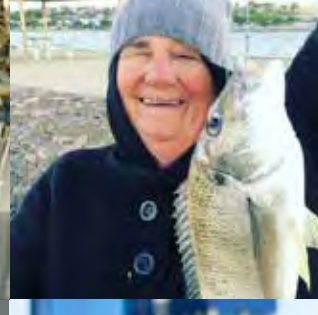




common
ground
queensland

2021 - 2022
ANNUAL REPORT

10 years at Brisbane Common Ground



Common Ground Queensland

Vision

Ending homelessness a person at a time with the communities in which we operate.

Mission

To **create supportive homes** through effective public, private and community partnerships that respond to people's needs and improve well-being and connectedness.

Supportive Housing Principles

The Common Ground model of supportive housing is a proven and cost effective solution to ending homelessness. Supportive housing provides safe, affordable and stable housing that is intentionally linked to individualised support services that focus on tenancy sustainment. Supportive housing can be delivered in single site high or low density developments or scattered site housing.

Brisbane Common Ground is Queensland's first supportive housing initiative. It has been developed and delivered in line with a set of validated principles.

Design

A thoughtfully designed and well-maintained positive home environment that includes community spaces and opportunities for the wider community to participate. An asset for the whole community.

Permanency and Affordability

Housing is permanent, affordable and self-contained with rent less than 30% of income.

Tenancy Mix

There is a mix of tenants with a proportion having experienced homelessness and some who have not. This mix ensures a vibrant and diverse building community.

Safety

A Concierge service is provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure welcoming yet controlled access to the building.

Services for Tenants

An on-site support provider offers a holistic, tenancy-focused service to those who require support to remain housed.

Social Inclusion

Each element of supportive housing aims to create the greatest possible degree of empowerment and independence for individuals as well as a thriving community for tenants and neighbours.

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We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work.

We recognise sovereignty was never ceded.



Co-Chairpersons Report

It is with great pleasure that we present to you for the first time Common Ground Queensland's (CGQ) Annual Review for 2021/2022. This year at CGQ we have celebrated 10 years since the opening of the Brisbane Common Ground building and the welcoming of our first tenants. Brisbane Common Ground was not only CGQ's first supportive housing project, but it was also Queensland's first supportive housing model project. CGQ adapted the common ground supportive housing model from successful models internationally and within Australia to successfully deliver the model in the Brisbane community. Our vision is to end homelessness one person at a time in the community we operate. Over the past 10 years CGQ has continued to achieve this vision.

Throughout this annual report we have reflected on Brisbane Common Ground, and we have highlighted some of the many successes over the past 10 years. Some key statistics that resonate with us as evidence of our success over the past 10 years is that 47 of our current residents were part of Brisbane Common Ground's original resident cohort 10 years ago. Further, that over half of our current formerly homeless tenants have been a resident at Common Ground for over 5 years. For these people, we are ending homelessness.

As impressive as the statistics are, it is the personal stories shared by our tenants that bring meaning to the statistics. I would like to thank Jone, Ann,

Malcolm, Lisa, Akeisha and Deniraje for their bravery in sharing their journey in this year's Annual Review. For each story in this Annual Review, there are many more personal stories that could be shared. It is through the words of these people, that we can measure our success.

Of course, Brisbane Common Ground is not just bricks and mortar. To achieve the success we have, requires the dedication and hard work of the CGQ team. In this our 10 year anniversary of Brisbane Common Ground, I would particularly like to thank Michael Murphy, Kathleen Burgen, Erin Smith, Petrina Jaeger and Sonya Keep, who have all celebrated 10 years as part of the CGQ team.

Over the past 12 months we have launched Common Ground Gold Coast, a subsidiary of CGQ. The purpose of Common Ground Gold Coast is to establish a common ground model supportive housing project on the Gold Coast. Our aim is to build 200 units of supportive housing to permanently house and support individuals sleeping rough, or those who experience chronic homelessness on the Gold Coast. It is hoped that governments at all levels, business and the community, will contribute to delivering this project on the Gold Coast where there is a significant need.

CGQ has continued to work towards our strategic objective to increase the supply of supportive housing to meet the growing needs of individuals

and families who are at risk of, or experiencing homelessness, or who suffer from a disability, including mental health and addiction. During the past 12 months CGQ and our support provider (Micah Projects) received a commitment from the Department of Housing to continue our innovative Supportive Housing for Families program. This program provides 20 supportive homes to families with young children who are at risk of or have experienced homelessness, thus ensuring the children of these families are not removed from the family unit. During the past 12 months with the assistance of our partners, Communitify, Multicultural Australia, Nudgee Trust and The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, CGQ has continued to provide the tenancy and property management services to house newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers. With the support of our partner organisations, we are able to ensure these vulnerable people are safely housed whilst they receive the support and assistance that they need to integrate into our community.

Although we have had much to celebrate this year, it is with sadness that after 10 years we will farewell our CEO Sonya Keep at the end of 2022. I strongly believe that CGQ's achievements over this time are a testament to Sonya's exceptional leadership, passion for social justice, the compassion and empathy she continually displays towards our residents and her desire to improve and change the lives of the people we serve. Thank you Sonya.

