

# The Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre

**Our Year of Impact**  
2025 Annual Report



# Welcome to our 2025 Annual Report

The Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre (The SAFV Centre) Annual Report 2024–2025 highlights the strength of our clients, the transformation of our organisation, and the impact we have had on our community.

## Always was, always will be

It is a privilege to be working on the lands of First Nations Peoples and traditional custodians of the land and waterways across Barwon – the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation; the Gulidjan and Gadubanud people of the Eastern Maar Nation; the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali people across the Wimmera; and the Gundiijmara people of the Eastern Maar nation in the South West. We acknowledge that sovereignty was not ceded. We respectfully acknowledge the past and present traditional owners and custodians of the land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

## Honoring lived experience

We acknowledge the strength, trauma and resilience of all people impacted by sexual and family violence. We remember those whose lives were taken, and acknowledge the trauma of friends and family members who have lost loved ones. We value the voices and lived experience of those impacted by violence to inform and serve our organisation and services. We acknowledge those who are experiencing sexual and family violence today and offer our support.

## Diversity and Inclusion

We celebrate inclusivity, diversity and intersectionality. We seek to ensure our services are accessible to all people and understand the complex interface between intersectionality and gender based violence and the impact this has upon the people we support.

## Our wonderful staff

We share our deep appreciation to each and every staff member throughout this year. Their commitment to our clients and our community, each other and our organisation has been incredible.

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# Our clients are at the centre of all we do.

Our experienced staff work closely with people who have experienced sexual or family violence in supporting their recovery; to alleviate the negative impacts of violence on their lives; and create opportunities for them to rebuild their sense of control. We also work with anyone else affected, including family, friends and support people.

Our staff also support people who have experienced violence in the Barwon South West region to cope with the effects of the crime through the Victims Assistance Program.





# About us

The SAFV Centre was established in 1978 and continues to grow, delivering integrated specialist response, early intervention, education and prevention services and programs.

Supporting the Victorian community throughout Barwon, Wimmera, and the South West regions, we offer a specialist range of support services to all people impacted by sexual and family violence, encompassing 24 hour crisis care and response, case management, therapeutic counselling and group programs, early intervention programs, refuge and housing support, legal services, professional training and primary prevention initiatives. We also provide specialised support for all victims of crime through the Victims Assistance Program for Barwon and the South West.

Working across multiple sites and locations, including co-location within the Barwon Multi-Disciplinary Centre, The Orange Doors in Barwon and the South West, outpost locations and within the locally known service Emma House in Warrnambool, our unique combination of services allows us to respond to those that need us, supporting them throughout their journey toward recovery and resilience, while also educating and working with our communities for gender equality to prevent violence from happening in the first place.

We are committed to our vision for a community free from sexual assault and family violence, and a society underpinned by the principles of gender equality, social justice and human rights. Our values of Respect, Integrity, Innovation, Collaboration and Commitment unite us, guiding our decisions and actions in our roles, every day.



## Our vision

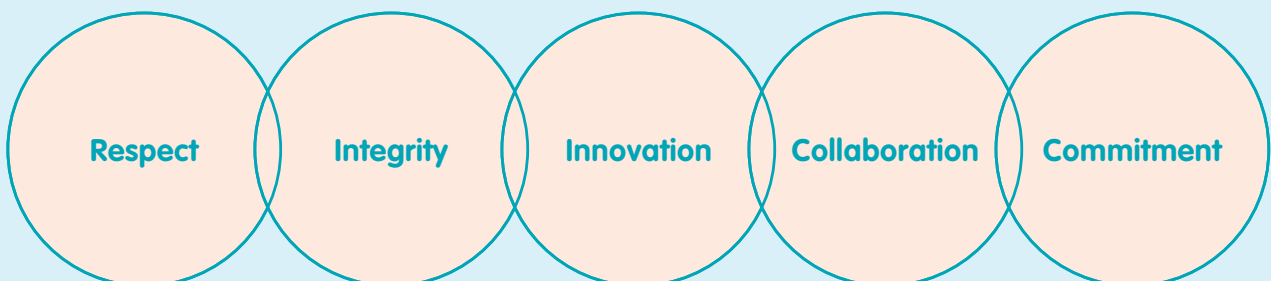
Our vision is for a community free from sexual assault and family violence, and a society underpinned by the principles of gender equality, social justice and human rights.

