

ST KILDA GATEHOUSE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

To provide people experiencing hardship, access to the space, support, and connections they need to respond to challenges and cultivate personal strengths aiding recovery and empowerment.

# OUR MISSION

St Kilda Gatehouse offers a wrap-around model of support to deliver practical assistance, places of belonging and to holistically build on strengths and capacity to provide positive pathways for vulnerable people. We prioritise women reliant on street sex work and young women and girls affected by sexual exploitation.



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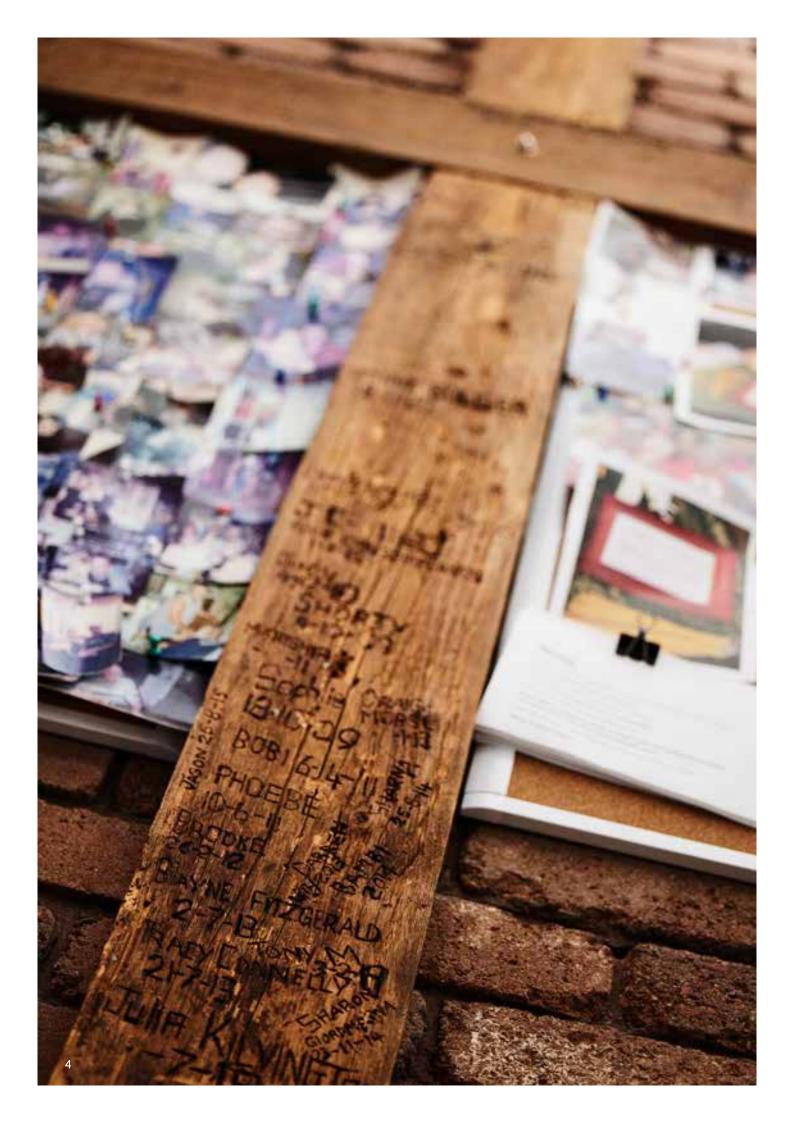
St Kilda Gatehouse acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.



St Kilda Gatehouse is committed to safe and inclusive workplaces, policies and services for people of LGBTIQ+ communities and their families.

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## OUR HISTORY

What began in 1992 as an intentional community of hospitality and support for those experiencing the cycle of homelessness and addiction, has evolved into a highly regarded community organisation and essential service that meets the needs of those who are often 'forgotten' and 'fall through the gaps' of more traditional service providers.

In 1992 the Drop In Centre was opened, strategically located in what was then the heart of Melbourne's Red Light District. The Drop In provides practical assistance and support and is often the first point of call for those living and working on the street who need a safe place of belonging, connection, and respect.

In 2015 the organization opened its Young Women's Project (YWP) in Dandenong working alongside young women and girls aged 12-25 years old affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE), with the aim of intervening earlier, reducing the risk of CSE and its harmful impact on the long-term health, socio-economic and educational outcomes of vulnerable girls and young women.

In 2016 St Kilda Gatehouse began to develop 'ARISE'. This professional development resource equips frontline workers to

understand and respond to the risk factors associated with CSE. Since its launch in 2018, ARISE has been delivered to over 100 practitioners.

In 2017 Greeves St. Social Enterprise was established. The Greeves St. Boutique Op Shop has become a much-loved community hub in the heart of St Kilda and is home for the Craft Group, Greeves St. Voices and opportunities for women to engage in volunteerism, job readiness and skills development.

St Kilda Gatehouse has a long history of working collaboratively with the community sector, Government departments, key agencies, local community groups and individuals to address issues that limit a woman's options. For many who come from challenging backgrounds it's a source of dignity, hope and belonging.

