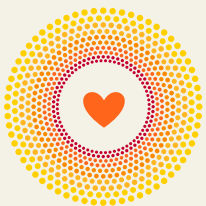


# Annual Report

Financial year ended  
30 June 2024

[childhood.org.au](https://childhood.org.au)  
ACN: 057 044 514



**Australian  
Childhood  
Foundation**



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# Acknowledgements

Australian Childhood Foundation acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters across Australia in which we share.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and to the children who are leaders of tomorrow.

We acknowledge the histories and living cultures and the many thousands of years in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have raised their children to be safe and strong.

We recognise and accept it is the oldest continuous living culture in the world and that their sovereignty has never been ceded.

We are an inclusive, safe and respectful organisation which celebrates diversity and actively supports the inclusion of children, young people and adults from LGBTIQ+ communities, people with disabilities, people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and people with diverse religious beliefs or affiliations.

# A message from Janise Mitchell

This year we lost our CEO, Dr Joe Tucci. Joe was CEO from April 1996 until his sudden death in March 2024. His loss has been felt deeply by his family and friends, all at the Foundation and beyond.

Apart from his beloved family, leading the Foundation was Joe’s proudest achievement. Under his inspirational leadership, the Foundation grew from a small organisation in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne to a national organisation with a strong national and international reputation for practice innovation and knowledge translation.

The Foundation is the embodiment of all that Joe wanted for every child. He empowered staff and managers to be brave - to lead, not follow; to be creative and innovative; to hold compassion; to not lose sight of the world from a child’s perspective; to embrace the change that children need us to fight for and to not give up. He knew that children needed adults to stand up for them and be in their corner. He was also a very humble man who was deeply compassionate, kind and gentle.

Over Joe’s career he was recognised as an accomplished practitioner-researcher and thought leader with significant experience in child protection and working therapeutically with children and families.

Joe trained extensively in family and narrative therapies. In 1993 he was awarded a Creswick Fellowship to work with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in the United Kingdom and studied how emotional abuse was conceptualised across Europe and the UK. In 2005, he completed his PhD on the emotional abuse of children and young people, an area that at the time was little studied.

Joe was a visionary leader who drew like-minded people around him. He was one of Australia’s leading child rights advocates. He held a clarity of vision for what children deserved, and an unwavering determination to realise that vision – for children to be safe, to be loved, to be respected, to belong, and to be happy.

He never shied away from standing in the shoes of children and seeing the world through their eyes – no matter how painful their world was. This grounded Joe in everything he did. He was never afraid to take up an unpopular position or advocate, sometimes as a lone voice, for the rights of children. Joe’s advocacy for children through his media commentary, journal articles and publications are widely recognised. He insisted that children’s rights be upheld. He shone a spotlight on the ways in which systems designed to protect and support children were failing and demanded the change that children deserved from their community and all levels of government. He was a holder of hope for children that change for the better was always possible.



Joe once said that in listening to children we learn something about ourselves. He valued the wisdom of children and always made space for them to have a voice. Their knowledge shaped and influenced what he did.

Joe’s influence across the many sectors that intersected with the rights, safety and wellbeing of children was highly sought after and valued. He participated on countless federal and state-based government and sector advisory councils and committees including as Co-Chairperson of the Clinical Reference Group for Children who Engage in Harmful Sexual Behaviour for the National Office of Child Safety and as a member of the former Australian Council for Children and Parenting.

Joe was committed to creating knowledge in an effort to improve system and service design, practice and efforts to prevent child abuse. In partnership with Chris Goddard, Joe established Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia (CAPRA) at Monash University, one of the country’s earliest research centres into child protection. In 2008, with CAPRA and Access Economics, Joe co-authored the first ever report into the economic cost of child abuse in Australia.

In 2018, he supported the implementation of the Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care, an intermediary attempting to improve children’s experience of out of home care. Last year he spearheaded the establishment of an inaugural Research Chair into Out of Home Care in partnership with Southern Cross University. Joe also helped to establish and was the inaugural Chair of the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse (National Centre) a key recommendation out of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. His vision for the National Centre was filled with hope and optimism for the change it could create in the lives of those with lived and living experience of child sexual abuse.

Joe presented extensively at national and international conferences on child abuse, violence and child trauma. In October 2023, he was invited to speak at the United Nations in New York about how we could build a more trauma-informed world.

Joe published widely in academic journals, research reports and book chapters. Together, we published two books. Our most recent book released just before he died was one that Joe was particularly excited about. It seeks to achieve a paradigm shift away from trauma-informed towards trauma-transformative ways of thinking. Joe strongly believed in the need to keep evolving our understandings about trauma and how it aided the conceptualisation of children’s needs in the context of abuse, violence and trauma. Whilst CEO for many years, practice development and the evolution of ideas remained core to Joe’s work.

Joe was widely respected by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations, and regularly forged collaborations that supported the achievement of their goals for their children and families. This work took him to all parts of urban, regional and remote Australia.



We have lost a guiding light in the field. His loss has been felt both nationally and internationally, as his contribution to the fields of children's rights, child protection and healing childhood trauma has been recognised.

Joe leaves behind a legacy about which he and all of us can be very proud. The Foundation will continue to honour this legacy. Joe's compassion, courage and commitment to children will live on in everything we will continue to do.

As you will see in this year's report, the ongoing work of the Foundation is a fitting tribute to Joe's legacy. We have achieved much this year and positively impacted the lives of many thousands of children both directly and indirectly through our work. But there is much left to do.

The world today is a difficult place within which children and young people can feel safe, and in which their rights are respected. We are all facing some complex challenges.

The realities of online risks to children and young people are ever present. We need to develop a range of strategies including technology-based solutions, awareness and education initiatives for parents, carers, children and young people and improved support programs for children harmed online. Removing access to social media is not a solution to the problem. Children have rights to participate fully in their lives and communities and this includes within digital spaces. We need a more sophisticated approach that includes children and young people in its design. We will continue to address this issue through our It's Never Too Late initiative.

The lack of meaningful attention to the needs and risks faced by children within the context of family violence is ongoing and requires urgent change. The recent ANROWS report highlighted the numbers of children being murdered by their parents in the context of family violence. Equally alarming was the reality that the vast majority of these children were known to child protection services in the three months leading up to their murder. Children impacted by family violence are falling through the cracks of child protection, family violence and justice systems, too often with fatal consequences. As a society, we have to do better.



The Foundation will continue to advocate for the rights and needs of these children, deliver services to heal the harm and support systems to better understand the needs of children through our education and training programs.

The debates in both governments and the community about the most effective response to youth justice are extremely concerning. Children under the age of 14 years must not be locked up. We have to find other ways to understand the trajectories of children and young people who find their way into youth justice and intervene earlier. We know that the vast majority of these children have experienced family violence, child abuse and significant disadvantage. They have a range of vulnerabilities and needs that are poorly understood and responded to. We must move beyond responding only to their deeds with harsher and harsher measures and seek to understand their needs and meaningful ways to change the trajectories of this at risk children and young people.

We will continue our ongoing efforts in this areas through our services in youth justice, system capacity building programs and our advocacy.

Joe's legacy remains the continued work of the Foundation. Children and young people today face both longstanding and emerging risks that we will continue to address head on through the range of services, programs and initiatives we offer. We must hold the complexity of the wicked problems we are trying to solve. With your ongoing support we can continue our important work. As Joe often said, if we, as adults, don't stand in the corner of children and do what is needed, who will?

**Janise Mitchell**  
CEO



**Joe Tucci**  
CEO of Australian Childhood Foundation  
April 1996 - February 2024



## Thank you

To all our wonderful supporters, donors and partners, thank you.

Your generosity has made an incredible difference in the lives of children, young people, and families across Australia.

With your support, we provided vital therapeutic care, created safer spaces, and offered hope where it was needed most.

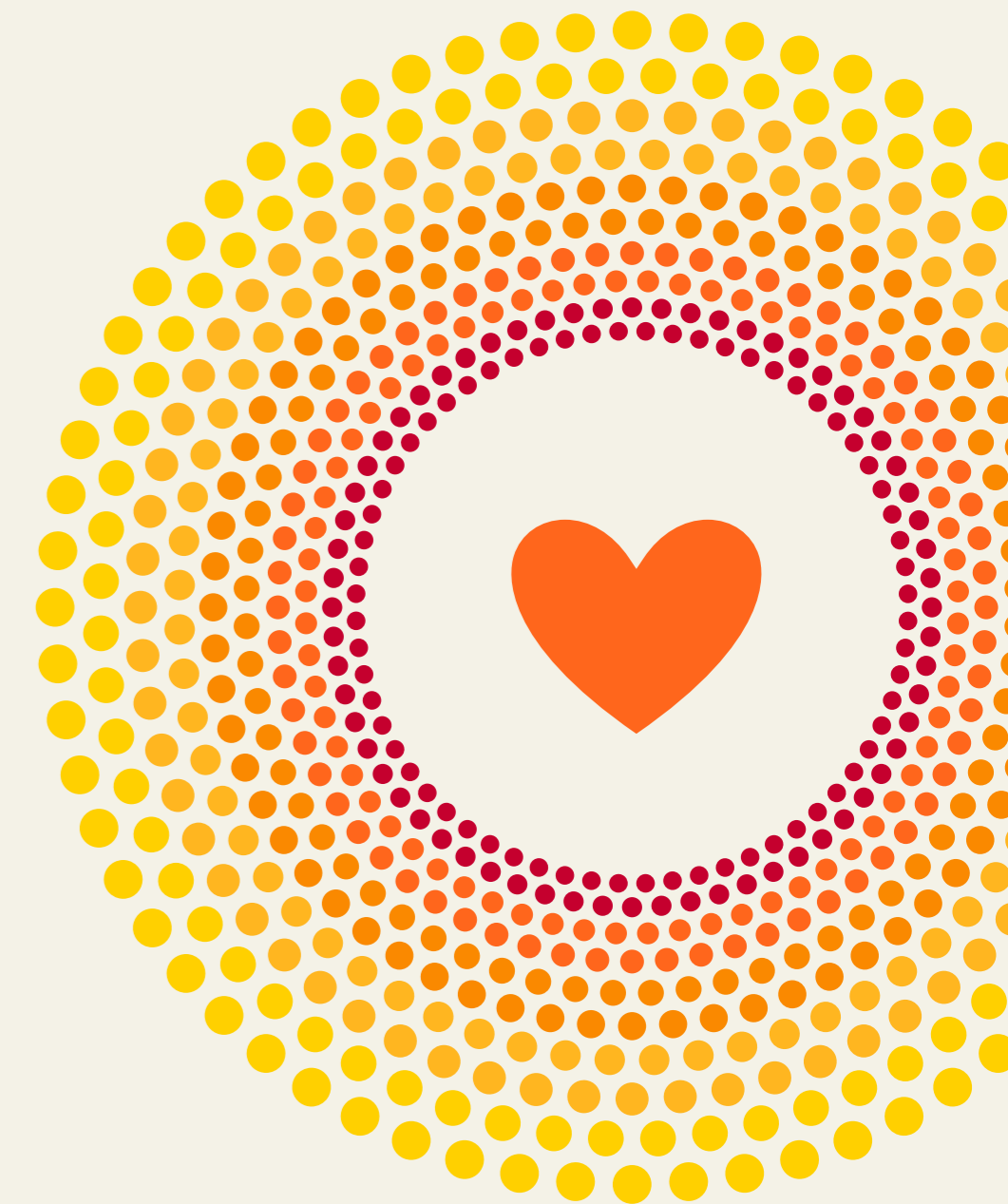
Your donations helped children and young people to heal from trauma, rebuild trust, and restore a sense of safety.

But the work isn't done yet. There are still so many children and young people who need support. With your continued help, we can reach even further, building communities that will hold children with love and safety.

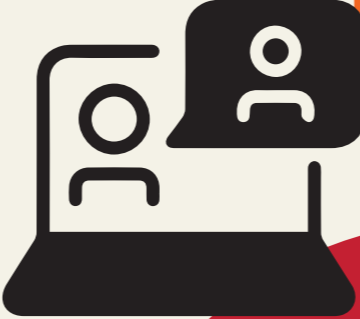
Together, we can keep making a lasting impact.

We couldn't do this important work without you.

\* Where stories feature children, young people and families, names and identifying details of have been changed and stock photography has been used to protect their privacy. Thank you for your understanding and support.



# Impact



# Our Collective Experience Project

## Integrating the wisdom of adults with lived experience to prevent child sexual abuse.

Efforts to protect children and young people from abuse are less effective and less informed if they don't include the insights of those who experienced abuse as children.

In 2022, we initiated Emma's Project, dedicated to keeping children and young people safe from the devastating impacts of sexual abuse, guided by the shared wisdom of survivors. This year, the project evolved into [Our Collective Experience Project](#), headlining the collective effort for the protection of children and young people.

A Lived Experience Advisory Committee, chaired by founding member and child protection advocate Emma Hakansson, was established as an initiative of Australian Childhood Foundation, to support and guide the project as it continues to unfold. Nearly 360 other survivors and their friends and families have contributed to, and will forever be a part of, this project.

In February 2024, we launched a powerful campaign to highlight the profound evidence and outcomes from the project's inaugural report, 'Hear us now, act now'.

Emma Hakansson, Australian Childhood Foundation CEO Janise Mitchell, and the Our Collective Experience Project Lived Experience Advisory Committee launched the campaign by delivering the report to relevant Ministers at Victoria's Parliament House.

Informed by the report's findings, the campaign calls for mandatory child abuse prevention education to be included in the Working with Children Check (WWCC) and all other professional registration systems for people who work with children.

Every child has adults in their life that hold a WWCC or similar registration. All children and young people deserve this Check to be meaningful and effective in keeping them safe.



'Hear us now, act now' report

"Every story of survival is different. Uniquely devastating, but also uniquely powerful in its capacity to change the world, when it is heard. As people with lived experience of child sexual abuse, we are asking you: hear us now, and act now."

- Emma Hakansson, survivor and child protection advocate



Emma Hakansson, Janise Mitchell, and the Our Collective Experience Project Lived Experience Advisory Committee at Victoria's Parliament House.

# CETC

## The Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care’s impact in 2023-24.

Australia’s out-of-home care system is under immense pressure, with over 45,000 children and young people living in care every single night. Despite countless government efforts to support vulnerable families and keep children safe at home, the heartbreaking reality is that the number of children entering out-of-home care continues to grow. For eight out of every 1,000 children, safety concerns force them away from their biological families, leaving them in critical need of protection and support.

Children in out-of-home care are among the most vulnerable, often coming from backgrounds with high levels of domestic and family violence, parental substance abuse, and mental illness. They enter care with complex needs and often exhibit challenging behaviours, facing difficulties at school, enduring physical and mental health struggles, harmful sexual behaviours, and involvement or risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system.

AiHW <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/child-protection/child-protection-australia-2020-21/contents/out-of-home-care>

The [Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care](#) (CETC), our specialist out-of-home care program at the Foundation provides specialist, compassionate, and responsive support for children in out-of-home care. Using the ‘Knowledge to Action’ framework, CETC applies evidence and practice wisdom to improve service delivery, and policy, while supporting carers, professionals, and policymakers who shape the futures of these vulnerable young people.

