

Year 2025

Annual Report

WRISC FAMILY VIOLENCE SUPPORT INC.



Content

04	CEO and Chair Executive Summary
06	Vision/Mission/Purpose
07	Our Strategic Priorities
08	Year Highlights
10	Programs and Impact
24	Outcomes
29	Our Reach
30	Future Plans
30	Staffing News
31	Governance/Board
32	Thank you to Partners and Donors
36	Treasurer Report
38	Financials



Family violence is a widespread social problem that affects people, mainly women and children, in the most personal areas of their lives.

Our work with Women, Young People and Children who experience family violence is directed by a feminist philosophy. Our responses to family violence take into account the needs and experiences of people from diverse backgrounds and communities. This means that we believe all people, women, children, and men, have the right to live free from violence and be safe. Family violence is not acceptable in any community or culture. We believe positive change is possible on an individual, community, and systemic level. We seek to support and empower women and children, and provide them with the information, resources, and support they need to make positive choices in their lives.

WRISC acknowledges the First peoples of the Kulin Nations as the Traditional Custodians of the lands, skies and waters on which we work and wish to pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



CEO & Chair Executive Summary



Ballarat Walk Against Gender Based Violence (photo courtesy of Mark Simmonds)

The past year has been one of both challenge and progress for our organisation, as we have managed funding changes and both farewelled and welcomed new members to the leadership team. The demand for family violence services across Victoria, and the Central Highlands Region remains high and the pace at which referrals and complex cases present for support continues to grow. Our team of dedicated and passionate practitioners have continued to provide trauma-informed, culturally safe and person-centred responses, ensuring that every woman and child engaging with WRISC, is treated with the care and respect they deserve.

We continue to align our work to the Victorian Government's 10 year plan 'Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change' through building upon existing and creating new partnerships with agencies across the sector and in the region. From our funding partners Family Safety Victoria,

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, to our peak body Safe and Equal and supporting agencies such as Central Highlands Integrated Family Violence Committee, WRISC works collaboratively alongside providers to ensure that together we can achieve the outcomes in the 10 year plan, and reach our vision of a safe and equal community with opportunities for everyone.

We are committed to contributing to the region and state wide efforts to build a responsive and integrated service system, that can meet the ongoing needs of the community, and we cannot do this alone. It takes a united effort and WRISC is grateful to the many other community organisations, local businesses and individuals that work with us to support victim survivors and ultimately work towards eliminating gendered violence completely.

WRISC have made progress on our 4 organisational priorities;

- Intersectionality, Inclusion and Diversity
- Building from Story
- Connection, partnership and influence
- Strong organisation, strong future

We have developed our first internal Intersectionality framework and strengthened our partnerships with Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council and Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative. We have invested in cultural training and are building a better understanding of the challenges and barriers our culturally and linguistically diverse clients face through hearing stories of people with lived experience. A key focus has been on enhancing our culturally safe services for First Nations and multicultural communities, and are committed to investing in this into the next financial year. WRISC continues to hear and learn from victim survivors, as well as from our team's experiences and expertise, with regard to improving our services, and striving towards improving how we collect, collate, analyse and use data to inform services and program design, as well as more deeply understand our impacts, guide decision-making, and advocate for service funding.

We would like to sincerely thank our funding partners, donors, and the community for supporting us to achieve the outcomes we do. However, there is plenty more to do. The family violence system continues to evolve, and we

remain committed to working with other agencies and the community across all 4 areas of the family violence framework. In alliance with our partners, we will continue to work towards a future where everyone lives free from violence.

As we continue our mission to promote respectful relationships through services which enhance the safety, autonomy and wellbeing of women and children, we are regularly reminded of the resilience and courage of our clients and the dedication of our team. We extend our thanks to the Board and Leadership team for their guidance and support, to the staff and volunteers for their ongoing efforts, and to the victim survivors who trust us; your courage inspires us every day.



Yvette Gunn
Acting CEO



Kesh Manton
Board Chair



Mission

Safety, equality and opportunity for all people.



Vision

To promote respectful relationships through services which enhance the safety, autonomy and wellbeing of women and children.



Purpose

The organisation works from a feminist perspective, and values – Innovation, Integrity, Respect Trust.

Our Strategic Priorities

1

Intersectionality, Inclusion and Diversity

We will build on our commitment to be an inclusive organisation for women, children and people from all diverse communities, and those experiencing intersectional oppression.

2

Building from story

We believe that women and children who have experienced family violence have stories that could transform the world – they are experts by experience. We will make these stories the foundation of our organisation, and orient ourselves by them.

3

Connection, partnership and influence

We will build connections and partnerships across and between the service system and community to support women and children who have experienced family violence. We will use our expertise to influence prevention, early intervention, response and recovery to reflect the needs of women and children.

4

Strong organisation, strong future

We believe that our staff are vital to our organisation delivering key services, that are robust, client-centred and adaptable to what may come. We will lead the way in creating an organisational culture which is strong, safe, transparent, anti-oppressive and intersectional feminist by design.

Year Highlights

The 24-25 FY has been a year of hope and optimism for a better future, with amazing support from the community, following a devastating time for the Central Highlands region in 23/24. The community has worked together to raise awareness of gendered violence and to further understand what steps we can take together to end it. We continue to strive for a world free of violence

where everyone is safe and respected and where they feel empowered. We remain optimistic and hopeful that our services and support across early intervention, response and recovery work will help break the cycle of intergenerational trauma, contribute to the development of resilient children and respectful young people and support the systemic changes needed in society.