## Our purpose

- Provide services underpinned by a feminist philosophy that are empowering, respectful and inclusive, and which address barriers to service access.
- Provide high-quality, sensitive and responsive services to women and children who have experienced and been impacted by family violence and to people who have experienced and been impacted by sexual assault.
- Design and implement effective evidence-based prevention of violence against women and gender equality programs and initiatives.
- Contribute to the evidence base and social policy frameworks which inform effective service provision.
- Contribute to the systematic and social change necessary to eliminate family violence and sexual assault.

## Our values

Our values unite us, guiding our decisions and actions in our roles, every day.



# A message from our Chair

## Vesna Allan



Welcome to The SAFV Centre's 2025 Annual Report. On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to reflect on a year of significant impact and organisational strengthening.

This year marked a new era of leadership at The SAFV Centre as we welcomed Kerriann Campbell Jones as CEO in December 2024. Under Kerriann's guidance and with support from the Board, The SAFV Centre has undertaken a period of decisive transformation, driven by the implementation of the Future Ready Strategy.

The changes implemented this year were significant yet guided by a clear purpose, establish a sustainable financial position, streamline governance, and strengthen operational excellence.

Achieving this transformation required courage, collaboration, and resilience. Staff demonstrated unwavering dedication to clients, continuing to deliver high-quality care while embracing new systems and ways of working. We are deeply grateful to our stakeholders and funders, whose support was critical in maintaining service continuity, and to our regulators, whose oversight validated our governance and compliance frameworks.

These changes position The SAFV Centre not only to meet current demand but to lead the sector in trauma-informed, evidence-based practice. The journey strengthened our collective commitment and highlighted the dedication, compassion, and resilience of everyone connected to our organisation.

I would like to acknowledge changes in board membership this year welcoming Deputy Chair David Meade, Treasurer Byron Crawford and Non-Executive Directors, Eelco Vugs and Tamara Kotowicz. We farewelled Renee Fiolet, Sheridan Edmond-Salmon and Ben Meake, Jodie Hayden, Sophie O-Keefe, and Kate Stowell. I thank all members individually and collectively, for their dedication and contribution to The SAFV Centre and for their invaluable guidance and focus.

Today we remain steadfast in our dedication to the vision and commitment to a community free from sexual assault and family violence, and a society underpinned by the principles of gender equality, social justice and human rights. Looking ahead, The SAFV Centre is well positioned to lead with purpose, drive innovation, and deepen our impact across the Barwon, Wimmera and South West communities we support.

**Vesna Allan**  
Chairperson

# A message from our CEO

## Kerriann Campbell Jones



It is with great pleasure I present my first annual report as CEO at The SAFV Centre. This past year has been one of transformation, consolidation, and achievement, marked by high-quality program delivery, strengthened community engagement, and significant organisational review and development.

As a specialist sexual and family violence service working across the full continuum from prevention, early intervention, response and recovery, we have continued to work towards our vision of a community free from sexual assault and family violence. We remain committed to supporting and advocating for those impacted by sexual and family violence responding to every person in a way that is most impactful for their individual circumstances, and to meet the unique needs of our Barwon, Wimmera, and South West communities.

This year was defined by bold action and shared commitment to strengthening services and achieving better outcomes for clients and communities. Guided by our Future Ready Strategy, we focused on building a financially sustainable and resilient organisation through workforce restructuring, overhead reduction, strengthening financial controls, ensuring funding compliance, enhancing our executive leadership positions. These actions enabled us to establish robust governance and compliance systems, and secure continuity of our specialist services.

Alongside this transformation, we reflect on the impact we have had in our community; leading 16 Days of Activism activities in the Wimmera and South West, partnering to host the second year of the Geelong Candlelight Vigil Forum, expanding our Respect Starts Here program into new sporting clubs and delivering five group counselling programs across Geelong, Colac and Horsham.

Our staff have continued to work incredibly hard this year to support victim survivors and the communities we operate within. Their work is often complex and challenging, yet they remain committed to the safety and wellbeing of our clients and communities. We are deeply grateful for their adaptability, dedication and professionalism.

