

2023-24

Annual Report



Olivia's Place



"I was struggling a lot being a single mum, not having any kind of support. I reached out and got help from Olivia's Place. I met Emma, and she has helped me with anything and everything I've needed - clothing, Mother's group, and emotional support. It's just been amazing!"

- Chantel, Gippsland Mum

”

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Our Vision

Supported parents, thriving children and connected families.

Our Mission

To support and encourage families during pregnancy and early parenting through community engagement and the provision of resources, education and professional services.



"I can't speak highly enough of Olivia's Place. All the help they have given me throughout my pregnancy and after pregnancy has been nothing short of amazing. And not just material items, I really appreciate the emotional support. It was like getting a massive warm hug! One less thing I've got to stress about. Forever grateful." - Imogen

Our Values

Respect



We acknowledge the privilege of being invited to support a new family's journey by respecting the individual and their family's cultural background.

Accessibility



We offer open and direct engagement of families in innovative ways that suit their individual abilities and preferences.

Inclusiveness



We welcome all families with young children, regardless of age, race, culture or beliefs. All new parents should have access to services that meet their social, emotional, and material needs.

Community



We facilitate connectedness for new mums, dads and extended family members through the collective contribution of the 'village' and services around them.

Integrity



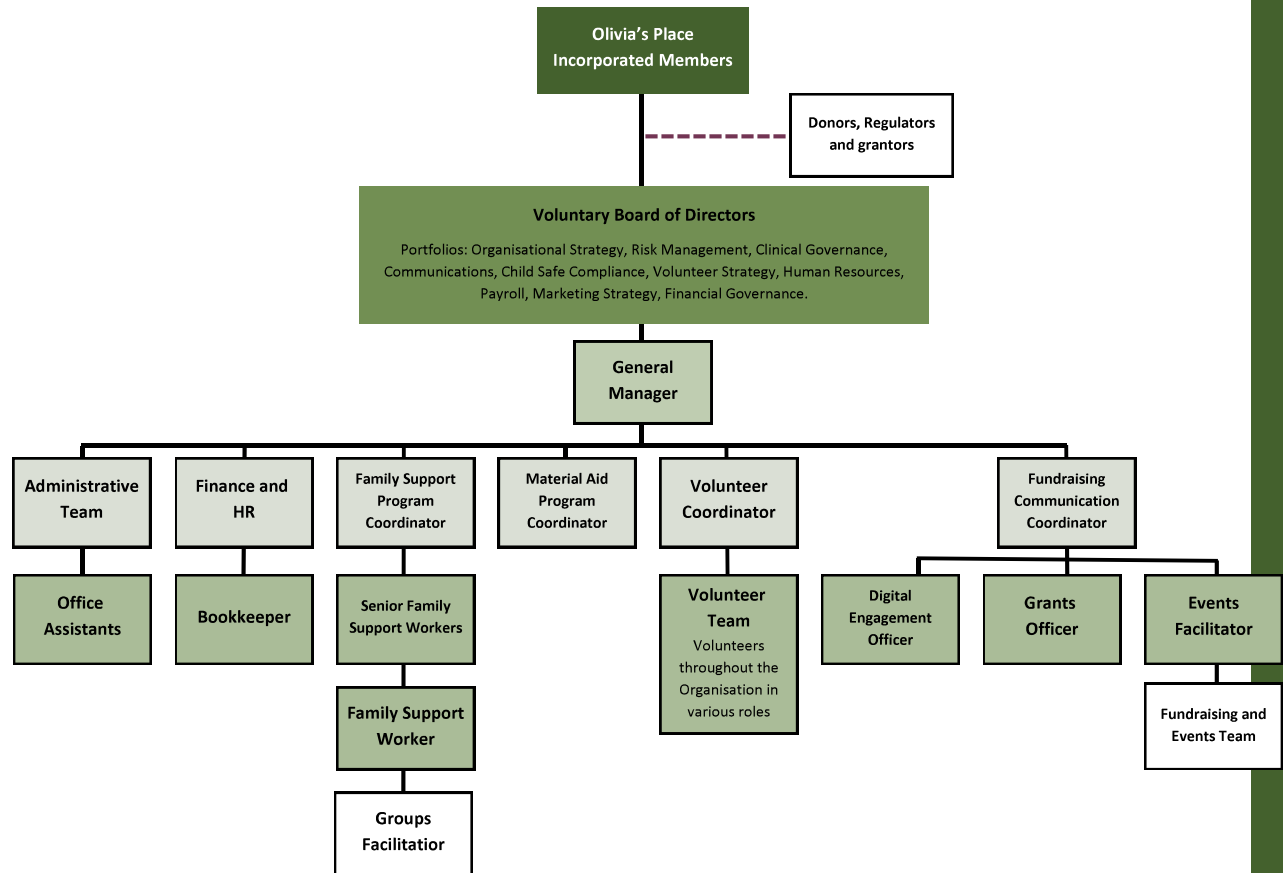
We deliver reliable, professional, high quality services that accurately reflect the dedication, honesty and credibility of Olivia's Place and its team. We support and value those within our team in a way that reflects our message to and purpose within the community around us.

Empowerment



We connect families to services and programs that meet their individual needs and that give them the information, confidence and strength to make their own best decisions during all stages of pregnancy and parenting.

Organisational Chart



Our Board

Directors on our Board are passionate about Olivia's Place and proud to volunteer their time to provide governance for Olivia's Place and its services.



PRESIDENT
Anthony Mutton
Commenced on
Board: Oct 2023



VICE-PRESIDENT
Mohan Lakshman
Commenced on
Board: Sep 2023



TREASURER
Stephanie Green
Commenced on
Board: Sep 2021



SECRETARY
Michelle Dohnt
Commenced on
Board: Sep 2023



Solange Ardiles
Commenced on
Board: Nov 2022



Jennifer Nelson
Commenced on
Board: Feb 2024



Kirsten Finger
Commenced on
Board: Jun 2016



OUTGOING
Cindy Pullar
Commenced on
Board: Sep 2021



OUTGOING
Julian Finger
Commenced on
Board: Jun 2016



OUTGOING PRESIDENT
Lauri Stewart
Commenced on
Board: Jun 2020

"Olivia's Place is really important in providing families the support they need. I wish something like this had been around when I had babies when we were younger... We struggled a bit, just trying to survive. Families often struggle to pay rent and bills. Having a place like this lifts some of that pressure. That's really important."
- Wayne Farnham MP
Member of Narracan
and supporter of
Olivia's Place

Meeting Attendance

BOARD MEMBER	POSITION HELD	ATTENDED	NUMBER ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND
Anthony Mutton	President	8	8
Lauri Stewart	President	5	6
Mohan Lakshman	Vice-President	9	10
Stephanie Green	Treasurer	8	10
Michelle Dohnt	Secretary	7	9
Cindy Pullar	Member	3	3
Julian Finger	Member	2	3
Kirsten Finger	Member	10	10
Solange Ardiles	Member	7	10
Jennifer Nelson	Member	5	6



“Olivia's Place is so holistic in helping families. It's not just about material aid; it's the continuity of care and support that is so valuable.”

