



THE FUNDING NETWORK  
AUSTRALIA

# ANNUAL REVIEW

FINANCIAL YEAR 2025

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**In the spirit of reconciliation, The Funding Network acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and honours their connections to land, sea and community.**

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders past and present and embrace the challenge to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation and change for all. We accept the generous invitation extended by First Nations people in the Uluru Statement From The Heart to walk together in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

# The Funding Network Australia

**The Funding Network Australia (TFN) is a pioneer in finding and funding exceptional grassroots non-profits and social enterprises.**

We provide compelling social change projects addressing entrenched disadvantage with access to a network of people and organisations who want to contribute to and create a better world. We make giving simple and fun so that everyone can contribute and join a network of givers.

TFN is a catalyst and amplifier of more than 300 emerging charities and 2,200 leaders. Since 2013, TFN has facilitated over \$32 million for the non-profit sector. We vet and guide the organisations we work with through shortlisting to presenting at live crowdfunding events and then provide ongoing support so that the people who donate to them have confidence in their impact and will continue to give to grassroots programs.

## Impact to December 2025



**208**

Live Crowdfunding Events



**\$32.1 Million**

Facilitated\*



**26,138**

Guests

**2,281**

Leaders Coached



**634**

Programs Funded



**\$1.2 Million**

Pro Bono Support for our Alumni



*\*includes funds raised at or following events where TFN did not process the donations*



### OUR VISION

A generous and inclusive society where everyone can thrive, and everyone can contribute to a better world.

### OUR PURPOSE

To ignite grassroots giving for impact.

### OUR MISSION

To build the capacity of grassroots non-profits, deepen the culture of giving and facilitate greater community engagement.

# A message from the Chair and CEO

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year has reminded us of the extraordinary strength of the TFN network – everyday Australians, philanthropic partners, grassroots leaders and corporate supporters who believe in the power of collective giving. It's this network that makes TFN possible, and as CEO and Board Chair, we are proud to open our FY25 Annual Review by celebrating a year shaped by your commitment, compassion and belief in what we can achieve together.

Over the past 12 months, we've seen growth across every revenue category. Our shift to a theme-based Flagship program, supported by deeper partnerships and an increasingly compelling employee engagement offering, is strengthening TFN's long-term sustainability. The 40 percent increase in pledges at events is expected to support nearly 12,000 people through projects advancing thriving young people, First Nations communities, equity and inclusion, and stronger local communities.

Behind every number is someone who stepped onto the TFN stage with courage, and a community who responded with generosity. These moments are the spark that turns potential into impact.

Alumni tell us they leave TFN with stronger storytelling skills, new networks and an enduring sense of connection. Donors tell us they return because TFN offers something rare: powerful stories, a shared giving experience and the opportunity to learn directly from community leaders doing the work. In FY25, this translated into more than \$600,000 in post-event donations and over \$380,000 in pro bono and in-kind support; proof of the ripple effect your generosity creates.

None of this is possible without our ever-growing network, who show up with open hearts and a belief that every contribution – no matter the size – can spark change. And of course, our team, pitch coaches, Board, volunteers and event partners bring this generosity to life. Your faith in TFN creates the conditions where giving can flourish.

This year, TFN passed a major milestone: more than \$32 million facilitated since 2013 for 634 nonprofit programs, bringing together more than 25,500 people to witness the power of grassroots social change. The message is clear: Australians want to give, and when we create trusted, compelling pathways to do so, generosity spreads.

The butterfly, both our logo and our symbol, represents the heart of our work: the belief that a small action, when shared and amplified by a community, can create far-reaching change. Every

pitch, pledge and story is a tiny wingbeat. And because of you, those wingbeats are creating a wave of impact across Australia.

As you read this Annual Review, we invite you to see it not only as a record of what's been achieved, but as an invitation to what comes next. With your continued partnership, TFN will keep unleashing Australia's capacity for good, backing the innovators and local leaders who are reshaping our communities for the better.

Thank you for helping us create an Australia where generosity and possibility take flight.



Shaun Kamler  
Chair of the Board

Kristen Lark  
Chief Executive Officer

# In FY2025, almost 12,000 Australians were supported through TFN-backed programs

In FY2025 our network gathered together across Australia to back frontline leaders innovating workable solutions for some of our most complex social problems. By focusing our Flagship events on what matters now, and moving quickly as the world shifts, we have helped more ideas become practical help in classrooms, clinics, kitchens, on Country and beyond. That is the power of collaboration – where working together with purpose creates impactful change.

**Together, we can shape a brighter, more inclusive future by investing in grassroots organisations helping people in need.**

| STOCK             | BID   | OFFER | LAST  | VOL |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| GOLD HYDROGEN     | 0.730 | 0.540 | 0.530 | 4HT |
| GOB RIVER DIAMOND | 0.037 | 0.040 | 0.038 | 50T |
| GLOBAL LITHIUM R  | 0.185 | 0.190 | 0.185 | 45T |
| GLADIATOR RSC     | 0.008 | 0.009 | 0.008 | 50T |
| GLOBE INTERNATIO  | 3.240 | 3.500 | 3.370 | 151 |
| GLG CORP LTD      | 0.175 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0   |
| GLOBAL HEALTH     | 0.115 | 0.135 | 0.000 | 0   |
| GALLEE ENERGY     | 0.115 | 0.008 | 0.007 | 1M  |
| GALAN LITHIUM     | 0.110 | 0.115 | 0.110 | 2M  |
| GENESIS MINERALS  | 3.630 | 3.730 | 3.710 | 5M  |
| GOODMAN GROUP     | 31.67 | 31.72 | 31.81 | 3M  |
| GOLD MINING       | 0.022 | 0.023 | 0.022 | 1HT |
| GOLD MOUNTAIN     | 0.001 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0   |
| GRANDCORP         | 8.820 | 8.890 | 8.820 | 8HT |
| GR ENGINEERING S  | 2.980 | 3.000 | 2.980 | 1HT |
| GREAT NORTHERN M  | 0.018 | 0.015 | 0.000 | 0   |
| GENIUSPLUS GROUP  | 2.900 | 3.010 | 2.950 | 2HT |
| THE GO2 PEOPLE    | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0   |
| GOLD ROAD RESOUR  | 2.810 | 2.830 | 2.820 | 11M |
| GROWING BRISB     | 2.880 | 2.850 | 2.850 | 4T  |
| GROWTHPOINT PROP  | 2.880 | 2.800 | 2.830 | 5HT |
| GEORGIC RES       | 0.022 | 0.023 | 0.022 | 88T |

## FY25 in Numbers



**13**

Live Crowdfunding Events



**39**

Programs Funded



**\$1.8 Million**

Facilitated\*



**161**

Leaders Coached



**\$257,500**

Additional Donations Reported After the Event



**11,954**

People Impacted by Funding Support



**1,641**

Guests



**\$382,900**

Pro Bono Support for our Alumni

\*includes funds raised at events where TFN did not process the donations

## FY25 was characterised by growth and collaboration...

### Strategic focus, community results

By organising our Flagship program around impact areas, we could move quickly to where help was needed most. First Nations, Thriving Young People, Equity & Inclusion, and Local Communities events funded programs spanning employment pathways, youth unemployment, justice-involved women, people seeking asylum and refugees.

