



**BLUE MOUNTAINS WOMEN'S
HEALTH & RESOURCE CENTRE**

ANNUAL REPORT



2023 - 2024

ABOUT US

The Blue Mountains Women’s Health & Resource Centre is a feminist, community-based organisation run by women for women. We are committed to enhancing women’s power to decide on their own health needs and to act upon them. We achieve this through redressing women’s disadvantage by promoting health, wellbeing, rights and dignity.

The success of BMWHRC stems from our grass-roots evolution and widespread support by women and the Blue Mountains community. We are leaders in service provision, community development and advocacy, ensuring women’s needs and rights are considered in the broader socio-political environment.

BMWHRC delivers services, programs and outreach activities in a culturally appropriate way by working harder to recognise and address health inequities that women experience, prioritising those within our funded focus communities.

We are proud members of the Women’s Health NSW network that is the peak body for 21 non-government women’s health centres across New South Wales.

OUR VISION

A community where women, regardless of their social and cultural background, age, ability, sexual orientation, and experience of gender, will have knowledge and control over their bodies and their lives, living freely and safely, with access to the support they need to enhance their health and well-being.

OUR PURPOSE

Using an intersectional feminist approach, we work to redress women’s disadvantage and promote women’s health and well-being. We will do this through the provision of

services to women as individuals, in groups and as part of communities.

We will be guided by principles of social justice and equity. We will actively work in partnership with others to build social structures that promote women’s rights and dignity.

Our priorities will be informed by community consultation and social research on areas that affects women’s health.

OUR FUNDING

BMWHRC receives different funding from a combination of government and other sources.

Our main funding source is received from the NSW Ministry of Health through the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District. We also receive funding from the Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ) and have been fortunate enough to receive another year’s grant from the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Each contract we enter into with these government & other sources, have their own accountability processes and focus communities that we negotiate & agree to, and are required to prioritise in our services and programs.

OUR FOCUS

Aligning with our funding, the services we provide focus on providing support to women from the following groups:

- Aboriginal (First Nations) women
- Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)
- Lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, non-binary & queer (plus)
- Women living with disability
- Women living in rural or remote/isolated areas
- Women experiencing socio economic disadvantage and homelessness
- Women carers

AGPAL ACCREDITATION

We are extremely proud to receive ‘the mark of quality’ from Australian General Practice Accreditation Limited (AGPAL). This is a major achievement for the centre as it recognises our commitment in doing our best towards achieving excellence in our client and patient care. To achieve this accreditation

our team works over a 12-month period to implement the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standards for general practices. RACGP is a recognised National benchmark for general practices and services, and a template for quality care and risk management.



Blue Mountains Women’s Health & Resource Centre staff - December 2023

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the Gundungurra and Darug people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work. We acknowledge the Elders, both past and present.

Our centre continues to be inclusive & safe for our Trans & Non-binary communities.

FROM THE CHAIR..

The Annual Report of the Blue Mountains Women’s Health and Resource Centre is a testament to the work done by our committed team of professionals. It provides an overview of the services provided to our community. These services are given with a positive, caring, wholistic approach to women’s health and wellbeing.

2023/2024 has seen many changes within the organisation of the Centre. Firstly, the appointment of a new manager, Angelique Sasagi, has seen stability brought to the BMWHRC after the challenges of the COVID years and the impact on the Centre and its services. Angelique brings a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to the role, and is successfully navigating a new future for the Centre. We welcome her and offer our appreciation for the work she has done, and continues to do.

Financially, BMWHRC has received, for the first time in many years, a boost to actual funding, not just a CPI adjustment. This has allowed the Centre to extend services.

We have increased hours for our Women’s Health Nurse and extra days for GP services. [Unfortunately, the GP position is yet to be filled, symptomatic of the demand for doctors across all areas of the community.] Some much needed administration time has been added, including reception and customer service.

We are looking at introducing Dietician and Nutritional services, and are in the process of recruiting for this position. We are also creating outreach counselling services to other areas in the mountains and Lithgow.

We farewelled counsellors, Stephanie Roper and Ursula Scott, massage therapists Sophia

Gerontakas and Audrey Mason, and Dr Miriam Brooks. We also welcomed counsellors Lizzie Blue and Kate Houlahan, support worker Daisy Darkovich, receptionist Lauren Webster, whilst Dr Alison Lyons welcomed an addition to her family.

We thank all the staff, new and assisting, for their efforts to provide exemplary health and wellbeing services throughout the year.

The Centre received Clinical Accreditation after an in-depth, external evaluation. This required an extended process of almost 12 months to review all policies and procedures used. Congratulations to all who worked on achieving this milestone.

The Management Committee currently consists of nine unpaid volunteers, who provide governance to the Centre. Their commitment and passion for our community has assisted the staffing team to manage the daily face-to-face operations.

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF:

- Maree Cairns, *Chair*
- Kerry Mumford, *Vice Chair*
- Helen Gillam, *Treasurer*
- Lesley Sammon, *Secretary and Public Officer*
- Therese Findlay, *Minutes Secretary*
- Jude Sayers
- Bev Eaton
- Megan Thomas
- Aaisha Slee

We would also like to acknowledge and thank previous committee members Tracey Keevers-Keller and Ruth Myers.



These amazing women have given freely of their time and expertise, with some of them serving for many years.

With that said, I'd like to acknowledge Helen Gillam who has been treasurer of the Management Committee for the past three years. Helen has overseen the finances of the Centre by working closely with Finance Officer, Devina Fraser, and has carefully and thoughtfully prepared reports, assisted in decision making and analysed budgets. She will be missed and our appreciation for her service is heartfelt. She leaves some very big shoes to fill!

Throughout 2023/2024, the Management Committee has undertaken to expand the membership of the BMWHRC Association, attracting 12 new members who have participated in the updating, and formation, of a new constitution [in line with new government policies]; attended some Think Tank sessions and explored how their skills can assist the Centre, and in particular, the Management Committee. They are also keen to support staff in the upcoming Community Evaluation to be undertaken shortly.



