



Desert Blue Connect

Annual Report 2024-25

Acknowledgement of Country

Desert Blue Connect respectfully acknowledges the First Nations Australians and extends our acknowledgement to the Southern Yamatji Peoples, the Traditional Owners of the land where our work is centred.

We acknowledge the strength of both past and present Traditional Owners, and we celebrate the vibrant spirit of our community's youth, who carry aspirations for an inclusive future for all.

We honour the bond shared by the Southern Yamatji People with their homelands, waterways and traditions.

Desert Blue Connect remains committed to nurturing our ties with the Southern Yamatji Peoples by providing culturally safe and sensitive services and programs.

→
National Reconciliation Week Walk.





Contents

Our Impact.....6

Who We Are8

From the Chair9

From the CEO..... 10

Our Strategy..... 11

Women’s Health Support 12

Community Initiatives 14

Community, Respect & Equality 18

Family & Domestic Violence Support..... 20

Chrysalis House Women’s Refuge 22

Sexual Assault Support..... 24

Men’s Support..... 26

Rural Support 28

Statement of Financial Position 32

Statement of Profit and Loss 33

Main Expenses..... 34

Funding by Source 35

→
Libido, Labia & Language
Women's Health Night.





Labia
The ins and outs of vulva anatomy,
diversity and variations of normal.

Art Blue Connect



Our Impact

Women's Health Support

1,888

clinical appointments booked with a women's health doctor or nurse.

417

people supported by a women's health doctor.

356

people supported by a women's health nurse.

153

people supported by a women's health counsellor.

77

women supported by a counsellor for an unplanned pregnancy.

100%

of people reported improved health and wellbeing after using the women's health service.

Community Initiatives

1,846

people attended one of our health promotion activities.

434

women increased their knowledge and skills to address health challenges through our support groups, events and education sessions.

77

support group sessions were delivered for women and mothers.

908

*attendances by young people across **65** sessions on respectful relationships education.*

1,328

*attendances by children, families and service providers across **37** sessions on protective behaviours education.*

35

sexuality and relationship education sessions were delivered to young people.

9,310

copies of the Keeping Kids Safe in Geraldton story book distributed.

Community, Respect & Equality

27

total CRE Agreement Signatories established in the Mid West region.

18,000

people reached through social media communication campaigns.

5

Children's MEYGE Play Kits with guides developed.

11

Primary Prevention Communications Working Group meetings held.

1

Primary Prevention Training Group was established.

Family & Domestic Violence Support

1,542

victim survivors supported by the domestic and family violence team.
This number reflects support for **1488** women and **54** children.

61

Aboriginal women victim survivors supported in the Barndimalgu Court.

Chrysalis House Women's Refuge

186

women and children escaping family violence accommodated at Chrysalis House.

1,709

bed nights were provided.

41%

of the people who stay at Chrysalis House are children.

Sexual Assault Support

280

child abuse cases supported by a child sexual assault counsellor.

233

adult sexual assault cases supported by a sexual assault counsellor.

Men's Support

206

referrals received by the Men's Service.

91

participants from Greenough Regional Prison supported with counselling.

598

counselling sessions delivered with participants from the prison.

2

Caring Dads group programs delivered.

2

anger management group programs delivered.

Rural Support

109

people supported by a rural based counsellor.

1,829

community members participated in rural community events.

171

attendances of rural mental health events.

66

attendances by women in rural areas for women's health sessions.

Who We Are

We are an independent, community based, not-for-profit organisation specialising in women's health and wellness, as well as family and domestic violence services across the Mid West.

Our Purpose

To improve the health and wellbeing of women and families across the Mid West.

Our Vision

Women and families in the Mid West are safe and can thrive in their community.

Our Values

Respect:

We treat each other with respect regardless of status, gender, culture and ability.

Integrity:

We do what is right, not what is expected.

Courage:

We have the strength and determination to challenge, initiate, educate and prevent.

Passion:

We use our energy, passion, and enthusiasm to drive our purpose and make a difference in the community.

From the Chair

I'd like to thank CEO Russell Pratt and the entire team at Desert Blue Connect. The Board deeply appreciates the dedication shown by staff every day. Their commitment to our core values is reflected in the way they support women and families across our region. The work is complex and emotionally demanding, yet the team continues to show up with care and determination, helping to build a stronger, safer community.

Desert Blue Connect is a locally based, independent not-for-profit organisation focused on women's health and wellbeing, and family and domestic violence services throughout the Mid West. We prioritise inclusivity, collaboration and high quality care, with a strong focus on practical, community driven solutions.

Our programs and partnerships are essential to maintaining and expanding services. I want to acknowledge the support of the Government of Western Australia, the Department of Communities, Department of Justice, Department of Health, WA Police, Geraldton Family Violence Barndimalgu Court, WA Centre for Rural Health, SHINE, Geraldton Aboriginal Sporting Corporation, Mission Australia, Ngala, Jean Hailes for Women's Health, Child Focused Safety Services and Health Communication Resources. Their collaboration makes a real difference.

This year, the Board continued to focus on Desert Blue Connect's strategic direction. Our Directors volunteer their time and bring valuable insight and experience to every meeting. I'd like to thank Travis Bate, Angie West, Steph Essex, and Lana Gill for their ongoing contributions. We also welcomed Souyma Hari Kumar to the Board, along with Sharna Dalla Valle, who joined shortly after this reporting period.

Securing and diversifying funding remains a priority. We're grateful for the continued support from the State Government and our philanthropic partners. We also recognise the generosity of local donors who regularly provide personal items and goods to those in need. Their kindness reflects the strong community spirit that defines Geraldton and the wider Mid West.

Our 2030 Strategic Plan continues to guide our work, built around four key themes that shape our direction and help us work toward our goal, which is to be an integral part of achieving improvements in health and wellbeing for women and families across the Mid West. The Board is very proud of this strategy, and I encourage you to read it on our website.

