

Access Australia Group
Annual Report 2019 - 2020
Calendar 2021





'Employment for people living with disability or disadvantage'



'Provide meaningful participation, training and employment opportunities for people living with disability or disadvantage'

Strategic Directions

ACCESS AUSTRALIA GROUP 2020 - 2024

Client Journey and Pathways

*Our goal is to be a
Provider of Choice*

Provide meaningful, relevant and appropriate options that meet our clients where they are at and provide the inspiration and support to map out their journey along a pathway towards employment.

Culture and Competency

*Our goal is to
be an
Employer of Choice*

A workplace culture that is focused on people, their well-being and performance.

Leadership and Influence

*Our goal is to
be a
Partner of Choice*

Our work is linked to our strategic direction and delivered according to our principles and values.

Planning and Evidence

*Our Goal is to be
delivering best
practice planning
and evidence-
based decision
making*

Our work is planned and built on the foundations of evidence-based decisions and best practice service delivery.

Board Report Report

Prue Mansfield - AAG Board Chair

July 2019 - June 2020



In late 2019 Greg Westbrook stepped back to Deputy Chair and I stepped up to Chair.

Writing this in late July 2020, it is hard to think of anything except the impact of the COVID-19 virus, both until now and into the future. It has been as challenging for us as everyone else, pivoting our services; supporting all our employees and clients, albeit using different tools and methods. Doing this well weighs on our minds, and is an intense shorter term focus. We know that for many of our supported employees and clients, the work they do and programs they attend across AAG are a critical part of their daily lives. We continue to strive to find effective ways to continue that, within the COVID-19 constraints. I commend everyone who has helped in that process, from the people who have led and planned the changes, to those who have so willingly co-operated in making them happen.

While the current challenges greatly effect us operationally, as a Board we are mindful that our role is longer term and therefore remain positive and focused on the strategic plan established in February 2020. The key directions are:

1. Client Journey and Pathways
2. Culture and Competency
3. Leadership and Influence
4. Planning and Evidence.

This is being implemented, acknowledging we need to allow realistic timeframes given the daily changes and responsiveness that has to take priority for the short term. We have welcomed new Board members, Jan Buckland and Kevin Pittman. Their energy, enthusiasm and new thinking is a great asset. As so often happens, when you win some you lose some. Jacki Dimond resigned after 5 years as a Board member. Jacki was always a considered and optimistic contributor.

We were excited to have Elise Stewart join us on the Board. We were even more excited shortly thereafter to receive a little over \$1m funding for the Deaf Hub. Elise had to resign from the Board when she was appointed as its Manager, as the Constitution rightly does not allow staff members to also be Board members.

We are optimistic, determined and focussed on success for 2021 and beyond.



*New Board Member
Jan Buckland*



*New Board Member
Kevin Pittman*

CEO Report

Liz March - AAG Chief Executive Officer

July 2019 - June 2020



Access Australia Group, along with every other business in the world, has certainly experienced an extraordinary 12-month period! The impacts of COVID-19 have certainly overshadowed the year and forced disruptive change across the business. However, we commenced the year with a different focus and set about visioning Access Australia Group's 5 year Strategy, positioning our core business objectives to achieve Employment for people living with disability or disadvantage through its purpose of providing employment and capacity building pathways. In implementing the plan, the business has seen a number of key changes: new Managers, better organisational alignment to the strategy, the cessation of some business activities that are not considered conducive to the strategy and the introduction or expansion of our suite of service offerings.

Access Australia Group has secured some strong and exciting partnerships including as auspice for the Deaf Hub. The Deaf Hub secured a 3-year grant to deliver resources, programs, services, education, and connection to people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, including children of Deaf parents and Deaf / Blind community members. The launch of the Deaf Hub saw community members travelling from all over Victoria and interstate to experience connection and access to resources and supports. The Deaf Hub operates weekdays from PepperGreen Farm.

Access Skills Training were delighted to take out the prestigious Learn Local Legend award for the Loddon region at a glamorous awards evening in Melbourne during August and since that time, the team have gone on to produce some outstanding pre-accredited course offerings for the community in partnership with local businesses. PepperGreen Farm was delighted to host the launch of *Bendigo, a City of Gastronomy* as an event for the City of Greater Bendigo. Guests enjoyed offerings from scrumptious grazing tables put together by PepperGreen Farm Catering, coupled with spectacular wines from the Heathcote and Bendigo Winegrowers. The announcement creates enormous opportunity for Bendigo food and wine growers and tourism in general, and we are delighted to play our role in the Greater Bendigo Food System Strategy 2020-2030.

Over the last 5 years, Access Skills Training has extensively explored opportunities with several provinces in China to deliver training for the Early Childhood & Aged Care sectors. In November 2019, our team embarked on a training expedition to Hubei province and delivered professional development to teachers and trainers across the selected sectors. The professional development courses were due to resume in March 2020 but due to COVID-19, were abandoned. Strategic analysis of the activity has resulted in a decision to discontinue for the foreseeable future.

Without doubt the biggest challenge to the year has been AAG's response to COVID-19; on the 23rd March the business was pushed to pivot, flex and respond in ways that maximised the safety of our staff and community members and minimised the disruption to services. We were pleased to be in a position where many services could continue to be delivered remotely or online. Registered training, employment services and corporate were able to swiftly move to online platforms with minimal disruption to staff and service users. Social Inclusion and our PepperGreen Farm social enterprises were required to close while Victoria was in Stage 3 restrictions and have recommenced activities progressively while maintaining all recommended health hygiene practices. We continue to monitor the situation closely with advice from the Department of Health & Human Services.

Overall, it has been a remarkable year at AAG. Despite the challenges to our strength and resilience, we have been able to see light at the end of the tunnel and maintain a clear and determined resolve to get there. In closing for another year, I would like to pay tribute to the Board Directors, staff, volunteers, students, participants and partners of AAG and thank them for their continued support and service during this difficult time.

