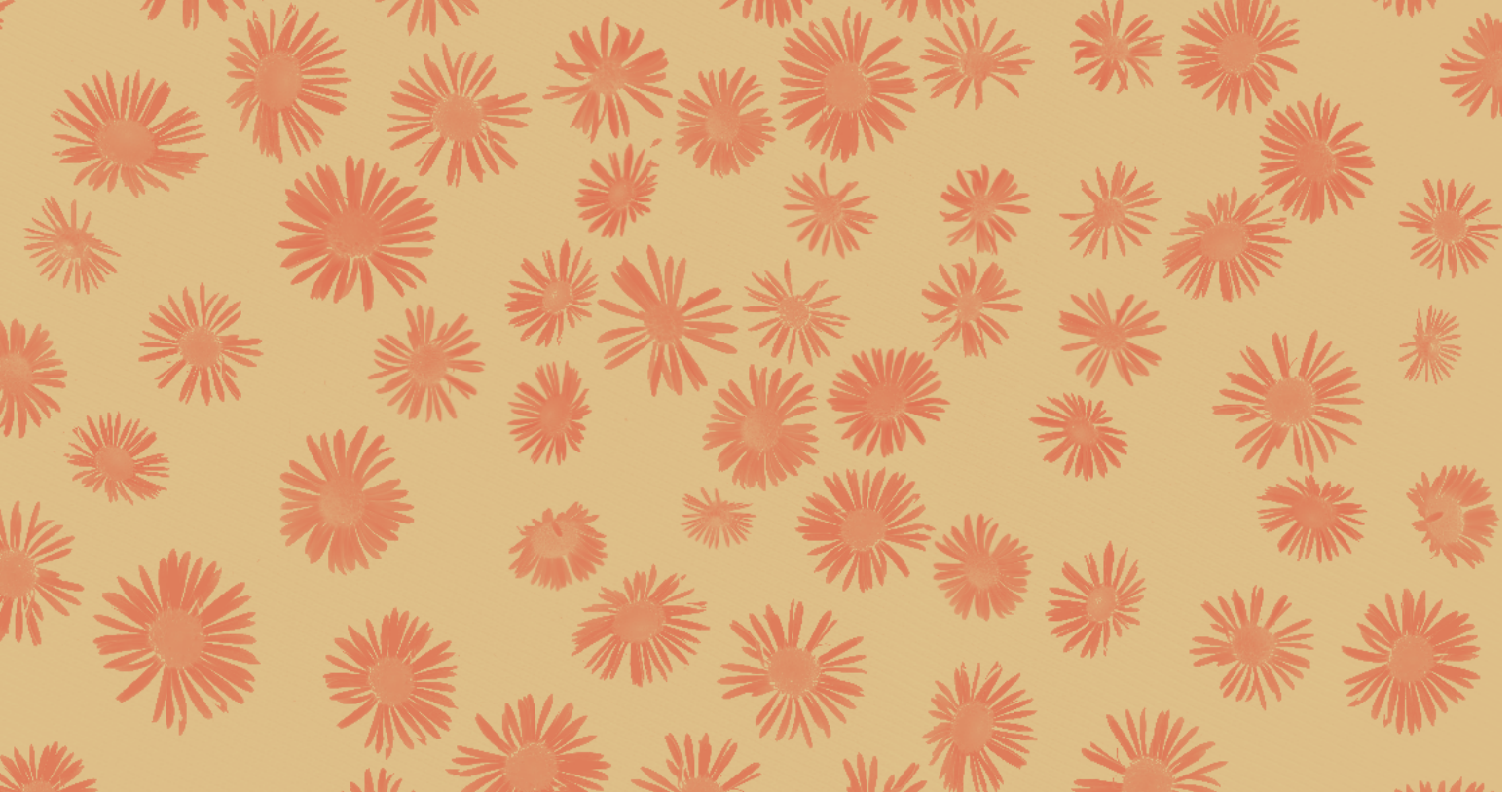


Wombat Housing Support Services

Annual Report 2023





All content has been written
by Wombat staff members
and our clients.

Copy and Editing

Alice Gaylor
Bella Wallace
Anna Weeding

Sarah Langmore
Ella McNicol
Jessie Elizabeth

Design and Layout

Matthew Castanelli
matt@bastiancreative.com.au

Contents

Chairperson's Report	2	Wombat Programs	31
Meet the Board	4	Family Program	32
Tribute to Sascha	9	Pathways To Independence Program (PIP)	34
Chief Executive Officer's Report	10	Maribyrnong Youth Accommodation Program (MYAP) /Youth Support Program	37
Our Mission/Values	12	Single Adults Support Program (SSP)	38
Strategic Plan	14	Support For Families at Risk Program (SFAR)	40
Homelessness Week	16	Tenancy Plus (TP)	42
Meetings with Ministers	19	Youth Justice and Continuing Care (YJCC)	45
Wombat's Reconciliation Journey	20	Western Homelessness Network (WHN)	47
Wombot	25	Financial Reports	50
Child Safe Standards	26	Thank You!	52
Liz Stringer	27	Our Partners	56
Staff Events	28		



Chairperson's Report

There is one thing that has stood out to me during my time as Chair at Wombat Housing Support Services, and it is the extraordinary quality of the staff employed here. Wombat staff are passionate, committed, and skilled.

