

This year, we were

# fearlessly optimistic

Annual Review 2024–2025



**Barnardos**  
**Australia**

Because **every child**  
needs a champion



Barnardos Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work. We acknowledge Elders past and present who have walked and managed these lands for many generations and recognise their ongoing contribution. We acknowledge the children who are our hope for a brighter future.

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Children from Bundaleer Community Centre at the Unbound Art Show

# Message from our Chair

**In February this year, I had the privilege of being appointed Chair of Barnardos Australia.**

Joining such a highly respected organisation, with its rich history of dedication to children and families, is an honour I do not take lightly. I am inspired daily by Barnardos' commitment to helping every child thrive, and I look forward to supporting our mission and delivering for children right across Australia.

The opportunity to lead Barnardos as Chair of the Board at this pivotal moment is particularly exciting. At the beginning of this year Barnardos responded to the evolving economic and social challenges faced by children, young people, and families across Australia with the introduction of our two year "A Brighter Barnardos" Strategic Directions. This strategy will keep us relevant and effective as our community changes. It is a bold commitment to innovation, efficiency, and expanding our

reach to support more children and families in need.

We remain focused on sustainability so that we can continue to advocate and improve outcomes for children and families experiencing poverty, domestic and family violence and homelessness.

Our strategy prioritises comprehensive support for Australian children and families in need.

However, the way we achieve this is evolving to meet the complex challenges our communities face. This means being responsive, adapting to emerging needs, and future-proofing our organisation so that, as the needs of children and families change, we can deliver. We are creating opportunities to magnify our impact and reach, ensuring that every dollar invested makes the greatest possible difference in the lives of children.

The new year will bring new leadership changes at Barnardos Australia, and I take the opportunity to thank Deirdre Cheers for her

commitment, passion and vision that she has brought to delivering best outcomes for children.

On behalf of the Board, our members, team, children and families as well as the numerous stakeholders and researchers we work with, I want to thank Deirdre and wish her well in her retirement.

The mission of Barnardos requires collaborative effort, innovative thinking, and a shared commitment to excellence. I am confident that with the dedication of our incredible employees, volunteers, partners, and donors, we will

achieve our ambitious goals and build a safe and inclusive future for children. Let's all embrace this new chapter with renewed energy and determination, together making a lasting difference in the lives of children across Australia.



**Liesel Wett OAM**  
Chair, Barnardos Australia

“  
**I am inspired daily by Barnardos' commitment to helping every child thrive...**

**Liesel Wett OAM**



# Message from our CEO

As I leave Barnardos after over ten years of leadership as CEO, it is a privilege to reflect on the remarkable achievements over this time, and the fearless optimism that drives our purpose and values.

It is this spirit of resilience and hope that delivers the best outcomes for the thousands of children, young people, and families we support each and every year.

Over the past 12 months, the demand for our services has continued to grow.

Across Australia, too many children are growing up without the safety and stability they need.

Children are seeing their parents struggle to put food on the table. Many live in constant fear, under the high-pressure volatility of domestic and family violence. Alarming statistics show that two in five children are exposed to domestic violence<sup>1</sup> with impacts

lasting long into their adult lives. Our work is not only vital, but urgent.

At Barnardos, we envision a future where every child has a safe home, nutritious meals, and the opportunity to thrive. This year, as always, we have remained fearlessly optimistic in this pursuit. With bravery and persistence, we leaned into the challenges, pushed boundaries, and delivered meaningful change in the lives of thousands of children. Our specialist children's social

care teams worked tirelessly with children, supporting families, and advocating for systemic reform.

The stories throughout this Annual Review are a testament to this work. They reflect the courage of our teams, the dedication of our partners, and most importantly, the strength of the children, young people, and families we support.

Within these pages we share the stories of Rachel, a mum of four facing poverty whose life we helped turn around, and Jane who we supported to escape domestic violence with her baby daughter Rebecca, Isaac a young man headed down the wrong path who we helped to gain employment and a new outlook on life, and dad James and his little girl Mia who were facing homelessness until we supported them to start a new life.

As I leave Barnardos, I do so with confidence in the bright future that

“We are determined to give them a platform to speak out and listen to them intently.”

Deirdre Cheers

lies ahead for the children whose lives we are privileged to impact.

Together, we are committed to building a future where every child can reach their full potential.



Deirdre Cheers  
CEO, Barnardos Australia

1 Australian Child Maltreatment Study 2023



Sarah Spence, Deirdre Cheers, Kingsley Edwards and Liz Cox at The Unbound Art Show



# About Barnardos

Barnardos Australia is here because every child needs a champion. Since 1921, we have worked with families and communities to overcome poverty, violence and homelessness so children are safe at home. We listen, act, and advocate for the individual needs of every child.

When children and their families need support Barnardos walks that journey with them. We build community connections so that children, young people and families are never isolated or alone. Families only need to tell their story once to receive a range of flexible and coordinated support services that are offered at Barnardos' centres.

Barnardos services include, domestic and family violence, early childhood education, family crisis support, mental health support, temporary accommodation, parent education, counselling, foster care and adoption. Our evidence-based research and dedicated workers and carers ensure we are well equipped to fully support, care for and nurture children in need.

We strive to uphold our values in all areas of our work



**Our vision**  
To empower every child in Australia to reach their full potential.

**Our purpose**  
We support vulnerable children to recover and thrive. Together we ensure they reach their brightest future.

# Striving for change

Poverty shouldn't be part of childhood. But right now, 1 in 6 children in Australia grow up in poverty<sup>1</sup>.

Every child deserves to feel safe, but 2 in 5 children experience domestic violence<sup>2</sup>.

And 1 in 3 clients of homelessness services are single parent families with children<sup>3</sup>.

Each day, thousands of children are missing out on the basics: nutritious food, school supplies, a safe place to live.

## Theory of Change

Our Theory of Change describes how the work we do contributes to achieving our intended impact of improving the safety and wellbeing of children and families.

This guides our work and shows how we create real, lasting impact through empowering children, strengthening families, supporting carers, and engaging communities. Many clients return to thank Barnardos, often saying, "Barnardos is my family."

### What do we need to achieve this?

- Empowered and engaged children, young people, parents and carers
- Trained and experienced practitioners and volunteers
- Strong partnerships with government, corporate and philanthropic supporters
- Targeted advocacy and funded strategic initiatives

## How we help

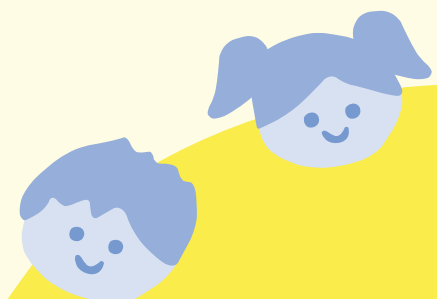
Our safety and prevention programs allow us to be the first point of contact for many struggling families and individuals, leading to early intervention and prevention.

We walk alongside families, beyond the point of crisis, helping them reach their full potential through tailored programs, dedicated case management, and strong, lasting relationships. Each family works with a dedicated case worker who coordinates services and advocates on their behalf, ensuring they only need to tell their story once.

### We support families through:

- Domestic and family violence support
- Parenting support
- Education
- Family support
- Youth support
- Referral services
- Foster care and adoption
- Advocacy action

1 ACOSS Poverty in Australia 2023  
2 Australian Child Maltreatment Study 2023  
3 AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2023-2024



# Our Practice Framework

The successful implementation of the Barnardos Practice Framework across all portfolios has had a transformative effect on our organisation, employees, and the families we support.

