

Every life matters

Annual Report 2026



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After losing their home, Todd and his six children spent months moving between relatives' houses. Today, they are together again under one roof, with the space and stability to rebuild their lives, thanks to the support of Wesley Mission's Homeless Services and Community Housing teams. See page 16 for Todd's story.

From left: Hernan, Todd, Kaelani and Annmarie.

Our brand reflects our bold legacy and unwavering determination to do more good because every life matters. This report celebrates all that is good in the lives of people and communities.

Watch our brand story



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work. We pay our respect to Elders past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities.

Message from our Chair



Michael Anderson

Chair of the
Board of Directors

Wesley Community
Services Ltd

Building strength – for what’s ahead.

This year called on Wesley Mission to match rising need in the communities we serve, with real progress in how we are placed to respond.

Cost-of-living pressure, housing insecurity and sector-wide reform across aged care, disability, homelessness and Out-of-Home Care made our always challenging work just that bit more complex. It has taken significant resources to manage this changing environment of funding, regulation and workers’ compensation. However, against that backdrop, we made the deliberate choice to keep growing where we can and extend our impact. The need to do “all the good we can” has never been greater.

Financially, this has been a year of considered stewardship. Complex decisions, including redirecting underperforming services into new, sustainable models, together with continued growth in services like Home Care and the generous support of donors and supporters (\$11 million, a 20% increase on last year), have strengthened our financial position and given us a sustainable platform for the years ahead.

This year also marked meaningful change in our leadership. As we welcomed new senior members to our executive team and thanked and farewelled others, we did so with a clear eye on positioning Wesley Mission for the future and for the growing demands of our work.

I want to thank retiring board members: Jill Pretty, Mark Northern and Bernard Boerma for their years of dedicated service and I look forward to welcoming those who continue to guide us through our current strategy.

None of the progress we make happens without the extraordinary commitment of our people, our donors and our partners, who continue to invest in what we do because they also believe that every life matters.

Thank you for the part you played this year, in board rooms, on the frontline, in prayer and everywhere in between. Motivated and empowered by the love of God, we have achieved so much life-changing good, some of which you will read about in the pages that follow.

Message from our CEO & Superintendent



Rev Stu Cameron

CEO & Superintendent

An unchanging mission in a changing world.

This year asked more of all of us, and once again, as we always have through Wesley Mission’s storied history, our people rose to meet it. Amid significant change, both within Wesley Mission and around us, we found ourselves living our mission and values more passionately than ever, serving with soft hearts, sharp minds, open hands and hard feet.

New communities of Word and deed. We continued to grow and pioneer even as the sector around us was reshaped by continuous cycles of reform. Across aged care, disability, and Out-of-Home Care, our teams continued to navigate some of the most significant regulatory change and sector shifts in a generation with resilience and care, always focused on ensuring we do all the good we can. Through change and disruption, we pioneered new services, as well as new Word and deed church communities, Wesley Western Sydney and Wesley Inner West.

There when it mattered most. No moment tested and defined our response more than the Bondi tragedy on 14 December 2025. Within 24 hours, Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland was on the ground, offering vital, behind the scenes support to first responders, survivors and a shaken community. It was a whole-of-organisation response, including our chaplaincy services, and while I am incredibly proud of what we were able to do and the profound impact it made, I was not surprised. Wherever Australians find themselves in need, Wesley Mission will be there.

Dignity, every step of the way. I’m equally proud of our services for older Australians, including Home Care which grew its reach and impact by around 15%, all while navigating an enormously challenging period of reform. Rather than settling for the bare minimum, they remained steadfast in delivering the quality of care, dignity and support that older people and their families deserve to age well in place.

Claiming our prophetic voice. This year, we continued to claim our prophetic voice, advocating on the issues that affect the people and communities we serve. This was most evident in our work on gambling reform, where we took this issue directly to governments, in NSW and Canberra, and local governments across New South Wales, voicing powerful, measurable evidence of the harm gambling causes in every postcode.

With gratitude. Thank you to every team member, volunteer and supporter who contributed to the impact by God’s grace we made this past year as we continued the work of Jesus Christ in Word and deed. I remain enormously grateful for every person who serves through Wesley Mission, and for all the good we get to do together, because every life matters. Above all else, I am grateful for the faithfulness of God towards us this past year as through the more than two centuries of our story.

Our bold strategy



Through our 200+ year history at Wesley Mission, we've been at our best when we've been bold.

Our 2028 Strategic Plan articulates our commitment to be bold, integrating the work of our community services and church communities to do more good.

.....
View our 2028 Strategic Plan



Faith, hope and commitment

Ours is a story of faith, hope and commitment. Wesley Mission began when a pioneering church became a refuge for people who were forgotten and marginalised.

Today we're still relentless in preaching God's good news about Jesus and in challenging inequity and walking with those in need, to ensure no one suffers unfairly, and no one suffers alone.

And today, our community services and our church still work together to put love into action – to do more good.

We fuel each other. Our church supports our community services to go to the margins where few are willing to go. Our services inspire our church to resist complacency and pursue generosity, openness and courage, all in the name of Jesus.

We saw balanced progress in each of our strategic directions:

1 Deepening our Word and deed

We embody our mission and vision by proclaiming the good news about Jesus and doing good, as Jesus calls us to do.

2 Claiming our prophetic voice

God calls us to speak and stand and act against systemic injustice to change society for the better.

3 Extending our impact

We address unmet community needs, focusing our investment where it has the most impact.

4 Strengthening our organisation

We invest in our people and the organisational enablers that help us get results.

Impact snapshot

2025–26 ➔



132,128
people
supported

Area of service	People served
Families, children & young people services	23,341
Seniors & aged care services	7,255
Housing & financial security services	6,481
Mental health & suicide prevention services	59,036
Disability support services	288
Training & job services	1,015
Venue & catering services	34,712



\$4.48 million
worth of time given by volunteers

\$854,552
worth of vouchers and essential items provided through emergency relief

\$11 million
given by donors and supporters



121,024
nights of crisis and transitional accommodation provided



41,642
crisis calls answered by Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland

Every child matters. Every family counts.



Every life begins with family. We walk alongside families, children and young people, helping families stay together, providing safe care when needed and supporting young people towards independence.

1,600

children and young people were helped to remain connected

We help:

- Families access early support to strengthen relationships and prevent crisis
- Children and young people stay safe, loved and connected in Out-of-Home Care, maintaining links with birth families wherever possible
- Young people leaving care build independence through housing, education and employment support
- Children and families access safe, inclusive Out of School Hours Care in their community
- Young people build healthier futures through mentoring and drug and alcohol support
- Children, families and communities stay protected through our commitment to child safety and advocacy.

739

children and young people supported in foster care



180



children supported by Aunty and Uncle mentors

26

accommodation places provided for young people leaving care



Steady ground in a changing sector

This year brought some of the most significant reform to the Out-of-Home Care sector, including changes to strengthen Aboriginal children’s connections to family, culture and community.

Throughout the changes, we remained focused on what matters most: the safety, quality and future of every child and young person in our care. While many providers saw numbers decline this year, we maintained stable numbers of children and young people across both our foster care and supported independent living programs.

Hard decisions, made for the right reasons

Not every decision this year was an easy one. Following a strategic review, we made the difficult call to close our Short Term Emergency Placements (STEP) residential care program after sustained annual losses of more than \$1 million. We did not make this decision lightly. Throughout the transition, we worked closely with children, young people, families and partner services to ensure continuity of care and support. Closing STEP allows us to focus resources on sustainable models of care for the long term, balancing community need with our responsibility to be careful stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

At the same time, we secured new residential care tenders, creating fully funded programs and expanding placement options for children and young people who need residential care. These new residential programs are financially stable and are helping strengthen this critical part of our work for years to come.

A home beyond care

For a young person leaving Out-of-Home Care, having somewhere safe and stable to land can make all the difference. This year, through the Community Housing Innovation Fund (CHIF) we grew to 13 homes and 26 accommodation places for young people transitioning from care. Together, our Community Housing and Out-of-Home Care teams combined housing, education, employment and tenancy support, helping young people build real independence, not just find somewhere to live.

A voice for children and young people

Our commitment doesn’t stop there. Wesley Mission also helped launch the Open Hearts, Open Homes Coalition, bringing together faith-based Out-of-Home Care providers to advocate for vulnerable children and young people at a national level. The coalition was launched by NSW Minister for Families and Communities, Kate Washington and Shadow Minister for Families and Communities, Natasha Maclaren-Jones, recognising the important role faith-based providers play in supporting children, young people and families.

Looking ahead

We continued exploring new ways to support young people and families through transition, including through our Keeping Connected program. As needs change, we’re focused on where we can make the greatest difference while ensuring our services remain sustainable. Listening to the experiences of children, young people and families continues to guide where we invest, grow and focus next.

