

ST KILDA GATEHOUSE ANNUAL REPORT 2026

OUR VISION

People living with complex trauma are empowered to cultivate their unique personal strengths and respond to life challenges through intentional care and safe spaces of belonging, connection, and respect.

OUR MISSION

Upholding the dignity of each person, St Kilda Gatehouse provides a trauma-informed, holistic approach that responds to immediate needs and offers opportunities for empowered choice and community connection. We prioritise women reliant on street sex work and young people (she/they) affected by sexual exploitation.

St Kilda Gatehouse
belong connect respect

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St Kilda Gatehouse acknowledges the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways where we work. We pay our respects to elders past and present and acknowledge their continuing relationship to country. We are dedicated to ensuring safe and inclusive workplaces, services and support for all.

Cover photo: Ross Coulter

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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 traditional service providers.

In 1993 the Drop In Centre was opened, strategically located in what was then the heart of Melbourne's Red-Light District. 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 organisation opened its Young Women's Program in the south-eastern suburbs, working alongside young people (she/they) aged 12-24 years old affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE). This program aims to intervene earlier in the life of a young person, reducing the risk of CSE and its harmful impact on their long-term health, socio-economic, and educational outcomes.

In 2016 St Kilda Gatehouse began to develop 'ARISE', a professional development resource equipping frontline workers to understand and respond to the risk factors associated with CSE. Since its launch in 2018, ARISE has been delivered to over 460 practitioners: social workers, youth workers, case managers, and others who work with at-risk 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 volunteering 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 the issues that limit the options of those we serve. For many who come from challenging backgrounds it's a source of dignity, hope and belonging.

Today St Kilda Gatehouse has 9.1 full time equivalent staff across 17 individuals, is governed by an independent Board, and has the commitment of approximately 50 dedicated regular volunteers across our various programs that help us create our vision and achieve our mission.



STRATEGIC OVERVIEW 2026-2028

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

PRIMARY INTERVENTION	SECONDARY INTERVENTION	TERTIARY INTERVENTION
Young Women's Program and ARISE: Breaking the cycle of abuse before it takes hold with at risk young women through education and empowerment.	**Greeves St. Craft Group and Op Shop:** Skill development, creative therapies and peer-based community building among women seeking change.	**Drop-in Centre and Outreach:** Safe space for respectful relationships and practical assistance so that change might be imagined and considered by women in crisis.

Source: McGrow, 2022 Social Impact Report

The St Kilda Gatehouse 26-28 Business Plan has commenced, building on past successes and guiding our capacity to continue recognising and responding to the needs of those we serve. Our 4 strategic directions help to shape our healthy growth:

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

Further embedding of our data collection processes has enabled us to track outputs more accurately and blend quantitative results with survey and narrative feedback, giving us a clearer, more confident view of what we delivered and how it was received. The results can be seen on individual program and Impact pages.

Direct care supports remain our primary purpose and activity. Surveys and interviews help ensure that our supports meet the needs of those we serve. Crucially, effective relational support requires safe spaces and approachable staff.

Here is a snapshot of results (responses reflect participants who engaged with the survey/interview):



***Drop In survey, ^Young Women's Program survey, +Craft group interviews**

This year, Theories of Change were developed for our Drop In Centre and Young Women's Program, enhancing the ways we tell the story of our critical work. By distilling the wisdom from years of specialist, relational care into clear, accessible frameworks, we can now better define what "success" looks like, articulate why we do what we do, and identify opportunities for meaningful growth.

Finally, we are improving our digital footprint through social media content targets and a review of our website. High-quality social media content can help people learn more about St Kilda Gatehouse, promote transparency, and reduce the stigma experienced by the people we serve. Our website review has commenced and will require additional resourcing throughout the current plan.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Too often we hear distressing stories in the news about child sexual exploitation and domestic violence. We may inadvertently make judgments about adverse behaviours being attributed to certain public figures, or rich and famous lifestyles. We may feel far removed from those circumstances, and almost dismissive about how we could ever offer support to those victims of sexual and domestic violence. At St Kilda Gatehouse, our staff work alongside vulnerable women and girls in our society, who often live with complex trauma arising from very similar situations to those that gain headline attention – the difference being there is no fame or fortune involved and little attention to their circumstances. For some women and girls, this is just everyday life, where they seek survival by whatever means available.

Over the years, the women who seek support at the St Kilda Gatehouse Drop In Centre, have shared their stories. We acknowledge that many women have known abuse since the time they were children, and our Young Women's Program (YWP) has been critical in offering support to girls from the age of 12 years who are at risk of sexual exploitation. The YWP provides therapeutic support, education and awareness of risk, to empower these young women to see the world differently, and to know that they will be supported in changing the trajectory of their lives. If we had more funding we could expand this program many times over, across the State, and across Australia. The number of girls we support each year is limited only by the funding we receive.

