



# Hospitality with heart and purpose

**Our Kitchen Social Café (OKSC) is a Ballarat-based social enterprise where hospitality meets opportunity.**

Through our cafe and catering operations, we provide paid training and real-world experience for locals facing barriers to employment. When you buy from us or partner with us, you help people gain skills, confidence, and the independence to build a new future.



# Why we're here?

**In our community, many people want to work but face barriers getting started.**

Some have been unemployed for a long time, some live with disability, and others are returning to work after time away. Bias and a lack of recent experience can make the workforce feel out of reach.

OKSC exists to give them a safe, steady, real-world place to learn, practise and reconnect with work. We provide the dignified, practical, and supportive environment needed to bridge the gap between "looking for work" and "being job-ready."



## Good food. Real impact.

**When you choose OKSC, your catering does more than feed a meeting.**

Each platter and every cup of coffee helps someone rebuild their life. Behind every order is a trainee learning, connecting, and flourishing in a safe, supportive workplace.

Together, we are creating a community where talent and resilience can thrive.

### With every order, you:



Open pathways to meaningful local employment.



Choose fresh, quality food made with purpose.



Build confidence in jobseekers who need a start.



Reinvest directly into the Ballarat community.



# Our services and the difference you make.

Every partnership and purchase helps expand programs that empower locals through skills, mentoring, and sustainable enterprise.



## Corporate & Event Catering

**Catering that tastes good and does good.**

We provide fresh, reliable catering for meetings, workshops, and events across Ballarat.

- **Quality Assurance:** Food is prepared by trainees under the strict supervision of experienced hospitality mentors.
- **Tailored:** Menus to suit your budget and dietary needs.
- **Impact:** Your spend directly supports accredited training.

## The Social Café

**A space to meet, connect, and learn.**

Located at Barkly Square, we are open Monday to Friday for breakfast and lunch.

- **The Vibe:** A friendly, welcoming community hub.
- **The Outcome:** Trainees gain real-world pressure and customer service experience in a live commercial environment.

## Employment Pathways

**We bridge the gap between training and sustainable employment.** Partially funded by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR), participants can complete:

- **Accredited Training & Certifications:** Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) hospitality courses and Barista training
- **Compliance:** DoFoodSafely / Safe Food Handling certification
- **Hands-on Experience:** A 9-week 'Cafe Skills' program working alongside mentors
- **Job Readiness:** Resume support, confidence building, and soft skills development
- **Employment:** gain a casual job in the cafe

**"Once people see beyond the label, they see the person — and their capabilities."**

Coral Loader, parent  
of OKSC trainee

# Growing together.

Since opening in February 2025, OKSC has grown from a pilot project into a vibrant hub. We're building a future where every trainee has the opportunity to succeed.

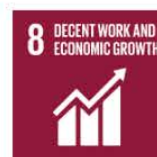
## Governance you can trust

OKSC is a Social Traders Certified registered business of the **Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre**. We operate under their robust governance structure and are supported by **Our Kitchen Social Enterprise** (Social Traders Certified).



## Aligned with Global Goals

Our work supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals, showing that purpose and business can flourish side by side.



# Let's create change.

## Our food tells a story. Your choice changes lives.

Whether you are ordering catering, hiring a graduate, or just grabbing a coffee, every collaboration helps our community grow stronger.



### Order Catering

Contact us for our corporate menu.



### Hire a Graduate

Ask us about job-ready candidates.



### Visit us

Monday to Friday from 8:30am  
Barkly Square, 25 Barkly Street,  
Ballarat East VIC 3350



### Get in touch

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