

Hawkesbury Area Womens & Kids Services Collective Inc.

The Women's Cottage



**Annual Report
2018-2019**

The Women's Cottage

Hawkesbury Area Womens & Kids Services Collective Inc.

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The Women's Cottage Collective Management, Staff, Volunteers and Students acknowledged the Darug People as the Traditional Owners on this Land where we live and work. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal people and to Elders of the past, present and future. We acknowledge the ongoing effects of colonisation, oppression, racism, injustice and inequity that impacts Aboriginal people today and we commit to focus our efforts to address these issues wherever we can. From that place in our own hearts we join with and support:

The Uluru Statement From the Heart'

We are sorry and we stand with you



We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart: Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago. This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown. How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last 200 years? With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood. Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future. These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness. We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country. We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution. Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination. We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history. In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

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Who Are We?

Hawkesbury Area Women's & Kid's Service Inc.

The Women's Cottage

In 1983, The Cottage opened its doors for the first time in premises at Windsor Street, Richmond. In 1986, The Women's Cottage moved to its current premises here at 22 Bosworth Street, Richmond. Over the years the Cottage has grown, along with the population in the Hawkesbury. There are currently 9 part-time staff and relief workers, wonderful students and volunteers that support the work of The Cottage as we strive to provide services and support for Women. 37 years and counting!

The Women's Cottage is a place where all women, regardless of age, class, race, religion, or sexual preference, are valued and treated as equal. It is a place for women to nurture themselves, a place of safety, and a place to learn and grow. It is a place for all women. It is a place that believes that access and equity are more than ideas and principles, they drive how we operate and what we offer.

The Women's Cottage is an information, resource, referral, advocacy and crisis support service for women and children living, working, and/or studying in the Hawkesbury. Family and Community Services (now operating under the new NSW Department of Communities and Justice) funds our Domestic Violence Support Project, Anti-violence work, 'drop-in' support, advocacy and referral services and two group programs. All other group programs are self-funded and reliant on past, present (and future) community donation.

The Women's Cottage also received funding from the Department of Social Services (DSS). Initially to provide support services to women effected by the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which evolved into the formation of a new National Redress Support Project. This project provided specialist counselling / casework support to women considering making a claim application for redress. The National Redress Scheme started July 2018 and is set to run for 10 years. This new project covers from Parramatta to Lithgow but does not turn away out of area requests for assistance. In these situations, we work women via phone and Skype while connecting them to services closer by and/or for an ongoing basis if local Redress Support Services are not available.

As a Feminist organisation, The Women's Cottage takes a strength based, trauma informed approach in all our work. Within the context of understanding social inequity, gendered nature of violence that impacts all women's lives. And through the Feminist framework lens that acknowledges and supports women's self-determination as the central expert in their own lives.

The Women's Cottage is committed to our role as advocate for social justice, for women and children in this Community.



Vision Statement

Hawkesbury Area Women and Kids Services Inc. is a Feminist community-based organisation that is run by women for women and children.

We are committed to all forms of freedom for women and children.

We are committed to an ecologically and socially just and diverse society, where all women are valued and treated as equal.

We are committed to assisting and supporting women and children to determine their own lives and choices.

We uphold women and children's rights to a safe environment whether within the home or in the community.

We actively pursue political measures to address the elimination of social and environmental oppression, injustice and violence, locally and globally.

Objectives

1. To help alleviate poverty, misfortune, distress and suffering to women and children in the Hawkesbury region and surrounds through direct provision of material aid, emergency accommodation / referral services, counselling and other services to improve their lives directly.
2. To promote the health, education and welfare of disadvantaged women and children, particularly those residing in the Hawkesbury Shire.
3. To collect and distribute information for individuals and groups concerning services and issues of relevance to disadvantaged women and children.
4. To reduce the isolation of disadvantaged women by encouraging the development of support networks and self-help activities.
5. To provide emotional and practical support to disadvantaged women and children.
6. To promote full public participation in the planning of services based at the centre.
7. To promote public discussion on issues relevant to disadvantaged women and children.
8. To reduce the oppression of women and children regardless of age, class, race, religion or sexual preference.

Thanking Our Supporters

Bendigo Bank - For donation box and branch Christmas tree presents

Community Members - To all community members who donated food, supplies and clothing for our clients

Cathy Stevenson Solicitor - For donations of food and back to school supplies

Food Bank NSW - For their generous additional support and donated fruit and vegetables

Grill'd - For their donation to the Cottage through the Local matters program

Good 360 – A fantastic organisation giving us access to clothes and goods for clients at minimal cost

Hawkesbury Chamber of Commerce - For generous donations to The Women's Cottage Christmas Appeal

Jasmine Seymore – For all her wonderful support as assistant editor for Facebook.

Kristy Sherrott of KLS Out-Door Training – organised a fundraising Bootcamp, raising \$4k

Nova Employment - For ongoing neighbourly support at Christmas time and throughout the year

NRMA Richmond - For hosting a giving tree for Christmas 2018

Red Cross - For donations of 'Trauma Teddies' for our clients

Richmond Lions Club – For donation for the emergency food cupboard

Richmond Rotary -For their generation donations and crocheted blankets to The Women's Cottage

Richmond Rotary -- Thank you John from Stylecraft Blinds for doing Foodbank pickups every week.

Share the Dignity - For their generous donations of handbags and personal care items for Women

Strong Nation – cash donations and support

Windsor Golf Clubs Lady Golfers – For generous donations to the emergency food cupboard

Windsor Lions Club – For donation for the Emergency Food cupboard

Windsor Rotary – For the Fundraising Car Raffle proceeds for the work of the Cottage

Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre – partnering with us to provide emergency relief program

Woolworths Head Office - To Kerry and the team for ongoing donations

Yvonne - for putting together school supplies packs

Zonta Club of Cumberland West Inc - Generous ongoing support and donations for emergency relief

Other / Cash donations - C.A Rickert, U3A Patchwork Group, Margaretta Koppel Huber, M. Losurdo, J. Irwin

And thank you everyone who has donated, through groups program support, membership fees, groceries for hampers, time and energy

The Women's Cottage acknowledges with gratitude

Hawkesbury City Council

Who in their support of vulnerable women and children in the Hawkesbury, has given The Women's Cottage a \$1 per year lease at our current premises for the next 30-year lease with option to extend after that period. We will revisit this in 2049 in our 66th year of service!

Staff and Collective Management 2018 – 2019 “Thank You!”

Current Management Collective:

Mary Conyard
Dawn Gray
Karen Hodges
Irene Kendall
Janine Madden
Sonya Parker
Jude Irwin
Lisa Bartels

Management Collective Members who resigned during 2018-2019:

Lisa Parker
Lisa Minchenko
Sandra Coles-Stokes

Current Permanent / Part Time Staff

Maria Losurdo	Service Manager
Meg Keith	Finance Manager
Mel Olsen	Antiviolence Worker commenced
Melissa Brodie	WAVE Support Worker
Kim Ward	WAVE Support Worker
Lauren Galdos	WAVE Support Worker (from May 2019)
Angie Gleeson	National Redress Specialist Counsellor / Caseworker (from Aug 2018)
Sarah Dillane	National Redress Specialist Counsellor / Caseworker (from March 19)

Casual / Relief Workers

Lauren Galdos	Relief WAVE Support Worker
Amie Brown	Relief WAVE Support Worker
Sophie Montgomery	Relief WAVE Support Worker
Karen Brown	Cleaner (Extraordinaire)

Students

Amie Brown	Bachelor of Social Work Student Welfare Western Sydney University
Lauren Galdos	Bachelor of Social Work Student Welfare Western Sydney University
Elizabeth Medynskyj	Advance Diploma Art Therapy / Counselling College of Complimentary Medicine
Yatta Quetee	Bachelor of Social Work Student Welfare Western Sydney University
Jess Reid	Bachelor of Community Welfare Western Sydney University
Melanie Sheffield	Graduate Diploma of Counselling Australian College Applied Psychology ACAP

Volunteers

John Gray	Food Bank pick and delivery – every fortnight!
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Management Collective Report 2018 – 2019

The past year has been a busy time for the Management Collective. New programs, new funding, new areas of accountability all needed to be established, along with the accountability, reporting and related systems.

New Manager, Maria Losurdo, continues to make great strides steering The Women's Cottage from strength to strength. So much so that client numbers in some areas have doubled! A great outcome and one that comes with the challenges of how to support the extra pressures on staff and the financial pressures of trying to meet increasing demands on limited funding. In response a decision was made to draw on reserves to meet as many client needs as possible.

Other significant governance issues in 2018 to 2019 included the TEI funding reforms, ongoing policy development and increasing the number of members on the Collective. On that note we warmly welcomed new Collective members Janine Madden, Jude Irwin, Sonya Parker and Lisa Bartels. And said farewell and thank you to Lisa Minchenko, Lisa Parker and Sandra Coles Stokes.

The TEI reform was challenging due to changing guidelines and timeframes, implementation delays and uncertainty if it was to go ahead. Once clearer, The Cottage mapped current service provision to align to TEI, with strong advocacy for critical needs for ongoing services for women with older or no children.