I ask you to read and consider the complete Annual Report and I'm sure you will be impressed by the range of services delivered and the depth of involvement with the Blue Mountains Community.

Maree Cairns
Chair on behalf of the Management Committee

MANAGER’S REPORT

My first presentation for last year’s Annual Report was written a couple of weeks of my commencing the Manager’s role at BMWHRC, and so it is with pleasure that I present my second report almost a year into my employ in this position. And what an eventful year it’s been.

BMWHRc STAFF

Thank you to our dedicated team for their work throughout the year and ensuring the women we support are always at the forefront of the services that we provide. We have had some changes of staff and welcomed new team members this past year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Devina Fraser | Kirsty Graham |
| Cherie Brandon | Penny Dawes |
| Mia Rose | Ailie Banks |
| Dr Miriam Brooks | Jenny Gill |
| Dr Sam Critchley | Lizzy Blue |
| Dr Helen Balkin | Ellie Ashfield |
| Salicia Davies | |

& MORE RECENTLY:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Kate Houlahan | Dr Alison Lyons |
| Toni Taylor | Daisy Darkovich |
| Sian Doko | |

AND THIS YEAR WE SAID GOODBYE AND EXTEND THANKS TO:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Stephanie Roper | Audrey Mason |
| Sophie Gerontakos | Suzie van Opdorp |
| Ursula Scott | Abby Gudaitis |

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We’re very fortunate to have a dedicated Management Committee that consists of experienced and knowledgeable volunteers that lead our organisation, ensuring that all decisions of the Centre are carried out effectively and in the best interests of our community & clients.

I would like to offer my gratitude to our current and past committee members of 2023/2024 and thank them for their integrity and leadership throughout the year:

- Maree Cairns, Chair**
Kerry Mumford, Vice Chair
Helen Gillam, Treasurer
Lesley Sammon, Secretary and Public Officer
Jude Sayers
Bev Eaton
Megan Thomas
Aaisha Slee

& more recently: **Therese Findlay**
 Appreciation is also extended to previous Management Committee members **Ruth Myers** and **Tracey Keever-Kellers**.

PROGRAMS & FUNDING

The main sources of funding we receive to provide our wholistic service delivery to women in the Blue Mountains and Lithgow are received from Commonwealth and New South Wales government bodies of:

NSW Health

Health funding is the main source of funding we receive for the women’s and allied health services that we provide including Women’s Health Doctors, Women’s Health Nurse, counselling, health promotion, therapeutic groups and massage therapy. An exciting update is, as a result of the collective activism of NSW Women’s Health & other Centres, we received our long awaited health funding boost to fully do the work we do and to explore other programs and services in the future.

This opportunity means we are able to use feedback gathered from upcoming community consultations, and other research to help us progress the enhancement of existing programs and to offer new services in the coming year.

Thank you to **Tristan Chapman** - NSW Health Collaborative Commissioning Manager.

NSW Department of Communities & Justice

The DCJ funding of the Targeted Earlier Intervention Program (TEI) has allowed us to provide community engagement and participation focused activities including the convening of BM CAVA, activities at Lithgow and Katoomba High Schools, groupwork and information & referral.

This funding is currently undergoing a recommissioning process. This does provide uncertainty of whether we will retain funding after June 2025, however, we have and will continue to ensure we are active representatives during the consultation processes with DCJ, and highlighting the wonderful work we undertake in our mountains and Lithgow communities.

Thank you to Belinda Pauline - DCJ TEI Commissioning and Planning Officer.

Department of Social Services

We were fortunate to receive a year’s funding from DSS that has allowed us to continue coordinating our violence prevention programs, including the EViE program (refer to the EViE narrative in this Annual Report).

Thank you to Nadine Cowling – DSS Funding

Arrangement Manager.

Other Grants

We also received a number of smaller grants to help support existing or new initiatives & we thank funders for their support:

- Blue Mountains City Council
- Bendigo Bank
- Katoomba RSL
- Department of DCJ for special CAVA grant

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The demand continues to grow and with thorough and transparent community consultation and planning, we will do our best to move forward in addressing this need.

This year I envisage many changes at BMWHRC with a refocus on ensuring that the services we are providing are more available to women in the focus communities, and to expand other programs and activities across Lithgow and the Lower Blue Mountains.

This will be a busy and demanding time for our team but I believe all at BMWHRC are up for the challenge!

Angelique Sasagi
MANAGER



Angelique Sasagi, Manager



Angelique with Minister for Social Services Amanda Rishworth

CLINICAL SERVICE

Salicia Davies, Dr Helen Balkin & Dr Sam Critchley

It has been a busy year for the clinic team, with Dr Ally Lyon going off on Maternity leave in December 2023. We were lucky enough to have the pleasure of recruiting Dr Helen Balkin who is now working permanently part time on Tuesdays and offering Telehealth services half day on Wednesdays. Welcome Helen! We are so thankful to have you as a part of our team. Dr Helen provides extensive trauma informed Women’s Health Care and is very popular within the community.

Dr Sam Critchley continues to work half day Wednesdays and is focusing on vulval disorders, as well as providing clinical consultations for Insertion of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) also known as an Intra-Uterine Device, Copper IUDs and Mirena/Kyleena. Dr Sam’s dedication to the Centre over the last 20 years and more, has been wonderful for our existing clients. Dr Sam has a particular interest in management and treatment of menopausal symptoms, providing information, options for treatment and ensuring that the person is well informed and cared for in this area of Women’s Health.

We see a large number of people in the clinic who have menopausal concerns/complaints,

affecting their quality of life, and are always very appreciative after seeing our doctors.

Salicia, our Women’s Health Nurse, is currently working over the 5 days, and continues to provide Sexual and Reproductive Health Care consultations, including Implanon Insertions / removals /changeovers. Salicia has continued to provide outreach every second Monday at Lithgow High School over the past 12 months.

