

# WISHIN 2016–17 Annual Report

Every woman needs a safe home every night



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY**

We are grateful to the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters upon which we work, live and play, the Wurundjeri people, of the Kulin nation, and pay our greatest respect to Elders past and present.

We recognise the Wurundjeri people's long history on, and the care they give to this land, as they have for thousands of years. We must remember, under the foundations of our buildings and homes, beneath the concrete and asphalt, this land was, is and always will be traditional Aboriginal land.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have suffered immeasurable harm since colonisation. We recognise and admire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for their proud, strong and resilient cultures and histories from time immemorial through to the present.

## **ABOUT THE REPORT DESIGN**

The protea flower is a striking, complex flower with a strong stable stem.

Like many of us, it's not native to Australia but has settled and flourished in our land.

Traditionally the protea flower represents change and hope. In the language of flowers, it symbolises diversity and courage.

These are all characteristics WISHIN hope to embed in the women we support.

## **VISION**

Equality for all women and their children.

## **MISSION**

WISHIN is a social change organisation working towards gender equity for all women and children who have experienced homelessness, family violence and related traumas.

## **VALUES**

### **Equality**

We treat all people with dignity, open-mindedness, and respect. We acknowledge that equality for all women and children is integral to the strength and development of society.

### **Integrity**

We behave ethically, honestly, and fairly. We honour the stories, truth and experiences of women and children who access WISHIN. This guides and informs our reflective processes and practice.

### **Creativity**

We celebrate creativity in all aspects of our work and constantly seek new ways to better serve the women and children we support. We acknowledge the immense creativity women and children use to survive complex trauma, as well as the role it plays in recovery and healing.

### **Diversity**

We create an inclusive environment that embraces and values diversity. We actively seek to understand and appreciate perspectives different from our own.

WISHIN's goal is that all women will have safe, secure, suitable and affordable housing.

We believe that this greatly contributes to quality of life and wellbeing and is a fundamental human right.

## 2017-18 highlights

### WISHIN supported 236 people:

- 58% were women aged between 24 and 54.
- 23% were women aged between 14 and 23.
- 60% of the women we supported had children with them.

Read full statistics on pages 2-3 following.

### Reynard Street development

WISHIN partnered with Women's Property Initiatives and invested in an award winning new housing development in Coburg. More on page 7.

### Our programs

This year WISHIN ran five programs, from two day workshops through to monthly wellbeing informal activities. Read more details on pages 8 to 11.

### Family Violence Outpost

This funded outpost supports women experiencing family violence with face to face conversations/ consultations. It's a valuable resource as many of these women have previously not spoken to anyone about their experiences. More on page 12.

### Partnerships

WISHIN could not do the work we do without the support from our valuable partners. More page 13.

### Women's Wellbeing Program

The WISHIN's Women's Wellbeing Program is centred around a monthly informal activity or outing and a shared lunch and conversation. This year's program focused on fostering social connection through arts and entertainment. It builds confidence, resilience and community while helping women recover from traumas associated with homelessness and family violence. Full details on page 10.

## Diversity of women supported by WISHIN in Melbourne's North

### CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE:**  
21%

**LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY OUR CLIENTS:**  
Amharic, Arabic, English, Hindi, Japanese, Liberian, Mandarin, Samoan, Somali, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese

**CLIENTS WHO IDENTIFY AS:**  
CALD: 34%  
ABORIGINAL/TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER: 4%



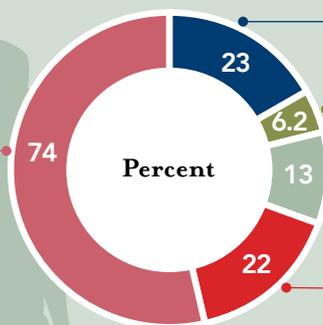
**CLIENTS BORN OVERSEAS:** 25.7%  
Majority of those born overseas were from Iraq, Somalia, Vietnam, India, Ethiopia and New Zealand

**CLIENTS BORN IN AUSTRALIA:** 74.3%

### INTERSECTIONALITY : BARRIERS TO SAFETY FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Family violence was the most common reason women identified for requiring support. This was followed by issues of housing affordability and housing crisis.

**Mental health challenges** are often experienced by women responding to the trauma of family violence and homelessness.



**Experience of both migration and family violence.**

**Gambling**

**Migration:** Experience of recent migration (within 5 years) and homelessness.

**Alcohol and other drugs:** we know there is a strong connection between trauma and alcohol and drug use. For many women and children increased risks to their safety is also connected to drug and alcohol.

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED during the 2016-17 financial year**

**236**

**PERIODS OF SUPPORT**

**364**

Sometimes women need support more than once to ensure they address all their needs. This figure reflects the number of times we have worked with women and children throughout the year.



**40%**

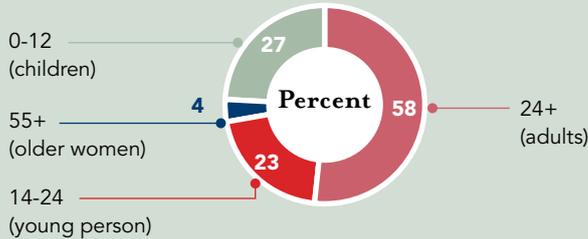
Women without children

**60%**

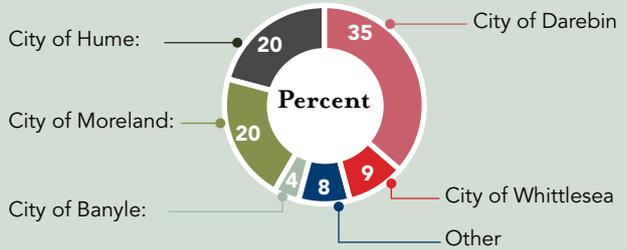
of the women who accessed our support had children with them

Of the **134 children** who accompanied their mothers 72% were aged 12 and under; 28% were teenagers. 31% of these children were aged under 5.