We remain committed to providing high quality, trauma-informed care, working together in collaboration with sector leaders and community partners and driving advocacy and collective responsibility for the prevention of sexual and family violence.

We are grateful to all our partners, donors and supporters who continue to advocate for the work of our organisation. This work is not done alone. We are also grateful to our partner organisations in working together to deliver support and services to our community.

Looking ahead, we are well positioned to lead with purpose and further deepen our impact across each region and beyond. We look to the year ahead with strong foundations to expand our service offerings and continue investing in quality improvements to deliver on our vision.

**Kerriann Campbell Jones**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Governance

## Our Board Members

The SAFV Centre is governed by a dedicated Board who is committed to the prevention and elimination of sexual and family violence in our community.

Our Board provides strong stewardship for our organisation and the community by upholding our values and setting our strategic direction.

- **Vesna Allan**, Chairperson
- **David Meade**, Deputy Chairperson
- **Byron Crawford**, Treasurer
- **Simone Renyard**, Non-Executive Director
- **Eelco Vugs**, Non-Executive Director
- **Tamara Kotowicz**, Non-Executive Director

## Statement of transparency

The Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre Board has a strong commitment to its clients, members, staff, stakeholders and the general public.

The Board upholds the importance of transparency in its operations to act responsibly so its actions and decisions can be easily understood.

The Board prides itself on its high standards of public administration and use of public resources for the benefit of all people requiring access to our services.

# Financial Overview

## A Year of Transformation

The 2024-25 financial year has been marked by organisational transformation, strengthening our governance, financial position, systems and processes after a period of rapid growth over the previous three years.

The SAFV Centre achieved financial stabilisation and enhanced operational excellence through the implementation of the Future Ready Strategy. This included a significant reduction in corporate overheads from 38% to 24%, enabling us to continue delivering on our vision of a community free from sexual assault and family violence.

This work has provided a strong foundation to confidently forge ahead with improved oversight, accountability and long-term sustainability. It reflects our commitment to safe, trauma-informed practice, while strengthening the systems, leadership and structures that underpin high-quality service delivery across our regions. Looking ahead, we are well placed to respond to emerging community needs, build resilience across our workforce, and continue driving meaningful impact through evidence, collaboration and strong organisational stewardship.

We acknowledge with gratitude the support of our funding bodies and donors, whose contributions have been essential to ensuring services to our clients and community.

We thank our Board Members for their oversight and guidance throughout the rollout of the Future Ready Strategy. Finally, we recognise the efforts of the Executive and The SAFV Centre staff, whose work has supported the effective management and delivery of our financial objectives whilst maintaining excellence in service delivery.



# Our Year of Impact

5,499

clients supported across  
The SAFV Centre

694

clients supported in the  
Wimmera region

3,249\*

clients supported in the  
Barwon region

1,511

women, children and  
young people received  
family violence case  
management and refuge  
(Barwon & South West)

2,879

adults, young people  
and children received  
a therapeutic service  
including counselling  
and group programs

103

young people and children  
received therapeutic treatment  
for harmful sexual and sexually  
abusive behaviours across  
Barwon and Wimmera

250

secondary consultations  
provided to professionals  
within Barwon and Wimmera

620

attendees took part in  
our primary prevention  
programs and workshops

520

clients were supported in the  
Victims Assistance Program  
in Barwon and South West

7,714

family violence cases  
supported by our staff within  
The Orange Door Barwon and  
The Orange Door South West

57

women received court support  
when applying for Family  
Violence Intervention Orders  
in Barwon

1,050

participants attended our  
professional training



1,036\*

clients supported in the South West region

532

clients supported by our Legal Program in the South West

\* Excludes VAP clients

# Stories of Hope, Healing and Resilience

The SAFV Centre supported **5,499** clients this financial year.

Clients are at the centre of all we do. Their stories reflect both the profound impact of sexual and family violence within our community and the hope and resilience that underpin recovery and healing.

Client stories and experiences captured through our Measurement, Evaluation and Learning Framework highlight the complexity and impact of our work as a specialist organisation and serve as a hopeful reminder to our staff that, even in challenging moments, our work makes a tangible and lasting difference to the safety and wellbeing of those we support.

