NORTH SYDNEY
community
CENTRE

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ABN 53 001 285 883

North Sydney Community Centre

ANNUAL REPORT

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President's Report

GENIA MCCAFFERY
President

North Sydney Community Centre has had another successful year despite a number of difficulties and uncertain economic conditions.

Our new Centre Director, Sarah Cunningham, has wonderful energy, enthusiasm and an innovative approach which is helping us adapt to challenging conditions. Our staff, community and stakeholders are delighted with her leadership and professionalism.

We've had several staff changes again this year. Together with Sarah, our wonderful staff have shared responsibilities and tasks to ensure the Centre ran smoothly.

In particular, our fabulous Deputy Director, Hana Safarova, resigned for family reasons. As acting Director Hana was instrumental in the success of our Centre last year. We wish her every success in her family business.

Our new Deputy Director, Denis Tresoglavic, has fitted right into the Centre. He has a wealth of experience and is proving to be an invaluable member of our team.

Our Playgroup is one of the first services we offered. It is well loved and a precious service for 0–5 year olds, their parents, grandparents and carers. I'm now bringing my own grandkids to the same playgroup I took my kids to forty years ago. Thanks to all our Playgroup staff and volunteers.

Our Playgroup Coordinator, Gill Alborough, retired this year. We wish her every happiness in retirement. We were very lucky to recruit Talya Saada as our new coordinator. She's a primary school teacher with three young children of her own. She brings energy, enthusiasm and a genuine passion for early childhood development. She has nurtured the inclusive, joyful environment our Playgroup is known for and is bringing fresh ideas to the role.

After School Care has had a successful year under the leadership of Acting Director Nalini Chelliah and Acting Deputy Director Hendrik Hoffman. Nalini and Hendrik stepped up to these new roles when our Director Silvia James went on maternity leave. Silvia has now decided not to return to her role, so we were thrilled to appoint Nalini and Hendrik to the positions they excelled in over the last year. We are offering lots of new and varied activities for our children in After School Care, and we continue to slowly rebuild attendance towards pre-Covid levels.

We were very pleased to welcome Pamela Papa as our new Admin & Student Services Officer and Venue Hire Coordinator. Pamela has settled into these two new roles effortlessly and is a great addition to our team.

Our Venue Hire Coordinator, Hajar Torkaman, left us to take up a permanent teaching position. We wish her all the best in her new career.

A community-voted award recognised Northside Produce Market as one of Sydney's best-loved, long-established produce markets.

Finally, we sadly said goodbye to our Program and Events Manager, Rosalynde Gray. Rosalynde has done a remarkable job over the past year building up our classes and programs. She's been a wonderful member of our staff; we'll miss her and wish her every success in her new endeavours.

We were very pleased to welcome our new Program Manager, Richard Ndem. He brings a wealth of experience in program and events management.

Gretel Duque, our Marketing Coordinator, continues to do a fabulous job. Her work has been a key part of our engagement with the community, making sure people know what we offer. Our website and newsletter have strengthened those connections, especially with younger people. They have been an important part of our successes this year.

Our popular Northside Produce Market is loved by people who come from all over Sydney. Lisa MacDonald, our Market Coordinator, has been doing a remarkable job over many years building a market that just gets better every year. This achievement was recognized this year with a community-voted award celebrating Northside as one of Sydney's best-loved, long-established produce markets. Congratulations to Lisa.

Finally, I'd like to thank Michelle Nixon, our former Deputy Director. She has helped us out a number of times this year, which has been a real lifesaver.

This year we staged the inaugural Winter Art Prize. It attracted an impressive range of high-quality entries. The award night was also very well attended, with lots of familiar faces and many people visiting the Centre for the first time. Thank you to Sarah's husband, Neil, for the great idea and for organising such a memorable event. Thanks also to Anne Cape, a well-known local artist, for being our judge.

I'm very lucky to have a dedicated, hardworking Management Committee. We're all volunteers and everyone is willing to assist the Centre, giving many hours in their area of expertise. Thanks to Barbara DeGraff, Trish Cutler and Naomi Fiegel. Thank you to our Vice President Lynne Oswald, our Treasurer Vivek Samdarshi and our Secretary Beate Reinhardt. I'd also like to thank John Playford, who has continued to advise us on staffing matters.

Our major ongoing challenge is to rebuild our cash reserves, which were seriously diminished during the Covid lockdowns and their aftermath. Thank you to our staff, who managed the fine balance of financial viability while continuing to deliver quality, affordable events and programs to our community.

I'd like to again acknowledge North Sydney Council for their ongoing support, despite their own budget problems. This vital support includes the provision and maintenance of our wonderful Centre and our generous annual grant.

I look forward to another great year with our community at North Sydney Community Centre.



Director's Report

SARAH CUNNINGHAM
Director

A Year of Growth, Connection and Building for the Future

This year has been one of significant progress for North Sydney Community Centre. Together, we have continued to strengthen the foundations of our organisation while embracing new opportunities to connect, support and inspire our community.

Throughout the year, our focus has remained clear: ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Centre while continuing to deliver high-quality programs and services that respond to the evolving needs of the people we serve. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, tutors, volunteers, Management Committee and the many community members and partners who support our work. I sincerely thank every one of you for your commitment and contribution.

Strengthening Our Organisation

Over the past twelve months we have continued to build a stronger, more resilient organisation.

Financial sustainability has remained a key priority. Through careful financial management, improved budget oversight and a continued focus on diversifying revenue, we have strengthened the Centre's financial position while maintaining investment in the programs and services that matter most to our community.

Strong participation across our community education program, continued demand for our After School Care service, new and returning participants in Explorers Playgroup, growing venue hire activity and the ongoing success of the Northside Produce Market have all contributed positively to the Centre's performance.

