



Acknowledgement of Country

Good Samaritan Inn (GSI) 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.



Commitment to Inclusive and Intersectional Practice

GSI has a deep commitment to welcoming and providing respectful support to women, gender diverse people, children and young people. We embrace and celebrate the diversity of our staff and the families we support, including those with intersectional identities, First Nations people, LGBITQA+ communities, culturally and racially marginalised communities, all ages, abilities, faiths and lived experiences.

Acknowledgment of Victim Survivors

GSI honours the strength and courage of the women, children and young people who have experienced, or continue to experience, family violence, including those within our community and workforce. We recognise the expertise that comes from lived experience and the vital role of victim survivors' voices, insights and advocacy in shaping safe, responsive and effective services. Their experiences inspire our work and strengthen our commitment to a future free from family violence.



Front Cover Artwork - Emma Stenhouse, painting commissioned for The Inn.

Emma Stenhouse is a proud Ngarrindjeri woman and a contemporary indigenous artist on a journey of self discovery, deepening her connection with her family, exploring her heritage, and inspired by her love of Country. Emma encapsulates her knowledge in her story works formed by her deep relationship to land and guided by strong female role models in her community.

Growing up in Broken Hill Outback New South Wales, Emma intrinsically draws on her connection to the arid lands of the bush. This is often evident in her use of colours inspired by the red dirt, and the simple concepts of nurturing nature and to continue its growth and sustainability. She now resides by the beach and explores the shades of green and blue reflected in the region. The lush green fields, hills and the blues of the many waterways and the Southern Ocean.

Emma is an Educator and is passionate about sharing her experience and culture through her art practice within her classrooms and in workshops. As a multifaceted creative, she explores diverse art practices influenced by her journey. Each art piece is braided with learning, an enriching exchange between artist and viewer, a continuation of culture - a platform for cross cultural exchange.

Contents

Chair's Report	2
CEO's Report	4
Our People	5
Our Impact	6
<i>Who we support</i>	6
<i>Celebrating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion</i>	7
<i>The Inn</i>	8
<i>Outreach Program</i>	9
<i>The Haven</i>	10
<i>Therapeutic Programs</i>	11
<i>Children and Young People</i>	12
<i>The Village</i>	14
<i>Women In Work</i>	15
<i>Family Violence Education Program</i>	16
Our Financials	17
Our Supporters	18
Donor Highlights	19

Chair's Report

"Let all guests who arrive be received as Christ."

-The Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 53

Building places of refuge. Building futures.
As I reflected on the year that has been, I found myself returning to a simple question:
What are we really building?

At one level, the answer is obvious. We are establishing the Good Samaritan Village, consolidating the Good Samaritan Haven and continuing to expand our capacity to respond to women and children experiencing family violence and homelessness.

But the Board's work this year has been about building something far greater than new facilities.

We have been building an organisation that will continue to serve future generations with the same courage, compassion and hope that inspired the Sisters of the Good Samaritan almost thirty years ago and in their original work.

The challenges confronting women and children today are profound. Family violence continues to affect thousands of families across Victoria and Australia, while the shortage of safe and affordable housing leaves many with nowhere to turn. Every day, women arrive at Good Samaritan Inn (GSI) carrying stories of trauma, loss and uncertainty. Every day, our staff respond with professionalism, kindness and an unwavering belief that lives can be rebuilt.

That belief lies at the heart of GSI.

As a Board, our responsibility is to ensure that this mission remains strong—not only for those seeking support today, but also for those who will need our services in the decades ahead. Good governance is therefore much more than oversight, compliance or financial accountability. It is an expression of stewardship. It is about making wise decisions today that preserve and strengthen the mission entrusted to us for tomorrow.

Throughout the year, the Board has continued to provide strategic leadership through careful oversight of organisational performance, financial sustainability, risk management, compliance and the ongoing support and accountability of our Chief Executive Officer. We have also undertaken a Board evaluation, recognising that as GSI continues to grow, our governance must continue to evolve alongside it.

One of the most significant milestones this year has been the continued development of the Good Samaritan Haven and the commencement of the Good Samaritan Village project.

The Haven has already demonstrated the transformative impact that stable, supported accommodation can have on women and children rebuilding their lives after crisis. The Village now represents the next chapter in that journey. It is the largest capital investment in the history of GSI and reflects our determination to respond to increasing community need with facilities that are contemporary, welcoming and designed around the dignity of every resident.

Yet buildings alone do not change lives.

Buildings provide safety. People create hope.

The true strength of GSI has always been found in the extraordinary people who bring our mission to life each day—our staff, volunteers, leadership team and the many partners who walk beside us. Their compassion, expertise and commitment transform accommodation into community and support into opportunity.

The Board has also remained focused on ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organisation. Responsible financial stewardship has been a central priority throughout the year. While demand for services continues to increase, so too does the importance of securing sustainable operational funding that enables GSI not only to exist, but to thrive. We have continued to advocate strongly with government and funding partners to ensure that the Haven and the future Village are supported by the resources necessary to deliver the high-quality services our community expects and deserves.

On behalf of the Board, I acknowledge the outstanding leadership of our Chief Executive Officer, Jemma Mead. Jemma has led the organisation with clarity, integrity and a deep commitment to the women and children we serve. Together with the Executive Team, she has continued to strengthen organisational capability while ensuring that every strategic decision remains grounded in our mission and values.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to every member of staff and every volunteer. Much of your work occurs quietly and away from public attention, yet its impact is immeasurable. Every conversation, every act of encouragement and every practical gesture of support contributes to restoring confidence, dignity and hope for women and children at some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives.

This year, I particularly acknowledge the Sisters of the Good Samaritan as GSI approaches thirty years of ministry. Their vision continues to inspire us. What began as a courageous response to local need has grown into an organisation that now provides refuge, advocacy and opportunity for hundreds of women and children each year. While our services have expanded, our purpose remains unchanged: to welcome, to accompany and to offer hope.