“Without my case worker I believe the process of removing myself safely and the mental and support I got my outcome would be not very good. Giving me guidance through each step and financial help I need to escape from being hurt or unloved was what got me out”

- Case Management Client

“Thank you so much for your call I have some angels looking after me finally. I feel like I honestly have been down a really scary road and felt so unsafe and unsupported till last night’s call and yours this morning. Thank you for hearing me and helping me. I needed someone to just listen and guide me so thank you again”

- Victims Assistance Program Client

“Counselling has really helped me in this area, and I have noticed the difference in the way I feel about myself and the kind of treatment I accept from others”

- Counselling Client



# Responding to Sexual and Family Violence and Supporting Victim Survivors to Heal and Recover

**Every person has the right to live free from violence, in safe and respectful relationships, and in communities where equality and respect is the norm.**

This year, The SAFV Centre has continued to respond to the needs of communities across the Barwon, Wimmera, and South West regions, providing timely and specialist support to individuals and families impacted by sexual and family violence.

With a deep understanding of how regional and rural contexts shape the prevalence and dynamics of violence, our work is informed by the lived experience of clients and staff, as well as strong partnerships with local communities and services. Navigating these place-based complexities, we support access to safety, care, and recovery. Integrated approaches remain central to our work, with almost half of those seeking support for sexual assault also experiencing family violence.

## Our Impact in Action

### Intake and After-Hours Support

Our Intake program is a vital part of The SAFV Centre, serving as the first point of contact for people affected by sexual and family violence. The Intake team provides timely and responsive support for clients as they first connect with our services.

Working collaboratively with our multi-disciplinary partners, intake offers specialist outreach at Geelong University Hospital's Crisis Care Unit for adults undergoing forensic examinations after recent sexual assault.

Our team provided 250 secondary consultations for sexual and family violence to professionals and practitioners from the health, education and community sectors, as well as private psychologists and police.

Our After-Hours team delivers urgent phone and face-to-face crisis support for survivors of recent sexual assault and high-risk family violence, as well as their supportive family members and carers. We provided 240 after-hours family violence and sexual assault responses across the Barwon and South West regions. Our Barwon after-hours team saw a 21% increase in family violence responses from the previous year. We continue to provide after hours support for sexual assault clients in the Wimmera.

Together, our intake and after-hours programs ensure accessible, trauma-informed care at critical moments, helping survivors connect with the services and support they need when they need it most.

## Case Management, Refuge and Housing

Our case management and refuge services supported 1,511 clients across Barwon and the South West regions. Providing holistic, trauma-informed support to women and children experiencing family violence, with a strong focus on safety, stability and wellbeing each response is tailored to the unique risks, experiences, and needs of each individual and family group.

Recognising that no two situations are the same support may include risk assessment and safety planning, coordination of security measures, emotional and wellbeing support, advocacy with external services, and practical assistance such as access to essential items and emergency accommodation. Case managers also support referrals and applications for safe, stable medium- and long-term housing options.

We received 45 new referrals to the Risk Assessment and Management Panel (RAMP), a multi-agency panel that supports the highest-risk family violence cases across the South West region. Co-chaired by The SAFV Centre and Victoria Police, RAMP maintains a strong focus on perpetrator accountability while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of victim survivors remains central.

### Access and Support

As a partner organisation within the Orange Door, we are proud to share the number of cases (a case is created for each individual person identified in a referral) our staff supported at our co-located locations:

- Orange Door Barwon saw 6,554 cases supported by our staff
- Orange Door South West saw 1,160 cases supported by our staff

To improve accessibility and respond to community need, we commenced additional outreach services at two new locations: Kurrambee Myaring Community Centre in Torquay and Boorai Centre in Ocean Grove.

We also received additional funding from the Department of Social Services as part of a broader commitment to strengthening the family and sexual violence workforce. This funding enabled the creation of four new administrative support roles, enhancing service responsiveness and allowing practitioners to focus on delivering timely, high-quality care to individuals and families.

