



ANNUAL REPORT

18  
19



*every woman needs a safe home every night*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WISHIN acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of Australia. We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people, of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters upon which we work, live and play and pay our greatest respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise that sovereignty of this land was never ceded, and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have suffered immeasurable harm since colonisation.

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# About WISHIN

Women's Information Support and Housing in the North

## VISION

A community where all women and children are safe, empowered and thrive.

## MISSION

Partnering with women to support their safety, increase their independence and enable them to thrive.

## VALUES

EQUALITY

INTEGRITY

CREATIVITY

DIVERSITY

## STRATEGIC GOALS

1

OUR SERVICES ARE HIGH-QUALITY AND TAILORED. THEY SUPPORT OUR CLIENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS

2

OUR WORK IS EFFECTIVE, EVIDENCE BASED AND CLIENT-LED

3

WE BUILD SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT WOMEN, INCREASE OUR IMPACT AND FACILITATE CHANGE

## ENABLERS

WORKFORCE AND CULTURE



RESOURCES

# 2018/2019 Snapshot

During 2018-19 financial year WISHIN supported

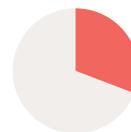


269  
WOMEN

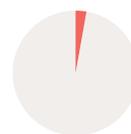
311  
CHILDREN



25.6%  
of women were aged over 45



31%  
of children were under 5 years



3%  
of the women we worked with  
identified as Aboriginal and/or  
Torres Strait Islander



42% of our clients  
were born overseas

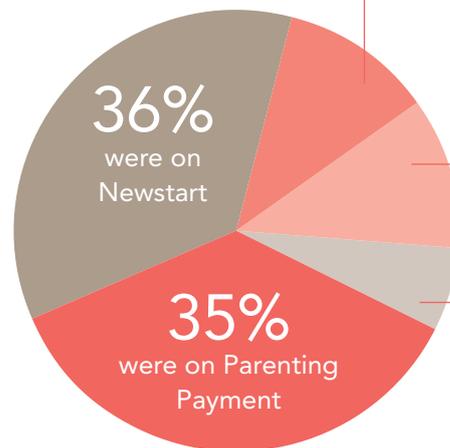
They came to Australia from

39 different  
countries

29 different languages  
spoken at home

Lebanon, Iraq, India, Syria and Sudan were the most common countries women have migrated from.

WHEN THEY FIRST STARTED  
WORKING WITH US



36%  
were on  
Newstart

11%  
were on the  
Disability  
Support Payment

11%  
were employed

6%  
had no income  
at all

35%  
were on Parenting  
Payment



54%  
of women told us they  
had a diagnosed mental  
health issue



33%  
of women who came  
to us were on their own



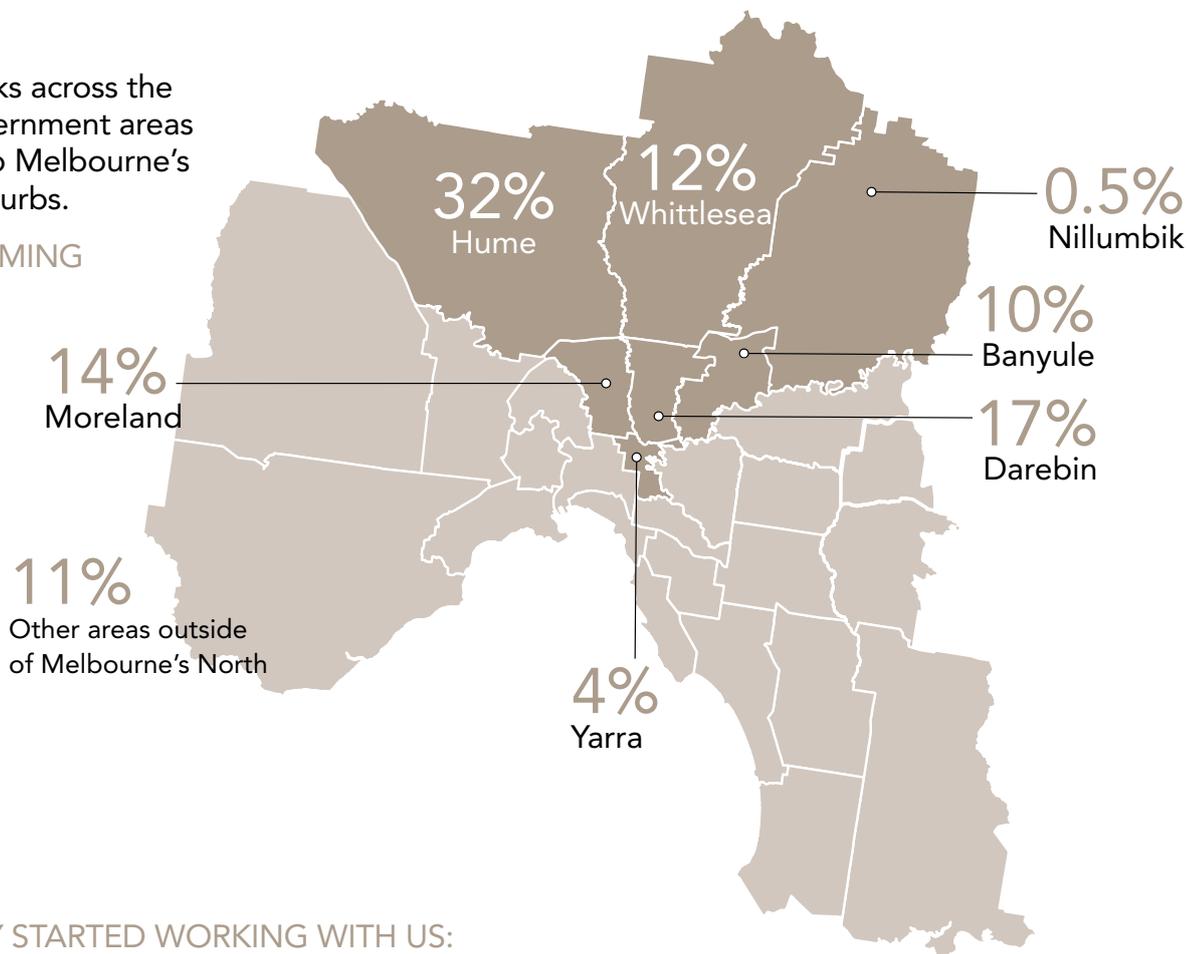
63%  
had children/ young  
people with them