This framework ensures a consistent, child-safe approach aligning with our values and underpins our work. Our Practice Framework incorporates seven practice principles, which connect our organisation, our employees and high-quality practice.

## Our practice is framed by our seven practice principles:

- 

Be child-focused
- 

Keep families central
- 

Build strong relationships and connections
- 

Approach culture with humility, respect and curiosity
- 

Build capacity
- 

Help clients heal from the effects of trauma
- 

Be evidence driven

Through our Practice Framework, we continue to achieve high outcomes and provide opportunities to our employees. In 2024-25 our key achievements were:

- Policy Innovation**

Enhanced implementation of practice policies and procedures, driving collaboration and consistency in practice standards, and ensuring that we remain contemporary.
- Professional Development Sessions**

Delivery of practice development workshops emphasising children, young people, and family participation in decision-making, ensuring that the people we work alongside are heard.

- Practice Development and Frameworks**

We launched an initiative that identifies and responds to child-safety risk, leading to 100% of our employees who participated feeling more confident in their practice.
- Practice Governance**

Transformed our approach to practice governance and quality assurance to be contemporary and empowered by technology (B-HIVE).



Warrawong NAIDOC Day at South Coast

## Barnardos Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-2025

As a leading non-government child and family organisation in NSW and the ACT, Barnardos Australia’s vision for reconciliation is an Australia where our First Nations children and young people enjoy the same opportunities in life as their non-indigenous peers.

Our Stretch RAP is a formal statement of our commitment to reconciliation. It provides an action and accountability framework that understands, values and respects the histories, cultures and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### Our Stretch RAP spans across four pillars

- Relationships**

Barnardos recognises that building respectful, strong and enduring relationships between our organisation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, their families, communities and organisations is fundamental to our purpose and focus.

By building mutually beneficial relationships based on partnership and collaboration with our First Nations partners, Barnardos will develop more culturally safe service delivery leading to improved safety and cultural connection of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people we support.
- Respect**

Growing our knowledge and deep understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, their connection to land and community, and our shared history, is an important way for our employees, volunteers, carers and partners to show respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Genuine respect is a core component of our partnerships with First Nations communities and organisations. Only from
- a position of respect will Barnardos be able to improve the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.
- Opportunities**

Developing Barnardos as an employer of choice for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, and as an organisation where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families feel comfortable to engage with services are vital to our mission. We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples feel more comfortable and connected with services that are culturally engaged and respectful. Being a place where First Nations people want to work is an important part of this goal.
- Governance**

Continuing to build cultural competence in governance structures through engaging with our Aboriginal workforce and external partners. Growing organisational capacity to demonstrate accountability, transparency and promote RAP achievements, challenges and learnings.

# Towards 2025 Strategic Directions

In 2020, Barnardos Australia designed and developed a five-year strategy to enable us to best support our people, our partners, our organisation, and most importantly the children and families that we serve.

We used four aspirational pillars to achieve this:

## Engage

We listen to act  
with intent

## Empower

We equip  
to create  
opportunity

## Excel

We push  
ourselves to be  
outstanding

## Evolve

We are  
brave and adapt  
to change

Focusing on these goals, we achieved 23 major strategic projects, which reinforce our ongoing commitment to creating a sustainable, adaptable, and outcomes driven charity.

### Highlights included:

- Enhancing employee wellbeing through online support and leadership tool to support talent retention and attraction
- Providing cultural support planning and employee training to equip teams with the skills needed to effectively support children and families
- Leveraging modern technology to strengthen casework practice and reporting through our B-Hive Client Management System
- Developing domestic and family violence advocacy content to raise further awareness and amplify our voice on behalf of children



The team from Auburn Children's Family Centre



### A Brighter Barnardos Strategic Directions

In mid-2024, to respond to emerging internal and external landscape shifts we brought forward our strategic planning. Our goal remained unchanged; to continue to support as many Australian children and families as possible by being responsive, evolving, and future-proofing our organisation whilst capitalising on opportunities that magnify our impact and reach.

Our targeted two-year Strategic Directions shapes the transformation of our operations, projects, and programs. Through these efforts, we aim to increase our capacity, capability, and sustainability, to continue supporting our people, partners, and especially, the children and families we serve.

### Strategic Focus Areas

- Reduce the impact of poverty on a child's potential through preparation and education
- Reduce the impact of violence on a child's potential through advocacy and collaboration
- Reduce the impact of homelessness on a child's potential through partnerships and permanency
- Increase our impact to children achieving their potential through sustainability and courage

These initiatives drive innovation and continuous improvement, so we can deliver the most effective, responsive, and integrated frontline services possible.

# Our efforts to keep being sustainable

Sustainability is a core objective for Barnardos as we strive to create a brighter future for generations to come.

Guided by our A Brighter Barnardos Strategic Directions, we are committed to becoming more sustainable, ethical, and transparent in order to deliver positive outcomes.

Building on the incredible initiatives we implemented last year, we've been focusing on meaningful changes across our centres. The Penrith Children's Family Centre has built three new compost bays to promote waste production.

At our Ultimo office, we've introduced Podcycle to recycle used coffee pods and are actively participating in the Return and

Earn scheme to recycle cans and bottles. We're also collaborating with local businesses to collect their recyclable cans and bottles – raising funds for our cause while reducing waste. Across all our centres, kitchen bins will now be lined with plant-based, compostable bin liners instead of single-use plastic bags, thanks to a donation from Bunnings.

Sustainability efforts also extend to fundraising. The Peter Pan Committee's Op Shop Sale in Paddington raised vital funds while giving pre-loved clothes a second life and reducing landfill waste.

Beyond environmental initiatives, we've focused on workforce sustainability to ensure a healthy, engaged, and skilled team.

This includes enhancing skills through training, encouraging honest feedback, and

strengthening our advocacy and communication to promote positive brand awareness.



Watch the video of the Op Shop in action.



Peter Pan Op Shop Fashion Show



The amazing team behind all the work at Auburn Centre

## Trusted in Auburn for 50 years

Barnardos Australia was delighted to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Children's Family Centre in Auburn this year.

Since 1974, Barnardos Australia has provided vital welfare services to children and families across the Cumberland area and beyond.

The Centre's success encouraged other Children's Family Centres to open in Penrith, Canberra and the South Coast. What initially began as three successful program offerings has grown to more than 150 programs across NSW and the ACT addressing important community needs, including, poverty, homelessness, and domestic and family violence.

Grace Hong , Deirdre Cheers, Dr Rosa Flaherty and Rosa Ciravolo, respectively

Over the past 50 years, the commitment of our workers at Auburn has been outstanding. To celebrate this momentous occasion, our supporters, local services, local community and both past and present staff came together to share cherished memories and reflect on our journey.



Watch the video of this special occasion.



# Supporting a mother to believe again

**Rachel\* is a young single mother of four children, with two in primary school, one in pre-school and a ten-month-old baby.**

Her former partner, with whom she shares two children, was violent and eventually incarcerated.

Despite their young ages, the children's lives had already been marked by instability.

Her eldest child, Lola\*, had taken on a caregiving role, often missing school to help at home and wanting only to be with Rachel. She was tired, anxious, and carrying responsibilities far beyond her years. Her teachers echoed these concerns, as she struggled making

friends. The second eldest child, Harry\*, just five years old, carried visible signs of stress, was on anxiety medication, and was not yet toilet trained.

The family first connected with Barnardos through a local food hub, where they collected food hampers and could access support. Through regular visits, she began to build trust with the Barnardos team.

