

## Background:

Opening Doors was established in 2009 by the Inner-East Social Inclusion Initiative - a partnership of not-for-profit health services including healthAbility, Link Health and Community, Access Health and Community, Uniting and The Inner-East Primary Care Partnership.

The partnership recognised the importance of promoting social inclusion - and the strong links that exist between poor health outcomes and being socially isolated.

In 2023 Opening Doors will start again at it's new home - the Village Well at Box Hill Baptist Church.

Social isolation can impact any of us at any time. Those of us who are older, have lived experiences of mental ill-health, disability or financial hardship, or come from diverse cultural, religious or gender identity backgrounds may also experience increased barriers to participation in their local community.

## Achievements:

Nearly fifteen years since it's launch, Opening Doors has assisted in creating:

- More than 250 graduates who have the skills, confidence and networks to create lasting change in their local community
- 120+ innovative community initiatives which actively promote social inclusion and reduce isolation
- More than 100,000 community members who are now connected with their communities in new and meaningful ways

## Cost:

This program is provided free to community members. A contribution will be welcomed from participants that are supported by an agency or community organisation.

## How To Apply:

If you would like to apply for the 2023 Opening Doors Program please complete an application form by following the QR code or go to:

<https://forms.office.com/r/O2ZAMmxZXz>



If you have any questions about the program, need any support to apply or would prefer a hard copy form.

### Please contact:

Liesel Ritchie (she/her)  
Project Coordinator

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@ Box Hill Baptist Church

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# Opening Doors 2023

## A community leadership program for Social Inclusion



Are you willing to take the lead in making your community more inclusive?

“Opening Doors was amazing. It gave me the opportunity to meet so many new people, facilitators and supporters. I’ve told everyone about it and what a huge difference it’s made for me.”

*(Tuncay, Opening Doors Graduate)*

“Opening Doors gave me the confidence to first think of myself as a leader—but also to be a leader. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to make a difference.”

*(Samatha, Opening Doors Graduate)*

“I have made new friends, built strong networks and relationships, and have had lots of fun times. Opening Doors has absolutely opened my eyes.”

*(Yun Ja, Opening Doors Graduate)*

“It’s very easy for me to be completely inspired by the energy and commitment of everyone in this program. This is the stuff that really makes a difference to people’s lives.”

*(Former Mayor of Monash, Cr Stefanie Perri)*

The Village Well is seeking passionate community members to take part in the Opening Doors Community Leadership Program for Social Inclusion.

The program will equip you with the knowledge, skills, resources and networks you need to make your local community more socially inclusive.

In addition to developing your personal leadership skills, the program will support you in the development of a community initiative in your local municipality.

### The course includes:

- A three-day opening intensive in June facilitated by Global Leadership Foundation, allowing participants to get to know one another and explore their passions
- 10 workshops each second Tuesday on Asset-Based Community Development, discovering your strengths as a leader, expanding your networks, project management, grant writing and more
- Visits to best practise community spaces, organisations and services
- Extensive support to develop a local initiative that connects community members who might be experiencing or at risk of social isolation
- Support in learning new skills and building on your existing strengths and abilities
- Opportunities to discuss your interests and passions with a broad network of program supporters, develop ideas and seek resources in support of your project

### Benefits:

- Develop your leadership skills
- Increase your understanding of how social isolation occurs and how to address it
- Expand your community networks
- Increase your knowledge of (and access to) resources, funding and other supports
- Build self-confidence
- Contribute meaningfully to your community
- Join a network of more than 250 past graduates

### Your Commitment:

If you join the Opening Doors Program, we will ask that you make an ongoing commitment to community development. This includes:

- Attending the 3 day intensive workshop in June
- Attending the 10 fortnightly workshops on Tuesdays from June to Early November .
- Some out of program hours, where required
- A commitment to continue with your community initiative beyond the life of the program

### Eligibility:

We invite applicants who work, live or play in or near Whitehorse, Monash or Manningham. The program will be centred around the Box Hill area

If you are unsure of your eligibility, or have any questions regarding the program, please contact Liesel Ritchie (details listed overleaf).