Some of the key highlights from the year include:

- Development of a partnership with Change for Sam
- Outreach program at Clunes and further development of our relationship with Hepburn Shire
- Ongoing collaboration with Centre for Non-Violence and Primary Care Connect and our work within the Family Advocacy and Support Service (FASS) program supporting women to navigate the Family Court of Australia
- Relationship building with Victoria Police during the 16 days activism and enhancing the respect for each other's work to eliminate violence
- Community participation in 16 days activism march photos
- Saturation model co-design launch and community support for ending violence
- Ongoing work with clients to support them to achieve their goals
- Ongoing relationship building with other local agencies
- Community engagement events at school fetes, NAIDOC week
- Presentation at Family Safety Summit in Perth about the impacts of FV trauma on the development of young people, and the positive outcomes of using creative therapies to support children and repair fractured family relationships
- Introduction of the new Women's Voices workshops, and building upon existing knowledge from victim survivors to improve our programs and services



WRISC Staff



Ash, Kesh and Michelle



Kelly, Marg and Lili



Damascus College assistant principle Sharon Lehtonen and WRISC CEO Libby Jewson



Ballarat Walk Against Gender Based Violence

Programs and Impact

Family Violence Outreach Program (FVOP)

- Assessment and safety planning
- Advocacy and case collaboration
- Family Violence Court support for clients
- Support to access community and service support
- Intake and Case Management

continue on page 11

Aboriginal Case Management

- Culturally safe case management
- Assessment and safety planning
- Advocacy and case collaboration
- Family Violence Court support for clients
- Support to access community and service support

continue on page 12

Therapeutic Program

Individual and Group counselling using creative therapy

Support includes:

- Single session therapy assessment
- Individual counselling using creative therapy
- Mobile therapy in a purpose-built van (Van Go)
- Finding Voices
- Women's Family Violence Support Group: Ballarat, Bacchus Marsh and Ballarat Regional Multicultural Centre (BRMC)
- 'Steppin' Out' Walking Group
- Yarning Kids
- Feeling Visible School Program

continue on page 14

Other Programs and Projects

- Flexible Support Package (FSP) Provider Agency
- Family Advocacy and Support Service (FASS)
- Exit Pathways Program (EPP)
- Stepping into change; Workforce Vacancies Project
- Change for Sam partnership

continue on page 17

Family Violence Outreach Program (FVOP)

The Family Violence Outreach Program (FVOP) plays a key role in WRISC's coordinated approach to supporting clients from crisis support to recovery.

The FVOP intake team has increasingly become known to the community, and we receive referrals from a wide range of community organisations both within Central Highlands and beyond. Our staff collaborate with and refer to the WRISC Aboriginal Program, and external multicultural agencies to ensure that clients' cultural needs are supported. We also continue to work with the family violence sector in the Central Highlands region to manage community demand beyond our own intake point.

WRISC recognises that family violence impacts all areas of victim survivors' lives and utilises assessment of these areas to understand risk, safety and recovery needs for women and children. We work with the Van Go and Groups Programs to support women and children's smooth transition from initial safety and recovery work. This can create a wrap-around service response that has supported women and children to increase their real and felt safety, support material reestablishment after family violence, and provide specialised spaces (for both women and children) to engage in therapeutic supports for long-term recovery.

We continue to focus on a community approach to understanding and supporting women and children experiencing family violence. We have outreach posts at Wendouree and Clunes. Our intake sits at Wendouree and we share the site with Van Go at Clunes. This allows for greater

community presence, accessibility for women and children, and opportunity to collaborate with community organisations across Central Highlands.

As a team FVOP have been focusing on how we sit strongly in our community response to family violence whilst maintaining the hope needed to walk alongside women and children as they navigate risk, safety and recovery. We have continued to reflect on our work and grow our practice skills with regular reflective practice and professional development opportunities including our annual reflective practice session, Lunch and Learn sessions, professional collaborations and reflective conversations in our regular team meetings. As a part of this reflection, we have highlighted the ways that we support each other and developed strategies for increasing our sense of joy, supporting relationships in the team and longevity in the work.



Our Impact

2

New outreach sites – Clunes Health Centre and Stockland Wendouree

404

Number of children under the age of 18

16,692

Hours of support provided for case management

1*

Woman calls WRISC per day seeking help to escape family violence

331

Number of new therapeutic cases

82

Number of First Nations Women and children accessing case management support

50

Number of women children from CALD backgrounds accessing case management

45*

Families supported through court processes

439*

Number of secondary consultations completed to support other agencies

29

Personal safety devices provided to victim survivors

49

Number of families which include young adults between 18 and 25 years of age

235

Women assessed at being at serious or elevated risk

470

Number of Flexible Support Packages provided in the region

318

Women supported with crisis brokerage

50

Number of First Nations children accessing therapeutic supports

19

Number of children from CALD backgrounds accessing therapeutic support

384*

Self Referrals to WRISC

Aboriginal Program Report

At WRISC we reflect upon the impacts of colonisation on our First Nations People and we are determined to improve both the experiences and outcomes of services for First Nations Women and Children. We stand with our local community as Allies and seek to listen deeply – Dadirri, whilst also speaking up in advocacy where we witness injustice or practices that threaten human rights and self-determination.

The Aboriginal program has seen growth within our team and service delivery, it has been a very busy and successful year having provided 135 support periods for women and children who have experienced family violence. Upon reflection it is heart-warming to see many people who have connected with our service, increasing safety & wellbeing, placing trust in WRISC and navigating a journey of healing. The Aboriginal program strives to work at the pace of the people who we support, developing trust and promoting self-determination.

Program staff show strong allyship to our First Nations community through continued professional development, community engagement and advocacy. We have proactively engaged in various training opportunities including DV Alert, Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid Training & webinars that reflect the needs of First Nations people. Further our staff have been learning more about the recommendations from the 'Insights Report' developed between Djirra & Safe & Equal. The report examines the strengths, weaknesses and gaps of non-Aboriginal family violence services supporting Aboriginal people.

We value the collaborative relationships with our local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative (BADAC), Aboriginal Liaison Officers within Victoria Police and Grampians Community Health, Court Liaison officers at the Magistrates Court and the Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG). Through nurturing relationships, listening and sharing trust we are able to promote service system responses in the Central Highlands region.

The WRISC Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) met regularly throughout the year, and we sincerely thank our Proud First Nations Women; Pauling Smith, Rachel Muir, and Emma Leehane for volunteering their time to build WRISC's understanding of the experiences and needs of our First Nations People. Their contribution provides WRISC with invaluable guidance and expertise that is instrumental in ensuring culturally appropriate service delivery.