Liz March - CEO Access Australia Group



ICT Report

Darryl Ross - AAG Chief Information Officer

July 2019 - June 2020



Implementation of Microsoft Teams.



MGR IR audit completed.



Upgrade of IT software across all sites.



NBN availability for all AAG sites.



Papercut printing rolled out across all sites.



Domain change to aag.org.au.



Portal developed for international RTO delivery.



Commenced ICT ISO20071 standards to ensure best practice and compliance.



OneDrive/Sharepoint cloud based file libraries introduced through trial teams.



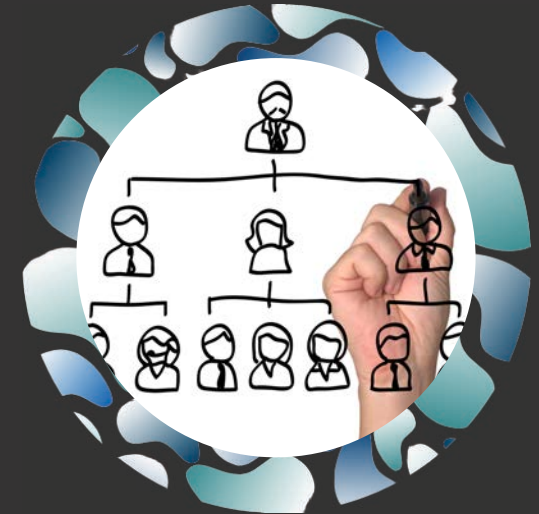
Migration of organisational documentation to SharePoint.



Sourcing and implementation of new platforms for service delivery during COVID-19.



Microsoft Teams and increased security installed on AAG portable devices.



Darryl Ross, AAG's Chief Information Officer taking a quick nap with his trusty advisor while working from home during COVID.

Quality Report

Glynn Mackie - AAG Quality and Compliance Manager

July 2019 - June 2020



Samantha Woods
AAG's new
Quality and Compliance Officer



347 policy and procedure reviews.



Creation and implementation of new quality controlled organisational documents.



New Code of Conduct and Practice issued combining AAG code of conduct and NDIS requirements.



Child Safe Standards implemented across AAG.



Employment of Samantha Woods, Quality and Compliance Officer.



ISO internal audits.



ASQA RTO internal audits.



Internal and external NDIS audits.



Health and Safety audits.



NDIS Quality & Safeguarding Standards.



National Standards for Disability Services (NSDS).

Human Resources Report

Karyn Carracher - AAG Human Resources Manager

July 2019 - June 2020



107 permanent staff
43 casual staff
95 supported employees



Implementation of 15 mandatory training modules for staff upskilling.



Review of Human Resources systems and processes including recruitment and software.



Introduction of Code of Ethics COVID-19 policy and the management of AAG's response to workforce restrictions and support to staff.



The commencement of the new Human Resources Manager, Karyn Carracher.



AAG's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement ready for vote.



Transfer of salary packaging to an external provider, offering staff a more comprehensive service.



