

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



GOOD SAMARITAN **INN**

MAKING A HOME FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Acknowledgement of Country

The Good Samaritan Inn acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which its services are based. We recognise that this land was never ceded, and the experience of colonisation and loss continues to affect the lives of First Nations Peoples and communities today.

Despite this, First Nations peoples' connection to land, sea and community is strong and continuing. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and to the First Nations children and future leaders, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the cultures, and hopes for First Nations peoples.



Wayaparra by Madison Connors

Pride Statement

GSI has a deep, lasting commitment to welcoming and providing respectful support to all cisgender and trans women, non-binary, and gender non-conforming/gender diverse people, including trans, non-binary or gender diverse children and young people.



GOOD SAMARITAN INN

MAKING A HOME FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Chair's Report

As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of the profound and far-reaching consequences of family violence. As we know, domestic, family and/or sexual violence transcends cultural, linguistic, and social boundaries, infiltrating every corner of our communities and affecting individuals from all walks of life. This pervasive reality underscores the urgency of our mission at the Good Samaritan Inn (GSI). We are deeply committed to providing inclusive, comprehensive support to survivors, recognising that the impact of family violence knows no limits. Our work is driven by the understanding that no one is immune to its effects, making our dedication to offering a safe haven all the more critical.

This year, GSI have made significant strides in expanding our capacity to support women, gender-diverse people and children affected by family violence. One of our most notable achievements is nearing the completion of the Banyule Project – a facility that will accommodate 10 women and their children in self-contained units for up to 12 months. This new facility will enable us to enhance our therapeutic, employment, and case management services, thereby providing a holistic approach to recovery and independence.

Additionally, 2024 marked a pivotal moment in our mission to serve those in need. Through the successful submission to the Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Grant Round, we secured \$5.26 million from the Australian Government's Department of Social Services. This substantial investment will fund the construction of 12 new units, further expanding our ability to offer safe and stable accommodation for up to 12 months. These units are more than just housing; they are a refuge where survivors can rebuild their lives, supported in a nurturing environment that fosters hope and healing.

Our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and respect remains at the heart of our service model. We continue to prioritise specialised support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, women on temporary visas, and people with disabilities. This is made possible through strengthened collaborations with our valued partners, including Aboriginal organisations and other specialist services.

Central to our ability to support and care for the women and children who seek refuge at GSI is the unwavering dedication of our staff. Their commitment to making a meaningful difference lies at the very heart of who we are and what we do.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of all our staff, with special recognition to Felicity Rorke, our Executive Director. Felicity's extensive experience in the sector has been an invaluable asset to GSI. Her expertise as a skilled practitioner, coupled with her quality leadership, has greatly benefited both her management team and staff. The Board deeply values her passion, commitment, and relentless drive to advance our services, which have been instrumental in our continued success.

The GSI Board, a dedicated group of individuals from diverse backgrounds, remains steadfast in guiding the organisation towards a sustainable future. Together, we ensure that GSI adheres to sound governance and financial management practices, securing the resources needed to advance our mission.

In this time of growth, ensuring that our governance structures are robust and responsive is essential to maintaining the high standards of care and support that define GSI. We are dedicated to upholding the principles of accountability, transparency, and strategic leadership, which are vital to sustaining our mission and effectively navigating the challenges of expansion.

Furthermore, we remain faithful to our Good Samaritan mission, which calls us to extend compassion, hospitality, and care to those most in need. This mission is the foundation of all our work and guides every decision we make as we strive to serve with integrity and love. As we grow, we are committed to ensuring that our expansion only deepens our adherence to these core values, allowing us to touch more lives while staying true to the spirit of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

In addition, we express our profound gratitude to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and our founding congregation, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, whose unwavering support has been fundamental to our work. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the state and federal governments for their generous funding, which has enabled us to continue and expand our vital services.

