Karinyahouse®

Annual Report
2025–26



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.*

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

Australian Capital Territory Associations Incorporation Act 1991

INCORPORATED ASSOC. REG. NUMBER
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PUBLIC OFFICER
Margaret O'Donovan

ACT REGISTERED CHARITY
Licence Number 19000250

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About Karinya House

For 29 years (as of September 2026), Karinya House 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.

Child Wellbeing Commitment

Karinya House takes the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people seriously, both within our organisation and within the broader community. We recognise that disrespect, abuse and trauma can have long-lasting impacts on the course of a child, or young person's life. As such Karinya House is committed to providing a child-safe and child-friendly environment for all children and young people who engage with Karinya House where their needs are met and they can thrive, whilst working with parents from a strengths-based, person-centered approach to service provision.

All children and young people have equal rights to protection from abuse. Karinya House has zero tolerance for child abuse. Everyone involved with Karinya House is responsible for the care and protection of the children and young people in contact with our service and reporting information about suspected child abuse.

Further information about our commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing is available on our website or via emailing: info@karinyahouse.asn.au



President's Report

As 2026 comes to a close, it has again been a successful year for Karinya House. This has been due to the close collaboration between our Community Partners, Local Business, ACT and Commonwealth Governments and our loyal Canberra supporters.

As we approach the 30th anniversary of Karinya House in 2027, I have been reflecting on the organisation's journey and impact it has had in the community. In 1992 as a mother of three small children with a good job, a good home, a supportive partner and parents close by, I realised it was still very hard work. The thought of parenting, without all this help, made me appreciate the strength and courage women show in doing this alone. News articles around that time highlighted the case of a young pregnant woman living in her car. In 1992, there were no specialised services available for pregnant and parenting women, in crisis, in Canberra. With the help of countless volunteers, advocates and Canberra businesses, Karinya House was opened in 1997 to meet this need. Our first premises was a three-bedroom government house with a small flat attached for overnight support.

Since this time, we have grown — thanks to our supporters — to a purpose-built facility housing 11 women and their children, always with 24-hour care. The length of stay can vary from 6 weeks to 12 months (or longer) depending on the individual woman's circumstances. As well as accommodation and personalised case work, "outreach services" are also an important part of our work. This provides practical help such as nappies, cots and clothes, as well as ongoing casework support.

From the beginning of this venture, it has been our aim to be grounded in the community. This allows us to provide flexible, wrap around supports to women — complementing our core funding from the ACT Government. For example, we now have two Maternal Health Coordinators, fully funded by our philanthropic supporters. This generosity has been shown in many other forms across the 2025–26 year, including the successful Home. Hope. Horizon. Luncheon in May 2026, and the inaugural Canberra-based Walk for Hope in September 2025. The community also shows up in small but significant ways every day at Karinya House, from quilting groups providing women with beautiful baby blankets, school groups raising funds at movie nights, through to corporate donors generously packaging and donating presents for women, children and babies at Christmas.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the wonderful work of the Karinya House staff, led by CEO Lavinia Tyrrel. The service we deliver would not be possible without our frontline staff and volunteers — thank you so much for the outstanding work you do every day.

The Committee and the Executive Team at Karinya House are always looking for ways to better serve the needs of pregnant women and their babies and to raise awareness of this unique Canberra service. As we look forward to 2027, we are enthused to be commencing our new Strategic Plan, and the opportunities this affords us to extend our service, care and support to more women in the community before and after pregnancy.

Margaret O'Donovan
PRESIDENT

"From the beginning of this venture, it has been our aim to be grounded in the community. This allows us to provide flexible, wrap around supports to women."

Voices of Women

Over the last 12 months, women who were at the end of their current journey with Karinya House have been invited to meet with our Services Director — Policy & Research to share their thoughts on their Karinya journey. These interactive discussions are an opportunity for women to reflect on their journey, express what aspects of the Karinya support they found most helpful and share their ideas for any areas we can improve on.

Across these discussions women consistently reflected on the value of the connection they were able to develop with their caseworker, the sense of not feeling judged or rushed and the small acts of kindness, as things that made them feel valued and seen, which in turn helped them to develop a sense of belief in themselves.

"The consistent care and contact. The regular phone calls and messages were really good."

"I never felt judged or felt I had to have it all together."

"Karinya was not like other services. I never felt judged. When I first made contact I felt horrible in myself and I expected to be judged, for the situation I got myself into and I never felt that. Everyone was so supportive."

"No-one ever gave up on me."

Women also regularly commented on the impact that practical support has, whether that be hands on support with parenting, life skills, or material and financial support.

"Helping me with practical things, especially when I first came home from hospital."

"Staff taking bub when I had been awake all night so I could get some rest and be present for him."

"There is more hands on support at Karinya compared to other services."

"Things like helping with school enrolment was really helpful. I am not very good at working out IT or systems and my caseworker really helped me."

"Having people come to appointments with me was very helpful."

"Teaching me life skills. I even enjoy cleaning now!"

Under the leadership of the Co-Services Directors, the Karinya House care team periodically come together to reflect on the feedback from women, using the Karinya House Praxis Framework. This Framework provides an opportunity to critically reflect on the voices of women, practitioner wisdoms and experiences, theory and research to challenge and improve service delivery so that an ethic of care remains central to the work of Karinya House.



CEO's Report

Over the 2025–26 period we have walked alongside 141 women and their 171 babies and children. During this time, the Karinya House support team provided 4754 nights of a safe place to sleep, and an average of 167 days of direct casework support for women across the services (in residence and in outreach).

The past year saw a steady number of women referring to Karinya House, with most women experiencing multiple forms of disadvantage and vulnerability. Common needs include safety, financial distress, homelessness, social isolation and disempowerment. Increasingly we are also seeing women struggle to access appropriate acute and long-term mental health supports; with many women foregoing support due to a lack of appropriate services. Mental health challenges in the perinatal period can also be increased by, and a consequence of, domestic and family violence, financial distress and an inability to access safe, long-term housing.

Despite these challenges, women continue to make remarkable strides towards their goals, during and after their time with Karinya House. We have been humbled to see women move into their own houses, undertake study, return to work, celebrate children finishing preschool, build the confidence to attend local community events and attend milestone birthdays. 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.

June 2025 also saw the finalisation of the new Karinya House Strategic Plan, which will guide our work for the five-year period to 2030. This plan was developed in consultation with Karinya House volunteers, staff, Committee members, sector partners (Government and community) as well as women in the service. The plan outlines five focus areas: excellence in service delivery that meets the needs of women and their children; creating housing pathways that empower women; using research and data to enhance women's journeys; equipping and supporting a compassionate workforce, and; securing and growing resources to support women's futures. All priorities centre on supporting long-term positive outcomes for women who are pregnant or parenting newborn babies.

As detailed in the Treasurer's report, Karinya House's financial position for 2025–26 was very positive; with an unexpected surplus of $798,453 above budgeted surplus. This outcome was a result of increased financial support from individual donors, a new multi-year partnership with Future Generations Australia, community and corporate contributions through events, and investment fund returns.

Support from the ACT Government Community Services Directorate also continues to provide welcome and core funding to our service, providing the Association with certainty of medium-term funding to ensure its wrap around services can be extended to any woman and her infant who seeks our support. All additional funding is invested directly back into improving the quality and reach of Karinya House's services, including allowing the Association to enter into new partnerships (see below) that mean we can meet more demand in the community. We thank the ACT region for their support to Karinya House, and the incredible opportunity this offers us to ensure that every woman and her infant who refer to Karinya House can be supported.

2025–26 has also seen Karinya House continue to have a highly-skilled and compassionate front-line delivery team, enabling us to walk alongside women every day and night of the year. We continue investment in retaining our incredible cohort of Care team members — from specialised casework training to better support women, through to Employer Paid Parental Leave (top up) and additional Superannuation

"We have been humbled to see women move into their own houses, undertake study, return to work, celebrate children finishing preschool, build the confidence to attend local community events and attend milestone birthdays."

contributions. Karinya House has also continued to represent and positively inform maternity care reforms through the Maternity in Focus Advisory Group, as well as the First 1000 days coalition and Perinatal Mental Health Alliance.

