



# Millennium House Community Centre

A visionary project of AMCS

2023

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# Millennium House Overview

The Millennium House Community Centre will be a meeting place where people from different cultures living in Melbourne's West can meet, work, share information and engage in community and educational activities.

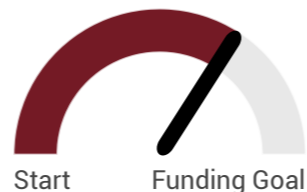
In response to a high need in Melbourne's West, Australian Multicultural Community Services (AMCS) is seeking funds to support the upgrade of Millennium House Community Centre, located close to the Footscray CBD and Victoria University. Centrally located it is just 5kms from Melbourne CBD roughly 200 meters from the Seddon train station.

## AMCS is aiming to:

1. Provide a much needed meeting space for multicultural communities. A safe and culturally appropriate space to actively engage in activities.
2. Renovate a 1960s-built centre, called Millennium House, and bring it up to 21st century standards, returning it to a functioning and vibrant community hub.
3. Provide office spaces to administer the centre and leverage AMCS' capacity to support people from multicultural backgrounds including seniors, newly-arrived migrants, refugees, women, young people and children.

The total cost of the Millennium House redevelopment project is \$6.3 million. AMCS has committed \$2.5 million to the project, and has so far secured the below:

- » Gandel Foundation Flagship Grant of \$500,000
- » West Gate Neighbourhood Fund \$500,000
- » Multicultural Infrastructure Fund \$600,000
- » Living Local Grant \$125,000
- » Anonymous Donor \$80,000



68.12% of funding secured



Millennium House: 296 Nicholson St, Seddon, 3011





# Community Impact

## Millennium House Snapshot

Investment in this critical upgrade is guaranteed to provide major impact for the community. Millennium House, a significant community asset, will continue its original mission to promote community well-being, welcome those who are looking for a safe space to belong, and act as a refuge for those looking to celebrate togetherness, culture and continue life long learning. Its contribution to broader civil society cannot be overstated or underestimated.



**30,000+**

Number of people using the space annually



**45+**

Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities represented



**170**

capacity at any given time



**5**

Community spaces available for public use



**1,000**

Square metres of community spaces



**365**

Days open per year



**Ethno-Specific Social Support Groups**



**Employment Pathways**



**Adult Education**



**Respite for Carers**



**Community Relief Fundraising**



**Accessible & inclusive venue for people with disabilities**



**Support & Relief Services**



**Celebrations of Cultural Traditions**



# A Critical Resource in the West

The Western suburbs of Melbourne are the fastest growing population centres in Australia.

Melbourne's growth is projected by 2050 to increase from 4.5 million to almost **8 million**.

By 2051, those aged over 65 will rise from 14% to 21% of the population (Victorian government's Plan Melbourne 2017 – 2050). The growth will, (for the major part) occur in the Western Growth Corridor, which includes the municipalities of Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Moonee Valley, Hobson's Bay, Melton and Wyndham – their total population will grow by almost 60% from **544,433 in 2011 to 879,300 in 2031**.

Their language profile highlights the immigrant diversity with the two largest language groups: Maribyrnong (Vietnamese, Mandarin), Brimbank (Vietnamese, Punjabi), Moonee Valley (Italian, Greek), Hobson's Bay (Arabic, Italian), Melton (Vietnamese, Punjabi) and Wyndham (Punjabi, Hindi).

Between 2011- 2019 the Maribyrnong municipality grew from approximately 75,000 residents to over 93,000, a growth of 24% over that time. The new migrant proportion of that growth is very high with currently 40% of residents born overseas and **42% speaking a language other than English at home**. Such spectacular growth has outstripped the Maribyrnong City Council's ability to keep up with appropriate infrastructure. It is not unexpected or surprising then that accessible and affordable space, to support the newly arriving residents and their ethnic groups, is in short supply.

Millennium House is located in the heart of Maribyrnong and once refurbished will provide a community space to enhance the cultural precinct. Not only ideally located, when fully renovated, it will provide a large space with a community hall of 300 sqm in size as well as additional meeting rooms, function rooms and multipurpose use space available for a combined total of almost 1000 sqm. There will be a green rooftop deck on the top floor of the building that will have easy access via a lift. This deck will allow for functions, events and be a place to sit during the day and see the city views.