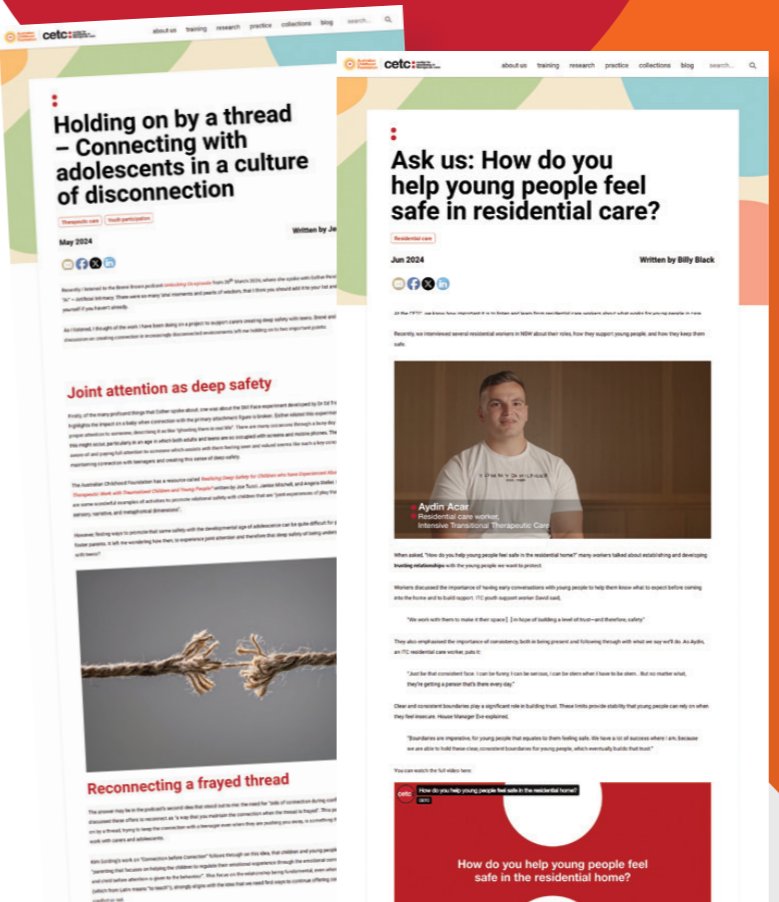
Throughout the 2023-24 financial year, we have effectively mobilised knowledge through advancing progress across policy, research, thought-leadership panels, training, and large-scale change projects. Leading several significant projects to support foster and kinship carers, our delivery of trauma-informed care aimed to holistically strengthen the youth justice workforce.

By offering the CHC40521 Certificate IV in Youth Justice, trauma-aware practices in youth justice settings have been enhanced, and the skills and confidence of frontline youth justice workers increased. This training emphasises children and young people’s rights, the impact of trauma, needs-based responses, and child-centred, relational practice.

“Something that has stood out to me throughout the training is definitely the amount of trauma that is involved with these young people. The things that I have learned have definitely changed my whole way of thinking and attitude towards certain situations.”

- Student, graduated June 2024

Over  
**56,000**  
people engaged with  
27 insightful blogs on  
trauma, youth justice, and  
residential care.



Our therapeutic support project at Ashley Youth Detention has been essential in creating a trauma-informed, supportive environment for both staff and young people. It included two key roles: Clinical Review and Clinical Support. The Clinical Review role enhanced staff training and development, fostering a relationship-based, trauma-informed approach. The Clinical Support role offered direct assistance to young people, helping them manage trauma-related behaviours and promote mental wellbeing.

The Clinical Review role delivered 75 training sessions and weekly meetings, and the Clinical Support role conducted 50 individual sessions with young people. This consistent presence has built trust, improved practice, and supported both staff and young people in navigating the challenges of youth detention.

Additionally, in expanding our collaboration with the South Australian Government, we supported the development of a yarning resource for kinship carers of Aboriginal children. The ‘Healing through Care’ resource, developed with the Department for Child Protection and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, offers rich, flexible learning and deep listening opportunities. It weaves together powerful stories from kinship carers, support workers, and Elders, shining a light on the effects of trauma and the vital role of nurturing relationships in healing.

Our contributing to two policy submissions, and creation of an advocacy platform for the new NSW government on out-of-home care has aimed to further highlight the needs of children and young people in out-of-home care.

Our key contributions include:

- [Submission on Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility](#)
- [Submission to NSW Advocate for Children and Young People](#)
- [Advocacy Platform – Ensuring Safe Out-of-Home Care](#)



Three engaging panel discussions and research spotlights, reached

**1,484**  
participants.

**1,883**  
learners reached through tailored virtual and on-demand training.

# On Us: Australian Business Coalition for Safeguarding Children

## On Us Coalition: supporting businesses to address child safeguarding.

Businesses play a crucial role in eliminating child abuse and ensuring children and young people are safe everywhere they are.

In 2021, Australian Childhood Foundation received vital funding from Westpac Group's Safer Children, Safer Communities program to ignite action in safeguarding children across Australian businesses and ensure brighter, safer lives for children and young people. In 2022, the program conducted research and analysis, and in 2023, [On Us: Australian Business Coalition for Safeguarding Children](#) officially launched.

The Coalition is dedicated to securing businesses' commitment to safeguarding children and young people, and to fostering a deeper understanding of best practices in building a strong and lasting safeguarding culture. By equipping businesses with the necessary tools, we can ensure all children and young people are safe.

As businesses, Coalition members believe that safeguarding children is the responsibility of adults:

- It's On Us to learn about our business risks to children
- It's On Us to share our knowledge and best practices on child safeguarding throughout the business community
- It's On Us to advocate for children's safety, wellbeing, and rights
- It's On Us to take action to address business risks and implement child safeguarding measures within our business operations and practices

Despite being an urgent and growing issue in Australia,

**65%**

of Australian businesses believe there is no potential for child exploitation to occur within their own business or industry, making them blind to the harms that their products, services, people, and operations could enable.

Australian Childhood Foundation (2023). On Us: Australian Business Coalition for Safeguarding Children Survey of 500 Australian Business Leaders

By bringing together key decision makers and influencers from organisations that may not directly work with children and young people, but may impact their rights and safety through their products, services, and operations, On Us acknowledges the role of every adult in keeping children safe.

Throughout 2023, the Coalition welcomed five founding members: Westpac, InterContinental Hotel Group, The GPT Group, TBWA, The Y Australia, and TikTok Australia.



In November 2023, staff from across the member organisations and key stakeholders came together to celebrate officially launching the On Us Coalition. Acting eSafety Commissioner Toby Dagg spoke at the event and warned that workplace-proliferated abuse was more prevalent than most people realised. This generated well-earned media attention, with The Sydney Morning Herald reporting on the event and the wider issue.



On Us event launch

# Therapeutic Services: Introduction

At the heart of our [therapeutic services](#) is the belief that love, care, and intentional relationships are the key to helping children and young people heal from the trauma of abuse and violence.

Our national services support children and young people living with their families, in foster care, kinship care, and residential care. The holistic and targeted support we provide helps them continue to grow and thrive.

We collaborate closely with government and non-government agencies across various sectors, including child protection, out-of-home care, youth justice, family support, housing and homelessness, and education. Our dedication is towards helping children heal, find hope, and build a brighter future.



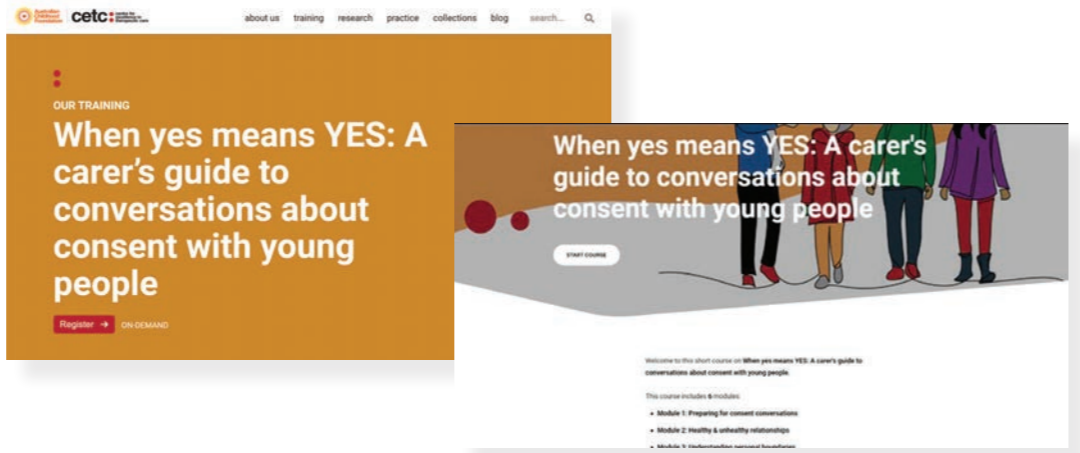
# When Yes Means YES

## Empowering conversations through When Yes Means YES.

Young people in out-of-home care often miss out on crucial conversations and education about sexual health, particularly affirmative consent. These discussions can be challenging, and uncomfortable, as young people have shared with us, but they are vital, especially for those in out-of-home care who are more vulnerable to exploitation and harm.

Recognising the importance of these discussions, the Foundation's Therapeutic Services and Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care teams joined forces with OzChild. Together we created '[When Yes Means YES](#)', an online course for foster carers and young people aged 12-14 years living in out-of-home care.

Consulting with both foster carers and young people to identify essential knowledge and learning needs, the project team worked collaboratively towards a best-practice approach on the topic of affirmative consent.



The insights gained were invaluable in shaping a six-module online course that equipped foster carers with the knowledge, skills, and tools to talk about affirmative consent, boundaries, online safety, and healthy relationships. Featuring guidance and insightful videos from foster carers, the course brings together lived experience with information about how to build the foundations for safe and trauma-informed consent conversations.



Empowering young people with knowledge and skills around consent is crucial for their safety and wellbeing. With support from strong relationships and online resources, meaningful consent discussions can take place.

The course has been piloted with 35 OzChild foster carer households to gather feedback and refine the content. After incorporating feedback, the course will be widely available in 2025, ensuring foster carers are empowered to protect and support young people in their care.

"The more we talk about it, the more confidence they'll (be), the more comfortable they'll feel with the topic of consent."

- Lisa, foster carer

# OurSPACE

## How OurSPACE empowers parents and carers, and supports children's healing.

Every child deserves to feel loved and understood. OurSPACE provides tailored, support to some of the most vulnerable children in state care. By addressing placement instability and focusing on relationship permanence, the programs create a safe and trusting environments where children and young people can heal from trauma.

As a national program, OurSPACE has built a strong reputation among both government and non-government agencies, which continue to refer children to our care. The programs also focus on supporting carers, offering them a safe and trusting space to explore caregiving, the child's story, system challenges, and their own personal journey. This reflective and empowering support helps carers provide stable homes and strong relationships for the children in their care.

Underpinned by key principles around carers feeling heard, understood, and valued, and experiencing care and compassion themselves, OurSPACE offers carers knowledge about trauma, attachment, culture, and child development, reinforcing their approach or supporting them in learning and growth.

In NSW, the OurSPACE NSW team meets with children and young people in their own environments, building the trust necessary for deep therapeutic work.

Throughout the 2023-24 financial year, [OurSPACE NSW](#) held

# 3,263

sessions with children and young people.



## Case study

Lucy's\* early years were marked by severe neglect, leading to her placement in out-of-home care. The lack of love and care she experienced from such a young age affected her behaviour, making it challenging to build trusting relationships and adapt to a stable environment.

The OurSPACE team in NSW began addressing Lucy's trauma to stabilise her placement. Recognising Lucy's unique challenges, the Foundation's Therapeutic Specialists worked with Lucy's care team to develop a tailored healing plan, including developmentally appropriate interventions like play and art therapy to help Lucy express her emotions and articulate her needs.

The Foundation's specialist outreach was crucial in understanding and addressing the underlying causes of Lucy's behavioural challenges.

The team provided specialised training and support for Lucy's foster carers, creating an environment that enabled Lucy to heal. Over time, Lucy showed significant progress. Her trauma-related behaviours decreased, she settled in her care placement, and she began to form friendships and trust the adults around her to provide her with love and care.

We are proud to have eight First Nations staff members across NSW and SA, making up 50% of our full-time team. Their lived experience is integral to the work we do, and highly valued by both our team and the broader system. When engaging with First Nations communities and families, we prioritise cultural safety by starting with informal yarns to understand any barriers to accessing trauma support services. This approach helps build trust and encourages families to share their needs, allowing open and active participation in a process that feels right for, and is guided by families.

Throughout 2023-24,  
OurSPACE NSW supported

# 250

First Nations children  
and young people.



“When my baby used to cry, I used to think he liked crying and I used to say stop crying. I used to feel stressed. Now, after the program, I think about what he’s feeling and what he needs. I also think about my needs. I’ve learnt so much from this program, I don’t want it to end.”

- *OurSPACE NT participant*

OurSPACE has been a lifeline for me. During a time when everything around me is falling apart. They are listening and understanding what I am going through.”

- *WA foster carer*

As an outreach service, OurSPACE is well-suited to working with First Nations communities, where there may be concerns around attending place-based services that are not culturally appropriate, or worse, linked to child removal offices. We also support the extended kinship system, involving them in our therapeutic work to create consistency for the mob. The OurSPACE model is especially beneficial for accommodating large families and sibling groups, as transportation can be a challenge for families who lack the means.

Due to the program's success in Western Australia, OurSPACE WA has secured ongoing funding until June 2025, ensuring it remains an integral part of the family and foster care service system in WA. Many family and foster carers that have participated in the OurSPACE program have reported feeling less stressed and more confident in supporting the complex needs of the children in their care.

During the 2023-24 financial year, OurSPACE NT offered a series of sessions for parents and carers, focusing on key topics such as the impact of trauma, child brain development, understanding behaviour as communication, and the importance of responding to children's needs with care. By emphasising self-care, the program helps parents and carers build strong, loving relationships with their children, enabling them to learn, grow, and thrive.



These sessions tap into the collective wisdom and experiences of parents and carers, encouraging reflection on their own upbringing and how it influences their caregiving. Through this process, parents, foster carers, and kinship carers are guided to form deeper connections with their children, nurture their self-esteem, and cultivate respectful, supportive relationships.

"I have learnt so much about the brain and how it grows and how this relates to children's behaviour. I have been thinking about the ways that I communicate with my nieces and nephews and how this makes them feel. In the past I would growl at them for doing the wrong thing, but I don't think they would even hear the message because I was yelling, and they were scared. Now I think I would get down on their level, talk in a good way, help them and explain to help them understand."

- *OurSPACE NT participant*

# ChildSPACE

## ChildSPACE: helping children and families heal from bushfire trauma.

In the aftermath of the devastating bushfires that swept across Victoria in 2020 and New South Wales in 2019, Australian Childhood Foundation introduced ChildSPACE to offer families in need a safe space where they could begin to heal.

Launched in 2023, this unique, trauma-informed, child-focused community recovery project is designed to resource the formal and informal networks around children and young people affected by bushfire trauma.

In Victoria’s Towong Shire, [ChildSPACE](#) has provided much needed support for families still struggling with the emotional toll of the 2020 Black Summer bushfires. Australian Childhood Foundation, in partnership with the University of Melbourne, created a safe, nurturing environment where both children and adults can share their stories and struggles through informal conversations.

When needed, we offer additional support and a range of therapeutic resources to meet the needs of children and guide parents in fostering connection, joy, and play. This warm, welcoming space, complete with a toy library, has become a cherished haven for families, offering much-needed comfort and opportunities for play

Meanwhile, in New South Wales’ Bega Valley region, ChildSPACE emerged from the urgent need to address the trauma experienced by children during the 2019 bushfires. In partnership with Direct Relief, the project’s flexibility and adaptability, incorporating local considerations, have resulted in a program that serves as a long-term trauma response resource.