### TFN Alumni: capability that compounds

TFN facilitated over \$1.8 million to grassroots organisations this year, and our Alumni reported a further \$258,000 directly linked to their TFN involvement – proof that the energy of a single event keeps compounding through networks, introductions, and follow-on backing.

### Practical change on the ground

Our First Nations pilot event didn't just raise funds; it resourced concrete roles and programs – from hiring a full-time coordinator for Salty Monkeys' Marine Debris Task Force to cultural knowledge recording and enterprise growth – turning local leadership into sustained capacity.



Angelique Wan

Founder & CEO



THE  
FUNDING  
NETWORK  
AUSTRALIA

# THRIVING YOUNG PEOPLE

LIVE CROWDFUNDING EVENT

IMPACT AREAS

# Strategic focus, community results



ASX

# Local Communities

**Vibrant, resilient and connected communities are essential to Australia. We seek to support local and regional communities by featuring local grassroots organisations addressing their area's greatest needs, placing local people at the centre of decision making and deepening community connections.**

In FY25, TFN supported an event in Canberra. Our regional partnerships with Give Where You Live Foundation Geelong and United Way Glenelg continue to activate impact in local communities.

**\$126,015**

dollars raised  
supporting an anticipated

**70**

people in communities in Canberra and surrounds.



# Grassroots programs supported:



## Fearless Women

Canberra, September 2024

**\$52,800**

Funding supported their Mentor Program, including community promotion and contributing to the wages for staff managing and delivering the program components..



## Tender Funerals Canberra

Canberra, September 2024

**\$37,675**

Funding kickstarted their Pay It Forward Benevolent Fund, which ensures that families in financial need can also access meaningful funerals without fear of debt or increased grief.



## Women's Justice Network

Canberra, September 2024

**\$35,540**

Funding facilitated their Healing from Within (HFW) Group Program led by women with lived experiences of custody.



"I had the privilege of meeting the women in the Alexander Maconochie Centre the day after The Funding Network Event. The women were so grateful... Not only have you enabled a new program to be rolled out you have shown the women that people CARE and this goes a long way to these women believing in themselves."

**Gloria Larman**  
CEO, Women's Justice Network



Watch: Highlights -  
Canberra



# Community-Built Farewells

TENDER FUNERALS, CANBERRA REGION  
LOCAL COMMUNITIES, 2024

**At Tender Funerals Canberra Region, a funeral is not a product, it is a rite of passage built by your community. General Manager Catherine Prosser describes their approach as “neutral and normal” - no assumptions, no pressure, just clear choices and time.**

That sense of collective care is exactly what TFN supporters backed in Canberra in September 2024. Donor pledges kick-started Tender’s Pay It Forward Benevolent Fund, a funding pool that reduces costs for families in financial stress while keeping every funeral at cost. In the first year, 21 families who could not otherwise have afforded a meaningful funeral were supported. For their

other families, not in hardship, their at-cost funeral price includes a contribution of \$250, with some families choosing to donate even more – a quiet act of solidarity that keeps the fund turning over. Over time, Catherine expects a simple equilibrium to hold: roughly 80% contribute, 20 % receive. It is neighbourliness, formalised.

What changes when people are invited to take part? Pride, first. Catherine sees families walk out taller because they discovered they could do more than they thought. Confidence follows. When a community can witness, wash, carry, sing, or simply sit without being rushed, people

stop spending energy trying to understand a confusing system and start spending it on what matters to them.

Catherine has a simple way of explaining why this works. “Our brains are anticipation machines. We live as if what happened yesterday will happen today – two cups of coffee on the bench, Mum ringing at four. Death shatters those patterns, and grief is the slow work of retraining the brain. Meaningful, uninterrupted rituals help begin that reset.” In this way, the ritual does not erase sadness, it lays a stronger foundation for tomorrow.

All of this sits inside a bigger cultural project: normalising death as community work. Tender’s team dresses smart-casual, asks plain questions, and keeps language human. Community talks run long because once people have the opportunity, they have a lot to say. A new annual picnic will bring families back to the same place where they farewelled loved ones, this time to swap stories and share food.

TFN’s role was to help the circle form faster. A year on, you can feel the difference in the rooms where people gather, the networks that show up, the kids who decorate a nameplate in their own handwriting and take it home after the cremation. When care is shared, grief changes shape – and a community remembers how to carry its dead, together.



“

Our brains are anticipation machines. We live as if what happened yesterday will happen today – two cups of coffee on the bench, Mum ringing at four. Death shatters those patterns, and grief is the slow work of retraining the brain. Meaningful, uninterrupted rituals help begin that reset.

**Catherine Prosser**  
**General Manager, Tender Funerals**  
**Canberra Region**

# First Nations

**Strong, self-determined First Nations communities are essential to Australia. We support organisations who place First Nations people at the centre of decision making and back community-led enterprises with trust-based, flexible funding so culture, Country and livelihoods can thrive.**

In FY25, funding built enterprise, protected culture and cared for Country. It developed Indigenous Futures Foundation's corporate catering marketplace 'Love Ya Corporate Catering'; enabled ExHale Events to fund their Roots of the Earth program recording and sharing cultural knowledge; and resourced Salty Monkeys to expand their Marine Debris Task Force with a full-time coordinator for clean-ups and engagement.

**\$210,661**

dollars raised  
supporting an anticipated

**2,515**

First Nations people across Australia and the Torres Strait Islands



# Grassroots programs supported:



## Indigenous Futures Foundation

November 2024

**\$59,664**

Funding supported their latest social enterprise, Love Ya Corporate Catering, and to expand their remote food hub network while continuing education on growing and cooking healthy food.



## xHalEvents

November 2024

**\$62,398**

Funding supported "Roots of the Earth", a project that captures the voices and stories of First Nations storytellers, elders, and community members from diverse locations across Australia.



## Salty Monkeys

November 2024

**\$88,599**

Money raised enhanced their Marine Debris Task Force (MDTF) by hiring a full-time employee to manage clean-up operations and engage local communities in the Torres Strait Islands.



"I honestly didn't expect to have the support of all of Australia - and that's how it felt tonight. When I think about what we can do together, it just fills me with so much gratitude and confidence."

**Levi Joel Tamou**

**Founder, Indigenous Futures Foundation**



# Our First Nations Crowdfunding Pilot

**A co-designed, strength-based approach to backing First Nations enterprises and leaders.**

In collaboration with Esparq Ventures and TFN’s First Nations Alumni Advisory Council, we created an approach that centres lived experience, recognises different indicators of success and focuses on building a sustainable pipeline of resilient First Nations enterprises, rather than funding one-off projects.