The Board is equally grateful to our government partners, philanthropic foundations, donors, corporate supporters and the wider community. Your confidence in GSI enables us to continue investing in services that make a genuine and lasting difference.

I also wish to thank my fellow Directors and Company Members. Their generosity of time, professional expertise and commitment to thoughtful governance have been invaluable throughout another year of significant decisions and opportunities. It is a privilege to serve alongside people who care so deeply about the future of GSI.

As we look towards the next year, we do so with confidence and optimism. Construction of the Good Samaritan Village will begin to transform vision into reality. We will continue advocating for sustainable operational funding, strengthening our governance, investing in our people and building the partnerships that enable our mission to flourish.

Almost thirty years ago, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan responded to a simple question:
How can we help?

Today, the question remains the same.

Our response continues to grow.

Every place of refuge we create helps build a future where women and children can live free from violence, reclaim their dignity and rediscover hope.

It is an honour to serve as Chair of GSI and to work alongside so many people who share this vision for a more compassionate and just community.

Patricia Bergin
GSI Board Chair

Chief Executive Officer's Report

I am proud to present this CEO Report for GSI. Since joining the organisation in October 2025, I have been deeply impressed by the strength of its mission, the dedication of its people, and the enduring legacy of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, who first opened their doors almost thirty years ago to support people experiencing homelessness and family violence. Today, GSI has grown into a team of 33 staff providing crisis, short- and medium-term accommodation and specialist support for women, gender diverse people, children and young people experiencing family violence.

Family violence continues to escalate across our communities, causing profound and lasting harm to victim survivors, including children and young people. As demand across the service system continues to exceed capacity, GSI has made significant investments in service expansion over the past five years to meet need with compassion, innovation and practical support.

Alongside our communal refuge, The Inn, which supports seven families at any one time, we have developed The Haven with the support of Family Safety Victoria, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and the generous use of a Parish building. Opened in November 2025, The Haven provides 10 self-contained apartments and a new healing and recovery model for families beyond crisis and refuge. Families can access accommodation for up to 12 months, together with wraparound family violence therapeutic support, housing assistance, employment coaching, education pathways and life coaching. This model supports victim survivors to set and achieve long-term goals, rebuild their sense of self, and imagine a safer future beyond family violence.

We have also continued to strengthen our accommodation response through the purchase of three houses, made possible through a loan from the Good Samaritan Sisters. Together with our own capital investment and funding from the Australian Government Department of Social Services Safe Places Inclusion Grants, this has enabled the development of The Village, a 10-apartment core and cluster refuge due to open in July 2027.

Our vision for growth is grounded in our commitment to creating safe environments and empowering those affected by family violence to thrive. Through inclusive, therapeutic and high-quality support, we continue to place children, young people, women and gender diverse people at the centre of all that we do.

I also acknowledge the important contribution of our Outreach Worker, our Women in Work program, and our therapeutic team. Together, these supports help people reconnect with education and employment, access counselling, art therapy and garden therapy, and receive holistic care that complements our accommodation and case management services.

We couldn't do our work without the support of our government, philanthropic, and community partners. A full list is included in this report, and we thank you all for being part of our story.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our staff, Board and partner organisations, whose commitment, expertise and passion are evident every day. I would particularly like to acknowledge Julie Jenkin, who was Acting Executive Director when I began and who welcomed me so warmly into the organisation. I am grateful to continue working alongside her today.

Most of all, I thank the families who place their trust in GSI and allow us to walk alongside them on their journey of healing and recovery.

As GSI approaches its 30th anniversary, we do so with deep respect for our history and a clear commitment to the future. In the decade ahead, we will continue to deepen and expand our services, strengthen our partnerships and support more women, gender diverse people, children and young people in their journey to safety, recovery and hope.

Jemma Mead
Chief Executive Officer

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
Dr Ronnie Egan
Scott Hartley
Dr Tuba Boz

GSI Board Committees

Governance & Standards Committee
Development Committee
Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

GSI Company Members

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

GSI Staff

CEO and management

Jemma Mead, CEO (October 2025 – current)
Julie Jenkin, Quality and Risk Manager (Acting ED until October 2025)
Anthea Silom, Finance Manager (March 2026 – current)
Emma Gibson, People and Culture Manager (March 2026 – current)
Cymantha Thompson, Client Services & Practice Manager
Nardine Keriakous, Service Planning & Development Manager
Beverley Johnston, Finance & Risk Manager (until March 2026)

Case management/support practitioners, therapeutic facilitators, facility management and operations

Alicia	Marcella
Anne	Maria
Annette	Marika
Arley	Michelle
Chloe	Milva
Cigdem	Naomi
Diana	Nisha
Emma	Noeline
Erin	Patricia
Flick	Rachel
Freya	Rah
Gurinder	Sarah
Hannah	Stevie
Irena	Tash
Isabel	Vanessa
Jess	Vesna J
Kendra	Vesna S

Student Placements:

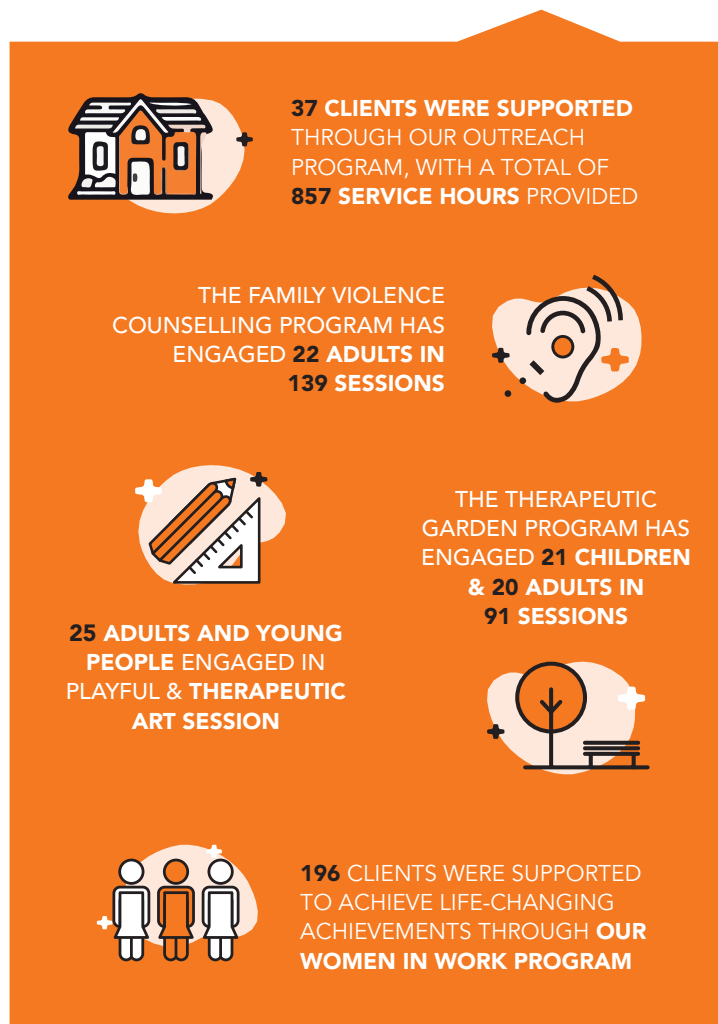
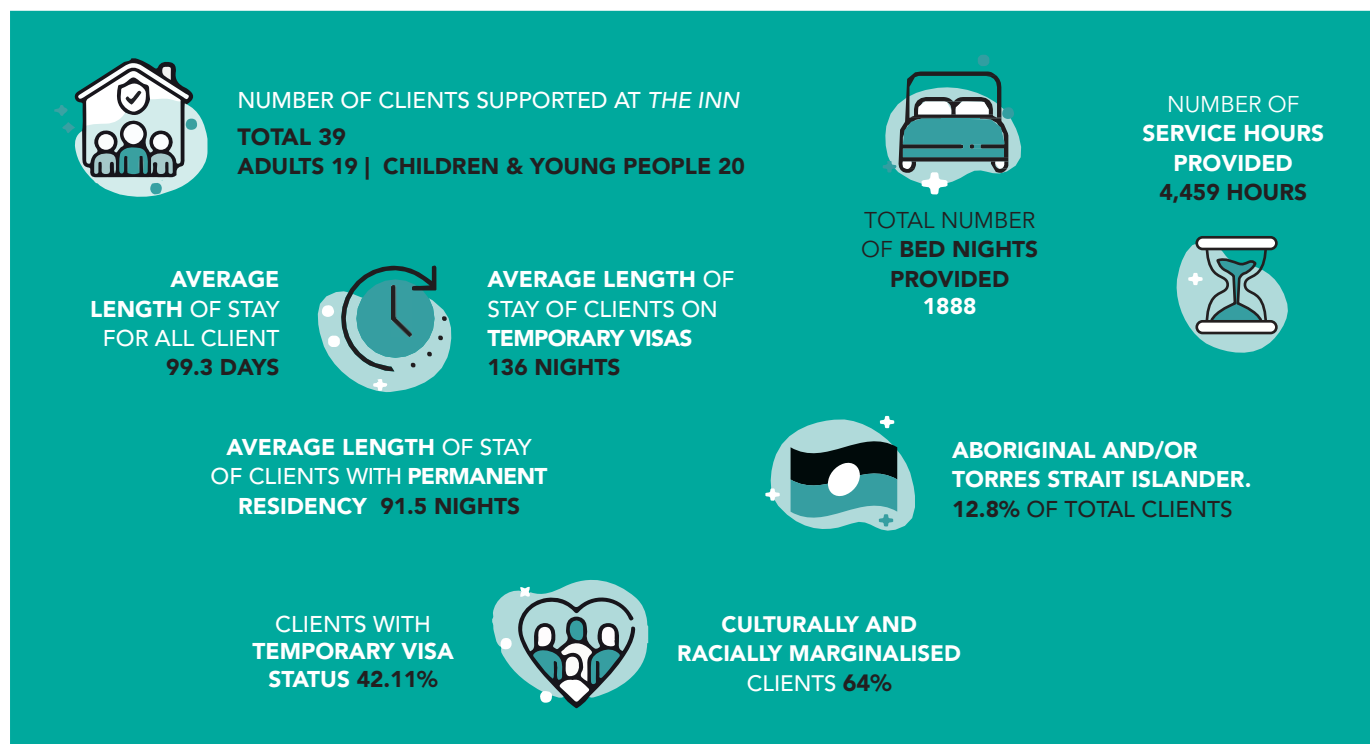
Alicia	Tiara
Charli	Haneen

Special thanks to our dedicated volunteers, who continually support us at The Inn:

Tim Rankin

Our Impact

Who we support



Celebrating Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

With support from the Maureen Bedson Foundation, GSI has continued to strengthen its commitment to celebrating diversity and fostering an inclusive culture across the GSI community, including clients, staff members and volunteers. Cultural and diversity-focused events and activities are now supported through GSI's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, which provides an ongoing focus on meaningful opportunities to celebrate culture, raise awareness of important issues and ensure culturally sensitive and inclusive practice remains embedded across the organisation.



