

HELPING YOU BLOOM



BORONIA
MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

30

30 years of commitment
to the community



helping you bloom

When the mind cannot rest, the Boronia essence offers solace. The evergreen Boronia blooms in times of darkness and brings confidence wherever it goes.



Our Mission

Boronia Multicultural Services Incorporated works for the advancement and promotion of culturally and linguistically diverse communities through facilitating equal access, opportunity and participation for all, based on the principles of social justice, access and equity.

Our Core Values

EQUALITY We are committed to provide fair and quality services to diverse communities

PARTICIPATION We facilitate self-empowerment through community capacity building

SOCIAL JUSTICE We acknowledge and advocate for justice and equity for all people

INCLUSION We strive to deliver equal access and opportunities



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Chairperson's Report

2019 has been another very busy year for Boronia Multicultural Services as our client population has grown and our work programs have become more complex – and more rewarding.

In the last year we have continued to deliver our core funded programs which focus on building individual, family and community capacity and strengthening connections: we have delivered supported playgroups and workshop and development programs for parents and other carers; older people and women. There have been many exciting programs including the Afghan Mothers Group's work using their traditional crafts to express ideas and experiences of parenting and migration; a Dads and Kids night held at Rosehill Public School; a range of TAFE Outreach courses and a Permaculture Course run in partnership with LEEP NGO. Anyone visiting the Centre in the past month or so will have noticed our ever growing community garden now spreading up the pathway and providing a wonderful welcome to all.

In the last 18 months we have also been proud to have developed and delivered our CALD Leading Prevention project, one of only 26 projects in Australia funded by the Commonwealth Government to develop and implement culturally and linguistically diverse community owned and driven strategies to prevent domestic and family violence. Our project, *Let's take the Lead – Keeping our women, children and community safe* has focused on developing community based gender equity projects and resources including our video clip Gender Inequality – Equal Opportunity for All. This project recognises the considerable history, commitment and expertise in violence against women prevention that Boronia MS has and the Management Committee is particularly grateful for the skills and commitment of our Centre Manager Bernadette Agyepong and our previous Manager Rugmini Venkatraman.

Throughout 2019, the Management Committee has continued to oversee all our work programs and implemented our Strategic Plan which was developed in 2018. In particular we have focused on promoting the work we do to a broader audience and increasing our partnerships and networks. The NSW government's Early Intervention Reform program has continued slowly throughout 2019 and Boronia MS along with other services across the state has needed to stay informed and responsive to the Government's process.

As always, our work in 2019 would not have been possible without the ongoing support from our funding bodies, the skills and dedication of our staff, volunteers and students. Staff retention is excellent particularly considering the increasing volume of our work. Our volunteering and tertiary student placement programs are a great opportunity for individuals to gain skills and networks through their work placements with us and of course valuable to Boronia MS and our communities who in turn benefit greatly from the efforts and skills of students and volunteers.

Finally I would like to acknowledge our client groups- the refugees and migrants of non-English speaking background living in the cities of Cumberland and Parramatta. The determination and resilience required of people in the complex process of settling and establishing themselves in a new country with different and at times confusing ways is impressive and we are proud to be able to support them.

Maggie Kyle
Chairperson



Board of Management

The Management Committee of BMS comprises of people who embrace the aims, objectives, and the philosophy of the service, and who voluntarily contribute towards this end. For the year 2018-19, the Management Committee comprised of the following members:

Margaret Kyle	Chairperson
Lidia Chehade	Assistant Chairperson
Marilena Rubbo	Treasurer
Liza Moscatelli	Secretary
Sharmila Falzon	Member
Abulla Agwa	Member
Mustapha Bangura	Member
Jane Poi-Terekia	Member
Beatrice Sesay	Member

BMS Staff, volunteers and work placement students would like to thank the Management Committee for helping to make this organisation an effective service provider to the communities of Cumberland and Parramatta LGAs and the surrounding suburbs.



Our Team



Bernadette Agyepong

Sanathani Mahesan

Elamathy Elangovan
Manju

Annie Lu

Shirley Fredrick

Sumathi Thirunavukarasu

Charles Rajan Joseph

Tiffany Smith

Centre Manager

Family Support Worker

Playgroup Coordinator

Community Development Officer

Group Facilitator

Administration Officer

Book Keeper

Playgroup Coordinator
(Resigned from January)



CASUAL STAFF

Fatemah Ebrahimi

Jacqueline Tannous

Kazi Zeenat Sultana

Nurges Noyan

Rohia Akbaryy

Zohra Batol

VOLUNTEERS

Moana Bonanno

Malinidevi Rajanathan

Jasbir Kaur

Zahra Ebrahimi

India Betar

Cheedella Sonisha Devi

Sujithra Ramalingam



STUDENTS

Zeast Faridy

Ayak Manassah

Safa Bakhtiari

Thi Nhan Luu



CHILDREN & FAMILY PROGRAMS

1/ PLAYGROUP

139 Sessions
1,521 Children attended
1,282 Families registered



"I like the playgroup very much and so does my son Laith. There are a lot of different things to do each week and a variety of toys to play with. I like the way time is portioned into structural and free play..."