Rachel was battling severe anxiety, experiencing sleepless nights and physical tremors. She couldn't take her prescribed medication because it left her drowsy, something she couldn't afford with four young children to care for.

Barnardos stepped in to help Rachel find her feet and regain a sense of control. And slowly, we saw a change in her children. They received school supplies, helping them feel confident and included. Over time, Rachel came to see that she wasn't a bad mother – just someone who had faced enormous hardship and was doing everything she could.

She began to bring her children along to a Barnardos breakfast program two days a week. Here, her children were fed, while she fed the baby, and were ready to start their days of learning. She was able to share her struggles with other parents, knowing she wasn't alone. The family even started coming to other programs we offer – learning clubs, school holiday programs and

supported playgroups. Not only was Rachel now part of a community, but workers were able to keep an eye on the family and offer support if needed.

Today, the family is in a much stronger place. Lola is thriving at school, making friends, and enjoying learning. Harry is now toilet trained, attending school regularly, and is noticeably calmer. The weight on their little shoulders has been lifted.

Rachel continues to grow and knows she's not alone. Her children have a brighter future, and she has the strength and support to keep going.



\*Names changed to protect privacy.



Over time, Rachel came to see that she wasn't a bad mother – just someone who had faced enormous hardship...

Rachel's journey

**Barnardos Australia's vision is to empower every child to reach their full potential, with children's wellbeing at the centre of everything we do.**

In 2024, our Barnardos Children's Family Centres observed that children, young people and their families are increasingly going without essentials like food and medication and are unable to find safe accommodation. Families only need to tell their story once to receive a range of different programs and services that help them deal with immediate crises, and support them to build resilience and life-long skills. Barnardos is there every step of the way, to ensure long-term stability, no matter how long it takes.

**1 in 6 children are living in poverty\***

\*Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) Poverty in Australia 2023

**Across Barnardos centres 80% of referrals were due to Poverty\***

(when reasons were recorded)

Stock photo. Models used for illustrative purposes to protect privacy.

\*Of children we support (based on the data available)

# Making a new life for his family

**James\* is a single father who came to our Children's Family Centre overwhelmed by loss, debt and the threat of homelessness.**

His biggest worry was the safety of his two-year-old daughter, Mia\*.

After losing his wife Cristina\* suddenly, James found himself raising Mia alone. They had recently moved interstate due to rising costs and left behind their extended family. With Cristina gone and no one else to care for Mia, James had to give up his long hours as a truck driver to become a full-time carer.

Without work and his rent increasing, they were at risk of homelessness. What little income he had was being stretched thin – covering food, nappies, bills and debts from a \$10,000 loan he and Cristina had taken out to secure her permanent residency.

Even after his wife's passing, the debt remained.

James was now solely responsible for the care of two children, Mia, and his 15-year-old son, Jackson, who had come to live with him after escaping from an unsafe situation at his mother's home.

Tamara, their caseworker shared, "His son [Jackson] was saying 'If we need to be homeless then that's going to be ok' and I think that was his wake-up call, he thought 'I can't have this happen. I don't want this for my kids' and that's why he reached out to us."

Most impacted was Mia. She was falling behind in her development. James was doing his best, but the stress, guilt and isolation made it hard for him to be present.

Tamara: "You could just see all that grief, and he was feeling like a failure that he couldn't even support his kids and was worried

about losing his home. But there was also this underlying strength there because he was not giving up, he was reaching out for help."

We welcomed James into our Family Support Program, where we provided immediate support with overdue utility bills, advocacy with his real estate agent to negotiate a smaller rent increase, and access to our food bank. They also accessed also received subsidised childcare for Mia, where she began to play, learn and socialise. Her developmental gains were almost immediate.

Tamara: "She's on the reserved side but you can see her personality coming out. Now that she's in childcare consistently her vocabulary is increasing, and she is making good gains."

James received parenting support, where he learned new ways to engage with Mia, encourage her and support her learning.

“

**He's really thrown himself into making sure his kids have everything they need.**

**Tamara, caseworker**

He even worked on his resume to explore more flexible work options so he can be there for both children.

Tamara: "He's really thrown himself into making sure his kids have everything they need."

From a man on the brink of homelessness to a devoted father building a new life, James' transformation has been remarkable and is having immense impact on his children.

"He's talking much more positively now and he can definitely see the light at the end of the tunnel. He knows when he exits the program he can always reach out to us anytime."

\*Names changed to protect privacy.



## Homelessness isn't just sleeping rough or living in your car.

Many young people and families are 'couch surfing' with family or staying in temporary accommodation, tents or boarding houses but they are still homeless. Our workers have seen a rise in overcrowding as families take in extended family or friends who have become homeless. All these situations have a detrimental impact on children and their development.

Overcoming homelessness is so much more than providing shelter. It's about building resilience and skills to transition to independence. Every story is different, and we walk with children, families and young people on their journey so that they don't have to overcome these complex challenges alone.

**In NSW, 80% of children who are homeless experience homelessness as adults.**

NCOSS - Lasting Impacts:  
Economic cost of child poverty

**We see across our centres that homelessness often goes hand in hand with poverty, and family and domestic and family violence (DFV). We help children and their safe parent escape DFV, enabling them to move towards a brighter future.**

Stock photos. Models used for illustrative purposes to protect privacy.

Barnardos Australia’s vision is to ensure every young person has hope and enthusiasm for the future by empowering them to achieve their goals.

Too many young people are facing challenges related to education, employment, homelessness, and domestic and family violence. Through programs such as Reconnect and Streetwork, Barnardos is there with young people on their terms—helping them re-connect with family, community, and education, while building the tools and resilience needed to face life’s challenges. We walk alongside them to prevent homelessness and create pathways towards stability and opportunity, for as long as it takes.

At our Sydney Metro Centre, the median age for **children we supported between 0-17 years old was 12 years old\***

\*Based on data available

**Over 28,000 young people aged 12-24 years old** were estimated to be homeless on Census night 2021

**419,000 young people aged 15-24 years** are living in poverty in Australia

Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) Poverty in Australia 2023

His journey is a powerful reminder of what can happen when support, trust and perseverance come together.

Isaac on his journey to independence



Stock photo. Model used for illustrative purposes to protect privacy.



Stock photo. Model used for illustrative purposes to protect privacy.

# Finding a way to trust again

When Isaac\* was referred to Barnardos, he had already faced more than his fair share of challenges, with being placed in custody three times over an 18-month period.

Surrounded by peers who regularly used drugs and alcohol, Isaac had been involved in criminal activity and was at risk of continuing down this path. But beneath the surface was a young man who wanted more for himself.

Isaac was referred to Barnardos to support him to turn his life around and build a better future. Over the course of 12 weeks, he set his sights on gaining both employment and independence. With his caseworker, he set some goals that were both practical and ambitious: writing a resume and a cover letter, setting up a Seek profile, obtaining a white card for construction work, and working on his wellbeing.

The most significant part of Isaac’s journey with Barnardos was the trusting relationship he’d built with his caseworker. In weekly sessions they worked side-by-side on his goals. Within the first few weeks, Isaac had completed his resume, cover letter, and Seek profile. As his confidence grew, so did his openness. He shared how daunting job interviews felt and how they made him question his abilities. His caseworker listened, supported him, and helped him to understand

\*Names changed to protect privacy.

that his struggles were linked to an intellectual disability. Together, they faced challenges head on. When it came time to complete the white card course, it was decided his caseworker would attend with him. He admitted that without his caseworker by his side, he would have walked out.

