

A young boy with short dark hair is smiling broadly while sitting on a red playground structure. He is wearing a black t-shirt with a white graphic and grey sweatpants. The background is a blurred outdoor playground setting with greenery and other equipment.

**Thank you**  
for believing  
in children

Annual Review 2016-17



**Barnardos**  
Australia



## Thank you... for changing children's lives for the better.

As you know, at Barnardos we believe in children.

We believe every Australian child should enjoy a safe and loving family, and a stable home, free from violence and neglect.

We know this belief, and the desire to make this happen, touches your heart also.

Your continued generosity and kindness directly enables us to change children's lives for the better.

We are grateful for your commitment to our mission to protect and nurture vulnerable children.

You have helped keep thousands of children safe in their own families.

You have helped find new homes for children who cannot remain safely with their own families.

You have supported Aboriginal children to remain connected to their culture and community.

You have helped Barnardos Children's Family Centres seamlessly deliver the supports specific to each individual child, young person and their family.

As I reflect on what our inspirational team of volunteers, carers, staff, individual donors and corporate supporters has achieved over the last year, I am encouraged for the future for our children.

The stories which follow paint a picture of the riches your support has provided to change lives for the better.

**Deirdre Cheers**  
CEO, Barnardos Australia



# Thank you...

for supporting our vital work  
with children and families.

**22,496**

Children, young  
people & their families'  
lives improved

**172**

Programs delivered

**7,857**

Children & young  
people 'at risk' of  
abuse kept safe  
in their families

**51**

Children & young  
people found  
a permanent  
family through  
open adoption

**1,550**

Children & young  
people kept safe  
through kinship  
and foster care

**1,190**

Foster carers

**1,210**

Young people  
reconnected with  
family or supported  
with accommodation  
through youth  
homelessness  
prevention programs

**43**  
NSW

**8**  
ACT

**1,143**

Pre-school children  
supported through  
parenting programs,  
early learning &  
playgroups

**86**

Open adoptions in  
progress (NSW)

**10,385**

Children & young  
people assisted to  
engage with their  
education through  
school grants

**596**

Volunteers

**618**

Employees

**525**

Welfare staff =  
85% of workforce







“I’m so proud of how hard she worked to be the best mum she could be.”

## Thank you... for bringing families back together.

I first met Bree\* when she was referred to our Children's Family Centre at Auburn. Her five month old baby daughter Mia\*, had been in care since birth. Bree was committed to getting Mia restored back into her care full time, however she needed somewhere stable and safe for them to live together.

We arranged for Bree to move into one of our transitional accommodation units and provided her with a bed, cot, linen, towels and cooking equipment to set herself up.

Once Bree had her own space to call home, she could focus on having Mia restored to her care. She prepared by having overnight contact and adjusting to little Mia's routine and needs. Bree was constantly updating her unit to accommodate Mia's emerging needs.

I worked with Bree to draw up a budget and arranged for her debt to be reduced through her engagement in the program. Bree and I also worked together to find a local community group to provide baby Mia with a stimulating environment and opportunities to socialise. Bree told me that she wanted to get back into the workforce and was also interested in studying. So we looked into some study course options for what would be most suitable for her.

The day came when Mia was restored to Bree's care and we had a celebration with them both in their unit. We could all see that this was where Mia was meant to be. Bree was so committed to being a good mum to Mia, she also completed our Circle of Security parenting program and attended our Parent's Support Group.

The time came for Bree to look at moving into a private rental property. She was approved for a rent subsidy, and thanks to her time in our accommodation program, had a rental history and a reference letter to start her on her way. Within days of applying, Bree had been approved for a private rental property and was ecstatic to begin this new chapter in her new life.

Bree and Mia are now living in a rental property and Bree has recently started studying online through TAFE. I see her from time to time as she still attends the Parent's Support Group at Barnardos. I'm so proud of how hard she worked to be the best mum she could be. She recently told me, "It was more than just a program, it was like a family. You gave me emotional support. You were there for me while Mia and I both grew."

**Allison Galicia**  
Children's Family Centre

\*Names have been changed to protect privacy.





Services are provided in accordance with local community needs.



**Thank you...**  
for supporting  
prevention and safety.





"He learnt to understand that we would always be there for him."