These events include:

- NAIDOC Week
- Wear It Purple Day
- IDAHOBIT Day
- Christmas celebration
- Invasion Day
- Ramadan – Traditional foods made available and shared among guests, paper lantern making activity.
- Eid al Fitr
- Easter Sunday
- Mother's Day – morning tea gifts and flowers provided at The Inn
- Regular shared traditional meals – led by guests at The Inn, residents at The Haven or GSI staff

The highlight of the program was the day residents from both The Inn and The Haven along with staff members met at the Darebin Parklands with Gunditjmara Elder Uncle Trevor Gallagher to walk the Spiritual Healing trail followed by a delicious lunch prepared by one of the residents. In one exchange Uncle Trevor said to a resident at The Haven who has experienced racism: 'Don't let people tell you, 'You don't belong', tell them an Aboriginal Elder told you that you are welcome', powerfully affirming her connection to this place. Feedback from the day included a guest from The Inn saying, 'For those of us who don't sleep it is so good to be out and walking with the trees and the blue sky' and later, 'The Aboriginal people were here and they are still here and they will be here – it gives us – people who have faced problems - hope.

A guest from The Haven said ***'I loved it – I want to do it again'.***



The Inn

The Inn is our communal family violence refuge with 7 family rooms, communal kitchen and dining room, children's playroom, counselling room, meeting room, staff offices, art studio and therapeutic garden and playground. The refuge is a secure, undisclosed site that is staffed 24 hours a day. Women and gender diverse people, as well as their children and young people, are provided with risk assessments, safety planning, case management support, family violence counselling, art therapy, garden therapy and referrals to a range of other services. This year the Inn supported 39 people, including 19 adults and 20 children. Children and young people are supported in their own right as victim/ survivors of family violence and are enrolled in local childcare and school, if safe and appropriate to do so.

"Having constant support from case managers and case support workers has been so helpful during my time at GSI."

– Guest GSI

When Justine, a 32-year-old mother of three from rural Victoria, came to GSI, she was rebuilding her life after completing rehabilitation and working towards reunification with her two older children. Over 166 days in refuge and with 1,079 hours of support, she navigated complex and intersecting challenges, including family violence risk, grief and trauma, recovery from substance use, Child Protection involvement, housing instability and the daily work of re-establishing safety for herself and her children. Through 24-hour secure refuge, trauma-informed case management, safety planning, advocacy, legal support and practical assistance, GSI worked alongside Justine to help her family remain connected, supported and safe.

With sustained, flexible support, Justine continued her recovery journey, strengthened her parenting capacity and was reunited with her children. The family successfully completed a six-month family preservation order, Child Protection closed its involvement, and Justine secured long-term social housing and a furnished home. Her children returned to school, joined sport and accessed further educational and developmental support, while Justine regained independence through support with her driver's licence and access to a donated car. The GSI Outreach Worker continued to provide support to Justine while the family settled into their new home. Her story reflects the powerful impact of holistic, relationship-based support in helping families move from crisis and uncertainty towards safety, stability and renewed independence.

"The Inns impact extends far beyond crisis accommodation. The service provided safety during periods of acute risk, supported women and their children through recovery from trauma, facilitated access to housing and financial stability, and enabled families to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope."

– Cym, Client Services and Practice Manager – The Inn



"Everyone has been so amazing helping me to achieve things. I would never have managed it on my own and I never felt like I was asking too much. Being here was definitely what I needed to become stable enough to continue on independently with the kids."

– Guest GSI

Outreach Program

Once families leave The Inn, GSI's Outreach Program walks alongside women and children for 12 months as they rebuild their lives after family violence. This year, the program supported 37 families and provided 857 hours of service. 57% of the families supported were born overseas and 14% identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. The outreach program has helped families find long term housing and turn empty houses into warm, fully furnished homes with the support of charity organisations. Our Outreach Worker stood beside women through court, Centrelink, Child Protection, schools, childcare, housing, immigration and many other challenges. They celebrated families gaining permanent residency, citizenship, employment, education and financial security and supported young mums, older women, and children, making sure no one had to face their journey alone.

But the work is much more than paperwork and appointments. It's about listening, believing, encouraging and giving hope, sharing many laughs, tears and milestones together. The worker delivered Christmas and Mother's Day hampers, celebrated new beginnings, and built trusting relationships that reminded families they were valued and cared for.

"I often felt that my role was like a warm blanket on a cold winter day, providing safety, comfort and strength until each family could stand on their own. Watching women grow in confidence, create safe homes and build brighter futures for themselves and their children has been the greatest privilege of this program." – Gurin Outreach Case Manager



The Haven

This year, GSI opened its second accommodation service, The Haven. In February, 4 families moved into their new homes and by May, all 10 apartments were occupied. The Haven is a transformative new facility designed to provide safety, stability, and hope for women, trans and gender diverse people, children and young people impacted by family violence. The Haven offers 10 self-contained apartments where families can stay for 12 months, and welcoming community spaces where individuals and families can heal, grow, and rebuild their lives. The Haven offers an opportunity for residents to build and participate in a safe community within which healing and recovery is fostered and shared amongst the members. Therapeutically led support, is the way in which The Haven engages with the residents and invites them to set future, long-term goals at a pace that will build confidence, self-sufficiency and develop sustainable economic independence.

Women and gender diverse people, as well as their children and young people, are provided with coaching and housing support, family violence counselling, art therapy, garden therapy, employment and training support and referrals to a range of other services. The Haven highlights and prioritises victim survivors' independence— for both adults and children - as they move through creating safe and healthy relationships, building and participating in a community with which they can share their growth. Often coming from a place of isolation, victim survivors entering The Haven establish ways to play and set boundaries they can trust, re-learning that they are not alone and that communities can help build safety.

"A 6yo boy walked up to a 7yo girl who had just moved in. Without formally introducing himself, he asked her: 'Do you live here now? Do you do gardening?' and promptly set about showing her his newly sprouted broccoli and baby potatoes by way of welcome".

With no other service in Victoria offering a Healing and Recovery accommodation model for victim survivors, The Haven has become a place for celebrating achievements and ongoing reflection. The staff embed this approach to ensure the service is having the intended impact on residents, with the team reflecting; 'Is the way we are working going to leave residents after 12 months feeling empowered, independent, confident and capable of navigating their lives beyond support from GSI?'