### Refuge and Housing

This year, we continued to provide refuge and housing support, helping women and children impacted by family violence across the Barwon and Wimmera South West regions to establish safety, stability, and ongoing support.

We undertook 146 consultations through the Personal Safety Initiative (PSI). PSI strengthens the effective use of personal safety, security and technology responses to increase victim survivor safety, deter breaches of Family Violence Intervention Orders, and support women impacted by family violence to remain safely in their homes across the Wimmera South West.

We supported 20 women and 32 children in our Barwon Refuge and 13 women and children in our South West Refuge. Our refuge accommodation enables us to provide safety and security to women and children experiencing high levels of risk, while offering a stable and supportive environment during periods of crisis.

This year, we commenced construction on our South West Core and Cluster Refuge for women and children impacted by family violence. This purpose-built, multi-unit crisis accommodation will provide a calm, supported and welcoming space where women and children can begin to re-establish their lives and progress along their recovery journey.

As we look ahead, we recognise the significant barriers facing families exiting refuge, with access to safe and affordable housing remaining the primary challenge. We continue to advocate to government for increased access to appropriate, affordable housing options for women and children impacted by family violence.



“My case manager always made sure I was comfortable before we began, accommodating my needs. She presented the Shark Cage material in an accessible manner and communicated with other support personnel for me (legal, counselling), which I really appreciated, as it was quite overwhelming at times. I also appreciated the take home material so I can continue revising and practising the “how to say no” prompts”

- Case Management Client

# Responding to Sexual and Family Violence and Supporting Victim Survivors to Heal and Recover (continued)

## Legal Program

Our Emma House Legal Program supported 532 clients throughout South West region. Access to early legal assistance can be a critical step in supporting safety, stability and informed decision-making for those who have been impacted by family violence.

We expanded our civil law practice, increasing support to women facing tenancy issues, fines and traffic infringements, small property disputes and the Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme. Investing in our civil practice has allowed us to reduce outgoing referrals, meaning victim survivors are not having to re-tell their story multiple times, and benefit from having continuity with a trauma-informed legal practice. We continued to provide weekly Duty Lawyer services at Portland, Hamilton and Warrnambool Magistrate's Court to assist with Family Violence Intervention Order (FVIO) matters.

Our legal program took carriage of more legal matters than ever before, providing 231 representation services in an ongoing capacity. Representing clients with parenting matters, property settlements and divorce is particularly important to a person's recovery and can help provide a level of closure and independence for people impacted by violence.

Funding for the legal program was secured for a further three years under the National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP). We thank the Commonwealth and Victorian Government, along with Victorian Legal Aid for their ongoing support. This funding is vital in ensuring the most vulnerable in our community can achieve timely access to justice in southwest Victoria.

By walking alongside women as they navigate the legal system, our Community Legal Program helps reduce barriers to justice and supports women to make choices that protect their wellbeing and support longer-term recovery.

## Therapeutic Counselling & Group Programs

Our therapeutic counselling services supported 2,879 clients across the Barwon, Wimmera and South West regions. 20% of therapeutic counselling clients were children and young people under the age of 18.

Our team works with people across the lifespan, providing a broad range of specialised therapeutic responses including individual counselling, family-focused interventions, group work, and services addressing harmful sexual behaviours. This breadth enables us to respond to the diverse and complex needs of our community.

All therapeutic work at The SAFV Centre is trauma-informed, client-led and grounded in person-centred, strengths-based practice. We prioritise safety, choice and dignity, supporting victim survivors to regain stability and work towards longer-term recovery goals. Therapeutic support is tailored to each person's goals, recognising that individuals are not defined by their trauma and that healing is shaped by wider family, community and systemic contexts.

Our practitioners work with a high level of complexity. 49% of sexual assault cases also experienced family violence. We are uniquely positioned to support clients access the support they need for sexual and family violence in one place, providing holistic support with a deep understanding of the nature of gendered violence.

Our highly skilled workforce plays a critical role in holding the increasing complexity of trauma, supporting children, families and individuals to heal, recover and reconnect with safety and agency.

