

ST KILDA GATEHOUSE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2023

belong  
connect  
respect

## OUR VISION

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 traditional custodians of the lands where we dwell and pay our respects to elders, past, present and emerging. We are dedicated to ensuring safe and inclusive workplaces, services and support for all.

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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 Program (YWP), operating in the South-Eastern suburbs, working alongside young women and girls aged 12-25 years old affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE). This program aims to intervene earlier in the life of a young woman, 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 200 practitioners, social workers, police officers and others who work with, or are in contact with at risk children and young people.

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 48 dedicated volunteers across our various programs that help us create our vision and achieve our mission.

A black and white photograph of a wooden plank with handwritten text, surrounded by debris and papers. The plank is the central focus, with text written on it in various styles. To the left, there is a pile of crumpled paper and debris. To the right, there are several sheets of paper, some of which are clipped together. The background is dark and textured.

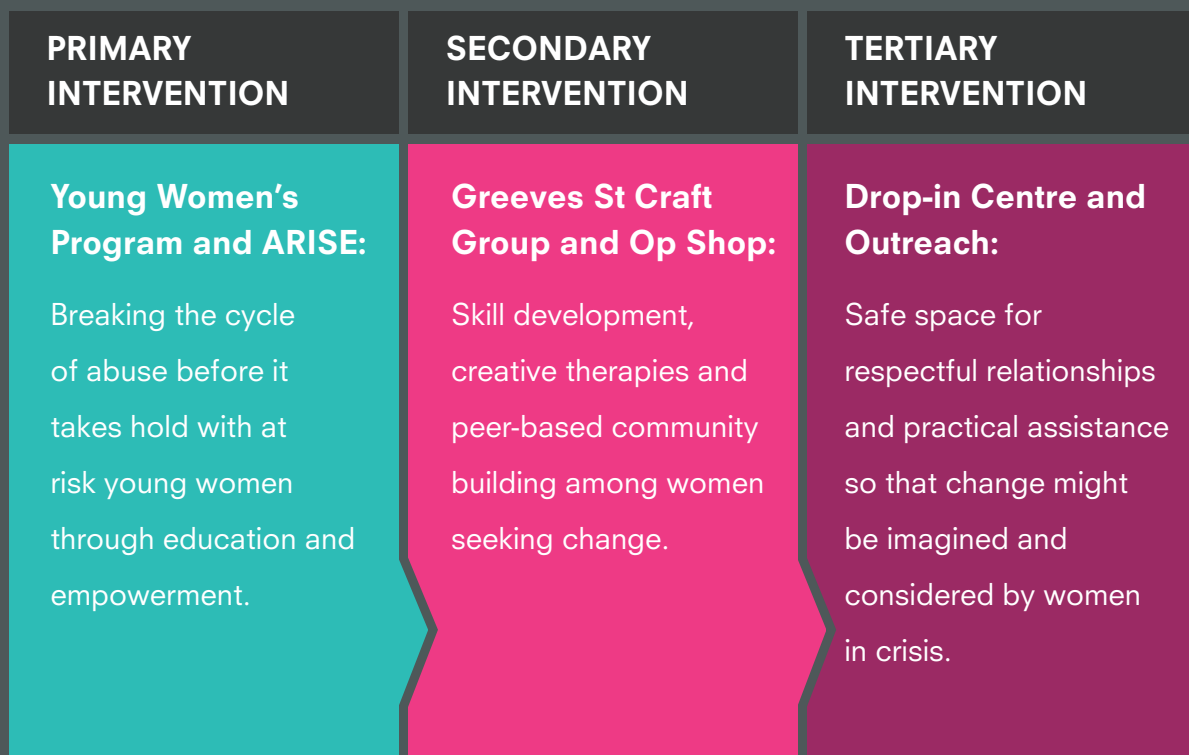
for many who come from  
challenging backgrounds  
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and belonging

# STRATEGIC OVERVIEW 2022–2025

Our four strategic directions are:

- **Serve** – deliver high quality services
- **Connect** – build stronger partnerships
- **Promote** – raise awareness of St Kilda Gatehouse’s impact
- **Thrive** – secure a sustainable future

The St Kilda Gatehouse Social Impact Report (McGrow, 2022)\* identifies how we are achieving our mission holistically through interventions aimed at women at different stages of life.



\*Thank you to Dr Lauren McGrow PhD, Research Fellow Charles Sturt University.

All St Kilda Gatehouse programs and support services are concerned with safeguarding women and girls (she/her) from the negative impact sexual exploitation has on both short- and long-term health, education and socio-economic outcomes on an individual's life. We provide support and/or intervention at any stage of the sexual exploitation cycle.