- Rosie Hames, Granville Public School

"I am glad to be a part of this playgroup. Key aspects are the activities arranged each week, rhyme and story time following an hour of free play. My kids enjoy being here and is socialising more than before which I am happy about."

- Sujithra, Toongabbie Community Centre

"Both my boys enjoy playing with the toys. Arts and craft sessions are very creative. Both the kids enjoy the storytime which is more interactive. Enjoyable learning environment."

- Divya, Toongabbie Community Centre



2/ SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

9 Sessions
369 Children attended



3/ PARENTING PROGRAMS

> Programs run in partnership with Guildford Public School

Importance of Playing with your Child

6 participants | 1 session

One participant started playing with her 5 year old child with full attention and let the child direct the play. She also used descriptive commenting and her child started to open up about what happens at school. She said that her child now listened to her more and she will continue using these techniques.

Bringing Up Great Kids

10 participants | 4 sessions

"I have learnt how to get my kid to do something without being loud or aggressive to them." - Participant

Knowing your Rights as Parents

25 participants | 4 sessions

"It is good to know about it [housing]. We have been experiencing hard time and did not know what to do. Especially the rents start bond loan, tenancy guarantee and DF/FV assistance." - Participant

123 Magic and Emotion Coaching

7 participants | 4 sessions

"It taught me the daily life problem solving; the course was wonderful which helped me a lot being a mother. The reward system worked well with my son. My son is now calmer and listens. I would appreciate it if we can have more of such classes at the school." - Participant

> Other Programs

Tuning into Kids

7 participants | 6 sessions | Run in partnership Sherwood Grange Public School

"My daughter is reading high levels at school and she brings high level books as home readers. If she [is] stuck with any words, she gets frustrated and annoyed. It was a problem for me as she does not like me helping. After attending the sessions, I trained her to calm down and helped her to problem solve herself if she was stuck. For the past two weeks, she did not have any problems and [is] reading more books without throwing a tantrum." - Participant

9 participants | 5 sessions | Run in partnership Toongabbie East Public School

"Learning how to avoid dismissive parenting, it is [a] really good programme." - Participant

Incredible Years

8 participants | 8 sessions | Run in partnership with Karabi

According to the participants, benefits of the program included:

- ABC to understand kids better and we are very happy playing together
- New parenting techniques
- Disciplining my children—my child's eating habits changes
- Helped me to bond with my child better, being able to discipline without yelling

Thriving Families

9 participants | 1 session | Run in partnership with SEWA

"I will listen more. Listening and understanding the problems and techniques on how to manage them is useful." - Participant



4/ MULTICULTURAL MOTHERS GROUP

46 Sessions

55 Mothers registered

231 Attendances

Referrals were made to:

- Community health or child psychologists
- Employment and Education Pathway courses
- Legal assistance
- Playgroups

"This group is very good. I have been coming to this group for a very long time. Every time I learn something new. I [also] made a lot of friends in this group."

- Participant



5/ AFGHAN MOTHERS GROUP

47 Sessions

38 Mothers registered

340 Attendances



"Everyone is [the] same here. In other places if you don't know English you have to keep quiet and others will look down on you. But here we are all in the same situation and we can talk freely."

- Participant

"After talking about children we think about how we treat boys and girls differently, I praise our children more and they like it."

- Participant

Group Highlights:

- Mothers attending started an English learning group, teaching each other the alphabet and words
- The mothers visited Embroiders Guild to exchange and learn about their embroidery and art skills
- Their Traditional Afghani home art project was exhibited at the Guildford library and also at Merrylands Bowling Club during Refugee Week.

Referrals were made to:

- Navitas AMEP English Classes
- STARTTS Citizenship Classes



"I feel more confident when I come to this group. I like to do art and I learnt a lot about myself. It is like I have found myself again—having time to be creative."

- Participant

PRIMARY PREVENTION INITIATIVES



1/ Fathers & Sons Retreat

3 Days 2 Nights
14 Families attended

9 Fathers stated they understood the role of a father in more detail and how to be a role model for their children.
8 fathers identified "spend more time with them and listen to them" as a change they hope to make in parenting their children.



2/ Group Forums

Tamil Seniors
80 Participants

Most believed that men and women should be equal in decision making (financial and important family decisions) and in child rearing duties.



3/ Events

White Ribbon Day
12 Participants



"We had the pleasure of listening to Eric Hudson share his in depth knowledge on the subject of violence against women (VaW) and how both genders can participate and make a difference. We gained knowledge and tips on how to identify and prevent VaW and Eric inspired us to work together as a community."

