The Centre – A Snapshot

The organisation
The Centre for Continuing Education Inc (The Centre) is a Community College focused on adult education and service provision based in North East Victoria and operating out of offices in Wangaratta and Benalla.

Vision
Creating opportunities together

Mission
We will deliver the most relevant, highest quality programs and services in partnership with the community.

RTO
The Centre is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) approved to provide nationally accredited training.

History
The Centre in Wangaratta was the first Adult Community Education (ACE) centre to be established outside metropolitan Melbourne in 1962 and since that time has occupied the former Wangaratta High School building in Chisholm Street.

In 1997 The Centre merged with Benalla FORUM, the second ACE centre to be established in country Victoria, and continues to operate from the Barkly Street Benalla site.

The Centre became a Community College in 2008 and is affiliated with Community Colleges Australia. Today, The Centre is the largest Victorian provider of Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) programs outside Melbourne and Geelong.

Recognition and Awards
- Finalist in the 2012 Victorian Learn Local Awards in the category Outstanding Organisation
- Awarded Victorian Outstanding Adult Community Education Provider in 2002 and 2006

Core Business
The Centre has a longstanding history of providing education and training services including lifelong learning and community development opportunities. The business mix changes over time to reflect learning and community service requirements within the community.

Customers
The Centre’s customers include:
- Individuals from a broad cross section of the community with a strong emphasis on the disadvantaged and lower socio-economic sectors
- Business and industry, including primary industry
- Federal, State, and Local Government
- Schools
- Community organisations including sporting groups and health agencies

Learner centred
The Centre is recognised for its ability to tailor programs and services to meet the needs of individuals, business and the community, while maintaining a learner centred approach as a core of all activities.
The Centre is a community based organisation, strongly linked with Federal, State and Local Government; business; schools, TAFE, and universities; community groups and organisations. In its provision of services to individuals and the community, The Centre does or has worked co-operatively through alliances and partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders:

**Schools and training providers**
- Adult Community Education organisations throughout NE Victoria
- Benalla P-12 School
- Borinya (Wangaratta Community Partnership)
- Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE
- Community Colleges Australia
- NE TRACKS Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN)
- Secondary schools in North East Victoria
- Wangaratta District Specialist School
- Yarrunga Primary School

**Community Groups**
- Aged care facilities across the Hume region
- Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program (AVCLP)
- Beyondblue
- North East Multicultural Association
- North East Support and Action for Youth Inc (NESAY)
- Ovens and King Community Health Service
- Regional Sports Network Victoria
- Sport and Recreation Victoria
- Sports Assemblies Victoria (SAV)
- State Sporting Associations
- Uniting Care Cutting Edge
- Upper and Central Hume Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs)
- VicHealth
- Volunteer Resource Centre Network
- Volunteering Australia
- Volunteering Victoria
- Wangaratta Childrens Services
- Yooralla

**Business**
- ACS
- All Saints Winery
- Alpine MDF
- Alpine Truss
- Baileys Wines
- Billy Lids
- Brown Bros
- Canny Carrying Co
- CVGT
- Fitweld Engineering
- Giaconda Wines
- D & R Henderson
- LifeWorks
- Merriwa Industries
- North East Water
- Nufruit
- Parnall Industries
- Skillsplus
- TAFCO
- Thales
- Worktrainers
- Workways

**Government**
- Department of Business and Innovation
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Department of Planning and Community Development
- Local Government: Rural City of Wangaratta, Benalla Rural City, Alpine Shire, Towong Shire, Indigo Shire Council, City of Wodonga
- Health services throughout North East Victoria
Training programs
The Centre offers a wide range of nationally accredited, pre-accredited and non-accredited courses for individuals and business delivered either on-campus or online including:

- **Industry**
  - Forklift
  - Manufacturing
  - OHS
  - Primary Industry
  - Traffic Control

- **Business**
  - Aged and Community Care
  - Business Administration
  - Education and Training
  - Management

- **Computing**
  - Basic and general computing
  - Information Technology
  - Financial Computing
  - Microsoft
  - Adobe
  - Webpage Creation

- **Languages and Communication**
  - Sign Language
  - Foreign Languages
  - Literacy and Numeracy
  - Writing courses

- **Food and Hospitality**
  - Responsible Service of Alcohol
  - Responsible Service of Gaming
  - Food Safety and Workplace Hygiene

- **Health and Fitness**
  - First Aid
  - Wellbeing

- **Home and Lifestyle**
  - Animal care
  - Environmental programs
  - Horticulture

- **General Learning**
  - Youth Options: Care and Education for Youth, Benalla Youth Engagement Program, VCAL
  - Adult VCAL
  - Further Education
  - Driver Education
  - Teacher Professional Development

- **Arts**
  - Photography
  - Pottery
  - Floristry
  - Music
Current projects  Centre Active Recreation Network (CARN) projects

- **Access for All Abilities (AAA)**
  A DTPLI Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure funded program, AAA aims to provide greater opportunities for people with disabilities to become involved in mainstream sport and recreation activities.

- **Act Belong Commit (ABC)**
  A positive health promotion campaign that encourages local communities to: ACT by staying physically, mentally and socially active BELONG by keeping involved with family and community activities COMMIT by undertaking challenges that provide meaning and purpose in life.

- **Good Sports Program**
  Funded by the Australian Drug Foundation, this program assists sporting clubs in the management of alcohol and other drug problems. It increases their viability through the identification of financial grants and assistance, and improves the range and quality of sports options available within the community.

- **Healthy Sporting Environments**
  HSE is funded by VicHealth and supports grassroots sports clubs to become healthier, welcoming and more inclusive. This is aimed at increasing participation in sport and improved health and wellbeing within communities. Increasing participation in physical activity, promoting healthy eating, reducing harm from alcohol, UV exposure, smoking and sports injuries all lead to improved health outcomes for the whole community.

- **Regional Sport and Recreation Program**
  CARN operates this program in partnership with Sport and Recreation, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, to strengthen the development of sporting clubs and recreation groups in all aspects of club operations.

Other projects

- **Community Skillsbank**
  Funded by the Department of Social Services, Community Skillsbank provides both the community and community organisations with easy access to an interactive ‘Skillsbank’ of people who are prepared to volunteer their skills and experience to support organisations’ defined areas of requirement for such skills and experience.

- **Community Visitors Scheme**
  The Community Visitors Scheme is part of the Commonwealth Government’s initiative to enhance the rights of older people living in residential aged care facilities and is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing. This program trains and coordinates volunteer visitors for residents of aged care facilities.

- **Volunteer Management Program**
  VMP is funded by the Department of Social Services. Overall the project promotes the concepts of volunteering to the community and provides quality volunteer management and training activities for both volunteers and the organisations that engage volunteers.

- **Workplace Learning**
  The Workplace Learning program began in July 2010 and is funded until December 2014. The program is an initiative of the Victorian State Government through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The program aims to increase the number of young people aged 15 to 19 years undertaking workplace learning placements of employment, especially within industries that provide strong vocational outcomes for young people.
Income

In 2013, The Centre had a turnover of $3,064,014 and recorded an operating loss of $1,418,100.

Major sources of income included:
- Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) funding: 8%
- Other Government funding: 72%
- Fees/Fee for Service: 12%
- Other: 8%

Profile

In 2013: *(yet to be updated for 2013)*
- 3,898 clients participated in programs at The Centre
- 178,284 student contact hours were delivered
- 34% of clients were male and 66% female
- The Centre employed 43 core staff (EFT of 33.9)
- Approximately 50 tutors were employed