- Gippsland Mum



Our Strategy

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS	ACHIEVED	OVERALL
1. Grow Income	1.1 Grow grants 1.2 Grow and diversify fundraising sources 1.3 Grow income from business partnerships 1.4 Establish at least one stream of income from government funding 1.5 Grow number and value of individual donors	75% 75% 75% 100% 75%	80%
2. Ensure our programs are safe, evidence-based, and high quality	2.1 Achieve accreditation against the QIP Health and Community Services Standards 7th Edition	100%	100%
3. Match workforce skill set to deliver growth and sustainability	3.1 Improve training and development 3.2 Recruit specialist volunteers	75% 100%	87%
4. Have security and stability around our physical spaces	4.1 Secure fit-for-purpose premises on at least a one-year lease agreement 4.2 Prepare a plan for securing a purpose-built, Olivia's Place owned premises	100% 37%	68%



President's Report

Anthony Mutton

Welcome to the 7th Annual Report, and my first as Board President. It is an absolute honour to lead this fantastic and dedicated organisation.

As my first year ends, I thank my fellow board members who have served and assisted me over the past year. I want to acknowledge our new board members, Mohan Lakshman, Michelle Dohnt and Jennifer Nelson. While we have new board members, I also need to recognise the committed service of our past members, Lauri Stewart, Cindy Pullar, Julian Finger, and Prajita Balavinodan.

Not-for-profit boards in small communities face unique challenges, including limited access to skilled and experienced board members due to a smaller talent pool. Financial sustainability is often tricky, as fundraising and donor opportunities may be restricted. Board members may wear multiple hats, leading to burnout and over-commitment. In my opinion, Olivia's Place is truly one-of-a-kind. The way our Board and Operations team come together, embodies the true spirit of a not-for-profit organisation. Our volunteers play an enormous role. Over the last financial year, more than 5,000 volunteer hours were logged.

Over the last financial year, the organisation assisted clients in over 1050

appointments, providing social and emotional support; this is a massive achievement. Further in the Annual Report, you will see that Olivia's Place operates in over eight (8) municipal councils/shires. This is a fantastic effort for a grass roots organisation. We also recognise the success of Little Livvy's Place, our dedicated maternity and baby goods op-shop. In some cases, this can be the first contact for some clients with Olivia's Place.

Once again, we have worked on delivering our strategic plan, focusing on critical areas, such as growing our income, ensuring our programs are safe, evidence-based, and of high quality, matching our needed workforce skills that have been set to deliver growth and sustainability, and finally, having security and stability around our physical spaces. It is great to say we are certainly heading well in the right direction to meet all our targets.

A massive thank you to our Community Partners. Their continued generosity enables us to continue meeting the needs of new families in our communities and beyond. Thank you to those who attended or supported our 2023 gala, where \$89,354 was raised to ensure we can continue doing what we do and prioritise what we believe is most important.



This is a fantastic time to be a part of our village.

To our fantastic team, in every role, we cannot thank you enough on behalf of the Board, your passion over the past 12 months have been extraordinary. You are the driving force behind Olivia's Place—its very heartbeat. Your commitment, your generosity, your kindness, and the joy you bring to this work are truly inspiring. Your devotion to helping others has been a shining light of hope in these uncertain times. The future of Olivia's Place is bright and exciting, and because of you, it stands on a firmer foundation than ever before. We are deeply grateful for all you do!

As President of Olivia's Place, I eagerly look forward to another year of collaboration with my fellow Board Members, Operations Manager Pheba, and our passionate and dedicated staff and volunteers. It is a true privilege to serve on a board I am deeply committed to, and I am proud to be part of the Olivia's Place Village.

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair and glasses, smiling warmly while holding a baby. The baby is wearing a white shirt and a pink flower headband. The background is softly blurred, showing other people in a public setting.

“

My mental health was declining each day due to family complications, and during that rough time, I fell pregnant. I went from being in a relationship to becoming a single mum, and losing one of my children was incredibly hard. My pregnancy was difficult, and I ended up having my baby early due to extreme complications. Olivia's Place helped me every step of the way—not just with baby items but also with encouragement and support. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have all the stuff I needed for Bubba or the headspace I'm in now. Thank you to the amazing people at Olivia's Place; they are honestly beautiful!"

- Gippsland Mum

1,052

Appointments providing
social & emotional support
this financial year

209

Families supported
this financial year

Operations Manager's Report

Pheba Daniel

As we reflect on the past year at Olivia's Place, I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together. This report outlines our key accomplishments, challenges faced, and plans for the future. Thanks to our supporters, volunteers, and dedicated team, we've made a real impact in our community, and we look forward to continuing this important work.

This year has brought meaningful growth, which has come with new needs we're eager to meet. To support this, our Grants and Fundraising team has been focused on finding new funding and tracking our progress to help keep our services going strong.

The current economic climate is hitting families hard, with over 90% of those we support feeling financial strain and 71% facing mental health challenges. These increasing difficulties make our support more critical than ever. This year, we've been there for around 200 families across Gippsland, Casey, and Cardinia. Our Family Support team has adapted to meet these needs as we continue to grow.

Our Material Aid team also had a successful year, thanks to new strategic partnerships with local organisations like Donate It and The Nappy Collective. These collaborations have

significantly boosted the reach and effectiveness of our Material Aid program. Additionally, the leased car from the Honda Foundation played a key role in helping us transport items and collect aid from across Melbourne.

Relationships with supporters like Pressroom Philanthropy and the Barr Family Foundation have been essential, allowing us to grow and provide more for local families. We're continually reaching out to collaborate with local organisations, businesses, and government partners. Little Livvy's Op Shop has become an invaluable community treasure, helping families affordably shop for essentials for their children, easing financial pressure and fostering a supportive community space.

The annual gala in 2023 was our most successful yet, raising essential funds that allow us to continue offering comprehensive support to families across Gippsland. In addition, our social media presence continues to grow, with increased newsletter subscribers and greater community engagement.

Staffing and Development

Towards the end of this financial year, our team expanded with the addition of new talent in key areas such as digital marketing, fundraising, and volunteer



engagement. This has increased our capacity to deliver effective and scalable services. We've also placed a strong emphasis on staff and volunteer training and development, leading to noticeable improvements in both staff performance and service delivery.