One of the challenges of being a service with an almost 40-year history is the updating of policies that were originally written in the 1980's. An important issue in this regard was the need to review the Constitution to ensure all minimum standards contained in the model rules were covered. We thank Meg Keith for her time and attention in comparing and identifying gaps that need to be addressed. As at June 2019 a decision was made to delay the final revision of the Constitution until after a visioning day for Collective and staff on 'What does it mean to work in a Feminist service today?' From there any updates to our philosophy and structure will be included and the new draft Constitution that will be presented to members via a special general meeting.

Again, The Women's Cottage would like to thank the Hawkesbury Community for all the donations and support you have offered us. 'Thank You'. And a special thank you to staff, volunteers and students for all their hard work keeping The Women's Cottage services going and making it so vibrant and responsive to women's needs. Thank You.

The Management Collective



Management Collective

Mary Conyard

Dawn Gray

Irene Kendall

Karen Hodges

Janine Madden

Jude Irwin

Sonya Parker

Lisa Bartels

Maria Losurdo

Resigned:

Lisa Minchenko

Lisa Parker

Sandra
Coles-Stokes

Manager's Report 2018 – 2019

It continues to be a great joy and privilege a year on as I write my second manager's report. I think the best description for this past year is one of consolidation and growth. With all staff, students and volunteers working tirelessly and professionally to build up services offered at The Women's Cottage, deepen connections to the community and to respond to women using the service. ***As a result, the number of women using the service / seeking assistance has almost doubled this past year!***

Groups: We have now established a full group program that runs every school term. A mix of groups are offered to provide both direct support for the impacts of domestic violence and other forms of trauma as well as soft entry groups that support a sense of belonging, connection and safety. This offers women the opportunity to get to know the service, the workers and what we offer. This is an important option for women to have, as many women then go on to seek advice and support for more serious concerns, they have not yet spoken to others about, once they feel safer to do so. Providing childcare for groups is also an important feature of our group program as it supports access. Group programs and childcare are mostly self-funded by The Women's Cottage and reliant on past and future community donations. ***Please support us so these wonderful groups can continue.***

This year we ran 14 groups and 106 sessions were run. Attendance by session = 426 women!

- ♥ Carers / Kinship Carers Support Group: supporting women caring for foster / related children
- ♥ Guided Meditation
- ♥ Reclaiming Your Life: moving on from domestic violence
- ♥ Sewing Support and simple presence
- ♥ Women's Drop in and Creative Activity
- ♥ Wrapped in Angels: trauma recovery / resilience (funded by NSW Victim Services via Cara House)
- ♥ Yoga for women on low income – partnership with The Yoga Shed
- ♥ Your Hero Journal Writing

Partnerships: I have made it a priority to connect with other local services and groups this year to promote the work of the Woman's Cottage and explore opportunities for working together to support the community. Membership and participation with HUBS (Hawkesbury Unites for Better Services) has been a great way to do this, as has becoming a local representative for LCSA (Local Community Services Organisation) as the resourcing peak body for community centres.

The Team: I can't speak highly enough of the women working for best outcomes for other women here at the Cottage. Their work practice is always first rate and they support me and each other really well. ***Meg, Mel, Kim, Melissa, Angie, Sarah, Lauren, Amie and Sophie I say "THANK YOU".*** Support received from the Management Collective is also appreciated.

María Losurdo - Manager

Watch This Space

Several big changes sit on the horizon for the Women's Cottage:

TEI Reform: Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) reform is being applied to all areas of FACS funding. This means that the services we currently provided under FACS funding need to be aligned to these new funding criteria. To this end we have mapped how we see our service provision fit under TEI, communicated our thoughts and concerns to ensure services for women without children are still funded and supported by the Department and attended data collection training for the new DEX system that will apply to all TEI funded services. As at July 2019, the TEI transition process had been delayed. We are now waiting to work with FACS around our mapping plan and find out when TEI will officially begin. Advocacy for continued support for women without children is ongoing.

Building Grant: In 2016 The Women's Cottage applied for a \$75,000 cost matching capital expenditure grant from FACS. This application was extended to 2017 and completed in the early stages of 2018. In late April 2019 we received word this grant had been successful! Next step involves working with Hawkesbury Council as owners of the building and with the community to raise funds and support to make the dream of extending the Cottage a reality. This increase of space, rooms and facilities will greatly relieve current issues of overcrowding and limited capacity to meet increasing community needs or increase staff numbers / services offered.

Regional Partnerships: Much work was done through HUBS (Hawkesbury Unites for Better Services) in 2018 – 2019 to strengthen relationships and build capacity for exploring areas for joint response to local issues and maximize on the benefits of collective impact principles and practice. In June 2019 HUBS made a commitment to work together with the aim of reducing loneliness across the Hawkesbury region. It is widely recognised that loneliness can be the cause of many long-term health concerns and poor health outcomes. Including depression, anxiety, social isolation, higher risks of suicide, many chronic health issues.

Sustainable Development Goals: The United Nations globally and here in Australia have committed to 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) to address the world's most pressing human and environmental issues. The Women's Cottage was introduced to the SDG's in June 2019 at the LCSA Conference. The LCSA is encouraging member services to both recognise where they already contributing to these goals and where those efforts might be strengthened. The Women's Cottage has begun this process in earnest, and we are excited about what the future holds here.

Thinking Globally / Acting Locally: UN Sustainable Development Goals

At The Women's Cottage, we recognise the valuable role we play by providing a community centre that offers women and children a place to go where they can get information, support and where they can experience a sense of belonging and safety. For many women, who have not experienced this before in their lives, this offers a new window of possibility into what they deserve and could have for themselves and their family. The Women's Cottage also recognises the importance of standing for the rights of all women in the community regardless of race, religion, sexuality, lifestyle, family make up, and for women with and without children.

The work done at The Women's Cottage is not only vital for supporting the rights and safety of women and children locally, but it is also in line with efforts to improve conditions and lives all around the globe. The Women's Cottage Vision, formally includes to ***'Actively pursue political measures to address the elimination of social and environmental oppression, injustice and violence, locally and globally.'*** In the coming years we will as a service work to strengthen our awareness and capacity by using the **United Nations 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDG's)** as a framework for what we do and what outcomes are achieved. As a newly registered member to this global movement through LCSA, our results will feed into and be captured by United Nations in Australian and globally.

The United Nations describes the Sustainable Development Goals as the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030.



Where does the Sustainable Development Goals journey start?

The Women's Cottage is committed to deepening our understanding of the 'Sustainable Development Goals'. We are identifying where our work already supports these goals, and where we can strengthen our capacity and achievements moving forward. This will include how to best strengthen partnerships with others to support positive collective impact. As a community centre we will work with peak body LCSA to establish formal participation in and reporting back to the United Nations SDG's Program.

Snapshot: The Women's Cottage SDG's Contributions 2018 - 2019



Providing Emergency Relief, Food Vouchers, Petrol Vouchers, Operating the Gabrielle Fund, setting up as a 'No Interest Loans' NILS Agency



Providing Food Vouchers and Food Relief, (bread, meat, dry goods), Operating Foodbank for fresh fruit & Vegetables



Offering physical and emotional support for those impacted by domestic violence, past and present trauma, poverty and hardship, group programs, National Redress Support Services



Supporting the rights of women and children to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect, organising public awareness events (Reclaim the Night, International Women's Day, Stop Domestic Violence initiatives), providing support / information / advocacy / referral services for individual women experiencing injustice and inequality



Modelling recycling and reducing garbage waste, creative use of donated and purchased food to provide nutritious catering for groups and programs, sharing excess food with other services



Supporting women's legal rights and access: To Apprehended Violence Orders, Family Law. Referrals for legal advice, advocacy with police/FACS, court support / SAMS meetings participation



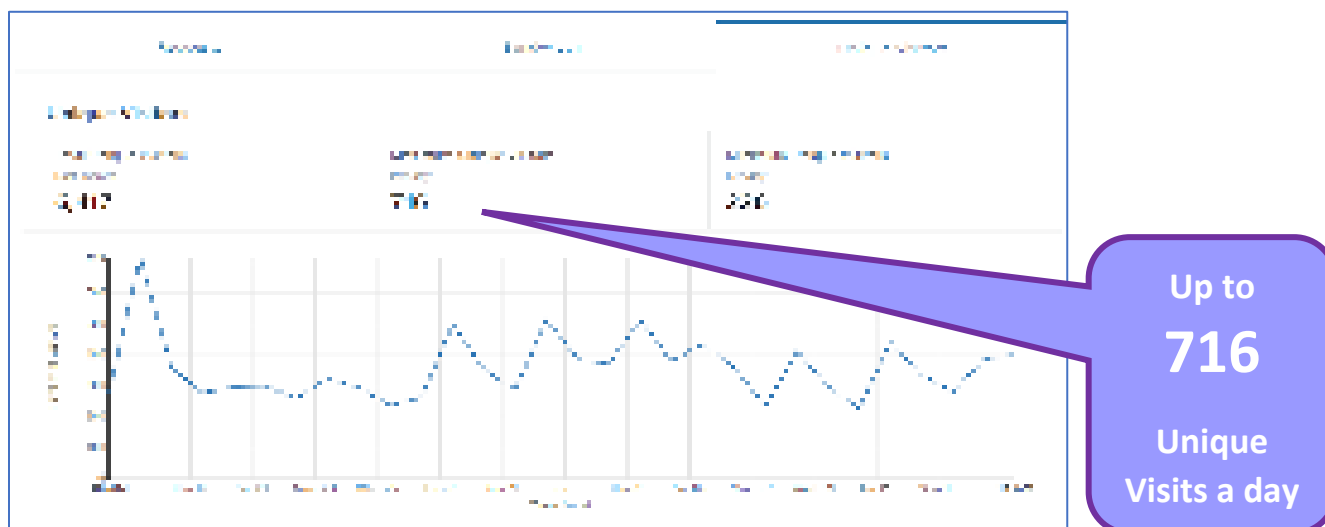
Regional HUBS Partnership projects currently in development:

- Reducing Loneliness and Increasing Kindness*
- Joint approach addressing impacts of Domestic Violence, increasing social planning / local action plans and creating new men as role models programs*

Community Engagement - Website

The Women's Cottage Website: A recent monthly snapshot report showed up to 726 unique visits each day to a range of pages from general information about domestic violence definitions and experiences to activities being run. Women are comfortable engaging with the Website and contacting when they need to. Requests for assistance come in via the Website and one woman even rang up to remind us we hadn't updated our open hours. Great agency and ownership!