Today St Kilda Gatehouse employs the equivalent of 8 full time staff, is governed by an independent Board and has the commitment of 60 dedicated volunteers across our various programs that help us create our vision and achieve our mission.

### REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

This report for the year ended 30 June 2022 comes to you filled with gratitude and joy. Thank you one and all for sharing the St Kilda Gatehouse vision for 30 years! During the past two financial years in particular, your generous financial support, donations-in-kind and/or time given as a volunteer have enabled us to establish stability in delivery of our services, despite the disruptions caused by covid. We also applaud the amazing ongoing commitment of Stacey Aslangul, CEO and our staff who have battled through all the difficulties and risen to every challenge. We cannot thank them enough for the care, support and unhurried kindness they bring to some of the most vulnerable and marginalised women in our community. We now look to a future where we will rebuild and expand our services, to extend the quality and scope of our outreach. We look to the future with a renewed sense of purpose, knowing the task ahead is not easy, but we are both willing and able.

In the past year we completed the review of our organisation and programs and have invested in the infrastructure needed to grow our outreach and presence. In addition, we have conducted a comprehensive review of our social impact by:

 Reviewing the social impact quantitative data collected by staff over a five year period and engaged Dr Lauren McGrow Research Fellow, from Charles Sturt University, an independent researcher to conduct qualitative research in 2022 to assess the qualitative social impact of our three outreach projects.

Both measures of social impact have validated our past efforts and affirmed our progressive plans for the next 3-years.

The St Kilda Gatehouse strategic business plan for the next three years includes:

 The extension of the Drop In Centre, to enable a range of therapeutic support to be readily available on site

"We now look to a future where we will rebuild and expand our services, to extend the quality and scope of our outreach."

- Relocation of the Greeves St Boutique
   Op Shop to new premises when the lease
   expires in 2023, to incorporate additional
   space for a community hub providing
   pathways and social inclusion for those
   wishing to reduce or exit street sex work
- Continued roll out of the ARISE professional development program across the social services sector, to better equip those working with young people in recognising and responding to the risks of child sexual exploitation
- Further development of the schools' program as an early intervention program, to equip young people with better selfawareness and understanding of risks, which in turn will inform the choices they might make; it will also provide young people with independent access to our Young Women's Project

Last but not least, you will see a change to the St Kilda Gatehouse vision and mission statements. It is important that we use inclusive language so that any person impacted by street sex work or sexual exploitation have access to the support we provide, albeit we know that our clients are predominantly those who identify as she/her.

We seek your continuing partnership and support as we build into the future, and we look forward to all that can be achieved as we work together for good.

With sincere thanks from the Board of St Kilda Gatehouse



S. Dianne Azoor Hughes Chair, St Kilda Gatehouse



### MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I first encountered St Kilda Gatehouse in 1996. I was living in the neighbourhood and working in hospitality. I'd often come home late from work and would make cups of tea and jam toast for anyone working from the street near my home. As I got chatting to some of the women, I soon realised that we are just the same – we all desire to be loved, listened to, and feel safe. And so began my journey with this amazing organisation.

As we celebrate our 30th Anniversary, one thing has never changed – Belong. Connect. Respect. These three core values continue to underpin and shape our community, practice, and work ethic in every way. We have listened deeply to the needs of those who come to us seeking help and responded with compassion. We have learnt valuable lessons, grieved, advocated, seen lives transformed, sat in the dark spaces, celebrated with cake, shed tears, and patched wounds. We have never lost the

belief that people and relationships matter. Like a mosaic masterpiece, all these pieces of life and hope, suffering and courage create the picture of St Kilda Gatehouse. Yes, there are cracks, pieces missing even after thirty years, but that's what makes us unique and vulnerable and connects us in our humanity.

This past year, as we have emerged from lockdowns, visits across our services have increased by 35%, the demand for material aid has jumped 22% and we've experienced a 79% increase in referrals, mentoring, advocacy, and educational sessions. We have farewelled some beloved members of our community, welcomed new team members and developed new relationships within Government and the Community sector. We have marked our 30th Anniversary with an exhibition by photographer Dean Goljia and a

"We have listened deeply to the needs of those who come to us seeking help and responded with compassion." Thanksgiving Service hosted by St Kilda Baptist Church. Earlier in the year we welcomed the long overdue Sex Work Decriminalisation Act that was passed by the Victorian Parliament and will ensure workers' rights and protections.

We have delivered two ARISE workshops and are exploring ways to further develop this sought-after resource. We have new and exciting partnerships with Taskforce and Star Health which expand our opportunity to provide support, training, and advocacy.

I feel privileged to be working with a compassionate and skilled team, amazed at their resilience, and inspired by their dedication in providing consistent and continuous support where its most needed. I wish to thank the Board, partners and donors for their unwavering support that enables St Kilda Gatehouse to continue its vital work and make an impact on the lives of so many who experience the trauma,

disadvantage and stigma of sexual exploitation and violence. We do not take that privilege for granted.

Thank you all for being on this journey with us.

With gratitude,

E.

Stacey Aslangul CEO





## **DROP IN**

#### by Jim Panakos

The challenges of COVID-19 continued to impact us all, particularly those in our community experiencing chronic homelessness and the impact of addiction, mental illness, family violence, financial hardship, trauma and isolation. As the year has unfolded, we have enjoyed being back together and there is a growing sense of hopefulness within the Drop In community.

