

**MARRUNGBAA  
GARUWAGA**

**GREAT LAKES  
WOMENS SHELTER**

**Annual Report  
2023-2024**



GREAT LAKES  
Womens  
Shelter

WOMEN'S  
COMMUNITY  
SHELTERS



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

At Great Lakes Womens Shelter, we honour all First Nations people and their enduring connection to culture and land, the land on which we work and play on, always was and always will be Worimi Land. Recognising Worimi people as the Traditional Owners, Custodians, and Keepers of ancient cultures, we pay our respects to their Elders – both past and present and upcoming.

While addressing critical issues like domestic violence and homelessness, it's crucial to acknowledge the resilience that our community has faced and the generational trauma and the impact of colonisation has on all First Nations communities today. Emphasising the significance of self-determination, we are dedicated to listening to and learning from our community to collaboratively build a safer, more inclusive society for women and children seeking refuge from domestic violence and homelessness.

## OUR STORY WHAT WE DO

Great Lakes Womens Shelter (GLWS) is located on the traditional land of the Worimi people in the Forster-Tuncurry (Great Lakes) region of NSW. Our shelter offers secure, supportive housing for women and children seeking refuge from domestic and family violence and homelessness.

We walk along side resident families to empower them to build dignity, self-esteem, practical life skills and the ability to move back into community safely.

Through advocacy and support, we aim to educate our community to reduce the incidence and effects of domestic and family abuse and other causes of homelessness.

We cohesively work with other local support services to reach the best outcomes for all our residents and community clients.

We aim to empower our clients with strength, dignity and courage.

With the specialised staff and the generous support of the wider community, we are now a sector leader for outcomes for women and children.

**Crisis Accommodation:** Capacity to provide supported crisis accommodation to upwards of 40 women and their accompanying children per year.

Providing Specialist (DFSV) Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Case Workers, Child Support Workers, and Outreach Support.

**Community Engagement:** Includes Volunteer Board, Volunteer Program, Donors, Service Clubs, Community Groups, Small and Large Business Partners, Schools, Real Estates and more.

**Sector Engagement:** Includes Women's Community Shelters (WCS), Community Housing Limited, Mission Australia Housing, Mid Coast DV Committee, DVNSW, Thread Together, Betty Basics, DV Collective, DV Safe Phones, District Homelessness meetings.



# THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

At Great Lakes Womens Shelter, the underpinning of all of our work is to prevent domestic homicide in our community.

Domestic Homicide is a death that has resulted from acts of violence from a person that is known to the victim or the victim may have been in a relationship of any sort (family members, intimate partners or stalkers- stalkers can be someone that is known or not to the victim)

In Australia we are seeing a heartbreaking increase in domestic homicide. In the 2022 calendar year we saw 63 women and 33 children killed. In 2023 that increased to 75 women. As I write this report in November 2024, we have once again surpassed that figure, with 82 women being killed at the hands of another person, who likely once professed their love to her.

Great Lakes Womens Shelter Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence case workers, are trained to identify patterns of behaviours that may lead to domestic homicide, in order to try to keep more women and children safe from death.

2024 has seen the introduction of the Coercive Control Legislation, making coercive control a criminal offence in NSW. Coercive Control is when a person uses abusive behaviours towards a current or former intimate partner, with the intention to coerce or control them.

The criminal offence has the ability to record and use as evidence, the details of repeated patterns of physical or non-physical abuse used to hurt, scare, intimidate, threaten or control someone. There has been years of research in this area, and we are hopeful that this legislation will keep more women safe from domestic homicide.

## RECORDING THE DEATHS

### The Red Heart Campaign

Sherele Moody, has created a campaign to memorialise the women and children lost to violence, The Red Heart Campaign:

[Australianfemicidewatch.org](http://Australianfemicidewatch.org)

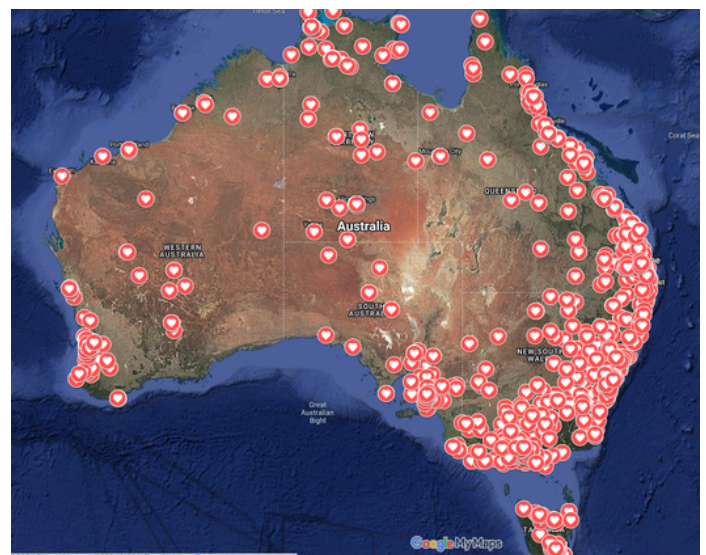
In an effort to ensure victims of violence are never forgotten