As we look ahead, it is important to remember that domestic, family and sexual violence is not a private matter; it is a public concern. Addressing this issue requires a collective commitment to raising awareness and providing the essential services that help survivors reclaim their lives. Together, we can continue to build safe, inclusive spaces where those affected by violence can find the support they need to heal and re-build their futures with dignity and strength.

Patricia Bergin

Chair of the GSI Board

Executive Director's Report

As I consider another year (my 34th) working directly or indirectly in domestic, family and/or sexual violence (DFSV), I note how far we have come in terms of community recognition of such violence. We are much better at identifying and acknowledging the problem. There is an increased focus on developing innovative and systemic ways of preventing and responding to the perpetration of DFSV, including improved legislation, policies and practices, as well as national and state plans. However, it is still not far enough, as we have seen 46 women killed so far this year across Australia – mostly by men they were or had been in an intimate relationship with.

Our Watch's latest report card suggests modest improvements across key measures of progress in the prevention of violence against women. Importantly, Australian's attitudes and understanding of violence against women and gender inequality has significantly improved since 2013. Additionally, we have seen the prevalence of physical and intimate partner violence decrease over the past decade. However, there is still so much more to be done to reduce the ongoing flow of women and children into refuges and other emergency accommodation options.

We welcome the announcement of a new commitment of \$4.7 billion from the Commonwealth Government to continue to progress this work and further supporting the organisations who provide vital services to victim-survivors. GSI is also delighted to have received a capital grant from the Commonwealth's Department of Social Services (DSS) – see news of the **Safe Places** grant in the Chair's Report.

Whilst the Good Samaritan Inn has a very small footprint, we work hard at maintaining a presence in a range of ways that contribute to raising awareness of and responding to DFSV. We are part of 12 local and state networks, working groups, alliances, boards and councils that work to address some of the causes and contributing factors of such violence. As an organisation we aim to respond effectively by providing crisis accommodation, outreach support, and assistance in the recovery and healing processes for women, gender diverse people and children affected by violence. This includes offering therapeutic individual and group programs, as well as coaching women to achieve their ambitions through training and employment opportunities.

We have also continued our increased focus on inclusivity and quality of our resources, staffing, services, processes and practices. GSI was able to complete our first level of the **Reconciliation Action Plan** (RAP – Reflect) complemented by the beautiful artwork by Madison Connors, a proud and strong Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Warrung and Gamilaroi woman. We continue to support many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim survivors – approximately 18.7% of our guests over the past year. This significant percentage indicates that this group is overrepresented among service users in both the Family Violence and Homelessness sectors. Our open-door policy for First Nations people seeking accommodation is not enough. True reconciliation requires a meaningful voice in the political mechanisms of this country, which can lead to the social and economic benefits that have been denied to First Nations peoples. GSI's role is to be an ally to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

GSI endeavours to build and foster respectful and beneficial partnerships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, by supporting their work and prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children who choose to access our accommodation and services. In both small and large ways, we will support the self-determination of one of the world's oldest living cultures, which has existed on this land for over 50,000 years.

We are committed to increasing the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on our staff and Board. Additionally, we will seek opportunities to deepen our understanding of their cultures and enhance our capacity to respond appropriately to the needs of First Nations people who seek our services.

In early 2024, GSI also successfully became **Rainbow Tick** accredited – and unusually for an organisation, we required no corrective actions. I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to a few people who contributed significantly to this outcome, namely Yvonne Lay, Rah and Jac Tomlins.

From the final report the assessors noted:

GSI's journey to being an inclusive, safe space for LGBTIQ+ people did not start with the formal decision to seek RT accreditation. The organisation has been working for many years ensuring it was a place that was welcoming, inclusive and safe for staff and clients. GSI takes a holistic, strengths-based approach to service delivery and support with an essential part of GSI's work being to understand and respect the whole person, and their intersectionalities.

The refurbishment and subsequent operationalising of our Banyule facility, together with our success in securing DSS funding for the construction of a new crisis accommodation facility, represent a significant phase of growth and development for GSI. These developments bring both opportunities and challenges for our organisation as we work to achieve our vision for 2027-28.