He started attending regular mental health appointments, which were essential for his emotional and behavioural development – and he never missed a session.

His resilience was tested when he struggled with his learner licence knowledge test. Despite failing the practice test, he didn’t give up. Instead, he and his caseworker worked together to find ways he could understand the material. When he passed the test, he proudly called his family to share the news.

As the weeks passed, the moment he had been waiting for happened. Isaac gained employment in his chosen trade area. His journey is a powerful reminder of what can happen when support, trust and perseverance come together. He’d made the conscious choice to walk away from criminal activities and distance himself from his old peer group. We’re so proud of Isaac’s effort in reshaping his life. His story is one of strength and growth, and goes to show with the right support, he was able to unlock the future he deserves.



Stock photo. Model used for illustrative purposes to protect privacy.

# Rebecca's path to safety and hope

**John\* and Jane\* were married and had recently welcomed their first child, a daughter named Rebecca\*. While the birth of a baby is usually a time of joy, it marked the beginning of escalating domestic and family violence (DFV) in their home.**

John's public demeanor was calm and understanding, but in private he was controlling, aggressive, and emotionally abusive. Rebecca's normal infant crying triggered John's anger. He would blame Jane, belittle her mothering abilities, call her names, and erode her confidence. He strictly controlled her movements, only allowing her out for short periods of time and insisting she remain solely responsible for Rebecca's care. His threats created an environment of fear, leaving Jane constantly worried for both her own safety and Rebecca's.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.

In addition to emotional and physical abuse, John was financially abusive, leaving Jane without access to money or independence, further isolating her. The violence escalated when John physically assaulted Jane and directly threatened both her and Rebecca's lives. At that point, a neighbour contacted the police, who intervened, removed John from the home, and issued an Apprehended Violence Order for Jane and Rebecca's protection.

With nowhere safe to live, Jane and Rebecca entered temporary accommodation and were referred to the Barnardos Domestic Violence program. The program provided multiple services: housing assistance, domestic violence education, safety planning, and therapeutic support for Jane. She engaged in counselling sessions to process the trauma and attended a psychoeducational group that focused on building confidence, resilience, and practical skills to move forward.

**The program provided multiple services: housing assistance, domestic violence education, safety planning, and therapeutic support for Jane.**

**Jane's journey with Barnardos**

Crucially, support was also provided for Rebecca's wellbeing. Jane and Rebecca attended Barnardos playgroups designed specifically for children up to five years old whose families had experienced DFV. These groups promoted safe parent and child bonding, early learning, and provided structured play activities that supported Rebecca's development. They also offered Jane opportunities to connect with other mothers in similar circumstances, reducing her isolation and building her sense of community.

Through Barnardos child-focused, trauma-informed support, Jane began to strengthen her parenting

confidence and rebuild positive routines with Rebecca. With assistance, she was able to reconnect with her extended family, who became an important part of her and Rebecca's support network.

While the journey was ongoing, Jane could finally see a path forward – free from violence, with the opportunity to provide Rebecca with a safe, nurturing and optimistic future.



**Every single Barnardos centre in NSW and ACT has seen the impact that DFV has on children and young people, with far-reaching consequences on their lives no matter what age they experience it.**

Hence our drive to support these children and their families. Our approach is always focused on the best outcome for children and young people, but alongside this, we provide integrated programs and services to support families with everything they need to heal and move forward from the trauma caused by DFV.

**Across Barnardos Children's Family Centres, violence is a leading driver of engagement, representing nearly half (48.6%) of all categorised presenting issues\***

**At our Sydney Metro Centre, 1 in 4 children have experienced violence at home**

\*Of children we support (based on the data available)



Garry and Mischelle

# Making space for children's safety

For the past six years, Mischelle and her husband Garry have opened both their hearts and home to children in need of short-term care.

Their dedication goes far beyond simply providing a roof over a child's head. They create stability for children who've experienced multiple placement breakdowns whilst nurturing their confidence as they go.

Alongside caring for children, Mischelle also mentors new foster carers and advocates for families, ensuring others receive the support and encouragement they need on their own fostering journeys.

From first aid and trauma-informed care training to tutoring for the kids and fun social events, Barnardos has been there to support Mischelle and Garry every step of the way. Together they ensure that the children in their care have access to everything they might need, from counselling and academic support to a strong sense of belonging within a wider community of carers and families.

Mischelle and Garry often foster school-aged children, who are embraced by the whole family including their own children. "Our children have taken on board the children that come into our care beautifully," Mischelle shares. Their family has created a warm, welcoming environment where foster children are treated as part of the family from the moment they arrive.

For Mischelle, the most rewarding part of fostering is seeing the transformation in the children. "What we've witnessed is children that come in so vulnerable and scared, they end up being so confident," she says. With steady guidance and care, she and Garry help children grow from uncertain beginnings into confident, positive young people.

Through their tireless commitment and with the support of Barnardos, Mischelle and Garry have created a safe haven where children can rebuild their confidence and embrace a fearlessly optimistic future.

Foster carers open their hearts and homes to children and young people when they need it most.

Whether for a weekend, a few months, or a lifetime, foster care gives children the safety and stability they deserve. Barnardos offers different types of foster care including short-term foster care, permanent foster care, respite foster care, kinship care and open adoption. We offer a range of comprehensive support services tailored to meet the unique needs of foster carers, empowering them to provide the best possible care to the children in their home.

“What we’ve witnessed is children that come in so vulnerable and scared, they end up being so confident.”

Mischelle



Garry and Mischelle

# Restoring three boys to their mother

**Every child should feel safe, especially in their own home. Home should be where children are surrounded by care, stability, and the people they trust most.**

But in Australia today, for too many children, home is not a place of safety. Instead, it is where they experience domestic and family violence.

This devastating reality undermines their wellbeing and sense of security at a time when they often can't fully understand.

For brothers Jack\* and Charlie\*, home was full of fear.

Their father's violence didn't stop at their mum, Laura\*. The boys were caught in the crossfire - emotionally and physically. When their father was finally sent to prison, it brought a sense of relief. But healing doesn't just happen because the danger is gone. So Barnardos stepped in.

Barnardos connected Jack and Charlie with specialist child psychologists who helped them feel safe enough to speak and process their experiences so they could begin to trust again.

Laura was trying to rebuild their lives. She had a new partner, and together they welcomed a baby, Tom\*. But one day, everything changed. Tom was rushed to hospital with a broken leg. Investigations revealed that the children were experiencing physical harm in the home.

Barnardos acted quickly to protect the children. Jack and Charlie were placed in foster care together, but baby Tom, due to his age, went to a different carer. For the boys, it was a heartbreaking time full of confusion and fear.

With guidance from Barnardos, Laura began intensive work to become the parent her children needed. She attended therapy, took part in mental health support sessions, and never missed a supervised visit. Through it all, Barnardos walked beside her, providing support and believing in her progress.

When Tom's foster carer could no longer care for him, Barnardos searched for family connections and found Laura's parents. With careful preparation and training, they became Tom's carers. Soon after, Jack and Charlie moved in too and for the first time in months, the boys were together.

Laura made the decision to end her relationship with her partner and chose her children's safety above everything else. With continued support, she built a safer, stronger life and the decision was made to reunite her with her children.

Today, Laura is raising her three boys on her own, with support from her parents and from Barnardos. Barnardos continues to help with food vouchers, therapeutic support, Centrelink assistance, and more, to get Laura back on her feet.

There is still healing to do, but now there is safety and stability. But most importantly, they are so happy that they're home and back in their mum's arms again.