Through 41 educational workshops and community consultations, ChildSPACE NSW has shared our principles of ‘The Neurobiology of Trauma’. These workshops had a dual purpose: to establish a shared language and understanding of trauma healing within the community, and to gather input from community members about the specific needs identified in the region, shaping the future of ChildSPACE.

The workshops continued through the latter half of 2023 and the first half of 2024, with 96 adults attending. Regular individual community consultations were also conducted with organisations, leading to the establishment of seven formal partnerships. Through these efforts, ChildSPACE has cemented its position within interagencies and the broader community.

During this time, survey data and community consultations revealed that the community needed a mobile outreach service (not limited to Bega town centre, but able to travel to smaller community hubs) that could support schools, maintain an educational and co-regulation focus, build a shared understanding of trauma healing in the region, and empower key community members with knowledge and skills.

“When we are there, we smile, play, and have very much needed conversations”

- *ChildSPACE participant*

“It means so much for us mums to have a safe space we can go to for our kids and to feel less isolated, connecting with other mums.”

- *ChildSPACE participant*

In response, the ChildSPACE Trauma Responsive Alliance was formed to ensure that trauma knowledge is widely disseminated. This alliance supports community members in becoming subject experts, ensuring children and young people across the region receive the support they need to heal and thrive.

Across both Victoria and New South Wales, ChildSPACE has made a lasting mark, bringing families together, nurturing resilience, and creating spaces where healing can progress.

# Therapeutic Services: Victoria

## Addressing the devastating impacts of sexual abuse, family violence, and trauma on children and young people through our Child Trauma Service.

Sexual abuse, family violence, and trauma have a profound and devastating impact on children and young people. They instill fear, disrupt their development, and damage their relationships. The effects can be overwhelming, leaving lasting impacts that require compassionate and intentional support within safe and understanding relationships.

Our Child Trauma Service in Victoria offers vital counselling and support to children, young people, and their families who have experienced sexual abuse, family violence, or harmful sexual behaviour. Throughout the 2023-24 financial year, the tireless work of the Child Trauma Service Team has provided opportunities for healing and recovery. This includes responding to over 500 enquiries from professionals, child protection services, and families seeking specialist support and guidance for the wellbeing of children who have experienced abuse and harm.

Through a thorough, considered, and supportive initial response, our team ascertained the needs of the children and young people referred, along with those of the people around them. Offering compassionate support and practical guidance, the team ensured immediate safety and wellbeing, often extending their care to parents and carers to offer understanding and advice to address the urgent needs and safety of their children.

Despite our unwavering commitment to supporting those in need, the demand for our services has led to an average wait time of 89 days. Throughout 2023-24, we handled over 260 inquiries relating to family violence, more than 100 in relation to harmful sexual behaviour, and over 100 for sexual abuse.

Feedback from children has been heartening, with many expressing deep gratitude for their counselling experience.

One child shared that their counsellor “gave advice that truly did work”, and that “she has helped me tremendously and helped me through a lot of stuff”.

Another child shared that they “will remember everything because it was fun”, and their counsellor “was a great listener and a great worker.” They also said they hoped to have the same counsellor if they came back to the Child Trauma Service at another time.

Significant improvements to our Mitcham counselling rooms began in early 2024 and are due for completion in August 2024. This refurbishment, led by Barpa Construction Services, a local Indigenous-owned organisation secured through a tender process with Supply Nation, will transform the space into a safe, calming, and engaging environment for children and young people. With added support from Target Australia, who will provide new furniture and equipment, we anticipate the enhanced the environment will encourage exploration, understanding, and connection, making it a place where children can begin their healing journey in a creative and supportive setting.



Mitcham counselling rooms

# Rebuilding relationships and lives with trauma-informed support for young people and families.

Every young person deserves a chance to break free from violence.

The [Adolescent Relationships Integrating Safety and Empathy](#) (ARISE) program offers trauma-informed support to young people who are either at risk of, or are already engaging in, violence, with an approach that understands their developmental needs.

The program is designed to be individualised and flexible, focusing on a whole-of-family approach to help rebuild and mend relationships safely, while addressing the young person’s violence.

Australian Childhood Foundation has partnered with Junction Support Services in Ovens Murray and Goulburn, and Brophy Family and Youth Services in Wimmera South West, to deliver this essential program, funded by Family Safety Victoria.

“I just want to thank everybody for their kindness and openness with myself. I’m going to miss everyone. This group has really helped me in so many ways. It felt so good to not be judged by the situation I am in. I can honestly walk away from this not feeling terrible (...). I can say it so proudly now knowing that I am being a great parent and to not be so hard on myself.”

- Parent

ARISE offers vital support to young people aged 12-17 and their families for up to six months, providing the time and care needed to create real change. Through group sessions for both young people and their parents or carers, the program helps to build deep connections and foster understanding, guiding families towards healing and stronger relationships.

Our Therapeutic Specialists lead a group program called ‘Finding the Path Forward’, which has seen remarkable success in local schools. Reflections on the growth of the young people throughout the program has been incredible. A Therapeutic Specialist introduced the lock box concept, which was embraced by the young people and provided a way for them to symbolically release negative feelings at the conclusion of the program. This gave them a sense of safety, acceptance, and belonging, allowing them to share and make sense of their experiences with peers in a supportive environment.

Throughout the 2023-24 financial year, we provided support to over 55 young people and their families.

“I felt a lot of support from the other parents just sharing their stories. It made me feel like we’re not alone in our feelings and thoughts. The group have encouraged me to do things for myself and not feel guilty for doing it.”

- Parent

## Case study

Lilly\*, 15, came to ARISE struggling with life’s challenges, managing her behaviour, and making sense of her family situation. With the compassionate support of a Therapeutic Specialist, Lilly’s life noticeably changed. Her mother noticed a shift in Lilly’s outlook, seeing her looking at life with more positivity.

At school, Lilly’s behaviour and presence improved remarkably - she began to smile more and join in at school events. Lilly wrote a beautiful piece of work around girlhood, using writing to navigate and share her personal journey and evolving view of the world:

Your dad doesn’t understand any of it, which makes it easy to blame him for everything. He yells louder now.  
You begin high school, and make new friends.  
You become friends with the wrong people.  
You are 14 now, and you’re struggling. You pray to anyone, like you did when you were 10. You ask for your mother to be happy, and for you to die.  
You get diagnosed and put on medication; it doesn’t do anything.  
You can’t feel anything now.  
You get another therapist and talk about your dad more.  
You cry, a lot, but know they’re trying to help you.  
You try to get better, you try be happy. It’s working so far.  
You have better friends. They will always be there for you.  
Your girlhood laughter returns.  
You can breathe. You have survived the war.  
You are coming home.



# Supporting young lives through our Harmful Sexual Behaviour programs.

When young people struggle with harmful sexual behaviour, they need more than just guidance - they need a safe space where they can be understood and supported to begin to heal.

The [Harmful Sexual Behaviour](#) program offers vital support to young people who have struggled with sexualised behaviour that has caused harm to themselves or others.

We provide a compassionate and understanding environment where young people and their parents or carers can explore their behaviour in the context of their experiences. Our aim is to encourage healing and reduce risks for everyone involved. By addressing their experiences with empathy and care, we strive to bring hope and positive change, helping them move towards healthier relationships and a brighter future.

Most of our clients come to us voluntarily, although a few are mandated to attend under a Therapeutic Treatment Order. We focus on helping young people gain a deeper understanding of healthy relationships, consent, personal boundaries, and safe behaviours.

We travel extensively across the region, from Seymour to Yarrawonga, to ensure that families and young people receive the support they need through this integral program.



Over the 2023-24 financial year, we provided consultation, psychoeducation, and intervention to over

70

children, young people, and their families, making a meaningful difference in their lives.

## Case study

Ben\* was initially hesitant about joining the program, and only consented because he was worried about being court ordered. However, his Senior Child and Family Counsellor worked hard to establish a solid rapport and engage him in a foundation of safety, stability, and unconditional positive regard. After the first few sessions, Ben started to enjoy the program and expressed that it “got (him) out of (his) comfort zone.”

Young people like Ben often carry a large amount of shame, and the experience of being genuinely seen, heard, and valued can be life altering.

Upon completion of the therapy, Ben felt confident in his capacity to make safe decisions, and his mum expressed the ‘amazing changes’ that had occurred for him, noticing differences in his interaction with his siblings, his capacity to express his emotions, and the way in which he spoke about relationships.

“I have been noticing my emotions more, though I’m still learning. It’s better to be still learning than not learning.” - Ben

The Harmful Sexual Behaviour Consultation and Support program, operating in Victoria’s north, provides clinical guidance, consultation, training, and support to residential care teams that are caring for children and young people who are engaging in harmful sexual behaviours.

Many young people in out-of-home care engage in sexual behaviours that are harmful to themselves and others and need specialist support to cease engagement in the behaviour and learn healthier ways of connecting with others.

The residential care teams also need expert support to respond in therapeutic, non-shaming ways, fostering safe and supportive connections.

# Helping victims of family violence heal through our Quantum Therapeutic Refuge Project.

In the midst of uncertainty, we offer children and families a compassionate refuge where they can begin to heal and start the journey towards safety, connection, and renewed hope. In 2023, Australian Childhood Foundation partnered with Quantum Support Services in Morwell to offer [crucial therapeutic support](#) one day a week in their family violence refuge.

This short-term, relationship-based therapy is designed to understand and address the emerging needs of children as they navigate the uncertainty of living in refuge with their mothers and families. It offers children a safe space to nurture and strengthen their sense of safety and connection, both physically and emotionally.

The focus of these sessions is to gently explore regulatory skills, challenge the harmful messages of shame and blame, and invite new narratives of strength, resilience, connection, transformation, and hope. This support extends to mothers as well, helping them build confidence in meeting their children’s emotional needs in ways that support healing.

For one particular family, a Therapeutic Specialist worked closely with the mother to empower her and support her understanding of how the trauma of family violence affected her children, enabling her to respond to them in more nurturing and supportive ways.

Therapeutic support was also provided to her young son, helping him make sense of how he internalised the violence, and how it shaped his inner world. He described feeling that he had no choice other than to be violent, that he learnt that bullies need to be bullied back, and that even though he knew it was wrong, it was all he had ever experienced.

Through child-led play, the Therapeutic Specialist created opportunities for him to explore these feelings. Sometimes this involved reading stories with similar themes and discussing how they resonate with him, or using play as a powerful tool to communicate his emotions and experiences.

# The evolution and success of TrACK’s therapeutic foster care program.

Since 2001, our pioneering [Treatment and Care for Kids](#) (TrACK) program, developed in partnership with Anglicare Victoria and funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, has transformed therapeutic foster care in Australia.

In November 2023, the Foundation and Anglicare Victoria celebrated 20 years of TrACK with a special event at the Foundation’s head office in Abbotsford, Victoria. Staff, along with past and present carers and young people formerly in care who were supported through the program, came together to celebrate and honour this important milestone.

TrACK is one of the few programs to have undergone longitudinal evaluations. It was independently assessed in both 2005 and 2017, with positive outcomes showing improved placement stability, emotional recovery, and carer relationship stability.



“Nearly 10 years ago, I participated in the TrACK program. At the time, we had a very young child in our care who had early and complex trauma and attachment related issues. The program helped me to understand the changes to their brain due to early trauma, and that the challenging behaviours this child was displaying was mainly due to these changes. It is not easy to parent a child with complex early trauma, but we were determined to provide a safe and stable environment for this young child to heal and grow. All of these years later, I still return to the principles of the TrACK program. Our child is now a teen and has been in our permanent care for many years now.

I can’t say it’s been easy along the way, but I am still forever grateful for the knowledge and support I gained from the TrACK program. I only wish that every carer was able to participate in the TrACK program, as I believe the therapeutic skills you learn during the program would benefit every child in out of home care, and every family caring for them.”

- Robyn, Foster carer

# Walking Together: a collaborative approach to supporting young people and families affected by violence.

In partnership with Uniting and EACH, the [Walking Together](#) program is a crucial part of our Therapeutic Services, providing a compassionate, therapeutic approach to working with adolescents who use violence in the home (AVITH).

Operating in the Southern region of Melbourne, the program works closely with young people and their families to address factors that may be contributing to, or are the result of, violence. Our approach is deeply therapeutic, focusing on helping young people express their emotions in healthy ways while fostering respectful, connected relationships within the family.

Our model of care focusses on working collaboratively to deliver a holistic, coordinated response that meets the developmental, safety, and therapeutic needs of young people who use violence in the home, whilst ensuring targeted and integrated interventions are also in place for impacted family members. Our goal is to meet the young person’s developmental and therapeutic needs while enhancing family functioning to improve relationships. Through utilising a whole-of-family safety action plan, we ensure that everyone’s safety and wellbeing are prioritised.

In June 2024, Therapeutic Specialists from the Walking Together program were invited to participate in a panel discussion at the South AVITH forum. The forum, held in partnership with the Southern Melbourne Child and Family Alliance and the Southern Melbourne Family Violence Regional Integration Committee, marked the first time that Southern frontline practitioners working with adolescents in the home, school, community, and justice settings were brought together to discuss service response and best practice for supporting young people.

During the panel, our practitioners shared insights into the therapeutic approach we use to support young people and their families, with a strong emphasis on relationships, reconnection, emotional regulation, and trauma recovery. Through case examples, they highlighted the importance of understanding the family and cultural context of each young person and addressing ongoing risks that may be affecting their behaviour at home and in school. The discussion was met with enthusiasm, and the service community expressed a keen interest in learning from our best practice models.

In response, we developed a Walking Together case study in collaboration with the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare. This case study showcases how therapeutic work can effectively support young people who engage in violence at home and is currently featured on the Centre for Excellence’s website as a model of best practice.

# Partnering with Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service.

We are dedicated to providing compassionate and culturally sensitive care that supports healing and empowers communities affected by trauma.

Australian Childhood Foundation has collaborated with Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service (BWAHS), a specialist family violence service, and the local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation to deliver [culturally sensitive and trauma-informed care](#).

Our Senior Counsellor and Consultant, who is embedded at BWAHS three days a week, has had the unique opportunity to work closely with both First Nations colleagues and non-Indigenous staff.

The primary goal of this role has been to promote trauma-informed, culturally sensitive practices across the organisation, enhancing staff capacity to manage risks and meet the needs of vulnerable children and families accessing their services. This support includes direct counselling for community members referred to the children’s counselling program, clinical supervision for the women’s, children’s, and men’s counselling services, and secondary consultation for all programs and therapeutic teams.

The secondary consultations have helped staff develop a compassionate, trauma-informed understanding of the community members they support. This process considers their personal histories, including intergenerational trauma linked to colonisation and systemic racism, and how these factors may affect their current circumstances. The aim is to identify strengths and positive resources within the community and to leverage these protective factors to support healing and self-determination.

# Therapeutic Services: New South Wales

## Building community ties through flood trauma support.

Part of our vision of supporting children and young people healing from the impacts of natural disasters has been to forge meaningful connections with a diverse range of organisations, preschools, primary schools, and high schools in 2023.

We provide [specialist outreach therapeutic trauma support](#) to all children and young people in out-of-home care and their care teams who have been impacted by the devastation of the flooding in Northern NSW.

Holding 39 community consultations, the team shared ongoing opportunities for resourcing, training, and collaboration, taking us on a trip through Forbes, Eugowra, and Canowindra. We also reflected on the feedback these communities had shared around the support they received.

Each year, including this year, we deepened our connections and understanding in the support needed to manage the ongoing effects of trauma on the children and young people within their communities, many of whom had been unable to access the support they needed.

During this journey, we engaged with two schools and three community organisations, listening to their stories and exploring how we can provide necessary support.

We learned about the ongoing trauma expressions seen in children and discussed how these might be enduring responses to their experiences, a common theme in our conversations.