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce our new CEO Sue Pope. Sue has a wealth of experience in mental health initiatives, alcohol and other

drugs programs, government relations and not for profit organisations. We and the Board have full confidence in Sue's ability to lead CGQ into our next phase of growth and innovation as we continue to strive to serve more people through increasing the supply of supportive housing and to provide more services to improve the lives of the people we serve.

Finally, we would like to thank Peter Pearce for his dedication and hard work as CGQ Chairman for the past 5 years. It is through Peter's leadership and governance expertise, that our organisation has the excellent reputation that it has. Peter will continue as a Director of CGQ and focus his energy towards our fundraising and advocacy programs.

We look forward to working with all our partners over the coming year, to create the very best supportive housing opportunities in the communities we operate.



Kate Jones
Co Chairperson,
Common Ground Queensland



Michael Ryall
Co Chairperson,
Common Ground Queensland



CEO Report

On the 12th of July 2022 we celebrated 10 years since the day we welcomed our first tenant to Brisbane Common Ground. We were able to mark the occasion with a morning tea where we welcomed back many of the people who were instrumental in the success of this project. We also had the great privilege of hearing a very personal and inspiring story from Lisa, a tenant who has lived at Brisbane Common Ground for the past 10 years and over that time has transformed her life.

Lisa is one of 47 tenants who moved in during our first phase of tenanting and are still calling BCG home. Providing sustainable supportive housing for people who have experienced chronic homelessness is at the heart of CGQ's mission. We are therefore extremely satisfied that after 10 years of operation the average length of stay for people who have experienced homelessness

is five and a half years, clearly an indication that the cycle of homelessness has been broken for these tenants. We also celebrate the 162 people who found stability at BCG over the past 10 years and moved on to other forms of stable long term housing, including 2 tenants who were able to purchase their own homes.

Our supportive housing for families project has continued to deliver safe, affordable and stable housing to vulnerable families since its inception in July 2020. 14 of these families who were part of our first intake are still being housed and supported within this program. The current rental housing market has made finding and retaining properties difficult and more costly, however, our team working together with the Micah support team and our tenants have worked hard to maintain access to the 20 properties that we have been

funded by the Queensland Government to deliver in this program. Our families continue to report the positive difference that affordable housing and support is making to them and their children. We are planning to continue our work with the University of Queensland to extend the evaluation of the pilot project into the ongoing delivery phase to enable the development of a sound evidence base regarding the outcomes achieved in this program.

During the year we have continued our work with the partner organisations who collaborate with us as part of the Brisbane Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance Program. CGQ has provided headleased housing for people who are unable to access accommodation due to their lack of income or undetermined visa status. We appreciate the donation income we have received from the

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre to fund housing costs for people in this situation. We were also very grateful to have received a one-off grant funding from the Nudgee Trust that has allowed us to extend housing for a further six months for those who are unable to work due to their ill health, age or visa status. We would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Queensland State Government in supporting us to undertake this work and hope that the new Federal Government will move quickly to resolve the lack of certainty and humanity experienced by individuals and families seeking asylum.

The establishment of Common Ground Gold Coast was another highlight this year. Early in the year we were contacted by local stakeholders who have been advocating for a solution to the growing presence of homelessness on the Coast. They had researched the Common

Ground model and understood the efficacy of this model and the relevance it has for the Gold Coast situation. We have now established a local Board of Directors with strong skills and connection to the Coast and we look forward to working with them and the local community to advocate for the development of a project.

Since October 2012 it has been my great privilege to serve as the inaugural CEO of Common Ground Queensland. At the end of 2022 I will resign my position. It is impossible for me to fully articulate the depth of my gratitude for the opportunity I have been given to work with so many skilled and passionate people during the past 10 years. I am extremely proud of the organisation we have created and the success of our work to end homelessness for many individuals and families. I want to acknowledge the strength

and resilience of our tenants who have also contributed significantly to this success through their efforts to sustain their housing and participate in their community.

There is still much to do, and I feel confident that the people who continue to contribute to this important work will not give up on our mission to end homelessness a person at a time.

Sonya Keep

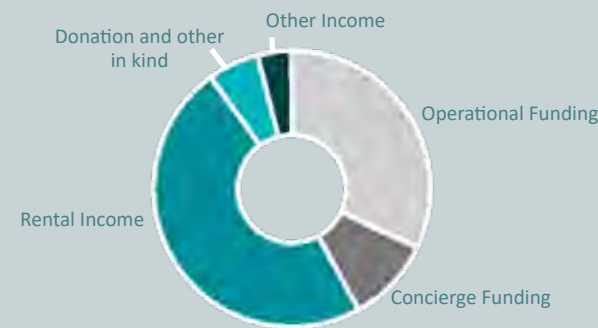
CEO,

Common Ground Queensland



Brisbane Common Ground Year in Review

KPI	Target	21/22
Bad Debts target	<1.5%	0.16%
Rent Foregone	<4%	0.99%
Vacancy rate	<=0.83%	0.83%
Eviction rate	<7%	5.76%
Rent Arrears @ 30 June	<4%	0.23%



