

ANNUAL
REPORT 2019



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year has been a remarkable year for Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter. We have strengthened the provision of our services and programs to respond to the needs of the many women in our community who face violence and homelessness every day.

When they arrive they are battered and frightened, seeking our help to take their first steps towards a new life of safety and happiness.

When they leave us, their life has been transformed with the support of our dedicated staff who work with them to achieve goals and regain their independence through assistance with medical treatment, employment, psychological issues, financial advice and education.

Our Shelter would not operate without the generosity and support of so many who donate to our critical cause as well as provide in-kind services and offer their time. Thank you for walking beside us.

HKWS remains active in searching for a permanent home, as the lease for our shelter runs out in 2020. This will be our key focus over the coming year.

SALLIANNE MCCLELLAND
PRESIDENT, HKWS





SAFETY AND A NEW LIFE

Reaching out to women fleeing violence and homelessness

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter aims to provide temporary supported accommodation for women in times crisis such as homelessness or domestic violence.

We have successfully housed 331 clients since opening our doors in 2015. Sadly, in this time we have been forced to turn away 876 women in need. In the 2018-19 financial year, the Shelter has housed 58 clients but has turned away 105 women.

Our dedicated shelter staff are on hand, delivering comprehensive case management programs for the clients on a daily basis, assisting them in getting their lives back on track.

For some of the women we cannot house, our outreach services provide the same tailored program. We have supported 43 outreach clients over the past year.

296

Reported domestic violence assaults in Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Council areas in the past year

***BOSCAR: NSW Recorded Crime Statistics July 2018 to June 2019*

331

Women safely housed at our Shelter since we opened our doors in February 2015



A PERMANENT HOME

A safe haven for women fleeing violence and homelessness

An ongoing priority for Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter is finding a secure and permanent home.

At present the Shelter can accommodate up to 10 women at the same time for a maximum stay of three months, during which professional case workers assist the client to achieve lasting change for the better.

However, our lease ends in 2020. We would love to be able to accommodate more women in need and extend our outreach program but to do so we need a new home.

The HKWS has established a dedicated "Build A Better Future" fund to help us prepare for 2020 and beyond.

Alongside this, we are actively looking for land, talking to developers, lobbying government at all levels and organising finance.



STRENGTHENING OUR HOUSE

A structure and team focused on the future

The HKWS team was strengthened with an influx of five new board members, and with an additional five new sub-committee members who took up key roles in supporting the board.

Our retiring board members have worked tirelessly and we cannot thank them enough for their efforts.

We are ever grateful for the ongoing support of our patrons Carmel Aitken, Judith Hopwood, Ku-ring-gai Mayor Jennifer Anderson and the Honourable Matt Kean MP, NSW Minister for Energy and Environment and Member for Hornsby.

Our dedicated Shelter staff and case workers led by Hylette Evans often deal with challenging and stressful circumstances and yet produce incredible outcomes for our clients every day.

Their resilience and professionalism enables our clients to access help with far-ranging issues including immigration, employment, education, future housing, mental health, medical services and ongoing outreach support.

We have a team of volunteers who devote much effort and time to assist us in daily house and grounds keeping, wellbeing programs and special events.

In 2020, we will continue to galvanise our community in their support of the shelter through donations, fundraising events and volunteering.





THE RIGHT TOOLS

Supporting our structure with the strong policies and procedures

Following an extensive review of operating and governance policies conducted in 2019, HKWS developed and introduced a suite of best practice policies to assist the board in determining key decisions as well as critical procedures to be employed in day-to-day operations of the Shelter.

An important part of this has been developing standard reporting templates to improve efficiency and consistency across our operations.

The review and implementation of all policies and procedures was undertaken, importantly, with the consultation and support of staff and accompanied by training where needed. The assistance of Women's Community Shelters, our parent organisation and major funding partner, with which we share expertise and insights, has been instrumental and together we are finding new ways of working to shape the future.

Another important undertaking has been a review of software policies and program use. Work will be ongoing in this area throughout 2020.



GRANTING WOMEN A FRESH START

Tremendous and ongoing support through grants

HKWS receives no direct government assistance and is reliant on donations, fundraising and corporate sponsorships. In 2018-19 our Shelter raised just under \$70,000 through the provisions of community grants.

We are extremely grateful for the tremendous and ongoing support of grant providers including Myer, Westfield Hornsby (Scentre Group), Westpac Banking Corporation, NSW Government Local Community Building Fund, Hornsby RSL and Magpies Waitara.

These grants supported the provision of key projects for our Shelter including:

- Empowerment Program: Helping women obtain vocational opportunities
- Community Outreach: Supporting women to transition from the Shelter back into the community
- Community Education: Deepening community awareness about the impacts of domestic violence through education events



BEECROFT HOUSE

Addressing the needs of women of all ages

The Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter, in partnership with Women's Community Shelters played a key role in the establishment of Beecroft House.

It extends our ability to provide shelter and support to older women in our community facing violence and homelessness.

Beecroft House is an innovative new project that will provide safe and secure housing to 20 women over 55 years, for up to two years, with support to identify permanent housing solutions.

The project is a unique collaboration with Women's Community Shelters, Link Housing, National Projects and Maintenance, and The Generous and the Grateful and has been made possible with the support of Twilight Aged Care, the property owners.



FUNDRAISING

Community events are our life-line

It is the community's support through a jam-packed year of stellar events, gatherings and functions that keeps us going every year.

