



KARINYA

An Aboriginal word meaning 'peaceful home'*

Karinya House is committed to reconciliation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past, present and future.

Sovereignty has never been ceded. We acknowledge that it always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

**The indigenous origins of the word 'Karinya' – We acknowledge there are over 250 Indigenous languages in Australia and more than 800 dialects, many of which were not documented. In seeking to identify the language group to which the word 'Karinya' belongs, we have undertaken extensive research included seeking guidance from the State Library of Victoria, the National Library of Australia and The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), with the Ngunnawal Language Group here in the ACT. This research indicated consensus the word appeared to be a word from an Indigenous language group (within Australia); however, the specific language group remains unidentified. We continue to seek further information as research into the Indigenous language groups within Australia continues.*

Contact

Karinya House Home for Mothers & Babies Inc.

PO Box 7239

Kaleen ACT 2617

Telephone: 02 6259 8998

Email: info@karinyahouse.asn.au

Web: www.karinyahouse.asn.au

Objects of Association are reproduced on our website and available upon request.

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INCORPORATED ASSOC. REG. NUMBER

A02875

PUBLIC OFFICER

Margaret O'Donovan

ACT REGISTERED CHARITY

Licence Number 19000250

ABN 19 764 870 539

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With thanks to our Annual Report supporters

DESIGN & TYPESETTING

papermonkey.

Liam Camilleri

papermonkey.design

02 6202 8000

COVER ARTWORK



@stellaevans_art

PRINTING



electprinting.com.au

02 6280 6925



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About Karinya House

For 28 years, Karinya House for Mothers and Babies has been Canberra's only specialist homelessness service dedicated to supporting women who are pregnant or parenting a newborn who are in crisis.

Karinya House is a non-religious, non-political, community-based not-for-profit. We provide 24/7 residential and outreach support to women across the ACT and surrounding region — every day of the year.

We recognise and respect each woman's unique story. Our support is practical, professional, and grounded in empathy. We walk alongside women as they build confidence, develop life skills, and take steps toward independence. Karinya House is a place of safety, respect and growth, where every woman is supported to define her own path forward.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Karinya House affirms the value of every person.

CORE PURPOSE

Karinya House provides support services for women during and after pregnancy.

VALUES

- Respect and Appreciation
- Care and Compassion
- Commitment and Loyalty
- Integrity
- Trust and Confidentiality
- Excellence in Management and Service Delivery
- Effective Collaboration and Community Development

Service Delivery Commitments

Karinya House delivers services and programs for women in accordance with five core Service Commitments.

1

Ensure equitable provision and availability of essential services to all women we work with

Ensure equal access and support for women who meet the service criteria, celebrating and valuing their differences.

2

Provide a place of sanctuary and community support

Provide a place of welcome and sanctuary, where individuals can gain support, strength and skills, to develop their capabilities and achieve their best as a valued part of the community.

3

Nurture the holistic wellbeing of individuals

Acknowledge an individual's circumstances and provide a framework of care and compassion that encompasses the whole person and their needs through service or by appropriate referral.

4

Instil recognition of self-worth

Acknowledge an individual's uniqueness and work with them to reach their potential through building self-knowledge and resilience.

5

Promote a culture of ongoing learning

Recognise and value personal growth and learnings from life's experiences and promote ongoing personal and professional development.



President's Report

2025 has again been an amazing year at Karinya House.

The 2024–25 financial year has highlighted the value of our partnerships across the community, reminding us that our work would not be possible without the generous support the Canberra Community provides Karinya House to ensure we are able to walk alongside women and their babies during times of hardship.

This year we have been amazed by the depth of corporate and community support afforded to the organisation. Our Gala dinner in September 2024, the *Home.Hope.Horizon* Luncheon in May 2025 and the launch of our new major fundraising event, the Walk for Hope in June 2025, have all been generously supported by partners — both old and new. The success of these events and the enthusiasm and commitment of our event partners and sponsors has enabled us to spread the word about our work even further across the community, in turn strengthening our work walking alongside the courageous women we support.

I was recently invited to spend two hours at Belconnen Mall speaking with members of the public and explaining the work of Karinya House. Amazingly, in that short time, I met two women who had been supported by Karinya House. One had been a resident 10 years ago and had her lovely teenage child with her, and the other mother is currently attending our Thursday Group sessions. Both looked very happy out shopping with their families and expressed gratitude for the support Karinya has provided. As an organisation, we have supported more than 2,800 women and their families since our inception. My brief encounters with just two of the women who spoke so highly of the care they had received, reminded me of the ripples of impact that the organisation continues to make to the Canberra community.

As I reflect upon another impactful year at Karinya House, I would like to express my admiration for the wonderful team, led by Lavinia Tyrrel as CEO. The professionalism and care of the staff team ensures that each of the women and their babies whom we walk alongside is supported in a meaningful and respectful way. Alongside the staff, I also acknowledge our dedicated volunteers, who collectively complete the circle of support and enable the organisation to deliver this unique service across the Canberra region.

As always, thank you to all who play a part in the work of Karinya House.

Margaret O'Donovan
PRESIDENT

“My brief encounters with just two of the women who spoke so highly of the care they had received, reminded me of the ripples of impact that the organisation continues to make to the Canberra community.”

CEO's Report



Over the last year we have walked alongside 138 women and their 191 babies and children. During this time, the team provided 6991 nights of a safe place to sleep and 35,506 hours of direct care services.

We continued to receive steady numbers of referrals over 2024–25, with most women identifying social isolation, safety, financial distress and housing insecurity or homelessness as key challenges when first coming in to contact with Karinya House. More broadly this reflects the ongoing social inequities affecting the ACT region. Whilst we enjoy an overall high quality of life in the ACT, women who are pregnant and parenting, and their babies and children, are disproportionately affected by poverty, homelessness, loneliness and domestic and family violence before and after pregnancy

However, notwithstanding these challenges, many women continue to make incredible strides in their lives — before and after their time with Karinya House. Over the year we have supported women move into their own homes, their children commence pre-school or school, women complete their Year 12 certificates, and some women save money to contribute to a car or study that will provide them and their children with independence and opportunities. This is made possible by the incredible care, support and compassion shown by Karinya House staff and volunteers — 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

Over the past year, Karinya House has also finalised its new Strategic Plan, covering the period 2026–2030. This plan builds upon the organisations strong foundation and outlines a vision for the Association over the coming five years. The plan was developed with input from Karinya House volunteers, staff, Committee members, sector partners (Government and community) as well as women in the service. Quantitative and qualitative data on demand, housing needs, social and economic trends, financial analysis, women's feedback and staff feedback were also incorporated into the final Plan. The *Karinya House Strategic Plan 2026–2030* has a central focus supporting outcomes for pregnant and parenting women and their infants and children, with five priority areas to achieve this: service excellence for women, housing pathways, enhancing data and women's voice, a compassionate and high-quality workforce, and securing and growing resources to support women's futures. A copy of the plan will be available on the Karinya House website by December 2025.

As explained in the Treasurer's report, our financial position over the past year was very positive. The Association recorded an unexpected surplus above budget.