The impact of their commitment is evident in the feedback we receive from those we support. Staff are described by clients as responsive, flexible and prepared to go above and beyond to provide the support that is needed.

- “They always help me beyond what I ask for. They are always here to help. They communicate really well and provide me with heaps of opportunities to do more like get housing, jobs and go to school. They do housing, but through them I have been able to do things. They have helped me with technology during COVID to continue to study.”
- “I love them. Yes, it’s fantastic having this support as I am isolated and without them, I don’t know what I would do. I appreciate their service and the workers are very professional. If they say they will ring, they ring. This is the best organisation I have ever worked with.”

- “They listen to me, and I am happy with how they are always in touch updating me. My worker is really great.”

Empowering our clients is so important. Recognising that they are part of the solution, supporting them to be aware of their rights, and ensuring they feel included is essential to Wombat not providing a handout, but rather, creating real change.

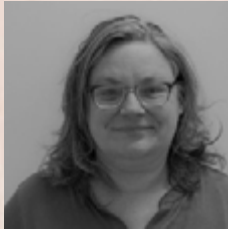
I would like to particularly thank Rebecca for her leadership. This innovative, driven, warm and supportive team is a credit to her management.

I would also like to thank the Board for their ongoing commitment to governing Wombat: their dedication and good humour is much appreciated.

I have been proud to be part of Wombat and look forward to supporting the organisation for many years to come.

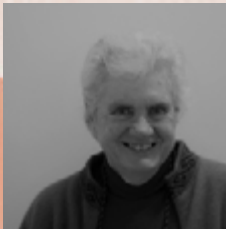
Kim Berry

Meet the Board



Kim Berry
Chairperson

Kim Berry (Chairperson) – Kim has extensive experience in fundraising and marketing, having been engaged in the sector for over 20 years. She has worked across a wide variety of sectors with a focus on social justice. Kim has a track record of fostering innovation and growth. She is currently the National Fundraising Manager at Ardoch, a non-profit supporting children and youth in disadvantaged communities.



Joy Tansey
Vice Chairperson

Joy Tansey (Vice Chairperson) – With her background of 24 years in community housing and 15 years as a residential youth worker, Joy brings an experienced perspective to the board. Now largely retired, Joy is still employed for approximately 3 months a year on compliance reporting for a community housing organisation. In a past life, Joy spent 12 years as a Board Member at Wombat, many of them as Treasurer.



Trystan Mcwatt
Treasurer

Trystan Mcwatt (Treasurer until July '23) – Trystan is a passionate commercial Chartered Accountant with extensive experience in financial services and aviation industries with a specialisation in technology and operations. He provides company performance reporting, analysis, financial budgeting and strategic insights to help management with cost efficiencies and to execute the company strategy.



Ilana Jaffe
Secretary

Ilana Jaffe (Secretary) – Ilana is a social work leader who has over 15 years of professional experience spanning homelessness, family violence and health services. Ilana is skilled in social policy, project management, partnerships and collaboration, change management with a passion for social justice advocacy. Ilana now works for Family Safety Victoria..



Mark Baldwin
Board Member

Mark Baldwin (Board Member) – Joining the Board in 1998, Mark is Wombat's longest serving Board Member. A local resident and respected architect, with projects focused heavily on environmental sustainability. Mark specialises with 'earth sheltered buildings', which is the most ecologically sustainable approach to domestic and small-scale architecture. Mark brings a unique perspective to the ever-changing housing landscape.

Meet the Board



Briana Davidson
Board Member

Briana Davidson (Board Member) – Brianna is a policy, strategy and communications manager and is currently leading the Social Policy team at the Office for Women (Vic Gov). She has more than 10 years' experience developing strategies for domestic and international for-purpose organisations including: International Women's Development Agency, Foundation for Young Australians, and Anglicare Victoria.



Zoey Dlomo
Board Member

Zoey Dlomo (Board Member) – Zoey is an experienced Finance Leader with over 15 years' experience working in the not-for-profit space, particularly in healthcare and research. She has provided key financial insights for strategic decision making and has served StreetSmart Australia as a Board Treasurer. She believes in diversity and inclusion and is an advocate for equitable opportunity in housing, healthcare, and education.



