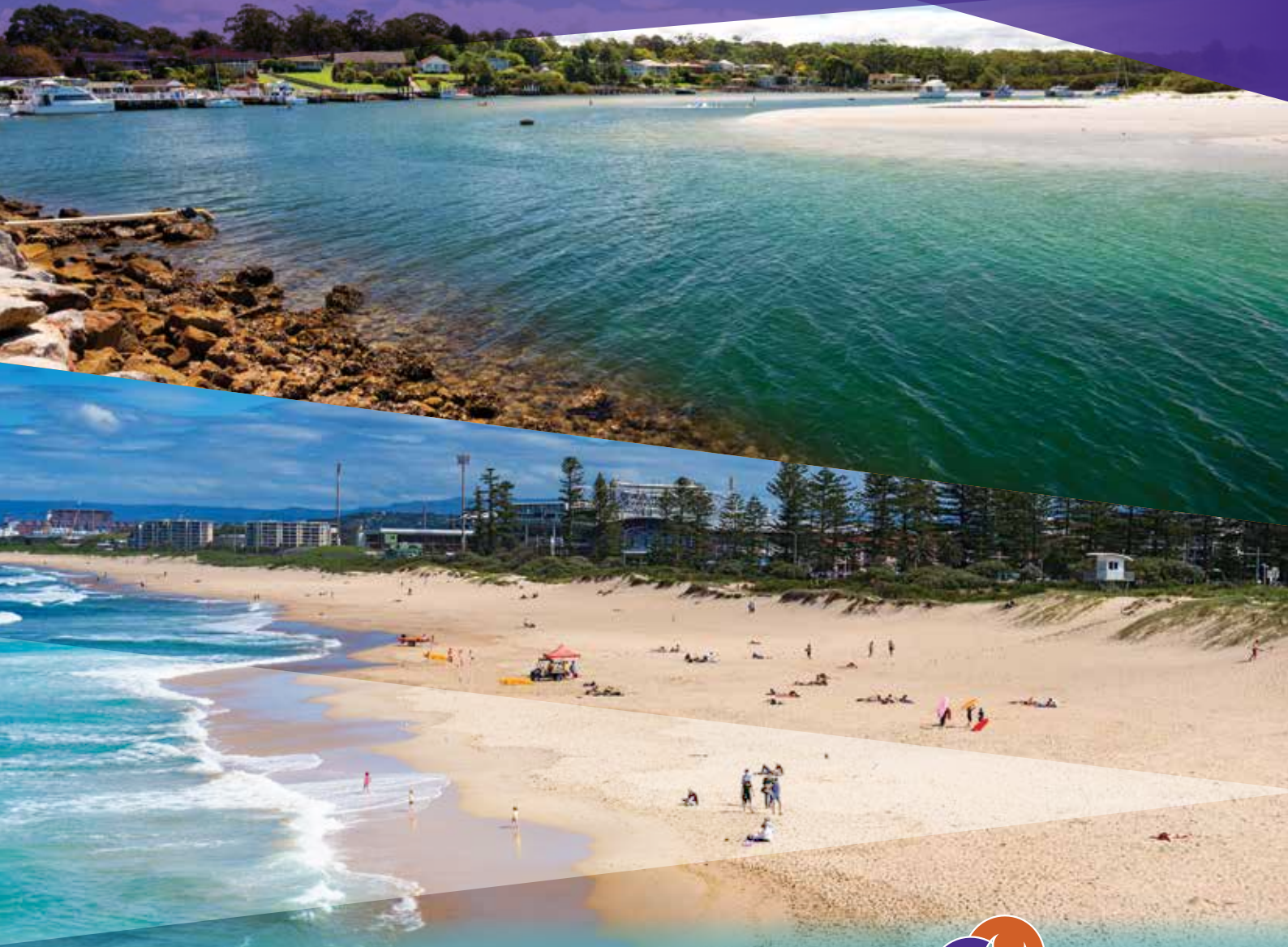


ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



SAHSSI

SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION & HOMELESSNESS SERVICES
SHOALHAVEN ILLAWARRA (SAHSSI) INCORPORATED

A world where all people live safely,
independently and free from abuse.

Dharawal and Yuin Nations

SAHSSI centres operate in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions in which the many tribes of the Dharawal and Yuin nations reside.

SAHSSI acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land. We pay our respects to all elders, past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal people.


















“Changing Life Cycles”

by Allison Day

Our featured artwork is a painting by artist Allison Day, the winner of our 2019 SAHSSI Illawarra and Shoalhaven Aboriginal Art Competition.

You can connect to Allison’s story on page 30-31.

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ABOUT SAHSSI

Supported Accommodation and Homelessness Services Shoalhaven Illawarra (SAHSSI) Inc

SAHSSI is a not for profit Specialist Homelessness Service supporting vulnerable women and their families across the Illawarra and Shoalhaven districts.

We are constantly seeking innovative strategies that will enable us to provide a clear and effective pathway for those using our services to transition back into the community, and live healthy, connected and productive lives in secure, long-term accommodation.

SAHSSI is an Incorporated Association. Ultimate responsibility for the governance of the organisation rests with our management committee, comprised of individuals reflecting a skilled and diverse cultural mix relevant to our organisation's local needs.

SAHSSI is also a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), and a Registered Community Housing Provider.



OUR TEAM

Management Committee

Kerrie Rutherford – Chairperson

Diana Petlikovski – Secretary
Southern Youth and Family Services

Rob Karnups – Treasurer
Accountant, Woonona Bulli RSL Club

Helen Backhouse
Flourish Wollongong

Deborah Kelly
GPT Group

Lorri Field
PDC Lawyers and Planners

Sandra Luschwitz
Unanderra Community Centre

Peter Dimovski
Private Sector

Peter Rostirolla
Kollaras, Group Financial Controller

Management Team

Kathy Colyer – Chief Executive Officer

Julie Sudiro – General Manager

Lesley Labka – Manager
Shoalhaven Services

Gianna Baldoni – Team Leader
Illawarra Outreach

Kelly Lane – Team Leader
DVRE Illawarra

Jacqui Brooker – Business Development Officer

Administration Team

Receptionist

Book Keeper

Tenancy Manager

OUR PROGRAMS

Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) - Shoalhaven and Illawarra

This core funding is received annually from Family and Community Services and separately funds packages for the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. The purpose of this funding is to provide accommodation and/or case management support to women with or without children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Accommodation:

- Crisis Accommodation Facilities x 3
- Transitional Housing x 38

Staffing:

- Outreach Case Managers x 10
- Crisis Accommodation Case Managers x 6
- Casuals x 2

Domestic Violence Response Enhancement (DVRE) - Shoalhaven and Illawarra

Provided by FaCS, Family and Community Services, this funding aims to provide an enhanced 24/7 emergency accommodation and specialist support service to women and children fleeing domestic and family abuse.

Accommodation:

- 24/7 Supported Temporary Accommodation x 2

Staffing:

- Team Leader Illawarra x 1
- DVRE Case Managers x 7
- DVRE Outreach Case Managers x 2

Rent Choice Start Safely Program (FACS & SAHSSI)

A three year pilot program that sees the delivery of Start Safely private rental assistance to SAHSSI clients across the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.

Staffing:

- Private Rental Brokerage Specialist x 1

Corrective Services Partner Support Program

Funded under the Victims Support stream of the Funded Partnership Initiative, this program aims to provide support to partners of domestic violence perpetrators who are attending Corrective Services Domestic Abuse Program.

Staffing:

- Case Manager x 1

ABOUT SAHSSI

PHILOSOPHY & PRINCIPLES

SAHSSI is governed by the following underpinning principles, which are incorporated across all areas of our strategic plan:

- A commitment to client focused outcomes
- A commitment to the value of strategic partnerships
- A commitment to innovation

In all our work SAHSSI strives for excellence and is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to develop the best and most appropriate outcomes for clients. Where there is a service gap, SAHSSI will work to close it, and will apply all its available resources to identify effective and innovative ways to meet the need.

OUR VISION

A world where all people live safely, independently and free from abuse.

PURPOSE

SAHSSI provides housing and access to related, relevant services (e.g. family services, training, parenting, legal advice, counselling) to people in the Illawarra/Shoalhaven district - especially those women and their children affected by domestic and family violence. We work with all partners of excellence to assist our clients achieve their goals.

OUR VALUES

Self-determination - Ensuring those who use our services are able to make pro- active and positive independent decisions and have control of their lives

Respect - We show consideration for the rights, diversity and differences between people

Dignity - We value the worth and the value of all people

Integrity - We are honest in what we say and do and adhere to our agreed moral principles

Equity - We treat others with justice and fairness

Compassion - We understand and provide support for those experiencing distress and facing challenges.

Support We Provide

SAHSSI offers flexible and individually tailored client services across our various programs. We have a team of skilled, specialist case managers, each of whom will work collaboratively with their clients to identify strengths, respond to issues and work towards strategic and action based goals.

We provide support in the following areas:

Information, referral and advice - regarding homelessness, domestic violence and other services that may suit individual client needs

Early Intervention/Prevention - identifying and responding to tenancies at risk, and supporting women to remain safely in their home

Rapid Rehousing - for women who can secure and maintain a private rental property with low level assistance

Crisis Accommodation - for up to six weeks with intensive case management support

Transitional Accommodation - medium term accommodation in a leased property with case management support

24/7 Domestic Violence Response - emergency accommodation and specialist support services to women and children fleeing domestic violence

Female Partner Support - for partners of domestic violence perpetrators who are attending Corrective Services NSW perpetrator programs

Our Government & Community Partners

- Family and Community Services - Housing Services
- Family and Community Services - Community Services
- Corrective Services - Illawarra & Shoalhaven
- Illawarra Legal Service
- Centrelink
- Illawarra Women's Health
- Waminda
- YWCA
- Wollongong Women's Information Service
- DVCAS
- Southern Cross Community Housing
- The Housing Trust
- Anglicare, St Vincent De Paul and Mission Australia
- Southern Youth & Family Services - SYFS
- Aboriginal Corporation - SHS
- Caresouth - SHS
- Homelessness Hubs Illawarra and Shoalhaven
- DVNSW
- Wollongong Central Team GPT
- International Women's Day Committee
- HMAS Albatross
- Ryan Park MP
- Paul Scully MP
- Anna Watson MP
- NSW Police
- Community Industry Group

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

On behalf of the Management Committee, it is with pleasure that I have this opportunity to reflect on our year in review.

We look back throughout 2018/2019, celebrate our outcomes and achievements, and acknowledge our position in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven as a Specialist Homelessness Service.

Two new committee members joined us this year, **Peter Rostirolla and Robert Karnups**. Peter and Rob bring financial expertise to our organisation as well as strength in business planning, project management and risk management. We welcome Peter and Rob and appreciate the combined knowledge and experience they bring to SAHSSI.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the ongoing members of the committee of **Deborah Kelly, Diana Petlikovski, Sandra Luschwitz, Lorri Field, Peter Dimovski and Helen Backhouse**. They have all been totally committed to ensuring that SAHSSI continues to provide ethical and quality practices. Their time, expertise and skills are very much appreciated.