Karin Grima, *Chairperson.*



From the CEO

Welcome to Desert Blue Connect's 2024/2025 annual report. Each year, we try to emphasise not only the many and varied activities that our wonderful staff complete as part of their role, but the impact to the community of those activities taking place. The cumulative positive benefit to the Mid West region of each staff member's role is considerable and what we wish to honour in these pages. While each statistic that is quoted throughout represents an individual that Desert Blue Connect supported, often the benefit flows to an entire household. We do this with limited resources, relatively few staff, and a deep commitment to trying to positively assist even more people next year. Our vision is that women and children of the Mid West region are safe and can thrive in their community.

An ongoing focus for Desert Blue Connect is to work hard at community education in the hopes of minimising the need for the response side of our services. Whether this is with better and earlier medical screening to identify and prevent larger health issues arising, or through community education to reduce the number of violent incidents taking place. The more we can achieve with primary prevention, the fewer resources we will need for a tertiary response. One powerful way that our Community Initiatives team speaks to the community is with the Walk Against Violence event (WAVE) held each year in late November. Last year everyone attending was deeply impacted at hearing the story of Ariel Bombara in her own words as she put a human face to events otherwise seen on the news.

There has been growth in many of our services, and we plan for that growth to continue. In particular we are hoping to offer expanded GP hours at the Women's Wellness Centre over the next few months, in conjunction with more wraparound and allied health supports.

Our Men's Community Intervention Service outgrew its previous premises and has moved just around the corner into 1 Bayly St. This started as a pilot program, and five years later the staff involved have developed a significant service and a proposal to offer even more if we can garner sufficient funding.

We have been pleased to continue providing some specialist services to regional and remote areas in an outreach capacity, particularly to the Northern Midlands region surrounding Morawa, and to the towns along the highway to Meekatharra.

With the support of multiple partners our Women's Refuge has benefited from both security upgrades and significant facelifts, including all new whitegoods and renovated bathrooms.

Desert Blue Connect's Domestic Violence team continues to provide high quality advocacy and case management to an ever-increasing cohort of impacted people. We are proud of the way we innovate and seek to use technology to enhance either the safety or service of our clients, whether it's with a StandByU shield or better communication technology and tools.

One ongoing target for the next 12 months is to provide more support to our team of specialist counsellors. Desert Blue Connect has been fortunate in recruiting some excellent personnel for these roles, now we wish to provide them with the best professional development and support that will enable them to maximise their impact.

Lastly, I wanted to say thank you to the many stakeholders that directly and indirectly have supported Desert Blue Connect over the past 12 months. When given the opportunity to look back we can see how many different individuals and organisations have contributed to the work that is detailed in the following pages. Sometimes that support is funding, sometimes it is a formal multi-agency collaboration, sometimes it is just walking alongside us and being supportive. The great impact detailed in the following pages does not happen without the considerable support that has been shown. For that we are thankful.

I hope that you are encouraged as you read, both by the impact of the work completed but also by the potential to achieve even more going forward. We look forward to the next 12 months, confident that even though there will be challenges and hurdles Desert Blue Connect is well placed to meet them. Thanks, and read on.

Russell Pratt, CEO.



Our Strategy

Our Ambition 2030

By 2030, we are integral to achieving improvements in health and wellbeing for women and families across the Mid West.

This means:

- We are highly valued and trusted by women and families, government and partners in our region, supported by our collaborative approach to achieving shared goals.
- We adopt a strong women's focus including when delivering men's services across primary, secondary and tertiary services.
- We are inclusive and collaborative in our approach with indigenous communities in the Mid West region.
- We value regional, rural and remote communities in all that we do.
- We deliver quality, relevant and meaningful health and wellbeing services for women and families in inclusive, safe and comfortable environments.
- We build community awareness of the systemic challenges associated with domestic and family violence in our communities.
- We are financially sustainable and digitally-enabled.
- We are future-focused and proactive in addressing complex sector and societal challenges and priorities.

Women's Health Support

Desert Blue Connect supports the health and wellbeing of women in our community, especially those who may be vulnerable or at risk. We make sure every woman can access quality medical and mental health care.

Our Women's Wellness Centre, which opened in March 2023, is a specialised hub focussed on women's health. The centre provides low cost and bulk billing services aimed at preventing, treating, and managing women's health issues. Our team includes doctors, nurses, and counsellors who specialise in women's health.

Highlights & Achievements

Bulk Billing Doctor Service

We continued to offer a bulk billing doctor service for women's health in the Mid West, improving access to care in the community. This service remained a key part of the Women's Wellness Centre, with demand remaining high and typical wait times of around two weeks. Appointments are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

During the year, our GP team experienced some changes. Dr Amanda Gee commenced maternity leave in December 2024. We farewelled Dr Elly Sloomans at the end of June 2025 upon her retirement, though she continues to provide locum support during periods of leave. We welcomed Dr Kylie Hodge to the centre in a permanent role, ensuring continuity of care for our clients.

Sexual Health Nurse & Sexologist

We continued to provide free access to a sexual health nurse and sexologist, offering a wide range of services, including STI and cervical screenings, unplanned pregnancy counselling, and advice on intimacy and sexual health. We also expanded our team with a second sexual health nurse, who now provides locum support.

Looking After Mums Program

We continued to see growing demand for our support service for new and expectant mothers in Geraldton, particularly for those experiencing mental health challenges during pregnancy and the early postpartum period. Our Women's Health Nurse provided essential support tailored to these needs and, during the year, also completed the Pregnancy to Parenthood program and became a certified Mother-Baby Nurture Facilitator.