Jackie Bransgrove - AST
10 Year Service Recipient



Staff Service Awards

10 year Service Award

Name: Jackie Bransgrove

Date: 23/3/2010

Division: Access Skills Training

10 year Service Award

Name: Lisa Judd

Date: 28/7/2009

Division: Access Skills Training

10 year Service Award

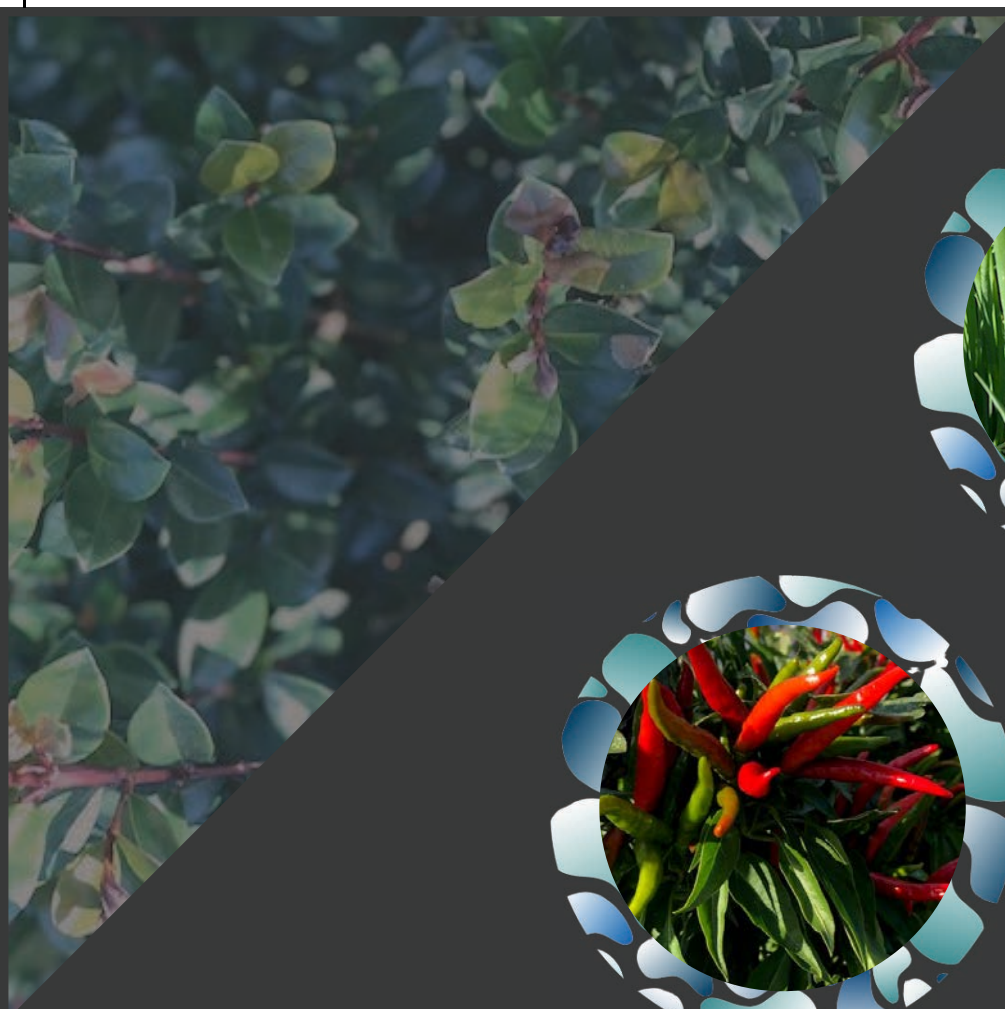
Name: Debbie Mitting

Date: 25/11/2009

Division: PepperGreen Farm



Karyn Carracher
AAG's new HR Manager



Photos from the garden at PepperGreen Farm

Employment Services - EPIC Program

18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo
Phone: (03) 5445 9800

Access Australia Group's NDIS funded School
Leaver Employment Support Program (SLES)



Locations: Over this financial year EPIC has grown in capacity, expanding to include a new office space to co-locate at the Yo Bendigo building, 45 Mundy Street, Bendigo. EPIC's head office settled into AAG's St Andrews Avenue site and continued to work across PepperGreen Farm and community locations, working towards the establishment of self-funding micro-bussinesses.



Test and Tag micro-business: EPIC's Test & Tag business is run by both our EPIC staff and participants. Participants have completed training and support test and tag electrical devices under the watchful eyes of our qualified staff. The job is then double-checked and signed off by the EPIC staff member, who is a certified tester. This micro-business not only assists participants to gain valuable skills and experience but also ensures that your electrical items meet all legal and safety requirements, and all for a price that will pleasantly surprise!



Woodwork micro-business: Up-cycle, EPIC's woodwork micro-business, transforms wooden pallets into innovative furniture and other items. The creative team includes a qualified cabinet maker, but is lead by EPIC participants. This model arises from our philosophy of always teaching real skills, while fostering teamwork and collaborative decision-making. We also regularly visit markets to sell our wares, offering participants the chance to brush up their retail and sales skills.



EPIC Team

EPIC team staffing numbers 2019-2020: 6

Participant numbers 2019 - 2020: 21

Achievements: In the last year EPIC has grown from four staff and twelve participants to six staff and we now proudly support twenty-one young people with disability towards their employment goals. We have also launched a Test & Tag micro-business to go alongside our Up-cycle woodwork micro-business and various work experience, travel training, and life skills activities. Perhaps our most notable achievement in the last year is the graduation of one of our participants to a mechanic apprenticeship, where he is flourishing!



*Harley Chamberlain and Whaylon Reardon
working on an EPIC project.*

Joshua O'Brien and Steve Maber in their new EPIC uniform



NOVEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo



info@aag.org.au



Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800



www.aag.org.au



PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

PepperGreen Farm

44 Thunder Street, North Bendigo

Phone: 5445 9888

PepperGreen Farm is a social enterprise of
Access Australia Group

The 2019 - 2020 Financial Year was a busy one for PepperGreen Farm including:



*Greg Stevens picking spring onions
from the Farm garden*



*Trudie Lowndes harvesting
fresh produce at the Farm*



BioChar, Artra re-purposing plastics, DAP Jewellery, compost and worms, and sustainability workshops held.



Central Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists art display showcased at the Farm.



'Down the Rabbit Hole' art exhibition by Deaf artist Asphyxia.



Adbri Masonary donation of pavers and building block for projects at the Farm.



The arrival of the PGF bee hives, supplying honey for purchase at the Farm.



Launch of the Bendigo Deaf Hub located at the Farm.



Artisan Studios space for the local Karen community to practice culture traditions including looming.



Funding from Strategem for a therapeutic garden and seat project.



Pearce Concrete donated and delivered concrete for a much needed retainer wall.



City of Greater Bendigo medium grant funding for the PepperGreen Farm Permaculture Poultry Play Pen.



Registered Blues and Roots festival venue, holding a two day music event at the Farm.



Donations of mushroom compost from Scatoplus for use on the Farm gardens.



Partnership with Bendigo Branch VAA Beekeepers association.



Funding from the Departments Communities Environment Program for the Bee Educated project.



Funding for the Commonwealth Temporary Viability Scheme for amenities in the Farm workshop.





Mia Young working in the garden at PepperGreen Farm



DECEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo



info@aag.org.au



Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800



www.aag.org.au



PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

Access Skills Training

22 McLaren Street, Bendigo

Phone: 5445 9880

Professional Short Courses

During the 2019-2020 Financial Year Access Skills Training have provided professional short courses to businesses and the community, including:



118 Prepare to Work Safely in the Construction Industry CPCCWHS1001 courses



478 Provide cardio pulmonary resuscitation HLTAID001 courses



522 Provide basic emergency life support HLTAID002, Provide first aid HLTAID003, Provide an emergency first aid response in an education and care setting HLTAID004 courses



44 Participate in safe food handling practices SITXFSA002 courses



247 Use hygienic practices for food safety SITXFSA001 courses



45 Short computer courses



199 Responsible serving of Alcohol courses



45 Prepare and serve espresso coffee SITHFAB005 courses

During the 2019 - 2020 Financial Year AST's Short Courses team has worked with clients from a wide range of industries to assist with gaining valuable training as needed, either delivering in businesses or onsite at AST. Training is tailored to ensure that the needs of the participant are met while keeping up with industry standards.



"I wish to thank Colin on the way he undertook the course very professional, understanding to peoples needs and concerns and extremely informative, all in all I would highly recommend AST to anyone requiring training well done."