Becoming Gibsons

Willow and Macey stood beside Bec Gibson in court, dressed in white and wearing precious necklaces their birth father had bought for them. They had waited a long time for this day.

When the guardianship order was finally granted, there wasn't a dry eye in the courtroom. After years of uncertainty, the sisters finally had reassurance that they would stay together.

For Willow, guardianship meant one simple thing: "We'll get to be like all the other children."

For Bec, it was the moment their family became official. "We are all Gibsons now."

The journey to that day began years earlier.

Before her cousins, Willow and Macey arrived, Bec had already opened her home to her nephew, Atticus. Within days, he was part of the family, and by 2020, Bec had become his guardian.

"It was instant connection and love," Bec says. "I never thought you could love someone else's child like your own."

Answered prayers

Willow arrived next. Bright, determined and fiercely independent, she was also carrying the effects of trauma. It took time for her to feel safe, but Bec was committed to giving her a stable home.

Two years later, Willow's younger sister Macey joined the family.

For months, Willow had been praying for her sister to come and live with them. When the car finally pulled into the driveway and Macey stepped out, Willow burst into tears.

"Mummy, God answered my prayer," Willow said.

While happy to be reunited with her sister, Macey was cautious around Bec. As she watched Willow and Bec's bond, she slowly began to feel safe too.

Strength through the storm

Over the years, they faced challenges many have never faced. When Willow was diagnosed with leukaemia, there were hospital visits, chemotherapy and emergency surgeries. One of the hardest moments came when Willow's hair began falling out and needed to be shaved.

"She absolutely adored her long hair," Bec recalls.

Yet throughout treatment, Willow showed remarkable resilience. Today, she's cancer-free.

Like many kinship carers, Bec advocates fiercely for the children in her care while maintaining connections with their birth families wherever possible.

"I believe it's not just about the child," she says. "It's about the parent too."

Willow and Macey have stayed connected to their birth family while knowing they have a permanent place with the Gibsons.

Standing beside them

The path to guardianship, however, was long.

Although long-term care orders were already in place, the process took almost four years. Applications stalled, delays mounted and setbacks tested the family's patience. But Bec never gave up. In March 2026, she became the girls' guardian.

Throughout it all, Wesley Mission stood beside them. Whether navigating complex court processes, caring for children through trauma or managing a cancer diagnosis, Bec knew there was always someone she could call.

"If I need help, they're there," she says. "I just believe God puts people in your life at the right time, and these are my people."

Where they belong

Today, the Gibson household is full of life. Willow is nurturing and protective of those around her. Macey is intelligent, quirky and loves animals. And Atticus is a sports fanatic and a bundle of energy.

For Wesley Mission Team Leader Patience and Case Manager Paul, the family's transformation has been extraordinary.

"Bec has only ever put the best interests of the children first," Paul says.

For Willow and Macey, guardianship brought certainty. For Bec, it was confirmation of something she had felt for years. They were already a family. Now, officially, they are all Gibsons.

5 years

**of funding certainty
secured for
Community and
Family Services**

33,834

**children, young
people and families
supported through
early intervention
services**

**Support that starts before
crisis does**

Strong families start with the right support, at the right time. Our early intervention services help families build confidence, strengthen relationships and prevent challenges from becoming crises. This year, we secured new five-year Community and Family Services (CAFS) contracts and transitioned Targeted Early Intervention services to CAFS. These changes provide continuity for families and the certainty our teams need to keep building trusted relationships in the communities we serve, even as the sector around us continues to reform.

New models, built on what works

This year we transitioned from our longstanding Family Preservation program to our new Families Together model. Families Together officially began on 1 July, building on everything we’ve learned about the support families need to thrive.

**Backing our people through
change**

Sector change doesn’t only affect the people we support; it affects our people too. As we shifted from the much larger Family Preservation program

to Families Together, we sadly needed to farewell many valued staff members. However, wherever we could we found new roles for our people. Six staff moved into secondment opportunities within Out-of-Home Care Sydney, with four going on to secure permanent positions.

**Meeting growing complexity
with compassion**

The families we support are navigating more cost-of-living pressures, housing insecurity and challenges that often extend beyond what early intervention services are designed to address. Our teams responded with real flexibility and commitment, supporting families through complex circumstances while adapting to ever-changing referral pathways and government programs.

**Investing in the people who
support families**

Supporting families through increasing complexity takes a toll on the people doing that work every day. That’s why we continued investing in our teams’ expertise, wellbeing and support. Their resilience, adaptability and commitment are what make it possible to walk alongside families through genuinely difficult circumstances.



**Becoming the dad
his boys needed**

When his withdrawn teenage son asked for small birds to care for, David* said yes. He didn’t expect the lesson they would teach him.

“You cannot force the birds to love you,” David says. “You care for them, you feed them and slowly they start to trust you. That’s how I changed the way I live with my boys.”

After his marriage ended, David was raising Riley*, 14, and Finn*, 8, on his own while working full time. Both boys are academically gifted and live with autism.

Having been close to his mum, Riley became withdrawn and stopped attending his selective school. Finn’s anger often boiled over at school and at home. The stress became so intense that David developed shingles.

“Yes, I’m a father,” he says. “But I found out I didn’t know exactly what that means.”

A chaplain at Finn’s school connected David with Wesley Mission’s Early Intervention program and caseworker Sharon.

Sharon helped him navigate school meetings, advocate for Riley and secure a place for him while he catches up through distance education. She also supported an NDIS review for Finn, resulting in almost four times the previous funding.

“Sharon doesn’t just lay out the plan,” David says. “She makes the calls right there and connects me with the right people.”

But the support went deeper than practical help.

“A lot of the time it’s just good to have someone to talk to,” David says. “I always looked forward to Sharon’s visits.”

For Sharon, the first step was meeting David where he was.

“His whole world had been turned upside down,” she says. “It’s his journey. He’s navigating it, not me.”

Over time, Sharon helped David see things differently. He always hoped Riley would stay at his school. But distance education has given him breathing room to rebuild his confidence.

“A lot of the time, the problem isn’t the problem itself,” says David. “It’s how you perceive it.”

Like the birds, David learned to slow down, listen and build trust.

“You cannot force growth,” he says.

Today, Finn volunteers to teach maths to Year 1 students. Riley is finding his feet with distance education and has started opening up to his dad.

David now feels hopeful about the future. There are still challenges. Some things won’t change. But he no longer feels he must carry them alone.

“For the things that can’t be changed, love carries us a long way and time makes almost everything better,” he says.



A safe place to start again

Having a safe place to live can change everything. As housing and cost-of-living pressures continued, we helped people build the stability and financial security needed for the future.

We help:

- People experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find safe, stable housing
- Women and children escaping domestic and family violence to find safety and begin rebuilding their lives
- Young people transitioning from Out-of-Home Care into secure, independent housing
- Individuals and families facing financial hardship to access emergency relief and build lasting financial resilience
- People to build financial literacy and money management skills through financial counselling, training and support programs.

Leading on child safety

Growth means nothing if it isn't matched by safety. This year, we strengthened child safety across our OOSH care services, investing in the systems, practices and capability needed to keep children safe as we grow. That investment has positioned Wesley Mission as a genuine leader in child safety across the sector. We continued to share our experience and contribute to changes that help keep children safer wherever they access care.

Growing where it matters

While many providers across the sector faced an increasingly competitive market this year, our OOSH services grew. We opened five new services, expanding into Newcastle, the Hunter region, Narrabeen and Kings Langley, all while successfully retaining every one of our existing services. That growth reflects the trust placed in us by school communities, families and the Department of Education, which chooses us because of the quality of care we provide, day in and day out.

Standing up for child safety

Every child deserves to feel safe, wherever they are. This year, we asked our community to help make that promise real, and they responded.

Wesley Mission joined the Out of School Hours (OOSH) Prioritising Child Safety campaign, which is calling for a sector-wide minimum of two teachers per 15 children to help keep children safe. 1,000 people signed the pledge, including families, educators and school community members. Of these, 200 were invited by Wesley Mission. Keeping children safe isn't just the responsibility of services. It's something our whole community can stand behind together.

Add your voice

Scan the QR code to take the OOSH Safety Pledge and show your commitment to keeping children safe.



3,644



children (and their families) supported by Out of School Hours (OOSH) Care

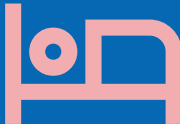
5 new



OOSH services opened in a highly competitive sector

121,024

nights of crisis and transitional accommodation provided



2,309

people supported through emergency financial relief

11,611

financial counselling sessions helped people navigate financial hardship

1,015

people supported with training to prepare for employment

Room to live, room to grow

For weeks, Todd and his four children slept wherever they could. On relatives' lounges. In spare rooms. Wherever they could squeeze in for a few nights.