Unplanned Pregnancy Counselling

We continued to provide free, non-directive counselling and evidence based information on all options for unplanned pregnancies, including abortion, adoption, and parenting. Our pro choice, woman centred approach supports women to make the decision that is right for them. Following recent legislative changes, we introduced Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTOP) using MS-2Step medication for eligible clients. We allocated four permanent appointment slots each week specifically for unplanned pregnancy support, ensuring women are able to access timely care without delay.

1,888

clinical appointments booked with a women's health doctor or nurse.

417

people supported by a women's health doctor.

356

people supported by a women's health nurse.

153

people supported by a women's health counsellor.

77

women supported by a counsellor for an unplanned pregnancy.

100%

of people reported improved health and wellbeing after using the women's health service.



"Helping shift/change negative mental mindset behind sex and all things related."

Libido, Labia & Language Women's Health Night Attendee



"I never feel like just another patient here. The team takes the time to understand me and makes sure I leave with the answers and support I need."

Anonymous Client

"Coming to the Women's Wellness Centre feels like stepping into a safe space. I know I'll be listened to without judgment and supported with compassion."

Anonymous Client



➤
Libido, Labia & Language
Women's Health Night.

➤
Women's Wellness Centre
maternity leave send off for
Doctor Amanda Gee.

➔
Mum's Wellbeing Expo.

Community Initiatives

Desert Blue Connect works to create a healthier, safer community by delivering initiatives that promote women’s health and prevent family violence. Our Community Initiatives team focuses on education, support, and advocacy to make a lasting impact.

Highlights and Achievements

Mum’s Wellbeing Expo

In addition to delivering a weekly Mum’s Group, we coordinated our annual Mum’s Wellbeing Expo during Perinatal Mental Health Week. The event built a community of care for parents, reminding them they are not alone. The Expo featured a guest speaker, baby yoga, sensory activities and a wide range of parenting resources and information.

Women’s Health Week

As a proud supporter of Jean Hailes Women’s Health Week, we encouraged women to understand their bodies, build health knowledge and gain the confidence to make informed choices. Our sold out Women’s Health Night, “Libido, Labia & Language”, was an energetic and engaging evening exploring sexual wellbeing. The session was facilitated by our Women’s Health Nurse in partnership with Frank Sexology.

WAVe

Our annual Walk Against Violence was held during the 16 Days in WA campaign, commencing on the 25th of November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The 2024 theme, “The violence we don’t see – Bystander interventions for the prevention of all forms of violence”, was presented through the powerful stories of two victim survivors, followed by messages from local advocates. The event invited the community to come together to remember lives lost, hear survivors’ voices and walk together to say no to violence in our community.

Programs for Young People

We delivered a range of educational programs supporting young people’s safety and wellbeing, with sessions on resilience, sexual health, communicating boundaries, respectful relationships and consent. This work extended through partnerships with Shine, Start the Dream, PCYC Safe Sistas, and Deadly Sista Girls.

Keeping Kids Safe in Geraldton, Book Launch

To mark National Child Protection Week 2024, Desert Blue Connect partnered with WA Police, Ngala and Child Focused Safety Services to launch Keeping Kids Safe in Geraldton, a storybook written by Andrea Musulin and illustrated by Safy and Lara Tashkandy. The book teaches Protective Behaviours in a child friendly way. With input from Geraldton Primary School and Mullewa Youth Centre, the story features familiar community locations, helping local children connect with the protective messages.

Strengthening Community Partnerships

We continued to strengthen community connections through active roles in interagency networks such as the Midwest Early Years Network, Geraldton Community Wellness Group, Preventing Violence Together and Justice and Community Network Committee. Together, we collaborated on key community events including NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week, Children’s Week, Mental Health Week, Child Protection Week and Perinatal Mental Health Week.

1,846

people attended one of our health promotion activities.

908

attendances by young people across 65 sessions on respectful relationships education.

1,328

attendances by children, families and service providers across 37 sessions on protective behaviours education.

35

sexuality and relationship education sessions were delivered to young people.

9,310

copies of the Keeping Kids Safe in Geraldton story book distributed.



"Great group and fabulous coordinator."

Mum's Group Participant

- ↑ Sexual Health Week.
- Mum's Wellbeing Expo.
- ➔ Walk Against Violence event (WAVe).
- ➔ Keeping Kids Safe in Geraldton Book Launch.



Women's Social Groups

Our women's social groups provide safe and supportive wellness focused spaces for women to receive support and reduce emotional isolation by building meaningful connections. With support from guest facilitators, our weekly Mum's Group and Women's Social Group offered a range of activities designed to strengthen social networks and promote wellbeing.

Holistic Programs for Women

We delivered two holistic health programs that supported the whole woman, addressing physical, mental, emotional, social, spiritual and lifestyle factors.

- The 6-Week Women's Wellness Program, led by our Women's Health Counsellor, supported women seeking to improve their overall health and wellbeing.
- The Confidence, Communication and Self-Care in Your 20s Program, facilitated by Frank Sexology, engaged young women and non-binary people to value self worth, build sexual wellbeing strategies and improve communication in relationships.

434

women increased their knowledge and skills to address health challenges through our support groups, events and education sessions.

77

support group sessions were delivered for women and mothers.



Would you recommend this program to a friend?
"Absolutely! I would say it's a fun and informative program,
a great way to learn about topics in a safe space."

Confidence, Communication and Self-Care in Your 20s Attendee



"Happy to be here, amazing support group."

Women's Social Group Participant

↑
Confidence, Communication &
Self-Care in Your 20s Program.

→
Women's Social Group,
Drumming Circle Session.

Community, Respect & Equality

Desert Blue Connect continues to lead the Community, Respect & Equality initiative in the Mid West: a whole of community approach to stopping violence against women and their children before it starts. Our work focuses on embedding gender equality and primary prevention strategies into all aspects of community life, including where people live, learn, work, and socialise.

