

Hopefield

2025

# Annual Report

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you

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# Mission

Hopefield is a Christian community-based charity working to empower and equip those experiencing marginalisation to flourish.

# Thank You, Partners 2025

A service as far-reaching as Hopefield could not happen without our many partners and supporters. Thank you for your support. In providing services throughout 2025 to our clients we would like to acknowledge the assistance and support of the following groups:

Special thanks to the following organisations for their Grant Funding:

- The Big Sister Foundation
- Sutherland Shire Council
- Kingsley Foundation
- AXA-XL
- Commonwealth Bank Cronulla
- Southgate Sylvania
- Cook Stronger Communities



Thank you to our church partners:

- Gymea Baptist Church
- Lismore Baptist Church
- Prayer Support Team: Sandra Beavis, Leisel Savage, Bethany Kepu, Julie Griffiths, Martha Hatzidis



Southgate Community Kickstart Grant of \$10,000 presented to Hopefield



# Board of Directors 2025



Melisa Giles  
Chair



Rob Seaton  
Vice Chair



Jason Ezzy  
Secretary



Ross Langford  
Member



Kerrin Ryan  
Treasurer



Neil Evans  
Member



Rev. Dr. Marc Rader  
Member



# Chair's Report 2025

It is with great pride that I present this year's Annual Report as we celebrate a remarkable milestone - 30 years of Hopefield's service and impact in our community.

For three decades, Hopefield has remained dedicated to supporting individuals and families through compassion, care, and opportunity. What began as a small initiative with a clear purpose has grown into a trusted organisation that continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of many. This milestone provides an opportunity not only to celebrate our achievements, but also to reflect on the mission, values, and beliefs that have guided Hopefield throughout its journey.

Over the past 30 years, Hopefield has walked alongside individuals and families experiencing hardship and marginalisation. Through the dedication of our staff, volunteers, supporters, and community partners, we have witnessed lives strengthened and individuals empowered to move forward with renewed confidence and purpose.

Hopefield's mission is clear: to be a Christian community-based charity working to empower and equip those experiencing marginalisation to flourish. Inspired by our faith and our commitment to community, we seek to serve others with humility, care, and practical support. At the heart of Hopefield's work is a simple but powerful belief: every human being is inherently worthy.

Regardless of life circumstance, background, or belief, every individual matters. We exist to improve the lives and wellbeing of those we serve by showing them that change is possible and that they are not alone in their journey.

This commitment is reflected in the values that shape our work each day. Hope reminds us that positive change is always possible. We pursue empowering excellence by equipping individuals with the tools and skills they need to grow and thrive. We approach every person with compassion, offering genuine care and understanding.

We remain respectful of the dignity, diversity, and experiences of each individual we serve. Finally, we continue to be adaptive, responding thoughtfully to the evolving needs of our community so that our services remain relevant and effective.

We seek to make our support accessible to all through our "pay as you can" services, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent individuals and families from receiving the help they need. Through our programs, we equip clients with everyday skills that strengthen communication, resilience, social and

emotional wellbeing, healthy relationships, and a stronger sense of belonging.

As a Christian organisation, our work is also grounded in the belief expressed in Galatians 6:2 - "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfil the law of Christ." This spirit of care and responsibility for one another continues to inspire the way Hopefield serves our community.

This anniversary also provides an opportunity to reflect on the journey that brought us here. We acknowledge the vision of our founders, the commitment of past and present board members, and the generosity of donors and partners who have supported Hopefield over the years. Their collective efforts have shaped Hopefield into the organisation it is today.

I would also like to acknowledge our CEO, Vicki Sherry, for her tireless dedication to Hopefield and for the strong, innovative leadership she provides to our organisation.

I would like to thank our individual donors and partner organisations such as Big Sister, as well as the members of the Gynea Baptist Church community who faithfully support our work. We could not do this important work without your generosity.

We are also grateful to have been successful in several grant applications this year. We thank AXA, Sutherland Shire Council, the Australian Federal Government's Stronger Communities Grant, and Southgate Shopping Centre for their support, which enables us to continue expanding the services we offer to our community.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Board of Directors for their guidance and stewardship, and to our dedicated staff and volunteers whose passion and professionalism make our work possible every day. I also thank our supporters and community partners for their continued trust and collaboration.

While we celebrate the achievements of the past 30 years, we also look ahead with optimism and determination. The needs within our community continue to evolve, and Hopefield remains committed to responding with innovation, compassion, and integrity. Together, we will continue to build on our legacy and ensure that Hopefield remains a source of support, hope, and opportunity for many years to come.

*Melisa Giles, Chair*



# CEO's Report 2025

As we reflect on the year, we are reminded again of God's faithfulness and the steady guidance that has carried Hopefield through three decades of serving our community.

2025 was a significant and defining year for Hopefield - one marked by clarity, renewed focus, and intentional steps toward long term growth. It was a year in which we strengthened our foundations, celebrated meaningful milestones, and positioned ourselves for the next chapter of impact.

This year, we proudly celebrated 30 years of serving our community, a testament to the faithfulness, generosity, and partnership that have carried Hopefield across three decades. We also refreshed our branding, ensuring our outward expression better reflects who we are today and the hope centred work we continue to do.



## Strengthened Foundations

Throughout 2025 we remained committed to our four practice areas:

- Support Services
- Clinical Services
- Community Hubs
- The EVE Project

And we deepened our work across three focus segments:

- Domestic & Family Violence/Trauma
- Mental Health
- Housing & Homelessness

These anchors guided all planning, investment, and delivery across the organisation.



## Delivering on Our Core Goals

Our operational plan this year focused on four core goals, three targeted growth areas, and several strategic explorations. I am proud to share that we achieved significant progress across all streams.

### Core Achievements

- **Launched the Saffron Integration Project**, strengthening our DV and trauma offerings through greater alignment across all four practice areas.
- **Increased investment in Mental Health services in Cronulla**, extending access and meeting rising community need.
- **Expanded Community Hubs programming**, introducing a parenting program for fathers and a wellbeing small group program for men.
- **Enhanced communication** across key audiences through refined messaging and deeper engagement.
- **Implemented the Matrix within Support Services**, providing a clearer, more comprehensive approach to progress and outcomes measurement—this will extend to additional practices in 2026.
- **Successfully delivered two full intakes of The EVE Project**, continuing to transform lives through trauma informed, strengths based support.

### Growth Milestones

- Launched the **Lismore pilot** in collaboration with Lismore Baptist Church, expanding our presence and adapting to local community needs.
- Soft launched our newly branded "**Hope + Love**" online store, contributing to our long term financial sustainability strategy.
- Completed a detailed business plan to explore scaling EAP services through our Clinical team.



# CEO's Report 2025

## Strategic Progress

This year, we also invested in significant long term strategic planning, including:

- Progress toward scaling The EVE Project, exploring pathways for sustainable expansion.
- Meaningful work toward establishing a stronger, more permanent presence in Cronulla, ensuring stability and visibility for years to come.



