



Desert Blue Connect

Annual Report 2025-26

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 Are	8
Our Strategy.....	8
From the Chair	9
From the CEO.....	10
Women's Health Support	12
Community Initiatives	14
Community, Respect & Equality	18
Family & Domestic Violence Support.....	22
Chrysalis House Women's Refuge	24
Sexual Assault Support.....	26
Men's Support.....	28
Rural Support	30
Statement of Financial Position	32
Statement of Profit and Loss	33
Main Expenses.....	34
Funding by Source	35

→
International Women's Day
Quiz Fundraiser.



"Another amazing quiz night! Can't wait for next year!."

Quiz night Attendee

Our Impact

Women's Health Support

1,931

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

772

people supported by a women's health doctor.

659

people supported by a women's health nurse.

232

people supported by a women's health counsellor.

101

women supported by a counsellor for an unintended pregnancy.

100%

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

Community Initiatives

4,838

people attended one of our health promotion activities.

611

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.*

524

*attendances by children, families and service providers across **24** sessions on protective behaviours education.*

36

sexuality and relationship education sessions were delivered to young people.

Community, Respect & Equality

49

total CRE Agreement Signatories established in the Mid West region.

132,000

people reached through social media communication campaigns.

5

Children's MEYGE Play Kits with guides developed.

22

Members represented at Communications Working Group meetings.

19

Primary Prevention Trainings Delivered.

Family & Domestic Violence Support

1,526

victim survivors supported by the domestic and family violence team.

33

Aboriginal women victim survivors supported in the Barndimalgu Court.

Chrysalis House Women's Refuge

236

women and children escaping family violence accommodated at Chrysalis House.

1,916

bed nights were provided.

49%

of the people who stay at Chrysalis House are children.

Sexual Assault Support

230

child abuse cases supported by a child sexual assault counsellor.

183

adult sexual assault cases supported by a sexual assault counsellor.

Men's Support

392

referrals received by the Men's Service.

165

participants from Greenough Regional Prison supported with counselling.

896

counselling sessions delivered with participants from the prison.

2

Caring Dads group programs delivered.

2

anger management group programs delivered.

Rural Support

164

people supported by a rural based counsellor.

1,846

community members participated in rural community events.

332

attendances of rural mental health events.

54

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.

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.

From the Chair

It is my pleasure to present the 2025-2026 Annual Report for Desert Blue Connect and reflect on another year of growth, resilience and commitment to supporting women, children and families across the Midwest.

This year marked an important leadership transition for our organisation. In April 2026, we farewelled our Chief Executive Officer, Russell Pratt, after seven years of dedicated service and thank him for his significant contribution to Desert Blue Connect. In May 2026, we welcomed Meegan Taylor as our new Chief Executive Officer. Having previously served as Business Services Manager, Meegan has brought a strong understanding of our organisation, our community and a clear vision for the future.

On behalf of the Board, I thank Meegan and every member of the Desert Blue Connect team. Their professionalism, compassion and commitment to supporting women, children and families experiencing vulnerability, trauma and family and domestic violence continue to make a lasting difference across our region.

As a proudly independent, community-based not-for-profit organisation, Desert Blue Connect remains committed to delivering accessible, high-quality and culturally responsive services to women and families. Throughout the year we continued to strengthen our programs, expand partnerships and respond to the evolving needs of the Mid West community.

Our work would not be possible without the support of our funding bodies, community partners, volunteers and donors. We sincerely thank the Government of Western Australia, our funding agencies, local organisations and the many individuals whose collaboration and generosity help us deliver essential services and improve outcomes for those who need them most.

The Board has continued to provide strong governance and strategic oversight throughout the year. I thank my fellow board members – Travis Bate, Lana Gill, Angie West, Chantal Bachere Crinquand, Sharna Dalla Valle and Soumya Hari Kumar – for their commitment, expertise and dedication to the organisation. Their leadership ensures Desert Blue Connect remains well

positioned to meet future opportunities and challenges.

The Board would like to acknowledge our great appreciation for the contributions, insight, and participation of Steph Essex who stepped down from the Board this year.

As we continue implementing our 2030 Strategic Plan, its four strategic pillars remain central to everything we do. The strategy guides our commitment to creating lasting improvements in the health, safety and wellbeing of women, children and families across the Midwest, and we are proud of the progress being made towards this vision.

Karin Grima, Chairperson.



From the CEO

Welcome to Desert Blue Connect's 2025–2026 Annual Report.

I was delighted to be appointed CEO in May 2026, after almost five years as Business Services Manager. While I stepped into the role towards the end of the reporting year, I had worked alongside our teams throughout it. I know how much heart, skill and hard work they bring to supporting people across our communities, and I feel very fortunate to now lead this organisation.

I want to begin by thanking our former CEO, Russell, for more than seven years of leadership and for the support he gave me during the transition. I am also grateful to our Board of Management for the confidence they have placed in me.

