







"NEIGHBOURHOOD Houses will be under financial pressure and may be forced to cut back services if they do not receive a funding boost," warns Wendy Lovell, state Member for Northern Victoria.

There are over 400 Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria, including

There are over 400 Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria, including our own Maldon Neighbourhood Centre (MNC). Coordinator John Bainbridge said that neighbourhood centres, also known as community centres, play a critical role in the community by

there, too. So, yes, some have to make tough decisions.' MNC is committed to their programs - seeing the value providing various services and programs.

"Funding is hardly an issue exclusive to neighbourhood houses," said John. "However, some are really being called upon to tighten up. Some of those who do early childhood care are tightening up. Adult and community further edu-

in its outputs far exceed its inputs.

What does the 'score card' for MNC look like?

"Last year's survey basically says that we get funding of \$221,000, but the value that we produce to the community is more than fivefold, which is excellent," said John. "We can do this because of volunteers... they are the key part of what we do.

It's because of volunteers that we could start the that we get fund-

including 2.1 direct and 0.8 indirect Full Time Equivalent positions

Employment value 2.9 FTE jobs

John said he'd be delighted to welcome any volunteers to cor

we need a new

Barry Robinson