Salicia has also been able to implement educational sessions with the Yr9 students, focusing on Sexual and Reproductive Health including learning about the Menstrual Cycle, Period Problems and how to manage Healthy Relationships, Contraception and STI’s. The students report that they found it very informative and the feedback was rewarding.

As of August 2024, Dr Miriam Brooks has decided to take extended leave to pursue her career in teaching with Western Sydney University. The clients and staff will miss her wealth of knowledge and expertise, as well as her lovely presence.

At this time we continue to provide a ‘drop in’ clinical service on a Thursday afternoon from 3-5pm for under 25s. This service has been rewarding over the years, and remains to be very popular with the young people. With Miriam’s departure this will be a Nurse Led Clinic, with the availability of Dr Helen Balkin on a Tuesday afternoon for any internal referrals.

Lastly, over the 12 months we have completed meeting the RACGP standards of Accreditation, and we are now fully accredited, which gives us the opportunity to expand our clinical service. We look forward to the next 12 months, hoping to broaden our clinical team and to provide comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Care for the community of the mountains and beyond.



Salicia and Kirsty on BMWHRC IDAHOBIT stall

INTAKE AND COUNSELLING SERVICES

This year we welcomed two new staff members to the Intake and Counselling team, Kate and Lizzie. We also said farewell to two of our Counsellors, Ursula who retired in June, and Stephanie Roper (Intake Counsellor) who left in November 2023. We thank them both for their work with women over the years.

Ursula started with the Centre in 2017 and offered clients counselling via Victims of Crime in her last year at the centre. We wish her much joy and rest, noting that our Centre no longer offer Victims of Crime funded counselling.

Following Steph leaving we were fortunate enough to have Suzie van Opdorp undertake intake counselling for the interim period that we undertook recruitment for this role.

We continue to provide services to women experiencing all forms of domestic and family violence, and responding to the effects of violence over their lifetimes.

Intake processes have been under review, we have been working with reception staff to streamline referrals for counselling. This has meant our Intake Counsellor has been able to respond sooner, when possible, to women seeking support. We also continue to offer in-person intake appointments at the Centre where suitable, as well as telephone and video call appointments, to meet accessibility and other needs. Our team is committed to access and inclusion for all women with disability, including our priority populations.

During staff changes we had some short waitlists for Intake and Counselling. When we are unable to offer a counselling service, we work proactively and collaboratively with women, to provide accessible information and warm referrals. We take care to connect

women to suitable external services with capacity. We regularly refer women to domestic and family violence (DFV) services, crisis services, Victims of Crime counselling, housing and other supports. In addition, we also refer internally frequently, to offer the wrap around, holistic care the Centre is known for. We invite women who meet criteria to use our massage, groups, medical and nursing services.

This year we facilitated a short Mindfulness group, to support women develop and practice the skill of mindfulness, which is linked to many positive physical and mental health benefits. The group provided a space to connect with other women and friendships were developed. We received positive feedback and plan to conduct further groups to address the themes we witness in our work with women.

We continue to note an increase in women seeking support for adult diagnoses of ASD, ADHD and we aim to offer Neuro-affirming care across all our services. We continue to witness high rates of women seeking support in responding to violence in all forms, navigating housing insecurity, disability and chronic health issues, effects of racism and intergenerational trauma, social isolation and young women exploring identity, values, safety and belonging. Our team share a deep sense of gratitude and appreciate the privileged role we have, to assist women through distress, grief, loss and find meaning and hope.

We have heard positive feedback from clients including:

“Thank you again so much for your kind, insightful, patient, intelligent and considered attention in our counselling sessions. What a wonderful skill you are bringing to the community! It has been a privilege to work with you.”



ALLIED HEALTH

Our amazing Health Promotion worker, Cherie Brandon, has worked hard throughout the year to ensure the range of groups that we offer or support at the Centre continues to meet the needs of the women in our community. Cherie also convenes BM CAVA group, as well as being actively involved in a variety of other committees, groups and activities.

In 2023 Massage Therapist Sophia Gerontakos became an integral member to our Allied Health team, undertaking assessment and treatment planning with a focus on women who are experiencing chronic pain or chronic illness.

We said farewell to Sophia earlier in the year but were lucky to be able to recruit Audrey Mason not long after Sophia departed. Audrey quickly became part of the team with her friendly and calm nature until she left this position later in the year.

This meant that we were without a massage therapist for a short period of time, however, the demand for massage continued so during this interim period an evaluation was undertaken of the massage program to see how we could improve reaching women within our priority populations as specified by our funding bodies

More recently we have been fortunate to employ Toni Taylor in this role, and she has actively contributed with review of the massage programs procedures and documentation.

As part of our Centre-wide review and using research, community consultation and data we are aiming to provide a range of allied and complementary health programs and groups that allows us to focus on our priority communities and provide a wholistic and integrated model of care.

Blue Mountains Women's Health & Resource Centre Counselling Team

ADMINISTRATION, INFORMATION, SUPPORT & REFERRAL SERVICES

This year saw Kirsty Graham and Penny Dawes continuing in their Reception & Administration roles, mostly working front of house. Being the first point of contact at the Centre, Reception staff remain committed to providing a warm and welcoming service to clients.

One of the larger Administration tasks undertaken this year has been transitioning from using a hybrid system of paper and digital files, to going completely digital. This is still a work in progress but the process has moved along significantly throughout this time.

We have had approx. 2,500 client appointments and a high number of groups running in the last 12 months which has kept staff extremely busy. However, the knowledge & skills of reception ensures that women are referred to the most appropriate

organisations including housing, domestic violence, legal and family support services.

Mia Rose successfully led the centre through the RACGP Medical Accreditation process which provides us the opportunity to seek new funding sources and incentives to support the work we undertake with women in the community.

Our Finance Officer, Devina Fraser, has continued to use her significant skills to oversee BMWHRC's financial activities and strategies, ensuring they are always accurate and accountable, as well as providing additional assistance to the Centre Manager.