Our Tenants as at 30 June 2022

- 51% formerly homeless
- 49% affordable housing
- 49% Female
- 51% Male
- Average length of stay for current tenants: 65 months formerly homeless, 75 months affordable housing
- Average length of stay for exited tenants: 27 months formerly homeless, 25 months affordable housing
- Plus 12 months stay
- Tenant exits 2021/2022: 22 exits during the financial year
- Tenancies at risk: 58 formal responses to at risk tenancies, 90.9% positively resolved* (3 sustaining tenancy plans still active)
- 86% formerly homeless
- 86% affordable housing

Morning Tea with the Minister

On the 12th of July 2022, to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the opening of Brisbane Common Ground, Common Ground Queensland (CGQ) and Micah Projects hosted a morning tea for all stakeholders and staff. The Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts, Leeanne Enoch MP was invited to join in the celebration. Held in the level 13 Gambaro room, after plenty of chatting over snacks and drinks, the presentations began with a welcome to country by our MC and CGQ Co-Chair Kate Jones, followed by an emotional presentation

from Brisbane Common Ground tenant, Lisa McComb, which brought a tear to many an eye, and an enlightening presentation from CGQ CEO, Sonya Keep, who discussed the statistics of note in CGQ's success. Karyn Walsh, the CEO of Micah Projects, spoke on the community drive that pushed the progress of the Brisbane Common Ground Project and its initial development. After the Minister spoke, a performance from Opera Queensland finished off the morning before everyone was sent away with a slice of cake and a smile.



Operational Timeline



10 Years of Achievements



Jone

Originally from Fiji, before moving into Brisbane Common Ground (BCG) when it first opened in 2012, Jone had been going from units to boarding houses across Brisbane looking for his new home. Jone was one of the first tenants to sign a lease to live at BCG. Since then, he has been working in the kitchen at the Casino Hotel and expects to retire soon. He likes living at BCG, particularly compared to some of the places he has lived at. In ten years' time he hopes to be back living in Fiji again.

Lisa

After suffering a break down in her marriage and seeking refuge in alcohol, Lisa struggled to find her own way in life. Eventually, after jumping from job to job, she went to rehabilitation to work on herself. After six months of rehabilitation, Lisa secured a tenancy at BCG as one of the original tenants. Moving to BCG has provided Lisa with the independence and stability she needed to figure out what she wanted to do with her life and has given her the space she needed to breathe. She has since repaired the relationship she has with her daughters and has completed a Bachelor of Marine Science and Management.

'They treat everybody with dignity,' she says about the staff who work at BCG.

What would she tell herself from ten years' ago?: I would tell myself, take your time and explore a new life. I always thought I had to do this and I had to do that because everyone else was like 'You've got to get a job and you'll be right after that'.

Where do you hope to be in ten years?: Probably living at the beach, working. Living with my partner near the beach, maybe doing some research of my own. There are so many things.



Ann

Ann is one of our original tenants, who moved into BCG after an extended hospital stay meant she lost her previous rental. In 2013, Ann used her artistic talents to contribute to the 13 story canvases that form the 'From the Ground Up' project that is still displayed on each level of BCG. She then was one of the key artists and tenant co-facilitators who created the Cross-link Mosaic Sculpture which has become a defining feature of Hope Street and Fleet Lane. Being at Common Ground has meant a safe place for Ann to have everything that she needs in life where she can feel secure and comfortable.



Malcolm

Malcolm lived with his adoptive parents and four brothers in an old Queenslander in Moorooka until he moved into BCG 10 years ago as one of the original tenants. As it was his first home living independently, he had to learn to be self-sufficient. 'First up it was a bit strange because I had to do my own meals, and my washing, I used to get it done for me but now I have to do my own. It took me a while to learn how to do it.' Malcolm has been working at Wesley Mission in Rocklea since before he came to BCG, doing all kinds of jobs for many different organisations. Malcolm doesn't want to move again as he enjoys living at BCG and hopes to still be here in ten years' time.



10 Year Anniversary Dinner

This year Common Ground Queensland celebrated its 10- year anniversary and decided to celebrate with our tenants by hosting a Tenant Anniversary Dinner. Sadly, this event was postponed in July because of COVID19, and was instead held late September. But despite this postponement, much celebrating was still to be had. The event started in the early evening with tenants congregating

on level 13 at 5:30pm before moving into the Gambaro room for dinner. A delicious roast was served, before the celebratory cake was cut and distributed to the group. Posters were placed around the room with photos of highlights from the past ten years, which the tenants greatly enjoyed viewing and led to much reminiscing.



Introducing Common Ground Gold Coast Ltd.

In early 2021 a group of local Gold Coast community members led by local State Member Rob Molhoek contacted Common Ground Queensland (CGQ) to organise a visit to Brisbane Common Ground. The group were concerned about the growing levels of visible homelessness on the Gold Coast and wanted to find out more about the Common Ground solution.