Despite rising living costs and the challenges this presents, particularly in fundraising, we've had some significant wins. Being selected as one of the three finalists across Melbourne to pitch for a crowd funding event organised by The Funding Network (TFN) was a huge achievement, and we're excited about the opportunities this could bring for the future growth and expansion of our services.

Operational Efficiency

This year, we made key improvements to better serve our families and ensure their needs are met safely and efficiently. One of our big steps forward is the new Feedback Hub, a centralised system that lets us track and respond to client and

Operations Managers Report

Pheba Daniel

stakeholder feedback quickly, creating a direct link between our community's voice and our services. We also introduced a Safety Checking App for material aid distribution, keeping our inventory safe and quality-controlled. These advancements reflect our commitment to high standards and continuous improvement in our support to families.

Our partnership with Blaze Your Trail for IT and Salesforce support has been crucial in streamlining these systems. Together, we've developed robust, efficient workflows that ensure our programs run smoothly and deliver greater impact to the families we serve.

Regular audits and feedback mechanisms have played a key role in maintaining high standards.

Challenges and Future Outlook

Like many organisations, we faced challenges this year, particularly around fundraising and maintaining operational resources amid the rising cost of living. However, our commitment to innovation and strategic partnerships has helped us navigate these hurdles. One of the biggest positives this year has been the deepening of partnerships with like-minded organisations.

Sharing knowledge, resources, and expertise has

been invaluable, and these collaborations will continue to strengthen our impact in the future.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on growth and adapting to meet the evolving needs of the community. Guided by our strategic plan and the direction of the Board, we will continue to align our efforts with our vision: supported parents, thriving children, and connected families.

We are excited about what lies ahead and are committed to building on this year's successes for the benefit of the families we serve.



Volunteers Report

Silvia Licheri | Volunteer Coordinator

Our Volunteer Program at Olivia's Place has experienced an unprecedented surge in growth this year, with a remarkable increase in new volunteers, young adults and retirees alike, joining our team. These dedicated individuals have brought a wealth of skills, talents, and fresh perspectives that have enriched our organisation in countless ways. Their efforts directly impacted the lives of over 200 families in Gippsland, providing essential support and resources that significantly improved their quality of life.

Corporate volunteers have played an important role in bolstering our efforts. Through structured volunteering programs, professionals from various companies have lent their expertise and enthusiasm to our projects. Their participation has not only amplified our impact but also fostered a spirit of corporate social responsibility within the business community. We

are grateful for their ongoing support and commitment to making a meaningful difference in our community.

One of the highlights of this year was our collaboration with Clarity Support Services, focusing on empowering young people with disabilities through structured and supported learning opportunities. This partnership has been transformative, providing tailored support and skill-building workshops that promote independence and inclusion. It exemplifies our commitment to equity and accessibility in all our programs.

During Volunteer Week, we celebrated our volunteers with a special appreciation event. Volunteers were treated to a fun-filled day featuring a movie screening followed by a luncheon, where we expressed our heartfelt gratitude for their passion and service. Recognising their invaluable contributions is essential to



fostering a supportive and engaged volunteer community.

During the 2023/24 financial year, our volunteers contributed over 5,043 hours of service, with many more hours spent supporting families but not formally recorded. Their dedication and compassion are crucial to our mission, making a profound impact in our community. Whether through hands-on assistance, participation in events, or invaluable behind-the-scenes support. Their perseverance is a testament to the strength of our volunteer community and its profound impact on the communities we serve.



"I attended Olivia's Place to volunteer for a day with other colleagues from my workplace. We were warmly welcomed by staff and regular volunteers who opened our eyes to the service they deliver. It was a fun, well organised and productive day. I finished the day feeling appreciated with a sense that our efforts had made a notable difference to this wonderful organisation. I highly recommend this experience." - Alicia, Corporate Volunteer



Snow Fest 2023



Drouin Lions Club



Team Member Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following team members on reaching these anniversaries in the 2023/24 financial year. Years of service pins will be awarded to those who have reached 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10 years at our Annual General Meeting.

YEARS OF SERVICE	TEAM MEMBERS
1	Marilyn Hancox John Abraham Silvia Licheri Debbie Dunlop Solange Ardiles Krystie Scott Suzie Gallagher Jayme Pavloff Kate Dogan Corin Whitfield Liz Matera Michael Pullar Lainey Bryant Jude Wilson

2	Cindy Pullar Stephanie Green Rae Gleeson Emma Wallis Junelle Wilson Lialah Rovers
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3	Pheba Daniel Charmaine Salisbury Scarlett Wells Lauri Stewart Larissa Bennett
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YEARS OF SERVICE	TEAM MEMBERS
4	Rebecca Perston Lauren Hill