Our ‘Trauma-Informed Practice in Schools’ training, was designed and offered to provide educational staff and the community with the skills to help co-regulate children and young people. Every story shared and every need expressed has been invaluable as we begin to collaboratively develop a plan for future training.

Find out more about our [NSW Therapeutic Services](#).

Canowindra  
Forbes  
Eugowra

# Therapeutic Services: Northern Territory

## Empowering young lives through our StrongWays program.

Offering a lifeline to young people at risk of entering the youth justice system, our [StrongWays program](#), part of the Back on Track initiative funded by the Northern Territory Government, provides vital support through expert care that embraces their cultural and emotional needs.

With teams in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy, we provide assessments, case management, and therapeutic support, underpinned by an approach that understands and integrates trauma and experiences of past significant disadvantage. We work closely with Aboriginal and non-Indigenous staff, alongside organisations including Anglicare NT and Save the Children, to offer a supportive network for young people, their families, and communities. This innovative model serves as a national blueprint for trauma-responsive interventions in youth justice.

In response to the food security and hunger challenges faced by young people in the Strongways Program, our clinicians and Aboriginal Liaison Support Workers introduced a weekly cooking program, named Masterchef, to provide nutritious meals, vital life skills, and support.

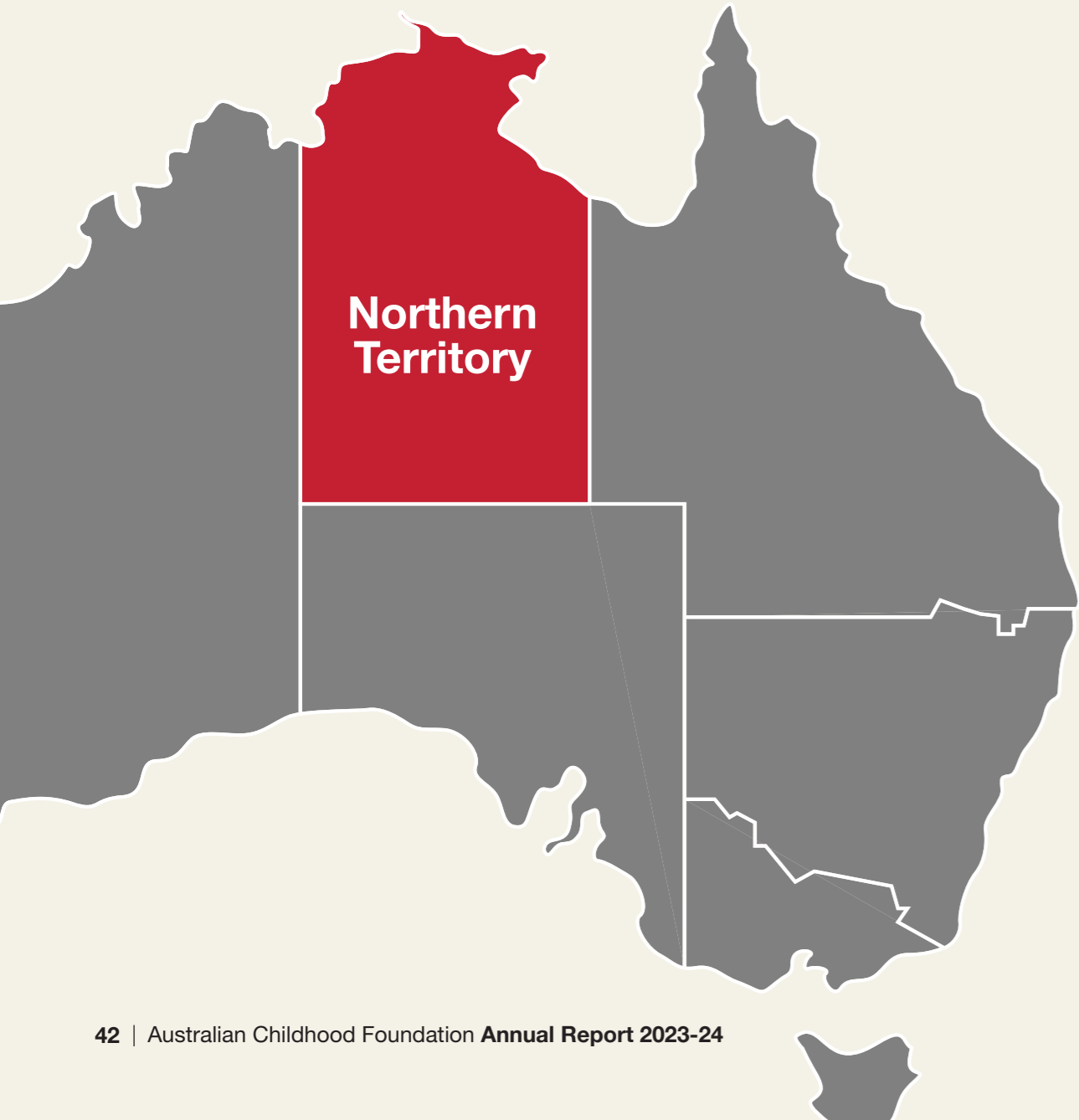


### Masterchef cooking program

This initiative focuses on preparing nutritious meals from everyday staples, equipping participants with valuable skills in cooking, budgeting, and food shopping. By cooking in bulk, we ensure that young people and their families have nourishing meals to enjoy over several days, while also encouraging stable and supportive relationships between our staff and young people.

The program not only addresses the immediate need for nutritious food but also creates a consistent, safe space where young people can openly discuss their experiences. Through this routine and structure, they gain essential skills for the future, knowing they can rely on this weekly connection for both nourishment and emotional support.

Safe Connections providing support for children and families in the Northern Territory.



In 2023, our [Safe Connections](#) program embarked on its first year of operation, marking the beginning of specialised support for children exhibiting harmful sexual behaviours in the Northern Territory.

Safe Connections provides crucial consultations, safety planning, and builds on the knowledge and capacity of the sector, while also offering assessments and treatment to children aged 8-12.

Our dedicated team went into remote communities to deliver workshops focusing on understanding harmful sexual behaviours, responding to the behaviours, and keeping children safe.

Through this work, we've had the privilege of supporting 46 children and their families, and delivering 23 workshops that are making a real difference in lives across the Territory.

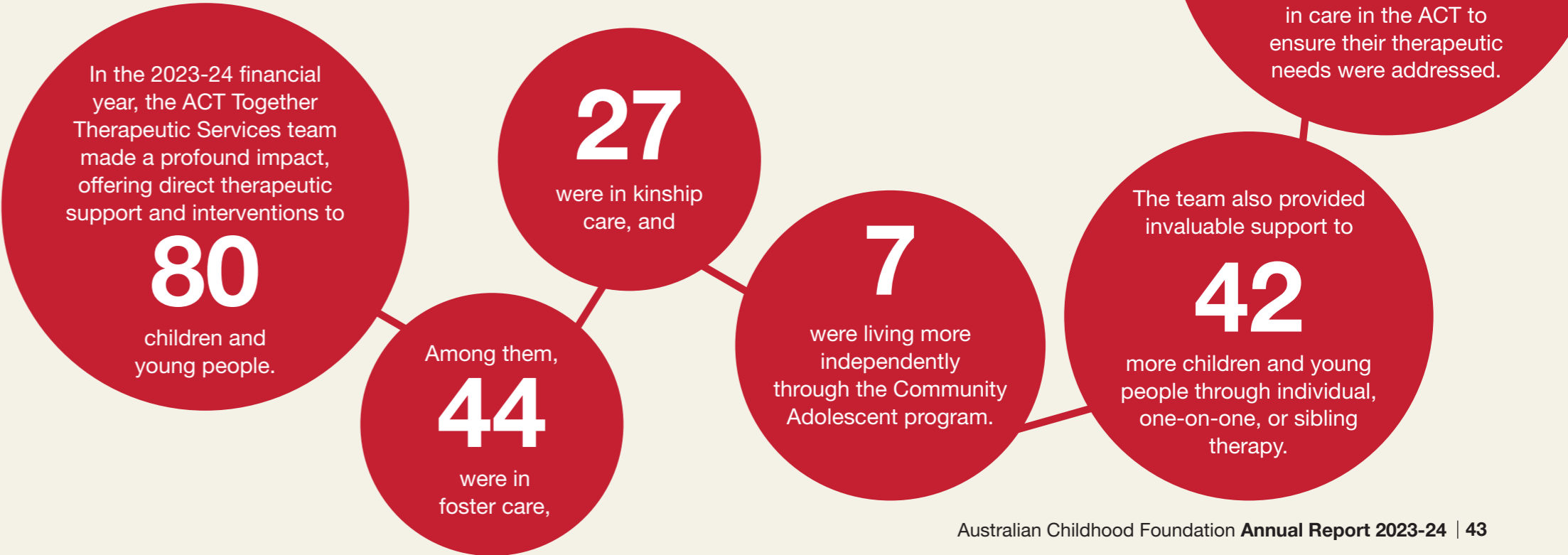
Therapeutic Services: Australian Capital Territory

ACT Together making significant impact with enhanced therapeutic support.

When children and young people can't safely stay with their birth parents, we ensure they receive the care, support, and love that every child deserves.

In the ACT, Australian Childhood Foundation joined two of Australia's most respected child welfare organisations, Barnardos and OzChild, to create [ACT Together](#), a large consortium that provides support services to children and young people who are unable to live safely with their birth parents.

ACT Together aims to reduce the duplication between different government and non-government agencies and ensure better provision of stable, nurturing, long-term care for those children and young people.

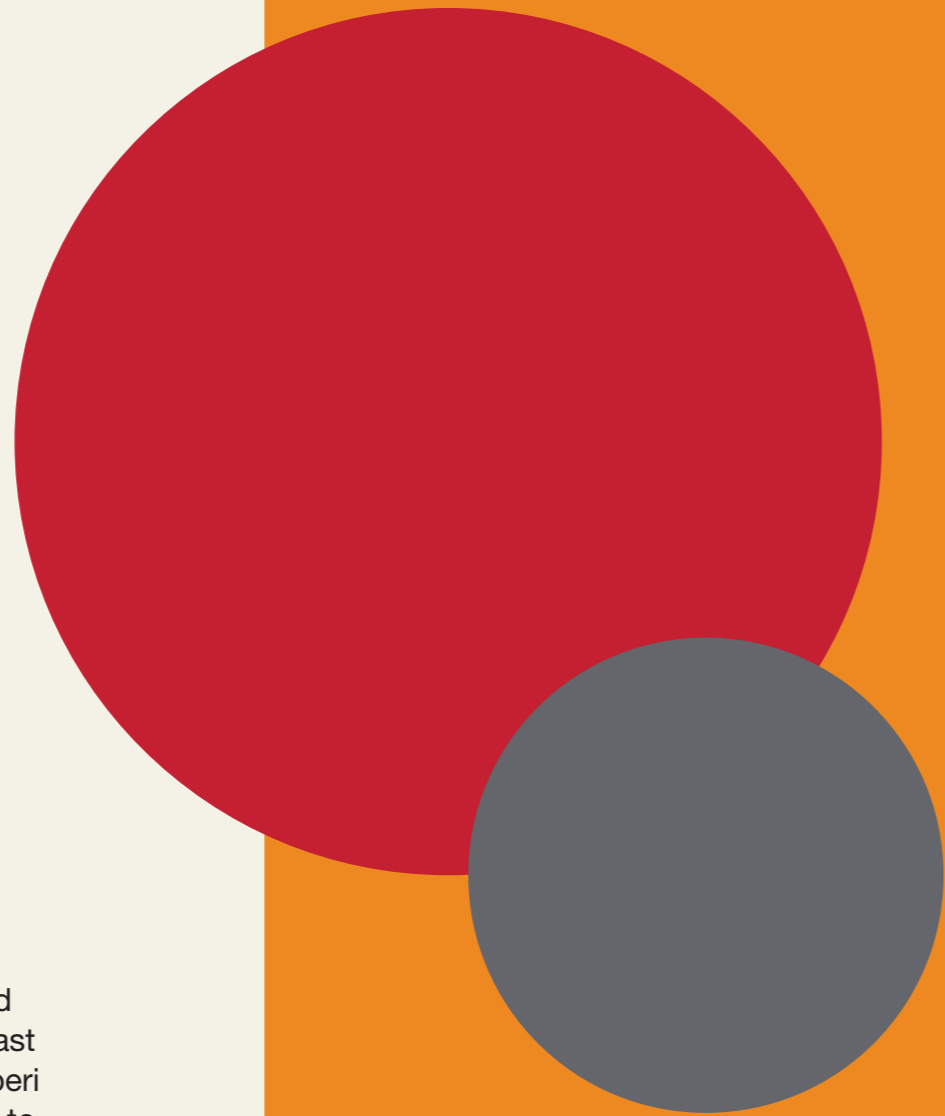


As part of their ongoing commitment to practice development, the ACT Together team achieved remarkable milestones in 2023-24:

- Completed 389 therapeutic consultations with staff and carers.
- Facilitated 51 reflective practice sessions for all consortium teams,
- Delivered 26 training sessions attended by 156 staff members and 53 carers, and
- Provided clinical leadership to 85 care teams

Through these efforts, the team has significantly enhanced the safety and stability of care arrangements for children and young people. Their work has enhanced the ability of staff and carers to create nurturing, healing environments for those who have faced significant trauma and adversity.

Beyond the consortium, the Therapeutic Services team has also contributed to the professional development of other agencies across the ACT. In the past year, they delivered three specialised training sessions for new staff at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. They also provided trauma-informed practice training to Toora Women's Service and facilitated monthly reflective practice sessions to embed the training's learnings.



## Case study

Sophie\*, 14, was referred to our Therapeutic Specialist due to concerns about her behaviours, including self-harm. Her Care Team suspected these issues might be related to her fractured sense of identity and lack of understanding of her life story. Sophie had been quite disconnected from her biological mother and did not know who her biological father was.

The Therapeutic Specialist worked closely with Sophie's case manager to build a collaborative relationship with the supportive adults in Sophie's life, such as her teachers and foster family. Establishing this foundation of mutual respect and understanding of everyone's roles and responsibilities helped address Sophie's needs holistically.

The Therapeutic Specialist began therapy sessions with Sophie in early 2024, where Sophie consistently attended fortnightly sessions. The interventions were largely play-based, including activities such as finger painting, slime making, pretend play, sand tray play, reading books, and a nurturing ritual involving food. Together, they created a routine where Sophie made cup-o-noodles while her therapist watched. This simple activity became a way for Sophie to share her meticulous snack-making process while benefiting from her therapist's quiet but reliable presence.

A significant highlight was Sophie's reconnection with her mother after three years. With her therapist's support, Sophie was able to ask her mother specific questions about her early life and, importantly, about her father.

Sophie will continue to receive support from her care team and Therapeutic Specialist, who feels privileged to be part of her journey through adolescence. They both look forward to continuing their work together.

## Case study

Two Therapeutic Specialists in the ACT Together consortium have been working with young siblings, Patrick\* and Ollie\* who have experienced a significant history of trauma including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, and exposure to persistent family violence.

Removed from their parents' care at ages 3 and 5, they now live in a loving, stable placement with a close relative. Despite their safe environment and engagement in school, they continue to experience behavioural and emotional challenges related to their childhood trauma, including self-harming behaviours, regular nightmares, aggression towards other children and adults, hypervigilance and poor emotional regulation.

The Therapeutic Specialists initially focused on building trust with the carer and ensuring a cohesive support system involving the care team, medical professionals, and NDIS providers. They then used group play-based therapy to improve family communication and emotional regulation, while also enhancing the children's ability to interact safely and providing the carer with strategies for managing interactions with both children to ensure their safety and regulation.