## Community Impact Beyond the Plan

In addition to our strategic goals, 2025 was full of meaningful achievements:

- As we celebrated **30 years of Hopefield**, we gave thanks for God's provision across each season and for the many hands and hearts He has brought alongside us, marking a legacy of compassion and service.
- We received a renewed **three year commitment from Big Sister**, strengthening our Support Services capacity.
- We expanded our homelessness response through **HopeHaven**, adding a weekly outreach supporting those sleeping rough in the Cronulla area.
- Demand for **Food Services** grew significantly as cost of living pressures intensified; in response, we began redesigning the model for 2026 to leverage volunteer leadership and strengthen sustainability.
- Our **Men's Connect Group nearly doubled in size**, thanks to the dedication and passion of its volunteer leaders.

While we operated with a planned deficit, some of our strategic and growth investments required more resourcing than anticipated, and several returns will be realised over a longer horizon. These investments were intentional and aligned to our long term strategy. As we move into 2026, our priority is to stabilise our financial position while continuing to build sustainable, scalable models of service.

## Our People: Students, Volunteers, Partners, and Staff

We are grateful for the many people that form part of the Hopefield story - staff, volunteers, partners, supporters - each playing a vital part.

Hopefield's work is made possible by a remarkable community of people.

- We welcomed exceptional students across Support Services, Clinical Services, and The EVE Project - each contributing fresh energy, curiosity, and capability.
- We are deeply grateful for our incredible volunteers - from our Board to those quietly supporting vulnerable clients behind the scenes. As we grow, volunteers will remain central to our impact.
- Our donors and supporters continue to be the backbone of our sustainability, enabling us to deliver lifechanging outcomes.
- A special thankyou to Gymea Baptist Church and Lismore Baptist Church for their partnership across Kirrawee, Cronulla, and Lismore.
- And finally, to the Hopefield team—thank you for the heart, skill, and compassion you bring every day. You walk alongside people in their most vulnerable moments with dignity and without judgment. It is a privilege to serve with you.

## Looking Ahead

As we reflect on 2025, we do so with gratitude and a deep sense of purpose. The clarity we gained, the strategic groundwork we laid, and the meaningful outcomes we achieved have prepared us well for the next chapter. Over the next few pages you will find stories of encouragement and more detail around each of the programs we worked on.

We enter 2026 with renewed focus, strengthened foundations, and confidence in the road ahead.

Together we continue to bring hope, healing, and possibility to individuals and families across our communities.

Thank you for being part of this story.

*Vicki Sherry, CEO*



# Clinical Services 2025

The Clinical Service Team defined by professional Psychology and Counselling services provided gold standard interventions in Mental Health, Domestic Family Violence, and Trauma throughout 2025. The team consists of psychology and counselling professional staff who value a standard of excellence in professional practice while holding our Christian values of compassion and hope.

## Year in Review

**316**

total clients

**223**

new clients \*

**9%**

reduction in non-attendance compared with the previous year

**1,437**

appointments completed

**25%**

increase in overall clients

\*The increase in new clients is related to the increased number of volunteer and placement students who participated in service delivery over the course of 2025.

## 2025 Highlights At a Glance

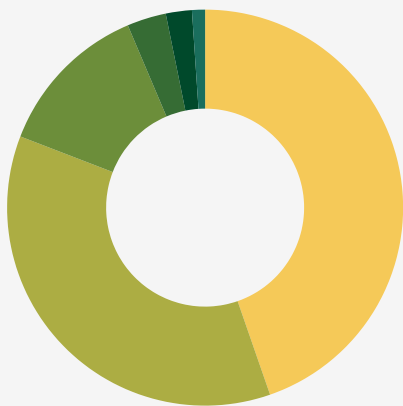
- Commenced Mental Health Psychological Services in Lismore Hopefield branch (Michelle Matasau, Psychologist);
- Supporting persons to access Trauma Counselling through successful registration with Victim Services (Sue Chin, Clinical Counsellor); development of a cross-service trauma-informed care approach;
- Safe and Together Training in Domestic Family Violence (Sue Chin, Clinical Counsellor);
- Established Mental Health Services with Support Services, Cronulla (Jair Graham, Psychologist) and Student placement (Joseph Makdessi); Jair Graham successfully completed the first year as a Clinical Psychology registrar;
- Regular Group and Individual Supervision of Clinical and Support Services Staff (Linda Salem, Clinical Psychologist and Sue Chin, Clinical Counsellor);
- Clinical Services as training ground for post-graduate trainees in counselling and psychology (Linda Salem, Clinical Psychologist/Team Lead). Sue Chin successfully supervised two post-graduate counselling interns following her training as a Supervisor in 2024; Jair Graham successfully completed Supervisor training in late 2025 and is a Board Approved Supervisor (AHPRA).



“Jair has been very helpful and I have valued his time with me. The whole team are very easy to deal with. Thank you.”



# Clinical Services 2025



## Referral Sources

- 42% Recommendation\*
- 34% Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- 12% Services Referrals (School (4%), Non-Govt. Services (4%), Other Psych. Practices (4%))
- 3% Church
- 2% Returning Clients
- 1% Internally Referred

\*Recommendations through word of mouth and EAP continue to make up over 75% of the referral pathways into Clinical Services.

## Presentating Problems

- 54% Mental Health
- 11% Behavioural (incl. Family & Parenting)
- 9% ASD/ADHD
- 8% DV / Trauma
- 6% Relationship Counselling
- 6% Grief and Loss
- 4% Psychometric Testing
- 5% Other



## Program Outcomes Include:

135 records were closed with assessed outcomes in 2025:

- **45 percent** had reached Counselling goals partially and/or fully (61 cases)
- **14 percent** had dropped out of contact (19 cases)
- **33 percent** were closed for some other reason (other than goals met or had dropped out (45 cases))

"I looked forward to each session as I navigated some difficult issues."



"I have found Christina to be extremely helpful and understanding. She listens well to pick up the things that need to be talked about and has provided great insights that challenge me to self reflect and has helped me to gain great strategies to overcome some of my anxieties and issues I have faced. Her guidance and encouragement has been invaluable to me."



# Clinical Services 2025

## Many thanks to our Volunteer and Students:


- **Helen Edward** (Volunteer Counsellor, 1 day per week, April to December 2025, Supervisor: Linda Salem)
- **Andrew Bartlett** (Student Counsellor, Australian College of Applied Professions (ACAP), Completed placement in May 2025, Supervisor: Linda Salem)
- **Caixiu Wang** (Intern Counsellor, Torrens University, March to September 2025, Supervisors: Sue Chin and Linda Salem)
- **Joseph Makedessi** (Student Counsellor, Australian College of Applied Professions (ACAP), May to December 2025, Supervisor: Linda Salem)
- **Sara Petkantchin** (Intern Counsellor, Excelsia College, September 2025 to March 2026, Supervisors: Sue Chin and Linda Salem)

## Looking Forward

The Clinical Services Team is looking forward to developing further expertise in Psychological Trauma treatment and continuing to be sought after as a Hopefield Team who can provide Supervision and expert training in Psychology and Counselling by post-graduate training institutions and other organisations seeking professional supervision for staff.