5	Gabrielle Dennis
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6	Pam Leggett Pam Wernert Jacinta Saxton Tegan Vincent
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8	Julian Finger
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9	Kristy Bateman Robyn Bayley Marcia Boulton
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10	CJ Rovers Angie Ashman
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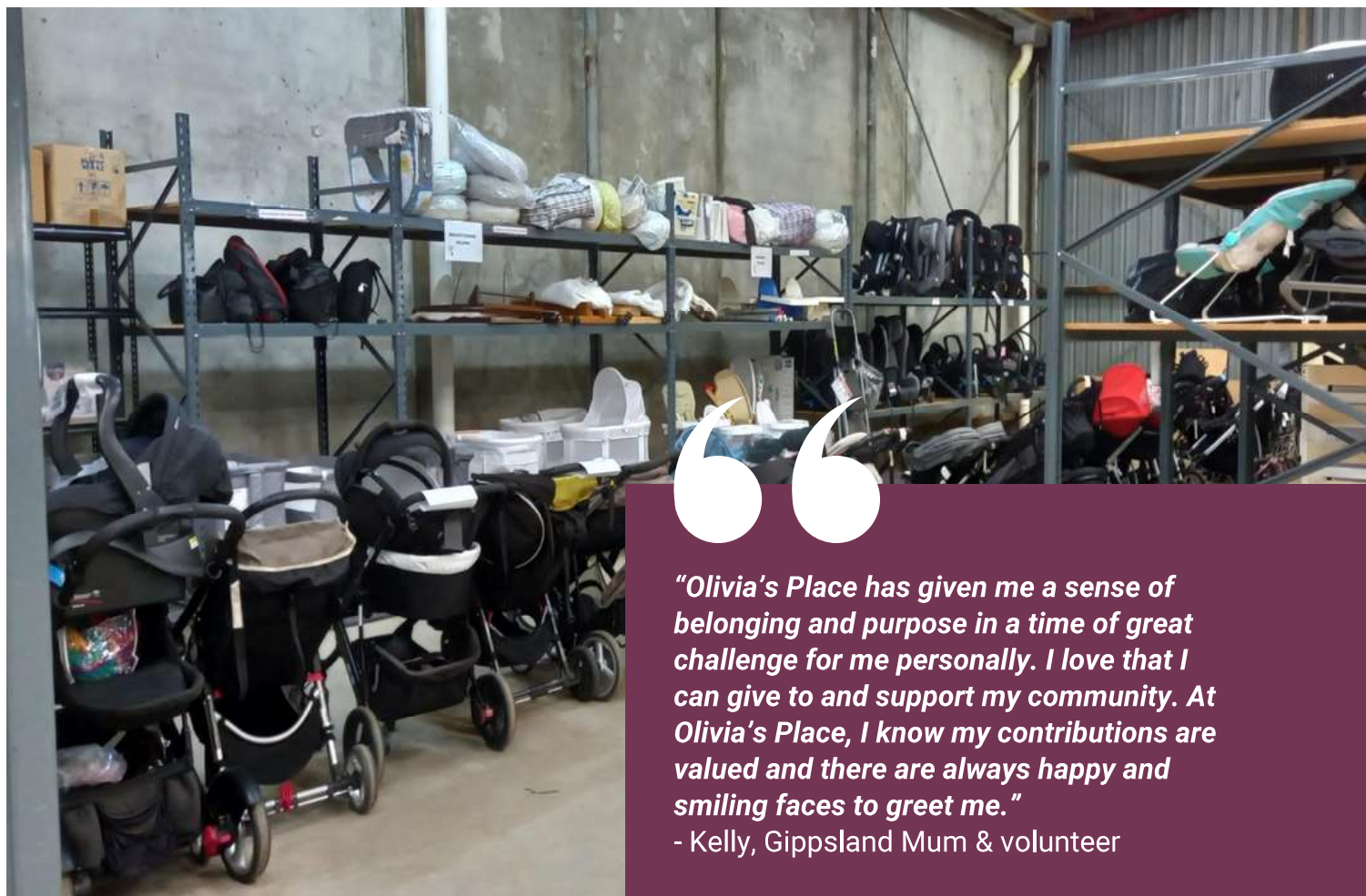
12	Kirsten Finger Patsy Heffernan
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Lorraine Bradford Pin Recipients

Received for reaching the milestone of giving 300 hours of service. Pins are awarded in honour of late volunteer team member Lorraine Bradford, who gave 300 hours of volunteering in her 3 years of time with us prior to her passing in November 2018 from breast cancer.

- **Di Barnes**
- **Suzie Gallagher**
- **Marilyn Hancox**
- **Charmaine Salsbury**



"Olivia's Place has given me a sense of belonging and purpose in a time of great challenge for me personally. I love that I can give to and support my community. At Olivia's Place, I know my contributions are valued and there are always happy and smiling faces to greet me."

- Kelly, Gippsland Mum & volunteer

SMITH MCCARTHY WILSON

ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS



"As a parent of an 8-year-old, I cannot think of a more important work than what Olivia's Place does. The health and wellbeing of young children, parents, and parents-to-be are vital to building a strong community. I sincerely thank Olivia's Place, its staff, and volunteers for the incredible work you do."

- Andrew Schreyer, General Manager, The Warragul & Drouin Gazette

5,043

Total number of volunteer hours in 2023/24



Little Livvy's Place Report

Junelle Wilson | Material Aid Program Coordinator

As we close another financial year, we are thrilled to reflect on the remarkable progress Little Livvy's Op Shop has made. This year has been one of exceptional growth and community engagement. Our achievements this year reinforce our commitment to providing affordable maternity and baby goods while supporting our community with vital programs.

We are pleased to report a significant increase in takings compared to the previous year. This financial success has enabled us to reinvest more into our programs, furthering our mission to support families in need. The increase in revenue is a testament to the hard work of our team and the generosity of our community.

Our volunteer team has not only contributed their time to Livvy's but has also played a crucial role in developing and

executing promotions and sales initiatives. Their creativity has been instrumental in attracting more families into our space and expanding our reach.

Our Saturday openings have continued to thrive, drawing customers from across Gippsland and beyond. This increased foot traffic has allowed us to extend our support to a broader audience, making quality maternity and baby goods accessible to more families. We are delighted to see that our efforts to provide affordable and essential items are making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

One of the highlights of the year has been the success of our "Fill a Bag of Clothes for \$10" sale. This promotion has been met with enthusiasm and has proven to be a popular event within the community. The success



of this sale not only helps us manage our clothing supply but also underscores the community's appreciation for affordable clothing options.

As we look forward to the coming year, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the entire community for their unwavering support. Your contributions, whether through volunteering, donations, or patronage, are the driving force behind our success.

Did you know?

For 140 years, charitable recycling in Australia has made a huge impact, starting with The Salvation Army's first op shop in 1880.

Today, organisations under NACRO (The National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations) give new life to 285 million items each year, keeping 622,000 metric tonnes of waste out of landfills and raising \$550 million for charity and social programs.

Little Livvy's has played its part, generating \$25,832 in net sales in the 2023-24 financial year. All proceeds support our Family Support Program, helping it grow and reach more families in need.

Family Support Program Report

Larissa Bennett | Family Support Program Coordinator

Over the past year, our Family Support Program has continued to play a vital role in the community, consistently receiving a steady flow of new referrals. These families have relied on our support to navigate the challenges they face as new parents or supporting new additions to their families. Our team has remained dedicated to meeting their needs, despite experiencing some changes and challenges within the program team throughout this year.

This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming a new staff member with an Occupational Therapy background to our team. Cara's expertise brought valuable contributions during her time with us.

Additionally, we hosted a student pursuing a Master's in Social Work, Narelle Stegahuis, for a 3.5-month placement. Narelle quickly became an integral part of the team, demonstrating both learning and contributing significantly to our work with our families. Her commitment and passion for the work were evident, and we were pleased to offer her a position within the team upon

completion of her placement. After a short time with us, Narelle was able to take her learned skills and experience to a new role.

Staffing changes posed challenges, particularly in managing the demands of recruitment whilst ensuring continuity of care. Despite these difficulties, our team showed remarkable resilience. Emma Wallis, Pam Leggett, and Corin Whitfield worked tirelessly to ensure that there was no disruption in the support provided to families, maintaining the high level of care that we work towards with supporting our community.

A notable achievement this year was the introduction of a new initiative—our Mothers Group for clients of Olivia's Place. This group was established to create a supportive environment for clients that were finding it difficult to attend groups in the community due to their mental health or negative previous experiences of attending Mothers or playgroups. The group gained a lot of interest, with a core group of clients actively participating and benefiting from this initiative.

