

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 / 2025



who we are... Foundation 61 is a not-for-profit community based charity that seeks to provide healing and hope for people affected by addiction.

Founded in 2005, we have established ourselves as a recognised community service organisation in the health sector.

We run a long stay residential based drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre.

Foundation 61 is well known in Geelong. We have a broad base of financial and volunteer support and well designed facilities with long term tenure.

mission... Our mission is to empower people who are confronting addictions, whether it is to drugs, alcohol, gambling or any other life controlling issue, to experience healing in their lives and contribute positively to mainstream society.



Isaiah 61:1
The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners

our board

Colin Bell - Chairperson
Neil Loxston - Fundraising
Brenda Lyons -Treasurer
Julie Rock - Secretary
John Pelchen - Board Member
Gabriel Wenyika - Board Member

Rob Lytzki - CEO

our team - restoration house

Ray Mirams - Program Manager
Frank Haslett - Program Coordinator
Dean Ballantyne - Support Worker
Rod Vincent - Support Worker
Dom Bell - Support Worker
Steve Brown - Support Worker
Cameron Douglas - Property Maintenance

our team -house of hope

Caroline Lytzki - Program Manager Sam Allison - Program Coordinator Lena Johnstone - Support Worker Leila Duncan - Support Worker Taylor Couchman - Support Worker Jules Haddock - Support Worker Kailey Dick - Support Worker Liz Pounder - Property Maintenance



Lyn Johnston - Admin Vicki Rockliff - Admin (Learn Local / HR)





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Chairpersons Report - Colin

Early one Saturday morning when I was volunteering at Restoration House this year, I waved goodbye to a participant heading into town for a walk, lunch and a movie. You could see the anticipation and happiness on his face. Watching him go was bittersweet for me though because he had no family or friends joining him. His lonely walk reminded me how much addiction has taken from him.

As you read this year's Annual Report my hope is that amongst the stories of restoration and hope, alongside the financial reports that speak to the responsiveness and generosity of the Geelong community, and in between reports from our CEO, staff and volunteers that show commitment and care, you find yourself looking for ways we can do more.

I am grateful for the Foundation 61 Committee of Management comprising long-standing members Neil Loxston (Fundraising) and Brenda Lyons (Treasurer) and new members for 2024/25, Julie Rock (Secretary), Gabriel Wenyika (general member with legal expertise) and John Pelchen (general member with financial expertise). Thank you for your dedication to Foundation 61 and your input on key decisions this year.

Building Foundation 61's financial security has been a priority in 2025 and the Committee established an investment that can be called on in emergencies. We are grateful to philanthropic organisations across Geelong including Anthony Costa Foundation, Percy Baxter Charitable Trust and Geelong Community Foundation and generous individuals, for helping us achieve a healthy enough financial position to do this. Another priority has been supporting new staff and volunteers during the first year of providing rehabilitation services for women at House of Hope. It has been delightful seeing several women graduate and to celebrate House of Hope's first birthday. These are indicators of success and I acknowledge the dedicated teams of staff and volunteers at Restoration House and House of Hope who work hard to help participants graduate.

In the year ahead we will be looking for ways to ensure volunteer roles at Foundation 61 are clear, flexible and rewarding given the wider Australian context where volunteering is declining, particularly among young people.

Colin Bell Chairperson - Foundation 61 Committee of Management



Foundation 61 CEO - Rob

Another full year for Foundation 61 and what a privilege it has been to continue to serve our community and offer this vital service to so many who would otherwise have not been able to access affordable rehabilitation.

I have recently been reflecting on the works at the House of Hope to protect the old church ruins on the property and the renovation works being done at the Boy's House in light of the verse from Isaiah 61:4 "They will rebuild the ancient ruins; they will restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations." This verse speaks to me of not only bricks and mortar of both houses but of what our purpose is - that is the restoration and rebuilding of ruined lives at both Restoration House and the House of Hope.

