

Pick My Project / CARE Sanctuary stalled due to Covid-19

2020 has profoundly shocked us all. The rapid changes caused by the pandemic in the health and economic well-being of our state and town, has been overwhelming. More specifically the impact on our Residential Care and Early Learning Years provision, must continue to be our focus.

YH sincerely regrets the inability to share the achievement of CARE project to date. We are currently working on how we can publicly recognise and celebrate this unique and innovative community asset.

The initial operating format envisaged by the drivers of the project is currently unviable due to the challenges of providing safe operating arrangements, mandated by the residential aged care and childcare regulatory departments.

The Board of Management of YH are handing the future development of the project to YH's Executive Management team. The interaction with animals between childcare, aged care and community must be managed within the ever-changing constraints of legislative, regulatory and safe clinical governance constraints.

We are confident the YH management team will develop mitigating strategies to ensure all users of CARE can enjoy a safe environment. YH residential aged care will develop initiatives and appropriate activities to address the urgent requirements to boost our resident's mental and emotional wellbeing. We are confident that this decision will continue to enhance our resident's lifestyle and choices.

Recapping the CARE Sanctuary journey:

In 2018 a local, Tijana Simic, with the then CEO of Yackandandah Health proposed a concept for a community grant to develop an innovative concept that would bring community into Yackandandah Health. CARE was born - Community garden, Animals, Relationships and Education.

The proposal was framed around the 'Pick my Project' \$30M Victorian State Government initiative "to help make local communities an even better place to live in".

By popular vote, the proposal was one of 2 successful Yackandandah projects making available \$200K to develop this concept. The project grant was formally acquitted in April 2020.

Yackandandah CARE Sanctuary's vision is animal and gardens for all, and our mission was to build community cohesion and improve wellbeing through positive engagements with animals, gardens and education. YH's vision was to offer an intergenerational care environment.

The Board of Management again congratulates Tijana Simic on her dreaming, researching, and developing the CARE Sanctuary concept and business plan. Congratulations too to Chris Gilbert and his team for their design in repurposing the water tanks on the grounds of Yackandandah Health to provide animal housing and education spaces in the back yard of the residential aged care home. Also special thanks to Ben Gilbert of Agency of Sculpture for successfully managing and bringing the building project to completion. We also recognise and thank the wonderful volunteers who have made many and varied contributions, and in particular, Paul Scannell, for his time and expertise in the garden spaces.

We look forward to sharing this wonderful community asset when we can officially celebrate.



Tricia Glass
Board Chair, YH



John Parkes AM
CEO