During lockdowns the team yet again adapted the service delivery to safely deliver most of the programs, at times remotely or outdoors. A portion of our homeless community were able to access appropriate housing, and some maintain housing. However, the demand for food, material aid, and crisis support remained high.

A few highlights of the year include:

- Expanding our weekly van outreach to cover two mornings. This program was funded with the help of the Erdi Foundation enabling the Drop In team to visit our cohort providing wellbeing checks, food parcels, material aid and mobile support ensuring women remain cared for and connected to primary services. In the past four months there has been a more visible presence of rough sleepers in the city of Port Philip. The van outreach team have been able to provide food and connection to those unable to either access housing, or maintain emergency housing.
- Distributing thirty mobile phones
   (including 12-month prepaid card each).
   Priority was given to women with children to help them maintain contact with family and agency workers.

- In November the Star Health Vaccination team offered Covid vaccines to our cohort. Providing access to health care on site helps to break down barriers and increases opportunities for people needing help to actually receive it.
- Another exciting development has been the addition of a Star Health outreach worker each Wednesday afternoon who provides direct referral and housing assistance.
- After a long-enforced break these
  past couple of years, our dedicated
  and faithful volunteers returned in
  February. We are incredibly grateful for
  our volunteers and the way they extend
  kindness and practical assistance. They
  were greatly missed by the St Kilda Drop
  In community it felt like part of the
  family coming home.
- With the support from St Kilda Baptist
  Church, we hosted a memorial service in
  honour of two members of our community
  that passed away. Almost ninety members
  of the broader community attended. It
  was a lovely recognition of their lives
  albeit very sad. They were both loved
  and are missed.

Looking ahead, Drop In is committed to creating a space of belonging, connection and respect for all who seek assistance. For many in the community it is a source of dignity and hope, and we feel privileged to be a part of their lives in meaningful and practical ways.

### A STORY FROM DROP IN

\*name changed for privacy

Over the years Clara\* has completed detox and rehab programs and maintained stable housing. Recently, she re- partnered. However not long into the relationship her partner became increasingly coercive and violent. Being at home during lockdown #6 was too dangerous and Clara moved out for her own safety.

Each step of the way, the Drop In team has been a consistent presence in Clara's life assisting her with the support, resources, and safe community she's needed. After a clinical diagnosis of PTSD and depression, Clara relapsed and returned to working the streets. The Drop In team were the first people Clara called when she was taken to hospital after an assault. We visited her, provided clothing and toiletries, and stayed connected upon discharge.

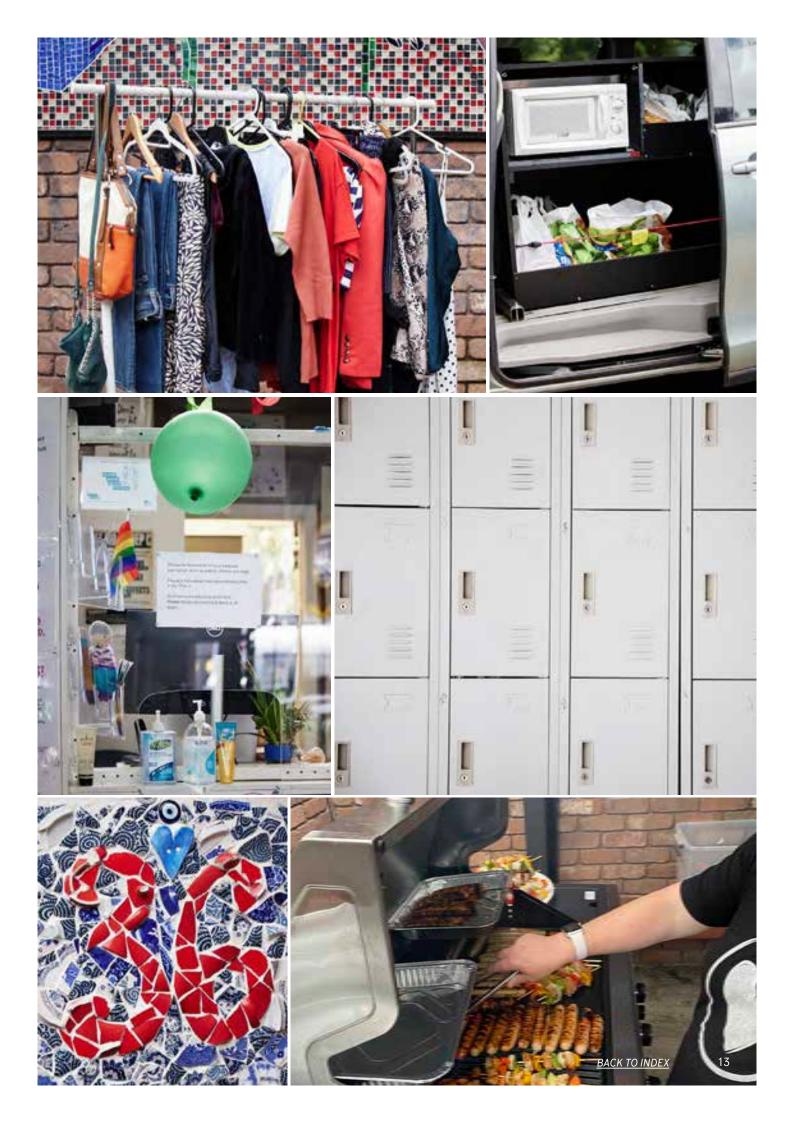
We developed a strong relationship with Clara, assisted her and her family with crisis support, parental advice, necessities for her children, pharmacotherapy payments, and informal counselling. Clara also received a mobile phone which kept her connected to family, important supports, and services.