This was due in part to an incredible bequest, the success of our fundraising events, and the ongoing generous donation of individual and corporate donors (including some unexpected donations here too). This windfall will allow Karinya House to deepen and extend its support to more women in the region, as outlined in our forthcoming new Strategic Plan. Support from the ACT Government Community Services Directorate also continues to provide welcome and core funding to our service, comprising 52% of our total operating revenue annually. This growing support shows that the ACT community supports the Karinya House mission and has a shared belief that no woman, or her babies/ infants, should be charting the perinatal period alone. We wish to extend our gratitude to our private, community and ACT Government partners for their support.

Enabled in part by the strong financial position, this past year has seen us invest more in our Care Team, who provide front-line, 24/7 support to women and their babies and children. This included through offering more paid and unpaid opportunities to attract and retain staff as well as the recruitment of additional Care Team roles. We have contributed to key policy reform processes with Government —

“Enabled in part by the strong financial position, this past year has seen us invest more in our Care Team, who provide front-line, 24/7 support to women and their babies and children.”

including the perinatal mental health reform process and the second Maternity in Focus Action Plan, to ensure that the needs of women we walk alongside are represented.

We have also made progress on our evidence and learning agenda. Over the past year we received rich feedback from women in the service through our new exit survey, which has allowed us to refine and continuously improve our service delivery model. We are also close to finalising a refined data management platform, which will better enable us to analyse and compare casework data to determine trends in need and how women are using our service.

Looking forward, in 2025 our focus is on implementing the new *Karinya House Strategic Plan 2026–2030*. Central to this is the ongoing delivery of a high-quality service for women in our community — and supporting a skilled and motivated team to deliver this. This will be enabled by work focused on expanding our individual donor base, establishing partnerships to create more options for women to access community-based housing, and developing mechanisms for women's voice to inform key parts of our operations.

Whilst the ongoing social challenges being experienced by women can be overwhelming, we continue to find motivation and inspiration in the achievements made by women — and remain humbled to be a part of their journeys. In concluding, I leave you with the remarks provided by Justice Louise Taylor, a Kamilaroi woman and Judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory, at the 2025 *Karinya House Home.Hope.Horizon*. Luncheon.

“Karinya's reputation as a service with a record of successfully intervening in women's lives is unimpeachable. The stability that women and their children, who have been lurching from crisis to chaos, find at Karinya allows them to take a breath and meaningfully contemplate their future. The immediate impact of the bricks and mortar ceiling over heads is obvious. Safety, structure, certainty. But the longer-term impact should not be underestimated...”

Investing in services like Karinya — services that improve the prospect of children remaining in the care of their mothers where it is safe to do so — is not only an act of decency, but also an act that makes good economic sense for our community in the long term. Investment in Karinya is an investment in transformative, generational change. The value to the individual women and their children who can remain as a family unit because of Karinya is matched by the value to the community in diverting those children away from the child protection system...

This is a long-term impact, the value of which I would suggest is immeasurable... The kind of change promoted by contact with Karinya is the kind that lifts people out of circumstances they have previously been unable to control, which in turn can allow all manner of potential to be fulfilled.”

Lavinia Tyrrel
CEO

Treasurer's Report



In what has become a welcome trend in recent years, I am very pleased to report that Karinya House has made an incredible and wholly unexpected surplus of \$888,603 which is well over our budgeted surplus by over \$822,443.

Well over 60% of this variance (\$562,980) is due to the generosity of individual donors, corporate funding partnerships, philanthropic grants and major fundraising event revenues.

In this regard, I must acknowledge and thank the late Ann Osmand who bequeathed a significant donation to Karinya House. The largest single private donation in our history. In addition, we acknowledge and thank Cynthia Smith, who also bequeathed a donation to Karinya House. These incredibly generous gifts will make a huge impact on Karinya House's ability to serve the community and continue to assist the women we walk with. In addition, individual generous donors, corporate and philanthropic partners, too numerous to mention have collectively given an additional \$221,000 more than we budgeted. This is particularly pleasing, as it indicates that Karinya's House mission is being more widely understood and supported by individuals, corporates and funding organisations from the Canberra region and beyond. I continue to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our donors and partners for their generosity and support.

The 2024–25 financial year was the first full year, where Karinya's fundraising efforts were supported with a dedicated part-time Partnerships and Events Manager, Alison Burr. Together with the Committee and the Executive team the focus was on the return of investment proposition of hosting major events. In focusing on two major events each financial year, and in testament to the staff team involved, fundraising event revenue was \$51,000 (33%) above budget, with costs remaining on budget. The non-government funding strategy for Karinya House continues to be developed, under the leadership of our Strategy and Funding Director, Ellen Field, and with key support from our Chief Executive Officer, Lavinia Tyrrel.

The investment strategy mentioned in last year's report, continues to show value and, despite a tumultuous year on local and overseas markets, investment earnings from funds under management were \$24,000 over budget. This was offset by a lower than budget return on bank interest earnings, reflective of decreasing interest rates.

Karinya House has four vehicles, which for in the majority were over 10 years old. The Karinya fleet is a key infrastructure component to the delivery of support services to women. In a significant change to how Karinya manages the purchase of vehicles, we have changed from outright purchasing to leasing. This ensures the cost of the fleet is more effectively spread across the financial years and eliminates the need for upfront and significant cash outlays. In addition, the fleet is being moved to electric vehicles, as far as possible, given service requirements. As well as contributing to Karinya's focus on our environmental footprint, electric vehicles also significantly reduces the annual running costs. With these changes, Karinya replaced three of the old vehicles this year, which returned trade in values of \$25,000 in revenue.

Salary costs were \$222,000 below budget, with recruitment of staff to arising vacancies taking further time to complete, given the overall pressure on recruitment across the community sector, particularly for positions providing direct support services. Full staffing is expected to be in place by the end of October 2025.

“I must acknowledge and thank the late Ann Osmand who bequeathed a significant donation to Karinya House... In addition, we acknowledge and thank Cynthia Smith, who also bequeathed a donation to Karinya House. These incredibly generous gifts will make a huge impact on Karinya House's ability to serve the community and continue to assist the women we walk with.”

I reported in last year's Annual report that the current Karinya House Strategic plan contained an aspirational goal, of growing our net Equity position from \$1m to \$2m by FY2026. We achieved that goal in FY2024 (2 years early). This year's results see net Equity sitting at \$2.9m. The significance of this net equity position lay in its assurance for the continued delivery of services for women who are pregnant or parenting a baby. This position is reflective also of the generosity of the Canberra region community, the increasing depth in non-government corporate and philanthropic partners and the long-term support of the ACT Government. This recognition for the women we support is the key driver for Karinya's funding framework and aspiration, which has been part of the Karinya vision since inception of the Karinya House concept.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the partnership and probono service of a number of organisations, for their support of Karinya House's financial and operational management.

- Successful Alliances — Bookkeeping Services.
- RSM Canberra — Audit Services.
- Deloitte Digital — Salesforce support.
- F1 Solutions — IT support

As always, I am grateful to Lavinia Tyrrel, Chief Executive Officer, and to Jo Saccasan, Finance and Business Manager and her team, whom each provide professional, timely and expert guidance and support.

In closing I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our supporters, staff, and the committee for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. Your continued support and commitment are invaluable to the success and sustainability of Karinya House.

John Lewis
TREASURER



“My baby has some health issues and when you are stressed and scared it is hard to remember all the medical appointments or to understand what the doctors are saying. Having the Karinya staff help me with this means my daughter is now getting better. The Karinya Health Professional came with me and would remind me when the appointments were.”