We are also exploring how we will integrate usage of the Wellbeing Continuum as a measurement tool for outcomes reporting to align with other practices across Hopefield.

Please join me in thanking our core team of highly qualified and experienced practitioners: Sue Chin (Clinical Counsellor, Supervisor), Jair Graham (Psychologist, Clinical Psychology Registrar, Supervisor), Christina Isaac (Counsellor), Michelle Matasau (Psychologist).



“Sue is absolutely amazing! Every time I look forward to my next session. I feel safe to talk to her, I always leave feeling better than when I arrive and Sue helps me a lot with clarity and having hope for my future, but she also helps me live in the moment and feel less anxious and stressed. I'm very thankful for Hopefield and the work that you guys do. I also want to say thanks to Bec, Keely and Christina for the amazing job with Hope After Abuse, and thanks to Janet for always welcoming me with a beautiful smile. You guys are amazing and your work matters. THANK YOU!”

*Linda Salem,*  
Practice Lead: Clinical Services



A photograph of a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the green leaves, creating a dappled light effect. The text is overlaid in the lower-left quadrant.

**Vision**  
Flourishing  
Communities


# Support Services 2025

In 2025 Support Services hit the ground running and maintained a consistently high pace throughout the year. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis and critical housing shortages continued to place significant pressure on the individuals and families we supported. Many people were navigating long-term and complex circumstances that were further compounded by rising expenses, housing instability, and reduced access to essential services.

These pressures intensified stress and vulnerability across the community, making timely, consistent and compassionate support more vital than ever. Despite these challenges, our team continued to walk alongside people with empathy and practical assistance while remaining committed to identifying sustainable pathways forward.

Throughout the year we worked collaboratively with partner agencies, local services and community networks to ensure individuals and families were connected to the resources they needed. Our integrated approach enabled us to respond not only to immediate crises, but also to the underlying factors contributing to long term hardship.

By remaining adaptable and client centred, Support Services was able to provide stability in a time of on-going uncertainty. The dedication, resilience and professionalism of our team ensured that every person who sought help was met with dignity, respect and hope, reinforcing our commitment to strengthening community wellbeing one household at a time.



"Hopefield has supported me when I was at my lowest point and I did not know where to go. I had lost everything. They helped me to find supports and services and to make better choices for my life. Slowly things started getting better."

## Thank you to our student placements:

Sandhya Magar, Asmita Bulun and Johanna Purdon

## Food Donations:

Gynea Baptist Church, AXA XL, Southgate Shopping Centre, Cronulla Commonwealth Bank, Donald Robinson Village, Tamarisk Kitchen Kingsway church, John Robinson Village, Hammond Grove Miranda Independent Living, Healthy Harvest, Groundbake  
Schools: Kareela Primary School, Miranda North Primary School, Woolooware Primary School, Sutherland Primary School  
Fresh cooked meals: Prenisha Pather



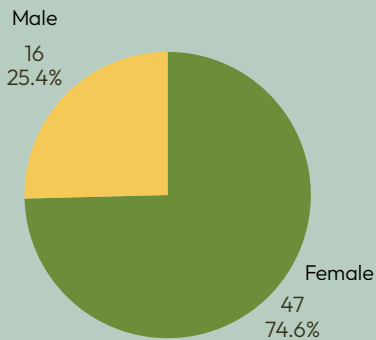
# Support Services 2025

# 63

## Individuals & families supported

47 females | 16 males  
34 of these individuals had children

### Gender demographic:

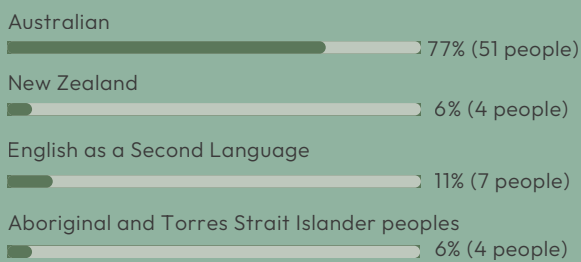


### Referral Sources:

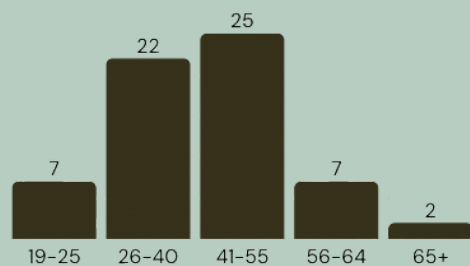
Referrals were received from a wide range of sources, reflecting strong community and inter-agency connections:



### Cultural background:



### Age range of clients:



# Support Services 2025

## 2025 Year at a Glance

63

individuals and families supported with complex needs

Over 430

individual appointments supporting these clients



Crisis issues dominate entry points (DV and housing), but rarely exist alone



Mental health is a critical underlying factor, commonly emerging as a secondary issue



Clients require holistic, long-term support, not short-term or single-issue interventions



System navigation and advocacy (housing, NDIS, legal) are central components of effective support



New homelessness outreach initiative

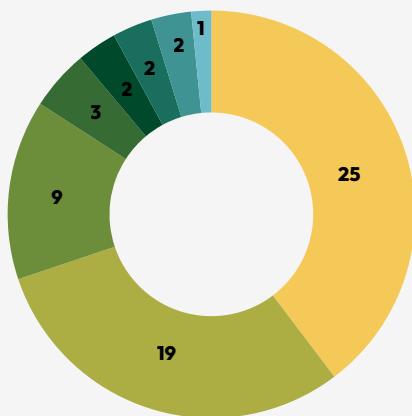


Food pantry usage doubled

### Primary presenting issues

Domestic violence and housing/homelessness were the most common primary presenting issues, together accounting for the majority of presentations. This reflects the increasing intersection between family violence, housing instability, and broader cost-of-living pressures within the community.

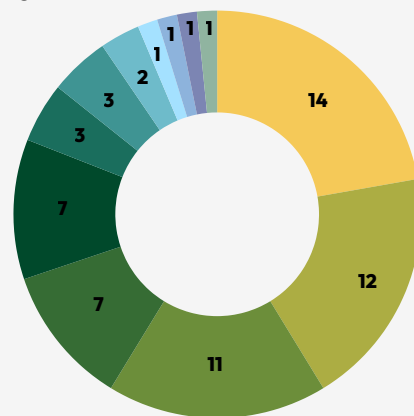
- Housing/Homelessness
- Domestic Violence
- NDIS/Permanent Disability
- Mental Health
- Victim Services
- Parenting
- Financial
- Employment



### Secondary presenting issues

The prevalence of mental health concerns as a secondary issue reflects the cumulative impact of prolonged stress, trauma, housing insecurity, and domestic violence. These overlapping challenges reinforce the need for integrated, trauma-informed and holistic support responses.

