

Census data helps Mitcham Community House plan support programs for young and old

Mitcham Community House in Melbourne provides educational classes, training and social activities for its diverse community.

Mitcham Community House Manager, Ann Kean said Census data helps plan relevant community support and activities.

“The 2016 Census data showed an increase in parents, many with a Chinese background,” Ms Kean said.

“To cater for our changing community, we started a playgroup with a Mandarin and Cantonese speaking facilitator. Along with a mums and bubs group, a pram walking group and a music and movement class for pre-schoolers.”

Ms Kean says the 2016 Census data also highlighted that the community had a large percentage of seniors and 25% of its population were lone households.

“We introduced a new knitting group that is now one of our most popular activities. The group meets every Monday afternoon. It’s great to see people coming together, laughing, and enjoying the experience.

“Without Census, we would be less informed about what is happening in Mitcham, and potentially exclude people who need us most.

“Completing the Census is so important. The data is a vital planning tool that allows us to meet community needs.”