## Thank you... for believing all children deserve a family for life.

It was so wonderful when Malachy first came to stay with us. It was also a little scary as well. We had never fostered before and here we were looking after another person's child, one who hadn't spent the first few months of his life learning to trust us.

We were concerned that he may not bond to us – but on the day we met him, he just grabbed onto our legs – and we knew there was something there to work with.

Slowly, he learnt to understand that we would always be there for him.

About six months later, we took on two siblings as a crisis placement, which has now become long term. We believe it is very important that these children also have stability in our home, and at the same time maintain their identities by keeping some contact with their biological roots.

In May this year, after fostering him since 2012, Malachy became our son via open adoption. It was a very special day for all of us.

We are the first gay couple in the ACT to adopt via the foster system and we now have a wonderful little boy who is part of our lives forever.

In the week leading up to "Judge Day", as he called it, Malachy would ask everyday "Is today Judge Day?" and practice saying his new surname.

On "Judge Day", Malachy was keen to share some brownies with the Judge, which my husband Jamie made the night before. He went to school the next day, sharing his story with anyone who would listen and making sure they all knew he had a new surname.

We're just like every other parent. We look after our kids, we send them to school, help them with their homework, if they're sick we stay up all night looking after them. We would also love to adopt our other two foster children.

The training and everything we went through to get to this point has just made us better parents. We have had some rough patches but every day when I have come home, three kids screaming their heads off and hugging me and telling me about their days just makes up for everything.

**Dale Todling**  
Adoptive Parent



# Thank you... for listening to children.

I was taken into foster care when I was about three years old. My parents both had drug and alcohol dependency and my mum also had cognitive deficit so they weren't able to look after me. I stayed with temporary carers while Barnardos were looking for a more permanent home for me. I would go to Katrina's on weekends to give my carers a break. My caseworker then asked me if I would like to live with Katrina permanently and I immediately said yes.

I loved going to Katrina's for the weekend. We always had so much fun. Katrina doesn't have a partner, so I got a lot of one-on-one attention, which I think is what I really needed. I couldn't wait to move in.

When I was about ten, I remember being asked by my caseworker if I would be interested in adoption. I really wanted to be adopted by Katrina, but I was worried about how my birth mum would feel and that it would hurt her. We decided to put it on hold for a couple of years.

By the time I was 12 I was much more certain. I knew it might make my birth mother sad but it was my choice, it was for me. So we started the process. It took ages – my caseworker kept checking that I still wanted to be adopted every time she visited and I remember getting frustrated at being asked the same questions over and over again!

It took two years to process. When I was 14 we all went to the Supreme Court in Sydney and it was confirmed on that day. We went out to celebrate afterwards with Katrina and my adoptive grandparents.

Making the decision to be adopted at age 12 was so empowering for me. Having adults listen to me really showed they cared about me. Being taken seriously is so important for kids in foster care because adults always make life decisions for them. Barnardos gave me a voice.

I see my birth mum every few months. It took her many years to come to terms with my adoption, but she is so grateful to Katrina for where I am now. I'm at uni now in my last year of my Bachelor of Psychology degree. I want to do an honours year and then my Masters in Clinical Psychology.

I feel really lucky. I know how many kids there are in the system who never find a permanent home. I'm 22 now and Katrina is my rock. I fall back on her whenever I need anything. I've moved out of home to live near campus and every time I go home she sends me back with boxes of food. She is the best mother in the whole wide world.

**Lynette Hughes**  
Adoptee

**“I feel really lucky.  
I know how many  
kids there are in the  
system who never find  
a permanent home.”**





"Learning really starts at home."

## Thank you... for giving parents the skills to be their child's first teachers.

I'm a proud Wiradjuri woman from Wellington NSW. I've been a HIPPY tutor for three years now.

HIPPY stands for Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters. We work with parents to ensure the family is ready for school. We help get them in the routine to do school work and homework. It's about the parents being first time teachers. Learning really starts at home.

We ensure the family feels comfortable and at ease. We are here for them.

We do home visits with parents on a weekly or fortnightly basis. It's a two year program. Children start when they are four years old. I am working with 15 families at the moment.

HIPPY is a doorway into a lot of other aspects of people's lives. I've had a few kids who had speech problems so we helped the families address these. Every family is different and Barnardos is there no matter their specific needs.