As we move towards becoming a service with three sites and a diversified service model, we are undertaking a measured and multi-dimensional planning approach, led by the Development Committee of our Board. Maintaining our quality service provision at the refuge is an underpinning priority, as is building on the culture and ethos that is fundamental to our organisation. We have an exciting opportunity to expand service provision to include longer term accommodation for clients and to add a healing and recovery model for those at our Banyule site. This expansion means maintaining and strengthening existing partnerships and identifying new collaborations to complement these new service models and provide comprehensive support to clients.

I want to thank all GSI's staff and volunteers who have worked skilfully and collaboratively to achieve safety and security for our clients when they are in crisis. And importantly, as victim survivors begin the process of re-building their lives, our staff empower them to make positive choices for themselves and their families. All the work undertaken by everyone within the organisation is critical to these important outcomes.

Lastly, I wish to thank the Board, Committee members and the Sisters of the Good Samaritan who continue to enthusiastically and with great skill and patience, guide the governance of the organisation. Special thanks to Donna for her 'above and beyond' support and to Asher from GKA architects for his time, skill and thoughtfulness.

Felicity Rorke
Executive Director

Our People



GSI Board Members

- Patricia Bergin, Chair
- Kate Jackson, Deputy Chair
- Donna Hargreaves, Company Secretary
- Helen Scotts
- Sr Kerin Caldwell
- Kristen Beadle
- Manasi Wagh
- Michael Roberts
- Scott Hartley

GSI Board Committees

Governance & Standards Committee

Development Committee

Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

- Jessica Tenace (Finance, Audit & Risk Committee member only)
- Ronnie Egan (Development Committee member only)

Company Members

- Meg Kahler SGS, Chair of Members
- Veronica Hoey SGS
- Marie Mohr SGS
- Mary Fitzgerald
- Noel Kennedy

GSI Staff

- Felicity Rorke, Executive Director

Managers

- Cymantha Thompson, Client Services & Practice Manager
- Janet Ryan, People & Quality Manager
- Julie Jenkin, Strategic Advisor
- Katrina Koh, Finance & Risk Manager
- Nardine Keriakous, Service Planning & Development Manager

Staff

(case management/support, therapeutic facilitators, facility management, operations and placement students)

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| ● Ally | ● Marika |
| ● Anne | ● Milva |
| ● Annette | ● Nisha |
| ● Bernie | ● Sally |
| ● Ella | ● Sarah F |
| ● Erin | ● Sarah S |
| ● Gurinder | ● Vanessa |
| ● Hannah | ● Vesna J |
| ● Irena | ● Vesna S |
| ● Isabel | ● Wimmarshani |
| ● Jess | ● Yvonne |

Volunteer Commitment



Photograph by Erin Slattery

The focus of our Volunteer program continues to evolve alongside the Inn. This year we farewelled Sally Mendes our Volunteer Coordinator, who along with our dedicated volunteers, contributed immeasurably to many aspects of the refuge, from the day to day running and supporting activities for guests.

- Our garden volunteers continually contribute to the garden with passion and spirit, nourishing our edible plants and decorative foliage.
- The Sing and Grow founder volunteered her time to sing Christmas songs with our guests, in an intimate setting at the dining table with staff, guests and a new baby.
- Tim our maintenance volunteer celebrated an incredible 20 years supporting the GSI. He continues to provide weekly maintenance support on our old building with a cheerful presence, often arriving with homemade biscuits in-hand!
- Longstanding volunteers Ann and Jill assisted us with organising our clothing donations, guest supplies, baby and children's items, the kitchen, pantry and storage areas.
- Several of our volunteers have provided support for over 15 years – reminding us of the immense progress GSI has made. Shifting from a time where guests were housed from Monday to Friday only, entirely supported by nuns and volunteers, to a time where the refuge is the guest's home until they secure housing.