Reconciliation Week

WRISC attended external Reconciliation week events and ran internal activities, showing our support for the theme 'Bridging now to Next'. Through engaging in discussions about Australia's reconciliation journey, staff were able to reflect on what WRISC is doing now and what we will do to continue to build our capabilities as allies, as individuals and as a Family Violence organisation.

Van Go Children's Creative Therapy Program

Van Go Children's Creative Therapy Program continue to use Creative Therapies to support children, young people and their families who have experienced family violence. Van Go responds to the impact family violence has on development for children and young people and seeks to promote emotional healing through creative therapy. Creative Therapy embraces a child-centred approach, optimising children's abilities to express and explore their feelings. Van Go Creative Therapeutic Interventions offered:

- Single Session Therapy – short-term therapeutic intervention and assessment, 1-3 sessions with all children and safe caregiver.
- Individual Creative Therapy – mix modalities of art, play and dance therapy
- Little Children, Big Outcomes – focusing on ages 0-5 and the relationship between mum/carer and child/infant



From July 2024 to the end of June 2025 Van Go had:

225 Children and young people

331 Clients

106 Carers

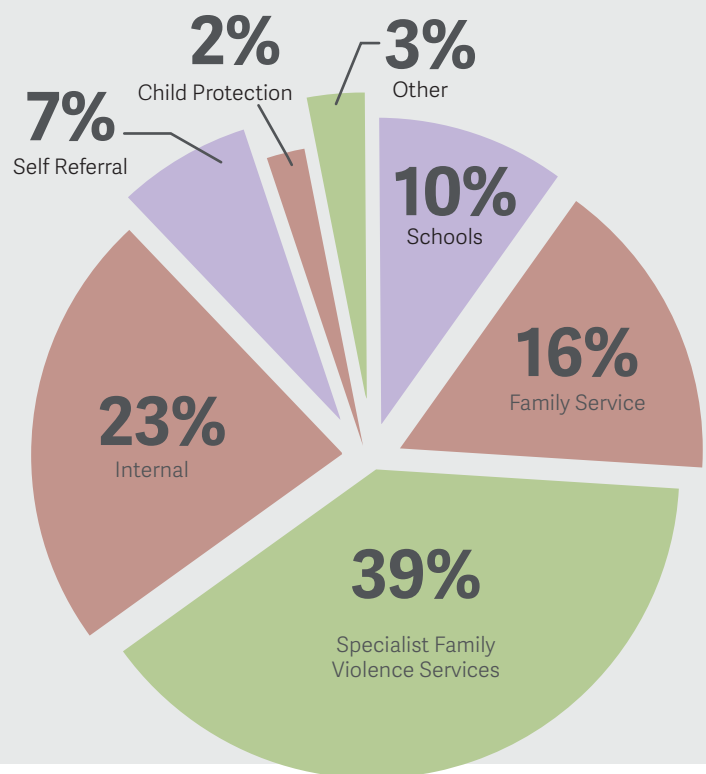
13% Identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

7% Identified as Culturally and Linguistically

14% Identified living with a disability

2% Identified as part of the LGBTQIA+ community

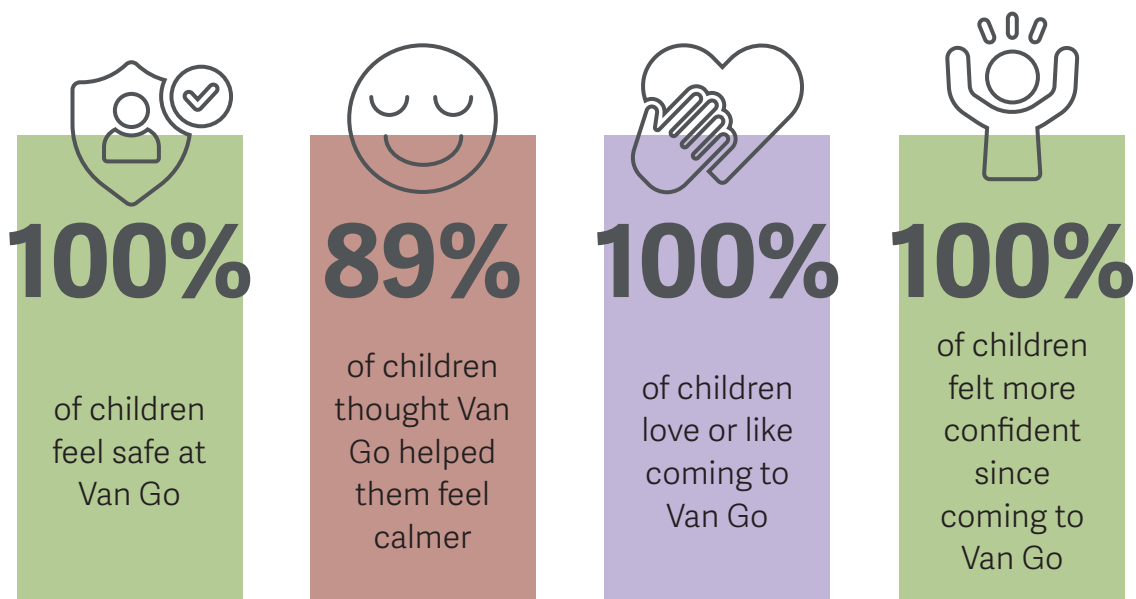
From July 2024 to the end of June 2025 Van Go had 331 new clients referred, 225 children and 107 carers. 243 clients were supported with Single Session Therapy, and 29 children have continued forward to Individual Creative Therapy so far. Van Go works collaboratively across internal programs and with external agencies using an integrated approach. This provides seamless care for clients across multiple services that is a trauma-informed and person-centred, providing victim/survivors with the tailored supports they want and deserve. Van Go had supported 75 clients from internal WRISC programs; 52 from the Family Violence Outreach Program, 23 from the Aboriginal Program. With the no wrong door policy, we have also supported schools to link families in directly, with 34 clients being referred to Van Go.