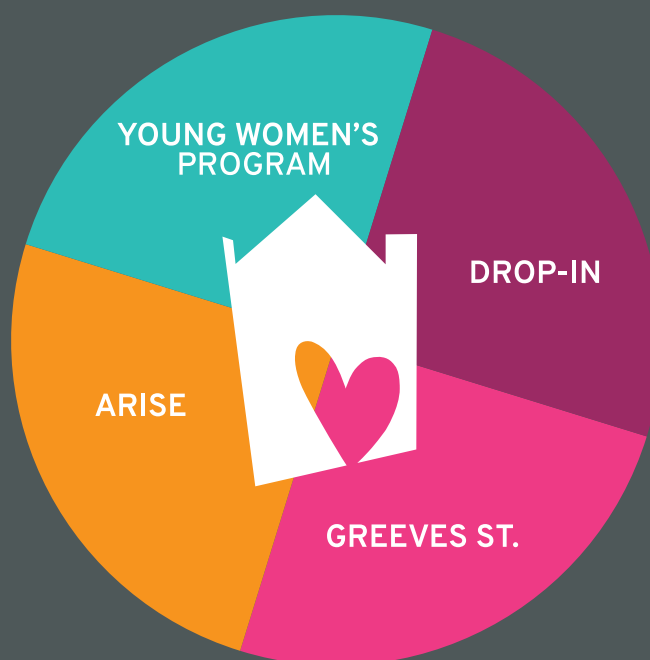
Our 360° model holds significant potential for breaking a cycle of exploitation. Providing long-term support and community empowers those reliant on street sex work to find hope and to seek support for self-care. Hence the St Kilda Gatehouse approach and mantra "belong connect respect" is integral to the way St Kilda Gatehouse provides support services.

**31**  
YEARS OF  
SUPPORT OUTREACH  
THROUGH DROP-IN

**8**  
YEARS OF  
EARLY INTERVENTION  
AT YWP

**6**  
YEARS OF  
GREEVES ST SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE PROJECTS

**5**  
YEARS OF  
ARISE PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT



*belong  
connect  
respect*



*continuous improvement  
in the delivery of  
our services*

# REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

This has been a year of change on multiple levels, with farewells, new appointments and continuous improvement in the delivery and support of our outreach activities.

As you look through the pages of this annual report, you can read more about the holistic model of support that St Kilda Gatehouse provides to women and girls affected by sexual exploitation. Our long history spanning more than 30 years, supporting women involved in street sex work while giving attention to their stories, has enabled St Kilda Gatehouse to develop outreach and care, appropriate to their experience of exploitation. We have developed program logics that explain the nature of care provided in the delivery of outreach services. We can measure the outputs (refer social impact page 6) and are pleased that outreach returned to full operational capacity with regular service delivery throughout the past year. We also know the long-term outcomes we hope for – empowerment and freedom of choice for our clients.

Stacey Aslangul, our former CEO, ended her term of office as CEO at the beginning of October 2023. Stacey led St Kilda Gatehouse through more than 3 years of intense change, which included the challenges of the COVID lockdown years. Stacey enabled the successful implementation of our strategic goals to establish a more robust infrastructure and financial stability, allowing us to continue to build our outreach programs. Stacey leaves us with firm foundations for the future. We are so grateful for the commitment and dedication she gave, and we are excited for the legacy she leaves for building for the future.

During the year we also said farewell to three board members: Desiree Smit, Alan Marr and Catherine Hingley. We are grateful for each of these board members; for the wisdom they shared with us, and the time and effort they gave to overseeing St Kilda Gatehouse activities in past years.

We have welcomed three new board members this year: Simon de Bell, Rosie Camilleri and Beth Pocklington. We have been keen to build a diverse set of skills around the board table to establish strong governance, and believe we now have the range of expertise needed to ensure we continue to meet the goals in our business plan.

The board conducted an intensive search for a new CEO and we were happy to receive many good calibre applications. Our primary goal, through the CEO recruitment process, has been to find someone who not only has the appropriate expertise, but someone who would uphold our vision and values and would lead us into our next chapter with both compassion and determination. We are delighted to advise that we have appointed Nickie Gyomber as the next CEO of St Kilda Gatehouse. We are excited for you to meet her, as we start our next chapter in the life of St Kilda Gatehouse.

Having successfully relocated our boutique op shop, Greeves St., during the year, our next big project will be the extension of the Drop In Centre, which will extend the Drop In space and incorporate consulting rooms, to increase the proximity of health services available to our clients. We will embark on detailed planning, publicity and fundraising in 2024, with the hope that building can be completed during 2025. We hope that you too will join us in the pursuit of this vision.

I close with huge sincere thanks to all our staff, volunteers, donors and funding partners who make delivery of our mission possible. Thank you for all you do in support of the St Kilda Gatehouse mission, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you.



**S. Dianne Azoor Hughes**  
Chair, St Kilda Gatehouse

## INCOMING CEO

I'm delighted to be joining in the wonderful work of St Kilda Gatehouse!