The committee also farewells Helen Backhouse and we offer our sincere thanks for her contribution to SAHSSI over the years.

In March, the Management Committee participated in a one-day governance training seminar conducted by Community Industry Group, the peak body for community service organisations in NSW.

The training covered key topics relating to good governance, and encouraged self-evaluation. As a team, we look towards a future of strong governance and continuous improvement.

Our focus on core business activities has seen SAHSSI once again achieve above target results for 2018/2019. This positive outcome is due to the dedication and commitment of our highly capable management team of, Kathy Colyer, Julie Sudiro, Lesley Labka, Jacqui Brooker,



Kelly Lane and Gianna Baldoni. I would also like to acknowledge our frontline staff, always maintaining a client focused approach in supporting women and children in crisis.

Throughout the years, SAHSSI has built an excellent reputation in the community for their business development, collaboration with stakeholders and other services, and efforts to raise awareness in relation to homelessness and domestic violence. This year we have built on that strength through a wider social media presence, enabling us to increase awareness as well as acknowledge the generous support of our local community.

I congratulate SAHSSI on their successes this past year. The staff are empathetic, loyal, dedicated and their outcomes are a reflection of the commitment and expertise of the entire SAHSSI team. Their tireless advocacy and support of clients is recognised, and the committee thanks them all for their amazing efforts. It is only through this dedicated and collaborative culture, that SAHSSI are able to provide the support needed to empower women and children to live safely, independently and free from abuse.

Kerrie Rutherford
Chairperson



It is my great pleasure to share with you the successes and challenges of yet another busy year at SAHSSI.

I would first like to acknowledge the resilience of our clients and their determination to successfully overcome the challenges presented when experiencing homelessness and/or domestic violence.

On this premise, SAHSSI provides client centred, trauma informed services across a range of programs, all of which have exceeded our funding targets for this past year. These programs include Illawarra and Shoalhaven Homelessness & DFV Support Services, DVRE 24/7 funded services and the Start Safely Pilot Program.

The past year has seen SAHSSI enter the second year of its three year Strategic Plan with a continued focus on our strategic objectives of the prevention and reduction of homelessness, increasing housing stock, and organisational capacity and development. We remain committed to these objectives and are continually looking to apply innovative and collaborative approaches towards achieving them.

Our funding targets for 2018/2019 were exceeded as follows:

PROGRAM AREA	TARGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE	ABOVE TARGET
SHS ILLAWARRA	642	923	281	44%
SHS SHOALHAVEN	268	280	12	4%
DVRE 24/7	215	642	427	198%
START SAFETY PILOT	60	104	44	73%



This year we engaged the University of NSW to evaluate our Domestic Violence Response Enhancement (DVRE) program. The report stated that the DVRE program provided by SAHSSI has demonstrated positive outcomes throughout the program. Client feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the proportion of clients finding accommodation upon exiting the service compare positively to broader homelessness services. Case manager feedback also suggest that client's needs were met in a majority of cases, and external stakeholders report that this service is a welcome addition, providing necessary options in an under-resourced area. In light of the broader costs of DFV to individuals and communities, the DVRE program appears to offer a cost-effective and suitable service for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

I would like to highlight that under this program SAHSSI has been able to support an additional 642 women escaping domestic and family violence. We have been able to establish that the DVRE funding is crucial and without ongoing funding many women and children at risk will be without support, as this program is only funded to the 30th June 2020.

The Rent Choice Start Safely-Specialist Homelessness Service (Start Safely-SHS) pilot program is now halfway into its three year pilot and is proving to be an outstanding success. This pilot has enhanced the capacity of SAHSSI to establish an alternative referral pathway in the service system for victims of domestic and family violence.

Benefits of this program include prompt responses and outcomes for clients, and stronger relationships between SAHSSI and FACS Housing Services. Feedback from clients, staff and external agencies has been overwhelmingly positive.

FACS have now engaged Elton Consulting to undertake an independent review of the pilot program. As part of the review, the consultants will be seeking input from staff and clients involved in the program. I look forward to seeing the findings of the independent report.

2018/2019 was another year of solid financial operational performance. This is only achieved by responsible financial management, efficient work practices, and ensuring all funds spent were of value to our clients and within our funding guidelines. Practices such as this not only enable us to achieve great client outcomes, they position us well for future opportunities.

This year, as in previous periods, SAHSSI has continued to foster partnerships with key stakeholders, both old and new. I would like to thank our government and community partners across the Illawarra and Shoalhaven for their support of SAHSSI and their collaborative approach to service delivery for our clients.

The marvellous outcomes achieved this year would not be possible without our dedicated, passionate and professional staff who work tirelessly to improve the lives of women and children. Thank you to the Management Team for the drive, vision and leadership skills they bring to the organisation, and to all of our wonderful staff for their commitment to service, and achieving positive outcomes for clients. I congratulate them all on another successful year.

SAHSSI are very fortunate to be supported and governed by a highly skilled Management Committee. This cohesive team offers a range of skills and expertise from both the private and not for profit sector, and I thank them for their valuable insights and commitment to good governance. I also wish to extend my appreciation and thanks to our Chairperson, Kerrie Rutherford, who has dedicated a decade of service to the SAHSSI Management Committee.

While the uncertain nature of funding is always a challenge, SAHSSI has certainly demonstrated its ability to deliver above and beyond expectations. I am confident that with continued strong leadership and our team of professional staff, we can look towards further success in improving the lives of women and children in 2020 and beyond.

Kathy Colyer

RENT CHOICE START SAFELY PROGRAM

SAHSSI's partnership with FACS to trial the Joint Rent Choice Start Safely Pilot has been progressing well and the pilot's mid-point review has recently commenced. Keira Rostirolla, who joined SAHSSI in October 2017, continues to be based at our head office and delivers Start Safely to the Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven LGA's.

The Rent Choice Start Safely Program (Start Safely) provides opportunities and pathways for client independence, by assisting those affected by domestic or family violence (DFV) to resolve homelessness by accessing safe and affordable housing in the private rental market.

Start Safely was initially piloted in 2009 to provide short to medium-term financial assistance to women who were homeless or at risk of homelessness due to DFV, and to facilitate access to the private rental market. Under Future Directions for social housing in NSW (Future Directions), the Government committed to expand Start Safely over the next 10 years. Future Directions also introduced the broader banner of 'Rent Choice' under which additional groups have been added.

Start Safely Pilot aims to achieve the following client outcomes:

- Assist clients escaping DFV to move into safe, secure and affordable private rental accommodation;
- Provide financial support for a period of time to enable the client to re-establish stability for themselves and their family following DFV;
- Reduce the time spent in crisis or temporary accommodation;
- Reduce the number of women and children who are forced, because of DFV, into homelessness or to remain in dangerous home environments;
- Prevent a cycle of disadvantage by assisting clients through a gradual reduction of their subsidy, while building capacity and transitioning to independence.

The pilot also aims to:

- Establish an alternative referral pathway in the service system for victims of DFV;



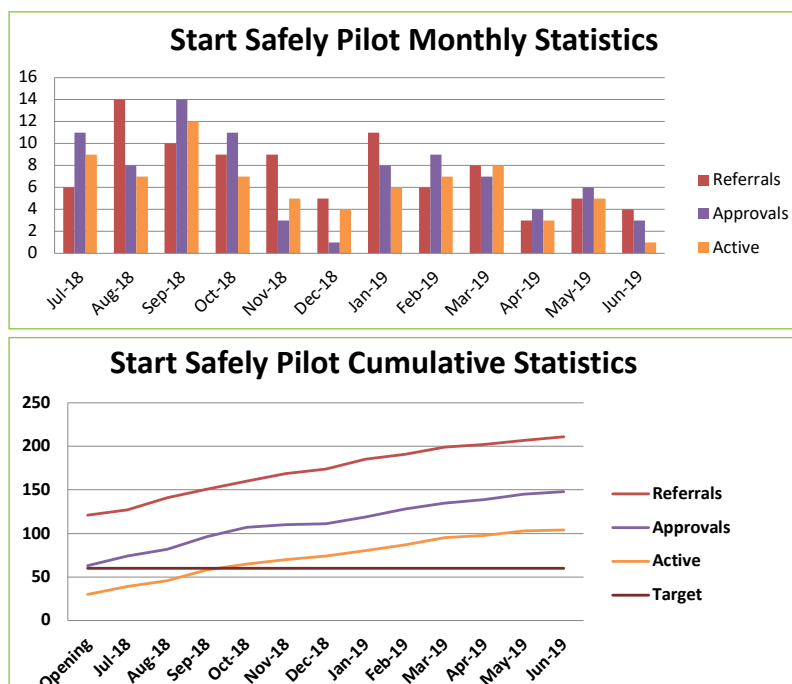
- Enhance the capacity of host agencies to engage and assess the needs of women with children escaping DFV;
- Strengthen relationships between host agency and FACS to encourage better and improved collaborative responses.

Benefits of the pilot thus far include, but are not limited to:

- Having a FACS contact in-house enables SAHSSI staff to get quick responses to enquiries, ease of information sharing, less phone traffic/tag;
- Prompt responses and outcomes for clients means more options are available to clients at the time they need and thus, clients have less reasons to return to dangerous home environments;
- Overwhelming feedback from clients, staff and external agencies reflect on the non-Government office being more welcoming, private and comfortable;
- Flexibility for FACS assessments to be completed out of office that supports both SAHSSI staff and clients;
- FACS worker having access to SAHSSI database means interviews and reviews are well prepared and there is less repetition for clients, which lessens trauma.

Brokerage assistance is available for Start Safely clients who secure a private rental property and may be used for purposes such as:

- Assistance with education and training;
- Employment related costs;
- Household establishment;
- Professional services to assist the client in sustaining tenancy or preparing for employment or training (such as counselling etc);
- Transport related assistance.



Funding for the pilot allows for a minimum of 60 active clients at any one time over a three year period.

These graphs above show both the monthly and cumulative statistics for the pilot over 2018/2019. As can be seen, the number of active Start Safely clients is well in excess of the minimum target for the pilot. **An outstanding result.**

Client Feedback

"Hi Keira, Thank you ever so much for giving me the opportunity today to be involved in my review & linking me up with SAHSSI. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your exceptional support, professionalism, respect & dignity in helping me get back on my feet but also for showing a great deal of compassion, empathy & understanding. I'm ever so grateful & appreciative of the great work you do in making a difference in my life. After chatting with you, I was so motivated to actually direct some self-care & have had an awesome day doing this. It is professional workers like you that help make positive changes in a woman's life & society. Thank you ever so much."

Hope's Journey with Rent Choice Start Safely

Hope and her children were referred to SAHSSI due to homelessness resulting from ongoing domestic violence. Prior to seeking support, Hope had secured rental accommodation with a family member, yet they failed to pay their share of the rent and eventually abandoned Hope, leaving her with increasing arrears in a property that had become unaffordable.

A SAHSSI Case Manager (CM) was assigned to work with Hope and support her to apply for housing assistance through the Private Rental Brokerage Specialist (PRBS). Hope was subsequently approved for the Start Safely program, as well as rental arrears assistance. Assistance was assessed and approved in a very brief timeframe, which meant Hope's tenancy was sustained.

