

2022 Annual Report



JOHN PIERCE CENTRE
Spirit of the Deaf Community

Mission Statement:

Inspired by Jesus Christ and the traditions of the Catholic Church, the John Pierce Centre seeks to empower all Deaf people and their families within Victoria to live their lives to the full

Our Vision:

To Promote Community through Education, Spiritual, and Family Support

Values:

To be inclusive of Deaf and hard of hearing people and their families

To be fair and ethical in all of our dealings

To have a team of staff and volunteers filled with passion and compassion

To be open to working with other organisations, individuals and corporations

To manage our resources with efficiency and effectiveness

To create a safe environment

To be accountable and transparent in our governance and business practices



Directors' Annual Report

On behalf of the John Pierce Centre (JPC) Board of Directors I am pleased to present our annual report for the 2022 year.

At the time of preparing the report, the JPC Accounts for the 2022 year have been subjected to the usual practice of a full independent review in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Auditing Standard ASRE 2415 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012. No issues were identified and the JPC continues to be in a financial position wherein the organisation is able to pay its accounts as and when they fall due.

During 2022, the JPC started to use our Centre again for community activities and meetings, while still carefully managing the continuing challenges that COVID 19 presented. Ever present in each decision made and at the core of the operation was and remains the community we serve. This would not have been possible without the continuing dedication and hard work of the JPC Staff, Board and Volunteers ensuring we continued to deliver our services, so our community remained connected and supported. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to our JPC Staff team and our Volunteers for their wonderful work.

* Our Executive Manager Carmel Philips has continued to keep the Board apprised and led the JPC Staff and community under some ongoing challenging conditions and is to be commended for her resilience and dedication.

* Brother Shane Wood continues to provide his valuable support and input to the Board.

* Financially we continue to remain focused on a prudent approach to our everyday management of the JPC.

* The Management, Strategy and Finance subcommittees continued to support the JPC operations and the Board in its governance role. I would like to acknowledge Tony Dillon who joined our Finance subcommittee and thank Tony for his valuable contribution.

* We have refreshed the JPC strategy to reflect the different world we now live in and to focus on ensuring JPC has a sustainable funding position going forward, to allow us to continue supporting our community for the coming decade.

I would also like to thank my fellow Directors who have been steadfast and professional in their stewardship of the JPC.

We continue to live in challenging and changing times. I am encouraged to see our JPC team and community, both hearing and Deaf or Hard of Hearing continuing to work together with understanding and compassion for each other in the Spirit of our Founders.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese and all our committed financial supporters, stakeholders, advocates and benefactors, without whom we could not meet our pastoral and community needs.

The JPC remains a unique Centre with compassion and inclusion at its core, positively impacting all those with whom it comes into contact - a demonstration of faith in action.

I commend the John Pierce Centre Board of Directors report for 2022.

Trevor Hughes
Chairperson
John Pierce Centre

JPC Board of Directors 2022



Mr Trevor Hughes
Chairperson



Mr Dean Sinclair
Treasurer



Br Shane Wood
Board Minute
Secretary



Ms Sonya
Tissera-Isaacs



Ms Evelyne
Albrecht



Ms Lucille
Bennetto

Treasurer's Annual Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the John Pierce Centre Ltd Special Purpose Financial Statements for 2022. Overall, 2022 was a positive one with an improvement in revenue, expenses being held flat and net losses continuing to fall. Total revenue came in at \$367,113 (which was \$14k above budget and up \$16k than FY'21). Total expenses were \$395,713 (which was \$4.5k below budget and \$3.5k lower than FY'21). The Net Loss of \$28,600 for the FY'22 year was an improvement of \$19.5k on FY'21.

JPC cash and liquid assets fell by \$22,280, which was a significant improvement on the prior FY'21 (\$45k). Pleasingly, the downward trend abated towards the end of the year with the last four months showing a modest increase of \$4k.