As a health professional, I know that we get the best outcomes when we meet people where they are at: St Kilda Gatehouse exemplifies this approach both physically, with thoughtfully selected locations, and emotionally, by offering non-judgemental supports that address a person's "today need" while still holding hope for tomorrow. The passionate St Kilda Gatehouse team continues to create places of healthy connection, belonging, and hope. I am proud to join in with this mission.

**Nickie Gyomber**  
CEO



*I know that we get  
the best outcomes when  
we meet people where  
they are at*





# OUTGOING CEO

As I reflect on the past year, I am both humbled and proud of what the teams, Board, partners, and supporters have achieved. Inside these pages you will read how together we have provided safe spaces of belonging, connection and respect for those experiencing the cycle of sexual exploitation and trauma.

Throughout the year we have consolidated our service provision and strengthened internal processes including a review of our database and IT security.

We successfully relocated Greeves St Op Shop and are already seeing opportunities to strengthen and grow our social enterprise.

Our long-time dream of renovating the Drop In building to be a beautiful community space that enables us to meet the growing demand has begun to take shape thanks to the amazing team at K2LD architects and design. This project will take time, but we are beginning to share our dream, reach out and make plans.

We are excited that after eight years of delivering the Young Women's Program, Swinburn Center for Social Impact is conducting an evaluation of the program and its impact on the lives of vulnerable young people.

We developed a child sexual exploitation (CSE) resource for teachers in partnership with Taskforce and can't wait for the training package

to be rolled out in Victorian schools. Our hope is that teachers and carers feel informed about CSE and know how to respond.

There is much to celebrate which makes ending my term as CEO even more difficult.


It has been an enormous privilege and deep joy to be a part of the St Kilda Gatehouse team in this capacity. I am tremendously grateful for the lessons learnt and the opportunity to work alongside a wonderful team of humans. I leave the role knowing St Kilda Gatehouse has good things on the horizon and the continued support of partners and the community.

I wish to thank the program managers, teams and volunteers for their dedication, the Board for their unwavering commitment and all our donors, Government (Local and State), philanthropic partners, individuals, corporates, and churches who believe in our shared vision, helping to create a better world for women and girls who often feel unseen.



With deep thanks,  
**Stacey Aslangul**

*there is much to  
celebrate which makes  
ending my term even  
more difficult*



thank you so much,  
I just needed someone  
to hold my hand  
today and you guys  
were there

## DROP IN

“Thank you so much. I just needed someone to hold my hand today and you guys were there.”

The past year at the Drop In has seen the community rebuilding after the unease many felt during the COVID pandemic and lockdowns. We have seen an increase of new and old faces and it feels as if our service is back to pre-COVID normal. We continue to see many in our community facing barriers such as mental illness, addiction, financial hardship, domestic violence, homelessness, isolation and trauma. The decriminalisation of street sex work has had some mixed reactions, however overall, has been a positive change for our community.

There has been a notable increase in housing stress due to loss of housing (obtained during lockdowns) and the increased cost of living is impacting the community greatly. We are seeing a high demand for material aid, food and crisis support. We continue to provide our weekly van outreach as an additional layer of support and to provide food and connection to rough sleepers and our Off the Streets program is a big hit amongst our community. Off the Streets provides opportunity for social inclusion activities such as manicures and picnics. We continue to liaise with other agencies such as RhED, Vixen, Sumner House, First Step, Sacred Heart and the Salvation Army.

There have been multiple highlights throughout the year including celebrating St Kilda Gatehouse’s 30th birthday with a party, attaining a new BBQ for our weekly community meal, and there has been momentum with plans of a new custom rebuild to better sustain our growing services and future.

The Drop In continues to remain a safe place of belonging, connection and respect and we take pride in being able to forge meaningful relationships with those most isolated and vulnerable within our community.

“I have been coming here for over 15 years and this place is the one consistent thing in my life.”

## A STORY FROM THE DROP IN CENTRE

*\*name changed for privacy*

When \*Donna started attending the Drop In five years ago, she was malnourished and had escaped her abusive partner with just a small bag of clothes. Through working on the streets and word of mouth, Donna discovered the Drop In and as she says, 'hasn't left.' The Drop-In provides a safe place for Donna to rest, engage with others, access a shower, clean clothes, and heat up a meal for herself. She is quiet, polite, and often apologizes for things that are not hers to apologize for.

