Edmund Rice Camps SA
ANNUAL REPORT
2019

At ERCSA we believe that every child deserves a happy and healthy childhood.

We strive to create a world where children and families who have experienced trauma and adversity can thrive and belong.

We harness the power of fun to change children's lives directly impacting their resilience, self-worth, and aspirations for the future.

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Executive Officer's Report

After some key staff changes over the past few years, 2019 has been a year of focus. Focus on our core activities, values, and mission. In prioritising these responsibilities we continued to meet the expectations of the children and families we serve. In 2019 we delivered 32 service days; 4 week long camps, 2 weekend camps, and 6 weekend day programs. This amounts to almost 150 placements offered to children, 6 placements offered to families and 250 placements for young adult volunteers. We increased the number of service days from 2018, and also increased the number of children and volunteers participating per program.

Our staffing model remained at 1.6 FTE with the appointment of our long serving volunteer Stefan Curran into the Program & Administration Officer role. I am incredibly proud of what Stefan was able to achieve in this role in 2019. Stefan's experience, leadership, and dedication to ERCSA has seen him grow the Program & Administration Officer into a fundamental part of our community.

Throughout 2019, the ERCSA Advisory Board successfully transformed from their governance role in previous years to their advisory capacity under our relatively new governance structure. The Advisory Board worked diligently to support staff and young adult volunteers throughout 2019. I am extremely grateful for the personal support, guidance, and encouragement afforded to me from the Advisory Board throughout my first full year as Executive Officer. In 2020, I am looking forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Advisory Board to ensure the best possible models of service and sustainability for ERCSA moving forward.

Our volunteers are the cornerstone for which ERCSA is built. In 2019 our volunteers re-established their feeling of ownership over ERCSA with a range of new initiatives. Our newest volunteer led initiative was Ed Talks. They are monthly community conversations about matters that our volunteers, as a group, are passionate about. In 2019, topics ranged from feminism, cultural identity, and the environment. Ed Talks saw ERCSA volunteers pose questions, challenge assumptions, stimulate thought, and inspire action within the ERCSA Community. This included an environmental action plan to reduce our carbon foot print, and changes to our programs to make them even more inclusive and impactful for participants and volunteers alike.

In 2019 we also established subject specific communication groups to encourage volunteers to contribute to ERCSA in other ways outside of our regular programs. Particular interest in recruitment, formation, fundraising, program planning & design, and office support saw engagement levels of volunteers across all levels of the organisation rise significantly from previous years.

We continue to be inspired by the amazing young adult volunteers within our community. I personally would like to thank our volunteers for their support and for welcoming me as their EO and allowing me to establish myself within our community in this new capacity.

Our greatest supporters are the Christian Brothers Oceania Province in conjunction with Edmund Rice Foundation Australia (ERFA) and Edmund Rice Ministries Oceania. Together they provide a major part of our annual funding requirements as well as significant in-kind support.

The local community of Christian Brothers and Edmund Rice network continue to be involved and support our programs. Their storytelling, guidance, and participation on camps continue to strengthen our connection to the story of Edmund and our mission.

To our 2019 partners and supporters thank you for your contribution to ERCSA. By supporting us, you also partner with us to provide this important service to those who need it most; young people whose future paths are greatly enhanced by the support and friendship of positive young adults.

2019 has been a year of capacity building and community. I am humbled by the culture of sustainability, best practice, and interdependence we have worked to create and I look forward to continuing to build on this vision into 2020.

Jessica Alikaris
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SUPPORTED BY

CommonwealthBank

MORIALTA TRUST INCORPORATED

Conor and Amber on Summer Camps 2019

Chairperson's Report

2019 was a year of consolidation for ERCSA. At a Board level, there was significant work done to transition our Board governance to an advisory capacity. This was in response to the decision at the end of 2018 to move under the auspice of ERMO as the governing entity of ERCSA. While all of our staff, volunteers and local organisational structures remained intact, there were both conceptual and practical implications of this move that required some refocusing of our thinking and adjustments to planning and processes, that used to be done at a local level.

