

# Annual Report

2023 - 2024







*Above: Staff - Izzy's farewell*

*Front Cover: Photo of portrait of Betty McClellan by Anita Wilkie*

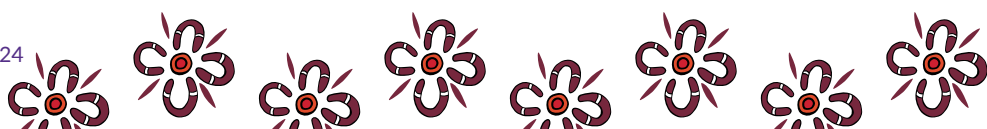


## ***Tears Tell Stories***

Artwork courtesy of Karen Doolan, 2017



We acknowledge we are on Gurambilbarra and pay our respects to the Wulgurukaba and Bindal people on whose land and sea we live and work and acknowledge all First Nations people and cultures. We acknowledge the ongoing impact of colonisation and that sovereignty was never ceded. We honour their Elders past, present and emerging and we particularly recognise First Nations Women and the contribution their voices continue to make within our organisation and the community in working towards reconciliation.

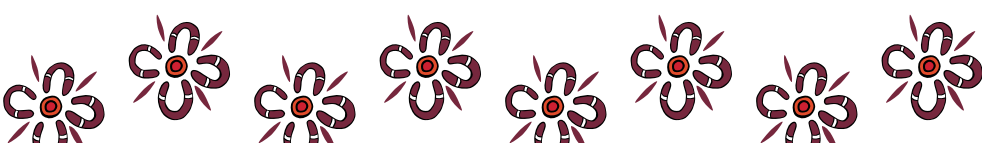


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Photo: Womens Society Thank you (Xmas donations)





# President

***I am pleased to present the President's Report for 2023-2024. As always, this year has been one of both challenges and successes for The Women's Centre, and of dedication and passion from staff, volunteers, Management Committee members, and friends of the service.***

It has been a big year for farewells and welcomes. In December 2023, we bid farewell to our long-term staff member, Rose Alexander. Rose's contributions to The Women's Centre have been immeasurable, and we wish her all the best.

The Management Committee has experienced some changes in membership this year. However, we continue to be fortunate to have a highly capable and dedicated group of women leading our organisation. Their commitment to the Centre and its mission is unwavering. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Management Committee, and welcome those who have come on board during the 2023-2024 financial year.

We are pleased to have welcomed Wendy Burton in a secretarial support role for The Management Committee. Wendy's assistance has been invaluable in keeping us organised and efficient.

We are also all jealous of our Coordinator, Cathy's, well-deserved leave (technically in the 2024-25 financial year but we're still jealous). We are grateful to Erin for stepping up as Acting Coordinator during this time. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the entire Leadership Team for their support and commitment during Cathy's absence.

The Centre has received significant increases in funding this year, and welcomed new staff members as a result. However, growth is not always easy, and it has been a period of significant change within the organisation. We are incredibly grateful to our staff for their tireless efforts and dedication to supporting all women and advocating for gender equity within our community.

Some of the key topics of discussion and attention for the Management Committee this year have been risk management, staff wellbeing, and recruitment and retention. We have given consideration to a range of risks to ensure the safety of our staff and women accessing the service. This is essential for maintaining a safe and supportive environment. The Management Committee has also been committed to improving working conditions for our staff. We have been exploring ways to ensure that The Women's Centre remains an attractive and healthy workplace.

This is my final Annual Report as President. After nine years on the Management Committee, I am stepping down (for now). While it's not easy to leave a service that I hold in such high regard, I am confident that I am leaving the committee in excellent hands. It has been a privilege to witness the growth, development, and professionalisation of The Women's Centre during my time on the Committee. It is a fantastic service and I am proud to have been a part of it!

***Theresa Petray***  
President



# Coordinator

***I am pleased to present this year's Annual Report for The Women's Centre. This year has been a challenging but rewarding year for us. We have had significant growth in funding across all of our core services including additional brokerage and emergency relief funding.***

In order to maintain comprehensive and holistic responses to women, we have needed to plan quickly and strategically to respond to the increase in demand for services, and impacts of rapid and dynamic growth within our team. This has led to a need for the reorganisation of roles across the organisation in order to streamline a structure that continues to support and maintain our values, vision, mission and goals, and ultimately has increased our team significantly with many more counsellors, caseworkers and administrators supporting our work with Women.

We were able to adapt and innovate our programmes to better serve the needs of women and victim-survivors in our community. Our ongoing advocacy efforts also saw significant progress this year, as we worked with policymakers and community leaders to advance women's safety and the supports available to them. This happened through many consultations and forums with numbers of various government departments. Victim-survivors of sexual assault were asked and offered many opportunities to provide feedback of their lived experiences to policy-drivers and decision-makers to help shape a more trauma-informed response to sexual violence across Queensland. We acknowledge here the incredible generosity, courage and tenacity of victim-survivors in this space.

The Sexual Assault Response Team's (SART) trauma and violence informed model has been consistently identified statewide in government and within the sexual assault sector more broadly as a gold standard and exemplary response to sexual violence. This is a result of the hard work and professionalism of all members of SART. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication and tenacity of the SART Interagency Coordinator who has thoughtfully and meticulously sustained the collaborative co-governance model which holds SART accountable, transparent and committed to providing best practice responses to sexual violence.

The team of women in our Specialist Homelessness Service has continued their unwavering support to women this year with perseverance amongst the ongoing demand and increasing complexities of the homelessness crisis and the realities of increased risk and un-safety that women and children are facing every day. Even in this incredibly challenging climate, they continue to search far and wide and relentlessly advocate for safe and sustainable accommodation for women and their children.