Structured therapy sessions have helped the family recognise their strengths and resilience, transforming the children's initial fear of therapy into positive engagement. This approach has shifted the narrative from being "too much" to highlighting their strengths and love, fostering a new story of connection, belonging, and hope.

## A Heartfelt program helping children communicate through therapeutic dolls.

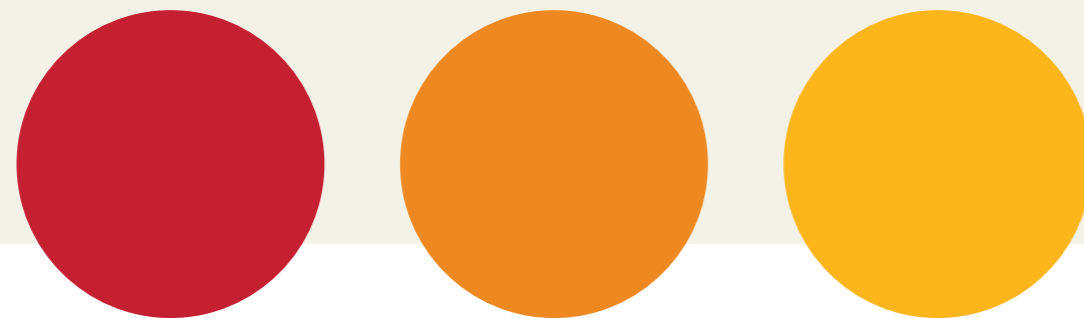
Children live in a world of the senses, and they are natural explorers. They love colour, texture, and playful ideas that create a sense of vibrancy and magic in their worlds. Exploring children's senses through toys and games helps to unlock the trauma held in children's bodies.

[Heartfelt](#) is an 8-week therapeutic program designed for children aged 5-12 who have experienced domestic and family violence. The program offers group therapy for both children and their mothers, drawing on the Foundation's Big Tree therapeutic dolls and their associated stories.

These stories provide children with opportunities for imagination, self-expression, and healing. The program's gentle approach encourages reflection, conversation, and play, helping children connect with their own narratives and with others. During the 2023-24 financial year, 19 children and 17 mothers participated in the Heartfelt program, while 7 of these mothers also completed the Bringing Up Great Kids Parenting after Violence program, tailored for parents affected by family violence.

To better support the needs of children and mothers in the ACT, Heartfelt has recently expanded to offer a range of therapeutic services for up to 6 months. This includes individual and group counselling for both mothers and children, psychoeducational support, and case management. The program also provides childcare and transport to ensure that these supports are accessible.

The enhanced Heartfelt program begins with a comprehensive therapeutic assessment, identifying key concerns and goals for each family. This assessment includes a detailed risk evaluation and the development of a safety plan, which significantly enhances the safety and therapeutic outcomes for mothers and their children.



## Case study

Maya\*, aged 6, was referred to the Heartfelt therapeutic group after witnessing her father's physical violence towards her mother in her early years. After fleeing their country to escape this violence, Maya and her mother arrived in Australia, fearful for their safety as Maya's father was still searching for them. While living in temporary refuge accommodation, they were referred to Heartfelt by a specialist domestic and family violence service. At the start of the program, Maya's visa conditions prevented her from attending school.

From the outset, it was clear that Maya and her mother shared a strong bond. Initially, Maya was reserved, staying close to her mother and seeking reassurance during group activities and discussions. As the weeks went by, the facilitators saw Maya's confidence, humour, and creativity flourish. She began to open up in group discussions, sharing her thoughts and experiences, and showing kindness and attentiveness to other children.

In the mother and child sessions and the weekly attunement activities, Maya and her mother enhanced their bond through laughter and play in the art and sensory based games and activities offered. Their connection was also enhanced through sharing their memories with each other and the group, and sharing stories of their cultural practices and differences between their home country and Australia. Other participants listened keenly, further increasing Maya's and her mother's sense of belonging.

Maya's mother expressed that it was helpful for both her and Maya to know that they were not alone in their experiences, which has reduced their shame and stigma associated with family violence. Maya's mother told facilitators that she felt the group was very beneficial for Maya and that Maya loved attending each week. She said that in the car on the way home, she and Maya talked about the meaning of the stories. She said the group discussions were often 'conversation starters' for her and Maya to talk through in more depth, in their own time. Maya's mother was also very pleased that Maya developed friendships in the program that have continued well beyond the end of the group.

## Therapeutic Services: Western Australia

### Children are at the heart of what we do: Foster care in Western Australia.

Children and young people who have experienced trauma need relationships with foster carers that are safe, adaptable, flexible, fun, and nurturing.

In early 2024, our therapeutic foster care services launched in Western Australia, providing more children and young people in Perth with safe and supportive home environments. Our approach focuses on understanding and responding to their unique needs, strengths, and cultural identities.

We believe in true partnership with foster carers, valuing their knowledge and expertise, and recognising that those closest to the child know them best. With the right support and training, the relationship between carers and the children they care for has the power to truly change lives.



Every child and young person in our care receives a therapeutic assessment, support, and review, while every foster carer is provided with high-level therapeutic support to help them understand the needs of the child and implement effective strategies.

Through this program, foster carers have access to after-hours on-call support 24/7, specialist counselling and support for personal issues and stressors, foster carer peer support groups and social events, specialist foster carer training and development, cultural support, and carer allowance and financial support.

“The difference is the support that’s provided. It’s collaborative. Australian Childhood Foundation is journeying alongside us to ensure the best outcomes for our little ones.”

- Michael\*, foster carer



In collaboration with Dr. Glenda Kickett, CEO of Karla Kuliny Aboriginal Corporation, we have also developed tailored programs for foster carers that honour cultural identity while providing essential therapeutic support. This initiative strengthens our commitment to culturally strong care, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Western Australia.

Our vision is simple: to protect children and restore their childhood through the power of love. Together with our dedicated foster carers, we can build safe, strong, and adaptable connections and environments for children and young people, helping them grow into happy, stable, and loving adults.

# Therapeutic Services: Tasmania

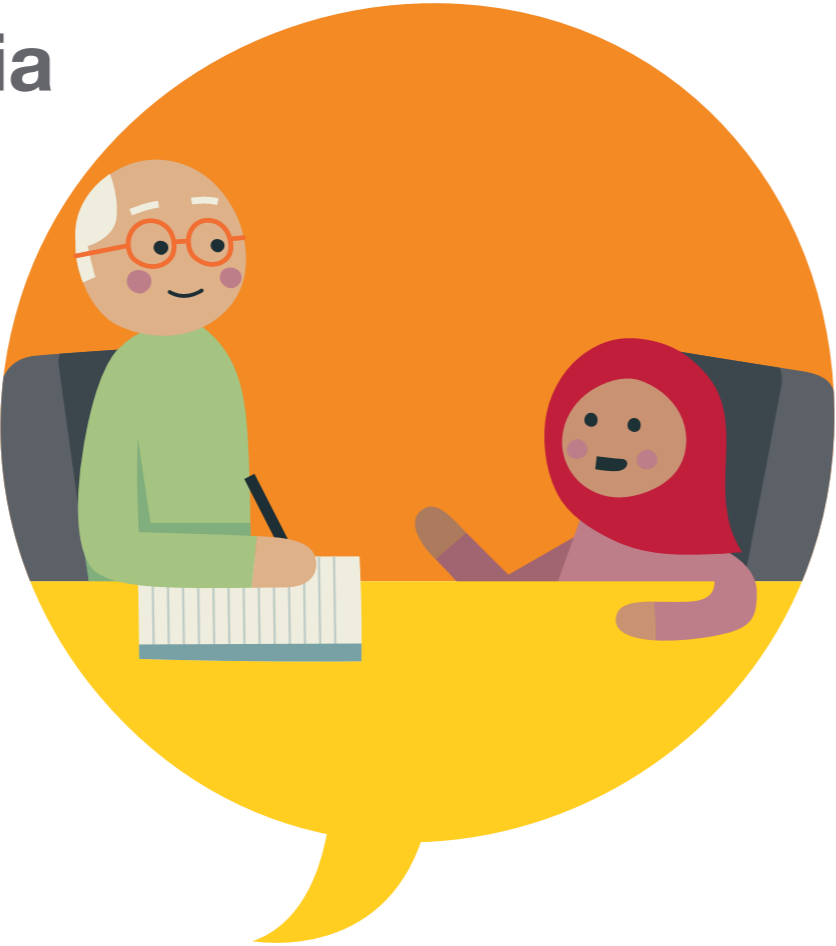
## Supporting healing and resilience for children and young people affected by family violence.

Our [Family Violence Counselling Service](#) provides crucial support to children and young people across Tasmania who have faced the devastating impact of family violence. The program extends across Hobart, Ulverstone, Launceston, and beyond through outreach services, offering a safe haven where healing can begin.

Over a six-month intervention, our Therapeutic Specialists work closely with each child, young person, and their primary caregiver to craft personalised therapeutic goals that honour their unique experiences and needs. We understand that the trauma of family violence affects everyone differently, and our approach reflects that.

To further support parents and caregivers, we offer access to programs like the Bringing Up Great Kids-Parenting after Family Violence program and Popping Bubbles for families with children aged 5 and under. These programs help strengthen the bonds between parent and child, providing them with the tools to heal.

From June to December 2023, 81 children and young people, along with their caregivers, received our counselling services. In the following six months, that number rose to 119, a testament to the growing need for compassionate support.



Beyond counselling, our intake service has provided vital phone support to many more parents and carers, helping them better understand and respond to their children’s needs in the wake of trauma.

The overwhelming positive impact of our services has led to a surge in demand, a clear indication of the profound difference we are making in the lives of Tasmanian families.

## Providing tailored support for children and young people through therapeutic review and assessment reports.

In our commitment to ensuring every child and young person receives the tailored support they need, we deliver Therapeutic Review and Assessment Reports to the Department of Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) for children and young people placed in Salaried Care Packages.

These reports are crucial for evaluating whether their therapeutic needs are being met across the six domains of child and youth wellbeing.

Our focus is on those who, due to their significant needs, cannot be accommodated in a typical home-based or residential setting. DECYP uses these reports to make informed decisions and ensure accountability regarding the suitability of placements and providers for children with complex needs. Providers receive detailed reports highlighting areas of concern and strengths, along with recommendations to enhance their ability to offer therapeutic care.

When appropriate, we also meet with the children and young people to incorporate their voices into the reporting, ensuring their perspectives are understood and valued.



- Parent



- Child participant

# Safeguarding Children Services

## Building and supporting child safe organisations.

Preventing the abuse and exploitation of children and young people by employees and volunteers within organisations is possible when we ensure a safe and nurturing environment.

Our [Safeguarding Services](#) are offered in both Australia and New Zealand and are designed to help organisations build their capacity to create an environment where every child is cared for and protected from harm and exploitation. We also ensure that organisations remain compliant with State and Territory child safety legislation and regulations.

We do this by developing resources, tools, and training for professionals working with children and young people in a range of settings. Our commitment is to make learning about child safety as easy as possible.

Throughout the 2023-24 financial year, we provided Safeguarding Children online training to 11,028 professionals, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to better protect children and young people.

We also had the privilege of providing Safeguarding Children Accreditation and Certification consulting services to over 75 outstanding organisations. We are deeply proud to have played a role in helping these dedicated organisations achieve and maintain the highest level of Safeguarding Children Accreditation

and know the impact for children and young people will be exponentially positive, across communities.

Our work also included conducting Child Safe evaluation reviews to enhance safety practices in Early Childhood Centres, Sports Facilities, and National Community Service providers. In addition, we collaborated with Willis Towers Watson, offering schools a discount on their public liability insurance when they become accredited as Child Safe organisations. This partnership reflects our commitment and dedication to creating a safer environment for every child.

“The Safeguarding training is informative and useful. I may not have contact with children in my professional role, but I believe this course is for everyone because we will in one way, or another come in contact with children in our community. Understanding the role and responsibility we hold to protect the future generation is vital for every individual. I would recommend others to do this course.”

- *Anonymous feedback*

“I want to thank you and the team for your enthusiasm, professionalism, and for the quality of the process and work able to be achieved. It has been an enjoyable experience, and I thank you mostly for the spirit with which the Foundation and yourself, conducted this exercise with us, which was one about helping us to achieve growth, learning and improvement.”

- *Anonymous feedback*

# Education



Empowering Tasmanian schools to heal and support children impacted by trauma

In partnership with the Department for Education, Children and Young People and with the invaluable support of the University of Tasmania, our Education team led the ‘Trauma Informed Practice in Schools Professional Learning Project’ to completion in early 2024.

## Trauma Informed Practice in Schools Professional Learning Project

Over two years, this initiative empowered staff across Tasmanian Government schools to deepen their understanding and ability to support all students, especially those impacted by trauma.

The project helped create safer, more nurturing learning environments where every child can feel seen, supported, and understood.

# Parenting and Early Years: Bringing Up Great Kids

## Bringing Up Great Kids through parenting programs.

[Bringing Up Great Kids](#) (BUGK) is a long-running program that has supported over 50,000 parents through the dedication of more than 4,000 trained facilitators nationwide.

BUGK offers parents and carers a reflective, supportive, and nurturing approach to building meaningful relationships with their children. It provides unique tools and activities that foster mindful, positive interactions, helping to enhance communication and promote children’s positive self-identity.

BUGK is now active in over 600 organisations across Australia and has reached international audiences through online training, including in Singapore, Iran, New Zealand, Austria, Sweden, Finland, and Hong Kong. The program’s philosophy ensures that BUGK parenting groups are offered free of charge to parents and carers, which means facilitators cannot charge for attendance.

Throughout the 2023-24 financial year, we had 730 professionals attend our BUGK trainings, from 184 different Australian and international organisations.

In addition, Australian Childhood Foundation and the Parenting Research Centre continued their meaningful collaboration on the independent national evaluation of BUGK. The evaluation aims to provide strong evidence of BUGK’s effectiveness, showing its real-world impact and validating its approach. By analysing data, we’ll gain insights into what makes the program successful, helping to secure ongoing support and funding, refine the program, and advocate for its wider adoption.