- Mental Health
- Housing/Homelessness
- Domestic Violence
- NDIS
- Legal
- Drug & Alcohol
- Employment
- Victim Services
- Financial
- Squalor & Hoarding
- Parenting
- Work and development orders



# Support Services 2025

## Year in Review

### Practice Framework

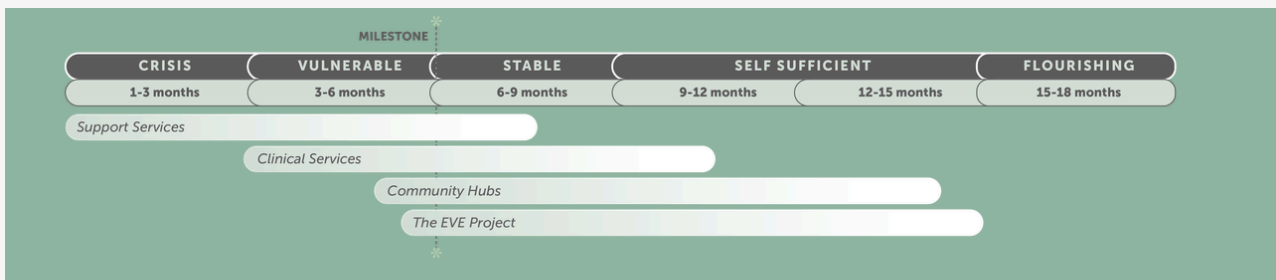
In 2025, we introduced a new outcomes measurement framework, transitioning to the Self-Sufficiency Matrix, customised to align with the Hopefield Wellbeing Continuum. This shift has enabled us to more effectively track and measure progress across multiple life domains. Throughout the year the Self-Sufficiency Matrix was used in individual case work, supporting consistent, person-centred goal setting and clearer visibility of client outcomes.

Of the 63 new clients who accessed Support Services in 2025, we were able to exit 32 clients.

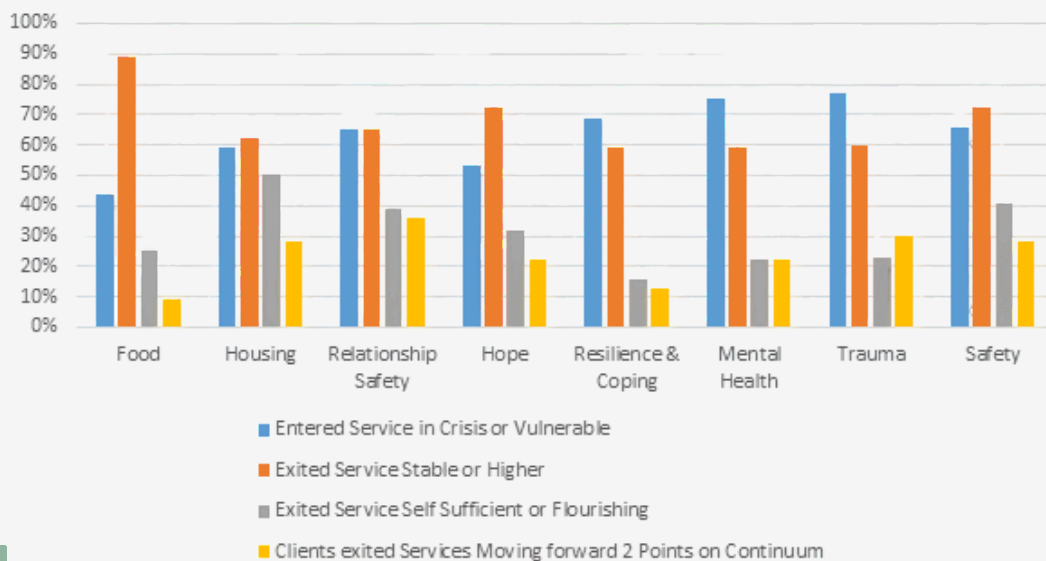
### Key Outcomes for those exited:

- 100% of clients who exited the service identified trauma as a presenting issue
- Majority of clients enter the service in crisis or vulnerable states across multiple life domains
- Majority of clients exit the service either stable or higher across these same life domains
- 77% of clients entered in crisis or vulnerable state for Trauma, 75% for Mental Health and 69% with respect to their resilience and coping
- 89% of clients had better access to food services
- 72% of clients reported a positive increase in feelings of hope and safety.
- 36% of clients moved 2 steps or more on the Wellbeing Continuum in regard to Relationship Safety
- Significant steps (2 step movements) for Trauma (30% of clients) and Safety (28%)

### Wellbeing Continuum



### 2025 Self Sufficiency Matrix Aggregate Outcomes



# Support Services 2025

## New Homelessness Outreach Initiative

In 2025, we trialled a new service supporting people experiencing homelessness in the Cronulla area. This initiative has strengthened our ability to identify where individuals are sleeping rough, and to build trust through consistent, compassionate engagement. Through this outreach, we have gained valuable insight into people's lived experiences and the complexity of their needs. Early outcomes have been very encouraging with further details outlined in this report.

Key outcomes of this initiative include:

- Connected with approximately 20 individuals or couples experiencing homelessness
- Provided food and information to those in need
- Supported three people to obtain documentation and evidence to support housing applications
- Supported two people to access temporary housing accommodation
- Provided brokerage assistance to four people. This included support with car repairs, registration fees, petrol and food vouchers
- Welcoming a significant increase in the number of individuals presenting at Hopefield Cronulla seeking to access food services, shower and laundry facilities.
- Three people were referred to housing support collaborative for additional services.

What we have learned:

- Many people experiencing homelessness in Cronulla are living in their cars
- Most of these individuals were not connected to any services or supports
- Social isolation is common and trust building takes time
- Many of the people we supported had been homeless for over two years

There is a significant need for specialised mental health and GP services to support this homeless population.



"I'm so grateful for the support and concern that you have shown me. I don't know where I would be if I hadn't contacted."

"Services at Hopefield have been extremely helpful & proactive. Tools are given to help people & situations immediately which is exactly what I need. Very appreciative of their professional ethics & support."



# Support Services 2025

## Food Support

In 2025, Hopefield and Gymea Baptist Church continued to provide essential food support to community members experiencing growing financial strain. With food insecurity rising sharply across the year, weekly hamper demand increased from 50-60 hampers early in the year to approximately 85 hampers per week by year's end (an increase of 42%). This reflects both the escalating need and an increase in new individuals and families seeking assistance.