Our counsellors and caseworkers in the Women's Health Service and Sexual Assault Support Service have worked

determinedly this year to respond to unprecedented waitlists that we have not experienced before in this space. The team continuously demonstrates their dedication to trauma-informed care, centering women in their therapeutic practice, support and advocacy.

Our social inclusion groups, therapeutic groups and clinics have gone from strength to strength this year with many of our favourites continuing and lots of additional new groups and clinics which has brought about even more energy and atmosphere to the space.

We continue to see and hear profound and moving feedback from women accessing the service; and this experience most often begins with the extraordinary women in our Administration team and at our reception desk. Women often say that it was the safe and welcoming "reception" that instantly eased the anxiety of picking up the phone or walking through the door.

We welcomed a number of new members to the Management Committee this year and welcomed them to the team with a significant and productive planning day with the Leadership Team and the Management Committee. This set a constructive and supportive foundation for the teams and particularly for my relationship with the Management Committee. I have been well supported by the entire team, especially the executive members of the Management Committee, and I am incredibly grateful to them for that.

I would like to say thank you to all our funders, stakeholders, partners and donors this year. Without the support and commitment to work together The Women's Centre would not have achieved what we have this year.

Looking ahead, we are committed to: building on our strengths and successes; developing innovative, evidence based responses that centre women and victim-survivors; upholding feminist practice and trauma and violence informed responses across our programmes; persisting and strengthening our advocacy efforts across the community, the state and more broadly; and affirming and reaffirming our collaborative partnerships in order to create lasting change for women and gender equity.

The Women's Centre remains an important and prominent organisation in Queensland and in particular, for women in Townsville and surrounding regions. Built on the foundations of feminism for 40 years, we continue to evolve and grow, constantly seeking new projects and ideas to improve the resources, opportunities and lives of women. I am so proud to lead and support a truly remarkable team of women working at The Women's Centre, who do truly remarkable work with women every day.

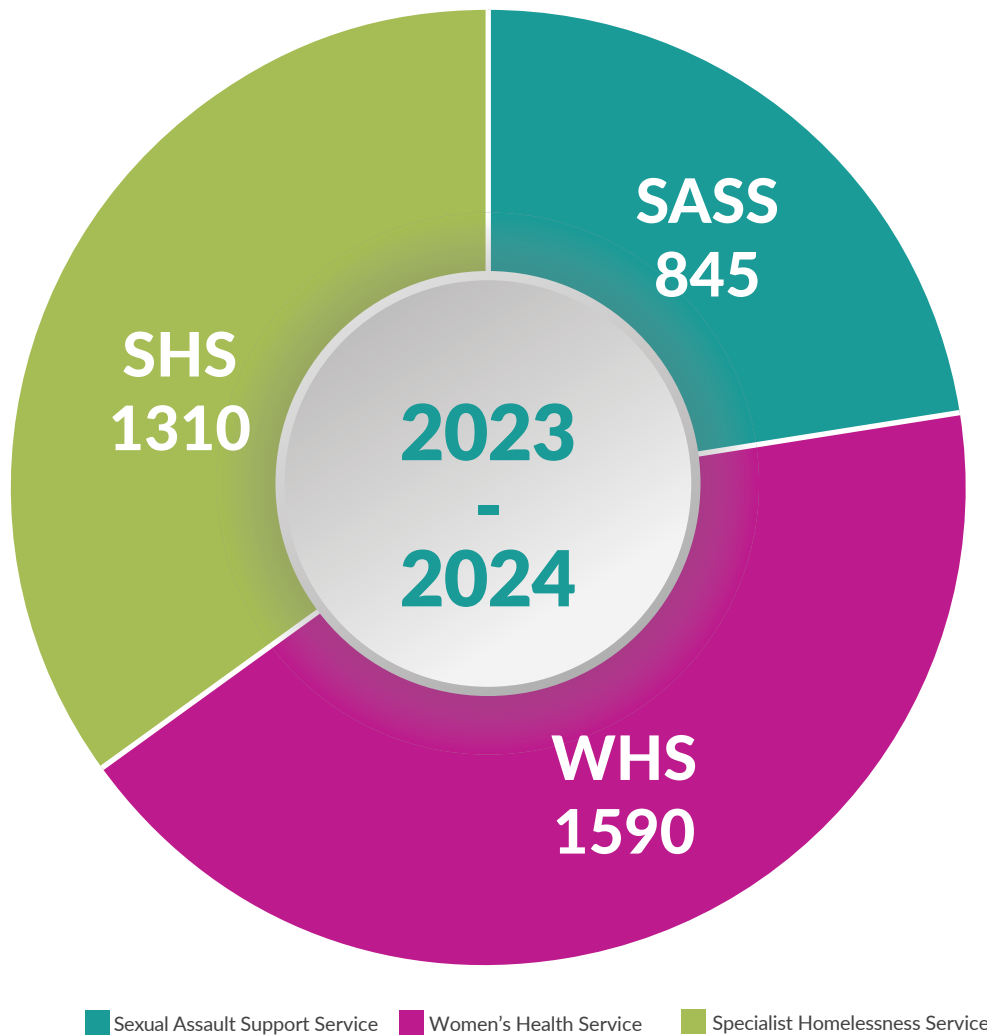
Thank you for your support.

