



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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