I have enjoyed getting back to what I am passionate about - facilitating weekly the CIR (Communication, Identity and Relationships) groups at both Restoration House and House of Hope. Along with this I have also been inducting new participants into our Healthier You program that encompasses all aspects of our program including the emotional, mental health, relational, social, physical and spiritual aspects of understanding who we are. This is the framework our key workers use to guide our participants through goal setting and overcoming challenges in their recovery.

Ray, Caroline, Frank and Sam continue to lead our teams at both Restoration House and House of Hope. They are each doing a great job in supporting our teams of staff and volunteers to flourish in their roles.

This last year has seen some changes in our administration roles with Lyn taking over from Caroline the financial role and Vicki stepping into the education role whilst continuing to also oversee human resources.

We have had a few staff development days in the past 12 months including several staff completing Mental Health First Aid training along with some of our volunteers, two sessions on Trauma Informed Care with John Bloomfield, emergency procedures training for staff and volunteers at the House of Hope and a day on Learn Local Training with the team from Cloverdale Community Centre.

We are extremely grateful for all our philanthropic partnerships, community partnerships, businesses and individuals who continue to believe in and support us ongoing. I would like to make special mention of the Anthony Costa Foundation, who have committed to partnering with us for a further 10 years. In uncertain financial times this was such great news to receive. I would also like to thank Simon and Sandra Allars from Taking Care Mobile Massage for the incredible commitment in supporting the first year of House of Hope.

Thank you to our committed Board for your governance, guidance and support.

Looking forward to next year, I recognize the need to build and strengthen our existing partnerships and to grow our volunteer base. I will work with both our Program Managers and Coordinators to build strategy around how we do this.

Rob Lytzki Foundation 61 CEO

Sponsorship and Fundraising - Neil

Foundation 61 has experienced a year of growth like no other with the expansion of operations represented by the opening of our women and women with children rehabilitation facility, House of Hope. The Board has been cognizant of the need to maintain an increase in income required by the growth of our operations so that people presenting for entry into the programs of recovery can do so without having to contribute any more than in years past. Access to both our men's and women's programs remains dependent upon personal circumstances and needs, not financial status.

Foundation 61 has seen their work, commitment and reputation recognized through continued and increased support received from major philanthropic institutions, businesses, churches, families and individuals.

Multi year giving plans have been a well received feature of recent developments in the philanthropic landscape. This development has been made possible by the recognition of the importance of the relationship between donor and recipient being based upon mutual trust and mission alignment. This development allows charities such as Foundation 61 to be able to plan for the future with confidence and surety.

We would thank all who have contributed to our cause over the last financial year with particular appreciation going to the following supporters:

Anthony Costa Foundation
Percy Baxter Charitable Trust
Geelong Community Foundation
Taking Care Mobile Massage
Drakensberg Trust
Bill Trengrove and Family
Geelong Citrus Packers
Heather Fagg

We acknowledge the ongoing support from the many individuals, churches, community organizations and businesses who have partnered with us this year.

We would also take this opportunity to recognize the many thousands of hours of free assistance given by our wonderful team of volunteers without whom Foundation 61 would not be able to operate as it has done for the last 20 years and will continue to do so into the future.

Neil Loxston Foundation 61 - Fundraising



Restoration House Report - Ray

What a year it has been at Restoration House.

It's great to take a breath and reflect on what has been a year of both consolidation and change in how Foundation 61 operates as an organization and in our team here at the men's facility Restoration House.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge that it has been so encouraging to watch House of Hope spread its wings and become fully operational. Well done to the women who serve in that space and everyone who makes both facilities run the way they do.

I'd like to give a quick mention to my own personal journey. I have been honoured to be able to step into the role of Program Manager at Restoration House. If you had told me 4 years ago when I arrived at Foundation 61 as a participant that I would be in this position you can only imagine what I might have said. However I am now blessed to serve in this space and I am grateful for the support from the Board, Rob, Caroline and the team around me. In my many conversations with Rob, he often reminds me of the importance that we approach this space as ministers and not as workers. This is the heart behind what we do here that makes Foundation 61 the fruitful ministry that it is. It's a privilege and a blessing to wake up and come into this place.