"It was hard. They couldn't house us. There was just too many of us," Todd recalls.

Just months earlier, life had looked very different. Todd, his now former wife and their six children had been living on his in-laws' semi-rural property. There were horses, chickens, a vegetable garden and room for the children to run.

"It was a sweet life. I had a good job. The kids had a great place growing up. You'd look at our family and think we had everything we needed."

Then everything changed. As his former wife's mental health deteriorated, life unravelled quickly. Within a short time, Todd and four of his children had nowhere to live.

"It was a really traumatic change, and it happened so quickly," he remembers.

The unknown

While waiting for government assistance, Todd spent weeks searching for support.

"I was going through the internet doing searches, just trying to find someone that could help," he says.

Then Wesley Mission got back to him. "They were awesome," he says.

Within weeks, Todd and his children moved into emergency housing and then transitional accommodation, where they stayed for two years. Although small, they were grateful to be there.

"It was a massive relief for everyone," Todd says. "You could settle down a bit, emotionally. It gave the kids time to adjust. It became home."

At the same time, Todd was navigating family court to gain custody of his two youngest children.

"It took six months before the older siblings could be reunited," he recalls. "It was really stressful for everyone."

Under one roof

Finding housing for a family of seven was no easy task.

"There's literally nothing available," says Kaelani, from Wesley Mission's Community Housing team. "Most properties available through the system have three bedrooms at most."

When Wesley Mission called to say a six-bedroom house was available, Todd was stunned.

"It was almost like an 'is this really happening' kind of feeling," he says. "It was perfect for our family. The kids were over the moon. They were already choosing their rooms on the first visit."

And with all six children back under one roof, the difference showed quickly.

"It was like day and night," Todd says. "They're emotionally a lot happier, a lot calmer. Everyone has their own space. You can see the stress lifted."

Todd credits Annmarie, from Wesley Mission's Homeless Services and Kaelani, for supporting his family throughout the journey. Wesley Mission's whole-of-care approach meant help was there at every stage from homelessness through to housing.

"Anything I needed help with was just a phone call away," he says. "They went above and beyond."

Room for tomorrow

Today, all six children are back under one roof. For the first time in years, the family has room. Room to play music. Room to study. Room to close a bedroom door and call it their own.

For Annmarie, Todd's determination never wavered.

"Todd always held it together well for someone going through so much," she says. "The children were always his main priority."

Todd is now planning for the future. His focus is on his children, their schooling and whatever comes next.

"Having a stable home allows everyone to get back into life and make plans. We're really thankful."

Todd (middle) and his children now have a permanent place to call home.

A strong foundation, built on trust

A safe, stable home creates the foundation for everything else: health, education, employment, connection and wellbeing. For the people we support, housing is rarely the whole answer. It's the starting point from which everything else becomes possible.

This year, we continued connecting our Community Housing tenants to broader support across Wesley Mission, recognising that housing is often one step towards stability.

Tenant satisfaction remained high, rental arrears stayed low and occupancy remained stable. We improved maintenance response times and strengthened oversight of property management activity.

Behind the scenes, we maintained full Community Housing Provider registration compliance and continued strengthening the systems, reporting and governance that underpin safe, high-quality housing services. We introduced structured six-monthly maintenance reporting, enhanced performance reporting and continued investing in staff development.

Opening doors for young people leaving care

For young people leaving Out-of-Home Care, having stable housing can change their lives. Without the right support, too many face housing insecurity or homelessness. Through the Community Housing Innovation Fund (CHIF), delivered in partnership with our Out-of-Home Care teams, we continued helping young people leaving care access safe, stable housing. By year-end, 18 tenancies were providing housing for young people through the program.

A place to rebuild

The Willow is Wesley Mission's purpose-built safe haven for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. It is a place where safety comes first, and where families can begin to rebuild. Since opening in December 2025, The Willow has supported 50 women and children.

This year, we continued investing in The Willow to make it feel like a home, not just a safe address. Improvements to shared spaces, furnishings and outdoor areas, and the installation of CCTV cameras, have helped create a welcoming environment where women and children can feel safe, more settled and supported.

Taking back control

When money is tight, stress can impact every part of life. This year, our Financial Counselling service supported 1,685 people to reduce debt, avoid disconnection, keep a roof over their heads and take back control of their finances. Through practical advice, advocacy and support, people were better equipped to face financial pressure.

A little help at the right time

When people are struggling to put food on the table, pay a bill or keep a roof over their heads, timely support can make all the difference. This year, our Emergency Relief program provided \$854,552 in food vouchers and material aid to 2,404 individuals and families.

Advocating for a place to call home

As housing affordability pressures deepened across New South Wales, Wesley Mission joined sector partners to advocate for long-term solutions to homelessness and housing insecurity. Through the A Place to Call Home campaign and key advisory groups, we amplified the voices of people experiencing housing insecurity into policy discussions and advocated for greater investment in housing and support services.

50

women and children supported through The Willow

Listening, and speaking up

We're on the frontlines, helping people in crisis, building stronger communities and driving change so no one faces mental health challenges alone.

We help:

- People living with and supporting loved ones facing mental health challenges, with pathways to support across our services
- People in crisis and those at risk of suicide, through the Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland helpline and LifeForce suicide prevention programs
- People and families affected by gambling harm, through free counselling, support and advocacy for gambling reform.

144

national LifeForce suicide prevention community networks

3,322

people trained nationally in suicide prevention

2,771

LifeForce network members

9,730

calls answered by GambleAware Helpline to address gambling harm

41,642

crisis calls answered by Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland volunteers

“All they did was tell me their story and I sat with them. I gave them that safe space.”

– Jason, Lead Clinician



Walking beside a community in grief

“Could you walk with me?”

It was the first time the woman had returned to Bondi since the attack on 14 December 2025. Standing near the bridge where it had unfolded, she asked Louise, a Wesley Mission chaplain, to walk beside her.

Together, they retraced her steps. She pointed to where she had hidden and where she had been separated from her brother as they ran for safety. Looking back across the bridge, she realised just how close she had been to the attack.

As they walked, she talked. Louise listened.

Retracing difficult steps

In the weeks after the Bondi attack, moments like this happened every day. People came carrying shock, grief, anger and unanswered questions. Some had been there. Others were struggling with what they had witnessed online, heard from loved ones or absorbed through the endless cycle of news coverage.

Within 24 hours of the attack, Wesley Mission chaplains were deployed as part of the Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network response. Alongside them were Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland volunteer Crisis Supporters, led by Lead Clinician Jason.

“It’s just a privilege to be in that space and to have these conversations where you don’t always know that it’s making any difference, but it does,” Louise says.

Space for grief

At Bondi Pavilion, flowers filled the memorial site. Later, people wrote messages on memorial stones and left them in remembrance. Our Chaplains and Crisis Supporters moved between the memorial, the beachfront and surrounding streets, making themselves available to anyone who wanted to talk.

Wearing Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network vests, our chaplains became familiar faces around Bondi. For many, the vest marked them as someone safe to approach. The Lifeline shirts carried the same message.

The impact reached far beyond those who had witnessed the attack. Local residents, members of the Jewish community, tourists and backpackers were affected, and some had nowhere else to turn for support.

One local woman had struggled to leave her home after the attack. When she finally did, Lifeline was the first place she came. Jason walked with her to the memorial.

“There was this build-up of emotion and then this release,” he says.

A couple who had witnessed the attack had escaped physical injury but were carrying deep survivor guilt. As they shared their story, Jason simply listened.

“All they did was tell me their story and I sat with them,” he says. “I gave them that safe space.”

Walking beside people

Early on, support workers approached people who appeared distressed. Later, people sought out the familiar faces they had come to trust.

The work continued for months after other organisations had left. For those involved, the response was never about having all the answers. More often, it meant being there.

One of our chaplains noticed two people standing quietly near the bridge. They had lost a loved one and were afraid to walk across.

“Could you please walk us across this bridge?” they asked.

Our chaplain walked beside them. The next day, they returned.

“Will you be here tomorrow?” they asked. “Can you walk with me again?”

In the end, that was often what people needed most. Not someone to fix their grief. Not someone to explain it.

Just someone willing to walk beside them.

Connection saves lives

From crisis support to policy reform, Wesley Mission works with communities and government to reduce harm and ensure no one faces their darkest moments alone.

Communities leading the way

When communities lead suicide prevention, lives are saved. This year, LifeForce grew to 144 suicide prevention networks across Australia, supported by more than 3,000 volunteers. From Canteen Creek and Carnarvon to Coffs Harbour, thousands of community members took part in local events, training and awareness initiatives to save lives from suicide.

United voices

As a major sponsor of the National Suicide Prevention Conference 2026, Wesley Mission joined 1,100 delegates under the theme ‘United voices, a brighter future’. Our LifeForce team shared frontline insights from their work, including First Nations community-led suicide prevention, bicultural leadership and the importance of workforce wellbeing.