Through this time, we worked closely with the ERMO Board, and ERMO Executive Officer, Andree Brown. Andree brought to this new relationship a wealth of local and contextual knowledge which supported ERCSA ably through this transition. The work to centralise some of the services and systems that extend across the Camps networks continues, and ERCSA looks forward to continuing to demonstrate leadership and good practice in the development of a national approach. Our work with ERMO is an ongoing process of an emergent nature, and we look forward to a further strengthening of our relationship with ERMO through 2020.

During this period, our valued Executive Officer, Jess Alikaris provided steady and considered leadership for the organisation, at a local level. Jess' divided her time between managing local requirements and retaining an outward, big picture view, as part of the national initiatives. There was a focus on growing our volunteer base and further developing our engagement strategies for a sustained and vibrant volunteer community.

Board membership through 2019 was stable and I would like to thank, Filip Puccini, Tiffany Newman, Paul Belton, Hannah Andersen, Katheryn Curnow, and Mahendra Chitrarasu for renewing their commitment to ERCSA through our transition period to an Advisory Board. I would like to extend a special thanks to Katheryn Curnow for providing significant support to Jess Alikaris across the development of a range of human resource and professional development strategies. As a Board, we are looking forward to a refocused 2020 and a clear path forward for Board engagement under our new governance model.

A significant and sad event for the Christian Brothers was the passing of Carmel Leonard, who provided exceptional support to the Camps organisations in a range of areas but most significantly, in finance. Carmel's commitment to and deep knowledge of the organisation will be missed. As we have transitioned to a more centralised system for budget management and monthly reporting, Jess has stepped in to having substantial oversight of finances, and the Board would like to extend their thanks to Jess for her initiative, in this area.

Overall, 2019 was a year of successful delivery of our camps programs, as evidenced by an average overall satisfaction rating of 4.5 out of 5.0 across the year. There was a stabilisation in the organisation, and the extended appointment of Stefan Curran provided added capacity and expertise in consolidating this service delivery. We look forward to continued development and community growth through 2020.

Ceinwyn Elleway
ERCSA BOARD CHAIR

ERCSA Board Members

ERCSA is led by a deeply passion, professional, and active Advisory Board who share their wisdom and expertise in an effort to help achieve the mission of ERCSA. Their perspective, guidance, and networks are critical to enable ERCSA to best service the children and families that we serve.

Our 2019 Board make up was as follows:

Ms. Ceinwyn Elleway (Board Chair)

Mr Filip Puccini
Mrs Hannah Andersen
Ms Katheryn Curnow
Mr Mahendra Chitrarasu
Mr Paul Belton
Ms Tiffany Newman

Programs

In 2019 our programs continued to have a focus on welcoming back returning participants. This is an important model of our programs as we know that the authentic relationship built overtime have the biggest impact. We also continued to welcome new participants to our program with the overall ratio of new to returning participants at 46% new and 54% returning. In 2019 we delivered 32 service delivery days through 10 different camps programs. This amounts to almost 150 placements offered to children, 6 placements offered to families and 250 placements for young adult volunteers. This was also support by another 20 ancillary volunteer placements in the kitchen,driving buses, running activities and general logistics.

Placements offered to participants were increased from a maximum of 16 per camp or activity day to 24. Volunteer placements increased from 20 per camp or activity day to 30. Programs delivered include:

- 4 week long camps conducted at Rostrevor College
- 1 Family Camp conducted at Mylor Baptist Camp
- 2 activity days conducted at St Paul's College
- 1 Head to Heart program with Christian Brother's College, St Paul's College, and Rostrevor College
- 1 activity day conducted at Rostrevor College
- 1 activity day conducted at St Francis Xavier's Catholic School
- 1 weekend camp conducted at Sellicks Beach

Our evaluations of services delivered indicate a high level of satisfaction for our camps from children, guardians, referring agencies and volunteers.