SAFE



TOTAL NUMBER
OF **BED NIGHTS**
PROVIDED
2062

This year, we saw a **74%** (or 20-day) increase in the average length of stay, reflecting a growing number of clients without permanent residency and those with complex case needs. This increase heightens demand on our service staff and the need for deeper engagement with specialist partner agencies. While longer stays accounts for a **44%** decrease in the overall number of clients (compared to 2023), **our service hours, bed nights and therapeutic program delivery remained consistent**, allowing us to effectively meet the diverse needs of all clients we supported.



NUMBER OF
SERVICE HOURS
PROVIDED
3839 HOURS



PROPORTION OF
CLIENTS WITH **CHILDREN**
41%

AVERAGE LENGTH OF
STAY OF CLIENTS WITH
PERMANENT RESIDENCY
47 NIGHTS



AVERAGE LENGTH OF
STAY OF CLIENTS WITH **NO**
PERMANENT RESIDENCY
113 NIGHTS

NUMBER OF CLIENTS SUPPORTED
AT THE INN. **ADULTS 34, CHILDREN**
& **YOUNG PEOPLE 25**
TOTAL 59



Good Samaritan Inn's (GSI) vision is to support women, gender diverse people and children to recover from the trauma of family violence and homelessness in a **safe** and **inclusive** environment. We work with them to regain their personal strength and sense of self so that they can be **empowered** to make clear and informed decisions about their next steps and their future lives.

INCLUSIVE

GSI responds to the needs of diverse communities and provides inclusive services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people living with a disability, and people who identify as LGBTQIA+.



ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER. 18.7% OF TOTAL CLIENTS

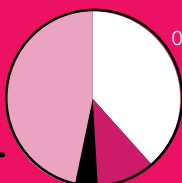
NUMBER OF CLIENTS WITH
TEMPORARY VISA STATUS 7



CLIENTS THAT REQUIRED
AN **INTERPRETER 5**

AGES OF CLIENTS

26-45YRS
40.6%



0-5YRS
30.6%

66-85YRS
3.4%

21-25YRS
8.5%



CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE CLIENTS
49%

EMPOWERED

"I believe that this coaching program has been a game-changer for me, and I genuinely appreciate the effort and commitment of the facilitator in helping me achieve these positive outcomes. I am now better equipped to navigate life's challenges with confidence and a stronger sense of self-worth."
– Women in Work participant



9 CLIENTS WERE SUPPORTED TO ACHIEVE LIFE-CHANGING ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH OUR WOMEN IN WORK PROGRAM.



CHILDREN AND CARERS ENGAGED IN **47 SESSIONS** OF OUR **SENSORY GARDEN PROGRAM**, OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES TO RECONNECT AFTER THE ISOLATION OF TRAUMA



14 CHILDREN AND 18 ADULTS RECEIVED ART THERAPY SUPPORT

Our Services and Programs

GSI's services span crisis accommodation, case support and management, therapeutic programs as well as outreach and a targeted coaching and employment support model – Women in Work. In FY2024, we provided support and advocacy for 59 victim-survivors of family violence, including 34 adults and 25 children.

Our dedicated team of case managers and case support workers ensure the practical and emotional needs of every victim-survivor are met. Our focus remains to provide immediate safety and stability, securing an income and or a permanent visa, and instilling a sense of hope for the future by locating ongoing and affordable housing.



Photograph by Erin Slattery

This year, thanks to DFFH reviewing our targets, we were able to introduce longer accommodation periods, with all victim survivors offered an 8 week stay at the refuge. This prompted a change in the direct service team's approach to case management and support, allowing GSI guests to achieve their goals in a more streamlined and considered way, amidst a growing longer-term housing crisis.

We have also continued to strengthen our relationships with housing services such as Housing Choices and Housing First, who support our clients to find homes with low-cost rent options. Our case management and support teams have worked tirelessly to provide successful outcomes despite the chronic lack of housing.