Melody's Story

Assistance with medical expenses

When Melody moved into Karinya House with her 4-month-old daughter Angel and five-year old son Michael, she told the Karinya House Health Professional that Angel had been born with a heart concern. Melody expressed that she had not been able to follow up Angel's condition, as she had been couch surfing with different people for the last five months. Melody was worried about Michael's sight, as he was often complaining of headaches, and was also concerned about her own health as she had a toothache that seemed to be getting worse. After discussing these concerns with her Caseworker, the Karinya House Health Professional facilitated access to dental care for the family, arranged glasses and hearing tests for Michael, and coordinated a referral to the Early Family Support Service for Angel. Karinya House also paid for Michael to have a comprehensive health and development check, including catching up on all his immunizations.

The Karinya House Health Professional and Caseworkers also supported Melody to access a range of scans and tests to check on Angel's heart issues. This support ranged from volunteers caring for Michael on the days that Angel required day stays in hospital, explaining to Melody what was happening, reminding Melody about medication schedules for Angel, and paying for medical treatment and medications.

In the weeks after the family moved into Karinya, it became apparent that Melody was not confident either shopping for or preparing nutritious food for the children. Staff often observed the children eating sweet biscuits, chocolate and sugary drinks. When asked about this Melody explained that in her home country, it was more common to eat 'street food' rather than cook at home. As a result the Karinya House Maternal Wellbeing Worker started to support Melody with weekly shopping, and regular cooking lessons. This included supporting Melody

to encourage the children to try different, nutritious food options. Referrals were also made to the Capital Region Community Services Healthy Habits program.

Sixteen months after Melody and the children moved into Karinya House, Melody was allocated a three-bedroom ACT Housing property in a nearby suburb. The allocation of the property meant that Michael could continue at the same primary school and the family could continue to be supported by the local mother's group. This was really important as it ensured that the family could maintain their positive social connections with their local community.

Through the support of Karinya House corporate supporters, Caseworkers were able to assist Melody to obtain the household goods that the family needed to establish their new home.

Service Delivery Statistics

Of the women supported by Karinya House in 2024–25:¹

18%

identified themselves as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

26%

were from a culturally and or linguistically diverse background.

47%

disclosed drug and alcohol use in the last 5 years, including 18% who disclosed issues related to current drug and or alcohol use.

65%

of women and their children and babies were experiencing a period of homelessness² upon referral.

66%

identified current or past experiences of partner violence.

85%

identified past experience of family trauma.

82%

identified either current or past mental health challenges.

52%

of women referred themselves to Karinya House.

65%

were pregnant at the time of referral, including 27% who were already parenting at least one other child.



The average age of women supported by Karinya House across the year was 27.

#humansofkarinya

"Just want to say a big thank you to everyone at Karinya who got me to this point and all the support that I had received from everyone has truly made a big difference in to how everything is at the moment we are doing so good so far in the move all thanks to you."

¹ These statistics include women with a support period that ended by June 2025. It does not include women who were supported from July 2025.

² Karinya House understands that definitions of what it is to be homeless are deeply political with the definitions both constraining and dictating the response of government and at times non-government organisations

While definitions of homelessness often focus on whether someone has a roof or not, Karinya House highlights the experience of homelessness is more than not having a roof, it is about having a 'home', 'belonging' and a 'feeling of safety'.

#humansofkarinya

"Thanks to Karinya I now only have little worries and I feel I can do these things on my own now."

Impact Statistics



190

The average number of residential days spent at Karinya House across the 2024–25 financial period was 190, remaining relatively steady across the last two years.



177

The average length of casework support period of all women supported by Karinya House (including outreach services) was 177 days (which is an 8% increase on the last financial year and a continues to increase year on year from 114 days pre-Covid period. The average length of Support Period represents a 20% increase on the 2022–23 period, and a 100% increase on the average length of support period in 2020–21).



21

21 babies were born during 2024–25 during the time their mother was engaged with Karinya.



6991

6991 nights of somewhere safe to sleep was provided to women and their children across 2024–25.



22

26

22 unique women, and 26 children and babies were accommodated at Karinya House during 2024–25.



\$137,436

\$137,436 – The estimated total value of the practical support which was provided to women, including financial assistance to access medical services, education or training, school uniforms and supplies for older children, assistance with transport costs and food hampers. This total comprises:

- \$46,467 baby goods and children's clothes
- \$32,735 food, groceries, medical expenses, women's clothing, transport, education, employment, and training costs
- \$19,183 gifts
- \$39,041 rent reduction, and costs associated with establishing and maintaining a tenancy includes home starter packs, furniture and emergency accommodation



24

24 instances of a woman's Support Period extending beyond 52 weeks.



191 children, including babies were in contact with Karinya House via their mother. This included 40 babies, 79 toddlers and preschoolers and 56 primary aged children.

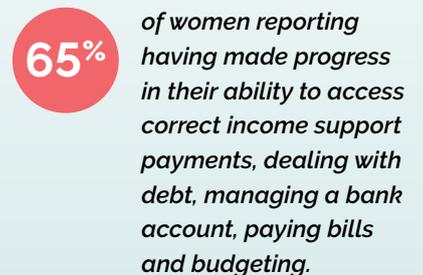
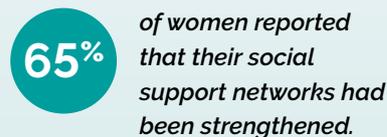
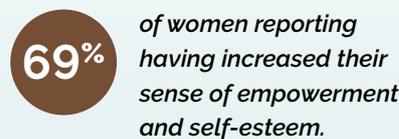
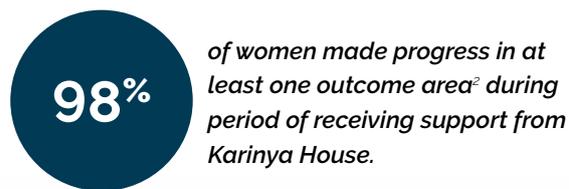


138 women received casework services during 2024–25.¹

#humansofkarinya

"On the day we arrived at Karinya, there were staff to meet us when we got out of the car and I just started to cry, not because I was sad, but because I was so happy to feel safe. The smiling staff who met us made me feel so safe. I hadn't felt safe for a long time."

Karinya House tracks and monitors its performance against outcomes. At an individual level, we use a measurement of change tool called Outcomes Star™. This tool enables caseworkers to help women understand the impact of their experiences on their situation and to take small, but significant steps to rebuild their lives. This data can also help to explain progress at a whole of service level against each wellbeing domain. Outcomes Star data reveals that across the 2024–25 period:



1 This is across 160 unique support periods.

2 'Outcome Areas' are domains of wellbeing, which include: safety, accommodation, support networks, legal issues, health & wellbeing, money, children, work & learning, empowerment & self-esteem.

Year in Review

As of September 2025, Karinya House has been operating for 28 years, supporting more than 2,850 women across the region.

Over the past year, our team has continued to build upon a legacy of practice that is respectful, women-led, and grounded in an ethic of care. The women we walk alongside consistently make small but meaningful steps toward their own goals and aspirations.

At a service level, we remain committed to preserving Karinya House's unique practice model whilst ensuring the service remains fit-for-purpose in an evolving community services sector. Key developments and initiatives aimed at achieving these shared objectives from the past year are summarised below.

Services summary

With the valued support of the ACT Government and a broad network of individual, community, philanthropic, and corporate supporters, Karinya House provided care and assistance to **138 women and 191 children** throughout 2024–25. This included babies who were connected to Karinya House through their mother's engagement with our service.