A year later Common Ground Gold Coast (CGGC) was registered as a subsidiary organisation of CGQ with a local board consisting of the founding group members joined by two CGQ Directors. The organisation has been formed with the specific purpose of establishing a Common Ground project on the Gold Coast. On the 3rd of August 2022 we celebrated our new venture with a public launch of CGGC, bringing together supporters from the community and Government.



Since the inception of CGGC we have been working hard to gain the momentum required to deliver 200-units of supportive housing on the Gold Coast to house both homeless and low-income individuals. Ideally this building will be located near public transport and job opportunities, with the long-term aim to support vulnerable people to get back to family, work, study and community. A preferred site, owned by the State Government has been identified in Southport and we have engaged with the State Government regarding their intentions for this site.

Following the success of the Brisbane Common Ground project, a Gold Coast project would also rely on the same set of established evidence based supportive housing principles to inform its design and delivery. These principles include permanency, affordability and safety of housing, a mix of tenants to support community diversity within the building, social inclusion, and personalised onsite support services for tenants. CGQ has a proven track record in delivering supportive housing in Queensland with a strong corporate governance system, a financially sustainable operational model and experience in developing effective partnerships that lead to tenancy sustainment outcomes.

According to local data collected by the Gold Coast Homelessness Network, at least 300 people are sleeping rough on the Gold Coast every night, with around 120 of those being long-term chronically homeless. Right now, the Gold Coast has more than 3000 single, couple and family applications on the public housing waitlist, with people expected to

have to wait years before there are any vacancies. These 3000 applications include 1800 'very high need' applications and account for close to 5000 bedrooms. The social housing stocks on the Gold Coast have barely changed in the past few years, with only 137 social housing bedrooms being added since 2017. With the cost-of-living crisis going on in Australia, and with the impact that the extensive floods in early 2022 and the COVID19 pandemic has had on the housing situation in Queensland, having accessible and supportive social housing is more necessary than ever before. These numbers showcase the urgency of Queensland's housing crisis, particularly in large popular areas such as the Gold Coast.



Social Conscience

Paul Hey from Montague Developments is a true local of Hope Street, South Brisbane. He has been running his business, Montague Developments, out of this street since the early 90s. It was with his help that Brisbane Common Ground was able to secure its current location at 15 Hope Street, South Brisbane.

When the Brisbane Common Ground project was announced in 2012, Paul was invited to the launch at GOMA. At the time the project was set to be built in Merivale Street in South Brisbane, but there were issues regarding securing the site for the project. It was at this stage that Paul began discussions with his business partner about a site they had on Hope Street. If he could also get the Gambaro family, longterm locals of Hope Street, onboard, their partnership would mean that they would possibly have a suitable site for Brisbane Common Ground.

'Hope Street is a much quieter road and I thought it would be a more appropriate site for that. That's probably a story that a lot of people don't know, as to how it came about on the site that it's currently on.'

Now, as the Director at Montague Developments Paul has realised several projects with the Department of Housing, as well as being involved with Brisbane Indigenous organisations.

'[Social conscience] is something that is always on my mind, as something that needs to be looked at as we journey through our professional lives.'

Supportive Housing for Families

Common Ground Queensland (CGQ) has been running the Supportive Housing for Families (SH4F) program since July 2020. Our goal is to keep families together (who would otherwise be at risk of separation due to homelessness) by providing them with long term stable housing alongside intensive tenancy management and support.

Since the beginning of the SH4F program, CGQ have housed nearly 100 people, including 58 children. This year we welcome our new Tenancy Manager, Plony Verkerk, as our original Tenancy Manager for the program, Lisa Armitage, moves on to bigger and brighter things. Thanks for all your hard work Lisa, and welcome to CGQ Plony!

'I am super excited to know that I'm not stressed and living in a car anymore. So, I'm looking forward to a positive future.'

SH4F Family



Keeping Families Together Evaluation Report

On Thursday the 2nd of December 2021, the Keeping Families Together – Supportive Housing for Families Evaluation Report was launched. Held at the Customs House in Brisbane City, the event hosted representatives from Child Safety, Common Ground QLD, the Micah Projects Keeping Families Together (KFT) Team, and some of the participants of the SH4F project who had been interviewed for the evaluation report. After chatting over pastries and drinks the presentation began, with Cameron Parsell introducing and discussing the findings of the report, before bringing to the stage the participants of the SH4F project, along with members from Child Safety and the local Council.

The report was completed by Cameron Parsell and his team at the University of Queensland. The study was an empirical report on the KFT Supportive Housing pilot model and its delivery, while also

focusing on the experiences and outcomes for the families involved. They analysed three key areas: Housing Access, Child Protection and Family Stability. They found that the program was truly successful, with excellent outcomes for each of these key areas, despite the challenges the program faced. In the end the report recommended that the KFT/SH4F program should be increased and expanded across Queensland. This extensive study shows once again how important supported social housing is, not only in regards to sustaining tenancies but also for the growth and wellbeing of the families and children at risk of homelessness.

The SH4F program has been successful enough to be extended for another 5 years. This will allow us and the Micah support team to continue supporting families in this time of need with the housing crisis still raging around Queensland.