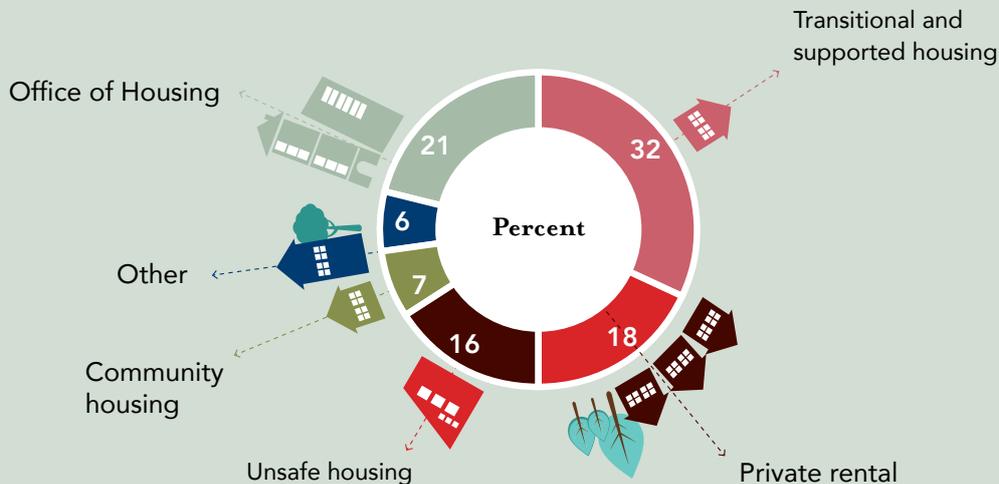
**CLIENTS BY AGE GROUP**



**AREA OF SERVICE**



**HOUSING : WHERE DO CLIENTS GO ON EXIT?**



# Chair report

Julie Burke

It was a year of major changes for WISHIN. Partnering with Women's Property Initiatives, we saw several of our women settled in town houses in Reynard Street Coburg. This project, a germ of an idea just over two years ago, was a first for WISHIN. For the first time WISHIN has nomination rights to properties for housing. For the first time WISHIN made a capital investment which directly benefits our women. The Board is justifiably proud of this achievement, which positions WISHIN as fiscally responsive and responsible.



Julie Burke,  
WISHIN Chair

The Department of Health and Human Services continued to give recognition to our work in the area of Family Violence and Homelessness. Thanks to continued funding, our ability to tackle Family Violence head on was strengthened with the addition of further suitably skilled and qualified staff. We are indebted to a department which sees the need for an organisation which is gender specific, and funds it accordingly.

This year saw the resignation of our long standing CEO Trish O'Donohue. Trish moved on to a position at Safe Steps and we wish her every success in her new role. We also said goodbye to our deputy chair Karen McIlwain. Throughout her time on the Board, Karen was dedicated to WISHIN's growth and development. Her wisdom was a great asset to our work and the Board joins me in thanking Karen for her years of commitment. We wish her all the best for the future.

The Board spent a planning day in February, setting parameters for recruitment of a new CEO. The day, facilitated by Margaret Hansford of Partnership Solutions, lay the groundwork for what we wanted in a CEO and the impact of that on our organisation. The selection of CEO is integral to stability, progress, growth and strategic development. Board member Sheena Haweil, who has a wealth of knowledge in Personnel and Human Resources, and Anne Minehan of Anne Baylis Consulting, a senior human resources operative, began the selection process. The candidates were of exceptional quality and we were delighted to welcome Jade Blakkarly, a highly skilled woman with many years of experience in the sector, to lead the organisation into the future as WISHIN's new CEO.

For the Board, Katherine Urbanski stepped into the role of deputy chair. Having rearranged the committee structure, making it more streamlined and in line with the talents of each Board member, Katherine began work as chair of the Risk Governance and Quality Committee. She redeveloped the risk framework into a workable living document, giving the whole organisation a touchstone from which to operate. Kathy Dillon continued her role as Secretary and Public officer and stepped up to chair the People and Relationships Committee. Kathy is an invaluable member of the team with knowledge of the sector and skill in protocol. Stacey Gardiner continued her role as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee and, in the absence of a CEO, was instrumental in guiding the organisation through a change of finance personal and procedures. Many thanks Stacey, your financial maturity helps us all sleep at night.

Thanks to a strong Board recruitment drive we had an influx of five new Board members. In December 2016 we were joined by Yee Man Louie. Yee Man, a researcher into family violence having begun a PHD in that area, has been instrumental in researching evidence outcomes of the work WISHIN performs. Earlier this year we also had the pleasure of welcoming: Alex Fink with a strong background in Risk Management and Finance; Melissa Clarkson, with experience in Strategic Development, Non-profit Funding and Corporate-Community Partnerships; Stephanie Milione whose strengths lie in Strategic Planning; and Catherine Burkhalter whose area of legal expertise is in Workplace Relations. All our new Board members have slotted in seamlessly. I am proud to chair a Board where members grasp the situation and proceed to establish solutions. These are professional women with much to offer and collectively they place the organisation in a strong governance position for the future.

I thank all Board members, new and seasoned, for their hard work during the last twelve months. It was a challenging year, where we were often required to act on operational matters. Without such action we would not have the stable organisation we have today.

I also thank the staff who, having come through a difficult period without a CEO, showed tenacity and resilience. Their commitment to WISHIN is unfailing and their patience throughout the process of finding our new CEO has been outstanding.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Skye Rose from Moores and Patrick Moriarty from Our Community, both of whom were a stable, calming influence in what was, for me, a challenging year.