Finally, we would also like to recognise the work of Ellie Ashfield, who throughout the year has maintained our website & resources, as well as helping with other Centre communications throughout the year.

ACCREDITATION

The beginning of the 2023-2024 financial year saw the activities around the pursuit of RACGP Accreditation kick into a higher gear with the submission of the Self-Assessment and finalising of many new and large documents, as well as a flurry of policy updates and ratifications.

With a seemingly endless To-Do List to get through, Staff set about preparing for the Site Visit which ended up being scheduled on our very last morning of operation for 2023, right before the Staff Christmas Party.

Thankfully the AGPAL Assessors were very

pleased with our centre and documentation so Staff were able to fully relax and unwind over the break knowing that the hardest part was over. We only had a few remaining items to submit in the new year before AGPAL finalised our approval and BMWHRC became officially RACGP Accredited on 25 March 2024!

Many thanks to the Management Committee, the Staff, Mia Rose, and the (at that time) freshly minted new Manager, Angelique Sasagi, for all the work dedicated towards making it happen. We will all be looking forward to re-accreditation in 2027.



BMWHRC staff visiting Leichhardt Women's Health Centre

OCCASIONS OF SERVICE:

Clinical	1260
Counselling	510
Chronic Pain / Chronic Illness	162

NUMBER OF CLIENT CONTACTS PER PRESENTING ISSUE:

(Main issue for attending the centre)

CLINIC:

Gynaecological	376
Contraception	397
Vulva - Vaginal other	178
Menstruation	173

ALLIED HEALTH:

Chronic Pain	84
Tiredness/Fatigue	20
Injury - Chronic	18

COUNSELLING:

Anxiety	85
Depression	49
DV (Family)	167
Violence (Adult CSA)	80
Stress	35
Mental Health	37
Complex Trauma	125

GROUPS AND EVENTS

Groups and Events were well attended through 2023-2024.

The program included a mix of physical fitness, health education, therapeutic and peer support groups as well as broader

public events promoting gender equity and addressing gender-based violence.

Women reported on the value of the Centre as a place for community connection and mental wellbeing.



FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

“Blue Mountains Women’s Health & Resource Centre is such a wonderful positive place for me, by coming to the art and craft groups. My complex PTSD causes me great distress, but I feel calmness, love and support here at the Centre & I have made some very valued friendships.”

“BMWHR is a wonderful safe place for meetings and groups. The therapeutic groups and medical staff are all beneficial for my mental health and physical wellbeing. My family know this is a safe and comforting place and are very supportive of me attending on a regular basis.”



GROUPS & EVENTS ATTENDANCE 2023/24

GROUP / EVENT NAME	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Arts Table	18	10	21	3	52
Craft & Knitting	64	72	55	50	241
First Nations Elders Women’s Weaving				21	21
First Nations Stronger and Safer Communities	16				16
First Nations Young Women Drop In	34		6		40
Impeccable Fluorescence Exhibition		41			41
International Women’s Day KHS			124		124
International Women’s Day Springwood			116		116
Jenn Anderson Arts Therapeutic Group	37				37
Mindfulness Therapeutic Group				24	24
Neurodivergent Peer Support Group	35	35	39	25	134
Reclaim the Night		150			150
Relationship Anarchy - Neurodivergence and FDSV		8			8
Tai Chi	103	92	94	70	359
Walking Group	165	139	94	70	468
What’s Gender Got to do with it?		16			16
Yoga in Chair	17	49	53	23	142
Young People Sexual Health Education		46	22	11	79
Occasions of Service 2023 - 2024					2068



ARTSPACE

Artspace, alongside the Young Women's Drop-in clinic, has continued servicing young women, trans, and gender diverse clients every Thursday during school term from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

The group transitioned from the partnership with Belong Blue Mountains and the Pick 'n' Mix team to prioritise a more appropriate facilitation of the group, and to service young people relevant to the goals, values & skills of the entire centre.

Daisy Darcovich was brought into the space as a Support Worker to assist the program, utilising her background and experience in youth work within Artspace sessions.

Daisy draws on her previous training and knowledge to co-facilitate and bring a

youthwork specific approach to the Artspace group.

Ailie Banks continued her role as the Artspace activity planner, and workshop facilitator, utilising her ever growing experience as a professional illustrator and her continued work on the EViE Project.

Together, the team ensured Artspace ran smoothly, and in an exciting and engaging way for the young people who enjoy the space.

Among many different art related activities, they also included health focussed sessions where, before her departure from the centre, Dr Miriam Brooks and Women's Health Nurse Salicia Davies would provide sexual and reproductive health information in a safe, welcoming, and pressure free environment.



Artspace participants



Results from the Artspace activities



Artspace activities



Ailie Banks presenting sexual and reproductive health information



Artspace activities



Artspace activities

This acts as a great way to break down barriers for young women who may be worried or anxious, to engage with our drop-in clinic. Specific health sessions are predominately suggested by participants and then allocated as specific Art Space sessions. Some examples of session topics covered during this last year include 'Queer Intimacy', 'Understanding the menstrual cycle' and 'Your options for contraception'.

This last reporting year Artspace gained 26 new registered participants, with 100% of clients being young women, trans, non-

binary or gender fluid aged between 12- 22 years. Nearly a third of Art Space participants identify as non-binary or gender fluid. Weekly attendance averaged 13 participants per session during drop-in clinic hours.

Art Space has increased in the number of non-binary and gender fluid young people attending than previously, and continues to promote activities via social media, utilising Instagram primarily. We use Instagram for updates within the space and to act as a hosting platform for term activities, updates and programs.

EVIE – ENDING VIOLENCE, IMPROVING EQUALITY

OVERVIEW:

The EViE Project, funded as part of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2023–2024, continued its vital mission of building community resilience and addressing gender-based violence through education and empowerment. This year's efforts focused on enhancing community support systems, increasing safety for women and children, and fostering diverse leadership.