The Kids are Alright

Akeisha was referred to Common Ground Queensland by Micah Projects in October of 2021. After interviewing her and making sure she was a good fit for our Supportive Housing for Families (SH4F) project, our Tenancy Manager moved her into her new home within two weeks. Since then, Akeisha and her two young children have been living happily in their own house. A young, sweet, quiet girl with a boisterous laugh and a charming smile, she is enjoying her independence.

'It's good knowing I'm stable now,' she says. This is the first house she has ever lived in on her own. Previous to being in the program, Akeisha was couch surfing. 'I didn't get along with my partner's mom, so I ended up couch surfing. A DV incident occurred, and child safety got involved and they referred me to Micah [Projects].' Experiencing homelessness after a Domestic Violence incident isn't necessarily a surprising outcome. Specialist Homelessness Services in Australia reported that around 42% of all their clients during the 2020-2021 period had experienced family and domestic violence.

But now she is moving past that. 'I'm putting the kids into day-care, and I couldn't have done that before. I'm currently working on getting a job or

studying. If I can I want to study a Certificate in Business Administration.'

It was at this point in the interview that her children began demanding her attention. As a young mother of two her main focus is caring for her children, which she puts before anything else. With two children under the age of four she is a woman under pressure. While her children can be demanding, they are sweet and lively, and have recently taken to pulling the baubles off the Christmas tree in the garage and rolling them down the slide or 'cooking' them in their toy oven. When we visited, the oldest in particular enjoyed doing a drawing with us and having her photo taken.

Akeisha appreciates how easy it is to work with our Tenancy Manager. '[She's] been very helpful and if I need anything I can just message them.'

She's hoping to study her certificate, but 'gotta get the kids into day-care first before I can do anything.' In ten years' time she hopes to have a career job in business administration.

Community Supportive Housing

Common Ground Queensland (CGQ) has been running a Community Supportive Housing (CSH) program aimed at housing asylum seeker individuals and families since March of 2021. This program was begun after a group of asylum seekers were released from detention at Kangaroo Point in Brisbane. CGQ was asked to take on the head leasing arrangements in order to house these men, receiving funding to cover their rents and housing costs from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne.

We now work with many other organisations including the Romero Centre – Mercy Community Services and Communify to help house many more asylum seekers, including families. We are currently housing 48 adults and 10 children.

With the recent decision this May regarding the Tamil asylum seeker family, the Nadesalingam's (who have been so fiercely supported by the Biloela community), gaining temporary bridging visas which have allowed them to go home to Biloela, hope in the asylum seeker community was reignited.

For many asylum seekers in Australia their situation is dire, with no access to Medicare, government assistance or workers' rights without a valid visa, they are reliant on charity organisations for food, medical treatment and housing. According to the ASRC there are at least 2,000 asylum seekers around the country who do not currently hold a valid visa, although it is difficult to measure as the federal government does not keep track of these people, preferring instead to let them disappear into the community. This number is only a small amount of the known asylum seekers who are having difficulties in Australian society due to the complication of their visas.

CGQ was recently awarded the Nudgee Trust Grant in March of 2022. This grant was for \$87,392 and has gone towards paying for rent and housing costs for 19 adult asylum seekers over the past six months. Peter Pearce, a director on the CGQ Board, contacted the Nudgee Trustees on behalf of CGQ to enquire about applying for this amazing opportunity.

CGQ would like to thank Chris Townend and all members of the Nudgee Trust for their special consideration in awarding CGQ this grant.

CGQ would also like to thank the community support organisations whom we have partnered with for this program: Multicultural Australia, Communify, Romero Centre – Mercy Community Services, the World Wellness Centre, Red Cross, QPASTT, Salvation Army and the ASRC.



Welcome back Justin



We welcome back Justin as our Tenancy Manager for this program.

Justin returned to Common Ground Queensland in September and has helped us to respond to the growing number of refugees and asylum seekers requiring assistance to secure housing.

Living Peacefully

Deniraje and his wife, Visithira, and their two children arrived in Australia in 2012. After fleeing their home due to war and violence, the Tamil family boarded a boat headed to Australia. With his wife and two young children to care for, Deniraje hoped for a brighter future in Australia.

Once on Australian shores, Deniraje and his family were denied a protection visa by the Department of Home Affairs. Instead, they have since been put on a bridging visa, which only lasts anywhere from 3 to 6 months. This means that at the end of that period they are forced to reapply for the visa, along with new Medicare cards, in order to continue being allowed to live their lives in safety and peace. This has been a process that has been ongoing for the past ten years. They have not received any other support from the government. They are continually refused a longer-term visa, despite having already been in the country for 10 years and the situation in their home country continuing to escalate. Deniraje says it is difficult being in this country without the proper visa, as he is unable to find a job that will allow him to support his family. However, he is doing his best to earn a living.

When they first arrived, the family moved into a house that they soon realised was very damaged and had an insect infestation. Deniraje spoke with the real estate to have these issues fixed but they refused. After a disagreement, Deniraje and his family were evicted. Since then, him and his family have been provided a home to live in by Common Ground Qld. 'Now where we are staying we are happy. Justin really helped me to find this house and we have been here for one year.'