Our research and learning workstream have enhanced our casework practices this last year, through the development of the Karinya House Reflexive Praxis Framework. This provides a framework for bringing together research, theory, data, feedback from women and caseworkers to engage in critical reflexivity to better support women. These activities are a key mechanism by which we can centre our work, at all levels of the organisation, on the needs of women and their children in the service.

Looking forward, in 2026–27 our focus is on implementing the new Karinya House Strategic Plan 2026–2030. Central to this will be the successful delivery of services at our existing premises and outreach, as well as exploring opportunities to support women to access new medium-term housing. This will be enabled by our incredible and motivated team of staff and volunteers, as well as continued efforts to diversify the organisation's funding base and incorporate evidence and learning into our daily casework practice.

While the scale of social and economic challenges affecting women in our community at present can be overwhelming at times, we continue to find inspiration in the achievements made by women and through their journey at Karinya House. From learning to drive, through to becoming a more confident and empowered woman and mother — we are humbled to be a part of women's journeys in all their forms. In concluding, I leave you with these two reflections. The first is from one of the women we have been privileged to walk alongside this past year.

> *"Everything in my life has changed since I first made contact with Karinya. I now have my independence, my own money, my own safe place to live, and most importantly I have my baby, I have so much, my life is my own now."*

The second are remarks made by Senator the Hon. David Pocock regarding the significance of Karinya House's services to the ACT region.

> *"[Karinya House] are one of those extraordinary organisations that meet people where they're at,"* he says. *"They provide a really unique support and service for women who are at their most vulnerable point — pregnant, with a new baby, and facing homelessness or family domestic violence, whatever it might be."* Most of all, he says, *"Karinya House offers something every woman deserves at the beginning of a child's life. There's no judgement. It's just pure love and support, and really doing everything they can to help women who clearly are going through a really tough time."*

Lavinia Tyrrel
CEO



Treasurer's Report

Before I begin my report, this being my first year as Treasurer, I would like to recognise the contribution to Karinya House of my predecessor John Lewis, who held the role of Treasurer for five years. John's professionalism, enthusiasm and expertise in business management has been invaluable to the Committee, particularly in relation to overseeing the finances, but also to the general ongoing success of Karinya House. John remains on the Karinya House Committee continuing to provide his business acumen and support.

I am thankful to report Karinya House has achieved a surplus of $857,198 which has exceeded our budgeted surplus by $798,453. This has supported strong investment in the 2026–27 budget and planning for the forward budgets.

A substantial portion of the 2025–26 surplus was due to the generosity of individual donors, corporate funding partnerships, philanthropic grants and major fundraising event revenues. This support plays a major role in ensuring that Karinya House can both continue, and more importantly, enhance and develop the services we provide to women and their babies and to remain financially secure.

The engagement of our community in the provision of financial support for Karinya House services is and has always been a key part of our funding framework. Most importantly, financial support from the community is a tangible expression of recognition and respect for the women we are privileged to walk alongside through Karinya House.

Donations and fundraising revenue exceeded our budget by approximately $284,000. This reflects the fact that Karinya House's mission and messaging is being more widely recognised in the community — by individuals, corporates and funding organisations from the Canberra region. We would like to thank all our individual, community and corporate donors and partners for their generosity and support.

Generating substantial non-government funding is a key ingredient in enabling the ongoing viability of Karinya House. Our success in recent years has been in no small part due to the decision to invest in dedicated part-time engagement of specifically qualified team members in non-government funding development. We thank this team for their tireless work.

A major funding contributor in 2025–26 was our success in winning a four-year grant from Future Generations Australia — this was achieved through a national, highly competitive process. Future Generation Australia (FGX) supports children facing adversity to defy the odds and thrive, in partnership with 11 exceptional non-profits that promote resilience and healthy relationships in vulnerable children. Karinya House received the first of four annual donations of $342,829 from FGX in November 2025, and is honoured to be one of the 11 organisations selected from 329 expressions of interest across the nation. This funding is supporting five key pillars — delivering service excellence that meets the needs of women (and their children); creating housing pathways that empower women; using research and data to enhance women's journeys; equipping and supporting a compassionate high-quality workforce; and securing and growing resources to support women's futures. Areas of this work will also be supported by co-funding from existing philanthropic partners, recognising the significance of this development opportunity for Karinya House.

The two key fundraising events organised successfully by Karinya House in 2025–26 were the Walk for Hope, held in September 2025, and the third

"Most importantly, financial support from the community is a tangible expression of recognition and respect for the women we are privileged to walk alongside through Karinya House."

year of the Home. Hope. Horizon. Charity Luncheon, held in May 2026. The Walk for Hope generated gross revenue of $212,000, massively exceeding the budget for the event of $100,000. The Charity Luncheon generated gross revenue of $185,000. The net contribution to operating costs from both events was a total of $324,000. We thank our event partners and sponsors and the Karinya House team and volunteers for their dedication to make these events a community success.

Karinya House remains thankful for the recurrent financial support of the ACT Government, through the ACT Health and Community Services Directorate, which amounted to $1,993,591 over the 2025–26 financial year.

The investment strategy mentioned in last year's report, continues to show value and, despite a difficult year on local and overseas markets, investment earnings from funds under management were $130,003, approximately $30,000 over budget, with the investment portfolio at the end of the financial year valued at $2.9m. We thank Shaw and Partners for their support, professionalism and quality of advice in ensuring we get the best possible results in applying our investment strategy in what was a period of great uncertainty in investment markets.

Karinya House staff are professional and dedicated to their roles. They are the key to the success of Karinya House in supporting women and babies. Maintaining full staffing has been a challenge for many years, with strong competition in the community sector itself, as well as more highly attractive remuneration packages available in both the federal and local public service arenas. The financial framework which Karinya has continued to develop is now able to be utilised to support investment decisions to be made in the retention and recruitment of staff, and these decisions as determined and approved by the Karinya Committee, have been further strengthened in 2025–26.

The Karinya House Strategic Plan has a goal of growing our net equity position, ensuring the ongoing viability of Karinya House and providing the capacity to maintain and improve the level of servicing we provide. This year we have seen our net equity grow from approximately $2.9m to a very strong $3.8m. This net equity position lays a sound platform for Karinya House being able to continue to deliver a high level of service to women who are pregnant or parenting a baby.

I would like to express our appreciation and acknowledge the partnership and pro bono services of a number of organisations in providing support for Karinya House's financial and operational management:

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

As this was my first year in the role of Treasurer, I would like to thank the Karinya House team, in particular the finance, administration and fundraising team, as well as the Committee for their support and encouragement.

In closing, I would like to thank the supporters and sponsors of Karinya House, my fellow committee members, the Karinya House staff, and the volunteers who have all made a valuable contribution to the continued success of Karinya House in the past year supporting the women with whom we walk.

Tony Greenwell
TREASURER

CASE STUDY



"Almost immediately it was evident to Karinya House caseworkers that there was immense love and attachment between Meg and her children. Meg, however, identified that at times she struggled to manage her own mental health, while meeting her children's needs, and was keen to work on this with caseworkers."

Meg

Meg had been living in an overcrowded house with extended family, with her 2 year old, and 6 week old when she moved into Karinya House. Prior to this Meg had been living in a private rental with her partner, however when the relationship broke down Meg was no longer able to afford the rent on her own.

When Karinya first met Meg, she had identified that she had been diagnosed ADHD and complex-post traumatic stress disorder in her early teens, but had never been able to access long term therapeutic support, due to long wait times for public mental health services and the unaffordability of private providers. Almost immediately it was evident to Karinya House caseworkers that there was immense love and attachment between Meg and her children. Meg, however, identified that at times she struggled to manage her own mental health, while meeting her children's needs, and was keen to work on this with caseworkers.

Karinya House caseworkers, Maternal Wellbeing Coordinator, and Meg collaboratively developed a comprehensive care plan to support Meg. This included the Maternal Wellbeing Coordinator adjusting her work hours to help Meg develop an evening rhythm. Meg's caseworker arranged two days of childcare for Meg's older child and worked with Meg to develop a weekly budget, menu plan and shopping list. Megs' caseworker was also able to advocate on behalf of Meg, so she could access comprehensive mental health support.