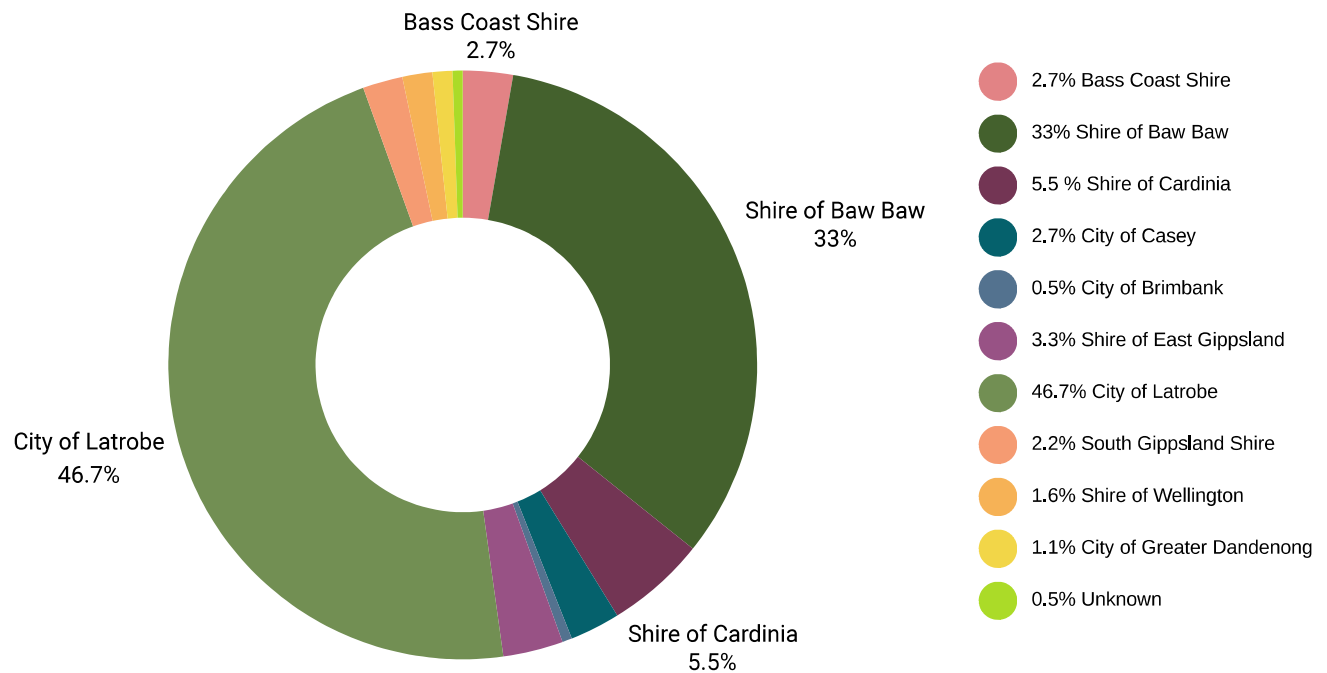


The group has not only provided a space for mothers to share their experiences and challenges but has also fostered lasting friendships outside of the group. This success reflects the importance of such programs in building a sense of community and mutual support among clients.

Despite the challenges of staffing changes and the ever-present demand for our services, the Family Support Program has continued to thrive. The dedication of our team to our clients has been rock solid, and the positive outcomes achieved this year showcase their hard work. We remain committed to supporting families in our community and look forward to building on the successes of this year as we continue to grow and adapt to the needs of those we serve.

Family Support Program Impact

Where Our Families Live



Family Support Program Impact

Client Family Circumstances

Impacted By:



DISABILITY

18%



KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE

7%



MENTAL HEALTH

62%



MIGRANT-REFUGEE-ASYLUM

5%



LOW INCOME

84%



YOUTH < 21

22%



ADDICTION

10%



SINGLE PARENT

43%



FAMILY VIOLENCE

22%



MEDICAL/HEALTH REASONS

23%



HOMELESSNESS

18%



UNEMPLOYMENT

63%



"Having a new baby is busy, hard, and tiring. But the days had never felt so long and empty. I missed working. I missed having somewhere to be. There were plenty of people around me, but I felt very lonely. When I found out I could volunteer at Olivia's Place and bring my baby with me, it felt like the sun came back out. It gave me back the feeling of purpose I got from my work life. I really needed to feel like I was more than just a mum." - Gippsland Mum and Olivia's Place volunteer



Pam Wernert with Sarah Witty, Chief Executive Officer, from The Nappy Collective

Material Aid Program Report

Junelle Wilson | Material Aid Program Coordinator

As we reflect on the achievements and impact of our Material Aid Program over the past year, several key developments stand out, highlighting our commitment to innovation, collaboration, and community engagement.

This year, we strengthened partnerships with esteemed organisations such as Donate It, Give It, Blaze Your Trail, and the Nappy Collective. These collaborations have been instrumental in expanding our reach and effectiveness. By pooling resources and expertise, we have enhanced our capacity to address diverse community needs and provide essential support to vulnerable individuals and families. The donations coming in from our own local community have also vastly increased, and for that we are extremely grateful.

A significant milestone this year was the development of our in-house safety checking app, supported by funding from the Jack Brockhoff

Foundation and created in collaboration with Blaze Your Trail. This app has given us security in how we ensure the safety of essential items like cots, prams, car seats, and baby carriers. Furthermore, it has allowed us to update our valuation processes to better reflect current economic conditions. Tracking the weight of items has enabled us to quantify our environmental impact by diverting substantial resources from landfill through item re-homing. We saved 5,829kg of items from landfill this financial year.

Additionally, the role of Silvia, Volunteer Coordinator, has been crucial in expanding our volunteer base. Her strategic initiatives have not only increased volunteer recruitment but also empowered volunteers, many of whom have gained confidence and skills beneficial for their personal and professional growth.