## First Nations-led design and governance

The selection criteria, application process and final decisions were shaped and made by TFN’s First Nations Alumni Advisory Council, convened by Esparq Ventures. This Council of experienced First Nations leaders from our non-profit Alumni network brought deep community insight to every stage of the pilot, from identifying priorities to selecting the three presenting enterprises. Their leadership ensured the event reflected community needs, aspirations and definitions of success.

## A strength-based, enterprise-focused funding model

The pilot focused on early-stage, First Nations-founded and led social enterprises working in regional Australia. Applicants were assessed on passion, purpose, demonstrated community need and clarity about the impact and use of funds. Rather than applying narrow, mainstream metrics, the process recognised the “founder’s right to win” – backing character, connection and community outcomes alongside business potential.

## Capacity building through tailored pitch coaching

Indigenous Futures Foundation, Salty Monkeys and xHalEvents received tailored pitch coaching from a First Nations pitch coach to prepare a six-minute pitch and clear funding ask. This professional development strengthened their storytelling, sharpened their investment propositions and provided a reusable video asset, setting them up to leverage new opportunities well beyond the event night.



**Darryl Majid**  
Event Partner  
First Nations  
Advisory Council



**Troy Benjamin**  
MC & Pledging  
Facilitator



**Kylie-Lee Bradford**  
First Nations Pitch  
Coach



**Liandra Gaykamangu**  
First Nations  
Advisory Council



**Bek Laksy**  
First Nations  
Advisory Council



**Corey Tutt OAM**  
First Nations  
Advisory Council



# Tides of Action in the Torres Strait

SALTY MONKEYS  
FIRST NATIONS, 2024

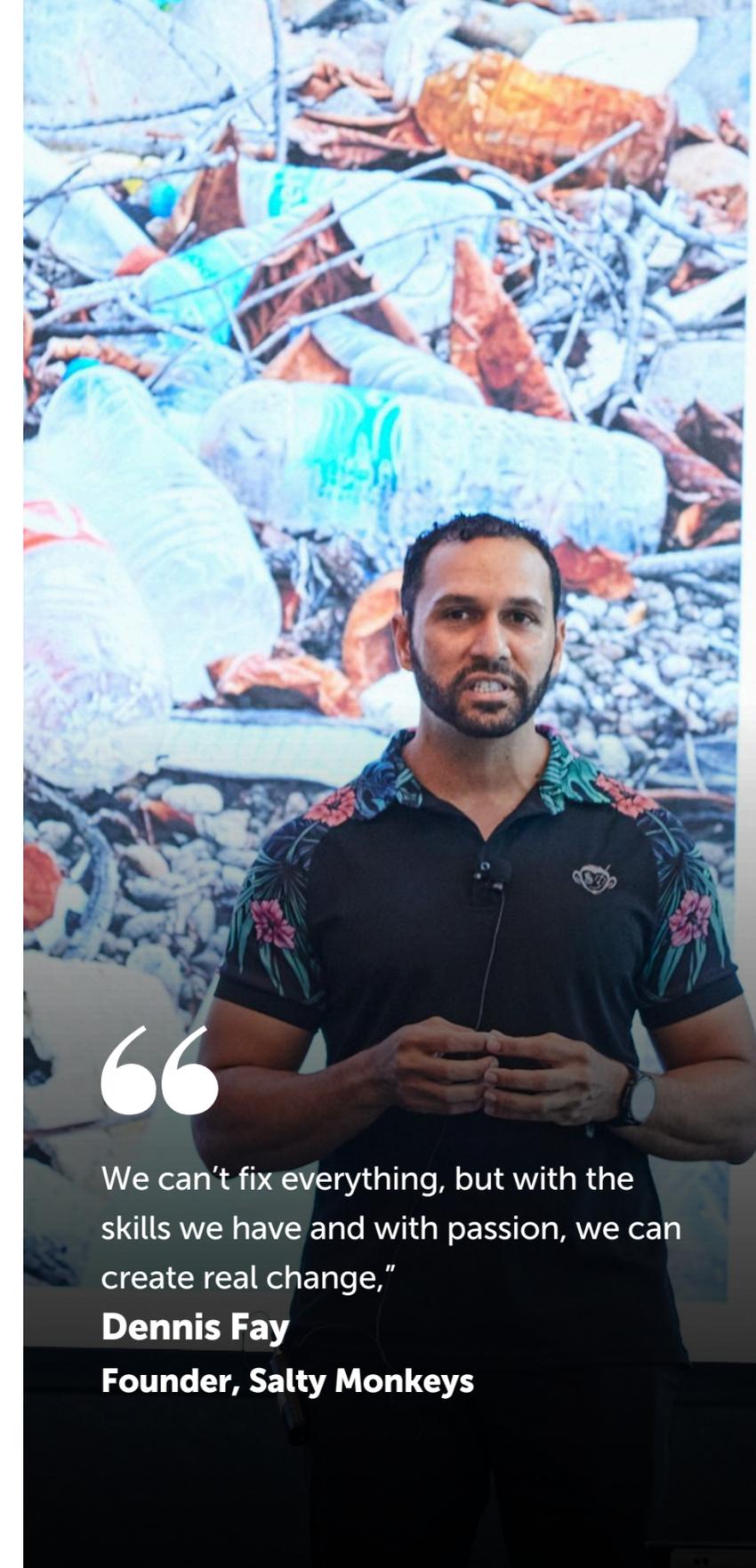
**What started as a few mates documenting spearfishing in the Torres Strait has become Salty Monkeys, a mission-led brand founded by proud Torres Strait Islander Dennis Fay. For him, the ocean was a playground, then a teacher, a provider, and finally a calling. The idea has grown into a movement with one mission: to strengthen connections with the community, history and the natural world.**

Since pitching at TFN’s First Nations event in November 2024, the Marine Debris Taskforce has run multiple clean-ups – one stretch alone yielded more than 400 kilos – and rallied up to 80 volunteers at a time. On Friday Island they cleared a beach in December only to find it covered again within months, most of the debris drifting in from overseas. This stark reality has shaped the model.

Salty Monkeys keeps it circular: clean-ups lead to data, the data points crews to the worst-hit beaches, and the waste collected is mapped and tested for reuse, while sales of apparel made from recycled plastics fund the next round. Local teams learn mapping and drone skills, then lead the clean-ups themselves. Over the last year they’ve engaged around ten per cent of the region’s population, trained locals to collect high-quality data to target the worst-hit beaches, and begun filming an online series with a First Nations production crew to grow awareness and markets for their apparel. The goal is a fully professional operation that employs local people year-round, with dive and adventure products made from recycled materials helping to fund on-Country programs.

The local community in the Torres Strait knows that cleaner shores protect fragile reef ecosystems. Skills in surveying, drones and content production open pathways for young people. And community pride grows with every bag of debris removed. As one elder told Dennis, the work is about more than beaches; it is about restoring pride and building a legacy for future generations.

TFN’s role was to back what the community was already building: “We can’t fix everything, but with the skills we have and with passion, we can create real change,” explains Dennis. “We’re looking for innovative solutions to turn this waste into a resource.”