Since arriving in Australia, their family has grown by two, with Deniraje now having four lovely children. The oldest is fourteen now, and with all his children attending school he is very glad to be in Australia and for them to have this opportunity for an education.

When they came to Australia, they knew it was a very good country, and with the problems back in their country, here they can live peacefully.





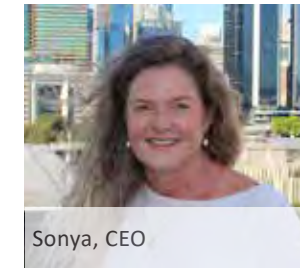
Venue Hire with Purpose

The function rooms at Brisbane Common Ground serve many purposes. Not only do they allow Common Ground Queensland (CGQ) to support local community organisations by providing access to them at a competitive rate, providing valuable income to contribute to operational costs of Brisbane Common Ground, but they also allow CGQ the opportunity to employ tenants in roles to support the venue hire and further support them in their journeys. CGQ has been employing tenants as part of the functions and maintenance team since 2015, hiring over 25 since the initiative began. The function rooms at Brisbane Common Ground were designed to be utilised by the community, to foster local relationships and opportunities. The Kurilpa Room, with its natural light and breakout balcony, and the Gambaro Room, offering spectacular views of Brisbane City from the roof of Brisbane Common Ground, are ideal for events of many kinds. CGQ regularly hosts community organisations such as UpBeat Arts in the function rooms.

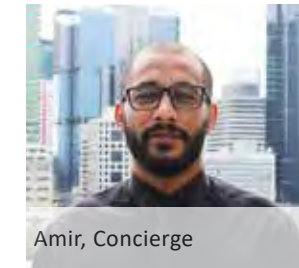
UpBeat Arts provide tailored arts and cultural programs, such as choirs and writing groups, for artists and educators to work with marginalised communities to promote social inclusion, positive mental health and wellbeing. They work to engage, educate and empower adults experiencing mental health challenges, disadvantage or marginalisation in Queensland. CGQ is proud to be able to support our local community organisations.