Van Go had another successful Evaluation Family Fun Day as we continue to seek feedback from the children and families that use our service. This year we combined our day with the Yarning Kids Group, we look forward to this day every year, using creative evaluation activities to hear what children and young people want to say about our supports and what we can do to improve our service.

On October 3rd, 2024, Van Go once again hosted its Family Fun Day Evaluation event at the Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre. Although attendance

was lower than the previous year, the day was a great success, enjoyed by both families and staff. Everyone actively participated in the activities, making the event not just about evaluation, but also about fostering connections in a safe and supportive environment. Surveys completed on the day provided valuable feedback on our services from both children and young people. We asked children if attending Van Go helps them feel calmer, if they felt safe at Van Go, if they felt more confident since coming to Van Go.





“

I feel the Van Go program is such a great tool to help Parents who struggle building a bond with their children and who have struggled with domestic violence. This program has helped my children and I see the light at the end of the tunnel.

”

“

This program is great for families in need of it. We felt warmly welcomed and understood from the moment we started this service. I'm grateful.

”

“

Having a support worker for each girl was truly fantastic. Both of the girls felt seen and heard.

”

Groups Program

This year the WRISC Groups Program has continued to create spaces of safety, connection, and healing for women, young people and children impacted by family violence. Across our programs, we have seen stories of growth and transformation emerge — children discovering their voices through art and play, young people reconnecting with culture and confidence, and women finding strength in the support of peers who understand. In 24/25 WRISC supported the following 8 groups.

Women's Voices

Our lived experts by experience group engaged in its initial steps towards the development of an advisory group as defined by Melbourne University's Family Violence Experts by Experience Framework*. Our participant women undertook an intake process, ensuring safety for their voices to be heard and responded to. These voices were captured both through 1:1 conversations and group discussions. These discussions began with initial prompts about service delivery and were then led and constructed by the participants. This work is ongoing with a follow-up report to be returned to participants for further comment, completing a feedback loop, providing a valued opportunity for participants to be a part of the change-making process. All participants were paid for their expert consultant knowledge. Our new feedback form will demonstrate the effectiveness of this valued group. We welcome new participants to this group. Please advise WRISC reception if you would like to join this group.

Yarning Kids

Our *Yarning Kids* groups have provided strong Aboriginal primary school-aged girls with rich experiences that celebrate identity, storytelling, and creativity. For the children, the group became a place where they felt safe enough to try new things, work alongside others, and begin to trust again.

LCBO (sponsored by UFS)

Little Children, Big Outcomes supports children under five to regain their social, emotional and developmental wellbeing after family violence through the delivery of group and individual dyadic therapy. The 24-25 year saw the completion of the pilot phase of this under-fives therapeutic recovery program generously funded by UFS Healthcare Ltd. UFS Healthcare have now funded an evaluation of the pilot, which is currently underway, and in doing so are supporting us to plan for program development into the future.



*Lamb K, Hegarty K, Amanda, Cina, Fiona, and the University of Melbourne WEAVERs lived experience group, Parker R. (2020) *The Family Violence Experts by Experience Framework: Domestic Violence Victoria*. Melbourne, Australia.



Steppin' Out

Over the years, Steppin' Out has provided a safe and carefully curated opportunity for women to come together to experience the serenity and healing of being out in nature. The benefit of exposure to the natural environment is becoming increasingly understood and is a perfect offering for those who want to move around in the great outdoors and engage with their natural surroundings. 2024 / 2025 saw fewer women engage, a reflection of the competing priorities in women's lives, and other barriers to participation. At each session, we witnessed a calming transformation in our clients, nurtured by connection to nature, mindful presence, quiet conversations and the observation of the stillness of silence.

BRMC Creative Connections

The collaboration with Ballarat Regional Multicultural Centre (BRMC) through the Creative Connections group offers a rare and sacred space

in the community for women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to engage in healing through creative expression. The group supports emotional well-being through art making and creative reflection, but also prioritises the slow, essential work of building trust and meaningful relationships, often in the absence of alternative networks.

Finding Voices

The development of Finding Voices, a program for young women aged 18–25, reflects WRISC's commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our community. Participants explored the themes of Finding Safety, Finding Self, and Finding Story. Through artmaking and shared reflection, they experienced connection, validation and empowerment, with many describing a renewed sense of being "seen" after experiences of isolation and silencing.



Women's Support Group

Our Women's groups provide powerful opportunities for connection. Participants' reflections about the relief experienced of no longer feeling alone, the joy of forming new friendships, and the confidence that comes from being truly heard and understood.

Feeling Visible

The Feeling Visible program offers school-based therapeutic interventions for children and young people who have experienced family violence. Through creative projects, group discussion, and play, participants are supported to strengthen their sense of identity, build self-worth, and develop strategies for emotional regulation. Teachers and parents observe positive changes in children's confidence and engagement, highlighting the program's purposeful impact in the school environment. Young people engaging in this school-based program are courageous, seeking to be heard and to have their lived experiences acknowledged.

16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence 2024

WRISC, alongside other community organisations, contributed artworks that were displayed at the Central Highlands Libraries. Our Women's Support Group wrote on plates their deeply felt responses to gender-based violence. Plates, being representative of domestic spaces and relationships, served as perfect vehicles for representing experiences, the strength and vulnerability of women stated. Each plate simultaneously holds the stories of meals enjoyed and the potentiality of one momentary incident, forever altering its form and capacity.

Exit Pathways Program

Breaking down barriers. Opening doors. Changing lives.

The Exit Pathways Program enables project staff to work closely with women and children who are survivors of family violence, supporting them to access and sustain safe, secure housing in the private rental market. Leaving violence is just the first step, and securing long-term affordable housing can be one of the greatest challenges clients face.

Through managing referrals from family violence and housing services, staff work with clients to develop tailored support plans that address each client's unique needs. The program staff work with clients to reduce barriers to renting, providing financial assistance through subsidised rent, and delivering tenancy coaching to build clients' skills and confidence.