Paul



JANUARY 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo



info@aag.org.au



Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800



www.aag.org.au



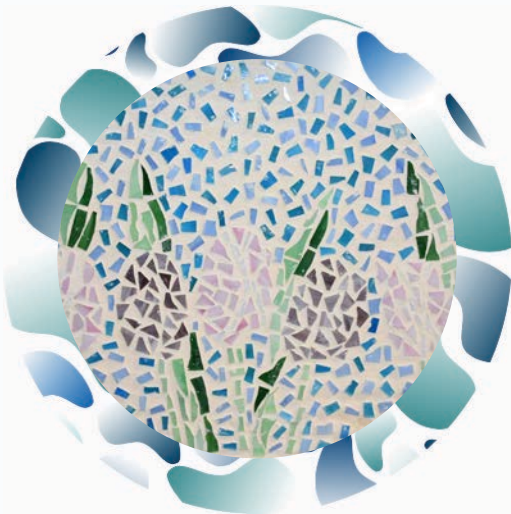
PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

Access Creative Studios

12 - 14 Sailors Gully Rd, Eaglehawk

Phone: 5445 9897

Access Creative Studios is a social inclusion division of Access Australia Group



Five Access Creative Studios participants in the ceramics program sold artwork worth \$990 to one very inspired collector from Gippsland, building their portfolio as artists.



Participants went on a visit to the Billabong Garden Complex which runs a Wholesale /Retail Nursery as a social enterprise in Shepparton.



Participants completed the mosaic piano on display in the High Street, Eaglehawk site window.



Pilot project Access A.R.T for school aged children living with disability.



Participant Paul Harrington, had three artworks in the group exhibition 'My Health Story' exhibition at the Capital. The exhibition brought together the worlds of health and art to build relationships and understanding of the links between art and well-being.



Participant performances at the AAG Annual General Meeting, including dance and music performances.



Eight participants entered in the State Trustees CONNECTED exhibition. Celebrating artists living with a disability or mental illness. State Trustees has long advocated for the protection and care of vulnerable Victorians, particularly those living with a disability or mental illness.



110 participants registered with Access Creative Studios for the 2019 - 2020 Financial Year.





FEBRUARY 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

*John Feldman,
Peter Thompson,
Terry Stratford at
ACS working on a
woodwork project*

NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo



info@aag.org.au



Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800



www.aag.org.au



PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

Employment Services

18 - 20 St Andrews Ave, Bendigo

Phone: 5445 9800

Transition to Work Program (TTW)



Through 2019-2020 financial year TTW has commenced over 240 new young people in the program.



TTW assisted 96 young people into employment to achieve an outcome.



TTW assisted 30 young people into further education.



TTW has a target to achieve 85 x 12 week employment/education outcomes and they have exceeded their target for the 2019 - 2020 Financial Year.



TTW had 128 funded places for clients and worked at 160% capacity.



Through the COVID-19 period the TTW team worked from home and in the office, continuing to support young people through this very trying time. New platforms for service delivery were implemented such as increased phone contact and video conferencing to ensure continued engagement of young people and to provide support to them and their employers.



TTW usual referral numbers are approximately 1-2 new referrals per week, through the COVID-19 crisis this increased to 90 referrals in a week. The TTW team pulled together and completed initial appointments and commenced 90% of the young people within the week.



The TtW team - Diane Pin, Liz Mallia, Wayne Lowe and Jenny Andrews

Transition to Work - a 12 month service for young people to assist with practical work skills, support to return to study or gain employment through individualised support from the TtW Team.



Top left to right - TtW participants Mackenzie Furness,
Mu Lah Paw and Regan Pickering
Bottom - Ziah Bonnano



MARCH 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo



info@aag.org.au



Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800



www.aag.org.au



PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

Access Skills Training

22 McLaren Street, Bendigo

Phone: 5445 9880

Our Achievements



Left to right AAG staff - Miriam Casas, Paul James, Colin Flitton, Brain Gould Chair of the Loddon Mallee Regional Council, CEO Liz March, Ben Robins and Julie Eastwood.



AST received the Learn Local - Legend Award for providing excellent ACFE programs throughout our networks.



During COVID-19 AST implemented a range of new service delivery options such as the transition of a range of courses to 100% on-line delivery with trainer supports in place.



Alternate methods of service delivery were implemented during COVID-19 to ensure the continuation of courses and student support.



The VET for Schools team has developed industry stakeholder meetings via Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic which has brought school teachers, industry and VET experts together to discuss support measures for our students with delivery models and assessment resources.



The introduction of COVID-19 specific training around infection control.



The completion of the new design AST Course Guide and the introduction of the new AAG - AST flyer and marketing design course information.



AST achieved great financial achievements in the 2019-20 Financial Year with VET for Schools and the Vocational department delivering a \$200k surplus each.



AST went from zero to nine courses being delivered in Echuca in the space of 3 months, with Echuca now a growing region for AST and becoming an additional hub.



VET for Schools has supported over 75 schools across Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.



APRIL 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

*Trainers Miriam Casas and Lynnette O'Brien
facilitating courses on-site at AST*



NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo



info@aag.org.au



Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800



www.aag.org.au



PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

PepperGreen Farm Catering

Cnr Bright & Nelson Street, Eaglehawk

Phone: 5445 9890

PepperGreen Farm Catering is a social enterprise of Access Australia Group

PepperGreen Farm Catering offers pre-prepared meals in individual and family size portions and is an approved NDIS meals provider plus a catering service for all party, conference and events needs. It has been a challenging and busy year:



Mother's, Father's and Valentine's Day hamper competitions.



Monthly meals provided before COVID-19 1657; an average of 400 per week.



Meals in June 2020 provided during COVID-19 reduced to 1130; an average of 250 per week.



Established a contract to supply school canteen lunches Wednesdays and Fridays.



Review and redesign of the catering menu, including additions to the menu such as lamb kofta, prawn skewers and stuffed potato skins.



Commencement of a review into alternative options for the PGFC sweets menu.



Introduction of contactless pick-up and delivery during COVID-19.



Produced 700 jars of zucchini pickles, beetroot relish and sambal to be sold at PepperGreen Farm.