4%  
were in other  
family groups

WISHIN works across the six local government areas that make up Melbourne's northern suburbs.

BEFORE COMING TO US:

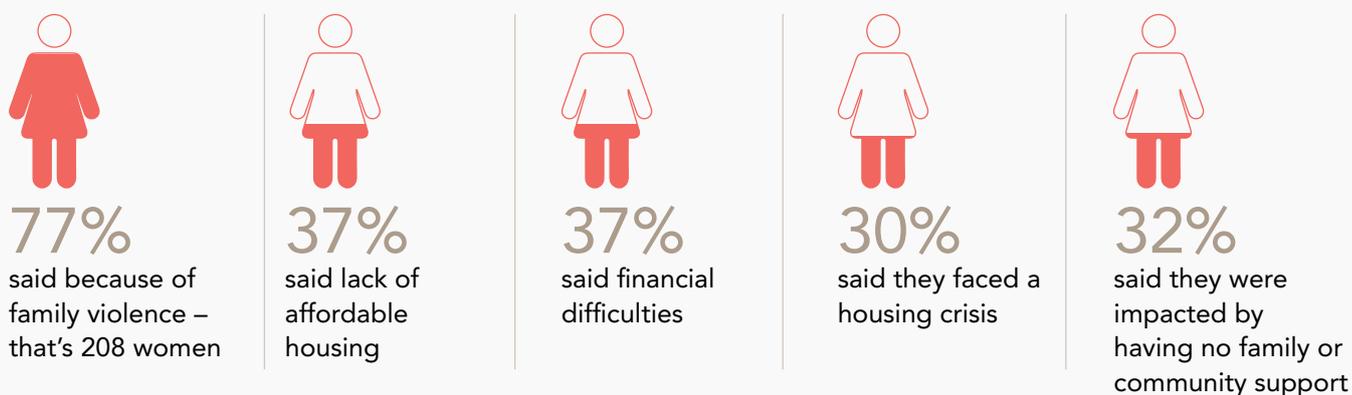


WHEN THEY STARTED WORKING WITH US:



Women and their children become homeless for many reasons and often there is more than one issue significantly impacting their situation.

WHEN WE ASKED THE WOMEN WE WORKED WITH WHY THEY WERE HOMELESS, THIS IS WHAT THEY TOLD US:





# Chair and CEO Report

In 2019 WISHIN experienced another busy year with the need for our services continuing to grow. Government and community sector statistics tell us that homelessness in Victoria is continuing to increase, with more women and children without a home and older women the fastest growing group of homeless people in the country.

Our own statistics tell us that 17% of women come to our service after more than 6 months of homelessness, that we support increasing numbers of older women and that over half the women we work with have a diagnosed mental illness. Family violence impacts the housing stability of over three quarters of our clients and more women, especially mothers, are relying on Newstart payments.



*"This year at WISHIN has been one filled with hope, action, learning, challenge, success, and change. I am very privileged to be the CEO of such an amazing organisation, and so proud to share the work of such a skilled, committed and wise group of women." – Jade Blakkarly, CEO*

The women who come to WISHIN are all facing homelessness, but their experiences and stories are unique. For some women being homeless is a new experience, a 'situational crisis' they never expected due to illness, relationship breakdown, financial stress or unemployment. They are seeking support to get back on their feet and an understanding of what happens next. For others being homeless, or nearly homeless, is an ongoing and familiar challenge. Poverty, lack of family and community support, discrimination, health issues, trauma and many other experiences combine to make finding an affordable and safe home an unrealistic dream rather than a basic right.

Every woman who comes to our service has a personal story but there are commonalities in what they all need. Someone to listen to them, to believe them, a safe, secure and affordable place to sleep, support to understand and navigate the

complex and demanding system of services in front of them, someone who believes things can and will get better.