Advocating for clients and actively connecting with real estate agents increases rental

opportunities and the ongoing tenancy support helps them settle and maintain their homes.

Recognising that housing stability is deeply linked to financial independence, the program also supports women to access education and employment pathways, empowering them to rebuild their lives beyond crisis.

Exit Pathways is a collaborative initiative between WRISC Family Violence Support and Uniting, where both agencies work together to build strong partnerships with housing providers, real estate agents, and support services to create real, lasting housing solutions.

This program goes beyond just housing; It's about restoring safety, dignity, and independence, and helping clients build a sustainable future after family violence, changing lives, one home at a time.



FASS - Family Advocacy and Support Services

The Family Advocacy and Support Service (FASS) program is a court-based program designed to provide specialised family violence support, safety planning, and advocacy for clients navigating family law processes. The work is centred on ensuring client safety, advocating for justice, and guiding decisions through a family violence-informed lens.

The program requires staff to work collaboratively with judges, social workers, barristers, and lawyers, ensuring that every intervention prioritises the well-being and safety of clients.

I provided trauma-informed guidance, safety planning, and referrals to specialist support services, helping clients navigate the complexities of family law while keeping their voices central in court processes.

Key highlights of the year included:

- Client-Centred Support: Offering tailored guidance, advocacy, safety planning, and referrals to support services for clients experiencing family violence.
- Collaborative Practice: Working with courts and legal professionals to uphold client safety and rights.
- Risk-Informed Decision Making: Applying MARAM-aligned assessments to inform interventions and prioritise well-being.
- Court Engagement: Supporting clients in hearings, explaining legal processes, and ensuring they were heard.

This role strengthened multi-agency collaboration, enhanced client safety, and reinforced a family violence-informed approach in all decision-making.



Change for Sam

The Change for Sam Initiative was founded by Lija Matthews as a response to the murder of her friend Samantha Frazer by her ex-husband on Phillip Island in 2018.

Change for Sam supports organisations like WRISC through the acquisition, distribution, and ongoing maintenance of Personal Safety Devices (PSD).

The primary goal of Change for Sam is to prevent tragic outcomes, such as murders, and to enhance the safety, security, and peace of mind to Victim Survivors. We thank Lija and the Change for Sam team for honouring Sam with action and ongoing support of the Victim-Survivors that benefit from this initiative.

Change for Sam Impact

The Specialist Family Violence Practitioner was working with a Victim-Survivor who was at serious risk of harm when the PSD was loaned from the Change for Sam Initiative. As part of the Victim-Survivor's safety plan, she was maintaining contact with the perpetrator as she was concerned that if she did not contact him, he would escalate his continued physical abuse potentially resulting in killing her. Whilst the perpetrator had officially left the family home, he would regularly return and assault the Victim-Survivor in front of their children. At the time of loaning the device, the Victim-Survivor was too fearful to report her full experiences of violence to support services or police for fear that police would not be able to protect her should the perpetrator be informed of her reporting. As a result of this it would have been unlikely that she met the requirements of a PSD through a Personal Safety Audit.

Providing a PSD through the Change for Sam project resulted in the Victim-Survivor increasing her trust within the service system, and having identified as an Aboriginal woman this was not an experience she had felt before. During the weeks after providing the device, the Victim-Survivor continued to build her trust through support of her Specialist Family Violence Practitioner, the Family Violence system including the local Family Violence Unit (police) making several reports of physical, sexual and emotional abuse which resulted in the arrest and remand of the perpetrator.



**Change
for Sam.**

Outcomes



How we make a difference for women

My experience with WRISC – letter to a worker.

The support and assistance I have received from you has been life changing! I have been dealing with a huge amount of stress, mentally, emotionally, legally, practically, and all while trying to care for my Son, navigate separation, and find a sense of stability. My nervous system at times has been overwhelmed by a lack of control and uncertainty. Throughout the relationship, I have experienced family violence, but I have been too scared to leave. During this period, I have received continual support from you via catch ups, emails, phone calls, and text messages providing guidance, assistance, and reassurance, and you have been my life raft as opposed to feeling like I am constantly treading water / drowning. You have assisted with my relocation, purchase of basic items, and appointments (i.e., Lawyer, Counsellor, Psychologist), and have walked beside me throughout this entire journey. I would not be where I am now, starting to take back control of my life after 27 years, but I still have a way to go. I know I am stronger but am still going through the motions to date, and still rely on support, whether it be a phone call or email. It helps settle me, reduce my stress and anxiety, and gives me courage. To say I am "grateful" to you is an understatement.

Forever indebted.