Sam Sowerwine
Board Member

Sam Sowerwine (Board Member) – Sam has 15+ years' experience in legal and community sectors. As Victoria Legal Aid's Program Manager for Economic and Social Rights, she leads on housing, NDIS, and social security. Sam is a skilled and dynamic leader in governance, strategic advocacy, human-centred design, and fundraising. Sam previously managed Justice Connect Homeless Law.



Jo Duckworth
Treasurer

Jo Duckworth (Treasurer from August '23) - Joining the Board in July, Jo is passionate about the for-purpose sector and loves working alongside teams to define strategies to achieve organisation's missions. Her Chartered Accountant qualification, years of broad financial and operational experience within ASX100 corporates and the for-purpose sector has influenced her ability to advise organisations on creating a balance, ensuring delivery of services and financial sustainability.



Tara Durdin
Board Member

Tara Durdin (Board Member) - Tara has been on the Board since July and is an independent management consultant focused on designing and delivering system-level change and transformation across public, private and NFP sectors. Formerly a senior official in the New Zealand government, Tara remains committed to driving innovation and improvement in social sector service delivery.





Tribute to Sascha

You could say that Wombat is in Sascha's blood. She's heart and soul, one of those special people within Wombat's orbit who has selflessly given so much to make us who we are. Since joining the Board in 2010, Sascha's involvement has been characterised by warmth, connection, and a keen intelligence – alongside a wicked sense of humour. As an inspiring leader, it was probably inevitable that she would step into the role of chairperson. Sascha did this on a number of occasions and led Wombat safely over all manner of treacherous terrain. Never short of an opinion, she was always ready to provide a considered, ethical, and well-reasoned perspective on the many complex issues in the governance sphere. She also went out of her way to understand the issues facing Wombat clients and staff.

After more than a decade Sascha sadly stepped down at the AGM last year. We are so grateful for her dedication and contribution, and she leaves behind an enormous legacy. Whilst we'll miss her strong sense of social justice and ability to detect a fake at 50 metres, we know that she'll always remain a part of Wombat's extended family. She's shaped us, and we can only hope that her years of working with us have had a positive impact for her too. All the best Sascha.



It is a pleasure to reflect upon the past year, marked by a return to office-based service delivery, enriched by the positive initiatives that emerged from the pandemic. We were very grateful and eager to reinstate face-to-face services five days a week. Furthermore, we have fortified our capability to revert to this model whenever the need arises.

Wombat boasts a unified and dynamic staff team, comprised of both new and long-standing members. This amalgamation brings forth a harmonious blend of consistency, experience, freshness, and adaptability to our service delivery and quality improvement efforts. This synergy was evident during our assessment, where we successfully met the accreditation requirements in June. The assessment also shed light on the favorable outcomes for our clients and Wombat's strong community ties. It was also an opportunity to showcase our ongoing commitment to improving both the front-end and back-end aspects of service delivery.

Our journey continues as we cultivate innovative approaches, which are presented in this report, to address the ever-expanding housing crisis and the growing demand for assistance. We have revamped our service delivery methods, emphasising early

Chief Executive Officer's Report

intervention and prevention, and introduced an LGBTQIA+ focus in our youth programs. In addition, our staff-led development of a Reconciliation Action Plan demonstrates the dedication of staff and our commitment to strengthening our efforts to improve inclusivity.

Furthermore, we have made strides in enhancing our online tools and other groundbreaking ideas, building upon our collection of online resources, including an automated, user-friendly chatbot named 'WomBot.'

Wombat welcomes the Victorian Government's recent commitment to additional social (public & community) and affordable housing. We are resolute to collaborate with the sector and our local State and Federal Members of Parliament in addressing the housing crisis. However, it is crucial to note that many individuals we support remain on lengthy waitlists, and for some, these waitlists remain unattainable. Hence, our support plays a pivotal role in advocating for more public housing to ensure those in most need gain access to the housing developments underway.

We are thankful for the grants, donations and support we have received throughout the

year. These contributions either directly assist Wombat clients or enhance our service delivery. I also acknowledge the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) for funding our core programs and commend the significant efforts of DFFH and Homes Victoria staff in supporting the homelessness sector.

The Board has provided unwavering support throughout a year of change, and I'd like to extend my gratitude for their time and dedication. Their Strategic Plan for 2023-2028, with the pillars of 'Deliver, Innovate, Share, and Sustain' underscores the broad spectrum of support Wombat offers across all demographics and will serve as our guiding principles for the foreseeable future.

Wombat has a dedicated and skilled Management team, plus Team Leaders with a vast array of experience and knowledge which is shared within and beyond the Wombat community. We face another year together, knowing our best work emerges from harnessing the ideas, expertise, and energy of our diverse and committed staff, as they strive to support some of the most marginalized people in our community.