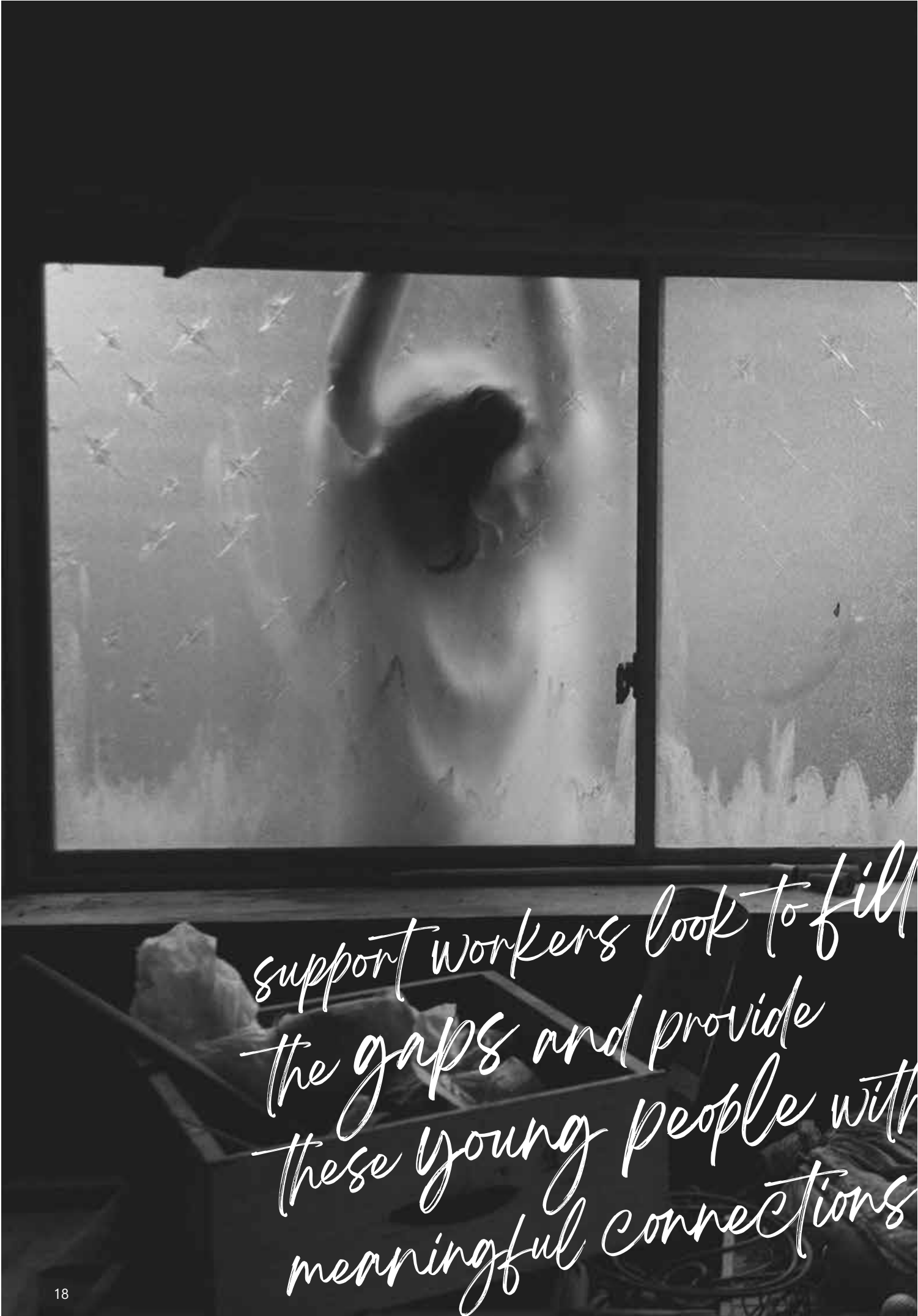
Over time Donna has developed a trusting relationship with staff and has recently disclosed an acquired brain injury due to childhood trauma. About six months ago Donna was sexually assaulted in the squat she'd been living in, and this triggered her drug use again. With the support of Drop-In, Donna can access informal AOD counselling and pharmacotherapy assistance including the methadone program.

The team are supporting Donna to apply for her birth certificate, so she has some identification. She is now linked into Launch Housing and recently been notified that housing should be available to her next month. In preparation for her new housing, the Drop In team are helping her complete a Queens Fund submission, where she can purchase a new item for her home worth up to \$350 and she is setting some personal goals.

Most days Donna visits the Drop-In. She knows that when she secures her housing, our support doesn't stop. She is looking healthier and starting to smile. She says, "if it weren't for you, I don't think I could survive. I feel less alone in the world when I come in and see you."



if it weren't  
for you, I don't  
think I could survive



support workers look to fill  
the gaps and provide  
these young people with  
meaningful connections

# YOUNG WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Over the past 12 months the Young Women's Program has continued to work with some of the most vulnerable and at-risk young people in our community. In the past year, we have provided support to 53 young women, aged 12 - 25 years of age. These young women are often referred from Child Protection and Residential Care Services, as well as community agencies and schools. They face barriers such as social isolation, family breakdown, sexual exploitation, mental health, drug use, as well as disengagement from education and community supports.