Hope received a subsidised rent under the condition she would seek more affordable rental accommodation, however she requested that a different family member move in with her to provide support and share the rent. This was approved by both PRBS and the real estate,

meaning Hope no longer needed to seek alternate housing. Unfortunately, after only a short time, this relative also abandoned Hope, leaving her to manage a large rent on top of her own health issues, continued harassment from her ex-partner and broken family supports.

Hope's case manager and PRBS empowered Hope to focus on the needs of herself and her children through extended case management support and continued support through Start Safely, which only required Hope to pay her share of the subsidised rent until the end of her lease. This gave Hope the opportunity to demonstrate she could sustain a successful tenancy, as well as time to address her family's needs and start planning long term goals.

When Hope gave notice to vacate her tenancy, her real estate agent gave her a glowing recommendation, enabling her to secure an affordable property without the need to rely on another income to sustain her rent. Hope has also addressed her health issues, she is no longer experiencing harassment from her ex-partner and is in the process of returning back to her studies.

ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN WOMEN'S HOMELESSNESS & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

Illawarra and Shoalhaven Women's Homelessness and Domestic Violence Support Services provides outreach case management, and crisis and transitional accommodation to women who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, due to domestic and family abuse or other life crises.

In the last financial year, SAHSSI received over 1,800 referrals to our Women's Specialist Homelessness and Domestic Violence services. This is a frightening volume of homeless women in our district and does not begin to indicate the number of children impacted. In response, SAHSSI has provided support to women and children exceeding our funding targets by 35%.

SAHSSI continues this year to achieve both quantitative and qualitative outcomes for women and children, as well as meeting our funding requirements. We have utilised community support and our considerable collaborative relationships, to break down barriers and provide women and children with access to safe and affordable housing, trauma informed care, and supportive recovery opportunities and services.

SAHSSI values and promotes a best practice work environment and in the last financial year, the following training was attended by staff:

- Trauma and Addiction
- Child Restraint Training
- Advance Domestic Violence
- Conflict Management
- National Housing and Homelessness Forum
- Navigating Mental Health Services
- HR Management - The Essentials for Your Organisation
- Engaging Women Impacted by Domestic Violence
- Double Whammy - Co-occurring Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Disorders
- Emotionally Intelligent Leadership
- Cultural Responsiveness Workshop
- Kid Safe Training - Child Car Restraints
- Project Air - Personality Disorders
- First Aid

Our Women's Specialist Homelessness and Domestic Violence Support Services consist of the following components:

Case Management

SAHSSI **case managers** are experienced in supporting women **through crisis** and into **secure stable housing**.

We support our clients with:

- Safety planning and assessment
- Connection to immediate **crisis needs** (food, clothing, financial support)
- Support with all aspects of **private rental seeking** such as property applications, bond loans, and private rental subsidies
- Assistance with applying for Family and Community Services **Housing NSW products** and housing options where eligible
- A wide range of warm referrals and linking to supports such as GPs, mental health services, victim services, legal, financial, education, employment and **social supports**
- **Experienced domestic violence** and trauma informed case management

SAHSSI case managers introduce women and children to support networks, education and training opportunities, trauma recovery services, and empower women to live a safe, healthy and connected life.

Crisis Accommodation

SAHSSI manages crisis accommodation properties in **Nowra, Wollongong and Warilla**, which support single women aged eighteen or over, or women with accompanying children (male teenagers to seventeen years of age) who are homeless and in a crisis situation.

To ensure a respectful, relaxed, private and safe living environment SAHSSI has a client agreement and house guidelines. Clients have their own room.

Our Nowra and Wollongong accommodation comprises of six bedrooms, whilst Warilla has nine bedrooms, allowing up to 21 women plus accompanying children to be accommodated at any one time.

Transitional Accommodation

SAHSSI manages 38 transitional houses and units in the Illawarra. In the Shoalhaven we have partnered with Southern Cross Housing and the Housing Trust to make available three studio and four, two bedroom units. The transitional properties afford women and children an opportunity to obtain a positive rental history, or provide a safe haven to wait for a Priority Social Housing allocation.

Outreach Support

Outreach case management provides a service to those who are couch surfing, staying with family or friends, residing in transitional housing properties, staying in hotels (temporary accommodation), or living in a property where their tenancy may be at risk. Outreach case managers are mobile and provide wrap around service for clients throughout the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. **Outreach brings SAHSSI case management to women and children, wherever they may be accommodated.**

Revenue NSW

SAHSSI is a registered agent for the Work and Development Order (WDO) Service that supports clients to reduce their fines with revenue NSW by participating in a variety of activities. In 2018/2019, 85 clients' fines were collectively reduced by \$40,059 as a result of their engagement in case management support and other eligible activities.

I was able to speak to someone when I called - it is a stressful time as it is and being able to chat to someone straight away helps. You were all able to be flexible with times as I work casually, this was also very helpful.



End of Year Results - Illawarra

Women we helped

Single Women 308

Single Parents 449

Children 166

TOTAL

923

44% OVER OUR FUNDING TARGET

88%

of tenancies at risk were stabilised



One in two presenting women were victims of domestic abuse

OF THE 923

581

HOMELESS

342

TENANCY AT RISK

94%

of clients surveyed were satisfied overall with services received

86%

of women had an improvement in their health and wellbeing at the end of SAHSSI support

OUR CLIENTS

Aboriginal



153 17%

Youth (no children)

15 5%

Single Parent Youth

31 11%

LGBTQI



7 3%

50 years and over

113 12%

Newstart

234 25%

CALD



3 1%

Mental Health Diagnosis

441 48%

Disability Support Pension

101 11%

Employment as main income

48 5%

Tatiana's Journey

HOW WE HELPED

Tatiana, originally from Romania, came to our crisis accommodation with her two children after a carefully coordinated escape safety plan was enacted between services to assist her to escape a ten year, severely abusive relationship.

Tatiana had developed depression and was able to convince her husband to allow her to go for a walk to the library occasionally. She used her time to go to Centrelink and speak with the social workers. Eventually, when Tatiana felt strong enough to leave, the safety plan was enacted. Tatiana was not able to take any personal documents.

On arrival at our crisis accommodation Tatiana was supported to apply for Centrelink payments, apply for identification, open her own bank account and given a mobile phone. Tatiana also felt confident to talk to police and make a statement about abuse that she experienced and an AVO was issued to protect her and her children. It was clarified with Immigration that Tatiana was a permanent migrant and would be eligible for government payments and other products and services such as FACS Housing.

Staff liaised with the Department of Education and due to safety concerns, home schooling was arranged. The children were experiencing behavioural and speech difficulties. Significant efforts were made in case management to teach the children about personal safety and how to play as they had been kept in separate rooms and did not know how to play. The safety concerns were so serious that Tatiana and her children did not leave the refuge unless accompanied by a staff member.

Tatiana received legal advice about parenting orders. For safety and support Tatiana chose to relocate to another part of NSW. They were transferred to another Specialist Homelessness Service and continue to receive case management support.

Below demonstrates the extensive range of services provided and referrals made in support of Tatiana and her children.

Services and support	Provided by SAHSSI	Referral(s) made
Crisis accommodation	✓	
Assistance for Family & domestic violence and trauma	✓	✓
Assistance with government allowance	✓	✓
Education Assistance	✓	✓
School liaison	✓	
Financial and legal information	✓	
Living skills development	✓	
Advocacy, advice and information	✓	
Meals and laundry facilities	✓	
Recreation activities	✓	
Court support	✓	
Retrieval and storage of personal belongings	✓	
Parenting skills education	✓	✓
Health and medical services		✓
Transport	✓	

End of Year Results - Shoalhaven

Women we helped

Single Women 92

Single Parents 160

Children 28

TOTAL 280

4%

OVER OUR FUNDING TARGET

OF THE 280

170

HOMELESS

110

TENANCY AT RISK

96%

of clients surveyed were satisfied overall with services received

84%

of women had an improvement in their health and wellbeing at the end of SAHSSI support

87%

of tenancies at risk were stabilised



One in two presenting women were victims of domestic abuse

OUR CLIENTS

Aboriginal  108 39%

Youth (no children) 15 5%

Single Parent Youth 31 11%

LGBTQI  7 3%

50 years and over 38 14%

Newstart 71 25%

CALD  3 1%

Mental Health Diagnosis 158 46%

Disability Support Pension 41 15%

Employment as main income 13 5%

Sharon's Journey

HOW WE HELPED

Sharon fled from Cowra to the Shoalhaven with her young son under advice from FaCS and local police due to extreme domestic and family abuse. We commenced supporting Sharon with outreach when she moved into a caravan at Sussex and was then later offered a FACS Housing property in Nowra.

During the 12 months that SAHSSI supported Sharon, she experienced repeated assaults from her partner who would visit her in the Shoalhaven, take their son out to the local park and return to the house to physically and sexually assault her. Although reluctant for him to come to her home, Sharon's other son was in a boarding school in Sydney and the only way she could see him was via the perpetrator, who would use the child as bait for contact. Sharon had tried to tell Police her story in Cowra but they had not believed her or had suggested that she leave town. On the odd occasion Sharon's case made it to court, her abuser would always get off due to expensive barristers and the lack of support from Police due to previous drug use.

Sharon's SAHSSI case manager formed a recovery safety alliance with the local DVLO and a trauma-counsellor. Together they were able to take the matter to court, have the perpetrator charged and jailed, and move the client and her son to a new place of safety, with referrals and links to local support services (without having to tell her story again). Sharon expressed great relief that her story was finally taken seriously and the perpetrator was held accountable at last.

Sharon felt she was finally in a position to begin to heal and move forward with her life.

Below demonstrates the extensive range of services provided and referrals made in support of Sharon and her children.

Services and support	Provided by SAHSSI	Referral(s) made
Assistance for Family & domestic violence and trauma	✓	✓
Family/ relationship assistance	✓	
Court support	✓	
School liaison	✓	
Financial and legal information	✓	✓
Assistance with challenging social/ behavioural issues	✓	
Advocacy, advice and information	✓	
Child specific specialist counselling	✓	✓
Transport	✓	
Brokerage and material aid	✓	
Retrieval and storage of personal belongings	✓	
Specialist adult counselling	✓	✓
Psychiatric services		✓
Mental health services		✓
Health and Medical services	✓	✓
Child Protection services	✓	

ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN WOMEN'S HOMELESSNESS & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional housing is a form of social housing assistance aimed at bridging the gap between homelessness and permanent housing. **SAHSSI manages 25 transitional housing properties as a part of its Illawarra Homeless and Domestic Violence Support Services package**, and headleases a further 13 properties directly through FACS Housing Services.

Our Tenants

In 2018/2019 SAHSSI housed a total of 90 women and 125 children as part of our transitional housing program. 15% of women housed identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and 10% of women were born outside of Australia.

