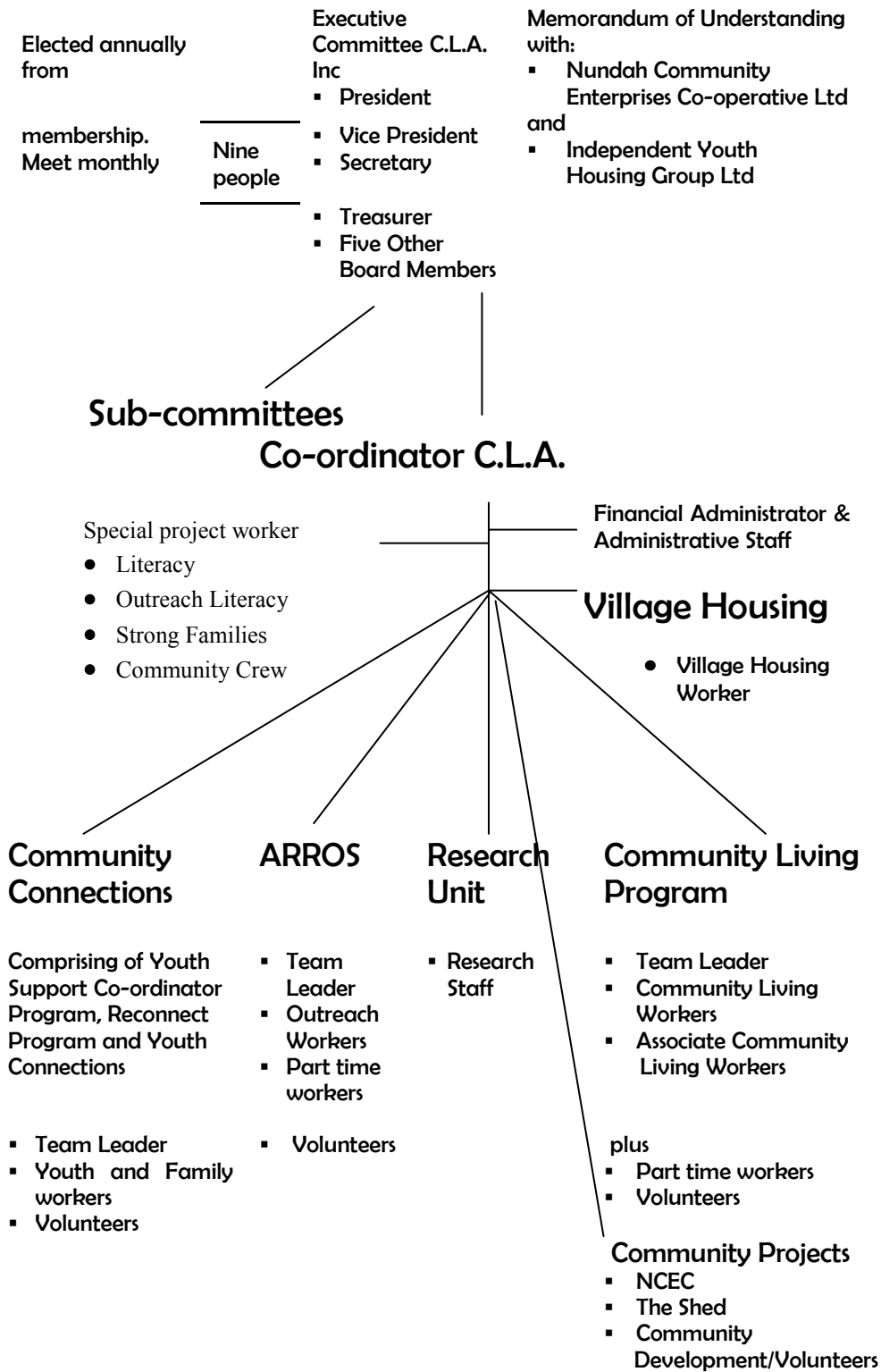
- To contribute to the relief of poverty, sickness and other misfortune and to the promotion of the well being of individuals, groups or communities who are disadvantaged and vulnerable either socially, physically, intellectually or emotionally (hereinafter called social welfare); in particular those people who experience a learning (intellectual) disability.
- To undertake, or carry out any other benevolent work or purpose.
- To promote, establish carry out and support and to assist in promoting, establishing, carrying out and supporting any social welfare program designed to contribute to the alleviation of poverty, sickness or other misfortune including those undertaken by Statutory Authorities, voluntary Welfare Organisations and other community groups.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to determine and achieve what is important to them.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to stand up for themselves, individually and collectively in the community and to have their say in representing their interests, issues and needs to all sectors of the community and government.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to improve the social and economic conditions of their lives, for example: income, housing, health, transport, sporting, recreational, artistic etc.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to develop a safe and secure life in the community.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to develop their family, friend, partner and community relationships and connections.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' achieve a state of good psychological and physical well being.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' achieve a sense of personal potency and of personal meaning.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' achieve a sense of meaningful use of time for example; employment, community service etc.
- To collaborate with other organisation's in the achievement of C.L.A.'s objectives.
- To document and record C.L.A.'s work and endeavours.
- To identify and initiate creative responses to the needs and issues of people with 'learning difficulty'.
- To assist community members build better communities through the inclusion of people with learning difficulties.
- To assist families in their commitment to family members with a learning difficulty.

## **Mission Statement**

CLA Inc. will seek to carry out its' objectives in ways that are:

- ♦ Respectful, kind and encourage one's own control;
- ♦ Flexible, innovative and responsive, leading and giving hope;
- ♦ Diverse, fun and address the whole self;
- ♦ Written down and shared with others;
- ♦ Well-resourced and heading toward self-sufficiency;
- ♦ Co-operative and collaborative and value all opinions;
- ♦ Seek feedback and question deficiencies; and
- ♦ Challenge society and change it, acting politically.
- ♦ Stable, keeping core values and vitality

## ORDINARY MEMBERS OF C.L.A. (INC)



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I begin my report by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land of Nundah where CLA offices are located. The Turrubul people occupied this area from time immemorial. They were an estuarine people who hunted and fished in the bays, creeks and lagoons and wetlands of this area. Nundah was the site of the first free white settlement in Queensland as well as the first Christian mission to the Aboriginal community. I pay my respects to the Turrubul peoples, and to their elders past and present.