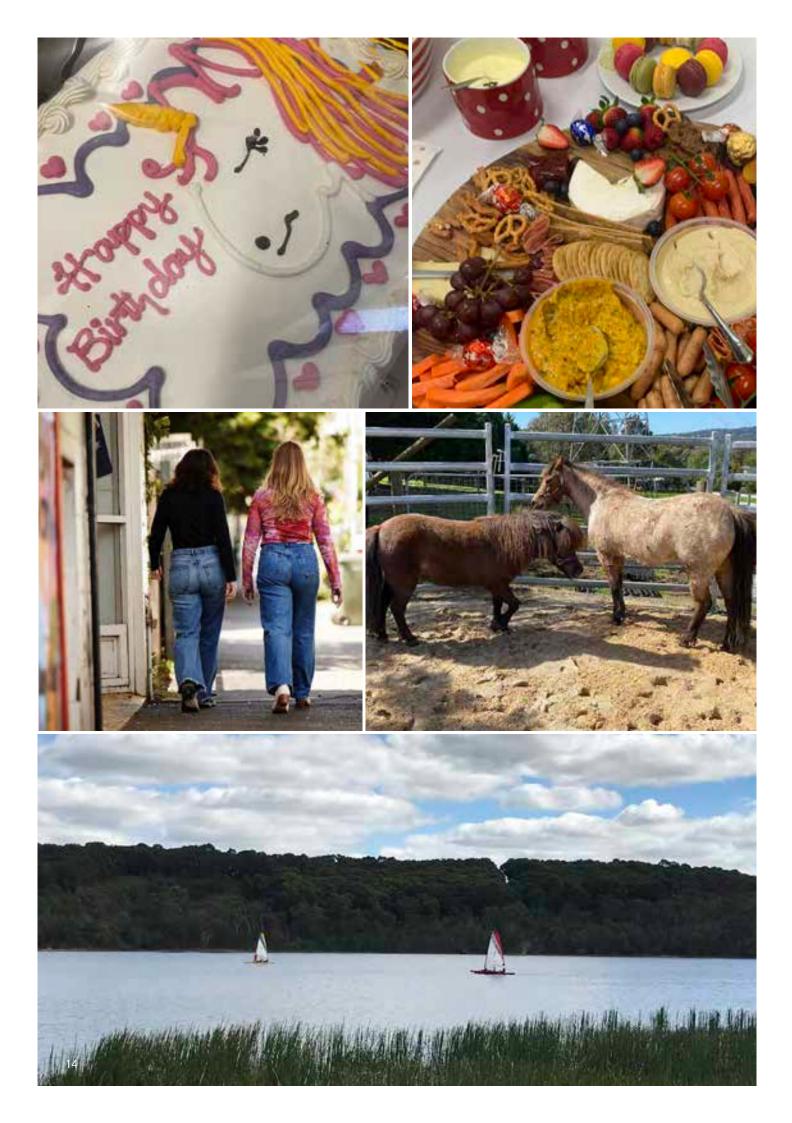
Clara now sometimes attends Craft Group, loves to read and is working towards reconciling with her family. Clara says St Kilda Gatehouse "gives me a safe place where I feel I belong. You don't judge me. You care for me and help when I ask, and it restores my humanity. I feel I'm learning to make healthy relationships and am starting to make some realistic personal goals. I haven't been able to do that for years."

"You see crazy shit on the streets. But at Drop In I can relax a little and feel normal."

"I come in and bring my chaos and stress. I leave with clean clothes, food, supplies I need and feel a bit hopeful."

"I've battled addiction forever. You're always here to help. You make me feel human."





# THE YOUNG WOMEN'S PROJECT

#### by Rebecca Roberts

The past year has seen life in some ways begin to return to the way things were before covid. However, for our young people, the impact of lockdowns, social isolation, and a bigger reliance on online connection has continued to have a significant impact. We have found that the young people we support are often missing from their home; reporting the impacts of sexual exploitation and drug use; disengaged from education and crying out for meaningful connection. The Young Women's Project (YWP) has continued to provide support and engagement for the young women amongst this. We have supported 62 young women this past year, some engaging for a short period in our schools group work program and others for longer via one-on-one outreach or community group work activities.

Our intensive outreach provides unhurried support by developing positive relationships, providing advocacy, referral and education, and engaging young women on adventure days into nature. These spaces provide much needed time away from the often complex situations going on for them and creates the opportunity to reflect, develop self-awareness, listen to their needs and gain insight into their lives.

