



Annual Report

Financial year 2024/25

childhood.org.au

ACN: 057 044 514



**Australian
Childhood
Foundation**

Contents

Acknowledgements	4
CEO letter	6
Thank you	8
Our impact this year	10
Feature piece 1: It's Never Too Late	12
Feature piece 2: Family domestic violence responses in WA	14
Feature piece 3: Understanding trauma through TECA	16
Feature piece 4: Our Collective Experience Project is guiding change in child protection	18
On Us: Australian Business Coalition for Safeguarding Children	20
Therapeutic Services introduction	22
Therapeutic Services Victoria	23
Breaking the cycle of violence in the home through ARISE	23
Helping young people return to learning with our Navigator program	24
Helping children to heal and rebuild after sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours through our child trauma service	26
Supporting parents to rebuild relationships after family violence with our Walking Together program	28

Therapeutic Services Northern Territory	29
Healing the Spirit in Warlpiri communities	29
Therapeutic Services Australian Capital Territory	30
Supporting therapeutic kinship care in ACT	30
<i>Heartfelt</i> : supporting children and carergivers impacted by domestic and family violence	32
CASE STUDY: <i>Heartfelt</i> - Alex and his family	33
CASE STUDY: <i>Heartfelt</i> - Emily and her family	34
Therapeutic Services New South Wales	35
Supporting children to belong and thrive through <i>OurSPACE NSW</i>	35
CASE STUDY: Building connections with Percival Bee	36
Strengthening community recovery and trauma-responsive practice with <i>ChildSPACE NSW</i>	38
Therapeutic Services Western Australia	40
Supporting children and carers through therapeutic foster care in WA	40
Partnerships driving change and healing in WA	42
Strengthening community recovery and trauma-responsive practice with <i>ChildSPACE NSW</i>	38
Therapeutic Services Tasmania	44
High-intensity wraparound support in Tasmania	44

Safeguarding Children	46
Leading the way in safeguarding practice	46
Bringing Up Great Kids national evaluation	48
Helping parents connect, heal, and raise confident, resilient children with BUGK	48
Knowledge mobilisation and practice	49
Building knowledge to transform the lives of children through professional education	49
Supporting carers to have vital conversations with young people through when yes means YES	52
Advancing research and practice with our Chair of out-of-home care	54
CETC: Supporting children in out-of-home care to grow with safety and care	55
Partnerships	56
Making lasting impact for children through our partnership with Target Australia	56
Creating safer spaces and brighter futures with GPT Group	58
Making giving effortless and impactful with i=change	59
Turning research into real impact for children with Brian M Davis Charitable Fund	60

Media coverage	61
In the spotlight: the Foundation's media coverage in 2024/25	61
The Foundation's advocacy in working with children checks	64
Fundraising	67
Our warmest thank you	68
Financial report	69
Get involved	84





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.



CEO letter

It's hard to believe Australian Childhood Foundation will turn 40 next year.

I still remember the early days, when safeguarding children was a conversation we had to fight to bring to the table. We were a small team with a big vision: to ensure every child in Australia could grow up safe, supported, and free from harm.

That vision has not changed. But the world around us has.

Today, children and young people are navigating an increasingly complex world. From rising rates of abuse and neglect to the impacts of online harm, mental health challenges, family violence, the pressures facing children have never been greater. And for those of us working to protect them, the landscape is shifting too. The not-for-profit sector is grappling with funding uncertainty, policy reform fatigue, and the growing challenge of sustaining impact in a system that is stretched thin.

And yet, despite all this, we continue to make a difference.

This year's report is filled with stories, data, and reflections that speak to the heart of our work. We supported thousands of children and young people through our therapeutic services, helping them heal from trauma so they can have meaningful lives.

We protected more than 1 million children and young people through our *Safeguarding Children* program and engaged 170 businesses across Australia and New Zealand through the *On Us Coalition*.

Our research into online child sexual abuse revealed that reported cases have doubled in recent years. The findings, published in *It's Never Too Late*, call for urgent national coordination, stronger legislation, and specialised trauma support to protect children from digital exploitation.

We also released *More Than a Check*, the second report in *Our Collective Experience* project, which exposed major flaws in Australia's Working with Children Check system (WWCC). Too many adults with WWCCs lack the training or awareness to truly protect children. Through the tireless efforts of survivor advocates such as Emma Hakansson, we successfully convinced the Victorian Government to introduce mandatory training at the point of entry for the WWCC and are calling for a national approach to mandatory safeguarding education.

In the ACT, our *Heartfelt* therapeutic program continues to support children aged 5–12 and their caregivers to heal from the impacts of domestic violence. Expanded in 2024, and now funded through 2026, Heartfelt offers counselling, group therapy, education, and practical support.

In Western Australia, we partnered with Karla Kuliny and YACWA to investigate the experiences of children affected by family and domestic violence.

The numbers are staggering: an estimated 282,300 children living in violent homes. Our work helped catalyse an \$8.2 million investment from the State Government to design and pilot therapeutic responses tailored to children and young people.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary people who make up the Foundation's community. Our staff, partners, volunteers, and supporters bring compassion, expertise, and relentless commitment to everything they do. I am continually inspired by their ability to hold hope in the face of heartbreak, and to turn that hope into action.

I also want to acknowledge our Lived Experience Advisory Committee. Their courage, valuable insight and lived experience continue to shape the work we do in profound ways. It is a privilege to collaborate with them, and we are deeply grateful for the wisdom they bring to the Foundation.

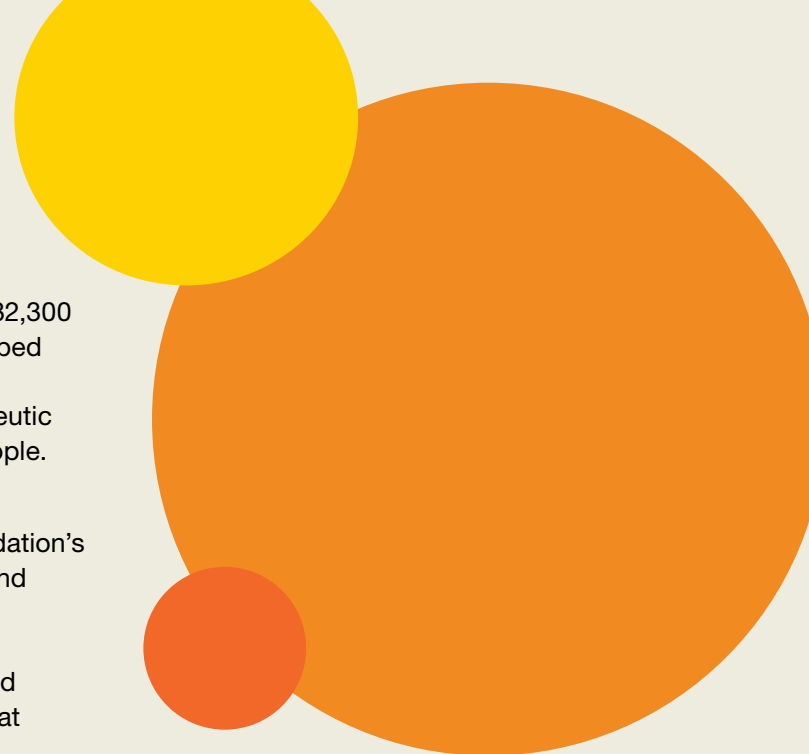
But we can't do it alone. As we look ahead to our 40th year, we know the challenges will continue. The demand for our services will grow. Children will need us more than ever. It is why we are calling on our community of businesses, governments, and everyday Australians, to stand with us.

Your support enables us to reach more children, educate more adults, train more professionals, and advocate more powerfully for systemic change.

To those who have walked this journey with us: thank you. Your belief in our mission has helped us protect tens of thousands of children over the past four decades. To those just joining us: welcome. There has never been a more important time to act.

Together, we can build a future where every child is safe, loved, and able to thrive.

Janise Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Childhood Foundation





Thank you

On behalf of the children, young people and families we support, we extend our sincerest gratitude to all all those who support us.

We are so moved by your generosity. Thanks to direct donations from people just like you, together, we raised \$213,000 this financial year. These funds will change the lives of so many children and young people - including Matt*, whose story we shared with you this year.

As a young child, Matt was a victim of violence and repeatedly exposed to drug and alcohol use in his home. He was often left alone and hungry, in an environment that felt cold, and unsafe. By his teenage years he began to express violent behaviours, leading to concerns for his safety and the safety of others, and he was eventually expelled from school. Worst of all, he began talking about harming himself.

Matt could have easily been written off as a 'bad kid'. Thankfully with patient, specialist care, our therapeutic specialists helped him turn his life around. We're happy to report he even earned a student leadership role in his school.

Research indicates that almost 40% of Australian children are victims themselves of domestic and family violence.¹ They're not just witnessing incidents but live in a constant state of hypervigilance and fear, leaving them unable to rest, play, and thrive. Yet far too often, these children are labelled as 'troublemakers' when in reality they are simply responding to deep pain.

We are so proud of the impact of our work - made possible by our generous donors. Thank you.

1. Australian Child Maltreatment Study, 2023.

* 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.



Our impact this year



170

businesses engaged in child safeguarding initiatives across Australia and New Zealand

An estimated
1 million+

children and young people are protected each year through our *Safeguarding Children* program

30%

increase in referrals to our *Harmful Sexual Behaviour Program and Sexual Assault Services* program

35

children and **50** caregivers were supported through our foster care services in WA in 2024/25



5,318

hours of specialist therapeutic support were provided through our *OurSPACE* program.

4,040

OurSPACE sessions to **330** children and young people in foster and kinship care across New South Wales, including **148** First Nations children and young people

29

children and their primary caregivers were supported through our *Recovery, Individual Safety and Empowerment Family Violence* program to aid healing from family violence.

103

children and young people in Tasmania found support through our *Children's Family Violence Counselling Program* in the first half of 2025.

38

interactive workshops were delivered to more than **1,000** professionals - providing practical, evidence-based guidance to help them better understand and support children and young people impacted by trauma

70

training packages were delivered through our training and consultancy programs, tailored to meet the specific needs of **60** organisations

65

children and young people in out-of-home care in the ACT received specialist, trauma-responsive support from our Therapeutic Services team.

65

care teams in the ACT received clinical leadership and support, with interventions implemented to empower carers and families while assisting other professionals.

37

children and their caregivers in the ACT were supported through our *Heartfelt* program.

10

Trauma Expression and Connection Assessment trainings and five reflective practice sessions were delivered with participating organisations

215

community members were supported by *ChildSPACE NSW* through workshops, training, and secondary consultations.

It's Never Too Late

The internet can be a place of connection - but for too many children, it has become a site of hidden harm and exploitation.



With a rise in referrals to support children and young people affected by online child sexual abuse and exploitation, often initiated through digital platforms, with the support of the Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation, we undertook research to explore this growing area of concern.

In what is the first report in our It's Never Too Late series, we aimed to deepen understanding of the complex online risk landscape and map a path towards safer futures for children and young people. Based on extensive research and expert input, the report identifies Australia's legislative, policy, and service responses to online abuse, alongside tracking of community attitudes over the past 20 years. It also provides evidence on the prevalence of online child abuse and reviews Australia's current responses, addressing terminology challenges to improve clarity and collaboration across sectors.

The impacts of online child sexual exploitation and abuse extend beyond the digital world, inflicting immediate and long-term trauma that remains largely unrecognised and under-supported. With the digital world deeply integrated into children's lives, risks evolve rapidly, challenging parents, carers, and experts to keep pace.

It occurs across different modes, mechanisms, and motivations. Preventing and responding to online child sexual abuse and exploitation requires a clear and distinct approach that is separate from, but linked to, other forms of child experiences including bullying, internet usage, and childhood development. The nature of online child sexual abuse and exploitation is also constantly evolving.

Reports of online child sexual abuse and exploitation in Australia are increasing significantly (doubling from 17,400 reports in the 2018-19 financial year to 40,223 in 2022-23). Recent global figures suggest that there has been an 87 per cent increase in reported online child sexual abuse material since 2019. For those who commit online child sexual abuse or exploitation, there are no consistent characteristics - however, they are more likely to be male.

Online abuse and exploitation impacts children and young people across all ages, genders, and demographic groups - but those who have experienced other trauma and vulnerability are at heightened risk. These include being a victim of cyberbullying, parenting or family problems, experiencing mental illness, having a disability, or living in out-of-home care. Victim-survivors of online child sexual abuse have poorer health and psychosocial outcomes, experience heightened stigma, and the potential for re-traumatisation. Without appropriate support, the lifelong impacts of online child sexual abuse and exploitation are significant and should not be underestimated.

The report highlights the need to address online child sexual abuse and exploitation as a distinct issue, separate from, but related to, traditional abuse frameworks. The digital nature of this abuse brings unique challenges, including the indefinite circulation of abuse materials, ease of remote grooming, and offender anonymity.

This complexity underscores the need for a national framework that specifically tackles online child sexual abuse and exploitation, recognising its unique psychological and social impacts on victims and the specific risks technology-facilitated abuse presents. Such a framework would augment the world leading efforts of the eSafety Commissioner and Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation, and would foster improved collaboration between agencies - law enforcement, digital platforms, government bodies, and support services - ensuring a synchronised response that aligns with the unique requirements of the digital environment.

Concurrently for parents, there is a requirement for a dual focus on fostering resilience and awareness, while being prepared to intervene or support when risks arise. Parents need resources that are not only informative but also practical, helping them improve their own digital literacy, and understand the nuances of online risks, as well as how to discuss these effectively with their children from an early age. Further, there is an urgent need to develop support services that address the ongoing trauma associated with the repeated sharing of abuse materials, offering specialised trauma services for victim-survivors of online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Online child sexual exploitation and abuse is a persistent and evolving threat. With the internet's permanent and ever-changing nature, ongoing research, strengthened policy and practice, increased parental awareness, and compassionate support for victims and survivors must remain a national priority.

87%
increase in reported
online child sexual abuse
material since 2019



A stylized illustration of a woman with dark hair and a child with brown hair, both with simple facial features, hugging each other. They are enclosed within a large, light purple circle. Surrounding this central circle are several other circles in yellow, dark blue, and green, creating a layered, abstract background.

Family domestic violence responses in WA

The Foundation recognises children and young people as victim-survivors of family and domestic violence (FDV) *in their own right*. Children and young people have unique experiences of FDV that are interconnected, but different to those of the adults in their lives. For communities to respond effectively to children and young people affected by FDV, there must be greater understanding of how power and control is used within families to help inform service design and system reform.

In 2024 the Western Australian Department of Communities commissioned the Foundation, in collaboration with Karla Kuliny Aboriginal Organisation and the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) to gain greater insight into the experiences and support options for children and young people affected by FDV in Western Australia.

The Australian Child Maltreatment Study 2023 (ACMS 2023) ¹ told us that the most common form of child maltreatment in Australia is experiencing FDV. Approximately 4 in 10 (39.6%) of all Australians over the age of 16 years reported experiencing FDV during childhood. This percentage increases to 43.8 per cent for young people aged between 16 and 24 years. In families where children experience FDV, there is a much higher chance they are also suffering other forms of maltreatment such as emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect.

Considering data from the ACMS 2023 and population data from the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA's Profile of Children and Young People in WA - 2022 an estimated 282,300 Western Australian children and young people under 18 today are living in homes where one or more of their family members is using violent, coercive, and controlling behaviours toward them, their siblings, their other parent (primarily their mother), other family members, and/or family pets.

A solid blue circle located at the top of the page.

State Government data also told us that First Nations children and young people are disproportionately impacted by FDV and subsequent interventions by statutory agencies such as child protection, police, and the justice system.

This project was supported by a sector reference group, including Western Australian FDV specialists and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and a youth reference group, comprising seven young people with lived experience of family, domestic, and sexual violence recruited and engaged by YACWA. In addition to our consultation processes, our report informed responses to children and young people affected by FDV across various jurisdictions, with a focus on key themes, strategies, and promising initiatives.