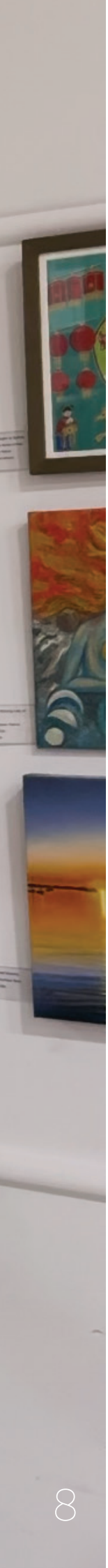
Alongside this work, we undertook a review of organisational policies and operational systems. Strengthening compliance, risk management and organisational capability has positioned the Centre well for future growth while ensuring we continue to meet the highest standards of governance expected of a community organisation.

Investing in Our People

The strength of North Sydney Community Centre has always been its people.

We are continuing our focus on building a positive, engaged and high-performing workplace culture. Leadership sessions have helped in establishing clear priorities for each service area, and regular one-to-one meetings strengthened communication and accountability.

We also introduced an anonymous Leadership Team Survey, providing valuable insights into workplace culture and identifying opportunities for continuous improvement. Together with activities such as StrengthsFinder workshops, First Aid and Child Safe training, these initiatives are helping us create an environment where people feel supported, connected and empowered to contribute their best.



I am continually inspired by the professionalism, compassion and dedication of our staff and tutors. Their commitment to creating welcoming, inclusive and enriching experiences is what makes our Centre such a valued part of the North Sydney community.

Responding to Community Needs

North Sydney Community Centre exists to bring people together, foster lifelong learning and strengthen community wellbeing.

Throughout the year we continued to deliver a diverse range of programs across our five core service areas: community learning, After School Care, Explorers Playgroup, Venue Hire and Northside Produce Market, while continually adapting our services to meet changing community needs.

Feedback from students, families, tutors and community members continues to shape our planning and decision-making. This commitment to listening ensures our programs remain relevant, accessible and responsive, while creating opportunities for greater inclusion, connection and participation.

Planning has also commenced for new initiatives that will further support children, young people, families and older adults, reflecting our commitment to delivering programs that strengthen community wellbeing at every stage of life.

Celebrating Community Through Art

One of the year's highlights was the inaugural North Sydney Community Centre Winter Art Prize.

Created as both a community celebration and fundraising initiative, the Art Prize exceeded our expectations in its first year. The exhibition showcased an exceptional collection of works from talented local artists and attracted strong community interest, bringing together artists, residents, sponsors, volunteers and supporters to celebrate creativity and community.

The Exhibition and Award event demonstrated the important role the Centre plays in fostering cultural participation while also creating valuable opportunities to strengthen community partnerships and diversify fundraising.

My sincere thanks go to our sponsors, judges, volunteers, artists and organising team whose enthusiasm and generosity made the event such a remarkable success. We look forward to growing the Winter Art Prize into a key annual event for our community.

Child Safety, Governance and Continuous Improvement

Providing safe, inclusive and welcoming environments remains central to everything we do.

Throughout the year we strengthened our Child Safe practices through policy development, increased staff number care ratios in our After School Care team, all staff training and ongoing improvements aligned with the Child Safe Standards and National Quality Framework. Significant work was also undertaken to review organisational policies, strengthen governance and ensure the Centre remains well positioned to meet current and emerging compliance obligations.

Building Stronger Partnerships

Community partnerships continue to play an essential role in the success of North Sydney Community Centre.

During the year we strengthened relationships with North Sydney Council, local businesses, community organisations, grant providers and philanthropic partners. These collaborations expand the opportunities available to our community while helping ensure the long-term sustainability of the Centre.

We also continued exploring new partnerships that will enhance our programs, create innovative community initiatives and increase the social impact of our work

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, we do so with optimism and confidence.

The coming year will see us continue to focus on financial sustainability, expand opportunities for children, young people and families, grow community participation and deepen the partnerships that support our work.

While much has been achieved this year, we remain ambitious about what lies ahead. Our commitment to creating a welcoming, inclusive and connected community continues to guide every decision we make.

Thank You

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our dedicated staff, tutors, volunteers, Management Committee, funding partners, sponsors and the many individuals and organisations who contribute so generously to the Centre.

Your passion, commitment and belief in the importance of community are what make North Sydney Community Centre such a special place.

It is a privilege to lead this organisation, and I look forward to continuing our journey together as we build an even stronger, more connected and more resilient community.

“Our commitment to creating a welcoming, inclusive and connected community continues to guide every decision we make.”



The Centre

North Sydney Community Centre is an independent, not-for-profit community organisation that has been connecting people and enriching community life since 1972. From children's programs and After School Care to classes, workshops, community talks, exhibitions and the Northside Produce Market, the Centre responds to the changing needs and interests of the community.

At its heart is a commitment to fostering social connection, wellbeing, creativity and inclusion, while nurturing the present and promoting a sustainable future.

1972
Families come together in North Sydney, establishing an after-school program; the Centre's story begins

1973
Explorers Playgroup begins, alongside volunteer-run adult classes including weaving, bread making and pottery

1982
The early childhood music program Music & Movement launches

1999
Northside Produce Market kicks off as one of the Centre's fundraising activity

2000
New identity: the centre is named North Sydney Community Centre, reflecting its broader role within the community

2006
The Centre moves into new sustainable-design building

2022
North Sydney Community Centre and After School Care celebrate 50 years; Music & Movement is turning 40

2024
Northside Produce Market celebrates 25 years

2025
Sarah Cunningham joins the Centre as the new Director

Meet the Team

Leadership Team

Sarah Cunningham,
Director

Denis Tresoglavic,
Deputy Director

Richard Ndem,
Centre Program Coordinator








Lisa McDonald,
Northside Produce Market Coordinator

Pamela Papa,
Admin & Student Services Officer and Venue Hire Coordinator

Nalini Chelliah,
After School Care Director




Talya Saada,
Explorers Playgroup Coordinator

Gretel Duque,
Marketing Coordinator

Management Committee

Genia McCaffery,
President

Lynn Oswald,
Vice President

Vivek Samdarshi,
Treasurer







Beate Reinhardt,
Secretary

Barbara DeGraff,
Committee Member




Trish Cutler,
Committee Member

Naomi Fiegel,
Committee Member


SUN
SET
SUN
SET



Programming & Events

ROSALYNDE GRAY
Centre Program Coordinator

Growth & Highlights

Our program offering expanded meaningfully across adult courses and seasonal workshops.