Sherele Moody, award-winning journalist, feminist and violence survivor, uses her talents, skills and professional experience to create and maintain this publicly accessible journalism-based story-driven Memorial.

The Red Heart Campaign is dedicated to victims of murder, manslaughter, neglect or other abuses, regardless of the perpetrator's gender or the relationship between the victim and the person who ended their life.

We are grateful for the difficult heart work that Sherele does to help to get the message out to the world, that Domestic Homicide MUST END!!!

Each red heart below represents a woman or child who has lost their life to violence in Australia (records permitting). Many more deaths go unreported or incorrectly reported as homicide, suicide or accidental death







# OUR STRATEGIC PILLARS

## 2023-2026

QUALITY SERVICE DELIVERY

EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

STRONG PEOPLE AND CULTURE



### OUR VISION:

To eliminate domestic and family violence and homelessness in our community



### OUR PURPOSE:

To support vulnerable women and children at risk of domestic and family violence and/or homelessness.

Our work is trauma-informed and culturally safe.  
We achieve this through:

Increasing safety through shelter and support  
Enabling independence and choice  
Specialist advice and targeted advocacy  
Community engagement and influence  
Targeted prevention education

### OUR VALUES:

Empowerment Confidentiality Compassion  
Respect Integrity Teamwork  
Collaboration Social Justice





# MEET OUR BOARD

## BERNADETTE FLANNERY

Chair/ President from 2024

Board Member since May 2023

**Qualification:** Bachelor of Science (Uni of Newcastle)

Graduate Diploma in Local, Family and Applied History (UNE)

**Career:** Managing Director Blue Mango Investments

Chair of Philanthropic Fund

Finance Administration Presence of IT

Multiple volunteer roles over a 30 year period including

- Campaign coordinator, archives officer, multiple school parent organisation roles, team manager, breastfeeding counsellor

**Key Skills:** Organisation and planning skills, business administration, leadership, property management expertise, empathy, willingness to listen and learn.



Bernadette believes that everyone deserves respect and compassion, embodying the idea that no one person is more valuable than another. Her passion for supporting women and children has led her to join the shelter board. Bernadette views her role with Great Lakes Womens Shelter as a unique opportunity to share her experience and knowledge and to learn from those around her.

## JULIE BRADY

Founding Board Member and Chair/President 2015-2024

**Qualification:** MBA (UNSW – AGSM)

**Career:** General Manager in the areas of Organisation Development/Customer Service/HR in a number of sectors, including Finance & Insurance (Capita Financial Group), Health Insurance (HCF) and Manufacturing (James Hardie). ShopFast -a dot.com start-up.

Consultant to not-for-profit boards and organisations and start-up companies in governance, risk management and performance planning.

**Key Skills:** Strategic planning and management; operational planning and management; governance; customer services; risk management, administration.

**Current Affiliations:**

President, Great Lakes Womens Shelter (resigned September 2024)

Treasurer, Forster Neighbourhood Centre.

Julie volunteers because she wants to be part of building a vibrant and effective community. She also enjoys using skills gained in a long career and being stimulated by new challenges



## CORINNE STEPHENSON

Board member since November 2022

Deputy Chair since 2023

Bringing over 12 years' experience working in not-for-profits in the Forster/Tuncurry region advocating for programs and services in our local community. In February 2023, Corinne took on extra duties as Executive Director - Strategy to support the governance of the Board and operational compliance of the shelter.

Corinne has completed her Bachelor of Sustainability (Social Resilience) and is passionate about using her skills and experience to work alongside our First Nations people to promote reconciliation.





# MEET OUR BOARD

## JOHN ENGLISH

Founding Board Member/Treasurer since 2016-2022

Deputy President 2022-2023

John had 24 years experience at Management level in the Credit Union movement before re-locating from Sydney to Forster/Tuncurry in 1994.

