



mfc
malleefamilycare

2024
ANNUAL
REPORT



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we work and live. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the first people. They have never ceded sovereignty, and remain strong in their enduring connection to land, water and culture.

Caring for local people since 1979, Mallee Family Care promotes strong, connected and inclusive communities by embedding diversity and equity practices at the centre of everything we do.

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From the Chair and CEO

Reflecting on 2023-24

As we reflect on Mallee Family Care's 45th year of operations, our commitment to supporting children, families and individuals in the Mallee region and Far West New South Wales remains steadfast. Providing early assistance to prevent increased vulnerability due to circumstance, is at the core of our work and our ethos.

The rising cost of living has impacted every aspect of our community, but people living in rural, regional and remote areas are at a greater disadvantage when needing access to services and support. This has led to a notable increase in demand for assistance from Mallee Family Care across all programs.

Our dedicated teams have worked tirelessly to ensure that those who require assistance the most can easily access it. This year we enhanced our service delivery, expanding our reach and growing our workforce to meet the evolving needs of Mallee communities.

We continue to 'show up' and be where our community needs us. Our staff are often on the road, travelling to deliver programs, education activities and support in communities that would otherwise miss out - increasing their isolation and vulnerability.

Our outreach efforts have extended to include community legal, financial counselling, flood recovery, Tenancy Assistance and Advocacy, Early Intervention Psychosocial Support Response, Loddon Mallee Mental Health and Wellbeing Connect, NDIS Support Coordination and NDIS Key Worker programs.

These programs and initiatives have had a significant impact upon the lives of individuals and families, offering support, trust, capacity building, and a path to improving life circumstance.

In the past year we have also introduced new services, formalised our first Reconciliation

Action Plan and worked towards Rainbow Tick accreditation. Each initiative is a testament to our mission for strong and strengthened communities where individuals and families can feel supported and return safely to our services in times of uncertainty.

Mallee Family Care continues to be known for its strong advocacy work across our communities of interest. We strive to ensure local perspectives and experiences are considered in the context of State and Commonwealth policy. In the last twelve months, we have made submissions on more than a dozen occasions, providing a local lens on significant social issues including the NDIS, State and Federal government budgets, homelessness, autism, early years, cost of living, family law reform and financial wellbeing.

As post code injustice becomes more apparent, we will continue advocating for the realities of rural, regional and remote life.

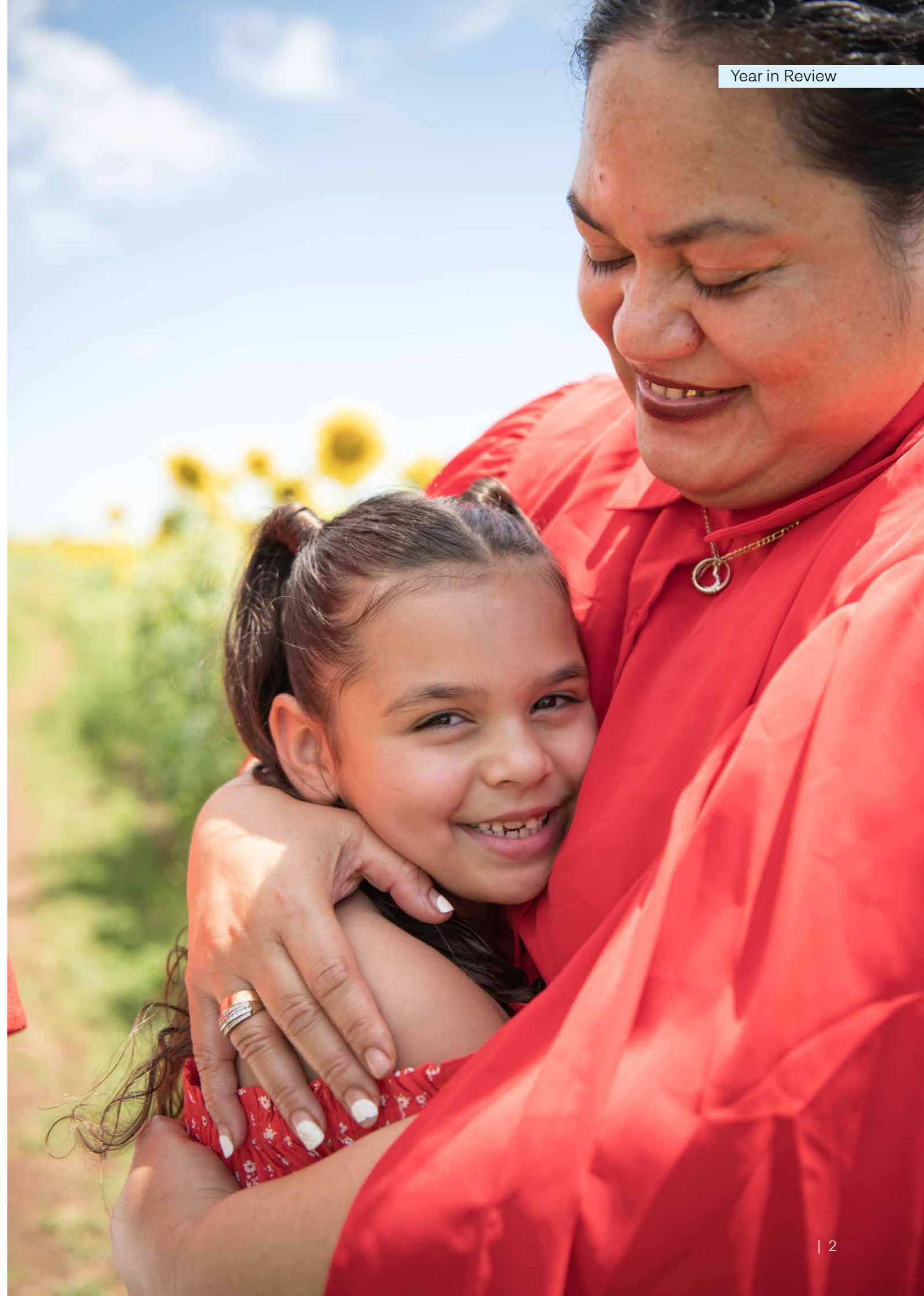
This annual report not only highlights our achievements, but it also confirms that at the heart of our Organisation, our community matters.



Teresa Jayet
 Chief Executive Officer
 MBA, Grad.Dip.FDR, BSW, Dip.Fin. Couns, B.Ed.



Ross Lake OAM
 Chair
 Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of Economics, Diploma of Education



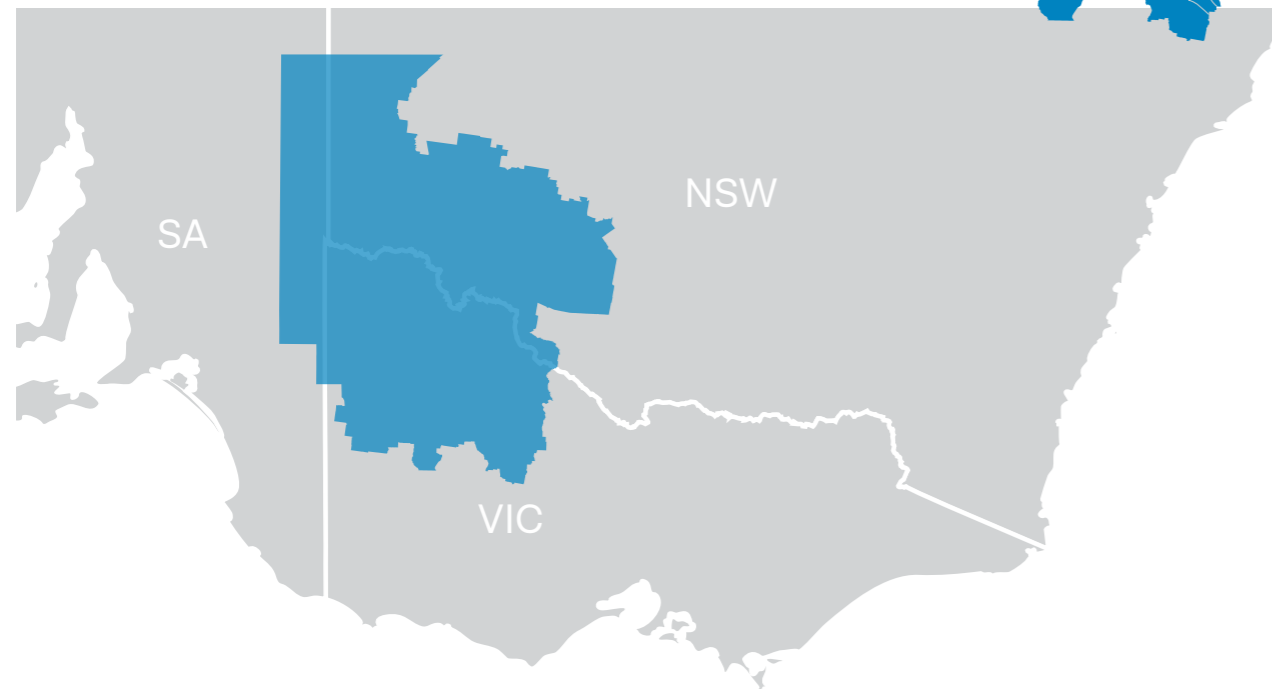
Place-based support for people to thrive

Established in 1979, Mallee Family Care is a Not-for-Profit Organisation that provides child and family services to people in North West Victoria, Far West New South Wales and parts of the Riverland region in South Australia.

We empower children, families and individuals to thrive by delivering programs tailored to the unique needs of the people and communities we support.

Our service network covers the Mildura, Swan Hill, Buloke and Gannawarra Local Government Areas, and extends beyond into the Wentworth, Balranald and Broken Hill areas of New South Wales and the Riverland in South Australia.

We know that strong communities are those in which disadvantaged people are supported and where opportunities are available to everyone. We are working hard to make this a reality for the Mallee region.



165,841 km²

Catchment



70+
Programs

7,095

Clients supported



306
Staff



776,243 km

Travelled

35,780

Phone calls to reception



48,301

Visits to our website

Red Cliffs Boardwalk

Our Strategic Priorities

Our vision is for strong communities where individuals and families can live their best lives.

Mallee Family Care's Strategic Plan 2022-2025 outlines the agency's directions and priorities. It identifies five key priorities that we will address in our work to advocate for our community, and ensure all people in the Mallee, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to live their best life.



Drive change around known inequities

- Halt further rollout and call for the abolition of the welfare card based on human rights
- Address the thin markets for NDIS services in regional South West New South Wales
- Advocate for equitable regional transport, linking people to services
- Support the Raise the Rate campaign by regionalising and highlighting the impacts that will be delivered through an increase in support payments
- Attract community mental health investment
- Influence social housing investment



Empower individuals, families and communities to seek help early

- Promote and normalise 'early help' as a way to open up possibilities and take positive steps, especially post COVID-19
- Create an early help element to all Mallee Family Care services
- Introduce models and pathways that support community helping community
- Evaluate the impact on clients who have sought help early

Focus on children, families and individuals early, and build their capacity to transition through the key stages of life

- Support young people to transition through each phase of adolescence
- Provide support and early help to parents and carers
- Provide support for financial and relationship issues associated with changes in circumstance
- Amplify the voice of the child across Mallee Family Care
- Improve educational attainment, and the mental health and wellbeing of every child in care



Build an Organisation that reflects the diversity, intersectionality and lived experience of our community

- Build Mallee Family Care's capacity to provide sustained mental health support
- Identify fee-for-service opportunities to support increased demand for service provision



Increase our service capacity and innovative models to address current and evolving community needs

- Create governance approaches that enable services and support to be co-designed and co-delivered by people with lived experience
- Develop plans that support diversity and inclusion



Board of Directors & Audit, Finance & Risk Committee



Ross Lake OAM
Chair
Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of Economics, Diploma of Education

Mr Lake has been a Board member almost every year since the inception of MFC in 1984. He was appointed Chair in 2011. He was appointed to the Audit, Risk & Finance Committee in 2005. Mr Lake is also a Director of the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre Strategic Advisory Panel and Northern Mallee Integrated Water Management.



Jenna Yetman
Deputy Chair
Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting), Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice, GAICD

Ms Yetman was appointed to the Board in 2018 and Deputy Chair in 2020. She is employed as a Corporate Lawyer for a national retail and manufacturing business and is a graduate of the Northern Mallee Leaders program and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Previous Directorships include MADEC Australia and Mallee Track Health and Community Service.



Christine Cottrell
Chair Audit, Finance & Risk Committee
Graduate Certificate in Business Administration, Advanced Diploma Business (Legal Practice)

Ms Cottrell was appointed to the Board in 2020 and Chair of the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee in 2021. She has 20+ years' experience in the Not-For-Profit sector and is currently a Director of Mildura Community House and Connected Beginnings Mildura.



Geoff Dea
Bachelor of Business (Accounting), CPA

Mr Dea was appointed to the Board in 2019. He is the former CEO of SuniTAFE and is currently a Director of Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network.