OBJECTIVES:

- Prevent Gender-Based Violence: Highlight social drivers of violence and address systemic issues impacting women and children.
- Empower Young Women: Provide leadership opportunities and diverse representation in the community.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Community Workshops:

- Completed the First Nations Women's Stronger and Safer Communities workshop
- Scheduled Neuro Divergent Women's group workshop for August 23.

Young Women's EVIE Network:

- Established a team of young women & LGBTQIA+ teens meeting monthly to address gender equity and coordinate violence prevention campaigns.
- The EViE Social Media Network and Advisory Group led and researched local violence prevention activities, including a community safety survey.

Community Education Campaigns:

- Co-designed EViE Zines, and violence prevention resources were distributed across local high schools and community events
- Created and distributed community safety survey to gather relevant data surrounding young women's safety in public places.
- Secured in-principle agreements from BMCC

and other community organizations for the "Blue Mountains says NO to violence" campaign during the 16 Days of Activism.

Advisory Groups:

- Women with Disability: Met every 6 weeks, providing advice and recognition through honorariums.
- First Nations Women: Met quarterly, with similar honorarium-based recognition.
- Young Women: Met every 4-6 weeks, focusing on appropriate programming and leadership development.

Affirmative Consent Resources:

- Developed a prototype card game in collaboration with UTS design students, ready for pilot testing.
- Partnered with organizations to ensure accessibility for young people with disabilities.

First Nations Young Women's Drop-In Program:

- Launched weekly sessions from August 11, featuring arts activities, health access, and violence prevention education. The program is set to continue during school terms.

CONCLUSION:

The EViE Project has made significant strides in community engagement, leadership development, and violence prevention. By empowering local groups and establishing valuable partnerships, the project is advancing towards its goal of a safer, more equitable community for all.



2023–2024

EVIE VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACTIONS & EVENTS



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024

Traditionally held in March each year, International Women's Day (IWD) brings community together to call out the message that "Women's rights are human rights!".

BMWHRC was proud to collaborate on three events for IWD 2024.

The events kicked off with a Women's Health Forum held in Katoomba with local Federal MP Susan Templeman and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney, that was attended by approx. 50 women.

Representatives of BMWHRC and EViE spoke about the challenges experienced as a women's health and holistic service provider and safety in our community for young women. Points raised included the continual shortage of doctors in the mountains causing increased waiting lists, and the inequity of Medicare billing schedules when comparing

general medical procedures to specific women's health responses.

Minister Kearny shared her views on 'medical misogyny' and the systemic issues women experience, and the consequent impacts these have on their health outcomes.

We were then proud to be part of Katoomba High School's "WomenKind" event on 8 March. This breakfast event provided the opportunity for conversation, breakfast and storytelling addressing this year's theme of 'inspiring inclusion'. An inspirational story was shared by special guest speaker, Shanell Dargan, who is a singer & former contestant of X-Factor, and a professional boxing champion.

BMWHRC's own Cherie Brandon hosted a Q&A discussion with this theme in mind that included panelists Nina Kilpinen (Managing



Angelique and Cherie (right)

IWD at Katoomba High School



Ailie, Cherie & Steph at IWD Springwood

Ged Kearney at Women's Health Forum



Ged Kearney at Women's Health Forum

Cherie Brandon hosting Q&A discussion at Katoomba High School

Director of Seed Engineering), Ailie Banks (Artist, Activist, Content Creator & Community Worker) and Bianca Nogrady (Award winning Science Journalist and Author).

Our final event for the week was a collaboration with Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Cooperative, Women with Altitude and the Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub. The 'Count Her In' event saw attendees enjoy a beautiful dance performance by the Wagana Dancers, with several community groups and organisations

setting up display stills providing information & resource stalls (including our EViE group).

The event also featured live streaming from the Sydney Opera House's "All About Women" festival, as well as panel presentations and community conversations.

'Hands, Heart & Feet' led an interactive drumming performance, and an energetic dance that had the audience jumping to their feet and joining in our Blue Mountains celebration of women.

JENN ANDERSON DRAGONFLY PROJECT

The Centre thanks Andy Parkinson and the family of Jenn Anderson for the introduction of the Jenn Anderson Dragonfly Fund Project. The fund enabled the Centre to run an Arts Therapy group facilitated by art therapist Nicole Powell and supported by student Rachel Besser.

As well as the therapeutic group the project provided free arts packs to support women's participation. The project was generously supported by Gallery ONE88 who curated

and exhibited the works in the "Impeccable Fluorescence" exhibition which displayed more than forty works and was well attended by many members of the community.

"I think it worked very well and was so appreciative of the opportunity. Nicole and Rachel were really supportive, compassionate, and sensitive to the emotional needs of everyone, and it was a very supportive and uplifting experience. Thank you!"



Exhibited works

Impeccable Fluorescence Exhibition



Impeccable Fluorescence Exhibition

Exhibited works

AILIE BANKS – OUR BLUE MOUNTAINS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our Blue Mountains Woman of the Year, Ailie Banks, for her incredible work on our EViE (Ending Violence improving Equality) project.

Blue Mountains MP Trish Doyle nominated Ailie in recognition of her passionate and proactive work she undertakes with EViE to promote and advocate for gender equality.

To quote Trish "Ailie is a remarkable woman. At 32 she is an author, illustrator, passionate advocate for those living with mental illness and an inspiring spokesperson for feminism. She runs weekly youth art workshops at Blue Mountains Women's Health and Resource Centre, as well as contributing to violence prevention projects, drawing upon her lived experience to support others".

Well done and well deserved Ailie!



Blue Mountains Women of the Year - Ailie Banks

Blue Mountains Women of the Year - Ailie with Trish Doyle

COALITION AGAINST VIOLENCE & ABUSE (CAVA)



We continued our commitment to convene CAVA through 2023-2024, providing management of monthly meetings and coordination (with CAVA partners) of events including 'Reclaim the Night' and the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence'.