Social housing and private rental have continued to be the main exit outcomes for transitional housing clients in 2018/2019, **with 44% of clients securing private rental and 33% being offered social housing.**

Housing Outcomes for Exited Tenants 2018/19



Our Properties

In November 2018 SAHSSI arranged for technical scoping of all properties for which we have asset maintenance responsibilities. The condition of the properties was assessed against asset performance standards as set out in the NSW Community Housing Asset Management Policy.

Overall, our properties were well maintained, and well within the requirements of the asset performance standards. The scoping reports have allowed SAHSSI to update its 10 Year Asset Management Plan to ensure our ability to meet short and long term asset maintenance responsibilities.

Compliance

SAHSSI is a Tier 3 Registered Community Housing Provider under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH). This is a regulatory system designed to govern the community housing sector and ensure its ongoing development and viability across Australia.

In 2018/2019 our organisation maintained accreditation as a Tier 3 provider under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing with no notable comments or improvements required.

SAHSSI has performed well against key performance measures in 2018/2019.

Key Performance Measures	SAHSSI 2018/2019	Performance Threshold
Tenancy Turnaround (tenantable)	5.16 days	< 14 days
Tenancy turnaround (untenantable)	10.65 days	< 28 days
Evictions	1.75%	< = 10%
No. of tenants satisfied with the condition of their properties	97.5%	>=75%
No. tenants satisfied with overall quality of Housing Services	95%	>=75%



Annie and Suzanne's Journey

Annie (Mother), Suzanne (adult daughter) and Cooper (Suzanne's son) were first referred to SAHSSI services in November 2017 after a 5 month period of homelessness. The property which they had previously rented together had been demolished following a fire that had led to the discovery of asbestos. The family had stayed with friends whilst looking for alternative accommodation but had not found anywhere appropriate. Eventually, with the assistance of FACS Housing, the family were given temporary accommodation (TA) until they could be brought into the SAHSSI Warilla Crisis Accommodation in November 2017.

The family were very grateful to have safe accommodation with SAHSSI, however, they were all sharing one room at the refuge. The crisis case managers put in an immediate referral for SAHSSI's Transitional Housing.

Within 6 weeks, Annie, Suzanne and Cooper were offered transitional housing with SAHSSI that was within walking distance to Cooper's school. This was very important to the family as Cooper had a diagnosis of extreme anxiety and had difficulties dealing with change. In addition, the accommodation was particularly suitable for the family as it had level access, crucial to their needs as Suzanne had multiple health issues as a result of a horse riding accident a few years previous. Annie had been caring for Suzanne, assisting with household tasks, driving her to appointments, shopping for the family and helping Suzanne with some personal care tasks.

Annie and Suzanne were initially offered a 6 week lease. The family were allocated an outreach case manager to assist with their transition into permanent housing and case planning to reach their individual goals.

Annie was relentless in looking and applying for private rental properties for the family, all whilst continuing to look after Suzanne and Cooper. After a period of time it was apparent that Suzanne's medical conditions meant that this family was unlikely to be able to resolve their housing issues in the private rental market. Their case manager discussed with both Annie and Suzanne the potential to approach FACS Housing for consideration for urgent housing due to medical grounds (Suzanne and Cooper). The family's application was fortunately approved once all supporting evidence was submitted and assessed.

During the time this family lived in SAHSSI transitional housing, they were able to achieve many of the goals that would not have been possible when living with friends in an insecure environment.

Both Annie and Suzanne were assisted to obtain free dental care, eyewear and counselling. Suzanne was also able to participate in a Work and Development Order through SAHSSI to help pay off outstanding fines.

The family moved into their social housing property earlier this year. They had saved some money whilst living in the transitional housing and were able to make a smooth transition into the safe, secure and appropriate home that they had needed for quite some time.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE ENHANCEMENT (DVRE) PROGRAM

In its second full year of operation, the DVRE Program continues to move from strength to strength. This program, first funded in late 2016, has added 15 bedrooms and 9 case managers (8 full-time and 1 part-time) across the Shoalhaven and Illawarra. The program provides emergency accommodation, and material aid, together with 24/7 trauma informed case management support for women who seek safety from domestic and family abuse. While the program is short-term (working with women on average around 9 nights), through intensive support SAHSSI's case managers have managed to find safe housing outcomes, and provide services and access to a wide range of resources that will assist women and children recover from domestic and family abuse.

In the last financial year 642 women and children were supported by this program; **an incredible 198% over the number of clients the program is funded to support.** Without the DVRE Program, SAHSSI would be even further behind in meeting the overwhelming demand for specialist women's homelessness and domestic violence services in the Shoalhaven and Illawarra.

As well as intensive, after-hours and crisis support, the program supports women who are approved for FACS Housing Start Safely Subsidy, where just a little extra support ensures their ongoing safety and success. **The program is enhanced through our collaborative relationships with FACS Housing, Southern Cross Housing and local charities,** individuals and community groups who provide emergency supplies such as food and clothing.

This year, the University of NSW and SAHSSI published an evaluation of the DVRE program using data from the 17/18 financial year. The report concluded that:

The DVRE Program provided by SAHSSI has demonstrated positive outcomes throughout the pilot phase. Client feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the proportion of clients finding accommodation upon exiting the service compare positively to broader homelessness services. Case manager feedback also suggests that clients' needs were met in a majority of cases, and external stakeholders report that this service is a welcome addition, providing necessary options in an under-resourced area. In light of the broader costs of DFV to individuals and communities, the DVRE program appears to offer a cost effective and suitable service for women and children escaping DFV.

While the program was intended to end in June 2019, thankfully it has been extended for a further twelve months.

"The work you do is important, significant and valued! Keep going!"



End of Year Results DVRE

Women we helped

Single Women	215
Single Parents	227
Children	200

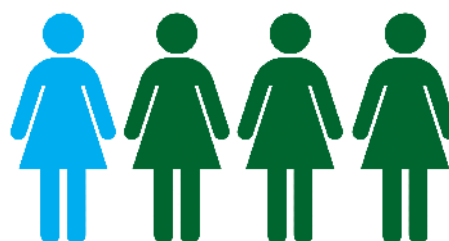
TOTAL

642

198% OVER OUR FUNDING TARGET

96%

of women felt their safety improved through the DVRE Program



One in four clients were Aboriginal

24/7 SERVICE

AFTER HOURS RISK ASSESSMENT

182

AFTER HOURS INTAKES INTO TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

202

SUPPORT FROM DVRE PROGRAMS AFTER HOURS

257




OUTREACH SUPPORT TO OTHER TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATIONS

333

94.5%

of clients surveyed felt the service met their expectations

OUR CLIENTS

Aboriginal		153	24%
Youth (no children)		32	5%
Single Parent Youth		54	8%
LGBTQI		24	4%
50 years and over		52	8%
Newstart		123	19%
CALD		56	9%
Mental Health Diagnosis		280	44%
Disability Support Pension		58	9%
Employment as main income		32	5%

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE ENHANCEMENT (DVRE) PROGRAM

May's Journey

HOW WE HELPED

May and her two young children fled their home in Sydney due to domestic abuse, moving into a local refuge. Due to May's fear that her husband would find them if she stayed in the area, even if in a refuge, she decided to relocate to Nowra.

May and her children were approved for temporary accommodation and came to stay at a DVRE-supported site. At the time May was recovering from intrusive surgery which was causing her considerable discomfort and her father was terminally ill causing even more distress.

May was very proactive, engaging well with case managers and other services. May spoke with the police on numerous occasions and was able to get an AVO to protect herself and her children.

We applied for social housing and May was approved for the Start Safely private rental subsidy. May was then approved for a private rental within two weeks of moving to Nowra and signed a three month lease.

May was also approved for the Commonwealth Bank financial assistance package and we accessed several charities for assistance with groceries. May sourced much of her household furniture through the internet which was free or being sold very cheaply. Start Safely brokerage was used to purchase essential household whitegoods and a lawn mower to enable her to maintain her garden.

After moving to her new property May accessed Centrelink's additional childcare subsidy which provided her with extra day-care for her two children whilst she was re-establishing the home and attending domestic violence counselling. May was able to continue with her University degree which she had previously deferred due to ongoing domestic abuse.

While the DVRE program is short-intensive and crisis driven (not a full case management service), case managers (in a very short time) access a relatively extensive range of services and referrals.

Below is an example of those services accessed for May and her children, also demonstrating the benefit of a specialist supported service in temporary accommodation for women fleeing domestic and family violence.

Services and support	Provided by SAHSSI	Referral(s) made
Assistance for family & domestic violence and trauma	✓	✓
Material aid/ brokerage	✓	✓
Education Assistance	✓	
Child Protection Services	✓	
Legal information	✓	
Childcare Services	✓	✓
Advocacy, advice and information	✓	
Meals and laundry facilities	✓	
Assistance to sustain tenancy	✓	
Specialist counselling services		✓
Transport	✓	

"You did more than I could have ever expected. I wasn't sure where to turn to I have no close family you were it for me. thank you so much"

CORRECTIVE SERVICES PARTNER SUPPORT SERVICE

SAHSSI's Partner Support Service is a small, but vital program that targets support to female partners of domestic violence perpetrators who are participating in the Domestic Abuse Program (DAP). The service is available for women and children of the Illawarra and Shoalhaven, and is funded by Corrective Services under the Victims Support Stream of the Funded Partnership Initiative.

In 2019, SAHSSI has continued to work closely with Corrective Services to provide opportunities to enhance existing referral pathways and promote access for female partners of domestic violence perpetrators. In particular, having a Partner Support Case Manager based within the Wollongong Corrective Services office one day per week has proven successful in ensuring timely and flexible access to support.

This year marks the final year of a five year funding period for this program, and has seen the greatest number of referrals from Corrective Services (16 in total).

PARTNER SUPPORT YEARLY REFERRALS

Year	Number of Referrals
2015	6
2016	1
2017	9
2018	11
2019	16

What Does Support Look Like?

Support provided under the Partner Support Service is in line with the overarching principles of the NSW Government's Minimum Standards for Men's Domestic Violence Behaviour Change Programs.

To this effect, the safety of women and children is considered to be of the highest priority. Case planning entails individualised client risk assessments and safety plans along with emotional and practical support and/or referral to achieve identified case planning goals. Empowering women to have a sense of control and choice in their lives as they overcome the impacts of abuse is paramount.

A Partner Support Journey

Tracy was referred to SAHSSI by Community Correctives after her husband Tommy's release from jail and his attendance in the Domestic Abuse Program (DAP)-Men's Behavioural Change Program.

A SAHSSI Case Manager worked in collaboration with Community Correctives and DAP to assist Tommy to be supported in the community whilst working intensively with Tracey to empower her sense of control and choice in her life. Tracy was also supported to develop a safety plan to ensure she and the children were safe in the event of further violence.

Tracy was referred for counselling to not only deal with the domestic violence abuse, but with other traumas she had previously experienced. SAHSSI also referred the couple to relationships counselling which, reportedly, benefited the family immensely.

"The support changed my life; Access to support and resources has been amazing. CM kind and compassionate. Nothing else service could of done."