Head to Heart

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

ROSTREVOR COLLEGE · ST PAUL'S COLLEGE · CHRISTIAN BROTHERS COLLEGE

Our first ever Head to Heart saw our ERCSA volunteers mentoring and supporting a group of senior school students to be leaders on one of our programs. For our first Head to Heart, we worked with 23 students from the three Edmund Rice Education Australia schools in Adelaide: Christian Brothers College, Adelaide, Rostrevor College and St Paul's College. In our preparation sessions before the group of 20 camp kids arrived, we asked the student leaders to think about what kind of environment they wanted to create both for themselves as leaders, and for our kids. They said they wanted to form "a genuine connection with people" and feel "like a united community". They wanted to feel "supported and comfortable in each other's presence" and work "together for the benefit of all".

Reflecting on his experience one of our ERCSA Volunteers, Owen, has this to say: "Head2Heart was a great opportunity for the young EREA leaders to step outside of their comfort zones and get a taste of what ERCSA is all about. It was great to be able to take a step back into a mentor role and witness the camp kids and leaders form bonds over the course of the day. The participants all had a great time, and from some conversations I had with the leaders at the end of the day they all gained a lot from the experience, growing in their ability to understand others' perspectives, and how they can engage with ERCSA in the future." After the success of our first Head to Heart, we're hoping to get more happening into 2020 and beyond.

SUPPORTED BY

Teen Girls Activity Day

One in seven young Australians experience a mental health condition, with one in four young people at risk of serious mental illness. - Those greatest at risk; young women.

In 2019 Edmund Rice Camps SA ran our inaugural Teen Girls Activity Day in an effort to support those in our community most likely be affected by mental health concerns. The day focussed on improving the self-esteem of young girls aged 13 – 15 years by building their capacity to be confident, practise self-care, and demonstrate resilience. The program was driven by an incredible group of volunteers, who led the participants through a day of activities and conversations that built them up as young women.

The program was a considered balance of thought provoking and practical activities. Throughout the day the girls learnt how to improve and maintain a positive sense of self by challenging the assumptions and expectations placed on them through learning a new skill in football. The girls learnt how to practice the basic elements of self-care and self-compassion through a gardening exercise. They also learnt how to demonstrate resilience in the face of setback and stressors during a STEM based activity. We also used technology purchased through the support of the City of Tea Tree Gully to lead conversations about social media and self image.

For ERCSA volunteers the day was a real privilege to witness each young woman engage in all the activities as they overcame any initial nerves. By the end of the day volunteers felt that they had genuinely helped empower the participants and channelled a little more strength to overcome their future obstacles. In 2020 ERCSA looks forward to continuing this program with the introduction of specific teen girl and teen boy weekend programs.

> "Being able to lead on the inaugural Teen Girls Activity Day has been one of my favourite ERCSA experiences to date. The program was a great balance of thought provoking and practical activities that contributed to improve self-esteem. For me, it was a real privilege to witness each young woman engage in all the activities as they overcame any initial nerves. I really do think we helped empower the participants and channelled a little more strength to overcome their future obstacles."
>
> - An ERCSA Volunteer

SUPPORTED BY

CCI Giving

Family Camp 2019

Here are some reflections from Family Camp:

The recent Family Camp at Mylor was an authentic experience for me that highlighted the importance of family and friends. Even though the camp lasted the weekend, the bonds shared between parent and child were something easily identified and strengthened. The families participated in arts and craft, went on a nature scavenger hunt, created scrapbooks and roasted marshmallows at the bonfire. The tradition of candle sharing was an amazing opportunity for everyone to reflect on the rawness of Eddie Rice Camps. I am eternally grateful to be part of this journey, to have a positive impact on someone else, to be immersed in pure joy."

A VOLUNTEER AFTER FAMILY CAMP

Thank you so much for camp it was amazing, kids had the best time and all of your volunteers are so fantastic humans...we needed this happy family time so much, I hope u guys know how much we appreciate this time."

A CAMP MUM AFTER FAMILY CAMP

Volunteers

At its core, ERCSA is a volunteer organisation. Every ERCSA program is delivered almost in its entirety by volunteers. With the support of a small number of employed staff, our volunteers work tirelessly to drive real change in the lives of the children and families we support.