Web Traffic Report: www.womenscottage.org.au




Community Engagement - Social Media

Our Facebook posts provide a mix of awareness raising on issues such as domestic violence and social equality; celebrating women's achievements; self-care / emotional support and event invitations. The page is managed by Maria Losurdo and volunteer Jasmine Seymore.

Special thank you Jasmine Seymour for all your time, social awareness and support!





A window into our work...

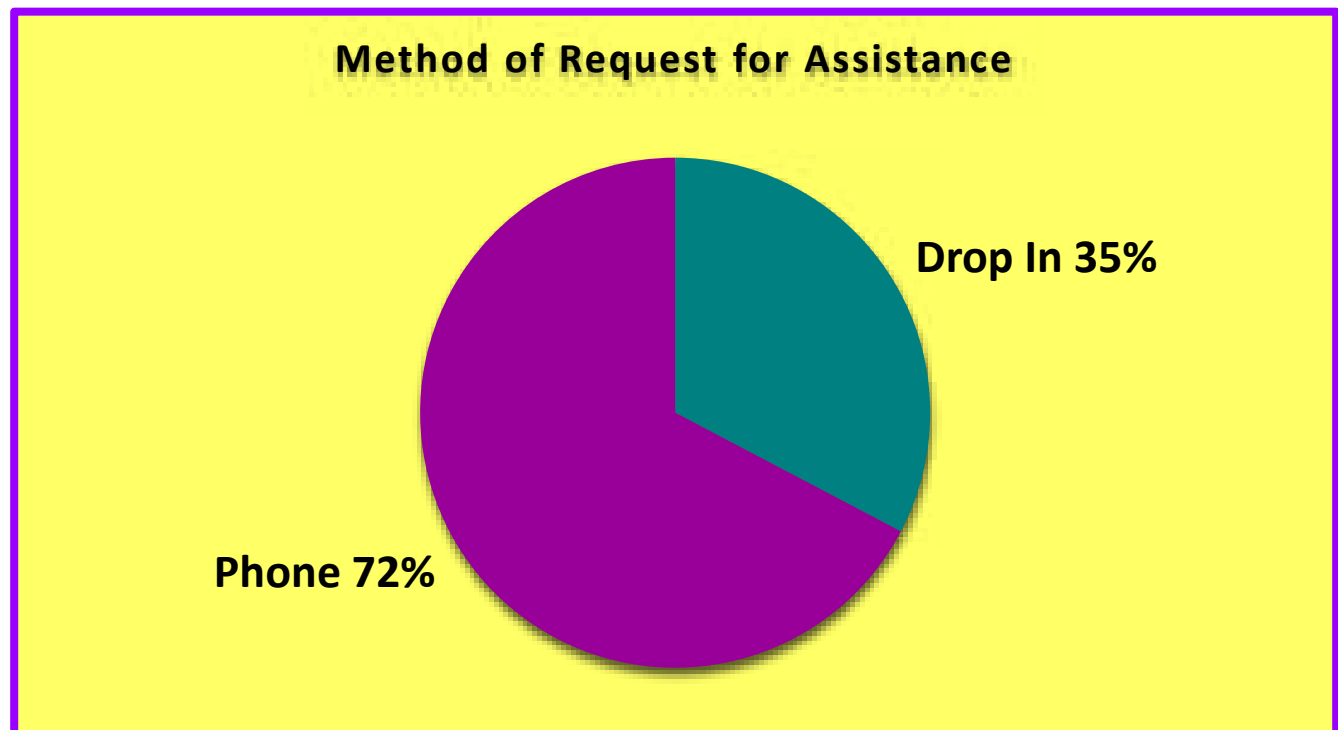
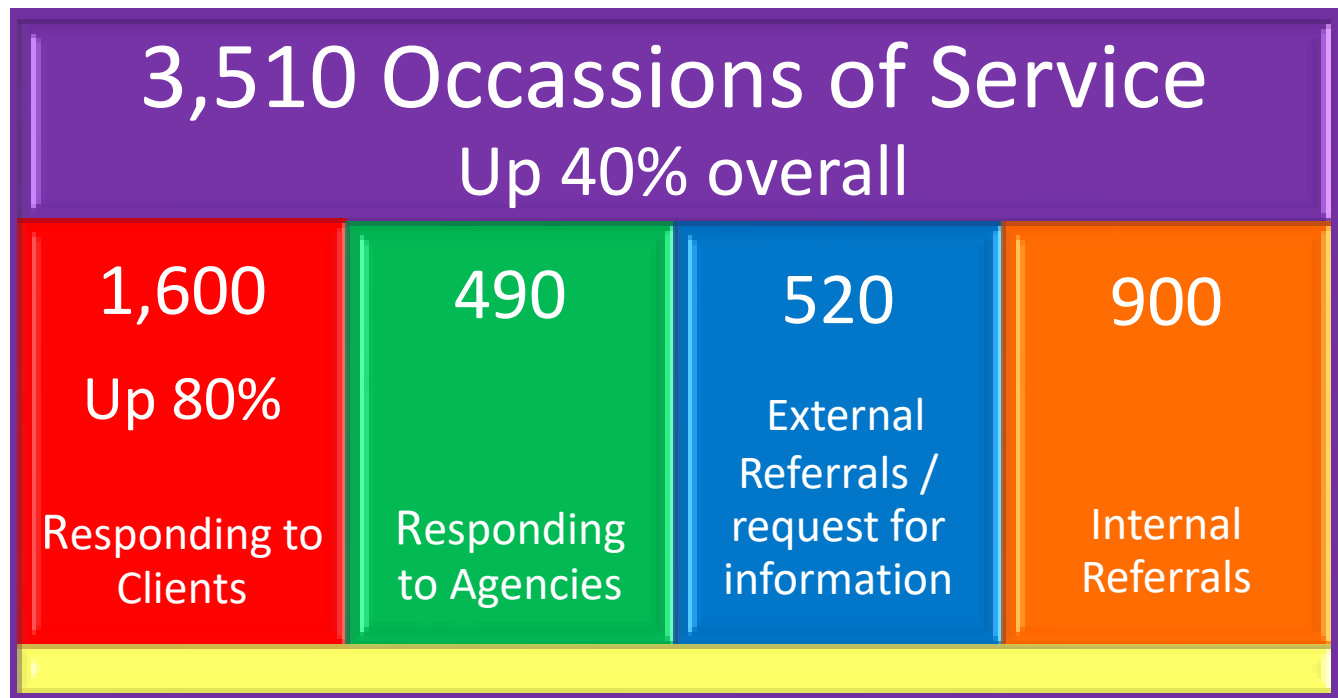
Centre Based
Service Provision
and Groups

2018-2019

A Window Into Our Centre Based Service Delivery 2018 – 2019

Service delivery data is based on records of incoming phone calls, contact and conversations with clients and agencies and from client case files. Statistics are based on whole year or whole group data collection and/or on client feedback, sample periods and six-monthly averages.

How Much Did We Do?



How Well Did We Do? (based on % of all clients)

75%

Domestic Violence

(this figure has doubled
since this time last year)

52%

**Families with
kids under 12**

92%

**Clients Satisfied
with Service**

35%

**Clients living
with Disability**

13%

**Clients Identified
Aboriginal**

7%

**Culturally Diverse
Clients**

440+ Food Hampers / Personal Care Packs

(From Food Bank purchases and community donations -THANK YOU!)