The St Kilda Gatehouse Board and Staff have worked hard over many years to establish good governance practices, so that we can demonstrate to our financial partners, how their funds are used and the impact of their funds at work. Our program data demonstrate output measures of support services offered, while independent social impact studies and surveys provide evidence of positive outcomes. We have developed program logics so that there is clarity about the nature and extent of trauma informed care offered and the results we expect to see. Social impact results provide evidence of how funds received have been used to deliver the services needed to support vulnerable lives.

Financial stability is critical to the sustainability and growth of the services provided by St Kilda Gatehouse. Over the past years we have built up a financial stability reserve, and this means that we can be confident in our strategic planning, to be able to deliver and expand the quality of trauma informed care for at least the next 12 months. A huge thank you to all our supporters – we could not do this without you.

The Drop In Centre, at the heart of our organisation, operates from a small house in St Kilda. This is a place where people living on the streets can find a place of belonging, connection and respect. They can have a meal, a change of clothes, shower, do laundry, receive informal counselling, and assistance in connecting with other agencies. They may also have a locker, to store items they need to safeguard. They may use the Drop In address as their contact address. For many women living on the streets,

this is "home" – a place where they feel safe. In collaboration with our landlord, St Kilda/ Elsternwick Baptist Church, the Board has been exploring ways to improve and refurbish this building to align the facilities available more closely with our client focus. We may also need a new roof and will need to start fundraising in due course. Just in case you might be interested in providing financial support for this project, please keep this in mind for 2027.

It has been my privilege and passion to guide board deliberations and strategic planning over the past 10 years. I stand in awe of our amazing staff who often work in challenging situations, always delivering unhurried care to those who need it most. We have a collaborative culture, and each board member brings particular experience and expertise that enhances our decision-making. My expertise is in governance, risk and financial management, and our governance and internal processes have become well established. Therefore, it is time now to refresh the leadership.

I am delighted to introduce Emeritus Professor Bronwyn Naylor OAM, who will be appointed as Chair of St Kilda Gatehouse at our AGM. Bronwyn has a background in social justice and criminal law, including issues involving women. Our society is very familiar with issues relating to gender equality, yet vulnerable women and girls often do not have gender equity. Equity acts as the bridge to reach equality, and St Kilda Gatehouse is instrumental in providing the building blocks of that bridge. I am excited for Bronwyn's insight and for how her experience will guide the future of St Kilda Gatehouse vision and mission.

In closing, a big thank you to our Board, Nickie - our CEO, our staff, our volunteers, our service partners and our supporters for all that you do for St Kilda Gatehouse. Through working together, you enable us to reach the vulnerable women and girls who depend on our support.



S. Dianne Azoor Hughes
Chair, St Kilda Gatehouse

From our in-coming Chair...

I joined the Board of St Kilda Gatehouse in early 2025. I've been inspired by the scope of the St Kilda Gatehouse programs, the committed and passionate staff, and our dedicated and energetic CEO, Nickie Gyomber. My background is in working for social justice for vulnerable groups. I bring expertise in legal processes and community legal resources, as well as in social sciences and research, and I am very much looking forward to bringing this expertise to the role of Board Chair. It has been a privilege to work with such a skilled Board under the expert leadership of Chair Dianne Azoor Hughes, and we are fortunate that Dianne has agreed to remain on the Board, taking on another role. We all look forward to continuing to support the vital work of St Kilda Gatehouse with some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Bronwyn Naylor

REPORT FROM THE CEO

I am excited to share this year's Annual Report, which is a testament to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, supporters, and partners. Throughout the program reports, you will find stories of the difference that belonging, connection, and respect can make in the lives of some of our most vulnerable neighbours.

Meeting a significant challenge

The year began with a substantial funding gap that placed services at risk, particularly our Young Women's Program (YWP). Our Financial Stability Reserve gave us the capacity and confidence to plan ahead and continue supporting young people impacted by Child Sexual Exploitation while we sought additional funding partners.

We are especially grateful to our donor community, who responded generously to our Christmas campaign. A major donor provided a matched-giving incentive, encouraging our wider donor community to help keep hope alive for the young people who rely on the YWP. Ultimately, through a small reduction in School Based Group Work, we were able to maintain our outreach support for those most at risk.

Despite this financial challenge, the year brought many achievements.

Highlights from the year

Our Drop In Centre opened earlier in January than ever before, enabled by our capacity to employ Casual staff. This gave us an additional 10 days to support our most vulnerable neighbours, particularly people experiencing homelessness during some of the hottest days of the year. As a result, we welcomed 132 more visits in January than in the previous year.

At Greeves St. Social Enterprise, the installation of air-conditioning has made the space more comfortable and welcoming for women seeking emergency relief, social connection, or participation in our pathways program through craft groups and volunteering. It has also supported our move away from gas heating as we work towards more climate-friendly operations.

August 2025 marked the 10th anniversary of the Young Women's Program. We celebrated this milestone with an afternoon tea attended by partner organisations, funders, local Councillors, and our local Federal Member of Parliament, Mary Doyle.