Thank you to our HopeDrive team

**Leanne Langford, Kathy Berg, Sharyn Dacosta, Liz Maddock, Narelle Montgomery, Lois Wolf, John Padgett, Robyn Gillette**

This work was made possible through strong community partnerships and generous donations from local organisations and volunteers. The Community Co-Op Sutherland Shire supplied weekly fresh produce and meals, while ongoing support from Gymea Baptist Church, along with the leadership and dedicated volunteers ensured continuity even during periods of high demand. Additional donations were received from members of the public, Tamarisk Kitchen Kingsway Church, local schools conducting food drives, Hammond Grove Miranda, Donald Robinson Village, Healthy Harvest and Groundbake.

At Christmas, with the support of Gymea Baptist Church, we were able to deliver 36 hampers to vulnerable households, providing both food and gifts to ensure a dignified and joyful celebration. This initiative was made possible by GBC and supported by volunteers from both GBC and Engadine High School. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Sheena Hind for her ten years of dedicated service to coordinating Christmas hampers.

## Volunteers

Hopefield is deeply grateful for all the volunteers who support everything we do. Across our programs and services many generous people give their time, skills, and energy to help our community thrive.

Our volunteers support us by:

- Walking alongside individuals and families
- Assisting with our groups
- Sourcing ongoing food donations and coordinating HopeDrive
- Delivering our monthly Hopedrive food
- Packing and distributing food parcels
- Maintaining the Cronulla property
- Providing outreach in the Cronulla area
- Cooking meals for us
- Helping prepare and distribute our Christmas hampers

Thank you for everything you do to help us provide the services our community needs. We truly appreciate your time, effort, and commitment.

## Donations - Other

Toys: Sylvania Waters Waterfront residents, Horizon Church Sutherland

Blankets: Donald Robinson Village, Daisy Hill community members from Menai Anglican, Laurie Green

*Karlyn Johns,*

Practice Lead: Support Services



# Fundraising and Marketing 2025

As you have seen and heard, our team launched a logo rebrand in hopes to refresh, recenter and realign our vision to meet those on the margins with love, support and care. This refreshed Hopefield logo embodies the heart of Hopefield—a story of growth, strength, and hope that radiates from our core mission into the margins of our community. It's a celebration of who we are, the journey we've taken, and the enduring belief that every individual matters.

As we grow to meet the needs of our local communities – Cronulla, Kirrawee and now Lismore, we look forward to working to empower and equip those experiencing marginalisation to flourish.



2025 was a milestone for Hopefield as we celebrated 30 years of providing quality, professional services to those in our local community. Over the course of 2025 just over \$500,000 was raised to fund Hopefield programs.

During the year, Hopefield's fundraising and marketing functions were taken on by Trish Collins and Harriet Leithhead, whilst we welcomed the arrival of baby Tollis. Trish and Harriet's strong communication and organisational skills have been a valuable addition to the team and they have contributed significantly to maintaining continuity and momentum in Hopefield's work.

In June, we hosted our 30th celebration - an incredible day filled with joyful memoirs of Hopefield's history, as well as a look forward into its future. We would especially like to thank all those who attended, Gymea Baptist Church for hosting and Helen's Catering for their generosity in catering the event. Our 30th celebration campaign raised almost \$100,000 - helping us to plan and prepare to reach more families and individuals in need in our community. Thank you to those who donated. It is through this powerful partnership we can continue the important work we do.



Hopefield staff team at the 30<sup>th</sup> celebration

## 30th Event Celebration - Special Mentions

**Sponsor:** Helen's Catering

**Donors:** Cronulla RSL, Bella Bakes & Cakes, Tamaras

**Goodies, Lilly & Lolly, Hair by Vizual, Pony Dining**

**Volunteers:** Jackie Martin, Martin Johnson, Matthew Cottam



Southgate Sylvania Donation Collection Point



# Fundraising and Marketing 2025

Linda Salem, Heather Lillington and Lachlan Watkins took to the Sutherland to Surf in July raising almost \$3,000 to support our domestic and family violence programs. Thank you, Linda, for your enthusiasm and willingness to have a go and to Heather Lillington and Lachlan Watkins for also participating! We would love to have more people join us in 2026 as we walk, run and fundraise!

In August we hosted our second corporate volunteer day with AXA-XL as part of their Global Day of Giving. Thirteen helpful volunteers assisted with preparing and cooking meals for Hopefield clients as well as sorting donated clothes for Hope + Love – our curated, pre-loved clothing store (see more on page 28).

We are incredibly grateful for the faithful support of Gymea Baptist Church. Our 'Hopetember' campaign in September again funded two days per week of counselling support for those who have been impacted by domestic violence and/or trauma. Likewise, our monthly HopeDrive food campaign, hosted by Gymea Baptist Church, continued to re-fill our pantries and re-fuel those experiencing financial hardship.

During November and December our Giving Tree campaign allowed us to provide generous hampers to individuals and families in need at Christmas, along with additional support services. More than \$18,000 was raised during this time! Thank you to all who donated as well as those who purchased and packaged the hampers including students of the Engadine High Leadership team.

We thank Southgate Sylvania shopping centre for collecting non-perishable food and toys to be donated at Christmas time.

Special thanks to Southgate Shopping Centre and Cronulla RSL for their Promotions Support

Again, we are incredibly thankful for the many local businesses that have partnered with us through donations, gifts in kind, volunteer hours and advertising support.

We cannot begin to express our gratitude to the large organisations who provide support through grants including Big Sister Foundation, Sutherland Shire Council, Commonwealth Bank, Southgate Sylvania, and AXA-XL. Their partnership and support provide the stability that enables us to offer the breadth and consistency of services available today.

Finally, we are very thankful to the growing community of passionate supporters who have been so generous with their time and resources. Without you and your partnership we would not be able to continue to reach the number of people we currently do. Thank you.

*Sarah Tollis,*

Fundraising and Marketing



Hopefield's 30<sup>th</sup> celebration



# Community Hub Programs 2025

Community Hubs are safe and welcoming spaces where we provide pathways for individuals to find purpose and flourish, and for our community to thrive. Community Hubs provide a range of activities designed to support people across the Wellbeing Continuum, with a focus on moving people from vulnerability to stability and beyond. Client needs, experiences and goals should drive how activities are designed, along with pathways that foster and develop skills, social connections and participation in community life, to enhance wellbeing.

## 2025 at a Glance

2025 has been the year of consolidation and of strengthening foundations across our Community Hubs activities. Hopefield's focus groups and Wellbeing Continuum have provided clarity and robustness to the way we design, deliver and evaluate our activities.