Our research found that while services and professionals across the WA FDV sector are highly motivated to support children and young people through the delivery of many innovative and effective programs and services, they are:

- Not available in all regions
- Long waiting lists where available
- Primarily focused on adults as primary service users
- Frequently reliant on one-off grants and/or short-term philanthropic funding sources;
- Out of reach for many in regional and remote areas, particularly children and young people in remote Aboriginal Communities; and
- Frequently not attuned to the needs of young people, particularly those who seek help independently from their parents and carers.

Our report called for reform, including:

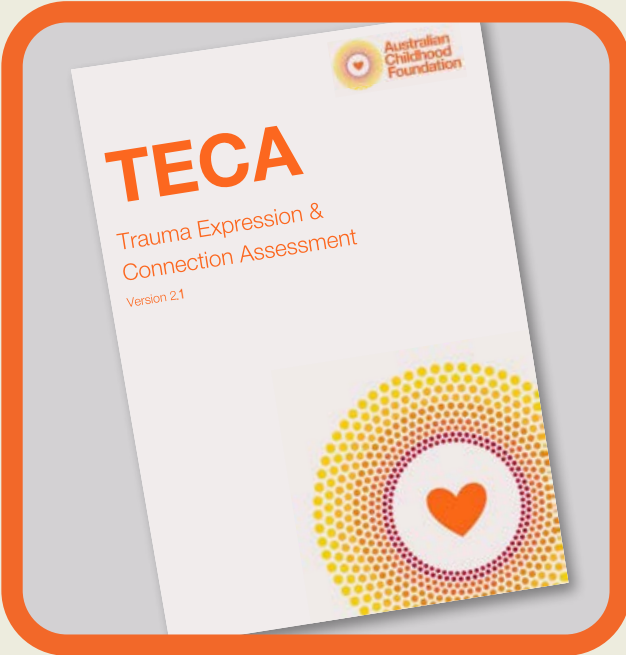
- Increasing the visibility of children and young people across the FDV response system
- Developing child and youth-specific services
- Expanding access to healing and recovery programs
- Supporting First Nations-led prevention and healing initiatives
- Deepening understanding of young people's use of violence
- Building workforce capability across the sector

Importantly, the report was instrumental in increased State investment in services for children and young people affected by FDV. In December 2024, the Western Australian State Government announced an additional \$8.2 million to design and pilot new therapeutic responses tailored to the needs of children and young people impacted by FDV. Insights from the report have informed the design and procurement of these new services.

A solid red circle located at the bottom right of the page.

Understanding trauma through TECA

Understanding trauma is about seeing beyond behaviour. Children and young people who have experienced trauma often communicate distress through actions that can appear as aggression, withdrawal, or avoidance. What looks like ‘misbehaviour’ is often a nervous system response to feeling unsafe.



In 2024/25, we provided training in our Trauma expression and connection assessment (TECA), a practical tool designed by the Foundation to help participants recognise, understand, and respond to these trauma expressions.

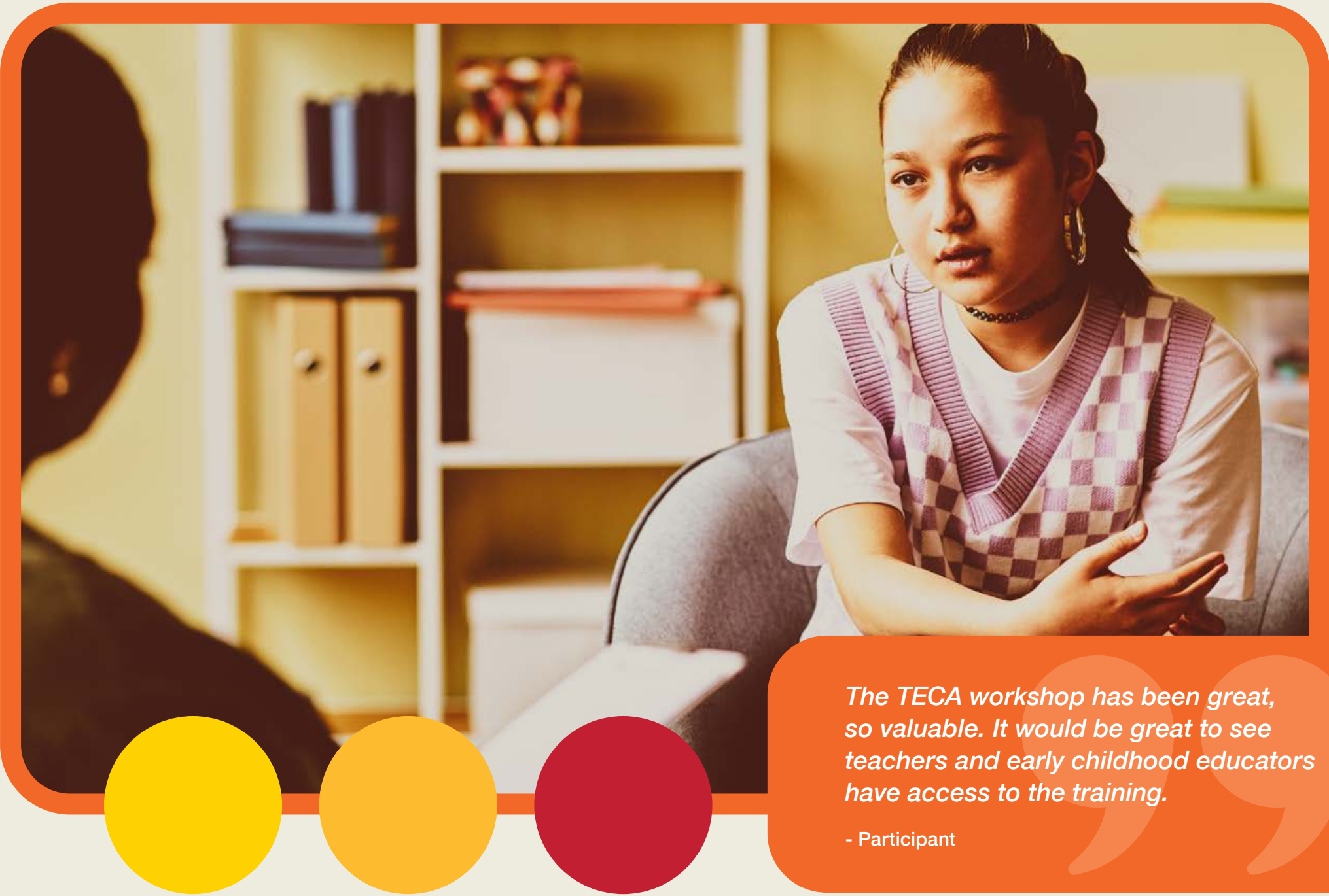
Grounded in relational and trauma-responsive practice, TECA supports emotional safety, connection, and healing for children and young people. The course, which is open to anyone supporting children, including educators, carers, youth and community workers, and counsellors, does not require a background in clinical practice or expertise.

Through five short modules, participants explore what trauma is, how it affects behaviour, and how children express distress through survival responses such as fight, flight, freeze, and fawn.

Using the TECA tool, participants are guided to assess these responses and match therapeutic strategies that promote co-regulation, calm distress, and support healing. Grounded in trauma-responsive practice, TECA emphasises the power of safe, attuned relationships, providing practical interventions that help children feel safe, understood, and supported.

10
TECA training courses
were delivered in 2024/25
alongside five reflective
practice sessions with
participating organisations.

In 2024/25, 10 TECA training courses were delivered alongside five reflective practice sessions with participating organisations. We worked with a range of services, including five out-of-home care and family support organisations, four childcare and school settings, three therapeutic services, and one legal service. These sessions strengthened the confidence and knowledge of adults supporting children, empowering them to respond to trauma in ways that foster connection, emotional safety, and healing.



The TECA workshop has been great, so valuable. It would be great to see teachers and early childhood educators have access to the training.

- Participant

Our Collective Experience Project is guiding change in child protection

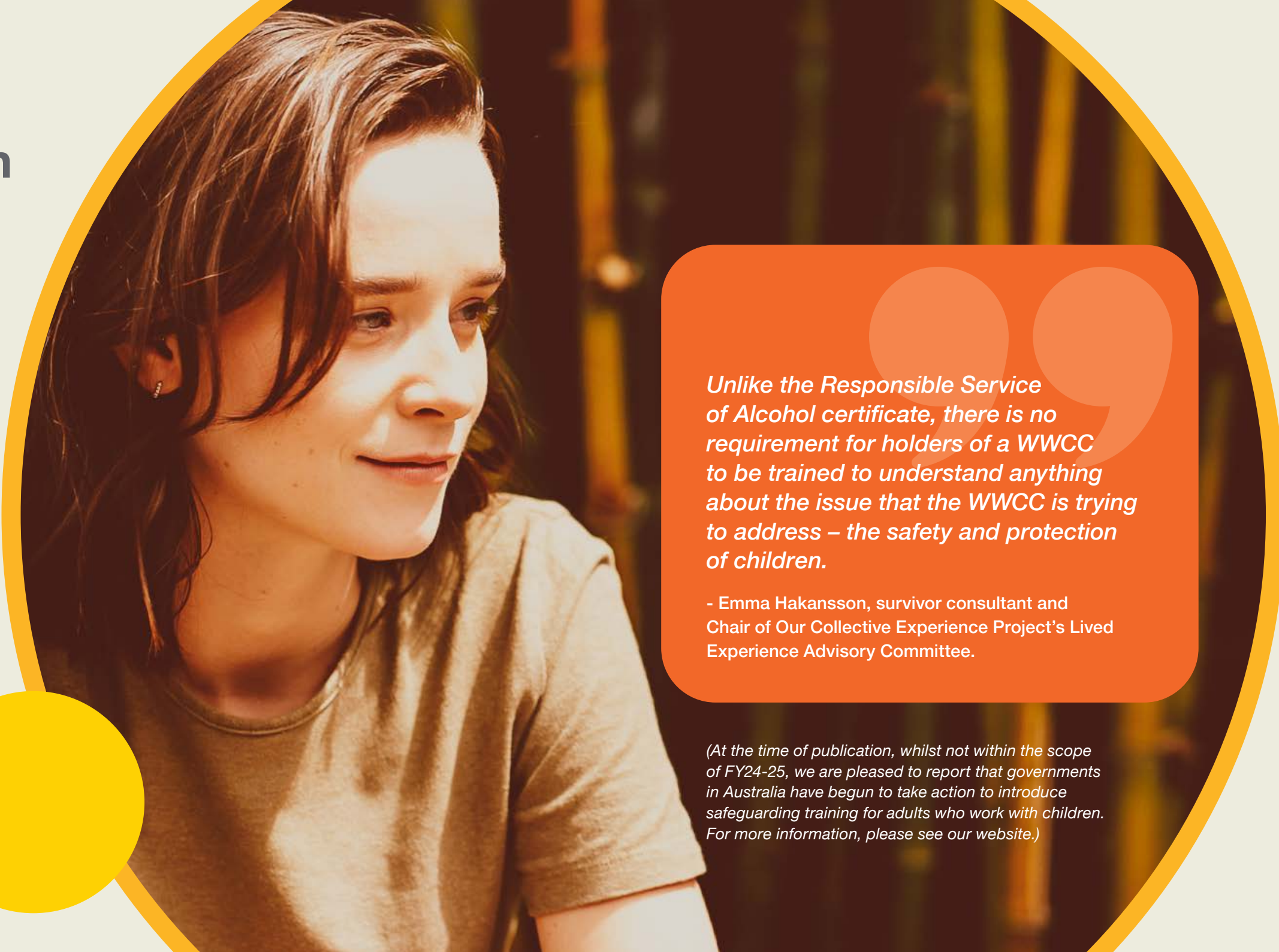
People who work with children must know how to protect them. Right now, they simply don't.

Our Collective Experience Project brings together the voices of adults with lived experience of child sexual abuse with decision-makers who can help children today. This long-term project, guided by our Lived Experience Advisory Committee has this year seen further development of research, and critical advocacy outcomes in 2024/25.

In February 2025, we released our second report, 'More than a check: Enhancing the Working with Children Check scheme to strengthen the safety net around children', informed by research undertaken with almost 360 adult survivors of child sexual abuse and the people who cared for them. The purpose of this report was to examine existing Working with Children Check (WWCC) schemes and the potential role that mandatory training could have in improving the protection of children. The report provides an overview of what WWCCs are, how they are managed across different states and territories, the findings of previous reviews of the WWCC schemes, and a timeline of media reporting that points to recent WWCC failures.

Acknowledging that the existing WWCC schemes across Australia are imperfect; they are, nonetheless, a critical safeguard for children and young people across jurisdictions in Australia. However, what this report demonstrated is the stark limitations of the WWCC system in its current format. In order to build the capacity of WWCC holders to know more and do more regarding children and their safety, we must ensure that all adults working and volunteering with children are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children and young people safe.

With available training presenting inconsistencies, the major focus appears to be on educating learners about the Child Safe Standard compliance rather than a developmental approach to supporting and protecting children. Likewise, these training programs are not available to all WWCC holders and lack principles of co-design with people who have lived experience of child abuse.



Unlike the Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate, there is no requirement for holders of a WWCC to be trained to understand anything about the issue that the WWCC is trying to address – the safety and protection of children.

- Emma Hakansson, survivor consultant and Chair of Our Collective Experience Project's Lived Experience Advisory Committee.

(At the time of publication, whilst not within the scope of FY24-25, we are pleased to report that governments in Australia have begun to take action to introduce safeguarding training for adults who work with children. For more information, please see our website.)



This report also highlights the significant number of adults working or volunteering with children who were in a position to protect a child from further abuse but did nothing. It must be acknowledged that there are many adults today who hold WWCCs who are, have, or will abuse children in their care. The tactics used to conceal their abuse and the silencing shame they impose on the children they abuse make criminal record checks, in many circumstances, redundant. As such, it is incumbent on all WWCC holders to understand the risks that others in the environments within which they work or volunteer may pose to children. By taking a national approach to mandatory education through the WWCC application process, we can address the limitations and challenges of the current approaches.

On Us: Australian Business Coalition for Safeguarding Children

Empowering businesses to protect children through On Us: Australian Business Coalition for Safeguarding Children

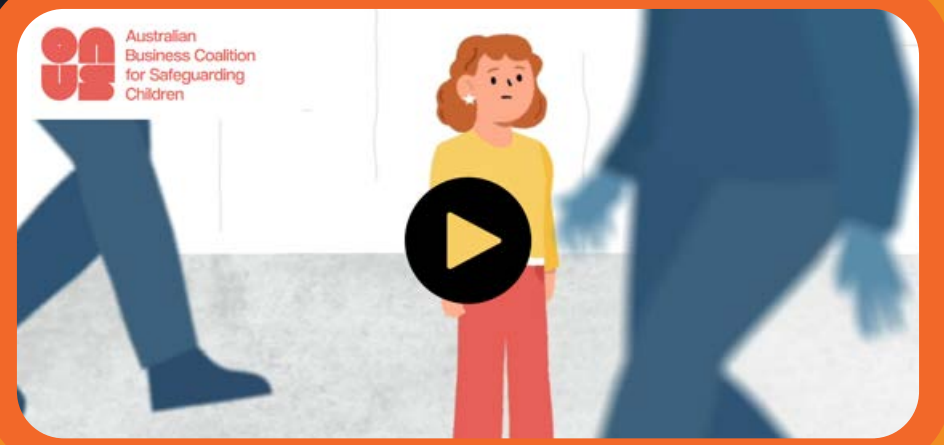
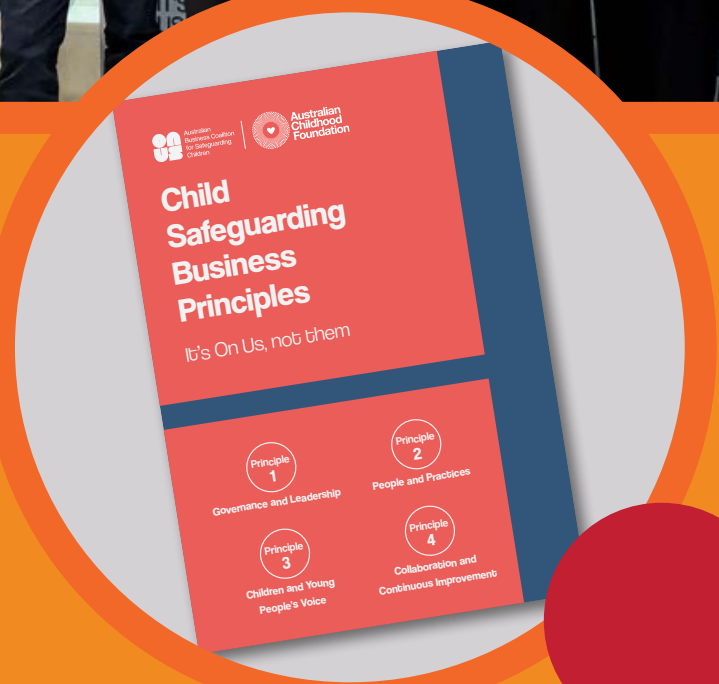
Accessible to all businesses across Australia, the Coalition supports organisations to embed child safeguarding into their operations, policies, and culture.