It has been another huge year for CLA and I would like to thank all of the constituents, family members, volunteers, community members and staff for their efforts.

While the achievements we have had this year have been thanks to the effort of many people, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge a number of individuals who have made significant contributions to life at CLA:

- Christine Douglas has been a passionate and committed member of the Management Committee for seven years. Christine will be resigning from the Committee to move to Ireland and we would like to thank her and wish her the best of luck.
- DeeBurdon, another valued member of the Committee will also be resigning from the Board family reasons. We thank her for her contributions and wish her the best for the future.
- Roy Pugh, Gay De Jong and Verna Gillard who have been Literacy for Everyday volunteers in excess of 10 years.
- Rod Star who has made an extraordinary level of commitment to his Volunteer Role.

The 2010/2011 financial year has again been a significant one at CLA. In particular I note the following areas and activities:

- To achieve both environmental outcomes and resources for family work at CLA the Strong Families Solar Campaign raised in excess of \$40,000 to install solar power on a number of CLA buildings. We particularly acknowledge Richard Warner's role in this project.
- Over the last year CLA continued its strong support of Nundah Community Enterprises
- Co-op and we were excited to see the opening of café renovations by the Minister for Disabilities, Curtis Pitt. Our congratulations go to all the Nundah Co-op workers.

- CLA has continued its involvement and support of Independent Youth Housing Group who continue to grow in strength. They are well on their way to paying off their last housing loan and may shortly be looking to purchase new housing. Congratulations to IYHG members.
- Village Housing has acquired a new property with dual living spaces. This brings the number of Village Housing living units to nine.
- A number of groups within and associated with CLA continue, including:
  - Literacy for Everyday
  - Adventure Holiday
  - 4US Savings
  - Music Group
  - Shared Meal

These groups all contribute to the spirit of CLA and are a part of what makes this a great community to be in. So I would like to thank and congratulate all of the constituents, volunteers, community members and staff of CLA who make these groups possible.

- Through Community Connections, CLA has joined a consortium of services with Brisbane Youth Service, Salvation Army, Inala Youth Service and Jabiru to provide a new service to young people disengaged from school. Community Connections gained funding to institute swimming classes with refugee young people at Kedron High School and continues with group and individual work with young people.
- CLA has continued to be involved in publication, presentation, research and advocacy activities. Constituents and staff have presented at the University of Queensland, ASSID, the BOLD seminar, Queensland Roundtable, Paperbag Lunches, Community Development Conference, and CLP and WWILD have hosted six weekly Paperbag lunches as training events throughout the year. As part of the BOLD network, CLP also hosted a seminar in relation to parents with a disability in conjunction with Sydney University, Healthy Start Program.
- After several years of advocacy, ARROS received funding for a three year pilot project to support young people with a disability exiting the child protection system.
- The Music Group held a performance for family members early in 2011 and a number of constituents then came together to write and perform a monster musical. These musicals are now becoming something of a regular feature at CLA, with lots of hard work bringing out a fantastic evening of fun and tears of laughter.

I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to all of CLA's members, volunteers and community members for contributing to another great year.

Anne Curson  
**President**  
**CLA Inc**





# DONATION SLIP

**Yes! I would like to make a general donation to the Community Living Association, Inc. which will be used to support people with: a 'learning difficulty', intellectual disability or an intellectual disability and mental illness; young people at risk of early school leaving; and young people at risk of homelessness.**

**All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my gift of: \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐  
Or my choice \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by: ☐ Cheque ☐ Cash  
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Ameri- ☐ can Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque payable to CLA Inc  
Mail this donation slip to:  
CLA Inc  
5 Nundah Street,  
NUNDAH QLD 4012

You will receive a receipt for tax purposes by return mail.

## TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL PROJECT

In February 2011, the CLP team initiated a project aimed at connecting with schools and service providers to canvas the issues surrounding the transition of young people with a disability from school to adult life. Over one dozen interviews were held across a period of six months and more recently some interviews have been held with families approaching this transition in their child's life.

This project began with a brief literature review, which found that the time of transition from school to post-school life is potentially difficult for all young people – regardless of whether they have a disability – but that the presence of an intellectual or learning disability clearly presents another level of complexity. The areas of social isolation, meaningful use of time and employment are particular areas that can be more difficult to negotiate than for young people without a disability. The presence of a supportive network of family / friends can assist in addressing these areas of concern, however support alone does not lead to meaningful and engaging use of time. Intentional capacity building efforts on the part of a young person's family, school and significant others is required. The literature is also very clear about the need to engage in intentional planning (or 'visioning') from as early as possible; preferably early high school.

Feedback from the interviews undertaken by members of the CLP team appears to mirror available research. In particular, school staff consistently expressed frustration at their inability to engage parents early enough in the transition planning process.

Of grave concern also was the fate of students without a resourceful support network. Similarly, the impact of a lack of post-school options on the wider family was raised in interviews. Examples were given of situations where parental employment is affected if adequate access to services cannot be gained or afforded. Schools were also highly aware of the social isolation experienced by their students with a disability once their daily natural school interactions cease.

In response to some of the concerns raised through the interviews from this project, CLP sponsored two presentations with the Manager of the New-Zealand-based Lead School Transition Service, Colin Gladstone, in June 2011. This service is renowned for its early intervention and intensive work across a cluster of schools in the Christchurch area. Colin addressed local school staff at one presentation, and parents at the other.