Meg worked hard at achieving her goals, however the abuse her ex-partner directed to Meg via social media, text messages and mutual friends started to have a significant impact on what she was able to achieve, as well as causing her mental health to deteriorate. Caseworkers supported Meg to access legal advice and further counselling.

Over the following months Meg and her children thrived at Karinya, which continued when they moved into their own Housing ACT property.

Service Delivery Statistics

Of the women supported by Karinya House in 2025–26:[1]

13% *identified themselves as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.*

26% *of women disclosed current or recent issues related to substance use.*

45% *of women referred themselves to Karinya House.*

56% *were pregnant at the time of referral.*

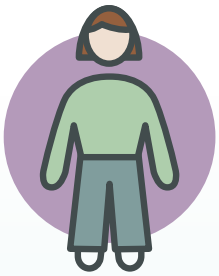
63% *of women were experiencing a period of homelessness*[2] *upon referral.*

18% *spoke a language other than English as their main language.*

37% *of women had a formal mental health diagnosis.*

60% *of women disclosed experiences of family trauma.*

85% *identified past experience of family trauma.*



*The **age range of women supported by Karinya House was from 17–44 years old**, with the average being 28 years old.*

Voices of Women

"Over the years, we have been through many ups and downs, and so many of you have known us, supported us (and still continue supporting us), encouraged us and cared for us along the way. Your kindness meant more to us than I can ever properly express. Looking back now, I realise that it wasn't only the big moments that stayed with me. It was the acts of kindness, the smiles, the encouragement, the understanding, and the feeling that we were not alone. Those memories will always have a special place in our heart."

1 These statistics include women with a support period that ended in the 2025–26 financial year. These statistics also reflect Karinya House's transition to an updated methodology for categorising, collecting and analysing its service data. Therefore, some information may look different to previous years.

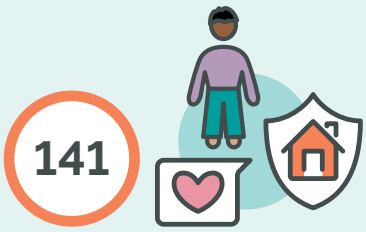
2 Karinya House understands that definitions of what it is to be homeless are deeply political with the definitions both constraining and dictating the response of government and at times non-government organisations.

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'.

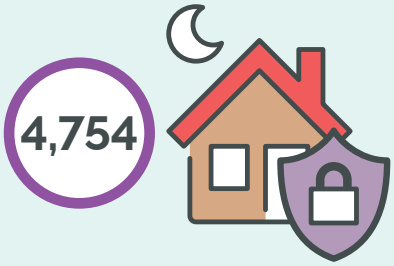
Voices of Women

"Karinya House has been the watering can to my garden."

Impact Statistics



***141 women** received casework services during 2025–26.[1]*



***4,754 nights of somewhere safe to sleep** was provided to women and their children across 2025–26.*



***27 babies were born during 2025–26** during the time their mother was engaged with Karinya.*

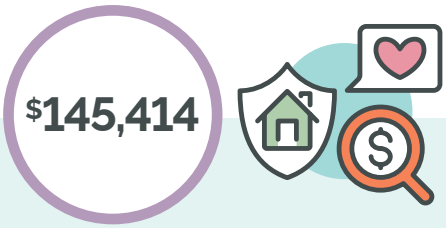


***The average number of residential days spent at** Karinya House across the 2025–26 financial period was 120, which represents a decrease since the previous reporting period. The reasons for this include: the quicker allocation of Housing ACT properties for women (enabling women to move out of Karinya House in a timely fashion); ongoing challenges relating to women accessing appropriate mental health support (resulting in women waiting or needing to be referred to specialist support services outside Karinya House), as well as the refurbishment of Karinya House properties.[2]*

***The average length of casework support period** of all women supported by Karinya House (including outreach services) was **167 days** (which remains steady when compared to the previous financial year).[3]*



***19 women** accessed the Karinya House Women's Independence Fund Grant, to a total value of $9,500.*



***$145,414 — 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:*

- ***$45,005** baby and children's goods*
- ***$51,426** living expenses (food, transport, women's goods)*
- ***$8,996** medical*
- ***$21,040** gifts*
- ***$8,153** rent reduction*
- ***$10,794** other.*



***26 unique women, and 29 children and babies were accommodated** at Karinya House during 2025–26.*

Voices of Women

"I made a mistake moving out of Karinya and I thought I had burnt my bridges, but my caseworker told me I had 127,000 bridges to burn – I know that bit was a joke, but I feel like she really meant Karinya would never leave me."

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.

The following Outcomes Star data compares a woman's earliest star in the FY 2025–26 with her latest star in the same time period. A woman's support period may have started before this, and/or ended outside of this time period, so the data does not necessarily reflect a woman's full journey with Karinya.

Outcomes Star data reveals that across the FY 2025–26 period:



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

97% ***of women made progress in at least one outcome area[3] during the period of receiving support from Karinya House in 2025–26.***

88% ***of women made progress in at least 2 areas and 78% made progress in at least three outcome areas during the period of receiving support from Karinya House.***

75% ***of women reported having made progress in ensuring they have suitable accommodation, including being able to manage their tenancy and look after their home.***



***171 children, including babies** were in contact with Karinya House via their mother. This included 43 babies, 48 toddlers, 33 preschoolers and 48 primary aged children.*

72% ***of women reporting having made progress in their ability to access correct income support payments, dealing with debt, managing a bank account, paying bills and budgeting.***

63% ***of women reported that their social support networks had been strengthened.***



***6 women** had wills prepared by Farrar Gesini Dunn, a corporate supporter of Karinya House, free of charge.*

1 This is across 193 unique support periods.

2 Given that it was the organisations' 9th year of operating out of its current premises, women's accommodation was in need of patching, maintenance and refurbishment. After a woman moved out, we took the opportunity to refresh bedrooms, living areas, kitchens and bathrooms. Women regularly advise us that having a clean, new, dignified and well maintained place to live is a critical part of their journey — and ability to achieve their goals — with Karinya House. It is for this reason that the organisation places value on ensuring women's accommodation is maintained to a high standard.

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

Year in Review

As of September 2026, Karinya House has been operating for 29 years, supporting more than 2,936 women across the region.

Across 2025–26, Karinya House's practice of women-led service delivery, grounded in an ethic of care and respect, has continued to guide our casework approach. We remain humbled by the changes many women make, from challenging circumstances, to chart a positive path forward for themselves and their babies and children.

The last year has seen us continue to evolve the service, drawing on research-informed practice and feedback from the women we walk alongside. This has ensured we continue to preserve our unique practice model, whilst adapting to the changing needs of women and the community services sector.

Services Summary

With the crucial support of the ACT Government and a broad network of philanthropic, individual, community and corporate supporters, Karinya House provided care and assistance to **141 women and 171 babies and children, whose mother was engaged with Karinya**.

Over 2025–26, **26 women and 29 children**, including babies, were accommodated at Karinya House and **27 babies were born** during this period to women who were actively supported by our team at the time of their birth.

The average number of residential days spent at Karinya House across the 2025–26 financial period **was 120**, which represents a decrease since the previous reporting period. The reasons for this include: the ongoing effective allocation of Housing ACT properties for women (enabling women to move in a timely fashion out of Karinya House); women moving in and out of Karinya House to access specialist services elsewhere (such as acute mental health services), as well as the refurbishment of Karinya House properties.[1] This refurbishment has breathed new life into the residences, allowing us to continue to provide a warm, welcoming, and safe environment for women and their children. This refurbishment was generously enabled by several partners who provided pro bono or discounted services.

As per previous years, we have continued to see women refer to Karinya House who are being impacted by **complex and intersecting inequities**. For example; homelessness as a result of domestic and family violence, compounded by financial distress due to the rising costs of living and an inability therefore to access health care for themselves and their infants. This continues to be reflected in consistent referral numbers to Karinya House and ongoing demand for our residential service.