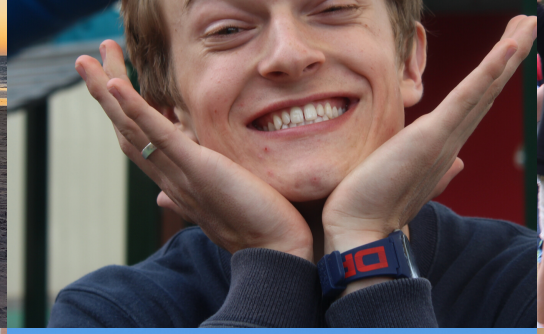
In 2019, over 250 volunteer placements were offered on our programs. On average, on a weeklong program, each volunteer would spend close to 50 hours one on one with a participant. This year our incredible volunteers spent a total over 20,000 plus hours on camp working one on one with participants. If we valued every hour of volunteer time on camp with participants, at the nationally accepted volunteering hourly rate calculated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which is $41.72, that would equate to $834,400 in volunteers hours. The figure does not take into account the extensive number of hours volunteers spend in the office, planning and evaluating programs, or the impressive work of our volunteer Advisory Board.

Our volunteers are provided with training and ongoing support to assist them in providing the best possible service for the children and families they serve. In 2019 we conducted two New Leader Induction days, and held a Leader's Weekend for a small group of current volunteers. The weekend not only focused on key training priorities but also provided volunteers with an opportunity for personal growth and reflection.

The demographic of our young adult volunteers has remained consistent from 2018, with a strengthening of relationships with our partnering schools and organisations to ensure a continue stream of new recruitments. The age range of our camp volunteers remained between 16 and 26 years, and collectively remained a group from diverse cultural backgrounds, who are working or studying across a broad range of professions.

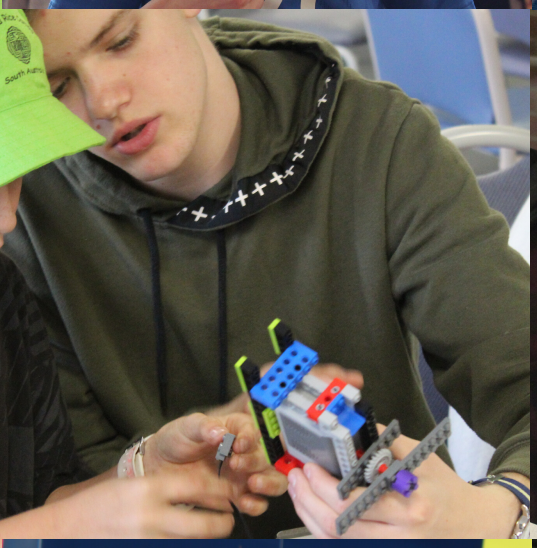
ERCSA would like to thank all of its volunteers for the time, passion, love, and enthusiasm they gave the organisation in 2019. It goes without saying, our work would not be possible without the dedication, inspiration and compassion of our volunteer.

1. www.fundingcentre.com.au/help/valuing-volunteer-labour



ITALIA

Fools & Trolls



BLUE
BEN

BILLIE EILISH
Kathmandu

2019 Volunteer Awards

Every year our Volunteer Awards scheme is an opportunity for us to celebrate and recognise the amazing work of all our volunteers. in 2019 we awarded three awards:

Volunteer of the Year

MAHENDRA

The Volunteer of the Year award recognises a volunteer who has consistently gone above and beyond to help our organisation, their peers, and the participants. This person is a source of inspiration for our organisation, largely due to their commitment to the enhancement of camps, their humble attitude, and willingness to serve others. Mahendra has been both an ERCSA Board Member and a key volunteer in 2019. He has been a Camp Manager, and a Pastoral Care Facilitator, and continues to go above and beyond for ERCSA!