Remembering together

Remembrance remained at the heart of our work, with LifeForce Suicide Memorial Services in Sydney and Canberra bringing together people bereaved by suicide.

With suicide claiming around 2.5 times as many lives as the national road toll, these services are a powerful reminder for those carrying grief that they are not alone and support is always available. Attendees placed sunflowers, symbols of strength, resilience and hope, in memory of loved ones.

Every life lost leaves families, friends and communities grieving. In 2025, Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland established suicide bereavement support groups in Sydney CBD, Sutherland and the Inner West, supporting around 40 people every month.

Starting the conversation

This year, Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland and LifeForce joined forces for the 10,000 Conversations movement, encouraging Australians to talk safely

and openly about mental health and suicide. At Sydney Central Station, volunteers handed out phone wallets printed with phone numbers for support while counsellors encouraged people to seek help before they reach crisis point.

Reducing gambling harm

Gambling harm and mental health are closely linked, with high-risk gamblers four times more likely to report suicidal thoughts. GambleAware continued to grow with the NSW Government asking Wesley Mission to take responsibility for a footprint four times larger than the previous year. Wesley Mission now delivers around 40% of the service’s footprint across NSW, alongside the 24-hour statewide telephone counselling service.

Through GambleAware Week and the More Pay in May campaign, we strengthened community awareness of gambling harm and connected more people with free counselling.

Guided by our Reconciliation Action Plan, the Aboriginal-led Painting Pathways program used art to spark conversations about gambling harm, while new partnerships connected people with alcohol and other drug recovery support.

A voice for reform

Gambling reform remained a major advocacy focus in 2025–26. Our quarterly analysis of NSW poker machine losses, which reached a record \$9.3 billion in 2025, consistently generated significant media coverage and kept gambling harm in the public conversation. With losses now on track to exceed \$10 billion in 2026, we continued to call for a midnight to 10am shutdown, backed by 78% of NSW residents. The Put Pokies in Their Place campaign also built momentum through growing local council partnerships.

Ageing with dignity

Residents at Frank Vickery Retirement Village.

Older Australians want more than care. They want to stay connected, remain independent and continue living life on their own terms.

We help people to:

- Navigate aged care services and access the support they need
- Remain independent at home with personalised care, home modifications and maintenance
- Live in supportive retirement living communities
- Connect with a volunteer visitor for companionship and social connection
- Continue learning new skills and connect with people through School for Seniors and our social hubs.

30,903

Care finder sessions connecting older people with aged care services



3,615

people supported to live independently at home with in-home care

952

people supported with home modifications to live safely at home

“Wesley Mission has gone the extra mile.”

– Jean, supported by our home care services

“It’s given me some life back”

When Alan first asked Jean to mend his trousers, he offered to mow her lawns in return. But the mower wouldn’t start and then her dog peed on his leg. Luckily, he’d brought a box of Sara Lee cakes, so the day ended on a sweeter note.

The pair met at a Central Coast singles group. After six years raising her children alone, she had sworn off men for good. But Alan was something special.

“He’s the father my kids never had,” she says.

These days Jean drives Alan around after he lost confidence behind the wheel. Between kidney problems, cancer and open-heart surgery, “neither of us are 100 per cent,” she says.

A text that changed everything

When the new aged care reforms were introduced in November 2025, Jean’s home care provider sent a text saying the couple would now have to pay significantly more per hour for support. Then came another blow: they learned Alan had been discharged months earlier from their home care provider and wouldn’t be taken back.

“We just couldn’t cope with that,” Jean remembers. “I just didn’t know what to do.”

Jean called My Aged Care for help and was connected to Wesley Mission.

She worried that changing providers might cost her the support package she had waited so long to receive. Instead, Wesley Mission helped her navigate the process, walked her through the paperwork and ensured she didn’t fall through the cracks.

“Uddhav (the Wesley Mission Care Advisor) just guided me through everything,” Jean says.

Today, Jean is supported through a Support at Home package, while Alan receives assistance through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

“They listen to you”

While Jean admits she didn’t want help at first, “I’m very independent,” she says, she knows how valuable it’s been.

One Easter, when her usual support wasn’t available, she decided to do everything herself. By the end of the day, she was in agony.

“That was the first time I realised that I really need this,” she says.

More than the practical support, Jean values knowing someone is there when she needs them. Whether it’s answering questions or simply returning a phone call, Jean says Wesley Mission has made her feel heard.

“They always get back to you,” she says. “There’s communication. They listen to you.”

Recently, Jean joined her over-50s social group for a day out at the Sydney Opera House. The walking left her sore for days, but it was worth it.

“If I had to do all the cleaning and all the rest of it, I’d be in that kind of pain all the time,” Jean adds.

With a support worker visiting every Friday, Jean can spend her energy on time with Alan and the activities she enjoys.

“It’s freed me up,” she says. “It’s given me some life back.”

Her current Wesley Mission Care Advisor, Ana, has also secured extra funding for a new recliner chair for Jean’s safety and comfort.

“I think Wesley Mission has gone the extra mile,” Jean says.

**“As soon as I walked in,
I knew this was where
I wanted to be.”**

– Shirley, Frank Vickery Retirement
Village resident



Shirley's second act

For most of her life, Shirley was surrounded by people.

She spent 40 years teaching kindergarten children, so when Shirley retired, she didn't expect to miss having people around her.

“I didn't realise how lonely I was,” Shirley says.

Living alone in a unit, she would chat with neighbours in passing, but once the door closed, she was alone again.

A proud Shire local who has lived in the area her whole life, Shirley had always admired Wesley Mission's Frank Vickery Retirement Village from a distance. When the opportunity came to look at a one-bedroom apartment four years ago, the decision didn't take long.

“As soon as I walked in, I knew this was where I wanted to be,” she says.

A life full of possibility

Today, her life looks very different.

Shirley now begins each day over coffee with neighbours who quickly became friends. The loneliness she once accepted as part of growing older has given way to something she never expected to find: a place to belong.

“Every morning I've got a reason to get up,” she says.

Retirement living hasn't slowed Shirley down. In many ways, it's given her new opportunities to contribute. Drawing on the organisational skills she developed as a teacher and theatre volunteer, Shirley now helps run the annual Village Games and has also organised themed events, including a Mad Hatter's Tea Party complete with costumes, decorations and high tea. Her next project? A Harry Potter-themed celebration.

Shirley's unit itself also feels like a fresh start. Having rented for many years, Shirley was accustomed to worn carpets, dated finishes and cupboards that barely worked. Walking into her renovated unit at Wesley Mission's Frank Vickery Retirement Village felt almost surreal.

“I sat back and thought, I can't believe this is happening,” Shirley says.

She talks enthusiastically about the kitchen, with its abundance of storage and practical design. Apart from buying a bookcase, she barely needed to add a thing.

The people who make the place

But if you ask Shirley what truly makes the village special, her answer comes quickly.

“The staff are what makes this place.”

From maintenance and housekeeping to Flexicare support, she describes a team that genuinely cares. Whether checking in after a hospital visit, responding to a request or simply stopping for a chat, she feels known and supported.

That same sense of care extends to the village's chaplain and church community. When Shirley first moved in, she found comfort in talking with the chaplain as she adjusted to life in the village. Four years later, Shirley still looks forward to services with her church community.

For Shirley, it's often the simplest interactions that brighten her day.

“A little hello in the morning is what you need,” she says.

Because growing older isn't just about having a place to live. It's about having people to share life with.

And if there's one thing Shirley wishes she'd done differently?

“I wish I had come here sooner.”

Supporting choice and independence

Independence means something different to every older Australian. For some, it's being supported to live safely at home. For others, it's help to navigate the aged care system and find the right services. Through our Home Care and Care finder services, we help older Australians make informed choices and access support.

The trust people place in us was especially important during a period of change in aged care. On 1 November 2025, the Australian Government's new Support at Home program replaced Home Care Packages. As people and families navigated the changes, we helped them understand what it meant for them.

As demand for our Home Care services grew by 15%, and people's needs became more complex, we continued investing in our people, skills and services to help older Australians live well at home.

We embraced new technology to make it easier to deliver care. AI tools reduced administration, giving teams more time to support people.

Shaping the future together

Our retirement communities are home to people with their own relationships and ways of living. With significant retirement village redevelopments planned, our focus is ensuring residents feel informed and supported.

Throughout 2025–26, planning progressed for the proposed renewal of Frank Vickery Retirement Village. The plans include new homes, and improved facilities, resident amenities and open spaces. Planning also continued for the proposed redevelopment of our Ermington site.

We're creating communities that reflect how older Australians want to live: with independence, connection and choice.