Since then he has been involved in a number of business ventures in the region, including owner/operator of a large bakery, Caravan Park manager, and Motel operator.



Having commenced his working career in 1960, he brought more than 60 years of work/life experience to his involvement with GLWS. - John has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Shelter, and now actively works with our Fundraising Sub-Committee on a range of fundraising endeavours.

## JASON LUKJANENKO

Treasurer 2023

Board Member since November 2023



**Qualification:** Bachelor of Business (Accounting/Finance) University of Technology Sydney

**Career:** Financial Adviser and local business owner

Multiple volunteer roles over a 30 year period including – various animal welfare charities and rescues, social justice and activism causes

**Key Skills:** Financial background, problem solving, curiosity for knowledge, empathy and compassion.

An inspirational mum and acknowledgement of her dedication to raising myself and my brothers brought GLWS on to the radar for being able to give something back to the community. Jason is driven by the ethos that everyone in society is equal regardless of circumstance, sometimes if we are in a position to lend a hand than we should.

## FELICITY CARTER

Minutes Secretary

Founding Board Member 2015

**Qualification:** BSc Ag Sydney University

**Career:** Managing Director and owner of a Human Resources/business consulting firm with clients in IT, banking, pharmaceuticals and insurance .

Clinical research consultant managing global clinical trials in the fields of cardiology and asthma employed by Astra Pharmaceuticals.

**Key Skills:** Strategic planning; business strategy; change management; sales and marketing

**Current Affiliations:** Board Member, Great Lakes Womens Shelter.

President, Forster Neighbourhood Centre.

Joint Co-ordinator of Better Learning, Better Communities Program.

Founding Member of Better Reading Better Communities Committee.

Co-ordinator of ASHOW (Coomba Park after school program).



Felicity believes that all children deserve equal opportunity in education, especially when learning to read. She is particularly committed to helping improve Aboriginal education in Forster/Tuncurry.



# MEET OUR BOARD



## **ROBYN KIRK**

Board Member since 2022

**Career:** Retired NSW Office Manager- Placard (13 years)  
Current Director Club Forster - (8 years) - Green's Director, Club Grants, House & Building & Future Development Committees (Club member 15 years)  
Current Director Great Lakes Womens Shelter - (2 1/2 years)  
Current NSW Real Estate Bowlers - Tournament Director - (14 years)  
Current member Great Lakes Evening View Club - (13 years)  
Current member Sporties Ladies Bowls Club - (14 years)

## **ANNABELLE DANIEL**

CEO Women's Community Shelters  
Founding Board Member 2015

As CEO of Women's Community Shelters (WCS), Annabelle Daniel OAM has worked with local communities around NSW to establish and open ten shelters at Hornsby, Forster, Castle Hill, Penrith, South Penrith, Bayside, Parramatta, Revesby, Camden and Guildford. She has also been instrumental in the ongoing success of the very first shelter which opened in Manly in 2010. (Now known as Northern Beaches Women's Shelter.)



Annabelle has collaborated with a range of organisations, individuals and stakeholders, from the community and all levels of government to achieve change in the fields of domestic and family violence and homelessness for women and children. Annabelle is continuing to lead work into the establishment of further shelters, transitional homes and preventative programs to address these pressing social issues across New South Wales and beyond.

Annabelle's volunteer roles include Chairing Domestic Violence NSW (the peak body for domestic and family violence services in NSW) and acting as the Independent Member on the New South Wales Coercive Control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce, along with Chairing the DFV Sector and Lived Expertise Reference Groups.

Annabelle has been a leader in women's homelessness and DFV for over 15 years – also working on the front line as a Shelter Manager and with the Federal Government as a Senior Departmental Leader within Services Australia, overseeing the Child Support Program, and as a Senior Investigator with the Commonwealth Ombudsman.



## **NEESHA ECKERSLEY**

COO Women's Community Shelters  
WCS Representative Board Member since 2023

Driven by social justice, equality and equity; I am proud to be working alongside the Board, staff, volunteers and community of Great Lakes Womens Shelter (GLWS) to be part of the solutions to end domestic and family violence across communities.

Women and children have the right to live free of violence, and GLWS offers that safe space to recover, heal and reset on a pathway free from violence.





# MANAGER INSIGHTS

Carly Ravenscroft  
GLWS employee since 2016  
GLWS Manager since 2022

**Career:** Started my Community Services career path in 2010 at Blue Mountains Women's Health and Resource Centre, 6 years later my family and I made the move to the Mid Coast, and we fell in love with this amazing coastal community, almost 9 years on, and we wouldn't change a thing.