SHS SECTOR CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY 2019

Once again, SAHSSI was invited participate in the SHS Sector Client Satisfaction Survey. This is the second year that the survey has been run, and is an initiative of the Industry Partnership of Homelessness NSW, Domestic Violence NSW and Yfoundations. The Industry Partnership commissioned the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) NSW to design and implement the survey.

The aims of the survey were to:

- Establish levels of well-being for service users and their experiences
- Benchmark the results for each service provider
- Inform future service delivery improvements

The survey, which consisted of around thirty standard questions for clients, was implemented sector wide between March and April 2019. Survey questions cover demographics of clients, issues concerning client experience of the service, client satisfaction with their living environment and client outcomes.

SAHSSI was pleased to have 80 clients participate in the voluntary survey that exceeded benchmarks, and was top performing in the following areas:

- Staff treated me with respect
- Staff told me about my accommodation options
- Overall satisfaction with services provided
- Staff understood my needs
- Staff referred me to other services to support my other needs
- I have participated in setting my case plan goals

At the end of questionnaire clients were asked to respond to different 11 point rating scale questions, which when taken together make up a 'Personal Wellbeing Index' and when looked at independently give a perspective on various issues including sense of personal safety, life satisfaction and health.

The overall top performing results for SAHSSI are that the clients felt safe, followed by their standard of living being good and that they have future housing security.



RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

SAHSSI's Commitment to Reconciliation

In September 2018 SAHSSI embarked on its journey for Reconciliation Action Planning through the formation of a working party and by registering with Reconciliation Australia. These actions came about from our People and Culture Plan which was developed the previous year through extensive staff consultation. We look forward to launching our first Reflect RAP in 2019/2020.

Our vision for reconciliation is a culture that respects Aboriginal people as our First Nations people and recognises the importance of their cultures, communities, families and connections to country. SAHSSI is committed to providing culturally inclusive, culturally safe and culturally responsive services for local Aboriginal communities.

Our purpose for reconciliation, as a trauma informed agency, is for local Aboriginal people and communities to view SAHSSI as a diverse organisation who listens to their lived experiences and acknowledges our shared history so that we can provide support in a culturally responsive and compassionate manner.

We aim to walk alongside Aboriginal people, empowering one another to close the gap on the disproportionate number of Aboriginal people who are homeless and at risk of domestic and family violence, and achieve a better shared future.

Our reconciliation strategy for our first Reflect RAP is to:

1. Focus on our organisational values and how they correlate with our reconciliation journey
2. Map out all opportunities to connect with, listen to, and support local Aboriginal communities, and
3. Create an ongoing cycle of cultural learning and embed this into organisational governance, policy, procedures and operational planning

Reconciliation is a movement that many people, indigenous and non-indigenous have dedicated their lives to, however there is still a long ways to go. We will know Australia is reconciled when, and only when, the following five dimensions of reconciliation (as outlined in the The State of Reconciliation Report) are met:

1. Race relations
2. Equality and Equity
3. Institutional Integrity
4. Historical Acceptance
5. Unity

Reference: The State Of Reconciliation Report in Australia Report.



Tuning in to Kids, Tuning in to Teens

As a Communities for Children Facilitating Partner, SAHSSI has been proud to deliver the Tuning in to Kids and Tuning in to Teens program to the Shellharbour Community for the second year running.

Both programs, which run for two hours per week over six weeks, offer a structured, evidence based program that focuses on the emotional connection between parents and children. In particular, the program teaches parents skills in emotion coaching, which is to recognise, understand and respond to children's emotions in an accepting, supportive way. This approach helps the child to understand and manage their emotions.

Participants were contacted one month after the program for post support. They confirmed that, even though it was a challenge to change behaviours and routine, there were noticeable positive changes to the dynamics of the household environment.

We thank our facilitators from Family Services Australia and Wollongong Women's Information Service, who supported participants to gain new skills and strategies to assist their child in learning to understand and regulate emotions.

We also thank Barnardo's for their support throughout the two year funding period.

Participant Feedback:

"I have used the majority of the content from both the kids and teens sessions, went back to basics and talked to my family about rules and what's expected as well as consequences if the rules aren't followed. The program helped me by reminding me to question the kids behaviour of what might be happening instead of reacting to the situation without thinking.

Conflict about family issues has become much less frequent, and the program helped me feel more confident in making firm decisions or knowing when to negotiate by feeling less worried about conflict, while setting boundaries with my children.

Most of all it made me feel so supported in my journey of being a single mum and made me feel like I had a safe place to discuss any issues, without judgement. I really looked forward to all sessions and made new friends along the way".

SAHSSI helped with Housing NSW property. Referred to both SAHSSI programs - Tuning into Kids and Tuning into Teens - I really enjoyed the first one and waiting for the next. Thank you.



Road to Home

SAHSSI has continued to deliver Road to Home workshops in the Illawarra this year, in partnership with FACS Housing Services, Wollongong Homeless Hub, Vinnies Homeless Coordination Service and Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation.

Road to Home is a two day workshop where participants referred by the partnering organisations learn about the housing options and services available to them, and how to look for and sustain a tenancy.

The workshop has guest speakers from FACS Housing Services and Illawarra & South Coast Tenants Service who offer valuable information and advice on topics such as:

- Rent Start Bond Loans and other private rental products;
- tenant rights and responsibilities; and
- common tenancy issues and how to handle them

Participants who attend both days of the workshop are eligible for Bond Loan Pre-approval from FACS Housing. This gives them an advantage in the private rental market and demonstrates to the agent that they are financially prepared.

Road to Home received over 140 referrals in 2018-2019.

SAHSSI would like to thank FACS Housing Services, Wollongong Homeless Hub, Vinnies Homeless Coordination Service and Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation and the Illawarra South Coast Tenants Service for their ongoing support of Road to Home.

Participant Feedback:

"Lots of useful useable information, contacts etc. Experienced, knowledgeable professional presenters"

"Everything I needed to know was covered. Excellent workshop – Thank you"

"Fantastic workshop on Day 2. Feel more confident in applying & sustaining my own home"

"Every person vulnerable to homelessness should do this program that can change lives"



EARLY INTERVENTION INITIATIVES



Red Flag Presentation

"Red Flag" is a 45 minute presentation that educates young people and teachers on domestic violence and technology safety. Thanks to grant funding from International Women's Day Illawarra, SAHSSI has been able to deliver this program to high schools across the Illawarra throughout the past year.

The presentation is targeted to secondary students in Years 10, 11 and 12 and focuses on educating students about early warning signs that could indicate domestic violence.

Red Flag also covers other topics such as:



- the cycle of abuse;
- technology abuse;
- technology safety;
- where to get help; and
- how to help a friend

Each school can have unique needs, and therefore SAHSSI is able to adapt the presentation content according to school requirements, requests and ages. Every student and teacher has the opportunity to complete an evaluation.

This year SAHSSI delivered Red Flag to over 1700 students across 11 Illawarra high schools. Feedback has indicated that students have found the presentation beneficial, with many students openly asking questions, requesting more information and sharing their experiences. SAHSSI also provides valuable resources for schools including useful contacts, safety information, and details on how they can support their community through White Ribbon Day events.

SAHSSI presenters, Jasmine and Jess (pictured) look forward to continuing to deliver the Red Flag Presentation to Illawarra schools in 2019-20.

Feedback:

"The timing of the presentation was excellent as the girls are seeing shifts in society as a whole, as well as their personal relationships".

"Everything important was covered in the presentation and touched on all bases"

"Very informative and interesting presentation".

Growing Safely

At a staff strategic planning day in 2017, SAHSSI's 34 case managers identified the need to develop a short educational workshop that supports mums with parenting after experiencing relationship abuse. In March 2018 SAHSSI was successful in winning a grant from International Women's Day Illawarra that would realise this idea.

With the funding in hand, Dr Virginia Williams PhD, Clinical Psychologist, was engaged to help a small working party of five accommodation-based case managers create the workshop. This small, dedicated group, in addition to their regular responsibilities, contributed their time and considerable experience of working closely for many years with women and children recovering from the effects of domestic and family violence.

Key features of the approach were collaborative needs assessment, co-design, co-delivery, and a train-the-trainer component, initially for the case managers in the working party and then more broadly across the organisation. This approach has enabled staff empowerment, as well as the chance to build an intrinsic sense of importance and confidence in working from the best-practice principles within the intervention.

The primary aims of the Growing Safely Workshop include:

- increasing knowledge and understanding around the impacts of domestic violence on children and women as mothers; and
- enhancing the ability of women to identify and foster relationship safety for themselves and their children into the future.

In the last financial year, the Growing Safely Working Party attended train-the-trainer workshops, and facilitated seven workshops and two intensive coaching workshops for staff.

The project has allowed SAHSSI to develop a lasting program, enabling us to reach more women, not only in the year of the funding but also over many years to come. It has added to the skills and knowledge of our case managers, which will add value to the support SAHSSI provides now and well into the future. The program can be run as a group workshop or individually with case managers in separate modules as required.

"I am grateful for the knowledge you have given me. It is very useful for my family. I didn't know anything about doing a safety plan with my children but after doing the workshop I realise how important it is for our future. The Circle of Security helped me to understand that my children need to know that I am always there for them. It was helpful to know how trauma affects everything about my children's development".





2019 SAHSSI Aboriginal Art Competition

This year SAHSSI launched its first ever Aboriginal Art Competition.

SAHSSI was seeking artwork that would reflect the values and purpose of the organisation, and invited entries from non-professional emerging Aboriginal artists currently residing in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions of NSW.

Our competition called for artists to share their culture through their art, and through their artistic self-expressions, reflect and share their own thoughts about SAHSSI's values and purpose.

The winning original artwork would be featured prominently at our Head Office along with the background story and artist's information. The winning design would also be used to:

- provide a main theme design for our Reconciliation Action Plan
- create Aboriginal marketing material for our website and brochures or other corporate documents
- create Aboriginal posters for our sites, such as at our women's crisis accommodation

The competition closed 21 June 2019 with the winning entry receiving a \$2000.00 cash prize.

Meet our Winner – Allison Day

Allison Day, a proud Dunghutti and Biripi woman who was born in Port Kembla and has always lived in the Illawarra;

"My mum is Dunghutti from Kempsey, dad Biripi from Wauchope. I lost mum at an early age. Dad worked hard to support my brother, two sisters and myself. I finished year twelve and started working at various jobs.

I met my partner, Derek and he introduced me to his mother. She is one of the artists at Coomaditchie. She suggested I try painting and became my mentor. Since then I have found the peace and serenity I have been searching for through my painting, weaving, pottery and mosaics.

Through art I have learned about my people, culture, symbols and what they represent. I feel joy in creating art related to my culture. I hope I give the same joy to others. Since I started at Coomaditchie I haven't looked back. Always looking forward to the future".

Allison's artwork is called **Changing Life Cycles**. It is a beautiful representation of strength, connection, safety, togetherness, hope and healing. Allison's design will be proudly displayed within each of our centres.

SAHSSI is truly inspired by all of the emerging artists who entered our competition, not only for putting emotions, expressions and paint to canvas but for sharing many deep messages and personal sentiments. **They are symbolic of the healing powers of art and the connection to culture and country that it inspires.**

We are in awe of the continuing strength and resilience of the Aboriginal community across the Illawarra and Shoalhaven, shining through emerging artists, shining through mentors and leaders, and shining through the community and their country.