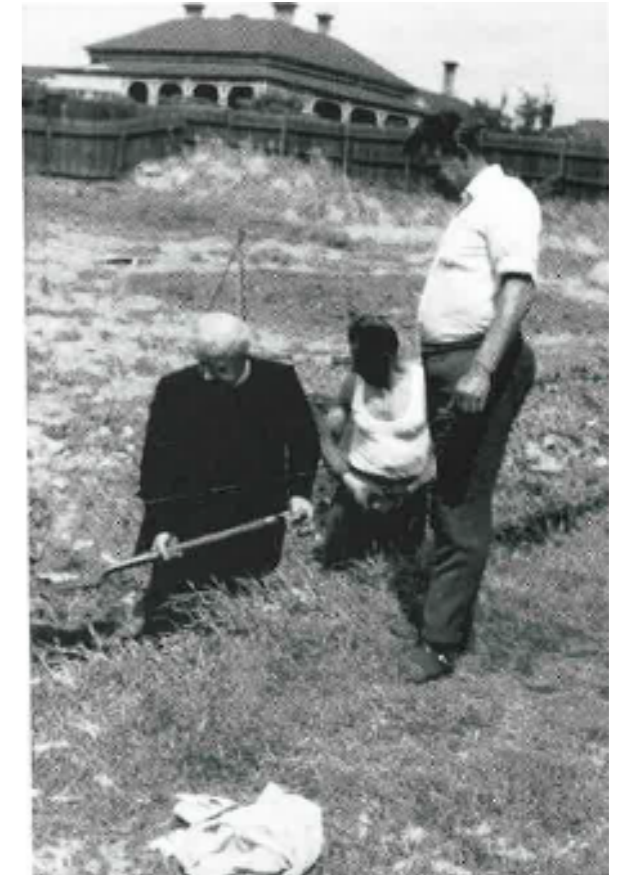
# Celebrating Historical Significance

The Millennium House Community Centre has been the home and focal point for the Polish community of Western Melbourne since the early 1960s. It has served the Poles of Melbourne as well as other culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities for many decades. Many thousands have used its main hall and have fond memories of significant life events being celebrated there.

As such, Millennium House remains a significant symbol of the migrant history of Melbourne's Western suburbs. It powerfully demonstrates what can be achieved with determination, community goodwill and post-war self-reliance.

AMCS was gifted this substantial community asset, Millennium House, by the previous owners, the Polish Association of Kingsville and Ladies Auxiliary (PAKLA), to redevelop the centre. In donating the Centre to AMCS, PAKLA asked that we repurpose it for the future use of the community.

AMCS has made that commitment and is now seeking to honour it for the benefit of the entire community of local and neighbouring communities.





# New Vision for Millennium House

Millennium House has been an important centre for the local community and has a **current land/building valuation of \$5.2M**. The facility has housed various community meetings and cultural celebrations as well as a language school and gathering place for numerous ethnic groups. Vietnamese and African communities have become regular users over recent years.

The management of Millennium House by AMCS will enable the long overdue refurbishment, while ensuring its function for community use is enhanced. This will be for the betterment of Seddon and the wider Maribyrnong multicultural community. Integral to the proposal is the improvement of the facility with additional floor space, an activated entry treatment and car parking on site. The overall existing floor space will increase from 1095 sqm to 1236 sqm.