It has been a busy year across Desert Blue Connect. Our teams have continued to support women, children and families through some incredibly difficult times. The figures in this report show the reach of that work, but they cannot fully capture what it means for someone to feel safer, to be heard, or to have support when they need it most. I see the care our staff put into those moments every day.

At the Women's Wellness Centre, the return of Dr Amanda from maternity leave allowed us to offer an additional clinic day and improve access to specialised women's health care. Our counselling, sexual assault, family and domestic violence, and children's services continued to provide much-needed support across the Mid West. Our outreach work reached Morawa, the Northern Midlands and communities along the Meekatharra corridor. Expanding the Child Sexual Assault Therapeutic Service was a particularly important step, bringing specialist support closer to children and families who would otherwise have to travel a long way to access it.

We were also grateful for the generosity of The DV Collective and our local Accor Hotel group, who helped repaint one of our transitional units and provided new beds for women and children escaping family violence. It was a practical contribution that has made the unit a more welcoming place for the families who stay there.



The Men's Community Intervention Service continued to grow, supporting men to take responsibility for their behaviour and make changes in their relationships and families. Prevention remained a strong focus too. The Community Respect and Equality Alliance grew from 27 to 39 partner organisations, an increase of 44%, and it has been encouraging to see more organisations commit to this work.

Our MEYGE team received the 2025 Mid West Early Years Network Community Achievement Award. I was thrilled to see their work recognised; they put so much into the program and the families they support.

Community support was also on full display at our Walk Against Violence in November. Our sold-out International Women's Day Quiz Night brought together almost 200 people and raised \$9,000 for our women's health, safety and wellbeing programs. I am grateful to the sponsors, local businesses, volunteers and everyone who came along. These events remind us how many people in our community care about this work and want to be part of it.

As I settle into the CEO role, I want to build on what Desert Blue Connect already does so well. I also want to make sure we are looking after our staff, strengthening our systems and governance, and showing clearly the difference our services make. The needs of regional communities continue to change, and we need to keep listening, responding and advocating for the services people need.

To our staff, thank you. This has been a year of considerable change, and I have been so proud of the way you have supported one another while continuing to show up for the people who rely on us. I know this work is not always easy, and I do not take your commitment for granted.

Thank you also to our Chair, Karin, and the Board for their guidance and support, and to our funding bodies, partner organisations, volunteers and community supporters. We could not do this work without you.

It is a privilege to lead Desert Blue Connect. I hope this report gives you a sense of what our teams have achieved this year, the people behind the work, and the difference it makes across the Mid West.

Meegan Taylor, CEO

Women's Health Support

Desert Blue Connect is committed to providing specialised and accessible medical services specific to women's health and wellbeing, with a focus on vulnerable and at-risk women.

In March 2023, Desert Blue Connect opened the Women's Wellness Centre in central Geraldton, providing low-cost, coordinated and bulk-billed care focused on prevention, treatment and management of women's health issues. The purpose-built centre brings together general practitioners, sexual health nurses, a sexologist and counsellors, providing integrated care from professionals specialising in women's health and wellbeing.

Highlights & Achievements

Bulk Billing Doctor Service

Integral to the Women's Wellness Centre service model is continued access to bulk-billed, specialised medical care. The Women's Wellness Centre provides no-cost GP consultations focused on women's health, increasing accessibility for vulnerable and at-risk women within the community. Over the past year, the Women's Wellness Centre has expanded its GP services to meet increasing demand while maintaining continuity of care. Two weekly clinic days continue with permanent GP Dr Kylie Hodge, alongside the return of Dr Amanda Gee, enabling the introduction of an additional clinic day. GP appointments are now available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, increasing access to specialised women's health care availability of medical consults to meet the demand whilst and ensuring continuity of care for patients.

Sexual Health Nurse & Sexologist

With the increased availability of GP's, the Women's Wellness Centre has subsequently increased the availability of Sexual Health Nurses to align with the same GP clinic days for patients. Free access to sexual health nurse consultations are offered three days a week. These consults offer a wide variety of services including STI and cervical screenings, unintended pregnancy counselling and sexual counselling encompassing advice on intimacy, relationships and sexual health.

Looking After Mums Program

Demand for LAMP's specialised pre-natal and early post-natal care continues to increase, supporting new and expectant mothers experiencing, or at significant risk of, mental health challenges. Facilitated by a qualified midwife, LAMP provides ongoing clinical and therapeutic support, with the ability to connect patients to specialised services across the Women's Wellness Centre and Desert Blue Connect. The program offers continuity of care beyond one-off consultations, with our midwife onsite three days each week.

Unplanned Pregnancy Counselling

Demand for unplanned pregnancy counselling continues to increase. The Women's Wellness Centre provides free, non-directive, evidence-based counselling, supporting women to make informed decisions regarding abortion, adoption and parenting in a safe, supportive environment. As a pro-choice, women-centred establishment, supporting women to make informed decisions that are conducive to their needs and aligned with their wishes. The Centre also facilitates Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTOP) using MS-2Step medication for eligible clients, with six permanent weekly appointments to support timely access to care.