"I came into it expecting to be very isolated. I had mad anxiety about socialising with people again I didn't know." But the friendships I have formed with the other ladies have been a highlight. Random kitchen conversations, going to the farm together, cooked dinner together the other night. Everyone's been friendly"

Therapeutic Programs

Therapeutic Program at The Haven

With the expansion of the therapeutic programs across all GSI sites, greater collaboration has been required as clients may be accessing different parts of the service- starting as a guest at the Inn before becoming a resident at the Haven or moving into Outreach; and often working alongside our Women In Work coaches. This has allowed for a strengthening of the work between programs.

As our first intake of residents settled into their new apartments at The Haven, so too did our therapeutic team settle into a new rhythm of work. Each resident was given the opportunity to meet the therapeutic practitioners in their early days at the Haven, before meeting regularly with the Senior Practitioner to develop considered and personalised therapeutic and recovery goals- these have been far reaching, and range from improved sleep and reduced nightmares to building parenting capacity, processing traumatic memories, navigating systems, and even commencing Victims of Crime or Redress Scheme applications. This collaborative goal setting process helps to create a tailored Healing & Recovery Plan for each resident, identifying relevant on-site support options within our Counselling, Art Therapy and Garden Therapy programs; or illuminating the need for external therapeutic referrals to partner agencies.

As the work has deepened, practitioners have noted that the Haven has given residents the opportunity to engage in targeted trauma processing work, deepening their understanding of their experiences of violence and reducing the impact of these memories. For many residents, this is an essential step before more practical goals of systems navigation and financial capacity building can be tackled.

As the Haven celebrates its six month anniversary, feedback from residents and therapeutic practitioners has highlighted the benefits of current group programs within art and garden therapy, and the appetite among residents for more opportunities to share experiences and support one another.

"I have really enjoyed attending art therapy sessions while being at Haven. I found the sessions to be both insightful and enjoyable, and they gave me a chance to express myself creatively in a relaxed and comfortable environment. I have learnt things about myself through the different activities and found the sessions to be a positive and calming experience. The art therapist created a welcoming space where I felt comfortable participating and being myself."



"I like gardening so much- it soothes something inside me"

Therapeutic Garden Program

The Therapeutic Garden Program offers activities including planting and harvesting, making a worm farm, a butterfly feeding station and gecko habitat, nature craft, cooking with produce, facilitated play with loose natural objects, place based community art making and school holiday activities and excursions to local parklands, helping residents feel grounded in Wurundjeri Country.

Children have eagerly watched their plants growing. They recently picked broccoli, carrots, parsley, coriander and chard. One child raced off to ask their Mum to make them into a meal. Soon after they came offering bowls of delicious soup. A three-year-old guest greets me each week saying, 'I love the garden, the garden is growing'.

Culturally supportive elements of the program have offered guests the opportunity to choose relevant food plants for their cooking and for community lunches. We have also benefitted from the richness of guest-initiated ideas such as the community painting of the Rainbow Serpent to mark Reconciliation Week and a visit to the Spiritual Healing Trail at Darebin Parklands to celebrate NAIDOC week.

Children and Young People

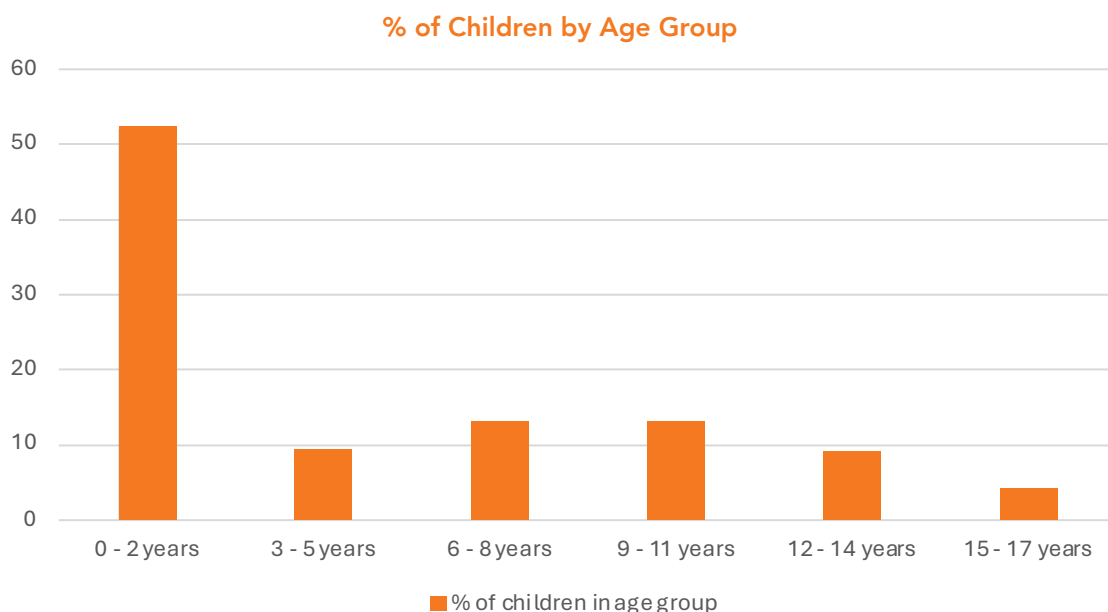
Half the clients supported by GSI are children and young people aged 0-18 years. Of these children and young people, 12% identified as being from a First Nations background and 64% were from culturally and racially marginalised communities.

GSI recognises children and young people as victim survivors in their own right and child case plans are developed to assess and identify individual supports each child may need.