Fire Carrier

NICOLA

The Fire Carrier award recognises a volunteer who has perpetuated the values of Edmund Rice and his spirit within the organisation within the last 12 months. This volunteer has shown considerable presence, liberation, and compassion in working with those around them including both participants and volunteers on our programs. Nicola has been a key volunteer for three years and has stepped into volunteer formation roles with professionalism and care for her fellow volunteers

Rising Star

PETER

The Rising Star award recognises a volunteer who has started their volunteering journey with ERCSA within the last 12 months, who has shown considerable leadership potential and who has made an impression on those around them including both participants and volunteers. This award also takes into account their commitment to our mission, their compassion and their presence on our programs. Peter started his ERCSA journey in January 2019, and since then has quickly become a core compnent of many camps programs.

It is the friendships formed between the volunteers and the participants that paint such a colourful atmosphere each camp, and this is what keeps bringing me back. Being part of this community filled with wholesome vibes goes to show that there are kind hearted people out there who believe in the common good.

A VOLUNTEER AFTER FAMILY CAMP

I feel incredibly grateful to have been on the camp and to have been a part of such a positive environment where everyone, participants and leaders alike, felt empowered to be their best selves and help build each other up.

A VOLUNTEER AFTER WINTER CAMPS

My son thoroughly enjoyed it and I'm not sure how they do it but he has come away again with such a boost to his self-esteem and confidence. He struggles in those areas and it was lovely to see him smiling from ear to ear. He has 'begged' me to find out if he is able to attend their July camp. As he came out of the door when I picked him up, he said 'Mum did you see how they all came to say goodbye to me? I think they like me, mum.'
The staff/volunteers made him feel so special

A CAMP MUM AFTER AN ACTIVITY DAY

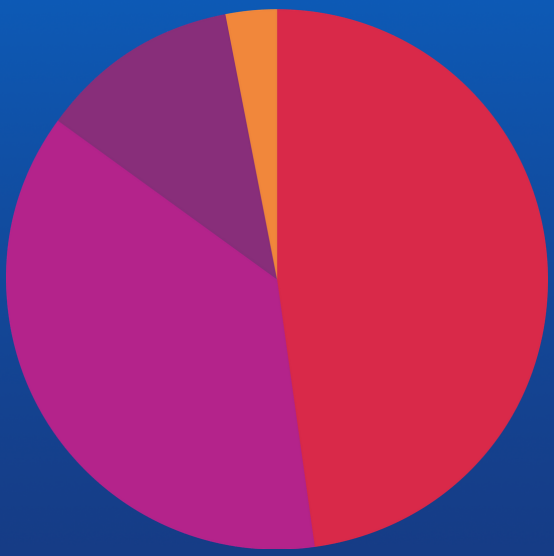
Financial Summary

A full copy of the financial statements of Edmund Rice Services Limited as audited by independent public accountants, will be available on the ACNC Website by June 2020

2019 Income

- 50% Christian Brother's Oceania Province
- 17% Edmund Rice Foundation Australia
- 19% Donations
- 5% Grants
- 5% Agency Fees
- 3% Fundraising
- 1% Merchandise

2019 Expenditure



- 48% Camps and Programs
- 37% Administration and Operating Costs
- 12% Volunteer Training and Development
- 3% Fundraising

Supporters

Financial Supporters

Oceania Province Christian Brothers

Edmund Rice Foundation Australia — Liberating Lives

ERMO — Edmund Rice Ministries Oceania

Morialta Trust Incorporated

Rostrevor College

St Paul's College

CommonwealthBank

CCI Giving

City of Tea Tree Gully — Naturally Better

Government of South Australia — Department of Human Services

Grill'd

Drakes.

In Kind Supporters

Bunnings Warehouse

Seymour College

Christian Brothers College

Gleeson — With One Heart

St Francis Xavier's Catholic School

Visit out website blog for a full list of 2019 Quiz Night Sponsors

Help us do more

Your support is vital to the ongoing success of ERCSA and the work that we do in striving to create a world where children and families who have experienced trauma and adversity can thrive and belong.

Head to our website to find out how you can help us do more

www.edmundricecampssa.org

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