Finally I would like to thank our funding bodies, donors, supporters, partners, students and volunteers. We could not carry on the work we do without you,

**Julie Burke**  
WISHIN Chair

# CEO Report

## Jade Blakkarly

On behalf of Trish O'Donohue, CEO and Ange O'Brien acting CEO

Once again it has been a busy, amazing, challenging and impactful year at WISHIN. A year of ongoing reform in both the Homelessness and Family Violence areas, a year of calls to participate with our partners and to continue to respond to the growing need for our services. The year has seen the opening an exciting new housing development, the continuation of some fantastic partnerships and the forging of some great new alliances. Our support and advocacy continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the women and children we work with and the passionate, skilled commitment of all our staff is an honour to witness.



Jade Blakkarly,  
WISHIN CEO

## Housing for Women

Following the work of the past year, three WISHIN clients and their children are now settled into the new housing development partnership WISHIN formed with Women's Property Initiative (WPI).

This exciting project has enabled these families, already connected to the Moreland area, to achieve safe, secure, affordable housing so they can continue to rebuild their lives.

This year also saw WISHIN successful work with a *Launch through an innovative brokerage* program to support women to maintain private rental tenancies, or to rapidly access suitable new rental properties.

## Partnerships

Our work is only possible as part of a vibrant connected network of service providers, funders and supportive organisations.

This year we continued to work with local councils, other housing providers, women's services and the broader community sector. We are also fortunate to receive financial and in-kind assistance from a range of organisations, businesses and individuals.

New partnerships this year have included the Nelson Alexander Foundation, the Tobin Brothers Foundation, Fernwood Fitness and Mindful Moreland.

## Family Violence

Family Violence continues to be the leading cause of homelessness for women and children and the biggest single reason women access homeless services. For too many women it is both a recent and long term issue.

Through providing a focussed response at homelessness 'access' points in our area, we can identify, assess, support and advocate on behalf of women.

WISHIN also helps others to navigate the complexities of the family violence service system.

# Reynard Street development

This year provided a fantastic opportunity for WISHIN to partner with Women's Property Initiative in a new housing development in Coburg.

The partnership culminated in a number of women accessing secure affordable housing and heralded the first time WISHIN has ventured into capital investment.



Not only was the project a great success for our clients it also was honoured with the Australasian Housing Institute Awards in the 'Leading Housing Development Category'.



## Wellbeing for Women

It has been a busy and productive year.

With limited funding and a highly committed staffing group we continued to build and adapt the program to meet a range of needs for our clients.

We offer a mixture of outings, social activities and community engagement. The program builds social connection, improves the confidence and supports the recovery of our clients.

## Inside WISHIN

In addition to the amazing work with women and their communities, WISHIN has had a very busy year doing all the 'inside jobs'.

We followed a successful external accreditation with renewed focus to improve systems, enhance practice, nurture staff wellbeing and support ongoing professional development. As a result we have continued to build a strong and dynamic service equipped to respond in a changing and challenging time with flexibility, creativity and commitment.

A number of staff have moved on this year. Each one brought incredible dedication, breadth of professional skills, passion and warmth to their work and enriched WISHIN by unique contributions.

I thank to all the dedicated women who have been part of WISHIN this year. The staff, Board, students and volunteers have brought wisdom, humour, commitment, feminism, advocacy and passion to the work. I also thank the organisations and individuals who have enabled us to enhance our work and remind us of the broader community support around us.

The biggest thank you is to the women and children we work alongside, you are amazing, inspirational and resilient.

**Jade Blakkarly**  
CEO

# WISHIN Programs

## Love Bites

Love Bites is a two day school-based **Domestic and Family Violence prevention program**. The program consists of two interactive education workshops on domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

In November 2016 WISHIN and staff at the Sydney Road Community School ran the Program for years 9 and 10 students.



The program was made possible by a community grant received in the previous financial year from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

## Workshops

The final part of the program, aimed at consolidating learning, was a series of creative workshops.

Local community artists from the **Artful Dodgers** and **Prutopia**, and musicians joined us to run t-shirt printing; song writing; and canvas making workshops.

The creative session pieces were presented to the whole school community as part of a community awareness campaign at the end of year awards night in December. This included a presentation on WISHIN and the Love Bites program by WISHIN's Family Violence Project Coordinator.

The program was a great success and a rich and rewarding program for our WISHIN facilitators, students and teachers alike, turning serious and sometimes confronting topics into a fun, positive and empowering experience.



## Making a House a Home

Most of WISHIN's clients become homeless following family violence; the woman leaves with her children to seek a safer, but uncertain, future and being homeless is expensive.

Following a period of homelessness, many of the challenges stem from extreme financial disadvantage. It can take years for women on low incomes, especially those supporting children, to generate enough money to buy essential household items needed to live safely and comfortably.

One of the most often cited reasons for women who stay with violent partners – or return to them – is to keep their children in comfortable beds in houses with connected electricity and gas and food in the cupboards. The needs of the women and children we work with vary enormously; some are starting again with nothing, others have some or most of the essentials they need to start a new life in sustainable housing and may simply need a mop and bucket, a few bathroom items, a toaster and towels.

## Support services

The homelessness service system can in some cases provide limited funds for a few weeks' rent in advance, a Bond loan (private rental) or a part-payment for a removalist. However most of the women we support are expected to come up with over \$1,000 within a few days in order to accept the offer of accommodation, or risk losing it.

Increasingly, WISHIN is struggling to source these funds for our clients to enable them to accept the accommodation actually found by and for them.

To remove this risk factor for so many families and empower them to start again in safe housing on their own terms is the primary goal of the **Making a House a Home** Project.

**Making a House a Home** aims to:

- to provide essential funds to clients at risk who are moving into affordable, independent accommodation *where no other funding sources exist*
- to assist women and children with the costs of retrieving and moving their belongings
- to assist women to adequately furnish and establish their new homes
- to create a safe, home-like environment for children

WISHIN highly values the generosity of **Street Smart** and the **Tobin Brothers Foundation Award** who continue to make this project possible.