Dr Suriya Hariprakash
MBBS, DCH, MRCP (Paediatrics), MRCPCH, CCT in Paediatrics and Paediatric Intensive Care Medicine, FPCCM, FRACP

Dr. Hariprakash was appointed to the Board in 2020. He is the Senior Staff Specialist Paediatrician and Clinical Director of Paediatrics at Mildura Base Public Hospital. Dr. Hariprakash is a member of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy.



Belinda Hudak
Master of Leadership and Management, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts

Ms Hudak was appointed to the Board in 2022. She is the Principal of Mildura Senior College, on the Committee of Management for the Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network and is Deputy President of the Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals.



Dr Chelsea Todd
Bachelor of Psychology (Hons), PhD Occupational Health Psychology

Dr Todd was appointed to the Board in 2022. She has worked as a senior researcher and adviser at universities and government departments in South Australia as well as in policy and management for the Victorian government. Dr Todd has also completed the Australian School of Applied Management's Advanced Leadership Program.



Eelco Vugs
Masters in Mental Health Science, Masters in Criminology

Mr Vugs was appointed to the Board in 2021. He has more than 15 years' experience in child protection and safeguarding roles for both government and non-government organisations in Australia and overseas. He is currently the Global Director of Safeguarding for Oxfam International.



Anthony Venneri
Independent Member, Audit, Finance & Risk Committee
Bachelor of Business, Chartered Accountant, CPA

Mr Venneri was appointed to the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee in 2024. He has extensive experience in providing business advice and compliance obligations to SME's and over the last 10 years, has been in executive roles in a business that is the largest provider of integrated financial solutions across Australasia.



Don Wall
Independent Member, Audit, Finance & Risk Committee
Bachelor of Business

Mr Wall was appointed to the Audit, Finance & Risk Committee in 2019. He has extensive experience in high-risk industries within the resource sector throughout Australia. Before retiring and relocating to Mildura he worked in local government risk management in South Australia.

Executive Leadership Team

The day-to-day operations of our agency and management of our 300+ staff are overseen by the Chief Executive Officer. Client-facing program areas are the responsibility of three Executive General Managers.



Teresa Jayet
Chief Executive Officer
MBA, Grad.Dip.FDR, BSW, Dip.Fin. Couns, B.Ed.



Chris Forbes
Executive General Manager Education, Training and Research
BSW, MSW, AASW



Andy Charles
Executive General Manager Child and Family Services Victoria and NSW
MMgt, PGCertFT, AdvDipMgt, DipCommServ



Lisa-Maree Stevens
Executive General Manager Community, Mental Health and Wellbeing
MSW; Grad.Dip.FDR; BSW

Our Staff

Proudly place-based, Mallee Family Care's strength lies in our people, who are part of the communities we support.

We are committed to building a skilled workforce and an organisation that reflects the diversity, intersectionality and lived experience of our community.

Susan Bryan
 Sophie Burns
 Jane Burrows
 Margaret Burton
 Robert Bye
 Rachelle Cameron
 Aislinn Campbell
 Josephine Carbone
 Lina Carrazza
 Tracey Carruthers
 Renee Carter
 Karen Casey
 Andrew Charles
 Rananjay Chundawat
 Shaun Clark
 Sharon Coburn
 Nathan Collins
 Shaina Collins
 Adele Collinson
 Allison Collyer

Monica Doherty
 Jeanette Donohue
 Samantha Doolan
 Renae Elder
 Brook Ellis
 Colleen Entriken
 Shai-Lee Fargher
 Karli Farrell
 Leeanne Faux
 Amanda Ferguson
 Tavita Fesolai
 Ashlee Field
 Tamara Field
 Madlen Fitzgibbon
 Eimear Flynn
 Christine Forbes
 Maree Fullgrabe
 Bree Gatt
 Alysha Gebhart
 Michelle Giddings



Mallee Family Care AGM, November 2023



Rolling up our sleeves for Lifeblood

In May 2023, Mallee Family Care joined the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood group donation program – Lifeblood Teams.

Demonstrating our collective commitment to giving back to the community, 16 employees registered to donate blood, including 10 first-time donors.

On Friday May 16th, 14 staff donated blood at the Mildura Donor Centre. Following this, additional MFC staff donated blood and existing donors have since joined the MFC Lifeblood Team, bringing our team total to 32 members.

In just two short months, MFC staff had saved up to 60 lives through 19 blood donations. Many will continue to come together, contribute to and celebrate this worthy cause.

Katie Aarons
 Karen Ablett
 Jema Aksu
 Tannar Aksu
 Raymond Alabaster
 Kane Alderson
 Kristen Alicastro
 Jade Alvey
 Tessa Amatya
 Melissa Amos
 Tanya Antonie
 Fred Apthorpe
 Yuko Araki
 Kyra Arnold
 Tonia Bachetti
 Te-Ahna Bacon
 Natasha Baker
 Sheleigh Bant
 Carmen Bellini
 Linda Bennett

Samuel Beresford
 Trent Beven
 Jenna Bibby
 Kiarah Birthisel
 Christine Bishop
 Carol Blundy
 Maureen Body
 Shay Bonser
 Janet Bonython
 Leanne Bosman
 Rachel Bosman
 Alleena Bourke
 Cara Bradshaw
 Samantha Briggs
 Kerri Brooks
 Tammylee Brooks
 Bernadette Brougham
 Natahlia Brown
 Anna Bruton
 Porsha Bruton

Josephine Comitti
 Carly Connell
 Danae Coote
 Rennae Cope
 Stacey Coverdale
 Emily Craig
 Timothy Cranna
 Tamara Creek
 Rebecca Cupitt
 Adelle Currow
 Janet Dale
 Sarah Darling
 Carly Davis
 Tracey Davis
 Gordon Dehne
 Kristen Dempsey
 Louise Dichiera
 John Dicker
 Claire Dickeson
 Brian Dodson

Fatima Sarmento Goncalves
 Corrina Graham
 Ashleigh Gray
 Kahlia Gray
 Brai Greene
 Kylie Grenfell
 David Groenen
 Shelley Gunn
 Greta Haig
 Ofa Hakalo
 Margrete Hamence
 Taylah Hamence
 Stacie Harding
 Sophie Hart
 Eboni Harvey
 Vanessa Hatfield
 Jennifer Hibell
 Merrinda Hill
 Rozanne Hogan
 Karen Hogarth



Christmas festivities, December 2023



White Ribbon Day, November 2023



Acknowledging our long-serving staff at the 2023 AGM

- Jenna Hollow
- Rebecca Holme
- Katy Hope
- Robyn Hosking
- Michelle Hoy
- Mitchell Hoye
- Michelle Ilsley
- Carolin Inglis
- Crystal Jackson
- Karren James
- Craig Jamieson
- Teresa Jayet
- Aimee Job
- Barbara Job
- Simon John
- Nathan Maiorana
- Lauren Maloney
- Cagri Mammone
- Hazel Mangano
- Nicole Manthorpe
- Christina Marett
- Kylie Martin
- Aleisha Mataele
- Terri McArdle
- Patrice McCarthy
- Benjamin McCoy
- Anita McDonald
- Shae McDonnell
- Renee McGlashan
- Adam McGregor
- Danika Pascoe
- Rilu Pauljee
- Deonie Pay
- Rachel Pay
- Tania Pearce
- Joanne Pegus
- Donna Peters
- Lakiyah Peterson
- Traci Pevy
- Emily Phillips
- Melissa Pitt
- Tracey Pitt
- Tracey Presley
- Sioned Price
- Rachel Pumpa
- Samantha Stitt
- Rebecca Stonehouse
- Joyleen Sullivan
- Mary Symes
- Mieka Symes
- John Tadros
- Sarah Taha
- Bonita Talent-Heinrich
- Haylie Tarr
- Russell Taylor
- Courtney Tepper
- Ivy Louise Theodore
- Jancy Thomas
- Debbie Thompson
- Rebecca Thompson

Years of service

Congratulations to these long-serving employees who reached significant milestones during the 2023-24 FY.

Five Years Service

- Jema Aksu
- Mauren Body
- Rennae Cope
- Janet Dale
- Ashlee Field
- Louise Nicholas
- Cath O'Connor
- Natalie O'Shannassy
- Fatima Sarmiento Goncalves
- Courtney Tepper
- Nicole Woods

Ten Years Service

- Allison Collyer
- Ofa Hakalo
- Irene Vehekite

Fifteen Years Service

- Sharon Coburn
- Christine Forbes
- Maree Fullgrave
- Rachel Johnson

Twenty Years Service

- Rozanne Hogan



Winnie's First Birthday June 2024

- Donna Johnson
- Rachel Johnson
- Angela Johnstone
- Michelle Jones
- Naomi Jory
- Amanda Judd
- Christopher Judd
- Sandra Judd
- Leyla Karabas
- Palwinder Kaur
- Samantha Keller
- Catrina Kelly
- Julie Kelly
- Whitney Kendrigan
- Kay Kerr
- Ibad Ullah Khan
- Kristin Kirkpatrick
- Alicia Knight
- Breanna Lacey
- Megan Lane
- Breanna Lanza
- Danielle Lee
- Leanne Leeson
- Olivia Lemon
- Kerry Leonard
- Amanda Leslie
- Kim Leslie
- Georgia Leutner
- Reyhan Lucas
- Cassandra MacDonald
- Nicole Macdonald
- Sheryl Maddren
- Fabienne McIntosh
- Kathrine McLaren
- Tory McNabb
- Tamika McSwain
- Marie Medar
- Tanya Meharry
- Sanam Mehboob
- Toni Meney
- Sarah Merry
- Karen Middleton
- Verity Mihan
- Zachary Mill
- Rohan Milne
- Cheryle Mitchell
- Kerrie Mitchell
- Tarissa Mitchell
- Kate Mliswa
- Lauren Moore
- Natalie Morgan
- Pardon Muyambo
- Katherine Myles
- Bibi Maryam Najmi
- Nicole Neilson
- Claire Newman
- Louise Nicholas
- Karina Nolan
- Cath O'Connor
- Tamika Ollington
- Natalie O'Shannassy
- Oluwatosin Osunneye
- Edwina Papadopoulos
- Jason Pappin
- Rosalyn Quodling
- Courtney Ransome
- Colin Rawnsley
- Sharen Riley
- Catherine Robbins
- Ashleigh Roberts
- Keiren Robins
- Sebastian Roda
- Jeraldine Rule
- Robyne Rundell
- Pooja Sah
- Gemma Samoun
- Jayden Seamer
- Josephine Sheldrick
- Stacey Sherrah
- Bronwyn Sherwell
- Kerry Sherwell
- Elizabeth Shirley
- Anna Simoes
- Krystle Slorach
- Aimee Smith
- Kane Smith
- Nerelle Smith
- Rhonda Smith
- Mikaylah Speedie
- Donna Stacey
- Carly Staley-Schreiber
- Catherine Stevens
- Lisa-Maree Stevens
- Louisa Stevens
- Paula Stevens
- Sarah Stevens
- Kayla Thornton
- Malama Tomarra
- Jamie Townsend
- Thi Thu Ha Tran
- Milika Tuuefiafi
- Jacinta Tyers
- Rhianna Vagg-McEwen
- Irene Vehekite
- Bree-elle Wade
- Hayley Walker
- Wayne Walsh
- Teagan Waylen
- Jennifer Wescombe
- Atylea Weston
- Marie Whiting
- Sharon Whittaker
- Dee Dee Wilkes
- Lydia Williams
- Steven Williams
- Winne the Wellbeing Dog
- Indira Wood
- Megan Wood
- Nicole Woods
- Ricki-Anne Wright
- Gemma Young
- Jane Young
- Katrina Young
- Nancy Zaccone
- Eilish Zappia
- Joanne Zappia
- Laura Zappia
- Michelle Zmarzly



Out & About Playgroup session at Lake Hawthorn

We are committed to providing evidence-based programs and services to meet the existing and emerging needs of our community

As a diverse and multi-disciplinary organisation, our interconnected structure ensures that the children, individuals and families we assist only share their story once, fostering a seamless and holistic support journey.