Our outreach support workers look to fill the gaps and provide these young people with meaningful connections around issues that are important to them. By spending the time needed to build positive, trusting and safe relationships with each young person, they slowly begin to share what life is like for them, as well as seek education and support around these issues.

Our team has also continued to provide day outings and peer to peer connections for young women within the program. This has included

Equine and Adventure therapy, Birthday and Christmas parties and day outings. The value in these everyday activities is significant and has a huge impact with young people who have not had the normality and stability of individuals who care for them.

Our 6-week early intervention "Know Yourself" schools group work program was delivered to 7 schools. The program is designed to engage small groups of young women identified by each school as being at risk of sexual exploitation and needing additional support in this area. All feedback received has been positive and we continue to receive subsequent requests for the program to return to the school the following year.

## A STORY FROM YWP

*\*name changed for privacy*

Over the past year our outreach worker would visit \*Sarah every week at school. Sarah was vulnerable to negative and unsafe relationships, often meeting men online. She struggled with understanding what a healthy and safe relationship could look like, as well as battling her own anxiety.

The worker would come into school and bring the ARISE / Insight cards to help Sarah identify her emotions and feelings by looking at the words and choosing ones that identified how she was feeling at the time. This helped Sarah immensely in being able to talk openly about her feelings in a safe space, and she knew that every week she had the opportunity to talk about what was going on in her life. Sarah has continued to build her self-confidence and ability to recognise her feelings and how to manage them.

you coming to  
see me and sit with  
me means a lot



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*this shop is a  
beautiful place  
to visit. I always  
feel welcomed and  
I want to stay!*

# GREEVES ST. OP SHOP

During the past year, the Greeves St. Op Shop became a thriving local hotspot again. Quality donations continued to flow in and sales were extremely healthy, with December 2022 being our best all-time month, boosted by opening the additional days between Christmas and New Year.

Even more than this, the sense of community and connection in our Belford Street store became stronger and richer - after 5 ½ years of trading we were cemented into the local consciousness. Many of our customers became our friends and donors.

But as our lease term came to an end, a store relocation became necessary, as we needed to be sure of business continuity in a forever home. In mid-March, we moved into St Kilda Uniting Church at 169 Chapel Street, St Kilda - a 145 year old heritage building - and the Greeves St. Op Shop became, arguably, the most beautiful op shop in Melbourne. St Kilda Gatehouse now enjoys a terrific partnership with the St Kilda Uniting Church community.

Moving in the winter months, amidst a cost of living crisis meant business in the new shop was initially slower, but as the weather continues to improve, and interest rate hikes slow, and the new shop becomes known, Greeves St. is again becoming a destination of choice for old customers, new customers, and the community of women we support through St Kilda Gatehouse.



## GREEVES ST. CRAFT GROUP

After moving to our new location in March 2023, the number of participants in the Greeves St. craft group went from dwindling to thriving. The craft group, which has run for 8 years, exclusively for women with lived experience of street sex work, had been hit hard by the disruption of COVID lockdowns in recent years.

As an incentive to join the Friday afternoon group, we decided to also offer a computer course and jewelry making. Women have reflected back to us that they love the new space and we have had a significant number of existing and new members attend.

"I love coming here on Fridays. It gives me something to look forward to in my week and somewhere to go out to, where I would otherwise just be bored and feeling lonely at home. My children are very proud of me and the gifts I have made for them."

"Craft group is what I want to do. I love having a hobby and when I am sewing, it is my time. I feel excited about selling things I make in the shop."

Over the years we have realised the value in the group is not just in learning craft. Along with our incredible volunteers, the Greeves St. Craft Group has created a space for friendship, creating a close community. Together women navigate many things including social skills, parenting, safe boundaries, small business and marketing skills.

*craft group is what I want to do. I love having a hobby and when I am sewing, it is my time. I feel excited about selling things I make in the shop.*





# ARISE

ARISE exists for the purposes of providing professional development focused on understanding, preventing and intervening in Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). It is guided by the work done with our Young Women's Program and is suitable for anyone working to support young people. It is made up of two 3-hour modules, which are predominantly conducted online.

Sexual Exploitation is not an easy topic to talk about. It is complex and there are no easy answers.

During the past year two workshops were held with a total of 36 participants. These 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 Program team. A highlight of the

workshop is the opportunity for participants to learn how to use the 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.

## What is sexual exploitation?

'Actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another'. (as defined by World Health Organisation).