From participant to Program Manager, I don't want to do life anywhere else. Whether you are a participant, staff or volunteer, this place fosters an environment where men from every walk of life can continue to grow and learn new things about themselves every day.

As staff, we continually reflect on how rewarding it is walking alongside these guys. To bear witness to a man who comes, often broken, and then leaves you with a renewed hope and sense of freedom in their life is a powerful thing. Unfortunately, we can only walk alongside these guys - we can't do the work for them. A lot of guys fall short once leaving us however many don't - it's these stories that we get to be a part of each year that fuel us.

As a team we love these guys well. I'm so proud of the way the team loves these guys and each other.

As we close out the year, I want to give a big thanks to the support team that works closely with these guys. Frank, Dom, Steve, Dean and Rocket as well as the other staff and volunteers that serve so faithfully. I'd like to also give recognition to Rick Christie who left us after a long period of service - all the best Rick!

Finally, Rob and Caroline – your vision and calling into this ministry has allowed so many men find freedom. Without the sacrifice you have both made, this journey wouldn't happen.

Ray Mirams
Program Manager – Foundation 61 Restoration House

Restoration House Report - Frank

Firstly, I would like to thank Rob, all staff and volunteers for the support that I have received in my role as Program Coordinator at Restoration House.

The roster at Foundation 61 is a 365 day, 24/7 requirement and challenge. We cannot do this without our volunteers! This year we have had staff changes, volunteers who have left us for pastures new and staff and volunteers away on their well-deserved holidays. This being the case we have been stretched to cover our overnights -however as usual as a team we have all stepped up and put up our hands to cover those vacancies. On behalf of Foundation 61, I would like to thank everyone for those efforts, it is so very much appreciated!

We also would like to thank the volunteers for all their support and involvement in the program and the participant's rehabilitation. Whether it's being part of the coffee and beach walk to start the week, medical appointments, dentist appointments, sitting in the emergency department to be there with the participant until he is called, running small group, overnight stays (some at short notice), helping on work days, horticulture, sitting in on a class, calling in for dinner, coordinating the bike ride and games, walking alongside and supporting the fellas post rehab, taking the guys to Alpha Introduction to Christianity community group, grant writing or helping them logistically with their weekend leave - THANK YOU! We love having you around and seeing your faces! Thank you so much for the time that you give to the running of the organisation and the love, care and support that you give to the participants.

To the volunteers who have left us this year - thank you so much for your service, all your efforts and support - we wish you well with your next adventures.

To our new volunteers - Foundation 61 is a unique, special place, a place that helps us all grow. Welcome aboard, thank you for donating your time and we look forward to your support in 2026 and beyond.

Frank Haslett Program Coordinator - Foundation 61 Restoration House



Recently published statistics reports that in a year, there were 2,764 hospitalisations attributed to alcohol and other drugs in the Geelong region itself. Furthermore, the death toll due to alcohol and drug addiction was 461 annually.

With your help Foundation 61 is working closely with individuals to restore hope.

House of Hope Report - Caroline

The story of the "Good Samaritan" comes to mind as I reflect on the past 12 months. No matter what the person's background we are called to be an authentic expression of God's love to each person who walks through our doors.

It has been a privilege to walk alongside every woman who has entered the program whether that has been for only a couple of days or for the full six months. Our hope is that each woman has felt valued and worthy in this space.

We have celebrated 8 graduations of women who have completed the six month program and this is something that we do well. It is a time of honoring the women and the commitment they have shown throughout the journey.

The focus for each woman varies depending on the individual needs. As well as the program, we have been able to support women through a variety of person-centered outcomes some of these have included:

- Physical attending GP and other allied health service appointments including pregnancy support
- Housing we have worked closely to assist women with housing and connecting them with housing support services
- DFFH (Department of Families, Fairness and Housing) Child Protection assisting women to navigate Child Protection orders and support them in reconciling with children
- Financial supporting women in paying off fines through WDP (Work Development Program) and Fines Victoria
- Post rehab support connecting the ladies with support services for post rehab support including employment, further education, AOD (Alcohol and Other Drugs), parenting courses and drink driving courses
- Legal matters assisting women with various legal matters and navigating the courts as well as attending court cases in person or online

We have partnered with other services that have helped us build these outcomes including Cultura Reconnect and genU's Community Reconnections programs.