In November 2024, we launched the *Child safeguarding business principles* at the annual Coalition event in Sydney - the first framework of its kind in Australia - providing a clear guide for businesses to identify risks and protect children across their products, services, people, supply chains, and operations.

In May 2025, we introduced the *Child safeguarding in business self-assessment tool* at the first Business Summit in Melbourne, helping businesses understand their current safeguarding practices and take practical steps to strengthen child safety.

We also partnered with Tony's Chocolonely to deliver a Masterclass on ethical business practices, inspiring members to embed children's rights at the heart of their operations.

In 2024/25, the Coalition reached over 150 businesses, with 40 completing the self-assessment tool, equipping them with the knowledge and strategies to protect children in their workplaces and communities.



150+
businesses engaged in child safeguarding initiatives in 2024/25

Therapeutic Services

Introduction

Healing starts in relationships. For children who’ve been hurt, safe, consistent, and caring adults - whether counsellors, therapists, or carers - make recovery possible.

Effective therapy isn’t about fixing children; it’s about helping them reclaim their sense of self and worth. Our therapeutic care is grounded in showing children and young people that change and healing are possible.

Our services extend across the country, reaching children and young people in families, foster care, kinship care, and residential care. Using specialised, trauma transformative practices, we focus on preventing avoidable harm; responding in ways that restore safety, dignity, and connection; changing systems so the same harms don’t recur.

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. Together, we are creating pathways of healing and hope - so every child can feel secure and safe, find hope and healing, and build a brighter future.



Therapeutic Services Victoria

Breaking the cycle of violence in the home through ARISE

Every young person deserves a chance to break free from violence and build a safe, connected future. For young people at risk of, or already engaging in, violence in the home, the Adolescent relationships integrating safety and empathy (ARISE) program offers vital trauma-informed support.

ARISE works with young people and their families for up to six months, providing individualised, flexible support to address patterns of violence. The program supports young people who are at risk of, or already using, violence in the home - behaviours that may increase their risk of homelessness, youth justice involvement, disengagement from education, or mental health vulnerability.

It also supports family members or carers who may experience heightened frequency or severity of family violence, helping to restore safety, wellbeing, and connection within the home.

Delivered with partners across Victoria, ARISE operates in the Ovens Murray and Goulburn regions and offers outreach services from offices in Albury and Shepparton.

The program includes group sessions for young people and their parents or carers, helping to rebuild relationships, foster understanding, and develop practical strategies for managing behaviour and emotional regulation. Support is also provided to foster and kinship carers, ensuring all carers can respond safely and confidently to the young people in their care.

A key part of the program is creating moments of hope and inspiration. In Goulburn, one of our therapeutic specialists facilitated a meeting between a high-profile sportsperson and a 16-year-old participant. Having previously experienced social isolation and trauma-related high-risk behaviour, the young person found this meeting an important source of mentorship and encouragement. Following this engagement, he returned to football as a way of connecting with peers, taking control of his life, and, most notably, did not engage in further violent behaviour.

Through compassionate, trauma-informed support, ARISE helps young people and their families heal, rebuild relationships, and take steps towards a brighter, safer future.



Helping young people return to learning with our Navigator program

Education is more than learning; it is a pathway to opportunity, independence, and hope. For young people who have experienced trauma and disengaged from school, the journey back to learning can feel overwhelming.

The Foundation supports this journey through the therapeutic component of the Navigator program, in outer Gippsland. The program is a Victorian Department of Education and Training initiative, delivered locally in partnership with the Foundation and Uniting, who provide case management, alongside our provision of therapeutic support.

Since 2021, our therapeutic specialists have worked with families, schools, and local partners to provide trauma-informed support for young people aged 12-17. This work has evolved from conducting Educational needs assessments to offering short-term family support and therapeutic parenting - particularly important in regions where services are limited.

Parents receive guidance on strengthening family relationships, setting healthy boundaries and routines, building confidence, and understanding adolescent development. This focus has proven critical in helping parents feel resourced, capable, and supported as their children reconnect with education.

Alongside this direct family support, the program also extends to schools in the region, offering training and trauma-informed classroom coaching. This additional layer ensures that not only young people, but also their learning environments, are equipped to support healing, resilience, and re-engagement with education.



You always made me feel comfortable and assured me that I was a good parent, something that I needed to hear. Talking with you made me realise that I had the strength to do what I need to do in regard to my son. I am so proud of him returning to mainstream schooling. That is due to your help... I feel like a parent again.

- Parent

29
children and their primary caregivers
were supported by RISE in 2024/25
to heal from family violence.

41%
identified as First Nations.
Group work in local schools reached
a further **13** young people.

“Frank thought of you today. I asked him to do some schoolwork and he very dramatically put his head in his little hands and said, “I don’t see [my counsellor] often enough for this!” I finally have the orders I’ve been seeking. Frank is safe under the new orders and everything is going well. Thanks again for all your help.

- Parent

Supporting children and families to heal from family violence through RISE

Every child deserves a childhood free from fear, where they can feel safe, supported, and hopeful for the future.

Delivered as an outreach service across the Ovens Murray region in North East Victoria, the Recovery individual safety and empowerment family violence program (RISE), in partnership with Junction Support Services, works with children, young people, families, and adults living in secure or insecure housing, living independently, or who remain in contact with perpetrators of violence. The program is inclusive of First Nations and culturally diverse communities, LGBTIQA+ communities, people with disabilities, and older adults.

Through RISE, we offer individualised and flexible support to help children and adults make sense of their experiences, strengthen relationships, and build resilience. Through therapeutic sessions, children are guided to process their experiences safely, while adults receive guidance and empowerment to navigate services and ensure ongoing safety for their families.

One example of the program’s impact involved Frank*, a six-year-old, and his mother Julie*. Therapeutic support helped Frank make meaning of his experiences, strengthened his relationship with his mother, and empowered Julie to navigate the service system and protect her child’s safety. Recognising Frank’s need for social connection, the counsellor supported him to enroll in Scouts, which he is now loving.

Ryan is now in a much happier and more settled space and as a parent I cannot be prouder of their development. The Senior Child & Family Counsellor was instrumental in this and her genuine nature to support, develop, and where necessary challenge Ryan, is a very large part in Ryan not only being alive today, but also in Ryan being healthy, content and engaged in life. I am thankful that when these concerns arose that people such as the Senior Child & Family Counsellor came into our life to provide the outcomes achieved, as a healthy Ryan today would never have been possible otherwise.*

- Parent

Helping children to heal and rebuild after sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours through our child trauma service

Sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours can deeply affect a child or young person, disrupting their development, sense of safety, and relationships. The impacts can be long-lasting, requiring compassionate, trauma-informed support to help them heal and rebuild trust.

Delivered from our Shepparton office and reaching children and families across the Goulburn Valley, our Child trauma service provides specialised support through the *Harmful sexual behaviour* program and *Sexual assault services* program, helping young people recover from trauma, rebuild safety, and restore trust in their relationships. We do this by supporting children, young people, parents, carers, and families through individual, dyadic, and family counselling, as well as therapeutic group programs.

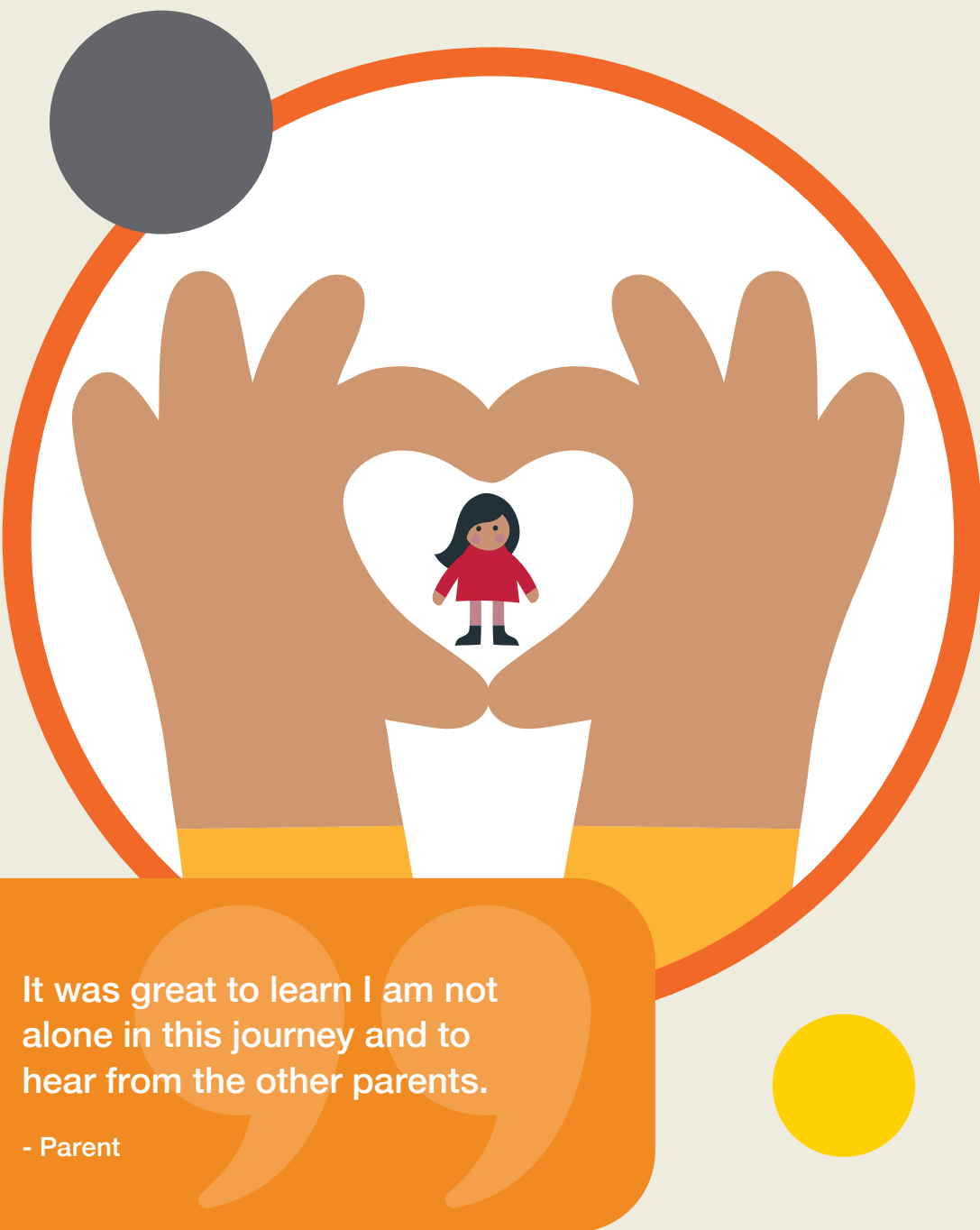
Working closely with schools, child protection, police, and broader support networks, our therapeutic specialists work to ensure young people are safe, supported, and able to rebuild healthy relationships. The program caters to children and young people of all ages, including those under 10 who display harmful sexual behaviours, and is inclusive of First Nations children, culturally diverse communities, and children in out-of-home care.

Demand for these services continues to grow. As of June 2025, there was almost a 30% increase in referrals compared to June 2024. Of the young people on the waitlist, 28% identified as First Nations, 1 in 4 resided in out-of-home care, 86% had involvement with child protection, and 39% were subject to investigations due to harmful sexual behaviours.

Our trauma-informed approaches empower children and families to make sense of their experiences, develop coping strategies, and strengthen relationships, supporting them on the path to healing and safety.

30%

increase in referrals to our
Harmful sexual behaviour
program and Sexual assault
services program between
June 2024 and June 2025



It was great to learn I am not alone in this journey and to hear from the other parents.

- Parent

Supporting parents to rebuild relationships after family violence with our *Walking Together* program

Parenting adolescents who have experienced family violence can be challenging, complex, and demanding. Many parents and carers face uncertainty and isolation as they navigate their children's behaviour.

The *Walking Together* program, delivered by the Foundation in partnership with Uniting and EACH, provides trauma-informed support to families affected by adolescent violence in the home.

Facilitated through the *Walking Together* program, *Bringing Up Great Kids - Parenting adolescents after family violence* is a six-week parenting group developed by the Foundation. It offers parents and carers a reflective and supportive space to explore the challenges of parenting adolescents impacted by trauma and family violence, strengthen relationships, and build confidence in their parenting approach.

Participants, caring for young people presenting with externalising behaviours, explored key themes including safety, adolescent brain development, communication and boundaries, reclaiming parenting values, and supporting adolescent identity. Experiential tools such as the *stop, pause, play* framework and self-compassion journaling encouraged parents to reconnect with their values and enhance their reflective capacity.

The program delivered meaningful outcomes. Participants reported increased understanding of how trauma affects adolescent behaviour, greater confidence in supporting their young person, and stronger connections with both their adolescents and other parents in the group.

The group fostered healing through shared experiences, validation, and practical strategies - helping parents rebuild relationships with their adolescents after family violence. The success of this program highlights the importance of ongoing therapeutic and reflective spaces for caregivers - a need now supported by the Victorian government's decision to provide ongoing funding for programs addressing adolescent violence in the home.

Therapeutic Services Northern Territory

Healing the Spirit in Warlpiri communities

Healing the Spirit is about strengthening families through culture, knowledge, and connection.

Since 2018, we have been working with the Marlpa Jungu Jintangka early years reference group and the Yurrampi Child and Family Centre in Yuendumu to share conversations about trauma, healing, and how best to support children and families.

Marlpa Jungu Jintangka, with support from the Foundation and Yurrampi, created and distributed more than 50 healing kits across Warlpiri communities. These kits are helping service providers build on their understanding of trauma, grow emotional literacy, and support safe, nurturing relationships for children.

The next chapter is even more powerful. Together, we are developing a Warlpiri parenting program based on *Bringing Up Great Kids*, delivered as a two-day camp on country. One day will focus on traditional parenting knowledge and practices, the other on *Bringing Up Great Kids* concepts and activities - honouring both culture and evidence-based approaches. Two programs have already been run with leaders and carers in Yuendumu, with feedback guiding how the program is shaped to reflect the voices of the community.

This program is about more than parenting - it's about pride, confidence, and connection. It empowers parents to trust in their strengths, embed cultural wisdom, and nurture the relationships that help children grow strong and safe. Over time, it will be delivered by community facilitators, ensuring it continues to belong to the Warlpiri people for generations to come.



65

children and young people in out-of-home care in the ACT received specialist, trauma-responsive support from our therapeutic services team in 2024/25

39

children and young people received direct therapeutic interventions, including individual and dyadic therapy tailored to their needs

65

care teams received clinical leadership over the past year, with interventions that empowered carers and families while supporting other professionals

Therapeutic Services Australian Capital Territory

Supporting therapeutic kinship care in ACT

Our *Therapeutic Kinship Care* program is grounded in a deep respect for kinship carers and the crucial role they play in shaping the lives of children. Kinship care is more than a placement - it is a lifeline of cultural identity, safety, and connection. It offers children a sense of belonging, familiarity, and stability during times of profound upheaval. Remaining within family, culture, and community not only reduces trauma, but also actively supports healing and long-term wellbeing.

