



2022

Year in Review

The Constellation Project



“What motivated me in the first place was seeing the opportunity for collaboration that the sector is often screaming out for [...] it was having a committed group of people who were passionate about social change and who were very effective in bringing in broader corporate support as well.”

- Study participant, Lived Experience Impact & Inclusion Project



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Our vision and work

Ending homelessness in a generation so that all people have safe, secure and affordable housing and the support they need to thrive

What we do



Smart solutions

Facilitating co-design and co-production of potential system changes that would reduce homelessness in Australia, with a specific focus on housing supply and pathways for young people

Promoting the role of business

Engaging an influential network of private sector voices to increase the supply of housing that is affordable for people on low incomes

Our impact



Increase the supply of safe, affordable, appropriate and secure homes for people on low to moderate incomes

Lived experience practice

Driving inclusion of people with lived experience of homelessness in co-design and co-production of solutions

National voice

Promoting our practice and solutions through national forums, strategic alliances and advocacy

Provide pathways so people can avoid experiencing homelessness or be supported to exit rapidly



Our principles

- Changing Systems
- Always Housing First
- Embedding Lived Experience
- Privileging First Nations Voices
- Accelerating Solutions
- Designing Collaboratively
- Innovating based on evidence
- Harnessing Cross-sector Expertise



Underpinned by leading practice in inclusion of people with lived experience of homelessness

Chair Message



Keith Bryant
Chair

It's the second year of Constellation's operation as an independent entity. We have continued to sharpen our strategy whilst retaining our focus on collaboration to end homelessness.

The Board's focus this year was in three key areas - business planning for our second strategic horizon, transitioning the solutions to homelessness out of prototyping and development and into implementation, and re-establishing our successful dinner series with business leaders after a long COVID pause.

The strategic direction of the organisation has been front of mind for the Board as we head into a new phase, with much of the initial design and development of solutions to homelessness now complete and with models ready for influencing and implementation. This prompted us to consider the key activities in the next 3-5 years, and the role of Constellation once solutions to homelessness have been identified, accelerated and are ready for adoption.

Our strategic pillars heading into 2023 are:

- **Smart Solutions** to homelessness that can impact the supply of housing at scale and address the needs of specific cohorts;
- a **National Voice** that shares our work and advocates for policy and practice improvements; and
- continuing to identify and deepen the important **role of business** in solving homelessness.

Jacqui Jones will be stepping down as CEO at the end of December and we are grateful to PwC for supporting this secondment in this first strategic phase of the project. They will continue their long-term support of the project in 2023 and 2024. PwC, CSI, Australian Red Cross and Mission Australia together founded the collaboration in 2019 to test cross-sector collaboration in driving change on social issues. I want to express my thanks to these organisations and the many individuals and allied partners now part of our network who make our work possible.

CEO Message



Jacqui Jones
Outgoing CEO

Thanks to the Chair, Board and founders of the Constellation Project for their vision and long-term support.

If there's one thing I've (re)learned from leading the Constellation Project, it's the need for more collaboration spaces to drive change on social issues.

Those spaces must reflect the complexity of housing and homelessness systems, have people with lived experience at the core and have First Nations peoples leading and advising on First Nations interests. This work requires multi-year funding and is not about delivering 'quick wins' but meaningful and lasting systems change with sufficient investment.

The founders of the Constellation Project sought to deliver on these and all of our principles, and it has been a pleasure and privilege to serve that purpose for the first strategic horizon.

Congratulations to Davina - I'm thrilled to see Constellation in such capable hands for the next phase of work.



Davina Dressler
Incoming CEO

After three years working on this innovative project, I'm excited to step into the CEO role from January.

We look to a new year having 'proven the concept' - that through working together we have the best chance of solving homelessness in Australia. Constellation's strength lies in the continued support of a network of individuals and organisations who share our vision and motivation to drive change.

We have a clear picture of our priorities for 2023 in this new strategic horizon. These include deepening our partnerships with aligned organisations, creating more opportunities to share our lived experience practice, and evolving our activities to match the opportunities for implementation of solutions that have been developed.