**Cathy Crawford**  
Coordinator

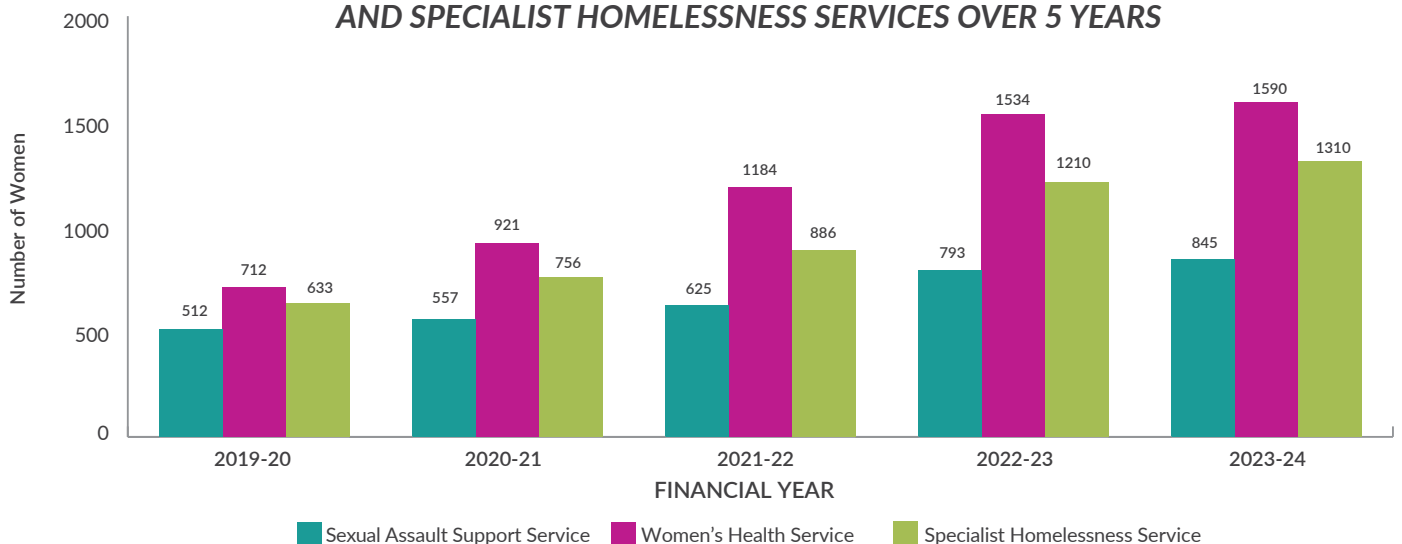
# Services Provided

at The Women's Centre

## NUMBER OF WOMEN SUPPORTED ACROSS OUR CORE SERVICES



## PRESENTATIONS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT, WOMEN'S HEALTH AND SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES OVER 5 YEARS





# Sexual Assault Response Team

## Report

***The Townsville Sexual Assault Response Team is a multidisciplinary, interagency group of specialist professionals, established to work collaboratively alongside victims of sexual violence to provide an integrated, trauma and violence informed response. The team comprises representatives from the Sexual Assault Support Service; Sexual Crimes Unit; Hospital and Health Service; and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.***

Established for over eight years now, the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) continues to strive towards the development of a best practice model, that is responsive to the needs of victims within our local community.

Throughout another year of the daily, collaborative work of responding to survivors, the established evidence base has maintained the significant trends associated with our SART response including increased reporting rates of sexual crimes, completed forensic medical examinations, and referrals to the Sexual Assault Support Service, together with decreased withdrawal of police complaints.

Significant internal developments with regard to the model this past year, have included the responsibility for the investigation of sex crimes being transferred from the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB) back to the Child Protection Investigation Unit (CPIU); the Sexual Assault Support Service receiving a funding increase for SART for the first time; and the Townsville Hospital and Health Service Emergency Department, now being formally represented at SART.

To further articulate and develop the best practice model more broadly, the SART team engaged in a significant period of focused work throughout the year. This work culminated in presentations to the senior leaders of the four organisations pivotal to SART at the Sexual Assault Regional Leadership Group (SARLG) Meeting, and to varied organisations working with survivors within our local community at the Sexual Assault Strategic Partnership (SASP) Meeting. Held in October within Sexual Violence Awareness Month, both bi-ennial meetings provided significant opportunities in which to continue to instill among leadership and within organisations, a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for, and commitment to SART.

It is this uniquely shared responsibility across our pivotal organisations that continues to see SART recognised more broadly across the state as a 'gold standard' model. Consequently, much has been asked of the team once again this past year, in terms of ongoing consultation, representation and presentation, to various government departments.

Perhaps most critically, it is this uniquely shared responsibility for the model and to developing best practice, which ensures SART remains committed to victims and survivors of sexual violence remaining at the very centre of the collaborative work we do each day.

**Dr Trudi Contarino**  
SART Interagency Coordinator



# Specialist Homelessness Service *Report*

***The Specialist Homelessness Service faced challenges generated by the housing crisis which continues to exacerbate. The impact of the crisis has been felt as a whole, both at a micro and macro level.***

Over the past 12 months, the demand from women accessing the specialist homelessness service has grown significantly, with multi-layered issues impacting women and children becoming more complex.

Poverty-stricken families go without basic needs such as shelter, food and clothing. The demand on the Specialist Homelessness Service has extended beyond these basic needs, including requests for support with medication, ensuring children are accessing education and supporting women and children to access safe accommodation free of violence.

With the current vacancy rate in Townsville sitting at 1%, and the number of affordable rentals plummeting showing less than 17% per cent of properties listed for lease are under the \$400 per week mark, securing safe, affordable long-term accommodation is near impossible for women and children.

The experience of homelessness has become increasingly widespread among older women, with the shortage of affordable housing and the ageing population contributing to the rising number of older women experiencing homelessness. During their lifetime, many women work for less money than their male counterparts, work fewer hours, or take more time away for care responsibilities. The Specialist Homelessness Service has witnessed an increase in older women accessing the service with many now experiencing additional vulnerabilities such as mental health issues, domestic and family violence, or problematic drug and/or alcohol use.

The Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works continued to support the Specialist Homelessness Service with Immediate Housing Response for Families funding, as well as introducing the Immediate Housing Response for Couples and Singles. This funding is pivotal in supporting women and children into emergency accommodation and to sustain tenancies.