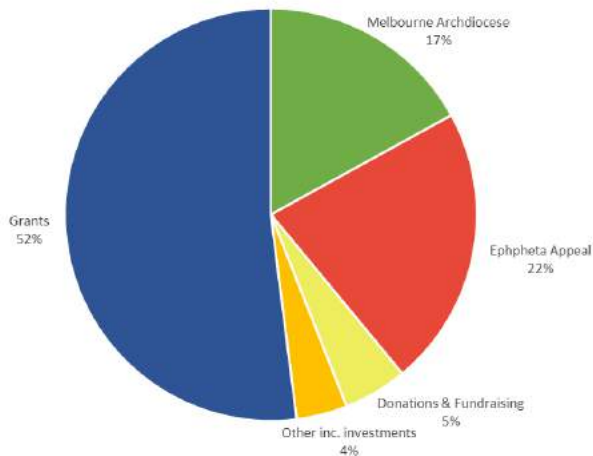
While the Board and Finance committee took comfort that our financials are headed in the right direction, we also recognise inflationary and have forecasted total expenses to increase by \$18k (4.5%). To combat the effects of inflation, a number of initiatives have been adopted: including taking advantage of franking credits. A continued focus on cost discipline; and a renewed focus on fundraising and specific grants.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those that have contributed to JPC especially our volunteers and our dedicated staff led by Carmel. We remain particularly grateful to our ongoing and loyal benefactors, such as the Ephpheta and Gorman Foundations, and the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. The generosity of all involved is greatly appreciated by the Board, and assists JPC in providing and maintaining a solid level of support to the Victorian deaf community.

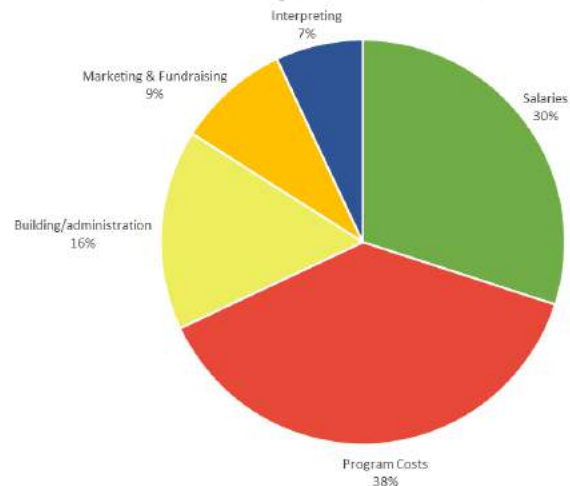
We look forward to seeing you all at the centre.

Dean Sinclair
Treasurer,
John Pierce Centre

Revenue 2022



Expenses 2022



Mrs Carmel Phillips
Executive Manager



Mrs Sophie Duncan
Office Manager



Ms Gail Finn
Operations Assistant and
Liturgy Co-ordinator



Fr Wayne Edwards
Chaplain



Ms Katrina Mynard
Pastoral Team
Coordinator

Executive Manager's Report

It has been such a delight to see the return of Deaf community members to our many programs, groups and activities throughout the year 2022 after the challenges of lockdowns during the pandemic. We know that this has been very important in supporting the mental health and social connection of the vibrant Deaf community.

Some of our key achievements during the year included being able to secure several small grants to deliver important projects supporting the Deaf. This included the development and delivery of information sessions about Planning Ahead and Elder Abuse as well as projects supporting our Volunteers as well as undertaking important Archiving activities to preserve the historical records of the Centre's 40+ year history.

During 2022, we participated in the VCD (Victorian College of the Deaf) 'Intergenerational Program', aimed at supporting the needs of Deaf youth. Some of our Pankina seniors met with students aged 5 – 10 years old to provide them with opportunities to meet older Deaf adults and role models. It was a successful initial program.

At a practical level, the highlight of the year has been completion of the long overdue replacement and repair to the Centre's roof. Our thanks go out to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne for undertaking this work. We appreciate the support and understanding of the community when these works created a disruption to the normal functioning of our Centre facilities.

Staff movements during the year included the recruitment of Catherine Miller to coordinate the Signee Tots playgroup. Catherine has provided an important fresh perspective to this program supporting both Deaf and hearing parents of pre school aged children wanting to socialise in an Auslan immersive environment.

Many thanks to our 2022 program participants, volunteers, donors, funders, Board and staff for their commitment to the important work of the John Pierce Centre in supporting the social and spiritual wellbeing of the Deaf community throughout Victoria.

Throughout the year there was a lot of consultation work undertaken to clarify the strategic direction of the John Pierce Centre. We look forward to reporting to you about our achievements against our new Strategic Plan in the coming year.