Despite funding pressures, the YWP continued to strengthen its evidence-based practice. We completed a comprehensive revision of our PRISE assessment tool, which maps a young person's behaviours against research-based indicators of vulnerability to, and current experience of, Child Sexual Exploitation. The tool helps us track changes in individual vulnerability and, when data is considered collectively, assess the program's effectiveness in building Protective Factors against CSE.

We continued to support workforce development through our partnership with Chisholm Institute, providing five student placements across Community Services and Youth Work courses. We also contributed to student projects in journalism and filmmaking.

Building a community of care

As a direct-care organisation, our focus will always be on the people we serve. We also have a responsibility to share stories about our work in ways that protect people's identities while

increasing understanding of the challenges that contribute to long-term disadvantage.

By sharing these stories thoughtfully, we help build a community of care. This year, we increased our storytelling through social media and were pleased to see our work highlighted in the Victorian Parliament in June.

Looking ahead

In the coming year our plans include conducting a review of our Social Impact Report, five years after our previous report; expanding Drop In Centre services in response to changing needs; and growing the Young Women's Program with increased access to School-Based Group Work and supporting additional young people through 1:1 Outreach.

Recognising the importance of a strong Financial Stability Reserve, we will also aim to use our earned income to build the reserve to cover up to 12 months of operational costs. Our work is too important to leave vulnerable to short-term funding uncertainty.

Thank you to everyone who shares in the important work of supporting our community's most vulnerable through St Kilda Gatehouse.



Nickie Gyomber
CEO, St Kilda Gatehouse





DROP IN

"This place has literally saved my life."

A welcoming and empowering place where people who come can access food and material aid on their own terms, Drop In continues to be a place of belonging and connection for some of our most vulnerable neighbours. With 85% of surveyed Drop In visitors coming to access food and 100% feeling safe and respected in the space, our supports are meeting the needs of those we serve.

Over the past year we have witnessed a significant and encouraging shift at Drop In with an increase in people transitioning into secure housing. Stepping into secure housing is an enormous achievement for people who have experienced prolonged periods of homelessness and housing instability. Throughout this journey, our team has provided critical practical assistance, advocacy, and encouragement. For those who once sat at our gate each morning waiting for us to open, Drop In supports remain important in adjusting to the new challenges of maintaining tenancy.

We were delighted to be featured in this year's City of Port Phillip photographic exhibition, "Picturing Democracy"– a nod to Drop In's local importance and a reminder that we are each a part of democracy, no matter our challenges.

Across 3 main streams of care, Drop In provides practical supports such as specialist referrals, showers, and laundry facilities, as well as emotional support through informal counselling, birthday celebrations, and hospital visits.

Onsite supports

We have been providing a safe place off the streets from our Drop In site since the early days of St Kilda Gatehouse and this remains the base for all our contacts and supports. An average of 16-17 individuals are supported each day, and approximately 12% of clients visit at least once every week. This year, philanthropic support enabled Drop In to be open for a record number of days – an additional two weeks of service over the year's hottest days in January.

233
PEOPLE

3835
VISITS

4338
MEALS PROVIDED

6394
HARM MINIMISATION

861
HYGIENE SUPPORTS

While practical supports are critical, our intentional moments of connection can be equally important. We make a point of celebrating birthdays and personal milestones: for some of the people we serve, birthdays may otherwise pass without anyone knowing and with no acknowledgement. Candles, a cake, and a small present remind those we serve that they matter, that they are seen, and that their lives are worth celebrating.

233
MILESTONE EVENTS CELEBRATED

Sadly, this year we have also experienced the loss of four members of our community – a consequence of the complex lives of those we serve. In a place where meaningful relationships are formed we all grieve together, taking the time to share memories and appreciate the lives of those farewelled. This shared sadness reinforces Drop In's important role of creating a community where we can "be there" for one another.

belong
connect
respect

Van Outreach

Van Outreach operates 3 hours each week, meeting rough sleepers on the street, maintaining connection with those unable to visit Drop In, and offering welfare checks where necessary. The Van Outreach team delivers food and hygiene parcels, provides practical referral support, and meets people where they are at to build and maintain the trusted relationships that are central to creating safe places.

59
PEOPLE

406
VISITS

401
FOOD AND HYGIENE PARCELS

Social Inclusion

Drop In runs two intentional social inclusion programs Off the Streets and Community Meal. Off the Streets involves outings and activities, such as coffee club sessions, manicures, local walks, and picnics that build positive community connections. Community Meal occurs each Thursday evening, bringing together staff and clients to sit, talk, laugh, and enjoy each other's company. For people experiencing isolation and instability, this regular gathering around a shared meal provides an important sense of comfort and belonging.

440
ATTENDANCES

A STORY FROM DROP IN

**name changed for privacy*

Drop In has been Trisha's* safe place for over ten years, ever since the final breakdown of a marriage that had been marked by violence and addiction. Homeless and working on the streets to support her addiction, a friend told her that there's "always food at Drop In".