“

We can’t fix everything, but with the skills we have and with passion, we can create real change,”

**Dennis Fay**

**Founder, Salty Monkeys**



# Thriving Young People

**We support and champion community-driven collaborations for young people that bring together the right individuals, resources and ideas aimed at breaking cycles of disadvantage and reducing inequalities.**

In FY25, programs supported improving health and well-being, access to quality education, school to work transition, and employment to achieve social connectedness, personal significance and emotional wellbeing.

**\$557,062**

dollars raised  
supporting an anticipated

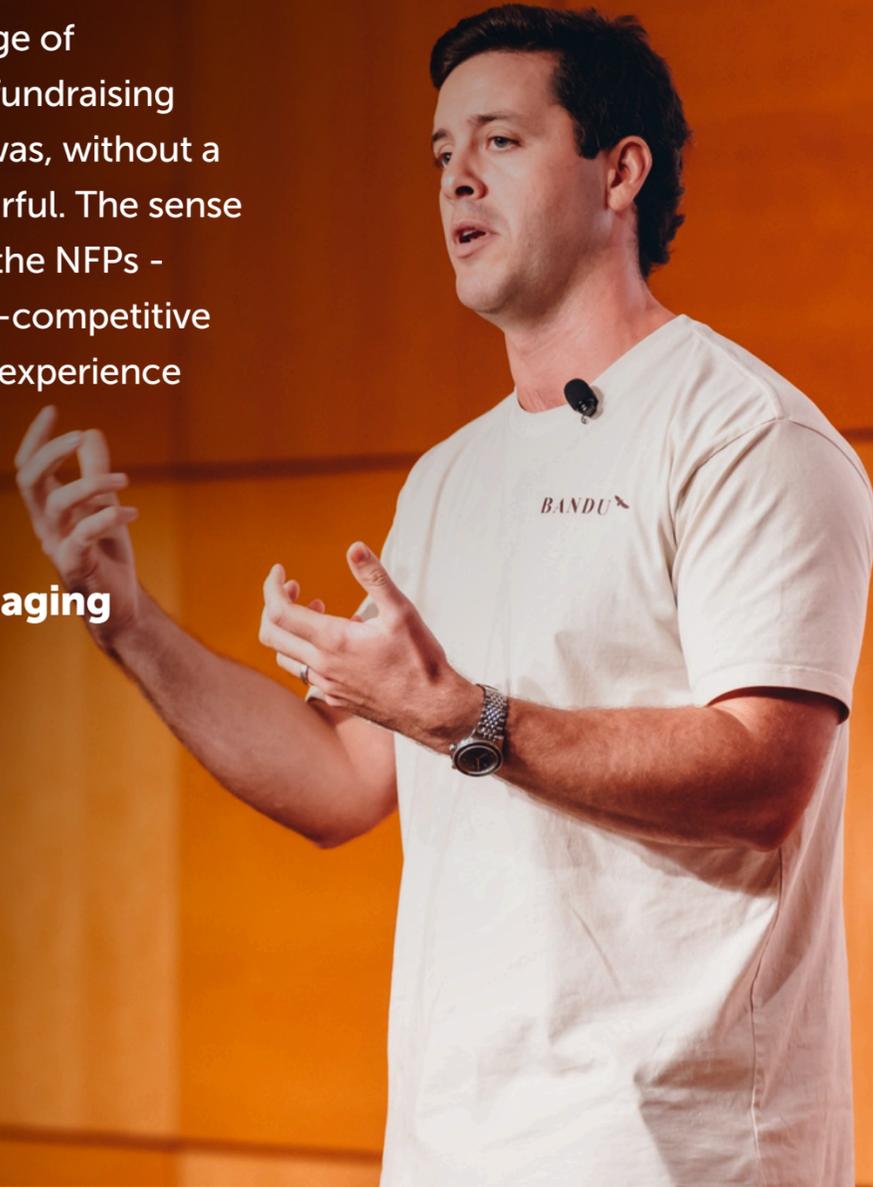
**5,276**

young people around Australia.

# Thriving Young People, Sydney

“We’ve had the privilege of participating in a few fundraising pitch nights, but this was, without a doubt, the most powerful. The sense of collegiality among the NFPs - fostered by TFN’s non-competitive approach - made this experience truly special.”

**Edward Morgan**  
**Co-Founder & Managing**  
**Director, Bandu**



## **Australian Refugee Volunteers**

**March 2025**

**\$95,700**

To expand programs supporting refugee and asylum seeker children.



## **Bandu Organisation**

**March 2025**

**\$123,456**

To provide culturally safe housing for First Nations apprentices relocating for trade careers.



## **Grow The Future**

**March 2025**

**\$132,551**

To equip young people in the Bega Valley with confidence, skills, and employment pathways.



# Building Belonging in Western Sydney

AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE VOLUNTEERS  
THRIVING YOUNG PEOPLE, 2025

**When you are a teenager navigating a new language, new rules and a new city, belonging can feel very far away. Australian Refugee Volunteers (ARV) exists to close that distance for young people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds, creating a safe, consistent community where confidence grows, friendships form and everyday skills compound.**

Entirely volunteer-run and based in Western Sydney, ARV delivers social, educational and recreational activities anchored in three principles: building personal confidence, creating social connection and enabling learning and development.

For a charity powered solely by volunteers, raising \$95,700 - more than triple their target - in one night did not just widen the plan, it reset the horizon. "The TFN funding has been absolutely amazing and game-changing for us," says Sally Yu, ARV's Volunteer Grants Manager. "It challenged us to think bigger, about who we can reach, the kinds of activities we can run and how we look after the volunteers who make it all possible."

ARV moved quickly to mobilise the funding to create more variety and more stability for those enrolled in their programmes. "I'd say first was probably diversifying activities... laser tag, go-karting and being able to expand the types of

things we can offer," says Sally. "One of the key events was the flagship annual camp and we brought it back. We couldn't have done it without TFN funding." What followed mattered most: attendance rose, more participants opted into physically and socially demanding sessions, and one teen summed up the confidence shift by saying, "If I can do this, I can try anything."

And it's working. Young people who met at camp are showing up for each other at weekday sessions, and kids from different suburbs and schools are building friendships that wouldn't exist otherwise. The team is also laying groundwork to reach beyond Western Sydney into South-West, South and North-West Sydney, starting with local partnerships and more regular social media outreach where families already are.

More than half of humanitarian arrivals are under 18, and the stresses of forced migration run deep. ARV meets that reality with consistent relationships and moments of joy. TFN support did not simply fund more outings, it brought back anchor experiences, opened pathways to new skills and helped ARV alumni step into leadership. The result is young people who are more confident, families who can rely on safe, structured time, and volunteers who see their efforts multiply through the next cohort.



ARV groups attend Go-Karting, 2025

## The path to youth leader: Meet Aziz

Aziz first joined ARV as a teenager from a refugee background, arriving with limited local networks and little confidence in his English. After taking part in weekly programmes and the multi-day camp, he found his footing, built friendships and began helping younger participants. He has since become an active volunteer, a clear example of how belonging and skills translate into leadership. ARV is formalising this alumni to volunteer pathway, restarting a charities programme where teens serve others, shaping a youth advisory group so current clients can influence programme design, and codifying training and recognition so more alumni like Aziz can step into roles with assurance and continue the cycle of support.