Through the 2023/24 year, we distributed \$137,402

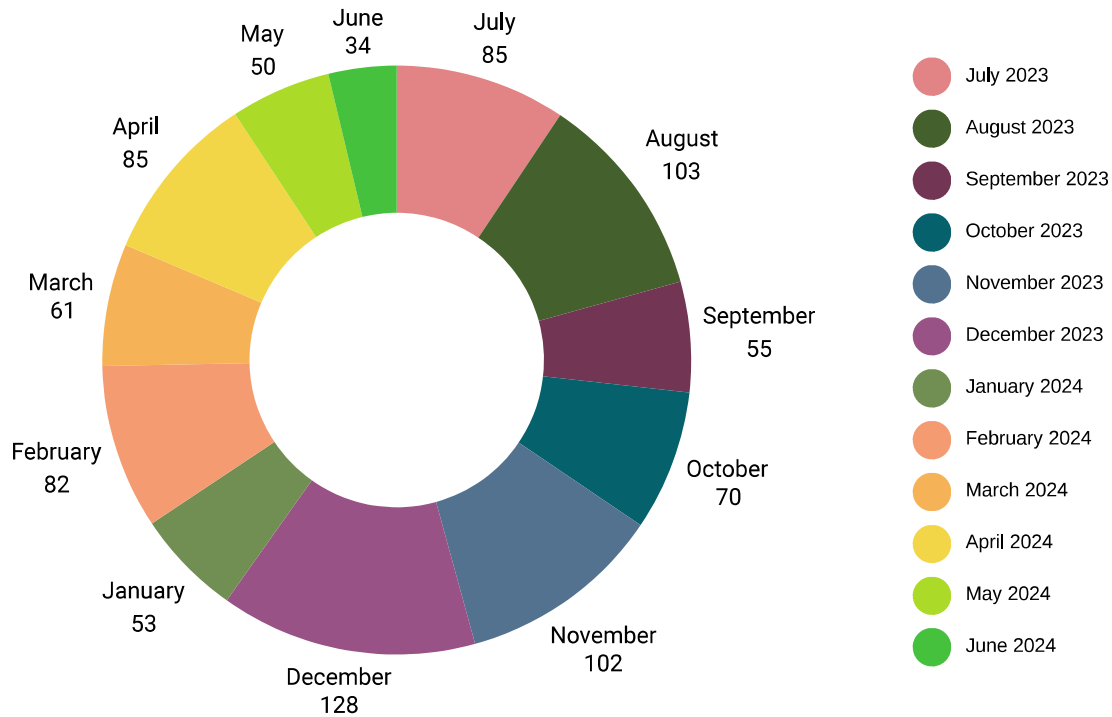


worth of material aid to our families. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community, partners, donors, volunteers, and supporters for making this a possibility. Your contributions have been essential to our achievements this year.

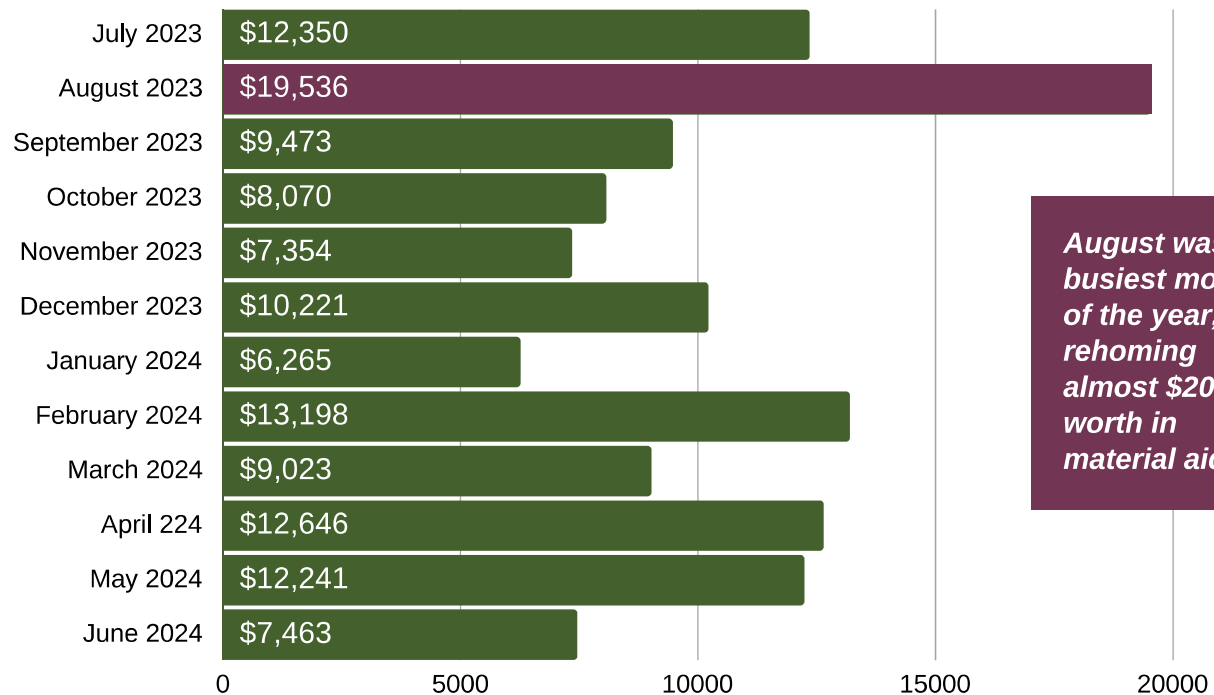
As we look to the future, we are committed to building on these successes. We will continue to foster collaborations that maximise our impact; innovate to meet evolving needs; and empower our volunteers to play a crucial role in our team. Together, we will strive to make an even greater difference in our community.

Material Aid Program Impact

How many times we distributed goods to families each month



Value of goods re-homed this year, broken down by month



August was the busiest month of the year, rehoming almost \$20,000 worth in material aid.

A photograph of a woman with dark hair tied back, holding a young child with blonde hair and blue eyes. The woman is looking down at the child with a gentle expression. The child is looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with a wooden door frame.

"Without my support worker checking in on me, I wouldn't have received the emotional support I needed during a particularly difficult stage of my pregnancy. I found the whole program amazing."
- Gippsland Mum



2,782

Items distributed
this Financial Year

\$137,402

in material aid given
this Financial Year

Fundraising Report

Pheba Daniel | Operations Manager

The past fiscal year has been remarkable for Olivia's Place. We are proud to share the highlights of our fundraising events, showcasing not just the funds raised but the spirit of collaboration that has made our initiatives successful. We had the opportunity to work with external fundraising consultants, Balanced Effect, who contributed to the overall success of the year, in addition to providing support around grants as needed. It was a good learning opportunity to partner with experts in the field.

July 2023: Snowfest

During Snowfest, Olivia's Place was honoured to be the chosen charity. While the event did not raise significant funds, it was a delightful occasion where prominent community members bravely took a plunge into ice water for our cause. Our fearless Operations Manager also joined in, showcasing commitment to our mission. The event provided a parenting tent for families, offering a space to feed and change their babies. We are grateful for the support shown by all involved.

