

Employment Engagement Program



Our Goals

Employment Engagement Program (EEP) is tackling long term unemployment one person at a time with direct supported engagement to see long term sustainable outcomes. EEP participants contribute to the development and delivery of SPCSIC programs to increase SPCSIC capacity to meet community needs.

- ◆ Participants learn the value of occupation to personal wellbeing.
- ◆ Participants discover, or rediscover, the value of employment, occupation and community engagement.
- ◆ Participants learn a diversity of valuable skills, and can demonstrate to potential employers their employability.
- ◆ Participants can return to the program at any time if they wish to reengage to receive support and engagement while increasing capacity and delivering outcomes to the community.



Highlights

Seeing the growth and development of EEP participants has shifted the negative preconceived notions held about long term unemployed people and has demonstrated participants willingness to engage, be industrious and involved.

By making the EEP Participant team part of the wider SPCSIC team they feel embraced, supported and valued and the program has humanised the issues around long term unemployment that many people have only seen represented negatively in the media.

Initiatives

- ◆ Utilising funding available through the Federal Government Work for the Dole Program. EEP enables SPCSIC to deliver projects in an effective and strategic way.
- ◆ EEP develops, and delivers a project that can then be staffed by volunteers to continue the project.
- ◆ The EEP participants can train other volunteers to deliver the project – again increasing the participant's skill sets.

Outcomes

EEP delivers a diversity of needed community programs which to date have included: the development, management and delivery of the SPCSIC pantry (\$400,000 worth of material aid secured last financial year); delivery of the Southern Peninsula Fresh Food Program, at Rosebud and Dromana locations.

Development and delivery of the Southern Peninsula Laundry and Shower (SPLaSh) Program – providing laundry, shower, food and other wraparound service on the Rosebud foreshore.



Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre

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The Project:

The Employment Engagement Project (EEP) is designed to work with long term unemployed or disengaged people to increase community engagement and participation. EEP targets local people who have been disengaged from paid employment or other occupation, and offers tailored volunteer community work through SPCSIC programs.

The volunteer work is supported and supervised by a skilled Employment Engagement Worker. The EEP worker forms a mentor relationship with the program participants. This relationship enables the participants to be assisted and encouraged in identifying and tackling barriers to engagement while offering personalised opportunities to increase skills.

The volunteer work is initially through the most interesting and engaging of SPCSIC's programs. Typically starting with the Fresh Food Program, the EEP Participants assist with the delivery of a program that is considered high value to those accessing it while being low risk to the EEP Participants. The engagement required has a low skill set, but a high prospect for emotional connection. EEP Participants engaged in the program can start with a low level of emotional distance, creating the opportunity for this to grow over time. This allows Participants to develop an engagement at their own pace. Over time Participants who are ready for more challenging engagement move on to working within the Southern Peninsula SPCSIC Pantry project where they have opportunities for supported one on one engagement with community members, suppliers, other agencies and donors.

These opportunities demonstrate the value of occupation to personal wellbeing. Through the growing engagement with the programs delivered, the community members, fellow participants, wider SPCSIC staff and volunteers, and other SPCSIC stakeholders, EEP participants discover, or rediscover, the value of employment, occupation and community engagement. Additionally the Participants learn a diversity of valuable skills, and can demonstrate to potential employers their employability.

Why SPCSIC?

SPCSIC has been working with vulnerable community members in the southern Mornington Peninsula since 1980. During this time SPCSIC has built a trust with the community which results in astounding community support and engagement. SPCSIC has a small but highly skilled workforce that oversees 80 volunteers of various abilities who deliver the current programs. SPCSIC has strong links to locally delivered support services and will provide participants with the opportunity to connect with these services to ensure that they receive well rounded support.



CONTACT US

To find out more or to arrange a tour of SPCSIC please contact:

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SOUTHERN PENINSULA COMMUNITY SUPPORT & INFORMATION CENTRE

Inc. A000882Z



Our Mission Statement

The Southern Peninsula Community Support and Information Centre is committed to meeting the needs of our community and seeks to contribute to people's awareness of their rights and responsibilities, with a particular emphasis on encouragement and the independence of those who are marginalised.