Our group work program has continued providing one on one support, adventure therapy, birthday parties, day outings and an equine program. These safe and positive spaces allow young women to explore boundaries, be challenged and supported while building connection with others. We are so grateful for the ongoing support from our partners at Victoria's Stables, Youth And Family Therapy and City Life.

We received funding from the Westpac Foundation to pilot an early intervention school group work program. The "Know Yourself" program was delivered in three schools during the first semester of 2022. It is a 6-week program designed to engage small groups of young women identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation and needing support in this area. It has been an overwhelming success, with positive feedback from the schools and students alike. As a result, we have two additional schools registered this year and are taking registrations for 2023.

We have continued to work closely with local organisations and the Department of Families Fairness and Housing (Child Protection), building on prior connections to develop the best support we can to support young people impacted by the trauma of sexual exploitation.

## A STORY FROM THE YOUNG WOMEN'S PROJECT

\*name changed for privacy

The equine program is a great therapeutic space for the young women we support. The positive outcomes of being outdoors, having a break from their usual place of residence and connecting with nature, the horses and forming trusting relationships is profoundly beneficial in aiding recovery and strengthening mental health.

Recently a young woman we support, Bethany\* reported feeling extremely anxious about what was happening in her life and that she had no control over her situation. The facilitators spent some time in the arena with the ponies and young women focusing on mindfulness, deep breathing and then guided the group in a grounding exercise using the five senses. During the exercise one of the ponies came and stood right next to Bethany. As she shared about feeling lonely the pony leant its head on her shoulder. Bethany reflected that she felt supported by the group and realised in that moment that she was not alone.

Surprisingly the pony then followed her around the pen without a halter rope. Later that day Bethany expressed how calm and relaxed she felt, and she slept peacefully in the car on the way home.

> "Thank you for all your support, for all the help you've given me and how much you've helped me get through"

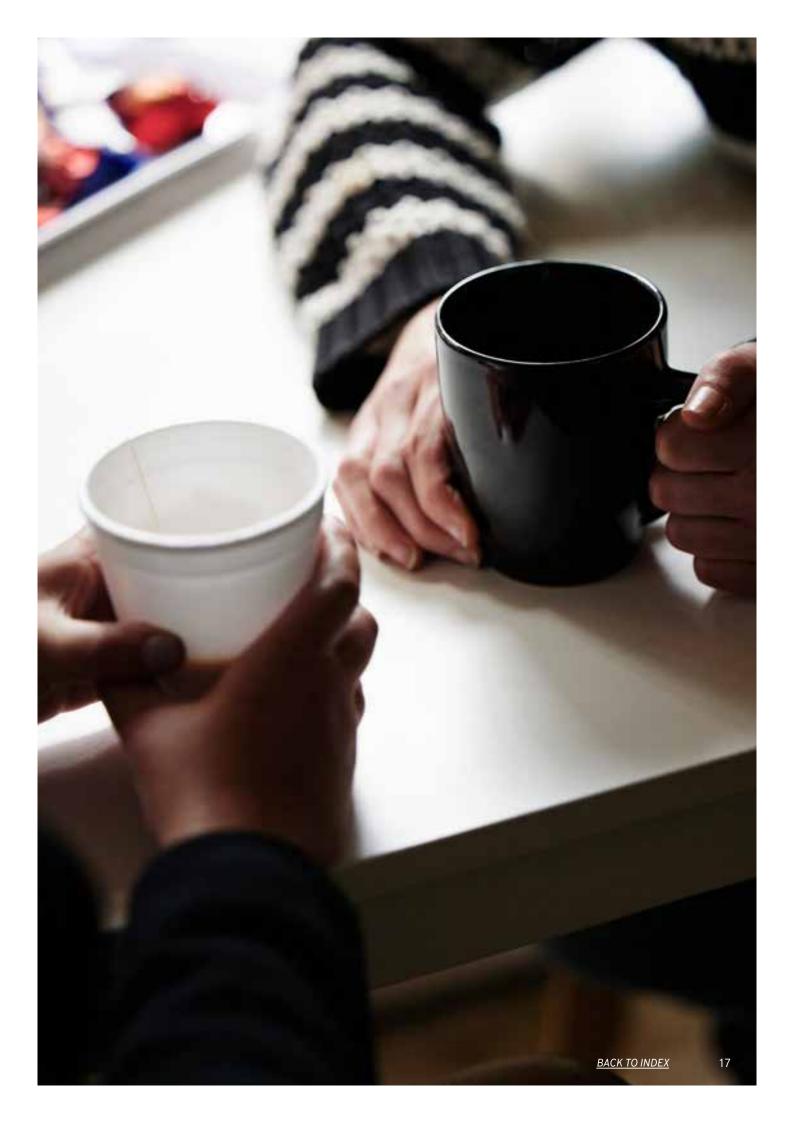
Text message sent to an outreach worker. Dec 2022

"The program helped me learn about myself and know what is safe and what is not safe"

Year 9 student participant of the 'Know Yourself' program

"I don't know where I would be without the support of (St Kilda) Gatehouse"

"I feel judged everywhere I go, I never feel judged at (St Kilda) Gatehouse"





### ARISE

#### by Rebecca Stockdale

From October last year, we have been able to successfully run three ARISE professional development workshops - a total of 56 participants. The workshops provide an opportunity for participants to build on their knowledge about pathways into child sexual exploitation (CSE), elements of effective therapeutic interventions, CSE in residential care, and the social model of consent. They also get to hear from a survivor of CSE along with each member of the Young Women's Project team. A highlight of the workshop is the opportunity for participants to learn how to use Insight Cards, which are a visual therapeutic tool developed by St Kilda Gatehouse aiming to promote a better understanding of CSE among frontline professionals, children and young people.