CGQ Team



Sonya, CEO



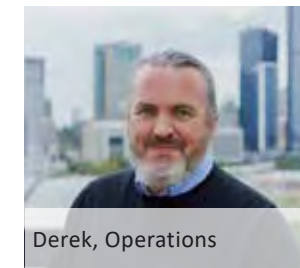
Amir, Concierge



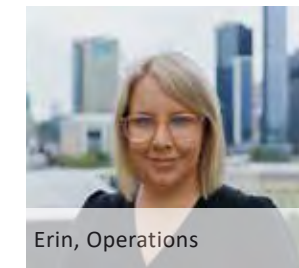
Andrew, Concierge



Deliah, Operations



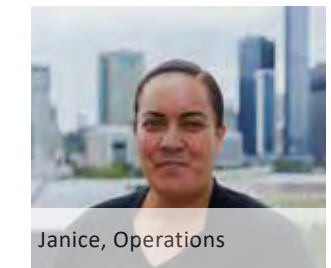
Derek, Operations



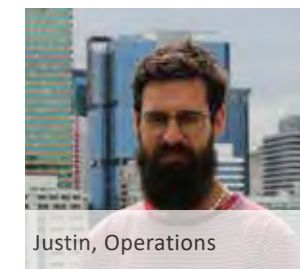
Erin, Operations



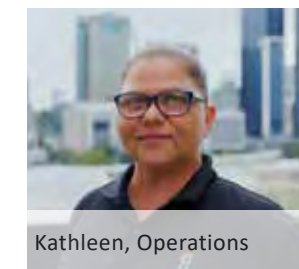
Fury, Concierge



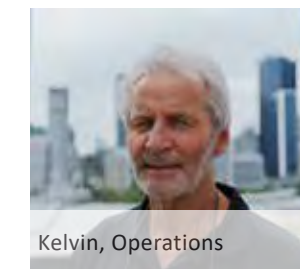
Janice, Operations



Justin, Operations



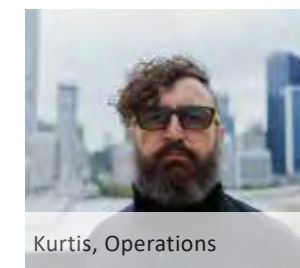
Kathleen, Operations



Kelvin, Operations



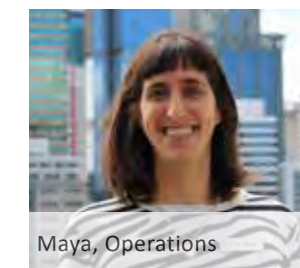
Ketan, Concierge



Kurtis, Operations



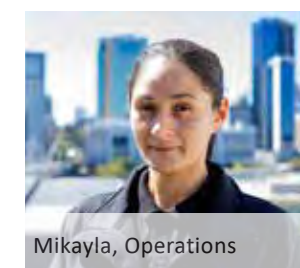
Mario, Concierge



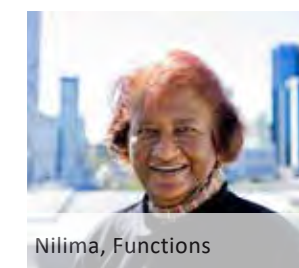
Maya, Operations



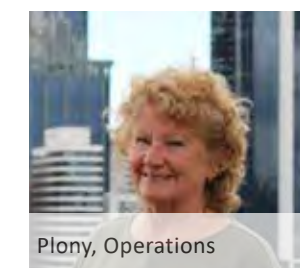
Michael, Operations



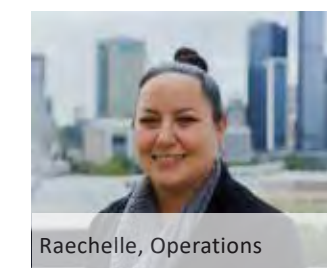
Mikayla, Operations



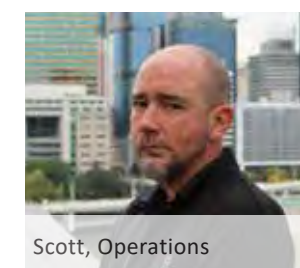
Nilima, Functions



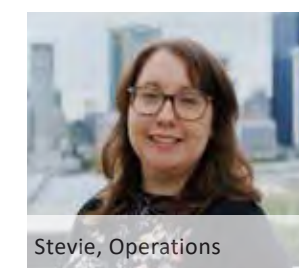
Plony, Operations



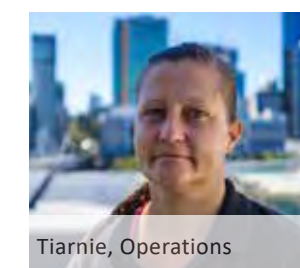
Raechelle, Operations



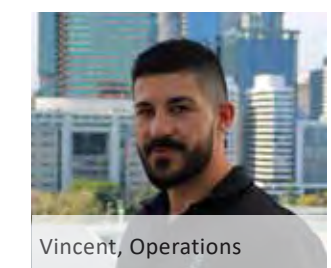
Scott, Operations



Stevie, Operations



Tiarnie, Operations



Vincent, Operations

Board of Directors



Kate Jones
Co-Chairperson

Kate has more than 20 years experience in senior government and leadership positions. Kate served as a Minister in the Queensland Government for more than eight years in a range of portfolios including State Development, Education, Tourism and Major Events and Innovation and Climate Change.

Throughout her career Kate has also served on a number of government and non-government boards at both a state and national level. Kate has strong skills in strategy development and partnerships, crisis management, media relations and communications.



Peter Pearce
Director

Peter has over 40 years' experience in not-for-profit governance with organisations working in employment, homelessness, housing, child and family support, acute health care and child care. He has worked in senior roles in aero-medical retrieval, aged care, health, energy, politics, public service, business development and general management.

Peter is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has completed the advanced company director's diploma. He is also a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia. He holds a Masters degrees in Public Sector Management and Ethics and Legal Studies, and other qualifications in social science and business.



Mark Lightfoot
Director

Mark is a Partner in the Banking and Financial Services Group of HWL Ebsworth. Mark regularly undertakes significant pre-lending reviews and security due diligence on behalf of his financier clients. In addition to acting for financial institutions, Mark also regularly acts for several corporate clients with respect to their project finance requirements.

Mark's experience includes documenting and advising on the structuring of a range of debt finance transactions including property development and investment finance, construction and project financing and equipment finance.



Joanna Spanjaard
Director

Joanna has over 20 years' experience in risk management developing, implementing and providing assurance over all aspects of risk management including risk frameworks, risk appetite, risk maturity diagnostics, risk governance, culture and operating models. She is currently General Manager Risk and Assurance at Uniting Care Queensland.

Joanna has deep experience in many industry sectors including not-for-profits, health, public safety, energy, mining and water and regularly facilitates emerging, strategic and operational risk workshops with Boards and senior executives.



Mark Neave
Director

Mark has over 40 years' experience working within the Health and Welfare sectors as a frontline worker ranging from direct clinical work as a social worker in mental health, child safety and acute care and in Executive positions within Government and Non-Government organisations.

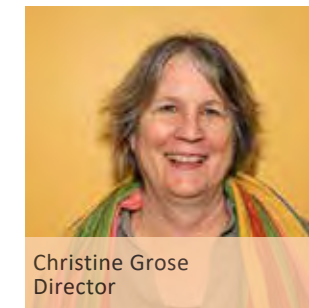
He holds a unique understanding of the myriad of services and associated complexities that are often faced within community and acute responses.

Michael is the Chief Financial Officer of the property development company Spyre Group. He is a Chartered Accountant with over 20 years' experience in property, hospitality and professional services in Australia and the Middle East. Over this time, he has developed an expertise in financial management and reporting, governance, corporate finance, strategic planning and business management.

Michael is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds qualifications in Strata Management and Hotel Management, he has a Master of Professional Accounting and post graduate qualifications in Applied Finance.



