



the
UNDERGROUND
collaborative



GROUND+CO IMPACT REPORT

October 2020



KAYA WANJU | HELLO WELCOME

The Underground Collaborative acknowledges
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People as
the first inhabitants of the nation and the
traditional custodians of the lands where we
live, learn and work.

We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders,
past and present and are committed to a
positive future for the Aboriginal community.

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We believe we can
break the cycles of
homelessness through
providing employment
and housing solutions

OUR JOURNEY



In October 2019, Brookfield Properties took a chance on us and let The Underground Collaborative set up Billie, our coffee cart at the base of the EY Building.



Through the incredible support of our TUC family and the Brookfield Properties team, Ground+Co provided employment for six people, three of which were homeless as a result of family and domestic violence.



Because of our supporters' **belief** in us, **this is the impact we have been able to make...**

MARY



Mary* is from Punjab in India and came to Australia following an arranged marriage.

Her ex-husband became abusive once arriving to Perth, which largely resulted from his mother who was controlling and dominated their relationship.

From her time at Ground+Co. Mary has had:

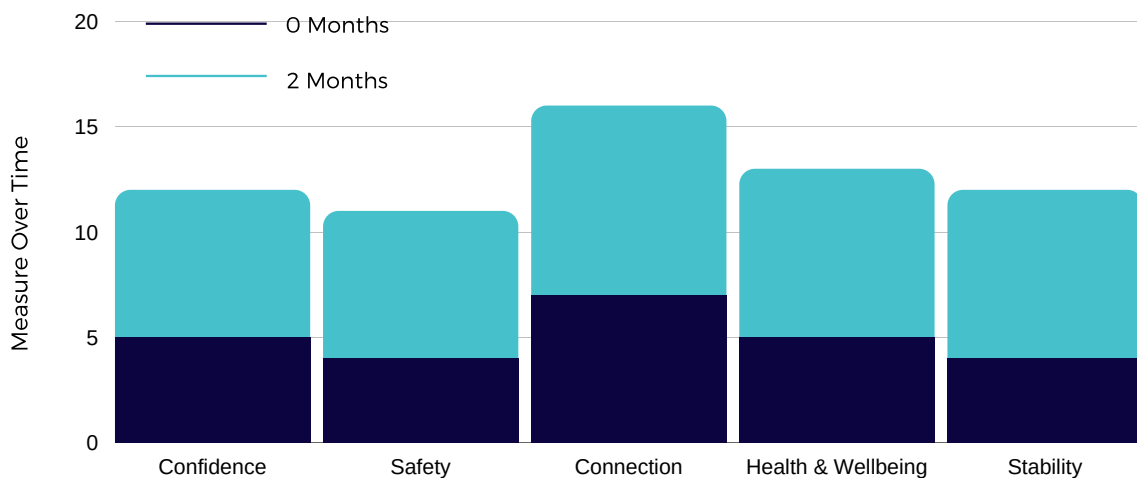
+ 155 hours of employment

+ \$4,400 wages + super

"The more interactions I have, the better I am about expressing myself and having conversations. I feel like I am better at listening."

"I feel so good that I'm not dependent on anyone anymore."

"I didn't feel very secure financially because I was on Centrelink which had to be reviewed every quarter. Now I have more freedom than before."



Before, Mary:

- had no dreams or aspirations;
- was not motivated;
- wasn't serious about work as she was receiving Centrelink;
- was constantly tired as she wasn't busy;
- wasn't sleeping well;
- didn't do any exercise



After two months, Mary:

- was feeling more confident and realised her English "wasn't that bad";
- has since received her Australian citizenship;
- has dreams for her future - to live a simple life, work full-time and get married again;
- feels energetic when she's at work;
- enjoys walking and exercising more;
- **has since gained full-time employment at Chris' Kitchen!**

CHLOE



Chloe* came to Perth in 2013 with her then husband, leaving behind her family and corporate job in Malaysia.

Two years into their time in Australia, her partner turned to alcohol and became abusive. She was not allowed to work, have friends or leave the house.

From her time at Ground+Co. Chloe has had:

+ 278 hours of employment

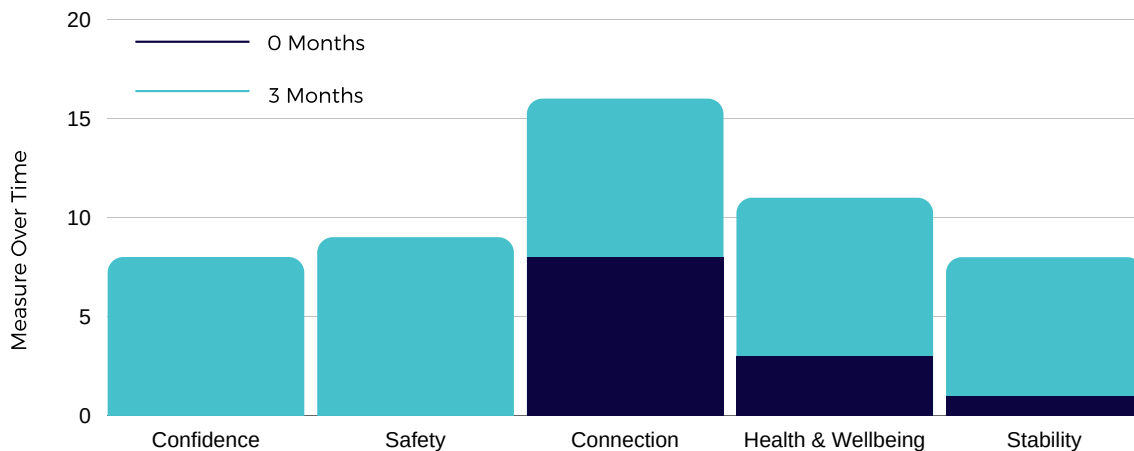
+ \$8,251 wages + super

"I wasn't sleeping well because I was constantly worried about not having money, having to rely on people and other forms of payment (e.g. Coles gift cards) but now I have more stability and money to look after myself."

"I feel confident and supported. I have learnt so much from the team's guidance and mentoring."

"Having a place to work and having a job makes me really happy."

"I didn't feel very financially independent, but now I have a weekly income and I can treat myself to things, and indulge on things like fruit and veges."



Before, Chloe:

- didn't feel empowered;
- felt unsure, and very lost;
- had no financial independence;
- wasn't sleeping well, always worried 'what's next' and where she would be;
- experienced a lot of anxiety around not having a job;
- was frugal in purchasing fruit and vegetables



After three months, Chloe:

- enjoys working in a team;
- wants to continue learning and working;
- feels more stable;
- has decreased anxiety;
- has improved sleep quality;
- Completed her Certificate in Hospitality with Vocational Training Services in October 2020, which included undertaking her internship at Ritz-Carlton;
- **has now gained a permanent job at Ritz-Carlton!**

RINJANI



Rinjani came to Australia from Indonesia, and while she didn't share much about her past, she has an incredibly positive outlook to the future, despite the trauma she has experienced.

From her time at Ground+Co. Rinjani has had:

- + 112 hours of employment
- + \$3,307 wages + super



"Thank you so much for your patience, courage and support. I can't wait to dedicate my life to something right and good: your business."

"I've got my freedom back and I have my wings ready to spread again."

"I couldn't believe that I've been able to do such an exciting and different kind of role after almost living isolated with trauma."

"Thank you very much for the opportunity you gave me to be part of your business and making me become an independent person."



Unfortunately Rinjani had to return to her home town of West Java one month after working at Ground+Co, however with the money she earned, she was able to purchase a dough mixer for her bombolini business after becoming a businesswoman in her own right!

"I'm very excited doing it, as to be in the kitchen is the most favourite thing to do for me. In that case, I didn't expect that the business runs so good. I made a minimum 120 bombolini everyday, and they're all sold out."

"I set my goal that within this year I must be able to sell 300 bombo online per day with and without COVID-19 issue."



"The bombo is made based on online orders so I wouldn't have to waste the food at the end. I also made extra dozen to be randomly donated to the poor."

"I always remember how you trusted me to become part of your team, and your care also supported me so well, even though you know I had so many weaknesses and no knowledge / experience about working in Aussie and how to handle coffee. I owe you life."



+ 960 take-away cups saved from landfill

+ \$480 in our Freedom Jar

from 14 October 2019 - 12 March 2020

Not only does it help the environment every time customers BYO cup, but for each one that comes through Ground+Co, instead of giving a discount (which many cafes offer), Ground+Co contributes 50c towards bond for someone / a family escaping family and domestic violence.

The amount required for bond is approximately \$1k and with \$480 in our Freedom Jar to date, we're nearly half way there!

+ Over 80% produce sourced in Western Australia



*To our wonderful ULC
family and supporters,*

Even though COVID-19 has left Ground+Co on hiatus, not only have you helped us change the lives of our employees, you have also changed the life of The Underground Collaborative....



Without your support and belief in us, we would not have been able to prove our business model - that you *can* create meaningful employment for people experiencing disadvantage, and change lives while operating as a viable business.



We were provided the space to reach and educate more people around homelessness; to build relationships and connections that provides a circular economy of knowledge.



You have empowered us to create systemic change and opportunities, to empower the community at large, and importantly, our Program Participants with tools to better their lives.



You have paved the way for us as an organisation and employment-focused social enterprise, and provided *us* the tools to continue creating long-term sustainable solutions that will really change lives.





THANK YOU.

*YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHANGE THE WORLD, TO CHANGE THE WORLD.
CHANGE YOUR WORLD TO CHANGE SOMEONE ELSE'S.*



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