Over the last few months, the CLP team has been exploring the possibility of widening the Transitions project to a process of engaging in a 12 month trial with families who are approaching the transition period. The purpose of this would be to assist families to start 'visioning' for their young person's future and offering support and guidance around capacity building. Due to case load and funding constraints, this project would not be resource-intensive, but could potentially encourage families to connect periodically with a CLP worker over the specified time frame to enter into planning discussions. Families would be referred onto relevant agencies where this might be helpful and would be encouraged to be active about intentionally working towards the dreams and goals they might have for their children.

CLP's involvement with a recent parent information evening at Wavell Heights High School enabled staff to facilitate small group discussion around the planning process. CLP offered to continue these discussions should parents wish to contact us again in the future. It is anticipated that our connection with this school, as well as one or two others that we have had involvement with through this project, may provide the referral source for the trial aspect of the Transition from school project into 2012. Potentially, this project could provide useful data which could form the basis of further research / funding applications / systems advocacy work in this area.

## **SHARED MEAL**

Shared meal continues every Thursday fortnight 5.30-7.30pm approx. This year we have enjoyed each others company, celebrated birthdays and had special meal nights.

Congratulation to all shared mealers for making it such an enjoyable event!



## VILLAGE HOUSING



Village Housing is an initiative of CLA that provides long-term housing to Community Living Program (CLP) constituents and other eligible community members.

Village Housing purposely includes people with and without intellectual disability in its aim to create the best life possibilities for people with an intellectual disability. Village Housing hopes to demonstrate that communities can be a place where all people are equally valued and where their gifts and contributions to others can be recognized.

### **Goals of Village Housing are to:**

- Increase housing options for constituents of CLA and other eligible persons in North-East Brisbane;
- Provide safe, affordable and secure accommodation close to public transport and other services;
- Provide supportive accommodation through:
  - A balance of people with and without an intellectual disability;
  - Positive and purposeful interactions with other tenants and neighbours;
  - Engagement of those who are important to constituents in their housing situation; and
  - Engagement of tenants in sharing the management of Village Housing

Village Housing is now comprised of nine dwellings after the purchase of an additional property in the Banyo area. Currently the members of Village Housing meet once every six weeks. This is an opportunity to discuss tenancy and maintenance issues. It is also a good chance for socializing and supporting each other. Most meetings are held at the Espresso Train café however for a bit of fun the group has also decided to hold them down at Sandgate Beach over fish and chips.

Over the last year we have conducted two major refurbishment projects including repainting and an additional room in one of the properties. Other properties have had minor alterations such as installation of a skylight, new stove, blinds and curtains.

Village Housing continues to offer good quality, well maintained and affordable housing to people on low incomes and pensions.

**I.Y.H.G.**  
**INDEPENDENT YOUTH HOUSING GROUP LTD**  
**I.Y.H.G IS A CONSTITUTED BODY WHICH RECEIVES ON-**  
**GOING SUPPORT FROM CLP**



This year marks IYHG 22<sup>nd</sup> year as a housing co-operative and has seen many positive changes in growth and development. We have been persistent to offer good quality, well maintained and affordable housing to people on low incomes and pensions.

IYHG has continued throughout the year to improve and maintain its' properties. Two units have had new flooring installed and one unit has been painted internally. Thanks to the support of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund who has contributed \$19,185.00 towards renovations, IYHG are also in the process of installing a new bathroom and flooring to another property.

We have maintained our record of having no rental arrears in the past year and also continue to sustain an ongoing healthy financial situation. Thank you to Foresters ANA and CLA who have continued to support our growth in property ownership.

Once again this year we have increased our memberships and welcome our new members and tenants. These new members along with the already committed members mean that IYHG continues to move forward, whilst working together productively to create a successful housing co-operative.

I would like to thank all members for their work and support throughout the year, especially those who give a lot of their time and energy. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank CLP for its' continuing support including Mandy, Carmel and Morrie for their ongoing assistance. Thank you.

Danny Thomas  
*PRESIDENT*  
IYHG Ltd





## 4 US SAVINGS

The 4 Us Savings Group had a great time in 2011, with people travelling all over Australia and the World! Some people have been travelling by cruise ship, planes and trains: we are great adventurers here. Our money has also helped us fix computers, buy TV's and to just keep saving up for really important things. We have all made good friends at 4 Us Savings Group. Come down and say hi if you're around Espresso Train on Pension Fridays.





## LITERACY FOR EVERYDAY

Literacy for Everyday continues to be a great place to learn on a Friday. Students and tutors spend their time at literacy working hard at their individual goals which include writing books, planning holidays and learning new skills such as cooking and gardening. The diversity of each students work demonstrates the importance of literacy in everyday situations.

Many thanks go to our amazing tutors who are committed to each student reaching their goals and having lots of fun along the way. Morning group tutors include Verna, Gay, Roy, Debbie, Helen, Joan and Pam. Afternoon group tutors include, Kathy, Anne, Colin, Mike, John, Sylvia, Gay. Special mention goes to Robyn Freeman, morning group tutor who will be missed.

We have seen lots of changes this year as the group has said many hellos and goodbyes. We acknowledge the contributions and commitment of both Leona Berrie and Jacki McKean. Leona left us early in the year to become a mum as did Jacki later on in the year. Both Jacki and Leona contributed greatly to the group and are always welcome to pop-in with their bubs!





We have both truly enjoyed being a part of the Literacy for Everyday community this year and look forward to many more fun Fridays to come!

Jenna Corby, Hollie McNaught



Roy and John, working on John's third novel, 'Crime Doesn't Pay'

"I like literacy because I see my friend's, I like learning and morning teas." - Allan



"Literacy is good because I get to find out more about my trip to Samoa." - Brett

"I enjoy learning new things at Literacy." - Allison





## MUSIC GROUP

Music Group meets every Thursday at the Shed and we have had another successful year. We bring in our favourite CDs to share with the group, learn new songs together, as well as work on improving our instrument and percussion playing skills.