Carmel Phillips
Executive Manager
John Pierce Centre

JPC Staff 2022



Ms Catherine Miller
Community Worker -
Family Support/
Project Coordinator



Mrs Diane Backholer
Community
Activities
Co-ordinator



Ms Teresa Paulet
Communications
Co-ordinator/
Interpreter



Ms Janette Murphy
Pastoral Team



Ms Margherita Riccioni
Grants Officer

Supporters Acknowledgement

On behalf of the John Pierce Centre staff and Board, we would like to sincerely thank the many people and organisations that have supported our work throughout the year.

Our appreciation goes out to the

- ongoing and first-time donors to our annual fundraiser Ephpheta Appeal
- long term private benefactors
- many community volunteers who helped us deliver our social groups and activities.
- philanthropic organisations who through their granting have made some of our core work and project initiatives possible including the Gorman Foundation, Ephpheta Foundation, Deafness Foundation, CCI Giving and the Victoria Law Foundation
- Federal Department of Social Services for grant funding to support our volunteers.
- many partners that supported our work including Tobin Brothers Funerals, Deaf Victoria, Expression Australia, Melbourne Polytechnic, Victorian College of the Deaf, Council on the Ageing Victoria, Mary Whelan Food Services and Karli Health Centre
- faith organisations including Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, St. Patricks Cathedral East Melbourne, Josephites Associates, St. Paul Apostle Catholic Community Endeavor Hills, Catholic Social Services Victoria, donors of various goods and services including Toorak Uniting Church, Endeavour Hills Uniting Church
- Auslan and Deaf interpreters who have worked closely with us to help facilitate our programs, services, staff meetings and events.
- members of the JPC Deaf Men's Group who have volunteered their time to help with minor maintenance and repairs of our courtyard area



Community Groups, Spiritual Care & Pastoral Care

Community activities respond to a need of those who were experiencing isolation. JPC is a centre that welcomes Deaf and hard of hearing people in a way that makes them feel secure and confident. It provides opportunities to develop community bonds and strengthen spirit whilst engaging participants to develop new skills.

JPC is able to provide a Deaf space that is suitability matched to meet a Deaf person's way of seeing and being in an environment and allows for easy communication. JPC acknowledges the hard work and dedication of the pastoral care team and group coordinators in delivering a variety of engaging activities and support for vulnerable community members.

2022 brought with it, its own challenges as we returned to a post-covid 'normal'. The team worked hard to support community members and families return to the centre for activities and reconnection.

490 hours of group sessions
for 2022

Approximately **160** people
attended regularly

110 activities delivered

20 church services in 2022

including special services

398 people attended the **monthly**

Mass services over the year

74 attended **special services**

Livestreaming of services with
regular watchers

330 Deaf Community
members supported

Over 450 hours

of pastoral support

Projects

VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROJECT

JPC received a small grant from the federal Department of Social Services to support the efforts of our dedicated JPC volunteers. This grant allowed us to undertake important security updates (police checks, working with children checks) as well as provide our volunteers with training in mental health and the safe handling of food. Furthermore, working with a Deaf website designer, we updated our volunteer webpage to feature the value of JPC volunteers (through their personal stories of volunteering) and better address the information needs of potential community volunteers wanting to be part of JPC’s work through volunteering.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE DEAF COMMUNITY

JPC received a small grant from the Victoria Law Foundation’s Legal Grants Program. This enabled JPC to work with the Council on the Ageing Victoria program Seniors Rights Victoria (SRV) to deliver information to the Deaf community around the importance and difference between Planning Ahead tools such as Enduring Powers of Attorney, Medical Decision Makers and when to use Support People.

Approx. 50 Deaf community members attended the Planning Ahead information session in August facilitated by Gary Ferguson (Education Co-ordinator) from Seniors Rights Victoria. The session was very well received by the Deaf community.





ADDRESSING ELDER ABUSE IN THE DEAF COMMUNITY

The John Pierce Centre received small grants from the Deafness Foundation and CCI Giving to work with Council on the Ageing Victoria's program Seniors Rights Victoria and through community consultations develop resource materials for the Deaf community to help them protect themselves from being mistreated.

A small group of 10 Deaf community members formed part of the consultation group that met in late July- the purpose of this consultation was to gauge current level of knowledge around Elder Abuse and explore preferences for the type and format for resource materials that would need to be created. The same group met again in early October to reviewed drafted materials before they were finalised.