Rebecca Cleaver



Our Mission

Wombat supports people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in and around Melbourne's West. Wombat delivers high-quality support services, and is a leading advocate to reduce homelessness and ensure a fair housing system.



Our Values

Responsiveness:

We endeavour to respond to the individual needs of people seeking our support and provide a flexible approach where possible.

Authenticity:

We place high value on being honest, genuine, and communicating as directly and as clearly as possible.

Connection:

We foster connection, warmth, and good humour within our organisation and in our dealings with others.

Accountability:

We endeavour to be open, transparent, and accountable to each other, to the people who use our services, to government and to the wider community.

Innovation:

We are open to new ideas and embrace change. We will continue to explore new and innovative service delivery models and advocacy strategies. We acknowledge success and failure to learn from both.



Strategic Plan

Wombat's Strategic Plan (2023-2028) includes the following four pillars:

1

Deliver:

Deliver effective, safe, inclusive, accessible, and coordinated services that meet the diverse needs of communities we work with.

2

Innovate:

Respond to emerging needs across public, community and private housing tenures, investing in ourselves to ensure we remain nimble, flexible and innovative.

3

Share:

Contribute to sector partnerships and system reform in order to enhance Wombat's community impact.

4

Sustain:

Ensure Wombat is a strong and sustainable organisation, to enable long-term impact.



Homelessness Week

Wombat staff joined homelessness workers across Victoria in preparing for the 'Houses at Parliament' campaign. This state-wide campaign is a wonderful collaboration between homelessness and allied services, highlighting the need for construction of social housing and for the development of a National Housing and Homelessness Plan. It culminated in a display of 6,000 houses on the steps of Victorian Parliament House the week before Homelessness Week 2023 (2nd August 2023). Staff actively promoted the campaign and folded hundreds of origami houses for the display.

Wombat also contributed to Homelessness Week when Rebecca Cleaver and Anna Weeding met with staff at MLC Life Insurance to raise awareness of homelessness in Melbourne.

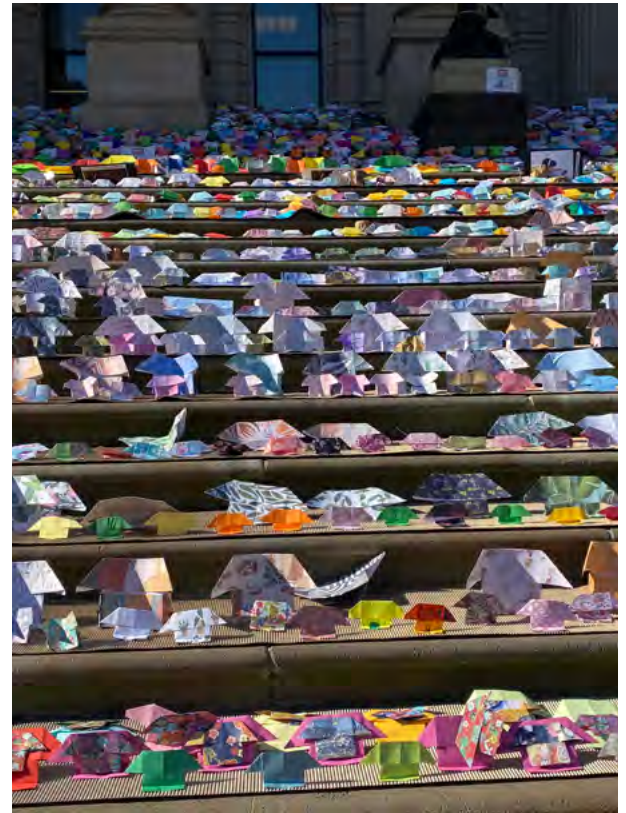


Photo with MLC representatives,
Michael Symon and Mark Puli



North Melbourne Library Event

As part of Homelessness Week, Wombat also partnered with the North Melbourne Library to host an event where we folded origami houses and decorated the library alongside members of the community. The event provided an opportunity to discuss the impact of homelessness and raise awareness about the need for more social and affordable housing.

Meetings with Ministers

Wombat's CEO, Rebecca Cleaver, participated in the Western MP Homelessness Working Group, which re-convened in June 2023 for the first time since the pandemic. The Working Group, convened by Ms Katie Hall MP, State Member for Maribyrnong, and Mr Steve McGhie MP, State Member for Melton, includes State and Federal Members of Parliament who are focussed on addressing homelessness in Melbourne's west. The Western Homelessness Network provided an update on the extent of homelessness in the West. Discussion at these working group meetings is always productive and informative



The Western MP Homelessness Working Group met with the Minister for Housing at Parliament House on 2nd August 2023. Parliamentarians in the photo are: Minister Colin Brooks (State Minister for Housing), Ms Katie Hall MP (State Member for Maribyrnong), Mr Steve McGhie MP (State Member for Melton), Ms Luba Grigorovitch MP (State Member for Koroit), Ms Kathleen Matthews-Ward (State Member for Broadmeadows).