"SAFV have been very helpful and understanding of my child's needs. They have been helpful with my understanding of the process and all that is involved with the situation we have found ourselves in"

- Counselling Client

# Responding to Sexual and Family Violence and Supporting Victim Survivors to Heal and Recover (continued)

## Rural and Regional Reach

Our Wimmera team continued to deliver much needed therapeutic and crisis response support for people impacted by sexual violence, along with counselling for women and children impacted by family violence. We continue to provide support across the Wimmera, with staff travelling regularly to five in-person outpost to ensure face to face access is available for clients within rural locations.

We continue to deliver outreach services across a broad range of services and locations, including culturally safe support through Wathaurong and to young people at Headspace. These outreach locations provide an additional layer of safety for clients, and we are proud to work with partners to ensure access to services are as easy as possible.

**“It was a relief to feel safe and authentic during counselling due to my counsellor’s non-judgemental and empathetic approach”**

- Counselling Client

## Group Programs

Our therapeutic group programs continued to grow this year welcoming 118 women, mothers and children and young people across the Barwon, Colac and Wimmera regions to receive trauma-informed support and to connect to a peer community through these important programs.

We introduced Them, Me, We, a brief child-focused parent group for women of children who have experienced family violence and parents and carers of children who have experienced sexual assault. The program focuses on developmental and psychological impacts of trauma on children between 0 – 12 years, sharing evidence-based strategies to support parent-child relationships and pathways to recovery.

**“Openness to talk and share experience and learnt so much about myself and how I can connect with my child and help them regulate their emotions”**

- Them, Me, We Participant

Our trauma-informed Yoga program continued to be delivered in both Barwon and the Wimmera regions throughout the year, with increased participation across all terms in Barwon. Our yoga program uses a series of shapes and mindfulness-based techniques to support clients in building a sense of connection to self and safety, complementing our therapeutic services. Participant reflections shared at the end of each session captured a powerful sense of agency, safety and self-connection cultivated within the group.

**“It was very healing to be able to connect with other women peer to peer, where trauma was not discussed but respected”**

- Yoga Participant Feedback

# Supporting Victims of Crime across Barwon and South West Victoria

## Our Impact in Action

### Victims Assistance Program

Our Victims Assistance Program continued to deliver tailored support to victims of crime across the Barwon and South West regions. The program provides individualised, trauma-informed responses to assist victims to manage the impacts of crime and support their recovery.

This year, we expanded our outreach services through two new co-locations at Geelong Police Station and Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative. Our presence within police stations enables in-person support for presenting victims, consultation and direct referrals from Victoria Police, and helps embed victim-centred practice within police station environments.

Co-location with Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative enables us to offer culturally safe alternatives to in-person engagement. This work is supported by our Aboriginal Engagement Worker, who provides essential cultural guidance, nuanced understanding, and specialised responses to clients, while strengthening connections with First Nations communities and professionals.

Following the transition from the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT) to the new Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) in November 2024, our team supported clients by providing clear information and practical assistance to navigate the application process, ensuring continuity of access to financial support during this significant system change.

We continued to engage with our community and build internal capability by supporting organisation-wide training on responding to disclosures of a person suspected or using violence, engaging staff across the Barwon, Wimmera and South West regions.

We also contributed to sector learning and reform by participating in a research project led by Djirra and the RMIT Centre for Innovative Justice examining the misidentification of First Nations women as family violence perpetrators. In addition, we delivered presentations on our Victims Assistance Program and its family violence response to community professionals, including Drummond Street and South West Healthcare, supporting strengthened referral pathways and improved system responses.

“Thanks to you and all the Victims of Crime people we’ve been engaged with over the last few years, ... finally coming out the other side of the trauma and wreckage from the assault. We both want to especially say thank you to you and your team because without you, we would never have navigated the post crime system.”

- Victims Assistance Program Client

“I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation for everything you’ve done for me. I’m truly grateful for your support and kindness. Words aren’t enough, but from the heart thank you so much ... Thank you SAFV. Thank you, VAP.”

- Victims Assistance Program Client

# Supporting Our Community & Taking Collective Action

## Our Impact in Action

### Primary Prevention

Primary prevention is central to achieving our vision for a community free from sexual assault and family violence. Our primary prevention programs complement and enhance early intervention, response and recovery by helping to reduce recurrent perpetration of violence and by shifting attitudes, norms, practices and structures that drive violence against women.