## The Student Wellbeing and Education Engagement Program (SWEEP)

The SWEEP program helps disadvantaged children connect with other kids, do activities they love, stay at school and have fun. It is funded by a successful grant application to the Jack Brockhoff Foundation.

The SWEEP program is specifically for families with children aged between 5-18 with individual funding grants who live or attend school in the Northern region of Melbourne.



The program began in 2016. The aim is to ensure children living in significant disadvantage and financial hardship are able to do activities integral to their social and emotional development. It is intended to interrupt the cycle of homelessness, poor attendance, low achievement and early school leaving for youth and to increase motivation to learn.

### School

Sadly, children impacted by homelessness and family violence often don't attend school. Families are faced with the choice between paying utility bills and putting food on the table or paying the costs involved in sending their child to school with a uniform, lunch and school books, let alone paying for extra-curricular activities.

Although government schools ostensibly provide free education, there is currently no government funding for extra-curricular activities such as camps, excursions, specialised subject levies and materials. It means a large proportion of children we work with routinely miss out, especially the families with two or more children.

### Reducing isolation

SWEEP aims to reduce social isolation for children and improve connection to the school community. This invariably benefits the wellbeing of the child and subsequently the family unit as a whole. The program also provides support to mothers who may otherwise fall through the gaps, feel disconnected from the school community and ashamed of their disadvantage.

### Partnerships

SWEEP partners with local schools, sporting and community groups to enable local children to join their peers in a range of activities. The program provides social and emotional growth opportunities for children as well as helping to increase relational bonds between mothers and their children.

### Belonging

The program allows highly disadvantaged children to participate in the same subjects, excursions and extra-curricular activities as their peers.

This improves a child's wellbeing, self-esteem and resilience as well as broadening their life experience with a sense of belonging within school and peers.

SWEEP funding included school uniforms, laptops and tablets and sport registration.

#### What our clients say about the program...

"(She) finally felt like she fit in with the other kids"

"No way I could have had been able to afford it without the help"

"Helped her interact in school activities, having a laptop meant she could engage in school activities"

"Made it a lot easier for my eldest, felt more comfortable in going to school"

"It's made a big difference in just taking the pressure off"

"Able to complete homework tasks more easily"

"Made them feel more fitted in at school"

# WISHIN Programs continued

## The Wellbeing Program

The Wellbeing Program is centered around a monthly informal activity or outing and shared lunch and conversation. The gatherings help improve confidence, self-esteem and aid recovery from traumas associated with homelessness and family violence.

The program provides ongoing support and social connection to women transitioning out of intensive case management. It offers women an opportunity to learn skills, share experiences, develop community and connection. The program is designed to positively impact mental, physical and social health.

We took a new direction in 2017, focusing on fostering social connection through arts and entertainment.

The new program is titled, 'Connection to Community, Connection Self'. The 'Connection to Community' events often involve a cultural outing whilst 'Connection to Self' events focus on facilitating inner wellbeing through activities set up in a nurturing and warm space.

What our clients love about the program...

"Meeting new people and socialising with others"

"Lovely relaxed and fulfilling days"

"Lunch was beautiful – the food was fantastic"

"This is a great space to do activities – I love catching up with the ladies"

"The atmosphere – everyone seemed happy"

## Activities and events

Activities vary each month. 2016-17 events included:

- T-shirt screen printing workshop – Week Without Violence Clothesline project
- Cushion foil printing workshop
- Gentle yoga and stretching
- Aromatherapy workshop
- Hidden Figures Screening at Palace Cinemas
- Singing workshop
- Polymer clay jewellery making
- Guided meditation

## Bethlehem Sacred Heart Community

We continued our partnership with Bethlehem Sacred Heart Community's Social Inclusion Program this year. Bethlehem Community women joined us at events – a wonderful opportunity for women to form friendships across both programs.

In May we joined Bethlehem for their Mother's Day afternoon tea at the Sheraton Hotel in Melbourne's CBD. The afternoon was a very special experience and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



## Partners

The Wellbeing Program has continued and strengthened our partnership with **Fernwood Fitness**.

We started a new partnership with **Mindful Moreland** – an organisation centred around community, mindful living, maintaining and improving physical and mental health and inclusivity

Read more about our partnerships on page 13.

## A special family event – Circus Oz model citizens

A highlight of this year's Wellbeing program was a June performance of the Circus Oz Model Citizens Show. We were absolutely thrilled to have received a generous donation of 30 tickets for a matinee show from Circus Oz. The theme was pertinent; audaciously unpacking the myths of modern Australia, and exploring what it really means to be a model citizen in today's 'model kit' society.

This was a rare opportunity for the women we support and their children – the cost of taking a whole family on an outing of this nature meant that for many this was a once in a life time experience.

Breath-taking stunts, marvellous theatre, sensational music, fantastic humour, popcorn and ice cream galore made for a spellbinding and grin-inducing afternoon. Our sincerest thank you to Circus Oz for an incredibly generous donation.

## December client Christmas party

This year's Christmas Party we celebrated 2016 and the holiday season with our clients and their children over Christmas Lunch at WISHIN. The Christmas Party began with mystery and intrigue – we were incredibly lucky to enjoy a captivating and interactive performance by Cath Jamison – Australia's leading female magician and mentalist! Our clients, their kids and of course our staff too, were mesmerized by the magic and illusion Cath gifted us. The party was huge success – a fun, entertaining and heart-warming end to the year for all involved.

## Looking forward

Client feedback shows the new direction has been an overwhelming success. We're looking forward to the new financial year and are excited to continue to focus events around *Connection to Self* and *Connection to Community* and deepen our community partnerships.