Wombat's vision for reconciliation is one where we are united by acknowledgement and appreciation for our shared history with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We hope to recognise and celebrate First Nations peoples' diverse history, knowledge, and experiences, whilst advocating for meaningful systemic change.

Last year, Wombat staff started discussions about wanting to acknowledge January 26th as a day of mourning and remembering. As it needed to have all of us on board, we sent out a survey that resulted in 100% of the staff wanting to work on that day. To show our support and solidarity, we attended the rally in the city and a staff member did a presentation about the importance of changing the date.







In March 2023 we asked interested staff to participate in a Reconciliation Action Plan working group. We nominated a convenor and two RAP champions to steer the working group. The group decided to embark on an *Innovate RAP* to take meaningful action towards reconciliation.

Uncle Bill from the Wurundjeri Land Council came to Wombat and Welcomed us to Country with a Smoking Ceremony and stories of the land on which Wombat's office is. It was a special ceremony with many staff and board members attending. We thank Uncle Bill for his words, wisdom, and generosity in sharing his welcome with us. We also worked with the Wurundjeri Land council to re-name our spaces: Buncle Street is now Ngerren Biik, meaning meeting place, and the front reception area is now Djak-Gurrin, meaning burrow.

As momentum was building for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament, Wombat released our statement in support of the Yes vote with the support of the Board.

Wombat Housing Support Services acknowledges the strength, resilience, endurance, wisdom and ongoing connection to the lands and waters of the oldest continuous cultures in the world. We are committed to continue to work towards reconciliation.



WomBot



Hi! I'm WomBot your Virtual Case Manager



Chat with WomBot

Send



WomBot

With an overburdened homelessness system only able to respond to those in acute crisis, and society increasingly shifting online, Wombat had an idea. Support to people experiencing homelessness has been provided in much the same way for 50 years. What if there was another way? A method that could ease the burden on the system, provide information and support to people before they reach crisis, and deliver immediate assistance when needed - especially if it falls outside traditional office opening hours.

With the support of The Lord Mayors Charitable Fund, Wombat has developed 'My Virtual Case Manager' or 'WomBot' for short. This cute interactive tool on Wombat's website responds to questions, provides information, takes referrals and is an innovative way to guide people through the complexities of the homelessness system.

WomBot is a gamechanger; a clear and accurate source of information and support 24/7, delivered in a way people are already familiar with, in a place they feel comfortable; online. Curiously, at the initial point of contact many people would rather engage with WomBot than a face-to-face or phone appointment with a Case Manager. Whilst traditional case management will always play an important role, we believe that we're only beginning to scratch the surface of WomBot's potential.



Child Safe Standards

Wombat is committed to upholding the Child Safe Standards. All children who receive a service from Wombat have a right to feel safe.

Wombat recognises that children are affected by homelessness and have a right to feel safe and secure. The welfare of the children that use our service is our top priority, and we have a zero tolerance towards child abuse. Wombat has developed an organisational culture focusing on child safety, which includes:

- Commitment from the leadership and Board,
- A child safety review of all policies and processes,
- All staff having current Working with Children and Police checks,
- An ongoing dedicated children's working group.

Our aim is to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe, supported, and can have fun.



“My admiration for the team at Wombat and the incredible work they all do grows consistently. I’m so proud to have forged some relationships with the organisation and remain dedicated to helping with the raising of funds and awareness for their work. In a city that finds itself in a housing crisis and an ever-growing disparity of wealth, Wombat continues to support our community’s most vulnerable with care, integrity, and resourcefulness against often incredible odds. I’m in awe of them.”

- Liz Stringer



Staff Events

1. Harmony Day lunch
2. Sharing lunch
3. Staff at our AGM





- 4. Staff on the steps of Parliament
- 5. Staff function
- 6. Staff participating in Trivia





wombat
housing
support services
entrance in Melrose St. <<<<

Wombat Programs

Family Program

Pathways To Independence (PIP)

Maribyrnong Youth Accommodation Program (MYAP)/
Youth Support Program

Single Adults Program (SSP)

Support For Families at Risk (SFAR)

Tenancy Plus (TP)

Youth Justice and Continuing Care Programs (YJCC)

Western Homelessness Network (WHN)



Family Program

The Family Program provides outreach, case managed support for families who are homeless or in transitional housing, where parents are over 25 years old.