After a short stint at Mid Coast Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (MCWDVCAS) I was also working as a Case Worker at GLWS, that was 2016 and I am grateful to use my passion, experience and commitment to keep as many women and children safe in our shelter and outreach programs.

Passion, Empathy and Support. 3 things that drive what I do every day.

We have been through some huge changes and diversity in the past few years, notably building and moving in to our purpose built 10 bedroom shelter "Marrungbaa Garuwaga", our good place by the sea.

We have grown from a small team supporting 5 families in crisis, across 2 rented premises, to supporting 10 families at a time in one facility.

Our new shelter is phenomenal, and has all the mod cons and creature comforts you would want if you were in crisis. We have considered almost every possible scenario, and created a space for it.

The feedback from the women and children in shelter varies from "I never want to leave here" to "oh my gosh, I don't deserve to be here, it is so beautiful" "it's like a big hug when you walk in the door".

The children love the shelter, they have all the equipment and resources they could ever ask for, and they love to play together, and just be kids, with no fear of anyone.

I want to thank every Woman, who has walked through our doors, or called us for help, for trusting us with your safety. It is an absolute privilege to witness a woman or family leave our shelter and move into a new home with a safety net of support built up around her. When a family leave the shelter they are armed with advice, information and most of all empowerment to live their lives, how they want to. We have had the joy of seeing babies born, taking first steps, or speaking their first words, watching the trust grow in little people, after sometimes years of experiencing abuse and adverse environments.

Our amazing caseworkers, guided and supported by Beth, Team Leader, make it all happen, walking alongside families to help them get to where they want or need to go, there is nothing that is too hard, or out of the question, our staff are resilient, hard working and most of all, passionate about seeing women and children thrive and grow.

Our Board have also been through a lot of changes this past year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julie Brady, our president from 2016 through to September 2024. Julie has given GLWS her heart and soul and then some more. Julie was the driving force behind GLWS growing into a new building, there was laughter, tears, jumps for joy and some really tough days, but Julie stayed consistent and tough through it all. Opening the doors officially in July 2022.

Julie has supported and mentored me to become the Manager that I am today, and I will forever be grateful to have had her comradery over the past 8 years. GLWS won't be the same without you on the Board Julie, but you definitely leave behind some of your soul and energy in Marrungbaa Garuwaga. You have left behind some big shoes to fill, but Bernadette is already filling them in her own way, leading us onto the next chapter.

Thank you

Here is to the next chapter in the GLWS story.

Carly Ravenscroft  
GLWS Manager





# 2023-2024 SOCIAL IMPACT



55 Women and 67 children stayed in our crisis shelter



131 families received Outreach support



4 families stayed in our Transitional units (up to 12 months)



4590 nights of crisis accommodation provided in Shelter



1391 nights of transitional accommodation provided



71% of our shelter clients identify as First Nation families



Safety Assessments showed 75% of our clients are at Serious risk of Domestic Homicide



7 weeks is the average stay for a family in our shelter.



72% of Shelter residents have been in Temporary Crisis Accommodation before coming into Shelter



# SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYSIS

The Social Media Analysis Report provides a brief overview of how many supporters are interacting with our Social Media Accounts



Facebook  
Performance  
Overview

**5.8K**

Content  
interactions

**9.7K**

Facebook  
Visits

**50.6K**

Facebook  
Reach

**2860**

Followers

**2345**

Shares

**1.3K**

Link  
Clicks



Instagram  
Performance  
Overview

**227**

Content  
interactions

**473**

Instagram  
visits

**1.4K**

Instagram  
reach

**665**

Followers

**2345**

Share

Gender (as per Social Media account holders ) of visitors

Social Media  
Visitor  
Demographics



**93.5%**



**6.5%**

Time visitors  
spent viewing our  
content



**14 hours of watched  
content time**







# ONE WOMAN'S JOURNEY

*Without your support, I wouldn't be alive at the moment, without your guidance and tender care in our darkest and saddest moments.*

I don't know how I would of been brave enough to leave the horrible life that we were suffering.

Sometimes it feels like it happened yesterday and then sometimes it all feels like a dream, or I wonder if we truly went through it all- and I know we did, it's just something I still can't wrap my thoughts around sometimes.

Since we left the shelter life has just been crazy. We moved into our little villa, and got off to a rocky start, but things started progressing.

Most days are still tough.