Image: Millennium House, Post Upgrade

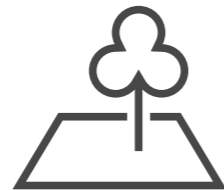


## Current Measurements



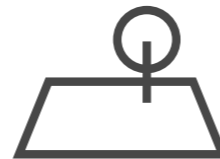
### Millennium House

- » Downstairs 1,078 sqm
- » Upstairs 447 sqm
- » Shed 184 sqm



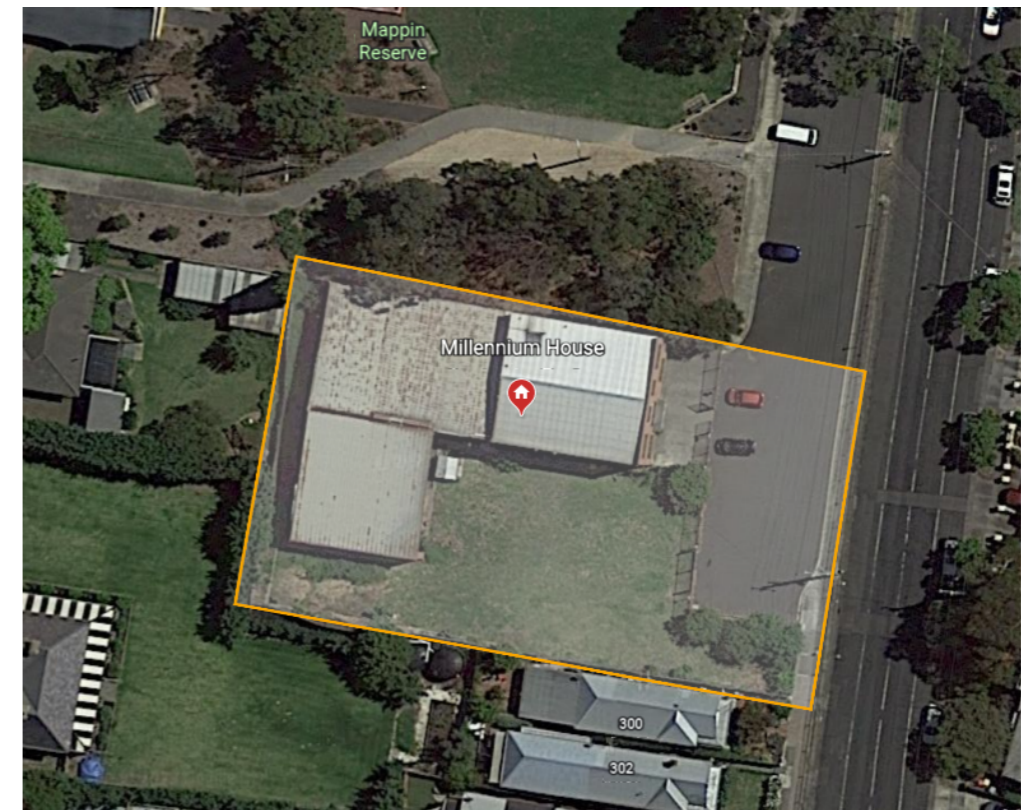
### Land: Large Block

- » 1,266 sqm (13,630 ft)
- » Depth 145 ft
- » Across 94 ft



### Land: Small Block

- » 417 sqm (4,514 ft)
- » Depth 192 ft
- » Across 23 ft





# New Vision for Millennium House

AMCS engaged Smith Tracey Architects to develop the concept plan. A planning permit was approved by Maribyrnong City Council in March 2020 and a building permit has been approved. All going to plan, renovation works on Millennium House will commence in February 2023 with completion estimated to be by April 2024.

**The vision is to produce a vibrant, multicultural, inclusive and well-managed community centre.**

While AMCS is able to fund a good proportion of the estimated costs of renovation, the scale of needed works is beyond our resources to fully complete.

We are therefore **currently seeking financial support** from government, philanthropic organisations, businesses and community-minded individuals to assist in realising the vision to reinvigorate this vital community asset.

**“Gandel Foundation is proud to support the upgrade and redevelopment of Millennium House. There is an ongoing need for safe, inclusive and culturally appropriate spaces in the Western suburbs that can help foster a stronger sense of community and social cohesion. We look forward to the many benefits this reimagined space will provide for the broader society.”**

Vedran Drakulic OAM, CEO, Gandel Foundation





# New Vision for Millennium House

The multicultural community centre will have a range of community facilities and multipurpose rooms that will be suitable for various events and activities.

It will also provide office accommodation for community groups and organisations. A fully equipped kitchen will also serve to cater for community events and to supply food to the **Emergency Food Services Network**.

These facilities will be for hire on a regular or casual basis at **affordable community rates**.

The community centre will feature a **café that will be operated as a social enterprise** applying commercial strategies to maximise training and social impacts, alongside profits that will contribute to the centres' operations and running costs.