Our staff have an impressive set of diverse skills and expertise to provide this support to our clients. They know the systems: housing, financial, legal, family violence, aged care, disability, mental health and others. Most importantly they know how to listen, to hear, to advocate, to act and to hold hope and possibility for the women and children we work with.

Most of the women we see are facing a complex interaction of personal circumstance, systemic barriers and discrimination. Poverty, lack of affordable housing and an inadequate social welfare system combined with the financial, social and cultural ramifications of gender inequity add layers of complexity and trauma to the lives of our clients. The oppressive impacts of colonisation, racism, discrimination, homophobia, stigma and marginalisation further compound this experience.

At WISHIN we value the work that we do with women, and their courage and willingness to share their stories and work alongside us. We believe in the importance of advocacy, of raising voices to create change, of reaching further and being heard. Collaboration, partnerships and advocacy within our sector, with government and across the community are key to our work at WISHIN and vital to contributing to meaningful change.

This year we have invested in our staff and systems to create the foundation we need to deliver on our mission and strategic goals. We have evaluated and refined our services, systems, and ways of working to ensure they continue to best meet the needs of the women we serve. Following this evaluation, we have invested in building skills and systems to help us better understand the impact of our work.

We have deepened our knowledge of the impacts of trauma, poverty and oppression and creating ways to facilitate change in the women we work with. This has been inspired by work pioneered in the United States which has demonstrated positive results. In the coming year we will pilot a program that partners with women in a different way, to facilitate women 'doing' for themselves with the aim of creating positive change.

What we do at WISHIN is only possible because of our people and we are honoured to work with such an incredible group of dedicated women.



*"On behalf of the WISHIN Board, I express my deep gratitude to Jade for her leadership of WISHIN. Her vision to partner with women to enable them to support themselves inspires and guides WISHIN's work. Under Jade's leadership we have strengthened WISHIN as an organisation, which better enables us to support the women and children we aim to serve."*

– Melissa Clarkson, Board Chair

We extend an enormous and heartfelt thank you to our staff. Your skills, professionalism, openness, dedication and commitment enable WISHIN to do the work we do. Aisling, Alex, Kate, Jess, Joanne, Imelda, Muthuni, Pai, Sonya, Susan, Sukhpreet, Tanya, Amy, Clancy, Heidi, Jemma, Layla, Nicole and Taylor you are all amazing.

Thank you also to the women who volunteer their time to serve on the WISHIN Board: Melissa Clarkson, Katherine Urbanski, Stephanie Milione, Alex Fink, Kirra Johnson, Morgan Cataldo and Geeta Kulkarni.

In November we farewelled our Chair Julie Burke and Board Secretary Kathy Dillon. We are deeply grateful to you both for your commitment and contribution to WISHIN over many years.

We welcomed new Board members Kirra Johnson, Morgan Cataldo and Geeta Kulkarni, strengthening our skills in community sector management, client-led program delivery and finance.

As always, to the women and children who come to WISHIN. Thank you. Your trust, your openness and your resilience inspire the work we do. Thank you for your stories, insights, knowledge, courage and strength.

**Jade Blakkarly**  
CEO

**Melissa Clarkson**  
Chair

COMMENTS FROM  
THE ANNUAL STAFF  
SURVEY QUESTION  
WHAT BRINGS YOU  
SATISFACTION AT WORK?



*“Knowing the work I am  
doing makes a difference  
in women’s lives. Working  
with colleagues who are  
passionate about the work  
Feeling appreciated for the  
work I do.”*



*“Working together with all  
staff and management  
team on a common goal  
and achieving it gives me  
satisfaction.”*

# Our People

## Board

CHAIR:	Melissa Clarkson
DEPUTY CHAIR:	Katherine Urbanski
SECRETARY:	Stephanie Milione
TREASURER:	Alexandra Fink
MEMBERS:	Morgan Lee Cataldo Kirra Johnson Geeta Kulkarni

## Staff

CEO:	Jade Blakkarly
STRATEGIC SERVICE MANAGER:	Tanya McColl
FINANCE MANAGER:	Muthuni Fernando
OFFICE MANAGER:	Imelda Rennick
ADMIN ASSISTANT:	Clancy Fraser
SENIOR PRACTITIONERS:	Pai Rittichai Aisling Summerville
HOMELESSNESS TEAM:	Amy Sonya Jemma Sukhpreet Jess Susan Kate Taylor Layla
FAMILY VIOLENCE TEAM:	Alex Joanne
STUDENTS:	Heidi Nicole Sukhpreet

# Year in Review

## Homelessness Support

Homelessness continues to be a major and growing issue affecting our communities. On the last Census night there were 11,427 Australians recorded as homeless. On any night over 24,000 people in Victoria will be without a home. For women issues of homelessness are also issues of poverty, of gender inequality and of family violence. Lack of affordable housing, years of governments failing to invest in social housing, and rising costs of living are issues impacting many, for women these issues are too often compounded by gender based economic inequality, the social and financial costs of caring responsibilities and lower wages, leaving women increasingly vulnerable to homelessness.