*after the training I have more awareness of sexual exploitation and better engagement with young people and discussions around sexual exploitation*

# FINANCES 2022–2023

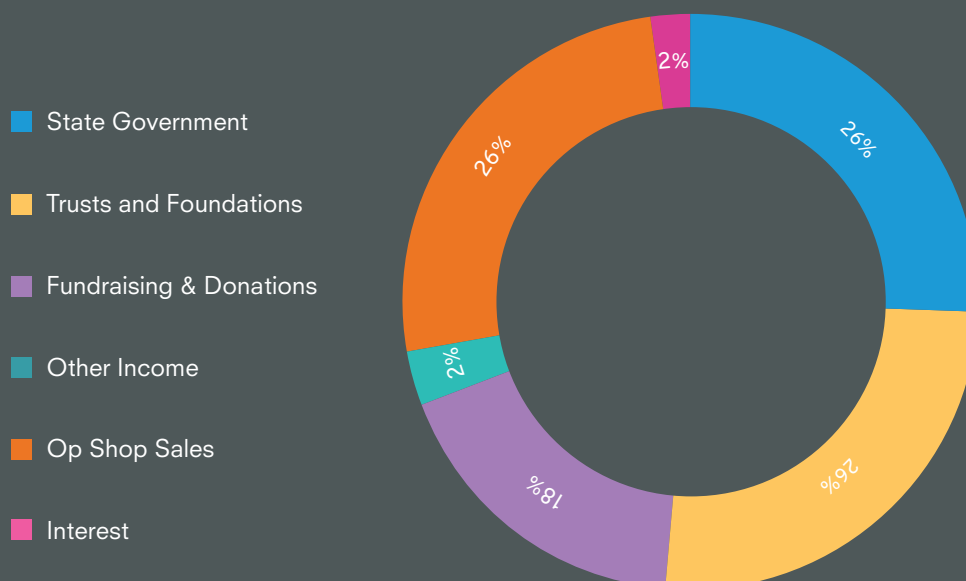
The generosity, partnership and kindness of so many different individuals and groups from within the community are reflected in our financial figures. With the continuing support of our long-term partners, and financial stability reserve, which enables us to commit resources to support our business plans for the next three years, we will continue to develop our essential outreach support services:

- Drop-In Centre
- Young Womens' Program
- Greeves St Op Shop and Craft Group
- ARISE

We acknowledge the many in-kind contributions in the form of volunteer labour and donation of goods and services, not reflected in the financial figures. The enormous significance and importance these contributions have made to the efficient and affective service provision is greatly appreciated.

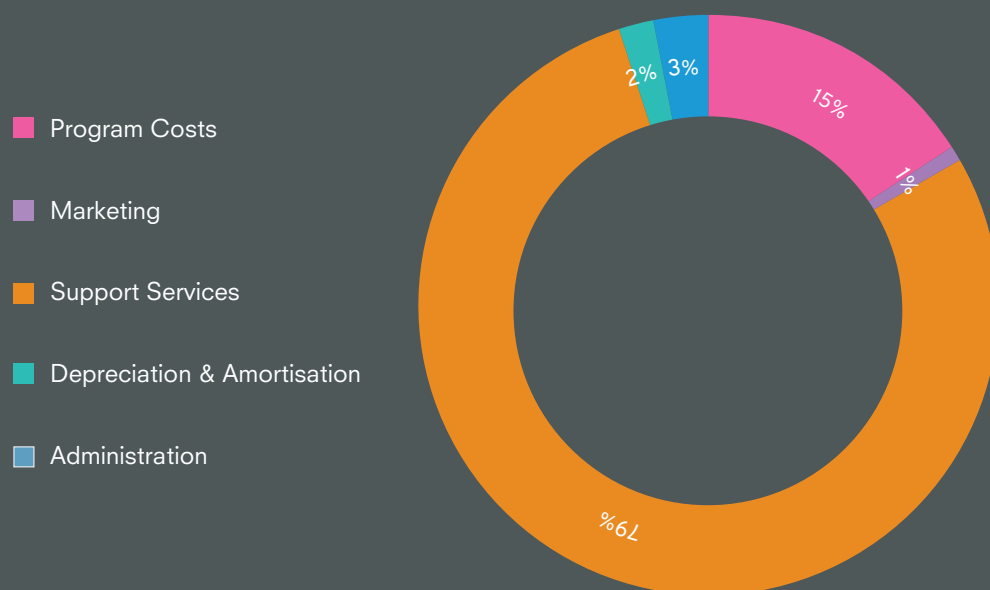
## INCOME

State Government	26%	\$	306,101
Trusts and Foundations	26%	\$	305,500
Fundraising and Donations	18%	\$	213,374
Other Income	2%	\$	33,068
Op Shop Sales	26%	\$	304,232
Interest Income	2%	\$	18,147
	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,180,422</b>



## EXPENDITURE

Program Costs	15%	\$	169,220
Marketing	1%	\$	7,587
Support Services	79%	\$	860,166
Depreciation and Amortisation	2%	\$	18,232
Administration	3%	\$	32,148
	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,087,353</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b>\$ 93,069</b>