The challenges arise in sourcing vacancies with motels, hotels, hostels and caravan parks, with many accommodation providers no longer wishing to accept referrals from the Specialist Homelessness Service limiting options greatly. Many women and children experience lengthy and gruelling stays in emergency accommodation, at times up to 12 months, prior to being offered a social housing or community housing property or securing a private rental. These rooms are not equipped with basic cooking appliances, resulting in children not having access to nutritious meals. Motel weekly rates vary from \$480 for a smaller room, to \$900 per week for a larger room which is neither affordable or sustainable for women and children.

We witness children who are further disadvantaged whilst staying in motel accommodation, having to disengage from school due to no access to transport or the necessary funds to pay for public transport to attend school, as well as not being eligible to enroll at a school located nearby the motel, due to not having a permanent address in the school catchment area.

Events in Townsville continue to create a further level of complexity in sourcing accommodation vacancies with the annual V8 Supercars, Pink Concert, NAFA, NRL Football home games, school holidays, sports carnivals and other events held in Townsville.

During the year, the Specialist Homelessness Service supported 1314 women, which is an increase of 94 women from the previous year. 222 were supported to access accommodation into crisis, transitional and long-term housing; to sustain tenancies and for domestic and family violence related matters. This is an increase of 10 from the previous year, which is indicative of the housing crisis and lack of accommodation options available in the Townsville community. Many of those women were supported throughout the past twelve months on multiple occasions.

We are fortunate to continue our working partnership with Soroptimist International Breakwater with the 'Safe Nights' Project which commenced in 2021. We are appreciative of the support from Soroptimist and proud of the positive outcomes 'Safe Nights' has achieved for women and children.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the services who co-locate at The Women's Centre regularly, to provide a holistic support network for women. Your time and contribution are invaluable.

The Specialist Homelessness Service is a dedicated team, who work tirelessly to meet the needs of women presenting at our service. The team currently consists of a Team Leader, seven Case Workers and one Administration Officer. With the current workload and demands on the team, additional staff will be recruited in the coming months.

To end, I'd like to share this short poem and encourage you to be kind and compassionate to others.

## **HOMELESS**

***So when we judge them with our eyes***

***The reason for their slow demise***

***For each of them it's not the same***

***A different story behind their name***



# Women's Health Service & Sexual Assault Support Service *Report*

***The Women's Health Service and Sexual Assault Support Service continue to support women who themselves are navigating escalating social and economic stressors, in the context of increasing sexual and domestic and family violence, and a perception that our society is becoming more dangerous for women and children.***

Collaboration and support within our team of counsellors enables women to be provided with a safe therapeutic space as needs are explored. Women are provided with a calm, safe space, where choice, agency and personal safety are paramount. Counselling conversations centre women in the space, ensure safety is prioritised, and are purposeful, holistic and trauma informed. This approach aims to reduce the profound and enduring impact of violence against women and children.

Similar to the previous year, the numbers of women and young people seeking support from the Women's Health Service and the Sexual Assault Support Service significantly increased. Waitlists became quite intractable, resulting in women and young people often experiencing extended wait times to access the support they were seeking and an inability to do so in a timely manner.

In this situation, in conjunction with multi-layered intersections of social and cultural issues growing in complexity, it thus becomes even more crucial for the team to carefully assess and manage current safety and risk issues with women and children. Counsellors are required to possess high level skills and knowledge to undertake this work with a focus firmly on safety and a collaborative, empowering approach. We value the knowledge women share, as they invite counsellors into poignant conversations highlighting their tenacity and courage.

Anecdotally, counsellors describe that significant financial hardship and unrelenting cost of living pressures mean that women are struggling to access and maintain basic needs for themselves and their families such as food, household items, utilities and tenancies. These seriously dire circumstances intersect with experiences of violence and trauma both inside and outside of the home, racism, transphobia, homophobia, misogyny and endless other forms of oppression and depersonalisation.

Increased referrals from Queensland Police Service to both the Women's Health Service and Sexual Assault Support Service have reflected more complicated and diverse experiences for victim-survivors of sexual assault and sexual harassment, frequently intersecting with domestic and family violence. Emerging issues of inadequate support for women experiencing acute mental illness with simultaneous drug and alcohol use and young people using violence in the home contribute to added vulnerability for these women and young people. We

recognize how such experiences may be compounded by a disconnection from meaningful support systems, and a potential sense of isolation as the complexities of everyday life continue to grow.

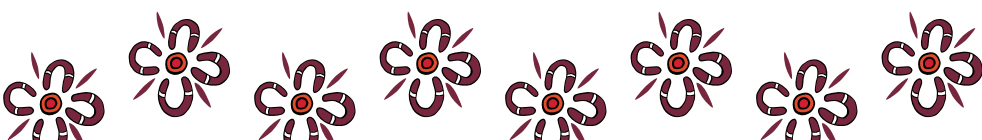
It has become increasingly important that counsellors are accessing the professional development and support required to be working amongst such complexity and human struggle. Our team of counsellors are unwavering in their dedication to provide feminist, trauma informed support to women and victim-survivors in order to reduce the impact of trauma in their lives. As trauma-informed specialists, counsellors are extraordinarily skilled in lessening the impact of trauma and increasing agency and control in the lives of women and children.

A highlight of the year was the outstanding and generous support from local artist Anita Wilkie. International Women's Day was launched powerfully and with much anticipation, showcasing Anita's immense talent in portraiture, through an exhibition featuring a series of exceptional portraits of diverse and extraordinary women. It was a great success! The Women's Centre now proudly displays a large portrait from this collection, honouring one of the founding members of this centre, Dr Betty McLellan.

Thank you to women like Betty and Anita, and so many, many more who continue to support The Women's Centre with such commitment, creativity and energy.