90+ Christmas Food Hampers / Kids Presents

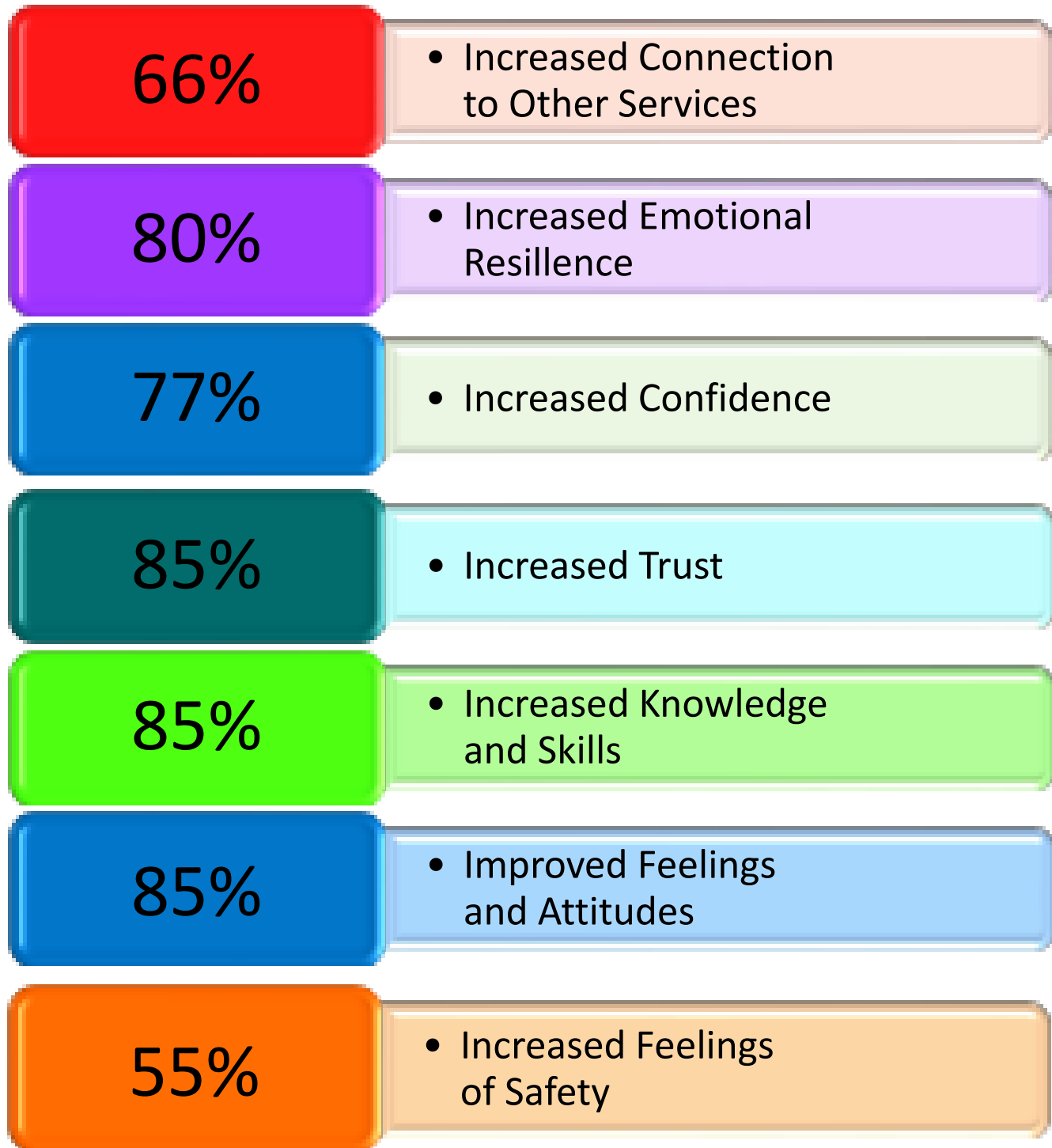
("THANK YOU" for community donations and support that made this possible)

120+ Emergency Financial Assistance

(Food, petrol, school needs, emergency accommodation, other crisis support costs)

Outcomes for Clients, What Difference Did We Make?

Our work supported clients to achieve self-determination and positive outcomes. Results are drawn from client feedback, worker observations and casework conversations. (Sample size - 250 clients).



It is important to note that the reduction in safety outcomes is directly linked to the major increase in the number of women we are seeing who are in serious ongoing Domestic Violence where they remain at risk and are not safe.

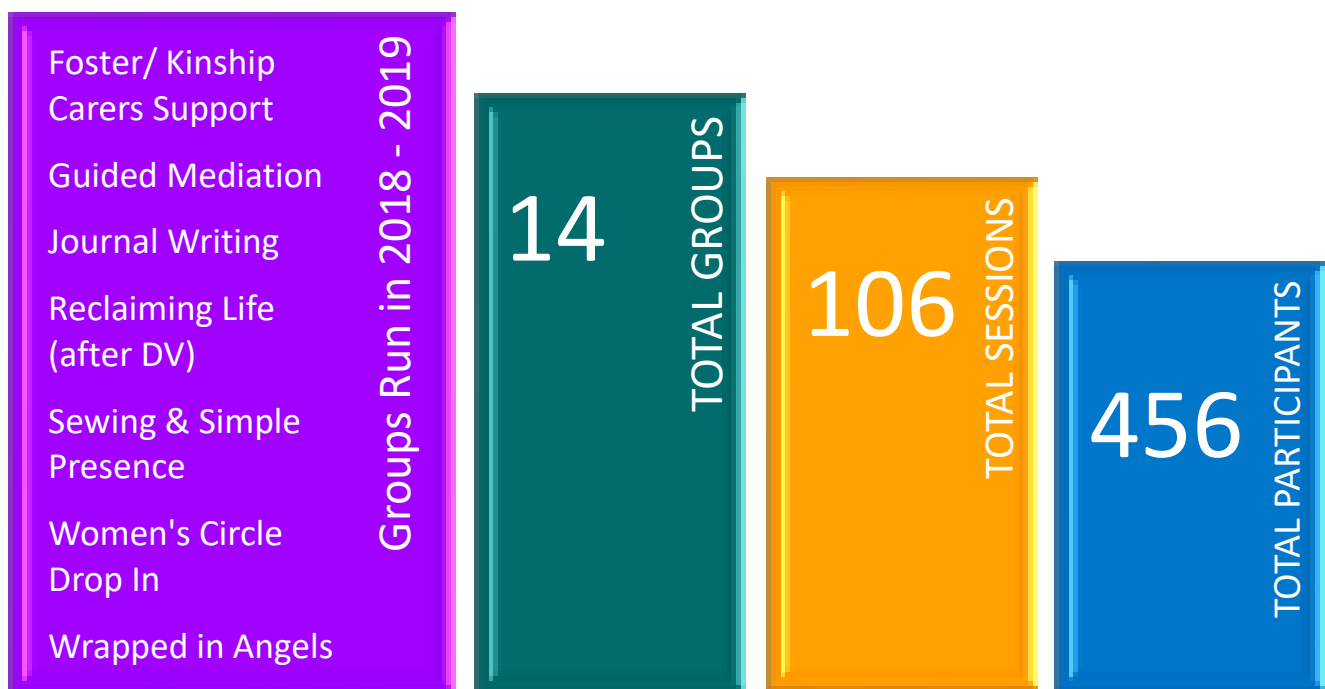
Groups 2018 – 2019

The Women's Cottage runs a range of group programs every year. Groups that are offered are aimed at giving women an opportunity to:

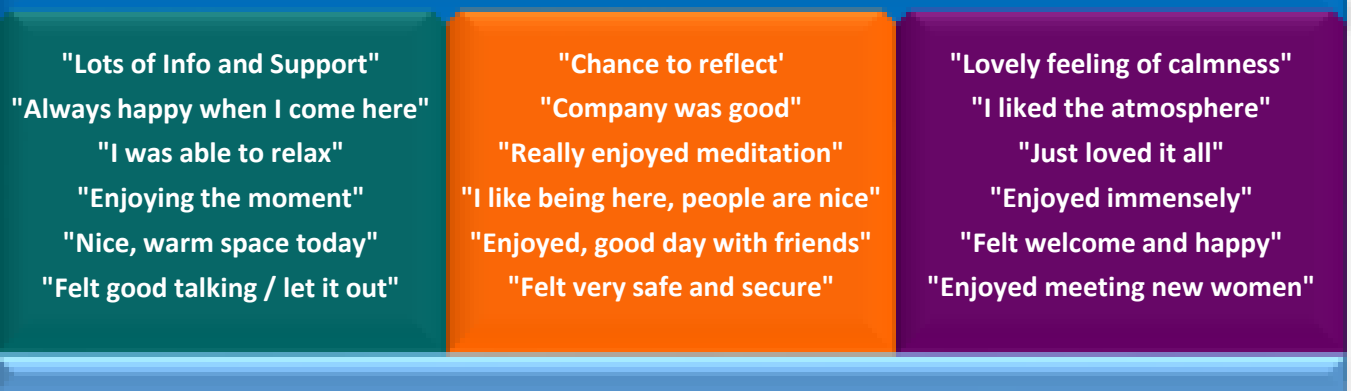
- ⊙ Be supported for a specific issue of distress, i.e. impacts of domestic violence and trauma.
- ⊙ Develop self-care and emotional self-regulation skills and confidence.
- ⊙ Connect with other women and share strengths and stories of survival.
- ⊙ Grow in a sense of belonging to and participating in the community.

Most importantly, Groups provide a soft entry point into other support services that might be needed. This has been a significant factor in the numbers of women reaching out for help doubling this year.

FACS funds 2 groups each year. All other groups are funded by The Women's Cottage and Community Donations.