In 2025/26, GSI proudly supported an expectant mother through the birth of her child. This included planning for the baby's arrival and providing information and support relating to healthcare and parenting, helping to ensure the mother and baby were supported during this significant transition. Several families were supported to safely re-engage children and young people with education and community activities. This included enrolments in local primary and secondary schools,

childcare and playgroups, supporting children's development, education and wellbeing and providing opportunities to build connections within their school and local community. GSI supported a child to safely re-engage with their play therapist and providing transport to reduce the risk of surveillance and support the child's safe access to therapeutic services.

Children and young people were also supported to address their health and developmental needs, which included coordinating appointments with the local community health centre for dental hygiene, facilitating access to local GPs, access to Maternal Child Health Nurse on site and supporting a child to obtain appropriate developmental assessment through their school. Lastly, children participate in and enjoyed weekly Art Therapy and Sensory Garden programs. These programs provided opportunities for children to engage in creative, sensory and therapeutic activities in a safe and supportive environment.





A child's story of healing at GSI

Recently a small child aged two and a half years old came to The GSI. She was withdrawn, anxious to stay close to her mother, protectively shutting everything else out of her world, her face creased with worry. Strawberries were the first thing to draw her out of herself a little. For her first play in the garden she tentatively helped search for Alpine strawberries. This was fun and she was soon finding and eating them with a big smile saying 'strawberry'. Being outside she had the opportunity to be in her body - to taste, to touch, and lose herself in water and sand play. She determinedly worked out how to use the water pump – holding a container under the spout while pumping – a challenging task - carefully negotiating stones and rocks to carry the water to the sand. She collected lemons in a 'truck', announcing "lemon" triumphantly every time she found one and watered the garden with a small watering can.

Her mother was concerned that her child did not seek out other children. Once she had settled at The Inn the

child began watching children playing, her expression concentrated and serious. Her quiet careful observation slowly becoming parallel play. She and other children played together in the Garden developing a ritual of busily making sand ice-creams, playing on the slide and collecting strawberries, lemons and limes. The child appeared to be building social confidence and relational safety as the play was repeated.

Over time at The Inn the worry lines in her face have loosened, she smiles readily now laughing along with her friends. She initiates her own ideas and makes her needs known with her new language skills. She has begun childcare, creating connections that will continue after she leaves The Inn. She has experienced being an important part of a small group of children and a community that her mother describes as 'kind' and which delights in who she is. Her mother has watched the child's new social-self emerge with relief and gratitude that she and her child have been held by many people at The Inn while in this time of crisis in their lives.

The Village

GSI is pleased to announce that construction of our new core and cluster refuge in Darebin, **The Village**, has now commenced. Scheduled to open in July 2027, **The Village** will comprise 10 self-contained apartments with a total of 22 bedrooms, providing crisis accommodation for women, gender-diverse people, children, and young people escaping family violence.

The apartments will offer individuals and families safety, privacy, independence, and dignity, alongside access to on-site case management, therapeutic counselling, art therapy, garden therapy, coaching, employment programs, and specialist support for children and young people. The Village will also feature a community

meeting room, counselling rooms, a therapeutic garden, courtyards or balconies for each apartment, pet-friendly options, and three apartments specifically designed to accommodate a range of disabilities.

Priority will be given to Aboriginal women and children and those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, particularly women without permanent residency.

GSI is pleased to be working with Affordable Housing Solutions and Stemcon for the construction of **The Village**. The project has been generously funded by the Australian Government Safe Places Inclusion Round grant, GSI, and the Sisters of the Good Samaritan.



Women in Work



Women In Work is an employment and coaching program supporting people who have experienced family violence to rebuild independence, confidence and resilience. Through family violence-specialist coaching grounded in evidence-based practice, the program helps survivors focus on healing, reconnect with their strengths and plan for a more secure future.

Beautiful ladies!

Thank you so much for this incredibly thoughtful surprise. Reading the words, "For not giving up, being resilient, self-driven and courageous," genuinely made me cry — but this time, they were tears of happiness.

Women in work participants demonstrate courage and commitment as they begin or re-engage with their recovery and employment journeys, taking meaningful steps towards independence, education pathways and sustainable work. The participants consistently attend coaching appointments, allowing for regular review and prioritisation of their goals. During these sessions, we identify and address barriers to employment, and other areas of their lives, developing practical strategies to overcome challenges and maintain progress.

During the year, Women In Work strengthened its reach and impact by developing 36 business partnerships and receiving referrals from 15 organisations. The program supported 196 clients with practical employment preparation, including confidence building, CV updates, job searching, interview preparation, recognising personal strengths and reflecting on progress.

Key challenges included securing suitable employment that met individual needs, navigating lengthy recruitment processes, rebuilding confidence after job rejections, developing the right business partnerships, supporting participants on temporary visas and addressing underemployment where hours were reduced after work commenced.

Throughout their job search journey, participants experience these setbacks and periods of disappointment. Despite these challenges, participants show significant perseverance by continuing to engage with feedback, refine their approach, practise, and remain focused on their long-term objectives.

I really appreciate this from the bottom of my heart. The gift itself is incredibly kind, but the words behind it mean even more to me.