Over the course of the year, **22 women and 26 children**, including babies, were accommodated onsite at Karinya House and **21 babies were born** during this period to women who were actively supported by our team at the time of their birth.

We have continued to see a trend towards women presenting to Karinya House with a range of complex support needs. One impact of this complexity has been the continued high levels of women who access **long-term, intensive support**. The average

length of casework support period of all women supported by Karinya House (including outreach services) was **177 days** (which is an 8% increase on the last financial year and continues to increase year on year from 114 days pre-Covid period). The average length of Support Period represents a 20% increase on the 2022–2023 period, and a 100% increase on the average length of support period in 2020–21. Across the reporting period, **24 unique women were supported continuously for more than 52 weeks**.

Throughout the year, the **ongoing housing and cost-of-living crises** were regularly evident in our casework practice. Many of the women we walked alongside were experiencing acute difficulty accessing affordable healthcare and childcare compounded by their financial stress. With significant implications for the wellbeing of both women and their children, the impacts of **financial disadvantage**

impacted our service delivery priorities across the year.

Financial stress both impacts and further compounds women's **access to the health care** required to ensure the health and safety of themselves and their babies during pregnancy and early motherhood. This is a particular challenge for women without secure visa status (and thus no access to Medicare), as well as for women who have complex health needs or are experiencing high risk pregnancies that require more intensive monitoring. With thanks to our partners across the community, our flexible funding model enabled Caseworkers to support women both practically and financially so that they were able to access the care and treatment required. In many instances, this work also involved the time-consuming task of finding and building relationships with healthcare providers across the community who were committed to providing affordable, high-quality



treatment through bulk-billing or other discounts. Across the year, our casework in this area has reaffirmed the importance of Karinya House's tailored and flexible support, which recognises and responds to key barriers to women's accessing the support they require within complex health and service systems.

Similarly, the Care team also worked with many women across the year who were experiencing financial disadvantage impacting their ability to **access appropriate and affordable childcare** — a critical barrier for women's progress towards independence. Without suitable childcare options, opportunities for employment and education remain out of reach, limiting pathways to long-term financial security. In many instances, Caseworkers worked intensively to support women to access subsidies and secure appropriate childcare that enabled them to remain engaged in training and work opportunities. This work is another example of the potential long-term, intergenerational impact of the support Karinya House provides.

As in previous years, Karinya House has also continued to provide vital **material aid** to the women we walk alongside. Through strong partnerships with community organisations such as Roundabout Canberra and OzHarvest, we can deliver essential items that support the wellbeing of women and their families across both our residential and outreach programs. For some

women, this assistance also included financial support to help cover the cost of essential medicines and health-related products for themselves and their children. This targeted support addresses immediate needs and contributes to the overall stability and wellbeing of families. Beyond individual support, Karinya House has also remained a committed advocate for systemic change. We have continued to engage in sector-wide advocacy efforts to improve access to appropriate social and affordable housing, and to push for meaningful cost-of-living relief for women who are pregnant and parenting. Further details about our policy engagement and advocacy work can be found later in this report.

As always, the focus and strength of our practice this year has been on delivering **high-quality, relationship-based casework with women**. We know from women themselves that the value of the Karinya House practice model lays in the relationships we can develop, as well as the capacity to provide women with time and space required to take meaningful steps forward. We honour and thank each of the women we have connected with this year for their strength, hard work, and commitment to investing in these casework relationships as they chart a positive path forward. We acknowledge and celebrate every achievement made along the way, recognising their significance in each woman's individual journey.

Focus on holistic wellbeing

Throughout the year, Karinya House has strengthened our practice of holistic wellbeing for women and their children. With the generous support of philanthropic partners, we welcomed a new Maternal Wellbeing Coordinator to our team. This role complements the work of our Health Professional, Caseworkers and Casework Navigators and focuses on building trusting and non-judgemental relationships that enable women to begin addressing their needs and goals in a supportive environment. They provide one-on-one support to strengthen parenting skills and confidence, assist women in developing independent living skills such as cooking, budgeting, and grocery shopping, and foster positive peer connections through regular shared activities like barbecues, morning teas, craft sessions and community walks. The role also facilitates individual connections to community groups and educational opportunities, creating supportive pathways for women to engage in ongoing personal development and social inclusion.

In collaboration with the Karinya Health Professional, the Maternal Wellbeing Coordinator also offers informal education and support on pregnancy, infant care, and parenting challenges — often providing vital evening support during particularly difficult times. This hands-on, relationship-based approach allows for the modelling of essential parenting skills in real-time, meeting women where they are with empathy and care.

The Karinya Group Program has also been further strengthened over the past year. Led by our dedicated Group Program Coordinator and supported by the wider Care Team, the program delivers a variety of group-based activities for women engaged with Karinya House. These sessions not only offer practical skill-building opportunities but also help foster meaningful social connections, reducing isolation and building a strong sense of community among women navigating complex life transitions.

“The importance of this role is highlighted by my recent work alongside a young mum and her two small children, particularly through the ‘witching’ hours of dinner, baths and bed. I have been able to regularly meet with Mum to plan the family meal and support her in creating a family rhythm and routine for this stage of the day. These things were previously impossible when the family wasn’t sure where they would be sleeping each night. Now they have safe and stable accommodation with the intensive support they need, we have started to notice some really positive changes for this little family.”

Sector Engagement

Karinya House has proudly continued its tradition of active and constructive engagement within the ACT community services sector. Throughout the year, we maintained strong referral pathways with a range of key service partners — particularly those specialising in domestic and family violence, women's legal support, education and training, and housing services.

Our commitment to policy advocacy also deepened over the year. We participated in numerous stakeholder forums and met with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from across the political spectrum. This included contributions to ACT Government-led initiatives and advisory bodies focused on improving outcomes for women and families. Our CEO was also

re-nominated as the Co-Chair of the Maternity in Focus Advisory Group for 2025, and remains honoured and committed to representing the needs of women with lived experience through this work.

We strengthened partnerships with several key service providers who share our focus on supporting women, their babies and children. Notably, Karinya House joined a collaborative alliance with Families ACT to advance and coordinate advocacy around Perinatal wellbeing and the First 1000 Days strategy — a critical initiative for early childhood development and maternal wellbeing.

A particularly exciting development this year was the formation of new connections beyond the ACT,

“We strengthened partnerships with several key service providers who share our focus on supporting women, their babies and children.”

including with organisations based as far away as Perth. In addition to our work locally with ACTCOSS and other peak bodies, Karinya House is now a member of the National Pregnancy and Homelessness Alliance, creating opportunities to contribute to national dialogue and policy discussions on the challenges facing pregnant and parenting women experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Strategic Planning process

Over the second half of the financial year, Karinya House engaged in a comprehensive design and consultation process to develop our new Strategic Plan for the 5-year period between 2026–2030. This important process will guide our work and priorities over the next five years, helping to shape the direction of the organisation in line with our mission and values. All staff, volunteers, and Committee

members were invited to contribute their insights and experiences, ensuring the plan is grounded in the collective wisdom and lived experience of our Karinya community. Data and insights were also drawn from Government, sector partners, and feedback from the women we walk alongside.