Kids Programs

The Autumn/Winter Holiday Program ran at near capacity, with a wide range of creative workshops for children and teens. Feedback from families was enthusiastic, and many participants discovered the Centre for the first time through these holiday offerings.

Adult Programs

We introduced new courses in woodwork, language conversation, painting, cooking and wellbeing. Regular favourites continued to thrive, with many classes filling within days of enrolments opening.

Major Events

Student & Tutor Exhibition 2025

This annual highlight welcomed around 200 attendees, with strong artwork and book sales creating a lively and celebratory atmosphere.

Winter Art Prize 2026

Launched for the first time, the Winter Art Prize attracted hundreds of visitors and celebrated the creativity and diversity of our community.

Enrolments & Participation at a Glance

700+

Average enrolments per term in FY25/26

2.8k+

Average enrolments across FY25/26

5,519

Online enrolments FY25/26;
up 21% compared with FY24/25

Pottery
Mahjong
Senior Fitness
Painting

Popular classes that regularly reach capacity

Grants & Community Impact

We secured multiple grants that supported a wide range of community initiatives, including:

- **Mental health workshops**
- **Cultural and creative workshops**
- **Digital skills events**
- **Free teen creative programs**
- **Music & Movement sessions for Playgroup**

Additional applications were submitted for future initiatives such as kiln upgrades, intergenerational programs and expanded after school offerings.

These grants helped us deliver programs that foster connection, wellbeing, creativity and inclusion across all ages.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the generous support that helped bring several key initiatives to life this year.

Eckersley's Arts & Craft, St Leonards, and Norths Cammeray
Proud sponsors of the Winter Art Prize, helping us launch a vibrant new annual event for our creative community.

NSW Government Holiday Break Program
Delivered through the Office for Youth, NSW Government, this support enabled us to offer free, high-quality creative workshops for young people as part of our Kids Winter Holiday Program.

Community Connection

This year has shown, once again, how deeply the community values creativity, learning and connection at the Centre. The feedback from students, tutors and families reflects a place where people feel welcome, supported and inspired.

As I finish my time in this role, I'm grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to a program that brings so many people together. It has been a privilege to work alongside our tutors, staff, committee and community, and I leave knowing the Centre will continue to thrive through the dedication of the team and the spirit of the people who walk through its doors.





> The [market] tour was an eye opener and we should all support these passionate and dedicated producers who make this wonderful market happen.

Northside Produce Market



LISA MACDONALD
Northside Produce Market Coordinator

Being an outdoor market, the weather can play a major role in the success of each Northside Produce Market. The weather, of course, exerts its influence well before market day, affecting the produce grown, the animals reared and the food prepared.

We were fortunate to begin the 2025–2026 financial year with favourable weather, and the two July school holiday markets attracted strong customer attendance.

We were not so fortunate at our 2 August market, when torrential rain threatened to derail the day. In fact, I came very close to calling off the market altogether, something I had never previously considered.

A huge thank you goes to our stallholders for enduring such difficult conditions. It is challenging serving fewer customers in the rain while also setting up and packing down in torrential weather. It can be particularly disheartening when stock is damaged or lost.

A highlight of the year was our October long weekend market, when we hosted an In Conversation event celebrating the launch of stallholder Christopher Thé's book, *Modern Australian Baking*. The event sold out, and fortunately, the hot weather leading up to the day subsided, making for a much more comfortable experience for everyone attending.

On behalf of North Sydney Community Centre, I would like to thank North Sydney Council for its ongoing support of the free *Behind the Scenes* Market Tours and the complementary bicycle servicing offered at the Check In & Tune Up stall. These activities continue to receive rave reviews and attract strong community participation.

Volunteer Acknowledgements

A special thank you to the volunteers who generously support the market throughout the year.

Donna Karp
Processes stallholder direct debits each fortnight

Rosemary Garrett
Arrives at 6.30 am to put up market signage before joining the Information Stall team

Jane Barnes
Helen Ritchie
Lynn Oswald
Sandy Boyd
Information Stall volunteer

Michelle Nixon
Provides support across a range of volunteer roles whenever needed

Sam Turton
Completed his Duke of Edinburgh volunteer hours on the market pack-down team for the past two years and is now a valued paid member of the team



Venue Hire

PAMELA PAPA
Venue Hire Coordinator

Prior to delving into the Venue Hire Report for 2025–26, I wish to give massive recognition and appreciation to our Venue Hire Coordinator in FY25, Hajar Torkaman. As the Venue Hire Coordinator, Hajar managed the continued success of our Venue Hire service with dedication, passion, and liveliness. The joy with which she managed Venue Hire sets a strong precedent that I am grateful and excited to follow. Thank you for everything Hajar!

240
Venue bookings in FY26

28.3%
Increase in bookings compared with FY24

27
Record venue bookings in a single month (Nov 25)

We have undertaken process improvements in the last 12 months, key of which are:

- **Streamlining the venue hire process through the creation of a Google Form. We are able to capture key information such as equipment requests and party details that allow us to provide a more personalised service.**
- **Implementation of a $150 bond requirement for venue hires, ensuring we strike a balance between protecting the Centre whilst also continuing to serve our broader community.**

We continue to be an incredibly popular venue for hosting children's birthday parties, representing the vast majority of venue hires held on weekends. We also maintain strong relations with our continuing hirers.