September 2023: The 9th Annual Charity Gala Dinner & Auction Night

Our biggest achievement of the year took place at the Annual Charity Gala Dinner and Auction Night, raising an

incredible \$89,354—the most we have ever raised! This magical night brought together sponsors, partners, and community members, all united in raising vital funds for families in Gippsland. Our then Fundraising Coordinator, Renee Fallon, expressed her joy and pride in the event's success.

October 2023: Family Fun Open Day

The Family Fun Open Day welcomed a fantastic turnout of community members, aided by fabulous weather. RTL Mining and Earthworks Pty Ltd spearheaded the sausage sizzle, while Little Livvys hosted a "fill a bag for \$10" sale. The day featured incredible local talent, workshops, and special appearances by Bluey and Bingo, resulting in a total of \$1,138.01 raised.

November 2023: Donor Appreciation Event

In November, we held a donor appreciation event—a celebration of community—inviting all our partners, regular donors, and supporters. This evening was dedicated to showcasing the impact of their support and expressing our gratitude for their vital contributions throughout the year.

November 2023: Christmas Giving Tree Appeal

We launched our Christmas



Giving Tree Appeal, allowing businesses to set up trees with gift tags for Baby Bundle items. This initiative included the option for companies to create their own fundraising pages online. We were thrilled to have over ten community-minded businesses participate, significantly aiding our Material Aid Team.

December 2023: Online Christmas Appeal

Our online Christmas appeal raised \$18,790. The success was bolstered by beautiful videos created by Koko Z Media, which effectively captured the essence of our client-related work. The community's generous response, especially during a challenging cost-of-living crisis, was truly overwhelming.

March 2024: Hot Cross Bun Raiser

We welcomed the new year with a Hot Cross Bun Raiser in partnership with Missen' Link, featuring their delightful and unique fillings and

Fundraising Report

Pheba Daniel | Operations Manager

flavours. This initiative raised \$945, demonstrating community support during the Easter season.

April 2024: Bunnings BBQ

Our Bunnings BBQ raised \$1,188, which highlights the hard work of our volunteers—truly the backbone of such events. We extend a huge thank you to Cheffield for donating sausages and contributing to the success of the day.

After the Bunnings BBQ, we bid farewell to our fundraising coordinator, Renee Fallon. Renee's contribution to the overall fundraising portfolio of the organisation has been significant, and she has truly made a difference in the growth of Olivia's Place.

June 2024: TFN (The Funding Network) Pitch

In June, Olivia's Place was

privileged to be one of three organisations selected to deliver a 6 minute pitch at the Funding Network (TFN) event. We received excellent feedback from attendees, strengthening our connections within the philanthropic community and raising \$21,100.

June 2024: Supported Start Appeal

We concluded the fiscal year with our Supported Start Appeal, raising just over \$15,000 to continue our mission. The challenges around raising funds in this climate are significant. Many families and businesses in our community are navigating financial difficulties, making it even more crucial for us to remain committed to our cause.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who invested their time and effort into

community fundraisers for Olivia's Place. The contributions from local organisations and service clubs have been instrumental in achieving a successful year of fundraising. As we reflect on this past year, we are thrilled to announce that our fundraising team has grown to meet the unique needs of Olivia's Place. With new talent on board, we are energised and inspired by the fresh perspectives and innovative ideas they bring to our initiatives. It is an exciting time for fundraising at Olivia's Place, and we eagerly anticipate what the future holds as we continue to build on our successes, grow when given opportunities, and expand our impact in the community.

Together, we are committed to fostering a supportive environment for families in Gippsland and beyond.



The 9th Annual Charity Gala
Dinner & Auction Night

Community Partner Program

Pheba Daniel | Operations Manager

Our Community Partner Program is vital for ensuring that our services remain accessible to families in and around Gippsland. We deeply cherish the partnerships we've cultivated with local businesses, which provide critical support directly to our community. While the fiscal year 2023-24 brought challenges, including a decline in contributions from some of our regular donors, we are profoundly grateful to Smith McCarthy Wilson, Warragul Dental Care, Hotondo Homes, Immakulate Constructions, RTL Mining and Earthworks Pty Ltd, and our in-kind partners—Swoop, Viatek, Biz-IT, The Gazette Warragul Drouin, and Latrobe Valley Express for standing by us during these trying times.

We are excited to announce the refresh of our Patron Partner Program to the **Community Partner Program**, a change made to

invite more businesses to join us and emphasise accessibility. The program's tiers have been updated to Companion, Champion, and Guardian, reflecting our commitment to fostering meaningful collaborations. This involvement not only enriches our programs but also offers our partners various promotional opportunities and exclusive benefits across the year.

Many of our community partners have supported us through corporate volunteering, helping to bring projects to life that we might not have had the resources to achieve otherwise.

The financial contributions from our Community Partner Program are essential for directing funds raised through grants and other activities into our services and programs for our growth and sustained service delivery. We cannot

adequately express our gratitude to our community partners, whose generosity significantly eases the administrative burdens faced by our growing organisation.

Their commitment speaks volumes as they invest in the communities they serve. Together, we remain in our mission to supporting parents, nurturing children, and strengthening families, truly embodying the truth that "it takes a village to raise a family."

As we look ahead, we are eager to expand this program to secure sustainable investments for our cause. Your support is instrumental in helping us continue to make a meaningful impact in our community. If you are interested in joining this important initiative, please reach out to us at fundraising@oliviasplace.org.au

In 2023-24 our Community Partner Program was supported by the generosity of the following businesses:





Operations Manager Pheba
with members of the Barr
Family Foundation

Grants Report

Solange Ardiles | Grants Officer

In the 2023-2024 FY, Olivia's Place submitted 24 grants and was awarded \$463,490.90, including some incredible multiyear partnership grants. We almost doubled the amount awarded last year, which reflects our hard work and the importance of the impact our team is delivering.

This last financial year saw a pivot in our fundraising approach with deliberate efforts towards building relationships and promoting our work beyond Gippsland. Our leader, Pheba Daniel, pitched in front of The Funding Network (TFN, <https://www.thefundingnetwork.com.au/>) and added \$21,100 to our final tally from donations committed by the audience on the night of the pitch. These funds will go straight to our new pilot project, The Latrobe Valley Hub, a satellite office expanding our access points to families in need.

Another incredible partnership to note is our

fruitful relationship with the Barr Family Foundation who has supported us for the past three years. It's these partnerships that allow us to fortify our operations to further validate our essential services.

These efforts are an example of how we are working toward gaining more interest and support from beyond the borders of regional Gippsland. Our mission is to support our local families, and our operations are proudly Gippsland-based. Still, we needn't shy away from the opportunities afforded by solid networks and support nationwide.