This is what Barnardos does every day. We keep children safe, support parents through their difficult times, and strive to keep families together. Every child deserves a safe home, and every parent deserves the chance to provide one.



Stock photo. Models used for illustrative purposes to protect privacy.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.

**Barnardos continues to help with food vouchers, therapeutic support, Centrelink assistance, and more, to get Laura back on her feet.**

**Bringing Laura's boys home**



Stock photo. Models used for illustrative purposes to protect privacy.

**When children and young people cannot live safely at home, Barnardos provides a safe place through short-term foster care.**

During this time, we work closely with the family, government and other agencies to create the best path forward. Wherever safe and possible, our goal is restoration. We support children to return to their families with stronger connections and more stable futures. If this isn't possible, we support children to live with other family members or a permanent safe home for the long term.



Unite Against Violence: No More Empty Shoes event in Martin Place, Sydney

# Advocating for Australian children

**At Barnardos, we stand up for children by advocating for laws, policies and practices that create safer, fairer and brighter futures.**

Guided by evidence and informed by research, we share our insights with governments, policy makers and sector leaders to influence meaningful change.

Domestic and family violence (DFV), poverty and the lack of safe housing all affect children, both now and in the long-term. By placing these issues on the public policy agenda, we help ensure that children's voices are heard and that their wellbeing remains a priority for the whole community.

## 16 Days of Activism Against Gendered-Based Violence

Barnardos proudly takes part in the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

As an organisation supporting child victims of domestic violence, and their families, this campaign highlights the impact on children

and how it can be prevented. Throughout the campaign, we run dedicated social media activities to raise awareness and drive action. In 2024, our social media reach across all platforms was 57.4 million up from 33.2 million in 2023.

This year, we also released a podcast featuring Farah Mak, a DFV survivor and advocate, which was shared across our digital platforms.

Barnardos is a member of the NSW 16 Days of Activism Vigil Collective, participating in the Unite Against Violence: No More Empty Shoes, held in Martin Place, honouring women and children who have been killed in DFV attacks. A large teddy bear was laid to represent the children who lost their lives.



Shoes placed with roses on a podium in Martin Place

## Allies for Children

Allies for Children is an alliance of non-government organisations working together to improve outcomes for children and families in Australia. The alliance includes Barnardos Australia, Life Without Barriers, Act for Kids, OzChild, The Benevolent Society, Key Assets and MacKillop Family Services.

In 2024, the alliance focused on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection and youth justice systems. We work closely with SNAICC, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), peak bodies, and government to drive reforms that keep children with their families and reunite children with kin whenever possible.

We've consulted with the First Nations NGO Alliance, which represents Aboriginal leadership in our sector, and are engaged in developing an anti-racism framework for our collective organisations. CEO's and the working group meet face-to-face to collaborate on messaging and prioritise actions that have real impact for children.

## End Child Poverty Campaign

Barnardos is one of 165 partner organisations in the End Child Poverty Campaign, led by Valuing Children Initiative. Together, we are calling on the Federal Government to legislate an end to child poverty by 2030.

In Following the 2025 Federal Election, MP's and Senators received a letter and teddy bear requesting meetings. Barnardos and partners are actively engaging with government representatives to push for change, because no child deserves to live in poverty.



CEOs of the founding partners of Allies for Children, Act for Kids, Barnardos Australia, The Benevolent Society, Life Without Barriers, Key Assets, Oz Child and MacKillop Family Services

## We help ensure that children's voices are heard and that their wellbeing remains a priority for the whole community.

Our goal when we advocate for children

# Holding hope for every child

Barnardos is proud to celebrate the achievements of Dr Robert Urquhart, awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship, which he undertook in 2024 through his project Holding Hope: A Churchill Fellowship to explore best practice in supporting children's healing journeys from the harm of family violence.

The Fellowship came at a pivotal time. In 2022, Barnardos led a landmark national study into children's experiences of domestic and family violence (DFV), which was launched at NSW Parliament by the Australian Children's Commissioner.

In 2024, Dr Urquhart took these findings onto the global stage, presenting Phase 1 of our research to Dame Nicole Jacobs, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, and to Scottish Government officials. These presentations opened new dialogue on how systems can respond more consistently and effectively to the voices of children.

Over two months, Dr Urquhart met with nearly 100 research, policy, and practice experts across the UK, USA, and Canada. His Fellowship uncovered evidence of what works best for children: recognising them as victim-survivors in their own right; creating safe spaces for them to share their experiences; embedding culturally grounded, Indigenous-led responses; and strengthening the ecosystem

around each child — from family to school to community. The Fellowship also highlighted the importance of investing in practitioner training and support, so the workforce can sustain this vital work.

Excitingly, Barnardos has now commenced Phase 2 of our DFV research. Building on the international insights gathered, this next stage will deepen our understanding of how to help children recover and thrive, centred on the voices of children and young people in our services. The findings will inform our own programs and shape our advocacy, ensuring children's voices are central in service design, policy, and practice.

This Fellowship reinforces Barnardos Australia's role as a leader in innovation and evidence-driven practice. With your support, we will continue to champion change so that every child can heal and flourish beyond violence.

"Children experiencing domestic and family violence are too often unheard. Our role is to change that — to bring their experiences into focus and ensure their voices shape the support they receive."  
— Dr Robert Urquhart



Presenting Barnardos' research to Dame Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales

“Children experiencing domestic and family violence are too often unheard.”

Dr Robert Urquhart



With women survivors and practitioners at Equally Safe Falkirk



Reflecting on Canadian insights during the Churchill Fellowship, Moraine Lake



Meeting policy experts at the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England



Leaders in Practice group with Matt Hooey (centre), Head of Practice and Impact

# Our Leaders in Practice program

The Leaders in Practice Program (LIP) is a flagship Barnardos initiative designed to grow the next group of practice leaders.

Over an intensive eight month journey of workshops and peer reflection groups, participants extend their knowledge beyond day-to-day responsibilities and develop practical leadership qualities that immediately strengthen service delivery to children, young people and families.

**The program is anchored in four critical domains of practice leadership:**

- Understanding myself and my impact
- Practice coaching fundamentals
- Advocacy planning and influencing positive outcomes
- Creating a continuous improvement loop

Unlike traditional management training, the LIP focuses squarely on practice leadership – equipping participants with the skills to coach colleagues, influence systems, and embed continuous improvement in service delivery. Graduates of the program emerge as catalysts for change – confident leaders who not only understand their own impact but who actively drive better outcomes across their teams, services and communities.



**Lynn Chadwick,  
Case Manager,  
Kinship Care Team**

“I’m Lynn, and I’m a Case Manager in the Kinship care team at Barnardos Australia.

I joined the Leaders in Practice program to grow my leadership skills and advance my career. I wanted to build my confidence and gain the tools and knowledge to support both personal and professional development.

The program delivered real-world scenarios that equipped me with practical skills I could apply immediately in my day-to-day role. The knowledge and practice I gained through the program have improved my confidence in both decision making and advocacy.

I’ve found myself making more informed and impactful decisions that align closely with the values and mission of Barnardos. Being surrounded by a like-minded, growth-orientated group has rekindled my passion for this work and inspired my ambition for the future.”



**Reshae Rafferty,  
Program Manager,  
Kinship Care Team**

“I’m Reshae. I started the Leaders in Practice program as a Case Manager in Permanent Care and have since stepped into a Program Manager role in Kinship

Care. I really enjoy working at Barnardos – the people, the children and families we support, and the overall great work we do together as an organisation.