Photo: Screen printing project 2023



# Treasurer's Report

***It has been a huge 12 months for The Women's Centre, and I want to start by commending the incredible team who have adapted to significant changes and taken advantage of new opportunities, while still providing such wonderful support to women in the North Queensland Region.***

The Management Committee also wish to express our profound gratitude to our generous financial supporters, as well as government at all levels whose contributions allow the important work of this Centre to continue and to grow.

Over the past year, we have continued to see significant increases in the number of women and children seeking assistance from The Women's Centre's various services. This increased demand, coupled with rising service delivery costs and recruitment challenges, presents an ongoing difficulty as we endeavor to meet the needs of our region, with the resources at our disposal. Your continued support is invaluable in addressing this challenge.

With regard to the financial performance of the Centre, we are pleased to advise that 2023/2024 fiscal year saw income over \$4.8 million. As in the last few years, the majority of our income has come from State and Federal grants, with substantial contributions from the Queensland Government through the Department of Justice and Attorney General, the Department of Communities, Housing, and Digital Economy, as well as the Commonwealth Government.

Our income and expenses are relatively on par with the budget projections for the year, with the notable variances coming from additional grants, a sizeable overpayment from SART and difficulty in recruiting key staff positions, resulting in underspending on wages and other staff costs.

We continue to see only a limited amount of donations to the Centre, however, we have been able to offset this decline with a series of non-recurrent grants provided by government entities. These non-recurrent grants have played a crucial role in helping us bridge the financial gap caused by reduced donations, ensuring the continuity of our vital services.

Turning to our expenses, as usual, a substantial portion was attributed to salaries and associated expenditures, totaling approximately \$2.7 million. Client expenses constituted another significant portion of our expenditures during the 2023/2024 fiscal year. As all organisations are seeing, we have increases in the cost of insurances, power and energy, council rates and IT expenses. Thankfully, these increases are currently offset by the increase in government grant allocations.

The Centre has engaged the services of an accounting firm to help support the financial management of the Centre, with the majority of work still being done in-house by our Business Administration team. This support provides an extra level of accountability and confidence that our reporting and ATO obligations are all met on time, and we remain diligent in the fiscal management of the Centre as we see continued increases in income and turnover.

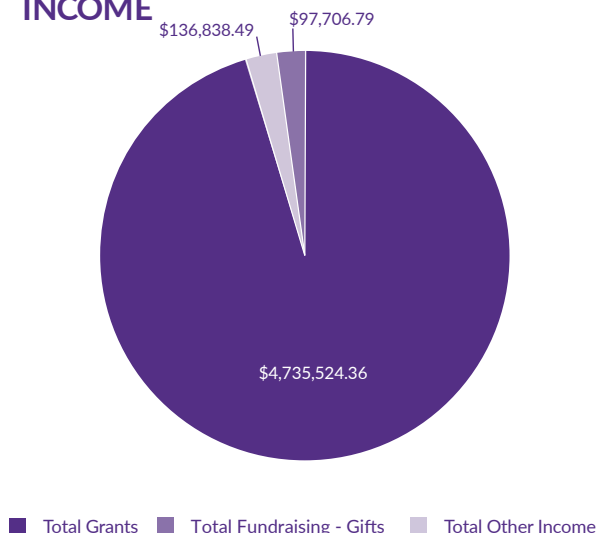
The Management Committee has requested further reporting to be done on a quarterly basis such as employee leave balances, to ensure the correct risk management strategies are taking place.

As we look to the future, the 2024/2025 budget reflects further increases in turnover for the Centre, and successfully recruiting a number of new staff recently will see further spending in our wages and staff costs. We expect that the client expenses, as well as our operational costs, will continue to grow and the budget has been drafted to reflect this.

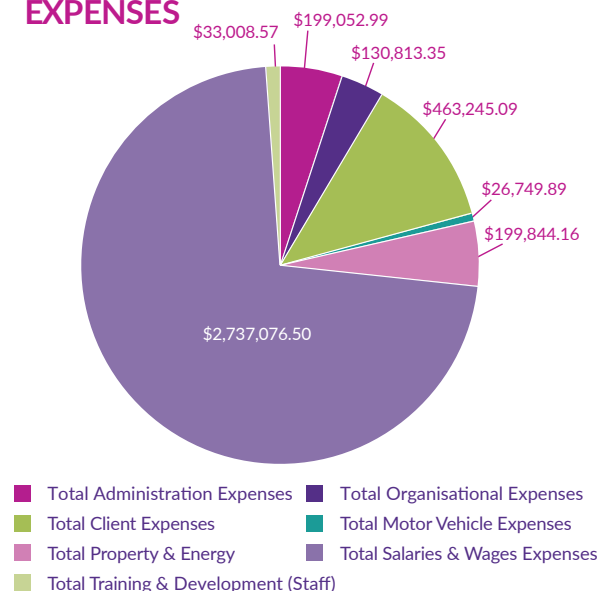
In closing, I would like to reiterate the Committee's appreciation for the dedicated staff at the Centre, especially during this time of change and growth. I would personally like to acknowledge the efforts of my fellow committee members; their time and effort to support The Women's Centre is notable.

**Eleanor Roberts**  
Treasurer

## INCOME



## EXPENSES





# Administration

## Report

*The Administration team plays an indispensable role in the smooth and efficient operation of The Women's Centre. Beyond the everyday administrative tasks, our team is dedicated to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for the women we respond to and support.*

Our reception staff are the welcoming faces that greet women as they enter The Women's Centre. Their role extends far beyond simply answering the phone or directing visitors; reception creates a safe and welcoming atmosphere, ensuring that women feel valued, supported, and heard. They are often the first contact for women in crisis and provide immediate assistance to connect them with appropriate supports.

Behind the scenes, the Administration team is responsible for maintaining and improving our quality systems, governance frameworks, databases, and human resource systems. This involves ensuring compliance with relevant regulations, developing policies and procedures, and implementing best practices. Our team has worked tirelessly to streamline our processes and improve

efficiency throughout the year, allowing us to focus on our core mission of providing support and services to women. The Administrative team is integral in the overall presentation of The Women's Centre including organisation, minor maintenance and creating an overall aesthetically welcoming and safe space for women.