Allison shared the following expressions through her artworks:

"The painting depicts the changing life cycles through coming together, walking together – taking pathways that lead us to SAHSSI centres.

The women who are reaching out, are branching out into our ever-changing communities. These

centres have created pathways for women with young children, single women and youth.

They are given hope and care coming out of domestic and family violence. This becomes the first step of their safety net – to a life of non-violence".

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS

NAIDOC

NAIDOC celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme, "Because of Her We Can", celebrated the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made – and continue to make – to our communities, our families, our rich history and to our nation.

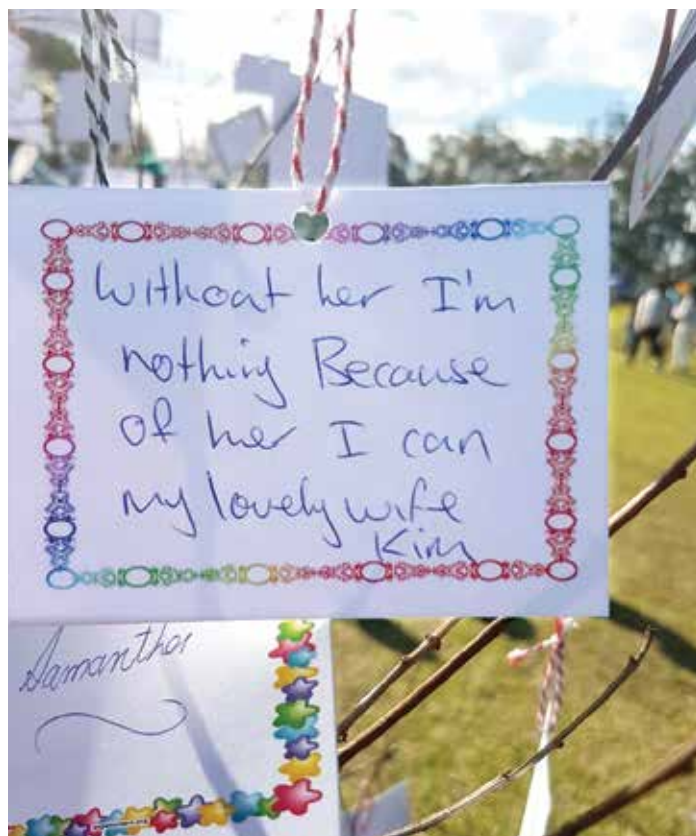
Shoalhaven

The Shoalhaven NAIDOC Family Fun Day was held on Wednesday 11 July 2018. It was a great day out in the community for the SAHSSI Shoalhaven Staff, and one that we look forward to each year. In keeping with this year's theme, 'Because of Her We Can', our team decided for our stall to provide a tree and some cards, inviting the community to write the name of an Aboriginal woman who inspired them and hang it on our tree. The tree was filmed by ABC Illawarra and was a HUGE hit with people attending the fun day. In the end SAHSSI had 160 cards fluttering in the wind, each bearing the name of an Aboriginal woman that was respected by the people attending the Family Fun Day.

Illawarra

NAIDOC in the Illawarra was held at Harry Bagot Park where SAHSSI staff enjoyed celebrating Aboriginal culture with the local community.

With live music and different stalls that provided arts and crafts, the SAHSSI stall proved to be very popular with our badge making and bubbles, loads of fun for staff and the kids!



RECONCILIATION WEEK



National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates remain the same each year - 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey, the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Shoalhaven

On Friday 24th May the SAHSSI Shoalhaven team took part in the National Sorry Day Reconciliation Bridge Walk. The event began at Moorehouse Park, crossed the Nowra Bridge, and ended at the historical Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Homes, the place where many Aboriginal children were housed after removal from their families.

This was a historically appropriate place for a Sorry Day event given the children's home was one of the oldest and longest running institutions named within the Bringing Them Home Report (1997). It is known as the birthplace of Stolen Generations in NSW.

Illawarra

Staff and residents held a BBQ lunch at our Wollongong Crisis Accommodation in acknowledgement of Reconciliation Week.

One of the residents carried out a lovely acknowledgement to country, and shared with us how important reconciliation was for her. This resident is passionate about Cultural Awareness Training and is currently developing a training framework as part of her career passions.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS

SAYING “NO” TO VIOLENCE

SAHSSI holds executive positions on both the **Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence** and the **Nowra Domestic Violence Committee**.

These committees play an important function in raising awareness in the community and promoting the effectiveness of local services in responding to victims of domestic and family violence.

Each year both committees organise events in their local community with the clear message of saying “No” to domestic and family violence. As members, SAHSSI actively participates in organising and attending events such as White Ribbon Day and recognising 16 Days of activism.

Illawarra

On Friday 23rd November SAHSSI was proud to participate in the annual **Illawarra White Ribbon Day Walk**, a community event that was held at Reddall Park Lake Illawarra.

This year’s event focused on the children affected by domestic violence, with hundreds of paper cut outs representing the “the hidden victims” of abuse. Approx 600 community members from schools, businesses, emergency services and organisations attended the walk, a great effort from everyone considering it was one of the windiest days of the year!



The **Bunnings BBQ** held in November was a great opportunity to meet the public and raise awareness of domestic violence. Volunteers use the opportunity to share information, increase awareness, and sell merchandise and white ribbons in support of white ribbon day.



Shoalhaven

In November, a **White Ribbon Day** morning tea was held in Nowra, where the community were standing up and speaking out to violence against women. White Ribbon ambassador, Peter Kenworthy, spoke regarding gender related violence against women and the lives lost.

“They are women lost and are not just statistics – they are wives, mothers, daughters, granddaughters, sisters, aunts, nieces, friends and colleagues.”



In the same month, the Nowra DV Committee organised a screening of **“Call Me Dad”** a documentary about men who have perpetrated or are at risk of perpetrating family violence.

The film follows the stories of three men over four months – all fathers and perpetrators of family violence – as they attempt deep and lasting changes and behaviours towards the people they love. At stake is the safety of women and children, the stability of families, and the power we as a society have to intervene.

In April 2019, the Nowra DV Committee and Shoalhaven Council announced the **Say it in Pictures Design Competition**, a visual arts competition for children and youth in the Shoalhaven to raise awareness and the importance of respectful relationships and promoting gender equality. The competition encourages children and youth to express their desire for a positive change through visual story telling.

BEHIND THE GRIND

Behind The Grind is a community based coffee cup venture to raise awareness on domestic and gender-based violence. This year, local cafes from Coledale to Wollongong teamed up with the BTG team and SAHSSI, to stock and distribute themed takeaway coffee cups.

The themed coffee cups featured artwork translated from the personal stories of four women who have been victims of domestic violence and have found the strength and support to turn their lives around.

During the month of March, participating local coffee “hot spots” stocked the designs in takeaway, recyclable coffee cups, with the project beginning in the northern suburbs and progressing south to finish the month in Wollongong.

Behind the Grind is the work of two Wollongong locals, Dr Sarika Gupta and Blaise Gassin, with the artworks designed by Sarika herself and the IT and communication handled by Blaise. The duo’s intention was to use this venture as a means of improving community awareness

around domestic and gender based violence, which ultimately will help to exchange, shift and inform perspectives.

“This project encourages the community to connect with the issue, and connect with each other, one coffee at a time”.

SAHSSI was pleased to be able to support Behind the Grind with this community initiative. It was amazing to see the stories of the four women come to life in Sarika’s artworks, and see domestic violence awareness raised in such a unique and inspiring way.

“Sarika really listened and I was able to talk to her and she understood everything I was saying And the drawings - I was looking at the journey of my life”.

SAHSSI also thanks the following cafés for their donations and support with the Behind the Grind initiative: Flat White with One; The Yard; The Broken Drum Espresso Bar; Reay’s Place; Yarnsy’s Café and Art Space; Moore Street General; Son of a Gun; Earth Walker & Co; and Two Sisters Garage.



***Behind
The
Grind***



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS

HOMELESSNESS WEEK 6-12 AUGUST

During Homelessness Week 2018 SAHSSI and Lake Illawarra Police District combined forces to hold a grocery drive outside of Woolworths in Stocklands Shellharbour.

Within the space of just two hours the community had donated four trolley loads of groceries, which were then distributed across our Illawarra crisis accommodation sites.

We would like to thank:

- **Lake Illawarra Police District** – for helping coordinate the day and their donation of \$200 worth of groceries
- **Local MPs Anna Watson & Stephen Jones** – for each dropping by to offer their support and donate a bag of groceries
- **Stockland Shellharbour** – for providing the venue
- **Members of the Community** - who stopped for a chat & generously donated groceries.



In support and recognition of Homelessness Week, SAHSSI supported the **“Everybody’s Home”** campaign, a national campaign calling on our leaders to fix Australia’s broken housing system (including recommended solutions). The goal during homelessness week was to increase supporters of the petition from 12,000 to 20,000. We thank the community members that visited our stall to sign the petition in support of the campaign.

THE EVE PROJECT

The EVE Project is a not for profit organisation that offers female survivors of abuse a multi-faceted approach to support them as they rebuild their lives. They provide therapeutic services to help women heal and regain their sense of self-worth, value and purpose. The Eve Project offers training, mentoring and supported work experience programs (in their social enterprises) designed to empower women and provide pathways to meaningful ongoing employment.

SAHSSI was approached by The Eve project to provide employment and training opportunities for our clients.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

International Women's Day

March 8 is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

This year's theme was **Balance for Better**, which marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

SAHSSI welcomes the opportunity to celebrate IWD and the many activities that the month brings.

Illawarra International Women's Day Luncheon

The Illawarra hosted Australia's biggest International Women's Day event on Friday 8 March 2019 at the WIN Entertainment Centre. The luncheon was a huge success with 839 guests celebrating the day and acknowledging local achievements.

Last year SAHSSI were recipients of \$20,000.00 that supported our Red Flag and Growing Safely program. This year our program facilitators were invited back to speak about the programs, the outcomes and enjoy this special event.



Little Blow Hole Art Bar - Exhibition and Fundraiser

On the eve of International Women's Day, the Little Blow Hole Art Bar held a fundraiser called "Strong Women" that highlighted local female artists. The event was inspired by the social media campaign Project Strong Woman (PSW) founded by Shauna Ryan, a millennial visionary, international blog curator, and emotional thought leader.

All artworks were up for sale at the exhibition, with 50% of the proceeds being donated to SAHSSI.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

Zonta Club of Berry

In March the Zonta Club of Berry held an International Women's Day breakfast at Nowra Golf Club.

The focus of Zonta is working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service & advocacy. Guest speakers at the breakfast included Ebony Bennet, Deputy Director of The Australia Institute, and Isha Knill.

Zonta Club of Berry are long term supporters of SAHSSI and we appreciate their generous donations every year.



Peoplecare IWD Fundraiser

This year, Peoplecare ran a weeks' worth of IWD activities and events in support of SAHSSI.