1,931

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

772

people supported by a women's health doctor.

659

people supported by a women's health nurse.

232

people supported by a women's health counsellor.

101

women supported by a counsellor for an unintended pregnancy.

100%

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



“Having access to a women's health service in a welcoming environment made such a difference.”
Anonymous Client



“The team here has shown me how to be brave, that I am worth all the goodness life can give me. ”
Anonymous Client



“It was refreshing to have someone take the time to listen and explain things clearly to me .”
Anonymous Client

➤ National Condom Day, Sexual Health Week.
 ➤ Women's Wellness Centre tour with Sexologist and Women's Health Nurse Lisa.
 ➤ Women's Wellbeing Expo.

Community Initiatives

Desert Blue Connect's Community Initiatives team delivers evidence-informed prevention, education, advocacy, and community development initiatives that promote women's health, prevent family and domestic violence, and strengthen safe, respectful, and resilient communities across the Mid West.

Highlights and Achievements

International Women's Day Quiz Night

The International Women's Day Quiz Night returned in 2026, bringing almost 200 community members together for an evening of trivia, entertainment and fundraising in support of women's safety and wellbeing across the Mid West. New sponsorship opportunities strengthened the event, with generous support from Gold Sponsor Mitchell & Brown Retravisson and Silver Sponsors Mitsui E&P, Beach Energy, Kirrilee Warr MLA, Geraldton Universities Centre, Mid West Development Commission and Sandra Carr MP. The sold-out event raised \$9,000, directly supporting local women's health and safety programs.

The evening also featured inspiring guest speakers The Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, Kirrilee Warr MLA, Deputy Mayor Natasha Colliver and Dr Sara Armitage, who shared their leadership journeys and reflected on representation, opportunity and empowerment for women and girls in the Mid West.

Women's Wellbeing Expo

Desert Blue Connect are proud to support Jean Hailes Women's Health Week - Australia's largest campaign dedicated to the health and well-being of all women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals. In September 2025, the Community Initiatives team hosted the Women's Wellbeing Expo, with the theme, "Say Yes to you". The event attracted 300 local women, with 20 stalls and plenty of activities, encouraging women to prioritise their wellbeing.

In the guest speaker tent, Cath Dalle invited

women to join her for a chair yoga session, Kym Coulthard lead attendees through a body & soul alignment, and Dr Elly Sloomans spoke about all things menopause.

DBC also took the opportunity to run the Women's Health Survey, with the voices of local women helping to shape the services of DBC and the Women's Wellness Centre.

Mum's Wellbeing Expo

DBC's annual Mum's Wellbeing Expo is an important annual community event held as part of PANDA's Perinatal Mental Health Week in November, bringing together mothers, expecting parents, families and local support services to promote perinatal mental health and wellbeing. PANDA's campaign aims to increase understanding of perinatal mental health, reduce stigma and ensure parents know where and how to access support.

Stall holders included health services, allied health, child health, childcare services, nutrition and parenting support – who are all committed to sharing their support with the 90 new and expecting mums who attended.

For Desert Blue Connect, the Expo represents more than a one-day event. It is an opportunity to promote early intervention, strengthen community connections, increase awareness of local support pathways and reinforce the message that mums do not have to navigate parenthood alone.

4838

people attended one of our health promotion activities.

908

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

524

attendances by children, families and service providers across 24 sessions on protective behaviours education.

36

sexuality and relationship education sessions were delivered to young people.



"I liked the guided therapy, it allowed me to put day to day things away and focus on something else."

Participant



↑
Year Six Forum

↗
NAIDOC.

→
Walk Against Violence event (WAVe).

→
Midwest Early Years
Network Community Award
in Organisation or program
category.

Walk Against Violence event (WAVE)

Held during the 16 Days of Activism 2025, the WAVE brought together more than 250 community members representing a diverse cross section of the community to take a visible stand against family, domestic and gender-based violence. . Guest speakers Jenny Gray (CEO, Women's Legal Service), Samuel Dakey (Mission Australia), Keiran Dent (Yila Consulting) and Lynette Amai (Short Term Accommodation for Youth) raised awareness of the impact of violence, and reinforce the message that violence is never acceptable. Following the walk, A Glassy Day Surf Coaching hosted a paddle out in memory of the lives lost to FDV in 2025.

For Desert Blue Connect, the Walk also reflects the organisation's broader commitment to prevention, education, advocacy and support, while strengthening community partnerships and encouraging everyone to play a role in preventing violence.

Women's Support Groups

Weekly women's support groups hosted by Desert Blue Connect play an important role in strengthening women's wellbeing, connection and resilience. The Women's Social Group provides a welcoming and safe environment where women can come together, build relationships, participate in wellbeing activities and access information and support.

The Mum's Group provides a safe and welcoming space for new and expecting mothers to connect, build supportive relationships and prioritise their own wellbeing - recognising that supporting mums is fundamental to supporting healthy, resilient families and communities.