In 2025–26 we have seen a particular increase in the number of women being unable to access appropriate long term, affordable therapeutic support to navigate how their experiences of inequities are impacting on their **mental health**. Whilst we know that over one in five women[2] will experience perinatal depression or anxiety in their lifetime, and that this is higher for women who have experienced past trauma and/or other forms of vulnerability (such as domestic and family violence, homelessness and financial stress) — there remain significant gaps in the mental health support system for women and their infants. Unsupported mental health challenges have significant impacts

1 Given that it was the organisations' 9th year of operating out of its current premises, women's accommodation was in need of patching, maintenance and refurbishment. After a woman moved out, we took the opportunity to refresh bedrooms, living areas, kitchens and bathrooms. Women regularly advise us that having a clean, new, dignified and well maintained place to live is a critical part of their journey — and ability to achieve their goals — with Karinya House. It is for this reason that the organisation places value on ensuring women's accommodation is maintained to a high standard.

2 PwC Consulting Australia, 2019, "The Cost of Perinatal Depression and Anxiety in Australia", Available at: www.perinatalwellbeingcentre.org.au

for women and can have long-term impacts on her infants.[3] This can extend from increased risk of health complications before and after birth, developmental impacts for infants, through to homelessness and financial distress.

We have observed, through the experiences of other services in the community, that women are often unable to access acute psychiatric care, discharged from acute care without sufficient community based support, or their support with a community provider has ended because of their child's age. Notwithstanding the incredible support of Karinya House's specialist mental health partners, the flow-on effects of gaps in care have had impacts at an organisational level. For example; where women are no longer eligible for mental health support due to the age of their child, Karinya House has supported and paid for women to access private mental health services.

However, we also know that when women receive early and ongoing specialist mental health support services (alongside wrap around casework support) — that outcomes for themselves and their children can rapidly improve. Karinya House continues to work with partners to advocate for a more holistic, well funded and resourced mental health care system that prioritises the needs of women and their babies. Further details about our policy engagement and advocacy work can be found later in this report.

Throughout the year, Karinya House continued to provide **practical and material assistance** to women and families across our residential and outreach programs. A particular highlight for 2025–26 was the ongoing implementation of our **Women's Independence Fund**, supported by the Canberra Mothercraft Society. This fund has provided women with access to financial assistance for key supports such as education, transport and essential items. This flexible support continued to enable women to address practical barriers, pursue their goals and take meaningful steps towards greater independence, confidence and stability for themselves and their children.

At the heart of Karinya House's work this year has been our commitment to high-quality, **relational casework** that places women at the centre of their own journeys. Women continue to tell us that the strength of the Karinya House practice model lies in the trusted relationships we build with them, and in the time, consistency and space we provide for women to identify their goals and take meaningful steps towards them. We are deeply grateful to every woman we have had the privilege of walking alongside this year. We recognise the strength, courage and commitment it takes to engage in casework and to work towards positive change, often in the face of significant challenges.

Sector Engagement

Karinya House remains committed to contributing to a **service system** that better meets the needs of women and their infants in the ACT. We do this through direct representation to key stakeholders (including Members of the Legislative Assembly, engagement and membership of key coalitions and forums, and collaboration with operational leads in areas such as child youth and families, housing and homelessness, and maternity care.

Highlights from 2025–26 include Karinya House's ongoing membership, and Co-Chairing of, the Maternity in Focus Advisory group. This group consists of front-line workers, advocates and lived experience representatives who work alongside and advise the ACT Government on its plans to improve maternity care in the ACT. Karinya House was also invited to join the Perinatal Mental Health Alliance Steering Committee, and is an active member of ACTCOSS, the Families First Forum, and the National Pregnancy and Homelessness Alliance.

As in years past, Karinya House also maintained strong referral pathways with a range of key service partners — particularly those specialising in perinatal wellbeing, specialist psycho-social supports for women before and after pregnancy, financial services, domestic and family violence, women's legal support, education and training, and housing services.

3 AIHW, 2024, "Perinatal Mental Health Screening in Australia". Available at: www.aihw.gov.au/reports






Focus on Wrap Around Care

Last financial year, Karinya House welcomed an additional **Maternal Wellbeing Coordinator** with the generous support of philanthropic partners. This much welcomed addition to our team meant that we saw many residents, and some outreach women, thrive with one-on-one support to enhance and strengthen their parenting and life skills.

There have been many socio-educational sessions run by the two Maternal Wellbeing Coordinators which have provided a safe and nurturing outlet for women who may otherwise be isolated. We have seen a significant increase in interest from our women to participate in these sessions, sometimes coffee, sometimes craft and sometimes education sessions such as cooking a meal together. It has been fulfilling and encouraging to hear laughter and collaboration coming out of these sessions.

Karinya House had also been given the opportunity to have three staff members trained to facilitate the *Bringing Up Great Kids* program. This further enhances the caseworker's knowledge and understanding of parenting needs and encourages new mums to consider other supports or pathways for their parenting. Along with caseworkers who are trained to facilitate Circles of Security and Parents As Teachers our casework team are skilfully trained to cover a wide range of topics whilst giving a holistic approach to pregnancy and early parenting support.

A recurring theme since we began Karinya almost 30 years ago, has been that we have an 'any door is the right door policy'. We pride ourselves on having a continuity of care for returning clients for whom life may have hit a hurdle, or who want a friendly chat. Below is a quote from a woman with a now six year old, who was requiring some extra support, and who we were so pleased to hear from and help.

> *It has been such a long time and I found myself feeling this connection to Karinya in a way I can't quite explain. Somehow it feels like coming home. We had all emotions and the beautiful memories from our time there. My child's birthday is coming soon, I couldn't help but remember her very first birthday at Karinya. I still remember how special that day was and how much love, care and support surrounded us. What could have been just another birthday became a precious memory because of all of you! Over the years, we have been through many ups and downs, and so many of you have known us, supported us (and still continue supporting us), encouraged us and cared for us along the way. Your kindness meant more to us than I can ever properly express. Looking back now, I realise that it wasn't only the big moments that stayed with me. It was the acts of kindness, the smiles, the encouragement, the understanding, and the feeling that we were not alone. I simply want to reach out and share a little love and gratitude with Karinya team. Thank you for being part of our journey and care, support you gave us when we needed it most. We may have moved on from Karinya, but the memories and kindness we received will always stay with us and we are beyond grateful. We hope that everyone on the Karinya team is blessed with endless love, good health, happiness and beautiful moments.*









Learning and Reflexivity

The 2025–26 year saw Karinya House make important strides in advancing its learning, reflection and research agenda, to better be able to demonstrate why the Karinya Practice Model makes a difference in the lives of women and their children. A key focus across all initiatives has been listening to, understanding and then integrating women's lived experience into the day-to-day practice of care and casework at Karinya House. With support from **Future Generation Australia**, Karinya House revised and implemented an interactive discussion guide — which engages women at the end of their support period and then again at 12-month intervals going forward. The discussion guide is aligned to the Empowerment Outcomes Star framework and has provided rich insights into where women's journeys have taken them after Karinya House, as well as which aspects of the service mattered most to them at Karinya House. Key emergent themes have included: the importance of care and compassion; having regular contact with staff; not having pre-determined time limits on support; non-judgement; an understanding of the complexity of women's lives and the limited options from which they have to make choices; practical support; encouragement, and; the sense that staff believe in women.

The end of 2025–26 also saw Karinya House develop a **Reflexive Praxis Framework**. The Framework provides an opportunity for caseworkers to regularly come together to critically reflect on the voices of women, their own practitioner wisdoms, and dilemmas, along with current research and theoretical perspectives to challenge and improve service delivery so that an ethic of care remains central to the work of Karinya House. These critical reflections are focused on taking action to ensure that we are not unwittingly perpetuating the inequalities that so often shape women's experiences.

Work has also been ongoing, with significant thanks to a pro bono partner, to establish a new purpose-built **client database** specific to Karinya House. This database will bring together our different datasets to better inform casework and reporting. The database was undergoing testing in late 2025–26, with a view to it being operational in the coming financial year.

Care and Protection Standards

The 2025–26 year also confirmed Karinya House was compliant with the new ACT Children and Young People (**Care and Protection Organisation**) Standards 2025 (CaPO Standards), which came into effect on 24 October 2025. This confirmation reflects Karinya House's commitment to providing a child-safe and child-friendly environment for all children and young people who engage with Karinya House where their needs are met and they are thriving, whilst working with parents from a strengths-based, person-centered approach to service provision.