Across our villages, we continue to invest in shared spaces and community life, recognising the role community plays in wellbeing. Cafés, communal areas and activities give residents opportunities to build relationships, while chaplaincy provides care and support when it's needed.

Wellbeing woven into village life

Growing older can bring challenges, including isolation, grief and loss of confidence. This year, our Retirement Villages team met those challenges head-on.

Supported by funding from the Aged Persons Welfare Foundation, the team established a mental health and wellbeing program offering practical, resident-centred support, including: one-on-one counselling, therapeutic group work, reminiscence therapy, mindfulness and relaxation groups and connection activities.

At Frank Vickery Retirement Village, residents now have access to onsite counselling four days a week, alongside monthly mindfulness groups, reminiscence therapy and Slow and Steady Village Walks, helping build belonging, resilience and connection. We're looking at how to expand this so more residents across our villages can experience the same support.

Standing up for older Australians

During a period of significant aged care reform, Wesley Mission advocated to keep the voices of older Australians at the centre of policy discussions. Drawing on the experiences of the people we support, we highlighted the impacts of changing funding and care arrangements and helped inform a review of financial hardship assistance, reinforcing the need for accessible support.

478

people attended classes at School for Seniors

455

older people supported in retirement villages



Support to live a full life

Millie (right), Disability Services Team Leader with Maria, Bardwell Park LifeSkills participant.

People living with disability want the same things we all do: to make their own choices, build relationships, learn new skills and be part of their community.

We help people to:

- Access NDIS-funded services and support that meet their needs
- Build life skills and confidence for greater independence
- Participate fully in community life and pursue their goals
- Live in supported accommodation that feels safe and welcoming
- Find and keep meaningful employment.

21,015

nights of supported accommodation provided to people with disability

8,760

nights of therapeutic supported accommodation provided to young people in care

79

people employed through David Morgan Centre Enterprises

64

adults supported in disability homes

62

people supported to live independently and participate in community life

51

people supported to build life skills through disability day programs



More like brothers than housemates

Walk around Vickery Cottage and you'll find wooden spoon figures tucked into unexpected places and wind chimes hanging from the trees. They are the work of Matthew, one of four men who call Vickery Cottage home.

But only a few years ago, Matthew withdrew from many of the things he loved and would often stay in his room when visitors arrived.

In November 2023, Matthew and his three housemates moved into Vickery Cottage after years of living together in another home. Within months, Matthew came out of his shell and returned to activities he enjoys, including visiting the local Men's Shed, where he makes wind chimes to give to others.

"I started seeing wind chimes appear all around the area," says Scott, Disabilities Operations Manager. "It might seem like a small thing, but when you know Matthew and how far he has come, it means so much."

Friends for more than 20 years

Matthew, Billy and Hiep have lived together since they were young men. It began when their families approached Wesley Mission, hoping their sons could live with friends.

Alex joined them later, and the four men have spent more than 20 years building their lives together.

They know each other's rhythms. They check on one another and notice when someone needs help.

Recently, when Billy had a seizure and needed an ambulance, Hiep tried to stop the paramedics from taking him away. His response reflects their deep bond.

"They're good friends," says Mohammed, Practice Lead at Vickery Cottage. "Very good friends."

A place to call home

As they grew older, the men needed a home that better supported how they wanted to live. Vickery Cottage offered that next chapter.

They quickly made it their own. For Matthew, the verdict was immediate: "This is home. I don't want to go back."

Each brings his own personality to the house. Matthew fills the grounds with wind chimes. Alex values his independence. Billy enjoys time with family and outings. Hiep is a passionate collector.

"Everyone is so different," Scott says. "But the house just works. It's a peaceful place."

Support that knows people deeply

Many of our team members have supported the men for years. They help with everyday tasks, from getting the men dressed and preparing breakfast to medication, appointments and outings. They truly know each resident. But what stands out most is the trust built over time.

For Billy, with the people he knows, trust comes quickly.

"He's smiling. You don't have to tell him. He's just ready to go out," Mohammed says.

Scott describes our support workers as "little life coaches", helping each person grow in confidence and independence.

The team knows the men's stories, routines and humour. Matthew even writes letters about who's done something well and who might need to lift their game.

"Matthew keeps us all on our toes," Scott laughs.

The men's families remain part of that circle too. They visit regularly, take them on outings and come together for milestones.

More than two decades later, these men are still doing life side by side. They still look out for one another and remain surrounded by their families and support workers who know them well.

Today, they are more like brothers than housemates.

Supporting independence through change

The disability sector continued to face significant pressure this year, making it harder for many people living with disability and their families to navigate the support they rely on. Through it all, our teams remained a steady presence, helping people build skills, strengthen independence and stay connected to their communities.

Despite ongoing uncertainty, our Supported Independent Living team continued to deliver high-quality support, helping people make their own choices, build independence and feel at home in their communities.

A new home for LifeSkills

In late 2025, we opened the doors to LifeSkills Bardwell Park, our new disability day centre. Featuring a sensory room, spacious courtyard and multi-purpose space, the centre offers activities from music therapy and cooking to community gardening, virtual reality experiences and adventure outings, all shaped around each person’s interests and goals. Our superhero-themed open day was a wonderful celebration, and we thank everyone who came along to explore the new space.

Creating places that feel like home

Volunteers from Seven Consulting and Laidre Construction joined Wesley Mission staff to renovate one of our disability supported accommodation homes, creating a safer, more welcoming place to live. Their generosity fast-tracked improvements that would otherwise have taken years.

Growing therapeutic care

Our Intensive Therapeutic Care – Significant Disabilities program grew to support six additional young people. We also helped young people transition into more independent living arrangements, connecting them with housing, employment and ongoing support as they move into adulthood.

Relationships that make a difference

Support is about more than services. It’s about relationships. For people who have often experienced disruption and uncertainty, seeing the same familiar faces every day can make all the difference. At the heart of this work are our skilled, dedicated staff who walk alongside participants every day, helping them build confidence, independence and connection.



This year, supporters continued to show that every life matters.

At a time when many Australians were navigating rising living costs, housing pressures and growing uncertainty, they chose to give. Through donations, partnerships, philanthropy and gifts in wills, individuals, families, foundations and community partners helped more people access the support they needed.

Across 2025–26, we welcomed first-time donors and reconnected with long-term supporters whose generosity funded essential services that helped more Australians find safety, stability and hope. Our Winter Appeal raised valuable funding providing accommodation, essential items and casework support for people rebuilding their lives.

Wesley Edward Eagar Centre

Every person deserves a safe place to turn in a time of crisis. Wesley Edward Eagar Centre is helping ensure people experiencing homelessness and hardship are met with safety, dignity and care when they need it most. Together with philanthropic partners including Matthew Stubbs of Allier Capital, we’re helping create pathways towards stability, recovery and a more hopeful future.

Salmon Family Scholarship

Around one in three young people leaving Out-of-Home Care experience homelessness at some stage within their first year after leaving care.* The Salmon Family Scholarship helps change that story, supporting young people to continue their education, secure employment and build independent lives.

*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2024–25.

\$11 million given by donors and supporters

20% increase on 2024–25

From left: Millie, Disability Services Team Leader, Rev Stu Cameron, CEO & Superintendent, Maria Bardwell Park LifeSkills participant and Bay Warburton, Managing Director, Community Services.



The power of one gift

A dining table set ready for dinner. A washer and dryer humming in a laundry. Potted plants catching the afternoon breeze. These ordinary objects used to belong to Pauline Mountford. But her generosity gave them a second life, in homes that needed them most.

Pauline lived a life of service. As a devoted teacher, she poured her heart into shaping the lives of young children. Her faith ran deep, and as a member of her local Uniting Church, she embodied the values of grace and humility, often encouraging her congregation to support causes that benefitted children.

In 1995, Pauline made the profound decision to leave a gift in her will. When she passed away in her 90s, her home, savings and cherished belongings were all entrusted to Wesley Mission.

Honouring her legacy at every stage, Wesley Mission's Planned Giving team worked diligently to ensure Pauline's generosity made the greatest difference in the lives of those she cared about.

Her pantry is feeding families doing it tough. Her furniture has settled into the homes of families rebuilding their lives. Her plants have brought life to our new disability day program site in Bardwell Park. And the proceeds from the sale of her home have been invested in Wesley Mission's Out-of-Home Care children's fund, creating an enduring source of support for children and families in crisis.

Planned Giving Specialist, Andy, helped deliver many of Pauline's possessions himself.

"Delivering a washer and dryer that helped bring some order into a chaotic family environment reminded me how practical kindness can be," he says.

While Pauline is gone, her generosity lives on in the lives of others. Her legacy is one of hope, carried forward through every family supported, every child helped and every life changed.



Pauline's legacy lives on through the generous gift of her home to Wesley Mission in her will.