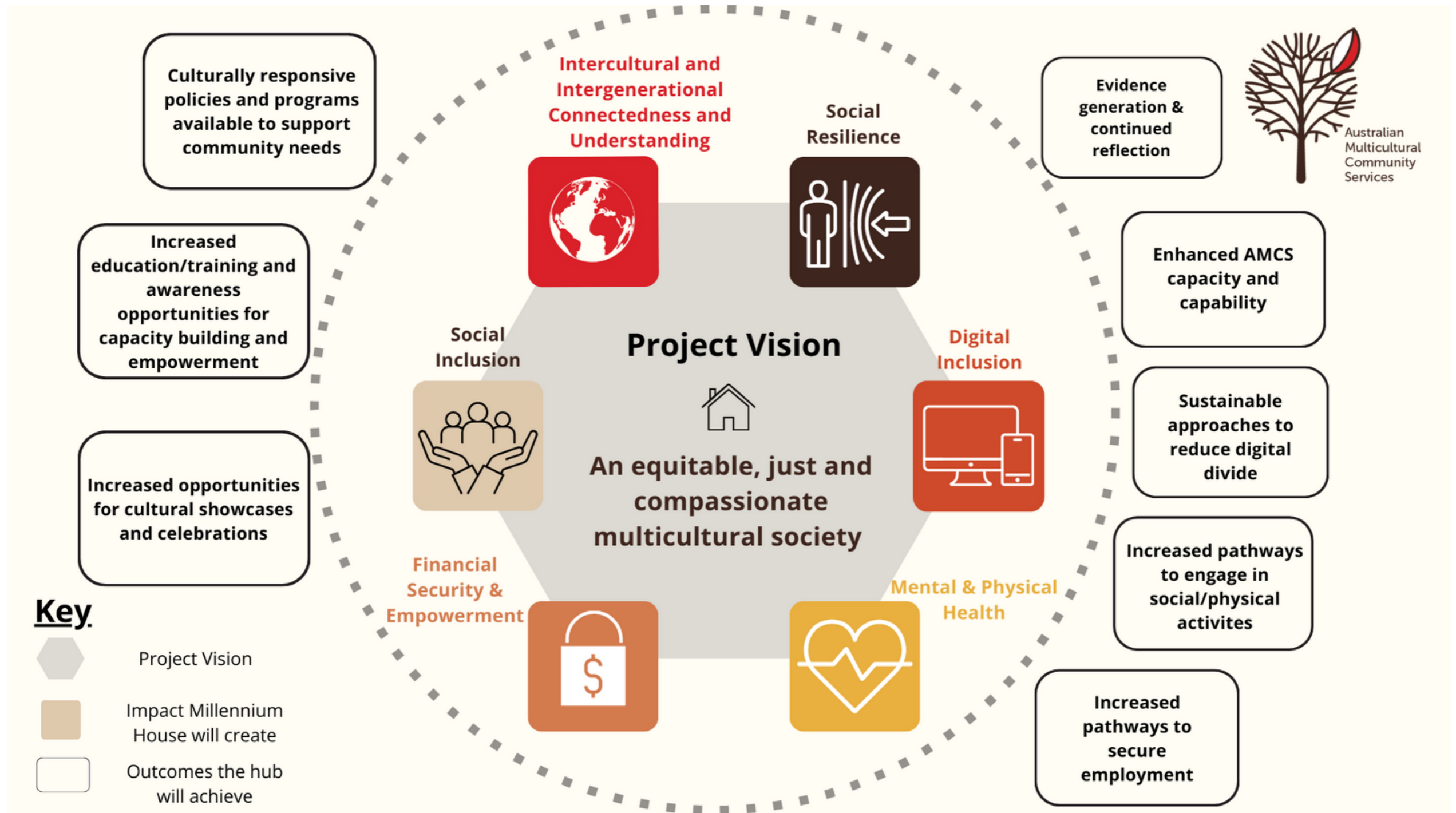
Another feature of the centre will be the **green rooftop garden**, allowing for community activities to be conducted in an accessible outdoor space allowing for future potential pandemic restrictions. Further to this, through the delivery of AMCS' employment referral program, **the centre will contribute to job creation in the local area**.

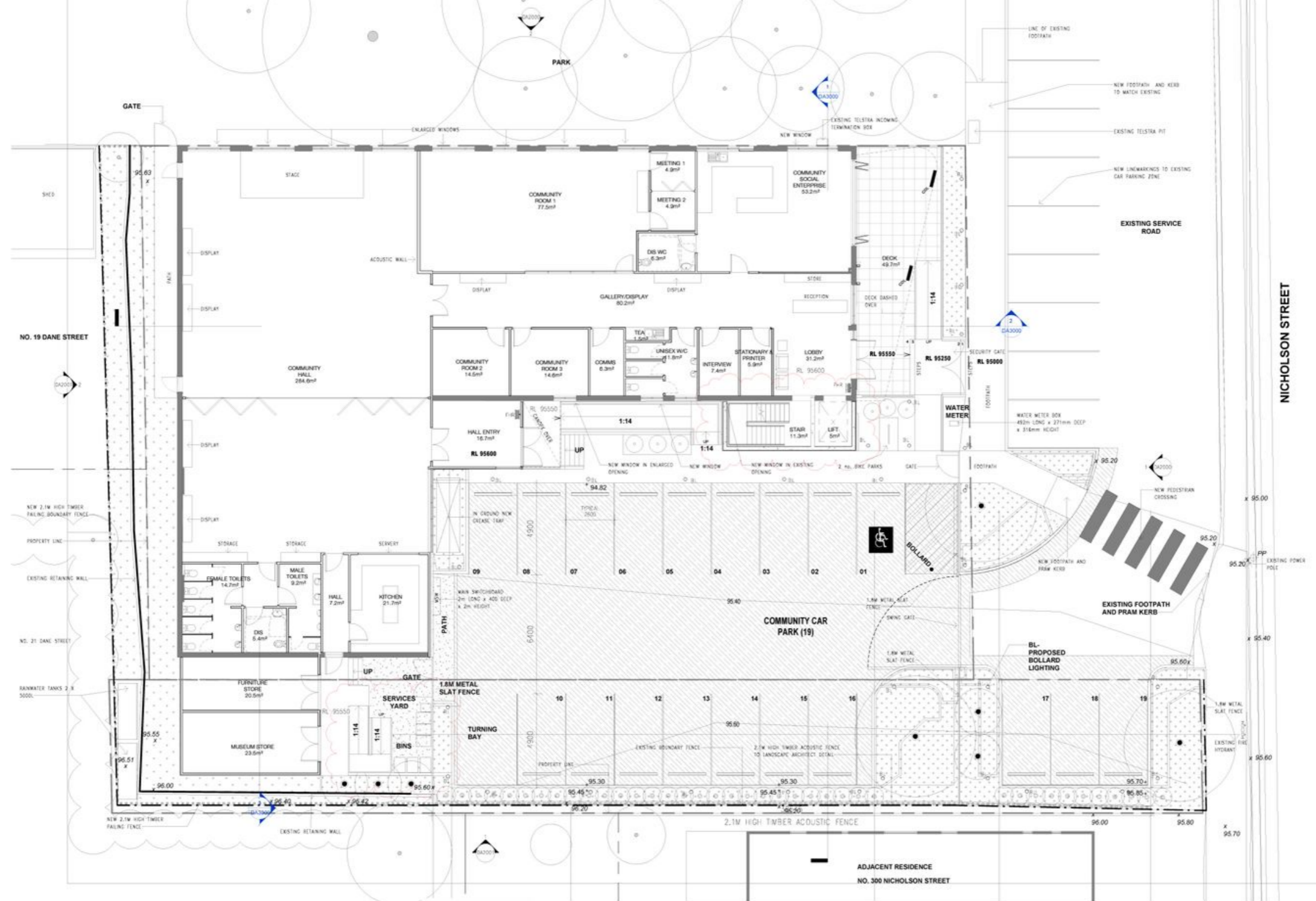
Through this project, AMCS will make a **major investment to strengthen** and support local and broader **multicultural communities** in Melbourne's Western region.