Photograph by Erin Slattery



Photograph by Erin Slattery



Women in Work

The Women in Work program supports victim-survivors of family violence on their recovery journey to enter/re-enter the workforce with increased confidence and capacity for economic independence.

The program includes two key components that support a person's recovery journey:

- Personalised trauma-informed coaching sessions to help rebuild executive functioning skills that have been affected by prolonged trauma.
- Specialist support to help participants to develop employment skills and capabilities, be placed with supportive employment providers and gain long term economic independence.

This year, the program supported nine women and non-binary people reach critical achievements in their healing and recovery journey. With continued focus and funding, we hope to strengthen this program's reach and impact, embedding the model into GSI's new accommodation setting in the coming 12 months.

Women in Work has been developed using EMPath, a world-wide evidence-based Economic Mobility Pathways Model, delivered with a family violence lens. The EMPath model's Bridge to Self-Sufficiency helps participants plan, reach, and sustain personal goals in five essential areas – **Education & Learning, Financial Management, Employment, Housing, Wellbeing**. On average this year, participants self-reported an **82% improvement in their self-sufficiency across all pillars from before to after the program.**

"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the coaching program and the exceptional work of my coach. This program has been immensely beneficial for me, as it has not only helped me gain more confidence but has also provided me with valuable knowledge and strategies for managing my financial situation, enhancing my well-being, and staying focused on building my self-worth. Their [GSI's] expertise and dedication have made a significant impact on my life, and I feel more empowered and motivated to make positive changes."

– Women in Work participant



Children and Young People

Children and Young people staying at the refuge have regular access to a range of therapeutic programs and activities including:

- The Northern Health & Recovery Program (NHARP), facilitated by Berry Street Child Therapists.
- The Art Therapy program – helping guests use creativity and self-expression to support their mental health and wellbeing.
- Sensory Garden Program – enabling children (and their parents) to engage in the outdoors and specifically in planting and tending flowers, herbs and vegetables.
- GSI toy room – equipped with educational resources and toys for children and families to use and enjoy together.

Client Case Study

A mother and her two young children (aged 2 years and 8 months) were forced to flee and relinquish their home due to significant family violence perpetrated by an ex-partner. The Good Samaritan Inn supported the family for three months and during their stay, the family were engaged in many of GSI's therapeutic programs: Northern Healing & Recovery Program, Sing & Grow, Art Therapy, The Sensory Garden Program and the Football Clinic. The older child has also been supported to access an NDIS package for early intervention services. GSI's case management team have worked closely with the mother and provided psychoeducation on family violence over several months. The family are currently on a priority waiting list for a new house and continue to be supported by GSI.

Outreach Program

GSI's Outreach Program ensures clients exiting GSI's refuge can continue to access support while they settle into their new housing and environment. This program ensures they are connected to relevant local community supports and any universal or specialist services they may require. Clients that exit the refuge and relocate to housing or non-supported accommodation, are offered ongoing case management for a period of up to 6 months. There is also the opportunity for an extension where further support is required to accomplish the client's specified goals. The Outreach Program supports victim-survivors through their transition into the community and their new accommodation to ensure they are best placed to live independently and sustain safety and stability.

"My expectations were met and then some. At the end of my journey with GSI outreach support I felt confident in my abilities to sustain a functional household and in my decision making for future endeavours. The Outreach staff assisted me with navigating my new local area and showed me where the local swimming school was. They also showed me where my local shop was, food hub services, the local playgrounds and where I could take my child to story time".