The past financial year has seen a significant increase in our funding, which has led to more complex reporting requirements. The Administration team has risen to this challenge, ensuring that our financial records are accurate, transparent, and compliant with all relevant standards. This has been essential for maintaining the trust of our funders, donors, stakeholders and the community.

The Administration team's contributions to The Women's Centre have been invaluable. The dedication to providing essential support services, maintaining high standards and adapting in an ever-evolving landscape has enabled us to deliver impactful programs and services to women in our community. We are grateful for the team's hard work and commitment to our organisation's mission.



Photo: NAIDOC

# Groups, Activities & Events

## Groups

Senior Women's Group  
Yoga  
Writing Group  
Music Group  
Girl Talk - with QPASTT  
Art with Karen  
Tasty Time  
Keeping the Sharks at Bay  
Art and Craft  
Scrap and Stamp  
Townsville Feminist Collective  
MINDS-W Group  
Playgroup

## Visiting Agencies

ADA Australia  
Townsville Community Law  
North Queensland Women's  
Legal Service  
First Nations Women's Legal  
Service  
54 Reasons  
Department of Housing  
Community Gro  
Qshelter  
Queensland Health Midwife  
Clinic  
Services Australia  
Feros Care  
Form Filling Service

## Events

Annual General Meeting  
Sexual Violence Awareness  
Month  
Women's Christmas Party  
Candlelight Ceremony  
Strong Women Portraiture  
Exhibition by Anita Wilkie  
International Women's Day

"Thank you for everything  
that you could help me with".

"Very thankful for a safe  
environment ... to be able to  
help and support".

*Feedback from Women  
accessing the service*

WOMEN'S  
CHRISTMAS  
PARTY







"I've always felt listened to, never felt pushed and also has been a huge help while I've been homeless".

Feedback from Women accessing the service

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



"Everyone was so supportive and I learnt so much from the content. I especially enjoyed learning about my rights".

"Loved every minute of it. The best decision I've ever made coming to this group".

Group feedback (KTSAB)



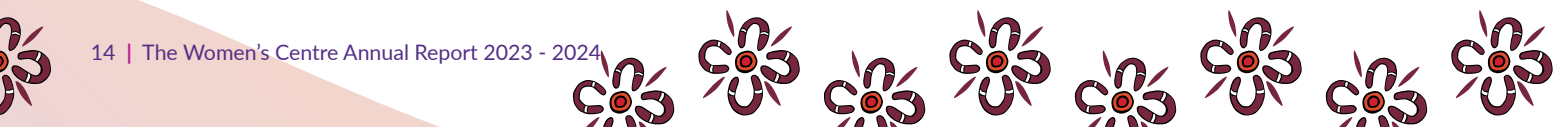
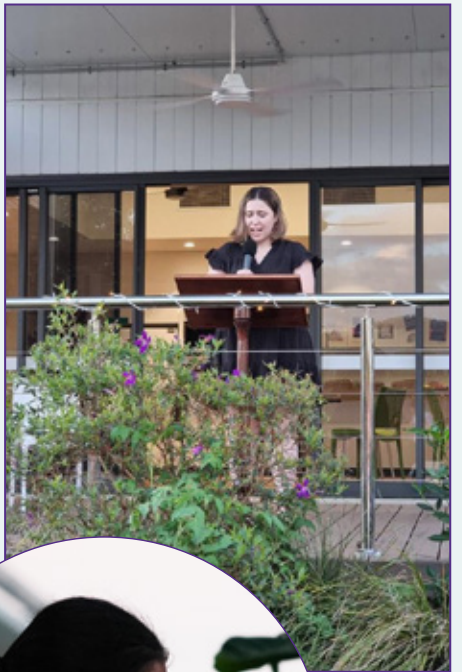




STRONG  
WOMEN  
2024



CANDLELIGHT  
CEREMONY





# Sexual Violence Awareness Screen Printing Project

Come join us for an afternoon of screen printing. We are screen printing t-shirts for Sexual Violence Awareness Month to provide to services across Queensland.

One t-shirt per person.  
Please bring along your own items to decorate.

For more information contact 4775 7555  
or in person at 118 Charles Street,  
Aitkenvale.

Thursday  
24th August  
3pm - 5pm  
118 Charles St,  
Aitkenvale

SCREEN  
PRINTING  
PROJECT  
2023

"So caring and helpful, I couldn't thank you all enough for the support and guidance you've given me. Thank you".

Feedback from Women  
accessing the service

"Wonderful group for empowering women to make aware of what is occurring around them and internally, to make them live their best lives".

"I liked the friendship and non-judgemental attitude of all".

Group feedback  
(KTSAB)