Aya* is a single parent of a toddler living in transitional housing and is supported by the Family Program. Aya's son, Mohammed was diagnosed with Global Development Delay and subsequently approved for an Early Childhood Intervention Package with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). This was a welcome relief for the family, however Aya had difficulty understanding how to proceed with Plan Management and the core funding.

The Family Program Case Manager provided intensive support to Aya to help them better understand NDIS, the plan and funding. In addition to this, Aya was provided with advice for selecting a Plan Coordinator, assistance with a successful application for a Carer's Allowance and an introduction to a parent's group for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Aya is now independently working with the Plan Coordinator and NDIS supports, the funding is being utilised and Aya is in good stead to negotiate NDIS funding renewal in the future. The Family Program Case Manager is now working with Aya and NDIS on an appropriate housing exit plan with Special Accommodation Requirements.



Pathways To Independence Program (PIP)



The PIP program is a support program for young people who are exiting or have recently exited statutory care, offering a pathway into longer term housing such as Head Leased Private Rentals.

Juma* was born in Africa and came to Australia when he was approximately 12 years old with his brother and father.

After arriving in the country, Juma's father remarried and Juma and his brother were soon asked to leave the family home. They were placed in foster care at the age of 13 and remained there until they were 18. At this time, they were then accepted into the Pathways to Independence Program at Wombat.

With Child Protection closing and no other supports, the Wombat Case Manager went on to assist Juma in navigating and applying for over 30 rental properties through the private rental market. Juma eventually secured a property and was supported by his Case Manager to set up his new home; as well as assisting with living skills, providing local area knowledge and connecting to community. Juma has settled well into his new home and is currently completing VCE, playing soccer, working part time and enjoying spending his time in his new home and garden, making it his own.



Maribyrnong Youth Accommodation Program (MYAP) /Youth Support Program

MYAP and the Youth Program supports young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. MYAP has a specific focus on supporting culturally and linguistically diverse young people.

Jamie* was referred to the Youth Support program via the local homelessness access point (Unison) for case management support. Jamie had been experiencing homelessness for over 12 months, continuously having to move from place to place due to a family relationship breakdown and limited affordable housing options.

Jamie identified employment and stable accommodation as her main areas of focus in her support plan with her Wombat Case Manager. Through our partnership with HoMie, a retail social enterprise, Wombat assisted Jamie in applying for their Pathway Alliance program, an 8-month paid retail internship. After attending an interview, Jamie was accepted into the program which not only equipped her with essential retail skills but also revitalised her self-confidence.

Jamie excelled in this program and was offered employment by the HoMie Pathway Alliance trained business after completing the internship. While working towards securing long-term stable accommodation, a vacancy became available to apply for a Transitional Housing Managed Property. Her Wombat Case Manager assisted Jamie with the application process, after which she was allocated a transitional housing property, establishing a stable foundation for Jamie to work on future goals. Jamie is now looking forward to exploring full-time study in community services.



Single Adults Support Program (SSP)

The Singles Support Program offers outreach, case managed support to single adults over the age of 25 who are homeless or in transitional housing.

Amanda* attended Wombat and was met by the Singles Support Program Case Manager. Amanda explained she was 'couch surfing' in the area after recently completing rehabilitation. Whilst in rehab, Amanda was offered a public housing property, however, was not aware of the offer due to the 'no phones' policy. Amanda was disappointed. She had been homeless for a long time due to experiences with family violence, incarceration and child removal. She had been on the waitlist for 9 years.

Immediate support was provided to Amanda, including advocating for her housing application to be reinstated. Three weeks later, Amanda was offered a 2-bedroom public housing property that she accepted. Due to obtaining long-term housing and the demonstrated efforts by Amanda to heal from trauma, Child Protection amended the Order to Family Reunification and Amanda's daughter was returned to Amanda's care.

"Thank you 🥰 I'm so rapt I've been on that list since I was pregnant...she's now 9. So happy to finally have a chance at a place where we can both have some stability."

Support For Families at Risk Program (SFAR)

SFAR provides intensive early intervention and case managed support for families who are at risk of homelessness in social housing and private rental. SFAR works with all family members who wish to receive case management to enhance their personal and shared circumstances and prevent housing breakdown.



Tran* attended Wombat and was assessed as an eligible candidate for SFAR. Tran lived locally in public housing with their 18-month daughter, and English was their second language. Tran spoke about the stressors of public housing and maintenance, ParentsNext obligations and childcare. It was discovered that there was a commonality in the issues Tran was facing – Tran did not understand the information they were being provided due to services not using an interpreter to communicate with Tran.