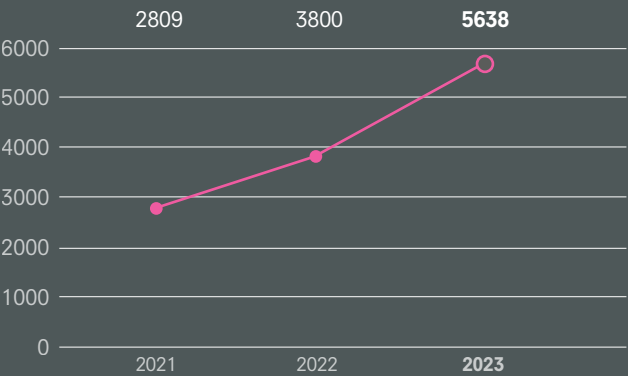
Our sincere thanks to RSM Australia for conducting our independent audit of our financial statements for the past 10 years.



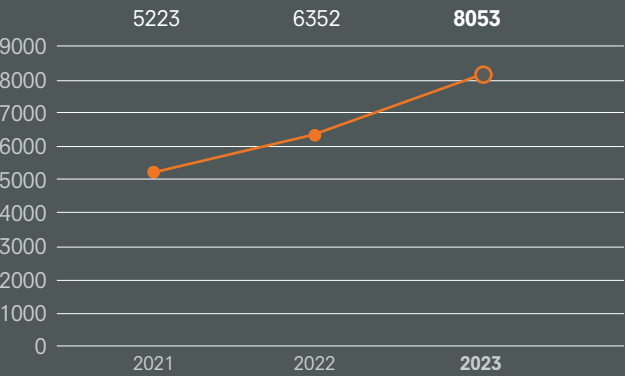
*Please see the ACNC or our website to download a complete set of audited financial statements*

# ST KILDA GATEHOUSE DATA ANALYSIS

## VISITS TO OUR PROGRAMS

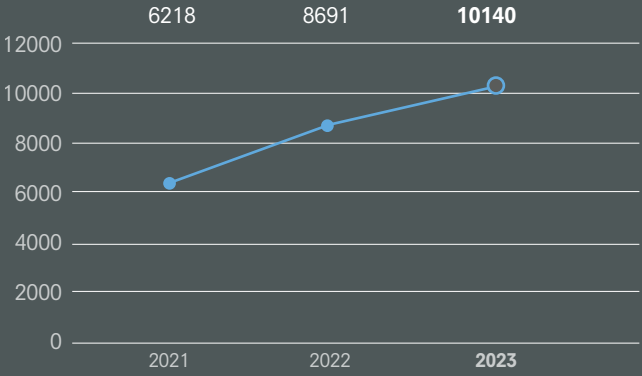


## ITEMS OF MATERIAL AID



Drop-In: 1.6 Items of material aid accessed each visit  
YWP: Approximately 1 in 3 visits access material aid