90% Group Participants Reported Increases in Resiliency Factors (Connection, Belonging, Safety, Skill, Confidence, Support)

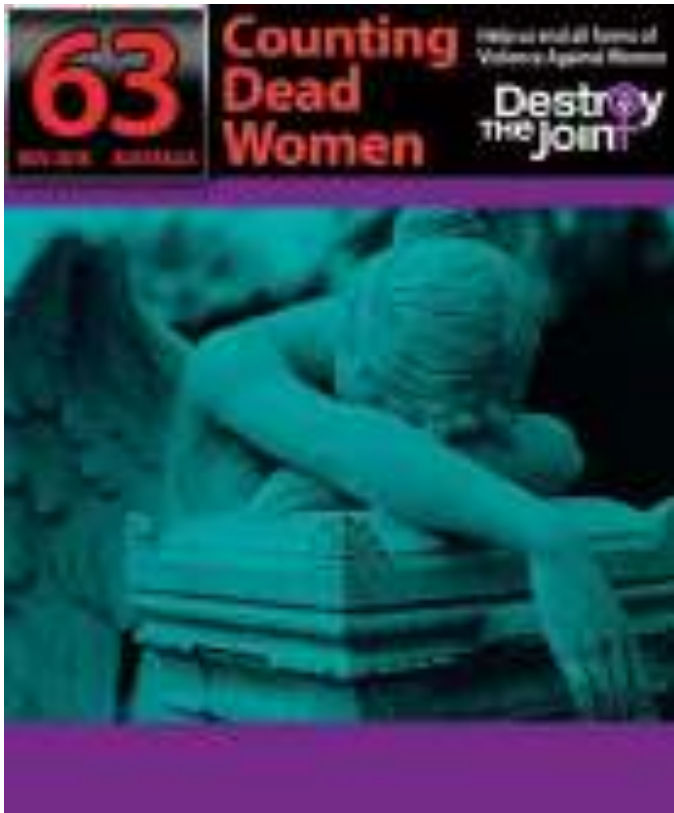




WAVE Annual Report 2018-2019

The last twelve months in the WAVE role has been busier than we can ever recall, the volume of Women using the WAVE Service feels like it has doubled, our workload has increased and many more hours are being spent on each Women – face to face and in the background (completing notes, referrals, support letters, advocacy and liaising with other services).

What Kim and I have noticed is that the complexity of Women's needs that they are presenting to us has increased immensely. One example being how many Women are coming in for support around NDIS, these Women report feeling overwhelmed and having their specific needs minimised by the process they are required to adhere to either apply for or when they do get a NDIS package.



*“More than one woman
is killed by intimate partner
violence every week in Australia.
This figure is rising every year,
with no signs of slowing down”*

The number of Women attending our Service for support due to Domestic Violence has overwhelmingly increased. We have noticed an increase in Women reporting technological abuse (social media, excessive calls and messages and their partners being able to track

their exact locations daily). We have also had an increase in referrals from Hospital Social Workers supporting Women who have been hospitalised after an assault. We have also had an increase in Women from CALD backgrounds and those with only temporary Visas, requiring support due to domestic violence

The groups at the cottage have been well received this year and attendance numbers are way up on previous years, it's been refreshing to see such a diverse range of Women accessing our Service to attend the groups.

Case Study

We had a young Woman arrive at our service with her Children in a distressed state due to Domestic Violence. It was too unsafe for her to go home and she had nowhere else safe to go. We were able to provide them safe accommodation through our Gabrielle Fund (which relies on donations as it's not funded). The Gabrielle Fund is specifically for this kind of assistance it was set up in honour of a local women killed by her partner despite seeking help. In being able to provide this service the Woman did not have to go through the trauma of calling other services for emergency accommodation for one night and having to re-tell her story.



Image from <https://www.findingourvoices.net/>

She came back into our service the next morning and we were fortunately able to secure her safe accommodation in a Refuge where she and her children would receive the ongoing necessary support to re-establish their lives.

Melissa Brodie & Kim Ward

Women's Advocacy Violence Emergency (WAVE) Workers.

Anti-Violence Project Report 2018 – 2019

The Anti-violence Project Worker takes a key role in community development and education projects and activities that raise awareness about the effects of violence in communities; to work towards a reduction of violence against women and children; and to represent and involve The Women's Cottage in local anti-violence events and campaigns. This position also involves front line work providing crisis support, offering information and making appropriate referrals.

As an Aboriginal worker my role expands to offering cultural support to clients, The Women's Cottage, our partnering services and networks and to the broader Aboriginal Community.

Centre based activities included developing the programs and facilitating groups: Women's Drop-in Circle Group; Foster Carers / Kinship Carers Support Group; and Reclaiming Life (After DV) Group. I also provide short term DV case management and support for WAVE and drop in clients where needed.

Community work includes attending and participate in relevant networks and developing and sustaining partnerships with key government and Non-government services and workers.

Priority networking and partnerships for 2018 – 2019:

- Hawkesbury Action Network Against Domestic Violence (Convenor)
- Hawkesbury Sexual Violence Prevention Network (Resource development / build participation)
- Stop DV Day (Lead organiser for HANADV)
- Reclaim The Night (Lead organiser for HANADV)
- Court Support (Monthly attendance supporting CASE Team and women on AVO day).
- WDVCS and Local Co-ordination Points and Safety Action Plan Meetings (Liaise and support as needed)
- Metwest Violence Prevention Network (Represent The Women's Cottage)
- Safety Precinct meetings (Represent The Women's Cottage)
- RAAF Family Fun Day; IDOHOBIT Day; Apology Day; NADOIC; IWD and other local events (Represent The Women's Cottage and supporting community)

Completing the first full year in the Anti-violence position has been a milestone for me. I've really enjoyed facilitating new groups and it was quite nostalgic returning to the reclaiming life group as a facilitator. I'm really looking forward to watching The Women's Cottage grow and expand with fresh new ideas, people, a great new space, and building a renewed purpose in the Hawkesbury community.

I'd like to welcome our new staff and collective members and acknowledge my co-workers for their dedicated work and support.

Mel Olsen

Anti-Violence Project Worker

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart." Helen Keller

Reclaim The Night



IDOHOBIT Day

Women's Group Jewellery Making

International Women's Day 2019

International Women's Day 2019 was a wonderful example of what we can make happen when we work together! The Women's Cottage along with HUBS (Hawkesbury Unites for Better Services) and Hawkesbury Council came together to create the first Hawkesbury regional wide calendar of activities for IWD that spanned the whole week!



The 2019 IWD Theme was 'Balance for the Better'

"Let's build a gender-balanced world. Everyone has a part to play - all the time, everywhere. From grassroots activism to worldwide action, we are entering an exciting period of history where the world expects balance. We notice its absence and celebrate its presence."



International Women's Day 2019

The main event was organised by The Women's Cottage and took place at Windsor Library. It was a great turn out with speakers, art exhibition, nurturing stalls, Henna Hands painting, Women's Choir and lots of fun, good feeling and great food made and offered by the lovely women from Richmond CWA.



Student Placement Report 2018 - 2019

My experience as a student here at The Women's Cottage has been extremely rewarding. The women here have supported me while I have broadened my knowledge on areas previously unknown to me as well as given the space to learn things on my own.

Because of this, I have a deeper appreciation of what The Cottage does for the community, as well as the workers. At times, I have second guessed myself but there has always been a team right there behind me, supporting me and guiding me and always offering words of encouragement.

It has been an experience like no other and I am truly grateful to have been given the opportunity to work in such an amazing place. Occasionally I was put in situations where I had to really come out of my shell, and I always had so much fun, even though nerves really kicked in! My fondest memory so far has got to be going up in front of an audience to sing for International Women's Day! This isn't something I ever thought I'd do, but with the support of fellow workers, I got up and joined in. It was amazing!

It was also great to be able to experience this with clients, to see how much joy this also brought to them. I am very proud to have been able to do my placement here and cannot thank everyone enough for all that they have done for me in helping to shape my future professional career. I have learnt so much already, from both fellow workers as well as clients and gained amazing memories in the process. Thank you!

Jess Reid, 4th Year Community Welfare Degree

Manager's Note: Jess is a great asset and support to our work here at The Cottage and in the community. Jess has also developed some wonderful resources during her placement. Including a 3-part resource to support women with anxiety. The package includes an information brochure, a wall poster and a more in-depth description of the prevalence of anxiety and techniques to use when feeling panic. We are using these resources and clients are already getting a lot out of them. Thank you Jess!



Jacaranda Group Report 2018– 2019

The Jacaranda Group is a social networking and activity group for women 50 years plus (bus trips, speakers, fun educational activities, etc.) We meet fortnightly (though not during the school holidays). We often meet on other occasions, during the school holidays and on long weekends for low cost activities such as to go to a movie, a show at the club, go to a market, see Vivid, out to lunch or some other activity that interests us.



What makes the Jacaranda Group special is the non-judgmental respect we show to each other, getting to know local women, making new friendships and being able to share our ideas, talents, life milestones and of course the fun and laughter. The Jacaranda Group provides a support network.

There is no requirement to attend on a regular basis. Jacaranda Women come when something interests them or when they would like or are able to come.

The Jacaranda Group continues to grow with over 30 women attending various activities. New members are welcomed and come and join our activities regularly through the year.