You need to have a good relationship with the community to work with these families. There is a

large Indigenous population here in Wellington so you need an understanding of the culture.

I started the program as a HIPPY mum with my daughter. She loved the program. She called it her 'homework'. Once we had finished I enrolled as a HIPPY tutor.

I love that I can help so many people in Wellington. We offer many programs that families can connect with. When you help someone you are really helping the whole town.

Barnardos is not just a place to come to work, it is for the families. It has opened my eyes to so much more. It has become a new starting point for me in my life.

I've had a number of jobs but I've never had one that is more family-oriented than Barnardos. If my child is sick there is never a question about it. The boss is always there for you.

**Tara Stanley**  
HIPPY Tutor



# Thank you...

## for connecting children to their culture and community.

You should be proud of where you come from and who your family are. I'm a proud Wiradjuri woman. I grew up here in Wellington. It's nice to own it.

I didn't realise how much Barnardos had an impact on the community until I started working here. It is based around the Indigenous community here. I think it is amazing. I was so surprised.

My Nan was a member of the stolen generation. The experience was so traumatic that a lot of culture wasn't passed on. If we can teach the young ones it can continue on for generations.

Seeing the kids every day is the best part of working at the Yalmambirra Learning Centre. I couldn't go back to working a normal job.

We have ten kids from kindergarten to Year 5 each day from Monday to Thursday. At 2:30pm we pick them up from school. They wash their hands and then we have a healthy afternoon tea. Next up is

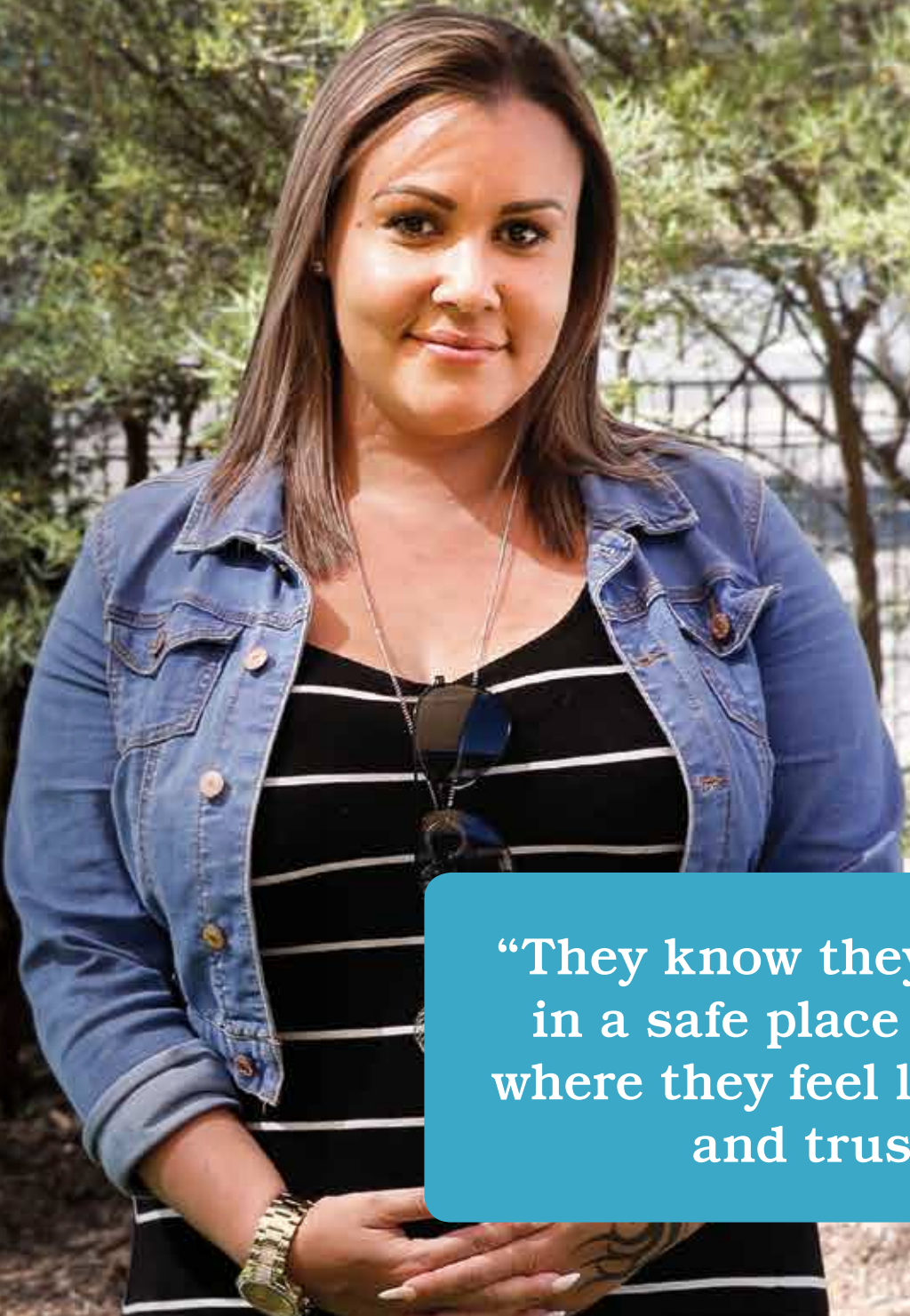
homework and reading, followed by craft activities and some outdoor play. It helps to stabilise them, having a routine and knowing what to expect.