Education, Training and Research

- Access to Early Learning
- Child and Parenting Support Playgroups
- Communities for Children Community Partner Playgroup
- Communities for Children Facilitating Partner
- Early Help- Mildura and Robinvale
- Kindergarten Inclusion Support (KIS) Program
- Mallee Early Years Conference
- My Time Parent/Carer Support Group
- Pre-School Field Officer
- Principal Practitioner
- Research
- SmallTalk Supported Playgroups
- Student Placement Coordination
- Wellbeing Dog Program
- Workforce Professional Development

Community Intake and Assessment

- Triage
- Referral
- Coordination

Corporate Services

- Accounts
- Asset Management
- Chances for Children
- Communications and Marketing
- Compliance and Governance
- Event Coordination
- Finance
- Graphic Design
- Human Resources
- Information and Communication Technologies
- NDIS Plan Management
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Partnerships and Fundraising
- Payroll
- Policy
- Project Management
- Quality Assurance
- Rainbow Tick Accreditation
- Reception Services
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Records Management and Archiving
- Risk Management

Community, Mental Health and Wellbeing Services

- Children's Contact Service
- Children's Counselling
- DVU/HJP Family Violence and Mental Health
- Early Intervention Psychosocial Support Response (EIPSR)
- Earn and Learn Mental Health and Wellbeing Workforce Program
- Family Advocacy and Support Service
- Family and Relationship Services
- Family Relationship Centre
- Financial Counselling
- Gambling NSW Community Benefit Program
- Intervention Order Support Service
- Mabels
- Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Connect Centre
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub
- Mental Health Pathways Program
- NDIS:
 - Support Coordination
 - Psychosocial Recovery Coaching
 - Allied Health and Therapy Services
 - Capacity Building
 - NDIS Intake
- Parenting Education Support Programs:
 - The Triple P Family Transitions Program
 - Bringing Up Great Kids
 - The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work
 - Young Children in Divorce and Separation
- Post Separation Cooperative Parenting Program

- Recovery Support Provider
- Regional Family Dispute Resolution
- Rental Stress Support Package
- Specialist Homelessness Support Service
- Tenancy Assistance and Advocacy Program (TAAP)
- Victims Legal Service

Child and Family Services

Victoria

- Children with Complex Disability Support Needs
- DET Navigator program (Swan Hill)
- Family Preservation and Reunification Response
- Family Prevention and Reunification Community Connector
- Foster Care Support
- Home Based Care
- Integrated Family Services
- Intensive Family Support
- Keeping Families Supported and Trained (KEEP)
- Safe Care
- Specialist Disability Practitioner (Mildura)
- Targeted Care Packages
- Therapeutic Circle

New South Wales

- Children and Schooling program
- Dareton Playgroup
- Intensive Family Preservation
- Men's Program
- Permanency Support Program – Out of Home Care
- Safe Care
- Safety and Wellbeing
- Targeted Early Intervention

Networks and partnerships

Collaborative partnerships are critical to the work we do. Mallee Family Care acknowledges the resources, expertise, and connections forged through professional and community partnerships.

Child and Family Services

DFFH Strategic Reference Group – Integrated Health Systems OOHC
[Mallee Child and Family Services Alliance – Operations/ Executive/Governance & Oversight](#)
 Mallee Family Violence Executive
[Murrumbidgee Far Western & Western NSW \(MFWW\) Permanency Support Program](#)
 Regional Implementation Group (RIG)
[DFFH Carers Advisory Group VIC](#)
 My Forever Family Carers Reference Group NSW
[Foster Care Practice Network](#)
 Fostering Connections Joint Marketing and Operations Working Group
[OOHC Providers VIC](#)
 Navigator Program Operations/Governance meeting MFC/MASP/DET
[Placement Priority Meeting with Placement Coordination Unit](#)
 FPRR Local Implementation Meeting DFFH CFECFW
[CFECFW Alliance Chairs](#)
 Mallee Community Connector Mackillop/MFC Operations/Governance
[Mallee Combined High Risk Youth Panel-DFFH](#)
 Combined Child and Family ALLIANCE & Orange Door/ Child First and IFS Group CFECFW
[Mallee Family Care Mallee APSS-DFFH](#)
 Berry Street Circle-FPRR Operations/Governance
[Safe Care Coach/Trainer Communities of Practice](#)
 Mallee Workforce Working Group

Education, Training and Research

Best Start Partnership
[Better Together Collaborative Table](#)
 CALD Advocacy Group MRCC
[CfC Facilitating Partner Vic CoP](#)
 Communities for Children Committee
[Communities for Children Community Partners](#)
 Communities for Children Governance Committee
[DSS FaM-CaPS](#)
 DSS FaM-CfC Facilitating Partner
[FaC Evaluator Community of Practice](#)
 Gender Equity Action Sunraysia (Mildura)
[Mallee Early Years Conference Working Group \(Chair\)](#)
 MDAS Swan Hill Supported Playgroups
[Migrant and Settlement Services Network](#)
 Mildura/Robinvale Early Years Community of Practice/ Foundation House
[Murray Valley Aboriginal Service Partnership](#)
 Our Place Partnership Collaborative Robinvale
[Playgroup Victoria and Parenting Research Centre COP](#)
 Robinvale Euston Early Years Network
[Sunraysia Settlement Network](#)
 Swan Hill Early Years Advisory Group
[Swan Hill Gender Equity Committee](#)
 Swan Hill Gender Equity Network
[Swan Hill Inclusion Rainbow Ready](#)
 Swan Hill Pregnancy & Early Years Collaborative
[Swan Hill Rural City Council, Library & Maternal Child Health](#)

Community, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Headspace Mildura Consortium
[Headspace Swan Hill Consortium](#)
 Council to Homeless Persons
[Loddon Mallee Housing Network Steering Group](#)
 Southern Mallee Police and local Homelessness Services
[Aged Care Planning & Advisory Network](#)
 Wentworth Services Interagency Group Network
[Sunraysia Settlement Network](#)
 Community Services Network – National
[DFFH/MFC Agency Monitoring Meetings](#)
 Mallee Local Area Service Network
[Mildura Police and Aboriginal Protocols for Family Violence Local Reference Group](#)
 Mildura Local Aboriginal Justice Action Committee
[Swan Hill Local Aboriginal Justice Action Committee](#)
 Federation of Community Legal Centres
[Disaster & Climate Justice Working Group](#)
 4 R's Network Meeting
[RRR Network Meeting](#)
 Victoria Legal Aid
[New South Wales Legal Aid](#)
 Women's Legal Service
[Mildura Practice Partners Network](#)
 VLS Community of Practice
[Cross-border access to justice forum](#)
 Flood Implementation Group
[Flood Working Group MRCC](#)
 Emergency Recovery Victoria
[Emergency Recovery Victoria provider forums](#)

Community Recovery Advisory Group
[Consumer Affairs Victoria](#)
 Department of Justice and Community Safety
[Financial Counselling Victoria](#)
 Financial Counselling Australia
[NSW Government – Office of Responsible Gambling](#)
 Family Relationship Centres Victoria Network
[Australian Children's Contact Services Association](#)
 Victorian Children's Contact Services Network
[Family Relationship Services Australia](#)
 Mallee Workforce Working Group
[Court Users Network Mildura](#)
 Mental Health Regional Network
[Department of Health Family Carer-led Centre Statewide Implementation Group](#)
 Family Carer-Led Centre Establishment Group
[Disability Agency Network](#)
 Statewide Working Group Mental Health & Wellbeing Hubs
[Mental Health and Wellbeing Connect Centre Statewide Leadership Meeting](#)
 LMPHU Mallee Primary Care Public Health Advisory Sub Committee
[Earn and Learn Statewide Coordinator Network](#)
 Northern Mallee Integrated Mental Health Leadership Network
[Carer Lived Experience Workforce \(CLEW\) Network](#)
 Mildura Local Implementation Team (LIT) Forum

Mallee Family Care donors

Mallee Family Care gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our donors, whose contributions help us to continue working to reduce barriers and expand choice and potential for all members of the community.

Cheryl Balcam
 Helen Connolly
 Jan Flemming
 Carol Frieling
 Susan Glare
 Faith Grey
 James Henderson
 Cathy Knee
 Amanda Loughnan
 Anne Mansell
 William Marriott
 Tim McClelland

Pip Neagle
 Mary Symes
 John Taylor
 Kerrie Wakefield
 Russell Williams
 Balranald Central School
 Central Mallee Co-Operative Parish
 Chemist Warehouse Mildura Central
 Krasna Motors Pty Ltd
 Lower Murray Water
 Nyah West Uniting Church
 Rotary Club of Kerang

Share the Dignity
 St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill
 St Mary's Swan Hill Assistance Centre
 Swan Hill Business & Professional Women
 Swan Hill Rotary Club
 The Rose Lifestyle Village
 The Vines Retirement Village
 Underbool Ladies Guild
 Uniting Church Lake Boga

Government partners

Investment from our funding bodies enables Mallee Family Care to deliver programs and services tailored to support local communities.

Commonwealth Government

- Attorney Generals Department Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream
- Attorney Generals Department Family Law Branch
- Department of Social Services
- National Disability Insurance Agency
- National Indigenous Australians Agency

Victorian Government

- Consumer Affairs – Department of Justice and Community Safety
- Department of Education
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
- Department of Health
- Emergency Recovery Victoria
- Murray Primary Health Network
- Victoria Legal Aid

New South Wales Government

- Department of Communities and Justice
- Department of Education
- Office of Responsible Gambling



Building better care for Mallee communities

Mallee Family Care has embarked on its largest infrastructure project in more than 25 years, with construction of a new purpose-built facility underway in Mildura.

The agency secured funding through the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund to build a new Mildura office that will enable seamless service delivery through a co-location model.

The new building, located at 123 Ninth Street, will include office spaces, meeting and consulting rooms and space for Mallee Family Care to deliver its growing range of family and community service programs.

CEO Teresa Jayet said the new building would absorb six satellite offices across Mildura, into one centralised location.

“Demand for Mallee Family Care’s services and our client numbers have increased significantly over the past five years. In turn, so too have our staff numbers,” she said.

“The new building will allow us to deliver a seamless service to community under one roof as part of a fully integrated and multidisciplinary model – both now and into the future.”

Service co-location will generate significant advantages for the Mallee region, enhancing Mallee Family Care’s capacity to support children, adolescents, families and individuals.

“This purpose-built space will broaden the scope of programs the organisation can offer; increase the number of clients, participants and consumers we can support; and improve regional employment opportunities.

“Co-location means people can access a range of supports without having to retell their story multiple times, which can be traumatic, and without the need for travel between office locations,” Ms Jayet said.

“This project is all about ensuring we provide the best possible care for our community and that means reducing the barriers to seeking help and having the ability to adapt and broaden our services to meet the changing needs of people living in the Mallee.”





Teresa Jayet with Chaffey Aged Care staff and residents on International Women's Day.

500+ years of collective wisdom captured to mark International Women's Day

Mallee Family Care undertook a collaborative and creative initiative to acknowledge International Women's Day (IWD) in 2024.

Held on March 8, IWD is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The IWD theme for 2024 was Inspire Inclusion, which encourages everyone to recognise the unique perspectives and contributions of women from all walks of life, including those from marginalised communities.

Honouring this theme, Mallee Family Care partnered with Chaffey Aged Care to produce a video to amplify the voices of six older women in our community.

Chaffey Aged Care residents Isabel, 80, Jean, 95, Kay, 67, Rose, 86, Norma, 93, and Anne, 101, generously shared their stories, ideas and insights into how we can make our world a more inclusive place for all women.

The video stars, their families and staff from Chaffey Aged Care joined Mallee Family Care staff for a special event on International Women's Day to launch the video and watch it for the first time.

The video was also shared with the wider community on Mallee Family Care and Chaffey Aged Care's social media platforms, where it has been viewed more than 700 times and generated some of the agency's highest social media engagement metrics.

As well as highlighting the value and role of women in society, this video and the event strengthened Mallee Family Care's community partnerships and capacity to champion social justice initiatives.

We gratefully acknowledge Chaffey Aged Care and especially Isabel, Jean, Kay, Rose, Norma and Anne, for their enthusiasm and participation in this initiative.



SuniTAFE staff with their Christmas Appeal donations.

2023 Christmas Appeal brings joy to hundreds

The spirit of the season was alive and well across the Mallee in 2023, with our annual Christmas Appeal helping to spread joy to hundreds of children.

631 children engaged in Mallee Family Care programs received a Christmas gift, thanks to generous donations from local businesses and our staff.

An enormous community engagement initiative, the 2023 Christmas Appeal was our biggest to date, reflecting the ongoing need for our services and the spirit of giving that is entrenched in Mallee communities.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of all donors who helped us to share Christmas joy.

7th Day Adventist Church Mildura
ANZ Bank Swan Hill
Collie and Tierney First National Real Estate
Crowies Paints
FINDEX Mildura
Lime Therapy
MADEC
Mildura Fire Station
United Firefighters Union (UFU) members
Monash University
Rural Health Mildura

PM Exercise Physiology & Rehabilitation
Ray White Real Estate Swan Hill
SuniTAFE
Natasha Baker
Carmen Bellini
Janet Bonython
Corrina Graham
David Groenan
Margrete Hamence
Karen Hogarth
Ange Johnstone
Michelle Jones

Sandy Judd
Whitney Kendrigan
Kerry Leonard
Rey Lucas
Natalie Morgan
Claire Newman
Mel Pitt
Ros Quodling
Gemma Samoun
Jenny Wescombe
Sharon Whittaker



AFL Great delivers crucial message to NSW teens

Ex-AFL player and reformed gambling addict David Schwarz delivered an engaging insight into the risks and impacts of gambling and vaping at Robinvale College in April 2024.

More than 80 students from years 9-12 heard David's story of early childhood trauma, a 173-game career with Melbourne Football Club and a crippling 18-year gambling addiction that saw him almost lose everything.

Mallee Family Care coordinated this event, as part of our commitment to gambling education and community awareness.

David's seminar aimed to help students and staff understand the risks and impact of gambling and addiction on individuals and communities. Importantly, attendees also gained practical tips on avoiding situations that encourage gambling and learned how to support others who may be struggling.

The message was clearly received by students in attendance. When asked what they had learned from David's presentation one student responded:

"Gambling addiction is so much more serious than I thought."

Others noted how David's personal journey - from AFL great to hitting rock bottom - highlighted the devastating effects gambling can have.

"I enjoyed listening to David's personal experiences in his life. He was open to us about everything."