Client of WRISC case management

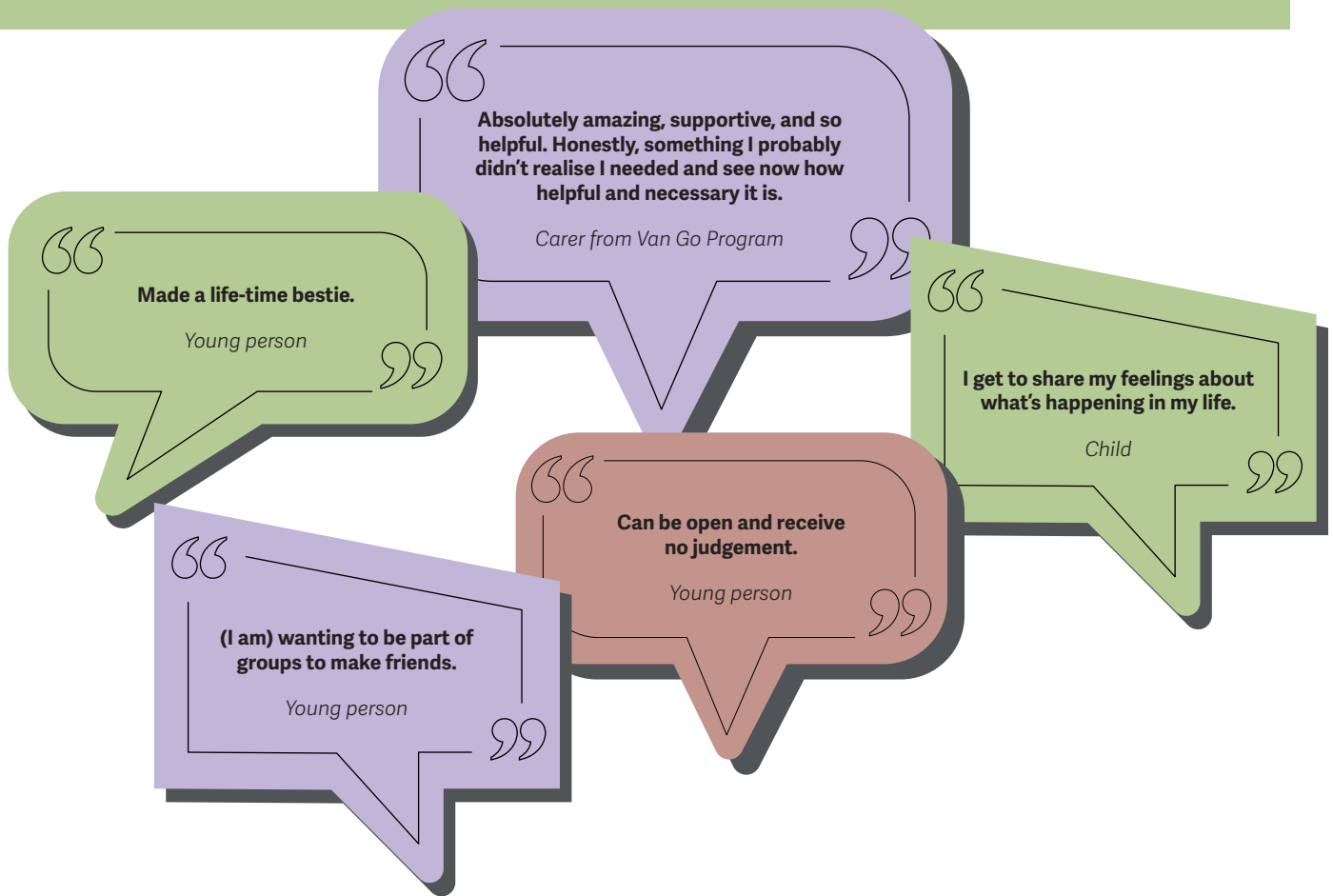
I felt empowered after our meeting and went to student HQ to return to uni, I am so grateful for all the assistance and support. Thank you for being so empathetic and kind.

Client

Thank you to the staff and all they have done for me, it would not be possible without WRISCs help.

Client

How we make a difference for children and young people



How we make a difference for our community



How we make a difference – Therapeutic Arts making Images

“

I love coming to yarning kids,
I want to come every day.

First Nations Child

”



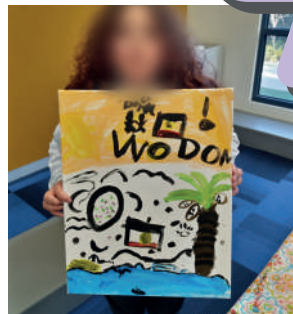
Yarning Kids – First Nations Children Therapy Group



“

Talking with other attendees
about their experiences.

”



LCBO – Little Children big Outcomes (sponsored by UFS)



“

My initial experience has
made me feel comfortable
and confident that this is the
right program for my son.

Carer from Van Go Program

“

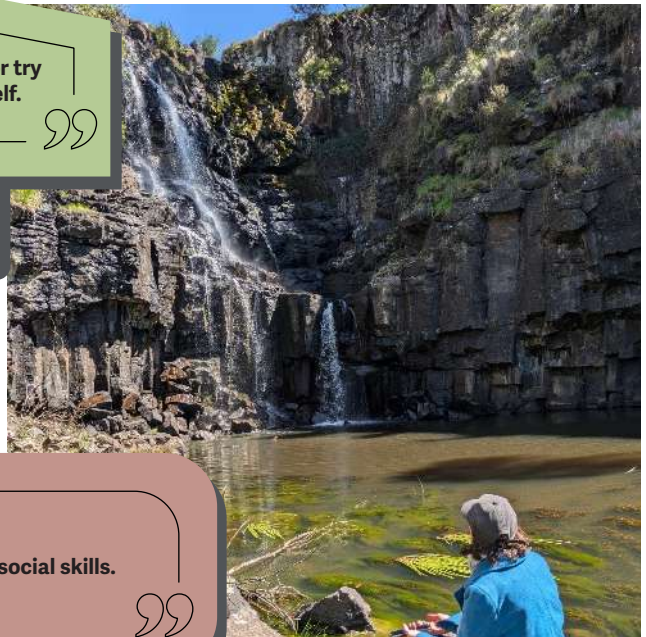
Just a thank you. To feel
supported and heard is so
important and validating.

Carer from Van Go Program

”



“ Don't have to pretend or try to fit in, I can be myself. ”



“ I'm gaining social skills. ”

Steppin' Out



The undeniable strength of a woman is what I have illustrated in my artwork. IRRESISTIBLE AND UNSTOPPABLE.

The classic Wonder Woman symbolises a female survivor who has fought hard in the justice system. The resilience that we have is indeed spectacular as we go through the dark tunnel involving the Family Law Court, the Australian Federal Police, Child Protection and the rest that are part of the system, for the purpose of conquering justice. Unfortunately, the perpetrator's abuse goes on, called 'systems abuse'. We never give up, and we continue to rise above.

BRMC creative connections participant.