Much of this work has taken place behind the scenes, particularly

across April and May, with dedicated involvement from the entire Karinya team. We are incredibly grateful for the generous pro-bono support of two long-term friends of Karinya House, Shelley Thomson from the Patient Experience Agency, and Chris Nightingale of Ponda Consulting. We look forward to sharing Karinya House's new Strategic Plan via our website late in 2025.

Data and Evidence

Across the year we have continued to prioritise key activities aimed at strengthening our collection of data and evidence processes to more effectively integrate the voice of women with lived experience of the service. With support from the **Paul Ramsay Foundation**, and building upon previous work undertaken, we refined and implemented an evidence-informed, woman-centred, trauma-informed feedback mechanism to enable women to contribute ideas about their journey with Karinya House, and developed a process to collect and analyse longitudinal data from women who have been supported by Karinya House to capture evidence about the long-term impact of our work. We have begun collecting consent from women to participate in this newly developed process, with data collection to begin in earnest in the 2025–26 financial period. Many of the quotes included in this report have been shared by women as part of these new processes.

We have also undertaken initial research, consultations and conceptual development to support the initiation of a Karinya House lived experience advisory function, which culminated in an initial project concept. Further development of this a lived experience advisory function will occur over the coming months.

With assistance from external pro-bono consultant, Andrew Burr, we have also undertaken a significant design process to establish a new purpose-built client database specific to Karinya House, which will support efficient and purposeful data collection to strengthen both our casework and reporting functions. We thank Andrew for his patience and diligence throughout this process and look forward to implementing the new system in the coming months.

Reconciliation Action Plan

In late 2024, we proudly launched the Karinya House Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which builds on the foundations established through our Reflect RAP and represents a further step forward in our Association's reconciliation journey.

Our focus throughout this period has been on developing and implementing a RAP that guides our learning and shapes our approach — ensuring we actively recognise and support the knowledge, strengths, and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within our organisation's structure and practice framework.

We remain grateful for the continued and generous support of the Calleo Indigenous Community Fund, whose multi-year financial commitment has enabled the employment of two Aboriginal Support Workers. These team members are vital to our Care team and play an active role in our RAP working group.



Our RAP artwork by Kathryn Williams is called "Ganma-li, maruma-li, warra-li bamba" which translates to say — To hold, to heal, to stand strong.

The Karinya Village — Patron & Committee

Karinya House has a governing Committee with the capacity and mix of capability to deliver its long-term strategic vision.

– Karinya House Strategic Plan 2021–2025

The Committee

Karinya House would like to thank Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC for her patronage, which commenced on October 25 2024.



Margaret O'Donovan
PRESIDENT & PUBLIC OFFICER

Esther Bogaart
VICE-PRESIDENT

John Lewis
TREASURER

Claire Bermingham
SECRETARY (*Appointed 19 November 2024*)

Kate Harkins
SECRETARY (*Resigned 19 November 2024*)

Marie-Louise Corkhill
COMMITTEE MEMBER

Tony Greenwell
COMMITTEE MEMBER

Nicoll Parton
COMMITTEE MEMBER (*Resigned 8 April 2025*)

Sehida Frawley
COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Karinya House AGM was held on Tuesday 19 November 2024.

The Committee held seven Committee meetings (in person or virtually) throughout 2024–25 as well as meeting for two full Strategic Planning Days on April 8 and June 17, 2025, to develop the new Karinya House Strategic Plan.

The Karinya Village — Our People

Karinya House has the workforce capability and culture to deliver specialist supports to women with diverse and complex needs

– Karinya House Strategic Plan 2021–2025

Our dedicated staff

Karinya House operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year — thanks to our dedicated team of staff and volunteers who provide consistent, on-site support to the women we walk alongside. This team comprises experienced caseworkers, maternal health professionals, support workers, and a small but vital operational and management team.

On average throughout the year, services were delivered by a team of part-time personnel, working the equivalent of 16.4 full-time positions (FTE). Over the past year, this team contributed an impressive **35,506 hours of direct service**, bringing compassion, skill, and deep expertise to their work with women and children in our care.

In addition to rostered hours, members of the Care Team also cover the on-call roster every night, weekend, and public holiday throughout the year.

Across the Karinya team, the recording of in-kind and volunteer time contributions attributable to staff are testament to the extraordinary commitment of our team well beyond formal expectations.

This unwavering dedication has been especially evident during a year marked by growing housing insecurity, rising living costs, and the continued prevalence of family and domestic violence. Despite these challenges, our team has shown up — every day — ensuring that each woman and child is met with care, respect, and tailored support.

We also celebrated important service milestones this year for several long-standing staff members, including:

- **Luisa Lopes** — 25 years
- **Jo Saccasan** — 25 years of voluntary service, including 10 years as a staff member
- **Kathy Miller** — 20 years
- **Catherine O'Halloran** — 15 years
- **Karen Kirk** — 10 years
- **Nichola McKillop** — 10 years

We extend our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to these team members for their remarkable commitment to Karinya House and their lasting contribution to the lives of so many women.

#humansofkarinya

"All the day staff and night staff, the admin workers — you were all so amazing. It's amazing work you guys do and I feel like I didn't fully realise at the time, I took it for granted. The way you all support us with so many different things, I really hope that your new residents know how lucky they are to be there and don't take it for granted."
– feedback from a woman supported by Karinya about the staff who walked alongside her



Our committed volunteers

Throughout 2024–25, Karinya House was strengthened by the generous support of a small team of skilled and dedicated volunteers. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing commitment of long-standing volunteers who have supported Karinya over many years, as well as the enthusiasm and energy brought by new volunteers who joined our village during the year. It has been a pleasure to welcome new faces to this team.

Each week, Karinya volunteers contribute across a range of essential areas — including childcare, administration, gardening, and transport — providing support that enhances both the daily operation of our service and the experience of the women we walk alongside.

This year, we were also fortunate to receive volunteer support for our non-government fundraising, with several individuals participating in our Women4Women Committees offering strategic advice and connecting us to their networks. We thank each of these women for their dedication, professionalism and goodwill.

In addition, various professionals continued to provide pro bono or low-bono services to strengthen our operational capacity in the areas of governance and strategy. The financial value of these contributions is reflected in the Financial and Partnerships sections of this report.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the members of the Karinya House Committee, who serve entirely in a voluntary capacity. We especially acknowledge those in office-bearer roles, whose responsibilities and time commitments are significant. Their leadership and governance are vital to the success and integrity of our organisation.

Volunteers have always played a critical role in Karinya House's story. Their presence not only supports the sustainability of our operations but also serves as a powerful reminder to the women in our care of the compassion and generosity that exists within the broader Canberra community. To every individual who gave their time, skills, or expertise this year: thank you. Your generosity has made a lasting impact.

Finally, we thank the staff who have supported and coordinated our volunteers throughout the year — ensuring a strong, respectful, and effective volunteer program.

In total, 2,944 volunteer hours were contributed across the 2024–25 financial year, including time given by operational volunteers, Committee members, and staff in volunteer coordination roles.

#humansofkarinya

"I am so grateful for everything you have done to help my baby and I. You were our family when our family wasn't there, you supported me when no one supported me, you never judged, even when I wasn't coping — you never judged me you only supported me and gave me confidence."

"It is a privilege to work with the team at Karinya. Your expertise, dedication to person-centred care and equity for all is an inspiration. I am so lucky to have the opportunity to learn from everyone each week."