# Thriving Young People, Melbourne



## Future Minds Network

March 2025

**\$66,000**

To expand their Young Artists Centre and entrepreneurship education programs.



## Read The Play

March 2025

**\$68,000**

To deliver up to 50 free mental health literacy programs to junior players at local sports clubs in the Barwon region.



## Gnarly Neighbours

March 2025

**\$71,355**

To expand their Positive Neighbourhood Pathways Project, a volunteer-to-employment program providing hands-on training in hospitality, retail, printing, and design.

“This funding means over 50 young people will transition from volunteer work to paid employment, gaining hands-on experience in barista training, hospitality, retail, printing, design, events & more! Together, we’re creating real pathways for Victoria’s youth. The future is looking even more Gnarly for our young people - watch this space!”



**Jayden Sheridan**

**Founder, Gnarly Neighbours**



**Watch: Highlights - Thriving Young People, Melbourne**



# Making Space for Young Artists

**FUTURE MINDS NETWORK**  
THRIVING YOUNG PEOPLE, 2025

**Nathaniel Diong can still pinpoint the moment his ideas of education were reset. A school excursion took him from a classroom where he felt invisible into a room where professionals were given 48 hours to solve a real-world problem. Hearing about design thinking, pitching and business modelling showed him that learning could be energetic and hopeful. He took that spark back to school, ran his first entrepreneurship programme in 2017, and kept going.**

Today Nathaniel leads Future Minds Network, a youth innovation charity that pairs creativity with practical learning, providing hands-on programs in entrepreneurship and life skills, linking young people to mentors, industry and paid

opportunities across schools and communities.

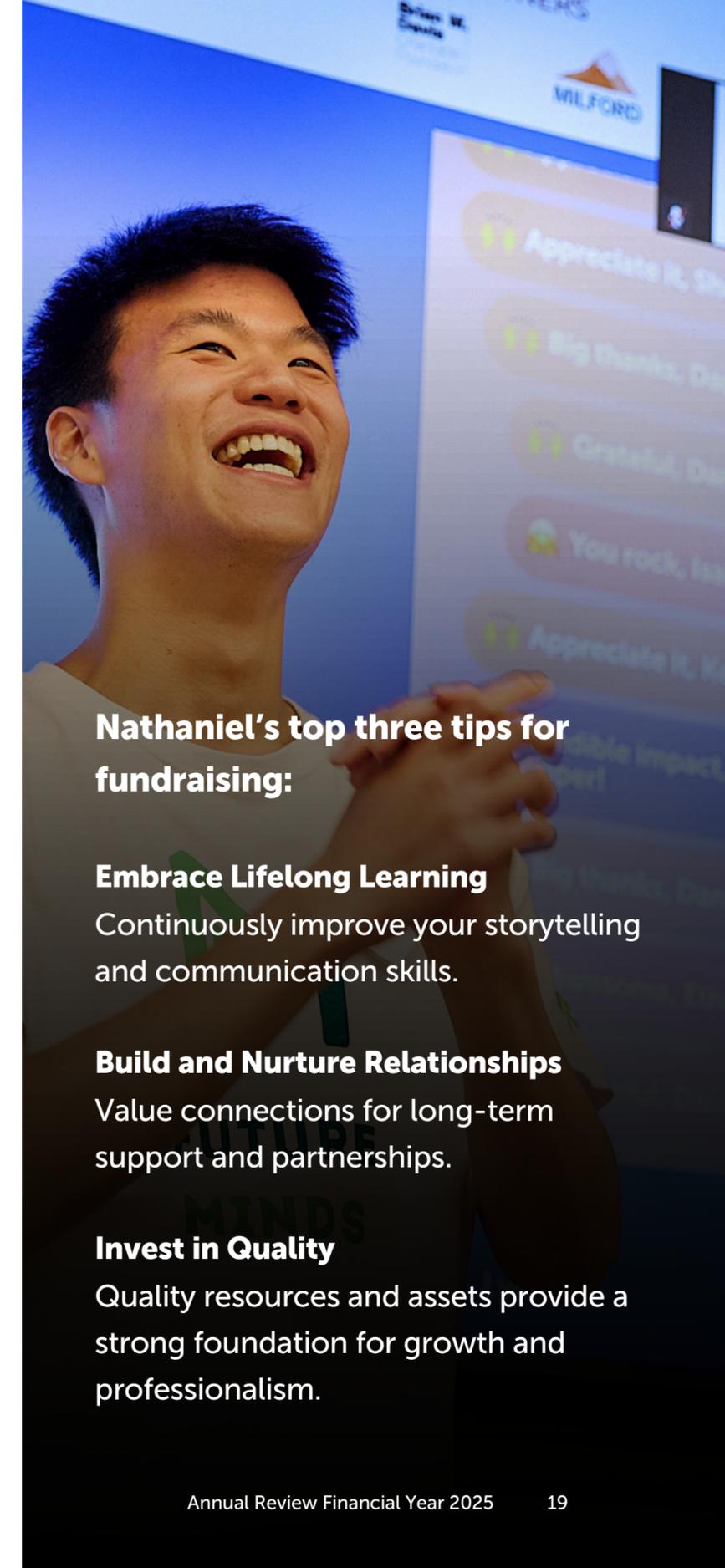
In March 2025, at Evans & Partners in Melbourne, TFN donors committed \$66,000 to Future Minds Network's Young Artist Centre. The program turns artistic passions like crochet, jewellery and mixed media into micro-businesses, with training in pricing, sales, negotiation, marketing and business modelling. "TFN just came at just the right time to be able to give us that leg up to keep this legacy going," Nathaniel says.

Over three-months, fifteen young, underrepresented artists built skills, grew their businesses, and discovered their creative voices. Each week they attended skill-building workshops, mentoring, and business coaching.

They officially registered their ABNs, practice customer conversations, and refine their brands. They participated in studio sessions, where they were paid to teach their craft, and were given dedicated shopfronts at markets and festivals to start selling their work and earning real income. The programme culminated in a showcase where they pitched, ran their own stalls, and auctioned their work to the local community.

The numbers show early agency. "At the start, roughly 40% of the participants were at zero revenue. By program close, four in five were earning money," Nathaniel says. More important was what the earnings represented. Teenagers who arrived shy and hesitant were standing at stalls, setting prices with confidence and explaining their work to strangers. An online community now hums with product ideas, stall photos and invitations to upcoming markets, keeping momentum between events. "It's so incredible to see how active the community is. We finished over a month ago, and artists are still collaborating online," Nathaniel says.

Partnerships have turned funding into real-world practice. Hume City Council provided venues for weekly training and the final showcase, along with on-site support. Local retailers and festivals offered free trading space so young people could set up and sell. The spark Nathaniel carried back to school all those years ago now lights the way for young creators to earn, belong and choose their futures.