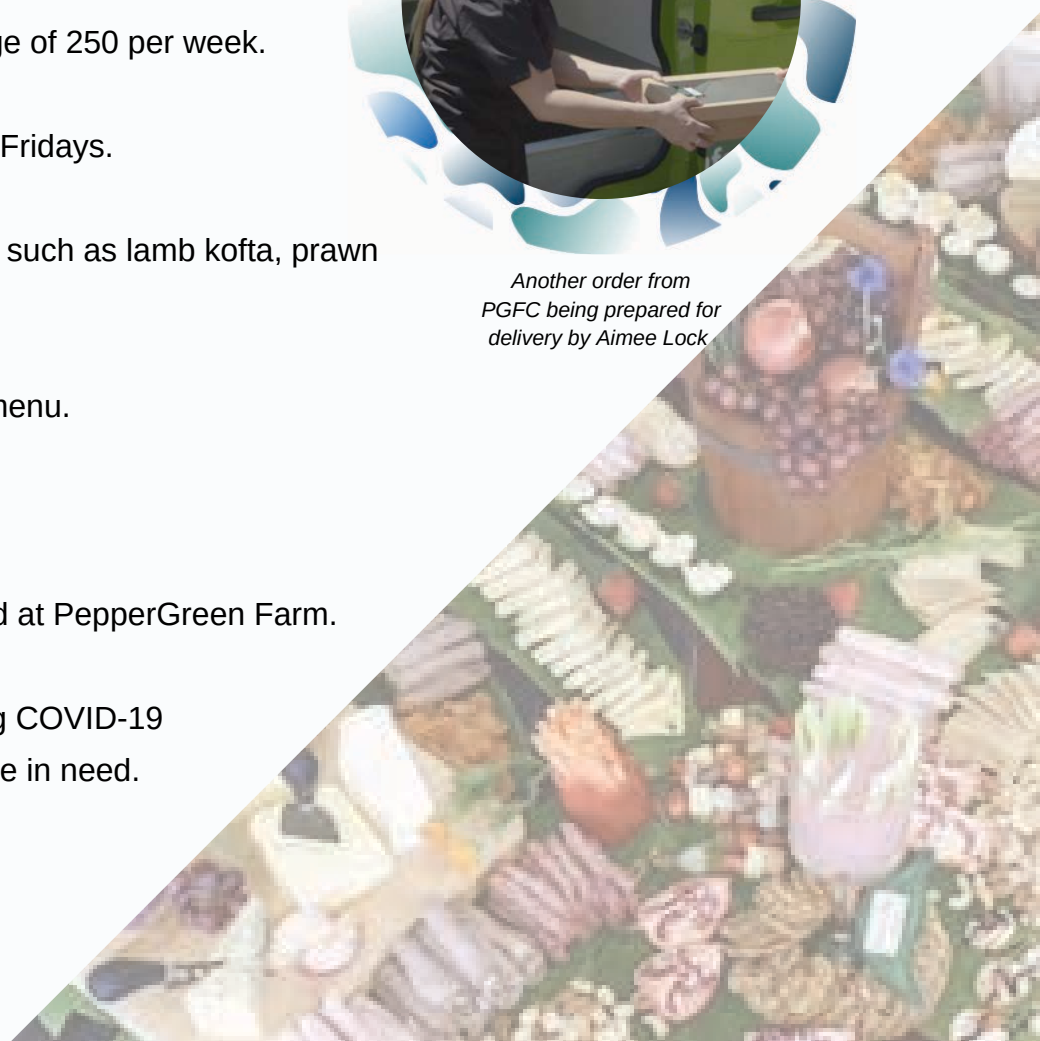
Continued service provision to the most vulnerable in our community during COVID-19 restrictions, ensuring NDIS approved meals continue to be supplied to those in need.



Over 16,000 thank you sticker distributed with orders.



Another order from PGFC being prepared for delivery by Aimee Lock





MAY 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo
info@aag.org.au
Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800
www.aag.org.au
PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

Employment Services

18 - 20 St Andrews Ave, Bendigo

Phone: 5445 9800

Disability Employment Services (DES)



AAG's Employment Services team member
Holly Green meeting with job seeker
Thomas Moore



Through the 2019-2020 Financial Year DES Bendigo has continued to support jobseekers with a disability/medical condition and/or disadvantage in the Bendigo employment service area.



The DES team has established solid relationships with small and large employers who have supported DES participants with work experience, internships and employment opportunities.



The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the DES employment consultants different and creative ways to engage and support their jobseekers through these trying times.



It was a very different year with fantastic results. Employers in essential service areas have been very supportive of being able to offer ongoing sustainable employment opportunities.

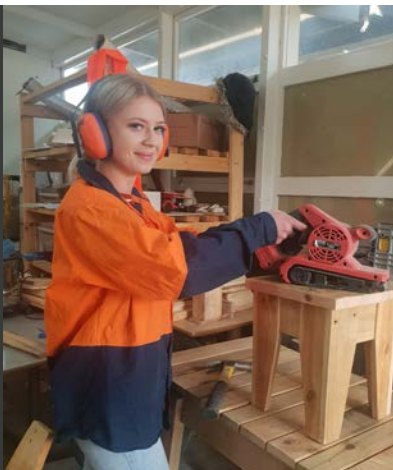


The Employment Services team developed an interactive employment package resource video and brochure for prospective employers which were very well received and displayed their adaptability to finding new ways to engage and provide quality services.



The team continued involvement in local awareness and support activities, building stronger relationships with other organisations and the community, including City of Greater Bendigo's 'Mental Health Week'.

Thanks to the support of the Disability Employment Service Team Jasmine was able to gain the skills and confidence she needed leading to an internship and successfully gaining ongoing employment.