WEAR IT  
PURPLE



# Community Education

## Report

EVENT	DATE DELIVERED	OUTCOMES AND COMMENTS
Information session delivered via Teams to "No To Violence" counsellors	06/07/23	Overview of The Women's Centre, SASS & SART.
Lotus Place - Networking Event	21/07/23	Networking with other local human services organisations. Information sharing re: TWC, SASS & SART
Responding to Sexual Assault Disclosure Workshop – Prep and admin	09/08/23	Workshop on awareness, prevention and responding to sexual assault disclosures.
Consultation for National Framework for Respectful Relationships Education in Australian Schools.	07/09/23	Consultation provided for the development of the National Framework re: respectful relationships, consent, sexual education, sexual violence education to be delivered in Australian schools.
Information session provided to (NQ Region) Qld Education Social Workers	18/09/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of TWC</li> <li>SASS &amp; SART</li> </ul> Responding to SA disclosures
Consultation for "Refugee Health & Wellbeing Policy and Action Plan"	26/07/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation provided re: Women's Health concerns and trends to inform action plan review</li> <li>Networking and professional relationship building</li> </ul>
Consultation and information provision to Qld Ed Social Worker a Kirwan State Primary School	22/08/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building and information provision re: services provided by TWC, SASS &amp; SART</li> <li>Brochures provided</li> </ul>
Consultation with QAS re: information provision, collaboration and enhancing direct service provision	23/08/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building and information provision re: services provided by TWC, SASS &amp; SART</li> <li>Collaboration and advocacy re: supporting women in complex situations.</li> </ul>
QAS Information Session	17/10/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information delivered re: TWC &amp; SART</li> </ul>
Panel Presentation Australian Women's Health Network	03/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information and discussion re socio political situation of women's health and the impact on service delivery</li> </ul>
In Her Shoes	24/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information provided to Townsville City Council workers re: DFV</li> </ul>
Information session at My Pathways Parents Next	20/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information delivered re: TWC &amp; SART</li> </ul>
Information session at Bolton and Clark	18/12/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information delivered re: TWC &amp; SART</li> </ul>
Regional Leaders SART	17/10/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of SART over 7 years to Leaders</li> </ul>
Partnership Presentation SART	31/10/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of SART over 7 years to partners</li> </ul>
Responding to Sexual Assault Disclosures Workshop	30/10/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop on Trauma-informed practice and responding to disclosures of SA.</li> </ul>
Information session with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	03/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information session on Trauma-informed practice within the legal context and working with Victim-Survivors.</li> </ul>
Consultation provided to JCU Dentistry Dept.	09/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation provided on trauma-informed practice for working with victim-survivors</li> </ul>
SART Presentation to Health Leaders	09/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of SART by all member to Health Leaders</li> </ul>
Presentation of SART by all member to Health Leaders	15/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation re SASS role in SART to health providers</li> </ul>
Presentation of SART by all member to Health Leaders	16/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation re SASS role in SART to health providers</li> </ul>
Information session with the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN)	24/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information session on Trauma-informed practice within aged care and working with older Victim-Survivors.</li> </ul>



Responding to Sexual Assault Disclosures Workshop	27/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop on Trauma-informed practice and responding to disclosures of SA.</li> </ul>
Responding to Sexual Assault Disclosures Workshop (Half-Day Tsv)	21/02/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop on Trauma-informed practice and responding to disclosures of SA.</li> </ul>



Photo: SASP Workshop Oct 2023



Photo: SASP Workshop Oct 2023



Photo: Drill Hall Art Exhibition

# Staff & Volunteers

## Management Committee

Theresa Petray	President
Eleanor Roberts	Treasurer
Angela Carroll	Secretary (to March 2024)
Jessica Naunton	Secretary (from March 2024)
Diana Falcomer	Committee member
Stephanie Armstrong	Committee member
Caitlin Berryman	Committee member
Erica Kyle	Committee member
Julie McTaggart	Committee member
Jemima Giles	Committee member
Donna Statham	Committee member
Helena Radke	Committee member

## Contracted Services and Volunteers

Donna Curro	Facilitation of Therapeutic group
Karen Doolan	Facilitation of Art Group
Linda Forscutt	Gardening
Meredith Starck	Yoga Instructor
Paddy McGrath	Dancing Spine Yoga, Yoga Instructor
Sonia Ward	Art & Craft Group Facilitator
Vivienne Salu	Active Nutrition, Tasty Time Group Facilitator
Viki Trevanion	Music Group Facilitator
Wendy Burton	Form Filling Assistant
Charmaine Knox	Professional Team Development
Kate Pemberton	Kate's Campaign for Change
Debra Miles	Feminist Practice Professional Development
Margie Paul	AAA Triarda Cleaning