SFAR partnered with Tenancy Plus at Wombat who advocated for Tran's maintenance issues to be addressed. They contacted ParentsNext to ensure that Tran was given better explanations of their obligations. SFAR also partnered with a local community legal centre and the Maternal Child Health Nurse regarding the significant childcare arrears. Initially, Tran did not fully comprehend the childcare subsidy and their obligations to pay the 'out of pocket' fees, as an interpreter had never been utilised to explain.

The community legal centre and SFAR successfully advocated for childcare arrears to be waived, due to poor communication and misinformation. Tran's daughter returned to childcare and Tran is now studying English as a second language.

"[SFAR Case Manager] affirms the high quality of service that is flexible, dynamic and respectful in empowering the woman she supports."

- Partner agency to Wombat

"We are really happy with the results Wombat help us to get. We were struggling before you came. You help us with furniture, food, school essentials, changing from private rental to a government house and helping us with NDIS. we're really grateful and happy with the end result thank you very much."

- SFAR client



Tenancy Plus (TP)

Tenancy Plus supports people to sustain and establish their tenancies. It is widely successful in supporting people and families who are at risk of experiencing homelessness and ending the cycle of homelessness for many.

Tenancy Plus is a fast-paced program. Last year the team advocated for and supported 402 people with their housing issues: from hoarding and squalor, to arrears, and more. Several years ago, experienced Tenancy Plus staff identified a gap and a need for more immediate interventions to pressing tenancy matters. An Intake role for the program was created and Active Holding commenced, which aimed to provide immediate support where possible to salvage tenancies.

As a result of Wombat's innovative and unique model design, Tenancy Plus has contributed to several successful outcomes.

A client outcome recently celebrated by the team involved a family of 6 that had been at significant risk of becoming homeless. The Intake Worker, through the triage process, was able to establish that the family had significant arrears, nil income, and that a primary care giver was overseas.

The family was allocated a Case Manager with whom they built rapport. This Case Manager was able to address several of the client identified issues that led them to their current housing circumstance and supported them to obtain an income, establish a budget, as well as negotiating and advocating for the creation of a realistic payment plan to address the arrears. The Case Manager identified a potential need for further long term supports and arranged a referral through to the SFAR program. The family has now secured their tenancy and is connected with SFAR for long-term, family-focused, holistic support.



Youth Justice and Continuing Care (YJCC)

The Youth Justice and Continuing Care team provides intensive case managed support to young people leaving care or on a youth justice order.

Luke* was 17 years old when referred to the YJCC program at Wombat. Luke was living in a Lead Tenant property which he was required to exit at the age of 18. Luke was struggling with his mental health, was prone to hoarding, had daily suicidal ideation and was struggling with his gender identity.

Luke's Case Manager helped Luke move into a transitional property. They then went on to assist him with his independent living skills and linked him in with mental health supports and a volunteering program at the Salvation Army.

With the support, understanding and encouragement of his Case Manager, Luke was able to affirm his gender identity comfortably and proudly.

Luke took pride in his volunteer work at the Salvation Army, resulting in him being offered a paid role in the Youth Empowerment Program. Further to this, Luke was granted a scholarship for education and employment, which Luke will be using to complete a degree in Youth Work.

*All names have been changed.



Western Homelessness Network (WHN)

The Western Homelessness Network (WHN) moved back to face-to-face meetings this year, creating a lively environment for discussion. We are so grateful to Hobsons Bay Council and Wyndham Council for hosting our meetings.

The Western MP Homelessness Working Group reconvened in June 2023. This is a group Network of State and Federal Members of Parliament concerned with ending homelessness. The WHN has been a regular member of the Working Group since it commenced in 2019.

The WHN was very involved in establishing the 'Houses at Parliament' campaign. This is a state-wide campaign of homelessness and allied services across Victoria, working together to advocate for a National Housing and Homelessness Plan and the construction of at least 6,000 new social housing properties a year (with a focus on public housing).

CISVic generously lent us their idea to fold origami houses in support of the campaign. WHN members have been enthusiastically folding origami houses which were displayed for Homelessness Week 2023 and on the steps of Parliament in August. This campaign will continue across Victoria each year, and you can look at it online on the VHN website.



The Network has made submissions this year to:

- Department of Justice and Community Safety Rooming Housing Minimum Standards Issues Paper (Workstream Two)
- The Victorian Government's proposed updates to the Residential Tenancies (Rooming House Standards) Regulations 2012

The 2022 Annual Consumer Survey focused once again on consumer experiences of emergency accommodation.

The Network has been involved in cross-sector work with:

- The Family Violence Sector through the Motel Coordination Project - jointly advocating for the need for appropriate emergency accommodation options.
- The Australian Urban Observatory - developing indicators to map homelessness in Melbourne.
- The Northern Homelessness Network - discussing a boycott of one of the worst motels used for emergency accommodation, developing a statement for consumers about the inappropriate nature of most emergency accommodation options, and writing a position statement about responding appropriately to the needs of people experiencing complex issues.
- Other Victorian Homelessness Networks - identifying strategies for improving the coordinated homelessness system across the State.