After a lifetime of trauma and exclusion, Trisha had, at last, found a place where she felt she belonged. It was not long before Trisha was visiting daily, often waiting at the gate for opening time ready to hurry inside and find a couch where she could sleep safely. Rest is hard on the street.

Struggling with long-term trauma, life became increasingly complex for Trisha. Her physical and mental health began to deteriorate, while ongoing legal issues added to her many pressures. In the midst of all these challenges daily Drop In visits continued, the warm welcome, nutritious food, and a safe place to rest offering a consistency and safety that had been missing from much of her life.

Being known and cared for regardless of life's challenges helped Trisha to access the medical support she needed, and having someone by her side as she negotiated legal issues made it feel "possible".

Over time, Trisha began to imagine having her own home - brave goal for someone who had only known "home" as a place of threat and violence. The Drop In team supported connections with housing services, listened to her fears, and celebrated on the day she was offered a small apartment.

After years of instability and homelessness, Trisha is now happily living in her own home. Drop In continues to be a safe place, where she celebrates all of her achievements with improved physical and mental health, reduced substance use, and a kitchen of her own.



GREEVES ST. SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Greeves St. Op Shop is an increasingly established destination shop at our Chapel Street location, combining a beautiful retail experience with purpose. The "prettiest op shop in Melbourne" (@notoriousthrifter) is the public face of St Kilda Gatehouse, providing opportunities to learn about our mission in a safe and gentle way.

Op Shop sales contribute to our financial stability, and it was pleasing that we exceeded our FY26 sales target. This was helped with "special shopping events" such as a Christmas market day and seasonal half-price sales, as well as ongoing positive social media reviews.

Installation of split system air conditioners in December brought welcome relief from the summer heat and safer winter warmth – bringing improved comfort for our craft group, volunteers, and shoppers, including our cohort of women who enjoy our inclusive and welcoming environment.

54
PEOPLE FROM OUR COHORT VISITED

340
VISITS

269
MATERIAL AID AND ITEMS PROVIDED

Greeves St Voices

Our school excursion/corporate crafting sessions are a special group activity demystifying the backstories of people living with significant disadvantage. Through storytelling and group crafting, participants gain a better insight into the work of St Kilda Gatehouse with the aim of increasing community compassion. For 90% of participants, the stories are the most valuable part of the sessions, and 75% report an increase in empathy following engagement.

3
SESSIONS

75
PARTICIPANTS (Approx.)

"My eyes have been opened, and I have significant empathy for those who have experienced hardships."

Volunteering

Inclusive volunteering enables our cohort of women to make a meaningful contribution in ways that fit in with their complex lives. Those who prefer structure are offered a weekly volunteering shift, whereas those who require flexibility attend at times and for durations that suit them. Our team ensures that volunteer tasks are responsive to individual skills.

96
VOLUNTEERING SESSIONS

"I work in the op shop and meet some really nice people. It's always lovely when someone says hello"

Craft Group

From February to December, craft group gathers at the rear of the shop providing a weekly social inclusion and skills development opportunity. Craft group intentionally welcomes flexible attendance to enable participation even with highly complex lives and people are welcomed whenever they attend.

40
CRAFT GROUP SESSIONS

67
CRAFT GROUP ATTENDANCES

"helps your confidence and self-esteem and you're rewarded on a personal level when you finish. Achieving something"

belong
connect
respect

A STORY FROM GREEVES ST.

**name changed for privacy*

Laci* has moved house many times this year, always looking for a place that feels like home, a place where she belongs. Across each of these moves, one thing has remained constant: her volunteering visits at Greeves St. Op Shop.

Coming when she can, Laci navigates public transport to the place where she knows that her particular contribution is valued. When volunteering at Greeves St. Op Shop, Laci knows that she is part of a team and feels what it is to belong. The welcome from other volunteers is always warm and Laci is confident, intentional, and proud of her sorting role as she checks the suitability of our material aid racks.

Sessional volunteering brings friendship and meaning, accountability and achievement even when other parts of life are a struggle. Laci's volunteering reminds her that she matters: "I haven't been able to come here for a bit and I can see you needed my help with this rack. I've fixed it now – the clothes are by colour."


GREEVES ST
OP SHOP



YOUNG WOMEN'S PROGRAM

"They taught me how to deal with friendships and relationships and learn to set boundaries and that it's ok to say no to people."

The Young Women's Program targets reducing both vulnerability to and harms from Child Sexual Exploitation. This year, through our 3 streams of care, we directly and indirectly supported a total of 189 young people across Melbourne's southern and eastern regions.

Each year YWP impact is evaluated with therapeutic data analysis, participant surveys, anecdotal narrative feedback, and we are delighted to share this snapshot from FY26:

- **70%** participants in our 1:1 Outreach stream experienced an improvement in their Protective Factors against Child Sexual Exploitation (a further 4% maintained)
- **100%** 1:1 Outreach participants surveyed reported a subjective improvement in mental wellbeing
- **75%** of school-aged 1:1 Outreach participants reported that YWP helped with school.
- **94%** Schools-Based Group Work participants reported they were able to identify safe/unsafe relationships

[I have] "grow[n] up to who I am today and my worker has always been there to listen, guide and encourage me at ALL times. She very much helped me build my confidence, reminded me of my strengths and when I couldn't see them myself."