Top left to right - Job seekers Ziah Bonnanno Mia Young.
Employment Services Team Leader Tracy Johnson attending
a community awareness event. Bottom - Mu Lah Paw

JUNE 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo



info@aag.org.au



Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800



www.aag.org.au



PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

PepperGreen Farm

44 Thunder St, North Bendigo

Phone: 5445 9888

Bee Educated Project



The PepperGreen Farm Bee Educated Project was funded through the Communities Environment Program grant.

Successful projects encourage community connection with their local environment through community-led environmental projects that address local environment priorities.



The Bee Educated project is an initiative of Access Australia Group (AAG) to introduce learning opportunities to the community particularly through school educational programs, interactive markets and workshops on the importance of bees in our environment, while also bolstering the current environmental measures fostered at the Farm.



Through strong partnerships within the community, and the continual exploration of new projects, the Farm has become a successful hub building a positive reputation and strong connections with visitors, local organisations, business and schools, and forged a relationship which has seen the Bee Association become caretakers of PepperGreen Farm's bee hives.

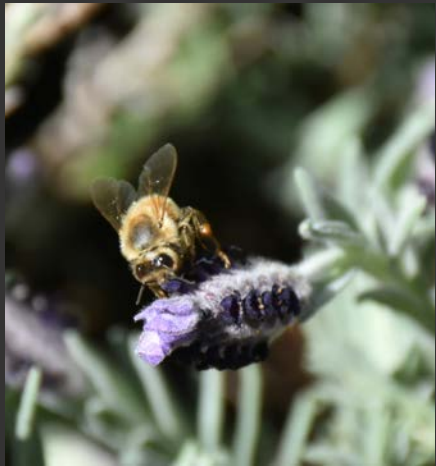


The Bee Educated Project aim is to provide education and resources to assist the community to address the challenges bees face due to climate change, habitat loss, pests and other contributing factors.



The project includes a bee hive viewing platform, resources on display, bee attracting garden displays and the Bee Educated plant nursery





JULY 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo
info@aag.org.au
Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800
www.aag.org.au
PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

Employment Services

18 - 20 St Andrews Ave, Bendigo

Phone: 5445 9800

Melbourne Youth Specialist Employment Services

Access Australia Group's Youth Specialist Employment Services team in Melbourne have had a fantastic year with building and strengthening relationships within the South East to assist young people to achieve their education and vocational goals. Strong partnerships within the community have allowed Access Australia Group to support young people to sustain meaningful open employment in the region.

"Booran Holden/Suzuki have been working with Access Australia Group for the past year. Angela and William have been wonderful. Communication and support has been there since day one. Booran currently have 5 employees from Access Australia. All parties have benefited from this partnership."

Paul Weston.
Booran Dandenong -
General Manager



'Ever since moving to Access Australia Group in late 2019, with the help of Headspace Narre Warren linking me to them. I have accomplished heaps in such a short space of time. The whole team at Access Australia Narre Warren (Ange, Gamze & Will) have consistently supported me and have always produced a plan with small steps to take to ensure I am not too overwhelmed and ways to reduce my anxiety in the workplace, with the additional support of my Psychologist Julian to create strategies to overcome those thoughts, as I'm very self-critical and tend to overthink situations. I'm very thankful for the help and support I have received from Access Australia Group and everyone else involved in helping me progressively achieve my employment goals!'

Mathew Sombott – Client at Access Australia Group Narre Warren.

"Berendale over the last few years has built up a strong relationship with Access Australia in providing quality education and community pathway opportunities. They have been committed in identifying students in our Year 12 classes with meaningful and engaging work experience placements as part of their Disability Employment Service (DES), as well as delivering a variety of sessions to improve both soft skills and independent skills. We have had a number of success stories where students have gone on to gain part time and full time employment at a number of large organisations such as Bunnings and Big W. With their attention to detail and supportive staff, Access Australia have continued to be a positive influence for students at Berendale, giving them the confidence to succeed during the next stage of their lives in to employment."

Chris Goaley – Senior School Instructional Leader



"The team at Access Australia has been fantastic for our participants at Burke and Beyond, we have seen the support, care and dedication provided first hand, not only with assisting and supporting our participant to transition into meaningful on-going employment but the on-going support whilst they're on the job. A big thank you to the team for all their work and effort over the past year."

Tam Nguyen
Service Co-ordinator|The Next Step –
Dandenong



AUGUST 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

"We have had the pleasure of working in partnership with Access Australia to better support the needs of young people in the South East of Melbourne. Some amazing initiatives have come from the partnership, and Access Australia have proven to be an industry leader." **Dean McCaughan - Manager headspace Narre Warren & Dandenong**

NOTES:

Top left to right - Mohammed Husani, Harry Smith, Su Klay. Bottom - Sean Weiss



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo



info@aag.org.au



Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800



www.aag.org.au



PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

Access Employment Enterprises

44 Thunder Street, North Bendigo

Phone: 5445 9888

Access Employment Enterprises is a social enterprise of Access Australia Group

Throughout the 2019-2020 Financial Year Access Employment Enterprises continued provision of grounds, landcare and maintenance services and a range of employment opportunities for supported employees including:



Mark Hinchcliffe busy cleaning the interior of a fleet car for a service partner.



Preparation and delivery of 45,000 caddy liners for the City of Greater Bendigo.



Joint project with Coliban Water to supply nesting boxes for the Spring Gully Reservoir fauna population.



The appointment of the first Deaf carpentry apprentice into the team.



AEE experienced an increase in custom orders such as metal scarecrows, mosaic and themed house numbers, recycled wood Christmas trees and decorations and recycled furniture.



AEE continued the provision of car fleet cleaning for a number of local businesses and individuals based at PepperGreen Farm.



Supported employees enjoyed painting the required markers on each post for use in the mining industry for surveying.



The production of wicking bed planter boxes for local schools and for sale at PepperGreen Farm.



Number of Supported Employees 2019 - 2020 was 109



SEPTEMBER 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Top right - Jordan Carr washing a fleet car for a service partner.