Programs for children & young people

The Community Initiatives team at Desert Blue Connect is deeply invested in prevention education - recognising that creating a safer, healthier community requires action before harm occurs. The team delivers prevention education across all stages of childhood and adolescence. Early years and primary school programs build knowledge of protective behaviours, gender equality and respectful relationships among children, caregivers and educators, while secondary school and youth programs build on these foundations through education focused on consent, communication, healthy relationships and preventing sexual and family violence.

MEYN Community Achievement Award

Our Community Initiatives Team were thrilled to win the Mid West Early Years Network Community Achievement Award 2025 in the Organisation or Program category. The team's nomination acknowledged that the CI Team lead, pioneer and participate in so many community initiatives aimed at supporting overall wellbeing for young children and families in the Midwest. These events include the Mum's Wellbeing Expo, Protective Behaviours sessions, Community Respect Equality initiatives, Women's Wellbeing Expo, Midwest Gender Equality Project and their ongoing participation in community events such as Children's Week, NAIDOC Week, Christmas on the Terrace, Sunshine Festival, Reconciliation Week - just to name a few! We feel very humbled to win this award and are grateful for the recognition for creating a healthier, safer and more connected community.

611

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.



"I feel relaxed & free and calm. I think I managed to release some things that were weighing me down."

Attendee Wednesday Wellness Series



What was the best (or most relatable) part about today's activity? "Being able to talk to a trusted adult without feeling embarrassed."

Anonymous Participant

↑
Mums Wellbeing Expo.

→
Mums Wellbeing Expo.

Community, Respect & Equality

Desert Blue Connect continues to lead the Community, Respect & Equality initiative in the Midwest: a whole-of-community approach to preventing violence against women and their children from occurring in the first place. 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

CRE Alliance and partnerships

A key achievement this year was working actively to engage new and diverse organisations in the Community, Respect and equality initiative, for whole-of-community impact. Through these efforts, we had 23 new organisations committing to the Community, Respect & Equality Agreement, and pledging to challenge social norms and structures that contribute to family violence. This is in addition to the 26 existing alliance members organisations. Ongoing support was provided to help partner organisations implement evidence-based strategies within their organisations, with one organisation achieving Level 1 Accreditation, and three organisations becoming the first to reach Level 2 Accreditation.

Communications Working Group

In partnership with Health Communication Resources Inc, we co-led 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. Over the year, we saw increased engagement in the Communications Working Group, indicating a broader reach of messaging. In addition to an active social media page, we published 16 media articles, and engaged in 4 radio interviews

CRE Community Chat

In order to promote local primary prevention efforts, and support CRE member organisations working towards Accreditation, we reintroduced the CRE Community Chat. This bi-monthly online newsletter for CRE alliance members was sent to 541 recipients, with an open rate of 52%.

Most Significant Change

As part of CRE's Evaluation Framework and the program's intention to contribute to evidence-based practice, we partnered with Health Communication Resources Inc to lead a research project with other long-standing CRE members to evaluate the most significant change arising from participation in the CRE Communications Working Group. The results are awaiting publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Primary Prevention Training

CRE's Training Group is comprised of representatives from four CRE member organisations. Together, they delivered 19 educational sessions to 238 participants, aimed at increasing understanding of primary prevention of violence against women, and building the skills to take action against gender discrimination. DBC also developed and piloted an active bystander training for young people, to align with CRE and the Department of Education's Respectful Relationship curriculum. This training will be offered to schools and youth groups throughout the region in the coming year.

49

Community, Respect & Equality members in the Midwest region.

132,000

people reached through social media communication campaigns.

5

Children's MEYE Play Kits with guides developed.

22

Members represented at Communications Working Group meetings.

19

Primary Prevention Trainings delivered.

"Loved this training."

Anonymous Participant



"Both speakers were interesting and engaging, the slides were clear, the activities helped to get you thinking about the content."

Anonymous Participant

Midwest Ports Grant
Families Week. Miwest
Early Years Network.
Meedac Community &
Employment Expo.
16 Days in WA.

"Clear information, passionate presenters, interactive."

Anonymous Participant



16 Days in WA

CRE took on a coordinating role for the statewide 16 Days in WA campaign, which aims to raise awareness, motivate action, and highlight efforts to end family, domestic, and sexual violence. Through collaboration from 25 local organisations, we saw over 40 activities, and 7 public displays throughout the 16 Days, that reached almost 1,000 active participants. CRE also had a presence at the Walk Against Violence event (WAVE), starting the conversation with those present on how we can each play our part in creating a Geraldton community free from violence against women and children.

Midwest Early Years Gender Equality Project (MEYGE)

Through the Midwest Early Years Gender Equality Project, Desert Blue Connect continued to build the capacity of early childhood educators, families and community organisations to promote gender equality and contribute to the primary prevention of family and domestic violence.