Some days can be great and other days a huge struggle with the kids and after the domestic violence they witnessed for so many years - who can blame them?

My goal in life is to give them the best life I can for them, to shower them with endless love and support them through their struggle. I guess the biggest thing for me, even with these struggles I am TRULY the happiest I have ever been.

I will forever remember what you did for us.

Lillian





# OUR ONGOING IMPACT

**\$3k**

The daily operating costs to provide our Marrungbaa Garuwaga – safe place by the sea, for up to 10 families and to provide targeted outreach and child support services

**650**

January 2016 - November 2024  
650 women and children have received safety and supported accommodation from GLWS

**45.7k**

The total number of nights since January 2016 that a woman or child has slept safely at Great Lakes Womens Shelter

**40%**

Referrals come from community members or self-referrals

**75%**

Over 75% of women and children supported in Marrungbaa Garuwaga transition from shelter into private rental accommodation



# OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN

At GLWS, our primary focus is safety and empowerment of women to live a safe and independent life, free from violence.

Shelter residents have reported an increased feeling of independence and choice in the following areas after moving out of shelter:



## Safety

Feels safe and feels that she has the ability to make safe choices for herself and her family

## Accommodation

Feels that she has the tools to find and maintain safe and secure accommodation without service support

## Legal issues

All legal issues are being handled and resident feels able to move through justice system without service support



## Financial independence

Financial support has been accessed and debts are being managed and repaid. Financial stability is achievable without service support

## Health and Wellbeing

Health and mental health concerns have been addressed and she knows how/when to get the support required



## Support Networks

Support networks have been identified and established or reconnected with, safe people to seek support from

## Empowerment and self esteem

Ultimately women feel empowered to be “her” again, independent and able to look after herself and her children without or with little support from others or services.







# GLWS BRANDING AND IMAGERY

GLWS have been working to re-create our branding that is in-line with our service mission, values, our community and our passions.

Our colours represent the beautiful oceans and lakes that we are surrounded by here in the Great Lakes.

Our original logo represents Babushka dolls, women wrapping their arms around women and children.



Our double logo incorporates a Worimi version of the dolls walking alongside the original dolls, representing community connection and passion to keep all our families safe.

Local Artist Lara Went created the Worimi version of the dolls in our logo as well as the dot graphics used throughout our branding.



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Local Artist and Specialised DFSV Case Worker Liahna Paulson has designed some beautiful graphics for our marketing documents and fundraising documents.

Representing supporting women, our waterways and gathering spaces and yarning circles.





# CO - CHAIR REPORT

## Introduction and highlights

There are several features of the GLWS 2023/4 Financial Year that were particular standouts.

This year marked GLWS' first full year in Marrungbaa Garuwaga and the opportunity to test how well our good ship performed over a sustained period. And the answer was, very well!

After seven years of "making do", the staff and, at any one time, up to 10 families are now enjoying the many benefits of a high-quality, well-appointed and culturally appropriate space. As I write, GLWS staff and residents benefit from the amenity and functionality of Marrungbaa Garuwaga, performing just as she was designed to do.

After fulfilling a whole range of duties of managing both the operations and the administration for many years, I am delighted to report that Carly Ravenscroft was formally appointed as GLWS Manager in February 2023. GLWS is fortunate in having the benefit of Carly's commitment, energy and passion for supporting women and children.

Corinne Stephenson Executive Director Strategy, appointed in February 2023 also was in place for the full year, and well and truly proved her worth, taking huge pressure off the chair by supporting strategy development and execution, and selected operational matters.

Bernadette Flannery, having joined the board in May 2023, quickly become indispensable and was elected as Co Chair of the GLWS board in 2023. She has steered the ship, effectively without my involvement, since January 2024, allowing me to take a long and much needed break. Which leads me to ...

## A Farewell Report

This is by way of a farewell report from me. We are satisfied that most of the big-ticket items that we needed to achieve are now settled and my long-telegraphed resignation is coming close. It is time for Bernadette to pave a way forward with her unique skills. But first some thanks.

My first and most heartfelt thanks go to Bernadette Flannery. Upon meeting Bernadette and her husband Shaun in early 2022, GLWS found two strong supporters, through personal volunteering and the Flannery Family philanthropic foundation, I knew immediately that here was someone with the skills, the heart and the passionate commitment to our cause.

What we have accomplished:

As the end of my nine plus years' tenure at Great Lakes Womens Shelter comes quickly over the horizon, I remember with pleasure and gratitude the many hundreds of people who have contributed over so many years to get us here today.