This included a fundraiser for the donation of home starter packs for at-risk women, followed by a Peoplecare mums and bubs guessing competition, a balancing competition and a topic talk with Jodie Cooper.

We appreciate the generosity of the Peoplecare team with much needed thoughtful items that will support women and children into safe homes in times of crisis and need.



The Hair Lounge

Isobel from The Hair Lounge in Wollongong joined in with the International Women's Day celebrations this year by running a fundraiser for SAHSSI named "Davines Circle Fundraiser". Every dollar from their Circle Chronicles treatments in salon went to SAHSSI and we thank all the customers that treated themselves in the month of March. This local support matters and makes a difference in a woman's life. Thank you for inviting us to enjoy a cupcake or two!



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The GPT Wollongong Central Stair Climb Challenge

In October members of the public had the opportunity to have fun, get fit and challenge themselves, all for a worthy cause as part of the inaugural **Wollongong Central Stair Climb**.

Conducted in Wollongong Central's Crown Tower, participants of the fundraising event traversed the course five times. Each circuit was 164 stairs up and 164 stairs down, looping around on Crown Street Mall.

SAHSSI was fortunate to be the beneficiary of all funds raised, and are very grateful to GPT and all of the sponsors who supported this event.

Participants in the inaugural year:

41, aged from 11 to 55

We had some great involvement from school children who took up the challenge as part of Homelessness projects they were doing and ended up winning the event. The winner won a trip for two from Albion Park to Melbourne.

Winning times:

Male: 10mins 34secs

Female: 12mins 24secs

Inaugural winners:

Male: Robert Brown

Female: Olivia Rocker



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

SAHSSI 30 Walk 2018

This year's walk was held on Saturday, August 11 2018.

This is one of our main events each year in the Shoalhaven and is proudly supported by the Country Women's Association, HMAS Creswell and HMAS Albatross staff and volunteers, and the Shoalhaven community.

SAHSSI 30 is a wonderful opportunity to have fun, get fit and fundraise for the local community to make a difference in the lives of women and children who experience homelessness in the Shoalhaven. The challenge is to walk 30km (round trip) along the beautiful coastline of Jervis Bay to Iluka Beach Picnic Area.

SAHSSI 30 is a community driven grassroots fundraising event that first commenced in 2017 due to one individual community member's vision to make a change. This vision has grown into an annual walk and has been supported by over 150 participants to date.



Astarte Studio Belly Dance

A team of belly dancers from **Astarte Studio Belly Dance** participated in an international belly dance flash mob event held annually to support victims of abuse worldwide.

On Saturday 11 May 2018, the dancers were the first in the Illawarra taking part in the Shimmy Mob, and joining over 2,300 cities worldwide. This annual event has run globally for 11 years and is a great opportunity to give back to the local community, raising awareness about abuse within the Illawarra and to support SAHSSI with fundraising.



Berry Quilting Show - Red Berries Quilting Group

The Berry Quilting Show is a bi-annual event raising money for a chosen charity. This year SAHSSI was lucky to be the event's charity of choice.

The event showcased works from quilters located all over the Shoalhaven and other areas. Close to 100 beautiful quilts of different sizes and colours were on display.

The members of the Red Berries Quilting Group professionally quilted a special quilt with profits from the raffle also being donated to SAHSSI.



Circus WOW – Wuthering Heights Fundraiser

In July, Circus Wow led Wollongong's second annual The Most Wuthering Heights Day.

The Most Wuthering Heights Day is a public and global event where anyone can come and be a part of the red flash mob and dance and mime to Kate Bush's classic hit.

The community joined in with the fun with thousands of people en masse around the world dancing freely and effortlessly. Funds raised by Circus WOW were donated to SAHSSI.



Two & You Collective – Fundraiser

Two & You Collective are a total wellness collective working to achieve holistic health for the mind, body and soul.

In December 2018, Two and You Collective organised a fundraiser to help local women in need. The evening featured art, poetry and music all under one roof in an evening that created conversation and awareness about violence against women.

The night was to hold space for the past and to celebrate the potential of the future.

Bubbles Fundraiser

For the past 21 years a group of ladies from Wollongong's northern suburbs have come together to celebrate in the spirit of friendship, goodwill & charity. They call the event Bubbles. Bubbles is a ladies only event where they dress up in fantastic op shop clothing, with the money going direct to Op shop charities. SAHSSI are very grateful to be their chosen charity of the raffles that were held on the night. Their cash donation helped us with the purchase of household items for our clients moving into new homes.



DONATIONS

Christmas Time at SAHSSI

Christmas is a special time of year that everyone should be able to enjoy. This year we were approached by over thirty individuals, organisations and businesses who helped make that possible for over 200 children, women and teens engaged in SAHSSI services.

We sincerely thank the following for their generosity and support in making Christmas a little more festive for our homeless women and children.

Silvergum Stables

Illawarra Area Child Care

Centrelink

Australia Post Metro South Retail Network

Share the Dignity

Domestic Violence NSW

Helensburgh Lions Club at Tradies Helensburgh

Kiama Community – Kiama Bowling Club, Curves Kiama, Angels Hair at Kiama

Il Porcellino Trattoria & Pizzeria Restaurant

Illawarra Radiography Group

U3A

Environment Protection Authority NSW

The Secret Garden Preschool

Australian Unity Home Care

Elonera Montessori School

National Australia Bank Fairy Meadow

Wollongong City Council

Illawarra Area Health

Holcim

Commonwealth Bank

Huskisson Pub – Trivia night

South Nowra Butcher and East Nowra Bakery

HMAS Albatross Fleet Air Arm Squadron

Culburra View Club

CWA Shoalhaven

Seven Day Adventist Shoalhaven

Michael Laville's Family Busking

Nowra Charity Boot Camp Fundraiser

We also thank the many individuals and families who kindly donated items such as dignity bags, ham, food, books, toys and cash.



Ryan Park Christmas Toy Drive

When you consider the dreadful circumstances that these families have had to endure, often leaving everything, to seek safety at the women's refuge, it breaks your heart. The tough circumstances that these kids are living in are beyond their control and every kid deserves to wake up on Christmas morning with a few presents to open.

Year on year my toy drive has continued to grow thanks to our very generous community. To think it started with providing presents for 12 children in its first year to now supplying hundreds of toys is thanks to so many kind people who come year after year with gifts. That is what the true spirit of Christmas is, the spreading of goodwill.

It really isn't what you would expect a Member of Parliament's office to look like but for November & December my office has toys taking up every spare space. Not a day goes past when we don't receive a toy delivery. The office looks more like

a toy shop, and that really shows the best part of our community. The toy drive is so successful because people care and want to show support for those who have been doing it tough.

Kathy and her team do fantastic work and I am very appreciative for their collaborative approach. They are truly the unsung heroes. The ones who each and every day go above and beyond to support the women who need it the most.

The Ryan Park Toy Drive will definitely be back in 2019 for its 8th year and I am looking forward to again being able to help ease the burden for these women at Christmas.

Ryan Park M.P

SAHSSI thanks Ryan and his team for their ongoing support each year.

Thank you from all of us!



To Ryan Park MP,
Thank you so much for making my
family's Christmas so special.

COMMUNITY ANGELS
You make a difference!
With our love



DONATIONS

Woonona Presbyterian Church

In July, the Woonona Presbyterian bible study group and their craft group kindly donated funds in support of SAHSSI clients. Our clients and staff greatly appreciate the support of this caring group who have been regular supporters of our service for the past six years.

Gerringong Lions Club Donation

We thank the Gerringong Lions Club for all the community service and volunteer work they do. Their contribution to the community is amazing. This year Gerringong Lions presented SAHSSI with a cash donation, which will go a long way towards our charitable purposes of much needed items for homeless women and children. We also loved the opportunity to come and have a chat.



Country Women's Association

SAHSSI in the Shoalhaven is very lucky to enjoy the support of the Country Women's Association Jervis Bay. They support SAHSSI with large donations of food, gifts and, at times, money. They attend the SAHSSI30 event every year and provided the delicious baked goods and tea and coffee participants enjoy when they reach the 15 km mark, and they very generously invite the Manager Shoalhaven Services to a fabulous lunch at least once a year. SAHSSI would like to thank the women of the CWA Jervis Bay for their kindness and assistance once again, and hope to continue our friendship next year.



Zonta Club of Berry

The focus of Zonta service is working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service & advocacy.

Zonta Club of Berry are ongoing supporters of SAHSSI in many ways, including assembling and donating home start-up packs for women who have experienced homelessness, providing them with a helping hand setting up new homes.

We thank them for their continued support.

Zonta Club of Wollongong

Our friends at Zonta look after us each and every year. This year Zonta kindly donated 12 Home Starter Tubs filled with household items for our clients as they move into their new homes. The tubs also make a great washing basket, great thinking!

Each Zonta member contributed to the pack, which makes it super special. They are so proud to be able to help women who exit homelessness into their own secure home.

Zonta has supported SAHSSI clients for many years and we value the support they provide our clients.

Our thanks go to each individual Zonta member for their contribution.



Out of the Blue Singers

The “Out of the Blue” singers are also known to us as the “SAHSSI Supporters Group”, and have been supporters of ours since 2016. Their ongoing support means so much to both SAHSSI and our clients. Over the past 3-years, they have donated a massive 5548 items!

Below is a letter that outlines how important these items are to our clients.

To the kind women of Out Of The Blue singers,

I wanted to express my sincere appreciation for the shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary items, cereal, noodles, peanut butter, vegemite and cream cheese you have provided to SAHSSI DVRE, which allowed my two young daughters (9 & 12 years old) and I to move into a private rental property after escaping a violent and dangerous relationship.

With your kind donation from International Women's Day it has allowed me to purchase required household items and freeing up my income to be able to pay my holding deposit for my rental property.

I have been homeless since October 2018 after fleeing Domestic Violence and relocating to the Illawarra. Without your donations, I may have had to forfeit this safe, fresh start, as I could not afford the costs of moving into a new property as well as the basic essentials for my daughters and myself.

I will never forget your generosity to a complete stranger, it means more than you could imagine.

Thank you again!



Nutrimetics and SAHSSI

Wendy Woodward of the Shoalhaven coordinated a celebration 50 years of Nutrimetics, resulting in over \$1,000 raised for SAHSSI. Funds raised will go a long way towards funding school holiday activities for homeless families in crisis situations. We thank Wendy for her continuous support, with over 3 years of fundraising for our clients.

SAHSSI helped with the roof over our heads and were very understanding of my needs especially ongoing issues with income/financials as a contract cleaner. SAHSSI helped me settle into my new home and I received assistance with lounge and bed from donated items.

DONATIONS

SOS Students of Society Shellharbour

This year, SAHSSI were invited to attend the SOS Student of Society group at Shellharbour to pick up donations of backpacks for our young homeless clients in need. It was such a pleasure to talk to the students about SAHSSI services and for them to get to know the local service that supports their community.



