



Background of HCSG

On a cold, wet night on 12th July 1983, 92 people met at the Brown Park Community Centre in Swan View to discuss the need in the community for support services of various kinds. From that meeting was born the "Hills Community Support Group", a voluntary group registered as a charitable organisation.

The initial executive structure of HCSG was comprised of:

President	Stephen Dellar
Secretary	Jopie Peetoom
Treasurer	Joy Baker
Office Coordinator	Helen Dullard

These office holders formed part of a band of volunteers who freely gave their time and energy to assist people in their community.

The Mundaring Shire offered support with the donation of a telephone, desk and typewriter along with an establishment grant of \$250. Donations of paper, printing and other necessary items were made by the various members of the group. A one-off grant of \$3,000 was received for transport costs and an establishment grant of \$850 was received from the Department of Community Services. Rotary and Lions each donated to help the group get started. The Lotteries Commission (as it was then) funded a nine-seater bus and a wheelchair. The inaugural members of the group fundraised to supplement the services it offered.

The logo, portraying Michaelangelo's hands from the Sistine Chapel was designed by Stuart Lee.

HCSG began by offering transport to doctors' surgeries, hospitals, shopping and a monthly pensioners' afternoon. It sought and was awarded funding from the Community Employment Program for a Community Needs Survey. The study identified needs for young people, older people, unemployed people and people with disabilities. It also highlighted the inadequacy of transport services within the Mundaring Shire.

At the request of Swan District Hospital, the first day centre for older people was opened in March 1985 in a pre-fabricated building in Stoneville owned by the Shire of Mundaring. In 1986 the day centre moved to the Senior Citizens' building in Mundaring and over the years has evolved to become three separate centres in each of Middle Swan, Koongamia and Mundaring. These centres now incorporate a

mobile day centre, a men's group, dementia specific groups and Moorditj Mia, a day centre especially formulated for Aboriginal people.

After nearly three years, funding was received and two paid positions were advertised with the following appointments being made:

Coordinator	Helen Dullard
Secretary	Valerie Adnams

From its humble beginnings, the Hills Community Support Group has grown to include:

- 360 staff members (equivalent to 200 full-time workers),
- 120 volunteers,
- 225 paid-up members of HCSG who join to show their support for the work the organisation does in the community,
- 2,000 consumers who receive services from HCSG, and
- a budget of \$17,000,000 derived from grants and funding from a variety of sources.

In 1984, the group became incorporated and now operates under the Carver Model of Governance. The Board comprises a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary and ten community representatives all of whom are volunteers, and HCSG's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer both of whom have a voice on the Board but no vote.

The Board of Governance is responsible for the strategic direction of HCSG and the appointment of the CEO, and the CEO, backed up by a strong executive team and dedicated staff, manages the day to day operations of the group.

The support offered by HCSG has expanded and developed into a wide variety of services which fall under four main programs: Aged Care Services, disAbility Services, Youth Services and Mental Health Services. You can read more about the support offered by HCSG on this website.

This, in a nutshell, is the story of the Hills Community Support Group. If you are interested in a more detailed history, please telephone 6274 3700 and ask for a copy of the Next of Kin, a history of the group by Lyla Elliott with an update by Alice Nelson. A limited amount of books are available free of charge so please order yours soon by calling 6274 3700.