GLWS is proud of what we, in partnership with the Federal and State Governments, MidCoast Council and the whole community have achieved. Nine years of supporting families blighted by domestic and family violence and offering opportunities of a new and better life.

Oh, and of course, creating the venue to make it all possible now and into the future.

Marrungbaa Garuwaga, our Good Place by the Sea is the worthy outcome of more than 5 years of planning and hard work. It offers women and children dealing with domestic and family violence a place of safety, support to develop new skills and competencies, and the opportunity of a new start in life. This investment in the future well-being of our community provides a vital resource for many years to come.

The construction phase channelled capital funds locally in the difficult days of COVID, providing economic stimulus. Ongoing, operational funds spent locally provide both jobs and a wide variety of economic benefits to our regional community



# CO - CHAIR REPORT

Opportunities for volunteering provide older residents especially, with activities proven to boost well-being. Community support brings the community together constructively.

Council's contribution to that success has been enormous: from supporting our original Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) application in 2019, to providing the land to enable that application to proceed, to more recently vesting the land in GLWS so that we can get on with the job and be in control of our own future.

GLWS stakeholders are enormously grateful to you, the elected representatives, and the many MCC staff who have contributed in so many ways over the years.

We are delighted to acknowledge all of those contributions.

So, while I will not be actively involved, nine plus years of my life are deeply invested in GLWS, and it will remain close to my heart forever. I look forward to "our" future successes

From here on is pretty much an unattempted/unfinished revamp of the previous report. It could be omitted, as most of this now belongs to Bernadette

**People** – the most important ingredient!

Changes at the Board and Sub Committees

Membership of the GLWS Board remained stable through the year and there were no changes from FY 2022. As always, the many forms of support of volunteer board members is impressive, and their contributions manifold.

Once again, Deputy President John English stepped up whenever needed, and I am eternally grateful for his steadfast support and contributions over the last eight years. Robyn Kirk, representing our major community donor, Club Forster, is always positive and committed, and we are lucky to have her around.

Board Secretary and HR representative Felicity Carter has supported Carly in the recruitment of new Specialist DFSV (Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence) case workers to ensure GLWS clients receive the best possible support and care throughout their stay and beyond.

We thank Maddy Neely, the WCS delegate for her wise counsel and constant support.

The Finance Sub-Committee, led by Treasurer Deepti Rolla, and volunteer Michele Glossop, a very well qualified and skilled Accountant and Tax Agent, as well as a superannuation fund auditor, supported by Carly Ravenscroft continued to ramp up our financial management and compliance skills. We are very grateful to them all for the vast amount of progress that has been accomplished.

The Board was fortunate to gain two highly skilled new members this year. Corinne Stephenson joined us in early January 2023 and comes with a wealth of skills in the community sector, from program design and delivery to strategic development, and all points in between. Bernadette Flannery joined us in May and has rolled up her sleeves and waded in to whatever we could throw at her! Bernadette has a strong business background, and her family are philanthropists in their own right.

We are justifiably proud of our volunteer board, which will continue to serve GLWS well into the future

## Staff

Delivering services to our clients, both in the shelter and in the community would not happen without our committed, skilled and effective people. The Board is ever grateful for their contributions.

I make special mention of Carly Ravenscroft, whose contributions in the year have been enormous, and whose support to me as president has been unwavering.

Carly then moved seamlessly on to getting us shipshape for the essential ASES accreditation process, while being a major player in the Finance Sub-Committee's improvement project. She is truly a woman of many talents with the grit to tackle anything. I am eternally grateful.





# CO - CHAIR REPORT

## Volunteers

This report is always the time to formally thank the volunteers, especially the GLWS Board members, and the staff for another successful year of operations, and our second year in Marrungbaa Garuwaga, our Good Place by the Sea. GLWS relies heavily on volunteers and, on behalf of the board and staff, I thank the loyal band of volunteers who have helped in a myriad of ways throughout the year. While the staff produce benefits our clients and our community, the volunteers support and enable them to achieve those outcomes.

## Our Partners

Women's Community Shelters

We would not be here without WCS, and we certainly would not be the effective outfit we are today.

NSW Government/Communities and Justice

We thank the NSW Government for continuing to provide funding to support our operations.

Club Forster

Club Forster have been by our side since the beginning, and we are forever grateful for everything they do.

MidCoast Council

GLWS gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of MidCoast Council and the wonderful staff.

Our Community

Our community remains our most constant supporters. We never take their support for granted and both value and take strength from those relationships.