Additional events we have been happy to host at the Centre include mother's group meetings, workplace end-of-year parties, and training sessions for local, fellow not-for profits, including Zonta. We even hosted a wedding reception following a ceremony held at our neighbouring St Thomas' Church.

The breadth of events that have been hosted at the Centre in the past year shows the diversity of the community which we serve, and our pride in being a space for them to gather and celebrate.

What Our Community Says

Sydney Playscapes
Local Guide · 111 reviews · 428 photos

★★★★★ 11 months ago

We had the pleasure of styling this venue for a first birthday and it couldn't have been a better fit. Our softplay setup, jumping softplay setup, jumping castle, and balloon backdrop came to life beautifully in the open, airy space.

The venue was spotless and had a lovely atmosphere - plenty of room for little ones to play and for guests to relax and also has private playground too! It's a wonderful setting for any special occasion,highly recommend this venue.

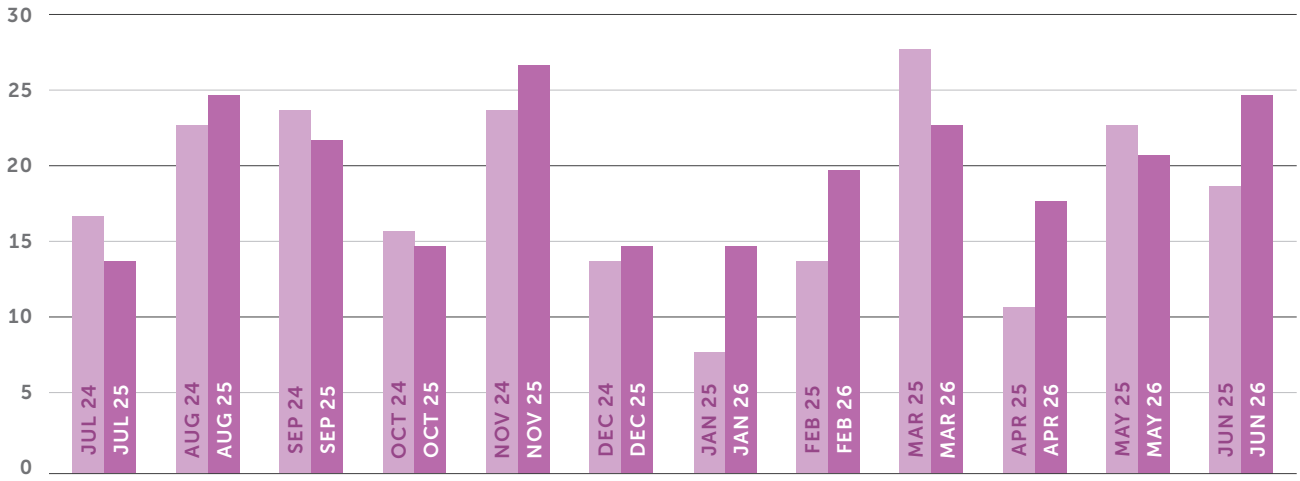


Aaron Scott
7 reviews · 1 photo

★★★★★ a year ago

Wonderful place for my daughters 5th birthday party. Room was clean and I recommend getting the biggest room for 15 or more children. Morton & Bay Room was the perfect size with the correct amount of space for the entertainers as well.

Venue Hire bookings per month





After School Care

NALINI CHELLIAH
After School Director

The 2025–2026 year has been a positive and productive year for the After School Care program, with a continued focus on providing children with engaging, inclusive and meaningful experiences that support their wellbeing, development and sense of belonging.

Program Development

A major success this year has been the introduction of term-based clubs, giving children the opportunity to participate in activities based on their interests. Clubs have included:

- **Homework Club**
- **Dance Club**
- **Indoor Soccer Club**
- **Arts & Crafts Club**

The clubs have encouraged greater participation, confidence and leadership, with children increasingly supported to help organise and lead sessions. This has helped develop their communication, teamwork and sense of responsibility.

68

average attendance on Wednesdays and Thursdays

63

average attendance on other days

The Dance Club was a particular highlight, with children performing a concert at the end of Term 1. The performance was warmly received and gave children an opportunity to share their creativity, confidence and achievements with families and the wider community.

Inclusion and Additional Needs

Inclusion has remained an important focus throughout the year, with the leadership team taking an increased role in developing and implementing activities that support meaningful participation for children with additional needs.

Programming has been adapted to reflect children's individual interests, abilities and needs, supporting an inclusive environment where all children can participate and feel a sense of belonging.

Role Play and Interest-Based Programming

A successful new addition to the program has been role play, providing creative opportunities for children to explore different roles, experiences and positive role models:

- **Hospital**
- **Vet**
- **Supermarket**
- **Café**
- **Camping**

These activities have supported communication, imagination, cooperation and social skills, while allowing children of different ages and abilities to participate in ways that are meaningful to them.

Neurodivergent children, in particular, have become actively engaged in the role-play experiences and increasingly socialised with their peers. This highlights the positive impact

of flexible, interest-based programming on participation, confidence and a sense of belonging.

Child Safety, Supervision and Risk Management

The service has continued to strengthen its approach to child safety, supervision and risk management throughout the year.

Supervision plans and transition risk assessments have been reviewed and updated, including new transition routes and the changing needs of the service. Staff meetings have also included regular training and professional discussions to ensure educators remain aware of their responsibilities and respond consistently to children's needs.

Child Protection and Professional Development

A significant focus this year has been child protection and safeguarding.

Following the Department of Education requirement for all staff to complete GECCKO training (*Get Early Childcare Compliance Knowledge Online*), educators and the Centre's administration and leadership team completed the required training, strengthening their understanding of:

- **Child Safety & safeguarding**
- **Recognising concerns**
- **Observation and documentation**
- **Reporting responsibilities**
- **Responding appropriately to child protection matters**

The training has further strengthened the team's knowledge and confidence in meeting its child safety responsibilities.