"David's story shows what the consequences can be if you gamble. But even when your life has gone horrible, you can turn things around, because help is always available."

Mallee Family Care delivered this initiative with funding received through the NSW GambleAware Community Benefit Payment Scheme.





Some of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees based at our Dareton offices.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce crucial to culturally sensitive and safe services

A conscious and careful effort to expand Mallee Family Care's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce is helping the agency provide culturally safe and sensitive support to communities in South West New South Wales.

Over the past two years the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees working at Mallee Family Care's Dareton and Wentworth offices has grown significantly. And as a result, so too has the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are engaging with the service's many programs.

26.5% of people living in the Wentworth local government area identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, according to 2021 Census data.

In the last Financial Year, 142 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and families accessed support through Mallee Family Care.

Executive General Manager Family and Children's Services Andy Charles said in almost all cases, the employees supporting these clients also identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

"Since the majority of our clients are families and individuals of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage, it is crucial that we prioritise the

recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees," Mr Charles said.

"This approach helps build strong connections and rapport within the community and ensures that our practices and service delivery are culturally sensitive and safe."

Mallee Family Care supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in South West New South Wales with various services and programs focusing on safety and wellbeing, children and schooling, early intervention, and family preservation.

Being a proud Yorta Yorta/Wemba man, Mr Charles noted that the success of these programs is significantly enhanced when they are delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"Clients frequently face complex and challenging issues and may sometimes be hesitant to engage with us," he said.

"However, we've found that this barrier tends to be much lower when clients build trust and a genuine connection with our team, grounded in mutual respect and cultural understanding."

Positive outcomes in community



Anna* was previously engaged in our Safety & Wellbeing program. Her partner of 15 years was diagnosed with Mental Health issues and been unmedicated for around eight months. As a result, his behaviour had begun to change, and he was becoming combative towards Anna. Over time, Anna slowly started opening about her situation. Workers offered Anna a range of supports and put in place a Safety Plan. However, at this time Anna was unwilling to accept any further supports. Eventually, Anna sent a text message to one of her workers, reaching out for help and requesting someone to pick her up. Anna's Safety Plan was implemented, Mallee Family Care provided clothing and toiletries and connected her with The Orange Door to access accommodation.

Anna is now accessing counselling services and engaging in a wide range of programs that support her social and emotional wellbeing. She continues to receive ongoing case management by MFC under the Safety & Wellbeing program. Her partner is now also being case managed by a male worker and is back on his regular medication and engaging in our Men's space.



Mallee Family Care had been working very closely with **Pete*** and his family for some time and noted their wellbeing was beginning to decline, due to family and domestic violence, mental health and drug and alcohol concerns. After deep discussion with the family about their situation, Pete expressed his desire to attend rehab.

Mallee Family Care supported the overall holistic referral process for rehab and follow-up. Pete has now completed his rehabilitation and returned home, where we have seen improved overall family functioning and enhanced social and emotional wellbeing. The family unit remains engaged within this specific program and attends other programs that we deliver attached to this.



Stacey*, a mother of two, had not been employed for over four years and neither of her children were engaged in any early childhood education. Mallee Family Care supported Stacey to enrol both children, who now attend pre-school and school. Supports were also put in place to engage Stacey in the workforce and she is now employed part time.

**Names have been changed to protect client privacy.*





Supporting siblings to stay together in Out of Home Care

Due to Michelle's* and Simon's* long-term struggles with drug and alcohol use, their six children entered involuntary Out of Home Care in 2021. The children's maternal grandmother took care of them in the interim before their aunt assumed this ongoing responsibility.

A range of complex challenges - including lack of adequate housing, transport and respite support - placed significant pressure on the carer, and unfortunately this family placement arrangement eventually broke down.

Focused on keeping the six siblings together, Mallee Family Care explored multiple care options to ensure that the family unit remained intact. At the time, this proved extremely challenging as the Department's and the agency's resources were stretched. Current resources were at capacity, especially with regards to finding suitable housing options to support such a big household.

During a Family Group Conference held with extended family, the eldest sibling Kelly*, expressed a willingness to care for her five siblings. Kelly had

recently turned 18 and as a result, aged out of the placement arrangement. For Kelly's offer to be a viable option, the family needed adequate and safe long-term accommodation for all six members. Initially, the only available accommodation was a local motel, which was not a long-term solution. However, this option would keep the children together. It would also avoid the need for an Alternative Care Arrangement, which would require significant government financial support, potentially place the children off Country and far from their community, and possibly separate them to provide adequate care.

Despite extensive and sustained efforts to secure alternative housing, Kelly and her five siblings stayed in the motel for over ten months. During this time, Mallee Family Care provided crucial support across multiple program areas and staffing arrangements, working collaboratively with the Department to eventually secure a permanent home option for the family.

Now living all together in their home, Kelly and her five siblings have maintained important family connections, which has supported their emotional wellbeing during a period of trauma and transition.

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy of this family*

Education courses empower families to build strong and positive relationships

Mallee Family Care's parenting education courses are empowering families across the region to build strong and positive relationships and raise healthy, happy children.

A direct reflection of the agency's commitment to progressing long-term change through early pathways to support, 70 individuals accessed the agency's parenting education programs in the 2023-24 FY.

Delivered both online and face-to-face in group and one-on-one settings, courses offered include:

- Triple P Family Transitions, which aims to enhance family protection factors and reduce risk factors in children after separation.
- Bringing Up Great Kids, which supports parents to feel more confident, leading to better communication and better relationships with their children.
- YCIDS, an online educational program for separated parents who intend to co-parent a baby or very young child.
- 7 Principles for Making Marriage Work, which provides couples with tools and insights to improve or repair their relationship.
- Separating Smarter, presented by the Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre, providing family law information about parenting and property arrangements for separating couples.

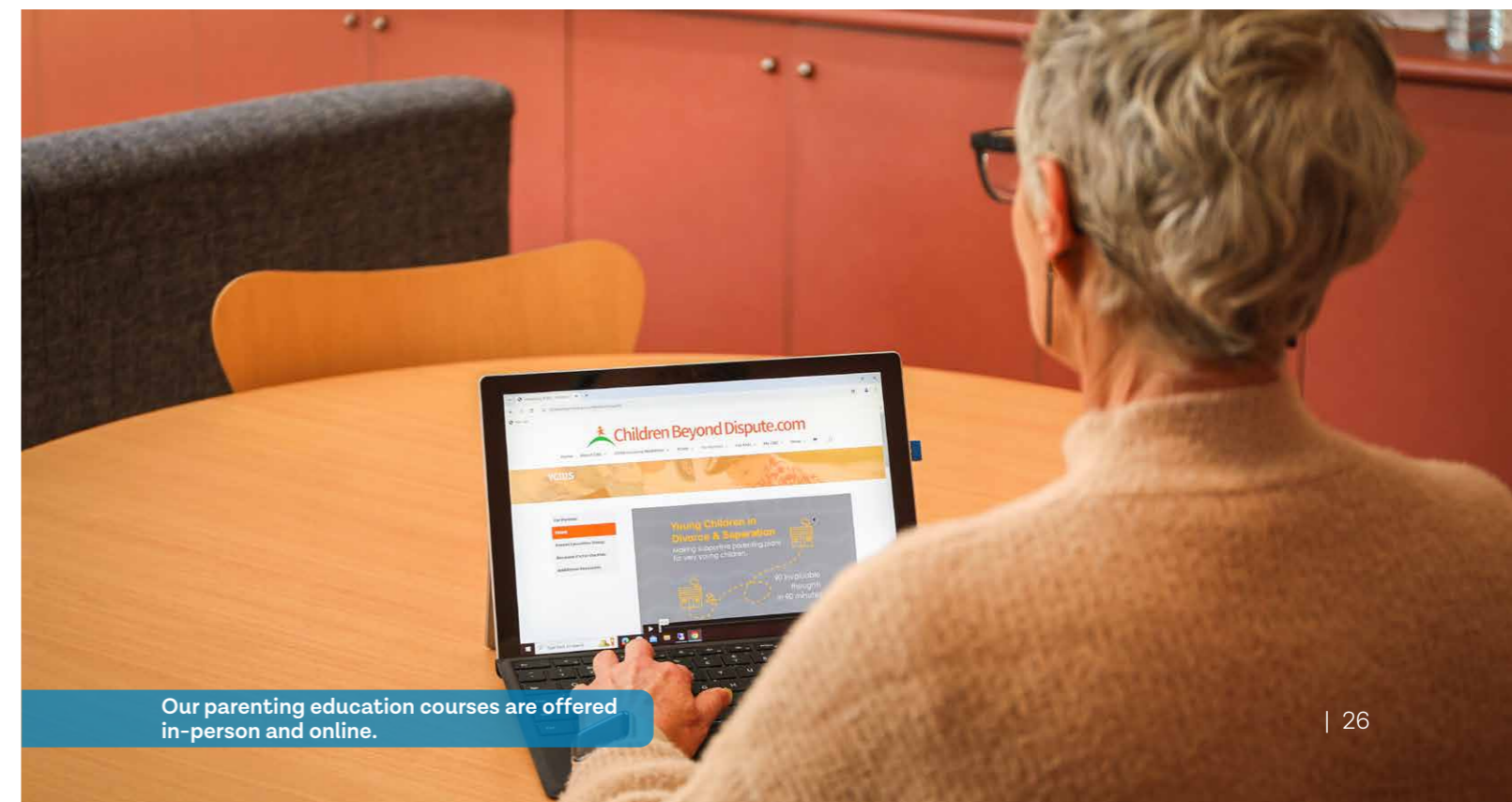
Family Relationship Services Manager Kate McLaren said these no or low-fee courses, aimed to empower parents to make better decisions, gain independence and build positive relationships.

The sessions also focus on open communication and resolving conflict in a healthy way.

"Participant feedback shows us these programs are making a real difference, giving families skills and strategies to navigate complex situations like relationship breakdowns and parenting challenges," Kate said.

Among feedback from course participants were comments including: "What stood out for me was the part about being a 'good enough' parent and that relaxing and taking the pressure off myself to be perfect or making sure my kids don't experience any adversity is unrealistic and unhealthy."

Another participant commented: "One thing I've changed because of this course is how I interact with my child during play. I learnt to let the child guide the play and the direction and I don't try to control it."



Our parenting education courses are offered in-person and online.



Our playgroups by numbers

Program snapshot



20+
Families provided transport



600+
Sessions



590
Participants



16
Different locations



More than just play

How playgroups foster connection and empower families

Every week, hundreds of children, their parents and carers meet at different locations across the Mallee region to attend a playgroup facilitated by Mallee Family Care.

At each session children from ages zero to five play together and explore engaging activities such as art and craft, music and outdoor adventures.

There is mess, fun and lots of laughter. But playgroups are about so much more than just play.

When Sarah* joined a playgroup with her 18-month-old, she discovered a safe space to connect with others, and accessed support for her child's social and emotional development.

Sarah joined one of Mallee Family Care's playgroups to give her toddler opportunities to socialise and interact with other children. The young single mother and her child felt extremely isolated after escaping family violence.

While at playgroup, Sarah felt comfortable enough to talk one-on-one with a Social Worker and opened up about what she had experienced. With an understanding of their circumstances, the Social Worker and Playgroup Facilitator provided Sarah

with child development advice and information. They also helped Sarah to access services to support her child's developmental needs and linked her with universal services.

One year on since first joining a playgroup, Sarah is grateful for the positive outcomes it has provided her family.

"I am just so grateful for you guys. You were the ones who helped us out and improved my child's socialising. I couldn't be more grateful. You know what my child was like before coming to playgroup," she said.

Sarah's experience underscores the critical role and value of playgroups. When young children play and interact, their social, emotional, physical and intellectual development is enhanced. Play helps children learn valuable language skills, how to problem solve, make friends and learn about the world.

But playgroups also empower parents and carers with knowledge and connections, help families overcome challenges and enhance the wellbeing of both children and parents.

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy of this family*



Foster Carers Stephanie and Marcus Capone

Foster Carers offer safe and secure homes for Mallee kids

During the 2023-24 Financial Year, Mallee Family Care coordinated out of home care placement for 106 children in North West Victoria and South West New South Wales.

Just like the children in need of support, each Mallee Family Care foster carer is unique. But they all have one thing in common – the desire to make a difference in the life of a child.

To Stephanie and Marcus Capone, foster caring is about more than a title.

“For us it’s being someone’s safety, it’s being someone’s closure at the end of the day. It’s not so much a title, it’s a feeling that we get,” Stephanie said.

With four young children of their own, the Capones have been providing emergency and respite care through Mallee Family Care for around two years.

“When children first come to us, they’re often really reserved and collected. When we start seeing them open up and being more inviting towards us it’s really nice to see how bright they can shine when they’re in a safe environment.”

Mallee Family Care actively recruits, trains and provides ongoing support for foster carers throughout their journey.

“There is a lot of support, in the good times and in the bad times,” said Leanne Ibbs, who cares alongside her husband Graeme.

Leanne said that support, which includes a 24-hour on-call service and being able to connect with other local carers, was one of the reasons she and Graeme had been caring for so long.