## Stephen Bromhead

Last but not least, we recognise the contribution of Stephen Bromhead, who championed us to obtain the first grant to kick off Project 2020 and who supported us in so many other ways. We were saddened by his untimely death in March 2023, and we miss him.

I am happy that Stephen and Sue were able to have a private tour of Marrungbaa, and I know they were both impressed and touched by the beautiful and dignified resource that had been created with their contributions.

The wonderful Tanya Thompson has stepped into his role and has been a big supporter of GLWS for many years.

Finally ... and as always ...

The Board, Manager, and Staff are proud of what has been created for this community for families seeking a new start in life. Marrungbaa, our Good Place is now, providing safety, life skills and opportunity for those families who need it most, just as we envisioned.

GLWS exists in the domestic and family violence (DFV) space to improve outcomes for our client families, to build resilience in the community and to reduce the incidence and impact of DFV, and that is achieving those outcomes.

Julie Brady

Co Chair

October 2024





# DONATION IMPACT

## Annual fundraising goal \$400k

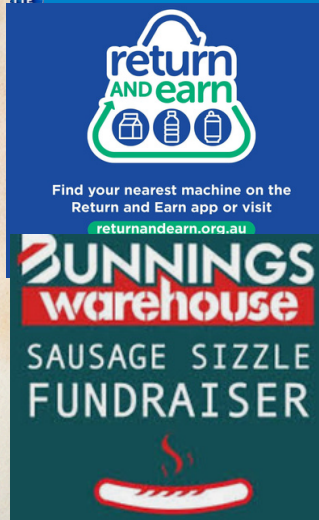
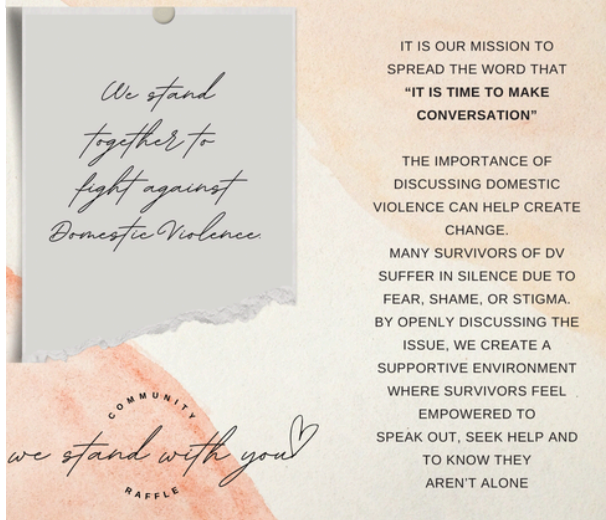
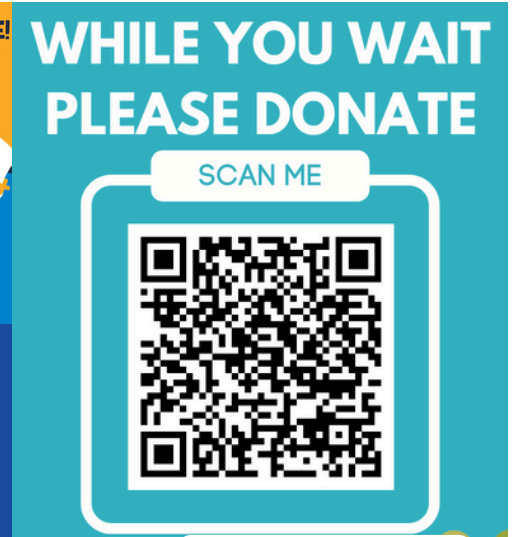
Great Lakes Womens Shelter receives NSW Government funding to cover approximately 40% of our operations. We rely on the support of our community partners to cover the remaining 60% each year.

All donations received are used to directly fund the delivery of safe and supported shelter accommodation and casework support for local women and children experiencing homelessness and/or domestic and family violence.