I look forward to sharing more with you, particularly where we see opportunities to scale promising programs and make policy changes that will address the shortfall of social and affordable housing in our country.



If there's one thing I've (re)learned from leading the Constellation Project, it's the need for more collaboration spaces to drive change on social issues.

- Jacqui Jones

Developing our lived experience practice



"We're inviting people with lived experience to come to 'disrupt' culture. My question is always, are you even ready for your culture to be disrupted? You have to be in relationship that's deep enough to be able to say, Hey, have we thought about XYZ and expect an honest answer."

- Study participant
Lived Experience
Impact & Inclusion
Project

Lived experience voices and insights are core to our approach to systems change. In 2022, we have continued to develop ways of structuring this into our work. Constellation aims to make sure that the diverse insights of people with lived experience are present at all levels of our organisation, from the Board, through the Executive Team, into the Project Teams and across all our events and workshops.

Working with RMIT to strengthen our lived experience inclusion practice

With funding from Equity Trustees, Constellation commissioned the RMIT University's Innovation Catalyst to act as a Learning Partner on a project that seeks to develop, test and refine an evidence-informed model for lived experience inclusion and leadership in the development and prototyping of solutions to homelessness.

Phase one of this project has involved interviews with key stakeholders in the Constellation network and has created an opportunity for us to review our work and reflect on our emerging model of practice around lived experience inclusion.

Initial interviews highlighted areas of strength as well as practical priorities for Constellation's future work.

We heard that:

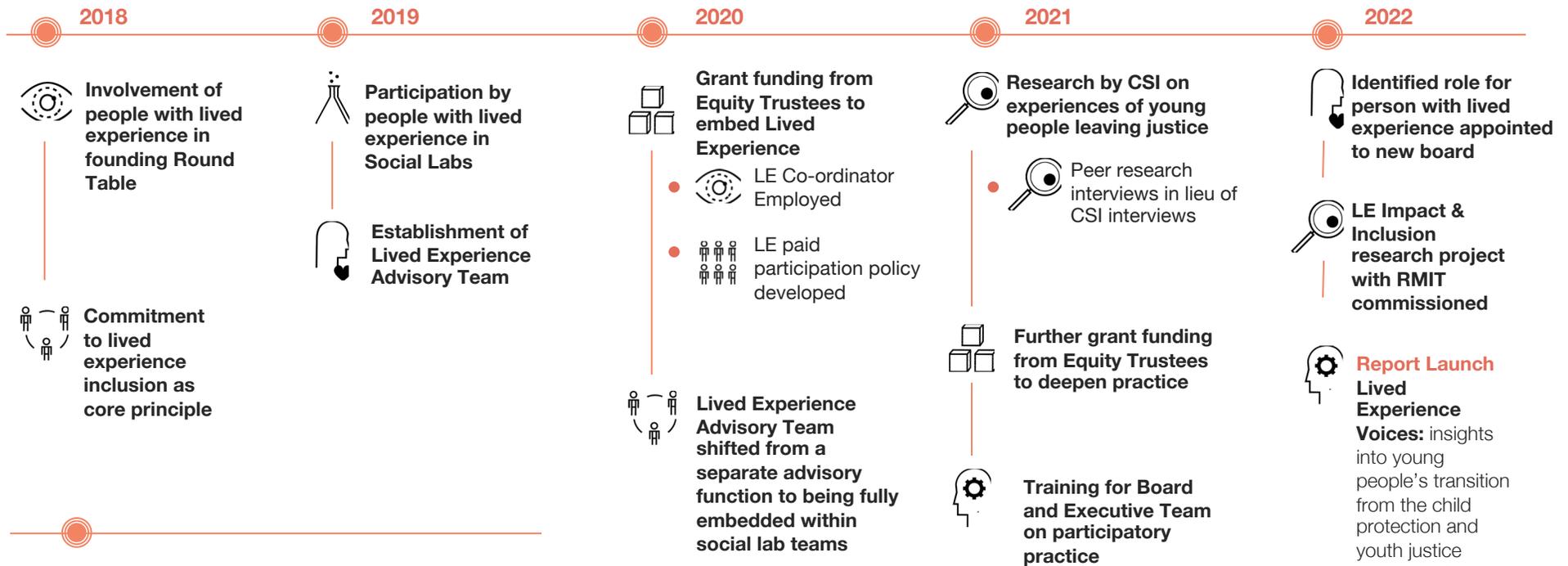
- Successful engagement of people with lived experience is enabled by a range of actions that help build trust between all contributors, as well as a sense of safety and support.
- The project's open approach to learning and positive approach to risk taking is helping to develop and strengthen practice.