We had participants representing Anglicare,
DFFH Child Protection (Frankston and Ovens
Murray and Goulburn Area), TaskForce,
St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre and
Uniting as well as some individual participants
wanting to learn more in preparation for
working in the field. Their feedback reinforced

a real need for professional development in the area of CSE, even from those already working in child protection roles. When asked what they most liked about the workshop, participants responded with 'the consent model and Insight Cards', 'the great opportunities for discussion', 'amazing training and could have easily been extended', 'the survivor story was incredible' and 'really enjoyed this training – thank you'.

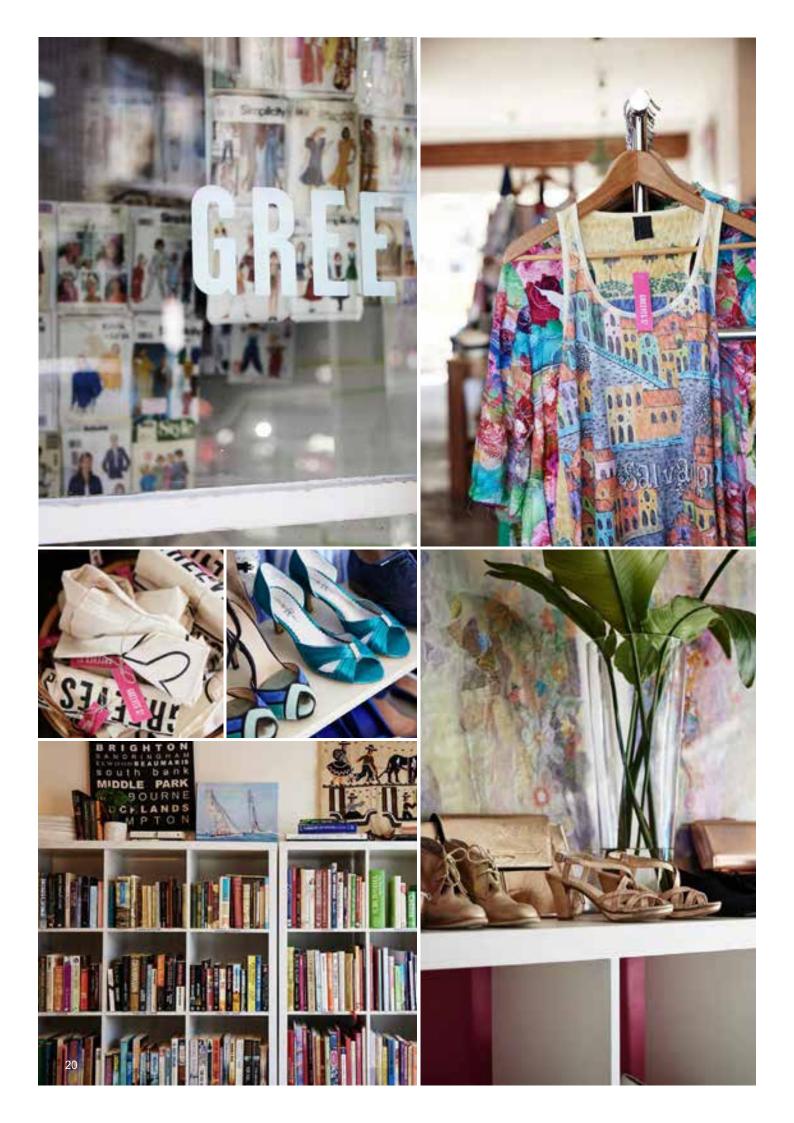
Being the facilitator of ARISE has been an amazing experience and I have learned a great deal in the process. CSE is not an easy topic to talk about or hear about. It is complex and there is no easy answer to how we can avoid it happening or 'fix it' once it has happened. Our hope with ARISE is that by sharing our knowledge, experiences, strategies and resources, we can all be better informed to make the most appropriate decisions. We need to work together with different organisations, services and sectors so that we can make even the smallest improvements to the lives of young people. We have to work together to make change.

"I've waited 2 years for this training, and it didn't disappoint. The delivery was engaging and relevant. The content evidenced-based and extremely helpful."

Child Protection worker, 2022

"Professional, non-judgemental, research driven yet easy to engage with. I highly recommend ARISE for anyone working with young people."

School Wellbeing teacher, 2022



### GREEVES ST. OP SHOP

#### by Andie Patchett

It was another year characterised by Victorian lockdowns and strict pandemic restrictions that impacted the Greeves St. business, volunteering, and social enterprise. In total we lost 90 trading days due to lockdowns. However, once we reopened, we were quickly embraced by our wonderful customers and community with sales peaking in March.