The 2018-19 year has continued to see huge demands on our homelessness services, and we have need to continue to evolve the ways we are working to ensure that we provide timely, high quality, responsive support to women and their children. The team of Susan, Kate, Sonya, Jemma, Taylor, Layla, Amy, Jess and Sukhpreet have demonstrated their skills, knowledge and passion and continue to respond to the complex and varied needs of the women with professionalism and commitment.

We continue to increase our reach throughout the North and this year we have worked with women from across all 6 local government areas. Whilst Hume, Darebin and Moreland continue to be the areas where most of the women we work with are when they come to us, we are seeing more women from the other local government areas, particularly from Whittlesea and Banyule.

This year has also seen us increase our work with women who have migrated to Australia. 42% of our clients were born overseas and more women with children are accessing our services (63%). In line with broader trends we have also seen an increase in the number of older women WISHIN is supporting, in 2018-19 over 25% of our clients were aged over 45, with 21 women older than 55 years.

This year the homelessness team has done amazing things. They have supported women to access public and community housing, they have enabled women to return safely to their own homes, they have found women safe share accommodation and enabled them to find and keep private rental properties. They have advocated to many government departments, they have collaborated with countless services, written endless letters, visited homes, and supported women and children to understand their rights and to achieve them. Whether working with a woman for 4 weeks or in some cases, years, the team has shown tireless dedication and incredible skills in an area of work that is so often challenging and complex.



11,427  
Australians recorded  
as homeless



24,000  
people in Victoria will  
be without a home



42%  
of our clients being  
born overseas



25%  
of our clients were  
aged over 45

*... the team has shown tireless dedication and incredible skills in an area of work that is so often challenging and complex.*

## CASE STUDY

### *Lee's story*

Lee has been working with WISHIN since 2011. She has experienced persistent homelessness with multiple barriers to keeping stable, safe and secure housing. Lee lives with significant mental illness, chronic substance addiction and poor physical health. In the 2 years before coming to WISHIN Lee had had at least 11 temporary addresses and spent significant periods of time 'rough sleeping'.

WISHIN was able to secure Lee a transitional housing property through Women's Housing in 2011, however although she had a safe and affordable place to stay until her long-term housing was allocated, Lee was still at significant risk of becoming homeless. Lee's ongoing health needs, the impact of her substance use and a complex intersection of factors meant that Lee often felt unsafe in her home and had many times when she was at significant risk of losing her housing.

Working collaboratively with Women's Housing, we supported, advocated and navigated with Lee to maintain her tenancy whilst also responding to frequently deteriorating mental and physical health issues. At times Lee's illnesses made it difficult for her to comply with standard housing requirements, she often struggled to pay her rent, maintain her utilities, respect the quiet enjoyment of her neighbours or leave her property secure. Lee's substance use made her vulnerable to exploitation, threats and violence and negatively impacted on her physical health. Often her home was not a 'safe haven' for Lee.

Lee's life experience had made her wary of trusting others, including the services there to support her. At times her unpredictability and defensiveness made it difficult to keep appointments, follow up with tasks or 'make progress'. Through an innovative pilot housing response ANASH, we were able to work with the Office of Housing and find Lee a permanent, safe and affordable home, and to continue to support her beyond our usual funding guidelines. Eventually we were able to support Lee to establish ongoing connections for her physical health and substance use, slowly we found a mental health service that could provide the flexible response Lee needed. Knowing she had somewhere to stay in the long term we worked with Lee to identify how to make her home a safe space, to minimise her vulnerability to losing her home, and to create a place of security.

Lee has had several WISHIN workers over her time with us and we all learnt much from her resilience and courage. We learnt the value of persisting, we learnt to be more flexible and creative in doing the work. We learnt the value of turning up, of doing what we committed, even if Lee wasn't always there. We were reminded of the importance of creating a strong team that could build trust with Lee.

*...we worked with Lee to identify how to make her home a safe space, to minimise her vulnerability to losing her home, and to create a place of security.*

## Specialist Family Violence Outposts

As awareness about family violence continues to grow in our communities, our work with women who require a specialist family response also grows.

Our team grew this year as Joanne began working with WISHIN in November and joined Alex in a family violence specialist role. This fantastic, committed and highly skilled duo have seen 125 women, an almost 30% increase on last year and have provided a range of secondary consultations, professional development and collaborative practice support to the staff at our outpost locations.

We have expanded our reach and are now have family violence staff based at VincentCare in Glenroy, Haven Home Safe in Preston and Launch Housing in Collingwood.

We know the intersection of homelessness and family violence is a major issue. It is the key driver of homelessness for women and children. 40% of all people accessing homelessness services in Australia report family violence as the key reason for their homelessness. At WISHIN, this year 77% of the women we worked with identified family violence as a factor that impacted on them being homeless.

Many women come to us seeking immediate safety and protection and need a safe place to sleep that night and support to navigate what to do next. Others come months after having fled violence, still vulnerable, without a safe and secure place to live, often sleeping in their cars or bouncing between the couches of friends, relatives and strangers. Sometimes women are just beginning to reach out to services, not wanting to leave, but looking for information, support and advice.