### Respect Starts Here

Our primary prevention team delivered 17 workshops as part of Respect Starts Here engaging 7 local sporting clubs. The program aims to progress gender equality and support local community clubs and associations to contribute to the prevention and response to gendered violence. Participants reflected on their experience throughout the program sharing:

- “I can be a big part of the future change, and I’m really excited to be part of the program”
- “There are a lot of differences between people’s experience – perspective is important”
- “Feeling empowered and like I can actually create change in a positive way through quick wins”

Two new video resources were developed to enable sporting clubs to better understand their role in preventing violence and build their confidence to respond to disclosures. Over 80 attendees attended the launch of the resources at Respect in Action, a collaborative event with Kardinia Park Stadium Trust and Sport and Recreation Victoria to showcase the incredible work happening locally to drive prevention of gendered violence through connection and engagement with sport.

### Pitch Up

We were incredibly proud to have been a part of the Pitch Up event hosted by Give Where You Live and have the opportunity to showcase the importance of primary prevention and the work we are doing in sporting clubs through our Respect Starts Here program. Our sincere thanks to everyone who supported the event and made donations allowing us to continue working to continue working with sporting clubs to stop violence before it starts.

### Creative Voices

Our lived experience art program, Creative Voices, travelled to the South West and Wimmera regions during this year’s 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Three creative workshops were delivered and 2 community exhibitions reaching 122 attendees at the launch event. The program amplified the voices of women with lived experience of sexual and family violence, alongside the lived expertise of practitioners working across the continuum of prevention, early intervention, response and recovery.

Using creative mediums such as artwork and storytelling, Creative Voices increased community understanding of the gendered drivers of violence and the actions needed to address them. This participatory program fostered meaningful connection and conversation between clients, practitioners and community members.

We thank our partners Brophy Family and Youth Services, South Western Centre Against Sexual Assault, Women’s Health & Wellbeing Barwon South West, headspace Horsham, Grampians Community Health and Women’s Health Grampians for their support of Creative Voices.

“The biggest impact the workshop had on me was to be able to express and be myself. I felt safe and comfortable to share in the space. I walked away feeling hopeful about the future and changing the gendered drivers of violence against women. I also learned that I can be creative!”

- South West Lived Experience Artist



# Supporting Our Community & Taking Collective Action (continued)

## Training & Education

Our training team delivered 49 training sessions to 1,050 participants across the Barwon, Wimmera and South West regions. Through four core training modules and tailored education packages for professionals and community groups, our training is delivered by experienced therapeutic practitioners and training specialists to build participant understanding of sexual and family violence, increase confidence to respond safely to disclosures, and strengthens workforce capability to work effectively with people impacted by trauma.

Partnerships are central to our training approach, enabling us to embed prevention and response to sexual and family violence across diverse sectors. In partnership with Geelong Port, we delivered Sexual Harassment training to all staff, supporting the organisation to strengthen safe workplace culture. Participants identified key actions they would take following the training including:

- "Talking openly about the need to create and maintain safe workplaces"
- "Be more self-aware of my values and how they are demonstrated"
- "Speak up and educate other about bystander action"

Our team travelled to Melbourne to deliver an adapted version of our Thrive training at the Financial Counsellors Forum in Melbourne. We continued our collaboration with Cultura through the Working Together Project, co-developing and delivering Culturally Safe Practice training. This work was shaped by the voices and lived experience of refugee and migrant women, ensuring cultural safety and community perspectives were embedded throughout the module.

In 2024–25, we established a new training partnership with Western Primary Health Network (WPHN) after successfully obtaining the tender to hold the Sexual Violence Integrator position. Through this partnership, we are delivering the Supporting Primary Care Response to Sexual Violence Pilot Project within general practice settings, strengthening understanding of sexual violence and improving integration between primary care and specialist sexual assault services.

We also continued and established new co-facilitation partnerships with Meli and Grampians Community Health to deliver MARAM Collaborative Practice Training across the Barwon, South West and Wimmera regions, supporting consistent, collaborative and risk-informed practice across the service system.