“We have education days and social events at Christmas and Easter. We bring all the kids along and have a really good social day. It’s just nice to see all the other carers and chat and see what they’re going through.”

“Foster caring is a roller coaster. Certainly, the highlight would be the smiles on the children’s faces – seeing them grow and bloom,” Leanne said.

On one occasion Leanne and Graeme provided care for a child who had stopped communicating verbally.

“On the second day with us he spoke and that really melted my heart,” Leanne said.

“It’s these little things that happen while they’re in your care that really stand out.”

And while they may seem small, its moments like these that demonstrate the profound impact foster carers have in young people’s lives.

When someone opens their home to a child in need, they’re not only impacting the life of the young person, they’re making a difference to our whole community. The support they provide to a child in their care can help them navigate their childhood and their transition into adulthood.

Our Foster Carers

Kylie & Travise Andrews
Wendy Arthur
Sharon & Stephen Ash
Rhonda Brown
Melissa Burns
Stephanie & Marcus Capone
Ivanka Carmen
Selina Clark
Barbara Clifford
Jennifer & Phillip Connell
Allison & Luke Day
Rachel & Daniel Eastwood
Kellie & Adam Farley
Jenna & Keith Fitzpatrick
Pettina Kelly & Ricky Handy
Mary Ann & Brendan Hearne
Logan Dawes & Ashlee Hester
Alanna Hill
Tania & Andrew Howe

Rachel Hughes
Leanne & Graeme Ibbs
Max Jones
Danni-Sue Jones & Desmond Lanigan
Kerry Laming
Carolyn Lawson
Letisha Kennedy Lawson
Sian Lennon
Keiren Linford
Megan & Kevin Lynch
Kristy & Paul Marshall
Rachael & Matthew McGann
Heather & William Miller Blaney
Shayne Mitchell
Jenny & Peter Nolen
Hannah O’Neil
Terri McArdle & Jeff O’Neil
Trudy Jowett & Timothy Page

Deborah Paull
Cathy Peterson
Chloe Poth
Kyla Poth
Vivian Riley
Vicki & Danny Riordan
Dale & Cheryl Robertson
Cassandra & Dean Scott
Lynise Sherlock
Athena & Barbara Sichounidis
Deri Singleton
Chloe Sloan
Lisa & Greg Sloan
Kathy Treweek
Colleen & Michael Walden
Chloe Oxley & Cody Wilkins
Cathy Young
Heather Young

Foster Care Assessment and Placement Panel

John Ayling
Andrew Cameron
Barbara Clifford
Luke Dalton

Kristy Gordon
Rachel Johnson
Natalie Mensforth
Helena Moore

Jenny Nolen
Christina Tripodi



Foster Carer Leanne Ibbs



Scholarship recipient Tyler Harris

Investing in tomorrow: Chances for Children Scholarship program shaping futures and strengthening communities

Dozens of young people from across the Mallee are pursuing an education and realising their dreams after receiving a Chances for Children scholarship in the 2023-24 Financial Year.

Established in 2000, Chances for Children (Chances) is the philanthropic arm of Mallee Family Care. Through an annual scholarship program, Chances assists 14-24-year-olds to stay in school, undertake tertiary studies and pursue sports, leadership, arts and music opportunities at state or national level.

CEO Teresa Jayet said Chances scholarships are an investment in our youth, and our community.

“We know that education is key to improving social and economic outcomes. It helps individuals, families, and communities to thrive,” Ms Jayet said.

“However, isolation, socio-economic disadvantage, a lack of affordable housing and the rising cost of living prevents far too many of the Mallee’s young people from pursuing further studies.”

Ms Jayet said Chances for Children was founded on the premise that everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their circumstances or where they live.

Ms Jayet acknowledged the many individuals, community groups and businesses whose

contributions helped fund the annual Chances scholarship program.

In the 2023-24 FY alone, Mallee Family Care received more than \$130,000 worth of donations to sustain the Chances program.

“Over the past 24 years, more than 2,200 young people have benefitted from a Chances scholarship,” she said.

“This would simply not be possible without the generosity of our many donors, fundraisers and community partners who recognise and value the impact education can have on a young person and on our whole community.”

Tyler Harris is one of the many young people who secured a Chances for Children Scholarship in the 2023-24 Financial Year.

Currently studying Cert IV in Agriculture & Agribusiness at Longerenong College near Horsham, Tyler’s scholarship helps to pay for his accommodation while living away from home.

Keen to continue his education journey, Tyler hopes to eventually enrol in an Advanced Diploma of Agribusiness and Advanced Diploma of Horticulture, which will support his goal to one day run his own business.



\$138,667

Donations received

97

Individual donors

42

Scholarships awarded

4

Registered Workplace Giving employers

Isabell Alchin

Scholarship spotlight:

2023-24 Scholarship recipient Isabell Alchin was selected to represent Australia at the 2024 National Track and Field Tour in Canada.

The 15-year-old sprinter from Red Cliffs received a Non-Tertiary Scholarship to help cover some of the expenses associated with this overseas endeavour.

“I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to attend if I didn’t have the support from Chances,” Isabell said.

The Non-Tertiary Scholarship category allows young people from the Mallee region to develop their skills and talents beyond the local region – on state, national or international level. Scholarships can be used to engage in leadership development programs, the arts, dance, music and sporting pursuits.

For Isabell, competing on an international stage was a dream-come-true.

She discovered her passion for athletics at the young age of seven when she first joined little athletics. However, it wasn’t until Isabell turned 11 that her interest in the sport truly ignited, and she started excelling in various athletic competitions.

Fast forward to 2024 and Isabell was running for her country in 100m, 200m and relay events.

“Canada was truly an amazing experience. I learnt so much and am really looking forward to what the future holds,” she said.

“Chances has given me the confidence to push myself harder than before, I have got further into athletics than I ever thought was possible. I am excited for the new athletic season ahead with the new skills I have gained from my experience.”



Scholarship recipients

Congratulations to these young people who secured Chances for Children Scholarships during the 2023-24 Financial Year.

Isabell Alchin
Compete at the 2024 National Track and Field Tour in Canada.

Ceyda Atasoy
Bachelor of Health Science

Mark Barnes
Diploma of Film and TV

Sila Basaran
Advanced Diploma of Legal Practice

Daniel Comitti
Bachelor of Computer Science

Vincent Daniele
Bachelor of Software Engineering

Bakhita Dhelbai
Bachelor of Youth Work and Studies

Kaan Dogan
Bachelor of Business (Accountancy)

Sakina Ehsani
Bachelor of Laws

Justin Garner
Cert III in Engineering Fabrication

Georgia Gentle
Bachelor of Criminology

Mikayla Gregg
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Masters)

Tyler Harris
Advanced Diploma of Agriculture and Agribusiness

Matisse Hill
Bachelor of Laws

Eden Hopgood
Bachelor of Design and Media Communications

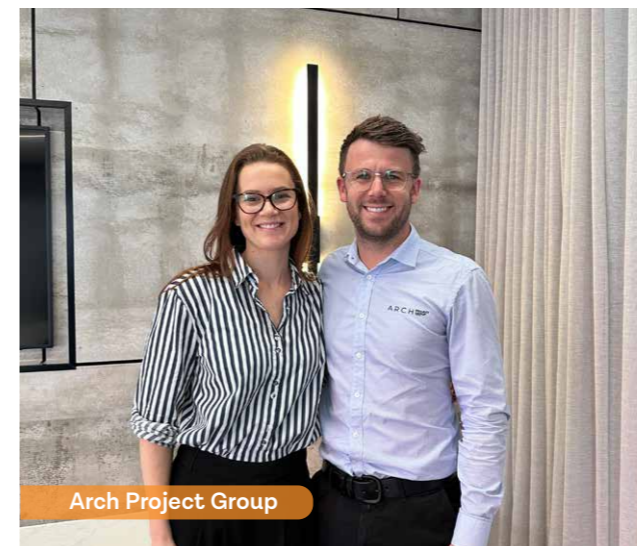
Daniel Hughes
Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours)

Foundation Partners

Chances for Children

Arch Project Group
Equity Trustees – The Raymond & Kathi Adams Gift
Euston Bowling and Recreation Club
Euston Club Resort
Findex Mildura
Foundation Funded by Cheryl & David Baer Family Fund
Freemasons Foundation Victoria
Freemasons Mildura
Freemasons Swan Hill
Lord Mayor’s Charitable Fund

Lower Murray Water
Mildura Fruit Company
Mildura Living Magazine
Nangiloc Colignan Farms
Seaway Intermodal
SuniTAFE
Uteznvanz
Wentworth District Capital Limited
Yeast Foundation



Arch Project Group



Representatives from Mildura Fruit Company, Nangiloc Colignan Farms and Seaway Intermodal

Alana Hughes
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)

Tyler Hyder-Hobson
Certificate II in Animal Care

Khadija Ibrahim
Diploma of Nursing

Jesse Jackson
Certificate IV in Design, Development and Production

Marie Keza
Certificate IV in Tertiary Preparation

Umutcan Konakci
Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery

Kylie Leviston
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy

Bronnee Loy-Williamson
Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science

Sarah Lucas
Bachelor of Education

Alec Matthews
Bachelor of Business (Professional Accountancy)

Holly Matthews
Bachelor of Biomedicine

Molly McBride
Bachelor of Arts (History)

Hannah Morton
Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science

Aimee Nairn
Bachelor of Criminology/Bachelor of Psychology

John Nghiem
Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

John Nghiem
Bachelor of Science/Master of Teaching

Jesse Orsini
Bachelor of Science (Chemical Science)

Emily Plant
Bachelor of Marine and Wildlife Conservation

Victor Quince
Bachelor of Psychological Science

Olivia Quince
Bachelor of Archaeology

Acacia Rolph
Certificate IV in Visual Arts

Taylan Saritoprak
Diploma of Business

Olivia Watt
Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery

Raheel Zahidi
Bachelor Osteopathy

Fluer Manno

Alumni spotlight:



Fluer Manno almost walked away from her university studies. The pressure of living away from home in a new city, a heavy course load, long days travelling to and from uni, no vehicle, no computer and no capacity for a part time job meant things were tough.

“I was almost at a point of giving up and returning home. Daylight hours were becoming shorter and I was struggling to get enough time at uni to complete coursework,” she said.

But securing a Chances scholarship in 2004 changed everything. The support gave Fluer the financial stability and breathing space she needed to continue.

Fluer graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine and has since forged a successful career in diagnostic pathology and microbiology.

“Chances provided me the opportunity to gain my degree and I’m so incredibly thankful for that endorsement.”

Driven by a profound connection to her community, Fluer emphasised the critical role of Chances in fostering the education of young people in health professions and encouraging them to return to the region with those skills.

“I really believe this is how our community will grow and become stronger. Chances is a mechanism to encourage this vision, as I know how the opportunity as a scholarship recipient shaped my connection to this community.”

“In a thriving community like ours, financial barriers should never stand in the way of a young person achieving their desired qualifications and career path.”

“Donating to Chances provides financial stability to our district’s youth, allowing them to focus solely on gaining their qualifications.”

“Professional skills are needed in our region, so by donating you are assisting in the development of very capable young people to gain those skills and then in turn bring it back home to Sunraysia.”

“We are an isolated region so the likelihood of our young people needing to relocate to pursue careers is profound. A small donation towards Chances for Children eases that burden on local families significantly and supports the entire community.”

Chances for Children

Sustaining Supporters, Donors and Workplace Givers

We gratefully acknowledge these generous individuals, groups and businesses who contributed to the Chances for Children Foundation in the 2023-24 FY.

- Katie Aarons
- Riley Allen
- Melissa Amos
- Tanya Antonie
- Fred Apthorpe
- Yuko Araki
- Natasha Baker
- Grant Beggs
- Christine Bishop
- Carol Blundy
- Maureen Body
- Leanne Bosman
- Cara Bradshaw
- Karen Casey
- Ross & Margaret Cleeland
- Adele Collinson
- Allison Collyer
- Rosemary Connell

- Sarah Cox
- Timothy Cranna
- Erika Cross
- Tracey Davis
- Liz & David Dawes
- Fiona & Peter Devilee
- Angela Dickenson
- Erissa Dipui
- Jeanette Donohue
- Leanne Faux
- Amanda Ferguson
- Christine Forbes
- Kathy Gadsden
- Lauren Gearman
- Corrina Graham
- Brai Greene

- Riza Gultekin
- Margrete Hamence
- Anthony Hickey
- Samantha Hillard
- Karen Hogarth
- Greg & Bev Hutchison
- Karren James
- Teresa Jayet
- Ian Japp & Rowena Keenan
- John & Carol Kennedy
- Danielle Lee
- Andrew Lucchesi
- Bill Marriott
- Kylie Martin
- Tim McClelland
- Sarah Merry

- Mike & Tracey Mooney
- Lauren Moore
- Natalie Morgan
- Ian & Jenni Newland
- Karina Nolan
- Cath O’Connor
- Peter O’Donnell
- Tania Pearce
- Tracey Presley
- Colin Rawnsley
- Keith OAM & Jan Richards
- Timothy Rodger
- Robyne Rundell
- Josephine Sheldrick
- Krystle Slorach
- Rhonda Smith

- Samantha Stitt
- Sharyn Sturre
- John Taylort
- Courtney Tepper
- Jennifer Wescombe
- Jeremy & Jessica White
- Marie Whiting
- Russell Williams
- Clinton Wills
- Eilish Zappia
- Aspire OSHC Wentworth
- Country Care Hearing Mildura
- Equity Trustees
- Findex Mildura
- Lions Club of Swan Hill

- Lower Murray Water
- MFC Financial Counselling & Community Legal Centre staff
- Mildura Fruit Company
- Mildura Rural City Council
- NCF Exports Pty Ltd
- Seaway Intermodal
- St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill
- Sunraysia Country Music Club Inc
- Sunraysia Institute of TAFE
- Sunraysia Farmers Market
- The Raymond & Kathi Adams Gift - Equity Trustees

- Totally Workwear Mildura
- Tyrrell College
- Wentworth District Capital Limited
- Yeast Foundation

Financial Report

Directors' Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Your directors present their report on Mallee Family Care Ltd ("the Agency") for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

Directors

The details of the directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Ross Lake OAM

Non-executive Director

Qualifications

Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of Economics, Diploma of Education.