Printed brochures were created: "What happens when family or friends hurt you?" "What happens when you cannot make choices in your life?"

The material on these brochures was also adapted and developed into Auslan clips utilising Deaf community members as presenters to provide basic information. These resources were uploaded onto the JPC website and shared with community through social media.

As part of this project and to build the capacity of the Elder Abuse sector, 15 Council on the Ageing Victoria staff attended a 2-hour Deaf Awareness Training session (delivered by Expression Australia) to learn about the Deaf community, it's culture and how best to work with Deaf people when delivering support services.

To build the knowledge of JPC staff, we attended a training session to learn about Elder Abuse, what forms it takes, how to identify risk factors and where to seek support. This was a vital source of information for our pastoral care workers who deal one on one with over 300 older Deaf community members every year.

Partnerships

Throughout 2022, the John Pierce Center has worked in partnership with the Council on the Ageing Victoria (COTA) and specifically their Seniors Rights Victoria (SRV) program team. SRV provides information, support, advice and education to help prevent elder abuse and safeguard the rights, dignity and independence of older people.

This important partnership was formed to address the obvious lack of accessible information about Elder Abuse for the most vulnerable within the Deaf community – older people.

As part of our commitment to work together to protect the interests of older Deaf community members, COTA Victoria staff undertook Deaf Awareness Training and JPC staff attended an Elder Abuse training session to learn about the forms Elder Abuse, what the risk factors are and where to get support.

Throughout the year, Seniors Rights Victoria helped facilitate two Deaf community consultation sessions at the JPC to help identify current levels of knowledge/ understanding around Elder Abuse. The insights from these consultations helped to inform the development of resources.

In addition to work around Elder Abuse, COTA Victoria facilitated several presentations to Deaf community members, including on navigating the Aged Care system and Planning Ahead.

JPC was also invited to work with COTA Victoria's Living Longer Living Stronger program to host focus groups with Deaf community members to trial an exercise program focussing on strength and balance training for older people. Insights from these sessions were reported back through the Dept of Sport & Recreation Victoria to inform them on how to make exercise accessible to people living with a disability.



Communications & Events

892 followers on Facebook

newsletter subscribers 659

168 stakeholder subscribers

In 2022 the John Pierce Centre provided a range of activities, events and supports. Communication is provided to community members and stakeholders via our community newsletters and stakeholder newsletters. Information is also distributed via our Facebook page and website.

Events like the monthly Mass is livestreamed on Facebook and many information videos are provided in Auslan on our Facebook page.

Expanding our network and contacts is a key element of the work at JPC.

Regular annual events at JPC were once again well attended including the AGM and guest speaker. The Thankyou party was held to give thanks to all of the volunteers that give up their time to support the vital work of the JPC. We could not operate without volunteers and we are truly thankful for their time and energy.

The annual Christmas Rally is the biggest event of the calendar for the community where people come together to give thanks for the year and the community that share a deep and special connection through language, history and culture.



30% increase in
community newsletter
subscribers

9% increase in
stakeholder subscribers

Volunteer Stories

Volunteer – Ann Jordan

“Years ago I came to Pankina. I watched how they ran the group and decided that I would like to be a volunteer. I started volunteering, doing small roles and then finally became Vice President.

I truly love helping all of the seniors who come. Encouraging them so be happy and think positively.

I think it’s important to learn from the older generation, and to share this with the younger generation of Deaf to encourage them.

Pankina attend every two weeks. We play bingo and card games like 777 and it is so much fun.

We hope to continue!!”



Volunteer – Dotty Shepherd

“Thank you so much for letting me be a volunteer!”

I wanted to become a volunteer due to my dear mum passing away on Oct 27, 2021. I miss her very much and I miss the signing as it was only her and myself.

So I looked up all the deaf clubs that we used to go to in Jolimont. I found JPC and asked if I could volunteer.

They were very friendly and supportive. It was great coming in, as people knew my mum from school and chatted to me and welcomed me.

I wanted also, to not lose my culture of Auslan and when I came to JPC I found out that mum used to work there! I can remember meeting her for lunch from time to time which made it easy to enjoy coming in.

Since coming I’ve learnt new signs and want to support elderly deaf people.”