We also heard that:

- People outside the project are keen to understand how lived experience contributions lead to stronger insights, ideas and impact.
- The project should develop some 'how to' advice, to spread strong practice more evenly across the project as well as to share more widely beyond the project.

Our continued work with RMIT will seek to address areas of feedback through the development of a framework for our practice as well as articulating the impact of lived experience contributions to systems change.

The Constellation Project | Lived Experience Practice Journey



“This is why I love this space and this is why I’m here. Because I can be real and honest about where I’m at.”

- Trish Owen
Lived Experience Consultant

Highlights 2022 | Preventing youth homelessness

Better Journeys Social Labs update

The Better Journeys Team worked together throughout 2021 - 2022 focusing on developing solutions to ensure young people (16-24 years) transitioning from custody or out-of-home-care in South Australia do not enter homelessness or have clear and supportive pathways out of homelessness.

The work has resulted in a report that explores the crucial role that people with lived experience play in providing insight into decisions and solutions that directly affect the community they are part of. The report responds to the voices of young people and workers who have experience in the child protection and youth justice systems, offering eleven recommendations that seek to overcome the barriers that exist for young people as they transition out of these systems and into independent living.

Highlights from the Better Journeys Lab are:

- Approval & ethics granted by Flinders University to undertake research for a systems navigator function to assist this cohort.
- A partnership between Youthinc and the Better Journeys lab team to allow further input from young people on the barriers they have faced after leaving custody or child protection. This group are also contributing artist impression on findings from the teams written report.
- The final report was launched on the 15th of November - *Lived experience voices - insight into young people's transition from out-of-home and the intersections with homelessness.*

Systems Navigator in 2023

This concept explores how a 'Systems Navigator' can improve outcomes for young people exiting care who otherwise experience confusion and barriers to getting the support and services they need. Due to over-representation of First Nations youth in the cohort for which the solution is being developed, the team have focused on what navigation tools and support roles currently exist in First Nation communities that could be adopted and introduced in an South Australian-based solution.

In early 2023 we will be assembling a small South Australian-based team who will advance the Systems Navigator work.

Read the report here

Lived Experience voices: insights into young people's transition from the child protection and youth justice system in South Australia and the intersections with homelessness

It is essential that lived expertise is elevated, listened to and acted upon to respond to the systemic barriers that contribute to unnecessarily challenging transitions and the unacceptable high and real risk of homelessness.

Our collective responsibility is to make the changes to ensure people are supported to thrive in adulthood.



Highlights 2022 | Report launch

This report highlights the role that young people with relevant lived experience need to play in informing policies and services that directly affect them

Lived Experience voices: insights into young people's transition from the child protection and youth justice system in South Australia and the intersections with homelessness is designed to provide information that assists key stakeholders in understanding the needs and aspirations of young people. We hope that the information can be utilised to better respond, reflect, plan, design and embed the voices of lived experience in service reform.

It is essential that lived expertise is elevated, listened to, and acted upon to respond to the systemic barriers that contribute to the challenging transition from child protection and the youth justice systems and to address the risk of homelessness. Our collective responsibility is to make the necessary changes so that young people are supported in their transition, to thrive into adulthood.



“What’s important about this report is that young people and those with lived experience have been able to contribute to the ideas and thoughts about having a home post their care or detention experience”

- Shona Reid
Guardian for Children and Young People
South Australia



Highlights 2022 | The strength of working in a coalition



[My organisation] doesn't do enough project management... It's a space that's very well done in Constellation. I miss it when I'm doing projects that don't have that element.