Early this year, the group came up with an idea of organizing a mini concert and took this opportunity to invite loved ones to celebrate our achievement. We chose 10 of our favourite songs from previous sessions and put in new twists for each song.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June, "End of Financial Year Celebration" was held at the Shed. Families and friends were entertained by a number of group performances, Alistair's solo "*I was only 19*", Christian's piano solo "*Close to You*" and "*House of Rising Sun*", a duo guitar performance "*Stand By Me*" played by Nathan and Dave. The night ended with a new version of our all time favourite "*I'd like to have a beer with Duncan*" - we put in new lyrics and so it became "*I'd like to have a coffee with Morrie*". It was a lovely night and everyone had a great time.

Congratulations must go to all the music group members involved in making the sessions all about fun times and appreciating music! Keep your ear out as we are working on our next performance around Christmas time!



# MONSTER MOVIE MUSICAL

After the huge success of last year's musical "Hey Cupid", a group of constituents got together again to work on a new musical. Ideas were thrown around and after a number of meetings; the group came up with an idea for a musical that includes songs from different musicals and movies over the years.

Rehearsals started in April with the help of our super director / Dictator Ms Leona Berrie. After a month of refining the original concept, the show began to take shape. For those who didn't come to the rehearsals, around 20 of us gathered in the shed week in week out, to learn the songs and dance routines. Everyone poured their hearts into their roles.

We started our dress rehearsals 4 weeks from the opening night at the North East Baptist church. As we went along, things became a lot clearer (for some) and a lot crazier (for others).

The night was a great success with an audience of over 300 people. The cast and crew were amazed by the turn out from the community. Everyone performed to their best and the audience warmed to the occasion, even joining in on some songs.

I would like to say thank you to all the performers who performed that night - we saw a number of new stars emerging!

I would also like to thank our most talented (and PATIENT) choreographer Joan Carey. Without your direction, we would have been lost on stage and had no rhythm!

Finally, I would like to say thanks to all the unsung heroes – staffs, volunteers, students of CLA who helped us to achieve our best.

Written by Craig McAllister





## ADVENTURE HOLIDAY GROUP

*Adventure Holiday Group is our name because Adventure is our game!*

Our adventures outdoors began in February with a trip to Currumbin. There, we swam in rock pools and did some body surfing at the beach. In March we tried our hands kayaking at Coochiemudlo Island, where the wild seas swayed us to and fro.

We slowed the pace down with an O'Reilly's bushwalk in April, saving our energies for our Mount Warning May camp. There we enjoyed camp fires, bushwalks, Marie's sweet treats and a spectacular view from the top!

Our Daisy Hill bush walk in June left us gasping for breath, but we made it in the end! In August we visited the Sunshine Coast for another walk and BBQ. The September outing had our eyes squinting out to sea watching for Whales at Stradbroke Island.

With only our October Pottsville camp still to come along with a November trip to Tangalooma and a December break up we are coming to the end of the year.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our year of outings, camps and adventures and look forward to more to come in 2012!



**Currumbin Beach**



**O'Reilly's Bushwalk**



**DAISY HILL**



**Currimandi Beach  
Walk**

**Carley: "Adventure group is awesome"**

**Mick: "We have fun"**

**Alistair: "Gets you out on the weekend"**



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Connections works alongside young people and families where there are issues that could lead to early home leaving and/or early disengaging from school. Using an early intervention and community development framework, our work also encompasses group and project work and creating links with the school and wider community.

The service continues to have 3 programs, Reconnect (Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs), the Youth Support Co-ordinator (or YSC) initiative, (Department of Communities), and Youth Connections\* (Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations).

Both the YSCI and YC Program are funded until 31 December 2013, and the Reconnect Program is funded until 30 June 2012.

Community Connections workers currently Sara Hicks, Cate Ryan, Eden McNamara, Virginia Hirst, Chloe Warrell, Samuel Kimanuka and Tania Lawrie.

The team would like to thank Sabrina Stokes who has taken up a role with the Benevolent Society with a focus on families with young children; Nicky Garland, who left us mid year to move to Toowoomba in preparation for her and Simon's impending marriage; and Renee Mills who has become the CLA Student Unit Supervisor.







### **Additional Activities for 2010 - 11**

- Engagement in school activities/events including assembly presentations, schools expos, open days, information days, workshops, student welfare/year level co-ordinator meetings, school camp.
- Several groups at local High Schools (some co-facilitated with school staff and other community agencies) including Young women's groups, Peer Skills, Brita Futures, Koping, and Indigenous Students groups.
- *Centrelink Cluster Meetings* - Continue to be held on a quarterly basis and provides an opportunity for Social Workers from local Centrelink offices and workers from Community Connections, and RESpec to build relationships, share information and experiences about working with young people.
- Strong Families – it was wonderful to have Sabrina sitting in the Community Connections team with both her Reconnect and Strong Families hats on for a good part of the financial year. This has been of benefit to the young families accessing the service and has seen the Outreach Literacy program support 5 young parents to work on their literacy goals in their own homes.





***Community Connections would like to say special thanks to:***

The current Community Connections Team, including Kirra, our fabulous child care worker.

Sabrina, Nicky and Renee who have gone on to new adventures.

Hannah, Gretel, Casey, Jess, Jason and Minda for their contributions while on student placement;

The fabulous volunteers, McKenzie, Mic, Deb, Kate, Sabrina and especially Elizabeth for her dedication to the Outreach Literacy Project for the Community Connections young folk.

CLA Inc, in particular Morrie O'Connor, the Management Committee, Carmel, Rosie, Sylvia and Mandy, and the workers at CLP and ARROS;

Bea Rogan, external facilitator for our Strategic Planning days.

Naomi, Thy and Carmen who have continued to support us in all manner of ways and have helped to create a strong and mutual relationship with CYMHS;

The School and Learning communities with which we engage.