BRMC Creative Connections

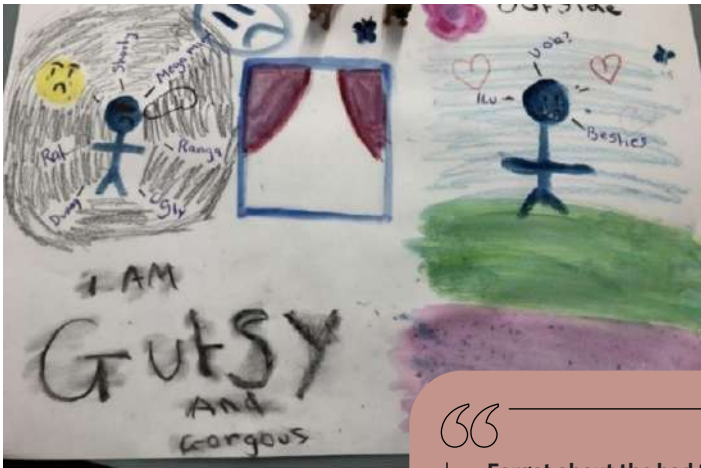
“ Being able to discuss what is happening in my life with people who understand and can help me. ”

“ Comfortable to talk about anything. ”

“ I have experienced a deep shift in how I process emotions to connect with myself. ”



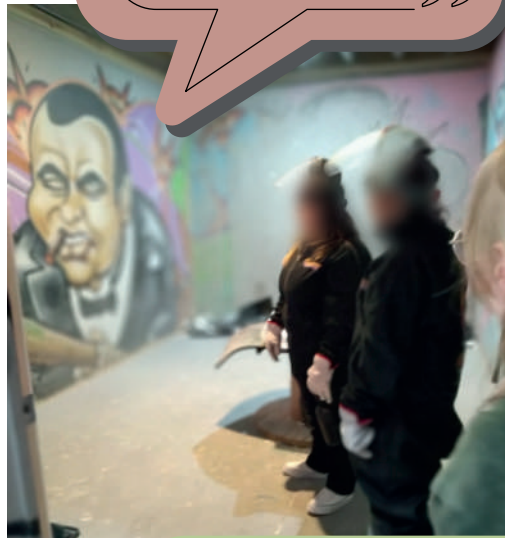
Women's Support Group



“
Forgot about the bad things
and mood changed.”
”



Feeling Visible



“
Therapeutic space without
feeling like therapy.”
”

“
All I can say is, after doing art
therapy a number of sessions
since last year, I have learned
to love myself more.”
”

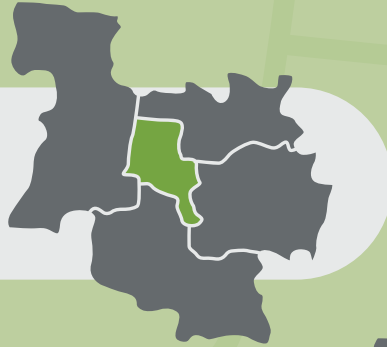


16 Days of Activism

Our Reach

City of Ballarat

Wadawurrung Country
Dja Dja Wurrung Country



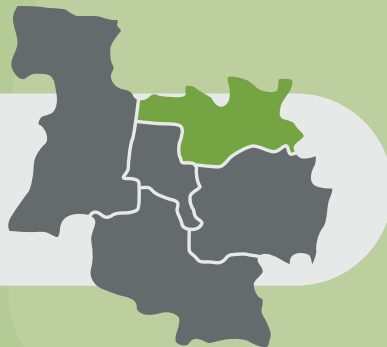
Moorabool Shire

Wurundjeri Wurrung Country
Wadawurrung Country



Hepburn Shire

Dja Dja Wurrung Country



Pyrenees Shire

Wadawurrung Country
Dja Dja Wurrung Country



Golden Plains Shire

Wadawurrung Country



Future Plans

As we look to the year ahead, our focus is on achieving our objectives in the strategic plan, supporting the Victorian Government's third rolling action plan into the 25/26 year and ensuring the sustainability of our vital work. We will continue to strengthen partnerships embed cultural safety practices, and amplify the voices of those with lived experience to guide our service delivery.

Our ability to deliver these outcomes depends on ongoing support from government, philanthropic partners and our community; meaningful change requires collective effort. With a region wide, collaborative, evidence-based and determined approach, we look to the future with hope and optimism of achieving a shared vision for a community free from violence.

Staffing News

WRISC staff experienced both highs and lows during the 24-25 year, as emotions changed from sadness, to happiness to grief and excitement. The year had WRISC staff grappling with significant illnesses for staff, the retirement of Libby the CEO after 10 years, to celebrating 80th birthdays welcoming 8 new members into the WRISC family, and new additions into the families of staff. We celebrated staff service awards, welcomed and farewelled many students, had staff take Long Service Leave, and said farewell to 6 staff who left WRISC for new adventures.

Thank you Libby you will be missed



Together the staff have continued to show their commitment for a world free from violence, by passionately supporting women to achieve their goals and enabling their recovery. Your hard work and dedication is central to the outcomes we have achieved and the progress we continue to make in the lives of others.

Governance/Board

WRISC management and staff would like to thank the all-volunteer Board of Governance for their ongoing commitment to WRISC and supporting the work we do for our community. Your leadership and guidance in helping us achieve our strategic objectives and advocating for the sector is sincerely appreciated. Your attendance at community events and advocacy support, in addition to the governance work you all contribute to behind the scenes, and generally late at night,

enables WRISC to continue to deliver services to victim survivors. Without your skills, knowledge and dedication to eliminating family violence, we would not be able to do the work we do. We would like to specifically thank the 5 Board Members who are concluding their time with us. If you have strong Governance experience and are looking to support a not-for-profit organisation, please get in contact with WRISC .

24/25 FY Board Members



Thank you to Partners and Donors

WRISC work is made possible because of the support we receive from our funders, partners, sponsors and donors. A particular thank you goes out to those in the community who have financially supported programs, made monetary donations or provided material goods for women and children.

We are always seeking financial support. Whether it is to provide vouchers or much needed items for families, or to help us develop a new program or expand existing services, your contribution makes a difference.

Your support and donations have made possible...