## **Nathaniel's top three tips for fundraising:**

### **Embrace Lifelong Learning**

Continuously improve your storytelling and communication skills.

### **Build and Nurture Relationships**

Value connections for long-term support and partnerships.

### **Invest in Quality**

Quality resources and assets provide a strong foundation for growth and professionalism.



# Equity & Inclusion

**We believe all people should have equal access to employment, education and economic opportunity and that a sense of belonging and well-being is essential for people to reach their full potential and contribute to a thriving society.**

In FY25 we supported programs aimed at people who have experienced disadvantage, isolation and/or exclusion and seek to bring different voices and perspectives together in the areas of gender equity, cultural cohesion, inclusion and diversity, including women and girls, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ , seniors and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

**\$268,656**

dollars raised  
supporting an estimated

**4,093**

people around Australia.

# Equity & Inclusion, Sydney



## Women's Resilience Centre

May 2025

**\$25,633**

Supporting women recovering from trauma with holistic programs focused on healing and empowerment.



## Remote OpShop Project

May 2025

**\$31,860**

Empowering remote First Nations communities by creating local employment, and promoting sustainable, community-led economic development.



## Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Cooperative

May 2025

**\$24,591**

Strengthening social connection and community well-being through intergenerational programs, social services and activities.

"Your generosity is more than just a donation, it's a powerful investment in dignity, equity, and opportunity. These aren't just shops, they are lifelines, places of connection, and platforms for empowerment."

**Tanya Egerton**  
Founder, Remote OpShop Project



**Watch: Highlights - Sydney**



# Equity & Inclusion, Melbourne



## The Big Umbrella

June 2025

**\$25,101**

To launch a scalable, innovative food relief model using pre-packaged meals and community food vending machines across Victoria.



## Left Write Hook

June 2025

**\$38,306**

To deliver a trauma-informed creative boxing and writing program for marginalised women and gender-diverse people in Moorabbin.



## About Time

June 2025

**\$35,172**

To expand the reach and impact of Australia's only national prison newspaper, amplifying incarcerated voices across more facilities.



“Pitching at TFN was incredibly powerful for us. We could feel the room’s passion for Australia’s national prison newspaper, and I’ve since heard about the brave stories people shared and how deeply they were moved. The event didn’t just raise funds – it helped bring hidden stories to light, build connection between people inside and outside prison, and gave our team new confidence in the impact of our work.”

**Joseph Friedman**  
**About Time Media**



# Reclaiming Self

LEFT WRITE HOOK  
EQUITY & INCLUSION, 2025

**In a boxing gym in inner Melbourne, small groups sit with notebooks, write what needs processing, share what they choose, then lace up for non-contact drills. Donna Lyon founded Left Write Hook to help adult survivors of childhood abuse and gendered violence reclaim body and voice. “We are a survivor-led charity that runs an eight-week, trauma-informed writing and non-contact boxing program as ways to regain agency and power,” explains Donna.**

TFN’s relationship with Left Write Hook began in 2023. Donna engaged TFN to run a live crowdfunding event alongside a special screening of her documentary, Left Write Hook, at Rivoli Cinemas in Melbourne, raising funds for

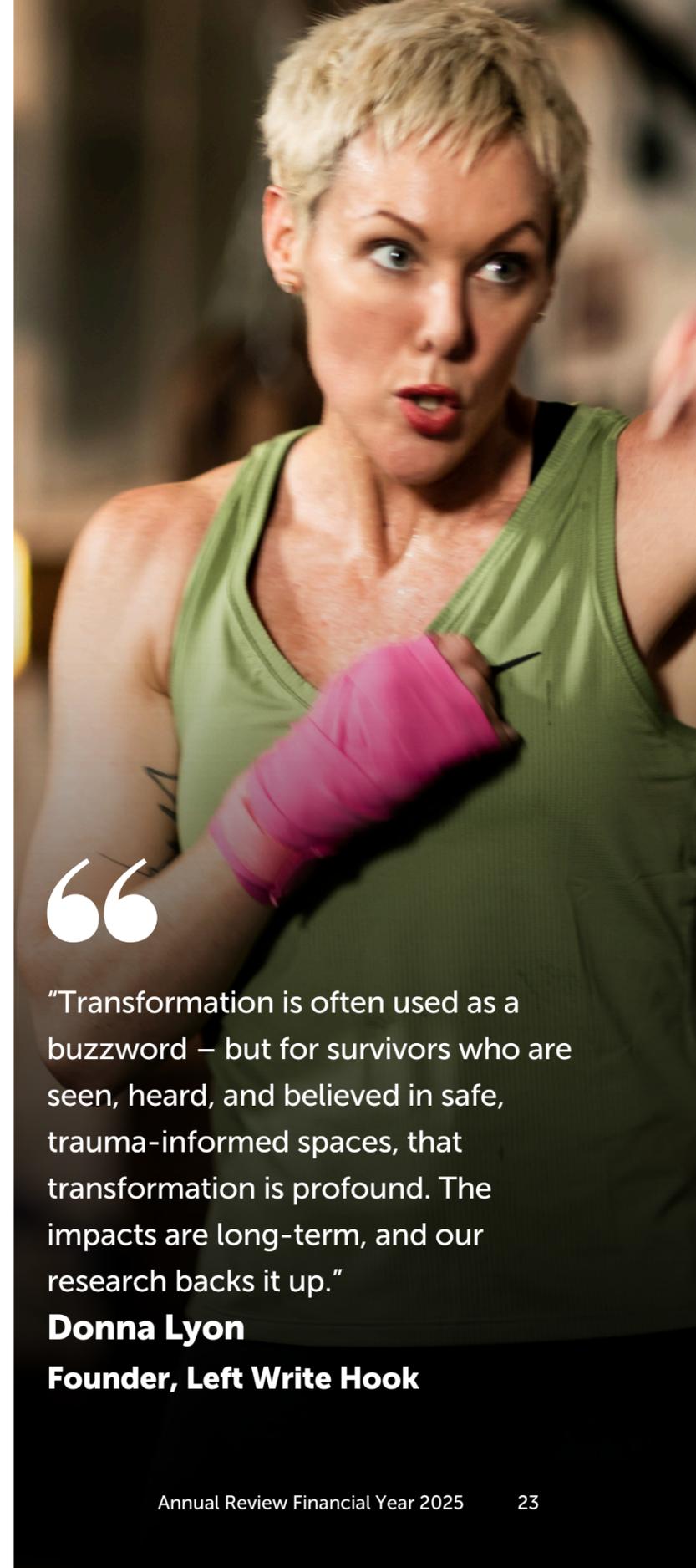
the film’s social impact campaign. The night became a launchpad for the new charity, building momentum and funding support. As Donna recalls, “That night was not only instrumental in backing the film, it was the beginning of backing our charity.”

Fast forward to TFN’s Equity & Inclusion event in June 2025, where the TFN network raised over \$38,000 to help expand Left Write Hook’s eight-week, survivor-led writing and non-contact boxing program and strengthen its evidence base. Donna remembers the feeling in the room: “I think that night was a very powerful one – the biggest impact for us happened in the room, with conversations of validation and people understanding deeply the need for what we do and the why.”