In August 2025, YWP celebrated our 10th Anniversary with an afternoon tea, where we reflected with local government supporters, funder groups, Child Protection teams and others who have worked alongside YWP since inception. It was a moving event as we heard from other organisations about YWP's value and transformational impact, as well as listening to some words from the young people themselves.

This year also saw the complete revision and update of our therapeutic assessment tool, the PRISE (Practitioner-Rated Indicators of Sexual Exploitation). PRISE maps behaviours/ circumstances to the research evidence of Child Sexual Exploitation risk and protective factors. It has been in use since 2016, supporting goal setting and tracking individual changes. This comprehensive review includes the latest research and the tool has been streamlined for improved functionality. The updated PRISE commenced use in January 2026.

YWP was honoured to be recognised with two significant nominations this year: Tilly Aston Community Award and Australian Federal Police, Human Exploitation Command Partnership Recognition Initiative.

"Operating within both the prevent and protect domains, YWP delivers both intensive individual therapeutic support and early intervention group work that disrupt pathways into and negative trajectories from sexual exploitation." (ACCCE nomination)

1:1 Outreach support

Our 1:1 Outreach support stream serves our community's most vulnerable young people, most of whom are already experiencing sexual exploitation.

68
YOUNG PEOPLE

90%
HAVE CURRENT OR PREVIOUS CHILD PROTECTION ENGAGEMENT

79%
PRESENT WITH MENTAL HEALTH DISTRESS ON REFERRAL

40%
12-18 YEAR OLDS LIVE IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Individual assessment and goal setting enable personalised, targeted interventions including grooming and exploitation awareness, emotional literacy and regulation, social connectedness, peer relationship building, and advocacy and crisis support.

This year 17 peer relationship building opportunities strengthened connection, confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging. Activities included: group equine interaction sessions, an Adventure Therapy sailing day, Everybody's Birthday celebration, and end-of-year Christmas party. Each school holiday we offer group activities such as painting, nature walks, and picnics.

"I loved the community YWP made and talking to other young people about their lives and sharing about my life and finding differences & similarities. Helped me understand that I can get through hard things as I already have."

School Based Group Work

SBGW is our early intervention stream – partnering with school Wellbeing teams to provide therapeutic support for young people who show signs of increased vulnerability. Our 6-week structured series intentionally targets protective factor development, and partnership with the Wellbeing Teacher creates pathways for accessible ongoing support.

Funding constraints reduced the number of schools we were able to serve this year, but did not reduce the quality of the service in places we attended.

49
YOUNG PEOPLE

6
SCHOOLS

100%
REPORTED IT WAS HELPFUL

"they were really good at showing and telling us about ourselves. Showing us that we matter still"

Secondary Consults

Specialist secondary consultations equip case managers, teachers, support workers, and Child Protection practitioners with the knowledge and confidence to recognise and respond to child sexual exploitation.

72
YOUNG PEOPLE

belong
connect
respect

A STORY FROM YWP

**name changed for privacy*

Steph* was in survival mode - escaping violence at home meant couch surfing with "friends", severe financial stress, and almost no trusted support network. With no stable base she often went without food or sleep, using substances to stay awake because sleep meant facing nightmares or feeling unsafe.

Too often, Steph's "friends" would expect photos or other services in return for a place to stay and she was too exhausted to say no, too exhausted to even think about what mattered to her.

Sad and tired, Steph first came to the Young Women's Program in February and finally found someone who listened, without judgement. Someone who saw beyond the chaos and encouraged her to dream of a life beyond survival mode.

Gradually Steph began to identify what safety and stability could look like for her and, with steady encouragement from her Worker, she began to find her own voice to say "I want this for myself". Those five empowered words were Steph's first step into self-advocacy, leading her towards safe and stable accommodation that was central to healing and creating her own life of choice.

It has not been an easy journey to stability with repeated setbacks from addiction, difficult relationships, and mental health challenges, however the Young Women's Program has been steadfast and consistent walking alongside Steph and providing practical and emotional support while navigating housing services.

Eventually, Steph secured stable supportive accommodation - the impact was immediate. Within three weeks, she was falling asleep naturally without heavy medication and living free from nightmares. With a safe space to call her own, regular access to food, support to attend medical and personal appointments, and new skills in building trusted relationships, Steph has begun looking beyond crisis.


BRIGHT
side
Safe
SURPRISE
SLUT

ARISE

ARISE professional development equips those working with young people with an understanding of the signs and suitable responses to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Combining the latest research into CSE with the wisdom grown through our work in the Young Women's Program, ARISE provides practical support for professionals for whom this is, sadly, an increasingly important part of the toolkit.