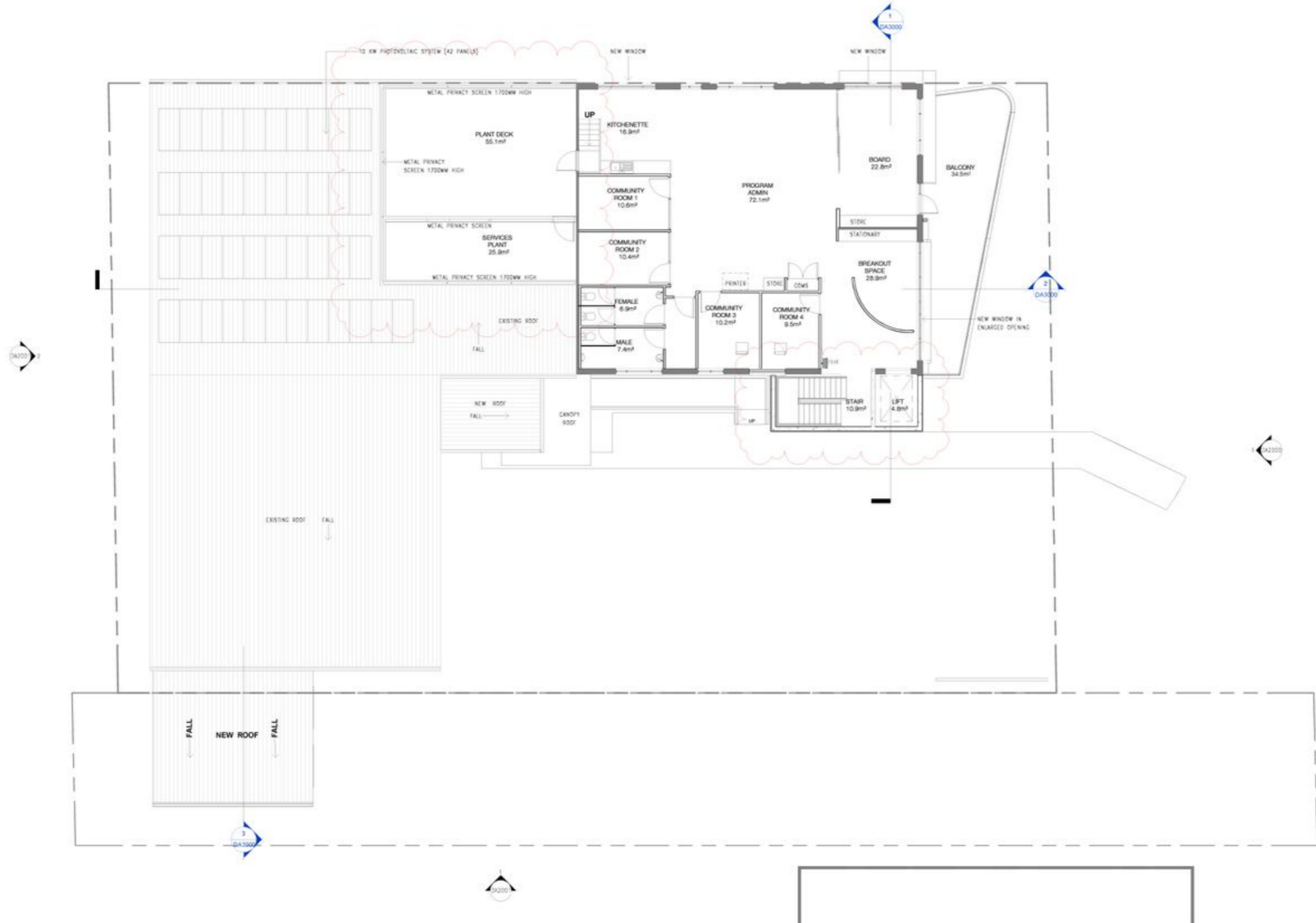


# New Vision for Millennium House - Impact Map









# AMCS, a Multicultural Community Care Organisation

AMCS has played a crucial role within the Victorian multicultural landscape for 40 years, providing culturally appropriate community services.

Our major work is in providing in-home care to ageing seniors from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Many elderly people from CALD backgrounds for whom AMCS provide assistance across Melbourne and in Geelong may:

- » Experience English language communication barriers
- » Be culturally and socially isolated, and have little or no family support
- » Live with cognitive impairment or dementia
- » Experience mental health challenges
- » Not be able to access digital information easily
- » Have a disability
- » Be negatively affected by a combination of the above

Migrant seniors have specialised in-home care and social support needs that AMCS is uniquely skilled to serve, including matching seniors with carers that speak their language. AMCS aim to ensure CALD seniors maintain their quality of life, mental and physical well-being, allowing them to stay in their homes longer.

AMCS also has a solid reputation for successfully project-managing educational, knowledge sharing and cultural strengthening projects throughout Melbourne's multicultural communities that support new immigrants, refugees and women. Unique among community-based service organisations, AMCS is not focused on one ethnic group nor tied to only one form of service delivery. In recent years, AMCS has experienced a significant increase in demand for our services, especially from the ethnic ageing communities.