A key focus this year was expanding the range of practical resources available to early years services. This included the development of a parent and carer version of the All Access Equality Guide, providing families with accessible information and practical strategies for supporting children to grow free from limiting gender stereotypes. A range of printed materials was also produced, including posters informing community about what gender equality is, child reflection cards to promote children's voice and a printed communications guide, to support services to embed gender equality messages within their everyday environments, interactions and communication with families.

The CRE/MEYGE Communications Guide was developed to assist organisations and educators to communicate clearly and confidently about gender equality and primary prevention. The guide outlines positive, proactive communication strategies, supports values-based communication, responds to common questions and concerns, and provides practical advice for managing resistance and backlash while maintaining

constructive conversations with families and communities.

Work also progressed on the development of the MEYGE Online Learning Management System. The online learning modules provide flexible and accessible professional learning for educators, professionals and families.

The MEYGE training suite was expanded to provide organisations with additional opportunities to build their knowledge and practical skills. Training and presentations were delivered across early childhood networks, community settings and TAFE, supporting current and future educators to understand the role they can play in challenging gender stereotypes, strengthening respectful relationships and creating environments in which all children can thrive.

989

followers on Community, Respect & Equality social media page.

16

media articles published on the CRE website.

"These cards are such a lovely way to prompt deep discussions."

Playgroup Leader



↑
MEYGE gender equality
reflection cards.
→
Communications working group
16 Days WA.



"Being part of the CRE Alliance has become a really valuable part of my role. Connecting with other professionals who are committed to ending gender-based violence has given us a clear focus that aligns with our core work and inspires us to dream bigger and do better for the community we live and work with"

CRE Communications Group Member

Family & Domestic Violence Support

Desert Blue Connect provides specialist support to individuals and families affected by family and domestic violence. Our Family and Domestic Violence team is made up of five practitioners working across Safe at Home, Triage, Local Support Coordination, the Mobile Outreach Initiative, and Domestic Violence Advocacy.

Highlights & Achievements

Strengthening Triage and Risk-Led Responses

In January 2026, Desert Blue Connect developed and implemented a dedicated Family and Domestic Violence Triage Process, aligned with the WA Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework and best practice principles of victim-survivor centred, trauma-informed, culturally safe, risk-led, and integrated responses. Triage now functions as the central coordination point for incoming referrals, walk-ins, and phone contacts. This process ensures that all registrations and referrals are screened, assessed, documented, and allocated in a consistent and timely way. It also supports accurate record keeping across client management systems, appropriate storage of Family Violence Incident Reports, and clear referral pathways from initial contact through to allocation. A key purpose of triage is to identify risk level and potential harm at the earliest point of contact. High-risk and high-harm matters are prioritised for immediate response, while other referrals progress through routine allocation pathways. This has strengthened the team's ability to provide timely safety planning, transparent case allocation, and coordinated responses with internal staff and external stakeholders, including the FDV Response Team.

Safe at Home Contract

Desert Blue Connect was successful in obtaining the Safe at Home contract, increasing the capacity of the Family and Domestic Violence team to support victim-survivors to remain safely in their homes where appropriate.

The brokerage attached to this contract provides access to practical safety resources, including additional home security measures. This support is particularly valuable for victim-survivors experiencing ongoing risk, post-separation abuse, or concerns about safety within the home environment..

Student Placements and Workforce Development

Over the past 12 months, the Family and Domestic Violence team has hosted two tertiary social work students. These placements provided students with valuable practice experience in trauma-informed, client-led family and domestic violence work. Hosting students also created opportunities for shared learning within the team, strengthening connection with contemporary research, emerging practice approaches, and the development of future practitioners in the sector.

Clinical Leadership and Practice Support

The appointment of a Clinical Lead Manager has provided increased clinical support, practice guidance, and oversight for the Family and Domestic Violence team. This has been particularly important in complex cases involving multifaceted risk, safety concerns, child protection matters, housing instability, legal issues, and ongoing perpetrator behaviour. The additional clinical guidance has supported reflective practice, strengthened risk assessment and safety planning, and provided practitioners with further support when responding to high-risk and complex client presentations.

1,526

victim survivors supported by the domestic and family violence team.

33

Aboriginal women victim survivors supported in the Barndimalgu Court.

↑
Minister for Child Protection and the Prevention of Family Violence WA Jessica Stojkovsk and Sandra Car MLC visit.

↗
16 Days in WA
→

Paddle out 16 Days in WA.

→
16 Days in WA.



"Thank you so much for your email back so quickly. It helps not to feel like I am so alone in this"

Anonymous Client



"You actually made a difference on something that was crucial to me being able to move on. Thank you so much again!!"

Anonymous Client



Chrysalis House Women's Refuge

Chrysalis House Women's Refuge has supported women and children experiencing family and domestic violence, homelessness and crisis since 1981. We provide safe crisis accommodation, practical assistance and compassionate support, helping women rebuild their safety, stability and independence.