*“This program has been so helpful but it has also highlighted my own issues, I am now going to seek counselling for myself.”*

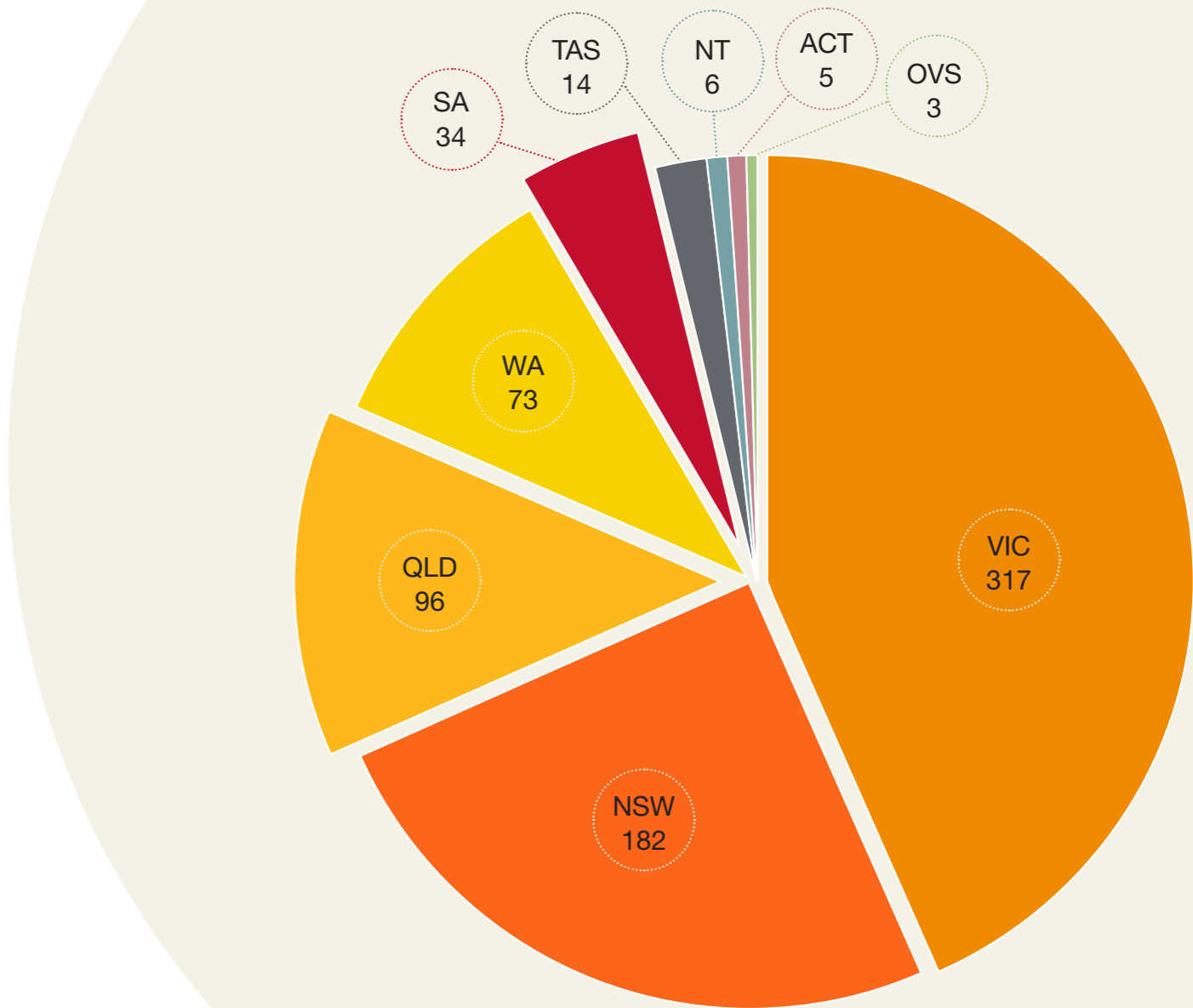
*- a parent attending a BUGK group*

As we wrap up the data collection phase, we eagerly await the first reports from this analysis, expected by late 2024. The valuable insights from this evaluation will not only deepen our understanding of BUGK’s impact over the past 12 years, but also guide the program’s future, ensuring it continues to make a positive difference in the lives of families.

BUGK: Parenting after Family Violence helps women impacted by past family violence to regain confidence in their parenting. This workshop supports participants to lead supportive, respectful, and reflective parent groups for family violence survivors, using specially designed materials and resources.

Consistent feedback we receive from this program is that parents often express relief at feeling less isolated, recognising that others share similar experiences and emotions. Recent feedback highlights that participants valued the program as a 'safe space' where they could connect with others. After the final session, members exchanged contact details and created a Facebook group to maintain their connections and support each other.

BUGK training participants  
(FY 2023 - 2024)



# Partnerships

## Target Australia's unwavering support for children, young people, and families.

For the 2023-24 financial year, [Target Australia](#) pledged \$250,000 to support our Bringing Up Great Kids program, empowering parents and carers across Australia to build stronger, more nurturing relationships with their children.

During the Christmas season, Target sold festive family Christmas pyjamas, with \$2 from each purchase going directly to support Bringing Up Great Kids. Target's generosity also extended to a Christmas gift drive, where staff packaged gifts for the children and young people we support, adding a touch of warmth and joy to their Christmas.

This initiative was repeated during Easter in 2024, with the sale of Easter-themed pyjamas in Target stores. With every purchase, \$2 was once again donated.

Beyond financial contributions, Target provided gift vouchers, each worth \$100, to parents involved in the evaluation of the Bringing Up Great Kids program. Their insights and experiences are invaluable, guiding the future development of this crucial program.



In March 2024, Target refurbished our Ulverstone, Tasmania therapeutic office space. The refurbishment of counselling rooms, a waiting area, entrance porch, resource areas, outdoor sandpit, garden beds, games and activities space, kitchen, and bathroom has created a warm and welcoming environment for children, young people, and families.

The impact of this project has been profound, with Target's involvement enabling us to achieve far more than we could have on our own, saving thousands of dollars and enhancing the quality of our services.

In addition, when unforeseen circumstances prevented the completion of similar refurbishments in Shepparton and Alice Springs, Target provided a generous donation, ensuring that these much-needed improvements could still move forward.

As we look forward, the partnership continues to grow, with ongoing refurbishment work at Mitcham, in collaboration with Barpa Construction Services, set to be completed in 2024, and plans for a similar transformation in Launceston underway.

## GPT Group to support our Therapeutic Services until 2026.

Last year, we were thrilled to announce a partnership agreement with GPT Group, set to span from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2026. Through this partnership, GPT Group has helped fund our vital [Therapeutic Services](#), ensuring 1,200 therapeutic sessions are delivered to children and families in need.

As an owner, manager, and developer of retail assets, GPT Group oversees a portfolio of ten high-quality shopping centres across Australia.

During the 2023 Christmas season, GPT Group introduced a Christmas Wrapping Station at Highpoint Shopping Centre, with proceeds going directly to Australian Childhood Foundation. This initiative raised \$4,051.45 from the community.

In addition to their financial contributions, GPT Group has embraced innovative ways to further support our vision. At their Melbourne office, a simple QR code connects visitors directly to our donation page. Every Friday, flowers auctioned at their concierge desk see all proceeds directed to the Foundation.

GPT Group's commitment extends beyond these projects. They actively encourage workplace giving, featuring Australian Childhood Foundation on their intranet to inspire employees to contribute. Their involvement in the On Us Coalition further reflects their dedication to making a meaningful impact.

# Partnering with Victoria Racing Club to raise awareness and support children and young people recovering from trauma.

In 2023, we were delighted to continue for another year as the [Pin & Win charity partner](#) for the Victorian Racing Club (VRC). This two-year partnership has been pivotal in expanding our reach and enhancing the support we provide to children and families in need.

Pin & Win, VRC’s major annual fundraising initiative, was established to support charities through the sale of Lexus Melbourne Cup souvenir pins. We were honoured to be part of this tradition, with all proceeds from the pin sales going directly to our National Trauma Recovery program.

Throughout the campaign, souvenir pins were available for purchase both in person at Flemington race days and through our online shop.

The campaign was a remarkable success, raising considerable funds to support children and young people across Australia. These funds will provide support our National Trauma Recovery program, enabling us to provide additional therapeutic counselling and care to 40–50 children and young people.



The Pin & Win campaign also offered invaluable opportunities to engage with the community. Through face-to-face interactions at race days, ambassador appearances, and extensive media coverage, we raised awareness about the critical need to protect and support children affected by trauma. The campaign saw significant media exposure, including coverage on national TV and in top-tier publications, reaching a total audience of 2,618,076 through 97 media mentions.

Special events such as the Spring Gala, Trackwork Breakfast, and Kennedy Oaks Club Lunch were crucial to our fundraising efforts. The Kennedy Oaks Club Lunch also provided a platform for our patron, Rosie Batty OA, to speak about our vision and the impact of our work.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Victorian Racing Club for their unwavering support and for sharing our vision to protect children from violence and abuse. Our gratitude also goes to our ambassadors who attended these events: Anthony Cincotta, Lorinska Merrington, Olivia Molly Rogers, Rachel Watts, Rosie Batty, and Stefan Dennis.



# Our supporter community

We would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful community of supporters.

We are so inspired by your unwavering commitment and determination to creating a brighter, better, kinder world for children and young people who have experienced trauma.

From organising events, making bequests, or giving thorough appeals, we deeply appreciate the creative and compassionate ways you contribute to making a real difference. Your support fuels hope and healing, and together we're building a future where every child can thrive.

## A special gift from Connie and John.

Connie and John began supporting the Foundation when their three boys were young. They understood the challenges of raising a family and wanted to help keep other children and young people safe. So, when their 60th birthdays came around, they saw it as the perfect opportunity to raise funds for a cause they deeply care about.

Their friends and family wholeheartedly embraced this idea, eager to support a cause that helps children and young people. Thanks to their generous spirit, Connie and John's birthday fundraiser raised over \$16,000, creating a lasting impact and spreading hope to those in need.



*"We have everything we need. As lovely as it is to get presents, we thought donations to our favourite charity would be a nice thing to do for our birthdays," said Connie.*

## Northern Territory Hospitality.

We were truly honoured to be chosen as the sole beneficiary of Hospitality Northern Territory President's Lunch in November 2023.

Dr. Joanne Wicks, Manager of Therapeutic Services, attended and shared inspiring stories about our crucial programs that focus on reducing the impact of complex trauma on children and young people in the Northern Territory.

The event was a resounding success, raising over \$36,000 for the Foundation and making a significant impact on our efforts to support vulnerable children.



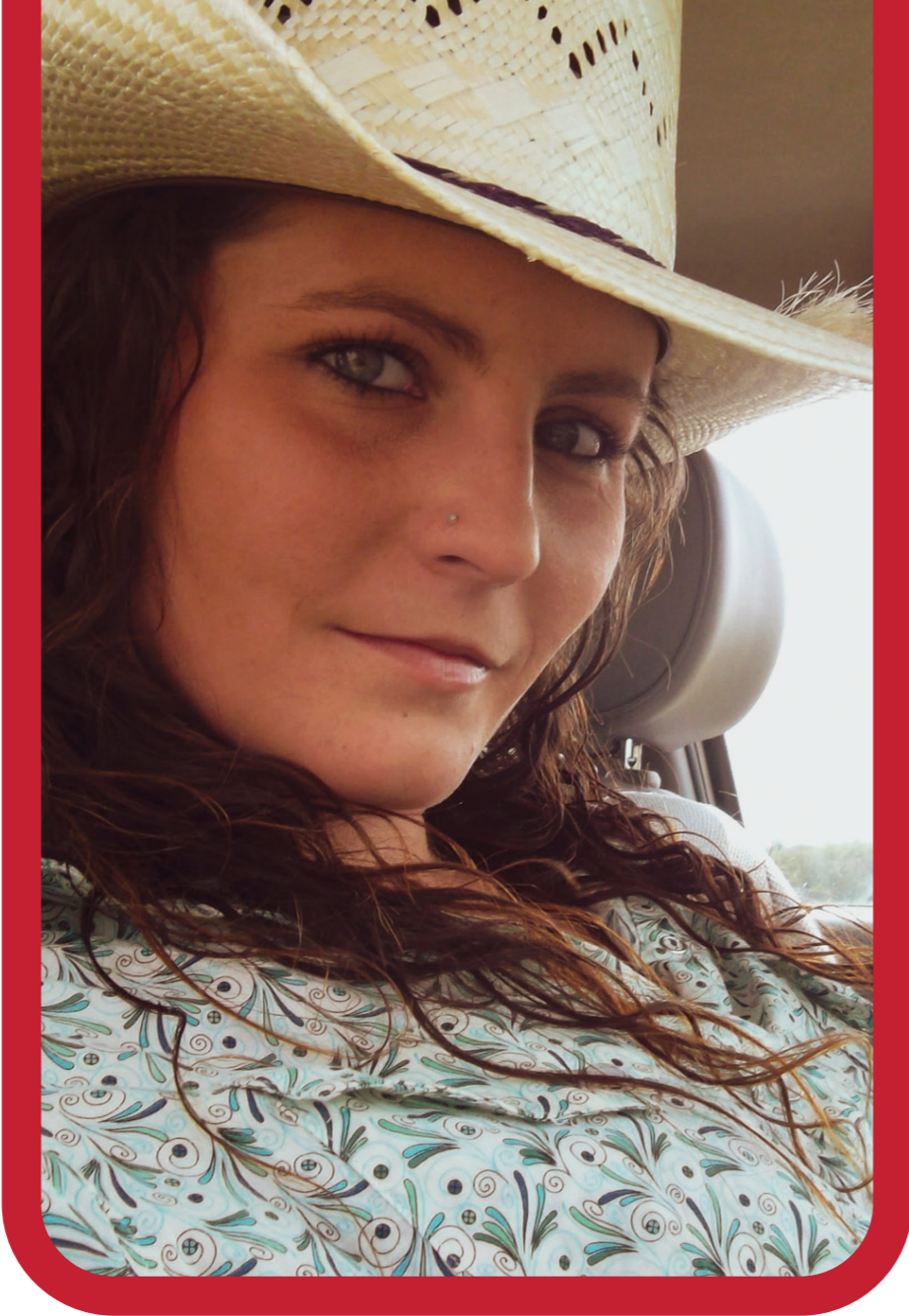
Lisa honours her daughter.

In 2015, Lisa faced the heartbreaking loss of her beloved daughter. The grief was compounded by the fact that her daughter had not left a will, forcing Lisa to navigate her daughter’s affairs during this painful time.

“People often avoid thinking about estate planning, especially when they’re younger, but if you don’t document your wishes, someone else will have to make those decisions for you,” Lisa said.

Determined to make a difference, Lisa created her own will, including a generous gift to the Foundation. She is now passionately encouraging her local community to follow suit.

“In my practice as an art therapist, I see children who are traumatised by family violence and abuse. Leaving a bequest to the Foundation is a great way to have a positive impact. I’m honouring my daughter by helping future generations of children get the help they need.”



Jasmine, Lisa’s daughter

We love feedback!

We’d like to thank each and every one of our supporters who took the time to complete our annual survey. Honest feedback helps us know whether we are on track and find more like-minded people to support our vital work.

The good news is that the response was overwhelmingly positive. We learned more about how you like to communicate, and many of you told us that you want to hear more about our programs and the children we support. We will continue to focus on these areas in future communications.



“As a former primary teacher, I know how much young children need support and a sense of security.”

“I believe every child should have the right to a happy, healthy, and safe childhood.”

“Keep up the good work. Wish I had access to this when I was a child.”

# Our heartfelt thank you

Australian Childhood Foundation is deeply appreciative of all our major supporters throughout 2023-2024.

## Major supporters

TIG Freight Management Pty Ltd  
Zoe Holt  
Kathy Holland  
Lyle Ashlin  
Catherine Cheah  
William Rooseboom  
Geoff Baker  
Leo Browne  
Christopher Aspland  
Dierdre Westblade  
Anna Dudek  
Barry Mcgrath

Donor  
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Maggie Poole-Johnson  
Susan Roe  
Colin Davies  
Alan Withers  
Kerry Harley  
Mary Trench  
Lisa Mossman  
The LR Cazaly Trust  
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation  
Annie Rose and Andrew Lazar Foundation  
The David McTaggart Foundation  
Relim Foundation  
Goldsmith Family Foundation  
Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation

Bequestor  
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Trusts & Foundations

“I think it’s such a wonderful organisation! I think anything to help children and their families is such a great help to our society! Thank you! I can only do a small part myself, but I know that anything helps, big or small.”

“Keep up the great work! You do wonderful, important work that sadly is vital in our society. Thank you for the work you do and for giving people like my wife and I who care so much, a way to contribute and be part of the solution.”



# Ambassadors

## Celebrating our incredible ambassadors.

At Australian Childhood Foundation, we are honoured to have the support of [exceptional ambassadors](#) who are deeply committed to helping the children and young people we work with. Their dedication and generosity not only inspire us but also make a profound and lasting impact on the lives of those who need it most.

