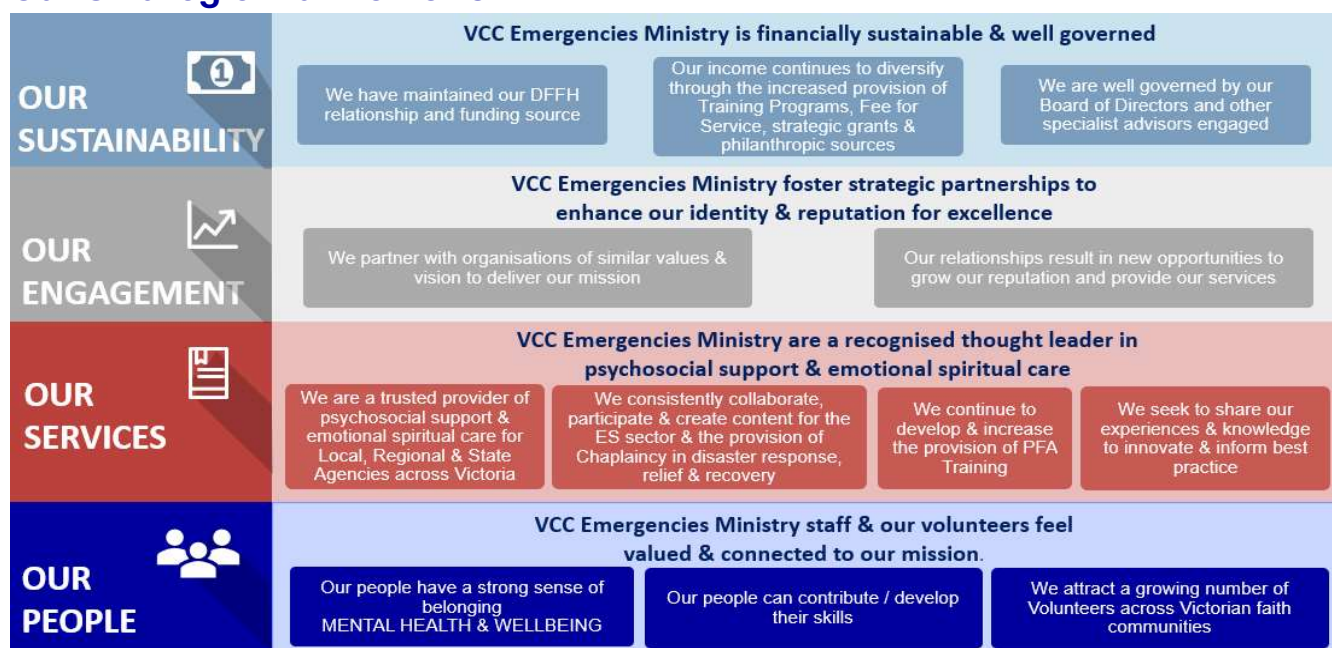




VCC Emergencies Ministry (VCCEM) Report to VCC

VCCEM continues to provide excellent support and service to disaster and emergency affected communities across Victoria, Emergency Management Agencies, Local Government municipalities (LGA) and the Department of Families, Fairness & Housing (DFFH) with the start of 2023 marking a significant milestone for VCCEM with additional funding provided to support 12 LGA's affected by the severe flooding events in October last year in partnership with Australian Red Cross (ARC) to provide psychosocial support services, foster community connection through outreach and community recovery committee activities and events. This report has been created to align to our Strategic Plan and identified priority areas as below:

Our Strategic Plan to 2025



Our Sustainability

VCCEM's Board of Directors has welcomed 3 new Directors in the last Financial year and our Chairperson, Reverend Ian Smith, who has been involved with us in a number of different roles for over 2 decades and our inaugural Chairperson since the forming our independent charitable organization, in 2015, will be retiring in September 2023 and we warmly welcomed Reverend Sandy Boyce as Chairperson from 1 July this year who also is the current EO of the Victorian Council of Churches.