The many community services with whom we partner and collaborate with to provide the best service possible to young people and their families.

Elders and community members from the various Indigenous communities who have supported the Indigenous Students Project;

Elders and community representatives from the various communities that have supported the ongoing work with young people and families from diverse cultural backgrounds.

To all the young people and families who have shared their stories with us.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People and Families Project

During 2010-2011 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People and Families Project happened across the Youth Support Coordinator, Reconnect and Youth Connections programs in the Community Connections team. Our activities and relationship were built on the traditional lands of Turrbal and Yugera peoples and we continue to acknowledge their custodianship in our communities.

In the school community of Brisbane SHS, Community Connections worked with the young people, families and community members to hold NAIDOC celebrations to commemorate the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people locally and nationally in accordance with that year theme: *Unsung Heroes*. The celebration included a dedicated school assembly with James Sandy Acknowledging Country, an address by Leeanne Enoch, a musical performance from the students and staff and the students from the school's Indigenous Central group making an 'Unsung Heroes' presentation to the Indigenous Worker, Nancy Alick. The school's young men also learnt from a parent, Gresham Brown, the tradition of making a Kup Murri and cooked a beautiful meal shared by local community members, families and school staff. Connections between the school, families, young people and the local community continue to grow from activities like these which create opportunities for everyone to build relationships.



At Brisbane SHS, the group of students known as Indigenous Central continued to provide opportunities for young people to connect to each other, school staff and community members, participate in culturally relevant learning and express and shape their experiences at school. In 2010-2011 this resulted in various excursions throughout the year as well as seeded the commitment from the school to fund the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island young people school camp. Amalia Kidd, Head of Department for Art embraced this request from the young people and worked with them to make it a reality. The camp happened on Minjerriba (North Stradbroke Island), the land of the Quandamooka peoples and the young people started the camp by meeting a local Elder and learning about local cultural history. Although Mother Nature provided enough rain each day to break any drought, the spirits and energy of the young people could not be dampened. Young people named highlights of the trip to include the boat ride and snorkelling, spending time with each other and cooking dinner themselves.

By the end of 2010, the Brisbane SHS, the young people and Community Connections acknowledged that the existence of this group work is such that it's a part of the 'normal' school culture and it was decided to embed the commitment into the school system, making it a formal class in the school timetable and inviting Nancy Alick (Indigenous Worker) to facilitate the group with support from a teacher, currently Paul Kennard. This shift is an acknowledgement of the growth and important the group has been to the young people and families in the school and the schools learning and commitment to provide culturally inclusive learning.





## WHITE RIBBON DAY 2010

Participating in the Northside Alliance Against Domestic Violence (NAADV), Community Connections co-organised a White Ribbon Day event at the Nundah Village Shopping Centre. White Ribbon Day promotes the elimination of violence against women and children and occurs on November 25.

The NAADV event focused on inviting community members, particularly men, to swear – swear never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.

Numerous community members took this step by adding their oaths to the canvas swear jar (pictured below), which is now proudly displayed at the Nundah Community Centre. Community members also supported this cause by donating to the White Ribbon Day organisation.

We would like to thank everyone for their efforts before and on the day and throughout the year to create safe communities for all.



## RECONNECT

Reconnect had a busy year as always. We're continuing to provide direct support to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through a variety of methods including, family mediation, counselling, group work and support work, skills development, advocacy and referral. We also extend this support to parents /families /caregivers and services (government and non-government) that are in contact with or support our young people. As well as our group and individual work we're also doing project work. Reconnect workers have been supporting the Culture Sharing, Indigenous Young People and Families, and Respectful Relationships.

In our individual work we've had lots of amazing outcomes. We closed a young woman we'd been working with for 12 months and some of the outcomes she noted on her feedback of the work we did together included: securing stable long term housing for herself, her partner and two children; securing stable income; linking with Job Service Provider who financially supported enrolment in Tafe; completion of Cert in Youth Work; arranged counselling for her nephew who lost his mother to suicide and is now in the young woman's full time care; accessing legal support to ensure parental rights for nephew; and counselling for herself around her journey through DV.

Another example of the experiences of young people is a young woman who had left home, left school, and was in a DV relationship. This young woman was able to draw on her strengths and leave this violent relationship with the support of her family. She has moved home into a stable environment, secured casual employment, completing her year 10 via Tafe and is making plans for her future. These are just two examples of the amazing young people we work with who show us daily their resilience and strengths.

We've facilitated some groups this year as well including the Building Resilience in Transcultural Adolescents workshops with Kedron State High School year 9 ESL class which is an ongoing part of the Culture Sharing Project; and Koping (targeted at supporting young people who have a parent with a mental illness) with clinicians from Child and Youth Mental Health Service and other non-government organisations such as Communify.

We also noticed a rise in disclosures of violence in: intimate relationships; parent to child and child to parent; between young people known to each other and also random acts of violence. As part of the Respectful Relationships project we conducted a survey across CLA to gauge workers feelings of ability and confidence to respond to violence. A need was identified so we asked Nundah Neighbourhood Centre DV Worker to run a half day workshop about Domestic Violence for CLA workers.

When it came close to Christmas we decided it'd be great to celebrate and recognise the families we support so we organised a group trip to the beach for some relaxing, swimming and fish and chips!



## **YSC AGM Report Kedron SHS and The Gap SHS**

The Youth Support Coordinator Program works with young people and their families who are at risk of early school leaving. Some of the reasons young people may come to see me include homelessness, difficulties with friend and peers, self esteem, truancy, isolation, abuse, substance misuse, conflict at home and issues to do with mental health. My role is about supporting young people to deal with the issues that might cause them to leave school early. I work with young people through individual work, group work and community projects.

This year has seen plenty of individual work being carried out with young people in both of my schools. Kedron SHS is the only highschool on the northside with an ESL (English as a Second Language) unit, so my individual work in this school is distinctly different as I mainly work with refugee and migrant young people and their families.