## Women's Rapid Rehousing Brokerage Program

### MADE AVAILABLE VIA LAUNCH HOUSING

The Royal Commission into Family Violence highlighted problems around the lack of appropriate accommodation for victims of family violence

This program is a brokerage partnership between WISHIN and Launch Housing. The program provides access to flexible brokerage to assist women to either maintain their current private rental housing tenure and achieve housing stability, or rapidly access suitable alternative housing on the private rental market.

The aim of the program is to prevent entry into homelessness, or to rapidly move women (with or without children) over 40 years of age out of homelessness before they become entrenched in a damaging cycle of crisis.

**"WISHIN has been very helpful and supportive to our family in the last few months and I really appreciate all the advocacy you have provided."**

WISHIN client

**"We know that Family violence is the main reason for women seeking assistance from homelessness support services in Victoria."**

The Hon. Martin Foley MP  
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing

**"The lack of safe and affordable housing has rightly been identified as a key challenge of our broken system."**

The Hon. Fiona Richardson MP  
Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence

# The WISHIN Family Violence Outpost role

The WISHIN Family Violence Outpost role at VincentCare (VCare) Glenroy and Haven; Home, Safe (HHS) has progressed well throughout the year.

To date, I have been out-posted at the two Homelessness Access Points one day per week and I offer and provide a specialist Family Violence (FV) response for single women with or without accompanying children who are experiencing homelessness and housing crisis as a result of FV.

I commenced working at the *Haven; Home, Safe* outpost on October 2016 and commenced working at *VincentCare* in May 2017.

Since working at *Haven; Home, Safe*, I have met with 19 women who have requested a face to face appointment/ FV consult, and I have met with 11 women at *VincentCare*.

As well as these intensive appointments, I met with many woman who declined a structured interview involving assessment, safety planning and referral, and instead asked to meet with me for an initial conversation about their experience of family violence. Many of these women have never spoken to anyone before about their experiences.

The role is firstly to provide a specialist FV response, involving appointments for a specialist Common Risk Assessment Framework (CRAF) lethality risk assessment and safety planning. Where appropriate and with consent I also offer access to a range of specialist FV services that include Safe Steps (refuge), Berry Street, Police, the Risk Assessment and Management Panel, Intouch Multicultural Centre Against FV, and Women's Legal Service Vic.

The role extends to support women who present or call-in to these outposts. It also includes responds and interventions. This has a flow on effect within these systems which have a flow-on effect and lead to further advocacy and support.

These additional aspects of the role include:

- Secondary FV consults with Initial Assessment and Planning (IAP) teams, tenancy teams and STAR programs.
- Capacity building which has led to a shift in confidence for workers within these access points, in regards to responding to, and supporting women experiencing FV.
- Up-skilling: teams within access points extend their skills by completing the Northern Integrated Family Violence Services (NIFVS) *Identifying Family Violence: Responding to Women* training.
- Secondary FV consults and capacity building within the WISHIN team: support workers have grown in confidence to respond to woman experiencing FV.
- An expedited crisis or transitional housing response for women.
- Collaboration with the IAP (Initial Assessment & Planning) teams around intake assessment procedures providing a FV focus around interviews and procedures.
- Supporting children: the *Haven; Home, Safe* IAP team now distract children of women presenting for an assessment with colouring pencils, mandalas and iPads with headphones.
- Specialist FV focus around risk and safety, including emergency risk management responses and security/ technology responses.

I value the opportunity to work in this role.

As we know, the majority of woman who attend homelessness access points are homeless as a result of FV. I feel privileged to meet with women, listen and learn from their stories.

I am proud to stand alongside them and advocate on their behalf to access basic human rights so they can feel safe, and have access to safe and affordable housing for themselves and their families.

**Fiona**



# WISHIN Partners

## Nelson Alexander

WISHIN was honoured to be selected by Nelson Alexander Northcote to partner in the 2017 Nelson Alexander Foundation Day. The nominated property sold prior to auction, and we received a donation of the professional fees from this sale – \$13,000.

WISHIN is very appreciative for the Foundation Day support which will enable us to help some of the most vulnerable women and children in Melbourne's north



## Mindful Moreland

This year the WISHIN Wellbeing program began a partnership with Mindful Moreland. Mindful Moreland is an organisation founded Hayley Allen and Angela Knight. It is centered around community, mindful living, maintaining and improving physical and mental health and inclusivity.

During the year, Mindful Moreland launched its first community yoga class.

The classes include a blissful combination of slow flow vinyasa yoga and mindfulness meditation aimed at:

- connecting with others in the community and giving back to people in need.
- learning mindfulness techniques to help you feel grounded, calm and focused.
- strengthening your body, improving flexibility and calming your mind.

Hayley and Angela generously donate \$5 from every single class ticket to the Wellbeing program and facilitated a gentle yoga class at our *Stretch and Sing* April event.

The Herald Sun Leader ran an article on Mindful Moreland's great work in our community and support of WISHIN.

## Fernwood Fitness

WISHIN was pleased to strengthen our partnership with Fernwood Fitness by taking part in their Mother's Day Market on May 13.

The Cairnlea, Sydenham and Tullamarine Fernwood clubs generously raised funds for WISHIN's Wellbeing Program in the lead up to Mother's Day, collecting donations and holding a raffle for their members. All funds raised from the event were generously donated to the Women's Wellbeing Program.

WISHIN staff and Board members were there on the day to talk to Fernwood staff and members about WISHIN and the important work we do in the local community to support women and children experiencing homelessness and family violence.

We were delighted that City of Hume Councillors Ann Potter, Karen Sherry and Carly Moore visited the market to support WISHIN and local business stallholders. The Councillors were interested in learning more about WISHIN's work to support women in Hume who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless.

A BIG thank you to Fernwood Fitness, in particular the Cairnlea, Tullamarine and Sydenham clubs, and all who attended and supported this event.



# Team leader report

I often describe the WISHIN team as the little engine that could. Working with our clients, helping them navigate a daunting map of service systems to get the best possible outcome is the foundation of our work.