\$10k	Provides one woman and her children a bedroom, safety and support for 3 months
\$6k	Supports the cost per family / pa for a specialised and trauma-informed children's case worker to support their healing journey while staying in shelter
\$5k	Supports 1 day / per week /pa for specialised domestic and family violence outreach worker that supports women to escape from domestic and family violence without needing to enter crisis accommodation
\$3k	Supports a family in need with food, transport, access to counsellors, workplace training and housing support services for 3 months
\$1k	Provides immediate crisis assistance to a woman and her children in their first 24 hours of escaping domestic and family violence to set up their safety plan
\$300	Supports the cost to create a safe home with essential household items such as toiletries, healthy food, warm blankets and access to internet for up to 10 families and their children each day
\$100	Supports the cost of 'children's welcome packs' including a warm toy, snuggly blanket and comfy pyjamas to give comfort for a child in trauma
\$50	Supports the cost of ensuring each child staying in shelter has necessary stationary and a packed lunch to attend their school day



# FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS



Thank you to each and every one of our volunteers and supporters, we can't do this work without you!!







# SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICE ACCREDITATION



Our organisation completed under the WCS Hub lead The Australian Service Excellence Standards accreditation process which assessed all 9 shelters, and we had our onsite visit on August 1st 2022, which was a great opportunity to showcase the great work we do at Shelter.

Accreditation was achieved with an almost perfect score.  
We will be re-assessed in 2026..

Accreditation is the verification by an independent party confirming a set of standards have been met. Accreditation to the standards approved for use in the DCJ funded homelessness sector offer a range of benefits.

The standards available all encompass a continuous improvement element, providing a framework to ensure organisations, internal systems and services meet a minimum requirement and continuously improve in quality.

## SECURITY UPGRADE

NSW Nationals Member for Myall Lakes, Tanya Thompson, has announced the Great Lakes Womens Shelter as the successful recipient of a \$93,500 grant from the NSW Government Infrastructure Grants Program.

The funding, secured through the Clubgrants Category 3 Fund, will be used to upgrade the Shelter's gates and security system. Mrs Thompson said Great Lakes Womens Shelter was the only organisation in the Myall Lakes electorate to receive a grant through the December round of this grants program.

"The allocation of \$93,500 to upgrade the gates and security system will enhance the safety for residents and staff at the crisis accommodation facility.

"Ensuring the safety of domestic violence victims and providing a secure environment is essential for our Great Lakes victims seeking refuge and support," said Mrs Thompson.

Mrs Thompson said the upgrades will replace faulty gates and access systems to address ongoing safety and security issues on-site.

"This will enable staff to better respond to security breaches, offer independence, and enhance accessibility for women staying in shelter."

Great Lakes Womens Shelter Deputy Chair Corinne Stephenson said the grant will greatly increase safety for staff and residents.

"With the recent increase in Domestic and Family Violence and the level of risk for women when they escape dangerous situations, this grant to upgrade safety and security could not have come at a better time."

<https://www.nswnationals.org.au/great-lakes-womens-shelter-receives-93500-grant-for-security-upgrades/>



Photo – Tanya Thompson MP with Corinne Stephenson and Carly Ravenscroft from the Great Lakes Womens Shelter



# FINANCIAL REPORT

**Great Lakes Women's Shelter Incorporated**  
**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**  
**For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Revenue from contracts with customers	4	474,116	407,040
Other income	5	473,714	210,625
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>947,830</b>	<b>617,665</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration and other operating costs		(123,738)	(86,026)
Client support and shelter expenses		(58,527)	(57,346)
Depreciation		(97,126)	(73,871)
Employee benefits expense		(605,814)	(673,141)
Finance costs		(2,250)	(2,107)
Fundraising and donation costs		(5,382)	(7,124)
Lease payments for short-term/low-value leases		(400)	(4,098)
Net loss on disposal of fixed assets		-	(8,695)
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>(893,237)</b>	<b>(912,408)</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>54,593</b>	<b>(294,743)</b>
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Surplus/(deficit) after income tax</b>		<b>54,593</b>	<b>(294,743)</b>
Other comprehensive income:			
Revaluation of buildings at fair value		-	782,703
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>54,593</b>	<b>487,960</b>

For further information and complete Financial Audit see GLWS profile on ACNC website:  
Search ABN: 18949934199 or  
<https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities/2458a069-3aaf-e811-a963-000d3ad24077/profile>





# Marrungbuu (Thank You)



GREAT LAKES  
Womens  
Shelter



**Please get in touch.**

Phone                      02- 6555 9835

Website                    [www.glws.org.au](http://www.glws.org.au)

Email                        [admin@glws.org.au](mailto:admin@glws.org.au)

ABN                            18949934199

Great Lakes Women's Shelter Inc. is a registered charity and has been granted Deductible Gift Recipient status by the Australian Tax Office



**GREAT LAKES WomensShelter**

P.O Box 4387, Forster NSW 2428    02)6555 9835  
ABN: 18949934199 CFN:24523