– Outreach client

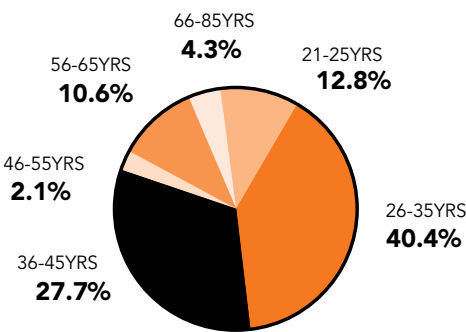


TOTAL SERVICE HOURS
654



TOTAL NUMBER OF
SUPPORT PERIODS
47

AGE BREAKDOWN OF SUPPORTS



Therapeutic Programs

Art Therapy

Held on-site at the refuge, GSI's Art Therapy program supports adults and children by providing opportunities to find respite, nurture self-esteem, improve emotional regulation, process memories and find community and connection. In the coming year, we hope to evolve the program and work towards creating meaningful, collaborative artwork with our guests.

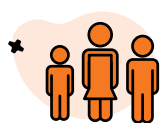
Adult participants who provided feedback via the evaluation survey have said Art Therapy gave them something to look forward to every week while also providing relief to "some of my stress".

Sensory Garden Program

Our Garden program offers sensory engagement and grounding in the natural world, by utilising the refuge's beautiful garden spaces – Country cared for by the Wurundjeri people for many thousands of years.



75 GUESTS
PARTICIPATED IN
SENSORY GARDEN
SESSIONS



40 GUESTS ENGAGED IN
THE SENSORY GARDEN
PROGRAM, **22 CHILDREN**
AND **18 WOMEN**



VOLUNTEERS ATTENDED
21 SESSIONS

One guest described the Meditative Garden Walk as 'calming at a time of intense stress'.



Photograph by Erin Slattery

Student Placements at GSI

Hosting students at GSI has provided both students and our team with invaluable learning opportunities. Case managers are tasked with providing the student with a "real time" experience of case management.

GSI have hosted two students from RMIT this year. Both have been completing their Master of Social Work degrees and were final year students.

The 500-hour placement allows the students to refine their practitioner skills while supporting the women and children at the refuge. Case managers observe the students in their practice and provide critical feedback and support.

As practitioners we are also on a learning journey with the students as they provide us with latest research and skills learned through their university experience.

By prioritising learning and development for our placement students, we aim to equip emerging professionals with the confidence and diverse skill set needed to succeed in the family violence sector. We are dedicated to continuously enhancing our skilled workforce through the Social Work Field Education placement experience at GSI.

Client Case Study



Helena is an Indigenous person who identifies as they/ them. They grew up in a regional area before moving to Melbourne with their partner, Jack.

Shortly after they relocated to Melbourne, Jack became really controlling of Helena. Jack wouldn't let them keep in contact with their friends and convinced them not to return to work. Over time, Jack's use of violence escalated. He would often use emotional and psychological abuse to control and manipulate Helena, and on multiple occasions, using their ADHD and other diagnoses against them and gaslighting them. This intense use of emotional and psychological abuse left Helena feeling totally unsure of themselves and like they were going "crazy". As Helena identifies as non-binary, Jack would also continually misidentify them as she/her. Feeling hopeless, Helena self-referred to a specialist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family violence service, who referred them to GSI.

Initially, Helena was very reserved and minimised the violence Jack has used, gradually Helena became more comfortable with workers and engaged in family violence psychoeducation. This education helped Helena identify patterns of control and abuse.

Helena mentioned they wanted to attend art therapy as they love painting. Helena was hesitant and wasn't sure if they were ready. Over time, Helena began engaging in art therapy and became a weekly participant. Helena was able to use art making to express and reclaim a part of their personal experience that they had not felt safe to do previously. Helena's engagement in art therapy and other therapeutic programmes was a huge part of their healing journey.

Eventually, GSI was able to support Helena to find safe and long-term social housing, and with the help of a partner organisation, fully furnish the home so it was ready to move into.

Project Updates

In 2024, GSI established the Culture and Events Committee to organise events and activities that celebrate and promote diversity within the Good Samaritan Inn community. This committee aims to engage clients, staff members, and volunteers in meaningful ways. Additionally, it will reinforce our commitment to a diverse and inclusive culture by raising awareness of important cultural events and ensuring culturally-sensitive practice remains embedded across the organisation.