Experience

Board member for most of the period since the inception of Mallee Family Care in 1984. Mr Lake holds a number of other Directorships including the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre Strategic Advisory Panel, Sky Temple Ltd and Institute for Future Co-Operation Ltd.

Special Responsibilities

Chair, Member Finance Audit and Risk Committee.

Jenna Yetman

Non-executive Director

Qualifications

Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting), Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice, Company Directors GAICD.

Experience

Ms Yetman was appointed to the Board in 2018 and Deputy Chair in 2020. She is employed as a Corporate Lawyer for a national retail and manufacturing business and is a graduate of the Northern Mallee Leaders program and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Ms Yetman has held a number of Directorships within local communities, including MADEC Australia and Mallee Track Health and Community Services.

Special Responsibilities

Deputy Chair.

Christine Cottrell

Non-executive Director

Qualifications

Graduate Certificate in Business Administration, Fellow of the Institute of Community Directors Australia (FICDA).

Experience

Ms Cottrell has spent 20 years working in Not-For-Profit Services including Australian Institute of Company Directors, Australian Sonographers Association and Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators. She is currently the Director of Connected Beginnings Mildura, working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to improve the lives of children. Ms Cottrell currently holds a Directorship with Mildura Community House.

Special Responsibilities

Chair of Finance Audit and Risk Committee.

Geoff Dea

Non-executive Director

Qualifications

Bachelor of Business (Accounting)

Experience

Mr Dea has held leadership roles in the Not for Profit, Education & Training and Finance Sectors.

Special Responsibilities

None.

Dr Suriya Hariprakash

Non-executive Director

Qualifications

MBBS, DCH, MRCP(Paediatrics), MRCPCH, CCT in Paediatrics and Paediatric Intensive Care Medicine (UK), FPCCM (Toronto, Canada), FRACP.AFRACMA.

Experience

Dr Hariprakash is the Senior Staff Specialist in Paediatrics and the Clinical Director of Paediatrics at Mildura Base Public Hospital. He received the Lucas Excellence Award in recognition of his contribution to the health and wellbeing of children in this region. Dr Hariprakash is a member of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy.

Special Responsibilities

None.

Belinda Hudak

Non-executive Director

Qualifications

Masters of Leadership and Management, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts

Experience

Ms Hudak was appointed to the Board in 2022. She is the Principal of Mildura Senior College, on the Board for the Northern Mallee Local Learning & Employment Network and is Deputy President of the Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals.

Special Responsibilities

None.

Dr Chelsea Todd

Non-executive Director

Qualifications

PHD, Bachelor of Psychology, Advanced Leadership Program

Experience

Dr Todd has previously been a director of Mallee Family Care Ltd in 2018/2019. She has held senior positions in both the South Australian and Victorian public service, most recently as Principal Advisor for the Mallee region, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. She now operates her own business (Chelsea Lee Todd) which provides multi-disciplinary support to women throughout Motherhood.

Special Responsibilities

None.

Directors have been in office since the commencement of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Meetings of Directors

During the financial year, 17 meetings of directors (including committees of directors) were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:

	Directors' Meetings		Finance Audit and Risk Committee	
	No. eligible to attend	No. attended	No. eligible to attend	No. attended
Mr Ross Lake	9	9	8	2
Ms Jenna Yetman	9	5	-	-
Ms Christine Cottrell	9	7	8	8
Mr Geoff Dea	9	8	-	-
Dr Suriya Hariprakash	9	8	-	-
Ms Belinda Hudak	9	7	-	-
Dr Chelsea Todd	9	6	-	-
Mr Eelco Vugs	9	7	-	-

Review of Operations

With the increased cost of living impacting all areas of the community, Mallee Family Care has seen significant growth in demand during 2023/24 for the many services offered.

Flood recovery support in the Southern Mallee has continued throughout the year, particularly in the areas of financial counselling and case work and will continue into the new financial year.

Service delivery in the NDIS space, more specifically NDIS plan management has continued to evolve. The program has shown significant growth with participant numbers increasing by over 20% during 2023/24.

Despite workforce shortages and difficulties faced in the Social and Community Services sector in general, throughout the year, the organisation has successfully recruited to a number of specialised roles and retained key staff due to the execution of strategies aligning with the Mallee Family Care strategic plan.

A most visible addition to the Organisation in 2023/24 has been the continued construction of the multi-million dollar purpose-built office facility at 123 Ninth Street, Mildura.

Once completed the building will bring the operations of all of the Organisations' Mildura services to the one location. The construction project has been supported by a successful grant application of \$4.9M in 2021 through the Commonwealth Building Better Regions Fund.

Overall, Mallee Family Care has delivered a solid performance during the 2023/24 financial year which is demonstrated by the strong financial result.

New Accounting Standards Implemented

No new Accounting Standards which impact on the operations of the Agency have come into effect during the 2023/2024 financial year.

Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

No significant changes in the state of affairs of the Agency occurred during the financial year.

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Agency is the advancement of social and community welfare through the provision of a diverse range of services and supports to vulnerable children; disadvantaged families and individuals; and, people with a disability.

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

Likely Developments and Expected Results of Operations

The operating budget for 2024/25 projects a surplus of approximately \$2,500,000 including the receipt of the final instalments of grant funding from the Commonwealth Building Better Regions Fund.

Construction of the new building located at 123 Ninth Street is scheduled for completion during the 2024/25 financial year.

Successful procurement of new streams of funding for 2024/25 have led to the commencement of the Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre in Broken Hill in July 2024 as well as additional support for rental stress across the Mallee.

As foreseen in recent financial years, it is anticipated the Organisation's financial costs will continue to grow in the new financial year due to expansion in staffing numbers together with increased employment costs. Additionally, the cost of delivering services are expected to be further impacted by the current economic circumstances faced in Australia.

Auditors' Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under s 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is set out on page 40

This report is signed in accordance a resolution of the Board of Directors



Ross Lake
Chair of the Board
Dated: 22 August 2024

Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012

To those charged with governance of Mallee Family Care Ltd

As auditor for the audit of Mallee Family Care Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of Mallee Family Care Ltd and the entities it controlled during the year.

William Buck (SA)
ABN 38 280 203 274



G.W. Martinella
Partner

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2024.

Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income			
Contract income from Government	2.1	24,238,137	20,874,174
Fee for service income	2.2	3,536,300	3,194,574
Other program income		86,118	68,241
Donations and fundraising	2.3	140,944	388,337
Investment income	2.4	1,017,251	665,701
Sundry income		266,738	224,550
Profit on sale of fixed assets		55,500	-
Capital grants		2,304,270	236,471
Total Revenue		31,645,258	25,652,048
Less: Expenses			
Employee benefits	3.1	19,525,808	17,552,605
Program delivery		3,772,520	2,990,494
Administration		1,753,516	1,665,988
Building occupancy and operating		891,440	765,655
Motor vehicles		252,344	215,997
Payments to beneficiaries		37,333	42,125
Fundraising costs		131,893	152,254
Interest and finance charges		4,402	2,129
Depreciation and amortisation	3.3	387,456	492,262
Total Expenditure		26,756,712	23,879,509
Net Surplus For The Year		4,888,546	1,772,539
Other Comprehensive Income			
Fair value adjustment for Intangibles (Software)	4.2	-	(120,848)
Revaluation of land and buildings	4.1	2,410,448	-
Total Comprehensive Income For The Year		7,298,994	1,651,691

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.2	15,047,680	18,960,537
Cash investments	5.2	6,842,926	1,665,218
Receivables	2.5	527,701	564,055
Other current assets	7.4	339,713	257,733
Total Current Assets		22,758,020	21,447,543
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	16,763,543	8,015,973
Intangibles	4.2	-	139,771
Total Non-Current Assets		16,763,543	8,155,744
Total Assets		39,521,563	29,603,287
Current Liabilities			
Payables	3.7	2,557,631	1,670,072
Employee benefits	3.5	1,913,787	1,758,467
Other current liabilities	2.6	8,126,241	6,696,653
Hire purchase liability (net)	5.3	49,550	8,596
Total Current Liabilities		12,647,209	10,133,788
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee benefits	3.5	65,022	74,284
Hire purchase liability (net)	5.3	134,009	18,886
Total Non-Current Liabilities		199,031	93,170
Total Liabilities		12,846,240	10,226,958
Net Assets		26,675,323	19,376,329
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		19,934,570	15,147,357
General reserves	5.5	4,491,514	2,081,066
Chances for Children - Special Purpose Reserve	8	797,101	695,768
Chances for Children Bequests - Special Purposes Reserve	8	1,452,138	1,452,138
Total Equity		26,675,323	19,376,329

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Total 2024 \$	Total 2023 \$	Accum. Surplus 2024 \$	Accum. Surplus 2023 \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	19,376,329	17,724,638	15,147,357	13,721,694
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	4,888,546	1,772,539	4,787,213	1,546,511
Other comprehensive income (loss) for the year	2,410,448	(120,848)	-	(120,848)
Transfers to (from) Reserves	-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year	26,675,323	19,376,329	19,934,570	15,147,357

Statement of Cashflows for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$ Inflows (Outflows)	2023 \$ Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Contract payments from Government		27,896,653	24,498,013
Donations and fundraising		140,944	388,337
Interest received		173,654	57,827
Other receipts		6,886,045	4,139,362
		35,097,296	29,083,539
Payments			
Payments to employees		(19,586,540)	(17,378,962)
Payments to suppliers and providers		(7,292,381)	(6,093,787)
Payments to Beneficiaries, Chances For Children		(39,200)	(44,231)
GST paid		(1,368,267)	(1,583,247)
		(28,286,388)	(25,100,227)
Net cash provided by operating activities	5.1	6,810,908	3,983,12
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for fixed assets and intangibles		(6,392,560)	(1,159,472)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		55,500	-
Proceeds from sale of assets held for resale		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(6,337,060)	(1,159,472)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Hire Purchase contracts repaid		(40,572)	(72,759)
Transfer from (to) term deposits with terms exceeding 3 months		(4,346,133)	9,233,689
Net cash from (used in) financing activities		(4,386,705)	9,160,930
Net increase (decrease) in cash for the year		(3,912,857)	11,984,770
Cash at beginning of financial year		18,960,537	6,975,767
Cash at end of financial year	5.2	15,047,680	18,960,537

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

General Reserves (Note 5.5) 2024 \$	General Reserves (Note 5.5) 2023 \$	Special Purposes Reserves			
		Chances For Children (Note 8.2) 2024 \$	Chances For Children (Note 8.2) 2023 \$	Chances For Children Requests (Note 8.2) 2024 \$	Chances For Children Requests (Note 8.2) 2023 \$
2,081,066	2,081,066	695,768	469,740	1,452,138	1,452,138
-	-	101,333	226,028	-	-
2,410,448	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-
4,491,514	2,081,066	797,101	695,768	1,452,138	1,452,138

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

NOTE 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 24 August 2024.

Basis of Preparation

Mallee Family Care Ltd ("the Agency") applies Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standards board ("AASB").

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission Act 2012. The Agency is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

Accounting Policies

a) Rounding

The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar. All amounts are expressed in Australian dollars.

b) Internal Transactions

In compiling this financial report, internal transactions, including charges to programs for use of motor vehicles, property, occupancy, general administration and other services have been eliminated.

c) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (“ATO”).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

d) Income Tax

The Agency has an Income Tax Exemption under Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and therefore is not subject to income tax.

e) Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

The Agency measures some of its assets and liabilities at fair value on a recurring basis.

Fair value is the price the Agency would receive to sell an asset or would have to pay to transfer a liability in an orderly (i.e. unforced) transaction between independent, knowledgeable and willing market participants at the measurement date.

As fair value is a market-based measure, the closest equivalent observable market pricing information is used to determine fair value. Adjustments to market value may be made having regard to the characteristics of the specific asset or liability. The fair values of assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. The valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data.

To the extent possible, market information is extracted from the principal market for the asset or liability (i.e. the market with the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset or liability) or, in the absence of such a market, information is extracted from the most advantageous market available to the entity at the reporting date (i.e. the market that maximises the receipts from the sale of an asset or minimises the payment that would be required to transfer a liability, after taking into account transaction and transport costs).

f) Critical Accounting Judgements, Estimates and Assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements.

Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed in the relevant notes.

g) New Accounting Standards For Application in Future Periods

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards have been issued that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2024 reporting period. The Agency has assessed these pending standards and has identified that no material impact will flow from the application of these standards in future reporting periods.

NOTE 2: Funding Our Diverse Services

The Agency provides around 45 discreet service lines across a very broad range of disciplines, from Family Services and Mental Health Support to Relationship Services and Legal Services. Funding for these services is derived from a variety of sources, which are summarised below.

Recognition of Income

Government Contract Income

Service delivery contracts with government departments and other agencies are assessed to determine whether they are enforceable and have specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

The core principle of AASB 15 is that revenue is recognised proportionally on a basis that reflects the provision of promised services to funders. Income is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows: identify the contract with the customer, identify the performance obligations, determine the transaction price, allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations and recognise revenue as and when control of the performance obligations is transferred.

Where AASB 15 applies, the Agency identifies each performance obligation relating to the contract; recognises a liability, contract income in advance (refer 2.6 below), for its obligations under the contract when funds are received; and recognises income as it satisfies its performance obligations. Where contracts are not enforceable or performance obligations are not specific, income is recognised when received.

Other Income

- Fee for Service income is recognised at the point when services are delivered to clients.
- Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.
- Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets, is the rate inherent in the instrument.
- Income from other sources is recognised at the point the Agency has a contractual right to bill, or when the income is received.

All revenue is recognised net of goods and services tax

2.1 Government Contract Income

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Victorian Government	14,511,539	11,371,071
Commonwealth Government	6,060,187	5,968,566
New South Wales Government	3,666,411	3,534,537
	24,238,137	20,874,174

2.2 Fee For Service Income

Income from services provided on a fee for time basis and service delivery contracts not directly funded by government	3,536,300	3,194,574
	3,536,300	3,194,574

includes activity funded by the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

2.3 Donations and Fundraising

Bequests	-	103,232
Other fundraising	140,944	285,105
	140,944	388,337

2.4 Investment Income

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Interest	1,017,251	665,701
	1,017,251	665,701

2.5 Receivables

Sundry debtors and other receivables is largely made up of amounts owing in respect of services undertaken on a fee for time basis and income from other sources in the ordinary course of business.

Sundry debtors	537,701	574,055
Other receivables	-	-
less Provision for expected credit losses	(10,000)	(10,000)
	527,701	564,055

Movement in Provision for Expected Credit Losses:

Opening balance	10,000	20,000
Charged to expense	-	(10,000)
Closing balance	10,000	10,000

Financial assets at amortised cost classified as receivables:

Total current	527,701	564,055
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Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Receivables are non interest bearing and are generally collected within 30 days.

2.6 Other Current Liabilities

Contract Income in Advance	8,126,241	6,696,653
	8,126,241	6,696,653

Balance at beginning of year	6,696,653	5,128,048
Add Funding received	26,750,240	23,328,675
Less recognised as Income	(24,718,578)	(20,992,230)
Less repaid to funder	(602,074)	(767,840)
Balance at end of year	8,126,241	6,696,653

Contract income in advance relates mainly to service contracts with various government departments for delivery of a range of welfare services in future periods. The movement in income in advance is attributable to payments received from customers in advance of services to be provided less the recognition of income from amounts received for services provided during the year.

NOTE 3: The Costs of Service Delivery

Details of the expenses associated with the provision of services by the Agency and the liabilities associated with the those expenses are outlined below:

3.1 Employee Benefits

	2024\$	2023\$
Superannuation contributions	1,841,279	1,595,021

In accordance with statutory requirements the Agency contributed 11% (2023: 10.5%) of gross remuneration for its accumulation members to a range of funds as designated by the members. Assets accumulate in the funds to meet members' benefits as they retire. These contributions are recognised as an expense when incurred.

3.2 Key Management Personnel Compensation

Any persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling activities of the Agency, directly or indirectly, are considered to be key management personnel (KMP). The totals of remuneration paid to KMP of the Agency during the year are as follows:

Key management personnel compensation	713,778	621,411
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For details of any other transactions with KMP, refer to Note 7.1.

3.3 Depreciation and Amortisation

Depreciation is comprised of the following:

Buildings and building improvements	75,925	75,718
Furniture and equipment	124,897	138,949
Motor vehicles	46,863	137,461
Total Depreciation	247,685	352,128

Amortisation is comprised of:

Amortisation of Intangibles (Software at Cost)	139,771	140,134
Total Depreciation and Amortisation	387,456	492,262

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are based on an assessment of the useful life of the asset class as discussed at Note 4.4 and are set out in the table below:-

Depreciable Asset	Depreciation Method:	Depreciation Rate:
Furniture and equipment	Prime Cost	10.0% to 20.0%
Computer equipment	Prime Cost	25.0% to 40.0%
Buildings	Prime Cost	1.67%
Building improvements	Prime Cost	5% to 20%
Motor vehicles	Prime Cost	20%

The cost of Software developed specifically for the Agency is amortised to profit and loss using the straight-line method over its estimated useful life which is generally three years, an amortisation rate of 33.3%

3.4 Other Expense Items for Disclosure

Provision for expected credit losses	-	(10,000)
Lease payments, short term and low value leases	287,612	230,045

3.5 Employee Benefits as Liabilities

	2024\$	2023\$
Current		
Provision for annual leave	1,068,767	1,027,984
Provision for time-off in lieu of overtime	19,189	9,444
Provision for long service leave	825,831	721,039
	1,913,787	1,758,467
Non Current		
Provision for long service leave	65,022	74,284
Total	1,978,809	1,832,751

Short term employee benefits

Provision is made for the Agency's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and time-off in lieu of overtime. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The Agency's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages and salaries are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position.

Long term employee benefits

Provision is made for employees' annual leave and long service leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to end-of-reporting-period market yields on government bonds that have maturity dates approximating the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements of other long-term employee benefit obligations due to changes in assumptions are recognised in profit and loss in the periods in which the changes occur.

The Agency's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Agency does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

3.6 Accounting Judgements and Estimates Relating to Employee Benefits as Liabilities

Employee benefits provision - current

For the purpose of measurement, AASB 119: Employee Benefits defines obligations for short-term employee benefits as obligations expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. As the Agency expects that all of its employees would use all of their annual leave entitlements earned during a reporting period before 12 months after the end of the reporting period, the Agency believes that obligations for annual leave entitlements satisfy the definition of short-term employee benefits and, therefore, can be measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid to employees when the obligations are settled.

Employee benefits provision - non-current

As discussed in note 3.5, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

3.7 Payables

	2024\$	2023\$
Current		
<i>Unsecured</i>		
Trade creditors	439,936	760,252
Sundry creditors	1,143,551	134,382
GST and PAYG payable	494,261	386,927
Other creditors	479,883	388,511
	2,557,631	1,670,072
Financial liabilities at amortised cost classified as payables:		
Total current	2,063,370	1,283,145

Collateral pledged

No collateral has been pledged for any payables balances.

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Agency during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

3.8 Prepayments

Prepayments	339,713	257,733
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Prepayments are payments in advance, predominantly for services like insurance, licences and maintenance, which extend for a period beyond the current accounting period.

NOTE 4: Assets Used to Support Service Delivery

	2024\$	2023\$
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The Agency uses a range of infrastructure and other assets to meet its objectives in service delivery. Details of material items are outlined below:

4.1 Property, Plant and Equipment

(a) Gross carrying amount and accumulated depreciation

Land at fair value (i)	4,875,828	3,865,923
	4,875,828	3,865,923
Buildings at fair value (i)	3,885,095	2,848,263
Capital Work in Progress - Buildings (i)	7,592,159	1,210,827
less Accumulated depreciation	-	(372,399)
	11,477,254	3,686,691
Building improvements at cost and fair value (i)	14,498	929,945
less Accumulated depreciation	(11,329)	(842,162)
	3,169	87,783
Motor vehicles (at cost)	1,478,407	1,446,541
less Accumulated depreciation	(1,313,730)	(1,378,265)
	164,677	68,276
Furniture and equipment (at cost)	1,159,708	1,099,496
less Accumulated depreciation	(917,093)	(792,196)
	242,615	307,300
Net Property, Plant and Equipment	16,763,543	8,015,973

(i) The Board has reviewed fair values at 30 June 2024 and is satisfied that carrying values are consistent with fair values at that date. Refer below and Note 4.4.

(b) Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of asset

Year Ended 30 June 2024 Reconciliation of carrying values by asset class

	Land \$	Building Improvements \$	Buildings \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Furniture and Equipment \$	Total \$
Balance at the beginning of year	3,865,923	87,783	3,686,691	68,276	307,300	8,015,973
Additions	-	-	6,381,331	143,264	60,212	6,584,807
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	1,009,905	(56,382)	1,456,925	-	-	2,410,488
Fair Value Adjustment						
Depreciation expense	-	(28,232)	(47,693)	(46,863)	(124,897)	(247,685)
Carrying amount at the end of year	4,875,828	3,169	11,477,254	164,677	242,615	16,763,543

Year Ended 30 June 2023 Reconciliation of carrying values by asset class

	Land \$	Building Improvements \$	Buildings \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Furniture and Equipment \$	Total \$
Balance at the beginning of year	3,865,923	115,938	2,693,597	205,737	366,755	7,247,950
Additions	-	-	1,040,657	-	79,494	1,120,151
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(28,155)	(47,563)	(137,461)	(138,949)	(352,128)
Carrying amount at the end of year	3,865,923	87,783	3,686,691	68,276	307,300	8,015,973

Valuation

Land and buildings are measured at fair value based on periodic, but completed approximately every 5 years, valuations by external independent valuers, less accumulated depreciation for buildings.

In periods when the freehold land and buildings are not subject to an independent valuation, the directors conduct directors' valuations to ensure the carrying amount for the land and buildings is not materially different from fair value.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the revaluation surplus in equity. Revaluation decreases that offset previous increases in the same class of assets are recognised in other comprehensive income under the heading of revaluation surplus. Other decreases are recognised in profit and loss.

Any accumulated depreciation at the date of the revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event that the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised either in surplus or deficit, or as a revaluation decrease, if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset.

Impairment

At the end of each reporting period, the Agency assesses whether there is any indication that an asset (including Intangible Assets) may be impaired.

If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit and loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another Standard (eg in accordance with the revaluation model in AASB 116: Property, Plant and Equipment). Any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other Standard.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is recognised against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that class of asset.

Subsequent Costs

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Agency and the costs of the item can be measured reliably. All repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses in profit and loss during the financial year in which they are incurred.

Capitalisation and Useful Lives

Assets with a cost in excess of \$1,500 are capitalised and depreciation has been provided on depreciable assets so as to allocate their cost - or valuation - over their estimated useful lives using the methods as set out on the following page. Estimates of the remaining useful lives and depreciation method for all assets are reviewed at least annually.

Disposal

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing net proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are recognised in profit and loss in the period in which they occur. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained surplus.

4.2 Intangible Assets

	2024\$	2023\$
(a) Gross carrying amount and accumulated amortisation		
Software (at cost)	921,860	921,860
less Accumulated amortisation	(921,860)	(782,089)
Net Intangibles	-	139,771

(b) Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of asset

Year Ended 30 June 2024 Reconciliation of carrying values by asset class	Software	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at the beginning of year	139,771	139,771
Amortisation expense	(139,771)	(139,771)
Carrying amount at the end of year	-	-

Year Ended 30 June 2023 Reconciliation of carrying values by asset class	Software	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at the beginning of year	361,432	361,432
Additions	39,321	39,321
Fair Value Adjustment (Software Development)	(120,848)	(120,848)
Software development expensed	-	-
Amortisation expense	(140,134)	(140,134)
Carrying amount at the end of year	139,771	139,771

Capitalisation and Useful Lives

Acquired computer software licences are initially capitalised at cost, which includes the purchase price (net of any discounts and rebates) and other directly attributable costs of preparing the asset for its intended use. Direct expenditure including employee costs, which enhances or extends the performance of computer software beyond its specifications and which can be reliably measured, is added to the original cost of the software. Costs associated with maintaining the computer software are recognised as an expense when incurred.

These costs are amortised to profit and loss using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, usually three years.

The amortisation period and amortisation method are reviewed at least at each balance sheet date. The effects of any revision are recognised in profit and loss when the changes arise.

Impairment

Computer software licences are subsequently carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

4.3 Fair Value Measurements

For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement takes into account a market participant's ability to use the asset in its highest and best use or to sell it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The Agency has assets as set out in the table below that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis after initial recognition. The Agency does not subsequently measure any liabilities on a recurring basis and has no assets or liabilities that are measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis.

	Note	2024\$	2023\$
Non-financial assets			
Freehold land (i)	4.1 (a)	4,875,828	3,865,923
Freehold buildings (ii)	4.1 (a)	11,480,423	3,774,474
		16,356,251	7,640,397

(i) For freehold land, the fair values have been determined using a market approach based on 2024 independent valuations. The board has reviewed the carrying values at 30 June 2024 and is satisfied that these are consistent with fair value at that date.