**Our satisfaction really does come from turning we think we can, into we knew we could.**

Providing a service that is responsive and holistic in the evolving homelessness and family violence landscape can be challenging. We have been able to continue to meet the challenges through flexible response, collaborative team work, sector relationship development, skill and capacity building and a commitment to excellence in service provision across all WISHIN program areas.

## Royal Commission into Family Violence

The recommendations from the *Royal Commission* have continued to shape and inform our work this past year, most notably in the WISHIN Family Violence Specialist Outposts now operating at VincentCare and Haven; Home, Safe. This has been a highly successful initiative with immensely improved client outcomes being the most noteworthy success.

## The Wellbeing program

The Wellbeing program has held a range of well attended and well loved series of events this year. Addressing the very real issue of social isolation for women post transitional support, the Wellbeing events have provided a much needed space for continued connection with both the services and the wider community.



Setting up for a Yoga workshop – part of the WISHIN Wellbeing workshop series.

We continue to provide our holistic suite of services:

- Interim Response (IR2)
- Case management
- Family Violence Risk Assessment (within a housing and homelessness context)
- Information, advice, advocacy, secondary consult
- Primary Prevention – Love Bites program
- Wellbeing program
- Family Violence Outposts: VincentCare and Haven; Home, Safe

## Masters of Social Work students

To assist us this year we have been fortunate to have two fantastic students on placement, Hilary and Sarah, both Masters of Social Work students at RMIT. They made a valuable contribution to our work and we wish them every success.

## The WISHIN team

Our dedicated WISHIN team continue to use their vast combination of skills, cross-sectoral experience and knowledge to ensure best practice in our intensive case management and IR2 shorter responses.

Whole service and individual staff training supports us to meet the increasingly complex demands on our service, and ensures we are able to meet all challenges with the necessary skill, agility and creativity required to best meet the needs of the women and children accessing our support.

We have successfully been able to meet our targets without compromising the quality of our response, and that is a source of pride for the whole organisation.

**Kelly**

WISHIN Team Leader

# Treasurer's Report

## for the year ending 30 June 2017

I wish to present the audited financial reports for the year.

WISHIN continues to make bold moves to ensure its sustainability. By increasing our donation income by more than 400% of last year, we have reinforced the value WISHIN provides and the impact we have in the community.

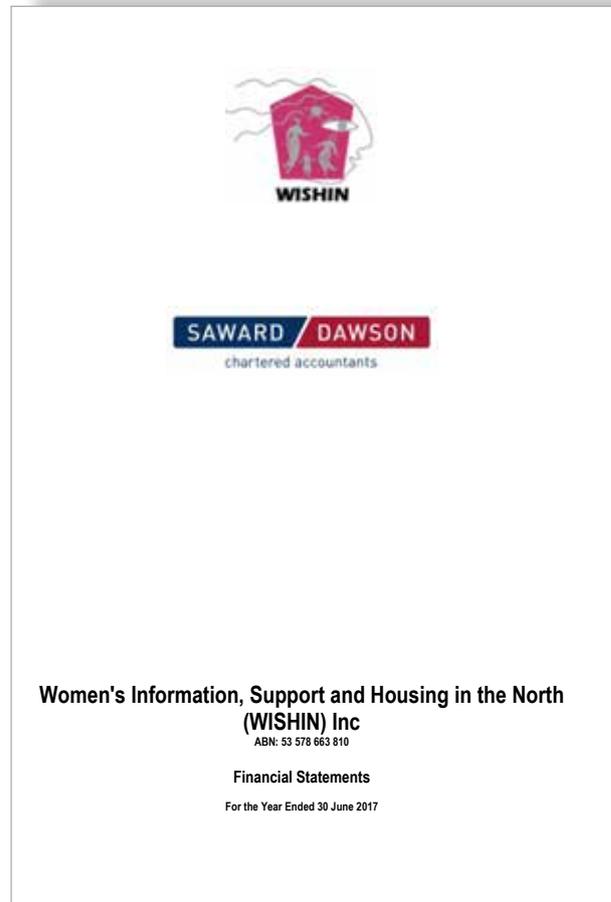
WISHIN was again fortunate in securing family violence funding, and now has two solid income streams supporting homelessness and family violence.

WISHIN ended the year with an operating profit in excess of \$40,000, and a strong cash flow and balance sheet position.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our Finance Officer Muthuni. Muthuni has been instrumental in working with the Finance sub-committee in building our monthly reports, annual budget and working with the auditors. She has been able to "hit the ground running" having only been with WISHIN a short time but the value she creates is significant.

Saward Dawson have prepared our annual audited accounts and I move that we accept the audited reports for the year ending 30 June 2017 and continue to use their services for Financial Year 2018.

**Stacey Hudson**  
Treasurer



*The 2016-17 Financial Statements are reproduced on the following pages.*

## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Revenue	3	1,109,304	817,636
Employee benefits expense		(786,839)	(667,573)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(60,296)	(61,029)
Client and donation account expenses		(81,988)	(31,109)
Operating expenses		(23,997)	(42,706)
Accounting and audit expenses		(18,446)	(25,746)
Accreditation expenses		(19,327)	(18,776)
Motor vehicle expenses		(17,951)	(17,248)
Rent		(15,875)	(12,566)
Other expenses		(42,010)	(37,170)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>42,575</b>	<b>(96,287)</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year</b>		<b>42,575</b>	<b>(96,287)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	248,671	179,712
Trade and other receivables	5	10,450	8,704
Financial assets	6	170,592	170,592
Other assets	7	1,387	1,151
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>431,100</b>	<b>360,159</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and equipment	8	105,997	156,771
Intangible assets	9	181,411	184,358
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>287,408</b>	<b>341,129</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>718,508</b>	<b>701,288</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	10	72,720	59,208
Employee benefits	12	35,804	46,432
Other liabilities	11	85,841	102,312
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>194,365</b>	<b>207,952</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee benefits	12	7,270	19,038
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>7,270</b>	<b>19,038</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>201,635</b>	<b>226,990</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>516,873</b>	<b>474,298</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surpluses		516,873	474,298
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>516,873</b>	<b>474,298</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### 2017