Middle right - Greg Stevens painting mining surveyor posts

NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo



info@aag.org.au



Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800



www.aag.org.au



PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

Employment Services

18 - 20 St Andrews Ave, Bendigo

Phone: 5445 9800

Jobs Victoria Employment Network (JVEN)



JVEN consultant Doug Doran retired



David Fuller commenced within the JVEN role



Through the 2019-2020 Financial Year JVEN has continued to support the people of Bendigo to gain sustainable employment.



JVEN has met all its milestone targets each quarter for the Financial Year.



JVEN accepted the offer of an extra 21 outcome places and has achieved this milestone.



Through a partnership with Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services, JVEN has continued to work with and support people of refugee background to gain employment.



The JVEN program was due to complete in September 2020, but received an extension to the funding contract for a further 3 months.



JVEN - A free service assisting eligible people to develop a clear pathway to employment.



OCTOBER 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Employment Services participant
Mackenzie Furness hard at work

NOTES:

Access Skills Training

22 McLaren St, Bendigo

Phone: 5445 9880

Courses, Certificates and Diplomas

AST offered a range of courses, certificates and diplomas throughout the 2019-2020 Financial Year including:



Certificates and diploma in Community Services



Certificates in Individual Support, including Aged Care and Disability streams



Steps For Success



Conservation and Land Management



Horticulture



Indigenous Gardening and Ground to Plate



Digital Literacy



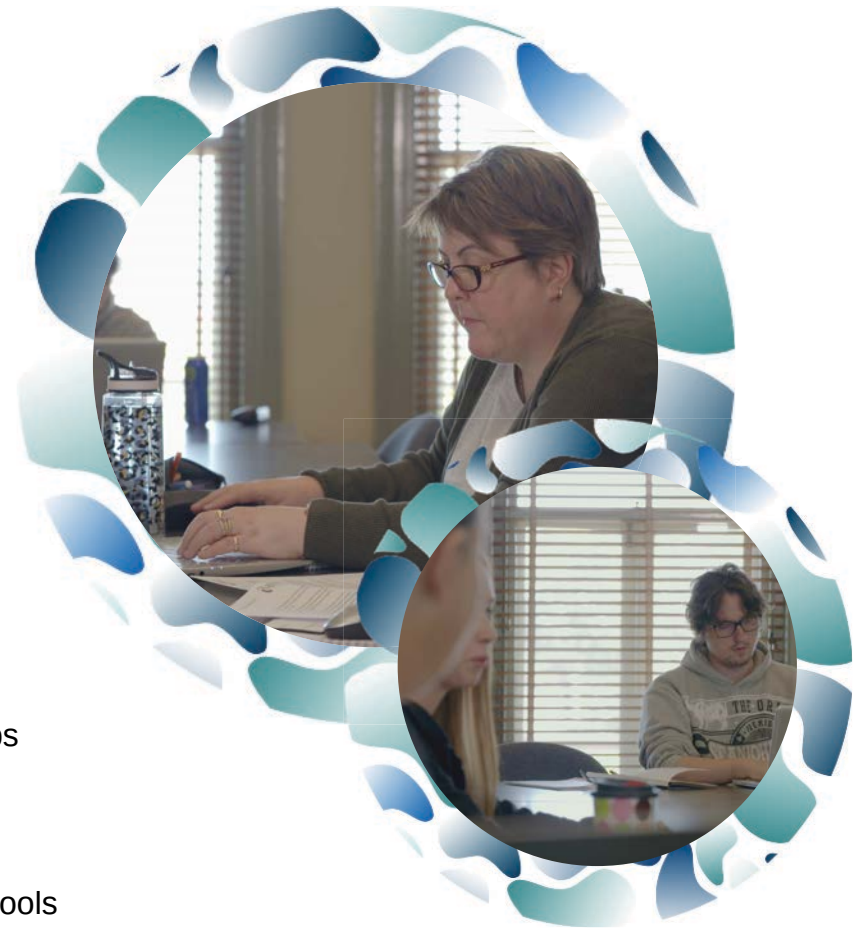
Early Childhood



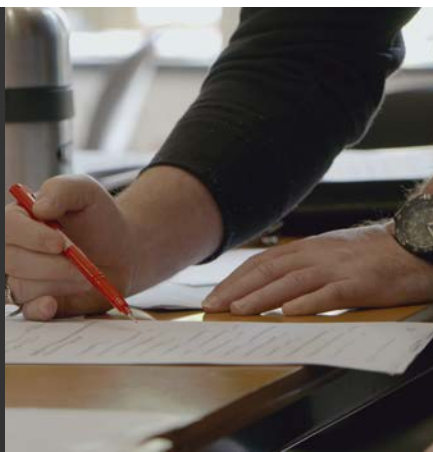
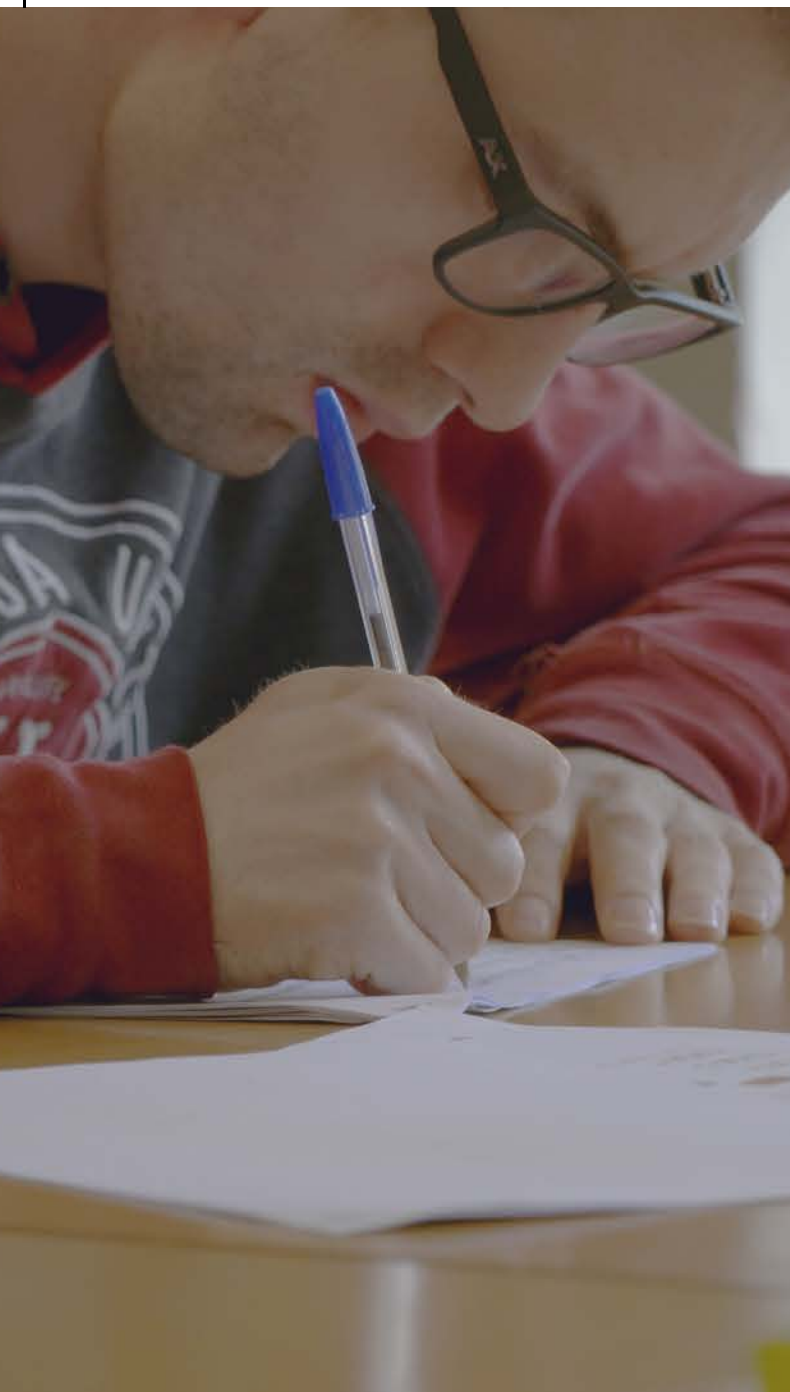
Support courses including general, work and transition education

AST had a strong marketing presence utilising Facebook, local newspapers, partnerships and a 3 month radio campaign to engage with the community and students.

The VET In Schools program offered a suite of 26 subjects to students through their schools including the commencement of delivery in Western Australia.



Access Skills Training - your local accredited training provider with over 23 years in the industry.