# Australian Multicultural Community Services (AMCS)

AMCS is a not-for-profit multicultural community care organisation delivering quality and responsive services to people from CALD backgrounds, enhancing their wellbeing and quality of life.

**Mission:** To improve lives through care, support and empowerment.

**Vision:** An equitable, just and compassionate multicultural society.

## What makes AMCS unique?

- » We are multicultural. Supporting clients from 45+ countries
- » 40 years of experience in empowering CALD communities
- » We provide tailored and customized support
- » We provide clear and transparent information to build authentic and genuine relationships with members of the Victorian community.

## AMCS' services include:

### Home care packages

AMCS provides a wide variety of appropriate and practical support to assist seniors of all cultural backgrounds to live in their own homes for as long as possible.

### Referrals and support

AMCS provides information and referrals for seniors to find the appropriate home care or other support services they need.

### Social support groups

AMCS provides opportunities for seniors to attend and participate in culturally appropriate social interactions so they may maintain friendships and stay active.

### Respite care

AMCS centre-based respite enables carers of care recipients to look after their own health and wellbeing, knowing that their dependents are well looked after while they're away.

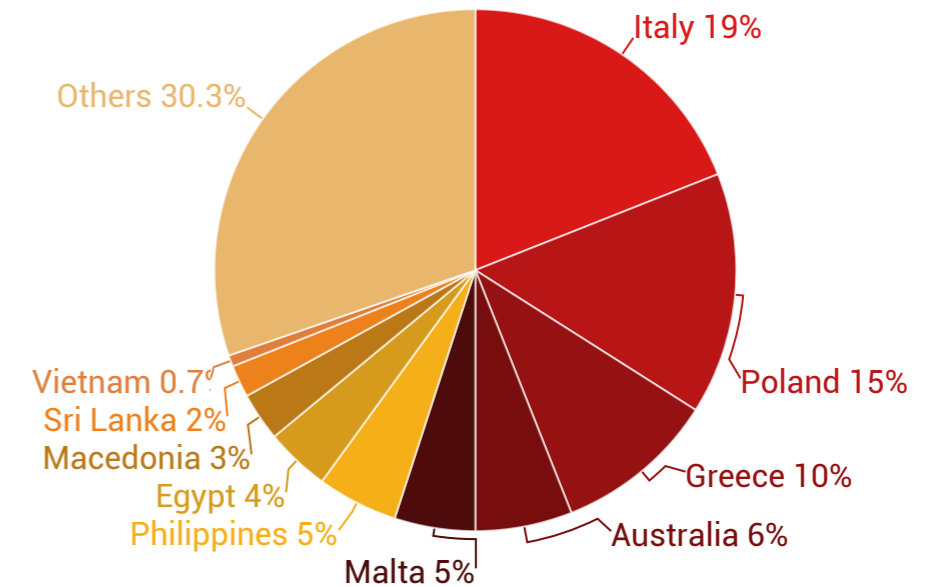
### Volunteer visiting program

Our Multicultural Volunteer Visiting Program is for seniors living in their own homes or in aged care facilities, who are either experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) social isolation. Bilingual volunteers provide companionship and support.