Some of the enjoyable bus trips we went on this year include to Penrith Regional Gallery, Parramatta Lake, Op shops at Wollongong, Japanese Gardens, Camden Shopping Centre and the Museum Discovery Centre at Castle Hill. We also used a carpool to see Tom Barber concert organist at Windsor Downs and for a tour of the Rural Press at North Richmond. We often have lunch at a local venue, morning tea or a picnic when we go on bus trips and have lunch at Richmond after a local meeting.

Our annual Trash and Treasure Swap was enjoyed by everyone. We brought items we no longer wanted that we thought other Jacaranda Women may like. So, we swapped! Everyone went home with some swaps and a big smile! The Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association (CPSA) gave another interesting and informative presentation, this time on “Osteoporosis Awareness”. A local Exercise Physiologist gave a presentation on exercise that made a lot of sense to us. Some of us have joined one of her programs. The Card Making activity was also very popular.

The Jacaranda Group’s 8th birthday was celebrated with a high tea, with lots of spectacular and scrumptious food, laughter and fun. We had another great Christmas lunch catered for by the Richmond CWA, renowned for their fabulous food and lots of Christmas cheer.

Our planning meeting for next year generated a large list of potential speakers, activities, bus trips and carpools. The Jacaranda Group identified priorities for next year’s Activity Calendar.

Thank you to the Women’s Cottage for your continued support of the Jacaranda Group.



**For more information, about the Jacaranda Group contact
The Women’s Cottage on 02 4578 4190**

**Dawn Gray and Karen Hodges
on behalf of the Jacaranda Group**

BLUSH Report 2018 - 2019



Well another successful year has flown past with BLUSH out and about on a very regular basis. We continue to meet on the last Friday of each month (business meeting 5 minutes) over a shared meal (2 hours) in various locations around the Hawkesbury. The idea of visiting different places for our meetings, was introduced from a suggestion made at our 2018 Planning Night and has proven to be a great success.

In our 11th year we continue to welcome new members, so far three this year, and we really appreciate their bravery and enthusiasm for seeking us out. Under the auspice of the Women's Cottage we continue to flourish and grow, offering support and friendship to those who identify as Lesbian and their supporters. Knowing we are valued and have the ongoing support of the Women's Cottage further adds to BLUSH being a safe pathway and social haven to those women who reach out to us - **a heartfelt thank you WOMENS COTTAGE 🙏**

We have had meals out all over the Hawkesbury, been to the movies, enjoyed pool parties, pizza, crepes, Australia Day BBQ, weekends away, mystery train trip, won meat raffles, faced health challenges together, celebrated weddings, enjoyed vicariously our members' holidays away, networked, toasted grand-children's heads numerous times, mourned the loss of loved ones, cared about one another, and enjoyed activities with other social groups across Greater Western Sydney.

BLUSH is a safe and happy social /support group who welcomes and appreciates the diversity we all individually bring and collectively share with one another.

We are looking forward to 2020, the challenges it will bring, and the ebb and flow of life shared with great friends in our beautiful Hawkesbury home.

Kathy and Meaghan Adam-Cross
BLUSH Co-Coordinators





Redress Support Project Report 2018 – 2019

The National Redress Scheme was a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, has been established to provide financial redress and other support services to those who have experienced sexual abuse within an institutional context.

I accepted the interim position of Redress Scheme Specialist Counsellor/Case Worker role in August 2018, just one month after the launch of the National Redress Scheme in July. The project is currently funded until June 2021. Permanent positions were advertised in March 2019 and Sarah Dillane now make up the Redress team at The Cottage.

Work at The Cottage is underpinned by Trauma Informed Care approach and Feminist work principles. From the moment we open the door or pick we are working within a 'strength-based framework' responsive to the effects of trauma. This intentional approach is also at the heart of the Redress Specialist Support we offer women considering application to the National Redress Scheme.



Setting up the service has been a very full experience. I can honestly say there has never been a dull moment since I began work. We provide assistance to women, from Parramatta to Lithgow, Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains area. Women seeking information, practical and emotional support around a Redress application can make contact with our service, face to face, by phone, with a friend or family member. We can also make home visits and work collaboratively, with other services to provide outreach support. In our first six months, it was interesting to note that half the enquiries we received, were from women who lived quite a distance outside our funded area. Women were drawn to contact the only women specific service listed on the Redress website. This highlights the emotional barriers many women have to overcome, to make that first step to look up the website and then find the courage call to a support

service. We have made the decision to 'turn no one away'. We will and support women from outside our area, for as long as it takes to arrange appropriate support from another Redress funded Support Service in their own area. Other highlights include setting up IT, phones and networked capacity to work in the field; tackling (and winning) with DEX Federal data collection systems and setting up our office space with beauty, safety and trauma informed spaces in mind.

As well as supporting women through the application process at their own pace, the role includes promoting the Redress Scheme at Inter-agencies, team meetings and other groups. We have offered information sessions in Central West, Blue Mountains, Penrith and locally. Services visits have been made at Blacktown Women and Girls Service, Merana Aboriginal Service, Hawkesbury Aboriginal Outreach, Katoomba and Springwood Neighbourhood Centres, Thrive Family Services Katoomba, Lithgow Community Projects, Penrith Women's Health Centre and The Wash House. We have developed strong collaborative relationships with Penrith Women's Health Service, The Wash House in Mt Druitt, Rape/DV Crisis Service, Interrelate, Miranda Project and Richmond Family Services.

Integral to the work we do in supporting women through the Redress process is managing their expectations of the Scheme and the triggers that can come up through this process. We use many creative techniques to promote safety, positive experiences and resilience in face to face work and also in group work. Our clients are encouraged to be involved in any of the groups at The Cottage and we facilitated a Redress specific group called 'Wrapped in Angels', a 10-week program supporting healing and building resilience, created by Mc Veigh, from Cara House. Three Aboriginal Redress clients took part in this first group, creating their own personal blankets filled with images, symbols, messages, words, colours and textures that spoke to them of hope, strength and inspiration. Snippets of this work is shown in these photos. It was a privilege to be part of this group and notice over time how the women took ownership of the group, talking more freely and supporting each other. This was the first of many WIA groups we hope to run to support women on their Redress journey.



The Women's Cottage was invited by the Parra Girls Precinct director Bonney Djuric to act as emotional support to the Women attending the Apology Day event at Parramatta Girls' Home on 22nd October 2018. It was a great honour to be asked to walk alongside women attending the event, many who were returning to the Girls' Home for the first time since childhood. We continue to support events and women from Parramatta Girls' in relation to Redress Scheme questions and offering general support.

Sarah and I keep abreast of current training in trauma practice and related areas. Between us, we have attended excellent training in this area in 2018 – 2019, including:

- 3-day Wrapped in Angels Facilitator Training – Alys McLellan (Cara House) and Maria Losurdo.
- 3-day Blue Knot Foundation: Working Therapeutically with Trauma I & II
- 2-day Aboriginal Cultural Training at Merana – Educator Sigrid Herring
- 2-day National Redress Scheme (DSS & DHS) Community of Practice Forum, Melbourne
- Know More Training on Legal aspects of Redress scheme with Anna Swain/ Prue Gregory

We are active participants in the NSW Providers Redress Support Services, bi-monthly Teleconference meetings and local Practitioner Forums. And we also attended a two-day Community of Practice Forum, in Melbourne. This was a great opportunity to meet with Redress Support Services from across Australia and listen to stories of the strengths and challenges, including hearing from Aboriginal services working on Redress applications with clients living in remote areas where English might be their 3rd or 4th language!

And finally, a big acknowledgement of the support of our service manager Maria Losurdo, who supports our work with much insight and experience. A big thank you also to all our co-workers and colleagues for the support they have given us throughout the year. Working together is our strength.

Angie Gleeson and Sarah Dillane
Redress Specialist Counsellor/Case Workers

The Redress Support Project worked with 16 women in 2018 - 2019

(Aged between 30 and 74 years)

362 Contact
Sessions

10 Group
Sessions

100% clients live
with complex
Trauma

68.8% clients live
with a disability

56.3% clients
identify as
Aboriginal

Redress Networking, Information Sessions and Partnerships

30

Redress Information
Sessions were provided,
reaching over 200 people

20

Working partnerships
where formally established to
support Redress Clients

100% of clients were connected to 'Knowmore' for specialist legal advice

25%
Clients Received
Home Visits

38%
Clients Received
Outreach Visits

100%
Clients Received
Support via Phone,
Email and/or Skype

50%
Clients Were Provided
Supported Referrals
to other services

The National Redress Scheme:

- acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions
- recognises the suffering they endured because of this abuse
- holds institutions accountable for this abuse, and
- helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse gain access to counselling, a direct personal response, and a Redress payment

For more info: Call 1800 737 377 Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm local time

Or visit: www.nationalredress.gov.au/

Redress Client Outcomes and Voices



After each session we ask clients: What Stands Out Most for You?