A two-year randomised controlled trial with the University of Melbourne is now underway to test Left Write Hook’s model. “In our pilot research, the data demonstrated reductions in PTSD, complex PTSD, depression and stress, and increases in personal agency, belonging and resilience,” says Donna. The trial compares boxing-only with the full Left Write Hook program of trauma-informed writing alongside non-contact boxing. It will also track how long any changes last at follow-up, alongside safety, adherence and cost-effectiveness, with completion due in 2026.

The program is careful about storytelling, and Donna is conscious of giving people the tools and support to share safely “I think it’s finding people who genuinely want to tell their story in a way that feels meaningful to their recovery. You have to navigate it carefully, because sometimes you feel ready and then realise you’re not,” says Donna. “We take a trauma-informed approach and have deep discussions about the impacts of sharing – the load and the repercussions – so hopefully the benefits outweigh the risks.”

Left Write Hook gives survivors language and stance – and a way to carry both into everyday life. With the TFN network behind them and rigorous research underway, the work can reach more people and show what it changes – helping survivors reclaim agency and carry that strength into everyday life.



“

“Transformation is often used as a buzzword – but for survivors who are seen, heard, and believed in safe, trauma-informed spaces, that transformation is profound. The impacts are long-term, and our research backs it up.”

**Donna Lyon**  
**Founder, Left Write Hook**

# Equity & Inclusion, Brisbane

"You're helping us expand our Good Neighbours Program and walk alongside newly arrived refugee and migrant families as they build a sense of belonging in Australia. Your support means more than just funding, it means hope, dignity, and community for those starting a new chapter of life. We are so excited for what's ahead!"

**Kinda Flaha**  
Community Engagement Director,  
You Belong



## Project HerSelf

June 2025

**\$28,327**

Empowering incarcerated women with self-directed tools to plan for reintegration, promoting autonomy and successful community re-entry.



## You Belong

June 2025

**\$29,167**

Expanding the Good Neighbours program, a volunteer network to help refugees and migrants build connection, confidence, and belonging.



## Sheltered by Grace

June 2025

**\$30,500**

Delivering holistic recovery programs that empower people experiencing homelessness to achieve lasting independence.



# Justice Begins with Care

**PROJECT:HERSELF**  
EQUITY & INCLUSION, 2025

**Hope is often the first intervention. Few understand that like Tahlia Isaac. A criminologist, and mother of two, she founded Project:herSELF in 2024 after her own incarceration and post-release experience showed how little dignity, planning and peer support women were offered on the way out. The programme uses a Release Planning Journal and small-group sessions facilitated by women with lived experience. Their stance is simple: justice begins with care.**

“What drives us is that we are fully lived-experience led and staffed,” Tahlia says. “We are real, we are there, we have real stories. We can speak the language and connect on a faster, deeper level because we know what it is like to be in prison.” That credibility opens the door to agency in a place where almost nothing is self-

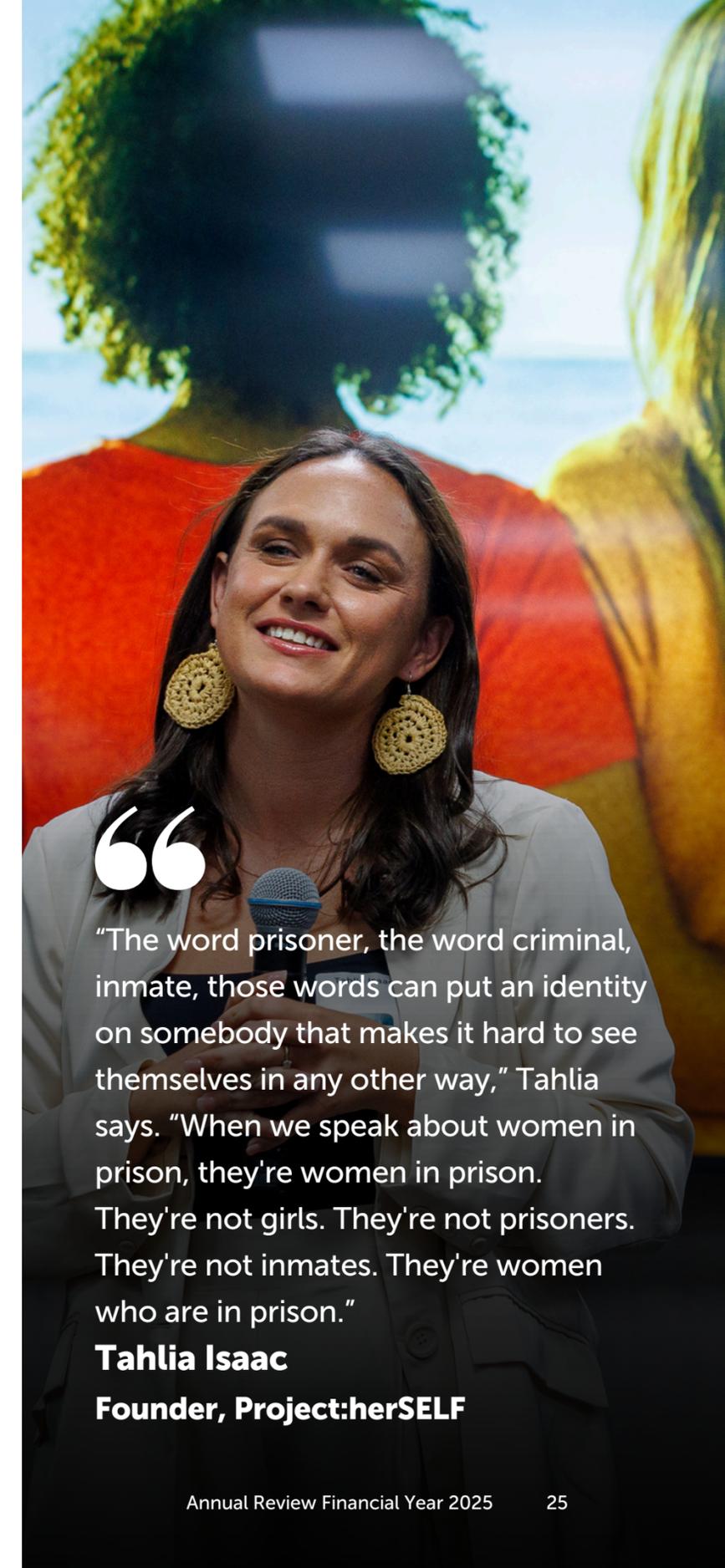
directed. Inside, facilitators model possibility, guide women to map housing, health, work and relationships, and help them sketch the first small steps that make a release plan real.