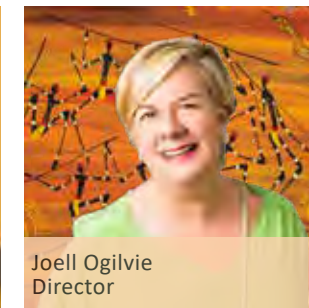
Michael Ryall
Co-Chairperson



Christine Grose
Director

Christine has over three decades of direct service delivery and management experience in the community sector - in particular in the areas of homelessness and youth at risk.

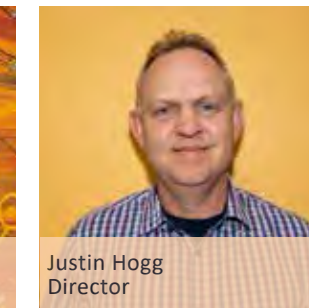
Christine has served on numerous community and homelessness service Management Committees throughout her career. Her focus for her voluntary and paid work is on implementing structural change and supporting community capacity-building, in the service of social justice. She currently works as a Community Engagement Lead with a collective Impact Movement in South-East Queensland.



Joell Ogilvie
Director

Joell is the Executive General Manager for the Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) and has over 30 years' experience working for Flight Centre.

Joell is responsible for a diverse group of businesses within the FCTG. Joell has extensive experience in all aspects of running these businesses with a strong focus on delivering growth and development programs for her team.

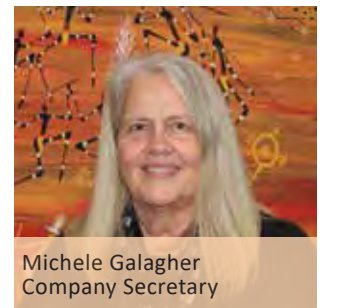


Justin Hogg
Director

Justin Hogg has worked as an accountant in a number of industries including overseeing teams responsible for billion-dollar business ventures through to working with charities to further their goals.

Justin is passionate about the not-for-profit space and helping those who help others. Justin serves in Director and Company Secretary positions for several not-for-profits currently as well as running his own business that supports not-for-profits.

Justin Hogg is a Member of CPA Australia and a Fellow Member of the Governance Institute of Australia.



Michele Galagher
Company Secretary

Michele has over 25 years of experience in Finance and Accounting roles, including over 10 years as a Company Secretary for companies limited by guarantee. Michele holds a range of Company Secretary appointments in organisations that support First Nations People, rural and remote communities and vulnerable populations.

Michele has a Master of Business Administration (Finance), Master of Commerce (UQ), completed the Company Directors Course at the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow at Governance Institute of Australia, and a Fellow at CPA Australia.

Thank you

Common Ground Queensland would like to thank and recognise the following individuals and organisations who have invested in our initiatives and outcomes throughout the year.

In-kind and financial support

Ann Marie Bolster
Anne Flanigan
Asylum Seekers Resource Centre
Catherine Howie
Chris Keyte
Deanna Bowen
Deanna Nott
El Kate
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Kelvin Barfoot
Kieron Roost
Leanne Hunter
Milaan Latten
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Pricilla Lunn
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Rohan Reid
Romero Centre
Russell O'Reilly
Ruth Marshall
S Beasley
Shepherd Family Foundation
Susan and John Upham
Susan Forsyth
Thomas Beck
Tym Guitars

Partners and affiliates

3rd Space
Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance Program
Australasian Housing Institute
BCSystems
Business South Bank
Clemente
Community
Community Housing Providers Queensland (CHPs for QLD)

Volunteering

Adele Renwick
Andrea Humphreys
Andy Currey
Brendon Donohue
Cathy Stevens
Christine Grose
Emily Hassam
Emily Holden
Gayle Evans
Greg Dorge
Harrigan Ryan
Harry Pearce
James Gotley
Leala McMillan
Malcolm Upton
Maree Boyle
Marilla Currey
Maureen Young
Maya Gurrapu
Michael Kelly
Michele Gallagher
Neil Gurrapu
Nilima Harjal
Peter Pearce
Plony Verkerk
Sheridan Williams
Sophie Mutch
Stacey Currey
Sylvia Currey
Virginia Loraine

Department of Housing and Public Works
Griffith University
Micah Projects
Multicultural Australia
Q Shelter
QCOSS
QPAC
Queensland Police Service
UpBeat Arts

Introducing the Billy William Fund

This year Common Ground Queensland is launching the Billy William Fund in order to increase our impact and continue expanding our programs to end homelessness, a person at a time. Launched on October 8th at the CGQ Rooftop Cocktail fundraising event, this fund has been developed by one of CGQ's Board of Directors, Peter Pearce, in loving memory of his brother, Billy, who struggled with homelessness.

'Stories like Billy's are the reason organisations like CGQ exist and provide such a vital service to our

communities. While Billy is no longer within reach of our assistance, the CGQ Billy William Fund for Ending Homelessness will make it possible to help others who share his story.'

Through the Billy William fund, we will provide more supportive homes and ensure more people have a safe place to call home.

To see Billy's full story visit our website and donate today.



Funded by _____



Supported by _____

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