This model of care also provides kinship carers with meaningful opportunities for personal growth and a deepened sense of purpose. Many carers speak to the profound rewards - enhancing parenting capabilities, strengthening family ties, and supporting children to thrive in environments that honour who they are and where they come from.

From the outset, the team has focused on building a collaborative, connected service that reflects the values we uphold in our therapeutic practice. Together, we have established core administrative and procedural foundations to create a service that is sustainable, effective, and shaped by lived experience and collective wisdom.

In 2024/25, our therapeutic services team provided specialist, trauma-responsive support to 65 children and young people in out-of-home care in ACT, placed with Barnardos or Oz Child. The focus of this work has been on building, supporting, and strengthening relationships around children and young people, promoting their wellbeing, and supporting placement stability. Direct therapeutic interventions were delivered to 39 children and young people, including individual and dyadic therapy tailored to each child's needs.

Our care team approach involves all the important people supporting the child or young person. Over the past year, we provided clinical leadership to 65 care teams and implemented interventions that empower carers and families while supporting other professionals. The team also delivered secondary consultations to caseworkers, schools, and other services to strengthen their trauma-informed practice.

Our therapeutic services team supported the professional development of other agencies in ACT, delivering three specialised training sessions to new staff at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, providing trauma-responsive care training for staff and carers from Barnardos and Oz Child, and offering regular clinical consultations to caseworkers to strengthen their practice.

Culturally safe practice remains central to the work. Active participation in NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation events, and Sorry Day reflections have deepened our understanding and unity. Our dedication to ceremony, reflection, and truth-telling continues to guide our approach, reinforcing respect, healing, and justice at every step.

Carers bring knowledge, resilience, and lived experience that are foundational to this work. Their insights continue to shape our practice, and we remain committed to developing tools and systems that amplify their voices and honour their contribution.

Although new to out-of-home care in the ACT, the program is already building a reputation as safe, reliable, and respectful. Every week, new families are welcomed, and as the program grows, we remain committed to delivering care with authenticity, knowledge, and heart - supporting carers and children towards brighter, more connected futures.

[The Foundation's] genuine allyship of First Nations people is not just visible - it is felt.

- First Nations team member



37

children and their caregivers were supported by *Heartfelt* throughout 2024/25 through therapeutic assessments, counselling and group work, and case management

***Heartfelt*: supporting children and caregivers impacted by domestic and family violence**

For children who have experienced domestic and family violence, safety, connection, and understanding are vital to healing. *Heartfelt* is our therapeutic program for children aged 5-12 years and their caregivers, offering the support they need to rebuild trust, confidence, and wellbeing.

In mid-2024, the pilot program was expanded to provide a wider range of therapeutic supports for up to six months, including counselling, separate therapeutic groups for mothers and children, psychoeducational support for caregivers, and case management. Childcare and transport are also provided to remove barriers and ensure families can fully engage in the program.

As part of this support, families participate in a therapeutic assessment that identifies key areas of concern, sets tailored goals, and includes a comprehensive risk assessment and safety plan. These activities have delivered key outcomes: strengthened family safety, increased caregiver understanding of the impact of domestic and family violence on children, improved caregiver confidence in responding to children's needs, stronger structural supports, such as housing, financial support, and secondary referrals, and responsive therapeutic relationships for children.

In June 2025, the *Heartfelt* program was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the DavenCare Foundation for the Heartfelt Bookworms project. The grant enables children to read with their caregivers and provides books with specific therapeutic content for counselling sessions, enriching both learning and healing.

The *Heartfelt* contract has now been extended until September 2026. During this time, the program will be evaluated to determine its effectiveness, scope, and future funding - ensuring that this vital support continues to help children and families impacted by domestic and family violence grow stronger, safer, and more resilient.

CASE STUDY

***Heartfelt* - Alex and his family**

Seven-year-old Alex* was referred to the *Heartfelt* program by his family's children, youth, and families worker. He lived with his mother, Jessica, and his three-year-old sister, and had experienced domestic and family violence from two of Jessica's partners since birth, including an incident that resulted in Jessica's hospitalisation and the perpetrators' incarceration.

A *Heartfelt* therapeutic specialist conducted a therapeutic assessment for Alex with Jessica, while a therapeutic case manager began supporting the family. Jessica had a history of childhood abuse, experiences of violence from multiple partners, and mental health challenges. During the assessment, she found it difficult to focus on Alex, often reflecting on her own experiences. The specialist and case manager worked closely together, ensuring Jessica could discuss her needs in case management sessions, while therapeutic specialist sessions provided Alex with a safe space to be seen, heard, and understood.

The assessment identified Alex as a vulnerable child with high levels of need. He was diagnosed with global developmental delay and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, struggled with reading, social relationships, and maintaining routines, and displayed physically aggressive behaviours that reflected his exposure to trauma. Initially, Jessica had limited understanding of how violence had affected Alex, attributing his behaviours to undiagnosed conditions rather than his lived experiences.

The case manager worked with Jessica on practical and safety-focused goals, including supporting her housing application to relocate to a safer property and exploring safety measures for the family. The case manager also facilitated access to victims' support, legal advice, and programs for Alex and his sister, including speech therapy and holiday programs.

Therapeutic specialist sessions offered Alex a calm, consistent, and engaging environment where he could express his emotions without fear. Initially, Alex demonstrated challenging behaviours, reflecting patterns he had learned at home, but with consistent boundaries and attuned support, he gradually began to explore and process his experiences safely.



Over time, Jessica gained greater insight into Alex's emotional world and the impact of his experiences. She began to recognise the importance of structure, routines, and positive engagement in supporting Alex and his sister's wellbeing. With *Heartfelt* support, she consented to participate in counselling herself, enabling her to reflect more deeply on her parenting and the family's needs.

By the conclusion of *Heartfelt* support, Alex had a space where his emotions were acknowledged and validated, helping him build trust, safety, and resilience. Jessica had developed a deeper understanding of her children's needs and her own role in supporting them, and was connected with ongoing therapeutic supports.

Alex expressed feelings of anger and sadness at the end of his time with *Heartfelt*, but also a desire to continue engaging therapeutically, highlighting the trust and connection he had developed. Through the program, both Alex and Jessica experienced a therapeutic process that validated their experiences, strengthened their relationship, and equipped them to access ongoing support into the future.

CASE STUDY

Heartfelt - Emily and her family

Eight-year-old Emily* was referred to the Heartfelt program by her mother Sophie's domestic violence support worker. From infancy, Emily experienced significant complex trauma, spending much of her early years isolated due to her father's use of violence, her parents' substance misuse, and the family's involvement in unsafe environments.

When Emily was three, she and her older sibling Liam* entered foster care for over a year before being restored to Sophie's care after she separated from their father. There was no ongoing contact with the father, and Sophie worked hard to maintain her sobriety and create a nurturing home for both children.

A Heartfelt therapeutic specialist completed an assessment with Sophie, while a therapeutic case manager began providing support. The assessment highlighted that Emily had limited opportunities to form secure attachments, with her tendency to internalise and withdraw suggesting an avoidant attachment style.

Sophie shared that when Liam (now 11) is dysregulated, his behaviours become very challenging and sometimes physically unsafe for both her and Emily. In these moments, Sophie often prioritised immediate safety, which left Emily with little opportunity to express her distress or receive co-regulation from an adult.

The specialist recommended dyadic therapeutic sessions for Sophie and Emily, focusing on strengthening their bond and creating a safe space for Emily to explore and express her emotions.

In early sessions, Emily's fear of Liam was a recurring theme in her play. The family appeared to live in a state of heightened vigilance, with Sophie often appeasing Liam to avoid his outbursts.

Sophie told Emily that they must keep her therapeutic sessions private from Liam, fearing he might become angry or destructive if he found out. Crafts and drawings from sessions were hidden away. In one session, Sophie described needing Emily to run and lock herself in the bathroom when Liam was angry at home, a strategy to keep her safe in moments of crisis.

While Sophie's love for Emily was clear, her fear-driven responses to Liam often meant Emily's needs were unintentionally overlooked. With support, Sophie began recognising Emily's needs more clearly, reflecting on her own responses, and practising setting boundaries with both children. Sophie also acknowledged that she held Emily to different standards than Liam, finding it harder to tolerate challenging behaviours from her.

Emily initially struggled to engage in structured activities, unused to having attention focused solely on her. The specialist introduced visual schedules, sensory play, and nurturing experiences, while coaching Sophie to validate Emily's feelings and create conversations about her inner world. At home, Sophie reinforced these changes with small rituals like afternoon tea or movie time together, showing Emily that she was seen and valued.

Over time, Sophie grew in confidence and insight, recognising how Emily's needs had been overshadowed by Liam's. With support from the therapeutic team, Emily began to express her emotions more freely and engage in play with joy and creativity. She began referring to her sessions as "my special time", a reflection of the safety and connection she was building with her mother and within the therapeutic space.

Therapeutic Services New South Wales

Supporting children to belong and thrive through *OurSPACE NSW*

For children in foster or kinship care, stability can be life-changing.

OurSPACE NSW provides specialist outreach therapeutic trauma support for children and young people who have experienced multiple placement changes. By surrounding children with safe, supportive relationships, we help them begin to heal from trauma and feel a sense of belonging.

OurSPACE offers flexible, trauma-sensitive therapies tailored to each child's needs. Therapists continue their support even if placements change across NSW, ensuring children and carers experience consistency. Carers are supported to better understand the impact of trauma and build confidence in responding to children's needs, while caseworkers, teachers, and other adults in their lives are included to strengthen the network around them.



OurSPACE also provides culturally safe resources and counselling, with First Nations therapists ensuring First Nations children are supported in ways that honour their culture and identity.

In 2024/25, *OurSPACE* worked with 330 children and young people in foster and kinship care across NSW. More than 4,000 sessions and 5,000 hours of therapeutic support were delivered, with therapists working directly with children, their carers, and support networks to build safety, stability, and healing.

This included support for 148 First Nations children and young people, strengthened by culturally safe resources and the expertise of First Nations therapists.

By providing consistent, culturally safe, and trauma-informed support, *OurSPACE* helps children in care feel seen, understood, and supported to build brighter, more stable futures.

330

children and young people in foster and kinship care across NSW were supported by *OurSPACE* in 2024/25

More than

4,040

therapeutic sessions were delivered, totalling 5,318 hours of direct support

148

First Nations children and young people received support, strengthened by culturally safe resources and the expertise of First Nations therapists.

CASE STUDY
Building connections with Percival Bee

Lottie* and Lilly*, sisters aged five and three, were living with their great aunt and uncle when they began receiving support from *OurSPACE*. Lottie had recently joined the household and was still adjusting, having had limited previous contact with this family. Lilly had always been the only child in the home and struggled to share attention and toys. Both carers carried their own trauma histories and found it difficult to openly share feelings, which at times made it challenging to respond to the children’s needs.

Before the session, the specialist spoke with the carers about a planned treasure hunt activity and asked them to think of five acts of love and care they had noticed each child demonstrate over the past week. The uncle initially struggled to identify acts of kindness, but with guidance, he contributed examples, and both carers proudly placed pom-poms around the house to mark these moments of care.

During the session, Lottie and Lilly read our Australian Childhood Foundation therapy doll e-book *Percival’s Collection of Love and Kindness*, cuddling their own therapy doll, Percival Bee, and taking turns on a treasure hunt to find the kindness pom-poms.

As they located each pom-pom, the carers shared memories of the children showing love or kindness to family members - simple gestures such as sharing toys, helping pack lunches, offering a drink to a carer who was unwell, or making a drawing for someone feeling sad. The activity also

encouraged the children to notice and speak about times their carers showed love and kindness to them, creating feelings of appreciation, warmth, and connection.

Using Percival Bee and his ‘puffs of kindness’ gave Lottie and Lilly a space to feel seen, heard, and valued. The playful and positive interactions appeared to strengthen their sense of self and encouraged Lottie to feel more settled, while Lilly began to share attention and toys more readily. The carers were able to experience appreciation from the children, which enriched their relationships and fostered connection across the household.

The specialist observed that the activity supported key therapeutic goals, including building playful connections with carers, practising turn-taking, noticing and acknowledging each other’s strengths, and encouraging acts of kindness and care. Outside of sessions, the carers continued the practice by leaving more acts of love and kindness around the home for Percival’s next visit, reinforcing the children’s sense of being valued and encouraging ongoing positive interactions.

Through this simple but powerful activity, Lottie and Lilly began to experience safety, recognition, and joy in their relationships, helping them feel connected, supported, and motivated to continue expressing care towards each other and their carers.



Strengthening community recovery and trauma-responsive practice with *ChildSPACE NSW*

In the wake of the 2019 and 2020 bushfires, children, young people, and families in the Bega Valley faced profound disruption and loss, and the road to recovery required more than rebuilding homes - it required rebuilding trust, safety, and hope.

ChildSPACE NSW continues to support these children, young people, and families through targeted trauma-informed initiatives, community engagement, and specialist training for local service providers.

Through 41 one-on-one community consultations with local service providers and attendance at three community bushfire recovery events, we shared trauma-responsive knowledge and strengthened connections between local organisations and families.

We delivered 16 workshops, including eight sessions on Recognise and Respond to Trauma and eight on Bringing Up Great Kids, reaching 215 adults committed to understanding the impacts of trauma and how to support children and young people in their community. In addition, we developed and delivered five sessions of our newly designed *ChildSPACE* trauma responsive alliance training across two locations, providing community members with specialist skills to guide children through recovery.

Feedback from participants highlighted the value of the training: adults reported increased confidence in responding to children’s needs, a deeper understanding of trauma, and practical strategies for use in community, school, and family settings. Community members shared that the workshops helped them recognise and respond to children’s emotions, notice acts of care, and apply trauma-informed approaches in everyday interactions. On average, participants rated the training 4.62 out of 5 overall and 4.82 out of 5 for trainer quality, with 99% saying they felt confident in utilisng what they had learned.



Now I know how to help my child when he freezes, and I no longer get frustrated.

- Participant

ChildSPACE NSW is now entering the next chapter. In September 2025, the Bega Valley community officially took the lead of the *ChildSPACE* trauma-responsive alliance, supported by a manual and resources developed by the Foundation to ensure continuity and local ownership. Volunteers and professionals in the community will continue to build knowledge, confidence, and responsiveness across the region, embedding trauma-informed practice in everyday work with children and families.

The program is also being independently evaluated by Dr Betty Luu, Research Fellow at the Transforming Early Education and Child Health Research Centre, Western Sydney University. The evaluation will assess how *ChildSPACE* strengthens the knowledge, confidence, and commitment of community members to notice, care for, and support children and families during recovery, and how the program can continue to improve its impact.

ChildSPACE is more than a program - it is a community-led movement, demonstrating how recovery is strengthened when knowledge, connection, and safety are at the heart of support for children and families.

I have learned to understand my children’s feelings and respond to their needs instead of just controlling behaviours

- Participant

41 one-on-one community consultations were conducted by *ChildSPACE NSW* with local service providers

3 community bushfire recovery events were attended by the team, alongside local service providers

16 workshops were delivered

215 adults built knowledge and confidence to better support children affected by trauma through workshops and training

Participants rated the workshops highly, with an average score of 4.62 out of 5 overall and 4.82 out of 5 for the trainers

99% of participants reported feeling confident to apply what they learned in supporting children and young people

Therapeutic Services Western Australia

Supporting children and carers through therapeutic foster care in WA

Over 2024/25, we have focused on building trust, repairing relationships and strengthening the bonds between children, carers, and care teams. Every child deserves love, and every carer deserves support - a belief that has guided our work from the very beginning.

This year marked the first anniversary since launching our therapeutic foster care services in Western Australia. Becoming a foster carer is transformative, not just for the child, but for the carer too. Our program supports carers at every step, offering practical guidance, specialist training and therapeutic support to help children feel valued, safe and understood. We partner genuinely with carers, valuing their knowledge and expertise, and recognising that those closest to the child understand them best.