I joined the program to strengthen my leadership skills and build confidence when speaking to larger groups. I’ve always experienced imposter syndrome, but I honestly feel like a different person to when I started the program. The anxiety I had going into the advocacy presentation was wild. Now, I’d do it again 10 times over. It was the best experience.

The self-reflection sections were also really beneficial. I had so many ‘aha’ moments where things clicked. I feel really fortunate to have been a part of the journey. I have been a Case Manager for the past four years at Barnardos and am now in the Program Manager space. This program taught me confidence, coaching and mentoring skills, deeper self-reflection, and how to effectively advocate – even in the face of barriers.”

“  
Being surrounded by a like-minded, growth-orientated group has rekindled my passion for this work and inspired my ambition for the future.

Lynn Chadwick



# Hope for a brighter future

**We were delighted to have The Unbound Art Show return for a second year on Thursday 20th March 2025 at the National Art School.**

The night was a resounding success, showcasing beautiful never-before-seen artworks generously donated by over 37 artists including Ken Done, Antoinette Ferwerda, Bobby Clark, Gemma O'Brien, George Hall, Micke Lindbergh, Mike Staniford and more.

The theme 'Horizons of Hope' embodied Barnardos' passion to provide support in the present so that together, we can shape a brighter future for children, young people and families without a place to call home. It reflected our commitment, especially in these challenging times, to creating a lasting impact that opens the door to limitless potential for those we support.

**We would like to acknowledge:**

- Over 170 guests who attended
- Our incredible artists who generously donated their artworks and filled the room with creativity and inspiration
- Taylor, one of our Streetwork youth workers, highlighted the importance of safety and prevention programs, and shared how the team makes a difference in the lives of young people experiencing homelessness
- Our dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the night ran smoothly

**Our fantastic corporate supporters:**

- The Giving Movement, who supported us by donating \$4 from every item sold in their stores
- Flowers Across Sydney, for their beautiful florals which meant every guest went home with their own bunch accompanied by a message of hope



Our incredible volunteer team



Florals from Flowers Across Sydney



## Between 2 Creeks

Prior to the event, we had some very special guests from Bundaleer Community Centre. The group of children not only saw the artworks before anyone else, but they also presented the film they created with Ed U Play Illawarra on the big screen at the National Art School.

This project was produced through a collaboration between Ed U Play, Co-Equal and Barnardos with funding support from Wollongong City Council Cultural & Creative Grants and the Johnston Foundation.

The film takes a look at the history of the small estate, Bundaleer in Warrawong, built 'Between 2 Creeks', from a historical point but also through the eyes of the children who have grown up there and currently live and play there.



Scan the QR code to watch the Between Two Creeks video.



The children and the team from Barnardos behind the film, "Between 2 Creeks"



# A lifetime of heartfelt generosity

**“With no children of my own, I am second mum or aunty to many.” This is how June Gunning describes her legacy of having been a foster carer with Barnardos for 20 years.**

Giving is part of June’s nature. Her generosity towards others was instilled in her growing up on a property in northern NSW. After studying physiotherapy at university, June married and moved to Canberra in the 1980’s.

While she pursued a successful career as a physiotherapist and later moved into management roles within the health sector, her husband also worked full-time, and they both committed to becoming carers.

June’s desire to give led her to what she now considers to be her most important work: “My husband and I were privileged to have young children and teenagers on respite and short-term care, working closely with the wonderful staff at Barnardos Canberra.”

But June’s giving was not limited to providing a stable home life to children in need of security and

care. “I could provide a safe caring environment, but quickly realised that there are many vulnerable children, and so organisations such as Barnardos were going to need to be viable into the future. It was therefore easy for me to also become a donor.”

Through her involvement with the organisation over many years, she identified that Barnardos’ values were closely aligned to her own, so when she and her husband were updating their Wills a few years ago, she decided to make yet another gift - a bequest.

June’s legacy will now reach beyond all those children she fostered: “I hope this gift can go towards helping Barnardos Australia continue in supporting families to be the best parents and caregivers they can be and empowering children to reach their full potential.”

A fitting testament to a life characterised by giving.



Scan the QR code to find out more about leaving a Gift in your Will.

“  
I hope this gift can go towards helping  
Barnardos Australia continue in  
supporting families to be the best  
parents and caregivers they can be...”

June Gunning



**At Barnardos Australia, we believe in a future where every child feels safe and supported.**

By leaving a gift in your Will, no matter how big or small, you’re helping ensure secure and stable funding for vital safety and prevention programs. The incredible legacies left, like June’s, can provide the next generation of children with stability, education and care – things every child deserves, but not every child receives.

# A life-changing friendship

**Barnardos supporters show up in many ways, but their efforts share a common goal— changing lives.**

Luke is a long-term donor who began his journey nearly 30 years ago as a mentor in the Kid's Friend Program in the ACT.

Launched in 1980, the program pairs children with a trusted adult to support their wellbeing, helping kids build confidence and resilience.

In his 20's, Luke joined after his difficult divorce left him searching for purpose. While keen to get involved Luke still had some reservations. "What if he didn't like me? What if I didn't like him? My hope was that it would be a positive experience for both of us."

With Barnardos support he was matched with nine-year-old Dan, who had experienced significant instability when his parents divorced. "At the time I was unaware of the profound impact

this chance encounter would have on my life," Dan shared.

The commitment was just eight hours of contact per week for a year – a few hours on the weekend doing everyday things: shopping, housework, watching TV. After the few initial meets, their bond truly began to form.

Luke said, "As that year started to draw to a close, I knew that this friendship was not going to end."

Over time, their relationship grew into something more like family. Even after moving cities, they stayed in touch. Dan reflects, "Through this experience of yet another separation from a paternal role model, it was not grief I had felt but connection and hope."

Dan even stayed with Luke and his partner for a while, spending time with his kids and in his own words, "tried to repay Luke for what he had provided me all those years ago."

Now years later, they still see each other regularly.

"I went into the program scared but hopeful," said Luke. "I didn't know what was going to happen, but I am all the richer because of it."

Dan added, "It is only now as a father myself that I can truly understand the significance and importance a strong male role model can have on a fragile young boy's life. I would not be the man I am today if it wasn't for his love and commitment to me all those years ago."

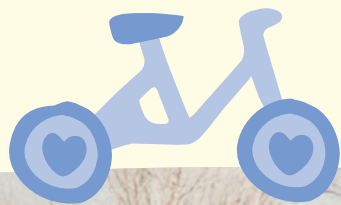
If you, or anyone else you know would be interested in

being involved with Barnardos in whatever capacity I would wholeheartedly recommend it. You may never know the depth a single action can have on someone's life."

Luke's commitment hasn't only been personal. For more than 25 years, he has also been a generous supporter of Barnardos, contributing to help ensure programs like Kid's Friend continue to change lives. His story is a testament to the power of showing up both in person and through ongoing financial support.

“  
I would not be the man I am today if it wasn't for his love and commitment to me all those years ago.

Dan, as an adult



Luke and Dan on a bike ride in the 1980's



Dan (centre) with Luke (behind Dan) and their families

# Trusts and Foundations

At Barnardos Australia, our commitment to every child’s potential is fearlessly optimistic—especially for those navigating complex hardships.

This steadfast belief is strengthened and brought to life by the generosity and trust of our exceptional partners: the Trusts, Foundations, and Community Clubs whose support powers transformative work throughout NSW and the ACT.

In a year marked by rising cost-of-living pressures, the demand for food relief and family support services surged—but in this critical moment, our partners responded with open hearts and resolute generosity.