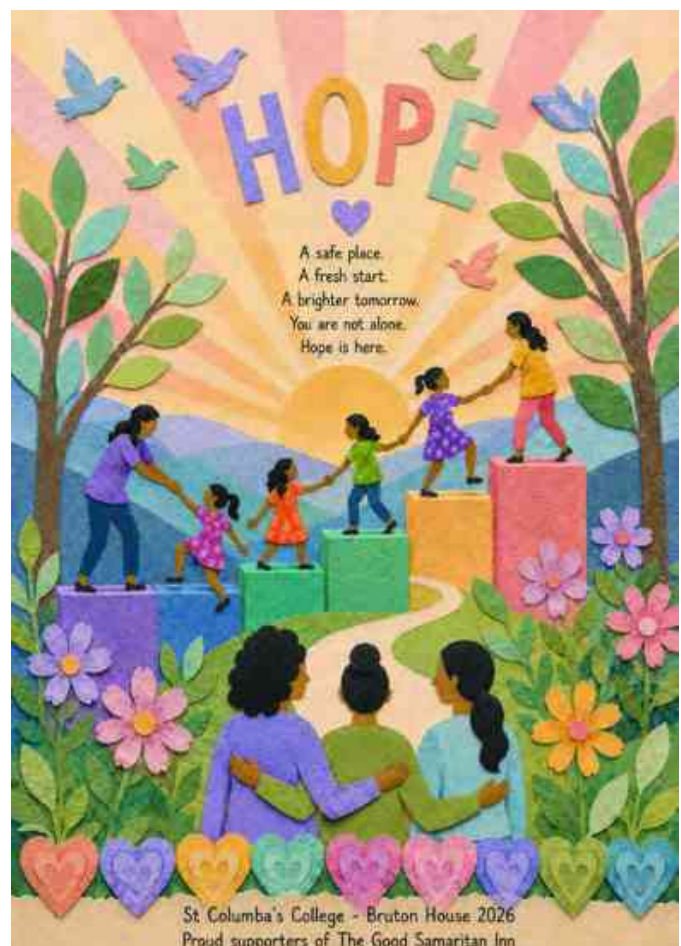
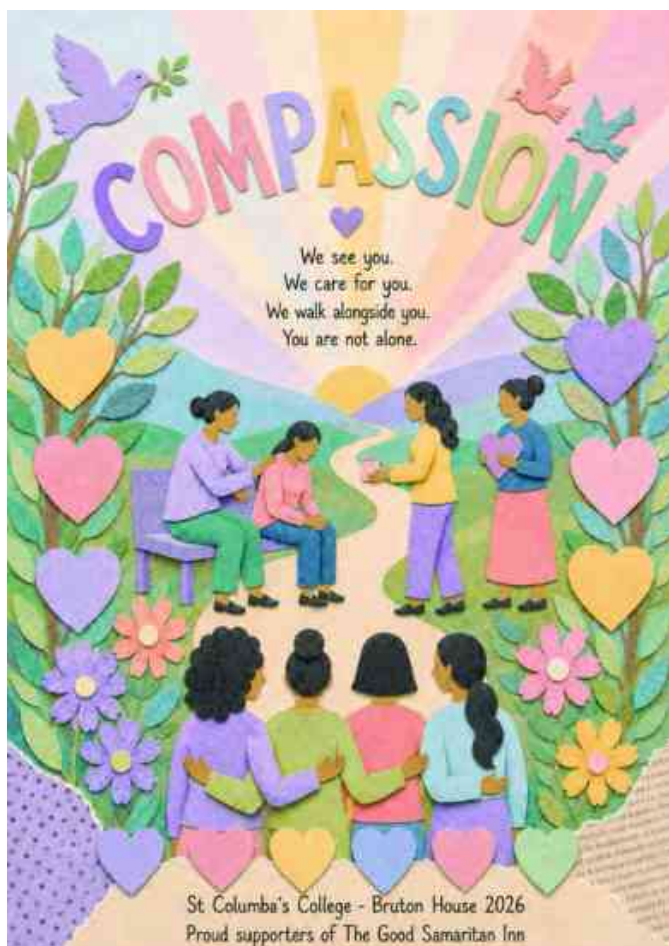
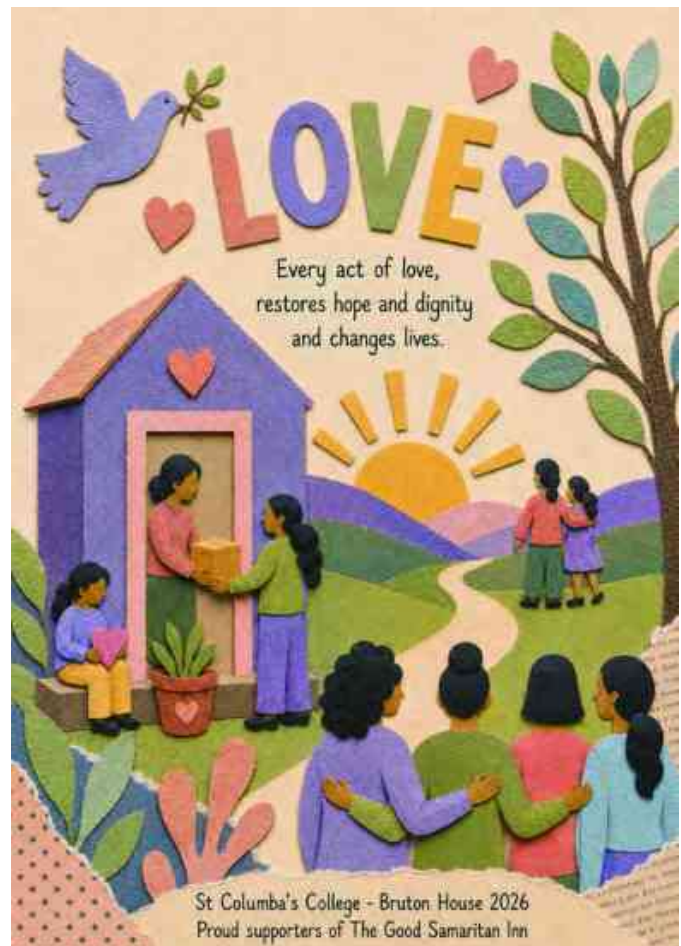
Family Violence Education Program

GSI is committed to collaborating with local schools on the prevention of family violence. Our staff work alongside teachers and wellbeing staff to deliver workshops on respectful relationships, recognising unhealthy behaviours and family violence and how to seek support.

We would like to thank the following schools for inviting us to work with their wonderful young people:

- Santa Maria College Northcote
- Parade College Preston
- St Columba's College Essendon
- St Patrick's College Sydney

We would especially like to thank the students from St Columba's College Bruton House who have selected GSI as their nominated charity. The students raised money to purchase an electric barbecue for the residents of the Haven, which will bring the residents together for community meals. They also worked with their art department to create three artworks, with messages of hope, love and compassion for our guests, which are now hanging in The Haven and The Inn.