The collaboration and shared commitment across the four agencies and the increasing ability of different services to both play their 'specialist' part and also think outside the box in this work has been amazing to witness. With this vital resource now a well-established, ongoing and integrated aspect of the Family Violence and Homelessness response system across the Northern Suburbs we continue to see positive impacts for women and their children escaping family violence.

*We continue to see positive impacts for women and their children escaping family violence.*

HOMELESSNESS CAN BE MADE MORE CHALLENGING BY OTHER FACTORS. WE ASKED WOMEN ABOUT THIS:



27%

said they were homeless because of their mental health issues



16%

said their unemployment impacted their homelessness



10%

talked about the impact of medical issues



9%

identified the impact of sexual assault



30% increase

Joanne and Alex have helped 125 women this year



40%

Australians accessing homelessness services report family violence

## CASE STUDY

### *Amara's story*

Amara came to WISHIN in October 2018 through Vincent Care after she was released from Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (DPFC). She was residing in a motel and was sharing the cost of her accommodation with Vincent Care.

Amara had been incarcerated for driving on a suspended licence and spent just over two months in prison. Amara was homeless when she went into prison and had been rough sleeping in her car and couch surfing in the Melbourne area for the past 2 years. She left prison with nowhere to go. Amara told us she had become homeless due to family violence perpetrated by her husband and felt she had no other option but to leave the family home. Her three children were residing with their father due to Amara being homeless.

Amara also identified that she had previously used methamphetamine and was struggling with her mental health. She had never been in the workforce, was on Newstart payments and had never paid rent. She and her husband had a mortgage, but he managed all their finances.

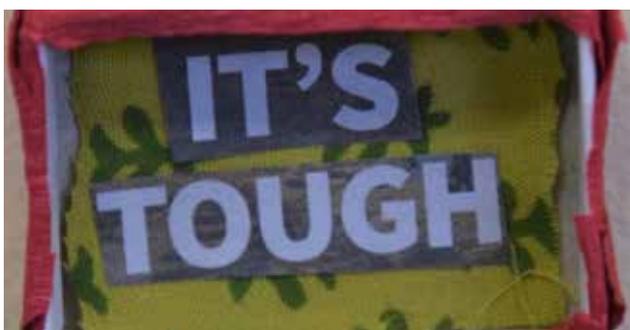
Amara was keen to find her own place, to look for work and to have her children return to live with her. Amara knew what she wanted but was quite overwhelmed about how to achieve it. We worked with Amara to develop a 'kit' so she was ready for private rental inspections and applications. We supported her by with advocating with real estate agents and finally she was accepted. WISHIN assisted Amara to access an Office of Housing Bond Loan, to receive a month's rent via the Private rental Assistance Program and to successfully apply for a Family Violence Flexible Support package to purchase furniture and white goods. Making a House a Home program enabled Amara to buy basic bedding and kitchen items.

WISHIN supported Amara to join an employment program for people who have been in prison through this she secured part time employment. Amara's youngest child came to live with her, and she began to access local mental health supports. When we finished working with Amara, she was closer to achieving her goals, she had somewhere safe to live, a job, independence and felt like 'things are definitely getting better'.

*Amara was keen to find her own place,  
to look for work and to have her children  
return to live with her.*

## Women and Wellbeing

WISHIN has a long tradition of creating opportunities to connect with the women in our programs outside of the 'formal' aspects of our work. This year we held four community events for women and their children who are or have been in WISHIN's programs. Through these gatherings we aim to improve women's sense of connection, give them new experiences, help improve confidence and self-esteem, and have fun together. The program is designed to positively impact mental, physical and social health.



### HOMELESSNESS WEEK 2018

In August 2018, WISHIN staff and clients participated in activities in the lead up to and during Homelessness Week to campaign for more affordable and safe housing for women experiencing homelessness including a better standard of crisis accommodation and an increase in social housing.

In the lead up to Homelessness week, we held a client wellbeing day facilitated by Art Therapist, Anne Riggs where women and children created matchbox art representing their experiences of homelessness and what home meant to them.

During Homelessness Week, WISHIN staff alongside our Homelessness Partner Agencies – MOSS, Crossroads and VincentCare held a homelessness community awareness raising stall at Broadmeadows Shopping Centre including a display of the matchbook art created by WISHIN women and children.

### END OF YEAR PARTY

In December we gathered with women and their children to celebrate the end of the year at Coburg Lake. We made Christmas decorations, created art, ate pizza, (and fruit), had our faces painted and shared stories with each other.



### FILM FESTIVAL

In March to celebrate International Women's Day we held our very own Women's Film Festival. With the support of the Thornbury Picture House we created an incredible series of short films that told important stories of women from across the globe.

### WINTER WARMER

June saw us hold our first women's wellbeing event in WISHIN's new offices in Preston. It was a great opportunity to welcome women into our new space and we shared a fun morning doing yoga, painting pictures, eating and being serenaded by a fabulous guest musician.