- o Growing social connection groups, with five operating across Cronulla and Kirrawee locations
- o Hope After Abuse as a feeder program into The EVE Project
- o Black Box Parenting for mums
- o Seasons for Growth for men
- o Parenting for dads

APPROXIMATELY **60**

People supported through regular social connection groups

**4** PROGRAMS

Delivered across the year

APPROXIMATELY **65%**

Of program participants continued receiving support from other practice areas after program completion

## Year in Review

### Social Connection Groups

Hopefield's social connection groups aim to provide a welcoming and warm space for individuals to experience and contribute to a community. Social connection groups are a meaningful way Hopefield provides holistic support to vulnerable and isolated people in an empowering and strengths-based manner. They have been both a conduit for people getting more professional support from other Hopefield practice areas, or a resource for Hopefield staff to refer clients as part of a holistic plan for healing and growth.

In 2025, Hopefield hosted and facilitated five social connection groups: two weekly women's groups; women's support group monthly; Mugs and Mates weekly; and Men's Connect monthly.

### Tuesday women's group

This group has benefited greatly from the care and steadiness of our volunteers as it has freed up our staff capacity for case management. Average attendance of the group across the year was six per week.

Some highlights include:

- o Guest speaker from Commonwealth Bank about tech-safety
- o Craft activities around positive affirmations
- o Volunteer input

A special thanks to Beth Barclay who volunteered weekly to support and oversee the Tuesday women's group in Cronulla.

"Bec, Keely and Christina were very kind, warm and welcoming. Thank you. Listening to other women's stories made me feel understood and less alone."



# Community Hub Programs 2025

“I feel supported... having a safe space to cry. It has helped me to remember that I can get through this.”

## Women's support group

The purpose of this group is to provide women survivors of trauma with a 'stepping stone' and safe practice environment as they continue their healing and build confidence to engage in community and socialise in the wider community.

After launching late in 2024, this monthly group is slowly but steadily gaining momentum as volunteers and staff build rapport and trust and establish the group's culture. By the end of the year, the average attendance each month was three participants. We anticipate that this group will be a great option for The EVE Project graduates to attend for ongoing support.

Some highlights include:

- o Volunteers who are committed and passionate about seeing this group and its participants flourish
- o A participant bringing in a birthday cake for another
- o The positive feedback we have received so far

A special thanks to our committed volunteers - Georgia Preiss and Angela Moule who have been instrumental in providing a safe space for vulnerable women each month.

## Friday women's group

This is the larger of our women's social connection groups with an average attendance of 14 participants each week. This group is facilitated by a committed and proactive team of volunteers. The activities this year have served as conduits to more vulnerable and reflective conversations.

Examples include:

- o 'Women who inspire' interviews
- o Group discussion topics like 'friendship' and 'passions'
- o Guest speakers on topics such as loneliness, child development and aged care

Our thanks to the on-going tireless efforts and engagement from our volunteer leaders, Barbara Higgins, Nola Brooke and Colleen McDonald and their commitment to integrating all in our community.

## Mates & Mugs

As the name implies, this weekly group aims to provide support and connection for vulnerable men. The participants adapted well to Claire Nosworthy taking on oversight of the group at the start of the year. One of the goals was to increase the number of new participants to the group, which was exceedingly met as the number of regular attendees increased to 12 by the end of 2025, up from six at the end of 2024.

Some of the highlights included:

- o Introduction of weekly check ins ("high/ lows") to deep vulnerability and reflectiveness
- o The group rallying around another participant going through crisis

Thank you to Rob Lloyd who is our volunteer co-ordinator for this group and who has established deep and meaningful connections with participants. We also wish to thank and acknowledge our Clinical Services student , Joseph Makedessi for his invaluable contribution and support of this group of men on a weekly basis for most of the year.

## Men's Connect

This monthly group built on the strong foundation set in previous years and continued to foster meaningful and supportive friendships among the participants. Led by a committed team of male volunteers, group attendance was steadily at 25-30 men throughout the year. One of the strengths of this group is the breadth of experiences participants are exposed to. Some popular outings were the site visit to ANSTO; daytrip to Cockatoo Island; and a trip to the HARS Aviation Museum.

Other highlights included:

- o commitment from the team of volunteers
- o consistent attendance from participants across the year

We would like to acknowledge the volunteer leaders John Barker and Bruce Munro along with other volunteer supporters (John Duke, Doug Chapman, Richard Southworth, Rob Lloyd) who make this monthly group a highlight for many men in our local community.



Men's Connect Christmas Party 2025



# Community Hub Programs 2025

## Programs

The purpose of therapeutic programs is to provide relevant psychoeducation in a trauma-informed, effective and engaging manner. A part of what makes our programs effective for participants is the way we ensure that applicants are well-supported by other professionals, or have access to such support, over the duration of the program.

Each program is a multi-week commitment and follows a structured plan with clear outcomes and objectives. Of the female participants, 28% were internally referred from another Hopefield practice area and 36% engaged with another Hopefield practice area after the conclusion of the program. This shows the way that programs work together to support therapeutic work, case management, and as a feeder to TEP.

Hopefield offered four programs in 2025:

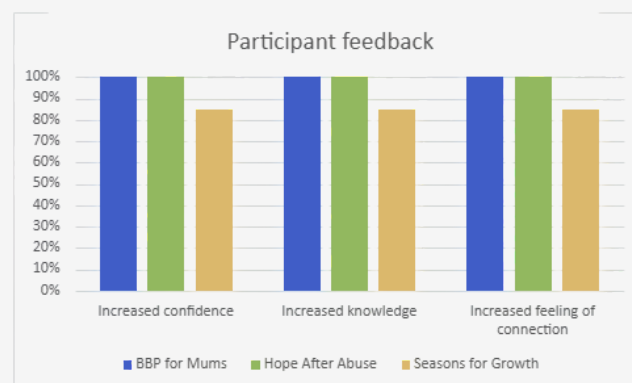
- Hope After Abuse (female only)
- Black Box Parenting (BBP) (for Mums only)
- Parenting for Dads (for Dads only)
- Seasons for Growth (male only)

The two men's programs were newly introduced this year. Parenting for Dads was adapted from the BBP for Mum's program. We could not collect participant feedback from participants as the final two sessions were deferred. Seasons for Growth was facilitated by a Clinical Services student placement, with support from a Hopefield staff member.

## Community Hub Program Volunteers

- Monthly Men's Group: John Barker, Bruce Munro, Richard Southworth, Robert Lloyd, Doug Chapman, Martin Johnston, John Duke, Russell Kinred
- Mates & Mugs: Robert Lloyd
- Friday Women's Group: Barbara Higgins, Colleen McDonald and Nola Brooke
- Tuesday Women's Group: Beth Barclay

Given the success of this pilot, we plan to integrate this program into our annual calendar. Across the groups, participant feedback for the programs was overwhelmingly positive.



## Partnerships

In alignment with Hopefield's four focus segments, Community Hubs consolidated our partnerships with Marrickville Legal Centre and Salvation Army MoneyCare to provide outreach clinics for clients. The purpose of these partnerships is to give clients access to specific professional services that Hopefield itself cannot provide. These services also tend to be costly and therefore inaccessible to most of our clients.