Kiama High Backpack Donation

The Student Representative Council at Kiama High School enthusiastically organised donations of backpacks filled with toiletries and notebooks for our homeless high school clients needing support. The project was called "Packed with Love". Each year group was assigned to bring two items to go into the backpacks. We are so grateful to Kiama High School for welcoming our staff, supporting those in need and taking an interest in domestic violence and homelessness.



Warilla High School Homelessness Sleep Out

In September, Warilla High School held their first homelessness sleep out. SAHSSI were invited to the evening as guest presenters on the topic of homelessness and was presented with a cash donation, which was spent on much needed household items for women experiencing homelessness, or being supported by SAHSSI into new tenancies.



HMAS Albatross

The Shoalhaven has two naval bases: HMAS Creswell and HMAS Albatross. SAHSSI is fortunate to have enjoyed the support of both bases at various times of the year and through various events such as the SAHSSI30, where we are provided with unique permission to walk past the Creswell Base. This is not normally available to the public, not even on Anzac Day and so a wonderful privilege.



HMAS Albatross is White Ribbon Accredited and the Shoalhaven enjoys a White Ribbon Ambassador sitting on the Nowra Domestic Violence Committee and through this a close working relationship with SAHSSI on a number of local events. However, our closest relationship is with the HMAS Albatross Fleet Air Arm Squadron who have supported us for another year, fundraising and donating cash, food and toys during key celebratory times of the year such as Easter and Christmas. We were sad to see Commodore Chris Smallhorn and Gavin Johnson leave at the end of 2018, but thrilled to begin a new friendship with the new Commodore Don Dezentje.

Ristorante IL Porcellino

At Christmas, Leanne and her partner Sean donated a ham to SAHSSI, and asked how else they could offer support. They came up with an initiative to deliver fresh pizza and pasta from their restaurant to one of our refuges on a weekly basis for all women and children residing there.

Our clients can relax knowing that a delicious dinner is being delivered every Wednesday; it's that one time of the week that they don't have to cook!

Positive experiences while staying in crisis accommodation means everything, and we are grateful to Leanne and Sean for their kindness and generosity.



StreetSmart Australia

StreetSmart's aim is to breakdown the prejudices about homelessness and support smaller, local organisations. This year StreetSmart's donation assisted our organisation with back to school needs such as school uniforms, backpacks, lunch boxes and books.

IMAN and Brothers in Need – helping to provide a warmer winter

IMAN Foundation and Brothers in Need are both not-for-profit charity organisations aimed at providing basic necessities to those who are in need of urgent assistance, so that they can get back on their feet as soon as possible.

This winter, Jihad from IMAN and Dean from Brothers In Need kindly dropped off quality sleeping bags and beautiful warm blankets for our clients to enjoy throughout the colder months. These items were greatly appreciated.



DONATIONS

Each year we receive donations of money, homewares, clothes, furniture, toiletries, food, toys, and vouchers. We would like to thank the following organisations, services and community members for their kind donations throughout the year.

University of Wollongong Football Club
Women's Team

School of Nursing University of Wollongong

Albion Park Soccer Club

Shoalhaven City Council Finance Corporate &
Community Services

Catholic Women's League

Share the Dignity

Corrimal Region Uniting Church Op-Shop

Oak Flats Quilters

Australian Unity Home Care

Berry Conversations Inc

International Women's Day Exhibition

All Residential Real Estate

NSW Training Services

Lions Club

Bliss on Burton

Elders Real Estate Shellharbour

Northern Illawarra Uniting Church

Catholic Women's League

Bunnings

JCI

Pets in the park

Dress for Success

ACSO - Transition to work

Office of Environment and Heritage

Cleaver & Co Craft Butchery



FUNDING GRANTS

This year, SAHSSI's focus was on enhancing safe, warm and comforting spaces in our refuges, especially for children. We put together a wish list and applied for several grants to help us in achieving our goals. This included:

- New child car restraints and booster seats
- 9 new single over double bunk beds for Nowra refuge
- 3 new bunk beds for Warilla refuge and 9 waterproof mattresses
- 2 new lounge suites for Nowra refuge
- A new dining table for Nowra refuge
- A new kitchen for Nowra refuge
- Aboriginal cultural language books for all refuges
- \$5,000 worth of school readiness support to assist children with schooling needs especially those requiring to relocate due to family violence or those requiring excursion or schooling support during periods of homelessness.



FUNDING GRANTS

Thank you

SAHSSI thanks the following organisations for their support in achieving our goals:



JAMES KIRBY FOUNDATION

\$12,800 worth of single bunk beds, waterproof mattresses, school brokerage funds for children experiencing homelessness and family violence crisis and cultural language books.



VEOLIA MULWAREE TRUST

\$1864 worth of new single over double bunk beds for Nowra refuge.



SHELLHARBOUR CITY COUNCIL



\$600 worth of new child car restraints/boosters when transporting women and children to safe havens and \$1000 worth of water proof mattresses for Warilla Refuge.

THE SEBASTIAN FOUNDATION



THE
SEBASTIAN
FOUNDATION

A new kitchen at Nowra refuge approved and to be installed in 2019/2020!



CLUBGRANTS 2018

This year SAHSSI was successful in its application for Category 1 Funding under ClubGRANTS 2018.

We applied for funding to convert the garage of our temporary accommodation property into an office. This then freed up an additional bedroom of accommodation for women fleeing domestic violence.

We were successful in our application, with the following clubs committing to fund the entire amount of our project:

- Dapto Leagues Club
- Collegians Wollongong
- Berkeley Sports and Social Club
- Towradgi Park Bowls and Recreation Club
- Dapto Citizens' Bowling Club

SAHSSI are very grateful for the support of our local clubs in assisting us to increase our capacity to delivery temporary accommodation for women and children at risk.



CLIENT STORY:

Thanks to James Kirby, a family of three (Mum, plus 21 year old and 11 year old sons) has already received assistance so that the youngest son does not miss out on a school excursion. SAHSSI is supporting this family as their tenancy is at risk due to their ongoing life experiences with family violence and the impacts this has had on their mental health, having never sought any help. SAHSSI is working with the family's goals of seeking mental health support, particularly for the mother and her older son who is couch surfing with his mum due to his own family breakdown and housing crisis.

SAHSSI have also followed up referrals with the school for support from Smiths Family through its sponsorship program, and the family have been approved and are waiting for support due to the demands on this service.

The financial assistance we have received from James Kirby Foundation has meant that we can support this young man to stay connected to what is important to him, his schooling, until the appropriate services can come on board.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - CONSOLIDATED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
INCOME			
Unexpended Grants Carried Forward		1,275,496	507,657
Grants – General Refuge – Community Services		4,401,204	4,363,709
Donations		81,895	70,757
Profit on Sale of Assets		3,136	-
Membership Fees		56	25
Interest Received		73,554	73,219
Rent Received		319,607	289,814
Sundry Income		9,010	19,690
Water Usage		6,023	5,708
Board and Lodgings		114,396	121,309
Motor Vehicle – Employee Contribution		34,173	26,993
Management Fees		453,067	327,056
Motor Vehicle Levy		40,085	28,000
TA Grey Street		208,950	187,750
TOTAL INCOME		7,020,652	6,021,687
EXPENDITURE			
Accountancy and Audit Fees		11,500	10,000
Bank Fees and Charges		639	1,406
Brokerage Costs		152,545	85,709
Centrepay Fees		2,146	2,015
Computer Software/Maintenance		42,382	53,520
Conference and Seminars		6,720	31,154
Consultancy Fees		46,545	18,505
Depreciation		3,379	2,200
Headlease Rent		30,846	33,217
Insurance		62,250	41,249
Interest		14,903	16,037
Funding Returned		62,072	-
Client Support Costs		9,792	18,384
Light and Power		37,513	34,465
Loss on Disposal of Assets		-	8,999
Maintenance Provision		114,471	131,140
Management Fees		453,067	327,056
Meeting Expenses		5,909	3,082
Minor Equipment		5,752	33,218
Motor Vehicle Expenses		162,323	154,076
Motor Vehicle Levy		40,085	28,000
Printing, Postage and Stationery		113,341	112,261
Minor Household Replacements		58,012	25,276
Rates		53,206	55,537
Rent		10,936	30,787
Sundry		-	612

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - CONSOLIDATED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019 (Continued)

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Rent – Head Office		65,332	70,138
Rent – Storage		4,617	4,617
Advertising		2,115	5,921
Planned Maintenance		18,736	7,238
Repairs and Maintenance		126,990	158,689
Resident Expenses		11,295	16,237
Salaries and Wages and On Costs		2,991,099	2,650,712
Security		11,820	24,449
Subscriptions		3,732	5,189
Subsidy		431,475	36,725
Superannuation		240,729	211,385
Supervision		1,163	1,235
Telephone		62,900	61,909
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		5,472,337	4,512,349
EXCESS/(DEFICIENCY) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		1,548,315	1,509,338
Less: REVALUATION DECREMENT	5	114,297	-
Less UNEXPENDED GRANTS CARRIED FORWARD		859,525	1,275,496
EXCESS/(DEFICIENCY) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		\$ 574,493	\$ 233,842

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	6,165,136	6,514,994
Other		15,051	14,350
Trade debtors		9,053	1,914
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		6,189,240	6,531,258
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	1,057,540	1,101,334
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		1,057,540	1,101,334
TOTAL ASSETS		7,246,780	7,632,592
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Bank Loan		8,425	282,010
Bonds		200	-
Grants in advance		1,768,680	2,387,028
Provision for Annual Leave		165,605	142,605
Provision for Annual Leave Loading		28,981	24,956
Provision for Long Service Leave		255,270	211,492
Provision for Redundancy		410,501	344,535
Provision for Planned Maintenance		525,193	410,209
Provision for Sick Leave		155,809	134,713
Sundry Creditors		111,986	37,436
Unexpended Grants Carried Forward	4	859,525	1,275,496
TOTAL LIABILITIES		4,290,175	5,250,480
NET ASSETS		\$2,956,605	\$2,382,112
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Retained Earnings		2,956,605	2,382,112
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS		\$2,956,605	\$2,382,112

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Opening retained earnings 1 July 2018		2,382,112	2,148,270
Profit/(Loss) attributable to equity		574,493	233,842
CLOSING RETAINED EARNINGS 30 JUNE 2019		\$2,956,605	\$2,382,112

SUPPORTING SAHSSI

By supporting SAHSSI you can empower some of our most vulnerable women and children impacted by homelessness and domestic and family violence.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

If you share our vision for a world where all people live safely, independently and free from abuse, you can:

- Donate online at **www.sahssi.org.au/donations** or by calling 02 4229 8523
- Leave a gift in your Will that will help families into the future. Call 02 4229 8523 and request a confidential discussion with our CEO
- Donate new or good quality used homewares such as:
 - White goods
 - Furniture
 - Kitchenware
- Donate emergency toiletries and hygiene products

For further information please refer to **www.sahssi.org.au**

STAY CONNECTED WITH SAHSSI:

We'd love to share with you our latest news, initiatives, community events and some of the great differences our teams are making to those in need.

To hear more about us:

- Follow us on Facebook.com/SAHSSI
- Check out our website at **www.sahssi.org.au**





www.sahssi.org.au

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