I would like to acknowledge and honor our staff who have helped build the program and who have taken the recovery journey with our participants. Thanks also to our administration team for all the behind-the-scenes work. A special mention to Janet Crabtree and Sarah Molnar who started with us in 2024 and have since moved on -both were integral in setting up the new program.

Heartfelt thanks to all who support the program through volunteering time, supporting us financially and sharing resources - we couldn't do it without you.

Caroline Lytzki Program Manager - Foundation 61 House of Hope

House of Hope Report - Sam

Over the past 12 months House of Hope has seen connection, commitment, community, growth and hope.

Every story is different, every person is unique and we are honoured to be a part of so many lives, even if only for a moment.

Over the past 12 months we have had 112 enquiries come through ranging from self-referred, service referred and family members looking to support a loved one or looking for guidance.

The first step in seeking help can be one of the most challenging, but by offering a supportive environment full of compassion, love and hope we welcomed 34 ladies through the doors as they embarked on their journey with us. We wouldn't be able to do all this without the amazing support from our staff, volunteers and community partners.

Our volunteers are a vital part to the support we can provide. We currently have 27 rostered volunteers, who come from many walks of life supporting House of Hope with tasks such as assisting with appointments, facilitating and assisting with classes and staying overnight which allows us to have someone onsite 24/7. We are very grateful for the support received from all our volunteers and I want to say thank you for all you do. The commitment you give us, the hope you give every lady that comes through our door and the sense of community you give us all is very much appreciated from everyone at House of Hope. Without our volunteers we wouldn't be able to support the women the way that we do or provide them with the opportunities we have been able to.

We have also provided our staff and volunteers with some personal development days. Earlier in the year we had James and the community team from Grovedale CFA come and give us some training on emergency procedures and the correct use of safety equipment. We also had Sarah Molnar come and provide members from Restoration House and House of Hope training in Mental Health First Aid. The feedback from both training days was positive and the people felt they were very beneficial.

Our Learn Local programs have provided not only education to the participants but life skills that are transferable into the outside world.

I would like to also thank all our other community partners for their ongoing support as we grow. Without your ongoing support we wouldn't be able to provide the same level of support.

Sam Allison

Program Coordinator - Foundation 61 House of Hope

Lisa's Story of Hope

If you asked me six months ago who I was I wouldn't be able to tell you because I didn't even know myself. I would look in the mirror and couldn't recognize the person staring back at me. I was lost, confused, broken and scared of the thoughts running around relentlessly in my head. My life had fallen apart; I had hurt every single person that I loved and pushed away every single person who tried to help me.

I knew that I desperately needed help, but I was tired of letting people down and I felt like a failure. My relationship had broken down, I let the business I worked my absolute butt off for years slip through my fingers. I failed my children when they needed me. I was constantly trying to keep my head above water.

When I lost Mum, that's when I sunk, my whole world fell apart. Mum was my rock; she fought for me when I didn't have the strength to fight for myself. I hated the world; I had become bitter and angry. I felt that I deserved everything that happened to me growing up. I didn't trust anyone, I had lost purpose, and I had lost all hope.

I have an amazing older sister who refused to sit back and watch me continue to punish myself. After countless conversations with her telling me about the House of Hope, before I knew it, I was there.

When I entered the house, I was so scared. But I was welcomed with open arms, and I felt safe and loved. I didn't need to pretend anymore.

I had nothing to lose so I trusted and committed to the program. Throughout my stay I have had time to reflect and grieve. I have forgiven and learned to love myself again, I have found hope, and I have a purpose, I have my own true identity, and I have mended broken relationships. I am so excited to go home to my beautiful family that I love with all my heart and be the best mother I can be to my gorgeous girls. I now have a hunger for life. I know that things are not going to be easy "in the real world", I am going to have my eyes wide open and use the tools I have learnt when things get tough.