Hours provided

In total, 2,944 volunteer hours were contributed across the 2024–25 financial year, including time given by operational volunteers, Committee members, and staff in volunteer coordination roles. Valued at a nominal rate of \$60 per hour¹, this represents a contribution worth \$176,655.



TOTAL HOURS

2,944 2024-25

2,951.5 2023-24

IF CHARGED AT A NOMINAL RATE OF \$60 PER HOUR

\$176,655 2024-25

\$177,090 2023-24

¹ \$60/hour is a calculation based on an average hourly salary including oncost, and excluding infrastructure support costs.

Clara's Story

Value of relationship with Caseworkers

When Karinya House met Clara, Clara was 6 months pregnant and had just moved to Canberra after being disowned by her family in Perth. Clara was staying with a friend of a friend, which was not a sustainable option.

Clara had grown up in a large family, which had been part of an active broader community. When Caseworkers met Clara for the first time after one of her midwife appointments, Clara spoke at length about the distress the disconnection from her family and community was causing her and the fears she had for her child growing up disconnected from her community.

Over the coming weeks Caseworkers met with Clara a couple of times each week. The focus of these meetings ranged from navigating Centrelink and ACT Housing, to going for a walk around the lake, or meeting for a coffee. Slowly Clara started to feel more comfortable with her Caseworker, and a month later Clara moved into Karinya House.

With no other support in Canberra, Clara requested her Karinya House Caseworker attend the birth of her baby as her labour support person. With a Caseworker at her side, Clara gave birth to a healthy baby boy named James.

“Children need a community to grow up in and Karinya gave my baby a community, he will grow up knowing he has a family — his family is Karinya.”



Lillie's Story

Assistance with medical expenses

At 17 years old Lillie was referred to Karinya House by a youth worker.

When Caseworkers met with Lillie for the first time, Lillie thought she was around nine weeks pregnant. However, Lillie had been unable to access a bulk-billing GP and could not afford the upfront \$90 fee that many GPs charged so she had not been able to have her pregnancy confirmed by a doctor.

The Karinya House Health Professional arranged for Lillie to see a local GP who agreed to charge the initial new patient fee and to then bulk-bill her appointments. Given Lillie had limited income, Karinya House covered the cost of this initial fee to ensure Lillie was able to access appropriate medical care.

With the pregnancy now confirmed, the Karinya House Health Professional advocated for Lillie to be accepted into the ACT Health Continuity Midwifery Program, which meant that Lillie could expect to see the same midwife throughout her pregnancy.

During Lillie's pregnancy, the standard health screening identified some concerns related to the pregnancy, and it was recommended that Lillie undergo some additional scans. Unfortunately, like many specialists medical services, the scans could not be bulk-billed. Through the generous financial support of individual donors to Karinya House, Karinya had the capacity to cover the costs of the scans for Lillie. This additional support was vital as the scans identified that Lillie required closer monitoring

throughout the remainder of her pregnancy. Over the next few months, the Karinya House Health Professional accompanied Lillie to her scans, as well as her midwifery and other health appointments.

Following the birth of baby Max, Lillie responded positively to the support and guidance given by her Karinya House Caseworkers, and Health Professional, along with the Early Family Support Service Maternal and Child Health Nurse who visited her weekly at Karinya House.

When Max was five months old Lillie began attending CCCares to finish her Year 12 certificate. Inspired by her experiences during her pregnancy, Lillie now has a goal of continuing her education to study Radiography.

Partnerships & Financial Management

Karinya will grow its net equity position by \$1 million by 2025–26.

Our ability to support women in need is underpinned by our ongoing financial sustainability.

– Karinya House Strategic Plan 2021–25

Our Funding and Partnerships

The vital work of Karinya House is only possible through the continued support and collaboration of our committed government, corporate, philanthropic, and community partners.

During the **2024–25 financial year**, we received **\$1,431,539** in financial support from individuals and families, community groups, corporate and philanthropic organisations, and fundraising efforts. In addition, through the organisation's long-term strategy to build financial reserves and ensure future sustainability, we were able to generate a further **\$167,810** in interest and investment income from managed funds. This brought our total non-government revenue for the year to **\$1,599,349**, which significantly complemented the strong and valued support of the **ACT Government**, who invested over **\$1.8 million** through two long-term funding agreements.

The growth in non-government funding revenue has continued to strengthen the financial sustainability of Karinya House. This key component of our revenue continues also to support the delivery of services for women and their babies which are individualised and flexible. This is a valued and unique aspect of Karinya services. We commit to provide each woman with the support she needs. Non-Government funding support is critical to this commitment.

We are grateful to every individual, organisation, and funding body that has partnered with Karinya House this year. Your support ensures that we can continue to meet the complex and growing needs of women in our community with care, dignity, and professionalism.

Government and Sector Partners

We acknowledge the ongoing support and important partnership of the ACT Government, particularly the ACT Community Services Directorate. Across the year we continued to enjoy positive partnerships with both the ACT Child, Youth and Family Services (to operate a *Mother and Baby Unit*), and with Housing ACT (to provide specialist homelessness services to women who are pregnant and or parenting babies).

In addition, our partnership with the ACT government also includes important and valuable relationships with several key stakeholders, including ACT Health through their Maternal and Child Branch. During the year, we also strengthened our involvement in the ACT Government-led Maternity in Focus strategy, with our CEO serving as Co-Chair of the Maternity in Focus Advisory Group and as a member of the Perinatal Mental Health Reference Group.



Corporate and Business Partners, Trusts and Foundations

During the **2024–25 financial year**, partner donations provided **\$593,265** in financial support from our **corporate, community, and philanthropic partners**, including project grants under contract.

Corporate sponsorships with the Karinya village also supported **\$208,213** in fundraising revenue through the two Karinya major events held across 2024–25.

In addition to this, we received in-kind contributions valued at **\$558,515**, reflecting the extraordinary generosity and practical support of our partners.

As a small, community-based organisation, **every contribution, whether it be financial or in-kind, is deeply valued**. Donations and non-government funding partnerships are central to our ability to deliver flexible, person-centred support for women and babies across the region, making it possible to continue to deliver services to offer women opportunities for safety and growth for women at a time when they need it most.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of our partners for their significant and ongoing commitment. For a full list of our major supporters, please refer to page 32.

We also recognise with gratitude the **philanthropic partners** who have continued to provide significant support to the organisation across the year. In the 2024–25 financial year funding from key philanthropic partners contributed to several key staff positions across the team. We recognise and appreciate these partners, particularly support from the **Paul Ramsay Foundation**, the **Snow Foundation**, the **Lionel and Yvonne Spencer Trust**, and the **Calleo Indigenous Community Fund**, for their recognition of the vital importance of investing in the Karinya team. In addition, we have been grateful to receive philanthropic grant funding from the **James N Kirby Foundation**, **The Tall Foundation**, **Future Generations Australia** and **Hands Across Canberra** who have each donated funds across

a range of operational expense areas. In addition to a range of philanthropic partners, we also received grant funding from several corporate and community organisations including **Icon Water**, the **CommBank Staff Foundation**, **Canberra Mothercraft Society** and **StreetSmart**, who each made unique and important contributions to our direct service support for women or related infrastructure support costs across the financial year. The combined impact of these partnerships makes a significant contribution to the ongoing strength of the services provided to women and their children.