We had over 18 people accessing these services throughout the year with positive feedback. These are services that we plan to continue to promote and invest in as we look forward to 2026.

## Community Hub Services

- Stephanie Panovski, Marrickville Legal Centre
- Bernadette Redford and Bob O'Hare, Salvation Army Financial Counselling
- Irene Leithhead

*Keely Oste,*

Practice Lead: Community Hubs



# The EVE Project Participant Feedback 2025

“

As a single parent with little family support, navigating daily life after Domestic family trauma has often felt overwhelming. The EVE program has been a lifeline, connecting me with other women who truly understand these challenges. Through this community, I've found a renewed sense of hope, strength, and belonging—things I didn't realize I was missing.

Beyond the workshops, what has truly made a difference is the unwavering support from both the facilitators and fellow participants. H, C and S have been incredible, offering wisdom, kindness, and guidance that have made me feel seen, valued, and safe throughout this journey. Their dedication has been vital to my well-being, and their presence has truly shaped my experience. In the future when having more participants, expanding the team with equally experienced staff would allow even more women to benefit, ensuring that every participant receives the same high-quality guidance.

This program hasn't just helped me rebuild my confidence—it has inspired me to engage with my broader community in ways I never thought possible. Discovering local spaces like Hazelhurst and recognizing places where I can contribute has given me a sense of direction, not just for myself, but for my daughter and her development through me.

For women like me, The EVE Project is more than just a series of workshops—it's a stepping stone towards healing, growth, and meaningful connection. It's shown me that even when support feels scarce, there's a community ready to lift each other up, and that realization has been life-changing.

”



# The EVE Project 2025

## Trauma Healing & Pathways to Purpose

The EVE Project (TEP) is Hopefield's trauma-informed healing and pathways to purpose program for women who have experienced and live with the impacts of abuse.

Delivered in a safe, nurturing environment, TEP supports women to heal, rebuild confidence, and move toward meaningful employment, business, and life goals.

TEP is delivered through **two intakes per year**, commencing in **March** and **August**.

## 2025 At a Glance

A year of growth, collaboration, and deepened impact.

- **Two successful program intakes**
- **Growing referral demand across the sector**
- **Launch of a monthly Support Group**
- **Strengthened facilitation and partnerships**

31

Referrals received



10

Referral points



13

Women accepted  
across two intakes



20

Children supported as  
secondary beneficiaries



## Year in Review

2025 has been a year of growth and reflection for The EVE Project, building on the learnings of 2024. Demand for trauma-specific, purpose-focused programs continued to increase, while the program maintained a strong emphasis on relational safety and quality delivery.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Hopefield supporters for their generosity of time, prayer, advocacy, and financial support. We are also deeply grateful to the Hopefield team for their ongoing commitment to TEP throughout the year.

In February 2025, we welcomed Christina Isaac as TEP Co-Facilitator. Christina's expertise and heart for trauma-informed practice have been an enormous blessing to the program and the women we serve.



# The EVE Project 2025

## Who We Reached

### Referral Outcomes

- 7 Internal referrals
- 24 External referrals

Outcome	Number
Accepted into TEP	13
Program unsuitable at this stage	02
Commencing March 2026	04
Childcare barriers (waitlisted)	03
Waitlisted (future intakes)	04
Disengaged / no response	05

## Participant Snapshot

### Age Range

20-30 years:	2
30-40 years:	3
40-50 years:	4
50-60 years:	4

### Trauma Experience

Childhood DFV* related:	1
Adult DFV related:	2
Childhood & Adult DFV related:	7
Non-DFV related trauma:	0
Childhood DFV plus Adult DFV:	3

\*DFV = Domestic and Family Violence

### Cultural Background

Anglo/Australian:	9
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander:	1
CALD*:	3

\*CALD = Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

**100%**

of participants identified employment or business development as a goal

**9\***

goals in progress

\*7 participants currently mid-program

**4**

goals achieved and new goals added



# The EVE Project 2025

## Healing Through Collaboration

The EVE Project is strengthened through partnerships with skilled therapists and facilitators who deliver holistic, trauma-informed experiences. We are thankful for the following individuals who partnered with us:

- Art & Nature Connection Therapy – Amy Scully & Hazelhurst Art Gallery
- Equine Therapy – Heal Psychology
- Aromatherapy – I Am Aromatics
- Trauma-Informed Exercise – Olive Tree Health
- Gardening Workshops – Lyndall Wynne
- Cooking Sessions – Irene Leithhead

## Beyond the Program: Support Group

In April 2025, Hopefield launched a monthly Support Group for graduates and other women who have accessed Hopefield services. This group provides ongoing connection, safety, and peer support.

We sincerely thank Georgia Priess and Angela Moule for generously volunteering their time to support this initiative.

Looking ahead to 2026, at least 12 women have already expressed interest in participating.

## Looking Ahead

In the coming year, Hopefield aims to:

- Deliver two further TEP intakes
- Progress plans to scale the program (with funding remaining the key challenge)
- Launch an Annual TEP Alumni Event
- Develop a TEP Alumni Business Directory



TEP Self Care Boxes



## A drawing by The EVE Project participant 2025



“Me as represented by nature: growing back after being cut down, look young but got old roots, plenty of room to grow, receiving everything I need to grow, rain from the storms that come = post-traumatic wisdom, sunlight from the therapies I do, a mountain still to climb...”

## Closing Statement

The EVE Project continues to be a space of courage, healing, and renewed purpose. We are deeply grateful to all who partner with Hopefield in this work and look forward to the continued growth and impact of TEP.

## Volunteers to Thank:

- Lyndall Wynne
- Georgia Preiss
- Angela Moule
- Irene Leithhead
- Berryl Francis

The EVE Project Graduation Sponsors

- Helen's Catering
- Pony Dining

*Helen Dwyer,*

Practice Lead: The EVE Project



# Hope+Love



CURATED | PRELOVED | VINTAGE | BRAND NEW WITH TAGS

This year marked an exciting period of growth and development for Hope+Love, Hopefield’s new social enterprise designed to blend conscious consumerism with community impact. With a vision to offer high-quality pre-loved, vintage, and brand-new-with-tags clothing, Hope+Love was created to provide a curated, affordable alternative to traditional op-shops—while generating sustainable funding for Hopefield’s programs.

A key milestone was the development of the Hope+Love brand identity, reflecting a timeless, elegant, and modern aesthetic that resonates with younger shoppers while remaining accessible to a broad audience. Alongside this, significant work was undertaken behind the scenes to strengthen our operational systems. Clothing storage solutions were redesigned and upgraded, allowing for better organisation, quality control, and workflow efficiency. Our team also completed the major task of sorting and assessing all donated clothing, ensuring that only pieces meeting our quality standards were selected for sale.