Staffing and Leadership

There have been changes within the leadership team during the year. Nalini took on the role of Acting Director for the 2025–2026 period, supporting the continued operation and development of the service.

Hendrik commenced paternity leave at the end of Term 2, 2026. The service will now establish an Acting Director/Assistant Director arrangement to ensure continuity of leadership and support the ongoing program.

Family Engagement and Feedback

Family engagement has continued to be a positive aspect of the program. The service actively seeks and responds to family feedback, with responses indicating a very positive experience of the After School Care leisure program.

Ongoing communication with families has helped identify areas of strength and opportunities for continued improvement.

Looking Ahead

The After School Care program will continue to provide high-quality, inclusive and engaging experiences that respond to the interests, abilities and needs of children and families.

- **Continuing to develop term-based clubs and children's leadership opportunities**
- **Strengthening inclusive and interest-based programming**
- **Providing meaningful participation opportunities for children with additional needs**
- **Continuing to strengthen child safety, supervision and risk management**
- **Supporting educator professional development and teamwork**
- **Maintaining strong relationships with children and families**
- **Continuing to review and improve the program in response to children's and families' feedback**

Overall, 2025–2026 has been a year of growth, participation, inclusion and continuous improvement, with a strong focus on children's leadership, engaging programming, child safety and relationships with children and families.



Explorers Playgroup

TALYA SAADA
Explorers Playgroup Coordinator

Wednesdays: From Quietest to Busiest

Wednesday saw a marked turnaround this year. From September to December 2025, it was consistently our quietest day, averaging 33 children/session, compared with Thursday's 51.

By February–July 2026, Wednesday had become our busiest day, averaging 44 children/session, while attendance eased on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

This shift coincided with the introduction of new themed sessions, several on Wednesdays, suggesting families are choosing sessions based on what's on offer rather than habit.

Earlier registration figures (July–August 2025) show Wednesday was already one of the quieter days, averaging in the low-to-mid 20s while other weekdays remained steadier — making the turnaround since February all the more striking.

New Themes Introduced This Year

Post Office
Role-play based activities around mail, parcels and community helpers

Space
Exploring the solar system through sensory play, craft and imaginative play

Construction
Building, tools and problem-solving play for budding engineers

Camping
Outdoor-inspired play including a tent, torches, fishing and nature exploration

These popular themes helped drive steady growth in registrations and attendance.

102
Highest attendance at a single session in FY25/26

5.7k+
Total child attendances across sessions with recorded headcounts

5.2k+
Total registrations across recorded sessions FY25/26

Figures cover recorded sessions from July 2025 to July 2026. Some weeks are missing due to school holiday closures, so totals reflect recorded sessions rather than a complete year. Detailed child headcounts ("Kids") were not recorded in July–August 2025; therefore, Total/Avg Kids figures cover September 2025 onward and are marked with an asterisk in the table below.

Registrations and Attendance by Month

Month	Sessions	Avg. Registered	Total Registered	Avg. Kids	Total Kids
Jul 25	10	27	274	n/r	n/r
Aug 25	16	24	393	n/r	n/r
Sep 25	16	29	476	37	598
Oct 25	11	34	382	43	482
Nov 25	16	39	637	50	810
Dec 25	12	34	417	47	569
Feb 26	16	32	524	36	582
Mar 26	18	33	596	41	738
Apr 26	7	33	237	41	287
May 26	16	28	456	35	569
Jun 26	17	34	582	43	733
Jul 26	8	38	305	45	362
Total/Avg.	163	32	5,279	41*	5,730*

**Avg Kids and Total Kids reflect September 2025–July 2026 only, as headcounts weren't separately recorded in July–August 2025.*

Sensory Trays

Sensory trays are a new addition over the last six months and have quickly become a firm favourite, with fantastic feedback from parents. Water play and coloured rice trays are always busy, and sit nicely alongside the already well-established playdough table as a reliable, popular activity.

Community Events

Biggest Morning Tea

Explorers Playgroup brought families together for a morning of tea, treats and connection, raising funds for the Cancer Council in support of a great cause. Together we raised $222.85 making it a well-supported morning for a great cause.

47+

Families involved; 27 attending on the day, plus around 20 registered

> "Explorers Playgroup is amazing. The staff are very kind and helpful. The equipment is plentiful and fabulous. The two rooms are always set up with great care and my grandson loves playing there."
>
> **— Playgroup Carer**

Staffing

Deb, Lou and Chloe continue in their roles from last year, providing welcome continuity for families.

Adriana has moved on to After School Care however continues to be a consistent casual for Playgroup.

Talya started as Playgroup Coordinator in December, taking over from Gill, who retired at the end of last calendar year after eight years at the heart of Explorers.

Volunteers & Community Support

A special thank you to our wonderful volunteers and practicum students, whose time, energy and generosity help keep the program running smoothly throughout the year.

Muriel

Our dedicated Thursday volunteer, spending most of the day with us each week. Muriel speaks several languages and has introduced French songs to our sessions. She also teaches yoga at After School Care.

Anne

Helps with cleaning on Monday mornings.

Catherine

Helps with pack-down on Monday afternoons, keeping Mondays running smoothly from open to close alongside Anne.

Ayano

One of our newest volunteers, helping prepare craft activities and resources on Monday mornings for the week ahead.

High school volunteers

Help with laminating and cutting, providing valuable behind-the-scenes support.

TAFE practicum students

We were fortunate to host two groups of practicum students this year. Their energy and ideas were greatly appreciated, with the most recent group helping set up a range of engaging experiences, including our popular sensory trays.

Parent Survey Highlights

We ran a parent survey this year to better understand how families find us, what they value, and where we can improve. A few highlights from the responses:

How families hear about us

Word of mouth remains our strongest source, accounting for more than half of responses. Local networks and Google searches are the next most common ways families find us.