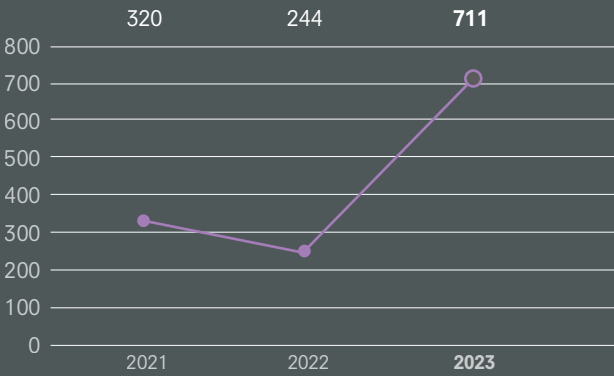
## HARM MINIMISATION



Drop-In: 2.1 Items for harm minimisation provided each visit

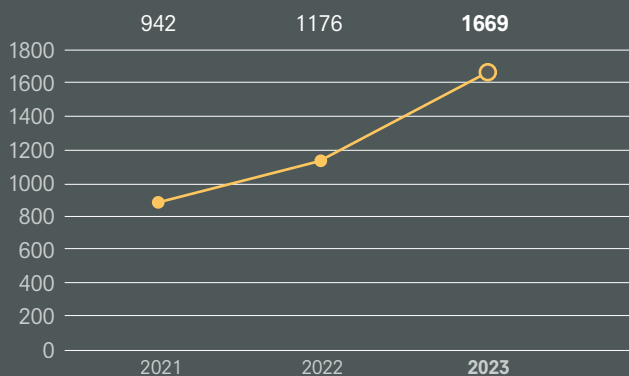


## FORMS OF HOUSING SUPPORT



Approximately 1 in 7 visits seek housing support

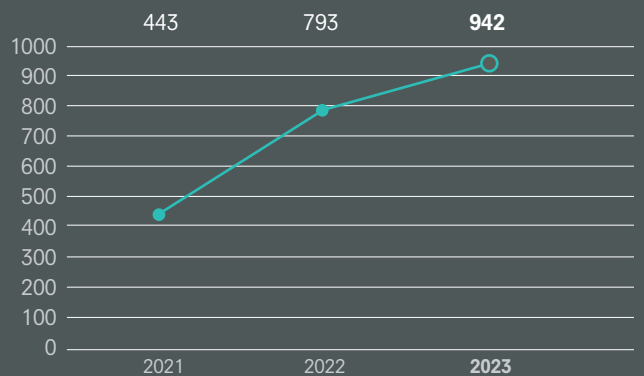
## FORMS OF TARGETED SUPPORT



Approximately 1 in 3 visits seek targeted support



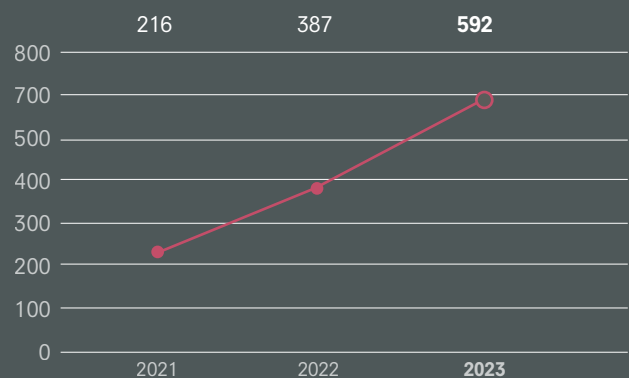
## MENTORING & EDUCATIONAL



Drop-In: Approximately 1 in 15 visits seek crisis counselling  
YWP: Almost every visit



## ADVOCACY & REFERRALS



Drop-In: Approximately 1 in 13 visits obtain referrals  
YWP: Approximately 1 in 3 visits



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respect

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## OUR BOARD

Each month the board meets to discuss strategy, governance, financial management and other significant matters for which they are responsible. Each member brings their own expertise and experience and collectively champions the Mission and Vision of St Kilda Gatehouse, for which they provide oversight. We are grateful for their dedication and deep commitment to ensuring St Kilda Gatehouse remains a safe and welcoming place for individuals and young people (predominantly women).

S.Dianne Azoor Hughes – *Chair of the Board*

John Sutherland – *Secretary*

Andrew North – *Treasurer*

Desiree Smit – *Retired 21 November 2022*

Alan Marr – *Retired 21 November 2022*

Catherine Hingley – *Retired 6 February 2023*

Simon de Bell – *Member*

Rosie Camilleri – *Member*

Beth Pocklington – *Member*

if you want to go fast,  
go alone. If you want  
to go far, go together

African Proverb

# SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

We would not be able to support those reliant on street based sex or affected by sexual exploitation without the collaborative relationships and partnerships with various groups or individual donors from within our community.

We extend our deep gratitude to some of the key partnerships below this past year:

Victorian State Government	Dress for Success
City of Port Phillip	The Bennett Group
Bank of Melbourne Foundation	Share the Dignity
Streetsmart Australia	Pinchapoo
Etre Foundation	CityLife Casey
Igniting Change	Soupees
The Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Trust	Foodbank
Gospel Resource	St Kilda Mums
Pitcher Partners	Les Colston graphic design
The Mercy Foundation	Port Phillip Community Group
MacPherson Kelly Foundation	Barnabas Group
Taskforce	RSM Australia Pty Ltd
Coopers Brewery	Kogo
Elwood Community Bank	Oz Harvest
The Queens Fund	The Ripe Group
Streetsmart	Conektor
St Kilda/Elsternwick Baptist Church	Victoria Stables
St Kilda Uniting Church	YAFT (Youth and Family Therapies)
Mildura Church of Christ	
Grace Church of Christ	
Churches of Christ Victoria & Tasmania	
Truth and Liberation Concern	
Blaze Your Trail	
Fitted for Work	

We also wish to thank all the individual donors and various forms of 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

Volunteers across St Kilda Gatehouse programs are highly valued for their time and skills. Volunteering opportunities vary from program to program but always reflect our organisational values of building safe communities and providing safe spaces for those experiencing marginalisation. We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude for the 48 volunteers who show up each week and extend unhurried kindness to those who access the St Kilda Gatehouse community.

Our recipe book 'A Taste of St Kilda Gatehouse' - collected recipes and stories from our community is a varied collection of stories and recipes from staff, volunteers and women who access our programs. It can be purchased at our Greeves St Op Shop or here (QR code).





*sometimes the bravest  
and most important  
thing you can do  
is just show up*

Brene Brown

belong  
connect  
respect



St Kilda  
**Gatehouse**  
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