NOVEMBER 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo
info@aag.org.au
Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800
www.aag.org.au
PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552

Access Creative Studios
participants entries for the
State Trustees CONNECTED
Exhibition



Emilia Belleggia
Girl Beneath The Water
2019



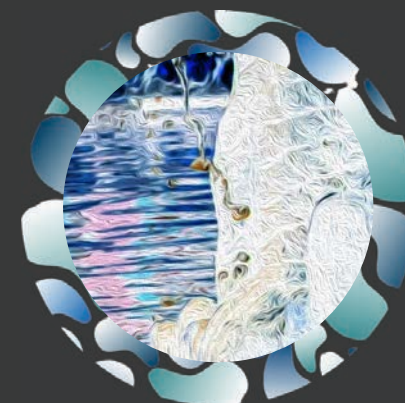
Greg Stevens
The Final Stand
2019



Bradley Barnes
Into The Spiderverse
2019



Patricia Tripcony
Mona Lisa
2019



Maltese Scott
Oil Rip
2019



Benjamin J Evans
Gnome Man
2019



Brendan Beesley
Wing It
2019



Wayne Jacks
Self Portrait
2019



DECEMBER 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



NOTES:



18 - 20 St Andrews Avenue, Bendigo



info@aag.org.au



Accessaustraliagroup



(03) 5445 9800



www.aag.org.au



PO Box 276 Bendigo Central VIC 3552



PepperGreen Farm Catering Bendigo offers a range of nutritious meals and catering options with delivery and pick up options and NDIS meal packages.

Help us support people in the Bendigo region living with a disability or disadvantage, knowing your purchase will help our supported employees with skills training and their employment journeys. PepperGreen Farm Catering Bendigo is a social enterprise where, 100 per cent of our profits are reinvested into providing services that empower people with disability and disadvantage in the Bendigo region.

PepperGreen Farm Catering creates quality fresh food for any occasion using locally sourced ingredients, including from our own PepperGreen Farm garden.



Access Australia Group

AAG Sites

Access Australia Group - Head Office



18 - 20 St Andrews Ave, Bendigo VIC 3550



Postal: PO Box 276, Bendigo Central VIC 3552



(03) 5445 9800



www.aag.org.au



Facebook @Accessaustraliagroup



Access Creative Studios (03) 5445 9897
12 - 14 Sailors Gully Rd, Eaglehawk and
Cnr High St and Napier St, Eaglehawk VIC

Access Skills Training (03) 5445 9880
Lancewood 22 McLaren St, Bendigo, VIC

Access Employment Services
Bendigo (03) 5445 9800 - 18 - 20 St Andrews Ave, Bendigo, VIC
Narre Warren (03) 8769 5667 - Level 2/66 Victor Crescent, Narre Warren, VIC
Moorabbin (03) 8527 5900 - 1 Taylor St, Moorabbin, VIC

PepperGreen Farm Catering (03) 5445 9890
Cnr Bright and Nelson St, Eaglehawk, VIC

Access Employment Enterprises (03) 5445 9888
44 Thunder St, North Bendigo, VIC

PepperGreen Farm (03) 5445 9888
44 Thunder St, North Bendigo, VIC