Highlights & Achievements

Strategic Plan 2025-27

A key achievement this year was the development of the Community, Respect & Equality Strategic Plan 2025-2027. Through a comprehensive consultation process with both active and inactive partner organisations and informed by last year's Wicked Labs analysis, we identified key directions to expand the initiative's reach and ensure long term sustainability.

CRE Agreement Rebranding & Expansion

In line with the new Strategic Plan, we rebranded the Community, Respect & Equality Agreement to extend beyond workplaces. The revised Agreement now welcomes participation from all sectors of the community, including schools, sports clubs, media outlets and community groups.

Partner Re-engagement

We successfully reconnected with inactive partner organisations and achieved 26 organisations recommitting to the Community, Respect & Equality Agreement and their pledge to challenge social norms and structures that contribute to family violence. Ongoing support is being provided to help partners implement evidence based strategies. In addition, a major refresh of the Community, Respect & Equality website improved access to resources and strengthened community engagement.

Communications Working Group

In partnership with Health Communication Resources Inc, we co-lead the Community, Respect & Equality Communications Working Group, which delivered targeted community messaging throughout the year, to strengthen the primary prevention of family violence and promote long term social change.

Accreditation Framework Development

We introduced a new three tier Accreditation Framework to guide organisations in embedding Community, Respect & Equality principles. To support this rollout, all tools and guiding documents were reviewed and refreshed.

Training Group Establishment

This year, we established a Community, Respect & Equality Training Group to provide a suite of training opportunities for partner organisations and community members. These sessions aim to increase understanding of primary prevention of violence against women and to build skills in being active bystanders against gender discrimination.

Midwest Early Years Gender Equality Project (MEYGE)

Through the MEYGE Project, we promoted gender equality in early childhood, partnering with schools, day care centres, playgroups and other child-focused organisations. This year, we developed play kits with user guides to teach gender equality through play, as well as an All Access Equality Guide, a comprehensive toolkit for early childhood providers to build knowledge of the drivers of violence and support sustainable primary prevention in early years settings.

International Women's Day Art Competition

For International Women's Day, we ran a Community, Respect and Equality Photography and Art Competition. Inspired by the UN theme "March forward to an equal future for all women and girls," entries showcased diverse styles and personal experiences. The artworks were displayed as an exhibition on the day and featured on our Community, Respect & Equality social media page, highlighting the connection between gender equality and the prevention of family and domestic violence.

27

total CRE Agreement Signatories established in the Mid West region.

18,000

people reached through social media communication campaigns.

5

Children's MEYGE Play Kits with guides developed.

11

Primary Prevention Communications Working Group meetings held.

1

Primary Prevention Training Group was established.

"The core value of equality is central to the operation of the Child & Parent Centre... we are honoured to promote gender equality and programs every day at the Centre."

Ngala



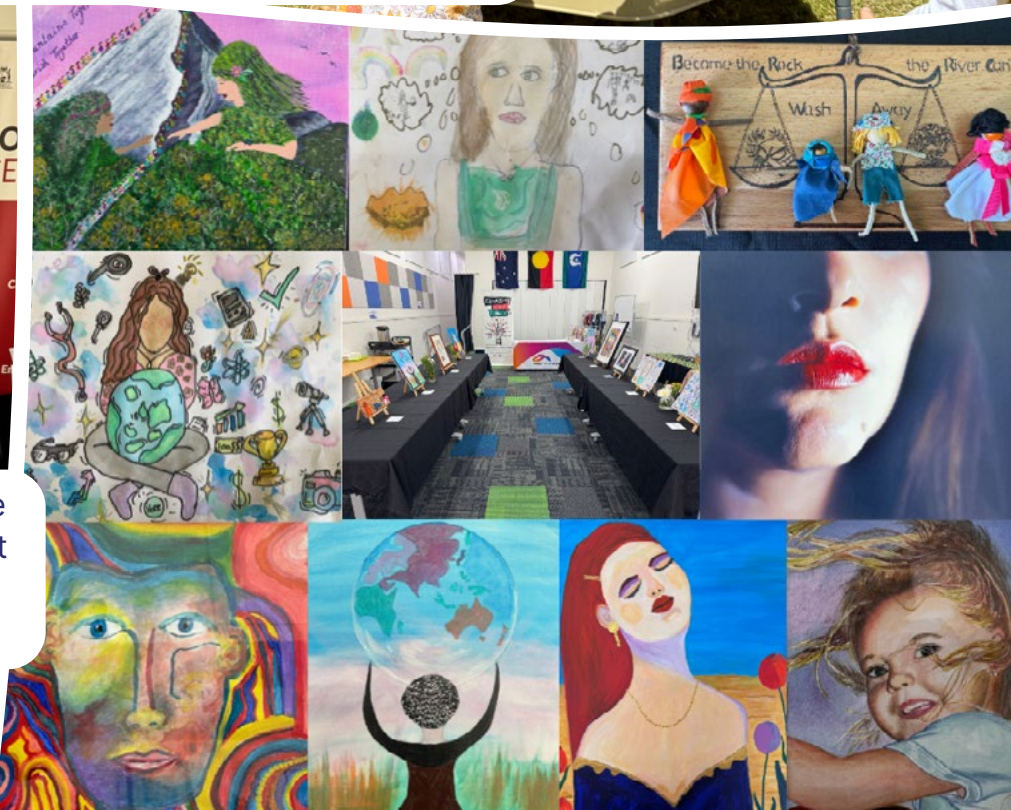
"It's a long job, but it is worthwhile."

Anonymous Participant



"Joining the Community, Respect & Equality initiative allows us to be part of a broader, co-operative effort toward ending family and domestic violence."

Mission Australia



➔
CRE Communications
Working Group.

➔
Gender Equality Play
for Early Years,
Children's Week.

➔
Meedac Employment
Expo

➔
CRE International
Women's Day Art
Competition.