A lot of the kids don't get meals at home. For a few of the kids this is their last feed until we pick them up for breakfast the next morning. Some kids ask to take food home too, for themselves and siblings. Curries are my favourite and the kids love them.

When the kids first start they are so closed in and keep to themselves. Some won't even join in the activities. We encourage them to really come out of their shell. We make sure they know they are in a safe place here where they feel loved and trusted.

It's crazy but I really enjoy it. The more hectic it is the more fun it is.

**Thea Dorin**  
Yalmambirra Learning Centre



**“They know they are in a safe place here where they feel loved and trusted.”**



# Thank you... for strengthening and reconnecting families.

Family is my world and I stand by that. We must work hand in hand with our young people. Nobody can make it on their own, without any support. It's like having two cords together, it's much harder to break than one.

Barnardos is not just work, it's like my family. The young people I've worked with over my ten years at Barnardos, have become a big part of my heart.

My work with the Reconnect program allows me to support and strengthen families through the young person, aiming to prevent youth homelessness.

The early intervention element of the program is particularly important. If we can connect with vulnerable young people before they become involved with the criminal justice system, it is very satisfying. We build a relationship with young people and their families in order to usher them in the right direction.

The understanding I have with many of my clients is around our shared cultural background. I'm able to talk to young people about things that they wouldn't normally speak about with their parents.

We live in a melting pot of different cultures. If you aren't able to understand it and embrace it, then it's difficult to know who you are as an individual. The most important thing is where you come from and where you belong.

You can't put a price on seeing the young peoples' faces and how far they've come. They often tell me, if it wasn't for the support of our programs, they don't know where they'd be today.

If we don't invest in our young people, we will lose them. We need to empower and encourage them. It starts with us.

**Mele Sulaki-Latu**  
Senior Practitioner Youth & Family Programs

“You can't put a price  
on seeing the young  
peoples' faces and how  
far they've come.”





"...we see kids smile and I think that's the most important outcome."

## Thank you... for turning lives around.

Women involved in our Beyond Barbed Wire program are just like everyone else. Often women in the criminal justice system have experienced trauma and disadvantage in their lives. They may not have had the same opportunities that other women in their community have had. That can really change the course of someone's life.

Beyond Barbed Wire is a suite of programs for mothers caught up in the criminal justice system. Even though mum is in custody she is still the mother of her children. There are creative ways that mum can still be a part of her children's lives and stay connected.

We realised there was a gap in services for mothers being released from custody. After gaol the service delivery stopped. We became really aware of the disadvantage suffered by mothers when they were released. We match women with a mentor in their community who they can meet up with after they are released from custody. It can make a huge difference to women experiencing social isolation following their incarceration.

We've seen fantastic results, fantastic achievements by women who have been part of the program. Mums get their licence for the first time, they find secure housing, complete new qualifications

or enter into employment. Most importantly we see kids smile and I think that's the most important outcome.

We have had 86 women in the program so far. The recidivism rate amongst women in our program is 6% compared with the general rate of 48%.