What families love most

"Variety" and "outdoor space" were the most-mentioned words, alongside praise for flexible sessions, craft activities and changing weekly themes.

Favourite themes

Trains came out on top, followed by construction, hospital and pirates. Space and post office, both new this year, are already proving popular

Making connections

Around 6 in 10 families said they've made friends or connections through playgroup, with several describing making "a million" friends or attending with a regular group.

Room to improve

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with most families writing "n/a". Suggestions were generally small and specific, including a trampoline, more balls or jigsaws, and comments on pricing and door access.


GLUTEN
Free

Music & Movement



SIMONA GREEN
Preschoolers Music & Movement Teacher

2026 has been an exciting year for the Music & Movement program.

This term, all three classes reached record numbers, and the waiting list continues to grow for Term 4.

Parents and grandparents have been very appreciative of the space the Centre offers families. With a music space next to a playground, close to a public library, with easy parking and cafés nearby, Friday mornings are both socially and educationally enriching.

More scientific studies and academic research are confirming the benefits of early childhood music and movement education.

Singing songs, feeling the beat, moving to different tempos, making music together, playing in ensembles and discovering contrasts between musical modes provide a full-brain workout that supports spatial awareness, social and emotional skills, coordination, gross and fine motor skills, focus and memory, language and literacy, creativity and, most of all, a sense of pleasure.

I cherish watching the children immerse themselves in a song or dance, with a twinkle in their eyes and a spring in their feet.

I look forward to collaborating with NSCC for many years to come and bringing the joy of music to the community.

> "Simona displays her wealth of experience and passion in her teaching with such joy. I cannot recommend her classes highly enough."
>
> **— Music & Movement Parent**



Marketing

GRETEL DUQUE
Marketing Coordinator

The Centre's marketing strategy continued to strengthen throughout FY25/26, with growth in website traffic, social media referrals and online enrolments.

Website traffic increased from 100,450 users last financial year to 156,144 users this financial year. This significant increase demonstrates growing awareness of North Sydney Community Centre and increased engagement with our online platforms.

We also saw an increase in users coming to our website from social media, growing from 9,969 users last financial year to 13,834 users this year. This growth highlights the positive impact of our social media initiatives and our focus on creating engaging, community-focused content that encourages people to visit our website.

Online enrolments also increased significantly, showing that more people are becoming familiar and confident with the online enrolment process. According to Google Analytics, we recorded 1,411 online enrolments last financial year, compared with 4,848 this year.

This significant growth in online enrolments demonstrates the increasing role of our digital platforms in connecting people with our classes, workshops and programs. Our goal is to encourage our audience to enrol online and make the process as simple and accessible as possible.

Website Traffic – Organic Search

2025	41,350	
2026	42,656	+3%

Website Traffic – Social Media

2025	9,969	
2026	13,834	+38.8%

55%
Increase in website users

38%
Increase in users arriving from social media

243%
Increase in online enrolments

Winter Art Prize

The inaugural Winter Art Prize was a highly successful initiative that increased awareness of North Sydney Community Centre, reached new audiences and delivered a well-attended community event celebrating local creativity.

Key Achievements

The campaign generated strong online interest and engagement across the Centre's digital platforms:

- **6,109 visits to the Winter Art Prize Event page**
- **79,557 people reached across Facebook & Instagram**
- **146,645 content views**
- **1,490 social media engagements**
- **134 link clicks from social media**

Campaign Outcomes

The competition attracted a strong response from artists, with finalists selected for exhibition at the Winter Art Prize Exhibition & Award Night.

One of the campaign's greatest achievements was welcoming people who had not previously attended North Sydney Community Centre. This expanded the Centre's reach and introduced new audiences to its creative programs.

The Exhibition & Award Night brought together finalists, their families, friends and members of the community to celebrate local creativity and artistic achievement.

Winter Art Prize Stats

202
Artwork entries

125
Finalists selected for exhibition

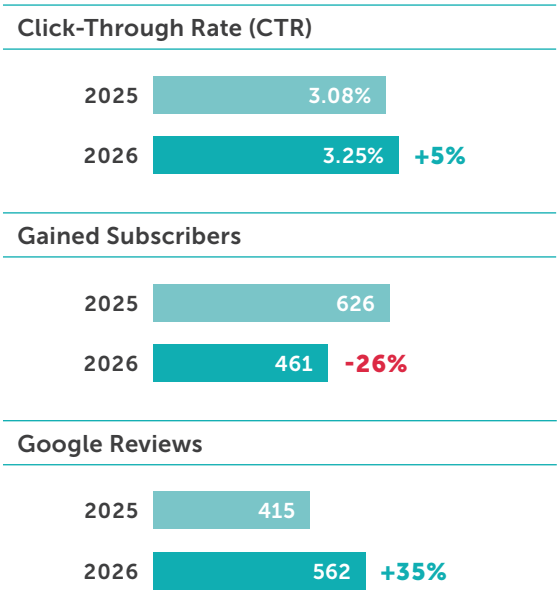
127
First-time participants

72
Existing students

500+
Visitors at the Exhibition & Award Night

One of our greatest achievements with the Winter Art Prize was expanding our reach and introducing new audiences to the Centre's creative programs.

Email Marketing



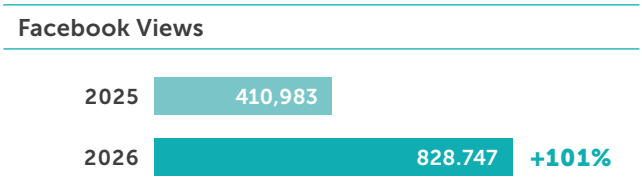
We Are Growing on Social Media

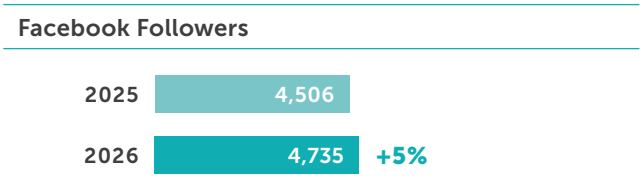
North Sydney Community Centre's social media initiatives performed strongly throughout the year. While follower growth remains important, one of the most significant achievements has been the dramatic increase in engagement. Our followers are increasingly sharing, commenting on and interacting with our content.