'Reclaim the Night' is an annual universal response that sees peaceful demonstrations calling for the end of sexual assault and violence against women. The Blue Mountains RTN event was loud and proud attended by more than 150 people, with the focus on empowering and increasing women's safety.

We were delighted by the banner and badge-making activities many local high school students did in preparation of the Springwood rally, with their creations proudly displayed or worn throughout the event.

Entertainment was provided by 'Hands, Heart and Feet' and 'Shimmy Mob', who thrilled

and livened up the crowd with their energetic music and dances. The event was expertly MCed by EViE leaders Lily and Isla, that included a powerful & beautiful musical performance.

The action had strong support from local businesses who proudly displayed stickers and information to support our rally against violence.

CAVA members, BMWHRC and BMC Council ended the year with the '16 days of Activism', which is an international campaign led by the United Nations to raise awareness and encourage an end to violence against women and children. The Blue Mountains LGA wide campaign - under the banner of the "Blue Mountains says NO to Violence" - saw a calendar of community events on offer that included showcasing information & creative resources that were created by EViE project participants.



Reclaim The Night rally



Reclaim The Night banner



Reclaim The Night banner



Reclaim The Night

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CENTRE

BMWHRC has always tried to support student placements as we acknowledge the importance of the significant contribution they can bring. More importantly we recognise how we can share the knowledge and practical experience as staff of a holistic community-based Centre to help them in their future work.

During this reporting period we welcomed Abby Gudaitis, who completed a substantial Social Work placement at the Centre, under the supervision and guidance of Counsellor Ursula Scott. Abbie helped with a range of programs and activities including Artspace, events and she also helped us further after she had completed her placement as a casual Support Worker. We wish Abby all the best for the future.



Abby Gudaitis

ADVISORY GROUPS

BMWHRC is grateful to the work of our First Nations Women’s, Women with Disability and Young Women’s Advisory Groups who direct and support the work of the Centre.

Our First Nations Women’s Advisory Group initiated community training to better support the mental health and wellbeing of young people. Members of the Advisory Group took part in Accidental counselor training and invited participation from other local women’s groups including ZONTA, the Older Women’s Network and the Women’s Shed.

In addition, the group directed, led and facilitated the First Nations Young Women Drop-in sessions. The group concluded the year by initiating and leading the First Nations Women’s Native Food Garden Project in partnership with Wagana Dancers, Food Futures and Empower.

The Disability Advisory Group established a Peer Support group for Neurodivergent people. The group meets fortnightly and undertakes a range of activity including advocacy, peer support and community education. This group had more than 130 client contacts over the year and has proved to be an important community connector.

The Young Women’s Advisory Group continues to drive the EViE project and be active in leading local and social media campaigns. Young women from the Advisory are frequent speakers on gender equity at local events including Reclaim the Night, The Mayoral Breakfast, International Women’s Day, amongst others. Their work this year has had a strong focus on safety and the development and implementation of the EViE safety survey on which work is growing and continuing.



The First Nations Young Women group



The First Nations Young Women group

CONGRATULATIONS TO KAREN: 30 YEARS!

Congratulations to our gardener, Karen, who has been the Centre gardener for thirty years, ensuring our grounds are always welcoming and well taken care of. We look forward and are confident the same care and skills you’ve shown over the years will continue, with our upcoming First Nations Garden.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

We are extremely lucky to have received donations and aid from community individuals and groups that have assisted with the different programs and services we provide.

Thank you to all our champions for recognising the importance of the work we undertake – we couldn’t do this without your support!

TREASURER’S REPORT

I am pleased to present the financial accounts for the Blue Mountains Women’s Health and Resource Centre for the year ended 30th June, 2024.

The accounts show a small surplus of close to \$3,000. This demonstrates the commitment by the Centre to operate within its budget whilst making every dollar do as much as possible in each of our project areas.

We did have an increase of 9% in our Total Income but rises in many of the expenses incurred by the Centre meant that all that increase was needed to keep operations on target.

We are in a strong financial position as evidenced by our Balance Sheet and we are confident we will be able to continue to offer our services to the many women in need of those services. We are also confident we will be able to meet our obligations as and when they fall due.

We thank all our funding bodies for their support and we are gratified that there will be an increase in funding in the 2025 year.

Our financial statements (which are essential to demonstrate our focus on transparency and compliance) are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. We have received an unqualified report from our auditors, stating that the accounts do give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Centre. I thank the auditors, William Tomiczek and Associates, for their professionalism and support during the audit. Finally, I wish to thank the Management Committee and the staff of the Centre who have all worked hard to fulfil the objects of the Centre whilst making the best use of every bit of funding.

Helen Gillam
Treasurer

Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Contents

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Statement by Members of the Committee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the BLUE MOUNTAINS WOMENS HEALTH AND RESOURCE CENTRE INC. for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

Committee Members

The names of committee members at the date of this report are:

Maree Cairns
Helen Gillam
Kerry Mumford
Lesley Sammon
Megan Thomas
Jude Sayers
Aunty Bev Eaton
Aaisha Slee
Tracey Keevers-Keller

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: provision of women's health and resources ..