Family & Domestic Violence Support

Desert Blue Connect provides support to individuals affected by family and domestic violence. Our family and domestic violence response team offers guidance, advocacy and practical assistance to those impacted by abuse, prioritising the safety and wellbeing of survivors and empowering them on their path to recovery.

Highlights & Achievements

Safe & Sound – Security for Survivors

With a grant from the City of Greater Geraldton, we improved the safety of women and children at medium to high risk of family violence or experiencing post-separation coercion. We enhanced home security with cameras, new door and manhole locks and dash cameras to deter and record uninvited entry or breaches of court orders. The funding was fully allocated by June 2025 due to rising demand.

Midwest Family Violence Alliance Meetings

We continue to chair the Midwest Family Violence Alliance, bringing together regional agencies and stakeholders for bimonthly meetings to share updates and coordinate family violence responses.

Student Placement

In partnership with the WA Centre for Rural Health, we hosted a Masters social work student for her first placement. She gained hands-on experience in trauma-informed, client-led services for survivors of domestic violence.

StandByU Shield Pilot Program

We continued to partner with the StandByU Foundation to pilot the StandByU Shield, a wearable safety device. When activated, it connects clients with their chosen safety responders, allowing them to listen in, share locations and intervene during unsafe situations.

Outreach Extension

We continued providing services to Meekatharra, Mount Magnet, Cue, and Yalgoo, despite the withdrawal of program specific funding. Our team made monthly visits to provide safety, support, and education on family and domestic violence while strengthening connections with local communities and stakeholders.

Barndimalgu Court Support

We supported women referred to the Barndimalgu Court, the only Indigenous family violence court of its kind in Australia. We assisted with victim impact statements and managed complex cases involving housing, legal matters, child protection, counselling and safety planning.

Support for Pets

In collaboration with the Animal Rescue Collective and The Pet Barn Foundation, we provided food, blankets and treatments for the pets of survivors. Pets offer comfort and connection during times of crisis.

Donations & Community Support

We are grateful to our community partners who have supported our clients by providing essential items that have helped them rebuild their lives and maintain their dignity. Organisations such as Share the Dignity, Little Things for Tiny Tots, Operation Sunshine, Street Smart and Thread Together have donated toiletries, clothing, bedding, and care packs, enabling our clients and their children to feel safe, supported and respected in their daily lives.

1,542

*victim survivors supported by the domestic and family violence team. This number reflects support for **1488** women and **54** children.*

61

Aboriginal women victim survivors supported in the Barndimalgu Court.

↑
Mother's Day Donation Drive. Led by Blooms The Chemist Geraldton Fountains.

↗
Pop-up Op Shop Client Day.

→
Outreach to Meekatharra.

→
Donation from Variety - The Children's Charity Midwest.



"Thank you for everything
you have literally been one
of my guardian angels."

Anonymous Client



"I owe you so much. I am so grateful
for your help and support."

Anonymous Client



Chrysalis House Women's Refuge

Chrysalis House provides crisis accommodation for women, with or without children, experiencing family and domestic violence or homelessness due to crisis. Our focus is on empowering survivors by offering a safe, supportive environment, professional services and compassionate care to help break the cycle of violence.

The refuge has four bedrooms, communal living areas, a bright playroom and large outdoor spaces. These facilities create a homely environment that supports the physical and emotional wellbeing of women and children during challenging times. Adjacent to Chrysalis House are two medium term transitional units, offering ongoing support for clients who need help securing long term, safe and stable accommodation.

Highlights & Achievements

Enhanced Security

This year, the Department of Communities funded a high, reinforced fence, improving privacy and safety. Two new security cameras were installed, covering a previous blind spot and the client parking area. Additionally, the front gate intercom was upgraded to a more weather resistant model.

Mindfulness & Self-Care

Staff continued to participate in the Containers for Change program to fund Mindfulness Packs for clients. These packs, refreshed this year, include journals or colouring books, stress balls, shower steamers, affirmations, local resources and other self-care items. Additional craft supplies such as canvases, paints and diamond art have also been added. RUAH generously supported this initiative by donating items for the packs, which are highly valued by clients.

Community Generosity

The generosity of our local community has been extraordinary. Donations this year included toiletries, clothing, linen, toys, food, craft items, monetary contributions and gifts for special

occasions such as Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas. Local businesses and individuals, including Total Uniforms, ASA Plumbing and Gas, Woolworths Seacrest, Blooms The Chemist Geraldton Fountains, Maisey Fuels and Orana Cinemas have all supported our clients. These contributions help ensure clients feel valued, cared for and connected to their community.

Rio Tinto Donation

Chrysalis House was extremely grateful to receive a \$40,000 donation from Rio Tinto. Funds have been used to upgrade bathrooms, purchase new kitchen appliances, washing machines, a Smart TV, restock cutlery, crockery, linen and improve the refuge's overall environment. Future plans include painting ceilings and adding indoor plants to enhance the space further.

Dignity & Support

We sincerely thank the many organisations supporting our clients by providing essential items such as clothing, shoes, toiletries, and care packs. Donations from groups like Operation Sunshine, the Allanah and Madeline Foundation, Betty Cares Foundation, Thread Together, Share the Dignity and The Mother's Union help restore self-esteem and dignity for clients who often arrive with very few belongings.

186

women and children escaping family violence accommodated at Chrysalis House.

1,709

bed nights were provided.

41%

of the people who stay at Chrysalis House are children.

"All staff went above and beyond. I've never felt so supported and understood so much in my life."

Anonymous Client



"The help, knowledge and care was amazing. By each of these ladies. Thank you all, much appreciated."

Anonymous Client

↑
Donation of New Linen From
Foodbank.

↗
Donation of Winter Jackets
From Total Uniforms.

→
Donations of Fuel Vouchers
From Maisey Fuels.

→
Dignity Bags Donation
From Share The Dignity.