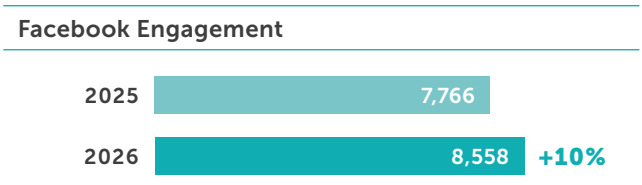
This year, our social media strategy focused more strongly on community-focused content, including videos featuring our community, community news, students returning to classes and different aspects of our services and programs.

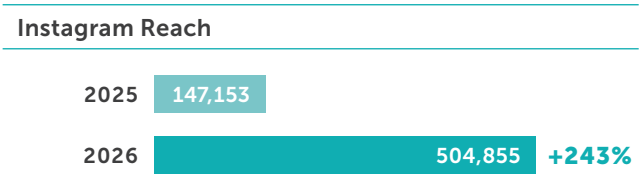
This approach has resulted in a positive shift in the way our audience interacts with our content. By showcasing the people, activities and experiences that make North Sydney Community Centre unique, we have been able to create more authentic and engaging content that connects with our community.

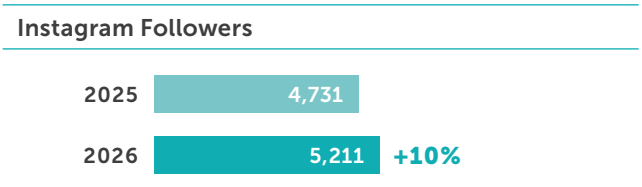
North Sydney Community Centre

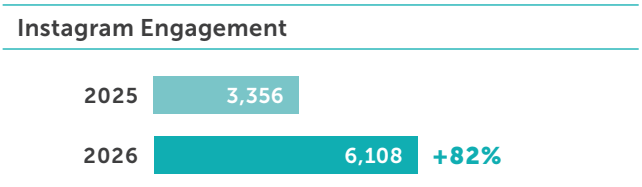




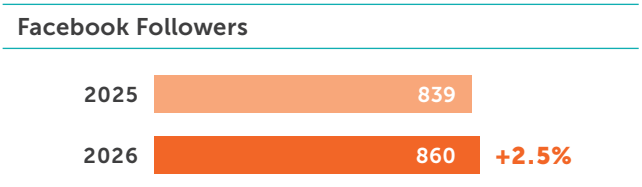


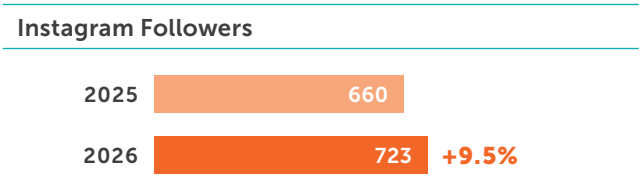




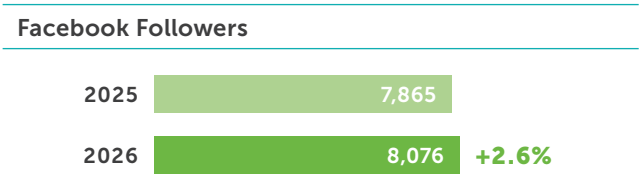


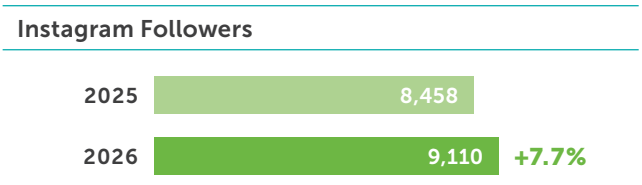
Explorers Playgroup





Northside Produce Market





Treasurer's Report

VIVEK SAMDARSHI
Treasurer

FY26 marked an important step forward in the financial sustainability of the North Sydney Community Centre. Following the progress made in the previous year, the Centre returned to a modest operating surplus while continuing to grow participation across its programs, services and facilities. This combination of stronger community engagement and improved financial performance provides a solid foundation for the year ahead.

A key strength of the Centre is the close relationship between community participation and financial sustainability. Every enrolment, room booking, market stall and program participation contributes to the Centre's revenue while demonstrating the value our community places on what we provide. This revenue allows us to continue investing in our programs, people and facilities and, in turn, supports the Centre's ongoing contribution to the community.

Against a backdrop of economic uncertainty and ongoing cost-of-living pressures, demand for the Centre's services remained resilient throughout FY26, with increased participation across classes, childcare services, room hire and community activities. This growth is important not only financially, but because it demonstrates that the Centre continues to provide services that people value and choose to prioritise.

At the same time, rising employment and operating costs continue to increase the cost of delivering quality services, while households and individuals face competing demands on their time and discretionary spending. The Centre has responded through disciplined financial management while continuing to invest in its people, programs and facilities to remain relevant and responsive to the needs of our community. Pricing decisions are guided not by revenue maximisation but by the need to balance affordability and accessibility with the cost of delivering services on a sustainable basis.

> "FY26 has strengthened the Centre's financial foundation while demonstrating the enduring value of what we provide to the community."

The return to surplus, together with a strengthened cash position, is an important improvement in the Centre's financial position. It provides greater capacity to manage future cost pressures and greater flexibility to take a longer-term view when making financial and operational decisions.

The Centre remains extremely grateful for the ongoing support of North Sydney Council. Its funding, provision of facilities and broader partnership continue to be instrumental in enabling the Centre to deliver valuable and accessible services to the community.