Wombat Housing Support Servies Statement of Profit or Loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
INCOME			
Grants – Federal and State Government		3,464,011	3,507,002
Donations		1,166	5,344
Interest		16,905	2,534
Government Subsidies – Cashflow Boost		-	-
Other Income		118,133	213,174
Profit on Sale of Assets		6,030	1,959
		<u>3,606,245</u>	<u>3,730,013</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Employment Expenses		3,055,006	2,924,446
Operating Expenses		422,543	461,109
Depreciation		43,655	60,400
Relief Payments		172,974	214,995
		<u>3,694,178</u>	<u>3,660,950</u>
(Deficit)/surplus before income tax expense		-87,933	69,063
Income tax expense	1b	-	-
(Deficit)/surplus after income tax expense		-87,933	69,063
Revaluation of land and buildings		-	-
Other comprehensive income for the year net of income tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>-87,933</u>	<u>69,063</u>

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023

This is an extract and full audited statements are available on request.

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	2	822,941	895,113
Receivables	3	80,320	30,776
Financial Assets	5	504,624	501,473
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,407,885	1,427,362
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	4	3,112,041	3,107,416
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		3,112,041	3,107,416
TOTAL ASSETS		4,519,926	4,534,778
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and accruals	6	367,545	297,249
Amounts received in advance	7	314,053	226,392
Provisions	8	537,539	627,638
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,219,137	1,151,279
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	8	28,927	23,704
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		28,927	23,704
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,248,064	1,174,983
NET ASSETS		3,271,862	3,359,795
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Retained profits		1,326,318	1,414,251
Reserves	9	1,945,544	1,945,544
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		3,271,862	3,359,795



Thank You!

Wombat has been fortunate to receive assistance from a broad range of supporters, including individual community members, organisations, grants, and trusts. These partnerships help us to develop creative new ways to support more people.



StreetSmart

Donations to help support people with bill payments and general household goods, as well as food vouchers and phones that can be distributed throughout the year.

Gandel

Donations to help support people with household goods, furniture, and removalist costs.

GiveOut

Funding for continuing the work of our Youth LGBTQIA+ Homelessness Feedback and Advisory Group.

Hotham Mission

Regular donations of food parcels for hundreds of households.

The Sixth Child

A wonderful range of toys for Christmas.

Lighthouse Christian College

Money raised by students at this school enabled us to purchase packs for children including books, colouring items, and craft kits.

Lewis Real Estate

Regular donations which provide food, cleaning products and other household items.





Acan Group

Cleaned the exterior of the office, free of charge.

Big Group Hug & St Kilda Mums

Donated goods for infants and young children.

HoMie

Clothing for clients.

Thread Together

Clothing for clients, provided for free.

Therapeutic Guidelines Limited

Donations from staff and the organisation, used to purchase toiletry packs for men.

Share the Dignity

Provided dignity bags containing toiletries and sanitary items for women.

Georgina & family

For home-made Christmas trees, and Christmas presents.

Walter & Eliza Fund/ Queens Fund

Funding for individual clients.

Christmas Box

Providing food hampers to distribute to clients at Christmas time.

Our Kitchen Table

For handknitted winter garments to distribute to clients.

If you are interested in supporting our work, please contact us.

We're always exploring new ways to assist our clients.



Wombat is lucky to work with several like-minded agencies who help us to provide holistic and innovative support to our clients. We would like to thank our partners for allowing us to continue to do what we do best.

The Department of Families,
Fairness and Housing
Homes Victoria
Council to Homeless Persons
(CHP)
Salvation Army Western Metro
Homelessness Service
Unison
Berry Street
Jesuit Social Services
Uniting Vic
Melbourne City Mission
Magistrates Court Funds
St Kilda Mums

VACCA
Haven Home Safe
Next Level
Phoenix Youth Hub
Orygen Youth Health
Bridge It
For Change Co
Yakkazoo
Digital Native
Centre for Excellence in Child
and Family Welfare
Women's Property Initiative
Thorne Harbour Health

Latitude
Inner Melbourne Legal Service
Moonee Valley Legal Service
North Melbourne Library
Victoria University
Outcomes, Practice and
Evidence Network (OPEN)
Western Emergency Relief
Network
Rotary Inner Melbourne Emer-
gency Relief Network
Justice Connect
HoMie
Tenants Victoria





191 Melrose Street,
North Melbourne VIC 3051

P.O. Box 1183,
Kensington VIC 3031

Ph: (03) 8327 2222
Free call 1800 887 775

wombat@wombat.org.au
www.wombat.org.au