Sexual Assault Support

Desert Blue Connect provides compassionate, trauma-informed counselling for women and children impacted by sexual violence. Recognising the strong link between sexual violence and family and domestic violence, our sexual assault counsellors work with our family violence team to provide integrated support that addresses both immediate safety and long term healing.

Our team brings a wealth of experience and a shared dedication to walking alongside clients in their recovery journey. We honour each person's insight and resilience and make sure they are supported through a network of care that reflects the complexity of their experiences.

Highlights & Achievements

Building Stronger Connections for Holistic Care

This year, we strengthened partnerships with organisations that share our commitment to community wellbeing and therapeutic support. These collaborations improved referral pathways and ensured clients received integrated care.

We engaged with services such as Step Up Step Down, Mid West Mental Health, Headspace and STAY to build stronger links and shared understanding. With client consent, consultations also took place with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), GPs, practitioners and schools, creating a coordinated approach that supports each client's individual journey.

Cultural Consultation Morning Tea

We hosted a Cultural Consultation Morning Tea with respected Aboriginal women from Geraldton's community services sector. The gathering provided space for yarning, feedback and insights on improving cultural safety.

Year 9 Wellbeing Workshop

We co-designed and delivered a full day workshop for Year 9 students with Nagle Catholic College. Topics included mental health, safe relationships, consent, peer pressure, healthy communication and personal identity. Positive student

engagement highlighted the relevance of these topics and the value of creating a safe space for open conversation and learning.

EMDR Therapy Integration

Counselling services were strengthened through integration of Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, delivered by our qualified counsellor. EMDR provides powerful trauma recovery support and new processes have been developed ensuring safe and holistic delivery for clients.

Improving Systems & Reducing Wait Times

Improved systems for reviewing client caseloads were implemented to manage referrals more efficiently, significantly reducing wait times and providing faster access to vital support.

Child-Centred Therapies

We provided child-centred play therapy for children who have experienced sexual abuse or been exposed to family violence. Using art, mindfulness, relaxation and trauma-focused approaches, we give children a safe space to express themselves and work through their experiences. Sessions were held either in our play therapy room at Desert Blue Connect or on-site at schools.

Midwest Sexual Assault Crisis Line

We continued to offer the Midwest Sexual Assault Crisis Line, a 24/7 toll-free service providing immediate support to survivors of recent or historic sexual assault. This lifeline ensures survivors can access help and counselling during their most vulnerable moments.

280

child abuse cases supported by a child sexual assault counsellor.

233

adult sexual assault cases supported by a sexual assault counsellor.

"Since attending counselling I am learning to like myself again."

Anonymous Client

"For the first time in years, I feel safe enough to focus on healing, not just surviving."

Anonymous Client

"Coming here has given me hope again. I feel like I have choices and the strength to move forward."

Anonymous Client

"My child has found her voice. She's happier at school, makes friends more easily, and believes in herself."

Anonymous Client

➤
Filming Sexual Assault
Awareness Month
Social Media Content.

➤
Children Play Therapy Room.

Men's Support

Desert Blue Connect Men's Service supports men who have used violence against women and children, focusing on accountability, behaviour change and overall wellbeing. Our counsellors work across a wide range of issues including trauma, grief and loss, substance misuse and entrenched beliefs around gender and control.

This year, we saw an increase in case complexity and client diversity, with many men presenting at crisis point and facing multiple challenges such as family court involvement, housing instability, substance use and intergenerational trauma. Co-occurring and often undiagnosed mental health concerns added to the complexity. Despite these barriers, we continue to see men acknowledge the harm they have caused and take steps toward real accountability and change.

Highlights & Achievements

Relocation to 1 Bayly Street, Geraldton

We relocated the Men's Service to a new purpose built facility, improving capacity to deliver counselling and group programs. The new space provides safe, private and welcoming areas for clients. While the official celebration with partners took place just after this reporting period, the relocation itself was a major milestone completed during this period.

Counselling & Behaviour Change Programs

We delivered intensive counselling, supporting men to examine and address deeply ingrained self beliefs around violence, masculinity, coercive control, accountability and personal responsibility. With continued commitment from clients, real transformation begins.

Many clients reported significant reductions in violent behaviour, shifting from physical to verbal aggression or eliminating violence altogether. Partners also shared positive feedback, noting they feel more respected and genuinely heard.

Caring Dads Program

We completed two 17-week Caring Dads group programs. This program equips fathers with the skills to build healthier relationships with their children and partners, while ending abusive or neglectful behaviours. Participants have highlighted how the program has positively impacted their family dynamics and coparenting.

Anger Management Programs

We delivered group anger management sessions, helping men uncover triggers, manage stress safely and respond to conflict without violence. These programs complemented counselling and behaviour change work, reinforcing accountability and long term transformation.

Greenough Regional Prison

This year, we increased engagement with Greenough Regional Prison, with 91 individual clients participating in 598 total bookings. Our team has built a strong partnership with the prison and most referred prisoners take up the service. Feedback from clients has been overwhelmingly positive, with the majority reporting they would recommend the service and describing staff as respectful and helpful in addressing their behaviours.

206

referrals received by the Men's Service.

91

participants from Greenough Regional Prison supported with counselling.

598

counselling sessions delivered with participants from the prison.

2

Caring Dads group programs delivered.

2

anger management group programs delivered.



"Always being reminded that we are all on our own journeys through life and we all have feelings and families and there is always help if you are willing to ask."

Anonymous Client

→
Men's Service Relocation to
1 Bayly Street, Geraldton.

"I have dealt with all underlying issues and I now have the tools to use when life tries to drag me down."

Anonymous Client

Rural Support

Desert Blue Connect supports the wellbeing of people and families across the North Midlands. Life in rural areas can be challenging, with isolation, limited access to services, high living costs and difficulty reaching support. Our rural support team works to overcome these barriers by offering free counselling for adults, free counselling for young people affected by family or sexual violence and a range of community programs, workshops and events to promote health and wellbeing.