Reconciliation Action Plan

The last 12 months, saw Karinya House, complete our second **Reconciliation Action Plan** (RAP), Our Innovate RAP has focused on actively valuing and recognising the leadership and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within our organisation's structure and practice framework.

The Karinya Village — Patron & Committee

The Committee

Karinya House would like to thank Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC for her patronage, which commenced on 30 October 2024.



Margaret O'Donovan
PRESIDENT & PUBLIC OFFICER

Esther Bogaart
VICE-PRESIDENT

Tony Greenwell
TREASURER

Claire Bermingham
SECRETARY

Kathleen Buckley
COMMITTEE MEMBER
(Appointed 17 February 2026)

Judy Cole
COMMITTEE MEMBER
(Appointed 29 April 2026)

Marie-Louise Corkhill
COMMITTEE MEMBER

Tom Corkhill
COMMITTEE MEMBER
(Appointed 29 April 2026)

Joanne Farrell
COMMITTEE MEMBER
(Appointed 17 February 2026)

Sehida Frawley
COMMITTEE MEMBER

John Lewis
COMMITTEE MEMBER



The Karinya House AGM was held on Tuesday 25 November 2025.

The Committee held six Committee meetings (in person or virtually) throughout 2025–26 as well as a full Strategic Planning Day on 29 April 2026 to reflect on the new 2026–2030 Karinya House Strategic Plan and the accompanying annual implementation plan.

The Karinya Village — Our People

Our Dedicated Staff

Karinya House is a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week and 365 day of the year service. We are available to women at any time of day or night when they may need our support. This is made possible by our committed team of staff and volunteers who provides women-led, on-site support to women and their children we walk alongside. All team members work on a part-time arrangement, to support wellbeing and manage fatigue, amounting to the equivalent of 18.08 full-time positions (FTE). In 2025–26 this equated to an astounding **35,852 hours of direct service** for women and children in our care.

This dedication of **time and care** by the Karinya House team is especially pronounced in a year where social and economic challenges continue to rise for women in our community — not least mental health, family and domestic violence and continued housing insecurity. Notwithstanding these challenges, the Karinya House team walk alongside women — through every up and down — to ensure that her, and her infant's needs, are met. We also see this dedication reflected in the incredible volunteer time and in-kind contributions which this team has made to the organisation over the past year.

Over the last 12 months the **Karinya House Training and Development Framework** has also been reviewed and updated. The Framework aims to ensure our team have the necessary theoretical understandings, skills and experiences to continue to embed **trauma transformative practice**. Flowing from the Framework our staff have embraced a range of training and development opportunities, from individual external supervision, reflexive praxis workshops, to increasing the team's cultural competency with workshops with Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services, to a spotlight on increasing our understanding of First Nations cultures and histories, as part of monthly all staff team meetings. Our training and development plan also includes important practical skills such as KidsSafe car seat training, First Aid, broader work, health and safety and IT matters.









Voices of Women

"Thank you for the pram and the clothes! I love it. The quality is amazing. I'm so thankful for everything I've gotten and been helped with always."

Our Committed Volunteers

Karinya House operates with the support of an incredible and dedicated team of volunteers. Karinya House volunteers are an integral part of our team, providing essential support to woman across many areas — including gardening, caring for children, transporting women to appointments, delivering essential baby and home goods to women and supporting our fundraising events. A number of volunteers are longstanding, having served with Karinya House for over 10–15 years, whereas others are newer to the team, bringing with them enthusiasm and different skills.

Of note, in 2025–26 Karinya House celebrated remarkable milestones for two dedicated volunteers:

- **Vicki Sawyer** — Volunteer 15 years
- **Alana Thorne** — Volunteer 10 Years

We thank Vicki and Alana for their tireless care and service to Karinya House and the women and infants we walk alongside.

Karinya House is also fortunate to have a number of professionals and businesses who provide pro bono or low bono services to Karinya House in areas of strategy, governance and operations. This support not only gives Karinya House access to high-quality professional services, but also allows the organisation to free up funds and time for core service delivery operations with women. We thank these partners, and you can find financial value of these contributions reflected in the Financial and Partnerships sections of this report.

The Karinya House Women4Women Group also continued to operate across the 2025–26 year. This group is comprised of eminent women from across Canberra who volunteer their time, ideas, networks and resources to contribute to Karinya House non-government fundraising and strategic initiatives. We thank each of these women for their commitment, care and insights.

Karinya House is also grateful for the Karinya House Committee, who serve in an entirely voluntary capacity. In particular, we thank the members in office-bearer roles, whose responsibilities and time commitments are substantial. Their leadership and compassion for Karinya House's work is integral to the organisation's success and sustainability.

The presence of volunteers at Karinya House sends a powerful message to women who we walk alongside, showing them that the Canberra community believes in them, their agency and their journey. 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 Karinya House volunteers across 2025–26 to who have promoted an inclusive, rewarding and committed volunteer program.

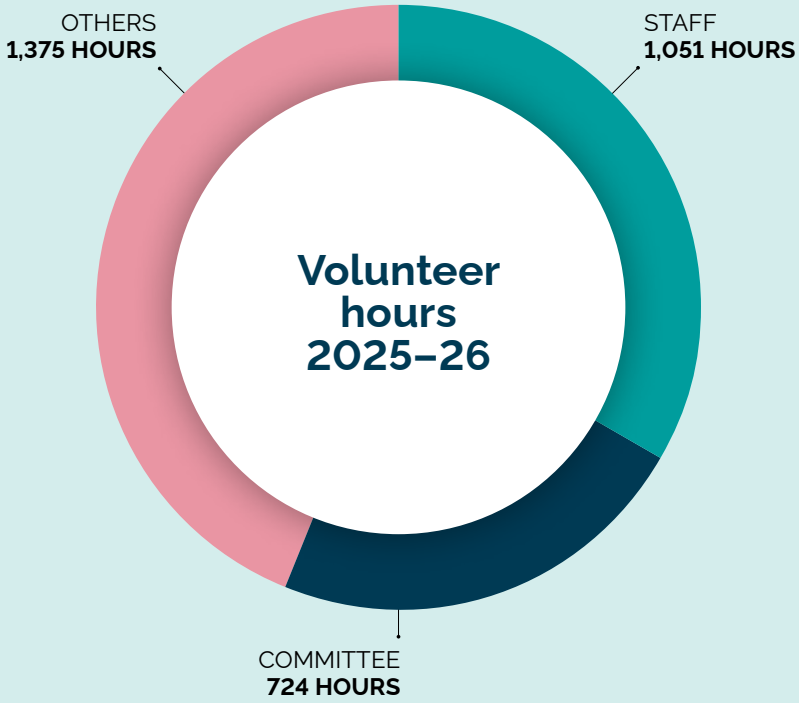





"I just wanted to reach out and say what an extraordinary event Friday's Home. Hope. Horizon. luncheon was, everything it needed to be and more. The venue, the food, the atmosphere in the room — it all came together beautifully… More than anything, the event felt like a genuine reflection of what Karinya House stands for — purposeful, human, and deeply connected to its community. You and the entire KH team should be immensely proud. Events like this don't happen without an enormous amount of behind-the-scenes dedication, and it showed in every detail on the day."
– feedback from a Karinya House supporter, May 2026

Hours provided

In 2025–26, **3,150 volunteer hours** were contributed by staff, Committee members and operational volunteers. When valued at a nominal rate[1] of $60 per hour, this reflects an incredible contribution of $189,000 to the organisation and women we walk alongside.



TOTAL HOURS

3,150	2025–26
2,944	2024–25

IF CHARGED AT A NOMINAL RATE OF $60 PER HOUR

$189,000	2025–26
$176,655	2024–25

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

Partnerships & Financial Management

Our Funding and Partnerships

The work of Karinya House is made possible through the generous and ongoing support of our **government, corporate, philanthropic and community partners**. Together with the generosity of individuals, families and community groups, this support enables us to continue providing services to women and their babies throughout the year.