Significant Changes


No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The profit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to

Year ended	Year ended
30 June 2024	30 June 2023
\$	\$
2,097	3,038

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on: 7th September 2024


Maree Cairns


Helen Gillam

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2023 To June 2024

	This Year	Last Year
Income		
Prior Year Project Funds	\$20,594.86	\$112,924.47
Grants & Funding		
Nepean BM Local Health Distric	\$696,072.27	\$565,800.00
Dept Community & Justice RC	\$160,458.99	\$151,734.27
Dept Social Services (DV)	\$141,368.25	\$137,304.38
Cava	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Other Project Grants	\$30,059.16	\$5,000.00
PIP / WIP Payments	\$12,494.88	\$0.00
SARC Funding	\$0.00	\$14,691.29
Total Grants & Funding	\$1,042,253.55	\$876,329.94
Other Income		
Donations	\$4,595.95	\$18,376.77
Interest	\$6,081.35	\$3,302.44
Membership	\$66.40	\$34.58
Total Other Income	\$10,743.70	\$21,713.79
Sales		
Sales - BMWHC prod & services	\$0.00	\$18.18
Partner Organisation Contributions	\$2,409.09	\$4,332.55
Total Sales	\$2,409.09	\$4,350.73
Fees Charged		
Fees - Counselling	\$350.00	\$340.00
Fees - Victims Counselling	\$5,299.77	\$5,700.00
Fees - Massage	\$3,260.00	\$3,520.00
Fees - Group	\$7,380.00	\$7,945.00
Fees - Doctors	\$698.50	\$310.35
Medicare Receipts	\$91,752.15	\$66,234.30
Total Fees Charged	\$108,740.42	\$84,049.65
Paid Parental Leave Funds	\$15,889.50	\$0.00
Total Income	\$1,200,631.12	\$1,099,368.58
Gross Profit	\$1,200,631.12	\$1,099,368.58
Expenses		
Centre Expenses		
Centre Admin Expenses		
Accreditation	\$4,898.62	\$1,885.76
Audit fees	\$3,590.91	\$3,536.36
Bank Fees	\$844.43	\$545.85
Computer supplies & service	\$29,920.66	\$26,767.48
Database	\$0.00	\$14,363.00
Employers Assoc	\$0.00	\$1,075.45
Equipment / Furnishings	\$5,823.86	\$6,596.72
Fundraising Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,290.30
Insurance	\$11,097.05	\$10,548.00
Management Expenses	\$22,701.83	\$11,886.82
Planning & Policy	\$0.00	\$2,777.50
Total Centre Admin Expenses	\$78,877.36	\$81,273.24
Occupancy Expenses		
Electricity	\$1,630.56	\$2,379.20
Gas	\$6,389.79	\$9,807.28

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2023 To June 2024

	This Year	Last Year
Garbage / Cleaning	\$9,706.16	\$14,942.01
Rent	\$24,040.00	\$24,000.00
Security	\$765.00	\$1,120.00
Repairs/Maintenance	\$10,319.51	\$11,193.15
Water	\$343.80	\$220.87
Total Occupancy Expenses	\$53,194.82	\$63,662.51
Total Centre Expenses	\$132,072.18	\$144,935.75
Project and Event Expenses		
Admin Expenses Project		
Books/Resources/Subs	\$15,572.45	\$8,185.79
Membership WHNSW	\$2,842.53	\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$7,045.26	\$6,942.96
Telecommunications	\$3,906.40	\$4,083.18
Total Admin Expenses Project	\$29,366.64	\$19,211.93
Direct Services Costs		
Laundry	\$2,926.37	\$1,977.27
Massage Supplies	\$406.72	\$692.00
Surgery Supplies	\$6,383.22	\$6,894.23
Total Direct Services Costs	\$9,716.31	\$9,563.50
Group Costs		
Group - Advisory (Honorariums)	\$4,730.00	\$3,010.00
Group - Catering	\$4,377.46	\$4,612.59
Group - Facilitators/Presenter	\$8,274.14	\$18,235.35
Group - Materials & Other exp	\$2,333.16	\$2,406.99
Group - Venue Hire	\$1,791.04	\$2,498.08
Total Group Costs	\$21,505.80	\$30,763.01
Other Project & Event Costs		
Womens Support	\$1,894.03	\$5,797.14
Project - Program Costs	\$7,049.23	\$5,826.69
Project - Special event costs	\$2,342.83	\$0.00
Total Other Project & Event Costs	\$11,286.09	\$11,623.83
Total Project and Event Expenses	\$71,874.84	\$71,162.27
Staff Related Expenses		
Wages		
Admin Management Wages	\$147,248.22	\$112,255.55
Allied Health Wages	\$28,104.21	\$17,121.69
Counsellors	\$146,300.24	\$151,260.01
Doctors	\$120,006.45	\$91,155.38
Health Promotion/Comm Dev	\$83,088.27	\$83,569.11
Nurse	\$62,476.61	\$52,644.18
Project Worker	\$71,879.95	\$71,678.03
Reception/Information Officers	\$131,177.95	\$145,872.61
Cleaner	\$4,185.00	\$0.00
Relief Wages	\$29,412.07	\$4,508.57
AL & LSL Paid on Termination	\$14,748.43	\$24,262.73
Eligible Termination Payment	\$5,095.20	\$12,264.00
Paid Parental Leave	\$15,889.50	\$0.00
Travel Vehicle	\$2,429.46	\$3,671.76
Total Wages	\$862,041.56	\$770,263.62
Oncosts		

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2023 To June 2024

	This Year	Last Year
AL & PL Provisions	\$14,763.14	-\$19,413.51
LSL Provisions	\$4,006.04	-\$16,400.56
Superannuation	\$91,763.14	\$77,009.40
Workers' Compensation	\$10,258.98	\$13,020.86
Total Oncosts	\$120,791.30	\$54,216.19
Other staff expenses		
Staff Amenities	\$2,897.24	\$5,345.77
Supervision - Counsellor	\$4,160.00	\$4,190.00
Supervision - Other	\$1,260.00	\$3,780.00
Training/Conferences	\$3,286.17	\$3,772.94
Travel Public	\$150.46	\$666.39
Total Other staff expenses	\$11,753.87	\$17,755.10
Total Staff Related Expenses	\$994,586.73	\$842,234.91
Grant monies unspent but alloc	\$0.00	\$37,951.77
Total Expenses	\$1,198,533.75	\$1,096,284.70
Operating Profit	\$2,097.37	\$3,083.88

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Balance Sheet [Last Year Analysis]