You have to recognise that everyone's journey is really different. Some people's journeys are difficult. Some people's journeys are a little easier. You are really connecting with people. People's lives and their stories. You feel their story.

It's such an integrated service delivery here. We all work in our different programs but there is a real overlap because it's not about programs, it's about people. It's about what we can bring to the community and what the community wants.

I love the fact that not only do we talk the talk but we walk the walk. I love the fact that Barnardos goes the extra mile in terms of what is on offer in communities. I get to see the culmination of everything great that Barnardos stands for. I get to see the child being kept central.

**Shiree Talbot**  
**Beyond Barbed Wire**



# Where your money goes...

## OUR OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION FY16-17\*

	\$000's
Total current assets	15,725
Total non-current assets	17,262
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>32,987</b>
Total current liabilities	11,940
Total non-current liabilities	1,919
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>13,859</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>19,128</b>
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>19,128</b>

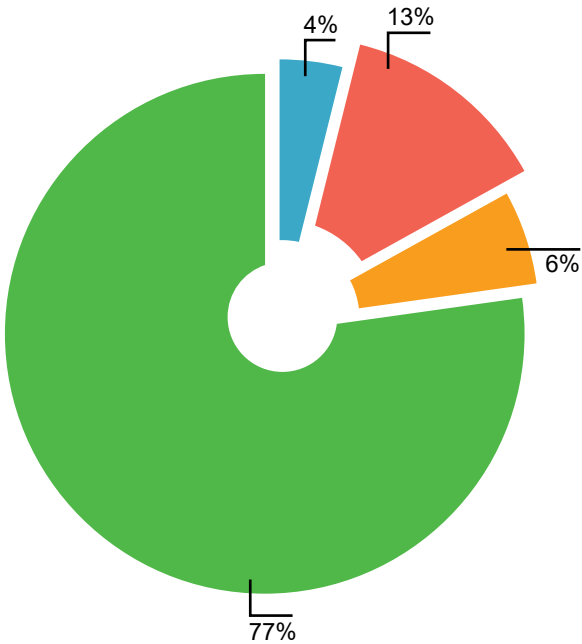
\*Please refer to the Barnardos Australia Annual Financial Report 30 June 2017 for the full report.

## OUR SOURCES OF FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE FY16-17\*

	\$000's
Marketing revenue	13,629
Government subsidies	86,992
Other welfare revenue	750
Recruitment services	4,779
Investment, rental & other revenue	80
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>106,230</b>
<b>DEDUCT EXPENDITURE</b>	
Welfare centres	91,724
Marketing	3,524
Property & administration	1,109
Recruitment services	4,351
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>100,708</b>
<b>Profit/loss for the year</b>	<b>5,522</b>

## Where the money comes from...

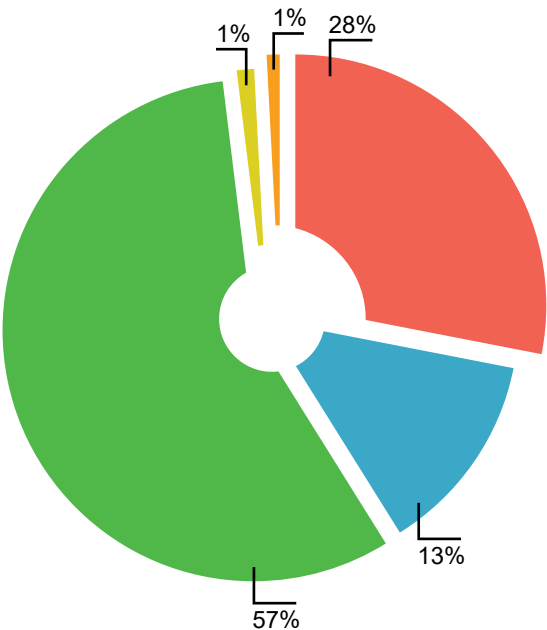
- State Government
- Federal Government
- Fundraising
- Other Revenue



In 2016-17, for every dollar spent on fundraising we raised \$4.00.

## Where the money goes to...

- Adoption & Permanency
- Homelessness, Adolescent Services & Education
- Family Support
- Research & Development
- Governance & Public Relations





# Thank you... to all of our supporters.

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# We believe in children.

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## **Company Secretary**

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