Funding bodies and major partners

Government and other organisational partners

- ACT Government
- AGL
- Australian Community Housing
- Australian Government Department of Education
- Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
- Australian Government Department of Social Services
- Black Dog Institute
- Blacktown City Council
- City of Sydney
- Community Housing Industry Association
- East Melbourne Primary Health Network
- Homes NSW
- Housing Australia
- Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network
- Hunter New England Local Health District
- Lifeline Australia
- Multicultural NSW
- Murray Primary Health Network
- National Disability Insurance Scheme
- National Registrar System Community Housing
- North Coast Primary Health Network
- Northern Territory Primary Health Network
- NSW Department of Communities and Justice
- NSW Department of Customer Service
- NSW Department of Education
- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- NSW Fair Trading Commissioner
- NSW Ministry of Health
- NSW Ministry of Health, Mental Health Branch
- NSW Premier's Department
- Office of Responsible Gambling
- Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney
- South Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network
- Suicide Prevention Australia
- Transitional Community Housing (formerly 'The Kenthurst Project')
- Uniting (Victoria Tasmania) Limited
- University of Sydney
- University of Technology Sydney
- WentWest Primary Health Network
- Wentworth Primary Health Network
- Western Sydney University
- Western NSW Primary Health Network
- Youth Off The Streets

Funding partners

- Bupa Foundation
- CommBank Staff Foundation
- Count Charitable Foundation
- Dick and Pip Smith Foundation
- Cox Family Foundation
- Excelsia University College
- HUB24 Management Services Pty Ltd
- Mazda Foundation
- Rellim Foundation
- Seaton Foundation
- The Greatorex Foundation

Love in action

Across Wesley Mission, our congregations, missional communities and chaplaincy teams brought faith into everyday life. People were not simply supported, but seen, valued and invited to belong. This is love in action. This is real Christian community.

Building belonging in the city

Our Ground Floor Ministry and Wesley CityHeart congregation increased Wesley Mission's seven-day-a-week presence in Sydney's CBD.. Each week, 120 to 150 people gathered for meals, friendship, practical support and faith exploration, with up to 200 meals shared through the generosity of volunteers, donors and community partners.

These communities welcomed people who may not feel they belong in a conventional church. Through connections with Wesley Mission's support services, people found practical help alongside community and friendship. More than a meal or a service, these communities became places where people found a genuine sense of belonging.

Communities where every life matters

Weekly Connection Circles in Taree and Newcastle brought together people experiencing housing instability, addiction, mental health challenges and isolation. Trusted relationships grew into support networks that continued beyond weekly gatherings.

In Glebe, Open Table gatherings welcomed up to 90 people each month for shared meals, storytelling and conversation. Bringing together people from

different backgrounds and life experiences, these gatherings created a community where every person was able to belong.

Chaplaincy, prayer and staff wellbeing

Chaplaincy remained a trusted source of pastoral care and wellbeing support for staff members. Whether supporting people through personal challenges, workplace pressures or uncertainty, chaplains provided a caring presence.

Our chaplains joined ministers and other leaders in Wesley Mission's 63 Hours of Prayer, bringing together staff, congregations and community members in continuous prayer across multiple locations. Around 480 prayer requests connected congregations with the realities faced across our frontline services.

Chaplaincy also brought people together in celebration. More than 480 staff attended Easter lunches in Sydney and Coffs Harbour. A foster carer thankyou dinner welcomed around 120 carers and 50 children and young people, while the Rising Artists Exhibition showcased 132 artworks celebrating the creativity and potential of children and young people in Out-of-Home Care.

Up to **200** meals shared weekly at Wesley CityHeart congregation



480 prayer requests shared during 63 Hours of Prayer





Lead Pastor Andy preaches at Wesley Mission's new congregation in Western Sydney. Photo: Steve Paterson

Growing faith communities

Wesley Western Sydney, a new congregation, was planted in Parramatta to be a multiethnic, multigenerational force for the Gospel. It works alongside other local churches and councils to see individuals and communities experience renewal, restoration and revitalisation in Spirit, Word and deed.

Renewal also continued across existing congregations, including multicultural faith communities reflecting the diversity of the people Wesley Mission serves. Growth showed in attendance, but in deeper discipleship, stronger relationships and lives transformed.



Missional Communities Pastor, Andrew leads worship at Wesley Mission's Celebration Service.

Going all in for reconciliation

In our reconciliation journey, we're committed to truth – acknowledging our contribution to past injustices experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and to reconciliation – walking together and working to establish a just, equitable and healing culture where all may flourish.

1 in 5 students



at Wesley Vocational Institute identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples in FY25–26

Since launching our first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in 2023, we have continued to learn from our First Nations staff, strengthening our commitment to truth, respect and action. These learnings helped shape our second Innovate RAP, launched in June 2025.

Across 2025–26 we put reconciliation into practice in communities and workplaces. From Coffs Harbour, Ballina and Newcastle to Penrith and Carlingford, we came together through yarning circles, creative activities, pledge walls and prayer, marking National Reconciliation Week, National Sorry Day and NAIDOC Week.

Recognising that significant dates carry different meanings and experiences in Australia, we introduced the option for staff to choose 26 January or 27 May as a public holiday.

We also deepened our connections with schools, businesses and other for-purpose organisations, sharing our reconciliation work and creating opportunities to learn from First Nations perspectives. Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training was completed by 109 Wesley Mission employees and delivered to external organisations, helping build understanding and spark meaningful conversations about reconciliation.

Celebrating Aboriginal women

Recognising the leadership, knowledge and contributions of Aboriginal women, we appointed two RAP Allies to help make reconciliation part of everyday work. We also celebrated Aboriginal women's leadership through our inaugural International Women's Day community event, hosted in partnership with Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation under the theme 'Balance the Scales'. Bringing together Baabayn Aunties, staff and community partners, the event featured keynote speakers Leah Purcell AM (pictured right) and Yvonne Weldon AM, whose reflections on culture, equality, truth-telling and leadership encouraged us to keep turning commitment into action.

Returning to Country

Wesley Mission volunteer Ben and his brother Matt always identified as Aboriginal but grew up disconnected from their culture and heritage. After discovering they were Malgana Yamaji people from Gathaagudu (Shark Bay), they travelled to Country, where "the feeling of first walking into that red dirt and being barefoot" hit them deeply. Meeting family brought an "instant connection". Then came an extraordinary discovery: their grandfather, Frank, was alive and living in Sydney.

Matt reflects, "That journey of finding a connection and a belonging to culture, it's transformed my life."



Ben (left) and Matt.



Wesley Mission staff are recognised for completing the Ignite Bold leadership program.

Supporting the people who make a difference ↗

Every life matters, including the people who make our work possible. Our employees and volunteers bring compassion, commitment and expertise to everything we do. Investing in their wellbeing and development, creates a workplace where people feel valued, supported and empowered to make a difference.

1,429
volunteers

83,171
hours given

\$4.48
million
worth of
time given
12% increase on 2024-25

Investing in our people and culture

Over the past 12 months, we've listened to our people and turned what we hear into action, strengthening leadership, advancing gender equity and making Wesley Mission a better place to work.

Ignite Bold is helping build a stronger leadership culture across Wesley Mission. Developed collaboratively by leaders, for leaders, it provides a shared understanding of what good leadership looks like and how we can champion our values together.

Employee feedback is helping shape our approach to gender equity and drive meaningful change. Following our 2025 Gallup survey and 2026 Gender Equity Survey, we strengthened our Paid Parental Leave policy from July 2026. Primary carer leave increased to 13 weeks plus superannuation, while secondary carer leave doubled to four weeks. We also introduced earlier access and greater flexibility. This is one of several actions underway as we develop our approach to gender equity, with more to come.

Through Project Elevate, we began planning for the transition of our Human Resources information system from PeopleSoft to Dayforce. The new integrated system will bring recruitment, payroll, rostering and contractor onboarding together to better support our people.

Time volunteered, impact multiplied

Volunteers make an extraordinary contribution across Wesley Mission, helping us reach more people and strengthen communities. Their contribution takes many forms: from visiting older people and mentoring young people, to answering Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland calls, supporting people at community hubs and sharing professional

skills behind the scenes. Whether offering companionship, specialist expertise or practical support, our volunteers help more people access the care and connection they need.

Our Volunteer of the Year Awards celebrate the extraordinary talents and commitment volunteers bring to Wesley Mission and the many ways they show up for others: offering support, creating connection and strengthening communities.

2025 Volunteer of the Year Award winners

Les – Adult Volunteer of the Year

At Taree Community Hub, Les is a trusted presence for people facing hardship. During the 2025 floods, he volunteered almost every day, helping people navigate recovery despite his own family being affected. His empathy and lived experience make him someone people can turn to. Read Les's full story on page 44.