We would like to make a special mention of the wonderful support received from our local community, including Quantum Support Services, The Drouin Family Hotel, Bunyip Community Op Shop, O'Brien Real Estate, and the Garfield Community Op Shop.

As we embark on new



phases of growth, including the establishment of the new Latrobe Hub and the formalisation of our Volunteer Engagement Program, we are reminded that everything we do is for our families and community. However, we cannot achieve our goals alone. We invite you to join us in our mission. If you are interested in exploring partnerships and collaborations that could benefit our community and Olivia's Place village, please reach out to us at

grants@oliviasplace.org.au



The RTL team helping with the BBQ for the Family Open Day 2023

Treasurer's Report

Stephanie Green

2024 has been a fantastic year for Olivia's Place from a financial standpoint.

We received our first funding from the Department of Maternal Child Health & Early Parenting Unit, a bi-partisan election promise from the previous year, along with an additional payment, bringing our total to \$169,091.

The 2024 financial year also saw us hold our record-breaking Gala night, which

raised us \$89,354.

The year ended up with a total income amount of \$818,944, which has well exceeded all our previous years and allowed us to recruit for additional team members so that we can continue to expand our services to the community.

I am pleased to present, on behalf of the Board of Directors, the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.



Auditor's Report

John Mecklenburgh CPA

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of OLIVIA'S PLACE (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2024, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe

that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible



for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

Profit & Loss Statement

Trading Income	2024
Patron Partner Packages	38,088
Donations	48,578
Fundraisers	146,198
Grants	394,991
Primary Health Network (PHN) - Funding	152,041
OP Shop Sales Little Livvys	35,171
Total Trading Income	815,067
Gross Profit	815,067
Other Income	2024
Other Revenue	3,877
Total Other Income	3,877
Operating Expenses	2024
Advertising	262
Accounting	1,001
Bank fees	3,681
Compliance	89
Consulting	48,273
Employment costs	375,463
Fundraiser costs	39,502
Insurance	13,494
Office costs	13,387
IT WEB & Computers	7,850
Material Aid	5,932
Mothers group expenses	18
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,429
Recruitment Expense	160
Rent	70,000
Repairs Maintenance & Safety	5,932
Subscriptions	4,383
Volunteer & Staff Expenses	2,066
Total Operating Expenses	592,922
Net Profit	226,023

Balance Sheet

Assets	30 June 2024
Bank	418,341
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	14,810
Grants Receivable	38,010
Total Current Assets	52,820
Fixed Assets	
Office Equipment	4,220
Plant & Equipment	9,632
Total Fixed Assets	13,852
Non-current Assets	
Inventory Project Safety checking App Development	9,855
Total Non-current Assets	9,855
Total Assets	494,868
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Taxation	1,462
Other current liabilities	10
Employment costs payable	8,688
Total Current Liabilities	10,160
Total Liabilities	10,160
Net Assets	484,708
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	226,023
Retained Earnings	258,685
Total Equity	484,708

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you:

Volunteers

John Abraham
Solange Ardiles
Angie Ashman
Prajita Balavinodan
Brenda Anne Barnes
Di Barnes
Anne Barry
Kristy Bateman
Robyn Bayley
Larissa Bennett
Nicole Boskma
Marcia Boulton
Katie Brown
Nessica Browne
Lainey Bryant
Shannen Cole
Marilyn Coventry
Pheba Daniel
Sharna Daniel-Young
Gabrielle Dennis
Andrea Dickason
Kate Dogan
Michelle Dohnt
Debbie Michelle Dunlop
Paul Fallon
Renee Fallon
Julian Finger
Kirsten Finger
Phil Fokkens
Suzie Gallagher
Michael Gleeson
Rae Gleeson
Natalie Grant
Stephanie Green
Marilyn Hancox
Patsy Heffernan
Gill Higgs
Brendan Hill

Volunteers

Graham Jackson
Jenny Jackson
Melissa Kelton
Mohan Lakshman
Pam Leggett
Silvia Licheri
Trevor (Jacko) Lowdell
Liz Matera
Ryan Morello
Anthony Mutton
Jennifer Nelson
Alana O'Donnell
Jane O'Shanassy
Jayme Pavloff
Rebecca Perston
Cindy Pullar
Graeme Ross
CJ Rovers
Lialah Rovers
Charmaine Salisbury
Isobella Salisbury-Challons
Krystie Scott
Grace Smith
Narelle Stegehuis
Kate Stewart
Lauri Stewart
Cara Tellefson
Jeff Tellefson
Tegan Vincent
Emma Wallis
Scarlett Wells
Sandy Welsch
Kelly Werner
Pam Wernert
Jude Wilson
Junelle Wilson
Alyse Young
Lauren Hill

Regular Donors

Jacqui Barclay
Renee Fallon
Jessica Macpherson
Timothy Coughlan
Kirsten Finger
Mehreen Syed-Shamsi
Cindy Pullar
Nidhi Dhal
Kate Polkinghorne
Stevie McDonald
Frank Miron
Julie Powell
Jacinta Saxton
Natalie Thorne
Megan Gray
Kristian Thompson
Dani McLennan
Ruby Collis
Brooke Denehy
Brigid Wells
Marcia Boulton
Jeanette Shaw
Scarlett Wells
Laura Eddington
Deepthy Blanchard
Julian Finger
Loren Stratford
Mark Kelly
Louis Debeaux
Barb Dann
Storm Simonetta

Whilst we do our best to list everyone, sometimes we miss someone. We're sorry if your name isn't here and it should be - let us know and we will make sure you're included next year.



Did you know?

Our Family Support Program offers personal, one-on-one guidance tailored to each family's journey. We provide essential resources, emotional support, and parenting education to help parents build their own support networks, fostering resilience and mental well-being. Through our services, we aim to be a link in each family's journey, helping them navigate early parenthood with confidence and care.

Olivia's Place is a registered, local not-for-profit charity based in Drouin, Victoria and provides services across Gippsland to families experiencing challenges around the time of welcoming a baby.

Holding firm to the philosophy that it takes a village to raise a family, the community is involved through the collective giving of goods, finances and volunteering of time.

The charity currently does not receive any major, long-term sustainable funding, relying on the generosity of the local community, fundraising and success with grant applications to continue service provision to many families who rely upon access to Olivia's Place programs.



SCAN TO DONATE

To support our programs or find out more please visit our website or contact us:

ADDRESS:

2-4 Calway Street
Drouin, VIC, 3818

POSTAL ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 688, Warragul, VIC, 3820

EMAIL: info@oliviasplace.org.au

WEBSITE: www.oliviasplace.org.au

PHONE: (03) 5622 1022

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS: www.oliviasplace.org.au/feedback

Olivia's Place is committed to working with local Indigenous services and families with individuals who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