## Financial Assistance

Poverty is a huge issue for most of the women we work with and is a significant barrier to women accessing and maintaining a safe home. Through a number of funding sources, we are able to provide financial assistance that can enable women and children to address immediate crisis, re-establish homes or support their recovery from trauma.

WISHIN partners with both Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) and Anglicare Victoria to support victim/survivors to access Family Violence Flexible Support Packages (FVFS). In 2018-19 we administered packages that assisted 27 women in their recovery from family violence.

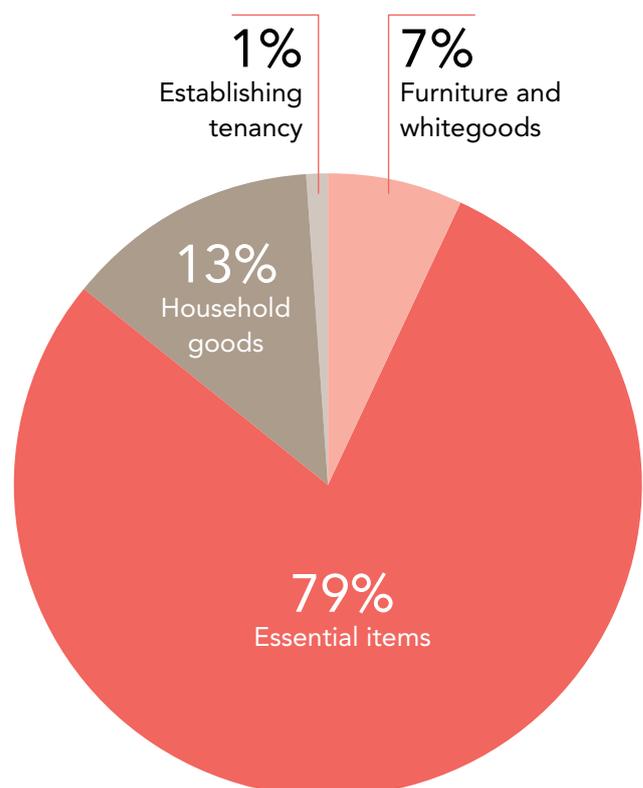
FVFS's provide a range of supports and services including assisting with the costs of securing and relocating to safe and stable accommodation, funding specialist counselling, assistance to get a driver's license, purchasing furniture, installing security systems in homes and helping children and young people to re-establish their education.

Family Violence Flexible Support Packages provide for a client-centred and tailored response that enables women to not only establish safety from violence but to rebuild after violence and go on to lives of safety, independence and success.

## Making a House a Home

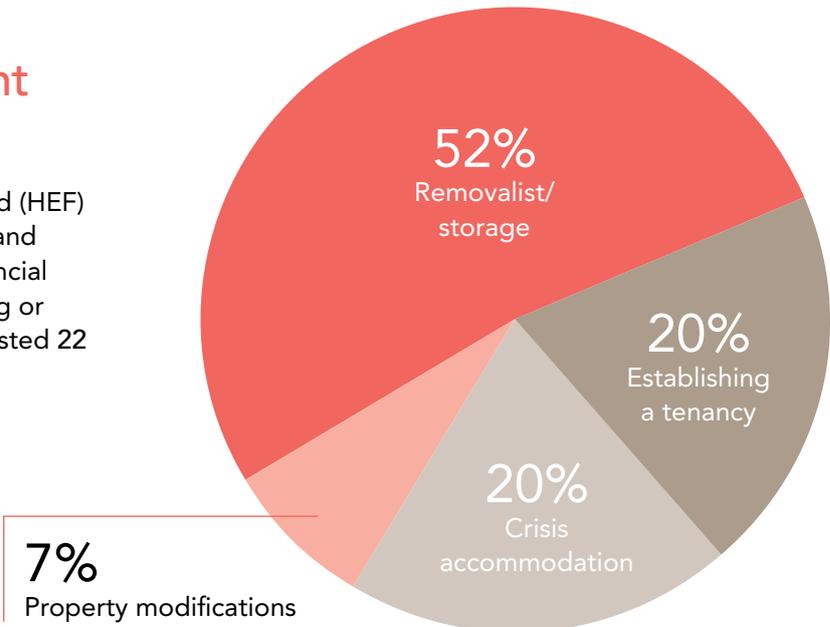
WISHIN's Making a House a Home project, primarily supported through grants from StreetSmart continues to be an integral way for women getting established in their new affordable long-term housing. The challenges and costs of homelessness often mean that by the time a woman finds a place to live she has no way of scraping together the money needed to move in and start afresh. The project provides women with small discretionary funding packages to spend on essential goods and services to establish new, safe, affordable tenancies in private rental or long-term social housing.

This year WISHIN has provided Making a House a Home grants to 68 individual clients, enabling them to be able to pay for essential items they would have been otherwise been unable to afford.



## Housing Establishment Fund

Through a Housing Establishment Fund (HEF) grant from the Department of Health and Human Services WISHIN provides financial support to assist women in establishing or maintain tenancies. In 2018-19 we assisted 22 women through this funding.



## Raising Our Voice

Advocacy and partnerships are key to the work we do at WISHIN.