Highlights & Achievements

Rural Counselling Service

We continued to provide free counselling for men and women in the North Midlands. People came to us for support with issues including mental health, trauma, parenting, domestic violence and substance use. Hearing the stories of people who have benefited from counselling shows how important it is for someone to feel heard and supported. By helping people work through challenges and find balance, we strengthen the wellbeing of the whole community.

Rural Children Counselling Service

We continued to offer counselling for children aged six and over in the North Midlands who affected by family violence or sexual abuse. The support focuses on safety, emotional wellbeing and building skills for prevention and resilience. This year, our Rural Child Counsellor also worked with the local Child Health Nurse to promote early childhood education, which can help children overcome health and social challenges and supported parents with positive parenting strategies to give children a strong start in life.

Women's Social Groups

We delivered 11 workshops for women across Morawa, Perenjori, Carnamah, Three Springs, Coorow, Leeman, Green Head and Mingenew. The workshops gave women a chance to connect, learn wellbeing tips including sleep, stress management, burnout and self-care, and take part in activities to practice mindfulness.

International Rural Women's Day Dinner

We hosted a special dinner in Morawa to celebrate International Rural Women's Day, supported by Mitsui E&P. City of Greater Geraldton Councillor Jenna Denton and President of the Shire of Morawa Karen Chappell AM JP were guest speakers. They shared their personal and professional journeys and highlighted the importance of female leadership in rural communities.

Morawa Community Connections Expo

We coordinated the Community Connections Expo in Morawa to connect residents with mental health support services across the Mid West region. Local volunteer groups including St John's Ambulance, the volunteer fire brigade and the Morawa Historical Society showcased their work and encouraged community participation. The event aimed to reduce isolation and promote connection in rural areas.

International Men's Day

In partnership with the Shire of Morawa and the Community Resource Centre, we held an International Men's Day event with guest speakers from The Regional Men's Health Initiative and The 6B's. Fifteen men attended, shared dinner and had a safe space to learn about men's health and talk openly about challenges.

International Women's Day

We celebrated International Women's Day in Morawa with a movie night featuring Suffragette. The event, in partnership with the Community Resource Centre and the Shire of Morawa, helped build connections among local women.

109

people supported by a rural based counsellor.

1,829

community members participated in rural community events.

171

attendances of rural mental health events.

66

attendances by women in rural areas for women's health sessions.



"Both presenters were knowledgeable and confident, friendly. Session was enjoyable with the nice inclusion of meditation and watercolour painting. Thank you very much."

Women's Social Group Participant



"She makes me feel better about myself and more confident in handling and dealing with my problems."

Anonymous Client



↑
Coorow Women's Social
Group.

➤
Our Rural Based Counsellor,
Serina Ablett.

➔
Colour Run, part of the
Morawa Community
Connections Expo.

Morawa Youth Centre

The Shire of Morawa invited us to engage with youth centre participants on the topic of anxiety, an issue many young people face today. We created a safe space for sharing experiences and explored how anxiety can affect school and social life. Together, we introduced coping strategies such as mindfulness, breathing exercises and the importance of talking about feelings.

Mid West NAIDOC

We helped coordinate and took part in the Mid West NAIDOC event in Morawa. As part of the event, we provided cultural activities for school students, families and the wider community, helping people connect with one another and engage with local culture.

Senior's Events

We worked with seniors' groups in Morawa and Yalgoo to support community connection and wellbeing. Together with WA Country Health Service and the Morawa Community Resource Centre, we also held an Elder Abuse Awareness event to raise understanding of the signs and impacts of elder abuse and promote the rights of older community members.

Community Events

Our team took part in community events across the North Midlands, including Australia Day, cancer prevention and fundraising morning teas, Unity Day, movie nights, wellbeing activities, local shows and expos and more. These events helped us connect with our communities and better understand their needs.

↑
Morawa Community
Connections Expo.

↗
Yalgoo NAIDOC.

→
International Rural Women's
Day Dinner.

→
Elder Abuse Awareness Day
in Morawa.





"She's better than anyone I've ever seen!"

Anonymous Client



"Fantastic evening. I hope Desert Blue Connect continues to be able to provide these valuable sessions."

Event Attendee



It was great, thank you for coming out."

Women's Social Group Attendee



Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2025

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Equivalents.....	\$1,524,811
Trade and Other Receivables.....	\$93,808
Other Assets.....	\$0
Total Current Assets	\$1,618,618

Non-Current Assets

Property, Plant and Equipment	\$759,668
Intangible Assets	\$287,710
Total Non-Current Assets.....	\$1,047,378

Total Assets **\$2,665,996**

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Trade and Other Payables.....	\$912,040
Provisions	\$334,216
Tax Liabilities	\$82,032
Borrowings	\$104,812
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,433,100

Non-Current Liabilities

Borrowings	\$309,323
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$208,754

Total Liabilities **\$1,641,854**

Net Assets **\$1,024,141**

Equity

Retained Earnings.....	\$909,108
Reserves.....	\$115,033

Total Equity **\$1,024,141**

Statement of Profit and Loss

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Income

Donations Received	\$150,635
Events/Fundraising.....	\$1,603
Grants Received	\$3,885,668
Interest Received.....	\$38,849
Medicare Income	\$99,179
Other Income	\$125,521
Transfer to/from Provisions.....	\$223,248

Total Income	\$4,524,704
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Expenses