In mid-2023, Olivia Molly Rogers took on the Gold Coast half marathon, raising over \$5,000 for our cause while achieving a personal best time. These generous donations will go directly towards helping children and young people overcome the devastating effects of trauma.

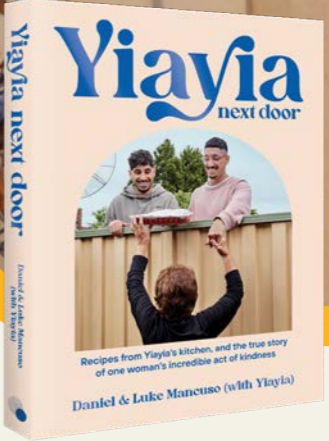
Our incredible Patron, Rosie Batty AO, represented us at the Flemington VRC’s Kennedy Oaks Day Luncheon, where she shared the Foundation’s story and highlighted the transformative impact of the funds raised through the Pin & Win competition. Our partnership with the Victorian Racing Club (VRC) on Derby Day marked another significant milestone. Several of our dedicated ambassadors donated their time and efforts to support us on the day, including Anthony Cincotta, Lorinska Merrington, Olivia Molly Rogers, Rachel Watts, and Stefan Dennis.



**\$5,000**  
raised by  
Olivia Molly  
Rogers

Their enthusiasm and engagement on the day were instrumental in sharing the Foundation’s work with a broader audience. The presence of these ambassadors, both in person and on social media, helped us connect with supporters in a meaningful way, ensuring more children and young people can access our National Trauma Recovery program.

We are deeply grateful to all our ambassadors for their unwavering support and advocacy. Their efforts not only raise funds but also amplify our message, helping to create a world where every child can feel safe, loved, and valued.



Luke and Daniel from YiaYia Next Door

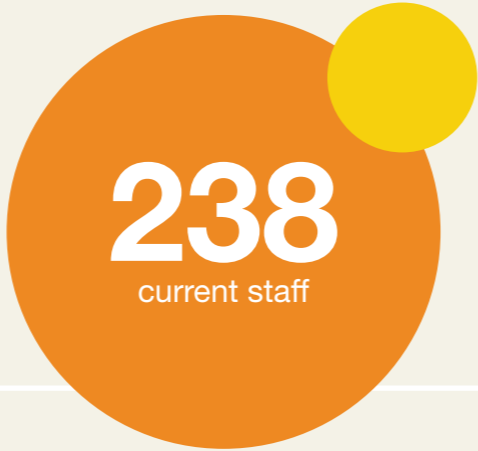
# People

## Executive:

Janise Mitchell	Chief Executive Officer
Craig McMillan	National Executive Manager – Partnerships, Fundraising and Marketing
Frank Borg	National Executive Manager – Organisational Capability and Operations
Lyn Millett	Executive Manager – Education and Safeguarding Services
Noel Macnamara	Executive Manager - Research and Policy / Deputy Director Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care (CETC)

## Board:

Mr Mark Thomas	President / Communications
Mr Rod Naismith	Honorary Treasurer / Accounting
Mr Justin Smith	Directors / Media
Mr Nick Pelham	Infrastructure
Dr Ciara Earley	Paediatrics
Mr Rod Lamplugh	Law
Mr Cliff Weeks	Aboriginal Affairs
Ms Claire Boussioutas	Consultancy



## Senior Management Group:

Andrew van de Ven	IT Manager
Angela Weller	Manager – Training and Development
Annette Gillespie	National Lead – Safeguarding Services
Belinda Lorek	Senior Manager – Practice Leadership and Development
Blythe McAuley	General Manager – Therapeutic Services NT
Edward Murphy	Senior Manager – Marketing
Chris Byrne	General Manager - Business Development and Strategy
Chris Cussen	Lead - Product Development, Content Creation, and Projects
Christine Lindahl	Program Manager – Out of Home Care WA
Colin Hayes	Program Manager – Therapeutic Services WA
Cyra Fernandes	Practice Lead Consultant (CETC)
Daniel Howell	Senior Manager of Training (CETC)
Georgia Pattison	General Manager - Human Resources
Glenys Bristow	Senior Specialist – Residential Care (CETC)
Jana Sarnovski	Program Manager – Therapeutic Services ACT
Jenny Wing	General Manager – Therapeutic Services Vic/Tas



Senior Management Group:

- Dr Joanne Wicks

Kate Sanders

Kelly Royds

Lauren Thomas

Lydia Kali

Mary-Ann Delaney

Milon Islam

Monica Robertson

Nicole Balfour

Pat Jewell

Phillip Doorgachurn

Robyn Rice

Shaun Chandran

Shelley Calopa

Steph Hutson

Sue Buratti

Tanya Bilka
- Program Manager – Therapeutic Services NT

Internal Systems Support Manager

General Manager – Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care

Director - International Childhood Trauma Conference / Senior Project Lead

Program Manager – Quality Unit

Program Manager – Therapeutic Services Victoria

General Manager – Financial Services

Program Manager – Therapeutic Services Victoria

Program Manager – Therapeutic Services Victoria

Program Manager – Parenting and Early Years

General Manager - Strategic Safeguarding Children Initiatives

Program Manager – Therapeutic Services Tas

General Manager – Therapeutic Services WA

Senior Manager – Fundraising

Senior Manager – Partnerships

General Manager – Therapeutic Services NSW

Senior Manager – Digital Experience and Learning Design

Summary Financial Statements

Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

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# Summary Financial Statements

# Summary Financial Statements

## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Directors' Report 30 June 2024

The directors present their report on Australian Childhood Foundation for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

#### General Information

##### Directors

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

Names	Position
Mark Thomas	Corporate Affairs Consultant
Justin Smith	Media
Nick Pelham	Infrastructure Manager
Ciara Earley	General Paediatric Consultant
Rod Lamplugh	Solicitor
Claire Boussioutas	Consultant
Rod Naismith	Accountant
Cliff Weeks	Public Servant

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

##### Information on directors

The names, qualifications, experience and special responsibilities of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

Mark Thomas	is currently the Chairperson of the Foundation having joined as a Director in 2005. He has been a political adviser to a range of government Ministers. He has senior community and corporate communications experience.
Justin Smith	is a senior producer and broadcaster with Fairfax Media. He brings significant media and communications experience to the Board. He joined as a Director in 2011.
Nick Pelham	joined as a Director in 2011. He has worked in infrastructure management for government and corporate sectors. He is a member of the Finance and Governance subcommittee of the Board.
Ciara Earley	joined as Director in 2014. She is a qualified Paediatrician and works as a Consultant at Monash Medical Centre. Ciara holds Masters in Bioethics from Monash University (2021) and Graduate Diploma in Forensic Medicine from Monash University and The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (2015).
Rod Lamplugh	joined as a Director in 2015. He is a commercial lawyer and company director. He has over 25 years experience assisting organisations with legal and media related matters particularly in the areas of acquisitions, contractual matters and compliance issues.
Claire Boussioutas	joined as a Director in 2018. Claire has been working with global and Australian organisations over 25 years as they undergo business transformation enabled by technology. Claire is a Partner at Ernst & Young Australia.

## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Directors' Report 30 June 2024

#### General Information

##### Information on directors

Rod Naismith	joined as a Director in 2018. Rod is a Chartered Accountant and a Graduate of the Institute of Australian Company Directors. Rod has worked in public practice for over 17 years and is a Partner at the global firm, BDO. He advises on a range of business, accounting and taxation issues for start-up, private and family owned businesses and not for profit organisations. He is a member of the Finance and Governance subcommittee of the Board.
Cliff Weeks	joined as a Director in 2016. He is currently working for the Department of the Chief Minister as a senior executive based in Alice Springs. A former member of the Western Australia Police Service, Cliff has over 15 years of experience in the public sector and was Director General of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in Western Australia from 2011 until 2016.

##### Principal activities

The principal activities of Australian Childhood Foundation during the financial year was to provide services which effectively reduced the incidence of child abuse and the harm it causes children, families and the community. It provided direct services to children who have suffered or were at risk of abuse and neglect and their families in the form of counselling, practical assistance, emotional support or material aid. It also conducted research, prevention and education programs aimed to raise public awareness about the problem of child abuse and family violence.

##### Objectives and Strategy

The Australian Childhood Foundation's objectives are to:

- prevent child abuse in Australia;
- support children to recover from the trauma arising from experiences of abuse and neglect; and
- build the confidence and capacity of parents.

The Foundation's strategy for achieving these objectives includes:

- establishment of specialist therapeutic programs throughout Australia;
- provision of parenting education activities;
- undertaking research into child abuse and child protection;
- delivery of training to health, welfare, education and legal professionals;
- implementation of programs that build the capacity of organisations to protect children from harm and exploitation by volunteers and employees.

##### Performance Measure

The Foundation measures its performance through the number of children and families supported by its specialist programs, the amount of income funds raised and the number of projects delivered to the community.

## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Directors' Report 30 June 2024

#### General Information

##### Members' guarantee

Australian Childhood Foundation is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of, and for the purpose of winding up of the company, the amount capable of being called up from each member and any person or association who ceased to be a member in the year prior to the winding up, is limited to \$ 100 for members, subject to the provisions of the company's constitution.

At 30 June 2024 the collective liability of members was \$ 2,000 (2023: \$ 2,000).

##### Operating results

The operating surplus of the company amounted to \$81,175 (2023: \$584,176). No provision for income tax is necessary, as the company is endorsed as an income tax exempt charitable entity under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

##### Significant changes in state of affairs

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company during the year.

##### Events after the reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

##### Meetings of directors

During the financial year, 5 meetings of directors were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:

	Directors' Meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Mark Thomas	4	4
Justin Smith	4	3
Nick Pelham	4	4
Ciara Earley	4	3
Rod Lamplugh	4	4
Claire Boussioutas	4	3
Rod Naismith	4	4
Cliff Weeks	4	2

## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Directors' Report 30 June 2024

#### Indemnification and insurance of officers and auditors

The company has insurance to indemnify the directors and executives of the company for costs incurred, in their capacity as a director or executive, for which they may be held personally liable, except where there is a lack of good faith. During the financial year, the company paid a premium in respect of this contract to insure the directors and executives of the company against a liability to the extent permitted by the Corporations Act 2001. The contract of insurance prohibits disclosure of the nature of the liability and the amount of the premium.

The company has not, during or since the end of the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify the auditor of the company or any related entity against a liability incurred by the auditor. During the financial year, the company has not paid a premium in respect of a contract to insure the auditor of the company or any related entity.

#### Proceedings on behalf of company



No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the company or intervened in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purposes of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or any part of those proceedings.

#### Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration in accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* for the year ended 30 June 2024 has been received and can be found on page 5 of the financial report.




Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director:  Mark Thomas

Dated this  day of  2024

# Summary Financial Statements

# Summary Financial Statements

 <div><b>Nexia</b> Australia</div>	<div>Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd Level 35, 600 Bourke St Melbourne VIC 3000 E: info@nexiamelbourne.com.au P: +61 3 8613 8888 F: +61 3 8613 8800  nexia.com.au</div>
<b>Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Directors of Australian Childhood Foundation</b>	
In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the <i>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012</i> , as lead auditor for the audit of Australian Childhood Foundation for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:	
a. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of section 60-40 of the <i>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012</i> in relation to the audit; and	
b. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.	
 <div>Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd Melbourne</div>	 <div>Chapman Wan Director</div>
Dated this 17 <sup>th</sup> day of October 2024	
<b>Advisory, Tax, Audit.</b>	
<small>Registered Audit Company 291969 Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd (ABN 80 005 100 913) is a firm of Chartered Accountants. It is affiliated with, but independent from Nexia Australia Pty Ltd. Nexia Australia Pty Ltd is a member of Nexia International, a leading, global network of independent accounting and consulting firms. For more information please see <a href="http://www.nexia.com.au/legal">www.nexia.com.au/legal</a>. Neither Nexia International nor Nexia Australia Pty Ltd provide services to clients. Liability limited under a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.</small>	

Australian Childhood Foundation		
ACN: 057 044 514		
<b>Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income</b>		
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024		
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Fundraising and Donations	4,465,013	4,403,245
Interest income	153,921	74,988
Other income	368,308	236,977
Professional education services	1,817,830	2,838,395
Research	100,000	106,250
Safeguarding children services	1,436,208	1,514,862
Therapeutic Services	27,472,309	24,417,008
	<b>35,813,589</b>	<b>33,591,725</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Amortisation of right-of-use assets	(1,584,592)	(1,465,717)
Depreciation	(1,037,564)	(779,870)
Employee benefits expense	(26,185,915)	(24,222,392)
Foreign exchange gain/(loss)	(37)	327
IT expenses	(1,507,844)	(844,560)
Lease interest	(183,108)	(107,320)
Motor vehicle expenses	(323,967)	(126,319)
Offices and Facilities	(696,730)	(679,723)
Organisational expenses	(815,817)	(961,826)
Program expenses	(2,173,157)	(2,548,200)
Telecommunications	(286,048)	(278,341)
Travel expenses	(937,635)	(965,608)
	<b>(35,732,414)</b>	<b>(33,007,549)</b>
<b>Surplus before income tax</b>	<b>81,175</b>	<b>584,176</b>
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>81,175</b>	<b>584,176</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss		
Revaluation changes for property, plant and equipment	(270,389)	-
<b>Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</b>	<b>16,510</b>	<b>5,515</b>
Gain arising from revaluation of financial assets at fair value	(253,879)	5,515
<b>Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year, net of tax</b>	<b>(253,879)</b>	<b>5,515</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>	<b>(172,704)</b>	<b>589,691</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Australian Childhood Foundation		
ACN: 057 044 514		
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>		
As At 30 June 2024		
	Note	2024
		\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2,965,421
Trade and other receivables	5	2,543,703
Inventories	6	219,791
Financial assets	7	2,215,629
Other assets	8	731,660
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>8,676,204</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	9	4,531,421
Right-of-use assets	10	3,240,115
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>7,771,536</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>16,447,740</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	11	2,010,013
Employee benefits	13	2,210,708
Lease liabilities	10	1,434,136
Other liabilities	12	1,985,306
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>7,640,163</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Employee benefits	13	70,599
Lease liabilities	10	1,851,868
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,922,467</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>9,562,630</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>6,885,110</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	14	1,884,351
Retained earnings		5,000,759
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>6,885,110</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Australian Childhood Foundation		
ACN: 057 044 514		
<b>Statement of Changes in Equity</b>		
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024		
2024	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	4,919,584	2,118,314
Surplus for the year	81,175	-
Other comprehensive (loss) for the year	-	(270,389)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>5,000,759</b>	<b>1,847,925</b>
2023	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	4,335,408	2,118,314
Surplus for the year	584,176	-
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	5,515
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>4,919,584</b>	<b>2,118,314</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# Summary Financial Statements

# Summary Financial Statements

Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Cash receipts in the course of operations		34,891,109	33,592,299
Payments to suppliers and employees		(33,002,287)	(29,606,471)
Dividends received		487	731
Interest received		131,476	74,461
Finance costs		(183,108)	(107,320)
Net cash provided by operating activities		1,837,677	3,953,700
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,314,221)	(889,845)
Purchase of financial assets		(63,895)	(45,087)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(1,378,116)	(934,932)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Repayment of lease liabilities (principal)		(1,576,757)	(1,508,399)
Net cash (used in) financing activities		(1,576,757)	(1,508,399)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents held		(1,117,196)	1,510,369
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		4,082,617	2,572,248
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	4	2,965,421	4,082,617

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

The financial report covers Australian Childhood Foundation as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Australian Childhood Foundation is a company limited by guarantee.

