

2012

Woorinyan becomes Connecting Skills Australia as a strategic move for our future. Purchase of a new Head Office at 362 Nepean Highway Frankston. Purchase of premises in Seaford and Thomastown.

2013

Expansion of Day Services with Kankama in Mornington and Moonya in Wonthaggi.

2016 - 2017

Expanded into Traralgon, Mildura, Bendigo. We also diversified into Op Shops to broaden our revenue base.

2018

We changed brand identity to who we are today, **Connecting2Australia**. 190 Day service attendees, 222 Supported employees and the **strategic plan** that had been **created is well in place**. But the **implementation of NDIS** several years prior **had significant impact on how we funded our business**.

2020 - 2021

Presented the greatest challenge in the history of the organisation - Covid. Business remained financially sound thanks to a strong balance sheet and Government support. Acquisition of Creative Opportunities timber furniture making in Brunswick from the Salvation Army opens new markets & employment opportunities. Bellfield Business Hub acquired. Mildura and Wonthaggi hubs relocate to new premises, both having a retail presence with Op Shops.

2022

The business is sound and poised for the next phase of our future. We now have: Four Day Service Facilities. Seven Business Hubs. Four Op Shops. Shorter House Respite & Short-Term Accommodation.

2023

19th June marked 70 Year birthday. Strategic brand positioning reinforces Connecting2Australia's Mission ethos - **"Disability without limits"**.

THANK YOU

Connecting2Australia wishes to acknowledge the generations of supporters who have helped us continue the original guiding principles of the Peninsula Welfare Association in fostering the interests of people with disability.

To the service clubs and community groups, to past committees and individuals, local organisations, businesses, sporting clubs and schools, to philanthropic trusts and benefactors, we thank you all for your incredible support and generosity.



Connecting2Australia

DISABILITY WITHOUT LIMITS

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Connecting2Australia

CELEBRATING SEVENTY YEARS

1953 - 2023

70 Years in the Making

Connecting2Australia is the oldest provider of support for people living with disability on the Mornington Peninsula.

We started as the Peninsula Children's Welfare Association before becoming Woorinyan a few years later.

It then took another 35 years before we made the change to become Connecting2Australia, setting ourselves for the future.

We take this opportunity to recognise the dedication of the families and members of the Frankston community who drew attention to the lack of services and resources needed for people living with disability 70 years ago.

To appreciate the foundations formed that allow us to continue to support our purpose to enable full and equal participation in society for people with disability.

1953

On 19th June, a meeting was held with the Frankston Shire President to discuss the need for a minding centre to help mothers of children with disability. The Peninsula Children's Welfare Association was formed. Originally the children were taught in a private home. In November, the Committee opened the School at the Methodist Church Hall in Frankston four mornings per week.

1955

Moving out of the Hall, the original 2-acre property at 32 Cranbourne Road was purchased. It had a small cottage that was used as a Day Training Centre. It opened with 19 children.

1958

The number of children had outgrown the capacity of the original Centre. The Association's Building Appeal began.

1960

The new Day Training Centre was built and opened in February.

1963

The Centre was named Woorinyan, an aboriginal word meaning "love". Frankston Jaycees, present the Centre's first bus. Woorinyan investigated the development of a Sheltered Workshop.

1964

Pupils attending grew to 45

1965

The Sheltered Workshop began by assembling carpet sample books. It was the first paid work at Woorinyan. Trainees received their first pay of five shillings each.

1966

The change in currency met with disastrous consequences for donations.

1967

Finances were at an all-time low, there was a real threat of closing down. The backing of the community with a public appeal helped resolve the crisis.

1968

The Woorinyan Workshop Appeal began. The purpose was to build a dedicated Workshop for young people too old for a Day Training Centre.

1972

The Woorinyan Sheltered Workshop was opened in Sunday May 28th. The building was largely made possible by a Combined Service Clubs Building Appeal sponsored by The Lions Club of Frankston.

1978

The Association changed from Children's Welfare to the Citizens Welfare Association to cover people of all ages.

1980

The Woorinyan Adult Training Support Service had formed. It had 66 clients ranging from 18 - 64 years of age.

1989

Woorinyan, was the largest Activity Training Centre in the Westernport Region servicing 81 Adults. Founding Committee Member, Mrs Mavis Willoughby retires after 36 Years. The organisation would not be here without the outstanding contributions of so many individuals. It is not possible to mention them all, but in this case, Mrs Willoughby is most noteworthy. The Rotary Club of Frankston North are recognised for the considerable funds raised, equipment purchased and maintenance efforts.

1991

The Rotary Club of Frankston purchase a new bus.

1993

The ABC produced a TV program called "All in a Day's Work" at Woorinyan, conveying the abilities of people with disabilities.

1996

Woorinyan restructured into Adult Training Support Services & Employment Support Services.

2003

Woorinyan Celebrated 50 years.

2005

Woorinyan merged with Aspire's Supported Employment Services in Greensborough and expanded to Thomastown. This allowed for larger Garden and Outdoor contracts and to have more labour and expertise.

2006

Plans presented to Council for Woorinyan's new Day Services Building in Cranbourne Road. Provides day services to 73 clients. Employment services to 94 workers. Thomastown concentrated on commercial garden contracts. Victoria Police Fleet Vehicle Cleaning Contract secured again.

2008

The building in Cranbourne Road was completed. There were no government grants. All funding had been raised by Woorinyan's Fund Raising Committee through Philanthropy and the community organisations who supported our work.