Thanks to funders such as The Corio Foundation, DOOLEYS Lidcombe Catholic Club, and the Harold Mitchell Foundation, Barnardos expanded its reach and impact, ensuring families received essential food and household items with dignity and urgency.

Take the story of the Rahman\* family. When the father, Ahmed\*, lost his job, the family quickly fell into crisis. Seeking urgent assistance, Farah\*, the mother, came to our Auburn Food Pantry and found more than emergency supplies—she found a pathway to lasting support.

Barnardos staff connected the family to our Family Connect and Support (FCS) program, which provided the necessary services to meet their specific needs — from childcare and employment advice to financial counselling and housing support.

Within just three months, both parents secured part-time employment, their children were thriving at school, and hope had been restored in their home.

This journey—from fear to hope—embodies the profound impact that compassionate partnerships enable.

In the last year alone, the Auburn Food & Essentials Relief Program supported 1,275 families in the Cumberland Local Government Area, delivering not only essentials but also connection, and a welcoming gateway to Barnardos broader family support services, including parenting support and early learning programs.

Our philanthropic partners’ vision and trust extend beyond funding programs—they are investing in families, futures, and every child’s right to thrive. Their enduring belief serves as a beacon, empowering Barnardos to be a steadfast safety net and catalyst for lasting, meaningful change.

To every supporter standing alongside us—thank you. Your commitment is deeply felt and profoundly valued. Together, we are rewriting the story for children across communities—transforming disadvantage into opportunity and paving the way for every child to heal, grow, and shine.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.

Retha Howard, Senior Manager, Grants and Foundations with Jason White, Community Manager, DOOLEYS Lidcombe Catholic Club

Thank you to our current Trusts and Foundations partners for their support of our programs

Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust



John Barnes Foundation

Nielsen Foundation



Angus Grant

Auburn Tennis Club



J E Skinner Endowment



APS Foundation

ATS Charitable Foundation

Danks Trust



The Teen Spirit Charitable Foundation

The Corio Foundation



Auburn Soccer Sports Club

The Clark Family Foundation



Walter Campbell Memorial Trust



“

I have made a decision to not have children of my own and working with Barnardos allows me to keep connected to Australia's youth and support their futures.

Vanessa, Barnardos volunteer



Penrith Children's Family Centre food pantry

# Unsung champions of Barnardos

Volunteers are often the unsung heroes behind many aspects of a not-for-profit organisation.

They are people so committed to the cause that they are willing to donate their time, a precious commodity.

The volunteers at Barnardos are dedicated, passionate, caring and represent Barnardos proudly. Their work doesn't go unnoticed because we know the importance of their contribution and the impact they have across the organisation. From mentors to event staff, gardeners to office support, our volunteers can do it all and give it their all.

Cheryl and Patrick have been picking up fresh fruit and vegetables for the Penrith Community Food Pantry for years. Without this volunteer support, we wouldn't have food hampers to pass onto the community. Every morning, they don their hi-vis vests and drive to numerous locations to haul in the fresh produce, which is then sorted and handed out. Cheryl and Patrick know the difference the food makes to the families who receive it, and the impact they have on Barnardos and the community. "I support Barnardos because I know there are a great number of people in need, and I like to think I am making a difference in their lives." – Patrick

Cheryl told us how "One morning whilst coming to work at Barnardos a young schoolboy was looking in the cupboard outside which has food for the community. His young mother was in the car, I popped my head in and explained I was heading out to pick up

food from supermarkets and suggested she come back in a few hours and ask at reception for food relief.

I was returning from a pickup later that day and the young mother was at the centre. She thanked me so much as she wasn't aware the service was available through Barnardos. It warmed my heart to think that I was able to help in some very small way for that young mother and her son to be able to have dinner that day."

Vanessa has been volunteering at Barnardos fundraising events for three years.

"I first started volunteering for Barnardos at the famous Peter Pan Op shop in 2023. From this first-time volunteering with Barnardos I could see that the organisation was 100% committed to their clients, children and their families, and were raising awareness and funds through innovative and fun events and initiatives.

My reasons for giving my time to Barnardos stem back to my love for children and my firm belief that all children deserve a happy, safe, and loving life. Personally, I have made a decision to not have children of my own and working with Barnardos allows me to keep connected to Australia's youth and support their futures."

Volunteering is integral to the success of Barnardos. Without these champions, there is a lot that wouldn't be able to happen.

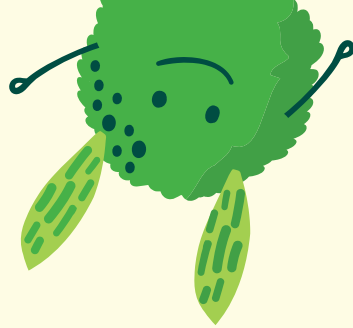


Cheryl, champion volunteer



Patrick, champion volunteer

# Buddies for brighter futures



**The Barnardos Buddies Regular Giving program provides a dependable stream of support that helps us deliver consistent care to children.**

Thanks to ongoing contributions from generous people in Australia, Barnardos can plan ahead and provide vital services—like medical care, counselling, education, and safe housing.

Our incredible regular donors make it possible for children to heal, grow, and thrive.

With their support, we're able to create stability and long-term change for children and their families. Barnardos Buddies are true champions—helping kids build brighter, safer futures every day.

Thank you to the incredible individuals whose ongoing support fuels our mission and shapes the future for generations to come. Your generosity and dedication are truly making a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most.

## In FY2024-2025:

**10,077 caring and generous people** were Barnardos Buddies

**2,608 new generous Australians** joined our family by becoming Barnardos Buddies

**A total of \$2,844,116** was raised through this Regular Giving program



**In FY2024-2025, Barnardos Australia raised a total of \$579,986 through our cash appeals.**

These appeals shared real stories of children, young people, and families facing urgent challenges such as poverty, homelessness, and family or domestic violence. Our appeals ensure compassionate supporters - whether long-time donors or first-time givers - have a powerful opportunity to help children and families on their journey towards safety, healing and hope.

This year, we also launched Champion Gifts, a new virtual gifting initiative. Introduced in 2024, Champion Gifts offered child-focused, meaningful presents to support children in need, promoted during key periods such as Christmas, Back-to-School, and Mother's Day. The campaign included both digital and physical gift card options to enhance the donor experience and engage a broader audience.

Champion Gifts raised approximately \$65,000, helping to boost brand awareness among younger, digital-savvy supporters while providing a sustainable alternative to traditional gifting.

**One-off donations play a vital role in the work of Barnardos Australia.**

These generous contributions allow us to:



Respond quickly to emergencies and urgent needs



Deliver essential services such as intensive family support, parenting programs, youth and family services, domestic and family violence support, safety and escape planning, and early intervention



Plan long term and implement high-impact initiatives



Maximise resources so more funds go directly to helping children and their families

Because these gifts are not tied to specific projects, they provide the flexibility to act where the need is greatest. They make an immediate, tangible difference—helping children and families move toward safer, brighter futures.





The Giving Movement team at Auburn Children's Family Centre

# Partnering for lasting change

## The Giving Movement

**Barnardos Australia welcomed a new partner, The Giving Movement (TGM) - a brand that blends fashion with purpose.**

Committed to sustainability and social impact, TGM donates \$4 from every Australian sale to support our Safety & Prevention Programs.

We are grateful for their generosity and look forward to growing this partnership to create brighter futures for children and families.



Scan the QR code to watch our partnership launch.