- Community engagement and outreach
- Art materials and badge making supplies
- Intersectionality dolls for children's program
- Material aid and essential item vouchers
- Groups Program support
- Family and young people activities
- Program evaluations
- Yarning Kids support



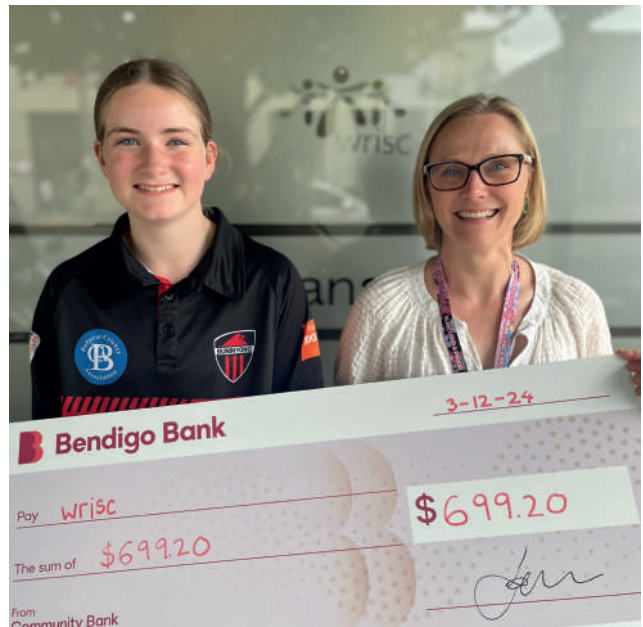
Scenic Cyclist Donation



Donation of intersectional dolls from St Albans-St Andrews Uniting Church Geelong.



Shirley and Peter from Let's Dance



Tilly from Buninyong Cricket Club



Donation of 10 Pots for WRISC mothers



Lucas Fire and Safety Station

 **Allied Justice**

 **CatholicCare**
VICTORIA
Strengthening families & communities

 **ANZACATA**
The Australian, New Zealand and Asian
Creative Arts Therapies Association

 **centrelink**

 **Ballarat and District
Aboriginal
Co-operative Ltd**

 **Central Highlands
Rural Health**

 **Ballarat CASA**
CENTRE AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

**BERRY
STREET**
We're for Childhood
SINCE 1877

Rotary
Club of Ballarat East 

**BALLARAT
LIBRARIES**
LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

 **Federation
University**

 **QHub**

 **Pyrenees**
Shire Council

 **DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY**

 **GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE**

**CITY OF
BALLARAT** 

 **CENTRAL
HIGHLANDS
WATER**

Ballarat
Clarendon
College 

 **CHIFVC**
central highlands
integrated
family violence
committee

Grampians
Community Health 

 **WESNET**
The Women's Services Network

 **MOORABOOL
SHIRE COUNCIL**

 **the
orange
door**

 **DHELK DJA**
SAFE OUR WAY
STRONG CULTURE
STRONG PEOPLES
STRONG FAMILIES

 **Djirra**
Sharing stories, finding solutions

 **Grampians
Health**

**MERCURE
HOTEL**

**THE
SALVATION
ARMY**

 **BALLARAT TURF CLUB**

 **ufs**

MELI **Uniting**

 **TOMRA**

 **Good Shepherd**
Australia New Zealand

 **GOOLUM GOOLUM**
ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE

 **QUEST**
BALLARAT STATION



Let's Dance Ballarat

DANCING BALLROOM



Treasurer Report

The 2024/2025 Financial Reports were audited by Countpro Audit Pty Ltd. There were no matters identified as requiring improvement in the Audit Report issued 21 October, 2025.

The Audited Financial Reports present an operating deficit of \$231,912 and a nett equity position of \$2,046,089.

The operating deficit has arisen mainly due to the following:

- Allocation of funding to continue the important therapeutic work of the Groups Program, as approved by the Board, and
- Retention of funds by DFFH in alignment with the acquittal process for the 2023/2024 year

WRISC continues to advocate for further funding to have more resources available to provide services and support to our community.

A special thank you to our very generous donors who have played an important role in allowing the WRISC team to continue delivering our specialist services.

On behalf of the Finance Working Group, I would like to acknowledge and thank all team members at WRISC for the tireless work that they do every day to support to women and children affected by family violence.

Thank you.

Meegan Dunne

WRISC Treasurer



Profit and Loss Statement

Year Ending June 30, 2025

Revenue	2025 \$	2024 \$
Donations	95,451	50,472
Government funds	4,578,854	4,956,552
Other income	631,904	423,246
	5,306,209	5,430,270

Expenses

Other Expenses	326,118	332,722
Client Costs	875,635	1,012,385
Depreciation	109,545	98,008
Interest Expenses	12,278	14,592
Reimbursements - Berry Street	791,867	429,091
Repairs and maintenance	32,806	32,194
Salaries and Wages	3,047,557	2,846,805
Salaries On-Costs	342,315	298,382
Total	5,538,121	5,064,179
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(231,912)	366,091

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2025

Assets	2025 \$	2024 \$
Bank	1,017,158	1,099,780
Other Assets	57,046	55,173
Investments	1,720,000	1,720,000
Property, Plant and Equipment	319,434	395,242
Total Assets	3,113,638	3,270,195
Liabilities		
Other Liabilities	824,421	932,575
Income in Advance	243,128	59,619
Total Liabilities	1,067,549	992,194
Net Assets	2,046,089	2,278,001
Equity		
Retained earnings	544,308	573,093
Specific purpose funding reserve	1,501,781	1,704,908
Total Equity	2,046,089	2,278,001



Practitioner Voices – why our staff work at WRISC

“Support women move through feelings of shame to seek support and have the courage to talk about it for the first time.”

“Facilitating a safe space in single session for the children’s voices to be heard and responded to therapeutically.”

Creative Therapist

“I’ve learned that listening with empathy and without judgment can be as powerful as any intervention.”

Case Manager

“Being able to provide opportunity for women and children for connection and for them to make changes in their own lives.”

“Seeing women identify their strengths as mothers.”



*Scan the QR code to donate and help us continue our mission.
Every contribution, big or small, creates real impact.*