Corporate supporters

As always, we remain deeply grateful for the generous financial, in-kind, and fundraising support received from our valued corporate partners. Across the year this included significant contributions from several major corporate sponsors including **Canberra Southern Cross Club**, **Icon Water** and **Parker Coles Curtis**. We were also appreciative of the continued generosity of other corporate partners, including many who have walked alongside Karinya over many years, including **Shaw and Partners**, **North Belconnen Community Association**, **Deloitte**, **Parbery**, **The Riverview Group**, **Corkhill Brothers**, **Successful Alliances**, **William Cole Funerals**, **CK Architecture**, **Paddywack Promotional Products**, **Solace Creations**, **Your City Physio — Margaret O'Donovan**, **Monarch Building Solutions**, **Maddocks**, **SOLVit** and **Sissa Sorella**.

Karinya was also very pleased to be selected as recipients of several local corporate fundraising endeavours, including support from **SHAPE** through their

fantastic bowling fundraiser and as a recipient of **Beyond Bank's** Community Rewards program and Double Up Day. The continued support of **Capital Chemist Group**, who provide financial support as well as vital assistance with vaccination clinics and health and medical supplies also remained an integral part of the Karinya Village.

This year we were very pleased to commence a new, major corporate partnership with **DOMA Group**. This is a significant partnership, which will include support for our inaugural Karinya House Walk for Hope event in September 2025, as well as offering financial and in-kind support across the 2025–26 period. We welcome DOMA to the Karinya Village and look forward to reporting on the impact of this partnership as it progresses.

Karinya House is also incredibly grateful for the invaluable in-kind support provided by a wide range of corporate partners, which significantly strengthened our organisational capacity and service delivery.

We thank **Canberra Security Pty Ltd**, **XPG Security**, **Deloitte Digital**, **F1 Solutions**, **GRC Solutions**, **ECG Electrical** and **Monarch Building Solutions** for their ongoing support of our facilities and ICT systems.

We also acknowledge the pro-bono support received from a diverse group of local representatives across the year, including:

- **Andrew Burr** who has generously worked with us to develop a new client database, *Karinya Pathways*, which is tailored to Karinya House's needs.
- Shelley Thompson of **Patient Experience Agency** and Chris Nightingale of **Ponda Consulting** who each provided significant in-kind support to develop the new Karinya House Strategic Plan.
- Representatives of **Strategic Development Group** and **Riverview Group** for generous and insightful contributions to advance our Housing Pathways Strategic Priority area.



“The scale of support also acts as an important reminder to all of us, and to the women of the immense compassion and care which exists across the community for the women and the children we support.”

- | Local representatives of **Maddocks** and **Farrar Gesini Dunn** who each offered essential pro-bono legal support to both Karinya staff and the women we walk alongside on several matters.
- | Dr Loc at **Braddon Dental** who continued to offer dental services either free or at significantly reduced fees to women supported by Karinya House across the year. This essential support continues to make it possible for women to access treatment for long-standing, complex dental issues that are often impacting significantly upon their wellbeing.

We are also thankful to **Elect Printing, The Mark Agency, Missing Bits Production, papermonkey, Threesides Marketing, Region Media** and **Dak & Co** for their creative and professional contributions across media, marketing, digital communications, videography, and design.

The individual contributions of each of our corporate partners — financial or otherwise — are too numerous to include in detail here but all have continued to play an integral role in enabling and enhancing the work of Karinya House across the year. The collective impact of these contributions ensure we can support each woman who accessing support with respect, flexibility and professionalism. The scale of support also acts as an important reminder to all of us, and to the women of the immense compassion and care which exists across the community for the women and the children we support.

Karinya Events and Fundraising Appeals

In accordance with our Strategic Priority to increase our financial equity, several key events and fundraising campaigns helped to grow our non-government funding revenue and provided opportunities to extend the network of friends and supporters across the community.

The 25th Annual Karinya House Gala event was held on 6 September 2024 at the Canberra Southern Cross in Woden. Building on the success of the event in previous years, this event was a wonderful celebration. We acknowledge the generosity of the Canberra Southern Cross Club, the 2024 Spring Gala Associate Partners **Strategic Development Group, Corkhill Brothers and Riverview Group**, as well as the other matched Giving Fund Partners **Successful Alliances, Capital Chemist Group, The Tall Foundation, Solace Creations Double Glazing, William Cole Funerals and CK Architecture** for their financial contributions to the event. Thanks also to **Aunty Violet Sheridan** and Col McIntyre from **McIntyre Property** who generously donated their services on the night, as well as each of the organisations and individuals who donated raffle and auction prizes, or wine for the mystery wine draw. Together, these partners all contributed to the success of the event and the appeal, which allowed us to extend support to all women, who are pregnant or parenting and in crisis, across the year.

Following the Gala, the 2024 Christmas Appeal was a resounding success and, as always, a fabulous reminder of the generous spirit of the community. For several weeks leading up to Christmas, Karinya was filled with thoughtful and hand-selected gifts, Christmas Hampers and donations from a range of individuals, corporate and community supporters. With too many to thank individually, we acknowledge the generous contributions made by so many at this time of year. Each donation — financial or otherwise — made at Christmas time went directly towards supporting women and their children.

Our major fundraising event for the financial year was the 2025 *Home.Horizon*. Charity Luncheon, which was held on Friday, 2 May at the stunning **Hyatt Hotel** and brought together 300 members of our village for a truly memorable day of connection, inspiration, and generosity. For the third year in a row, we are deeply grateful for the support of our Principal Partner, **Parker Coles Curtis**, as well as our Associate Partners **BAL Lawyers, North Belconnen Community Association, Parbery and Elect Printing**, as well as Support Partners and the in-kind **Event Partners**.

We also extend our thanks to **Aunty Violet Sheridan** who shared a personal Welcome to Country, **Genevieve Jacobs** who served as Emcee and **Justice Louise Taylor**

who provided an insightful Keynote speech. A heartfelt thank you goes to **Brianna Williams** of LJ Hooker Gungahlin for donating her services as auctioneer for the second year in a row, as well as all those who donated goods and services for the auction and raffles on the day.

Building on the Mercy Walk for Women, previously run in Boorowa NSW over many years, in June 2025 we launched the inaugural **2025 Karinya House Walk for Hope**. The launch event, held at Leyla Bar in the Burbury Hotel, was an opportunity to celebrate a new partnership with **DOMA Group** and to bring together a range of supporters and fundraising champions to build excitement and momentum as we moved towards the Walk for Hope event on 14 September 2025.

The **End of Year appeal** in June was generously supported by a significant number of donors who annually designate Karinya House as their charity of choice.

We thank everyone who supported.

“The W4W committees are a tangible representation of the depth of support that exists for the organisation across the Canberra community.”

Women4Women

Karinya House's Women4Women committees grew in number and strength — with three separate committees active across the year. These committees, comprised of a diverse range of women from across the community have brought significant support, insight and energy to our non-government fundraising efforts associated with the *Home.Hope.Horizon*. Charity luncheon, the Walk for Hope event and the associated charity appeals.

The collective wisdom of these groups has enriched our planning and we are very grateful for the contributions and commitment of all members who have attended across the year. With a range of professional and personal skills and experience, and a shared passion for contributing to the Karinya House mission, the W4W committees are a tangible representation of the depth of support that exists for the organisation across the Canberra community.

We also thank and acknowledge long-term friend of Karinya House, **Shelley Thomson** of Patient Experience Agency, who generously contributes her time to skilfully facilitate each session in a way that maximises impact for all involved.