- Constellation Interviewee

The role of coalitions in influencing social change

In March 2022, Constellation started working with the Sydney Policy Lab (SPL). SPL is a multidisciplinary research initiative at the University of Sydney that brings people together from different parts of society to create new knowledge and tackle some of the biggest policy challenges facing Australia.

The SPL team is developing a framework for looking at the role of coalitions like the Constellation Project, specifically with respect to the policy positions they develop. SPL interviewed members from across the Constellation network and identified the following benefits and challenges of advocating and working within a coalition.

Benefits:

- Wide breadth and scope for learning and knowledge, where people with lived experience of homelessness have a role in deciding advocacy priorities and strategies
- Strengthened capacity as larger organisations dedicate in-kind human resources, allowing smaller organisations in the coalition to take up leadership opportunities
- An enlarged base of support that is cross-sector

Challenges:

- Aligning diverse groups of people to advocate for a common cause is time-consuming and particularly challenging for participating organisations/members who had housing expertise, compared to others who did not have a baseline knowledge
- Contending with conflicting organisational priorities
- Ensuring a common understanding of the advocacy or influence Approach to be taken
- Ensuring clear roles and responsibilities for coalition members.

Constellation exists to bring people together to develop smart solutions to homelessness. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our collaboration efforts, by understanding what's working and where we can improve in the future.

Highlights 2022 | Housing supply

Reducing homelessness through Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning (MIZ)

In 2022 Constellation's MIZ Steering Group established a collaboration with SPL to explore strategic pathways for the implementation of MIZ as a policy reform which could address homelessness in Australia.

The project was led by SPL and included meetings with members of the Constellation MIZ Working Group, interviews with members involved the Constellation MIZ steering group, research about political opportunities to implement MIZ, and case studies about where and how networks or coalitions have successfully achieved policy reform.

In August, SPL facilitated a workshop with the Constellation Project, the MIZ Steering Group and selected key stakeholders to identify potential next steps that could encourage the implementation of MIZ in one or more Australian jurisdictions.



Housing Boost Aggregator (HBA)

The HBA governance group have continued to meet throughout 2023 and further refine the model for unlocking private capital for investment into social and affordable housing.

In May, Treasury indicated a preference for a cash subsidy rather than a tax credit and the model has now been updated. There is support from Industry Super Australia, Prime Minister and Cabinet and Treasury and the solution has been adopted as a key priority by the National Affordable Housing Alliance.

With the new Federal Government's promise to build 1 million houses from 2024, the implementation of system change models like the Housing Boost Aggregator will be critical to success.



Highlights 2022 | Housing supply

Narungga Nations

The Narungga Nations Elder Village will provide culturally appropriate aged care that allows First Nations people to maintain connection to country and community as they age. In 2021, a team worked together with Narungga Nations leaders and Community to define a vision, outcomes and design principles for an elder village for the community.

We are excited that The Fulcrum Agency is working together with the Narungga community to develop a feasibility study to be completed in January 2023. This will be the guiding document throughout the life of the project, developed through an iterative process that will continue to deeply engage the Narungga Community throughout its evolution.

Thanks to the PwC Foundation and PwC Indigenous Consulting for their support of this important work.

Our shared vision is to establish an elder village that will: provide sustainable, affordable and culturally safe living options for Elders; and create control, self-determination, economic and social innovation opportunities for the Narungga Community.

Highlights 2022 | The launch of a new peak body



“It’s not every day you get to celebrate a new Peak... I don’t need to tell you how important housing is for our people.”

- Linda Burney, Minister for Indigenous Australians

In August, the Constellation Project supported a historic and future shaping event - the official launch of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association (NATSIHA).

As the national peak body NATSIHA will give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a voice in housing advocacy and provide guidance and expert advice to state and federal government on policies, agreements, programs and standards of funding.