To all you amazing, beautiful selfless and wonderful people who I truly believe are angels sent down by God thank you for coming into my life when I needed it most.

Thank you for lifting my spirits and walking beside me. I will never have the words to express my gratitude; you all hold a special place in my heart.

Lisa Graduate - Foundation 61 House of Hope



2024 - 2025 STATS RESTORATION HOUSE - MEN

FINACIAL YEAR	2021 2022	2022 2023	2023 2024	2024 2025
Referrals to Foundation 61	286	319	390	330
Bed capacity	15	15	15	15
Participants entering rehabilitation	49	49	47	35
Age of participants 18 - 29 years 30 -39 years 40 plus years	11 19 19	11 14 24	8 13 26	5 10 20
Case plans developed with participants	49	49	47	35
Participants exiting rehabilitation	59	42	47	34
Unplanned exits Planned exits Continuing in Program	9 50 3	11 31 10	13 34 10	10 24 9
Participants entering transition house	7	4	5	7
Participants exiting transition house	7	6	3	6
Total number of residents in transition house	3	1	3	1

2024 - 2025 Stats at a glance Restoration House / Men

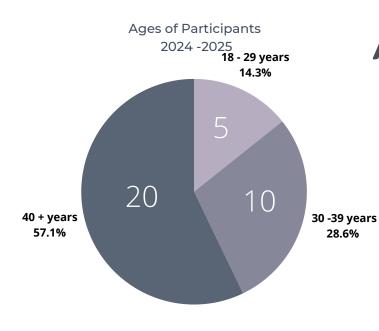




Referrals to Foundation 61 2024 - 2025 330



Bed Capacity 2024 - 2025 15





Participants Entering Program 2024 - 2025 35



Case Plans Developed With Participants 2024 - 2025 35



Participants Exiting Program 2024 - 2025 34



Planned Exits From Program 2024 -2025 24



Unplanned Exits From Program 2024 - 2025 10



Continuing In Program Program 2024 - 2025

9



2024 - 2025 STATS HOUSE OF HOPE - WOMEN

FINACIAL YEAR	2024 2025		
Referrals to Foundation 61	112		
Bed capacity	8		
Participants entering rehabilitation	28		
Age of participants 18 - 29 years 30 -39 years 40 plus years	6 5 17		
Case plans developed with participants	28		
Participants exiting rehabilitation	26		
Unplanned exits Planned exits Continuing in Program	7 19 2		

2024 - 2025 Stats at a glance House of Hope / Women

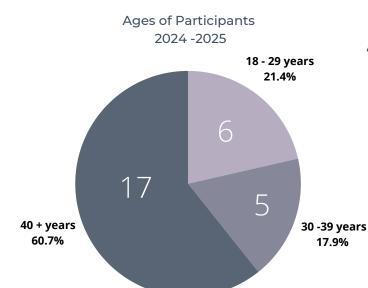




Referrals to Foundation 61 2024 -2025 112



Bed Capacity 2024 -2025 8





Participants Entering
Program
2024 -2025
28



Case Plans Developed With Participants 2024 -2025 28



Participants Exiting
Program
2024 -2025
26



Planned Exits From Program 2024 -2025 19



Unplanned Exits From Program 2024 -2025



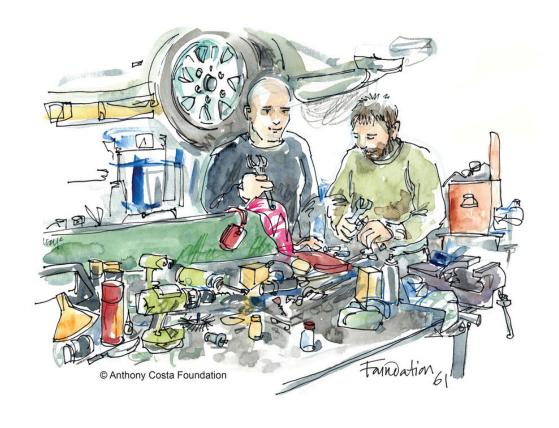
Continuing In Program
Program
2024 -2025
2



2024 - 2025 Financial Statements



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