Janet – Senior Volunteer of the Year

For more than 13 years, Janet has been a constant at Newcastle Community Hub. A keeper of Wesley Mission's history and a source of warmth, she supports staff, volunteers and community members with quiet dedication. Affectionately known as a 'Wesley Mission grandparent', she creates connection wherever she goes.

Lachlan – Youth Volunteer of the Year

For three years, Lachlan has helped make Wesley Mission's Christmas Day Lunch an event where nobody feels forgotten. From welcoming guests to supporting fellow volunteers, Lachlan brings heart, humour and compassion to create connection and belonging. His willingness to step in wherever needed makes him a valued part of the celebration.

The difference trust makes

The first time Valery walked into a Wesley Mission disability home, it was midnight. A staff member handed him a set of keys, pointed out four bedrooms and headed home. Alone on his first shift as a support worker, Valery sat reading through files describing complex needs and challenging scenarios.

"I remember thinking, 'What have I got myself into?'" he says.

Except nothing happened. It was a normal night.

Twenty years later, those same men are still part of his life. Now a House Manager, Valery oversees three disability homes, including Vickery Cottage, home to four men he has supported for more than 20 years.

"They were 23 at the time. They are 44 years old now."

Putting people first

After moving from France to Australia, Valery joined Wesley Mission through a staffing agency. A manager saw something in him, offered him a permanent role and encouraged him to build a career in disability services.

"Wesley Mission have been very good to me," he says.

Over the years, Valery has managed homes, mentored staff and stepped into leadership roles. But what keeps him here is the people he supports.

"They've changed my life," he says.

For Valery, support begins with listening. It's not about making decisions for someone. It's about helping people find their own voice.

He recalls supporting a man who was frightened about having surgery. While others focused on the medical recommendation, Valery focused on understanding his concerns.

"I told him, 'I'm working for you'."

Together, they worked through his fears, spoke with specialists and made sure he understood his options. Only then did the man agree to proceed.

"It's our role to advocate," Valery says.

Relationships built on trust

For Valery, the most important part of support isn't a program or a plan. It's trust.

"I create a trusting relationship right from the beginning," he says. "If I say tomorrow you're going to see a football game, tomorrow you're going to see a football game."

For the people he supports, familiar faces bring stability. Trust grows when promises are kept, day after day, year after year.

The same philosophy shapes the teams he leads. Many staff have worked alongside him for years.

During one resident's seven-week hospital stay, team members visited every day.

"The hospital psychiatrist said, 'I've never seen a group home team like your team. You guys care for the clients'."

Valery is proud of that culture. Supporting staff to grow has become just as rewarding as supporting people with disability.

"If I can train other people to be a good support worker, I feel pleased with that."

The little things

After more than 20 years, it is still the small moments that matter most.

Recently, after returning from leave, one resident heard Valery's voice and came looking for him.

"She said, 'You're back. I missed you'."

Valery smiles as he tells the story.

For someone who has spent more than two decades building trust, moments like that are a reminder of why he does this work.

"Those little things really make my day."

Every community needs a Les

"I don't have a phone," Ryan* told Les, a volunteer at Wesley Mission's Community Hub in Taree. "It was in my house."

Ryan had arrived at the Hub wearing the same clothes he'd escaped the 2025 floods in. They had dried on him.

For volunteer Les, it's a moment he still remembers.

"We all came into work, and we were happy to see each other because we got through it," he recalls. "But then the people started coming through the front door."

The floods had shaken the whole community. The Hub had only just reopened after being inaccessible for a week. Yet, as people arrived seeking help, Les did what he always does: he sat with them, listened and helped them take the next step.

"Every day we get people coming in who are struggling," says Les. "You get it, you understand. You don't have to be trained for that. You just see it."

Community Hub Coordinator Craig says Les has a natural ability to meet people where they are.

"He relates really well to the everyday person," Craig says. "He just sits with them in that pain and listens with them."

That was especially evident during the flood recovery effort.

Among those seeking help was a local farmer who had lost everything for a second time. Craig remembers watching Les sit with him, both men in tears.

"You could see he was right there with the guy in that moment," he says. "Having that same feeling of loss. Then at the same time, putting his hand on the guy's shoulder and saying, 'We'll do whatever we can to help you get through it'. The farmer left with the biggest smile."

And for Les, that's the greatest reward.

"We get people every single day, just people doing it tough," he says. "But I know I get good results because I've seen them afterwards, even that farmer. I was walking up the street, and he came and gave me a hug."

Despite regular reminders to take a break, Les volunteers three to four days a week and is always willing to do more.

"I'd do five, but they won't let me," he laughs. "I love it."

*Name changed to protect privacy.



Les (right) receives the Volunteer of the Year Award from Bay, Wesley Mission's Managing Director, Community Services.

Governance

Wesley Mission is a community services provider and a church united by a shared belief that every life matters.

Through our community services, we support children and families, older people, people with disability and people facing tough situations like financial hardship and poor mental health. These services are delivered by Wesley Community Services Limited, a public company limited by guarantee, governed by a Board. Our church, a parish mission of the Uniting Church in Australia, provides spiritual connection, community and belonging, and is governed by a Mission Council.

Quality and risk management

Wesley Mission has adopted and is committed to the quality management principles of International Standard ISO 9001:2015 – Quality Management System.

A number of quality management processes were enhanced this year including Feedback Policies and Procedures, Self-Assessment and Corrective Action Processes.

Our overarching risk management policies and methodologies are based on the International Standard ISO 31000:2018 – Risk Management.

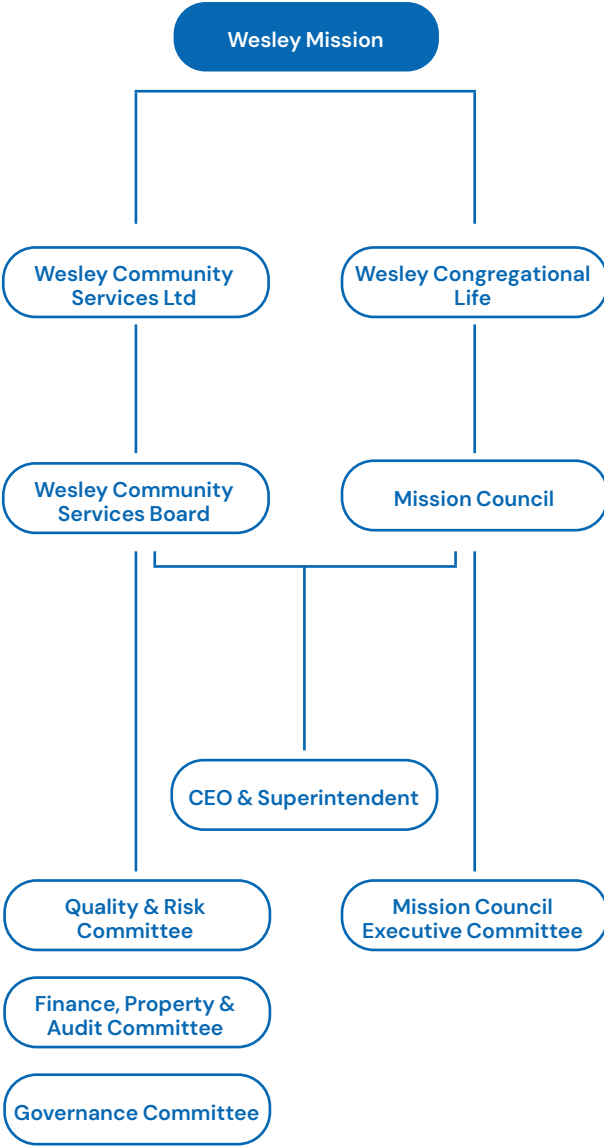
Each year, our Board reviews Wesley Mission's strategic risks and sets the organisation's risk appetite.

This year we continued to strengthen our risk management frameworks, particularly relating to development of the Business Continuity Management, Crisis Plan and refresh of the Incident Management Framework.

As we prepare for the future of our missional work, we remain committed to developing sustainable communities that can thrive with local leadership while maintaining connection to Wesley Mission's broader ministry.

Internal audit

Wesley Mission obtains independent assurance to strengthen quality and risk management, under a three-year business internal audit program to address key strategic and operational risks. The internal audit is outsourced, helping ensure that findings are appropriately addressed.



Leadership

Wesley Community Services Board of Directors



Michael Anderson
Non-Executive Director;
Chair of the Board and
Chair, Governance
Committee



Rev Stu Cameron
CEO & Superintendent



Tracy Morgan
Non-Executive Director;
Deputy Co-Chair of the
Board; and Chair, Finance,
Property & Audit Committee



Bernard Boerma
Non-Executive Director;
Deputy Co-Chair of the Board
and Chair, Quality &
Risk Committee
(retired October 2026)



Sam Donnelly
Non-Executive Director



Sureka Goringe
Non-Executive Director



Mark Northern
Non-Executive Director
(retired October 2026)



Jill Pretty
Non-Executive Director
(retired October 2025)



Tara Reid
Non-Executive Director



Mark W Sewell
Non-Executive Director

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Wesley Community Services Board of Directors

Scan the QR code to read our
Board members' profiles.