(a sample of representative responses included)

I'm beginning to write down my story and conversations with my mother

Talking about what I missed out on in education because of what happened

The phone call I got to check in on my emotional wellbeing

Clarified some things about trauma symptoms coming back and what is happening to me

You understand issues completely, you got more out of me than anyone else has or that I've been able to talk about before

You listened to my questions and doubts

Very good, to be honest I have hardly ever talked about this stuff

In all honesty, when I phoned you, you had the right language, very productive phone call, came away feeling you had lots of experience, not coming away feeling like shit

Didn't think I'd be able to find the words, you gave me time to rest

I'm feeling really positive – had no idea something positive could come from it

Was very helpful that you understood what I've been going through



2019 FINANCE REPORT for HAWKESBURY AREA WOMEN'S & KIDS SERVICES COLLECTIVE INC The Women's Cottage

It has been an eventful year for the Cottage, with continuing recurrent funding from the Department of Family and Community Services and the Department of Social Services as well as a matching grant for building extensions and donations for programs being received.

The Cottage operated at a loss for the year of \$10,712, however we continue to be financially secure with equity carried forward of \$112,455.

As usual, our main source of income was our recurrent funding from NSW Department of Family & Community Services (FACS), and the funding from the Department of Social Services for both the Royal Commission Support project and the Redress Scheme Support services.

The Cottage was fortunate to receive a matching fund grant from the Department of Family and Community Services of \$75,000 for Building extensions. The Cottage will need to match these funds by either retained funds or donations from the community and in-kind donations of materials and labor before the building works can go ahead.

Donations from the community in support of the Gabrielle Fund, Emergency Relief, Christmas Hampers and the work of The Cottage totaled \$9,425.

Bank interest for the year from all the Cottage's accounts including Term Deposits was \$5,811 Interest rates have continued to remain low effectively reducing this source of income.

It is a privilege to be part of the team at The Women's Cottage. A wonderful team made up of fellow staff, volunteers and Students. I look forward to many more years working here with this team of compassionate and resourceful women.

Meg Keith

Finance Manager

"Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." - Albert Einstein

Manager's Note: Meg is such an amazing asset to The Women's Cottage. Her skills, experience and commitment are invaluable. Thank you, Meg!



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Standard full Audit Certificate by a Qualified Accountant in respect of
Community Funded Organisations.

In my opinion the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the organisation and the results of its operations for the year ended 30 June 2019 in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

- Establishment of all reserves/provisions is justified and represents funds set aside for Long Service Leave, Annual Leave and Relief Workers and Maternity Leave.
- Payments to associated and/or affiliated bodies have been adequately disclosed.

Date: 16 September 2019

Qualifications: Fellow, Institute of Public Accountants
No. 104947

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[illegible]

Keywords: child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation

Abstract

TIME: 10:00 AM
 LOCATION: 1000 N. 1ST ST. #100
 CONTACT: 1-800-855-8888

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
HAWKESBURY AREA WOMEN AND KIDS SERVICES COLLECTIVE INC.**

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Hawkesbury Area Women & Kids Services Collective Inc., being a special purpose financial report, which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Accounting Policies and explanatory notes for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of The Association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations). The Committee is responsible for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, by selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, as stated in Note 1, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the

auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion:

- i) The financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Hawkesbury Area Women & Kids Services Collective Inc. as at 30 June 2019, and of its performance and its cash flows for the year ended in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- ii) the financial report also complies with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Signed on: September 14, 2019



Sue Ann Wingate, FIPA
Institute of Public Accountants

Management Collective Statement of Financial Accounts 2018 – 2019

HAWKESBURY AREA WOMEN & KIDS COLLECTIVE INC.

Notes to and forming part of the accounts
For the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial report is a special purpose financial report that has been prepared for the use by the members of the Association in order to satisfy the reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) and in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial report covers Hawkesbury Area Women & Kids Services Collective Inc. as an individual entity.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

A) Basis of preparation

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical cost and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

B) Accounting Policies

a) Plant and Equipment

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

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets employed and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to present values in determining the recoverable amounts.

All other assets acquired during the year have been expensed at the date of purchase.

b) Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the asset to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The asset residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

c) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The Committee has determined that these amounts are adequate.

d) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when Hawkesbury Area Women & Kids Inc. has a legal or constructive obligation for which it is probable that the outflow of economic benefit will result and that the outflow can be measured reliably. The Committee has determined that these outflows are adequate.

e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks or financial institutions, short term highly liquid investments and bank overdrafts.

f) Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial asset.

Revenue from the rendering of service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

HAWKESBURY AREA WOMEN & KIDS SERVICES COLLECTIVE INC.

Statement by Members of the Committee
For the year ended 30 June 2019

In the opinion of the Committee the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Notes to the financial Statements:

1. Present fairly the financial position of Hawkesbury Area Women & Kids Services Collective Inc. as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. An amount equal to the payments received for the year less any advance grants has been spent on the projects, and
3. Disbursement of all accounts is justified, and
4. A full and complete set of financial records has been maintained, and
5. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:


Management Collective


Management Collective

Dated this 9th day of Oct, 2019.

Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statements 2018 – 2019

Hawkesbury Area Womens & Kids Collective

Balance Sheet [Last Year Analysis]

June 2019

22 Revenue Street

PO Box 2027

Sturminster Newton Dorset

ABN: 12 716 096 046

	This Year	Last Year
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash-On Hand	\$345,955.70	\$311,198.34
Total Current Assets	\$345,955.70	\$311,198.34
Plant & Equipment		
Plant & Equipment - At Cost	\$9,466.00	\$2,466.00
Plant & Equipment - Accum Dep	\$5,598.00	\$4,598.00
Total Plant & Equipment	\$4,868.00	\$4,598.00
Total Assets	\$350,823.70	\$315,796.34
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Grants & Funding Provisions	\$154,676.50	\$167,311.43
Other Current Liabilities	\$4,485.71	\$56.13
GST Liabilities	\$12,348.17	\$3,855.18
Payroll Liabilities	\$55,363.43	\$47,837.57
Total Current Liabilities	\$226,873.81	\$229,060.31
Network Funds Held		
HC&PM Funds	\$2,532.76	\$1,894.21
HAM&OV Funds	\$2,563.55	\$1,034.66
HR&W&SI Funds	\$260.50	\$260.00
White Ribbon Grant Fund	\$261.00	\$265.40
Total Network Funds Held	\$5,557.81	\$3,454.27
Total Liabilities	\$232,431.62	\$232,514.58
Net Assets	\$118,392.08	\$83,281.76
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$118,392.08	\$83,281.76
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	\$18,712.41	\$18,577.73
Total Equity	\$137,104.49	\$101,859.49

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Page 2 of 3

Hawkesbury Area Womens & Kids Collective

21 Sawyers Road

P.O. Box 305

Geelong VIC 3210

ABN: 12 750 046 044

Income & Expenditure Statement

July 2018 To June 2019 Profit & Loss

	This Year	Last Year
Income		
Recurrent Funding	\$413,508.18	\$418,096.98
Other grants	\$500.00	\$2,718.18
Other Income	\$15,337.83	\$25,228.91
Total Income	\$429,346.01	\$446,044.07
Gross Profit	\$429,346.01	\$446,044.07
EXPENSES		
Financial	\$8786.27	\$8311.81
Operating costs	\$8025.68	\$14,211.36
Equipment	\$26,884.80	\$4,844.14
Employment Expenses	\$181,778.82	\$180,184.87
Charity/Community Spending/Car	\$40,548.87	\$41,281.81
Special Grant Expenses	\$5.00	\$285.08
Occupancy Expenses	\$17,618.91	\$17,883.45
Other Expenses	\$75.80	\$1,286.79
Total EXPENSES	\$384,585.82	\$383,777.32
Operating Profit	\$44,760.19	\$62,266.75
Transferred Income		
Funds Carried Forward	\$10,402.84	\$213.13
Management Contributions	\$14,812.29	\$14,602.00
Residual Corporate Overheads	\$0.00	\$0.00
Unexpended Capitalised Fund	\$2,520.76	\$8.00
Unexpended R/L Fund	\$0.00	\$222.34
Total Transferred Income	\$27,735.89	\$19,645.47
Transferred Expenses		
Management Contributions	\$14,812.25	\$14,602.00
TV - Childrens Provision	\$421.45	\$0.00
Photocopy/Agreement Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,458.25
Emergency Relief Provision	\$1,494.44	\$0.00
Unexpended R/L	\$0.00	\$11,867.53
Total Transferred Expenses	\$17,327.74	\$26,927.78
Net Profit/Loss	\$55,168.34	\$55,985.44

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Page 1 of 1

A few last things to follow...



Appendices:

1] ACNC Charity Register Summary

2] Annual General Meeting Minutes 2018

3] How Can You help?

4] HAWKS Inc Membership Form

APPENDIX 1: Australian Charities / Not-For-Profits Commission Summary

Overview: Hawkesbury Area Women's & Kids Services Collective

Charity details:

Also known as: The Women's Cottage

ABN: [12756046044](#)

Address: Po Box 305, Richmond NSW 2753 Australia

Email: manager@womenscottage.org.au

Address for Service email: manager@womenscottage.org.au

Charity Size: Medium

Who the charity helps:

- Children - aged 6 to under 15
- Early childhood - aged under 6
- Families
- Females
- Financially disadvantaged people
- People from a culturally and linguistically diverse background
- Victims of crime (including family violence)
- Youth - 15 to under 25

Date established: 1970

Last reported: 5 February 2019

Next report due: 31 January 2020

Financial Year End: 30/06

Summary of Activities: Support, advocacy, emergency relief and other services to women and their children in various difficult circumstances including victims of domestic violence and poverty.