Our Financials

This year, we continued to deliver essential services while investing in people, places and future capacity.

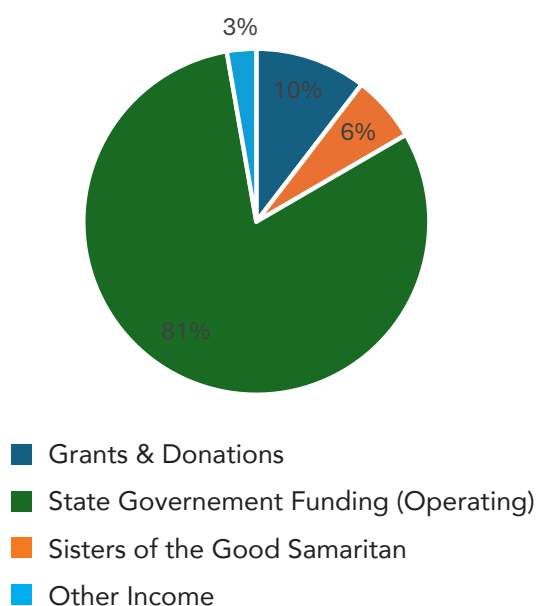
Operating income increased by 14% to **\$3.15m**, with Victorian Government funding remaining our primary source of operating income.

A further **\$1.8m** in capital funding supported investment in both The Haven and The Village.

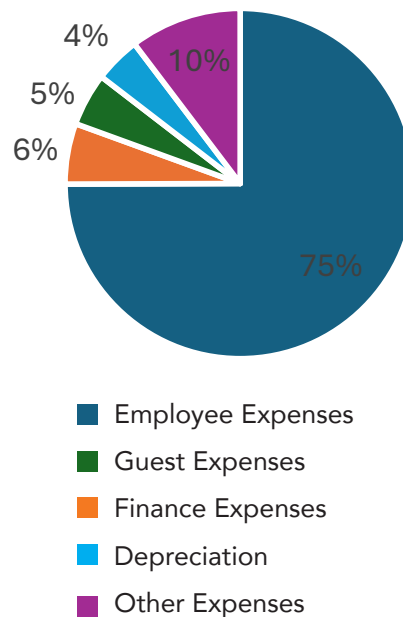
74.5% of our **\$3.3m** operating expenditure was spent on our people.

A further **\$2.36m** was invested in property and equipment, with the majority supporting The Haven and The Village.

Sources of Operating Funding



Operating Expenditure



For GSI's full financial records please see The Australian Charities and No-for-profits Commission website – www.acnc.gov.au

Our Supporters

With special thanks to:

The Victorian State Government

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Family Safety Victoria

Australian Government (Safe Places Inclusion Round)

Sisters of the Good Samaritan

GoodSams Foundation

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to generous individuals, parishes, community groups, businesses and schools who have supported our important work.

Our Donors and Community Partners

Alphington Community Carols
Affordable Housing Solutions
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
Banyule Council
Birth for Humankind
Country Women's Association – Alphington Branch
Catholic Development Fund
Catholic Social Services Victoria
Father Kevin Broderick Memorial Trust
Freemasons Foundation
Inner North Community Foundation
Launch Housing
Meter Technology Australia Pty Ltd
Maureen Bedson Foundation
MF Foundation
Myer Community Fund and Staff
at Myer Melbourne Store
Perpetual
Regenerate
RMIT University
St Joseph of the Apparition
Stemcon
Street Smart
Thread Together
WomenCan
Zumba Ivanhoe

Supporting Schools

Lourdes Hill College
Mater Christi College
Parade College
Sacred Heart Primary School
Santa Maria College
St Columba's College Essendon
St Monica's College

Individuals

Andrew	Kerry
Anita	Kirsty
Anne	Lucy
Bernadette	Lynne
Carolyn	Mary
Carmel	Matt
Chris	Melinda
Christine	Melissa
Constable	Merle
Danielle	Michael
Diane	Patricia
Donald	Patricia
Emily	Pauline
James	Peter
Jill	Raelene
Julie	Rhonda
Kate	Siobhan
Katrina	

Donor Highlights

Myer Melbourne

GSI is proud to be the chosen local charity partner of Myer Melbourne. The amazing team members have undertaken fundraising activities throughout the year, raising \$64,550 to support the families at The Inn and The Haven. Their funds have provided support, therapeutic programs and material aid to women, gender diverse people, children and young people escaping family violence.



Regenerate

Regenerate and Good Samaritan continued to build a partnership grounded in a simple truth: no single organisation carries a family's recovery from violence alone. As Good Samaritan walks with families through refuge and crisis accommodation, the partnerships shared work meets the practical needs alongside that support — a furnished home where rebuilding can begin.

In the 26FY, Regenerate provided the following to GSI guests:

- furnished 11 homes
- 41 essentials packs
- 64 joy packs for children
- 176 volunteer hours
- \$72,172 total partnership value

"I didn't think I would want to do counselling when I moved to the Haven. But after meeting the counsellor, she is so nice, and really insightful! She is great"

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

In February the ASRC and Inner North Community Foundation organised a drive in Northcote, inviting people to donate nappies, sanitary products and underwear for the guests at The Inn. The response was overwhelming, filling two vans and a car. This support has provided essential items for families who often come to us with only a few bags of belongings. Thank you to ASRC and INCF and all the folks who donated.





"The kids all look forward to playing with the Garden Therapist on Thursdays"





"I didn't think I would want to do counselling when I moved to the Haven. But after meeting the counsellor, she is so nice, and really insightful! She is great"



www.goodsamaritaninn.org.au

ABN 67 164 278 666