The launch was attended by Linda Burney, Minister for Indigenous Australians and Julie Collins Minister for Housing and Homelessness. It brought together representatives from Aboriginal housing organisations and state and territory peak bodies from across Australia to celebrate the important launch and progress work together on priority areas for the next three years.





Highlights 2022 | A national voice

Promoting our practice and solutions through national forums, strategic alliances and advocacy

AHURI National Homelessness Conference

This flagship conference delivers in-depth coverage of homelessness issues including workforce capacity, homelessness in regional Australia, implementation of Housing First, embedding lived experience voices in homeless responses, child protection and many more. CEO, Jacqui Jones, was invited to host the Lived Experience Panel at this year's conference in Canberra. This panel discussion presented five lived experience perspectives with Constellation's Lorna Robinson discussing her role as Lived Experience & Project Coordinator and how lived experience inclusion is embedded at all levels across the project.

Business Dinner Series

In 2022, we re-started the Business Alliance to End Homelessness practice of engaging the private sector through dinner events focussed on solving for homelessness, with a specific focus on increasing housing supply. MinterEllison hosted our first post-pandemic event and we plan to deliver a 2023 series which responds to the current change in national housing policy. These are small targeted events designed to engage a broad range of stakeholders and decision makers.



"The panelists came with so much passion to champion the mindset shifts that are needed to create real change.

I was heartened by those who came up afterwards to say we had inspired them to consider how they might better support lived experience in their own teams, organisations and sectors."

- Leander Kreltzeim, Mission Australia



Highlights 2022 | A national voice

Australian Alliance To End Homelessness Summit

Constellation Project was the lived experience sponsor for this event, providing funding and support to ensure that people with lived experience of homelessness could bring their insights and participate in discussions about solving homelessness. This supported our commitment to key alliances and to driving good practice inclusion. We have been working closely with the AAEH over the last few years as we share a vision to end homelessness but have different strategies and areas of focus. We share a commitment to collaboration, building a community of practice and driving impact.

Davina Dressler hosted a standing room only panel at the summit with panellists Lorna Robinson, Al Connolly and Trish Owen discussing what strengthening the role of lived experience in ending homelessness looks like.

Great Hobart Homelessness Alliance three year forum

This forum offered a rare opportunity with three levels of government representing housing policy; Federal Minister Julie Collins, Tasmanian Minister Guy Barnett and Lord Mayor Councillor Anna Reynolds discussing approaches to homelessness and the challenge of housing affordability in Tasmania. Constellation's work in Tasmania has increased the supply of social housing in a market where there is a critical shortage of affordable rental housing.

CEO Jacqui Jones joined a panel with Jenny Smith from Homelessness Australia and Simon Want from Housing All Australians to discuss the role of the private sector in ending homelessness.

Constellation Project is made possible because individuals and organisations give their time and resources to work collaboratively



We want to thank all the individuals who contributed in 2022 to progressing solutions to homelessness.

Board and supporters

Thank you to our founding and alliance members who have supported us through 2022