Community Supporters

Karinya House is grateful for the continued generous in-kind support provided by a range of valued service partners. These contributions play a vital role in supporting women and their children as they navigate significant life transitions.

We are especially thankful for **Two Good Co**, who supplied *Women's Care Packs* throughout the year, offering comfort and dignity to women in our services, ongoing support from the wonderful **Zonta** community, and **Next Steps**, who generously provided *Mother and Children Linen Packs*, including sheets, pillows, towels, and other essential items. **Monarch Building Solutions** and **Harvey Norman** also continued their invaluable support through discounted goods and services, as well as donations of *nine whitegoods packages*, valued at **\$22,500**, for women moving into safe and secure housing.

We were also pleased to continue our long-standing partnership with **OzHarvest**, whose donations of food and grocery items were valued at **\$12,900**, and were used to prepare hampers for women in both our residential and outreach programs.

Our strong collaboration with **Roundabout Canberra** also remained a cornerstone of practical support. Across the year, this partnership enabled Karinya to provide more than **\$32,380** worth of clean, safe baby and children's items to women who are pregnant or parenting young children.

At a time when the cost of living continues to rise, these generous contributions are more critical than ever as they help ensure that women can access the essential goods they need, and ease financial pressure during an already challenging time in their lives.

We are continually heartened by the generous support of local schools, whose fundraising efforts and in-kind contributions reflect the compassion and community spirit of Canberra's young people. This year, we gratefully received donations from **St Clare's College**, **St Edmund's College**, and **St Francis Xavier College**, as well as a generous contribution of *Home Starter Packs* prepared by students from **Canberra Grammar School**. These contributions not only provide direct, practical support to women and children at Karinya House, but also send a powerful message of solidarity from the next generation. We extend our sincere thanks to the students, staff, and wider school communities for their thoughtful and impactful support.

Karinya House acknowledges the support of many wonderful community organisations. This year we received in-kind donations and financial support from several Rotary Clubs (particularly, **Aurora Gungahlin, Gungahlin, Belconnen, Yass, Murrumbidgee Canberra** and **Canberra Sunrise**), as well as the **Lions Club of Canberra – Belconnen**. We were also generously supported by the **Canberra City Band**, who made donations to Karinya House from the proceeds of two wonderful concerts head across the year.

Individual and family Karinya friends

We remain deeply grateful for every individual who makes up the **Karinya Village** — a network of generous supporters whose contributions help sustain our work. The support of individuals and families across the Canberra community is not only critical to our financial sustainability but also stands as a powerful symbol to the women we walk alongside: that they are seen, valued, and supported by their community.

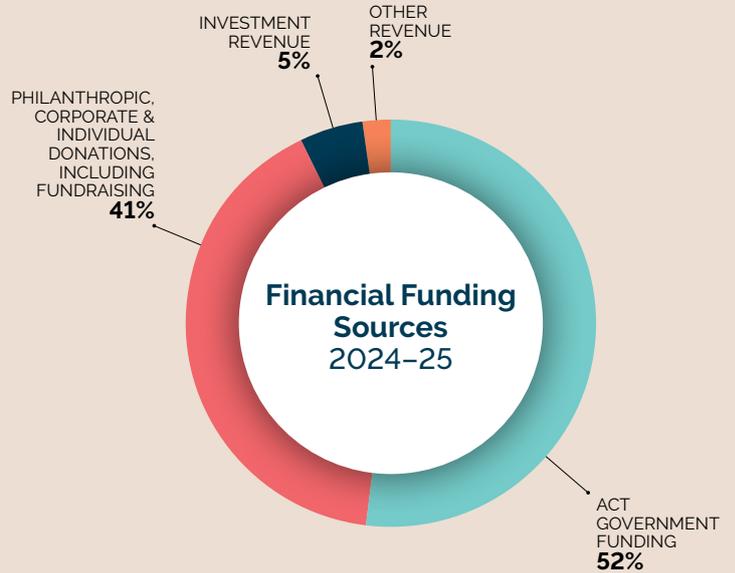
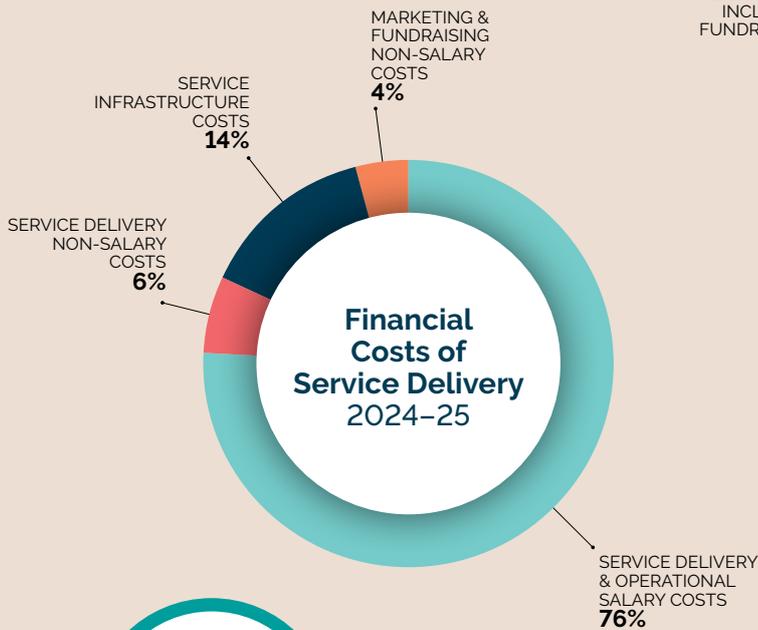
In 2024–25, **1,056 individuals and families** made financial donations to Karinya House, including many regular, recurring gifts. Together, these contributions totalled **\$630,061** — a remarkable testament to community generosity. This total includes **five significant individual donations** amounting to **\$397,891**, with special acknowledgement to:

- I The **Estate of Ann Osmand** which gifted **\$280,047** by bequest. Ann, and her husband Bill (also deceased) were long time friends and supporters of Karinya House, providing significant volunteer time also in the early years.
- I **Denis and Vee Saunders**, who made an inaugural donation of **\$82,915** in support of the salary for our **Maternal Wellbeing Coordinator** across the 2025–26 financial period.

As a local, community-based organisation, we are always humbled by the ongoing generosity of our supporters. every donation — large or small — which directly supports our work walking alongside women in crisis, providing care, dignity, and hope during a critical time in their lives. The collective impact of the community's belief in our work makes a profound difference in the lives of women and children across the region.

We are always looking to expand the Karinya Village. If you, or someone you know is looking to support an effective ethical organisation contributing to the Canberra region, please get in touch. We would love to have you as part of the community.

Financial Snapshot



average donation from corporate, philanthropic and community partners



estimated annual value of in-kind donations, from 122 corporate and community contributors



average donation per individual¹



individual donors contributed a total of \$630,061, which included five individuals who contributed a total of \$397,891 between them



separate corporate, community and philanthropic partners, contributing a total of \$593,265



estimated annual value of in-kind donations from 55 personal contributors

¹ Excludes individual donations and bequests over \$10,000.

Full Annual Financial Statements are available in the Karinya House Financial Report 2024-25, a separate publication available on our website.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING PARTNER



FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATE PARTNERS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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