## Australian Mutuals Foundation

**Our long-standing partner, the Australian Mutuals Foundation (AMF), has continued to demonstrate their strong commitment to Barnardos children, families and communities through sustained investment, fundraising initiatives, and program support.**

We are pleased to acknowledge AMF's three-year funding commitment to our Beyond Barbed Wire Program, assisting incarcerated mothers to reunite with their children and break intergenerational cycles.

In alignment with Australian Mutual Bank – founder and longstanding supporter of the AMF – and its focus on domestic and family violence (DFV), the AMF funded essential safety upgrades to our Penrith Crisis Accommodation Units and participated in our inaugural DFV Corporate Workshop. This initiative equipped staff with practical knowledge to identify warning signs and provide appropriate support.



Sydney Metro team wearing the 2025 design

## sass & bide

**In 2025, we proudly celebrated 21 years of partnership with iconic Australian brand, sass & bide.**

They have championed our mission with creativity, generosity and heart, making an extraordinary impact on the lives of children and families.

This year also marked the 10th anniversary of our limited-edition t-shirt campaign, which first launched in 2015. The campaign released a beautifully expressive 'with-love' t-shirt, raising vital funds for the Yurungai Learning Centre – this drew on the themes of hope and brighter futures which was reflected in the design illustrated.

This partnership is a shining example of how creativity and compassion can come together to create real, lasting change. We are deeply grateful for sass & bide's commitment to our vision and the incredible impact they've achieved.

## Yancoal

**Barnardos is grateful to have received a \$25,000 community grant from Yancoal's Moorlarben Coal Mine in Mudgee.**

This generous funding will support families experiencing domestic and family violence by covering essential brokerage costs such as emergency accommodation, identification documents, health assessment and household items – all vital to our Domestic Violence Specialist role in Mudgee.

This support ensures families can access the services they need, moving towards safety, stability and hope.

We are deeply thankful to Yancoal for their commitment to strengthening Barnardos mission and supporting local communities.



# Thank you to our corporate partners

## Premier partners



## Major partners



## Supporting partners



## Key supporters

Cisco

Total Logistic Solutions Unit Trust

Yancoal

## Major donors

Ainsworth 4 Foundation

Allsopp Family Foundation

Diane D Fagan

GW Foundation

Jennifer Darvall - in memory of

Jann Skinner

Jim Pearse

John Lamble Foundation

Johnston Foundation

Kenyon Foundation

Michael and Kathleen Cleary

Nell & Hermon Slade Trust

Payne Family Charitable Fund

Peter and Barbara Hoadley Foundation

Peter and Toni Ryan

Philippa Warner

Russell Foundation

Singh Charity Fund

Susan Maple-Brown AM

## Trusts and Foundations

Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust

Angus Grant

APS Foundation

ATS Charitable Foundation

Auburn Soccer Sports Club

Auburn Tennis Club

Bankstown Sports

Club Burwood RSL

Commonwealth Bank Foundation

Cumberland City Council

Danks Trust

Dick and Pip Smith Foundation

DOOLEYS Lidcombe Catholic Club

Hands Across Canberra

Harold Mitchell Foundation

J E Skinner Endowment

James N. Kirby Foundation

Jemena Community Grants

John Barnes Foundation

Matana Foundation for Young People

Multicultural NSW

Nielsen Foundation

Perpetual Limited

Property Industry Foundation

Snow Foundation

The Clark Family Foundation

The Corio Foundation

The Fred P Archer Charitable Trust

The Hall Foundation

The Teen Spirit Charitable Foundation

Walter Campbell Memorial Trust

## Bequests

Annetta Maria Dorothea Josephine Adami Trust

Bridgestar Pty Ltd (James Oswald Fairfax)

Edith Maude Roper Trust

Eleanor Smith Trust

Elizabeth Gabler Charitable Trust

Frederick Roper Trust

Heinrich Theodore Noske Estate

John & Gabriele Critoph Trust Fund

John Isaac

John Melrose Charitable Trust

Leslie Allan Maurer

Loeky Wiersma Charitable Fund

Sheila E Finlayson

The Catherine Ellen Carter Memorial Fund

The Edwin and Elizabeth Batchelder Trust

The John and Elizabeth Woodrow Memorial Fund

The K & G Gluck Trust

Thomas Aubrey Bowen

Antony John Hodson

Diahnne Gai Berthold

Elizabeth June Dowton

Heather Lynette Mitchell

Jean Duncan Foley

John Brady

June Elizabeth Howard

Kevin Robert Couzens

Leslie Bruce Blackshaw

Nancy Mah Lan Lau

Pamela Ann Rose

Philip Hamilton Wollaston

Richard Leigh

Roslyn May Jones

Sabina Barbel Domagawa

Thusnelda Laurentia Gelich

William Roger Wood

Zoe-Patricia Abbott



# Our finances for 2024-25



**\$108.8M**

Total operating revenue

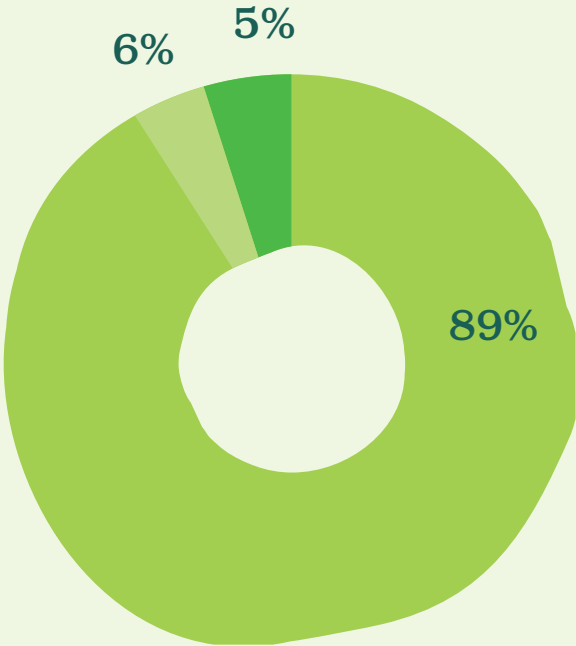


**\$99.4M**

Total service delivery expenditure

## Income that went back into services

-  Social care centres
-  Fundraising operations
-  Administration support functions



\* Please refer to the Barnardos Australia Annual Financial Report 30 June 2025 at [barnardos.org.au](https://www.barnardos.org.au) for the full report.

## Growing sustainable funding

Thank you for being a champion for children. With your amazing support, we raised over \$8,300,000 for children, young people and their families.

Corporate and philanthropic supporters donated over **\$4.65m** towards our programs

Over 10,000 people generously gave **\$2,844,116** through regular donations

**140 corporate and philanthropic partners** supported the delivery of essential services across NSW and ACT

More than **12,000 people** donated to support vulnerable children and young people

We welcomed **1,017 new donors, 2,608 Barnardos Buddies** and **48 corporate and philanthropic partners** to Barnardos this year



## Connect with us

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GPO Box 9996  
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BarnardosAustralia



@barnardos\_au



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**General enquiries:** 02 9218 2300

**Donations:** 1800 061 000

**Foster care:** 1800 663 441

**info@barnardos.org.au**

## Our Board

### Chair

Liesel Wett OAM

### Deputy Chair

Sam Garland

### Chief Executive Officer

Deirdre Cheers

Gareth Chegwidden  
Wendy Glasgow  
Susan Heward-Belle

Racheal Kellaway  
Rick Macourt

Stephen Mills  
Emma Zadow



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