June 2024

	This Year	Last Year
Assets		
Current Assets		
BM Womens Health RC	\$72,764.76	\$103,562.64
Cash Invest 28020273	\$635,062.85	\$274,092.64
Term Deposit	\$400,000.00	\$187,537.47
Debit Card	\$2,248.68	\$1,122.51
Cash Float	\$2,082.34	\$35.09
Stock on Hand	\$815.80	\$815.80
Prepayments	\$0.00	\$629.70
Total Current Assets	\$1,112,974.43	\$567,795.85
Non Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment		
Plant & Equipment at Cost	\$143,124.16	\$143,124.16
Plant & Equip Accum Dep	-\$143,124.16	-\$143,124.16
Total Plant & Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Leasehold Improvements		
Leasehold Improvements at Cost	\$68,587.74	\$68,587.74
Leasehold Imp Accum Dep	-\$68,587.74	-\$68,587.74
Total Leasehold Improvements	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Non Current Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$1,112,974.43	\$567,795.85
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accrued Expenses	\$1,840.84	\$3,246.72
Grants in Advance		
Nepean BM Local Health District	\$493,709.55	\$18,300.00
Wentworth Healthcare	\$23,646.99	\$25,000.00
Dragonfly Grant	\$690.84	\$4,000.00
Total Grants in Advance	\$518,047.38	\$47,300.00
Quality Accreditation	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Unexpended Project Funds	\$55,093.18	\$75,688.04
Provision - Group work	\$4,400.00	\$4,400.00
Holding of Funds for Upcoming Projects	\$15,451.77	\$15,451.77
Victim Support Services	\$11,440.23	\$5,700.00
Staff Monies Held		
Donation	\$879.00	\$455.00
Total Staff Monies Held	\$879.00	\$455.00
Payroll Liabilities		
PAYG Tax Payable	\$12,578.00	\$12,962.00
Superannuation Payable	\$9,855.55	\$0.00
Total Payroll Liabilities	\$22,433.55	\$12,962.00
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected on Income	\$68,940.18	\$6,645.36
GST Paid on Supplies	-\$3,766.33	-\$3,401.12
Total GST Liabilities	\$65,173.85	\$3,244.24
Employee Provisions		
Provision for Annual Leave	\$46,655.88	\$46,720.97
Provision for Personal Leave	\$24,675.33	\$14,493.00
Provision for TIL Accrued	\$8,100.20	\$3,454.30
Total Employee Provisions	\$79,431.41	\$64,668.27

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Balance Sheet [Last Year Analysis]

June 2024

	This Year	Last Year
Total Current Liabilities	\$774,191.21	\$235,116.04
Non Current Liabilities		
Provision for Long Service Leave	\$16,005.12	\$11,999.08
Provision for Redundancy	\$94,199.40	\$94,199.40
Provision for Equipment Rplcmnt	\$70,507.45	\$70,507.45
Total Non Current Liabilities	\$180,711.97	\$176,705.93
Total Liabilities	\$954,903.18	\$411,821.97
Net Assets	\$158,071.25	\$155,973.88
Equity		
Retained Earnings		
Retained Earnings Centre	\$155,973.88	\$152,890.00
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	\$2,097.37	\$3,083.88
Total Equity	\$158,071.25	\$155,973.88

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS 2024

OPERATING CASHFLOWS		OPERATING CASHFLOWS	
Income from prior year	20,594	Income from prior year	112,924
Grants	1,042,253	Grants	656,595
Sales	2,409	Sales	4,350
Other fees & services	108,740	Other fees & services	84,050
Sundry income	4,665	Sundry income	18,410
Parental Leave Funds	15,889	Parental Leave Funds	0
	1,194,550		876,329
Increase Grants in Advance	470,747	Decrease Grants in Advance	-93,050
Operating expenses Cash	-1,135,199	Operating expenses Cash	-1,027,076
Net cash flows from operating	539,098	Net cash flows from operating	-243,797
Interest received	6,081	Interest received	3,302
Net cash flows for the year	545,179	Net cash flows for the year	-240,495
Cash at Bar nk 1 July 2023	567,795	Cash at Bank 1 July 2022	808,290
Cash at Bar nk 30 June 2024	1,112,974	Cash at Bank 30 June 2023	567,795

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of New South Wales. In the opinion of the committee the association is not a reporting entity because it is not reasonable to expect the existence of users who rely on the association's general purpose financial statements for information useful to them for making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of resources.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act of New South Wales, the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements, AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, AASB 1031: Materiality and AASB 1054: Australian Additional Disclosures.

The association has concluded that the requirements set out in AASB 10 and AASB 128 are not applicable as the initial assessment on its interests in other entities indicated that it does not have any subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Hence, the financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

The association has not assessed whether these special purpose financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Statement by Members of the Committee

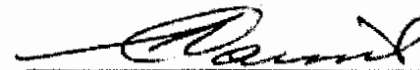
For the year ended 30 June 2024

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

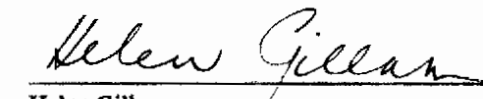
In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. **Presents fairly the financial position of BLUE MOUNTAINS WOMENS HEALTH AND RESOURCE CENTRE INC. as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date.**
2. **At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.**

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Maree Cairns
President



Helen Gillam
Treasurer

7 September, 2024

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of BLUE MOUNTAINS WOMENS HEALTH AND RESOURCE CENTRE INC. (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2024 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association 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 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.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Act 2009. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and for such internal control as the committee 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, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

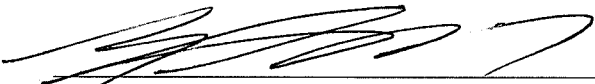
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on 7 September, 2024:


William Tomiczek F.I.P.A., Registered Company Auditor 1425
William Tomiczek & Associates
66 Emu Plains Rd Mt Riverview 2774



Ailie Banks being interviewed at 'No More' rally



2024 Survival Day



Reclaim The Night Rally in Springwood



Cherie Brandon at Reclaim The Night