I'm not sure what I would have done without the support from OurSPACE WA through this hard time (with the child) and all the issues going on with her biological mother. I appreciated all your time and knowledge.

- Kinship carer



Our care coordinators and therapeutic specialists provide wraparound support, helping carers navigate the complexities of the system while understanding the trauma behind a child's behaviour - and the challenges it can create for themselves. Foster carers have access to practical strategies, therapeutic guidance, cultural supports and specialist training - ensuring children can thrive.

Throughout 2024/25, our therapeutic approach showed measurable impact. Relationships that were once described as 'broken' were repaired, trust was restored, and care teams became more engaged than ever.

In August 2024, the Sabine Winton MLA announced continued funding from the Department of Communities to extend OurSPACE WA - our state-wide therapeutic consultation, counselling and support service for foster and kinship carers. This expansion opened the program to carers from Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Community Service Organisations, ensuring more carers are supported to provide safe, healing relationships for the children in their care. By deepening understanding of carers' needs and strengthening engagement, the program continues to build stability and healing relationships for children across WA.

We love fostering, but we were exhausted, burnt out from years of feeling unheard. Since moving to the Foundation, we have realised what we've been missing. The team have really taken the time to listen to us, help us make sense of the children's behaviours, and work with us to find practical strategies. We've remembered why we started fostering in the first place.

- Foster carer



Our *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Hearts* campaign launched in October 2024, focusing on recruiting foster carers in Perth while highlighting that ordinary people, with the right support, could have an extraordinary impact. Through community events, digital campaigns and targeted outreach, we engaged potential carers and demonstrated the difference they could make to the lives of children and young people.

In March 2025, we presented at the WA Foster and Kinship Care conference. Shaun Chandran, Regional Director Therapeutic Services WA, opened the day with *Facing the Elephant*, a deeply moving reflection on loss and grief in foster and kinship care, acknowledging the unseen weight carers carry and the power of supporting one another.

Therapeutic care remains at the heart of everything we do. Through our foster and kinship care work in WA, we supported children to heal and thrive while helping carers reconnect with their purpose, rebuild trust and strengthen the relationships that matter most.

Since they started with the Foundation, we've seen our relationship with these carers improve significantly. These were carers who felt disillusioned and disconnected. Now, they're more engaged, and the relationships across the care team are stronger than they've been in years.

- Department case manager

Partnerships driving change and healing in WA

Strong partnerships are at the heart of healing - by working closely with communities, organisations and families, we can create lasting change for children and young people.

In June 2025, we were honoured to receive two Lotterywest grants, presented at Parliament House by Jessica Stojkovski MLA and Matt Swinbourn MLC. These generous grants helped us grow our impact in Western Australia, funding the fit-out of a new Perth office to expand our therapeutic services, specialist counselling and foster and kinship care programs.

The grants also supported the expansion of our Equestrian Youth Engagement Service (EYES), an innovative initiative helping at-risk young people reimagine their futures - moving away from trauma towards recovery and purpose through equine-facilitated intervention and industry engagement. Additionally, the funding enabled a collaborative project between the Foundation and Therapy Focus to co-design practical resources for schools, carers, and professionals, aimed at better supporting autistic children and young people impacted by trauma. We are deeply grateful to Lotterywest for supporting our work to create brighter, more connected futures for children, young people and families.

This year we also reaffirmed our commitment to culturally strong care. Through our longstanding relationship with Karla Kuliny Aboriginal Corporation (KKAC), we worked together to embed cultural knowledge alongside therapeutic practices, ensuring Aboriginal children remain connected to their family,

culture, and community. We are honoured that Karla Kuliny and the Foundation were announced as the inaugural winners of the *Inspiring Partnership Award* between an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) and a Community Service Organisation (CSO) at the 2025 Community Services Excellence Awards in WA.

This award recognises our 15-year collaboration and shared commitment to culturally strong, healing-centred practices - a partnership that began in 2011 when KKAC CEO Glenda Kickett first worked with the Foundation to develop a model of culturally strong therapeutic care for First Nations children. The partnership embodies the principle of *Dabakan Kooyliny* - go slowly, walk slowly, walk together - and demonstrates what is possible when an ACCO and CSO work side by side in shared leadership. It was especially meaningful to have our CEO, Janise Mitchell, receive this award alongside Glenda and speak on a panel at the Western Australian Council of Social Services conference, sharing the story of our journey and the lessons learned along the way.

We were also thrilled to celebrate our partnership with Naala Djookan Healing Centre, which won the 2025 National Award for Local Government in the addressing violence against women and children category. Led by the City of Stirling, Naala Djookan (meaning 'Our Sisters' in the Noongar language) is a one-stop hub for women and children impacted by family and domestic violence. As a partner, we provide therapeutic leadership, parenting support and counselling, joining nine other specialist

organisations to deliver integrated therapeutic, cultural, legal, advocacy and community services in one accessible location in Mirrabooka. This award recognises every individual involved in this incredible journey and honours the deep collaboration behind Naala Djookan, reflecting our collective vision of living in a community free from violence.

Through partnerships built on trust, shared vision, and respect, we are creating lasting change - helping children, young people, and families heal, grow, and thrive together.



Therapeutic Services Tasmania

High-intensity wraparound support in Tasmania

For children carrying the weight of complex trauma, even the smallest step towards safety and connection can be life-changing.

Across Tasmania, our *Salaried Care Packages* program provides tailored, wraparound support for children and young people with high and complex care needs, helping them find stability, connection, and hope for the future.

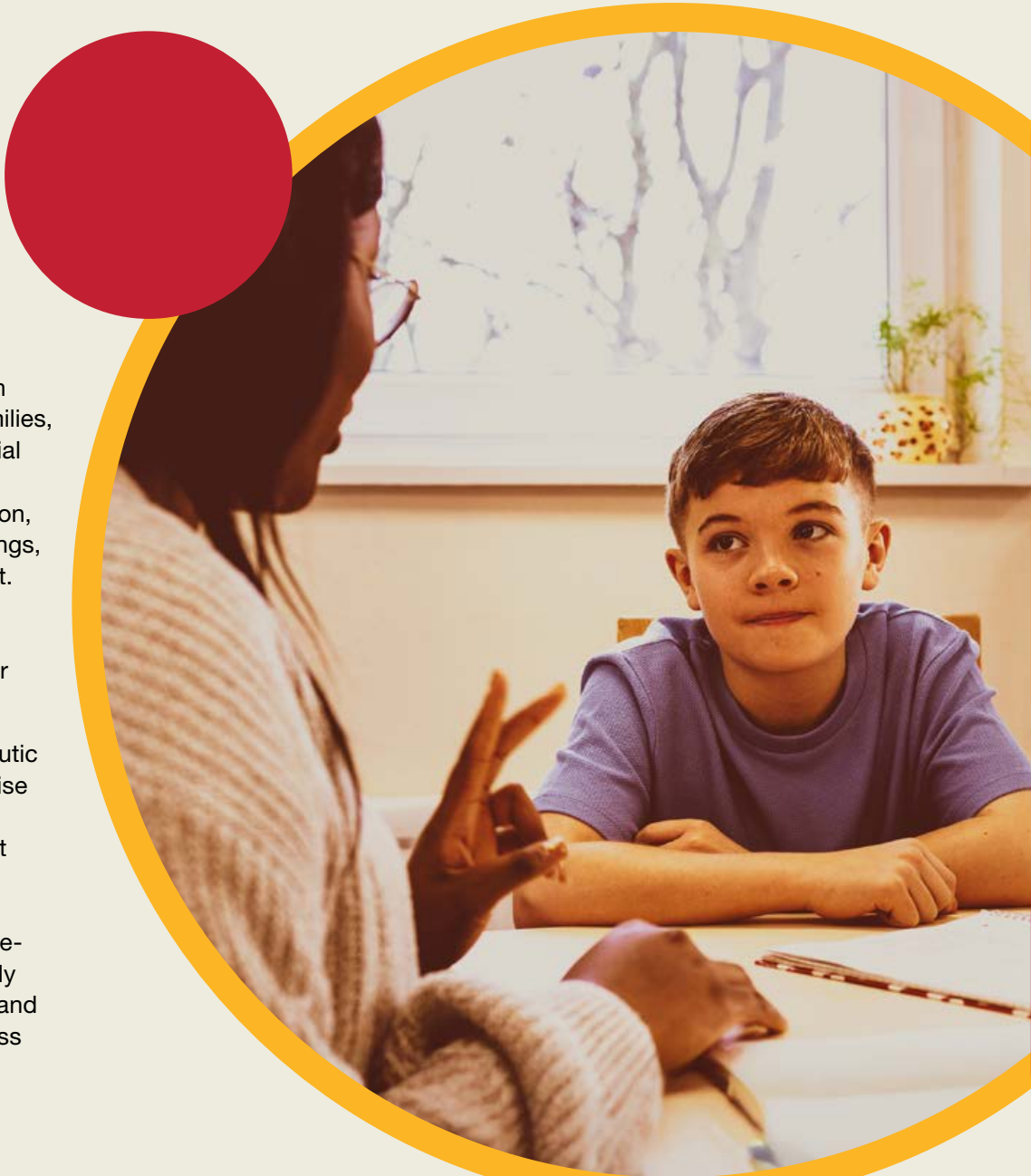
Delivered statewide, this tailored, outreach-based model provides intensive, individualised support that brings together therapeutic specialists, schools, families, carers, and care teams. While initially structured as a six-month intervention, these packages frequently evolve into longer-term supports. This flexibility is essential, as it enables the program to adapt responsively to the changing care and placement needs of each young person, ensuring continuity and stability in the therapeutic supports being provided. The flexible design means each package

evolves in response to the changing needs of the young person, ensuring that support is not only consistent but also deeply personal.

Many of the key outcomes for the children and young people have been as a result of the consistent provision of care across care environments, including school, placement, and during family time. One of the most significant aspects of the program is the consistent presence of therapeutic specialists in young people's lives, providing a reliable and predictable support, continually showing up and holding the young person in mind. Feedback from young people has highlighted that this commitment helped rebuild trust and contributed to a sense of safety, particularly when other relationships had been disrupted or withdrawn during periods of difficulty. This ongoing presence also created opportunities for relational repair, emotional regulation, and re-engagement in key areas of life.

The outcomes have been profound. Children and young people have been supported to reconnect with their families, return home, and move from residential care into family-based placements. Others have re-engaged with education, found their voices in care team meetings, or stepped into part-time employment. Many have developed new relational and social skills, forming friendships and joining sporting or extra curricular activities for the first time.

The program recognises that therapeutic progress is rarely linear. Needs may rise and fall, but our flexible and trauma-responsive approach ensures support adapts accordingly. By remaining consistent, collaborative, and child-centred, the program has delivered life-changing results - strengthening family connections, stabilising placements, and restoring hope for young people across Tasmania.



We have seen such a positive change in the families' understanding of how the trauma has affected their child and now they are able to respond appropriately.

- Child safety officer

I feel safe with you and can tell you things because I trust you.

- 15-year-old

When I grow up, I want to be like you and do the work you do.

- 9-year-old

As a result of the therapeutic interventions and holistic care model, some of the key outcomes observed among participating children and young people include:

- Family reconnection: successful re-engagement with families, and in some cases, support to return home
- Placement stability: transitions from residential to family-based placements, with increased stability
- Educational engagement: re-engagement in education, improved attendance and participation
- Youth voice and agency: participation in care team meetings and expressing views and preferences
- Employment and life skills: entering part-time employment and developing independent living skills
- Relational and social development: improved relational skills, forming peer friendships, and engaging in sports and extra curricular activities

Safeguarding children

Leading the way in safeguarding practice

Every child deserves to feel safe - no matter where they live, learn, or play - and safeguarding is one of the most powerful ways we can protect that right.

Our *Safeguarding Children* program works with organisations across Australia to embed child safety into culture, policy, and practice - safeguarding up to a million children and young people each year.

In 2024/25, we partnered with Women’s Community Shelters (WCS) to co-design and develop a *Child Safeguarding Practice Framework* - a comprehensive and practical guide to protecting and supporting children across WCS shelters and services. The framework provides consistent guidance to meet legislated Child Safe Standards, embedding trauma-informed, child-centred practice into everyday service delivery. It reinforces the principle that children are not just accompanying their mothers, but are clients in their own right - deserving of dedicated care, advocacy, and support.

This framework will be used in multiple ways: as part of staff onboarding, during supervision sessions, to guide professional development, and to strengthen governance. By recognising the unique needs of children experiencing family and domestic violence and homelessness, the framework helps to prevent harm, interrupt cycles of violence, and ensure every child receives best-practice support no matter where they are.

Beyond this collaboration, we continued to strengthen safeguarding cultures nationwide. Over 2,500 professionals received face-to-face training, including governance board directors, executives, managers, child safe experts, and volunteers across sectors as diverse as education, early learning, local government, corporate, disability, family and domestic violence, sexual assault, housing, sport, and community groups.

A further 8,350 professionals completed our online *Foundations of Safeguarding* training, building knowledge and confidence in protecting children. In addition, 60 organisations across Australia took part in the *Safeguarding Accreditation* program, embedding stronger policies, governance, and accountability mechanisms into their work with children and young people.

Every child deserves to feel safe, supported, and valued. Through frameworks, training, and accreditation, we are helping organisations create environments where children’s rights are upheld and their futures are free from violence.



Thank you for making the Safeguarding children accreditation audit such a seamless and warm process. While I absolutely appreciate that ultimately the last two days has to be an ‘audit’ to assess our compliance, I’ve had so much feedback from team members involved about how they found the interviews to be warm, authentic, and really engaging. Some people were feeling a tad nervous ahead of their interviews - but came away feeling totally comfortable, confident, and in fact very proud about the work they do - and this is in part due to how comfortable you and your team made them feel.

- Jo Sadler, Chief Executive Officer, Wanslea

An estimated **1,000,000** children and young people are safeguarded each year through our *Safeguarding Children* program

170 organisations across Australia and New Zealand worked with our safeguarding team

2,500+ professionals received face-to-face safeguarding training in 2024/25

8,350 professionals completed our *Foundations of Safeguarding* online training

60 organisations participated in our *Safeguarding Accreditation* program



Bringing Up Great Kids national evaluation

Helping parents connect, heal, and raise confident, resilient children with BUGK

Bringing Up Great Kids (BUGK) offers parents and carers a reflective, supportive, and relational approach to building meaningful connections with their children.

This year marked a major milestone with the completion of the national evaluation, conducted in partnership with the Parenting Research Centre, confirming our significant positive impact on parents' confidence, reflective capacity, and connection with their children.

The evaluation highlighted BUGK's distinctive approach: a non-prescriptive, relational process that allows parents to explore their own experiences, make meaning of their parenting journey, and engage with their children with greater understanding and responsiveness. These findings place us alongside leading relational parenting programs in Australia and reinforce its effectiveness for families facing complex challenges.

The evidence gathered provides a strong foundation for scaling BUGK across Australia, informing facilitator training, strengthening program delivery, and supporting broader adoption. Moving forward, insights from the evaluation will guide continuous improvement, ensuring we remain responsive to families' evolving needs while upholding our core values of respect, reflection, and relationship-building.

Knowledge mobilisation and practice

Building knowledge to transform the lives of children through professional education

Every child and young person deserves to be surrounded by adults who understand their experiences and know how to support them. Through our education and training programs, we are equipping communities across Australia with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to respond to trauma with care, compassion, and expertise. This national program delivers training, resources, and consultations that share evidence-based knowledge in practical, accessible ways.

Over the past year, our team has embedded the theme of transformation into every learning product, while keeping the Foundation's values at heart and ensuring children's voices and stories are heard. Our dedicated suite of learning offerings include workshops, tailored consultancy, workforce development, and secondary consultations across sectors, with strong partnerships in education.

38

individual workshops delivered to more than 1,000 participants



70

tailored consultancy packages delivered to 60 organisations

In 2024/25, we delivered 38 individual workshops to more than 1,000 participants, alongside 70 tailored consultancy training packages for 60 organisations, ensuring these workplaces received training customised to their needs. We also introduced *trauma transformative practice* into our training through dedicated workshops, helping adults move beyond trauma to focus on healing relationships, safety, and stronger systems of care.

Our knowledge mobilisation work also continues to grow, connecting sector insights with practice, policy,

and learning. Our website welcomed 70,000 users (+22.8%) and 161,000 page views (+9.8%). We published 45 blogs on topics such as consent, youth justice, kinship care, trauma-based behaviour, and interoception - a 66.7% increase from the previous year. Among the most popular were *Fight, flight, freeze and fibbing: lying as a trauma based behaviour* and *Interoception: the hidden sense that can help children understand their feelings before they react*. We also hosted two panel conversations showcasing research by the Chair in out-of-home care, Lynne McPherson, on grandparent kinship care and residential care, which reached 489 participants.

We delivered trauma-informed training across multiple platforms and sectors. Alongside our workshops and consultancy, our on-demand courses have extended reach even further in 2024/25, with 359 participants completing *Foundational training in intensive therapeutic care*, 103 completing *Ordinary people, extraordinary hearts: foster care*, 102 completing *Ordinary people, extraordinary hearts: kinship care*, 104 completing *Responding to child sexual exploitation*, and 75 completing *When yes means yes*.

Module 1: Preparing for consent conversations

RESUME COURSE



Our partnerships in education remain strong. In Tasmania, 10 schools continue to receive trauma-informed implementation support, while in South Australia, 2024 marked 20 years of collaboration delivering *Strategies for managing abuse related trauma (SMART)* training, which continues to grow through the Trauma Aware Schools Initiative.

After completing our training, **90%** of participants report feeling more confident in their knowledge and skills, **90%** more supported to manage challenges and apply new ideas in their practice, and **82%** more confident supporting children and young people impacted by trauma.

The SMART training has significantly strengthened our school's capacity to understand and respond to the needs of students impacted by trauma. Staff developed a deeper understanding of how trauma affects the developing brain and body, and how these impacts can present in the classroom.

- School principal



This workshop delivered innovative and new ideas about trauma and children. It will support so many different ways of working with the children in my practice and organisation.

- School principal

Consent is something I very much value with kids and already practice these conversations... However, the conversations since doing the training have been broadened out and added depth.

- Foster carer

Supporting carers to have vital conversations with young people through when yes means YES

Foster and kinship carers play a critical role in helping children and young people feel safe, supported, and empowered.

Our *When yes means YES (WYMY) kinship training course* strengthens carers' confidence and skills to have age-appropriate conversations about non-sexual and affirmative sexual consent with young people aged 12-14 in their care.

Developed in response to the 2022 affirmative consent law reforms in Victoria, the course was shaped in collaboration with carers and young people, supported by the Victorian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. Working alongside CREATE Foundation youth advisors, we explored the real-life challenges carers face, identifying the supports needed to help young people feel safe and empowered.

The voices of these young people are now featured in four powerful videos included in the course. We also produced a series of videos with Victorian kinship carers sharing practical tips, personal experiences, and insights into trauma-informed consent conversations.

200

no-cost online WYMY course registrations were provided for Victorian kinship carers and foster/kinship agency staff



It kind of really reaffirmed to me that I'm having the right conversations but gave me more confidence in having them, and some ideas on how to have them.

- Foster carer

In 2024/25, the *WYMY kinship course* was rolled out across Victoria, offering 200 no-cost online course registrations for kinship carers and foster/kinship agency staff, alongside four capacity-building sessions and two virtual workshops for carers and agency staff. Our existing *WYMY foster carer course* continued to be available, with strong uptake reflecting the value and importance of this training.

Through *WYMY*, foster and kinship carers are better equipped to create safe spaces where young people can learn about consent, boundaries, and healthy relationships - strengthening the protective factors that keep children and young people safe and supported.



Advancing research and practice with our Chair of out-of-home care

Children and young people in out-of-home care carry experiences that demand understanding, compassion, and action - work the Chair of out-of-home care, Lynne McPherson, is bringing to life through research and practice.

Lynne's role, co-funded in partnership with Southern Cross University, leads research projects shaping the future of therapeutic care. One study examined relational practice in therapeutic residential care, engaging 38 young people and 50 staff in interviews and focus groups, alongside surveys of 140 young people and 140 staff. Another investigated child sexual abuse disclosure, drawing on 51 victim-survivor interviews and six yarning sessions.

The Chair also produced 12 peer-reviewed publications (five as lead author), presented at four national conferences, and contributed to key sector reforms, including the NSW out-of-home care system review and Life Without Barriers' foster care redesign. Seven PhD students and one Honours project were supervised, with research spanning carer wellbeing, queer young people in care, and culturally safe practice. Strategic partnerships were strengthened with Bravehearts, CASPA, Act for Kids, and Gnibi College, while mentorship, webinars, podcasts, and advisory work shared knowledge across the sector.

The impact of this work has been immediate and far-reaching. Findings from the studies directly informed the *NSW out-of-home care system review*, embedding the voices of children and young people into policy reform. The disclosure study is shaping national conversations on child sexual abuse, helping services respond more safely and effectively. Feedback from webinars, presentations, and sector engagement highlights the importance of the Chair in elevating research, influencing practice, and creating lasting, culturally grounded change.

These findings in relation to young people in residential care are truly ground-breaking!

It is vital to include young people in the actual research process in the way that you have - congratulations!



5

peer-reviewed publications advancing knowledge on therapeutic care and trauma-informed practice in 2024/25

CETC: Supporting children in out-of-home care to grow with safety and care

The *Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care (CETC)* was created to ensure children in out-of-home care are not just looked after, but truly supported to heal and thrive. Since 2018, we have worked to ensure that children and young people who have experienced trauma and disruption receive care that is compassionate, responsive, and grounded in evidence.

Through our knowledge-to-action framework, we bring together research, lived experience, First Nations knowledge, and practice wisdom - equipping practitioners, carers, policymakers, and service leaders with the insight and tools they need to create lasting change. In collaboration with Southern Cross University, the CETC is the only centre of its kind in Australia dedicated solely to therapeutic care - bridging knowledge and practice to transform the lives of children and young people.

In 2024/25, we led and supported large-scale projects shaping child and youth services across Australia. We developed a therapeutic and trauma-informed operational model for a new secure detention facility in Western Australia and supported the review of a secure residential facility in the ACT. We also worked with the eSafety Commissioner to provide expert and audience reviews of a new book on online safety, ensuring it reflected both best practice and the voices of young people.

The CETC also contributed to national policy reform. We made a submission to the Senate inquiry into Australia's youth justice and incarceration system, highlighting the need for trauma-informed approaches

that meet the developmental needs of children and young people rather than focusing solely on punishment.

At the same time, we expanded our applied research program in partnership with Southern Cross University and other academic institutions. Together, we are generating valuable insights to strengthen therapeutic care for children and young people. Our research outputs included:

- *Young peoples' lived experience of relational practices in therapeutic residential care in Australia* (Children and Youth Services Review, January 2025)
- *Australian grandparents raising grandchildren: Understanding the complexities of intergenerational and vicarious trauma* (Health & Social Care in the Community, January 2025)
- *How is therapeutic residential care constructed within key policy documents?* (Australian Journal of Social Issues, October 2024)
- *Approaches to assessment and intervention with children and young people who engage in harmful sexual behaviour: A scoping review* (Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, August 2024)

Through these projects, policy contributions, and research initiatives, the CETC continues to elevate the voices of children and young people, strengthen workforce capability, and lead the way in advancing trauma-informed therapeutic out-of-home care across Australia.

Partnerships

Making lasting impact for children through our partnership with Target Australia

Through their generous support, Target Australia has helped us create safe, welcoming spaces where children and families can heal, grow, and find hope.

Target's partnership with the Foundation has been one of our most significant corporate collaborations, demonstrating what sustained commitment and innovation can achieve for children and families affected by trauma.

Over four years, Target contributed \$1,000,000 in financial support, alongside extensive in-kind contributions and community fundraising initiatives, transforming not only the spaces where children and young people access our services but also the ways we deliver therapeutic care.

Their investment enabled long-term planning and stability for our therapeutic programs, directly benefiting hundreds of vulnerable children and families across Australia. Multiple refurbishment projects, including the transformation of our Launceston counselling spaces, which created welcoming, child-friendly environments designed to reduce anxiety and support healing. Every space incorporated trauma-informed design principles, ensuring that children feel safe, seen, and supported.



Target's commitment went beyond funding. Staff volunteers contributed hundreds of hours to hands-on refurbishment work, assembling furniture, styling rooms, and shaping spaces around children's needs and preferences. Seasonal campaigns, like the Christmas pyjama initiative, brought comfort and joy to children in our programs, while their retail expertise maximised community engagement and fundraising. In April 2025 alone, their point-of-sale campaign raised an additional \$124,000, demonstrating the power of retail-based giving.

Target also supported critical research, providing gift vouchers for participants in our *Building Understanding of Grief in Kids (BUGK)* evaluation, helping advance our understanding of childhood grief and healing.

The impact of this partnership extends far beyond the four-year term. With over \$1,100,000 in direct financial support and extensive in-kind contributions, Target transformed both our physical environments and program capacity. Their leadership set a benchmark for corporate engagement in child protection, showing how sustained investment combined with hands-on involvement can create lasting, systemic change - ensuring children and families continue to benefit long after the formal partnership concludes.

Creating safer spaces and brighter futures with GPT Group

Through their partnership with the Foundation, GPT Group is helping us create safer, more nurturing spaces where children and families can heal and thrive. This commitment is a powerful example of how Australia's leading property developers can create meaningful social impact beyond their core business.

Now in the second year of a comprehensive three-year strategic collaboration, GPT's support goes far beyond traditional corporate philanthropy, demonstrating genuine leadership in child safeguarding across their extensive retail, commercial, and residential portfolio.

As part of the *On Us Coalition*, GPT has championed child safeguarding principles throughout their properties, creating safer environments for children and families in shopping centres, office buildings, and community spaces. This leadership highlights how large property companies can embed child wellbeing into their everyday operations.

GPT's annual funding of \$60,000 provides vital support for our Victorian therapeutic services, enabling specialised trauma therapy, family healing programs, and early intervention services for vulnerable children across metropolitan and regional areas. These contributions ensure children

and families can access the support they need to heal and thrive.

During the 2024 Christmas season, GPT expanded our signature gift-wrapping initiative across four premier shopping centres - Highpoint, Malvern Central, Chirnside Park, and Parkmore. The initiative raised \$8,068 while offering families a joyful holiday experience, demonstrating the power of community engagement to make a tangible difference.

GPT teams also actively volunteer in these initiatives, helping at gift-wrapping stations and promoting child protection awareness within their corporate culture. This commitment, combined with their strategic investments and community engagement, sets a benchmark for how corporations can lead positive change for children.

Through this partnership, GPT has helped children and families access vital therapeutic support while embedding child safeguarding across one of Australia's largest property portfolios. Their innovative approach is transforming not just physical spaces, but the lives of children and families across Victoria.



Making giving effortless and impactful with i=Change

Our partnership with i=Change, a digital giving platform that turns everyday online shopping into support for children, is transforming the way people can make a difference in young lives.

By turning everyday purchases into contributions, i=Change makes it easy for supporters to provide vital, ongoing support for children and young people in need.

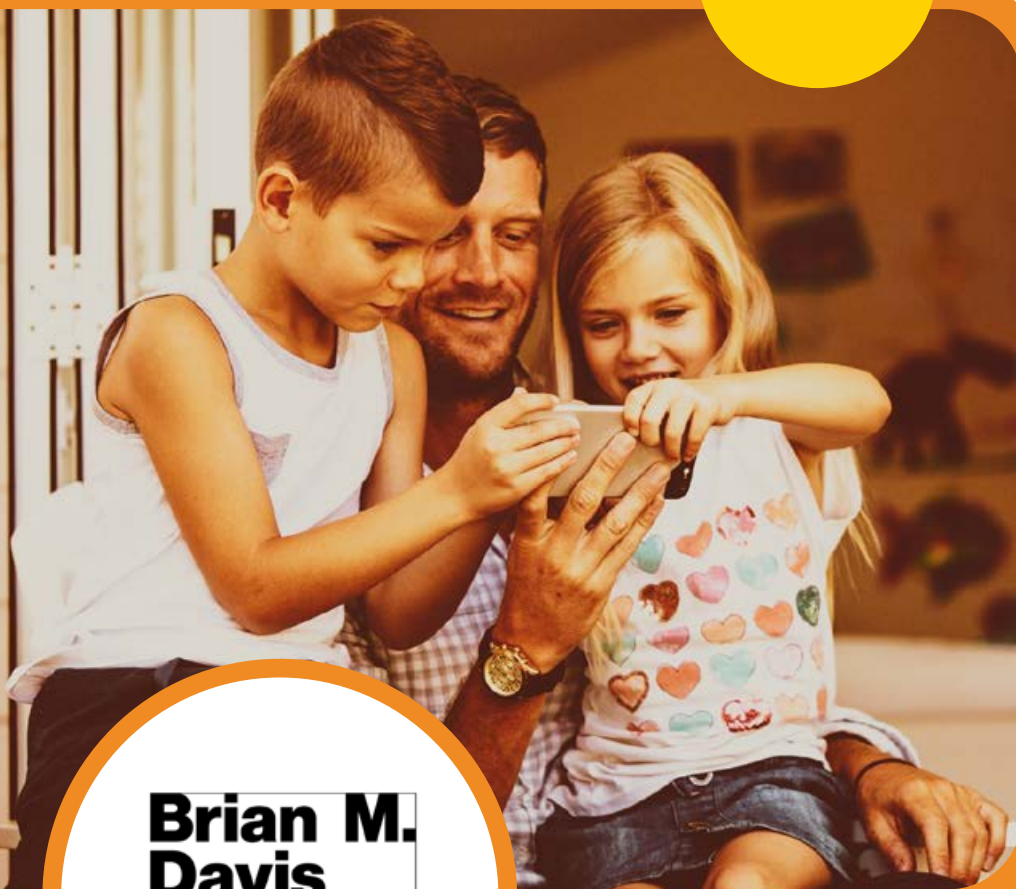
Everyday giving through i=Change is easy, letting anyone contribute to our work without extra effort or cost. During 2023/24, the platform generated \$48,346, directly funding therapeutic support for 101 children through evidence-based programs. These contributions provide reliable, ongoing funding, enabling long-term program planning and continuity of care for vulnerable children and young people.

i=Change also expands our reach through strategic partnerships with a wide range of online retailers, opening multiple touchpoints for supporters and growing our donor base beyond traditional networks. By meeting people where they already shop, the platform engages younger, digitally connected audiences who may not otherwise participate in conventional fundraising efforts.

This partnership shows how technology can make giving easier for everyone. It helps raise reliable funds, reduces our reliance on traditional grants, and ensures children and families get the support they need to heal and thrive.

We are grateful to i=Change for their vision, innovation, and commitment to turning everyday actions into life-changing support for children and young people.





**Brian M.
Davis**
Charitable
Foundation

Turning research into real impact for children with Brian M Davis Charitable Fund

Through their support, the Brian M Davis Charitable Fund is helping us uncover the knowledge and insights that ensure every child affected by trauma receives the care and support they need to heal and thrive.

Our partnership is helping improve evidence-based practice and understanding in the child protection sector, supporting effective therapeutic care for children and young people who have experienced trauma and grief.

Through this partnership, we delivered the second annual *It's Never Too Late* report, providing a comprehensive analysis of online child sexual abuse and generating critical insights into effective interventions for children affected by trauma. These findings help guide not only our therapeutic programs but also inform sector-wide practices, policies, and training initiatives.

The partnership supports rigorous evaluation of our programs, ensuring that every intervention is grounded in research evidence and continuously improved based on outcomes and emerging best practices. By translating research into practical tools, training materials, and policy guidance, this collaboration benefits our organisation and the wider child protection sector.

This multi-year partnership allows us to track program outcomes and assess the long-term impact of therapeutic interventions, providing invaluable insights into children's healing journeys. The *It's Never Too Late* report series has become a trusted resource for practitioners, policymakers, and other organisations committed to supporting children affected by trauma.

Through this strategic collaboration, the Brian M Davis Charitable Fund is helping ensure that our therapeutic approaches remain at the forefront of best practice, creating lasting benefits for children, families, and the broader sector.

Media coverage

In the spotlight: the Foundation's media coverage in 2024/25

Over the past year, the Foundation has been featured in a range of media outlets, highlighting our advocacy, partnerships, and initiatives aimed at supporting children and young people.

The Courier

How Ballarat mum Nikki O'Brien is facing her childhood trauma, head-on

Nikki O'Brien undertook a four-day walk to raise awareness and support for child abuse survivors. Her effort shined a light on the resilience of survivors and the importance of community support in addressing child abuse.

One day... I kind of opened up about all that I experienced.

- Nikki O'Brien, child abuse survivor

wtw

The importance of safeguarding children in Australian schools

Safeguarding children has shifted from focusing solely on protection and response to incidents, to a preventative approach aimed at reducing the risk of harm in organisational settings.

NEWS

A mother's journey to healing her family

Five years after leaving her partner, Claire was referred to the Foundation for specialised support to help herself and her children recover from the trauma of family violence.

67%

of schools currently have a dedicated committee focused on safeguarding children and young people

They were amazing. I finally felt like they saw our family for what it was, and they supported me and the children.

- Claire, family violence survivor



New Multidisciplinary Centre to provide safe space for victims of family violence and child abuse.

Acting Chief Commissioner Rick Nugent speaks about Victoria Police being proud to work in collaboration with partner agencies, including the Foundation, to deliver the new multidisciplinary centre, the eighth of its kind across the state.

The facility gives victims a safe space to speak to us and access the support they need.

- Acting Chief Commissioner Nugent

AUSTRALASIAN Lawyer

Historic justice reinvestment commitment to cover Mampu-Maninjaku program

The Mampu-Maninjaku program will be delivered through a partnership consortium that included the Foundation, the Southern Tanami Kurdiji Indigenous Corporation, and other key partners. It aims to address the over representation of First Nations individuals in the criminal justice system and support challenges related to alcohol and drug use.



AUSTSWIM launches new online safeguarding training course for swim teachers

AUSTSWIM, Australia's peak body for the training and accreditation of swim teachers, has officially launched its new national online 'Safeguarding Children and Young People Professional Development' module. This timely and critical resource is designed to empower every swim teacher in Australia with the skills and confidence to create safer learning environments for children.

With more than 23,000 active AUSTSWIM teachers across the country and thousands more delivering swim lessons every day, this new PD is an important step in lifting safeguarding standards nationally.

- AUSTSWIM Chief Executive, Brad Maunsell

Closing the gap requires innovation that comes from within our communities.

- Former NBL star Timmy Duggan



Where hope meets hoops: A First Nations vision for healing and leadership

At an event in Naarm, the Foundation's Joseph Kelly joined partners and youth advocates to present The Healing Power of Sport session, showcasing how sport can support healing from childhood trauma through a First Nations lens and a neurodevelopmentally informed, biologically respectful approach.

THE CONVERSATION

Australia has ministers for seniors and youth. So why not a minister for children?

Child safety advocates, including the Foundation, have long called for the creation of a minister for children. However, some decision-makers within government may not yet recognise the value of such a role.

NEWS

What are parenting programs and does the evidence show they work?

Parenting programs across Australia offer support to families, teaching strategies to manage behaviour, build connection, and respond to children's emotional needs. Programs like Bringing Up Great Kids (delivered by the Foundation) show evidence that participation can reduce household conflict, increase calm, and improve interactions between parents and children.

It does not come naturally. Parenting is largely learned on the job.

- Parenting Research Centre chief executive Dr Warren Cann

The Foundation’s advocacy in working with children checks



Childcare advocates call for Federal Government action

Organisations, including the Foundation, called for improvements in the childcare sector, emphasising the need to shift focus from administrative requirements to prioritising child protection.

I think the rapid review is a very good blueprint for the states and territories generally and certainly for the Commonwealth to think about what best practice looks like.

- Director of the Australasian hub of the global child safety institute, Childlight UNSW, Michael Salter



Convicts getting permits, court cases not examined: Inside the flawed working with children system

Phillip Doorgachurn, director of safeguarding at the Foundation, spoke about the system being in desperate need of repair.

We should be having a central agency which manages all child safety issues rather than several ... What that means is that you have really skilled professionals rather than people who maybe have no experience of child safeguarding.

- Phillip Doorgachurn



How can we harness the wisdom of survivors in the design of services and policy?

Over three years ago, 350 survivors of child sexual abuse participated in a survey led by Emma Hakansson, Chair of the Foundation’s lived experience advisory committee. Janise Mitchell highlighted the findings, which revealed a consistent issue: a widespread lack of adult awareness and education about sexual abuse. Survivors reported that adults often missed clear warning signs because they didn’t know what to look for or how to respond.



Unproven abuse allegations in childcare sector

Emma Hakansson, survivor advocate at the Foundation, speaks about being relieved the government was finally making training in working with children mandatory.



Why a tighter Working with Children regime won’t keep kids safe.

When the Victorian government promised to change its Working with Children Check (WWCC) laws, the Foundation responded that “the WWCC will always be limited as a screening tool,” noting that background checks alone are not enough, as those who seek to harm children are often skilled at navigating systems that aren’t built to detect them. The Foundation has been lobbying for mandatory child abuse prevention and early intervention training for the 5.8 million adults in Australia who hold a WWCC.



Victorian government to change state’s Working with Children Check system.

Calling for mandatory training for working with children checks, the Foundation speaks about the alleged abuse in childcare centres case being “one of the most significant and far-reaching cases of [alleged] child sexual abuse ever seen in a childcare setting in Australia”.



Premier Jacinta Allan urged to fast-track release of childcare review findings

The Foundation was among the several early education bodies that wrote a submission for the inquiry. In its submission, the Foundation called for mandated early educator child abuse prevention training as part of the working with children check, a streamlined digital reporting platform, and to enact outstanding Royal Commission recommendations among other suggestions.



‘Our Port Arthur moment’: Tougher Working with Children’s checks demanded

The Foundation speaks about the need for Australians with a working with children check to do an online course on how to spot signs of abuse, rather than just the current rubber stamp if a person does not have a criminal record.



Jacinta Allan defends controversial Jay Weatherill appointment to lead childcare inquiry

Janise Mitchell speaks about being fed up with politicians “buck passing” between portfolios within governments and between federal and state governments.

This recent case has shaken the community to its core, yet again. The perception of this review not being impartial does nothing to re-build community confidence and that of parents in being able to entrust their children into the care of childcare workers and teachers and other institutions.

- CEO, Janise Mitchell



Victorian government releases damning review into childcare regulation, 22 recommendations accepted.

The Foundation welcomed the announcement of a working with children check overhaul.

We need to take strong action to stop the WWCC from being a passport for perpetrators to it being a perimeter of protection for children and young people,

- CEO, Janise Mitchell

NEWS

Australia at a 'turning point' for broken Working with Children Check system

The Foundation's survivor advocate Emma Hakansson hopes the allegations before the courts in Victoria will prove to be a "Port Arthur" moment. "Public trust in the Working with Children Check is lost... Mandatory training for WWCC registration and stricter rules around who can receive a check must be implemented should that trust ever return."

I hope the awful cases making news now serve as a turning point for child protection reform, just as the devastation of Port Arthur's massacre was for gun safety laws.

- Survivor advocate Emma Hakansson

Herald Sun

Labor MP Paul Mercurio reveals his family's child sexual abuse history

Labor MP Paul Mercurio revealed his family's history of child sexual abuse, highlighting the urgent need for reform. The call followed the Foundation's landmark report, *Hear Us Now, Act Now*, which gathered the experiences of 339 victims and survivors and recommended an overhaul of how Working with Children Checks are issued.

NEWS

What's the child safety protocol in Victoria's childcare centres, and who regulates it?

The Foundation urged governments across the country to swiftly embed mandatory child abuse prevention education into the scheme, an issue it has lobbied on for years.

Fundraising

A gift for future generations of children

Through a gift in your Will, your support can reach children and young people for generations to come.

This year we formed a new partnership with Safewill - a Will writing platform that allows our supporters to take advantage of free Will writing services twice a year. Many of our supporters have already taken up this opportunity and some have left a bequest to the Foundation.

A bequest - or gift in your Will - is a deeply meaningful way to make a lasting difference. Bequests allow supporters to ensure their passions are continued well beyond their lifetimes. They give hope to future generations of children and young people, and help the Foundation plan for critical services.

Leaving a gift in your Will can be part of your lasting legacy, providing hope and support for children and young people across Australia, for years to come.

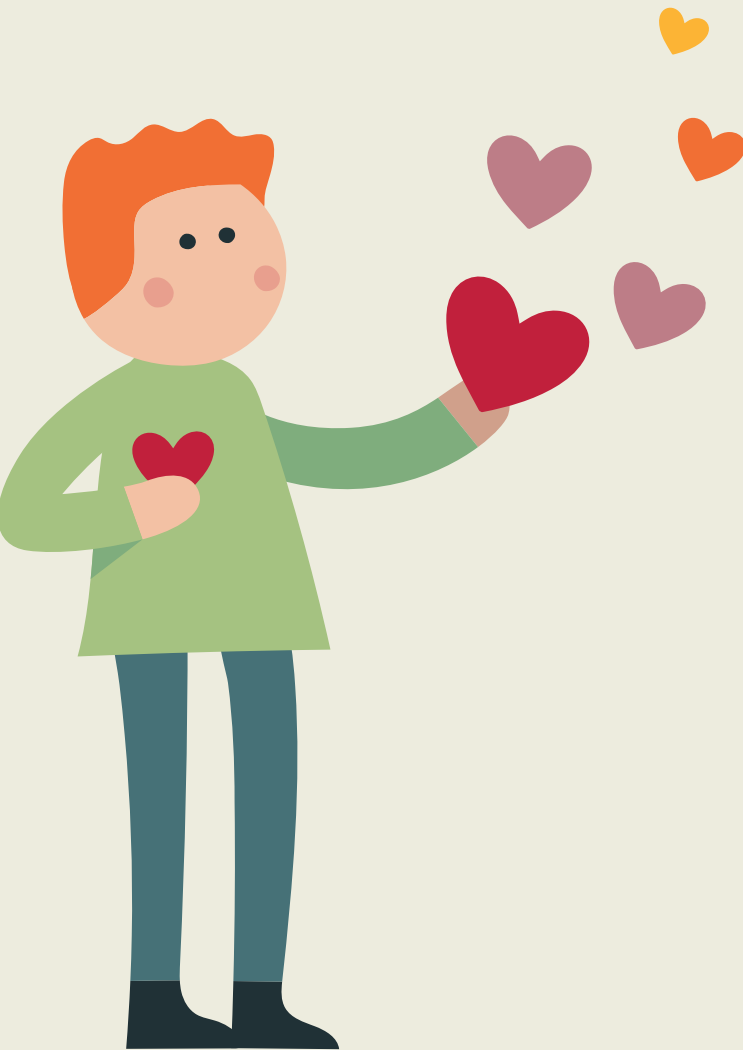
People often avoid thinking about estate planning, especially when they're younger, but if you don't document your wishes, someone else will have to make those decisions for you.

- Lisa, Australian Childhood Foundation supporter



Our warmest thank you

We are deeply appreciative of all our major supporters throughout 2024/25.



Donors

- Adam Wallace
- Amanda Lepka
- Angus Montgomery
- Anna Dudek
- Christopher N Aspland
- Dierdre Westblade
- Frances David
- Franz Schlagenhauser
- Franziska Althaus
- Geoff Baker
- Jeff Burns
- Kathy Holland
- Leo Browne
- Lyle Ashlin
- Ralph Humphries
- Suzanne J Gregg
- TIG Freight Management Pty Ltd.
- William David Rooseboom
- Zoe Holt

Bequestors

- Angelina Siputro
- John Bruce
- Melissa Berg
- Quezon Bugayong
- The Estate of Lisa Ronson
- The Estate of the Colin Dhijendra Singh

Corporate Partners

- Target Australia Pty Ltd
- The GPT Group
- Westpac Banking Corporation
- i=change

Trusts & Foundations

- Annie Rose And Andrew Lazar Foundation
- Datt Family Foundation
- Goldsmith Family Foundation
- Harold Mitchell Foundation
- Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation
- Rellim Foundation
- The L.R. Cazaly Trust Kennedy
- The Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation

Financial report

Financial year ended
30 June 2025

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN 057 044 514

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Australian Childhood Foundation Contents 30 June 2025

Directors' report	2
Auditor's independence declaration	5
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income	6
Statement of financial position	7
Statement of changes in equity	8
Statement of cash flows	9
Notes to the financial statements	10
Directors' declaration	26
Independent auditor's report to the members of Australian Childhood Foundation	27

General information

The financial statements cover Australian Childhood Foundation as an individual entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is Australian Childhood Foundation's functional and presentation currency.

Australian Childhood Foundation is a not-for-profit unlisted public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and principal place of business is:

Registered office	Principal place of business
Australian Childhood Foundation Level 1 675 Victoria Street Abbotsford Victorian 3067	Australian Childhood Foundation Level 1 675 Victoria Street Abbotsford Victorian 3067

A description of the nature of the Company's operations and its principal activities are included in the Directors' report, which is not part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were authorised for issue, in accordance with a resolution of directors, on 30 September 2025. The directors have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

Australian Childhood Foundation Directors' report 30 June 2025

The Board of Directors present their report, together with the financial statements, on the Company for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Directors

The following persons were Directors of the Company during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

Names	Position
Mark Thomas	Corporate Affairs Consultant
Justin Smith	Media
Nick Pelham (resigned June 2025)	Infrastructure Manager
Ciara Earley	General Paediatric Consultant
Rod Lamplugh	Solicitor
Claire Boussioutas	Consultant
Rod Naismith	Accountant
Cliff Weeks (resigned April 2025)	Public Servant

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 communication experience to the Board. He joined as a Director in 2011.
Nick Pelham (resigned June 2025)	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.
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 (resigned April 2025)	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.

Australian Childhood Foundation Directors' report 30 June 2025

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; and
- 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.

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 associate 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 2025 the collective liability of members was \$2,000 (2024: \$2,000)

Operating results

The operating surplus of the Company amounted to \$343,786 (2024: \$81,175). 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.

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation Directors' report 30 June 2025

Meetings of Directors

The number of meetings of the Company's directors (the 'Board of Directors') held during the year ended 30 June 2025, and the number of meetings attended by each director were:

	Directors' Meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Mark Thomas	8	8
Justin Smith	8	5
Nick Pelham (resigned June 2025)	8	4
Ciara Earley	8	7
Rod Lamplugh	8	6
Claire Boussioutas	8	8
Rod Naismith	8	7
Cliff Weeks (resigned April 2025)	5	3

Held: represents the number of meetings held during the time the Director held office.

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 the 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 2025 has been received and can be found on the next page of this report.

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

On behalf of the directors

A. Mark Thomas

Mark Thomas
Director

30 September 2025



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

Auditor's Independence Declaration Under Subdivision 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012*

To the Board of Directors of Australian Childhood Foundation

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2025 there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Nexia

Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd
Melbourne

Chapman Wan
Chapman Wan
Director

Dated this 30th day of September 2025

Advisory. Tax. Audit.

Registered Audit Company 291969

Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd (ABN 86 005 105 975) 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 www.nexia.com.au/legal. Neither Nexia International nor Nexia Australia Pty Ltd provide services to clients.

Liability limited under a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Australian Childhood Foundation Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue	29,857,105	26,068,468
Therapeutic services	1,301,380	1,817,630
Professional education services	1,499,259	1,436,208
Safeguarding children services	3,533,689	4,465,013
Fundraising and donations	1,461,979	1,283,521
Research & special projects	210,374	153,921
Interest income	590,597	368,308
Other income	38,454,383	35,593,269
Total revenue		
Expenses	(28,610,203)	(26,161,841)
Employee benefits expense	(704,191)	(838,002)
Organisational expenses	(1,640,152)	(1,793,892)
IT infrastructure & development	(713,251)	(696,730)
Offices and facilities	(727,533)	(634,604)
Travel expenses	(2,031,980)	(1,968,513)
Program expenses	(517,649)	(626,998)
Motor vehicle expenses	(1,714,356)	(1,584,592)
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	(1,146,916)	(1,037,564)
Lease interest	(216,938)	(183,108)
Other expenses	(87,428)	13,750
Total expenses	(38,110,597)	(35,512,094)
Surplus for the year	343,786	81,175
Other comprehensive income/(loss)		
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>		
Revaluation changes for property, plant and equipment	-	(270,389)
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>	52,242	16,510
Gain arising from revaluation of financial assets at fair value	52,242	(253,879)
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	52,242	(253,879)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	396,028	(172,704)

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Australian Childhood Foundation Statement of financial position As at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	4,927,312	2,965,421
Trade and other receivables	5	3,669,153	2,543,703
Financial assets	7	2,372,880	2,215,629
Inventories	6	221,584	219,791
Other assets	8	892,513	731,680
Total current assets		12,083,442	8,676,204
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	3,776,801	4,531,421
Right-of-use assets	10	1,994,424	3,240,115
Total non-current assets		5,771,225	7,771,536
Total assets		17,854,667	16,447,740
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	1,811,867	2,010,013
Contract liabilities	12	4,471,044	1,965,306
Lease liabilities	10	1,214,782	1,434,136
Employee benefits	13	2,068,441	2,210,708
Total current liabilities		9,566,114	7,640,163
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	10	862,864	1,851,868
Employee benefits	13	144,551	70,599
Total non-current liabilities		1,007,415	1,922,467
Total liabilities		10,573,529	9,562,630
Net assets		7,281,138	6,885,110
Equity			
Retained earnings	14	5,344,545	5,000,759
Reserves		1,936,593	1,884,351
Total equity		7,281,138	6,885,110

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation
Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Financial Asset Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2024	5,000,759	1,847,925	36,426	6,885,110
Surplus for the year	343,786	-	-	343,786
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	-	-	52,242	52,242
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	343,786	-	52,242	396,028
Balance at 30 June 2025	5,344,545	1,847,925	88,668	7,281,138

	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Financial Asset Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2023	4,919,584	2,118,314	19,916	7,057,814
Surplus for the year	81,175	-	-	81,175
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	-	(270,389)	16,510	(253,879)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	81,175	(270,389)	16,510	(172,704)
Balance at 30 June 2024	5,000,759	1,847,925	36,426	6,885,110

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Australian Childhood Foundation
Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from funders, clients, donors and other agencies		39,605,234	34,891,109
Payments to suppliers and employees		(35,461,494)	(33,002,287)
Dividends/distributions received		844	487
Interest received		208,593	131,476
Interest and other finance costs paid		(216,938)	(183,108)
Net cash from operating activities		4,136,239	1,837,677
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(392,296)	(1,314,221)
Purchase of financial assets		(105,009)	(63,895)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(497,305)	(1,378,116)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of lease liabilities (principal)		(1,677,043)	(1,576,757)
Net cash (used in) financing activities		(1,677,043)	(1,576,757)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		1,961,891	(1,117,196)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		2,965,421	4,082,617
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	4	4,927,312	2,965,421

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 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* issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB") and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as appropriate for not-for profit oriented entities. The Company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on the historical costs convention, except for, where applicable, the revaluation of land and buildings at fair value and financial assets (shares in listed companies) at fair value through other comprehensive income.

Comparatives

Comparative figures for the year ended 30 June 2025 have been provided in the general purpose financial statements for comparison purpose.

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 3.

Note 2. Material accounting policy information

The accounting policies that are material to the Company are set out below. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year, unless otherwise stated.

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The Company has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB") that are mandatory for the current reporting period, which had no significant impact on the financial statements.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

(a) Revenue and other income

The Company recognises revenue as follows:

Revenue from contracts with customers

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.

The core principle of *AASB 15* is that revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Company expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services.

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

Amounts received in advance of services being rendered are recognised as contract liabilities.

None of the revenue streams of the Company have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

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).

Specific revenue streams

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

Fundraising and donations

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

Fundraising and donations income is recognised when the funds are received, where the receipt of funds does not give rise to a contractual obligation with specific performance obligations.

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Grant revenue

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

Grant revenue, is recognised on receipt under *AASB 1058* if the funds do not give rise to a liability or other performance obligation at the time of 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. Other income is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established, when the income does not give rise to an obligation.

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.

Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers

Further information regarding the disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers has not been included as all revenue is in one geographical region, being Australia, and the timing of all revenue is over time.

(b) Income tax

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

The Company is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as an Income Tax Exempt Charitable Entity under subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. No income tax is payable by the Company as Section 23 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* exempts charitable institutions from income tax.

(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 payables are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash flows in the consolidated 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.

12

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

(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 the date of acquisition, which is the deemed cost.

(e) Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the Company's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in the Company's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no right at the end of the reporting period to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

(f) 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.

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.

13

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

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 Company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the unexpired period of the lease.

The depreciation rate 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.

(g) Financial instruments

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

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 Group 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 Group 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.

14

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

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.

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 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 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 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.

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.

15

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

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.

(h) Impairment of non-financial assets

At the end of each reporting period the Company determines whether here is 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.

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalent 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 changed is future lease payments arising from a change in rates, index or lease terms from exercising an extension of termination option. A corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the lease assets.

Short term lease (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 of comprehensive income.

16

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

(k) Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities represent the Company's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer and are recognised when a customer pays consideration, or when the Company recognises a receivable to reflect its unconditional right to consideration (whichever is earlier) before the Company has transferred the goods or services to the customer.

(l) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits, those 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 nominal 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 yield 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.

17

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 3. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

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 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.

Critical accounting judgement, estimates and assumptions

They 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:

Performance obligations under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

To identify a performance obligation under AASB 15, the promise must be sufficiently specific to be able to determine when the obligation is satisfied. The Company exercises judgement to determine whether the promise is sufficiently specific by taking into account any conditions specified in the arrangement, explicit or implicit, regarding the promised goods or services. In making this assessment, the Company includes the nature/type, cost/value, quantity and the period of transfer related to the goods or services promised.

Recognition of revenue

Judgements have been applied in the nature and timing of the satisfaction of performance obligations, significant payment terms, and revenue recognition for the Company's grants and other funding that are contracts with customers.

Lease term

The lease term is a significant component in the measurement of both the right-of-use asset and lease liability. Judgement is exercised in determining whether there is reasonable certainty that an option to extend the lease or purchase the underlying asset will be exercised, or an option to terminate the lease will not be exercised, when ascertaining the periods to be included in the lease term. In determining the lease term, all facts and circumstances that create an economical incentive to exercise an extension option, or not to exercise a termination option, are considered at the lease commencement date. Factors considered may include the importance of the asset to the Company's operations; comparison of terms and conditions to prevailing market rates; incurrence of significant penalties; existence of significant leasehold improvements; and the costs and disruption to replace the asset. The Company reassesses whether it is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option, if there is a significant event or significant change in circumstances.

Freehold land and building

The freehold land and building at Mitcham were independently valued on 30 May 2024 by Charter Keck Cramer. The valuation was based on the market value. The Directors do not believe that there has been a material movement in fair value since the revaluation date.

Employee benefits provision

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.

Receivables

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. An impairment provision is included for any receivable where the entire balance is not considered collectible. The impairment provision is based on the best information at the reporting date.

Estimation of useful lives of assets

The Company determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

18

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 4. Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash at bank and on hand	<u>4,927,312</u>	<u>2,965,421</u>

Note 5. Trade and other receivables

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Current assets</i>		
Trade receivables	<u>2,887,725</u>	<u>2,178,377</u>
Less: Allowance for expected credit losses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,887,725</u>	<u>2,178,377</u>
Other receivables	<u>781,428</u>	<u>365,326</u>
	<u>3,669,153</u>	<u>2,543,703</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.

Note 6. Inventories

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Current assets</i>		
Finished goods - at cost	<u>221,584</u>	<u>219,791</u>

Note 7. Financial assets

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Current assets</i>		
Term deposits - at amortised cost	<u>2,227,806</u>	<u>2,122,796</u>
Shares in listed companies - fair value through other comprehensive income (OCI)	<u>145,074</u>	<u>92,833</u>
	<u>2,372,880</u>	<u>2,215,629</u>

Note 8. Other assets

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Current assets</i>		
Prepayments	<u>529,191</u>	<u>378,857</u>
Security deposits	<u>363,322</u>	<u>352,803</u>
	<u>892,513</u>	<u>731,660</u>

19

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation Notes to the financial statements 30 June 2025

Note 9. Property, plant and equipment

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Non-current assets</i>		
Land - at fair value	2,200,000	2,200,000
Buildings - at fair value	306,573	306,573
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(306,573)	(306,573)
	-	-
Fixtures and fittings - at cost	1,420,669	1,306,094
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,225,021)	(1,083,756)
	195,648	222,338
Computer software - at cost	4,671,579	4,100,326
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,538,166)	(2,588,358)
	1,133,413	1,511,968
Leasehold improvements - at cost	657,965	432,015
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(443,510)	(388,388)
	214,455	43,627
Work in progress - at cost	33,285	553,488
	3,776,801	4,531,421

Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

	Land \$	Buildings \$	Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment \$	Computer Software \$	Leasehold Improvements \$	Work in progress \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2024	2,200,000	-	222,338	1,511,968	43,627	553,488	4,531,421
Additions	-	-	115,295	51,051	225,950	-	392,296
Transfers in/(out)	-	-	-	520,203	-	(520,203)	-
Depreciation expense	-	-	(141,985)	(949,809)	(55,122)	-	(1,146,916)
Balance at 30 June 2025	2,200,000	-	195,648	1,133,413	214,455	33,285	3,776,801

20

Australian Childhood Foundation Notes to the financial statements 30 June 2025

Note 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 1-5 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

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Non-current assets</i>		
Buildings - right-of-use	6,093,306	5,971,555
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(5,123,351)	(4,212,710)
	969,955	1,758,845
Motor vehicles - right-of-use	2,869,302	2,810,022
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,844,833)	(1,328,752)
	1,024,469	1,481,270
	1,994,424	3,240,115

Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

	Buildings \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2024	1,758,845	1,481,270	3,240,115
Additions	121,750	346,915	468,665
Depreciation expense	(910,641)	(803,715)	(1,714,356)
Balance at 30 June 2025	969,954	1,024,470	1,994,424

21

Australian Childhood Foundation Notes to the financial statements 30 June 2025

Note 10. Leases (continued)

Lease liabilities

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

	Less than 1 year \$	1 - 5 years \$	> 5 years \$	Total undiscounted lease liabilities \$	Lease liabilities included in this Statement of Financial Position \$
2025					
Lease liabilities	1,331,697	909,602	-	2,241,299	2,077,626
2024					
Lease liabilities	1,631,013	1,998,168	-	3,629,181	3,286,004

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:

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	216,938	183,108
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	1,714,356	1,584,592
	1,931,294	1,767,700

Note 11. Trade and other payables

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Trade payables	92,278	514,629
Accrued expenses	340,286	351,966
GST payable	350,061	219,334
Payroll liabilities	925,395	720,154
Other payables	103,847	203,930
	1,811,867	2,010,013

22

Australian Childhood Foundation Notes to the financial statements 30 June 2025

Note 11. Trade and other payables (continued)

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.

Note 12. Contract liabilities

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Contract liabilities	2,766,315	1,810,585
Care arrangement support costs (CASC) liabilities	1,704,729	174,721
	4,471,044	1,985,306

Accounting policy for contract liabilities

Contract liabilities represent the Company's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer and are recognised when a customer pays consideration, or when the Company recognises a receivable to reflect its unconditional right to consideration (whichever is earlier) before the Company has transferred the goods or services to the customer.

Accounting policy for care arrangement support costs (CASC) liabilities

Payments are made against the appropriate awarded contract, based on estimated child volumes over a quarter. Payments are made in advance, and reconciled quarterly. CASC is the allocation of funding to the Company for the purchase of agreed supports and services to address the assessed and presenting needs of the child or young person in care. These needs are identified through the Needs Assessment Tool (NAT), with the supports determined and agreed through a child's Care Plan with input from their Care Team.

Note 13. Employee benefits

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Provision for annual leave and long service leave	2,068,441	2,210,708
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>		
Provision for long service leave	144,551	70,599

Note 14. Reserves

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Asset revaluation reserve	1,847,925	1,847,925
Financial assets reserve	88,668	36,426
	1,936,593	1,884,351

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 (OCI).

23

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 15. Financial risk management

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Financial assets		
<i>Held at amortised cost</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,927,312	2,965,421
Trade and other receivables	3,669,153	2,543,703
Term deposits	2,227,806	2,122,796
Fair value through other comprehensive income (OCI)		
Shares in listed companies	145,074	92,833
	<u>10,969,345</u>	<u>7,724,753</u>
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	<u>8,360,537</u>	<u>7,281,323</u>

Note 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 (2024: 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 outstanding and obligations of the Company. At 30 June 2025 the number of members was 20 (2024: 20).

Note 17. Key management personnel disclosures

Compensation
The aggregate compensation made to directors and other members of key management personnel of the Company is set out below.

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Aggregate compensation	<u>1,621,235</u>	<u>2,030,384</u>

Note 18. Remuneration of auditors

During the financial year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd, the auditor of the Company, and its network firms:

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>Audit services - Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd</i>		
Audit of the financial statements	29,700	27,000
Audit of acquittal statements	<u>9,000</u>	<u>13,500</u>
	38,700	40,500
<i>Other services - Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd</i>		
Assistance with preparation of the financial statements	<u>3,300</u>	<u>3,000</u>
	<u>42,000</u>	<u>43,500</u>

Other services include assistance with the preparation of the financial statements and audit of acquittal statements.

24

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2025

Note 19. Contingencies

The Company has given bank guarantees as at 30 June 2025 of \$699,238 (2024: \$699,238) to various landlords. In the opinion of the directors, the Company did not have any other contingencies at 30 June 2025 (30 June 2024: None).

Note 20. Commitments

The Company did not have any commitments as at 30 June 2025 or 30 June 2024.

Note 21. Related party transactions

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

The following transaction occurred with related parties:

Board member Rod Naismith is a Partner at BDO. In the course of the financial year, BDO provided accounting services to the value of \$16,524 (2024: \$15,450).

Note 22. Events after the reporting period

The financial report was authorised for issue on 30 September 2025 by the Board of Directors.

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2025 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the Company's operations, the results of those operations, or the Company's state of affairs in future financial years.

25

Australian Childhood Foundation
Directors' declaration
30 June 2025

In the directors' opinion:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the *Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and associated regulations and other mandatory professional reporting requirements;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors made pursuant to Regulation 60.15 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

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

On behalf of the directors

A. Mark Thomas

Mark Thomas
Director

30 September 2025

26

Summary financial statements



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

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Australian Childhood Foundation

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Childhood Foundation (the "company"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Australian Childhood Foundation, is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Australian Childhood Foundation are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Advisory. Tax. Audit.

Registered Audit Company 291969

Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd (ABN 86 005 105 975) 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 www.nexia.com.au/legal. Neither Nexia International nor Nexia Australia Pty Ltd provide services to clients.

Liability limited under a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Nexia

Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd
Melbourne

Dated this 30th day of September 2025



Chapman Wan
Director



Get involved

Australian Childhood Foundation relies on the generosity of the community to provide vital counselling and support services for children and young people affected by violence, abuse, and neglect.

You can help transform the lives of children and support programs that prevent violence and abuse before it happens. Make a difference by donating at 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
childhood.org.au

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.





Australian
Childhood
Foundation



1300 381 581
support@childhood.org.au

childhood.org.au