The refuge offers four bedrooms, shared living areas, a welcoming playroom and spacious outdoor areas, creating a comfortable and supportive environment. Two adjoining medium-term transitional units provide continued accommodation and support for women as they work towards securing long-term, safe housing.

Highlights & Achievements

Facility Improvements

Thanks to funding received through the Rio Tinto Community Grant, new storage cupboards have been installed, creating a more organised, functional and welcoming meeting space for clients and staff. A new glass sliding door and frame have also been installed in the client laundry. The previous door had warped over time, making it difficult to operate and creating a potential safety risk. The replacement door, fitted with an Alu-Gard security screen, opens smoothly and improves both daily access and emergency evacuation if required. Through The DV Collective's 50 Bed Campaign, DBC also secured beds for a three-bedroom home supporting a family fleeing domestic violence, helping create a safe, comfortable and welcoming space as they started over.

Celebrating Special Occasions

Many women and children spend important occasions while staying at Chrysalis House. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are able to make these times memorable by providing Christmas lunch and gifts, an Easter meal and egg hunt, Mother's Day gifts for mums and caregivers, and birthday presents throughout the year. Our celebrations were made even more special by a staff member who volunteered to dress as both Santa's Elf and the Easter Bunny, bringing smiles and laughter to the children.

Restoring Dignity

Many women arrive at Chrysalis House with few personal belongings. Donations of new, high-quality clothing, toiletries and essential items from organisations and supporters across Australia help restore dignity, improve self-esteem and provide comfort during an incredibly challenging time. We are sincerely grateful for this ongoing generosity.

Mindfulness and Self-Care

Staff continue to participate in the Containers for Change program, using the proceeds to provide Mindfulness Packs for clients. It has been especially rewarding to see clients choosing to recycle their own containers, knowing their efforts will help support women who stay at the refuge in the future. These packs continue to be warmly received and provide practical tools that encourage wellbeing during difficult times.

Community Generosity

Throughout the year we received generous donations of food, clothing, toiletries, linen, toys, household goods, craft supplies, gift vouchers, monetary contributions and items for special occasions. The ongoing support of local businesses, community groups and individual donors plays an important role in helping women and children feel valued, cared for and connected to their community. We sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to making Chrysalis House a place of safety, hope and new beginnings.

236

women and children escaping family violence accommodated at Chrysalis House.

1,916

bed nights were provided.

49%

of the people who stay at Chrysalis House are children.

"Very professional. Excellent support for vulnerable women."

Anonymous Client



"Thank you all so much. Staff are very kind. I love the mindfulness bag"

Anonymous Client



↑
Blooms the Chemist Mother's Day Donations.

→
Woolworths Seacrest Winter warmers donations.

→
Inner Wheel Club Geraldton Children Bags Donation.

→
Christmas presents for children donations.

Sexual Assault Support

Desert Blue Connect provides specialist, compassionate, trauma-informed counselling for women, children and young people impacted by sexual violence. Through adult and child-focused therapeutic streams, we recognise that sexual violence often intersects with family and domestic violence, coercive control, developmental trauma, mental health concerns, grief, family conflict, housing instability and safety-related challenges. Support is tailored to each client's individual needs and recovery journey.

Highlights & Achievements

Child-Centred Therapeutic Support

Over the past 12 months, we continued to provide developmentally appropriate, child-centred therapeutic support using play-based and creative approaches including art, music, mindfulness, relaxation and trauma-focused interventions. These approaches support children and young people to safely express feelings, process experiences, build coping skills and strengthen emotional regulation. Sessions are delivered both within Desert Blue Connect's play therapy space and on-site at schools across the Midwest region, improving accessibility for children and families.

Therapeutic Practice and Trauma Recovery

Sexual Assault counselling continued to provide a safe and supportive therapeutic space for clients navigating the impacts of sexual violence and trauma. Therapeutic interventions included stabilisation, psychoeducation, emotional regulation, safety planning, self-compassion, boundary development and trauma processing. EMDR therapy was also used with appropriately stabilised adult clients, supporting reduced trauma symptoms, increased self-confidence, improved emotional insight and a greater capacity to separate trauma-related shame from their sense of self.

Regional Access and Flexible Service Delivery

Flexible service delivery remained important for clients experiencing distance, transport and other barriers to specialist

counselling. Online counselling continued to provide access for clients unable to attend in person. The commencement of a new Child Sexual Abuse Therapist will further strengthen regional outreach to Meekatharra and neighbouring towns, increasing access to specialist therapeutic support for children and young people in smaller regional communities.

Strong Community and Service Partnerships

We continued to strengthen relationships with local and regional services to support coordinated, client-focused care and stronger referral pathways. Key connections included Midwest Mental Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Services, Bundiwarra, Ngala, and primary and secondary schools across the region. These partnerships promote shared understanding, integrated responses and stronger care pathways for children, young people and adults impacted by sexual violence.

230

child abuse cases supported by a child sexual assault counsellor.

183

adult sexual assault cases supported by a sexual assault counsellor.