Much of Greeves St.'s quality stock is due to some valuable friendships with churches and Not for Profits, including Soupees, Fitted for Work, Grace Church and Cheltenham Church of Christ; each contributing regular donations to compliment those of our many individual local donors.

Early in 2022 the Sewing Group officially became "Craft Group", now incorporating different programs including jewellery making, paper craft, sewing and Christmas gifts. Participation was very much influenced by lockdowns and restrictions but became more consistent as the year progressed. Two women graduated with sewing machines and a certificate. One completed the program quickly whilst the other had attended over 8 years to finally reach the 10-week requirement. She said in her graduation speech, "I finally graduated! But it was so comforting to know that you were all here, every Friday, for when I was eventually able to reach my ten weeks."

Our wonderful team of Greeves St. volunteers and staff continue to promote our mission and needs to the broader community resulting in many 5-star Google reviews, more Instagram followers, some extremely professional and talented jewellery and paper craft teachers, extraordinary donations, and healthy sales. Our team of volunteers are becoming more specialised in their roles, allowing us to cover all areas of the business including sorting donations, pricing, sales, social media and even washing and gardening.

"A form of creative therapy, Greeves St. provides safety, nourishment, and expansiveness through art, craft, fashion makeup and beauty."

Greeves St. Social Impact Report, 2022.

### A STORY FROM THE CRAFT GROUP

\*name changed for privacy

Susan first attended Craft Group by accident. It was our last session before Christmas 2022 and she visited the shop for emergency clothing. Her demeanour was standoffish and downcast. But with a lot of coaxing, Susan sat down at the crafting table and was supported to make a pair of Christmas earrings. Then she made another pair on her own. The transformation in her, as she was leaving, was remarkable. She looked taller. She was beaming and her eyes were sparkling. In the new year Susan began attending Craft Group regularly and was soon ready to graduate. In her graduation speech she said, "This is the first graduation I have ever had!" Susan now attends Craft Group regularly and often stays back to volunteer at the shop with pricing and sorting donations.

We will continue to support her through friendship and encourage her to become more involved in volunteering, which will include important processes such as acquiring a Working With Children's Check and Police check – all good for Susan's future employment and volunteering opportunities.

"This shop is a beautiful place to visit. I always feel welcomed and that I want to stay!"

Customer

"Thanks for making my life more bearable."

Craft group participant

"Its heart warming to see women who have exited street sex work learning new skills...given the opportunity to volunteer, learn retail skills and gain confidence."









### ST KILDA GATEHOUSE FINANCES 21-22

#### by Helen Colston

What a privilege it is to see the generosity, kindness and partnership of so many different individuals and groups from the community reflected in our financial figures. We thank the many Individuals and organisational groups such as Corporates, Trusts and Foundations, Local and State Government, Churches and Small Business' who have supported us this past financial year.

Despite 90 days of lockdown during the first six months of the financial year ending 30 June 2022 (2021: 130 lockdown days) and with Covid-19 restrictions impacting our services during that time, our surplus of \$131,191 reflects the deferral of funding towards future service provision and has enabled us to continue to build the Financial Stability Reserve at 30 June 2022.

With the continuing support of our long-term partners, and financial stability which enables us to commit resources to support our business plans for the next three years, St Kilda Gatehouse will continue to develop its critical outreach activities.

The many in-kind contributions in the form of volunteer labour and donation of goods and services are not reflected in the financial figures below, but we would like to acknowledge our appreciation and the enormous significance and importance these contributions have made to the efficient and affective service provision provided throughout the year.

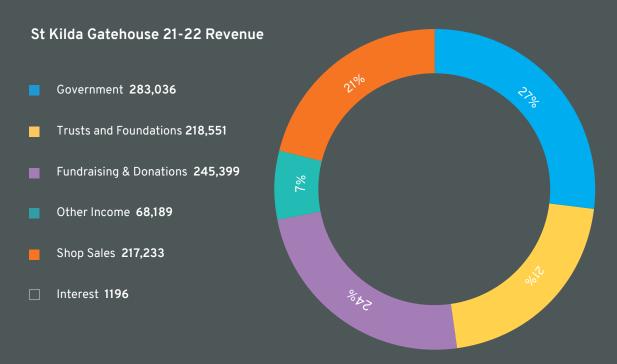
#### **Income Statement**

Total Revenue	21-22	20-21
Income	\$1,033,603	\$1,196,267
Expenses	\$894,412	\$827,965
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$139,191	\$368,302

Our sincere thanks to RSM Australia for their continuing support in conducting the independent audit of our financial statements each year.