This year the Victorian Child Protection Services of Department of Families, Fairness, and Housing has increased its focus on forms of child exploitation, which has included increased department professional development and publication of the "Practice Guide: Understanding and responding to child sexual and criminal exploitation". We participated in delivering professional development at the Ovens Murray Alliance CSE Forum in April, attended by approximately 190 regional professionals.

ARISE continues to be available for mixed groups in an online setting, with one series held in April 2026.

200
PARTICIPANTS
(Approx.)

"The content was really clear and detailed."

belong
connect
respect



SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

At the heart of St Kilda Gatehouse is a community of people who choose to stand together. Every act of generosity, every partnership, and every collaborative effort helps create a stronger network of care for those reliant on street-based sex work or affected by sexual exploitation. We are privileged to be supported by community groups, local and state government, churches, trusts and foundations, agencies, schools, businesses, and countless individuals who believe in the value and dignity of every person.

We are deeply grateful for the kindness, generosity, partnership and collaboration extended to St Kilda Gatehouse throughout this past financial year. Because of the support of individual donors, anonymous donors, recurring monthly supporters, major donors, foundations, and community partners, we have been able to continue delivering our services while also strengthening our financial reserves. This support has positioned us with greater confidence and stability as we look towards a sustainable future.

We would also like to acknowledge the many partnerships that have contributed over the years. While some relationships naturally evolve or conclude, we remain thankful for the generosity, encouragement, and shared commitment of all those who have joined our community of care.

SUPPORTERS

Government – State and Local

City of Greater Dandenong
City of Port Phillip
DFFH
Maroondah City Council

Trusts, Foundations, and Major Donors

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation
Bank of Melbourne Foundation
Careworks
Elwood Community Bank
Endota Spa
Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Trust
Gospel Resource
Hillsong
MacPherson Kelly Foundation
One Care
Pitcher Partners
Rutti Loh and James Farmer
Saward Dawson Community Foundation
St Kilda/Elsternwick Baptist
St Kilda/Southport Uniting
Streetsmart Australia
The Queensfund
The Shine On Foundation
TLC
Victorian Magistrates Court
Windsor Community Bank
Zig Inge Foundation

SERVICE PARTNERS

Access Health
All Good Things
Barnabas Group
Better Health Network
Blaze Your Trail
Chisholm Institute
Concern Australia
DV Phones
DV Collective
EquiLead (Victoria's Stables)
First Step
FoodFilled
Infuse Travel
Kilfinan
Knit One Give One
Koala Therapy graphic design
Kogo
Launch Housing
Our Village
Oz Harvest
Pinchapoo
Port Phillip Community Group
RhED
Share the Dignity
Soupees
SouthSide Justice
Spotlight
St Kilda Community Housing
Tend Psychology
The Hub
Thread Together
Women and Mentoring
Youth and Family Therapy
Zoe Australia

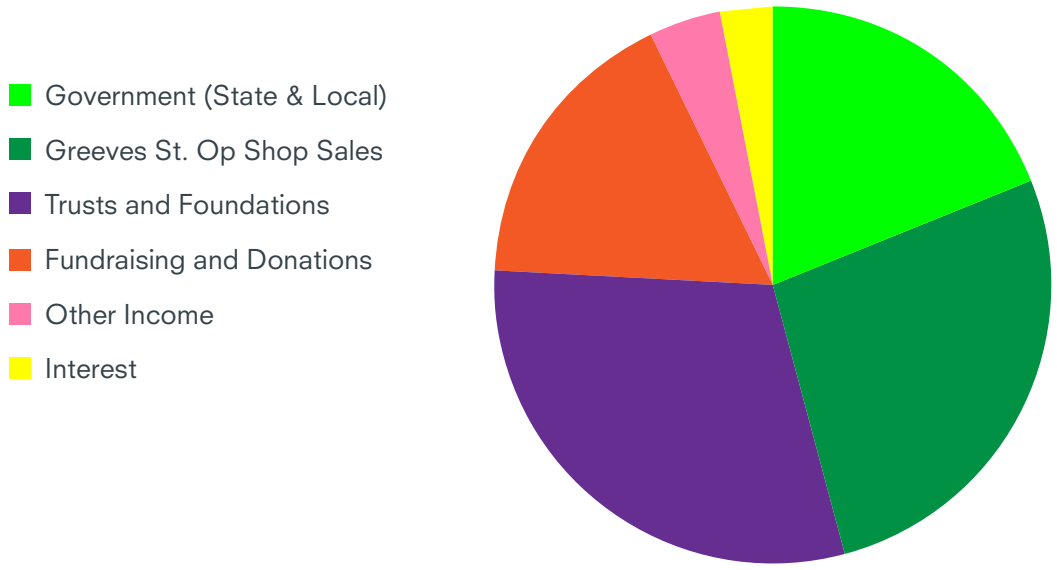
FINANCES 2025-2026

Our financial figures reflect the generosity, partnership and kindness of a community standing together to invest in providing services to vulnerable people across four main service delivery programs:

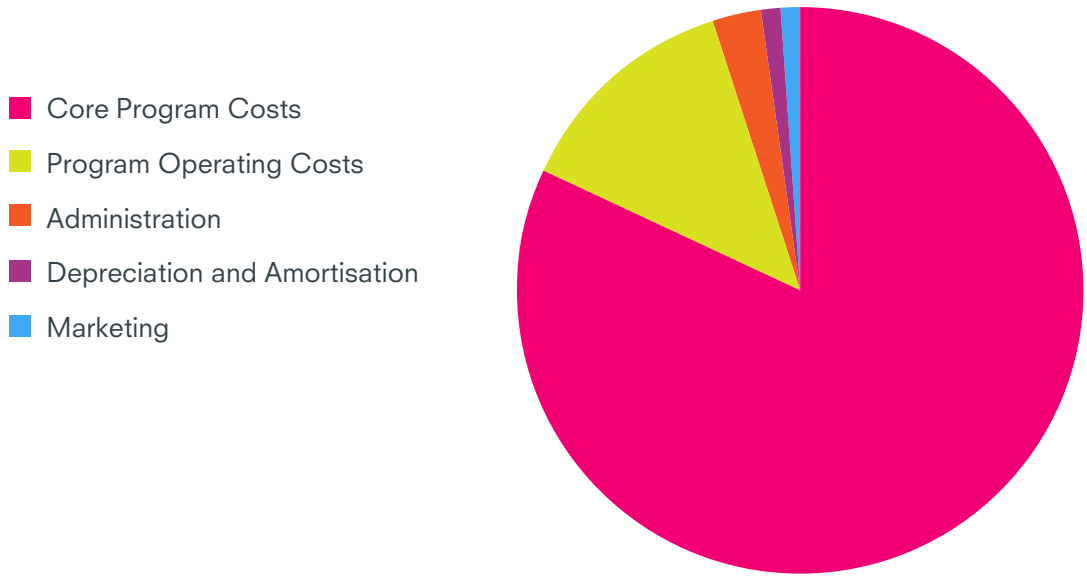
- Drop In Centre
- Young Women's Program
- Greeves St. Social Enterprise
- ARISE

We also acknowledge the in-kind contributions in the form of volunteer labour and donations of goods and services, not reflected in these financial figures. The enormous significance and importance these contributions have made to the efficient and effective service provision of each program does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

INCOME			**25/26**		**24/25**
Government (State & Local)	19%	$	245,823	$	379,741
Greeves St. Op Shop Sales	27%	$	335,279	$	329,428
Trusts and Foundations	30%	$	368,443	$	271,076
Fundraising and Donations	17%	$	211,786	$	193,540
Other Income	4%	$	48,353	$	52,032
Interest	3%	$	31,128	$	35,435
	100%	**$**	**1,240,812**	**$**	**1,261,252**



EXPENDITURE			25/26		24/25
Core Program Costs	82%	$	1,011,003	$	999,802
Program Operating Costs	13%	$	161,820	$	137,361
Administration	3%	$	38,022	$	47,943
Depreciation and Amortisation	1%	$	9,558	$	13,822
Marketing	1%	$	9,254	$	17,966
	100%	**$**	**1,229,657**	**$**	**1,216,894**
(Deficit)/Surplus		**$**	**11,155**	**$**	**44,358**



Building our financial stability reserve, to achieve a sustainable future has not occurred without our generous donations and partners – thank you!

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

OUR IMPACT


PEOPLE IMPACTED 508
VISITS TO OUR PROGRAMS 7814
MATERIAL AID ACCESSED 8806
MEALS PROVIDED 5034
PERSONAL CARE OPPORTUNITIES 868
TARGETED INTERVENTIONS 1403
CHOICE-BASED REFERRALS AND GOALS 290
NUMBER OF SOCIAL INCLUSION ACTIVITIES 483
EXTENDED REACH 340

Our core values Belong, Connect, and Respect shape each interaction with participants who access programs at St Kilda Gatehouse. These results are an indication of support provided and represent a real person. Through unhurried kindness we offer care without pressure, timelines, or judgement. We appreciate and uphold dignity and choice – especially in moments of vulnerability and are grateful for each and every person who trusts us with their stories. Due to the complexity of data collection we consider these statistics approximately 95% accurate.

PEOPLE IMPACTED 508

VISITS TO OUR PROGRAMS 7814

Visits include attendance at Drop In, Van Outreach, Greeves St. Cohort Volunteering, 1:1 Outreach sessions, Craft Group, Schools-Based Groupwork, and specialist Case Support sessions.

MATERIAL AID ACCESSED 8806

Essential items, including clothing, hygiene packs, sleeping equipment, harm minimisation provisions, vouchers, and essential travel assistance.

MEALS PROVIDED 5034

Includes nutritious lunches, food parcels, community dinner.

PERSONAL CARE OPPORTUNITIES 868

Critical homelessness supports such as showers, laundry, safe rest, homeless locker storage, parental supports, pharmacotherapy support, overdose awareness training, access to computers.