MinterEllison



Equity Trustees

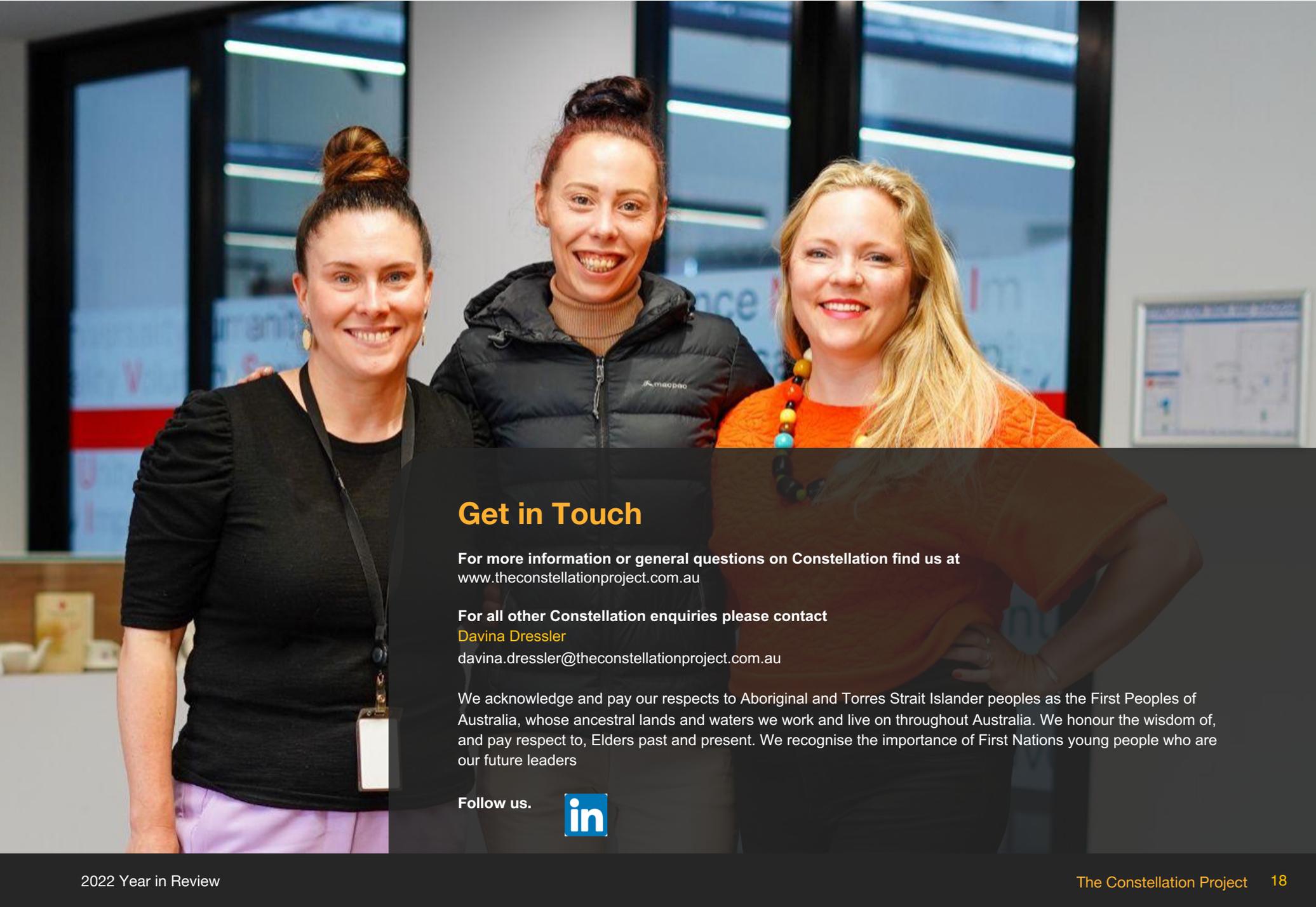


Constellation would like to thank Australian Red Cross, Mission Australia and PwC Australia for their support of secondments to Constellation's Executive Team. We reluctantly farewelled Sarah Soteriou from Australian Red Cross in late 2022 as she took up a new national role there and thank her for her leadership of the Better Journeys pillar over the past two years. We also appreciate Equity Trustees* grant funding to deepen our lived experience inclusion and practice, MinterEllison's significant pro bono support and NAB for their sponsorship of this project which enables subject matter expertise.

Constellation Board

Keith Bryant, Chair
Keith Rovers
Marion Bennett
Morgan Cataldo
Oliver Frankel
Poppy Brown
Rosalie Wilkie
Shamal Dass

**We receive support from trusts managed through the Equity Trustees Sector Capacity Building Fund: Harold Moreland Oldham Perpetual Trust, J E & N Ganderton Endowment & Cederic Ivor Morrison Perpetual Trust.*



Get in Touch

For more information or general questions on Constellation find us at www.theconstellationproject.com.au

For all other Constellation enquiries please contact

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We acknowledge and pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia, whose ancestral lands and waters we work and live on throughout Australia. We honour the wisdom of, and pay respect to, Elders past and present. We recognise the importance of First Nations young people who are our future leaders

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