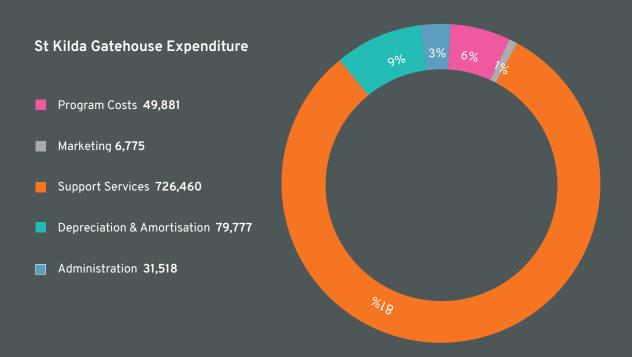


#### Where your funds were invested

St Kilda Gatehouse operated four main service delivery programs this past year:

- Drop In Centre
- Young Women's Project
- Greeves St Op Shop (incorporating the Craft Group skills development program)
- ARISE

Support services and program costs represents a total of 87% of all expenditure in the last financial year. Allocated funding was directed toward the particular program for which funds were given in accordance with funding agreements and requirements.



Please see the ACNC or our website to download a complete set of audited financial statements

### OUR IMPACT

## 3800 VISITS TO OUR PROGRAMS

Drop In: open access crisis and support center for those reliant on street sex work.

Young Women's Project: specialised support for young people aged 12-25 affected by child sexual exploitation.

Greeves St. Social Enterprise operates as an Op Shop and is home for Craft Group

# 244 FORMS OF HOUSING SUPPORT

Includes referrals to primary housing services, access to lockers, backpack bedding, use of shower and laundry.

6352
ITEMS OF MATERIAL AID

Includes meals, groceries, clothing, shoes and toiletries.

# 8691 HARM MINIMISATION

Provided needles, syringes and sexual health supplies across all services.

## 1176 FORMS OF TARGETED SUPPORT

Our programs include parental support, pharmacotherapy, community overdose prevention and social inclusion programs that focus on emotional wellbeing and interpersonal skills development.

## 793 MENTORING AND EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Support sessions focus on, sexual, AOD and mental health, informal counselling and child sexual exploitation risk factors.

# 387 ADVOCACY AND REFERRALS

Connections to primary services for health and wellbeing, legal and housing.

## **OUR BOARD**

The St Kilda Gatehouse Board meets each month and has responsibility for strategy, governance, financial management and significant operational decisions. Each member of the Board brings their experience and expertise to St Kilda Gatehouse, and we thank them for their skill and dedication.

Dianne Azoor Hughes - Chair of the Board

John Sutherland - Secretary

Andrew North - Treasurer

Desiree Smit - Member

Catherine Hingley - Member

Alan Marr – *Member* 



## DONORS & SUPPORTERS

St Kilda Gatehouse is a strong believer in the power of community, collaboration, and partnership. We are extremely thankful to all the organisations who share our vision of creating a fairer and more just world for vulnerable women and girls, and have worked alongside us to pursue this goal:

Victorian Government

City of Port Phillip

Bank of Melbourne Foundation

Streetsmart Australia

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation

Etrea Foundation Igniting Change Flora & Frank Leith Gandel Foundation

Soroptimist International Brighton

Oz Harvest St Kilda Mums

Gospel Resource

Kogo

Churches of Christ Victoria/Tasmania

CityLife Casey

Grace Church of Christ

St Kilda/Elsternwick Baptist Church

Victoria's Stables

Foodbank Soupees Pinchapoo

Share the Dignity Fitted for Work Dress for Success
The Bennett Group

Price Waterhouse Coopers
Collins Biggers Paisley

Urban Zeal

RSM Australia Pty Ltd Community Care St Kilda The Erdi Foundation

**IRESS** 

Truth and Liberation Concern

Conekter

YAFT (Youth & Family Therapy)

Barnabas Group

Mildura Church of Christ

Southern Community Church of Christ

Westpac Bank – St Kilda The Bourne Foundation

MacPherson Kelly Foundation Port Phillip Community Group Community Bank Windsor

Pitcher Partners
The Ripe Group

We also wish to thank and acknowledge all the wonderful donations and in kind support we receive from the broader community as well as those who wish to remain anonymous. Thank you for your generosity.

### OUR VOLUNTEERS

## "Sometimes the bravest and most important thing you can do is just show up" Brene Brown.

Whether it's sorting clothes, preparing food, merchandising, cleaning, weeding the garden, providing a listening ear, designing, fundraising, administration or helping with business and information technology our incredible team of volunteers dedicate hours to ensure St Kilda Gatehouse continues to provide spaces of belonging, connection, and respect.

It's been a joy welcoming our volunteer teams back to our various programs post lockdowns. This past year we have run two organisational information sessions and some training on "Managing Challenging Situations" which was well attended by our teams. When we asked our volunteers in a survey 'how would you rate your work satisfaction over the last 6 months', 96% indicated 'high to very high' satisfaction levels.

We wish to thank all our volunteers for not only showing up but for their amazing contribution to the life of our community at St Kilda Gatehouse. We couldn't do it without you!

"Volunteering at St Kilda Gatehouse helps me as a person move on in my life and contribute to something bigger than myself."

Craft group volunteer

"I love my weekly dose of the shop! The conversations are often thought-provoking and leave me feeling very grateful to be a part of the team."

Shop volunteer

"I always feel valued and supported in my role. Its such a highlight of my week!"

Drop In volunteer

"It's a privilege to be able to support the team and most importantly the young women who seek help. Their stories are often heartbreaking, but they inspire me."

Young Women's Project volunteer