I would also like to thank our staff, volunteers, Board members, partners and patrons for their continued commitment. FY26 has strengthened the Centre's financial foundation while demonstrating the enduring value of what we provide to the community. We enter FY27 with continued demand for our services and a clear focus on building on this progress.

Committee Members' Report

North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated
Committee members' report
For the year ended 30 June 2026

The committee members present their report, together with the financial statements, on the incorporated association for the year ended 30 June 2026.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Genia McCaffery
Lynn Oswald
Trish Cutler
Beate Reinhardt
Barbara DeGraff
Vivek Samdarshi
Naomi Fiegler

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Providing services to the community such as children's services and adult education.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant changes in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

OPERATING RESULT

The result for the year amounted to a surplus of $3,813.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

24 / 9 2026

Statement of Income and Expenses

North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026 $	2025 $
Revenue		
After School Care Fees	260,061	266,630
Class and Event Fees	825,620	646,801
Grants & Subsidies	390,412	359,584
Market Income	245,031	247,475
Playgroup Fees	68,014	64,871
Venue Hire	138,528	125,915
Interest Received	5,541	10,066
Other Income	22,783	4,324
	1,955,990	1,725,666
Expenses		
Accountancy & Audit	(23,412)	(31,924)
Advertising & Promotion	(46,712)	(43,019)
Administration Expenses	(21,242)	(18,607)
Equipment Purchase/Replacement	(2,036)	(10,093)
Entertainment & Materials	(34,245)	(38,754)
Insurance	(28,893)	(24,601)
Repairs & Maintenance	(3,175)	(3,443)
Staff Expenses	(1,244,244)	(1,099,503)
Tutors Fees	(427,079)	(332,918)
Other Expenses	(121,139)	(140,692)
	(1,952,177)	(1,743,554)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	3,813	(17,888)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	3,813	(17,888)

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Statement of Financial Position

North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated
Statement of financial position
As at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	307,123	263,844
Trade and other receivables	4	6,756	1,267
Total current assets		313,879	265,111
Total assets		313,879	265,111
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	114,952	80,317
Contract liabilities	6	7,492	14,292
Employee benefits	7	87,752	71,269
Total current liabilities		210,196	165,878
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefits	7	17,961	17,324
Total non-current liabilities		17,961	17,324
Total liabilities		228,157	183,202
Net assets		85,722	81,909
Equity			
Retained surpluses		85,722	81,909
Total equity		85,722	81,909

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Notes to the Financial Statements (1/2)

Note 1. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Other long-term employee benefits
The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and other similar taxes
Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority is included in other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority.

Note 2. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Employee benefits provision
As discussed in note 1, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

Note 3. Cash and cash equivalents

	2026 $	2025 $
Current assets		
Cash on hand	500	1,050
Cash at bank	106,623	262,794
Term deposits	200,000	-
	307,123	263,844

Note 4. Trade and other receivables

	2026 $	2025 $
Current assets		
Other receivables	5,505	1,267
Net GST receivable	1,251	-
	6,756	1,267

Note 5. Trade and other payables

	2026 $	2025 $
Current liabilities		
Creditors & accruals	114,952	80,006
Net GST payable	-	311
	114,952	80,317

Note 6. Contract liabilities

	2026 $	2025 $
Current liabilities		
Unearned government grants	7,492	14,292

Note 7. Employee benefits

	2026 $	2025 $
Current liabilities		
Annual leave	51,579	38,286
Long service leave	36,173	32,983
	87,752	71,269
Non-current liabilities		
Long service leave	17,961	17,324

Note 8. Contingent liabilities

The incorporated association has no contingent liabilities at 30 June 2026 and 30 June 2025.

Note 9. Commitments

The incorporated association has no commitments at 30 June 2026 and 30 June 2025.

Note 10. Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties
There were no transactions with related parties during the current and previous financial year.

Receivable from and payable to related parties
There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Notes to the Financial Statements (2/2)

North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Note 10. Related party transactions (continued)

Loans to/from related parties
There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Note 11. Events after the reporting period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2026 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the incorporated association's operations, the results of those operations, or the incorporated association's state of affairs in future financial years.

Committee Members' Declaration

North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated
Committee members' declaration
For the year ended 30 June 2026

In the committee members' opinion:

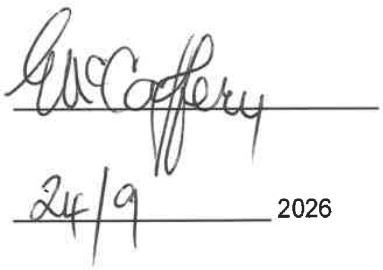
- the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. Accordingly, as described in note 1 to the financial statements, the attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, Associations Incorporations Act 2009 and associated regulations;

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Accounting Standards as described in note 1 to the financial statements;

- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the incorporated association's financial position as at 30 June 2026 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the incorporated association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the committee members



24/9 2026

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Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the annual report, being a special purpose financial report, of North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated (the Incorporated Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the committee members' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying annual report of the Incorporated Association is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

i) giving a true and fair view of the Incorporated Association's financial position as at 30 June 2026 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and

ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual report' section of our report. We are independent of the Incorporated Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the annual report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of matter regarding basis of accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the annual report, which describes the basis of accounting. The annual report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the members' financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the annual report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in North Sydney Community Centre Incorporated's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026, but does not include the financial report and the auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the annual report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the annual report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in

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doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the annual report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Members' responsibility for the annual report

The members of the Incorporated Association are responsible for the preparation of the annual report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial statements is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The members are also responsible for such internal control as the members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the annual report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual report, the members are responsible for assessing the Incorporated Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members either intend to liquidate the Incorporated Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the annual report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this annual report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the annual report is located at The Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: https://auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Limited

Joseph Santangelo
Director

Dated at Sydney, this day 24th of September 2026



NORTH SYDNEY
community
CENTRE