Other notable activities during this period have included:

- Ongoing financial stability with VCCEM in Year 3 of 5-year funding from DFFH (to FY2024/25)
- A new 3-year Service Level Agreement with Ambulance Victoria (AV) to provide Volunteer Chaplains who provide Pastoral care to AV staff.
- A Grant from Emergency Management Victoria (EMV-VESEP) to fund new volunteer uniforms and our office renovation to provide better use, flexibility, and accessibility.
- Additional funding approved from DFFH for a new Project in Social Recovery (and Floods Outreach) that will conclude in September this year.
- Increases in fee for service income streams and ongoing development of each of our Training Programs that are being adapted to wider audiences by our Education Advisory Committee
- A complete review of our core training for Volunteers in our Psychological First Aid (PFA) and utilizing evidence-based interventions and Trauma Informed Care models.
- Development of 3 new online training modules hosted in Emergency Management Victoria's (EMV) Learning Management System (LMS)

Our Engagement

VCCEM Staff and Volunteers participate and are proudly members of the below:

Emergency Services Foundation (ESF) Stakeholder Council	DFFH Psychosocial Reference Group	Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) State relief and recovery team (SRRT)
Multicultural Emergency Management Partnership (MEMP)	Emergency Management Volunteer Consultative Forum (VCF)	Emergency Services Foundation (ESF) Learning Network
Shared Responsibility Framework for People Most at Risk in Emergencies	Australian Volunteer Emergency Chaplaincy Association (AVECA)	Victorian Emergency Workers & Mental Health Community of Practice (COP)
Australian Institute for Disaster Recovery (AIDR) Possibility Lab Network	Communicating with people most at risk in emergencies – (COP)	Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) Community Recovery Advisory Group

Our Services

VCCEM has been deployed to 57 separate incident activations from January 2022 to August 2023, which represents over 750 volunteer days of service with more than 3,000 properties visited for outreach and thousands of conversations via our phone outreach services and in emergency relief centres. In addition to the deployments listed below, VCCEM has continued to participate in both Agency and LGA exercises, Regional, Municipal Emergency Management and Recovery Committees and a number of Community Service organisation and faith community events and conferences.

Warburton Murder / Suicide Incident Outreach	VCC EM Deployment to Northern NSW 2022 Floods (4 teams)	Coburg Stabbing, Murder, Community Outreach
Aircraft Crash - Mt Disappointment	Macedon Ranges Storm Recovery Community Workshop	Mooroolbark Fatal House Fire - Outreach
Point Cook fatal car accident-Outreach	Single incident House Fire Carlsruhe	Single incident Unit Fire Geelong West
Maidstone Fatal House Fire	October Flood Events (17 locations)	Housefire Fatality – Werribee
Airlie Ivanhoe (Retirement Living) Fatality	Geelong Outreach – Weather Event	Wyndham Vale Shooting Outreach
Woodend House Fire	Maribyrnong Flood Outreach	Maribyrnong Community Recovery Meetings
Seymour Community Expo	Barmah Family Fun Day	Mount Alexander Phone Outreach
Flood Outreach - Maribyrnong submission writing community event	Flood Outreach - Maribyrnong Let's Reconnect gathering	Maribyrnong Community Meeting David Younger
Murrindindi: Neighbourhood houses	Endeavour Hill Homicide	Stonnington stabbing death outreach
Mt Alexander, Disability Inclusive Emergency Preparedness Forum	Broadmeadows Leisure Centre Fatality	Fatal Car accident Werribee
Kurunjang House Fire, Melton - Phone Outreach	Retirement Village Fire Kilmore Fatality	Almeida Crescent Shooting/Fatality, Stonnington Outreach
Local Government exercises - City of Casey ERC Exercise	Local Government exercises - Wallan ERC Exercise May 2023	House Fire Frankston - Phone Outreach

Our People

Our volunteer numbers have returned to over 1,000 post the COVID-19 Pandemic and we are very pleased to welcome over 100 new volunteer Chaplains and Personal Support workers in the last 12 months. Our Directors, staff team and volunteers are all amazing and we couldn't deliver our 'Ministry of Presence' without each and every one of them and with close to one-third delivering compassion in times of crisis as part of VCCEM for over 10 years! Our people represent:

