



Australian
Childhood
Foundation

childhood.org.au

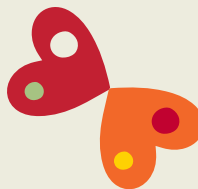
ACN: 057 044 514

Annual Report

Financial year 2025/26



Contents



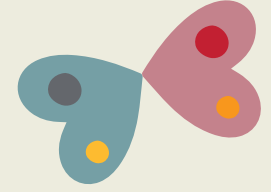
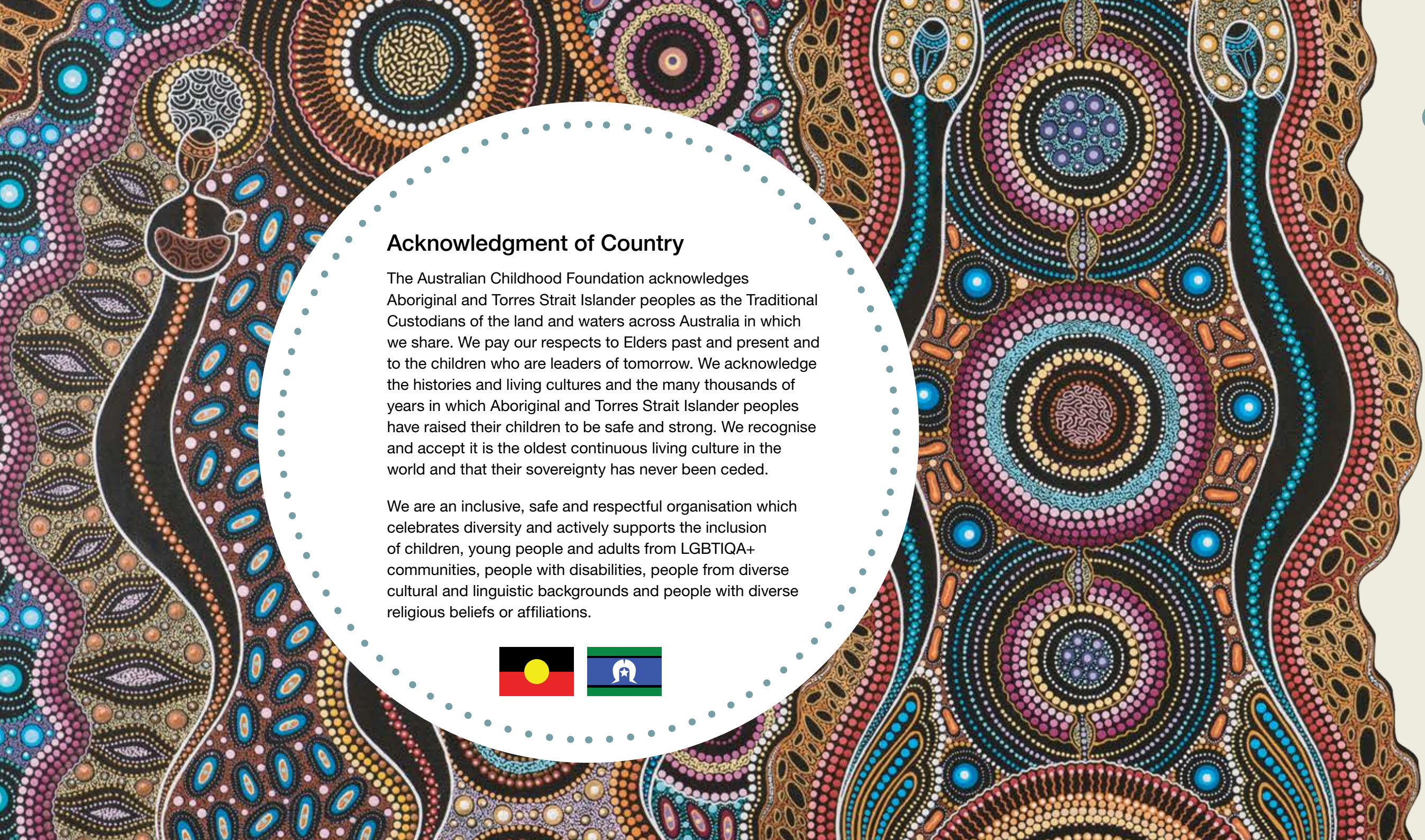
Acknowledgements	4
Acknowledgement to victim/survivors	5
CEO letter	6
Thank you	8
Feature piece 1: Creating a statewide culture of child safety	10
Feature piece 2: Supporting families in remote communities to build safer connections	12
Feature piece 3: Strengthening professional practice to support children and young people	14
Feature piece 4: Transforming trauma: connection and healing	16
Safeguarding Children: Working with organisations to strengthen their response to child safety risks	18
Therapeutic Services Victoria	20
Helping young people find a safer path forward: Walking Together Program	20
Supporting wellbeing, one wag at a time: Welcoming Merl to the Child Trauma Service	22
Promoting healing, empowerment, and recovery from family violence: The HEART Program	24

Therapeutic Services New South Wales	26
Creating stability for children through stronger relationships: OurSPACE NSW	26
Therapeutic Services Western Australia	28
A safe space for healing in Western Australia: The launch of our new Perth office	28
Creating a different approach to therapeutic foster care: Therapeutic foster care and carer counselling in Western Australia	30
Building stronger support around children in care: OurSPACE Western Australia	32
Creating pathways to healing and safer relationships: Family and domestic violence healing services	34
Using the power of horses to help young people thrive: Our Equestrian Youth Engagement Service	36
Therapeutic Services Australian Capital Territory	38
Helping children in kinship care find safety, connection, and belonging: Therapeutic Kinship Care in the ACT	38
Helping children heal through connection and support: Therapeutic Services Out-of-Home Care	40
Creating safe spaces for children to heal from violence: Heartfelt Program	42

Therapeutic Services Tasmania	44
Bringing therapeutic support into a safe place: Women's Shelter Partnership Project	44
Parenting and Early Years	46
Building the skills of professionals supporting parents: Bringing Up Great Kids: Parent Group Facilitator Training course	46
Knowledge Mobilisation and Practice	48
Building a skilled workforce for trauma-informed practice: Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma	48
Building a skilled workforce for trauma-informed practice: Making SPACE for Learning	50
Strengthening supervision in child protection: Child Protection Supervision training for child protection practitioners across the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Victoria	52
Partnerships	54
Seven years of standing with children: Our partnership with GPT Group	54
Small businesses, shared purpose: Our partnership with i=Change	56
Media coverage: Our voice in the media	58

Fundraising	62
Why do we need a Federal Minister for Children?	62
Tackling a challenge for children in need	63
Hope for the future	64
Our warmest thank you	66
Financial report	67
Get involved	84





Acknowledgment of Country

The 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.



Acknowledgement to victim/survivors

We recognise and acknowledge every child and young person who has lived, and is living, with abuse in all its forms, and every adult who experienced abuse in childhood.

The passing of years does not diminish what they endured, nor the recognition, care and justice they deserve.

We hold in our hearts all those living with the impacts of abuse today. Those who searched for safety in the very places it should have been waiting. Those who carried what no child should ever have been asked to hold. Those who reached for help, only to be met with disbelief, silence, and indifference. And those who carry the weight of what happened in ways the world may never seek to understand.

We hold especially close those who are no longer here with us today – those whose lives were stolen by violence, those we have lost to suicide, in childhood and adulthood, and those failed by the people and systems that should have protected, believed and supported them.

We grieve not only the lives lost, but all the life that should have been. The ordinary days. The growing older. The love, laughter, play and belonging. All the tomorrows they should have been here to see.

They were, and are, so much more than what happened to them. Their lives cannot be measured by the violence they endured, nor their stories reduced to the harm they experienced.

It is for them that we do this work.



CEO letter

The Australian Childhood Foundation was established on a simple but powerful belief: that every child deserves to grow up safe from abuse and neglect, surrounded by people who care about their wellbeing.

That belief remains at the heart of everything we do.

Children and young people are growing up in a world with many challenges. Family and domestic violence, abuse, neglect, online harm, and trauma continue to affect children and families across Australia. At the same time, the services supporting them are under increasing pressure. This makes strong safeguarding, skilled professionals, and effective therapeutic support more important than ever.

Our 2025/26 Annual Report reflects both the scale of these challenges and the difference that can be made when people come together around the safety and wellbeing of children.

Our work is shaped by the people who make it possible. Our staff bring expertise, compassion, and determination to some of the most complex work. Our partners, volunteers, supporters, and funders help us reach further and achieve more. The professionals who participate in our training and work with us bring that knowledge into schools, services, communities, and organisations across the country.

Most importantly, we acknowledge the children, young people, and families who place their trust in us, and the people with lived experience who continue to challenge us to listen, learn, and do better.

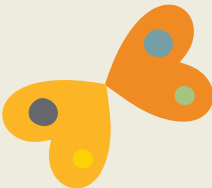
While progress has been made, there is still much to do. Children need safe adults, strong relationships, and specialised support.

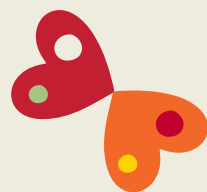
Organisations need help to build cultures where safeguarding is embedded in everyday practice. And meaningful change requires all of us to keep learning, speaking up, and taking action.

To everyone who contributes to the Australian Childhood Foundation's work, thank you. Your commitment helps us stand up for children and young people and work towards a safer future.

***Our purpose remains clear:
to help create a world
where every child can grow
up safe from abuse and
trauma, surrounded by the
relationships and support
they need to heal, belong,
and thrive.***

Janise Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Childhood Foundation





“Amy took the time to really understand what was going on. She asked questions no one else had asked before. What really stood out was that she didn’t just focus on Emily. She looked at all of us,”

- Emily’s Dad



Thank you

This year our supporters raised \$1,942,438 to help many children and families find precious hope, healing, and support.

These funds will change the lives of children, like Emily*, whose story we shared with our supporters this year.

Emily looked fine on the outside: bright, musical, and confident. But underneath, she was carrying trauma that no one could see. When she felt overwhelmed by that trauma, her behaviour became violent. She hurt her siblings. At 11, when Emily tried to jump from a moving car, it was a cry for help. Her parents realised she needed support. They tried doctors and counsellors, but nothing worked.

Then they found the Foundation.

Amy, one of our specialists, could see that Emily wasn’t trying to hurt anyone. She helped Emily understand her pain.

Amy didn’t just work with Emily. She worked with the whole family, meeting each parent in cafés and on park benches, building shared strategies across two households.

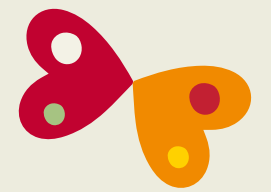
Emily isn’t running anymore. She’s back at school, writing music, and enjoying beach picnics with her family.

Stories like Emily’s are possible because of the compassion of our wonderful supporters. We are so grateful. Their kindness helps children and families get the help they need when they need it most.

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



Creating a statewide culture of child safety



62%

of adults in Australia's largest child maltreatment study experienced at least one form of child abuse during childhood

Victorian Working with Children Check mandatory child safety training development project

Children cannot be protected from harm if the adults around them do not know what to look for, how to respond, or when to speak up. Creating safer environments for children means ensuring every adult who works with children has the knowledge, confidence, and practical skills to recognise and respond when something is not right.

In partnership with the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, the Australian Childhood Foundation developed a new mandatory child safety training program for all Working with Children Check (WWCC) applicants and renewal holders across Victoria.

The 30-minute training moves beyond compliance to build practical judgement and confidence, helping adults recognise all forms of abuse, understand indicators of harm, identify grooming behaviours, maintain respectful and appropriate boundaries, and know how to respond to concerns about a child's safety.

The Foundation led the project's design, content development, instructional design, lived experience engagement, cultural consultation, stakeholder consultation, and user testing. The course was co-designed with child abuse survivors and informed by First Nations cultural advice, child safety expertise, and evidence, ensuring the training is practical, trauma-informed and grounded in children's lived experiences.

Throughout 2025/26, the Foundation made significant progress in developing the six-module training program, bringing together the expertise of child abuse survivors, lived experience experts, First Nations cultural advisors, child safety specialists, instructional designers, and government stakeholders. The project represents one of the

Foundation's largest population-level child safety initiatives and, once launched, has the potential to reach every new and renewing WWCC holder in Victoria, strengthening child safety knowledge across the diverse sectors and communities in which children live, learn, and grow.

Importantly, the training incorporates the voices and experiences of people with lived experience of child abuse. Their insights ensure that lessons learned from the past directly inform how future generations of children are protected. This approach reflects the Foundation's long-term advocacy for children and

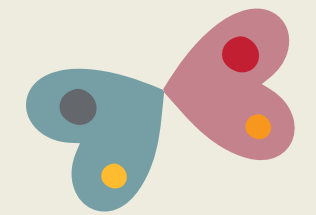
Knowing the signs can change what happens next for a child.

young people, and the value of creating meaningful opportunities for lived experience to shape child safety systems. The development of this training has been recognised as a significant outcome of that advocacy and the Foundation's work over many years to establish and develop its Lived Experience Advisory Council (LEAC).

The need for this work is clear. Australia's largest study of child maltreatment found that 62% of adults experienced at least one form of child abuse during childhood, highlighting the importance of prevention and early intervention, and ensuring adults are equipped to recognise signs of harm.

Rather than simply raising awareness, the training aims to help adults notice concerns, understand what they are seeing, make informed decisions, and take action. In doing so, it can help create a statewide network of safer adults who understand that child safety is everyone's responsibility.

The training is due to launch in late 2026, marking an important milestone in strengthening Victoria's child safeguarding system. Through evidence-informed, trauma-informed, and lived experience-led practice, the Foundation is helping turn knowledge into action and build safer communities where children and young people are better protected from harm.



Supporting families in remote communities to build safer connections

Bringing Up Great Kids: Safe Connections in the Northern Territory

Children need adults who can understand what sits beneath their behaviour, respond with empathy, and help them feel safe. For families affected by trauma, violence, and harmful behaviours, building that understanding can be an important step towards breaking cycles and creating healthier relationships for the next generation.

Safe Connections provides specialist support for children and young people aged 8 to 17 who are engaging in harmful sexual behaviour. The program offers comprehensive assessment, therapeutic counselling, and tailored safety and support planning to promote safety and healthy development.

In 2025/26, the Safe Connections team also delivered the Bringing Up Great Kids (BUGK) program over six weeks in a remote Northern Territory community, supporting more than 55 parents and carers through gender-specific sessions at Catholic Care. The program provided accessible education, information, and practical skills to help parents and carers better understand child development, trauma, parenting, safety, harmful sexual behaviours, and their own wellbeing.

BUGK was adapted to include specific content about harmful sexual behaviours, helping participants understand the continuum of sexual behaviours and distinguish between healthy, concerning, and harmful behaviours. Parents and carers explored what may sit beneath harmful sexual behaviour, what children and young people need from the adults around them to support safety and positive change, and how their own responses can contribute to accountability, connection, and healing.

More than **40 men** and **15 women** participated across the six-week program.

“It’s important that we learn about this, it’s really hard to talk about and emotional, but it’s important so we can help our kids.”
- Participant

“This has helped me understand my history, I know what I experienced was not good, and I know I have done this to my own kids. I want to be better.”
- Participant

The six-week program also explored the impact of trauma and brain development, online safety, the Window of Tolerance, pathways and future planning, and the ways parents can strengthen their own support networks. Participants were encouraged to reflect on their own childhood experiences and how these may continue to influence their parenting, while developing greater self-awareness, self-compassion, and practical strategies for supporting their children.

More than 40 men and 15 women participated in the sessions, with many describing increased knowledge, confidence, and empathy. Parents developed a stronger understanding of what may be driving their children’s behaviour, gained practical strategies to support regulation and safety, and became more confident in recognising and responding to harmful sexual behaviours. The involvement of the Safe Connections Team Leader and Cultural Lead also helped ensure the program was responsive to the local community context and supported culturally informed engagement.

For some participants, the program helped them confront difficult experiences from their childhood and consider what they wanted to do differently as parents.

By creating space for parents to explore difficult experiences and develop new ways of responding, Safe Connections strengthens understanding, confidence, and empathy. This helps families build safer relationships and gives children and young people a stronger foundation for wellbeing and connection.

Strengthening professional practice to support children and young people

Professional practice framework for student wellbeing and inclusion programs

Strong professional practice is an important part of creating environments where children and young people can feel safe, included, and supported. When professionals have a shared understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and approaches, they are better positioned to respond consistently to the diverse needs of the children and young people they support.

In 2025/26, the Foundation worked with the Northern Territory Department of Education and Training to develop a Professional Practice Framework for Student Wellbeing and Inclusion Programs and Services (SWIPS).

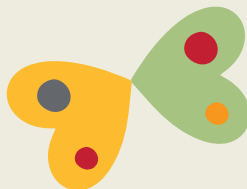
SWIPS supports schools across the Northern Territory to respond to the diverse needs of children and young people, including students experiencing disability, wellbeing challenges, trauma, environmental stressors, and complex psychosocial needs. The services include professional learning, consultation and advice, targeted programs, specialist services, incident and event response, inclusive supports, and practical resources.

The Professional Practice Framework was developed to create a shared set of values, domains of practice, and practice expectations. It provides guidance on role parameters and service scope, while bringing together practice standards aligned with relevant professional standards. The framework can also support professional practice guidance, supervision, quality assurance, and continuous improvement.

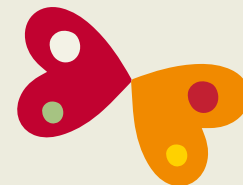
Developing the framework involved reviewing existing service materials and relevant standards, consulting with SWIPS staff, and building a deeper understanding of the elements that define their practice. The work brought these different perspectives together into a consistent and overarching framework that reflects the context in which SWIPS teams work.

The Foundation's consultancy approach is collaborative and responsive, recognising that every service operates within its own context and faces changing demands. By listening to what is working well, understanding the priorities of teams, and identifying opportunities to strengthen practice, the Foundation helps services bring greater clarity and consistency to the work they do.

The Professional Practice Framework provides SWIPS with a shared foundation for practice, supporting professionals to work with greater clarity, consistency, and cultural responsiveness as they help schools respond to the needs of children and young people across the Northern Territory.



Transforming trauma: connection and healing



“What you learned in this conference from all the faculty here; when you start embodying it, you will literally feel it in your body, and you will live it. You can see the love that is the light in every child who has been traumatised, and know how to turn that light back on again. When you do that, you can have no idea the larger impact that is going to have in the world. If all the people here can carry on all the things you learned at this conference, we will be making a big difference.”

- Dan Siegel, International Speaker

The Fifth Biennial International Childhood Trauma Conference

Children and young people affected by trauma need adults and systems that understand their experiences and believe in their capacity to heal. Creating better outcomes requires knowledge, connection, and a willingness to listen to the people with lived experience of trauma.

In 2025, the fifth biennial International Childhood Trauma Conference brought together more than 2,600 researchers, clinicians, practitioners, survivors, and people with lived experience from around the world to share knowledge and explore new approaches to childhood trauma and healing. Hosted by the Foundation, the conference created opportunities for professionals to learn from leading experts, share practice wisdom, and build connections across the sector.

The 2025 program included masterclasses, symposiums, workshops, and keynote presentations from leading international experts including Dan Siegel, Ruth Lanius, Dan Hughes, and Cathy Malchiodi.

The conference also explored the role of creativity and movement in healing through a screening and panel discussion of the documentary *Left Write Hook*, highlighting the experiences of a group of women who used writing, art, and boxing to process trauma.

The conference provided opportunities to reflect on the importance of culture, connection, and reconciliation in supporting healing. Delegates explored how professionals, carers, educators, and systems could create the relationships and environments that help children and young people feel safe, understood, and supported.

By bringing together diverse voices, knowledge, and experiences, the International Childhood Trauma Conference strengthened the collective capacity of the sector to respond to childhood trauma. It creates a space for learning, connection, and hope, with children and young people at the heart.



“What we’ve done at this conference is try to honour the voices of people with lived experience. Many people who work in the sector are terrified for people to find out that they have lived experience, they believe they will be othered, or seen as ‘less than’. We are taught to keep our professional and personal lives separate. How do we navigate this as professionals with lived experience? How can we find a way through that together?”

- Janise Mitchell, CEO, Australian Childhood Foundation



Working with organisations to strengthen their response to child safety risks

Our Safeguarding Accreditation Program

Children are safer when the organisations around them are committed to more than policies and procedures. They need adults, leaders, and systems that understand safeguarding is an everyday responsibility, embedded in culture, decision-making, and practice.

Through the Safeguarding Accreditation Program, the Australian Childhood Foundation works alongside organisations across Australia to build stronger child safe cultures. Rather than providing a one-off training session or checklist, the Foundation walks alongside organisations throughout their safeguarding journey, helping them strengthen their policies, practices, leadership, accountability, and the confidence of their people to recognise and respond to risks to children and young people.

During 2025/26, the Foundation worked with 73 organisations across a diverse range of sectors and communities. Seven accreditation panels were held, with nine organisations receiving accreditation, while three organisations progressed through certification,

bringing the total number of certified organisations to seven. Accreditation recognises organisations that have demonstrated their child safe practices against the program's requirements, while certification provides an ongoing pathway for organisations to maintain and strengthen these practices.

The Foundation also delivered 48 safeguarding training sessions to 34 individual organisations, conducted nine audits, completed two child safety reviews, and delivered a bespoke Working with Children Toolkit project for Women's Community Shelters. The impact of this work extends beyond the organisations directly engaged.

Through accreditation, training, consultancy, and ongoing support, the Foundation helps organisations create environments where safeguarding is understood as a shared responsibility and where staff, volunteers, leaders, and boards are better equipped to keep children and young people safe.

By supporting organisations to continually strengthen their safeguarding practice, the Foundation is helping build a stronger national culture of child safety, where children and young people are safer, better supported, and more meaningfully heard.



Our Safeguarding team worked with **73 organisations** across the 2025/26 financial year program

48 training sessions were delivered to 34 individual organisations

“Safeguarding is no longer seen as a compliance requirement alone, but as a shared responsibility that underpins everything we do.”
- Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation

For organisations, this can mean meaningful changes in culture and practice.

- Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation described the accreditation process as helping shift safeguarding from a compliance requirement to a shared responsibility, with clearer accountability, improved risk awareness, and more reflective practice across teams.
- At Camp Quality, the Foundation's support strengthened staff awareness and confidence, while helping create greater consistency and shared responsibility among employees and volunteers.
- At The Rockhampton Grammar School, the work has contributed to stronger communication, accountability, and consistency, alongside more open and reflective conversations about student wellbeing, behaviour, and support.
- Kennerley Children's Homes has embedded safeguarding across its governance and operations, including a Safeguarding Children Committee, a Safeguarding Children Champion at Board level, and new opportunities for children and young people to have their voices heard in shaping services.
- These changes demonstrate what is possible when safeguarding becomes part of how an organisation thinks and operates, rather than something that sits separately from its everyday work.

Therapeutic Services Victoria

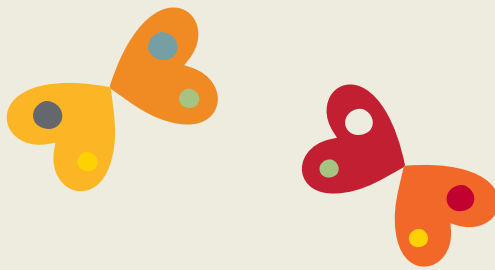
Helping young people find a safer path forward: Walking Together Program

For young people experiencing violence, trauma, and instability, having one safe and consistent relationship can be the beginning of something different. The Walking Together program creates that space, helping young people and families build safer relationships while connecting them with the support they need to move forward.

Delivered in partnership with EACH and Uniting in Melbourne's southern region, Walking Together provides six months of therapeutic counselling and support to young people and their families experiencing violence in the home. The program combines therapeutic support and care coordination, working with the whole family to support healthy emotional expression, respectful and connected relationships, and improved family functioning. A whole-of-family safety action plan helps keep the safety of all family members at the centre.

The program also includes Finding the Path Forward, a school-based group program providing an early intervention pathway for young people experiencing trauma, violence, and escalating behaviours. This was how the program first connected with Henry*, a young person whose history of family violence was contributing to high-risk behaviours and violence at home, at school, and in the community.

When Henry entered the program, there was no consistent adult in his life he felt he could rely on. He lacked positive role models and struggled to find safe ways to respond to the experiences he had lived through. Through the group program and individual therapeutic support, alongside a committed school wellbeing team, Henry began to experience relational and physical safety and develop trust in the adults around him.



A key part of this work was helping Henry understand that his experiences of victimisation could be acknowledged and supported while also helping him develop safer ways of functioning. He was supported to navigate complex child protection and police systems, manage moments of rupture, engage in repair, and gradually allow his needs to emerge. For Henry, this meant feeling seen, heard, and understood.

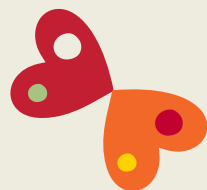
As his relationships strengthened, Henry began to connect with peers in more positive ways and remained engaged with school. Brokerage funding helped address basic needs, including access to a new laptop, while connections with prosocial activities such as martial arts gave him opportunities to build confidence and positive community connections.

Walking Together is a short-term program, making it critical to build a strong network of ongoing support around each young person and their family. For Henry, this meant connecting him with intensive youth and family support, youth mentoring, and continuing multi-agency risk management before the program came to an end.

These connections would have been difficult to establish without the therapeutic relationship Henry first developed through Walking Together. By creating a space where he could trust that all parts of his experience would be heard and responded to, the program helped Henry take important steps towards safety, connection, and a more positive future.

Walking Together demonstrates the difference that can be made when therapeutic support is combined with practical assistance, family safety planning, school partnerships, and strong connections across the service system. For young people like Henry, walking alongside them can help create the safety and trust needed to begin a new path forward.

*Names have been changed to protect anonymity



Supporting wellbeing, one wag at a time: Welcoming Merl to the Child Trauma Service

For children who have experienced trauma, entering a clinical setting can feel overwhelming. Having a calm, welcoming presence alongside them can help create a different experience, one where safety, comfort, and connection come a little more easily.

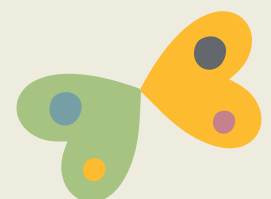
In April 2026, the Child Trauma Service in Mitcham welcomed a new member to the team: Merl, a two-year-old Labrador who joined the Foundation through our partnership with Guide Dogs Victoria's Wellbeing Program.

Merl's presence has added another layer of emotional support to the therapeutic environment for children and families accessing the service. For children who may find it difficult to engage in conversations about difficult experiences, having Merl nearby can help create a greater sense of safety and comfort as they take part in therapeutic work.

Merl has also become a source of connection and support for the team. Working with complex trauma can place staff at risk of experiencing vicarious trauma, making staff wellbeing an important part of creating a healthy therapeutic environment. Regular interactions with Merl have provided moments of stress relief, emotional connection, and psychological comfort throughout the working day.

Merl works two to three days each week, primarily at the Foundation's counselling site in Mitcham. As Merl settles into his routine, the team looks forward to seeing how his presence continues to support children, families, and staff in the year ahead.

The Wellbeing Program is a small but meaningful enhancement to the Child Trauma Service, recognising that creating a supportive therapeutic environment involves caring not only for the children and families who access the service, but also for the people who provide their care.



A new four-legged member of the team: Merl joined the Child Trauma Service in April 2026 through the Foundation's partnership with Guide Dogs Victoria's Wellbeing Program.

Promoting healing, empowerment, and recovery from family violence: The HEART Program

For children who have experienced family violence, healing can begin in moments of safety, connection, and play. The HEART program supports children, young people, and families in the South West of Victoria to heal from family violence, while helping rebuild the relationships that can provide a foundation for recovery.

HEART, which stands for Healing, Empowerment, and Recovery from Family Violence, is delivered through a partnership between the Foundation, South West Centre Against Sexual Assault, Brophy Family and Youth Services, Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre, and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation. The program provides individual, dyadic, and group therapeutic support for children, young people, individuals, and families affected by family violence.

In 2025/26, the Foundation piloted Healing HEARTs and Connections, an eight-week therapeutic group supporting children and their parents to connect, heal, and hold hope for the future. Through movement, play, and creative arts, families were given opportunities to explore emotions, develop body awareness, and build skills to support emotional regulation, attention, and concentration.

“She hasn’t done that for years and it was lovely to see.”
- Parent, reflecting on their child returning to play

The program gently invites children to reconnect with aspects of childhood that may have been disrupted by their experiences of family violence. Children are supported to recognise and express their feelings and needs, while learning strategies to calm their bodies and minds and develop confidence, resilience, and positive experiences of connection.

Shared experiences are also central to strengthening the relationship between children and their caregivers. Through play, curiosity, and connection, parents and children have opportunities to become more attuned to each other, communicate in new ways, and experience safe and rewarding interactions together.

For the families who took part in the pilot, these moments of connection began to extend beyond the group. One parent shared how their child, after years without playing in the same way, returned home and began bringing their toys to life through imaginative play. Soon after, the family built a large fort together in the lounge room.

For this family, these were more than moments of play. They were signs of reconnection, joy, and the possibility of experiencing childhood in a new way.

Through Healing HEARTs and Connections, the HEART program is creating opportunities for children and parents to reconnect through play, strengthen their relationships, and build a greater sense of safety and belonging. By supporting families to heal together, the program helps create space for hope, connection, and recovery after family violence.

5
partner organisations
are working together to
support children, young
people, and families
affected by family
violence



“OurSPACE has been a wonderful support to our foster child and us during this time and a great ally in working toward our future goals. We have really enjoyed the sessions and have noticed a significant improvement – as well as in my own response and confidence in managing these behaviours moving forward.”

- Carer

“Our therapeutic specialist is an asset to your organisation. Their knowledge, sensibility, calm approach, and patience all lent themselves to them supporting our child and wider family, with grace, professionalism, and genuine care. We will miss our time with them, as they have played an incredibly important role in our journey. We can only sing their praises as we see (and benefit from) the positive impact they have had. This is a wonderful program that allows families the chance to be supported through challenging times.”

- Carer

Therapeutic Services New South Wales

Creating stability for children through stronger relationships: OurSPACE NSW

Children who have experienced trauma and multiple placement changes need more than a safe place to live. They need stable, consistent relationships with adults who understand what they have been through and can respond to their needs with care, patience, and understanding.

OurSPACE NSW provides specialist outreach therapeutic trauma support to children and young people in foster and kinship care across New South Wales who have experienced multiple placement changes. The program’s flexible approach means children and young people can receive support in their own homes and communities, wherever they live in NSW. Therapeutic Specialists travel to them and can continue providing support if they move during the program, helping to maintain an important source of consistency through periods of change.

At the heart of OurSPACE NSW are the children and young people themselves. Through counselling and therapeutic support, they have opportunities to feel seen, understood, and supported as they

work towards healing and building more stable relationships and futures. The program also works with the adults around them, including carers, caseworkers, teachers, educators, and other professionals, helping to build a shared understanding of trauma and more consistent, trauma-responsive approaches to supporting the child.

This whole-of-care-team approach has been particularly important in strengthening placement stability. By supporting carers to build their knowledge, confidence, and ability to respond to children’s needs, and by fostering collaboration and communication across the care team, OurSPACE NSW helps create greater consistency around the child.

Cultural safety is also an important part of the program. First Nations Therapeutic Specialists provide culturally safe support and resources that recognise and honour the culture and identity of First Nations children and young people.

During 2025/26, OurSPACE NSW received 211 new referrals for children and young people across NSW. More than half (52%) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, while 42% lived outside Greater Sydney, in regional and remote communities. These figures highlight the

importance of a model of support that can travel to children and provide specialist therapeutic support wherever they live.

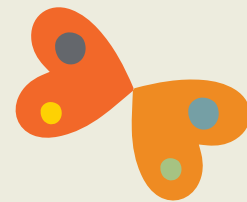
By following the child, rather than expecting the child to fit the service, OurSPACE NSW creates continuity when other parts of life may be changing. Through therapeutic support, stronger care teams, and culturally safe practice, the program helps children and young people build the relationships, stability, and sense of belonging they need to heal and move towards brighter futures.

“I believe the flexibility of the program and its service provision is what makes it unique. I have had a number of young people referred recently and linked with the same therapeutic specialist. Noticeably for each of these young people and their circumstances, the specialist has met and engaged with them and their carers in completely different ways that have all been meaningful to them and their needs at that time. This individualised care has been integral to establishing rapport quickly and moving into a therapeutic space so quickly with vulnerable teens who have had significant instability.”

- Caseworker

211 new referrals for children and young people, with 52% identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and 42% living in regional or remote areas outside Greater Sydney

Therapeutic Services Western Australia



A safe space for healing in Western Australia: The launch of our new Perth office

For children and families recovering from trauma, abuse, and family and domestic violence, the environment around them can make a meaningful difference. A space that feels warm, welcoming, and safe can help create the conditions for children to feel more comfortable, connected, and supported.

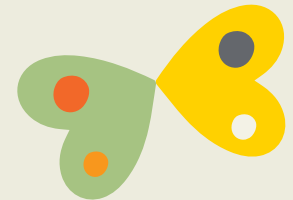
During 2025/26, the Foundation officially opened its new Perth office, marking an important milestone in the Foundation's more than 20-year journey supporting children, young people, foster carers, families, and communities across Western Australia.

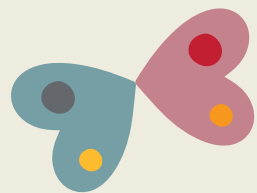
The new office has been thoughtfully designed around the needs of the children, young people, and families who access our services. Recognising that children who have experienced trauma can carry feelings that feel cold, heavy, or overwhelming, the space has been intentionally created to offer warmth, comfort, and a sense of safety. From the moment a child walks through the doors, the aim is for them to know that this is a place made for them.

A striking mural by local Aboriginal artist Kayley Emery welcomes children and families into the office. Reflecting the wildlife and landscape of Noongar Country, the artwork creates a meaningful connection to culture and place, recognising the important role culture can play in healing.

The new office was made possible through the generous support of Lotterywest, whose funding enabled the renovation and fit-out of the space. The project was further strengthened by the significant in-kind contributions of Barpa Construction Services and their network of suppliers, whose expertise, craftsmanship, and commitment helped bring the vision to life. Both Lotterywest and Barpa are valued partners and strong supporters of the work we undertake with children, young people, and families across Western Australia.

The new Perth office provides a dedicated environment where children, young people, and families can access therapeutic support as they recover from trauma, abuse, and family and domestic violence. By creating a space where children can feel welcome, safe, and connected, the office reflects the Foundation's commitment to creating environments that support healing and help children and families feel valued, heard, and cared for.





Creating a different approach to therapeutic foster care: Therapeutic foster care and carer counselling in Western Australia

For children in foster care, therapeutic support needs to extend beyond the child to the relationships and people around them. In Western Australia, the therapeutic foster care program is showing what is possible when relationships, the wellbeing of carers, and the needs of children are placed at the centre of care.

2025/26 marked the second year of the program's delivery in WA, with the model continuing to grow and evolve. Carers and stakeholders increasingly recognise it as a therapeutic program with a difference, grounded in trauma-responsive and relational practice.

An independent evaluation by the Centre for Children and Young People at Southern Cross University examined the program's first 18 months of implementation. Phase 1 findings provided evidence that the program had established a strong foundation and was being delivered with integrity and alignment to its intended values.

Carers, staff, and stakeholders described an approach that centres relationships, values the people providing care, and keeps the child at the heart of decision making. As the program continues to mature, it is demonstrating how trauma-responsive, relational, and culturally grounded care can be delivered through an integrated therapeutic foster care model.



"We've been with the Foundation a bit over 12 months or since the program started and for the first time since we've been fostering, we actually felt that what we were doing is actually valued. They actually appreciate the time and the emotional upheaval that goes along with being a foster carer, and they appreciate that, they recognise it, they celebrate it."

- Foster carer

"It's not just the child in care, because the child in care would often get so much focus, and everyone would forget about the body that's holding the child, basically. So, for the Foundation, for us, they are holding us, so that we can hold the children."

- Foster carer



Building stronger support around children in care: OurSPACE Western Australia

For children in foster and family care, the quality and stability of the relationships around them can make a lasting difference. Supporting carers with the knowledge, skills, and care they need is an important part of creating environments where children can feel safe, connected, and supported.

OurSPACE WA provides an integrated model of therapeutic counselling and specialised carer support for foster and family carers across Western Australia. The program recognises the complexity of the carer role, supporting carers as they provide culturally strong, therapeutic care to children who have experienced attachment disruption and abuse, while navigating the wider relationships and systems around the child.

Originally funded as a pilot program and COVID-19 response in 2020, OurSPACE WA reached an important milestone in 2025/26 when it was awarded a long-term contract and embedded as an integral part of foster and family care support services across WA.

During the year, OurSPACE WA received referrals for 91 carers across Western Australia. Therapeutic counselling has continued to provide carers with support for their own wellbeing, while strengthening their capacity to provide quality care and build positive relationships with children, young people, and the broader network around them.

By recognising that carers also need support, OurSPACE WA helps strengthen the people at the heart of the child's care. Through therapeutic counselling and specialised support, the program contributes to stronger relationships, greater carer wellbeing, and more consistent support for children and young people.

Long-term funding has been secured, embedding OurSPACE WA as an integral part of foster and family care support services

91 carers referred to
OurSPACE WA in 2025/26

“OurSPACE helped me to clear my head and understand my thoughts. I feel calmer and less stressed, and the children are more open and relaxed.”

- Family carer

“My counsellor always took the time to listen, particularly when she sensed I was struggling, and offered thoughtful, insightful guidance whenever I needed it most. Her compassion, professionalism, and dedication made an immeasurable difference to my ability to cope and to be the best possible support for my grandchild.”

- Family carer

“It was so helpful to have someone who was lovely, warm, easy to talk to, and she just got it and understood how stressful it can be parenting a teenage foster child with complex needs. She offered a different perspective and way of seeing things, I'm less stressed and in a much better place now.”

- Foster carer



Creating pathways to healing and safer relationships: Family and domestic violence healing services

For women, children, and families experiencing family and domestic violence, finding safety and healing can require support from different services. Naala Djookan Healing Centre (NDHC) brings this support together, providing an integrated response that helps families access the assistance they need to build safer, healthier relationships and strengthen their wellbeing.

NDHC is a consortium of 10 organisations, funded by the Department of Communities, to deliver specialist support to women, children, and families at risk of or experiencing family and domestic violence. It provides healing programs, workshops, and individual support that respond to the needs of women, children, and families.

The Foundation contributes specialist therapeutic expertise to the service through a Therapeutic Practice Lead, Parenting Specialist, and Senior Child and

Family Counsellor. Together, these roles support children and families through therapeutic interventions, parenting support, and counselling, helping strengthen relationships and promote healing following experiences of family and domestic violence.

In 2025/26, NDHC marked its fifth year of service delivery. Across its five years, the service has received 298 referrals and delivered 208 healing programs and workshops, reaching more than 1,100 women and children.

A significant milestone this year was the extension of NDHC's funding for a further five years. This will enable the continued delivery of healing programs, child and parent support, and child and family counselling, ensuring women, children, and families can continue to access specialist support as they work towards safety, healthier relationships, and wellbeing.

Through collaboration across the consortium, NDHC brings together different areas of expertise to provide more connected support for families affected by family and domestic violence.

Naala Djookan Healing Centre has received a 5-year extension of funding, enabling the ongoing delivery of healing programs, child and parent support, and child and family counselling.

Using the power of horses to help young people thrive: Our Equestrian Youth Engagement Service

For some young people, finding a place where they feel safe to try, make mistakes, and discover what they are capable of can be an important first step towards a more hopeful future. The Equestrian Youth Engagement Service (EYES) creates that space through equine-assisted learning, therapeutic support, and opportunities to build practical skills, confidence, and connection.

EYES supports young people who are disengaged from education or at risk of poor outcomes to build resilience, wellbeing, and life skills. Through experiential learning with horses, holistic support, and industry engagement, the program helps young people develop skills and confidence that can support their education, employment, relationships, and independence.

EYES supports young people aged 14 to 17, and in 2025/26 expanded its age range to include young people aged 14 to 23. The program's collaborative approach was also recognised at the 2025 WA Youth Awards, where EYES and partner Karla Kuliny Aboriginal Corporation received the Sector Collaboration Award.

EYES shows what can happen when young people are given opportunities to build on their strengths, learn through experience, and see new possibilities for themselves. By combining therapeutic support with practical, hands-on learning, the program helps young people build the skills, confidence, and connections that can contribute to healthier and more independent futures.



EYES won the **Sector Collaboration Award** at the 2025 WA Youth Awards

EYES has now expanded the age range to include **ages 14 to 23**

“EYES harnessed Sophie’s interests and helped increase her self-worth and confidence. Her outlook for the future has become much more positive.”

- EYES participant's mother

CASE STUDY Equestrian Youth Engagement Service

For 18-year-old Chelsey, EYES provided an opportunity to explore her strengths while navigating complex circumstances. Referred by a youth homelessness service, Chelsey was living in supported accommodation for young people with severe mental health disorders when she joined the program.

The equine environment provided a non-judgemental setting where Chelsey could explore emotional regulation, trust, communication, relationships, and personal responsibility. Therapeutic reflection helped her connect what she was learning through her experiences with horses to challenges and relationships in her wider life.

Over time, Chelsey demonstrated greater confidence in managing challenges, considering different responses, building positive relationships, and contributing within a group. She increasingly recognised her own strengths and began to see herself as someone with valuable skills and qualities to offer others.

Chelsey continues to navigate complex circumstances, but her consistency, insight, compassion, and willingness to engage in change have strengthened. Her progress through EYES demonstrated a growing capacity to regulate her emotions, respond flexibly to challenges, develop positive relationships, and make purposeful decisions about her future.

Therapeutic Services

Australian Capital Territory

Helping children in kinship care find safety, connection, and belonging: Therapeutic Kinship Care in the ACT

Children who enter out-of-home care need more than a safe place to live. They need relationships that help them feel secure, understood, and connected to their identity, culture, and community. For children who have experienced trauma, disrupted attachment, grief, and loss, having carers who understand their experiences and can respond to their needs with consistency and compassion is an important part of creating the stability they need to heal and thrive.

The Therapeutic Kinship Care program in the ACT provides specialised support for children and young people who cannot safely remain in their parents' care and are placed with relatives or other kinship carers. The program recognises the important role kinship care can play in maintaining children's relationships, identity, culture, and sense of belonging, while supporting carers to respond to the complex needs that can arise when a child enters out-of-home care.

The program takes a child-centred, trauma-informed, and relational approach, integrating therapeutic support into the child's everyday care environment. Rather than viewing challenging behaviour in isolation, practitioners seek to understand what a child's behaviour may be communicating about their experiences, relationships, and developmental history. Carers are supported to better understand these needs and respond in ways that promote safety, connection, regulation, and belonging.

The program also considers the broader network around each child, including relationships between carers, parents, siblings, and extended family. Where it is in the child's best interests, therapeutic support aims to strengthen safe and meaningful relationships and help families navigate the complex dynamics that can accompany kinship care.

As the service continues to establish and grow, it was contracted to support up to 65 kinship-related care placements as of 30 June 2026, with 37 placements actively supported at the time of reporting (2026). The team also supported nine young people under Enduring Parental Responsibility (EPR) and nine young people in Alternative Care arrangements, providing tailored options for children and young people who require stable, long-term care when more traditional placement models are not suitable.

37
kinship care
placements
currently
supported

No waitlist:
A single point of
entry provides
streamlined access



The service has continued to build its capacity to respond to emerging needs, with no waitlist for referrals and a single point of entry helping families access support more easily. The expansion into Alternative Care arrangements is helping address gaps in the broader care system, while an After Care Program is being developed to support young people as they transition from care and move towards adulthood. Scheduled to commence in late 2026, the program will help young people maintain important connections, access practical support, and build independence.

Throughout 2025/26, the Foundation continued to strengthen the program's focus on placement stability, family connection, cultural engagement, carer support, and child participation. These foundations are vital to ensuring children and young people can experience not only safety, but the belonging and connection that make a family environment feel like home.

By supporting children, carers, and the relationships around them, Therapeutic Kinship Care is helping create stable environments where children can heal from trauma while remaining connected to the people, culture, and communities that matter to them.

Helping children heal through connection and support: Therapeutic Services Out-of-Home Care

Children who have experienced trauma and disruption need more than individual support. They need the adults around them to understand what they have experienced, respond to their needs, and work together to create safety, stability, and connection.

The Therapeutic Services Out-of-Home-Care (OOHC) Program provides specialist, trauma-responsive therapeutic support to children and young people living in kinship, foster, and residential care across the ACT and surrounding region. From February 2026, the program also began supporting children and young people who are returning, or have recently returned, to live with their parent or parents.

At the heart of the program is a commitment to strengthening the relationships that surround each child or young person. Therapeutic Specialists work alongside parents, carers, family members, support networks, and professionals, providing the knowledge, skills, and support they need to better understand a child’s experiences and needs, strengthen relationships, and achieve protective and restorative outcomes.

A care team approach is central to the work. The vast majority of therapeutic engagements involve key adults in the child’s life, recognising that

positive and lasting change is more likely when the people and services around a child share an understanding of their needs and work together. This approach extends therapeutic support beyond individual sessions and into the child’s everyday relationships and environments.

Over 2025/26, the team worked with 95 children and young people and their families and carers, supporting them to navigate difficult experiences, strengthen relationships, and build greater stability and support in their everyday lives. The length and nature of support varied according to each child’s individual needs, circumstances, and goals, with therapeutic engagement tailored to each child and their care team.

The program also supported 15 children and young people and their parents through the restoration process, as they returned, or prepared to return, to live at home. Returning home is a significant transition for children, young people, and their families. Therapeutic support helped children and young people adjust to the changes involved, while supporting parents to better understand and respond to their child’s needs and rebuild their relationship.

By working with children and the people who care for them, the OOHC Program is helping strengthen the relationships that children rely on every day. Through trauma-responsive support, shared understanding, and a commitment to connection, the program is helping children and young people build greater safety, stability, and belonging as they heal, grow, and thrive.

95
children and young people were supported by the program over the past year, alongside their families and carers

15
children and young people supported alongside their parents through the restoration process



“The Therapeutic Specialist’s involvement has been instrumental in supporting her throughout her high school years and finishing her Year 12 so well. It has also helped us, as a school, to better understand her needs and how we can best support her.”

- Deputy Principal, ACT High School

“We wouldn’t be where we are now without our Therapeutic Specialist’s support. She has made me feel like we are in this together and our little grandson has really benefited from that.”

- Kinship Carer

“I like my counsellor because she always listens to me and gives me a snack and we do fun things together and with my mum.”

- Child aged 10

“Children appear to feel seen and heard and experience the joy of play, an essential part of their healing.”

- Social Ventures Australia evaluation

“Thanks to our therapist’s support, I am getting less upset and have so much more language to use with my son. I struggled to put things into words but having her support I have been able to have better conversations with him about some of the difficult stuff.”

- Caregiver

“I wasn’t sure at first but after a while I’ve realised that (me and my therapist) could have fun and I had a safe person to talk to.”

- Young person aged 12

Creating safe spaces for children to heal from violence: Heartfelt Program

Children who experience domestic and family violence need to be recognised as victim-survivors in their own right. They need safe spaces where they can make sense of what has happened, express their feelings, and rediscover a sense of safety, connection, and joy.

The Heartfelt Program provides trauma-responsive, child-centred therapeutic support to children aged 5–12 years who have experienced domestic and family violence across the ACT and surrounding region. The program works alongside children and their caregivers, providing counselling, therapeutic groups, parenting support, and case management to help children recover and strengthen the safe relationships around them.

Since the pilot expanded in July 2023, the program has introduced therapeutic assessments, counselling, therapeutic groups for children and caregivers, therapeutic parenting support, and additional case management. Flexible supports, including transport and childcare, also help families participate in the program. Through this work, the team takes the time to understand each child’s experiences, strengths, relationships, and circumstances, adapting therapeutic support in ways that feel safe and meaningful.

The program’s impact was independently evaluated by Social Ventures Australia in late 2025. The evaluation found that the expanded Heartfelt model

was making a significant contribution to supporting children and families recovering from domestic and family violence, while filling an important gap in the service system through its trauma-informed, relational, and culturally responsive approach.

The evaluation also found that children in the Heartfelt Program had opportunities to feel heard, understood, and supported, while caregivers reported feeling supported and developing stronger relationships with their children. The evaluators highlighted the program’s flexible delivery model, tailored therapeutic supports, and integrated case management as key factors in its effectiveness.

The program’s impact extends beyond individual therapeutic sessions. In July 2025, the Davencare Foundation donated \$5,000 through Hands Across Canberra to support Heartfelt Bookworms, a project providing therapeutic books for children participating in the program. The books have helped children explore difficult experiences and emotions in safe, developmentally appropriate ways, while creating opportunities for comfort, enjoyment, and connection.

The project also supported mothers and children to share books together, providing a simple way to continue conversations and therapeutic work at home. A diverse Service Library was developed to reflect children’s individual identities, experiences, and needs, including First Nations and gender-diverse resources. Children completing the program were also given a voucher to choose a book to keep and share with their mother, creating a meaningful connection between their therapeutic experience and home.

These books can become more than stories. For children, they can provide comfort and a familiar reminder of the relationships and skills developed through the program. For families, they create opportunities to continue connecting and talking together long after a therapeutic session has ended.

The strong evaluation findings and the dedication of the Heartfelt team have helped secure the program’s future, with funding now confirmed for a further three years. This provides an important opportunity to continue supporting children and families affected by domestic and family violence, and to build on a model that recognises children’s experiences, strengths, and capacity to heal.

Through safe relationships, therapeutic support, and opportunities for children to be heard, Heartfelt is helping children recover from the impacts of domestic and family violence and move towards greater safety, connection, and wellbeing.

“We could be meeting up to discuss what we had planned last session, but something had come up or changed since the last visit and our therapist (the Therapeutic Specialist) was able to pivot to discuss and support me and my kids on the matters we needed.”

- Caregiver

3
years of further funding secured to continue the Heartfelt Program



Therapeutic Services Tasmania

Bringing therapeutic support into a safe place: Women's Shelter Partnership Project

For women and children experiencing family violence, accessing therapeutic support can be difficult while navigating the immediate challenges of finding safety and stability. Having a trusted therapeutic professional regularly present within the shelter creates an accessible pathway to support, allowing children, young people, and mothers to engage in a familiar environment.

Through a fee-for-service partnership, the Foundation's Therapeutic Specialist attends a local Family Violence Women's Shelter in Hobart every second Tuesday, providing therapeutic support and psychoeducation to children, young people, and mothers residing at the shelter.

The Therapeutic Specialist uses play-based, relationship-focused, and trauma-transformative approaches tailored to the individual needs of children and young people who have experienced family violence and adversity. Support also extends to mothers through psychoeducation, parenting support, and therapeutic guidance, helping strengthen parent-child relationships, build understanding of trauma, and support parental confidence and capacity.

The consistent onsite presence has helped foster trust, familiarity, and strong therapeutic relationships, with engagement remaining high and feedback from women, children, and shelter staff overwhelmingly positive.



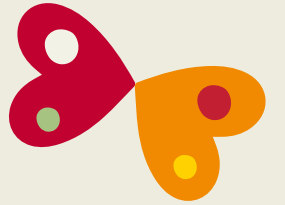
Support is flexible and responsive, including individual therapeutic work with mothers, direct interventions with children, and dyadic work focused on strengthening parent-child relationships.

Working closely with shelter staff has also strengthened coordination of support. Regular communication, information sharing, and secondary consultation have helped build a shared understanding of client needs, while mentoring and workforce development have supported staff to respond to complex situations with greater knowledge and confidence.

The Therapeutic Specialist delivering the program is a male worker. For some women who have experienced family violence, developing trust and feeling safe enough to engage openly with a male professional can represent an important step in their therapeutic engagement. The positive feedback and ongoing participation demonstrate the trust that has been built through the consistent, safe, and trauma-informed approach.

Between May and September 2026, 27 one-hour reflective practice and support sessions were offered to women, children, and young people engaged with the service. The sessions provided a consistent opportunity to access support, build skills, and reflect on experiences.

By bringing therapeutic expertise directly into the shelter environment, the Women's Shelter Partnership Project helps reduce barriers to support and creates opportunities for women and children to build safety, connection, and wellbeing during a difficult period in their lives.



"I felt a sense of warmth and acceptance of myself. I felt calm in the Therapeutic Specialist's presence."

- Young person

"I noticed my breathing becoming slower and deeper, and experienced a sense of nourishment, curiosity, and creativity."

- Caregiver

Parenting and Early Years

Building the skills of professionals supporting parents: Bringing Up Great Kids: Parent Group Facilitator Training course

Parents can benefit from having a safe space to learn, reflect, and connect with others as they navigate the challenges of raising children. Skilled group facilitators play an important role in creating these spaces, helping parents feel supported while building knowledge, confidence, and practical skills.

The Parent Group Facilitator Training course provides foundational training for professionals who facilitate groups for parents. The four-module online course gives professionals practical knowledge and skills to plan and facilitate effective group programs, supporting both those new to group facilitation and more experienced practitioners to strengthen their practice.

During 2025/26, the Parenting and Early Years team developed and launched the new training, bringing together parenting professionals from a range of agencies across Australia, as well as practitioners within the Foundation, who contributed their experience, knowledge, and practical insights throughout the development process. Their input helped shape a high-quality resource grounded in the realities of facilitating groups for parents.

The new course forms part of the Foundation’s broader Bringing Up Great Kids (BUGK) program, which delivered 44 workshops to 904 participants in 2025/26, covering facilitator training and specialised topics including parenting after family violence, parenting adolescents, First Nations families, the first 1,000 days, and kinship and foster care.

The Parenting and Early Years team continues to build the skills and confidence of professionals who support parents, helping create stronger opportunities for parents to learn, connect, and develop positive relationships with their children.



5,496

people involved in BUGK

44

BUGK workshops delivered to 904 workshop participants

16

Bringing Up Great Kids Facilitator Training workshops

454

facilitator training participants

14

other BUGK variation workshops, reaching 225 participants

371 workshops have been delivered by the team to approximately **12,000 individuals**

“It’s been incredibly helpful to learn about the framework that underpins my practice – to have the theory.”

- Student

“Understanding the challenges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to face has changed how I work with children and their families.”

- Student

3,208
people enrolled
across our 10
on-demand training
programs

Knowledge Mobilisation and Practice



Building a skilled workforce for trauma-informed practice: Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma

Building a trauma-informed workforce starts with giving professionals the knowledge, skills, and confidence to understand what children have experienced and respond in ways that support healing.

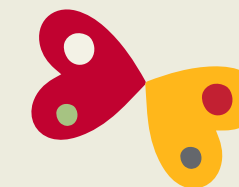
In 2025/26, the Foundation launched the newly redeveloped 11390NAT Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma, strengthening one of the sector’s leading qualifications in trauma-informed practice. The renewed qualification reflects the evolving understanding of developmental trauma and the needs of professionals working alongside children and young people affected by trauma.

The course was redeveloped through extensive consultation with industry, practitioners, and academic experts. It brings together contemporary evidence, lived experience, First Nations perspectives, and advanced practice approaches, giving students opportunities to deepen their understanding of trauma and consider how this knowledge informs their work with children, young people, and families.

The qualification is designed to strengthen the capacity of professionals to create safer, more healing, and developmentally responsive environments for children across Australia. By connecting theory with practice, the course supports professionals to better understand the experiences and needs of children affected by trauma and apply this understanding in their day-to-day work.

Early student feedback has been highly positive, with students rating the new course 5 out of 5 for how informative and relevant it is to their roles.

The redevelopment of the Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma represents an ongoing investment in the professionals who support children and young people affected by trauma. By strengthening the knowledge, practice, and cultural understanding of the workforce, the qualification contributes to a sector better equipped to create environments where children can feel safe, understood, and supported to heal.



Building a skilled workforce for trauma-informed practice: Making SPACE for Learning

When children and young people have experienced trauma, the impacts can extend into the classroom, affecting their learning, wellbeing, relationships, and ability to engage. Schools can play an important role in creating environments where children feel safe, connected, and ready to learn.

In 2025/26, the Foundation launched the renewed Making SPACE for Learning framework, strengthening our capacity to support schools to respond to the impacts of trauma on learning, wellbeing, and engagement.

Grounded in trauma-transformative practice, the framework provides educators with practical strategies to build the conditions children and young people need to participate and thrive at school. Making SPACE for Learning focuses on five key areas: Safety, Predictability, Attuned Connections, Cultural Strength, and Empowerment.

These principles help educators consider how everyday classroom experiences can support children to feel safe, understood, and connected, while recognising the different ways trauma can affect learning and engagement. The framework also supports schools to consider the broader school community and the environments they create around children and young people.

Making SPACE for Learning is about creating school environments where children and young people can experience greater connection, belonging, and participation, and have the opportunity to feel ready to learn.

The renewed framework strengthens the Foundation's ongoing work with schools to create environments that recognise the impacts of trauma and support children and young people to learn, connect, and thrive.

- Safety
- Predictability
- Attuned Connections
- Cultural Strength
- Empowerment

“The facilitators were amazing. Really enjoyed it.”

“The presenters were engaging and had a great understanding of the material so were able to assist and answer questions.”

“The simulations – sitting in the discomfort in the group – helped me to really consider how this will feel for staff and how best to support them.”

Strengthening supervision in child protection: Child Protection Supervision training for child protection practitioners across the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Victoria

Child protection practitioners make complex decisions that can have a lasting impact on children and families. Strong, supportive supervision gives practitioners the space to reflect, develop professional judgement and critical thinking, and strengthen their practice.

In 2025/26, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) Victoria invited the Foundation’s Knowledge Mobilisation and Practice (KMP) team to develop and deliver a model of supervision training for practitioners, leaders, and managers across child protection teams throughout the state. The training is designed to strengthen trauma-informed capability and support a culture of reflective and effective supervision.

The Foundation’s experience in building trauma-informed capability in services that work with children and young people informed the development of the program. The KMP team worked closely with the Office of the Chief Practitioner and DFFH’s training team, consulting with leadership teams and key stakeholders throughout the process.

Before the statewide rollout, the team delivered pilot training sessions and gathered feedback from course participants and other stakeholders. This feedback was used to review and adapt the content and delivery approach, ensuring the final program responded to the needs of practitioners, leaders, and managers across the department.

To date, 264 people across all levels of DFFH have completed the training, with strong engagement and positive feedback. Participants highlighted the engaging facilitation, depth of knowledge, and opportunities to experience the challenges of supervision through practical simulations.

The training will continue to be delivered across Victoria throughout 2026 and into 2027, supporting child protection practitioners and leaders to develop the reflective practice, professional judgement, and capability needed to support better outcomes for children, families, and communities.

264
people trained
across DFFH



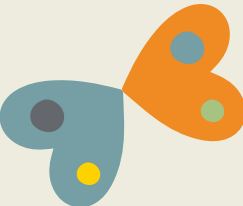
Partnerships

Seven years of standing with children: Our partnership with GPT Group

Children need to feel safe in their environments to recover from trauma and feel secure in the world around them. Creating these environments is a shared responsibility, and businesses have an important role to play in ensuring children’s safety in the places they live, work, and spend time.

For seven years, GPT Group has partnered with the Foundation to support children affected by family violence and abuse, while working to strengthen child safety across its own spaces and the broader business community. GPT’s annual contribution of \$60,000 directly supports the Foundation’s Victorian therapeutic services, helping children and families access specialist support to build safety, trust, and connection.

In 2025/26, GPT continued its work to make Highpoint Australia’s first fully child-safe shopping centre. With millions of families visiting Highpoint each year, the initiative is embedding child safeguarding into the way the centre is designed, operated, and experienced, demonstrating how businesses can take practical steps to create safer environments for children.



GPT’s commitment to child safety also extends to its role as a founding member of the On Us Coalition. GPT provided its spaces for the launch of the Child Safeguarding Business Principles and the first On Us Business Summit, where the Child Safeguarding in Business Self-Assessment Tool was introduced. Through this partnership, GPT has helped build awareness of the role businesses can play in creating safer environments for children.

The partnership also brought about the Merry Moments Christmas campaign. Following a December reflection session between the Foundation and GPT executive teams, the campaign brought Santa photos to Darling Park and expanded fundraising activities across five shopping centres and four office buildings. GPT staff volunteered at gift wrapping stations, tenants participated in workplace giving, and toys were donated for Victorian children. The campaign raised \$18,723, more than double the previous year.

Through long-term investment, practical action, and a shared commitment to child safety, GPT continues to demonstrate how businesses can contribute to safer environments and better outcomes for children. The Foundation is grateful for GPT’s ongoing partnership and looks forward to continuing this work together.



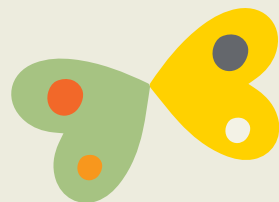
7
years of partnership

\$60,000
annual contribution to Victorian
therapeutic services

\$18,723
raised through Merry Moments

5
shopping centres involved in Christmas
fundraising, and 4 office buildings
involved in workplace giving

Highpoint
is working towards Australia’s first
fully child safe shopping centre



Small businesses, shared purpose: Our partnership with i=Change

Children who have experienced trauma need safe, supportive relationships and opportunities to heal. Access to specialist therapeutic support can help children make sense of what has happened to them, build a stronger sense of safety, and begin to understand that the abuse or violence they experienced was not their fault.

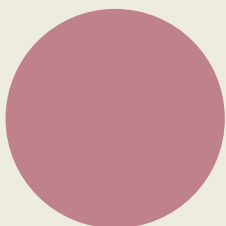
Through i=Change, online retailers can build giving into everyday purchases by donating \$1 from each sale to a charity selected by their customers at checkout. For the Foundation, this creates an opportunity for small businesses and their customers to contribute to therapeutic support for children and young people who have experienced trauma.

In 2025/26, a growing group of Australian businesses supported the Foundation through i=Change, including children's brands such as Tiger Tribe and Sand + Salt Kids, fashion labels By Charlotte and Illoura The Label, and homewares brand Bambusa and National Tiles. Many of these businesses are founded or run by parents and have chosen to make giving part of the way they do business while providing their customers with an opportunity to support children's healing.

For shoppers, the choice happens in a small moment at checkout. But collectively, these individual contributions can help fund specialist support for children. A \$50 donation can provide a one-on-one therapy session, giving children and young people a safe space to explore their experiences, build trust, and begin their healing journey.

Through i=Change, everyday purchases become opportunities to support children and families affected by trauma. We thank i=Change, every retailer that has chosen to support the Foundation, and every customer who has chosen to direct their dollar towards helping children heal.

i=Change®



\$1

donated from every
participating sale,
and every customer
can choose where
their \$1 goes



Media coverage

Our voice in the media

Throughout 2025/26, the Foundation was featured across a range of media outlets, raising awareness of our advocacy, partnerships, and initiatives supporting children and young people.



Left Behind inquiry in Victoria finds child protection demand putting young people at risk

The Foundation highlighted the findings of the Commission for Children and Young People's Left Behind report, which found children were repeatedly referred to child protection, but these cases were often closed without intervention despite escalating risk factors. Janise Mitchell and Conor Pall called for earlier, child-specific support and stronger referral pathways to ensure children exposed to violence and trauma are not left without support.



Surviving Malka Leifer: Sisters welcome move to protect children

The Foundation supported a roundtable bringing together multicultural and multifaith leaders to build culturally responsive approaches to child safety, inspired by the advocacy of Nicole Meyer, Dassi Erlich, and Elly Sapper. The sisters called for greater education, support, and safe pathways for children to disclose abuse, with the roundtable marking the beginning of a broader movement for reform.



Australian Childhood Foundation to deliver national support service for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse

The Foundation was appointed to deliver a new national information and referral service for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, providing free information, guidance, and referrals through a website, helpline, and specialist Service Navigators. The service, delivered in partnership with Anglicare Victoria, is expected to launch by early 2027 and has been shaped by the voices and experiences of survivors.



Family court urged to listen to children

The Foundation's youth engagement and advocacy leader Conor Pall joined calls for children to have a greater voice in family law and custody decisions. The discussion highlighted the need for children's views and experiences to be better considered in decisions affecting their safety and wellbeing.



Watch the amazing Angel Gould in the Way we Care

Emily and Lachlan grew up in Australia's state care system. Now they join a growing community of carers and advocates who are reimagining how we care for children.



Child protection expert slams Basketball Victoria for failing to put the safety of children first

Janise Mitchell criticised Basketball Victoria's handling of the investigation into Eltham Wildcats chief executive Richard Irving, raising concerns that the needs and safety of children were not being adequately considered in decision-making.



Fitzroy Community School dismissed sexual abuse claims, former students allege

Janise Mitchell spoke about allegations of sexual abuse and grooming at Fitzroy Community School, highlighting concerns about the school's response to warning signs and the importance of listening to children and prioritising their safety.

"Nowhere in here are the needs of the children being factored into their decision-making."
- Janise Mitchell



Queensland teen blames ‘dark’ chapter on Child Safety failures, and he’s not the only one

Janise Mitchell highlighted the impact of placement breakdowns on children and young people in care, describing them as ‘the enemy’ of healing. She called for placements to provide greater safety than the environments children have been removed from, while supporting relationship stability and addressing their individual needs.



Multifaith child safety push: twenty organisations back a national child safety commitment after a Surviving Malka Leifer screening

The Foundation hosted a roundtable following a Melbourne screening of Surviving Malka Leifer, bringing together more than 35 leaders from multicultural, multifaith, and ethno-specific organisations to discuss child safety. Twenty organisations endorsed a joint statement calling for greater collaboration and culturally responsive approaches to protecting children from abuse.



New National Hotline announced

The Foundation was featured in coverage announcing its appointment to deliver a new national support service for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. The service will provide a dedicated helpline, website and specialist Service Navigators, creating a single point of access to information, support, and referrals.



Victoria to ban ‘good character’ references from watering down sentences

The Foundation’s advocacy contributed to calls for Victoria to ban ‘good character’ references that can reduce sentences for people convicted of violent or sexual offences. The Foundation highlighted how people who use violence can be perceived as ‘good teammates’, ‘good employees’, or ‘good friends’, despite the harm they have caused.



Three-year wait for national criminal history checker makes parents ‘sick’

The Foundation called for greater national consistency in Working with Children Checks, highlighting the need to close gaps that can allow people who pose a risk to children to move between jurisdictions undetected. The coverage examined delays to the National Continuous Checking Capability and the ongoing challenges of Australia’s fragmented child safety systems.

Fundraising

Why do we need a Federal Minister for Children?

Thank you to the thousands of supporters who backed our call for a Federal Minister for Children. Together, we have now reached more than 10,000 petition signatories.

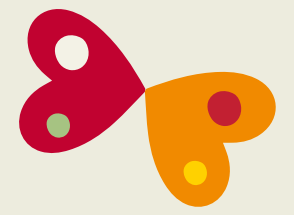
Children and young people face significant challenges, including abuse, neglect, family violence, online exploitation, and gaps in youth justice and child protection systems. Too often, children remain invisible in policy discussions and government decision-making, despite being the group most affected by these issues.

The scale of the challenge is alarming. Last year, Australia recorded more than half a million reports of child abuse, equating to nearly one report of violence, abuse, or neglect every minute (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare). Research also shows that almost two-thirds of Australians experienced abuse, neglect, or exposure to family violence during childhood, highlighting the long-term impact of failing to protect children.

Children cannot vote or directly participate in the political process, yet they should have the right to safety, protection, care, and a voice in decisions that affect their lives. A dedicated Federal Minister for Children would help ensure these rights are recognised as a national priority.

When she was National Children’s Commissioner Anne Hollonds said: “We are failing children in this country because we’re not making the issues that are important for child wellbeing our national priority.”

We are proud to stand alongside our supporters in advocating for children and young people. We thank everyone who has added their voice to this important campaign.



Tackling a challenge for children in need

We are so grateful to all of our wonderful supporters who create local community events to raise vital funds.

Josh Tinomana is one of those special supporters. This year in Perth, Josh and his friends raised \$4,000 by running 100km, via 6 laps of a 17km loop.

After each lap, they stopped to refuel with food and drinks before running again.

“Mentally and physically, the challenge was quite hard, but the pain is nothing like what children go through when they’ve suffered through trauma and abuse.”

- Josh

Hope for the future

Recently, we asked our supporters about their hopes for the next generation of Australian children and young people. Here are some of their responses:

“That every child be able to experience their childhood abuse and trauma free. For those who cannot, that they have access to the resources to heal that hurt.”

“They are equipped with the ability to navigate an increasingly complex world and are able to find the support they need when life turns ugly.”

“I would hope that our society would become more educated on how to raise children by guiding them on making decisions and supporting them, not abusing them.”



“To be able to live in peaceful homes.”

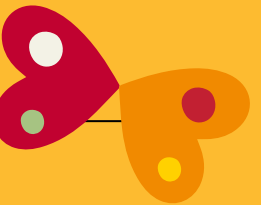
“That all children may experience a loving family atmosphere as they grow.”

“They are given the best chance to have a happy life.”

“I’d like to see our society truly prioritising children. This would require significant cultural change. It would entail governments considering the impacts on children in every policy decision they make. We need to take a longer view of decisions made today, and think about the legacy we are leaving as a society for our children and grandchildren.”

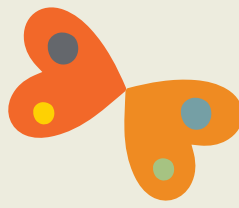
“Life holds no boundaries.”

“That fewer children need the services the Foundation provides.”



Our warmest thank you

We are deeply appreciative of all our major supporters throughout 2025/26.



Donors

- Adam Wallace
- Angus Montgomery
- Anna Dudek
- Dean Le Page
- Dierdre Westblade
- Frances David
- Franz Schlagenhauer
- Geoff Baker
- Ian Denham
- Jeannette Seneque
- Jeff Burns
- Kathy Holland
- Martin Gans
- Miles Condon
- Neil Blair
- Olivia Kember & Paul Newfield
- Rellim Foundation
- Stephen Thompson
- Suzanne J Gregg
- TIG Freight Management Pty Ltd
- William David Rooseboom
- Yi Liang
- Zoe Holt

Bequestors

- Colin Davies
- Estate of Dennis Kline
- Estate of Rosalie Anne Goodman
- Estate of Tess Williams
- Gemma Gallagher
- Lisa Mossan
- Maggie Poole-Johnson
- Matthew Conley
- Therese Valma Reeves

Partners

- ACCOR
- Brian M Davis
- Fidelity Asia
- GPT
- i=Change
- Minderoo
- Paul Ramsay Foundation



Financial report

Financial year ended
30 June 2026



Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation

ACN 057 044 514

Annual Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Australian Childhood Foundation Contents 30 June 2026

Directors' report	2
Auditor's independence declaration	6
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income	7
Statement of financial position	8
Statement of changes in equity	9
Statement of cash flows	10
Notes to the financial statements	11
Directors' declaration	27
Independent auditor's report to the members of Australian Childhood Foundation	28

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 Victoria 3067	Australian Childhood Foundation Level 1 675 Victoria Street Abbotsford Victoria 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 5 October 2026. The directors have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

Australian Childhood Foundation Directors' report 30 June 2026

The Board of Directors present their report, together with the financial statements, on the Company for the year ended 30 June 2026.

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 (resigned June 2026)	Media
Ciara Earley	General Paediatric Consultant
Rod Lamplugh	Solicitor
Claire Boussioutas	Consultant
Rod Naismith	Accountant
Fiona Cornforth (appointed June 2026)	First Nations Consultant
David Whyman (appointed August 2026)	First Nations and Youth Representative
Chelsea Farrugia (appointed September 2026)	Youth Representative

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 (resigned June 2026)	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.
Ciara Earley	joined as Director in 2014. She is a qualified Paediatrician and works as a Consultant at Monash Medical Centre. Ciara holds a 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.

Australian Childhood Foundation Directors' report 30 June 2026

Fiona Cornforth (appointed June 2026)

Appointed in 2026 as ACF's First Nations Director, Fiona Cornforth brings extensive leadership experience across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing, education, governance and community development. A Wuthathi woman with connections to the Torres Strait Islands, she currently leads the Yardhura Walani Research Centre at the Australian National University.

Her previous executive leadership roles include CEO and Deputy CEO of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation. She contributes deep expertise in healing-informed practice, cultural governance, research, policy development and Indigenous community leadership. Her appointment strengthens ACF's commitment to cultural safety, reconciliation and ensuring First Nations perspectives are embedded within governance and strategic decision-making.

David Whyman (appointed August 2026)

David Whyman joined the Board in 2026 as a Youth Director. Drawing on lived experience of foster care and residential care, he brings an important perspective grounded in the experiences of children and young people who have interacted with care systems.

A Yorta Yorta descendant, David has represented children's voices nationally and internationally and has advocated strongly for the rights of children and young people. His leadership experience in lived experience advisory roles, governance committees and reconciliation initiatives enables him to contribute meaningfully to discussions regarding child participation, advocacy, safeguarding and organisational accountability. His presence on the Board helps ensure that the voices of young people remain central to organisational decision-making.

Chelsea Farrugia (appointed September 2026)

Appointed as a Youth Director in 2026, Chelsea Farrugia brings lived experience, academic expertise and a strong commitment to child safety and prevention of abuse. With a background in psychology and doctoral research focused on breaking intergenerational cycles of trauma and maltreatment, she offers valuable insights into resilience, prevention and protective factors that support children's wellbeing.

Her experience in youth engagement, mentoring and advocacy strengthens the Board's understanding of emerging issues affecting young people and reinforces ACF's commitment to ensuring children and young people have an authentic voice in governance.

Principal activities

The principal activities of Australian Childhood Foundation during the financial year were 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 Company'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.

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation
Directors' report
30 June 2026

Performance Measure

The Company measures its performance through the number of children and families supported by its specialist programs, the amount of 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 2026 the collective liability of members was \$2,000 (2025: \$2,000)

Operating results

The operating surplus of the Company amounted to \$2,331,225 (2025: \$343,786).

Significant changes in state of affairs

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

Events after the reporting date

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

Meetings of Directors

The number of meetings of the Company's directors (the 'Board of Directors') held during the year ended 30 June 2026, and the number of meetings attended by each director were:

	Directors' Number eligible to attend	Meetings Number attended
Mark Thomas	6	6
Justin Smith (resigned June 2026)	6	3
Ciara Earley	6	5
Rod Lamplugh	6	5
Claire Boussioutas	6	5
Rod Naismith	6	4
Fiona Cornforth (appointed June 2026)	1	1
David Whyman (appointed August 2026)	-	-
Chelsea Farrugia (appointed September 2026)	-	-

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.

4

Australian Childhood Foundation
Directors' report
30 June 2026

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 2026 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

5 October 2026

5



Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd
Level 16, 600 Bourke Street
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 Directors of Australian Childhood Foundation

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2026 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

Dated this 5th day of October 2026

Chapman Wan

Director

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 by 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 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
Revenue and other income	3	42,318,153	38,454,383
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense		(28,932,061)	(28,610,203)
Organisational expenses		(817,882)	(704,191)
IT infrastructure & development		(1,794,859)	(1,640,152)
Offices and facilities		(673,535)	(713,251)
Travel expenses		(640,019)	(727,533)
Program expenses		(3,543,413)	(2,031,980)
Motor vehicle expenses		(504,171)	(517,649)
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	4	(1,859,689)	(1,714,356)
Depreciation expense	4	(995,252)	(1,146,916)
Lease interest	4	(171,242)	(216,938)
Other expenses		(54,805)	(87,428)
Total expenses		(39,966,928)	(38,110,597)
Surplus for the year		2,331,225	343,786
Other comprehensive income/(loss)			
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Gain/(loss) arising from revaluation of financial assets at fair value		(7,512)	52,242
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year		(7,512)	52,242
Total comprehensive income for the year		2,323,713	396,028

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

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation Statement of financial position As at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	8,505,085	4,838,186
Trade and other receivables	6	2,110,857	3,669,153
Financial assets	7	5,322,803	2,227,806
Inventories		-	221,584
Other assets	8	501,928	529,191
Total current assets		16,440,673	11,485,920
Non-current assets			
Financial assets	7	137,562	145,074
Property, plant and equipment	9	3,691,262	3,776,801
Right-of-use assets	10	1,545,701	1,994,424
Other assets	8	538,315	452,448
Total non-current assets		5,912,840	6,368,747
Total assets		22,353,513	17,854,667
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	2,734,250	1,811,867
Contract liabilities	12	5,849,984	4,471,044
Lease liabilities	10	962,671	1,214,762
Employee benefits	13	2,412,982	2,068,441
Total current liabilities		11,959,887	9,566,114
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	10	647,917	862,864
Employee benefits	13	140,858	144,551
Total non-current liabilities		788,775	1,007,415
Total liabilities		12,748,662	10,573,529
Net assets		9,604,851	7,281,138
Equity			
Retained earnings		7,675,770	5,344,545
Reserves	14	1,929,081	1,936,593
Total equity		9,604,851	7,281,138

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

Australian Childhood Foundation Statement of changes in equity For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Financial Assets Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2025	5,344,545	1,847,925	88,668	7,281,138
Surplus for the year	2,331,225	-	-	2,331,225
Other comprehensive (loss) for the year	-	-	(7,512)	(7,512)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	2,331,225	-	(7,512)	2,323,713
Balance at 30 June 2026	7,675,770	1,847,925	81,156	9,604,851

	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Financial Assets 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 for the year	-	-	52,242	52,242
Total comprehensive income 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

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 2026

	Note	2026 \$	2025 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from funders, clients, donors and other agencies		45,014,630	39,605,234
Payments to suppliers and employees		(35,534,534)	(35,461,494)
Dividends/distributions received		1,042	844
Interest received		239,717	208,593
Interest and other finance costs paid		(171,242)	(216,938)
Net cash from operating activities		9,549,613	4,136,239
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(909,713)	(392,296)
Purchase of financial assets		(3,094,997)	(105,009)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(4,004,710)	(497,305)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of lease liabilities (principal)		(1,878,004)	(1,677,043)
Net cash (used in) financing activities		(1,878,004)	(1,677,043)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		3,666,899	1,961,891
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		4,838,186	2,876,295
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	5	8,505,085	4,838,186

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 2026

Note 1. 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.

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

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 2026 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 2.

Revenue and other income

The Company recognises revenue as follows:

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Company is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer. For each contract with a customer, the Company: identifies the contract with a customer; identifies the performance obligations in the contract; determines the transaction price which takes into account estimates of variable consideration and the time value of money; allocates the transaction price to the separate performance obligations on the basis of the relative stand-alone selling price of each distinct good or service to be delivered; and recognises revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied in a manner that depicts the transfer to the customer of the goods or services promised.

Variable consideration within the transaction price, if any, reflects concessions provided to the customer such as discounts, rebates and refunds, any potential bonuses receivable from the customer and any other contingent events. Such estimates are determined using either the 'expected value' or 'most likely amount' method. The measurement of variable consideration is subject to a constraining principle whereby revenue will only be recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognised will not occur. The measurement constraint continues until the uncertainty associated with the variable consideration is subsequently resolved. Amounts received that are subject to the constraining principle are recognised as a refund liability.

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 2026

Note 1. 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.

Grant revenue is recognised over time as the services are rendered. The Company uses the input method, whereby percentage of completion at reporting date equates to total costs incurred to reporting date relative to the total expected costs, to measure progress.

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

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.

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.

Interest

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

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Income tax

As the Company is a charitable institution in terms of subsection 50-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

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.

12

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2026

Note 1. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Trade and other receivables

Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses.

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.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets in excess of \$5,000 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.

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Buildings	2 - 4%
Office, furniture and equipment	10 - 25%
Computer software	20%
Leasehold improvements	20 - 33%

13

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2026

Note 1. Material accounting policy information (continued)

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.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the Company. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

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.

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 assets reserve). On disposal any balance in the financial assets 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.

14

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2026

Note 1. Material accounting policy information (continued)

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.

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

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.

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.

Impairment of non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

15

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2026

Note 1. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use. The value-in-use is the present value of the estimated future cash flows relating to the asset using a pre-tax discount rate specific to the asset or cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Assets that do not have independent cash flows are grouped together to form a cash-generating unit.

Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Company prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

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.

Lease liabilities

A lease liability is recognised at the commencement date of a lease. The lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the lease payments to be made over the term of the lease, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, the Company's incremental borrowing rate. Lease payments comprise of fixed payments less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees, exercise price of a purchase option when the exercise of the option is reasonably certain to occur, and any anticipated termination penalties. The variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

Lease liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The carrying amounts are remeasured if there is a change in the following: future lease payments arising from a change in an index or a rate used; residual guarantee; lease term; certainty of a purchase option and termination penalties. When a lease liability is remeasured, an adjustment is made to the corresponding right-of use asset, or to profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset is fully written down.

Employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Other long-term employee benefits

The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Defined contribution superannuation expense

Contributions to defined contribution superannuation plans are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

Portable long service leave

For certain eligible employees a percentage of eligible salaries is paid to portable long service leave authorities in the locations in which the Company operates, under relevant portable long service leave schemes. Any amounts payable to eligible employees in relation to long service leave post commencement of the relevant portable long service leave schemes are funded by the respective authority as and when they arise. However, the existence of the schemes does not discharge the Company's obligation to pay long service leave to employees in the event that the relevant authorities cannot meet their obligations. At balance date the committee members have no reason to believe that the authorities will not meet their obligations under the agreements with the Company as employer. As a result the long service leave provision as they pertain to the Company's eligible employees is shown gross of amounts to be recouped from the portable long service leave authorities.

16

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2026

Note 1. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Fair value measurement

When an asset or liability, financial or non-financial, is measured at fair value for recognition or disclosure purposes, the fair value is based on the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date, and assumes that the transaction will take place either: in the principal market; or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

Fair value is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming they act in their economic best interests. For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement is based on its highest and best use. Valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, are used, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority is included in other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

17

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2026

Note 2. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

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.

To determine if a grant contract should be accounted for under AASB 1058 or AASB 15, the Company has to determine if the contract is 'enforceable' and contains 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations. When assessing if the performance obligations are 'sufficiently specific', the company has applied significant judgement in this regard by performing a detailed analysis of the terms and conditions contained in the grant contracts, review of accompanying documentation and holding discussions with relevant parties. Income recognition from grants received by the company has been appropriately accounted for under AASB 1058 or AASB 15 based on the assessment performed.

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.

18

Australian Childhood Foundation
Notes to the financial statements
30 June 2026

Note 2. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions (continued)

Portable long service leave reimbursement

Under applicable portable long service leave schemes, the Company may be required to make contributions to the relevant scheme authority for eligible employees. Contributions are recognised as an expense when incurred. Where the Company has a present obligation for long service leave and expects reimbursement from a portable long service leave authority, the related employee benefit liability is recognised in accordance with the Company's accounting policy for employee benefits, with any reimbursement recognised as a separate asset only when recovery is considered probable and can be reliably measured.

The Company assesses its obligations under relevant portable long service leave legislation at each reporting date. Any receivable from a scheme authority is measured based on the amount expected to be recovered and is presented separately from the employee benefits liability. Judgement is applied in determining whether a reimbursement asset should be recognised, having regard to the availability and reliability of supporting information and the likelihood of recovery.

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.

Note 3. Revenue and other income

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Revenue from contracts with customers</i>		
Therapeutic services	33,805,080	29,857,105
Professional education services	2,278,056	1,301,380
Safeguarding children services	1,602,020	1,499,259
Research & special projects	1,052,477	1,461,979
	<u>38,737,633</u>	<u>34,119,723</u>
<i>Other income</i>		
Fundraising and donations	2,009,366	3,533,689
Interest income	251,972	210,374
Other income	1,319,182	590,597
	<u>3,580,520</u>	<u>4,334,660</u>
	<u>42,318,153</u>	<u>38,454,383</u>

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.

Other income

Fundraising, donations, interest and other income are recognised at a point in time.

19

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation Notes to the financial statements 30 June 2026

Note 4. Expenses

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Surplus includes the following specific expenses:		
<i>Depreciation and amortisation</i>		
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	(1,859,689)	(1,931,294)
Depreciation expense	(995,252)	(1,146,916)
	<u>(2,854,941)</u>	<u>(3,078,210)</u>
<i>Finance costs</i>		
Lease interest	(171,242)	(216,938)
<i>Superannuation expense</i>		
Defined contribution superannuation expense	<u>(2,817,378)</u>	<u>(2,693,935)</u>

Note 5. Cash and cash equivalents

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash at bank and on hand	<u>8,505,085</u>	<u>4,838,186</u>

Note 6. Trade and other receivables

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Current assets</i>		
Trade receivables	1,609,550	2,887,725
Less: Allowance for expected credit losses	-	-
	<u>1,609,550</u>	<u>2,887,725</u>
Other receivables	174,568	781,428
Portable long service leave reimbursement	326,739	-
	<u>501,307</u>	<u>781,428</u>
	<u>2,110,857</u>	<u>3,669,153</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 7. Financial assets

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Current assets</i>		
Term deposits - at amortised cost	<u>5,322,803</u>	<u>2,227,806</u>
<i>Non-current assets</i>		
Shares in listed companies - fair value through other comprehensive income (OCI)	<u>137,562</u>	<u>145,074</u>

20

Australian Childhood Foundation Notes to the financial statements 30 June 2026

Note 8. Other assets

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Current assets</i>		
Prepayments	<u>501,928</u>	<u>529,191</u>
<i>Non-current assets</i>		
Security deposits and bonds issued	100,473	100,473
Term deposits pledged as security	<u>437,842</u>	<u>351,975</u>
	<u>538,315</u>	<u>452,448</u>

Note 9. Property, plant and equipment

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Non-current assets</i>		
Land - at fair value	<u>2,200,000</u>	<u>2,200,000</u>
Buildings - at fair value	306,573	306,573
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(306,573)</u>	<u>(306,573)</u>
	-	-
Fixtures and fittings - at cost	1,674,588	1,420,669
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,362,709)</u>	<u>(1,225,021)</u>
	<u>291,879</u>	<u>195,648</u>
Computer software - at cost	4,679,122	4,671,579
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(4,258,582)</u>	<u>(3,538,166)</u>
	<u>420,540</u>	<u>1,133,413</u>
Leasehold improvements - at cost	1,339,501	657,965
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(560,658)</u>	<u>(443,510)</u>
	<u>778,843</u>	<u>214,455</u>
Work in progress - at cost	-	33,285
	<u>3,691,262</u>	<u>3,776,801</u>

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 Improvement \$	Work in progress \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2025	2,200,000	-	195,648	1,133,413	214,455	33,285	3,776,801
Additions	-	-	253,919	7,543	648,251	-	909,713
Transfers	-	-	-	-	33,285	(33,285)	-
Depreciation expense	-	-	(157,688)	(720,416)	(117,148)	-	(995,252)
Balance at 30 June 2026	<u>2,200,000</u>	-	<u>291,879</u>	<u>420,540</u>	<u>778,843</u>	-	<u>3,691,262</u>

21

Australian Childhood Foundation Notes to the financial statements 30 June 2026

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

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Non-current assets</i>		
Buildings - right-of-use	6,838,900	6,093,306
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(5,822,893)</u>	<u>(5,123,351)</u>
	<u>1,016,007</u>	<u>969,955</u>

Motor vehicles - right-of-use	2,811,847	2,869,302
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,282,153)</u>	<u>(1,844,833)</u>
	<u>529,694</u>	<u>1,024,469</u>
	<u>1,545,701</u>	<u>1,994,424</u>

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 2025	969,955	1,024,469	1,994,424
Additions and re-measurements	1,175,442	235,524	1,410,966
Depreciation expense	<u>(1,129,390)</u>	<u>(730,299)</u>	<u>(1,859,689)</u>
Balance at 30 June 2026	<u>1,016,007</u>	<u>529,694</u>	<u>1,545,701</u>

22

Australian Childhood Foundation Notes to the financial statements 30 June 2026

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 \$
2026					
Lease liabilities	1,042,188	705,225	-	1,747,413	1,610,588
2025					
Lease liabilities	1,331,697	909,602	-	2,241,299	2,077,626

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:

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	171,242	216,938
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	<u>1,859,689</u>	<u>1,714,356</u>
	<u>2,030,931</u>	<u>1,931,294</u>

Note 11. Trade and other payables

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Trade payables	871,786	92,278
Accrued expenses	534,449	340,286
GST payable	165,524	350,061
Payroll liabilities	1,005,848	925,395
Other payables	<u>156,643</u>	<u>103,847</u>
	<u>2,734,250</u>	<u>1,811,867</u>

23

Summary financial statements



Australian Childhood Foundation Notes to the financial statements 30 June 2026

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

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Contract liabilities	3,343,105	2,766,315
Care arrangement support costs (CASC) liabilities	2,506,879	1,704,729
	<u>5,849,984</u>	<u>4,471,044</u>

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

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Provision for annual leave and long service leave	<u>2,412,982</u>	<u>2,068,441</u>
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>		
Provision for long service leave	<u>140,858</u>	<u>144,551</u>

Note 14. Reserves

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Asset revaluation reserve	1,847,925	1,847,925
Financial assets reserve	81,156	88,668
	<u>1,929,081</u>	<u>1,936,593</u>

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).

24

Australian Childhood Foundation Notes to the financial statements 30 June 2026

Note 15. Financial risk management

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Financial assets</i>		
<i>Held at amortised cost</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,505,085	4,838,186
Trade and other receivables	2,110,857	3,669,153
Term deposits - at amortised cost	5,322,803	2,227,806
<i>Fair value through other comprehensive income (OCI)</i>		
Shares in listed companies	137,562	145,074
	<u>16,076,307</u>	<u>10,880,219</u>
<i>Financial liabilities</i>		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	<u>10,194,822</u>	<u>8,360,537</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 (2025: 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 2026 the number of members was 20 (2025: 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:

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Aggregate compensation	<u>1,450,810</u>	<u>1,621,235</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:

	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Audit services - Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd</i>		
Audit of the financial statements	34,500	29,700
	<u>34,500</u>	<u>29,700</u>
<i>Other services - Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd</i>		
Audit of acquittal statements	13,000	9,000
Assistance with preparation of the financial statements	3,300	3,300
	<u>16,300</u>	<u>12,300</u>
	<u>50,800</u>	<u>42,000</u>

25

Australian Childhood Foundation Notes to the financial statements 30 June 2026

Note 19. Contingencies

The Company has given bank guarantees as at 30 June 2026 of \$770,947 (2025: \$699,238) to various landlords. In the opinion of the directors, the Company did not have any other contingencies at 30 June 2026 (30 June 2025: None).

Note 20. Commitments

The Company did not have any commitments as at 30 June 2026 or 30 June 2025.

Note 21. Related party transactions

Key management personnel

Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in note 17.

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 \$17,420 (2025: \$16,524).

Note 22. Events after the reporting period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2026 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.

26

Australian Childhood Foundation Directors' declaration 30 June 2026

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 2026 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

5 October 2026

27

Summary financial statements





Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd
Level 16, 600 Bourke Street
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, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the statement of 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 entity's financial position as at 30 June 2026 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 Regulation 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 entity 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.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in Australian Childhood Foundation's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026, but does not include the financial report and the auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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 by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



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 entity'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 entity 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.

Auditor's Responsibility 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 entity'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 registered entity'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 registered entity 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 5th day of October 2026



Chapman Wan
Director

Get involved

The 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.

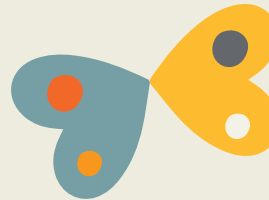
You can help transform the lives of children and support programs that prevent violence and abuse before it happens.

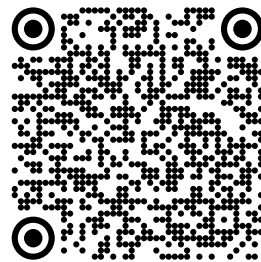
Make a difference by donating at **childhood.org.au**.

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

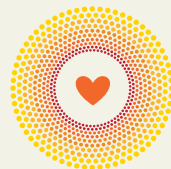
Australian Childhood Foundation
PO Box 3335, Richmond VIC 3121
1300 381 581
support@childhood.org.au
childhood.org.au

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.





1300 381 581
support@childhood.org.au
childhood.org.au



**Australian
Childhood
Foundation**