I've facilitated a group this year at The Gap. This was a Young Women's Group for year 9 students. Topics covered included emotional health and wellbeing, relationships, sexual health, body image and self esteem. Feedback from this group was positive.

We also facilitated some groups at Kedron. Building Resiliency in Transcultural Australians is a two day workshop we run with year 9 ESL students. Feedback from school and students is also positive about this workshop.

Harmony Day was celebrated with year 8 students at Kedron SHS through a special assembly and BBQ. This day is celebrated with year 8s to emphasise the cultural diversity of the school and encourage acceptance of difference.

Mental Health Week was also celebrated at Kedron SHS. We celebrated it through a short assembly address followed by a BBQ. The BBQ was attended by various organisations and funded by Brisbane City Council.

As a part of the multicultural project at Kedron, I facilitate the Northside Intercultural Youth Working Group. This group meets bi-monthly to collaborate on the multicultural project.

Tania and Renee, as a previous worker in the multicultural project, presented this at the Youth Affairs Network Conference this year.

As a group, the YSCs at Community Connections were interviewed by Dovetail. Dovetail supports the youth drug and alcohol sector in Queensland and produces a magazine available to organisations.

## **YSC report Kelvin Grove College and Albert Park Flexi School**

The Youth Support Coordinator Program works with young people and their families who are at risk of early school leaving. Some of the reasons young people may come to see me include homelessness, difficulties with peers, family and teachers, self-esteem, truancy, isolation, abuse, substance misuse, conflict at home, independent student status, information provision and issues to do with mental health. My role is about supporting young people to deal with the issues that might cause them to leave school early or are causing them to be distracted from their education. YSCs work with young people through individual work, group work and community projects.

Since starting in May it has been extremely busy, I am undertaking a high level of individual work and have accepted a large amount of referrals. My schools are very different to each other. Kelvin Grove is structured, with a large number of students and referrals coming my way. I have run a young women's group (aimed at emotional well-being, communication, service information and self-esteem), maintained a large case load and managed to fit in a few community projects in a short period of time. A large number of my referrals are independent students or young people experiencing difficulties with peers or family. I have 13 young people on my case load at Kelvin Grove.

Albert Park on the other hand is very unstructured and I generally don't receive specific referrals but am responding to critical incidents, traumas and conflicts. Most of my work is indirect support and once off, however I have 4 young people on my case load that I link in with regularly. Another large part of my role at Albert Park is outreach with the chaplain. After many discussions with the chaplain about re-engaging young people who have been disconnected for a long time it was decided that we would go out to young people's homes and offer them support to re-engage in school. Support often ranges from practical support with bills to supporting a young person to advocate for themselves to child safety.

Mental health week was also celebrated at Kelvin Grove this year. Celebrations were held across the week and included; lunch time sport (touch and soccer), a free BBQ and mental health resource show bag, presentations on assembly by school nurse, a drawing competition in the junior school and zumba. I co-ordinated this community project with the help of a very supportive student services team at Kelvin Grove.

Overall I have enjoyed my time as YSC so far and love working in both of my schools.

## YOUTH CONNECTIONS

The Youth Connections program has continued this year with sustained growth in referrals from a range of sources and a strong focus on collaborative work across the consortium. The Youth Connections program work with young people who have disengaged from education and who may have multiple barriers that are impacting on their ability to maintain links to education or employment. Both individual and group work has been undertaken along with project work, action research and strengthening of partnerships with other community and government agencies. Currently the Youth Connections worker is working on an individual basis with 11 young people and their families. Group work has been developed around young people with a specific need to build on numeracy and literacy skills. This group has been meeting every Tuesday at Visible Ink and Zillmere PCYC for the past 7 months and there has been opportunity to develop group work content around life journaling, planning for goals, and accessing information and resources around particular issues that these young people are interested in. There has also been group work that has been delivered in schools, including Young Women's groups at The Gap SHS and Earnshaw State College and Peer Skills at Everton Park SHS.

The Youth Connections consortium has partnered with QUT to carry out Participatory Action Research based on our direct work with young people. The focus of our current Action Research question is around Young People's wellbeing and happiness with a particular interest in 'What would it take to work with young people from a happiness framework'. As part of this research, questions focused on what it means to be 'happy' in different contexts have been asked of individual young people, in groups and via Vox Pops through local high schools. The information gleaned through this research will be presented at an 'Action Research' forum later in the year.

The School Refusal Project has continued with the School Refusal Framework and recommendations being presented at the YANQ conference earlier this year. Space-based outreach work at Westfield Shopping Centre at Chermside has also continued over the year as a collaborative venture with Brisbane City Council's youth team and Jabiru. This project focuses on observation and direct interaction with young people gathered at various spaces around the shopping centre, particularly at the bus interchange. This has been beneficial as a soft entry point for young people to self-refer to programs across the three agencies and has pointed to some opportunities to engage with the group around drug and alcohol use. Collaboration with other agencies will continue until the end of the year.

## OUTREACH LITERACY

The Outreach Literacy Project has seen a few changes over the last year with Sabrina Stokes the former Strong Families Worker leaving CLA for new challenges. Tania Lawrie (Community Connections Team Leader) worked hard to keep the project afloat until CLA welcomed Community Projects Worker, Jenna Corby, to the Outreach Literacy Project.

Kate says that she finds the student she works with inspiring because of her *“ability to put her children first, do homework and self study every week, ask for more difficult words to learn, make goals for her future career and lifestyle while still making time for tutoring every week because it will help her achieve her goals”*.

Three young women currently access Outreach Literacy with a fourth young woman eager to join. These focused and motivated young women have weekly sessions with their tutor and are working on a variety of goals including: reading and writing children’s stories, understanding school newsletters, cooking and completing TAFE studies.