"Big thanks for being flexible with therapy sessions and responding to all calls, SMS and emails, really helps"

Anonymous



"Enjoying the youth resilience group every Thursday."

Anonymous



"Great service, I appreciate the support."

Anonymous Client

➔
NAIDOC Week Justice and
Community Network

➔
Children Play Therapy Room.

Men's Support

Desert Blue Connect's Men's Community Intervention Service works with men to address family and domestic violence, improve wellbeing and build safer relationships. Throughout 2025-26, demand for the service remained strong, with clients presenting with increasingly complex needs including trauma, PTSD, mental health concerns, substance use and housing instability.

Through counselling, behaviour change programs and collaboration with community partners, the service supported men to increase accountability, strengthen emotional regulation and create safer outcomes for women and families across the Mid West.

Highlights & Achievements

Integrated Clinical Support

A key achievement during the year was the increased integration of GPs, psychiatrists and other specialist services into client support and safety planning. This coordinated approach resulted in more holistic care, improved engagement, stronger risk management and better outcomes for men working towards sustainable behaviour change.

Behaviour Change Programs

Two Caring Dads programs and two Anger Management programs were delivered during the year.

Fifteen fathers participated in the Caring Dads program, a structured 17 week intervention that requires a significant commitment to self reflection, accountability and positive behaviour change. Participants developed stronger parenting skills and a greater understanding of the impact of their behaviour on children and families. The Anger Management programs supported participants to improve emotional regulation, manage conflict more effectively and take greater responsibility for their choices and actions. Combined with ongoing counselling, these programs provided practical tools to build greater ownership of the changes needed to create safer relationships.

Greenough Regional Prison

Our partnership with Greenough Regional Prison continued to grow significantly throughout the year, with counselling sessions increasing by almost 50% compared to the previous year. This growth reflects the increasing demand for specialised counselling and behaviour change support within the prison environment.

Through this partnership, participants are supported to address harmful behaviours, build insight, and prepare for successful reintegration into the community. Strong engagement levels and consistently positive feedback highlight the value of this program in creating safer outcomes for individuals, families and the broader community.

392

referrals received by the Men's Service.

165

participants from Greenough Regional Prison supported with counselling.

896

counselling sessions delivered with participants from the prison.

2

Caring Dads group programs delivered.

2

anger management group programs delivered.



Men's Service Team with CEO
Meegan Taylor.

"I've gained a better understanding
of my behaviour and the impact
it can have on others.."

Anonymous Client

"Recognising the patterns in myself
that I want to change and learning
how to approach things differently"

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.

164

people supported by a rural based counsellor.

1,846

community members participated in rural community events.

332

attendances of rural mental health events.

54

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



"The help I got has significantly changed me from feeling lost and broken to having hope and skills to deal with my problems. I am very thankful."

Anonymous Client



"Thank you for the fantastic work you do, goodness knows we need it in these small communities."

Women's Social Group Participant

↑
Morawa NAIDOC.

↗
Our Rural Based Counsellor,
Serina Ablett.

→
Leeman Women's Group.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2026

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Equivalents.....	\$1,208,028
Trade and Other Receivables.....	\$240,078
Other Assets.....	\$0
Total Current Assets	\$1,448,106

Non-Current Assets

Property, Plant and Equipment	\$709,901
Intangible Assets	\$186,165
Total Non-Current Assets.....	\$896,066

Total Assets **\$2,344,172**

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Trade and Other Payables.....	\$731,180
Provisions	\$303,654
Tax Liabilities	\$48,401
Borrowings	\$111,101
Total Current Liabilities.....	\$1,194,336

Non-Current Liabilities

Borrowings	\$97,653
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$97,653

Total Liabilities **\$1,291,989**

Net Assets **\$1,052,182**

Equity

Retained Earnings.....	\$917,150
Reserves.....	\$135,033

Total Equity **\$1,052,183**

Statement of Profit and Loss

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

Income

Donations Received	\$154,995
Events/Fundraising.....	\$4,819
Grants Received	\$4,944,008
Interest Received.....	\$31,199
Medicare Income	\$85,679
Other Income	\$40,815
Sponsorship Income.....	\$2,955
Transfer to/from Provisions.....	-\$298,195