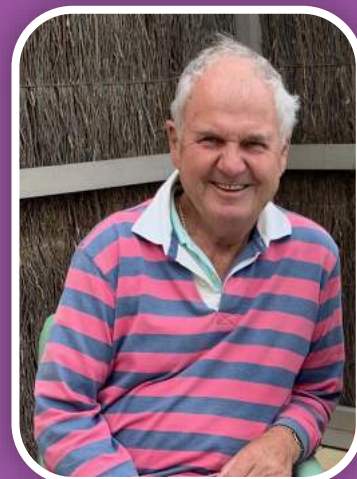
Volunteer – Mark Backholer

“I’m Mark Backholer, and I enjoy my time volunteering at Pankina at JPC since I retired. I have a lot of fun with Gary Martin as we both work in the kitchen. I love seeing the members there and have a few laughs with them.

It is fantastic to see such high attendance at Pankina seniors group and it’s a great group to be a part of.

I have volunteered a lot since I retired. My wife Diane and I enjoy volunteering to help the Deaf groups.

I feel good to volunteer at JPC as it gives me great pride to be doing something to support the Deaf Community.”



You can support the work of JPC...

MAKE A DONATION

By supporting John Pierce Centre, you are creating a positive change.

Financial donations are welcomed and can be made by visiting www.jpc.org.au or calling our Office on (03) 9525 1158.

Cheque, money order or telephone donations can be made to John Pierce Centre.

You may also like to donate online at www.givenow.com.au/jpcdonations

All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. Scan the QR code to donate



LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

By leaving a gift to John Pierce Centre in your Will, you will have a lasting impact, supporting John Pierce Centre Deaf Community for years to come.

For more information, please contact our Administration Office on 03 9525 1158.

VOLUNTEER

We welcome volunteers' involvement at JPC.

Volunteers can contribute their skills to JPC whether it's by being a JPC Board member, assisting on special events in our calendar or participating in a local community activity.

For more information about volunteering, visit

www.jpc.org.au/community/volunteering/

KEEP UP TO DATE

Receive updates by subscribing to John Pierce Centre eNewsletter at::

www.jpc.org.au/community/newsletters/

And follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/JohnPierceCentre/>

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www.jpc.org.au



admin@jpc.org.au

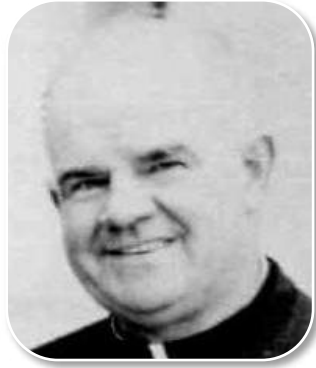


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John Pierce Centre HISTORY

Spirit Of The Deaf Community



Father John Pierce The first chaplain to the Deaf Catholic Community

The origins of the John Pierce Centre (JPC) date back to 1935 when Father John Pierce was appointed as the first Chaplain to the Catholic Deaf Community in Victoria by Archbishop Mannix. In those times, all the major denominations conducted missions of various sorts to the needy people of Melbourne; included in these were the deaf and blind.

Prior to 1979, Deaf Catholics were regular visitors at various churches in Melbourne including Armadale and St Francis, Melbourne. From 1973 to 1979, a monthly Mass was held at Jolimont at the Victorian Deaf Society.

In 1979, Fr Peter Robinson, Dr Pierre Gorman and Mr. Bryan A'Hearn were the driving force behind the setting up of John Pierce Centre at Ripponlea. A board of directors was set up as a Company limited by guarantee on 29th December 1979. The Centre was officially opened and blessed on Ephpheta Sunday, August 1980.

In 1995, The Catholic Deaf Community moved to the parish of Prahran and relocated to a refurbished church, St Francis Xavier, which had a multipurpose chapel and offices.

JPC has over 40 years of experience of supporting Deaf people who frequently are isolated within their local communities and even within their own families. Our pastoral care supports the well-being of our community and our community centre, all Deaf people and their families; sharing strength, friendship and the spirit of the Deaf Catholic Community.



**Created by Jennifer Bernal (top left)
and Cathy Walters (bottom right)**

Deaf Arts & Crafts Group, 2022



JOHN PIERCE CENTRE
Spirit of the Deaf Community