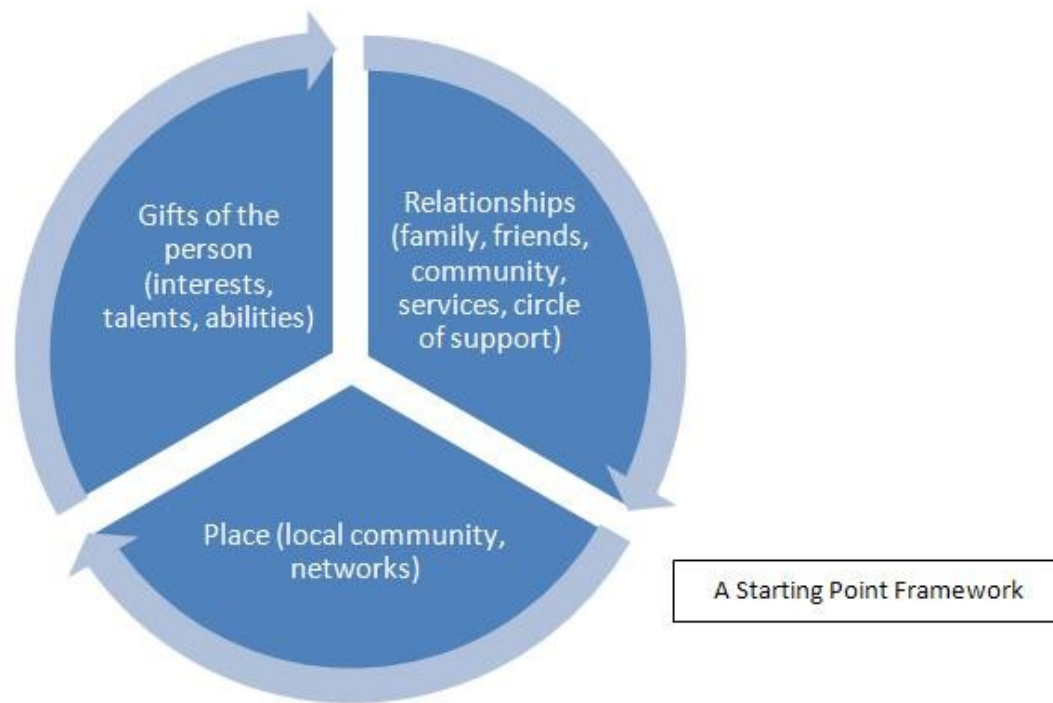
The project continues to be supported by a crew of dedicated and creative tutors including Elizabeth, Kate and Deb. We have also been very lucky with Sabrina volunteering to come back to Outreach Literacy as a volunteer tutor herself! We hope to soon count Debbie amongst our fabulous tutors, Debbie also tutors with Literacy for Everyday Life and will be a wonderful addition to the team. All the tutors demonstrate genuine care for and belief in the young women they work with and as a result create a depth to their tutor-student relationships that is very special.

Funding generously donated by the Zonta Club of Brisbane North has enabled Outreach Literacy to employ our wonderful childcare worker Kirra. Kirra has been an asset to the project playing with children and helping with homework so that the children’s mums can focus on their studies as well as developing a Childcare Workers resource to support future childcare workers.

*“Having the support of the child care worker, who enriches the children’s lives with new experiences each week and lets their mum focus on her learning”* as described by a tutor, is one of the best things about tutoring.



Outreach Literacy is also lucky enough to welcome on board the support of Renee Mills and the CLA-QUT Student Unit. Renee and her future students will be working alongside Outreach Literacy to provide support to the young women and their children in a variety of areas, including holiday activities for the whole family!



Finally, Emily began the process of using this framework in working with a young man and his mother to develop a vision for this young man's future after school. Emily has since been successful in gaining full-time employment with ARROS and so has handed the baton onto Jenna Corby who commenced work with CLA at the end of August as a Community Projects Worker. Community Crew is one of six projects Jenna is currently working on.

Jenna is working hard to fill the big shoes Emily left and gathering the final stories for the Community Crew resource. Jenna is continuing the work Emily started with the young man and his family and will soon be looking to recruit some more Community Crew members. She is also working on getting the resource turned into a website so that it can be made available to the world!



## COMMUNITY CREW

The Community Crew Project received 12 months funding from Brisbane City Council in March 2011 allowing Emily Reynolds to be employed part-time as the Community Crew Worker.

The Community Crew Project has three main aims and roles. Firstly the project aims to develop a useful and easy to digest resource for people hoping to set up their own small business or microenterprise or find a niche volunteer role. The project also aims to collect the stories of people who have created niche roles or businesses in order to better understand and illustrate the processes involved. Finally, the project seeks to work directly with people hoping to create a business, to facilitate and provide advice throughout the process.

Emily initially dedicated her time to developing an extensive collection of resources and information, creating a document near to completion. Through this process Emily contributed to the development of a 'Starting Point' framework to be used as a tool to begin to challenge notions of a lack of connection and to move people toward considering what is possible rather than focusing on simply what is there.



## ARROS AGM Report

ARROS has had a year of momentous growth in 2011. Our vision to work with young people with disability, their significant others and communities to build places to live and spaces to belong has continued through this period. We have had the good fortune to receive additional funding through the Coalition of Australian Governments – National Partnership Agreement (Homelessness) Transition and Post Care Support Initiative, to work with young people who are exiting child safety. This has increased our capacity by providing two additional full time outreach workers who will support an additional 10-15 young people in the period to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

### **Staff**

ARROS core staff currently consists of two Outreach Worker and two Transitions Outreach Worker positions, and one Team Leader/Senior Outreach Worker. ARROS started the year with Deb Street and Megan Salisbury in Outreach Worker positions, then said good-bye to Megan Salisbury in July, who left her fulltime position to pursue other dreams. We then welcomed Megumi Kitasako to work alongside Deb Street in the role of Outreach Worker.