In October, Hope+Love made its first public appearance at GBC’s Fair Trade Market. This soft launch provided an opportunity to introduce the brand to the community, receive valuable feedback, and raise awareness of the social purpose behind the project. Following this event, we commenced a small-scale online soft launch through Depop, enabling us to begin listing curated pieces, trial sales processes, and ship our first orders.

These early steps have laid a strong foundation for the full launch of the Hope+Love e-commerce store. We are excited for the year ahead, where this social enterprise will continue to grow and contribute meaningfully to Hopefield’s mission.



*Harriet Leithhead,*

Hope+Love Coordinator



# Thank You Volunteers and Partners 2025

Hopefield's team of volunteers are an indispensable part of our organisation's identity, values and practice. The generosity, commitment and passion from our volunteers bolsters our team and makes it possible for Hopefield to continue the work we do. Hopefield wants to acknowledge the partnership with Gymea Baptist Church who regularly assist us with the recruitment of volunteers.

Thank you to our volunteers who have assisted this year with:

- Facilitating social connection groups;
- Supporting our Cronulla homeless person's outreach;
- Providing administrative support to the Cronulla team;
- Organising our Food Pantry;
- Caring for and maintaining our Cronulla premises;
- Supporting HopeDrive and Giving Tree;
- Donated goods in kind; and
- Choosing to complete student placements at Hopefield.

In 2025, Hopefield was supported by more than 30 dedicated volunteers who contributed to both service delivery and the day to day administration of our organisation. Each volunteer plays an essential role in strengthening our work and we are incredibly grateful for your time, energy and commitment.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers for the kindness, compassion and unwavering support you show, particularly in the way you care for our clients and visitors. These simple yet meaningful interactions, whether shared over a cup of tea, a craft activity or board game, remind our clients and visitors that they are valued and deserving of dignity. Your presence makes a profound difference – THANK YOU!

## Community Partners

- One Meal
- Orana
- The Salvation Army
- Cronulla RSL
- Marrickville Legal Centre
- Salvation Army Financial Counselling

## Office Support

- Gymea Baptist Church, Premises & Utilities
- Stan Kirkman, IT
- Sandra Osteni, Cronulla Administration Support
- Jean Dougall

## Maintenance team

Glen Nelson, David Hunt, Rob Lloyd, John Padgett, Robyn Southworth, Alan Williams, Rod Wolf, Matthew Bradley (Cronulla premises)

## Corporate Partner Volunteer Day

AXA-XL



# Client Stories 2025

Julie\* was in her early thirties when she came to Hopefield, struggling with severe mental illness while caring for her three children. Her childhood had been marked by profound instability; severe abuse, leaving home at sixteen, her father's imprisonment, and estrangement from her mother. She'd had contact with child protection and mental health services from a young age.

When Julie was referred to Hopefield in 2019, it became clear she was also battling alcohol addiction. A public incident of intoxication triggered a child protection report, which was deeply distressing for her. With strong advocacy from her Hopefield case worker, Julie navigated health and child protection systems and put a plan in place that kept her engaged with support.

She began taking steady steps forward, joining Alcoholics Anonymous, connecting with a psychiatrist through a local non-profit, and relying on Hopefield's food pantry during financially difficult periods. Stabilisation was beginning.

Then Julie faced another major setback when she was assaulted by a family friend, resulting in a court case. Her Hopefield case manager provided trauma education, guidance, and court support throughout. Soon after, Julie discovered she was pregnant. Working with hospital social workers, she and her case manager created a birth plan to support her mental health, but the birth was traumatic, requiring a longer stay and NICU care. During this time, her psychologist's role was defunded, leaving her without clinical support.

Hopefield stepped in again, connecting her first to a student counsellor and then to a Victim Services funded counsellor. A few months later Julie became pregnant again. She joined Hopefield's women's social group, finding community and encouragement, and her second birth was thankfully smooth.

In time, Julie rebuilt stability. She returned to work, increased her hours, and her family no longer needed food hampers. Five years on, she identifies strong growth in resilience, coping, parenting capacity, and community connection. She has remained sober and continues counselling at Hopefield to address childhood trauma.

Most recently, Julie and her partner purchased their first home—a milestone bringing joy, relief, and security for their family.

\*name changed for privacy reasons

# Treasurer's Report 2025

I am pleased to present Hopefield's financial results for the year ended 31 December 2025.

This year reflects intentional investment in new staffing and service capacity to strengthen our long term impact. As planned, Hopefield closed the year with a moderate operating deficit, driven by the strategic decision to build capability across our programs and organisational systems including operational support and investing in our Hope+Love social enterprise.

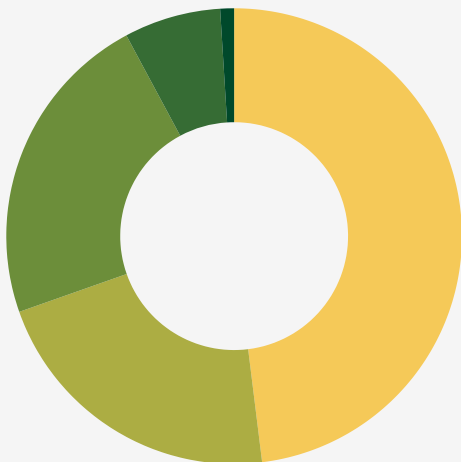
Despite the deficit, Hopefield remains financially stable. We closed the year with net assets of \$451,310 and cash reserves of \$663,263, providing a strong foundation for the year ahead.

Hopefield's work continues to be made possible by the generosity of our community. This year we received \$501,049 in donations and \$240,467 in grants, alongside income from counselling and fundraising activities.

	2025	2024	2023
Total Income	\$1,025,350	\$1,09,380	\$910,154
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$103,814)	\$53,335	(\$170,137)

## 2026 Sources of Income

- 49% Donations
- 22% Clinical Income
- 23% Grants
- 7% Other Income
- 1% Community Program Income



We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors, church partners, philanthropic supporters, and grant funders. Your partnership ensures Hopefield can be present for individuals and families in vulnerable seasons.

Total expenditure for the year was \$1,129,163, reflecting growth across staffing, program delivery and service development. These investments strengthen our ability to walk alongside more people with compassionate, high quality support.

Our financial statements received a clean, unqualified audit opinion on 13 March 2026, confirming strong governance and compliant financial management.

On behalf of the Board, I thank our CEO, staff team and bookkeeper for their stewardship throughout the year. Most importantly, thank you to every donor, funder and supporter whose generosity made Hopefield's impact possible.

*Kerrin Ryan,*  
Treasurer





# Message of Support

Thank you to our incredible donors who  
have partnered with us over 2025.

Our work reaching our community's most  
vulnerable can continue because of you.

**Donate Today**

To continue partnering with Hopefield  
please visit our website to make  
a tax-deductible donation



Hopefield

**Hopefield**

[hopefield.org.au](http://hopefield.org.au)