Our training team continued to work closely with the education sector, delivering training on understanding and responding to family violence and sexual assault with The Gordon TAFE Hair and Beauty students and staff, Community Services students, Deakin University Social Work students, and Gen U, contributing to a more informed and skilled future workforce.



## Community Engagement

### Candlelight Vigil

The SAFV Centre and Meli partnered to deliver the second Geelong Candlelight Vigil Forum, creating a space for our Barwon community to honour the women and children who have been tragically killed as a result of family and domestic violence.

Joined by advocate Jelena Dokic, we heard her powerful story of resilience, followed by a panel featuring Meli's Family Violence Case Manager Kristy Berryman and The Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre's Imogen O'Neill who focused on children and young people impacted by family violence to highlight their voices.

Over 200 members of the Geelong community came together, with the Vigil offering our community a chance to unite, share stories of strength, inspire change, and remember the people behind the statistics. Geelong and Warrnambool landmarks and workplaces turned purple as part of Safe Steps' Candlelight Vigil, and the afternoon concluded with a minute of silence to honour and remember the women and children who have lost their lives to family violence.

"I was taught, trained and raised to stay silent. In silence, darkness thrives... today I try and use my voice to call out injustice, to advocate for change, but more importantly to try and change the perception around child abuse, domestic violence and mental health illnesses, and try and help to remove the shame, stigma and judgement that is so often associated with talking about it."

- Jelena Dokic, Candlelight Vigil 2025

# Financials

The Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre Inc  
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income  
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	NOTE	2025	2024
		\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>	3	24,311,988	21,536,276
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefits expense		(21,007,123)	(18,441,322)
Depreciation expense		(699,104)	(581,500)
Administrative expense		(2,125,666)	(2,087,346)
Motor vehicle expense		(85,252)	(83,067)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(1,969,165)	(1,262,233)
<b>Surplus/(loss) before income tax expense</b>		(1,574,321)	(919,192)
Income tax expense	1	-	-
<b>Surplus/(loss) after income tax expense for the year</b>		(1,574,321)	(919,192)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax			
- Asset revaluation		-	779,084
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		(1,574,321)	(140,108)

The Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre Inc  
Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025

	NOTE	2025	2024
		\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	5,324,508	7,869,258
Trade and other receivables	6	73,766	175,517
Other assets		192,977	66,607
Inventory		32,572	33,364
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>5,623,823</b>	<b>8,144,746</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	6	80,737	80,737
Investments	7	4,547,404	4,001,253
Property, plant and equipment	8	4,420,474	4,432,794
Right of use Assets	9	3,795,790	3,341,777
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>12,844,405</b>	<b>11,856,561</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>18,468,228</b>	<b>20,001,307</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	10	1,498,008	1,531,731
Employee benefits	11	1,327,560	1,774,456
Grants in advance	12	2,946,456	3,037,114
Lease liabilities	13	359,881	328,249
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>6,131,905</b>	<b>6,671,550</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Employee benefits	11	510,000	469,549
Lease liabilities	13	3,847,245	3,306,809
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>4,357,245</b>	<b>3,776,358</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>10,489,150</b>	<b>10,447,908</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>7,979,078</b>	<b>9,553,399</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Reserves	14	20,612	330,700
Asset revaluation reserve	15	1,870,348	1,870,348
Accumulated surplus		6,088,118	7,352,351
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>7,979,078</b>	<b>9,553,399</b>

# Acknowledgement of support

We would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the generosity of individuals, community organisations and businesses that have generously supported our organisation over the past 12 months.

It has been an incredible year of impact enabling us to offer our clients so much more to enhance their healing outcomes. From individual donors to corporate partners, local businesses, schools, and community groups - our entire community came together to support this critical work.

Not only have they raised funds and awareness about sexual and family violence through events, ticket sales, community fun runs, rounding up sales and staff raffles, but also highlighted our services to those impacted by sexual and family violence, and how they can contact us to receive support.

We continue to focus on supporting clients with essential items and increasing connection for families, while also working throughout the community to stop violence before it starts through our primary prevention and education programs.

We would also like to extend our gratitude and thanks to our partners, funding bodies and collaborators who ensure our services reach those that need us in the community.





The  
Sexual Assault  
& Family Violence  
Centre

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