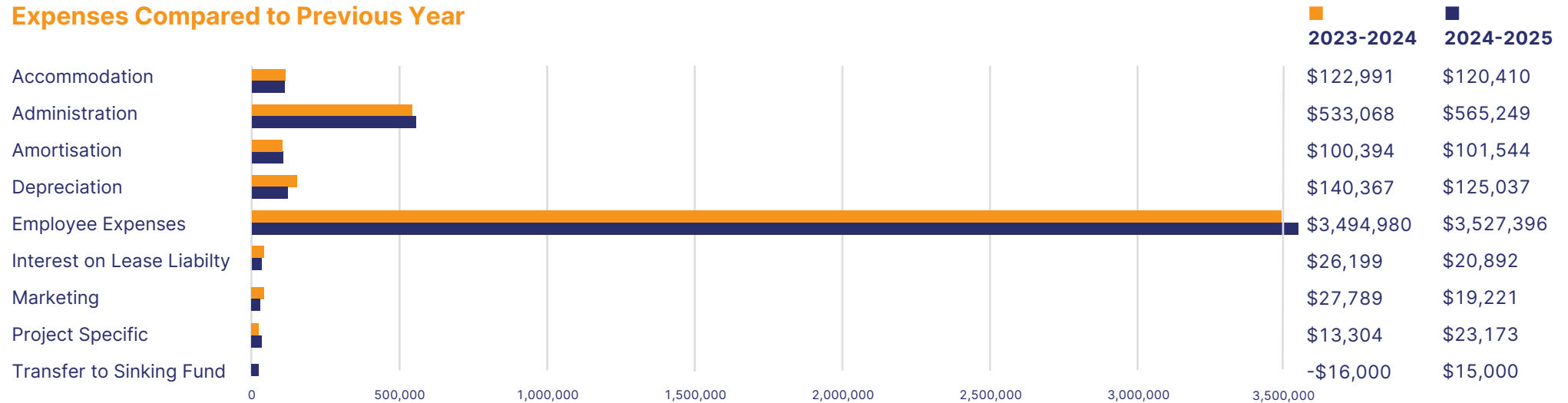
Accommodation.....	\$120,410
Administration.....	\$565,249
Amortisation.....	\$101,544
Depreciation.....	\$125,037
Employee Expenses	\$3,527,396
Interest on lease liability	\$20,892
Marketing	\$19,221
Project Specific.....	\$23,173
Transfer to Sinking Fund	\$15,000

Total Expenses	\$4,517,921
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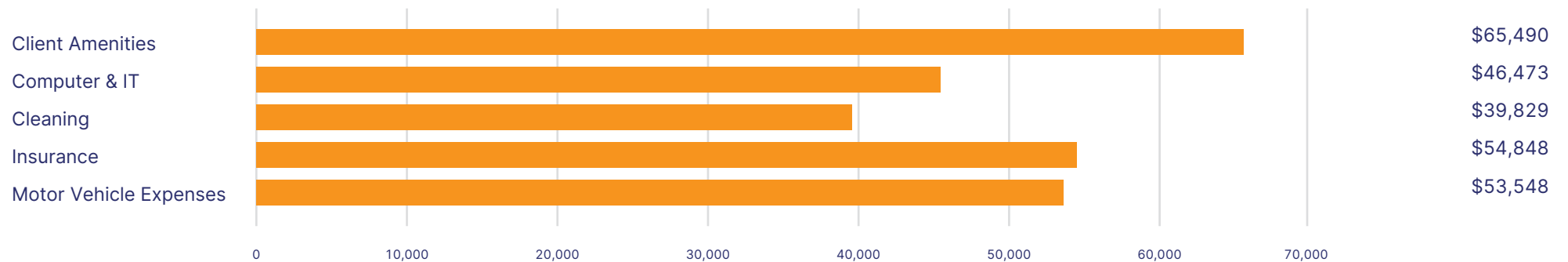
Total Comprehensive Income	\$6,782
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Main Expenses

Expenses Compared to Previous Year



Expenses Excluding Personnel and Premises

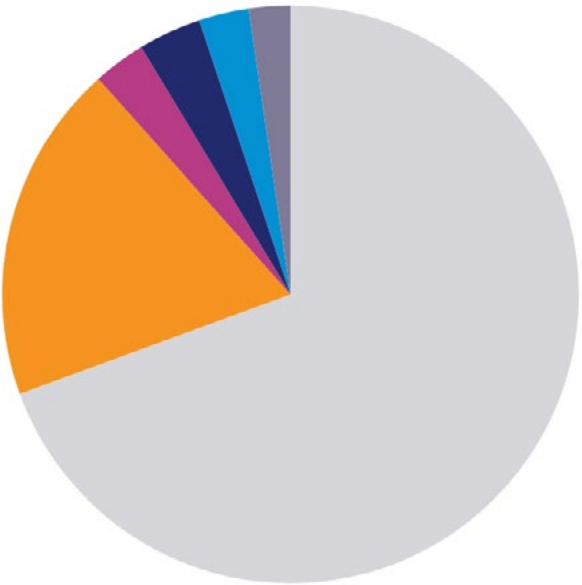


Funding by Source

Source Categories

Department of Communities	\$2,957,236	65.36%
Department of Health	\$809,249	17.89%
Donations	\$150,635	3.33%
Other	\$125,521	2.77%
Department of Justice	\$119,182	2.63%
Medicare Income	\$99,179	2.19%
Interest	\$38,849	0.86%
Event/Fundraising	\$1,603	0.04%

Total Funding \$4,524,704



Geraldton Head Office

Location: 25 Chapman Road, Geraldton WA 6530

Phone: (08) 9964 2742

Women's Wellness Centre

Location: 26 Durlacher Street, Geraldton WA 6530

Phone: (08) 9964 2742

Chrysalis House Women's Refuge

Phone: (08) 9964 2173

Men's Community Intervention Service

Location: 1 Bayly Street, Geraldton WA 6530

Phone: (08) 9937 9188

Rural Support Service

Location: Based in Morawa at 68 Gill Street 6623

(Travels across the Mid West for clients in other Shires).

Mobile: 0419 348 006



Walk Against Violence event (WAVE).