### Support and relief services

AMCS supports individuals, refugees and families at times of hardship by providing emergency relief and referrals to needed services.

## AMCS Clients' Country of Birth



### Adult education

Courses are provided to migrants who face barriers accessing education and are designed to be flexible to meet the students' needs. They include English language classes, digital literacy and building individual skills and confidence to open employment pathways.

### Help to find work

Support to improve employability skills and secure employment.

### Capacity Building Projects

Various projects to answer practical needs within the community. e.g. Digital literacy for seniors, COVID-19 information for multicultural community members, Carers support, intergenerational dialogue or co-design sessions.

### Multicultural Advisory Services

Multicultural leadership training, effective ways to communicate with CALD communities, CALD community engagement consultation.



# AMCS' Community Connections

For 40 years, AMCS has developed and maintained partnerships with all sorts of organisations to strengthen community ties and ensure authentic and practical services can be provided. The upgraded Millennium House will enable us to further our community strengthening and partnership efforts.



SPANISH WINDOW COMMUNITY SERVICES

DANDENONG POLISH-AUSTRALIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

# Australian Multicultural Community Services (AMCS)

Key community projects enabled by our funding partners

- \$6M** Jobs Victoria Employment Services (Victorian Government)
- \$1.8M** Better CALD Ageing Project (Moving for Life, Sports Australia)
- \$660k** Jobs Victoria Advocates Project (Victorian Government)
- \$440k** CHSP Respite Funding
- \$147k** AMCS Mobile Van and Wisdom Park Bench (RACV Foundation)
- \$100k** In partnership with Ninti One and Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing - to assist Indigenous organisations in Rockhampton, Beaudesert, Hope Valley, Minyerri (QLD) with compliance and establishment of appropriate home care support services for elders.



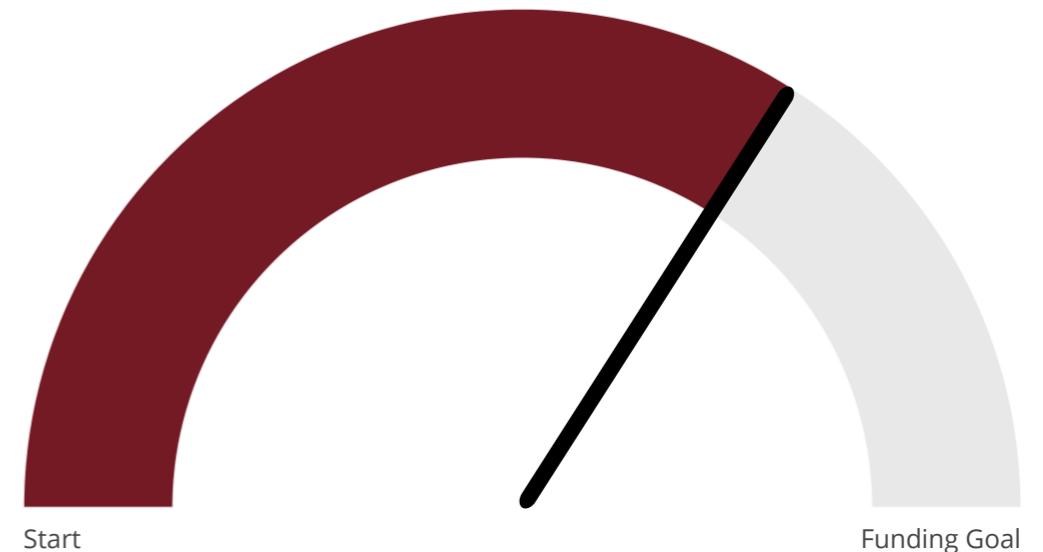
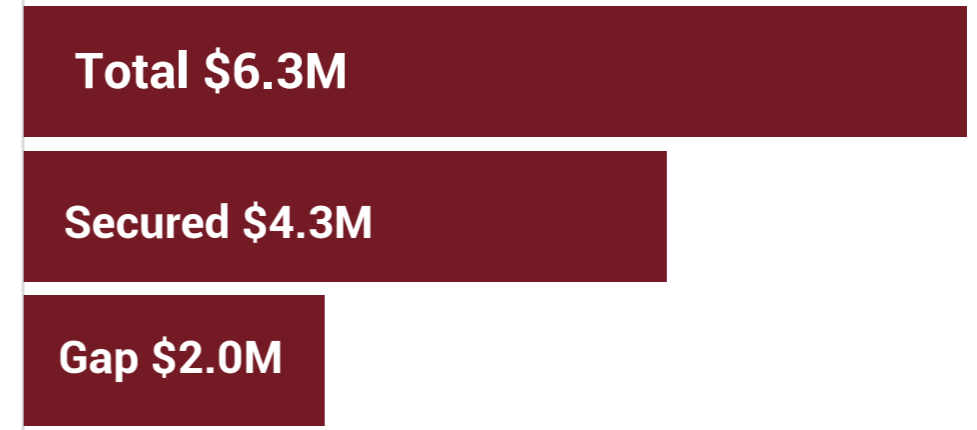