(ii) For freehold buildings, the fair values have been determined using a market approach based on 2024 independent valuations. The board has reviewed the carrying values at 30 June 2024 and is satisfied that these are consistent with fair value at that date.

4.4 Accounting Judgements and Estimates Related to Non-Financial Assets

Estimation of useful lives of assets

The Agency determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and charges for its property, plant and equipment. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Impairment of non-financial assets

The Agency assesses impairment of non-financial assets at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the Agency and to the particular asset that may lead to impairment. If an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. This involves fair value less costs of disposal or value-in-use calculations, which incorporate a number of key estimates and assumptions.

NOTE 5: Financing Our Operations

Details of the sources of finance used by the Agency to fund its operations and activities, including operation cashflow, cash holdings, investments and borrowings.

5.1 Cash Flow From Operations

	Note	2024\$	2023\$
Reconciliation of Net Result for the year to Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities			
Net surplus for the year		4,888,546	1,772,539
Non-cash items in current year surplus:			
Depreciation and amortisation		387,456	492,262
Hire purchase finance charges		4,402	2,129
Provision for doubtful debts		-	(10,000)
Intangible asset written off		-	-
Interest reinvested in deposits with maturities longer than 3 months		(831,575)	(506,347)
Profit on sale of fixed assets		(55,500)	-
Profit on sale of asset held for resale		-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
Increase (decrease) in payables		573,435	202,479
Increase (decrease) in contracts income in advance		1,429,588	1,568,605
Increase (decrease) in employee provisions		146,058	208,100
Increase (decrease) in GST and PAYG payable		314,124	168,999
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable		36,354	50,350
Decrease (increase) in prepayments		(81,980)	34,196
Net cash from operating activities		6,810,908	3,983,312

5.2 Cash and Cash Equivalents and Cash Investments

Cash at bank - unrestricted		1,091,699	998,010
Cash at bank - Chances for Children	8	519,326	482,688
Short term investments - term deposits		13,436,655	17,479,839
Cash and Cash Equivalents		15,047,680	18,960,537
Term deposits where term exceeds 3 months		5,113,013	-
Term deposits where term exceeds 3 months - Chances for Children	8	1,729,913	1,665,218
Cash Investments		6,842,926	1,665,218

The effective interest rate on short-term bank deposits was 4.8% (2023: 3.23%). These deposits have maturities ranging from 56 to 366 days.

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. For purposes of the Statement of Cashflows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, at bank and on deposit.

5.3 Hire Purchase Liabilities

	2024\$	2023\$
Current		
Secured hire purchase contracts	60,787	9,398
Less Unexpired finance charges	(11,237)	(802)
	49,550	8,596
Non-Current		
Secured hire purchase contracts	150,753	19,293
Less Unexpired finance charges	(16,744)	(407)
	134,009	18,886
Hire Purchase Commitments:		
Payments due not later than 12 months	60,787	9,398
Payments due between 12 months and 5 years	150,753	19,293
Minimum Hire Purchase Payments	211,540	28,691
Less: Future finance charges	(27,981)	(1,209)
	183,559	27,482

Each hire purchase contract is secured by the underlying asset, which in all cases is a motor vehicle.

5.4 Lease Commitments

The Agency has entered into rental lease agreements for use of premises at 64 Lemon Ave, Mildura; 59 Darling St, Wentworth; 1/22 Victoria St, Kerang; 60 Madden Ave, Mildura; 62 Madden Ave, Mildura and 157 Stradbroke Avenue, Swan Hill.

The Directors, after considering the modelling of the application of AASB16 have determined that there are currently no material leases to be recognised under the standard and therefore there has been no impact in the 30 June 2024 financial statements. The Directors will continue to consider leases on an annual basis and material leases will be accounted for under AASB16 (Refer below).

Minimum lease payments under short term and low value leases:

Payments due not later than 12 months	256,404	221,417
Payments due between 12 months and 5 years	58,298	148,290
Minimum Operating Lease Payments	314,702	369,707

At the inception of a contract, the Agency assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present that is material to the financial statements, a right of use asset and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the Agency where the Agency is a lessee. However, where leases are not material together with all contracts that are classified as short term leases (ie a lease with a remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets, lease payments are recognised as an operating expense on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Initially, the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Agency uses the incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows:

- fixed lease payments less any lease incentives;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;
- the amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- the exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options;
- lease payments under extension options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options; and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease.

The right of use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, as well as any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right of use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right of use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset, whichever is the shortest. Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset, or the cost of the right of use asset reflects that the Agency anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

5.5 Reserves

Reserves are amounts set aside from past surpluses which have been used for specified purposes, as set out below:-

	2024\$	2023\$
Swan Hill building reserve	95,000	95,000
Kerang building reserve	72,820	72,820
Mildura building reserve	269,638	269,638
General capital reserve	551,343	551,343
Asset Revaluation Reserve	3,502,713	1,092,265
	4,491,514	2,081,066

Building Reserves - Swan Hill , Kerang and Mildura

These reserves were created to identify funds raised specifically for the construction and upgrade of buildings at the three locations. The funds were treated as income when received.

General Reserve

The general capital reserve is used to record funds received and brought to account as income which have been applied to the acquisition of capital assets.

Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets. The Assets Revaluation Reserve is comprised as follows:-

	Land		Buildings	
	2024 \$	2023 \$	2024 \$	2023 \$
Balance at the beginning of the year	1,012,238	1,012,238	80,027	80,027
Revaluation increment (decrement)	1,009,905	-	1,400,543	-
Balance at the end of the year	2,022,143	1,012,238	1,480,570	80,027

NOTE 6: Contingencies, Risks and Valuation Practices

6.1 Capital Commitments

As at 30 June 2024 the Agency had capital commitments for the construction of new premises at 123 Ninth Street Mildura totalling \$12,890,897 (including GST) being contract cost of \$20,683,107 less amounts paid \$7,792,209 (2023: \$19,637,167 - incl GST).

6.2 Contingent Assets And Liabilities

As at 30 June 2024 the Agency had no contingent assets or contingent liabilities (2023: nil).

6.3 Events Occurring Subsequent To Reporting Date

No events have occurred subsequent to balance date which are likely to materially effect any of the balances or values reported in the financial statements.

6.4 Financial Risk Management

	2024\$	2023\$
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	19,641,367	18,477,849
Cash and cash equivalents, Chances for Children	2,249,239	2,147,906
Loans and receivables	527,701	564,055
	22,418,307	21,189,810
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost		
- payables	2,063,370	1,283,145
- hire purchase liabilities	183,559	27,482
	2,246,929	1,310,627

Financial Instruments - Recognition, Measurement and Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the Agency commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (ie trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified as at fair value through profit and loss, in which case the transaction costs are recognised immediately as expense in profit and loss.

(i) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments, that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rates method.

(ii) Financial liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities (excluding financial guarantees) are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Impairment

At each reporting date, the Agency assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. Impairment gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the Agency no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are either extinguished, cancelled or expire. The difference between the carrying value of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed, is recognised in the profit and loss.

NOTE 7: Related Parties and Other Disclosures

7.1 Related Party Transactions

(i) Responsible Persons

The names of the board members who held office during the reporting period are:-

- Ross Lake (Chair)
- Christine Cottrell (Chair of Finance Audit and Risk Committee)
- Geoff Dea
- Dr Suriya Hariprakash
- Belinda Hudak
- Dr Chelsea Todd
- Eelco Vugs
- Jenna Yetman (Deputy Chair)

(ii) Board Members' Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to board members during the year.

(iii) Board Members' Transactions

During the year the following transactions with Board Members or Board Member-related entities were recognised:

- A business in which Ross Lake has a beneficial interest is a supplier of fuel to the Agency. The terms of the transactions were net 30 days and the total payments recognised in the financial report were \$13,416 (2023 - \$15,780). An amount of \$NIL was owed by the Agency at 30 June 2024 (2023 - \$1,500).

(iv) Retirement and Superannuation Payments

Amounts paid directly on retirement from office or to prescribed superannuation funds for the provision of retirement benefits for board members were \$nil (2023 - \$nil).

(v) Loans

No loans have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Agency to Key Management Personnel during the reporting period.

(vi) Other related party transactions

There are no other matters to report.

7.2 Operating Region

Mallee Family Care Ltd operates in one geographic area being the Mallee region of north west Victoria and south west New South Wales.

The principal places of business of the Agency are as follows:-

1-3 Devenport Street	DARETON
1/22 Victoria Street	KERANG
122 Ninth Street	MILDURA
229 Beveridge Street	SWAN HILL

7.3 Members' Guarantee

The Agency is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a Company Limited By Guarantee. If the entity is wound up the Constitution requires that each member is required to contribute to a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Agency. At 30 June 2024, the number of members was 8.

7.4 Other Current Assets

Other current assets, as reported in the Statement of Financial Position, is comprised of the following items

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Prepayments	3.8	339,713	257,733
		339,713	257,733

NOTE 8: Chances For Children- Our Philanthropic Fund

The Chances for Children Fund (“Chances”) was established in the 2001 financial year. Chances was founded as a partnership between the Agency and three water authorities, Lower Murray Water, First Mildura Irrigation Trust and Sunraysia Rural Water. Its charter is to raise money from public subscription and general donation which is to be used to enhance opportunities for disadvantaged young people from the region. Chances will provide funding to assist such children with education, dealing with disabilities and deprivations arising from disadvantage.

The Agency considers that funds raised through the efforts of Chances (less any applicable expenses) are quarantined for use in assisting beneficiaries, in accordance with the recommendations of a separate advisory board. As such, Chances is operated as a Special Purpose Reserve within the Agency.

Financial statements for the Chances for Children Fund Special Purposes Reserve are set out in 8.1 to 8.3 below:-

8.1 Chances For Children Reserve - Statement of Profit and Loss

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue	8.3(a)	
Sustaining Supporters	43,163	59,482
Other donations	95,504	100,089
Bequests	-	103,232
Fundraising activities	-	-
Interest on investments	-	-
Sundry income	-	-
Total Operating Revenue	138,667	262,803
Expenditure	8.3(a)	
Other operating and project expenses	-	1,360
Total Operating Expenditure	-	1,360
Funds Available For Distribution	138,667	261,443
less Payments to beneficiaries	(37,334)	(35,415)
Operating Surplus Chances For Children	101,333	226,028

8.2 Chances For Children Reserve - Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets		
Cash at bank	519,326	482,688
Term deposit where term exceeds 3 months	1,729,913	1,665,218
Total Current Assets	2,249,239	2,147,906
TOTAL ASSETS	2,249,239	2,147,906
NET ASSETS	2,249,239	2,147,906
Fund Equity		
Opening general reserve balance	695,768	469,740
Surplus for year	101,333	226,028
Closing general reserve balance	797,101	695,768
Opening bequests reserve balance	1,452,138	1,452,138
Closing bequests reserve balance	1,452,138	1,452,138
TOTAL FUND EQUITY	2,249,239	2,147,906

8.3 Chances For Children Reserve - Notes to Financial Statements

(a) Basis of Accounting

Income and expenditure identified as relating to Chances is recognised accordingly in the Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

Assets representing the net balance of the fund are identified in the Balance Sheet and the capital of the fund is disclosed as a Special Purpose Reserve within Equity.

(b) Internal Transactions

Revenue and expenditure in these supplementary financial statements may include internal transactions with the operating fund of the Agency. In the Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, these transactions have been eliminated in accordance with the accounting policy outlined in Note 1(b).

(c) Contingent Liability For Future Beneficiary Payments

A significant proportion of payments to beneficiaries of Chances For Children represents support for young people undertaking tertiary study. No guarantee is given to tertiary beneficiaries at the commencement of the first year of their studies that support will automatically be granted over the duration of their course. However, in the normal course of events beneficiaries do receive support from Chances For Children for the second and following years of their studies. Circumstances where funding will not be continued include deferral or termination of the course and an improvement in the student's financial situation.

At 30 June 2024, the estimated commitment to future funding of existing tertiary beneficiaries is \$192,187 (2023: \$129,370). This figure is calculated based on the net present value of estimated future cash outflows relating to these beneficiaries. It takes account of anticipated future drop out rates and other mitigating factors.

Directors' Declaration for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

In accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Mallee Family Care Limited, the directors of the registered entity declare that, in the directors' opinion:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 41 to 62, satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
 - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures applicable to the entity; and
 - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the registered entity as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subsection 60-15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Regulations 2013.



Ross Lake
Chair of the Board
Dated: 22 August 2024

Independent auditor's report to the members of Mallee Family Care Ltd

Report on the audit of the financial report

Our opinion on the financial report

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Mallee Family Care Ltd (the Company) has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

What was audited?

We have audited the financial report of the Company, which comprises

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024,
- the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended,
- the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended,
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended,
- notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and
- the responsible entity's declaration.

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 Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Other information

The members of the Board are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the members of the Board for the financial report

The members of the Board of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The members of the Board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the members of the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the members of the Board are responsible for assessing the Company'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 members of the Board either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The members of the Board are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

William Buck (SA)
ABN 38 280 203 274



G.W. Martinella
Partner
Dated this 22nd day of August, 2024.

Mallee Family Care Central Office

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All photographs featured in this report (excluding page 25) are of people and places in our catchment area.

   @malleefamilycare

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