Our staff advocate for the rights and choices of the individual women and families they work with. Our organisation advocates to challenge the systemic disadvantage and oppressions our clients, and others facing similar situations. Whilst we see every day the way that trauma, violence and poverty impacts women and children, we also know that these are not just individual issues, they are reflective of the systemic, social and cultural issues impacting on many. We advocate to make an immediate difference and we advocate for things like gender equity and decolonisation that we will take many years to be fully realised.

### At WISHIN

We value collaboration and partnership

We partner with purpose

We build successful partnerships to support women, increase our impact and facilitate change

#### SOME OF OUR ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIP WORK:

- > Chair Northern LASN
- > Reference group member Northern LASN
- > LASN working groups- homelessness week, practice advisory group, 'crisis in crisis'
- > Media spokesperson for 'crisis in crisis' campaign
- > NIFVS Deputy Chair
- > NIFVS working groups- workforce development, sector reform implementation
- > Homeless Launch Site - Area Implementation Group, ANASH Panel
- > VAADA Homelessness Forum
- > DVRCV Building From Strength Conference Presentation
- > DVVIC Senior Leadership Group
- > DVRCV Fast Track program mentoring



*What we have learnt is that the stress of poverty, trauma, oppression and systemic disadvantage can impact on our finances, our relationships, our health, our opportunities and also our brains.*

## Within WISHIN

As well as all the direct service, partnership and advocacy work, this year has also been an important one for us as an organisation.

We began to implement our new Strategic Direction, which saw us review our internal systems, undertake a series of culture and values workshops, begin to explore Rainbow Tick, enhance our professional development opportunities and focus on new initiatives.

A key platform of this work is for WISHIN to understand how we can better partner with women to enable them to make long term sustainable change and to move away from poverty. We want to develop programs that will work and impacts that will last.

In October the CEO's undertook a study trip to New York and Boston to attend the Disrupting Poverty Conference and EMPATH's international learning exchange. The trip included visiting organisations who are successfully creating opportunities for meaningful change in their communities when addressing poverty. We wanted to see what worked and to understand how it might work here, with the women and families we support.

What we have learnt is that the stress of poverty, trauma, oppression and systemic disadvantage can impact on our finances, our relationships, our health, our opportunities and also our brains. How we think, what we believe, how we react are all influenced and impacted by ongoing individual and systemic experiences.

The question for WISHIN and others wanting to facilitate change for people is now we know this, how do we change our approach, develop new practice and make a real difference?

In Boston and New York, and amongst the other international attendees, we have seen that there is research driven, evidence-based ways of working that can and do lead to sustainable, client directed change. There are new, more effective ways of working and we can learn to have a greater impact.

This learning has guided much of WISHIN's strategic work throughout the year and has prepared us for some new and exciting developments, in program design, in practice and in evaluation.

In February we underwent our three yearly external Quality, Innovation, Performance Accreditation. WISHIN met all of the standards required and the feedback to the organisation included:

- > The services provided are highly valued and staff well regarded.
- > Reaffirm the passion, commitment and integrity of staff in service delivery.
- > For a small organisation, they are strong on the mission and what they stand for.
- > WISHIN plays the advocate role for their client group very well and are very engaged in the sector and their contribution is valued.

*A key platform of this work is for WISHIN to understand how we can better partner with women to enable them to make long term sustainable change and to move away from poverty.*

## On the Move

In March WISHIN was literally on the move, relocating from Glenroy to a bigger more flexible office space in Preston, right in the geographic centre of our service catchment. After much searching and negotiating and then guided by our incredible Office Manager Imelda, the move went as smoothly as possible. A huge thank you is due to Stephanie Milione (Board member), Tony and the crew from NOUS and friends whose painting efforts were amazing and has made the new space feel like home.

In April we held our official Office Warming which was a fantastic way to join with colleagues, agency partners, Board members and funders to celebrate the new location and the future opportunities it brings.





# Treasurer's Report

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## For year ending 30 June 2019

I am pleased to present the audited financial reports for 2019.

WISHIN's focus in 2019 has been to continue the journey of building a strong foundation for future growth and sustainability. We began the implementation of our new strategic direction to strengthen and expand our impact in the community. This required investment in building organisational capacity to deliver on these strategic goals, which is reflected in the financial accounts.

Donation income overall has been stable, reflecting the importance of the work WISHIN does in the community to support women facing homelessness.

WISHIN ended the year with deficit of \$46,034, which is mainly due to the office move to our new premises in Preston and the increased operating expenses associated with this. Management and the Board are working together to identify opportunities to reduce operating expenses and generate new revenue streams. This will continue to be a focus for WISHIN in 2020.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our Finance Officer, Muthuni. Muthuni has been instrumental in working with the Risk and Finance Committee in building our monthly reports, annual budget and working with the auditors to prepare the financial statements. She is invaluable in assisting me as Treasurer and tracking WISHIN's financial position.

Saward Dawson have prepared our annual audited accounts and I move that we accept the audited reports for the year ending 30 June 2019 and continue to use their services for the 2020 financial year.