Now in its fifth year, the Apron Project and Roadshow – created and owned by Sallianne McClelland raised funds for HKWS and women's services with an apron showcase, community arts projects and the sharing of stories. The Apron Project Roadshow ended at our epic Strength is her Superpower gala night back at home in Hornsby. These events raised a staggering \$70,000.

Our second most successful event was in partnership with the Turrumurra and Lindfield Community Bank Branches whose Double the Donation fundraiser raised \$47,482 for our Building campaign.

Other key fundraising events of 2019: Bobbin Head Cycle Classic, along with the City 2 Surf. These events have gone far to strengthen our friendships, build our networks and raise awareness about violence towards women.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

HKWS's financial position strengthened in 2018-19 thanks to the overwhelming support of our community

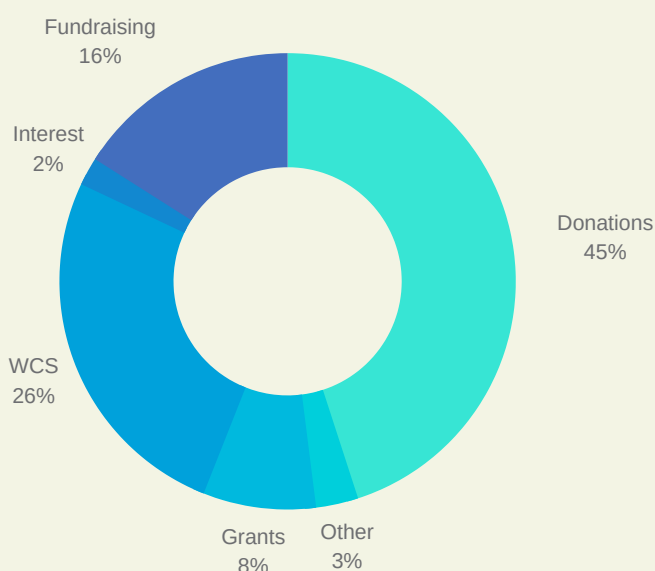
The Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter has strengthened its financial position in 2018-19 thanks to the overwhelming support of our community.

We are in a solid financial position, with a surplus of \$343,655, that has been committed to our future operations and investment in our future. This is largely due to donations and the President and Board's dedicated time, execution and investment in connecting with and galvanising community to raise funds for our community Shelter.

Donations continue to make up the greatest proportion of our total income, comprising 45% of our income in 2019. We acknowledge our parent organisation, Women's Community Shelters for their ongoing investment and support as the second biggest contributor to our income.

Whilst the health of our balance sheet has improved over the past year, all funds are fully committed towards the future of our Shelter - Essential operating reserves and the foundation of our building fund. In fact, there are significant funds still to be raised to meet our commitments including the building of a permanent home.

Income



Future investment



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Continued

Donations

Greater community awareness about the important role HKWS plays in addressing violence against women has led to an increase in philanthropy with donations from individuals and businesses rising by 60%.

Fundraising

While our expenses for fundraising activities, major events such as the Apron Project and "Strength is her Superpower" events, increased by 64% per cent this financial period, the investment has driven a more than doubling of our fundraising income from \$64,027 in 2018 to \$141,785 in 2019.

Expenses

HKWS continues to improve efficiencies in costs and expenditure. Wages and superannuation for our professional Shelter team were our biggest expenditure at \$369,293 in 2019.

Finding a permanent home for the Shelter remains a critical priority, with rent, property expenses, electricity, gas, rates and taxes making up the second largest outgoings for the Shelter at \$61,709 in 2019. Insurance is also a significant outlay at \$23,997.

Donations

Donations increased by 60% from \$241,307 in 2018 to \$386,590 in 2019

Fundraising

Fundraising income rose from \$64,027 in 2018 to \$141,785 in 2019





THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY

The generous support of our community keeps our doors open

We couldn't continue to exist without the community. Thank you to the Shelter Board, staff, volunteers, donors and all the amazing individual and corporate supporters who make our work possible.

We are grateful for the support of the many individual donors, some of whom have made an on-going commitment, to support HKWS each month.

Our special thanks go to:

- Women's Community Shelters Ltd
- SOS Removals and Storage Thornleigh
- Turrumurra Lindfield Community Bank Branches: Bendigo Bank
- Rotary Club of Wahroonga
- Lions Club of Hornsby
- Soroptimist International Hornsby
- Telstra
- Lutanda Manor

- Asquith Church of Christ
- Hornsby RSL
- Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Ecumenical Choir
- Ministry of Rock
- Humanitix
- Hummingsong Community Choirs
- Boomerang Bags Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai

Thank you to all the sporting clubs, churches, scouts, choirs, schools and local businesses who are invested in our future, creating opportunities to lend their support.



HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI WOMEN'S SHELTER INCORPORATED

A.B.N. 49 735 037 904

The HKWS Board

Sallianne McClelland (President)
Kiki Paul (Vice President)
Deborah Harrigan (Secretary)
Louise McCann
Catherine Knox
Lucy Garnier
Marianna Papadakis
Tracey Sigler
Warren Waddell
Annabelle Daniel (Women's Community Shelters)

Resignations:
Stafford Hamilton
Lianne Bolton
Nathan James Tilbury
Anne Sheehan

Address

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Hornsby, NSW 1630

Contact

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Donations

Can be made via our website or by direct deposit to our Westpac bank account:

BSB 032-285
Account 577204
Email: treasurer@hkws.org.au

Or by mail a cheque to PO Box 641,
Hornsby NSW 1630