## Staff Teams

### Coordinator

Catherine Crawford

### Senior Counsellor

Di Plumb

### Women's Health Service & Sexual Assault Support Service Team Leader

Erin Costello

### SART Interagency Coordinator & Sexual Assault Counsellor

Trudi Contarino

### Community Education & Sexual Assault Counsellor

Isabella Webb

### Women's Health & Sexual Assault Support Specialist

Kady Agius

Nicky Thomas

Angeleen Connolly

Karina Seale

Melanie Lottfali

Moana Viliamu

Danielle Miller

Rainbow Brooks

Megan Johnson

Anu Kurian

Arsha Sajan

Dina Saheb

Nihan Baser

Behnaz Khosravi

Daisy Jebichii

### SHS Team Leader

Sallie Kearnan

### SHS Women's Caseworker

Laura Stokes

Anagi Gunasekara

Gabe Cairns

Maree La Spina

Stephanie Penman

Purity Ruita

Kimberley Steel

Summah McCarthy

Kelly Maidens

Lynda Campbell

### Business Administrator

Rose Alexander

Angela Carroll

### HR & Finance Officer

Tanya Jones

### Practice, Projects and Administration Team Leader

Kat Buchta

### Reception

Narelle McKenzie

Korissa Johnson

Kayla Hendy

Marlana Pryor

### Resource Officer

Natalie Leftwich

### SHS Administration

Zahra Rush

### Administration

Lyndel Spokes

Wendy Burton

## Former Staff

### Business Administrator

Rose Alexander

### Reception

Marlana Pryor

Kayla Hendy

### Administration

Lyndel Spokes

### SHS Women's Caseworker

Gabe Cairns

Kimberley Steel

Lynda Campbell

### Community Education & Sexual Assault Counsellor

Isabella Webb

### Women's Health & Sexual Assault Support Specialist

Kady Agius

Nicky Thomas

Karina Seale

Danielle Miller

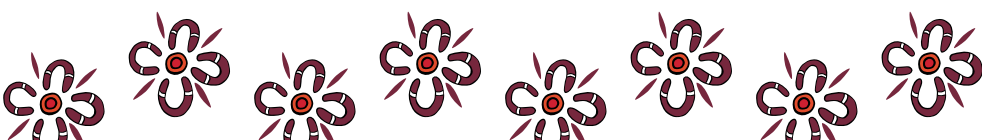


# Partnerships/Alliance/ Networks 2023 - 2024

54Reasons  
Act for Kids  
ADA Link  
Advance Your Business  
Australian Council of Social Services  
Althea Projects  
Australia's National Research  
Organisation for Women's Safety  
Limited  
Burdekin Community Association  
Centacare  
Centre Against Sexual Violence  
Central Queensland University  
Charmaine Knox  
Child Protection Investigation Unit  
Child Safety  
Children by Choice  
Clayton Utz  
Clinical Forensic Medicine Unit  
Community Gro  
Community Solutions  
Creative Flare NQ  
Department of Housing  
Department of Justice and Attorney  
General  
Dorothy Savage  
Dragonfly Alchemy  
DV Action Group  
DV Connect  
EVAWQ  
Family Emergency Accommodation  
Townsville  
Feros Care  
First Nations Women's Legal Service  
Queensland  
Forensic Services Queensland  
Interim Advisory Board  
GIVIT  
Homelessness Australia  
Housing & Homelessness Area  
Network  
ICAN Financial Counselling Service  
iFreelance  
James Cook University

Legal Aid Queensland  
Lives Lived Well  
Local Level Alliance  
Mola Consulting  
National Women's Safety Alliance  
Northern Australia Primary Health  
Ltd  
NQ Alliance for Mental Health  
DVNQ (formerly North Queensland  
Domestic Violence Resource  
Service)  
North Queensland Women's Legal  
Service  
North Queensland Women's  
Services Network  
Moksha Holistic Counselling  
Office of the Director of Public  
Prosecutions  
OnBundock  
Prospect Community Services  
Queensland Ambulance Service  
Queensland Council of Social  
Service  
Queensland Sexual Assault Network  
QTWAV  
Queensland Police Service  
Queensland Sentencing Advisory  
Council  
Queensland Statewide Tenancy and  
Referral Service (QSTARS)  
Queensland Women's Health  
Alliance  
Reconciliation Australia  
Red Cross Australia  
Red Rose Project  
Regional Housing Limited  
Respect Inc. Qld  
Saint Vincent de Paul Society –  
Maria House  
Sexual Assault Regional Leaders  
Group  
Sexual Assault Response Team  
Scrap & Stamp  
Sera's Women's Shelter  
Services Australia - Centrelink


Sexual Crimes Unit  
Share the Dignity  
Sharehouse  
Sorooptimist International Townsville  
Breakwater  
Tenancy Skills Institute  
The Centre for Women & Co  
Taskforce Helix Townsville Aboriginal  
& Islander Health Services  
Townsville City Council  
Townsville Community Law  
Townsville Hospital & Health  
Service Midwives Clinic  
Townsville Intercultural Centre  
Townsville Multicultural Support  
Group  
Townsville and Regional  
Communities Housing and  
Homelessness Area Network  
Townsville Sexual Health Services  
Townsville Suicide Prevention  
Network  
Townsville University Hospital  
Townsville Women's Correctional  
Centre  
Townsville Youth Justice Centre  
Uniting Care Community  
Victim Assist Old  
Vulnerable Persons Unit  
Women's Health Services Alliance  
Women's Health & Wellbeing  
Community of Practice  
WESNET  
Workways Australia Pty Ltd  
Yumba-Meta  
Zephyr Education



# Funders & Supporters

**Special acknowledgment and thank you to our funding bodies for enhancement funding and homelessness brokerage to support the women we work with :**

Department of Justice and Attorney-General  
Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works  
Anita Wilkie  
Aurora  
Calvary Care  
Clayton Utz  
Coffee Presto  
Community Kids Heatley Day Care  
Cowboys Leagues Club  
Dinesh Singham (Absolutely Dental)  
Elders First National Real Estate  
Haydn Crespan  
Jean Flemming & Gwen Usher  
Knitting Ladies Carlyle Gardens Townsville  
Ladies of Suburban Bowls Club  
North Queensland Customs Services  
Queensland Country Bank  
Rowes Bay Retirement Village  
Sorooptimist International Townsville Breakwater  
StreetSmart Australia  
Tec-NQ  
Townsville Grammar School  
Toyota Materials Mahndling Australia  
Trendy Lil treats  
Woolworths Thuringowa  
WOW Social group  
Zephyr Education  
Zonta Club of Townsville Inc.



**STRONG WOMEN**  
don't have attitudes  
... We have **STANDARDS!**

**Portraiture Exhibition**  
Featuring original work by Anita Wilkie  
Opening: Friday March 8th 2024  
6:00 for 6:30pm

extraordinary & unique women portrayed distinctly highlighting positive female influence in our communities

view artist's impressions of  
Taryn Brumfit-2023 Australian of the year  
Murrawah Johnson- activist  
Breiana Whitehead-2024 olympian  
Jacqui Lambie- senator  
Adalita- musician  
and several other prominent and inspirational women

All proceeds from exhibition sales  
donated to the  
Townsville Women's Centre

@drillhallstudio  
27 Mitchell St  
North Ward  
9th March to 4th April  
open daily 9-5

The Women's Centre

  
**The Women's Centre**  
safe space for women

Gurambilbarra  
Phone 07 4775 7555 Facsimile 07 4779 2959  
Email [nqcws@thewomenscentre.org.au](mailto:nqcws@thewomenscentre.org.au)  
facebook.com/NQCWS  
@thewomenscentre.townsville  
Website [www.thewomenscentre.org.au](http://www.thewomenscentre.org.au)  
Website [www.sasstr.org.au](http://www.sasstr.org.au)

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Make a secure donation