**Alexandra Fink**  
Treasurer

# Consolidated Financials

## 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 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue	3	1,398,188	1,126,811
Employee benefits expense		(1,095,331)	(860,252)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(59,991)	(60,692)
Client and donation account expenses		(97,510)	(127,167)
Operating expenses		(65,511)	(35,964)
Accounting and audit expenses		(5,809)	(6,274)
Accreditation expenses		(20,659)	(4,550)
Motor vehicle expenses		(21,477)	(22,940)
Rent		(15,691)	(13,098)
Gain/(Loss) on sale of motor vehicles		5,129	(2,330)
Other expenses		(45,609)	(43,046)
Strategic Planning expenses		(21,763)	-
<b>Deficit for the year</b>		<b>(46,034)</b>	<b>(49,502)</b>
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income (deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(46,034)</b>	<b>(49,502)</b>

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

ABN: 53 578 663 810

## Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	70,335	235,467
Trade and other receivables	5	9,923	29,198
Financial assets	6	160,000	170,592
Other assets	7	12,743	2,213
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>253,001</b>	<b>437,470</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and equipment	8	152,717	163,572
Intangible assets	9	167,598	174,505
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>320,315</b>	<b>338,077</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>573,316</b>	<b>775,547</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	10	87,083	105,574
Employee benefits	11	53,089	35,561
Other liabilities	12	6,750	165,624
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>146,922</b>	<b>306,759</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee benefits	11	5,057	1,417
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>5,057</b>	<b>1,417</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>151,979</b>	<b>308,176</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>421,337</b>	<b>467,371</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surpluses		421,337	467,371
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>421,337</b>	<b>467,371</b>

# 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 2019

### 2019

	Accumulated surpluses	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2018	467,371	467,371
Deficit for the year	(46,034)	(46,034)
Balance at 30 June 2019	421,337	421,337

### 2018

	Accumulated surpluses	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2017	516,873	516,873
Deficit for the year	(49,502)	(49,502)
Balance at 30 June 2018	467,371	467,371

# 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 2019

	2019	2018
Note	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,501,421)	(1,252,274)
Receipts from government bodies, donors and sundry income	1,370,425	1,348,422
Interest received	4,372	4,338
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	14 (126,624)	100,486
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Redemption of term deposits	10,592	-
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(51,101)	(150,735)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	14,001	37,045
Deposit paid	(12,000)	-
Net cash used by investing activities	(38,508)	(113,690)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(165,132)	(13,204)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	235,467	248,671
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	4 70,335	235,467

WISHIN's full financial statement is available by emailing [admin@wishin.org.au](mailto:admin@wishin.org.au)

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

ABN: 53 578 663 810

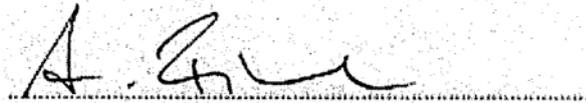
### Statement by Members of the Board

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.

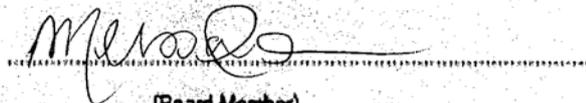
In the opinion of the Members of the Board:

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 2019 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 28 October 2019

## 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 2019, 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**



Jeffrey Tulk  
Partner

Blackburn

Dated: 28 October 2019

## **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 2019, the statement of income and expenditure 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 2019 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.

## **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.

## 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: 28 October 2019

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# Our Supporters

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Our work at WISHIN is made possible by the amazing support, partnership and collaboration of a range of organisations and individuals.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY

## Our Funders:

WISHIN acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government

- > Department of Health and Human Services Victoria
- > Give Know
- > Go Kindly
- > Gorilla Prints
- > Moreland Council
- > Streetsmart
- > Walter and Eliza Trust
- > Queen's Fund



## Our Partners:

- > Anglicare Family Services
- > Berry Street
- > Big Group Hug
- > Domestic Violence Victoria
- > EMPath
- > Elizabeth Morgan House
- > Good Samaritan Inn
- > Haven Home Safe
- > Helping Hands
- > inTouch
- > Launch Housing
- > Merri Outreach Support Service
- > Emily Jackson @ NFP Thrive
- > Northern Integrated Family Violence Services
- > Northern LASN
- > Ali @ Pixel Jam Designs
- > Rachel @ Sacred Arts
- > Tracy Castelino @ Shantiworks
- > South East Community Links
- > St Kilda Mums
- > Thornbury Picture House
- > Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania)
- > Vincent Care Victoria
- > Women's Health in the North
- > Women's Housing Ltd
- > Women's Property Initiative

And a special thank you to Tony Milione, Higgins, Steph and the crew who volunteered to help make our new office a welcoming place for us and the women we work with.

# Please Support Our Work

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Your donations enable us to help some of the most vulnerable women and children in Melbourne's north

Together, we can transform lives of trauma and fear into ones of safety, stability and optimism. If you would like to make a donation please email [admin@wishin.org.au](mailto:admin@wishin.org.au) or call (03) 8692020.





**WISHIN**

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