The principal activities of Australian Childhood Foundation during the financial year was to provide services which effectively reduced the incidence of child abuse and the harm it causes children, families and the community. It provided direct services to children who have suffered or were at risk of abuse and neglect and their families in the form of counselling, practical assistance, emotional support or material aid. It also conducted research, prevention and education programs aimed to raise public awareness about the problem of child abuse and family violence.

The functional and presentation currency of Australian Childhood Foundation is Australian dollars.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the Directors on 17 October 2024.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The Company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

(a). Revenue and other income

Revenue recognised under AASB 15 is measured at the amount which the Company expects to receive in consideration for satisfying performance obligations to a customer. A performance obligation is the distinct good or service defined within the contract with a customer. The transaction price is allocated to one or more performance obligations contained within the contract, with revenue being recognised as or when the performance obligation is satisfied.

Where consideration comprises variable components, the amount recognised as revenue is constrained to that amount that would not result in a significant reversal of the cumulative revenue recognised when that uncertainty is resolved.

Timing of Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised either at a point in time or over time, when (or as) the Company satisfies performance obligations by transferring the promised goods or services to its customers.

If the Company satisfies a performance obligation before it receives the consideration, the Company recognises either a contract asset or a receivable in its statement of financial position, depending on whether something other than the passage of time is required before the consideration is due.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

(a). Revenue and other income

Specific revenue streams

The revenue recognition policies for the principal revenue streams of the Company are:

Fundraising and donations

Donations collected including cash and goods for resale, are recognised as revenue when the Company gains control of the asset.

Grant revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Education programs

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers i.e. when the performance obligation has been satisfied.

Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Company is entitled to it.

Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

(a). Revenue and other income

Rendering of services

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the services can be estimated reliably. If the outcome can be estimated reliably then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period.

If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

(b). Income Tax

The Company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(c). Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

(d). Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Inventories acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration are valued at the current replacement cost as at the date of acquisition, which is the deemed cost.

(e). Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Property

Freehold land and buildings are shown at their fair value based on periodic valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation of buildings. This is reviewed every three years. Last revaluation date was 30 May 2024 by Charter Keck Cramer.

Fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence, which is the amount for which the assets could be exchanged between a knowledgeable willing buyer and a knowledgeable willing seller in an arm's length transaction as at the valuation date. Fair values are confirmed by independent valuations which are obtained with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amounts do not differ materially from the asset's fair values at the balance sheet date.

# Summary Financial Statements

# Summary Financial Statements

## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

##### (e). Property, plant and equipment

In periods when the freehold land and buildings are not subject to an independent valuation, the directors conduct directors' valuations to ensure the carrying amount for the land and buildings is not materially different to the fair value.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the revaluation reserve in equity. Revaluation decreases that offset previous increases of the same class of assets shall be recognised in other comprehensive income under the heading of revaluation surplus. All other decreases are charged to the statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income except where a credit balance exists in the revaluation reserve, in which case it is debited to that reserve.

As the revalued buildings are depreciated the difference between depreciation recognised in the statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income, which is based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset, and the depreciation based on the asset's original cost is transferred from the revaluation surplus to retained earnings.

Any accumulated depreciation at the date of the revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

##### Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount of these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the asset's employment and subsequent disposal.

##### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets in excess of \$1,000 including buildings and capitalised lease assets, but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the unexpired period of the lease.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Buildings	2 - 4%
Office Furniture and Equipment	10 - 25%
Computer Software	20%
Leasehold improvements	20 - 33%

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

##### (f). Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

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## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

##### (f). Financial instruments

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

##### Financial assets

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

##### Classification

On initial recognition, the Company classifies its financial assets into the following categories, those measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through other comprehensive income - equity instrument (FVOCI - equity)

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition unless the Company changes its business model for managing financial assets.

##### Amortised cost

Assets measured at amortised cost are financial assets where:

- the business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

The Company's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables and cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment. Interest income, foreign exchange gains or losses and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

##### Fair value through other comprehensive income

##### Equity instruments

The Company has a number of strategic investments in listed and unlisted entities over which are they do not have significant influence nor control. The Company has made an irrevocable election to classify these equity investments as fair value through other comprehensive income as they are not held for trading purposes.

These investments are carried at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in other comprehensive income (financial asset reserve). On disposal any balance in the financial asset reserve is transferred to retained earnings and is not reclassified to profit or loss.

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## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

##### (f). Financial instruments

##### Financial assets

Dividends are recognised as income in profit or loss unless the dividend clearly represents a recovery of part of the cost of the investment. Other net gains and losses are recognised in OCI.

##### Impairment of financial assets

Impairment of financial assets is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis for the following assets:

- financial assets measured at amortised cost
- debt investments measured at FVOCI

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial assets has increased significant since initial recognition and when estimating ECL, the Company considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on the Company's historical experience and informed credit assessment and including forward looking information.

The Company uses the presumption that an asset which is more than 30 days past due has seen a significant increase in credit risk.

The Company uses the presumption that a financial asset is in default when:

- the other party is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Company in full, without recourse to the Company to actions such as realising security (if any is held); or
- the financial assets is more than 90 days past due.

Credit losses are measured as the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the Company in accordance with the contract and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

##### Trade receivables and contract assets

Impairment of trade receivables and contract assets have been determined using the simplified approach in AASB 9 which uses an estimation of lifetime expected credit losses. The Company has determined the probability of non-payment of the receivable and contract asset and multiplied this by the amount of the expected loss arising from default.

The amount of the impairment is recorded in a separate allowance account with the loss being recognised in finance expense. Once the receivable is determined to be uncollectable then the gross carrying amount is written off against the associated allowance.

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## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

##### (f). Financial instruments

##### Financial assets

Where the Company renegotiates the terms of trade receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

##### Other financial assets measured at amortised cost

Impairment of other financial assets measured at amortised cost are determined using the expected credit loss model in AASB 9. On initial recognition of the asset, an estimate of the expected credit losses for the next 12 months is recognised. Where the asset has experienced significant increase in credit risk then the lifetime losses are estimated and recognised.

##### Financial liabilities

The Company measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The financial liabilities of the Company comprise trade payables, bank and other loans and lease liabilities.

##### (g). Impairment of non-financial assets

At the end of each reporting period the Company determines whether there is an evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where an indicator exists and regardless for indefinite life intangible assets and intangible assets not yet available for use, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated.

Where assets do not operate independently of other assets, the recoverable amount of the relevant cash-generating unit (CGU) is estimated.

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal and the value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating unit.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal indicators are considered in subsequent periods for all assets which have suffered an impairment loss.

##### (h). Intangibles

##### Software development

Software development costs are capitalised and recorded at cost until such time the project is complete and costs can be measured reliably. Once completed it is transferred to computer software. Software has a finite life and is carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. It has an estimated useful life of five years. It is assessed annually for impairment.

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# Summary Financial Statements

# Summary Financial Statements

Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

#### (i). Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### (j). Leases

At inception of a contract, the Company assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is considered to contain a lease if it allows the Company the right to control the use of an identified asset over a period of time in return for consideration.

Where a contract or arrangement contains a lease, the Company recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the commencement date of the lease.

A right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost, which is the present value of future lease payments adjusted for any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, plus any make-good obligations and initial direct costs incurred. Lease assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the shorter of their useful life and the lease term. Periodic adjustments are made for any re-measurements of the lease liabilities and for impairment losses.

Lease liabilities are initially measured at the present value of future minimum lease payments, discounted using the Company's incremental borrowing rate if the rate implicit in the lease cannot be readily determined, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate.

Minimum lease payments include fixed payments, amounts expected to be paid under a residual value guarantee, the exercise price of purchase options for which the Company is reasonably certain to exercise and incorporate the Company's expectations of lease extension options.

The lease liability is remeasured when there are changes in future lease payments arising from a change in rates, index or lease terms from exercising an extension or termination option. A corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the lease assets.

Short term leases (lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets (\$10,000 or less) are recognised as incurred as an expense in the statement comprehensive income.

Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 2 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

#### (k). Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Those Cashflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows.

#### On Costs

Employee benefit on-costs are recognised and included in employee benefit liabilities and costs when the employee benefits to which relate are recognised as liabilities.

#### Superannuation

Contributions are made by the Company to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

#### (l). Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

#### (m). Foreign currency translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are initially recorded by applying the exchange rates ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Foreign currency differences arising on retranslation are recognised in profit or loss.

Foreign exchange gains and losses that relate to borrowings are presented in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, within finance costs. All other foreign exchange gains and losses are presented on a net basis within other income or other expenses.

Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other various factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Significant accounting judgements The company has entered into leases of premises, motor vehicles and office equipment as disclosed in Note 10. Management has determined that all of the risks and rewards of ownership of these premises, motor vehicles and equipment remain with the lessor and has therefore classified the leases as operating leases.

Significant accounting estimates and assumptions The key estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of certain assets and liabilities within the next annual reporting period are:

The freehold land and building at Mitcham was independently valued on 30 May 2024 by Charter Keck Cramer. The valuation was based on the market value.

Provisions for employee benefits payable after 12 months from the reporting date are based on future wage and salary levels, attrition rate and periods of service. The amount of these provisions would change should any of these factors change in the next 12 months.

Australian Childhood Foundation

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## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and in hand	2,965,421	4,082,617
	<u>2,965,421</u>	<u>4,082,617</u>

### 5 Trade and other receivables

CURRENT		
Trade receivables	2,178,377	1,508,544
Other receivables	365,326	453,588
	<u>2,543,703</u>	<u>1,962,132</u>

The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivable in the financial statements.

### 6 Inventories

CURRENT		
At cost:		
Finished goods	219,791	233,707
	<u>219,791</u>	<u>233,707</u>

### 7 Financial Assets

CURRENT		
Term deposits	2,122,796	2,058,901
Shares in listed companies - fair value through other comprehensive income	92,833	76,323
	<u>2,215,629</u>	<u>2,135,224</u>

### 8 Other Assets

CURRENT		
Prepayments	378,857	305,719
Security deposits	352,803	340,161
	<u>731,660</u>	<u>645,880</u>

# Summary Financial Statements

# Summary Financial Statements

## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 9 Property, plant and equipment

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Land		
At fair value	2,200,000	2,255,029
Buildings		
At fair value	306,573	521,933
Accumulated depreciation	(306,573)	(297,267)
	-	224,666
Furniture, fixtures and fittings		
At cost	1,306,094	1,123,791
Accumulated depreciation	(1,083,756)	(964,475)
	222,338	159,316
Computer software		
At cost	4,100,326	3,088,592
Accumulated depreciation	(2,588,358)	(1,724,441)
	1,511,968	1,364,151
Leasehold Improvements		
At cost	432,015	400,138
Accumulated depreciation	(388,388)	(343,328)
	43,627	56,810
Work in progress		
At cost	553,488	465,182
	4,531,421	4,525,154

#### Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Land	Buildings	Furniture, Fixtures and Equipments	Computer Software	Leasehold Improvements	Work in progress	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2024							
Balance at the beginning of year	2,255,029	224,666	159,316	1,364,151	56,810	465,182	4,525,154
Additions	-	-	182,305	1,011,733	31,877	88,306	1,314,221
Depreciation expense	-	(9,305)	(119,283)	(863,918)	(45,060)	-	(1,037,564)
Revaluation	(55,029)	(215,361)	-	-	-	-	(270,390)
Balance at the end of the year	2,200,000	-	222,338	1,511,968	43,627	553,488	4,531,421

## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 10 Leases

##### Company as a lessee

The Company has leases over a range of assets including buildings and motor vehicles.

##### Terms and conditions of leases

##### Buildings

The Company leases land and buildings for their corporate offices and other buildings, the leases are generally between 1 - 6 years and some of the leases include a renewal option to allow the Company to renew for up to twice the non-cancellable lease term.

The corporate office lease contains an annual pricing mechanism based on CPI movements at each anniversary of the lease inception.

##### Motor Vehicles

The Company leases vehicles with lease terms varying from 2 - 5 years, the lease payments are fixed during the lease term.

##### Right-of-use assets

	Buildings \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Total \$
Year ended 30 June 2024			
Balance at beginning of year	975,292	494,787	1,470,079
Additions and reassessments	1,695,315	1,659,313	3,354,628
Depreciation charge	(911,762)	(672,830)	(1,584,592)
Balance at end of year	1,758,845	1,481,270	3,240,115

##### Lease liabilities

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities based on contractual undiscounted cash flows is shown in the table below:

	< 1 year \$	1 - 5 years \$	> 5 years \$	Total undiscounted lease liabilities \$	Lease liabilities included in this Statement Of Financial Position \$
2024					
Lease liabilities	1,631,013	1,998,168	-	3,629,181	3,286,004
2023					
Lease liabilities	898,500	720,159	-	1,618,659	1,508,133

## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 10 Leases

##### Extension options

A number of the building leases contain extension options which allow the Company to extend the lease term by up to twice the original non-cancellable period of the lease.

The Company includes options in the leases to provide flexibility and certainty to the Company operations and reduce costs of moving premises and the extension options are at the Company's discretion.

At commencement date and each subsequent reporting date, the Company assesses where it is reasonably certain that the extension options will be exercised.

##### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

The amounts recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income relating to leases where the Company is a lessee are shown below:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	183,108	107,320
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	1,584,592	1,465,717
	1,767,700	1,573,037

#### 11 Trade and Other Payables

CURRENT		
Trade payables	514,629	456,051
GST payable	219,334	155,820
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	1,276,050	1,480,272
	2,010,013	2,092,143

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying value of trade and other payables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

#### 12 Other Liabilities

CURRENT		
Income in advance	1,985,306	2,194,252
	1,985,306	2,194,252

## Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN: 057 044 514

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 13 Employee Benefits

	2024 \$	2023 \$
CURRENT		
Annual leave and long service leave	2,210,708	2,115,727
	2,210,708	2,115,727
NON-CURRENT		
Long service leave	70,599	86,724
	70,599	86,724

#### 14 Reserves

Asset revaluation reserve	1,847,925	2,118,314
Financial assets reserve	36,426	19,916
	1,884,351	2,138,230

The asset revaluation reserve records the revaluation of freehold property at Mitcham.

The financial assets reserve records the revaluation of financial assets classified as fair value through other comprehensive income.

#### 15 Financial Risk Management

Financial assets		
Held at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,965,421	4,082,617
Trade and other receivables	2,543,703	1,962,132
Term deposits	2,122,796	2,058,902
Fair value through Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)		
Shares in listed companies	92,833	76,323
Total financial assets	7,724,753	8,179,974
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	7,281,324	5,794,528
Total financial liabilities	7,281,324	5,794,528

#### 16 Members' Guarantee

In the event of the company being wound up, ordinary members are required to contribute a maximum of \$100 each. The total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up \$2,000, based on 20 current ordinary members (2023: 20 members).

The Company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a Company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$ 100 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Company. At 30 June 2024 the number of members was 20 (2023: 20).



# Get involved

Australian Childhood Foundation relies on the support of the community to continue to provide integral counselling services for children to help them heal from the devastating impact of violence, abuse, and neglect.

You can help transform the lives of children, and assist the Foundation in running prevention programs that help stop violence and abuse before it happens, by making a donation at [childhood.org.au](https://childhood.org.au).

Contact us today to talk about how you can support children:

**Australian Childhood Foundation**  
**PO Box 3335,**  
**Richmond VIC 3121**  
**1300 381 581**  
**[support@childhood.org.au](mailto:support@childhood.org.au)**  
**[childhood.org.au](https://childhood.org.au)**

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.





1300 381 581  
info@childhood.org.au  
**childhood.org.au**



**Australian  
Childhood  
Foundation**