During the 2025–26 financial year, Karinya House received **$1,661,737** in financial support from individuals and families, community groups, corporate and philanthropic organisations, and fundraising activities. A further **$201,240** in interest and investment income was generated from managed funds, reflecting our ongoing efforts to build financial reserves and support the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

Together, these sources provided **$1,862,977 in non-government** revenue for the year. This important contribution complemented the valued support of the **ACT Government**, which provided $1,993,591 through two long-term funding agreements.

The continued growth in non-government funding is an important part of maintaining the financial sustainability of Karinya House. It also provides essential support for the delivery of services that are flexible and responsive to the individual circumstances of each woman and her baby.

At Karinya House, we recognise that every woman's circumstances are different. Our services are therefore shaped around the needs of each woman, with a focus on providing practical, emotional and ongoing support where it is needed. The generosity of our non-government supporters helps make this individualised approach possible and allows us to continue responding to the changing and often complex needs of women in our community.

We are deeply grateful to all those who have supported Karinya House during the year. This support helps us continue our work with care, compassion and professionalism and ensures women and their infants can access the support they need when they need it.

Government and Sector Partners

We greatly value the ongoing support and partnership of the **ACT Government**, particularly the ACT Community Services Directorate. Throughout the year, we continued to work closely with ACT Child, Youth and Family Services in the delivery of the Mother and Baby Unit, as well as with Housing ACT to provide Specialist Homelessness Services to women who are pregnant or parenting babies.

Our partnership with the ACT Government also extends to several important relationships with key stakeholders across the sector. This includes the ACT Office for Women, and ACT Health, particularly through its Maternal and Child Branch, with whom we continue to work collaboratively to support positive outcomes for women and their babies.

During the year, Karinya House also strengthened its contribution to the ACT Government-led Maternity in Focus strategy. Our CEO continued in the role of Co-Chair of the Maternity in Focus Advisory Group and remained a member of the Perinatal Mental Health Reference Group. These opportunities enable Karinya House to contribute our experience and understanding of the needs of women and babies, while working alongside government and sector partners to strengthen maternity and perinatal services across the ACT.

Voices of Women

"Thank you so so much for everything — the support and love for me and my girl has been incredible."

Corporate and Business Partners, Trusts and Foundations

During the **2025–26 financial year**, partner donations provided **$1,506,794** in financial support from our **corporate, community, and philanthropic partners**, including project grants under contract.

Corporate sponsorships with the Karinya village also supported **$154,943** in fundraising revenue through the two Karinya major events held across 2025–26.

In addition to this, we received **in-kind contributions** valued at **$274,825**, reflecting the extraordinary generosity and practical support of our partners.

As a small organisation with **strong community connections**, Karinya House greatly values every contribution we receive. Whether through financial support, donations, or the provision of goods and services, each contribution helps us continue our work with women and babies across the region. The generosity of our supporters and non-government funding partners plays an important role in our ability to provide flexible, individualised services. This support helps create opportunities for women to experience greater safety, stability and wellbeing, while accessing practical assistance and support at a time when it is most needed.

We are sincerely grateful to all our partners and supporters for their generosity, trust and continued commitment to Karinya House. For a full list of our major supporters, please refer to the logo page on page 32.

Philanthropic Partners

We also recognise with gratitude the **philanthropic partners** who have continued to provide significant support to the organisation across the year. In the 2025–26 financial year funding from key philanthropic partners contributed to several key staff positions across the team. We recognise and appreciate, the long-standing annual support of the **Snow Foundation**, the **Calleo Indigenous Community Fund**, and the **James N Kirby Foundation**. This year was significant with the first donation from **Future Generation Australia** being received in November 2025, to support development projects in the 2026 calendar year. This competitive grant will be in place for four years. More detail is included in the Treasurer's Report on page 10.

We have also been grateful to receive philanthropic grant funding from the, **The Captain Harry Howden Bequest**, **Hands Across Canberra**, **The Helen Elizabeth Pagan Trust**, **The Tall Foundation**, **The Michaela Arnott Foundation**, the **Lidia Perin Foundation**, the **Centre of Social Impact** and the **Mercy Association for the Underprivileged**, who have each donated funds across a range of service delivery areas. 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

Karinya House continues to benefit from the generosity and commitment of a broad network of corporate and community partners. Long standing corporate partners, **Icon Water**, **Riverview Group**, **North Belconnen Community Association**, **Parbery**, **William Cole Funerals**, **SOLVit** and **Capital Chemist Group** continue to support the work of Karinya House with annual financial donations. Over 140 corporate and community organisations provided financial support, including recurring financial donations from **The Canberra Southern Cross Club**, **Shaw and Partners**, **Beyond Bank**, **CK Architecture**, **Successful Alliances**, **Solace Creations**, **Your City Physio – Margaret O'Donovan** and **Paddywack Promotional Products**. We were also grateful for the financial support of corporate partners provided through grant programs, including from the **Lendlease Foundation**, **Westfield**, and the **Canberra Mothercraft Society**. Many of our corporate partners also support the annual major fundraising events.

Voices of Women

"Just wanted to say thank you girls, each week has been better than the last, and I really appreciate the support and love you have all shown me. Thank you girls for believing in me."

This year we would also like to specially acknowledge the significant contribution of **SHAPE**'s Canberra-based team who donated $100,000 to Karinya House across the year following their highly successful corporate bowling and golf day fundraising events. We are so grateful for the support. We would particularly like to thank Wayne Rowe, Mark Mikolajczak and Jessie Braganza as well as the rest of the SHAPE team and their subcontractors who participated in the various events across the year.

Corporate partners make a key difference to fundraising events through event sponsorship. We are grateful to principal event partners **Parker Coles Curtis** and **DOMA Group**, for their significant financial contributions to the Home. Hope. Horizon. Charity Luncheon and the Walk for Hope, respectively. The contributions of all our generous event sponsors are included in more detail below.

During the 2025–26 year we also launched the **Bud of Hope** recurring donor program to grow a community of supporters providing regular contributions to Karinya House. As part of this campaign, we celebrated our long-term recurring donors and welcomed new supporters into the Karinya village. We remain deeply grateful for every donation, whether one-off or recurring, which directly strengthens the wrap-around support we provide to women.

We thank **Elect Printing**, **Deloitte**, **The Mark Agency**, **Missing Bits Production**, **papermonkey**, **Threesides Marketing**, **Region Media** and **Dak & Co** for generously contributing their time and expertise across printing, media, marketing, digital communications, videography and design to support Karinya's communication and fundraising endeavours. Primarily their support has helped us communicate the work of Karinya House and raise awareness and recognition of the experiences and needs of the women and babies we support.

Karinya benefits both financially, and in terms of governance and service delivery, through the provision of in-kind support in the form of professional expertise and practical assistance and donations of goods and services. Together, these contributions make a real difference to our ability to support women and their babies and to maintain the services and physical environment of the organisation.

A number of organisations provided valuable pro bono professional services throughout the year. We are particularly grateful to **Canberra Security Pty Ltd**, **XPG Security**, **Deloitte Digital**, **F1 Solutions**, **GRC Solutions**, **Jo Farrell/Build like a Girl** and **Monarch Building Solutions** for their continued support of our facilities, technology and ICT systems. This practical assistance strengthens our organisational capacity and helps us maintain the infrastructure needed to deliver our services.

We also continued to benefit from the generosity of professionals who shared their knowledge and expertise to inform key strategic processes and projects. **Shelley Thompson of Patient Experience Agency** and **Chris Nightingale of Ponda Consulting** generously contributed their expertise to the development of our new Strategic Plan. **Andrew Burr of The Westbourne Group** continued to assist with the development of Karinya Pathways, a bespoke client database designed around the specific needs of Karinya House and the women we support. We would also like to acknowledge Margie Sheedy of **Mindavation** for generously supporting the development of a new Communications Strategy. We look forward to working with Margie to develop and implement this work over the next reporting period.

Our Housing Pathways Strategic Priority was also supported through the generosity of representatives from **Strategic Development Group** and **The Riverview Group**, who provided valuable advice and insight, as well as financial support during the year. **Maddocks** and **Farrar Gesini Dunn** also continued to provide essential pro bono legal assistance to Karinya staff and to women accessing our services.