Where the charity operates: NSW

The charity's subtype history:

Purpose	Start Date	End Date
Public Benevolent Institution (PBI)	1 January 2014	—
2012 Another purpose beneficial to the community	3 December 2012	31 December 2013
2012 Public benevolent institution	3 December 2012	31 December 2013

Registration status history:

Effective Date	Status
3 December 2012	Registered

Enforcement action history: There have been no enforcements for this charity. Enforcement action refers to the exercise of powers under the ACNC Act.

APPENDIX 2: AGM Minutes 2018

Hawkesbury Area Women's & Kid's Services Collective Inc.
(The Women's Cottage)

Annual General Meeting
30TH October 2018

Chair: Mary Conyard

Minutes: Meg Keith

Returning Officer: Deb Coulson

In attendance: Irene Kendall, Mary Conyard, Sandra Cole-Stokes, Dawn Gray, Karen Hodges, Lisa Bowman, Eileen Reid, Debra Coulson, Lisa Maloney, Aunty Carol Cooper, Angie Gleeson, Maria Losurdo, Janine Madden, Jenna Tarvdeyataworn, Lisa Bartles, Kathy Adam-Cross, Kim Cowper, Melissa Brodie, Angela Hall, Jane Luckins, Meg Keith, Marie Faye, Mel Olsen, Can Yasmut, Renukadevi Raviraj, Megan Ang.

1. **Mary Conyard opened the AGM at 3.15pm.**
2. **Aunty Carol Cooper performed the Welcome to Country.** Welcoming us to Darug land and thanking the Women's Cottage for its work in helping the children through the parents. The manager Maria Losurdo thanked Aunty Carol for her words and Welcome.
3. **Mel Olsen performed a smoking ceremony.** Mel acknowledged the Elders Past Present and Emerging & Mother Earth.
4. **Mary Conyard** welcomed everyone as a special guest. Then also welcomed Aunty Carol, Can Yasmut from LCSA and Kim Cowper from Susan Templeman's office. On behalf of Susan Templeman, Kim wished the Cottage all the best and thanked the Cottage for the work we do.
5. **Mary Conyard** read the list of apologies.
Apologies: Carol Musgrave, Stacy Etal, Belinda Pauline, Joan Wood, Yatra Sherwood, Kim Ward, Lauren Galdos, Patricia Attellis (Interrelate), Sophie Montgomery, Lisa Parker, Susan Templeman.
6. **Motion to Ratify the Minutes** for the 2017 AGM minutes
Moved Karen Hodges **Seconded** Lisa Bowman
7. **Business Arising** from previous AGM 2017 Minutes **None.**
8. **Staff Reports:**
Melissa Brodie - WAVE Worker: Spoke to her report mentioning the privilege it is to work with our Clients and to be trusted to help them.
Melissa spoke of a particular client and her journey to living free of violence.

Maria Losurdo – Manager: Spoke about the positive difference that the Cottage makes to Clients and their demeanor when they arrive to when they leave the Cottage after speaking with workers. Maria spoke of feeling of safety that people feel when they come here. The welcome that clients are given by staff is invaluable.

Moving forward Maria's intention is to be fighting tooth & nail not to lose anything that we are doing now. TEIR is specifically targeted at children under 8. The concern is for women in Domestic Violence who either do not have kids or have kids under 8. Safer pathways women come to us but safer pathways only deals with women who have been to court or have had police involvement. The Cottage is the only place where all women in all circumstances are welcomed.

Karen Hodges from the Management Collective acknowledged the staff for being resilient, persevering and cheerful in carrying out their work.

Melissa Brodie, Mel Olsen, Kim Ward (away sick) Meg Keith, Angie Gleeson, Aimee Brown (student) Lauren Galdos (student), Maria Losurdo, Jane Luckins (Volunteer), Renukadevi Raviraj. Each was given a gift of appreciation

Maria Losurdo thanked the Management Collective and presented them with a gift of appreciation to Mary, Karen, Dawn, Lisa B, Sandra and Irene.

9. Staff Reports tabled and accepted.

10. Meg presented the financial accounts:

Main funding received from FACS & DSS.

The Cottage is in a sound financial position. Fundraising money received was \$19,900 which will not be ongoing. The Cottage will need to put in submissions for funding for emergency relief and some other programs.

11. **Motion to Accept the Financial Report of Hawkesbury Area Women's & Kids Services Inc**

Moved Mary Conyard **Seconded** Karen Hodges

12. **Debra Coulson dissolved the Management Collective**

13. Thank You gifts have already been given out. Deb thanked the outgoing Collective for their time and dedication to the Cottage.

14. **Nominees for Management Collective** –were read out

15. **Accepted the Nominees for the new Collective.**

Voting was not required due to the number of nominees received.

16. **Welcome to the 2018-2019 Management Collective**

Mary Conyard, Lisa Bowman, Karen Hodges, Dawn Gray, Sandra Cole – Stokes

Irene Kendall, Janine Madden.

There are still vacancies on the collective anyone else who wants to join Collective can speak to a current collective member.

17. Sue Wingate from the Stature Financial Group is the Auditor appointed for 2018-2019.

Moved Karen Hodges **Seconded** Dawn Gray

AGM Closed at 4.27pm

APPENDIX 3: How Can You Help?

How can you help? So glad you asked!

The Women's Cottage is only able to provide the extent of the services we do, the emergency relief and food supplies, and a full group program with the support of our local community. **If you or your agency can support us in any way to help us support vulnerable women and children that would be wonderful.**

Christmas Appeal (Hampers and Toys):

- You could give a cash donation or foods suitable for a Christmas hamper.
- You could buy a gift for a child for Christmas and drop it in (we find it especially hard to get enough gifts for older children 12 – 16).
- You could set up a Christmas tree / gift box at your work and encourage others to donate something as well.



Emergency Relief & Food Supplies: You could give a cash donation or non-perishable food supplies to help fill our food shelves for families struggling financially.

Building Fund: The Women's Cottage has received funds to help us extend the building to increase space and capacity to meet the expanding community needs we are trying to meet. To make this a reality we must match these funds (at least \$75,000 in cash or kind) to move ahead with the project. There are lots of ways the community can help:



- Individual donations or group fundraising. Could be an open donation or you could nominate specific things, eg: furnishing new group room / children play area.
- Local businesses and trades people donating time and materials for the demolition or building costs, furnishings, carpets, blinds, desks, IT connections, painting etc.

Responding to Domestic Violence:

The number of women seeking help in relation to escaping domestic violence has doubled in the past year. The complexity and risks faced by the women is also increasing. We often see women where police involvement is urgently needed, where there are guns involved, where we need to keep women safe at the cottage until Police arrive and/or where women and children are unable to safely leave and have their movements controlled or monitored.



Gabrielle Fund: Your cash donation will help us assist women escaping domestic violence.

Group Programs: Most of our group programs (currently attended by over 400 women each year) are funding solely by community donation. Any money, even the smallest amount, can support us continue to run a full group program and support women with a soft entry point to more support if needed.

If you want to run a fundraiser you might be able to raise enough to fund a whole group and you and/or your group, service or business can go on our sponsors list. A 10-week group costs us around \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Crisis and Counselling Support: We do not have the resources or worker time to meet current and growing needs for the number of women seeking safety from violence. Business, group or community fundraising efforts will help us meet these needs.

Crisis Support – 1 day / week	1 year	\$30,000
	6 months	\$7,500
Counselling 1 day per week	1 year	\$15,000
	6 months	\$15,000

**For information or to donate phone us on 02 4578 4190
or visit: www.womenscottage.org.au**

ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE

APPENDIX 4: Association Membership Form



THE WOMEN'S COTTAGE
HAWKESBURY AREA WOMEN'S & KIDS SERVICES COLLECTIVE INC.
ABN 12736046044

22 Bosworth Street (P.O. Box 305) Richmond NSW 2753

Phone: 02 4578 4190

Email: workcat@poc.cottage.org.au

Website: www.thewomenscottage.org.au

Application for MEMBERSHIP FORM 2019 – 2020 Year

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

Telephone: Home _____ Mobile _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Total: \$2.00 (inc GST) Pay by Cheque / Cash

Please Post To: The Women's Cottage
PO Box 305
Richmond NSW 2753

Or Call in To: 22 Bosworth Street
Richmond NSW 2753
02 45 784190

Please tick one box:

- ☐ Update contact details
- ☐ Renew membership
- ☐ New membership

Members of The Women's Cottage may use the library and have newsletters and term group calendars emailed or mailed.

Thank you for supporting and being part of The Women's Cottage - always striving to meet the needs of all women and children in the Hawkesbury area. For more information about membership of The Women's Cottage please read Sections 3 and 4 of the Constitution.

Office Use

Receipt No. _____

Donations over \$2 are Tax Deductible

This service is funded by Department of Family and Community Services (Community Services)

Notes / Networking:

Strong Women
stand together when
things are **rough**, hold each
other up when they
need *support*, and **laugh**
together when there's
no reason to.

The Women's Cottage

Hawkesbury Area Women and Kids Services Collective Inc.

22 Bosworth Street (PO Box 305)

Richmond, NSW 2753

Phone: (02) 4578 4190

Email: manager@womenscottage.org.au

Website: <http://www.womenscottage.org.au>