- Participant at White Ribbon Event

International Women's Day
78 Families attended

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1/ SENIORS GROUP

23 Sessions

446 Attendances

As a result of attending the group, the seniors are:

- More aware of how to maintain good health and diet
- Have the opportunity to meet and converse with their friends
- Developed friendships with people from different cultures and countries



2/ CARERS GROUP

10 Carers Engaged

- Carers Week Celebration
- Music Therapy Session



3/ SOUTH ASIAN WOMENS' GROUP

"These community groups are excellent and so important for newly arrived migrant families. Here we learn so much, feel empowered and have a great time. I have been able to practise my English conversational skills in a welcoming and friendly environment, and make friends too!"

- Participant

36 Sessions
105 Women Empowered
583 Attendances

"The group sessions are very interesting and friendly together and we learn more information on [a variety of topics including] health, community services and personal wellbeing."

- Participant

4/ EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT PATHWAY TAFE COURSES

9 Courses
68 Classes
101 Participants
609 Attendances



Beauty Course

"This class has been so enjoyable, some 'me' time, especially when we were learning how to do facial treatments. Through the excursions to Granville TAFE and Fitted for Work, I feel more confident to pursue further studies and seek employment."

- Participant



Café Skills Course

"This is an absolutely great course and I learned so much including hazards in the kitchen. Glenn is a wonderful teacher, very patient, teaching us several recipes and cooking techniques and knowledge. Thank you Boronia for this wonderful course."

- Participant

Floristry Course

"Thank you for the lovely class, I feel more social and creative. Everything about this course was my favourite, from learning different ways of using flowers and buds, to arranging the flowers and learning about them and how to look after them."

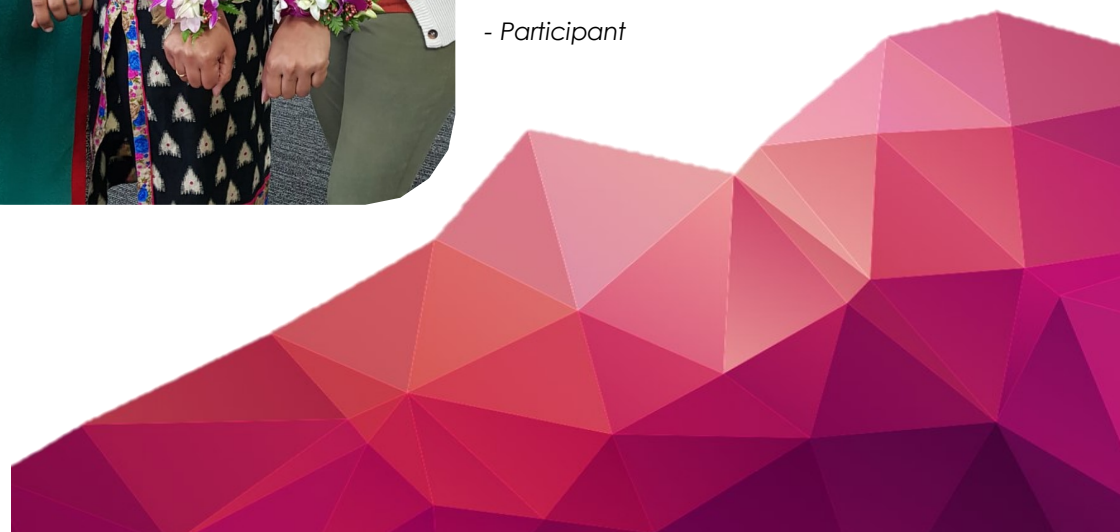
- Participant

5/ ENGLISH CLASSES

36 Classes
22 Participants
167 Attendances

Group Highlight

From attending the English class, participants felt more confident in attending their doctor appointments as a result of practicing English conversation. Previously they needed a family member to accompany them for every appointment but now they do it on their own.



COMMUNITY



Grandparents Day 2018

Diwali Festival 2018



International Women's Day 2019

EVENTS

Holi Festival 2019



Seniors Festival 2019



Refugee Week 2019





Our Funding Bodies & Partnerships

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to continuing our partnership working in building the capacity of migrants and refugee communities; to enable them to have good quality life in their adopted country of Australia.

Department of Social Services (DSS)

Family and Community Services (FACS)

City of Parramatta Council

Cumberland Council

TAFE NSW

ANROWS

Digital Storytellers

Mobile Minders

Granville Public School

Guildford Public School

Sherwood Grange Public School

Toongabbie East Public School

Western Sydney University

Blue Mountains TAFE

Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD)

The Parramatta College

Karabi Community & Development Services

Community Migrant Resource Centre (CMRC)

Hearing Australia

Australian Unity

Carers NSW

Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation

NDIS Uniting

Fresh Hope Care

Parramatta Police

SEWA

Tamil Women's Development Group

Tamil Seniors Association

Family Planning NSW

LEEP NGO

My Sisters Keeper

Dharma Karta

Bilingual Community Educators Program

Hassanian Afghan Youth Association

Bosnian Senior & Disability Association 'New Life' NSW Inc.

NOTES

[illegible]

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Years and ongoing

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BORONIA
MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

T 02 9631 1777

W www.bms.org.au

A 10A Octavia St,
Toongabbie NSW 2146