Health and wellbeing support remains another important area of partnership. We are especially grateful to **Dr Loc** and the team at **Braddon Dental**, who continued to provide dental treatment to women supported by Karinya House, either free of charge or at substantially reduced fees. This enables women experiencing complex and longstanding dental concerns

to access treatment that may otherwise be difficult to obtain and can have a significant impact on their health and wellbeing. In a similarly generous spirit, we acknowledge Michael and Brooke Gaukroger of **Harry's Auto Care** for their ongoing support providing free and heavily discounted motor vehicle repairs and maintenance to women supported by Karinya House.

The ongoing support of **Terry White Chemist Charnwood** also remains an important part of life in the Karinya Village. In addition to financial assistance through discounted services, their provision of vaccination clinics and health and medical supplies provides practical support that directly benefits the women and babies living within the Village.

The breadth of support received throughout the year reflects the strong connection between Karinya House and our wider community. While it is not possible to detail every contribution in this report, every act of generosity has helped us continue to provide women and their babies with care and support that is respectful, flexible and responsive to their individual circumstances.

We are sincerely thankful to all our corporate partners and supporters for the many ways they have stood alongside Karinya House and the women we walk with. Their generosity not only strengthens our organisation but is a powerful reminder of the compassion and care that exists within our community.

Karinya Events and Fundraising Appeals

In accordance with our Strategic Priority to secure and diversify our funding base to support women's futures, several key events and fundraising campaigns across the year helped to grow our non-government funding revenue and provided opportunities to extend the network of friends and supporters across the community.

The inaugural Walk for Hope event was held in September 2025. Building on the success of the Mercy Walk which had run for many years prior in NSW, the event was an incredible success — with over $188,000 (net event revenue) raised and more than 500 people attending on the day. We acknowledge the generosity of the Major Sponsor, **DOMA Group**, Event Partner the **Canberra Southern Cross Club**, Merchandise Partner **Canberra Painting Service** and Media Partner, **Region Media**, in making this event possible. We also acknowledge our matched giving and event partners for their significant financial and in-kind support of the event. We are grateful to everyone who participated in the Walk for Hope, with particular thanks going to the 'Champions' for the event, who together raised approximately $100,000 of the total fundraising.

Following the Walk, we also celebrated Christmas and New Year in residence and with women in the community. This included the 2025 Christmas Appeal which, as always, demonstrated the incredible generosity of the Canberra community — through financial donations as well as the contribution of many carefully selected gifts for women and their infants. These gifts and hampers lined the walls of the Karinya House office for weeks, before being distributed by Karinya House "elves" to women and their children. 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 second major fundraising event of the year was the **2026 Home. Hope. Horizon** luncheon, held in May at the beautiful Hotel Realm. More than 370 members of our village came together to celebrate, connect and share in a day that reflected the strength and generosity of our community. We were once again fortunate to have the support of **Parker Coles Curtis** as our Principal Partner, continuing a valued partnership for a fourth consecutive year. We also acknowledge the contribution of our Associate Partners, **BAL Lawyers**, **North Belconnen Community Association**, **Parbery**, **William Cole Funerals**, **DOMA** and **Elect Printing**, along with our Support Partners, Small Business Partners and in-kind Event Partners. Their generosity and involvement played an important role in bringing the event to life and creating such a positive experience for our community.

We are grateful to **Aunty Violet Sheridan** for welcoming guests to Country and sharing her personal reflections, and to **Genevieve Jacobs** for guiding the event as Emcee. We also thank **Heidi Prowse** for her engaging and thought-provoking Keynote address. Special recognition goes to **Brianna Williams** from LJ Hooker Gungahlin, who generously returned as our auctioneer for a second consecutive year. The success of the auction and raffles was also made possible through the generous contributions of individuals and organisations who donated goods and services for the day.

Our End of Year Appeal in June once again highlighted the generosity of our community, with many valued supporters choosing to nominate Karinya House as their charity of choice. We are sincerely grateful to those who continue to make Karinya House part of their annual giving.

Women4Women

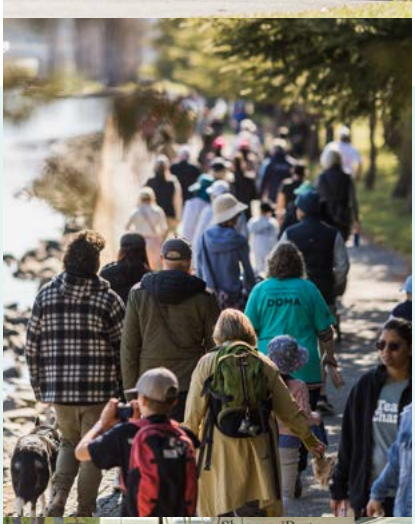
The Women4Women network continued to gain momentum throughout the year, with two sub-committees working alongside Karinya House to strengthen our community fundraising and engagement activities. Bringing together women with a broad range of backgrounds, networks and expertise, the committees contributed fresh ideas and practical support across several key initiatives, including the Home.Hope.Horizon Charity Luncheon, Bud of Hope campaign and Walk for Hope.

Their involvement has also helped us identify new opportunities to connect with and grow our wider community of supporters.

The contribution of Women4Women members has extended well beyond individual events and campaigns. Their perspectives, experience and connections have provided valuable input into our planning and encouraged new approaches to engaging the community. We are extremely appreciative of everyone who has openly contributed their time and expertise throughout the year. Collectively, the committees demonstrate the strength of the Canberra community and the many people who are willing to share their skills and networks in support of the Karinya House mission.

We are also grateful to our long-standing friends and facilitators, **Shelley Thomson** of Patient Experience Agency, **Pip Leggo** of Scott Leggo Gallery and **Jocelyn Cronin** of NBCA. Their generosity in giving their time and expertise helped guide meaningful and productive sessions, ensuring members were supported to contribute effectively and make a lasting impact. We also extend our thanks to the **Hyatt Canberra** for their ongoing and generous support to facilitate the meeting of this group at their prestigious location.













Community Supporters

The generosity of our community partners continues to make a meaningful difference to women and children supported by Karinya House. Throughout the year, organisations, businesses and community groups contributed essential goods, services and financial support, helping women meet immediate needs and take important steps towards greater stability and independence.

Our longstanding partnership with **OzHarvest** continued to provide valuable assistance throughout the year, with food and grocery donations valued at $16,950. These donations were used to prepare hampers for women accessing both our residential and outreach programs, helping families manage some of the everyday pressures associated with rising living costs.

Roundabout Canberra also remained an important partner in providing practical support to families. Through this collaboration, Karinya House was able to distribute more than $35,357 worth of clean, safe and suitable baby and children's items to women who are pregnant or parenting young children. These resources provide essential assistance to women, many of whom do not have the financial capacity to purchase these items.

We were also fortunate to receive valuable support from **Monarch Building Solutions** and **Harvey Norman Commercial**. Alongside discounted goods and services, they donated 12 whitegoods packages valued at $15,000, assisting women as they moved into safe and secure housing and began establishing their homes. **Grace Removals Australia** are also acknowledged for the provision of seven instances of pro-bono removalist support for women moving into their own accommodation across the year.

Next Steps generously provided Mother and Children Linen Packs containing sheets, pillows, towels and other essential items. **Two Good Co.** also continued to support women through the provision of Women's Care Packs, ensuring access to personal essentials while promoting comfort and dignity. We also acknowledge with appreciation the ongoing support of the Zonta community and their continued commitment to Karinya House. This year we have also been pleased to partner with **We Are Mobilise** who have provided funding to assist eligible women to secure and maintain secure accommodation with support with bond, rent and arrears payments.

With the cost of essential goods continuing to rise, these partnerships are increasingly important. The practical assistance provided by our supporters helps reduce financial strain for women and ensures that essential items are available when they are needed most.

The commitment of Canberra's school communities has also been a wonderful source of encouragement. During the year, **Melrose High School** supported Karinya House through the Walk for Hope, while **St Clare's College**, **St Edmund's College**, **Radford College** and **St Francis Xavier College** contributed donations. Students from **Canberra Grammar School** once again demonstrated their generosity by preparing Home Starter Packs for women establishing a new home.