	Accumulated surpluses	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2016	474,298	474,298
Surplus for the year	42,575	42,575
Balance at 30 June 2017	516,873	516,873

#### 2016

	Accumulated surpluses	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2015	570,585	570,585
Deficit for the year	(96,287)	(96,287)
Balance at 30 June 2016	474,298	474,298

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Note	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,111,156)	(882,924)
Receipts from government bodies, donors and sundry income	1,182,553	972,576
Interest received	4,138	4,672
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	14 <u>75,535</u>	<u>94,324</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Payment for intangibles	(3,300)	(9,358)
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(3,276)	(3,073)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-	26,320
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>(6,576)</u>	<u>13,889</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	68,959	108,213
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	179,712	71,499
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	4 <u>248,671</u>	<u>179,712</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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# Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

### 1 Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Reform Act (VIC) 2012* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The board members have determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets. This financial report reflects the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this report.

### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (a) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. The organisation is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission as a charity. The organisation is also a registered Public Benevolent Institution.

#### (b) Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

#### (c) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits such as annual leave and long service leave provisions. Short term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages and salaries. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled. Long-term employee benefits are benefits that are expected to be settled at least 12 months after the end of the financial reporting period.

The Association's obligations for unpaid employee benefits such as wages and salaries are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position.

The Association's obligations for employee provisions are presented as current and non-current provisions in its statement of financial position.

# Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (d) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

#### Grant revenue

When grant revenue is received and the grant agreement contains conditions specifying a specific use or purpose, the Association recognises the grant revenue in the statement of financial position as an income in advance liability. Revenue is recognised only when expenses are incurred to meet the conditions of the grant.

When grant revenue is received that does not contain conditions specifying a specific use or purpose, the Association recognises the grant revenue when it obtains controls of the grant income, which is typically on receipt of funds.

Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc receives non-reciprocal contributions of assets from the government and other parties for zero or a nominal value. These assets are recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the statement of financial position, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in the statement of income and expenditure and other comprehensive income.

#### Donations

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

#### Interest revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

#### (e) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

# Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (f) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for nil or nominal consideration have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

#### Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a prime cost (PC) or diminishing value (DV) basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	25% PC
Motor Vehicles	22.5% DV
Office Equipment	25% PC
Computer Equipment	40% DV

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

#### (g) Impairment

At the end of each reporting period, the Association assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount on the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in income and expenditure.

#### (h) Intangible assets - Nomination rights

In the 2015 year, the organisation co-invested in a social housing development with Women's Property Initiative (WPI) and the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). The organisation paid \$175,000 in exchange for perpetual nomination rights on three of the dwellings to be constructed.

The organisation receives no direct financial benefit from nomination but it has demonstrably expanded the affordable housing stock that they can connect clients with. The directors accept that this should create an ongoing indirect financial benefit through an increase in Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) funding.

The perpetual value of this relative increase is difficult to estimate. The directors have considered impairment indicators for the nomination rights asset and have not identified any impairment indicators that would result in a material impairment as at the signing date of the report.

The directors have amortised the nomination rights over a useful life of 40 years, which represents the useful life of the dwellings the nomination rights relate to.

# Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

#### (j) Comparative figures

When required by accounting standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

#### (k) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

*Key judgments - Recognition of income/income in advance*

The committee members have reviewed the services performed under government funded agreements and have made an assessment in relation to the level of services provided against their obligations in determining the unearned income carried forward.

*Key judgments - Doubtful debts provision*

The committee members have reviewed the trade and sundry debtors at year end and believe that the full amount of the debt is recoverable, and no doubtful debt provision is required as at 30 June 2017.

*Key judgements - Useful lives of property, plant and equipment*

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated over their useful life and the depreciation rates are assessed with the assets are acquired or when there is significant change that effects the remaining useful life of the asset. Intangible assets are also amortised over the useful life of the asset.

## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### 3 Revenue

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
- Interest received	4,138	4,672
- Operating grants	1,022,091	781,884
- Donations	79,556	19,701
- Surplus on sale of asset	-	5,791
- Other income	3,519	5,588
Total Revenue	<u>1,109,304</u>	<u>817,636</u>

#### 4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash on hand	885	511
Cash at bank	<u>247,786</u>	<u>179,201</u>
	<u>248,671</u>	<u>179,712</u>

#### 5 Trade and Other Receivables

##### CURRENT

Trade receivables	6,996	6,286
Sundry receivables	<u>3,454</u>	<u>2,418</u>
	<u>10,450</u>	<u>8,704</u>

#### 6 Financial assets

##### CURRENT

Term deposits	<u>170,592</u>	<u>170,592</u>
	<u>170,592</u>	<u>170,592</u>

(a) This relates to two term deposits maturing in September 2017 and February 2018.

#### 7 Other Assets

##### CURRENT

Prepayments	<u>1,387</u>	<u>1,151</u>
	<u>1,387</u>	<u>1,151</u>

## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### 8 Plant and equipment

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
At cost	6,682	15,263
Accumulated depreciation	(6,120)	(13,753)
Total plant and equipment	<u>562</u>	<u>1,510</u>
<b>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</b>		
At cost	124,204	120,928
Accumulated depreciation	(86,028)	(54,485)
Total furniture, fixtures and fittings	<u>38,176</u>	<u>66,443</u>
<b>Motor vehicles</b>		
At cost	134,632	134,632
Accumulated depreciation	(72,596)	(54,586)
Total motor vehicles	<u>62,036</u>	<u>80,046</u>
<b>Computer equipment</b>		
At cost	43,917	47,640
Accumulated depreciation	(38,694)	(38,868)
Total computer equipment	<u>5,223</u>	<u>8,772</u>
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<u>105,997</u>	<u>156,771</u>

#### 9 Intangible Assets

<b>Website</b>		
Website development	12,658	9,358
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(1,872)	-
Total work in progress	<u>10,786</u>	<u>9,358</u>
<b>Nomination rights</b>		
Cost	175,000	175,000
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(4,375)	-
Total nomination rights	<u>170,625</u>	<u>175,000</u>
<b>Total Intangibles</b>	<u>181,411</u>	<u>184,358</u>

Refer to Note 2(h) for accounting policy on nomination rights.

## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### 10 Trade and Other Payables

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade payables	72,720	59,208
	<u>72,720</u>	<u>59,208</u>

#### 11 Other Liabilities

Grants in advance	85,841	102,312
	<u>85,841</u>	<u>102,312</u>

#### 12 Employee benefits

<b>CURRENT</b>		
Provision for annual leave	35,804	46,432
	<u>35,804</u>	<u>46,432</u>

#### **NON-CURRENT**

Provision for long service leave	7,270	19,038
	<u>7,270</u>	<u>19,038</u>

#### 13 Leasing Commitments

##### Operating Leases

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases:

- not later than one year	12,779	12,436
- between one year and five years	3,195	3,109
	<u>15,974</u>	<u>15,545</u>

The operating lease in place relate to the rented premise. Lease payments are paid in advance.

## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

#### 14 Cash Flow Information

Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	42,575	(96,287)
<b>Non-cash flows in surplus:</b>		
- depreciation and amortisation	60,297	61,029
- net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	(5,791)
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities:</b>		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(1,747)	(4,172)
- (increase)/decrease in other assets	(235)	-
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	13,512	38,819
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	(22,396)	(1,586)
- increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	(16,471)	102,312
Cashflow from operations	<u>75,535</u>	<u>94,324</u>

#### 15 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

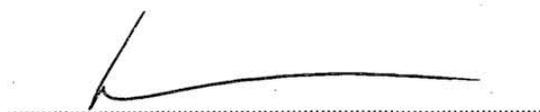
### Statement by Members of the Board

The board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Members of the Board:

1. The financial report and notes, as set out in pages 1 to 12, presents a true and fair view of the financial position of WISHIN as at 30 June 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (VIC) 2012* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that WISHIN will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



(Board Member)



(Board Member)

Dated 18 October 2017

## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Auditors Independence Declaration under Section 60.40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012

In accordance with the requirements of section 60.40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as auditor for the audit of Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc for the year ended 30 June 2017, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of section 60.40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit, and Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards.

*Saward Dawson*

Saward Dawson

*Jeffrey Tulk*

Jeffrey Tulk  
Partner

Blackburn

Dated: 18 October 2017

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Joshua Morse CA Jeff Tulk CA  
**Directors:** Cathy Braun CA Jeff Davey FCA  
Marie Ickeringill SSA Matthew Stokes CA  
Murray Nicholls CA Vicki Adams CA CPA CFP®

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## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Independent Audit Report to the members of Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

#### Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report being a special purpose financial report, of Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by Members of the Board.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC), including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements, Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 and the Association Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC).

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the board members' financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Independent Audit Report to the members of Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

#### Responsibilities of Board Members for the Financial Report

The board members of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The board members' responsibility also includes establishing and monitoring such internal control as the board members determine necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the board members are responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board members either intend to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the association.

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## Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

ABN: 53 578 663 810

### Independent Audit Report to the members of Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) Inc

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the association's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*Saward Dawson*

Saward Dawson

*Jeffrey Tulk*

Jeffrey Tulk  
Partner

Blackburn VIC

Dated: 18 October 2017

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# The WISHIN team

## Board of Management

### Office Bearers

#### Chair

Julie Burke

#### Deputy Chair

Karen McIlwain

Katherine Urbanski

#### Secretary

Kathy Dillon

#### Treasurer

Stacey Gardiner

### Ordinary Members

Catherine Burkhalter

Melissa Clarkson

Alexandra Fink

Sheena Haweil

Yee Man Louie

Stephanie Milione

## Leadership Team

### CEO

Trish O'Donohue

### Acting CEO

Ange O'Brien

### Team Leader

Kelly

## Support Team

### Senior Outreach and Support Worker

Marzia

### Outreach and Support Workers

Beatrice

Erin

Fiona

Hilary

Kristen

Michelle

Rikki

Sarah

Sharon

Stacey

Xuan

### Wellbeing & Primary Prevention Projects Coordinator

Amelia

### Accounts and Finance Officer

Muthuni

### Office Manager

Imelda

## Acknowledgements

WISHIN would not be possible without generous help from the following organisations to whom we are eternally grateful.

### Victorian Government for core program funding Department of Health and Human Services

Circus OZ

City of Darebin

City of Moreland

City of Whittlesea Youth Services

Fernwood Fitness

Gandel Philanthropy

Haven; Home, Safe

Launch Housing

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

Melbourne Youth Support Services

Mindful Moreland

NAB Volunteering Grant

Protective Group

Quantum Support Services

RMIT University

Safe Futures Foundation

Street Smart

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation

Tobin Brothers Foundation

The Queens Fund

The Walter and Eliza Hall Trust

Victoria University

VincentCare

Women's Property Initiatives

## Please donate

WISHIN is a gender specific organisation that is run by women for women and their children. We provide an outreach support service to women with or without children, who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, have experienced family violence and have links to the Northern metro region of Melbourne.

Donations are tax deductible and go towards our advocacy and campaign work. They can be made through the contact details below or via [www.givenow.com.au](http://www.givenow.com.au).

## Every woman needs a safe home every night



Women's Information, Support  
and Housing in the North

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