This year we have employed Rod Star and Emily Reynolds as Transitions Outreach Workers to join the team. Jacinta McKinlay joined us for six months in the role of Transitions Activity Worker, but was out of action for eight weeks with a fractured wrist.

ARROS would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of this team of core workers, as well as our part time workers Debbie Wenzel, Simon Ross, Barry Kopitke, Lauren Morgan, Megan Salisbury and Jean Tongue.

In 2011 we have benefited from the support of numerous students including Lauren Morgan, Bharti Gitay, Elizabeth Gee and Chloe Zammit, alongside Andrew Sippel, Kylie Petit and Dave Bini who have supported ARROS work through other student placements.

And finally, but with the greatest of thanks for all their commitment, dedication and time, I'd like to acknowledge those who give freely of their time to provide friendship, companionship, support to our constituents, be it as volunteers, community members or family members. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Rod Star, Richard Warner, Camilla Batchelor, Debbie Wenzel, members of the Delta Team of the Stafford Police, Jane and Simon, Ruth

Edwards and Lara.



## Key Projects

ARROS has continued work with 10 constituents, their families and significant others in 2011. In addition to our usual Outreach and Connection work, ARROS has undertaken the following over the past 12 months:

*Transition and Post Care Support Initiative* – ARROS is now working with 6 young people who have exited care, or are due to exit care in the next few years. Transitions Outreach Workers have worked alongside them, and their significant others to ensure that transition is as smooth and self directed as possible.

*Transitions Mentoring Program* – a draft plan for the Transitions Mentor Program which has been submitted and expects to be near completion towards the beginning of 2012.

*Homeshare Project* – ARROS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with INCH (Inner Northern Community Housing) with the purpose of supporting an intentional shared living arrangement for a constituent and a supportive other person.

## Other news...

In working towards our goals, we have made some changes to ARROS operations over the past twelve months. These include:

*On Call phone system* – ARROS now has a dedicated after hours response. Workers are rostered to respond to outside of work hours emergencies/issues via the on call number.

*Growing Stronger Reforms* – ARROS referrals are now made in line with the Growing Stronger reforms. This means that Disability Services is responsible for intake, assessment and eligibility. This is not the case for young people referred to our Transitions service.

*Networking and Program Promotion* – ARROS Transitions workers are in consultation with the six Departments of Child Safety in our region to develop working relationships and elicit referrals for the Transitions program. Workers continue to promote the Transitions program in government departments as well as community organisations.



*Collaborative work* – ARROS has worked alongside other government and community organisations to provide better outcomes for constituents, including WWILD-SVP, Education Queensland (Behaviour Support Service), Better Together, Northgate State School, Disability Employment Services, Department of Communities – Disability and Community Care Services and Evolve.

### **Special Thanks to...**

The marvellous ARROS team for your dedicated work with young people, significant others, and community members, to create positive changes in the communities where people belong. Thanks for your commitment to working through the challenges of our expanding service.

Morrie for your ever-inspiring leadership, support and vision. We rely heavily on your support, supervision, and expertise, whilst enjoying great freedom to explore and develop our practice and service delivery.

Carmel, Sylvia, Rosie and Mandy for all the behind-the-scenes administrative work you do for ARROS.

The CLA Inc. Management Committee for supporting ARROS and CLA in our work.

Our DS Community Resource Officer, Bill Webb, for your support over the past year.

The committed supporters of ARROS who in turn support the young people we work with.

And finally, and most importantly, to the people we work with. Thank you for allowing us into your lives, for trusting us, for taking brave leaps with us, and for sharing good times with us. You are always our inspiration, and we honour all that you have achieved.



Many thanks and warmest regards,

*Deb, Rod, Meg, Emily & Jessica*



## COMMUNITY PROJECTS TEAM

### 1) NCEC

N.C.E.C. has had a great year with workers, supervisors and committee contributing to the biggest year of trade the Co-op has seen.

Highlights include:

- A number of workers who deserve a round of applause for improving their ability and commitment to the Co-op.
- Congratulations to the Parks Team, for getting through a busy summer period of lots of rain and fast growing grass and for once again winning the tidiest suburb in Brisbane award!
- Congratulations also to the Café crew for the busiest year so far on record and for increasing employment opportunities in the café.
- In terms of numbers, by the end of the year we will have provided close to 7,000 hours of part time work to CLA constituents and somewhere in the vicinity of \$90,000 in wages. Wow!

Thanks again to the wonderful supervisors who know how to balance 'getting the job done' with supporting workers; to our committee for their hard work and guidance; to our sponsors Westpac, SVA and Queensland Govt; to CLA workers for their support which helps our workers to be work ready and finally to the workers without whom we would not have a Co-op.

### 2) Volunteers:

Once again we are blessed with the number and breadth of volunteers supporting constituents and young people in CLA.

CLA has close to 70 volunteers contributing working across the organization contributing close to 600 hours a month ; from the Management committee to volunteering in groups like literacy for the everyday, to the individual volunteers who spend one on one time with people in an enjoyable activity.

These volunteers would be the first to say they are enriched by their association with constituents and young people but the reverse is true and our organization and constituents who are greatly enriched by their association with volunteers and all this opens up to them.

### 3) Shed Project

Thanks to generous local community donations The Shed Solar Project will by the end of this year create

- \$10,000 dollars in cost saving for CLA which will be reinvested in working with young children and families
- Neutralise CLA's electricity cost;
- Save 247 Tonnes of CO2 emissions (equivalent to taking 76 cars off the road for one year)

We are also in the process continuing to renovate the shed to create a small office and to make the large community space more amenable to groups and community activities.

Richard.



# DONATION SLIP

**Yes! I would like to support Nundah Community Enterprises Co-operative in creating sustainable employment and training opportunities.**

**All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.**

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NCEC

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You will receive a receipt for tax purposes by return mail.

Community Living Association Inc has a website.  
It can be located at:

<http://www.communityliving.org.au/>