These contributions provide practical assistance while also demonstrating the compassion and community-mindedness of Canberra's young people. We thank the students, staff, families and wider school communities for choosing to support Karinya House and for the care reflected in their contributions.

Karinya House also continues to value the support of local community organisations. Financial and in-kind contributions were received from a number of **Rotary Clubs**, including **Belconnen**, **Aurora Gungahlin**, **Canberra-Burley Griffin**, **Gungahlin**, **Yass** and **Murrumbidgee Canberra**. Karinya also received financial donations from the **Lions Club of Canberra Belconnen**. This ongoing support is an important part of the broader community network that enables Karinya House to respond to the practical needs of women and children.



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 **2025–26, 1,539 individuals and families** made financial donations to Karinya House, including many regular, recurring gifts. Together, these contributions totalled **$527,272** — a remarkable testament to community generosity.

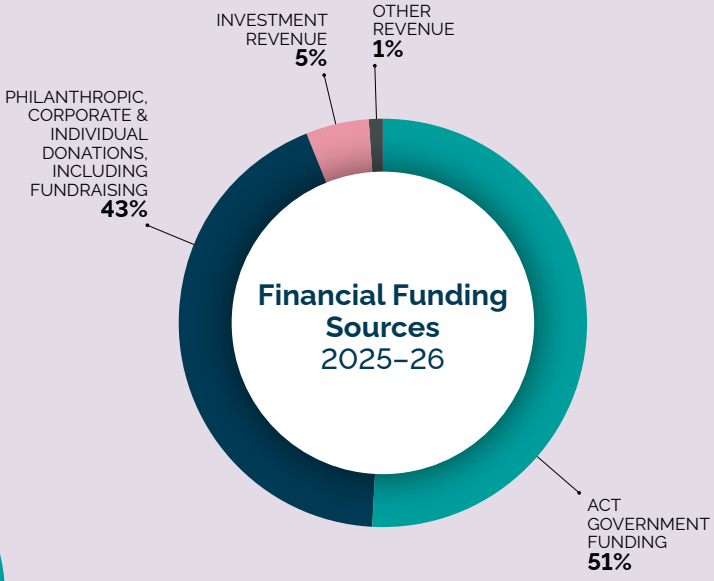
This total includes **three individual donations** and **one bequest**, amounting to **$167,290**, with special acknowledgement to **Denis and Vee Saunders**, who have been close and highly valued friends of Karinya House across the 2026–27 financial period.

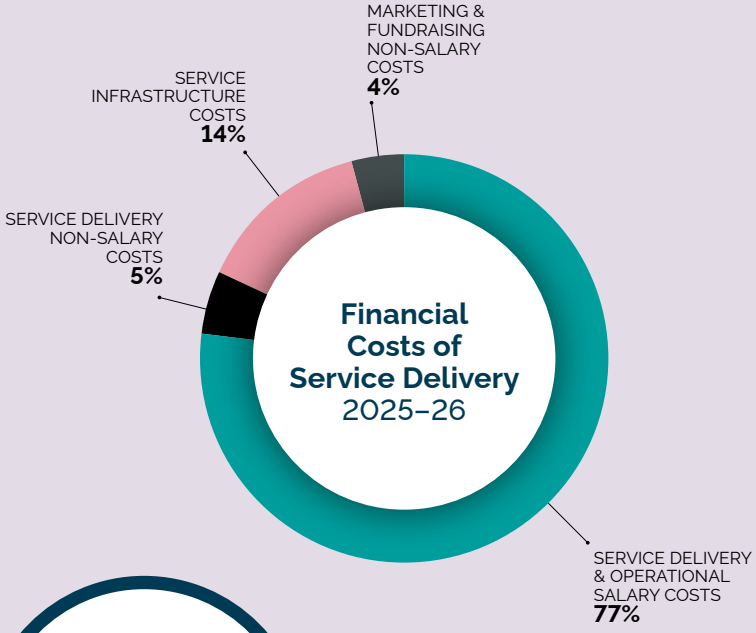
As a local, community-based organisation, we are always humbled by the ongoing generosity of our supporters. Every donation — large or small — directly supports our work walking alongside women in crisis, providing care, dignity, and hope during a critical time in their lives. The collective impact of 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







$247,335

estimated annual value of in-kind donations, *from 95 corporate and community contributors*

$979,522

*received from **149** separate corporate, community and philanthropic partners*

11

*of this total, we received **$585,810** from 11 corporate or philanthropic grants under contract*

1,539

*individual donors contributed a total of **$527,272**, which included **3** individual donors and **1** bequest, who contributed a total of **$167,290** between them*

$27,490

*estimated annual value of in-kind donations from **58 personal contributors***

$2,853

***average donation** from corporate, philanthropic and community partners*[2]

$235

average donation per individual[1]

1 Excludes the $167,920 from 3 individual donors and 1 bequest.

2 Excludes the $585,810 received under contract.

Full Annual Financial Statements are available in the Karinya House Financial Report 2025–26, a separate publication available on our website.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING PARTNER

ACT Government
Community Services

FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATE PARTNERS

Snow Foundation
Future Generation Australia
DO WELL. DO GOOD.
calleo indigenous
icon WATER
parker coles curtis
Canberra Southern Cross Club
JAMES N. KIRBY FOUNDATION
DOMA
Velleda and Denis Saunders
SHAPE
The Captain Harry Howden Bequest
The Helen Elizabeth Pagan Trust
CENTRE for SOCIAL IMPACT
North Belconnen Community Association Inc
RIVERVIEW GROUP
CORKHILL BROS
Parbery
TALL FOUNDATION
ELECT PRINTING
Successful Alliances
lendlease
BUILD LIKE A GIRL AUSTRALIA
TRADIA ADVISORY
Monarch Building Solutions
Harvey Norman COMMERCIAL DIVISION
Charnwood
TerryWhite Chemmart
WILLIAM COLE FUNERALS
Excellence in Funeral Service
ck architecture
RSM
Beyond Bank AUSTRALIA
FARRAR GESINI DUNN
family lawyers | estate lawyers
CommBank Staff Foundation
Maddocks
FILARDO EGAN ARCHITECTS
The Michaela Arnott Foundation
The Lidia Perin Foundation
Pat's Plumbing
First Choice
Paddywack
Promotional Products
canberra painting service
CANBERRA
LUTON
CRACE HOLDINGS
BAL LAWYERS
someday.
WILDE AND WOOLLARD
christine waring
DESIGNER MILLINERY
Debby Harrington
Personal Stylist
Canberra Foundations Collaborative
Hands Across Canberra
chat 40 looks 3
CANBERRA SECURITY
bellchambers barrett
Canberra Mothercraft Society
SOLVIT
NETWORK SUPPORT
strategic development group
grace: workplace
XTREME PROTECTION GROUP
Residential REPORTS
F1 Solutions
Ponda
Patient Experience Agency
THE WESTBOURNE GROUP
mindavation
Deloitte.
DATACOM
Harry's Auto Care
Your local mechanic, backed by Repco.
HYATT HOTEL CANBERRA
A PARK HYATT HOTEL
GRC solutions
TRENOWETH WINE Co.
SCOTT LEGGO
YOUR STUDIO
PILATES | FITNESS | WELLNESS
brightsmiles MOBILE DENTAL
Region
missing bits
papermonkey.
DAK & CO
THREESIDES MARKETING
TMA The Mark Agency
Blumers
FOUR WINDS VINEYARD
Clonakilla
Solace Creations
Margaret O'Donovan
Your City Physio
storage king
SISSA SORELLA
Stephanie CORKHILL HYLES

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Rotary
The Lions Club of Canberra
GUNGAHLIN
St Clare's College
Seek Wisdom
ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE
CANBERRA · EST 1954
St Francis Xavier College
Canberra Grammar School
Radford College
The Uniting Church in Australia
NORTH BELCONNEN
OZHARVEST
roundabout CANBERRA
Next Steps
TWO GOOD CO.
ZONTA
CLUB OF CANBERRA BREAKFAST INC
MOBILISE

Thank you

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