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

In developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), GSI began a collaborative partnership with Reconciliation Australia, an independent not-for-profit organisation promoting and facilitating reconciliation by building relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The RAP (Reflect: Building Strong Foundations) formalises GSI's commitment to reconciliation and continuous improvement and provides a structured approach to advance reconciliation.

Our Plan, endorsed in March 2024, aims to engage staff and leaders in understanding the importance of reconciliation, developing relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, and scoping where our organisation can best make a positive contribution.

The beautiful Artwork Wayaparra by Madison Connors was commission for our RAP Report. Wayaparra aims to depict a powerful vision of collective progress towards justice and reconciliation.



Wayaparra by Madison Connors

Rainbow Tick Accreditation

After a period of planning and preparation work, our Rainbow Tick Accreditation audit with QIP was undertaken in March this year. We are very pleased and proud to say that Good Samaritan Inn was awarded full accreditation against the Rainbow Tick Standards (ED 3)

The six standards captured our organisational capability, workforce development and consumer participation in the planning and continuous development of the service. They also recognise the ongoing commitment GSI upholds to providing welcoming, accessible and safe space for all.

An essential part of GSI's work is to understand and respect the whole person, and their intersectionality by taking a holistic, strengths-based approach to service delivery and support. That approach provided a very strong foundation and impetus for LGBTIQ inclusive practice and for GSI being a safe space. Our staff are passionate about working with people in a supportive, respectful manner that is responsive to the intersectionality of needs, and the range of diversities that people present with.



The Spiritual Healing Trail

In 2024, GSI staff participated in a Spiritual Healing Trail at Darebin Park with Uncle Trevor.

Centring the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and celebrating their connection to Country, this beautiful activity was an intimate opportunity to promote a greater sense of connection to the land where we reside and work, to others and most importantly ourselves.



Supporting Clients to Build Safe and Comfortable Homes.

GSI is committed to enhancing its partnership with YouMatter, an organization dedicated to supporting family violence agencies and donation partners in creating safe homes for women and children escaping abuse. Once a client's home is secured, GSI case manager's collaborate with YouMatter to furnish each residence according to the client's specific needs and circumstances. This approach ensures that women are provided with fully equipped and comfortable homes, empowering them to regain stability, independence, and reconnect with their community. We deeply value and appreciate this partnership.



Our Supporters

The Victorian State Government

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Family Safety Victoria

The Australian Government

Department of Social Services (Safe Places Grant Funding, announced June 2024).

Our Generous Supporters

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to generous individuals, parishes, community groups, businesses and schools who collectively contributed **\$151,312** in donations in support of our important work.

Special thanks to:

Our Major Donors

Blessed Sacrament Fathers
Carolyn Walker
Chris Collett
Claudia Simpson
Collins & Co
Constable Family
Darebin Women's Sports Club
Daniel Deleo and Virtue Concrete & Building Pty Ltd
DECJUBA Foundation & Tank Foundation
Denis Minogue
Estate Ivan Laszlo Zaar
Fr John McCarthy
Fr Kevin Broderick Memorial Trust
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Good Samaritan Sisters, Melbourne
Joe Konyenbourg
Julie Ryan
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Kerrin Considine
Lynne Collins
Mark Ballinger
Maureen Bedson Foundation
MF Foundation
Myer Community Fund

Reborn Hair, Thornbury
Rotary Club of Preston
SantaLink
Sisters of Sion
Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem
St Joseph's Mews Social Committee
StreetSmart Australia
Within Reach Integrated Network
Women on Wheels

Catholic Parishes and Organisations

Archdiocese of Melbourne
Catholic Development Fund
Catholic Social Services Victoria
Epping Catholic Women's League of Victoria
Fr Aloysius Nato
Fr Bill Edebohls

Supporting Schools

Loyola College
Santa Maria College
St Bernard's School
St Columba's College
St Mary's Star of the Sea College
Parade College





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