Executive leaders



Rev Stu Cameron
CEO & Superintendent



Bay Warburton
Managing Director –
Community Services



Mark Broadhead
Executive Director –
Finance, Property
& Retirement Living



Karen James
Executive Director –
Strategy, Technology
& Engagement



Helen Burgess
Executive Director –
Governance, Legal & Risk



Rev Dr Rick Dacey
Senior Minister



Rev Gary Izzard
Executive Director –
Mission



Scott Shipman
Executive General Manager –
Home Care & Disability



Andy Moore
Executive General Manager –
Harm Prevention
& Social Enterprises



Henry Lee
General Manager –
Transformation & Performance



Nigel Lindsay
Executive General Manager –
Dalmar Out-of-Home Care

Welcoming our new executive leaders in 2026

Lisa Charet
Executive General Manager –
Children & Family Services

Verity Lomax
Executive General Manager –
Housing & Homelessness

Daniel Lynch
Executive General Manager –
People & Culture

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Executive leaders

Scan the QR code to read our
leaders' profiles.

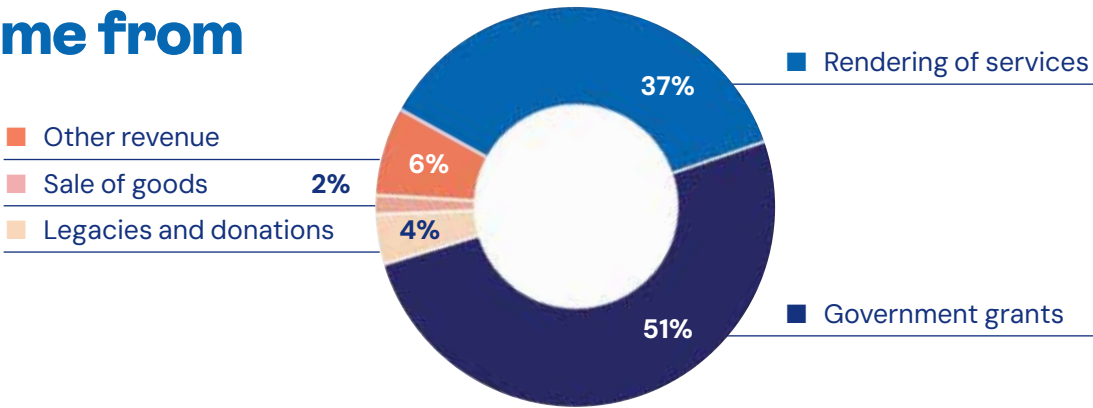


Finances

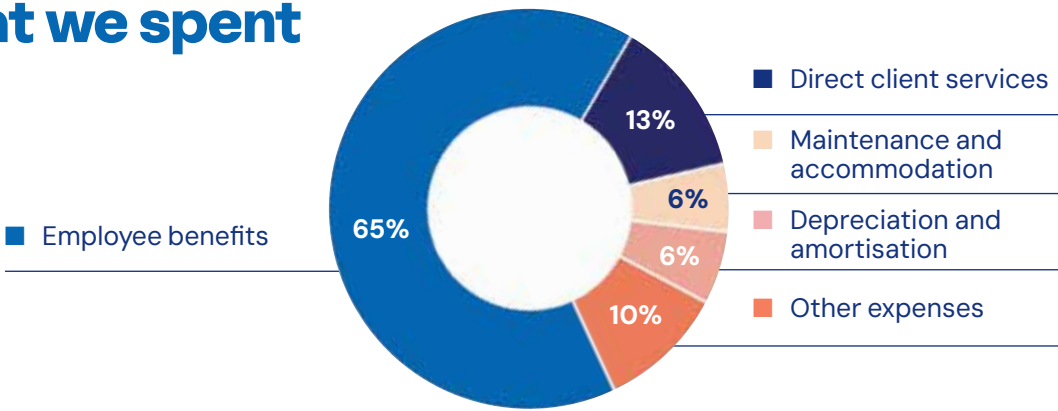
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Revenue from sale of goods	4,194	5,004
Revenue from rendering of services	99,630	181,656
Government grants	137,424	130,237
Legacies and donations	11,011	9,230
Revenue	252,259	326,127
Interest received on investments	4,661	3,520
Government grants - non recurring	2,430	5,428
Other income	1,029	405
Gain on sale of assets	12,055	19,175
Fair value (loss) / gain on investments	(785)	2,118
Other income	19,390	30,646
Total revenue and other income	271,649	356,773
Employee benefits expense	172,626	183,105
Material and client services	34,069	97,892
Maintenance and accommodation	14,536	14,077
Depreciation and amortisation expense	15,591	15,541
Travelling expenses	6,507	6,876
Professional fees	4,704	4,742
Communications	1,041	1,048
Cost of goods sold	1,400	1,769
Other expenses	13,173	24,466
Finance costs	289	321
Total expenditure	263,936	349,837
SURPLUS BEFORE INCOME TAX EXPENSE	7,713	6,936
Income tax expense	-	-
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	7,713	6,936
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	7,713	6,936

Where our revenue came from



What we spent



Statement of financial position

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	63,111	27,944
Trade and other receivables	32,023	32,444
Other financial assets	37,024	26,377
Inventories	570	503
Assets classified as held for sale	-	14,102
Other assets	291	291
Lease receivables	854	-
Total current assets	133,873	101,661
Non current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	304,332	302,092
Right-of-use assets	6,558	5,827
Term deposits	89	89
Other assets	5,309	5,309
Total non current assets	316,288	313,317
Total assets	450,161	414,978
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	25,948	22,052
Lease liabilities	4,349	4,160
Resident licence agreements expected to be paid within 12 months	13,674	13,242
Resident licence agreements not expected to be paid within 12 months	120,932	112,212
Employee benefits	20,132	21,039
Provisions	3,397	2,524
Contract liabilities - unearned funds	9,179	5,609
Contract liabilities - unearned funds - Retirement Villages	8,803	8,808
Other liabilities	346	867
Total current liabilities	206,760	190,513
Non current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	2,906	2,131
Employee benefits	2,716	3,182
Provisions	15,135	17,431
Unearned lease premium	13,426	216
Total non current liabilities	34,183	22,960
Total liabilities	240,943	213,473
Net assets	209,218	201,505
Equity		
Accumulated funds	207,608	199,694
Reserves	1,610	1,811
Total equity	209,218	201,505

Statement of cash flow

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from customers including government subsidies	273,904	346,378
Payments to suppliers and employees	(265,317)	(349,487)
Interest paid on leases	(206)	(197)
Finance costs	(83)	(124)
Interest received	4,661	3,520
Receipts from Rayward lease	13,800	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	26,759	90
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(19,558)	(32,827)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	31,699	36,657
Purchase of financial assets	(1,982)	-
Net receipts from/(payment for) term deposits	(11,349)	9,987
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	(1,190)	13,817
Cash flows from financing activities		
Receipts from resident funded licence agreements	26,847	23,117
Repayments for resident funded licence agreements	(12,805)	(14,744)
Repayment of lease liability	(4,444)	(4,615)
Net cash provided by financing activities	9,598	3,758
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	35,167	17,665
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	27,944	10,279
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	63,111	27,944

Get involved

Keep doing more good

More good happens when people show up with their time, skills, faith and generosity. At Wesley Mission, there are many ways to be part of something bigger.

Work with us

With over 120 services and programs, you can make a real impact in people’s lives – and grow your career while you do it.

Scan QR code to explore job opportunities.



Volunteer your time

Our volunteers bring compassion, experience and energy, helping us reach more people, more often.

Scan QR code to join our team of volunteers.



Worship with us

Join a vibrant congregation that gathers weekly to worship Jesus Christ and share in God’s Word. Services are held in English, Indonesian, Mandarin and Samoan.

Scan QR code to discover more about our church life.



Get support

We’re here for you. With over 120 community services, we offer support at every stage of life.

Scan QR to connect with our services.



Donate and make a difference

Thousands of lives are changed each year and many of our programs rely on the generosity of people like you.

Scan QR code to donate today.



Leave a lasting legacy

A gift in your will can help create more good for generations to come.

Scan QR code to learn more.



Stay connected

Follow us to see how more good is unfolding every day.

wesleymission.org.au



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(02) 9263 5555
communications@wesleymission.org.au

CEO and Superintendent: Rev Stu Cameron
ABN 42 164 655 145
Wesley Mission is a part of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Get involved

To volunteer, donate or leave a gift in your will,
visit wesleymission.org.au

**wesley
mission**



driven to do more good