Total Income	\$4,966,275
---------------------	--------------------

Expenses

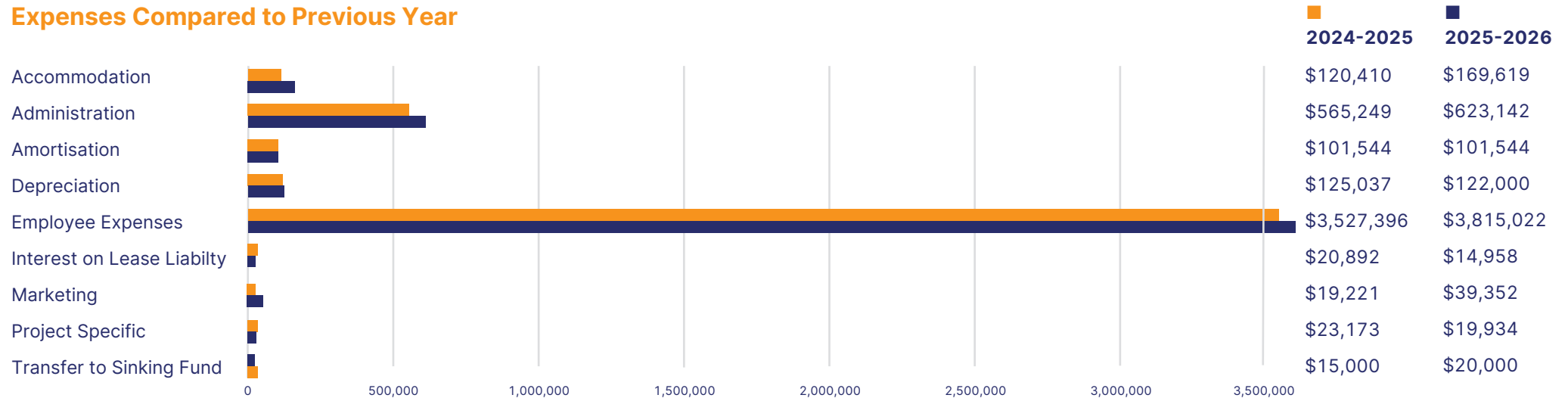
Accommodation.....	\$196,619
Administration.....	\$623,142
Amortisation.....	\$101,544
Depreciation.....	\$122,000
Employee Expenses	\$3,815,022
Loss on Sale of Non-Current Asset.....	\$5,158
Interest	\$503
Interest on lease liability	\$14,958
Marketing	\$39,352
Project Specific.....	\$19,934
Transfer to Sinking Fund	\$20,000

Total Expenses	\$4,958,232
-----------------------	--------------------

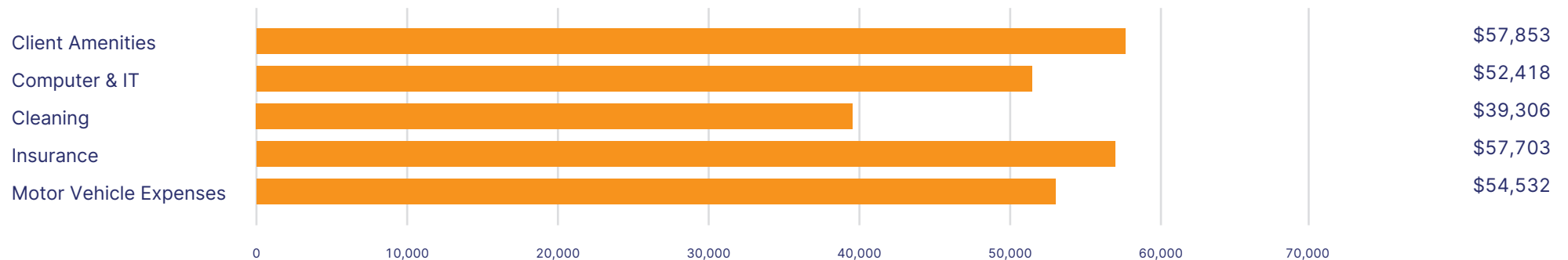
Total Comprehensive Income	\$8,042
-----------------------------------	----------------

Main Expenses

Expenses Compared to Previous Year



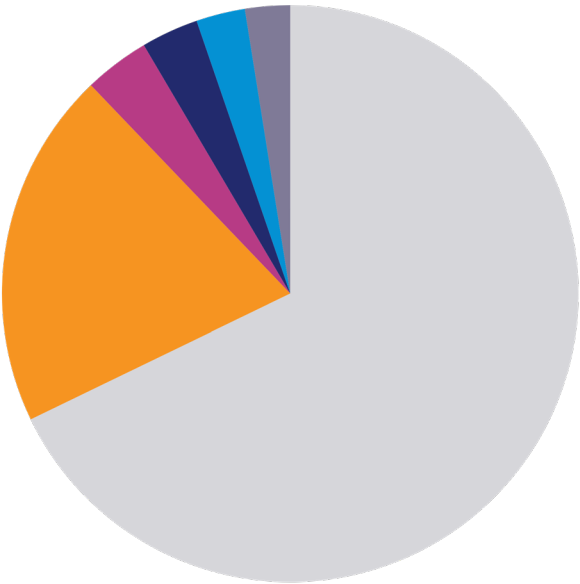
Expenses Excluding Personnel and Premises



Funding by Source

Source Categories

Department of Communities	\$3,275,769	65.96%
Department of Health	\$966,890	19.47%
Donations	\$154,995	3.12%
Other	\$177,420	3.57%
Department of Justice	\$132,698	2.67%
Medicare Income	\$85,679	1.73%
Interest	\$31,198	0.63%
Event/Fundraising	\$4,819	0.10%
Total Funding	\$4,966,275	



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