# New Vision for Millennium House

## Budget for the redevelopment of Millennium House

Project costs	Amount
Building and Construction	\$5,500,000
Fit out and Equipment	\$400,000
Project Management	\$130,000
Provision for Contingency/Variations	\$250,000
Green Roof	\$50,000
<b><u>Total Project Costs</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,330,000</u></b>

Contributions to date	Amount
Financial contribution from AMCS- confirmed	\$2,526,000
Gandel Foundation Flagship Grant - confirmed	\$500,000
West Gate Neighbourhood Fund- confirmed	\$500,000
Multicultural Comm. Infrast. Fund (MCIF) DPC- confirmed	\$600,000
Anonymous Donor - Confirmed	\$80,000
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions Living Local Grant - Confirmed	\$106,000
Request to Maribyrnong City Council	\$200,000
Funding Gap	\$1,818,000
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,330,000</u></b>



68.12% of funding secured



## SEEKING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

AMCS has prepared this prospectus to provide to government departments, charitable trusts and individual donors who may be interested in supporting this initiative. We thank-you for your consideration.

**Tax deductible donations can be made to:**

Australian Multicultural Community Services  
Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
BSB: 063 132  
Account #: 10215226

**For further information, please contact:**

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# AMCS Board of Directors

## **Chairperson: Russell Howard - Re-joined: 2020 (director also between 2008-2016)**

Russell started as a community volunteer with Great Connections/Leadership Victoria, helping not-for-profits on various projects.

Russell has extensive experience in human resources, general management, career management consulting, executive and not-executive director roles across a wide range of organisations locally and internationally.

## **Vice Chairperson: Rene Blaszak - Joined: 2016**

René has a 40-year history of using his managing skills to attain profit improvement via sustainable cost reduction, restructuring and business development. Since 1974 he has worked at CEO/board level and liaised with all levels of government, the public service and unions. He also has extensive experience in Europe, Scandinavia, Asia, America and Australasia. René holds Honors Degrees in Applied Science and Chemical Engineering from the University of Queensland plus a Master of Business Administration from Melbourne University.

## **Company Secretary: Ron Horfiniak - Re-joined: 2020 (director also between 2008 and 2016)**

Ron has extensive experience in financial and business management, spanning multiple sectors including IT, manufacturing, financial services, management consulting and not-for-profit. Ron has held various positions including General Management, CFO, executive and non-executive level for both local and international organisations.

## **Director: Barbara Swiatkowski - Re-joined: 2018 (director also between 2008-14)**

Barbara has extensive experience in superannuation administration, consulting, group insurance and general management within a global financial services organisation.

## **Director: Prof. Desmond Cahill OAM - Joined: 2010**

Des holds the position of Emeritus Professor of Intercultural Studies at RMIT University, where he has been engaged in academic and research activities in immigrant and refugee settlement for almost four decades. Des is also chair of Religions for Peace Australia and was awarded an OAM for his involvement in intercultural education and the interfaith movement.

## **Director: Peter Biedak - Joined: 2020**

Peter holds a Bachelor of Information Technology, an Advanced Diploma: Building and Construction (Management), a Diploma of Hospitality (Management) and a Cert IV in Training and Assessment.

Peter has over 25 years' experience in building software systems and business process engineering. He has worked across a variety of sectors including Legal, Travel, Hospitality and Aged Care. Peter has a keen interest in corporate governance.

## **Director: Meena Vannitamby - Joined 2021**

Meena is currently working as a Senior Manager within an in-house legal team. Meena's areas of legal practice include risk, regulatory, significant projects and litigation. Meena has extensive legal experience within private practice and government agencies. Meena has been a strong advocate of the vulnerable and minority in the community through extensive volunteer and community participation. She has a particular interest in the health care sector.