TARGETED INTERVENTIONS 1403

Intentional, relational support, including informal counselling (for AOD, housing, family violence, disclosures, mental health distress), sexual exploitation disruption support, first aid.

CHOICE-BASED REFERRALS AND GOALS 290

Supporting individuals to achieve their health, housing, educational, employment, and relationship goals through intentional goal-setting and appropriate specialist referral.

NUMBER OF SOCIAL INCLUSION ACTIVITIES 483

Reducing isolation with opportunities for pro-social skills development: "Off the streets" activities, school holiday programs, craft groups, weekly community meal.

EXTENDED REACH 340

Sharing St Kilda Gatehouse wisdom through ARISE professional development, Greeves St. Voices attendances, and Secondary Consultation support.

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 expertise and experience and collectively provide oversight for the Mission and Vision of St Kilda Gatehouse. We are grateful for their dedication and deep commitment.

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



Dianne is a consultant in governance, risk and audit with more than 35 years of experience in business, including 20 years in senior executive and board roles. In the past 10 years Dianne has worked primarily with not-for-profit entities, using her commercial experience to promote good governance and effective, efficient internal processes for strategy implementation.

John Sutherland – *Secretary*



John has been a practising lawyer for 30 years. He also teaches law at RMIT. He is involved in pastoral leadership roles, most recently at Compass Church. Finally, he is a bit of a sports fanatic -running/ cycling.

Andrew North – *Treasurer* *(retired November 2025)*



Andrew has worked as a Business Manager in schools and in large and smaller churches in Administration. He also worked in a denominational head office training church Treasurers. With his not-for-profit experience of school and church governance, and his financial understanding he is also able to input at an operational level as well as on the Board.

Simon de Bell – *Member*



Simon has 34 years' experience in blue chip, global companies including 20 years in senior management, organisational transformation and Project Management roles. He led ABB's engagement with government on energy transformation, and formerly sat on the Clean Energy Council's Distributed Energy Leadership team. Simon now works in an acute care hospital as an accredited Australian Clinical Pastoral carer. He is a member of Ormond Anglican church and sits on the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne's Remuneration and Working Conditions Committee.

Rosie Camilleri – *Member*



Rosie has both senior practitioner and management experience for over 20 years across a broad range of platforms. She has worked in the alcohol and other drugs field; homelessness and is currently working in the family violence sector. Rosie comes from a framework that incorporates social justice, harm minimisation, person centred care and trauma informed practice. Rosie's passion is to see people realise their worth.

Beth Pocklington – *Member*



Beth has nearly 20 years of experience in business operations across the retail, fitness, allied health, and early childhood sectors. She loves the diverse and dynamic nature of operations and believes in leading teams of individuals committed to achieving commercial and cultural success. Beth is passionate about using her professional skills to serve and support the community, where she can hopefully add value to other people's lives.

Bronwyn Naylor – *Member*



Bronwyn is an emeritus professor in law at RMIT University, and has over 30 years' experience as a teacher, researcher and advocate for social justice in law and criminal justice, including in issues involving women. She was awarded an OAM for this work in 2022. She has also worked with not-for-profit organisations in voluntary governance roles, and as a member of government advisory groups on human rights and criminal justice issues.

Dinushi Dias – *Member*



Dinushi is a reporter and producer with a background in impact-driven projects and over ten years in the content creation space. She is driven by a message of hope, community and wonder in what makes people thrive through the greatest of challenges.

Nickie Gyomber – *Chief Executive Officer*



Nickie commenced her career as a Speech Pathologist, specialising in adult neurosciences. Noticing the connection between head injury and AOD use, she completed graduate qualifications in Addiction Studies, later going on to complete a Master of Public Health. Nickie has worked in health care, small business, and community based organisations as clinician, healthcare administrator, and volunteer.

VOLUNTEERS

We remain grateful to the wonderful volunteers who share their time and talents to support our community's most marginalised women and girls. From staffing our Op Shop to supporting our Drop In operations and serving on our Board, our volunteers are the secret of our success.

56
VOLUNTEERS

5400
HOURS
(Approx.)

A survey of our Drop In and Board volunteers demonstrated their personal connection and commitment to the St Kilda Gatehouse Mission with 100% reporting that they liked "being part of an organization that does important work".

"I feel it's a privilege to be part of Gatehouse. It's a holy place."

"The SKGH vision and mission are so relevant in a society where gender equality and gender equity is still far from optimal"

STUDENTS

Through our partnership with Chisholm Institute, student placements at Drop In and Young Women's Program contribute to growing the skills of the human services workforce and bring fresh energy and insights into our workplace. This year we provided five student placements: 2 at Drop In and 3 at Young Women's Program.

"What a unique organisation St Kilda Gatehouse is. Your staff are a wealth of knowledge and I was so lucky to learn from them."

"Truly I am so eternally grateful to each and every worker and young woman that allowed me to be a part of this amazing organisation."



Photo: Ross Coulter



St Kilda
Gatehouse
belong connect respect

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