



Chair's Report

I'm happy to say that the South Perth Learning Centre (**Centre**) has had a better Financial Year 2023-2024, but we still face challenges. As everyone here would be aware, the cost of living in Australia, and elsewhere, has increased significantly. This impacts the Centre in two ways. Our costs have increased across the board (as it has for everybody else). This is challenging for the Centre in that we need to increase costs to cover our expenses, but if we increase our costs too much, our students can't afford to enroll, and then our income would be reduced. It's a delicate balancing act to get it right.

A sign we may have got it right is that in the Financial Year 2023, we had **129 new** members. This Financial Year we have **174 new** members, that's an increase of **35%**! The draft Treasurer report I saw mentioned that profit was up due to enrolments being up, due to better marketing!

Which brings me to my next point.

This financial year, for the first time, we have a Marketing Sub-committee chaired by Judy Genat. The subcommittee meets once a month and reports to the committee at our monthly meetings. As a result, we have satisfied a part of our Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025: Safeguard Financial Stability under Focus of marketing and promotion; something we have never achieved before.

I will now hand it over to Judy to advise you what has occurred. (Judy will talk at meeting).

We received a grant of \$750 Geoff Baker MLA, to host a series of topics to discuss the difficult discussions on end-of-life planning. We developed 3 talks.

1. Dying to talk café (which was held on Wednesday 10 July and was booked out) presented by Dr Margaret Sealey;
2. Dying with dignity (to be held Thursday 12 September) to be presented by Steve Walker; and
3. The Goodbye Guide (to be held Thursday 10 October) to be presented by Chris Jeffery.

After a suggestion from our long-term volunteer Marie, we now have volunteer T-shirts to wear, so people who visit the Centre know who to talk to. Before, we were invisible as to who to talk to unless we were behind the desk. Money raised through the recent raffle provided the funds for the T-shirts.

We have continued our close collaboration with Glyde Inn and the Kalamunda Learning Centre. We have invited them to our events, and we have been invited to their events. We continue to discuss our shared challenges and ways to overcome them.

We hosted the Mahjong weekend competition again, on 6 & 7 April with 85 competitors. Again, this was a highly successful event receiving positive feedback from the participants and raised \$2,020. This event is

important to us not only for profit, but it increases our profile in the community.

Today I want to thank our long serving Committee Member Janet Renner who after 6 years on committee has decided to retire. Janet has been an active Committee Member during these years. As a general Committee Member, she stepped up when the need arose to Act in the positions of Treasurer and Secretary (twice in both roles). She has been an asset to the Committee and the Centre. On behalf of the Committee, I'd like to thank her for her service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Our Secretary, Sandra Cook, had to step down due to personal reasons. We were very sorry to see her go, and we wish her well.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the Centre's amazing team of volunteers. Your constant efforts and commitment are integral to the Centre's success year-on-year. We would not survive without you.

Finally, I would like to thank Didi, for his tireless effort in keeping the Centre going. Also, Pete who is moving on to new horizons. We wish him well.

Lisa Anstis
Executive Committee Chair
South Perth Learning Centre Inc.