When Tahlia pitched at our Equity & Inclusion event in Brisbane, it was her first time pitching for any kind of funding. “I was really blown away that we were able to raise over \$28,000,” she says. “The night was excellent, and it has been a game changer for us.” Before the pitch, Project:herSELF was working in two Queensland prisons. Today the release planning programme is approved in five of the state’s six women’s prisons, with applications in for four more peer workers, two in South-East Queensland and two in the North. Pro bono printing has covered a portion of journals, which means more of the TFN support can go to wages and delivery.

The change is visible one woman at a time. In one session a participant listened as Tahlia shared part of her story and began to cry. “She said she could not believe it was possible to get out and not come back.” She completed her plan, was released, and reached out. In the months since, she has found employment, engaged in therapy and stabilised in the community. Early post-release, the team looks for steady contact, safe accommodation, key appointments kept and whether a woman feels she is where she wants to be. The first weeks are often chaotic and the plan offers structure when the outside world does not.

Language is part of the work. “The word prisoner, the word criminal, inmate, those words can put an identity on somebody that makes it hard to see themselves in any other way,” Tahlia says. “When we speak about women in prison, they’re women in prison. They’re not girls. They’re not prisoners. They’re not inmates. They’re women who are in prison.” That shift matters for the women themselves, for their families and for the community that will welcome them home.

Around 3,500 women are incarcerated nationally at a public cost of roughly \$1.5 million per day, and most serve less than six months. That is long enough to destabilise housing, employment and family life, yet often too short to access consistent support. Project:herSELF meets that gap with dignity, structure and peers who have made the same walk and stayed out. The programme now reaches most women in Queensland’s custody, with peer workers expanding and plans that women write for themselves. Because release can mean a reset.



“

“The word prisoner, the word criminal, inmate, those words can put an identity on somebody that makes it hard to see themselves in any other way,” Tahlia says. “When we speak about women in prison, they’re women in prison. They’re not girls. They’re not prisoners. They’re not inmates. They’re women who are in prison.”

**Tahlia Isaac**  
**Founder, Project:herSELF**



TFN ALUMNI NETWORK

# Powering grassroots leadership

Bianca Stern, Head of Impact at All Things Equal and TFN Board Observer, attends Thriving Young People, Melbourne 2025



**39**  
Programs Funded

**161**  
Leaders Coached

**\$382,900**  
Pro Bono Support for our Alumni

**100%**  
Alumni feel very supported by TFN

# TFN Alumni Program

**TFN’s coaching, connections and wrap-around support equip grassroots leaders to grow far beyond the event night.**



## **Stronger skills and confidence**

Every organisation that pitches with TFN takes part in tailored pitch coaching – and it’s paying off. In 2025, 97% of Alumni rated the workshop positively and 97% reported increased skills in presenting and communication, helping them tell their stories with greater clarity and confidence to any audience.



## **A trusted model that builds resilient organisations**

Alumni consistently affirm that the TFN model works in practice: 100% rated the model good or excellent and 100% rated their event very good. They point to tangible outcomes, including stronger organisations, more visibility and networks, donations both on the night and afterwards, and better capability to deliver programs on the ground.



## **New networks and ongoing support**

Critically, 100% of Alumni say they feel very supported by TFN after the event, and 95% value access to a new network of supporters. This mix of skills, credibility and wrap-around support helps organisations convert a single night of visibility into lasting relationships, funding and advocacy across our national network.



# A Network that Turns Generosity into Action

**Together, we're building a powerful, values-aligned community of support.**

## **An engaged community of givers**

In FY25, TFN's national network came together in force: 751 guests participated in our Flagship events, with 508 people choosing to give on the night – a 68% conversion rate. Together they pledged \$1,188,876, with an average pledge of \$2,340 per donor and \$1,583 per attendee. Our community doesn't stop at the pledge either – 399 introductions were created, extending support beyond the room through pro bono help, in-kind contributions and new relationships.



### **Experience**

81% rate the event  
"excellent"



### **Advocacy**

96% likely to recommend  
TFN

## **A trusted experience for donors and partners**

TFN's model continues to resonate strongly with our network. 81% of attendees rate TFN events "excellent" and 96% are likely to recommend them to others. Donors and partners tell us the most valuable elements are storytelling (100%), collective giving (94%) and learning about the causes (91%) – the combination of head, heart and action that keeps them coming back. Their feedback speaks to the "infectious" energy in the room, the "wonderful" hosting and the way events move people to tears and to action.

# Backing growth that lasts

## PNI FOUNDATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TFN

**PNI Foundation prides itself on being an early-stage backer, providing seed funding that helps high-potential organisations incubate new projects.**

“We initiated a partnership with TFN to further support the NFP sector and spread impact to more grassroots organisations,” says Alice Wheeler, Social Impact and Sustainability Manager. “We’ve seen first-hand the difference TFN’s alumni program can make as it nurtures teams over time.”

In FY25 this partnership flourished with live events and direct engagement with non-profit leaders. “A highlight for us was supporting TFN’s Thriving Young People event in Sydney,” Alice says. “Colleagues from Pinnacle Investment Management could see TFN in action, hear from Bandu, Australian Refugee Volunteers and Grow the Future, and show our support in the room.” The PNI Foundation also hosted an Alumni roundtable with batyr, a long-term partner which was discussed with TFN prior to the partnership commencing in 2017. “Watching batyr share hard-won lessons with newer NFPs was a privilege,” Alice reflects. “It was evident how much they’ve grown in capacity – and a reminder that nine

years ago they were just starting out too.”

For the PNI Foundation, reporting sits alongside the lived story of a partnership. “Not all impact can be measured,” Alice says. “Yes, we track workshop participation and report against budgets and proposals, but we also take our board and Affiliates on the journey, sharing real examples and testimonials, because collaboration and trust are part of the value we’re building.” That philosophy mirrors TFN’s approach – investing in the capacity of people and in the trust between a pitching non-profit and the network in the room.

Looking ahead, Alice sees even more to unlock together. “Working alongside partners like TFN is crucial as the PNI Foundation grows the reach and impact of creative, clever organisations,” she says. “We want to keep bringing our networks to the table and supporting high-potential NFPs. We aim to keep investing in leadership, fundraising and governance skills that help teams drive change from within.” Partnerships like the PNI Foundation’s power TFN’s mission, funding the mentoring, peer networks and practical skills that keep our Alumni thriving year after year.



Pinnacle Investment Management attend Thriving Young People at ASX in March, 2025



POWERED BY TFN

# Engaging People & Building Capacity

AirTrunk: Ignite Your Impact  
Powered by TFN

# Powered by TFN

## CATALYSING IMPACT

Powered by TFN is our suite of fee-for-service offerings that bring together live collective-giving experiences and practical capability building for non-profits, corporates and communities. We design and deliver high-energy events and programs that connect people to purpose, grow confidence in storytelling and fundraising, and move resources quickly to non-profit initiatives that work – while helping TFN diversify revenue and strengthen our own sustainability.



### Collective giving experiences

TFN's live, story-driven crowdfunding experiences harness individual giving or participatory grantmaking to engage, educate and inspire supporters in person, at work and online, connecting audiences directly to non-profit organisations and moving resources quickly and cost-effectively.



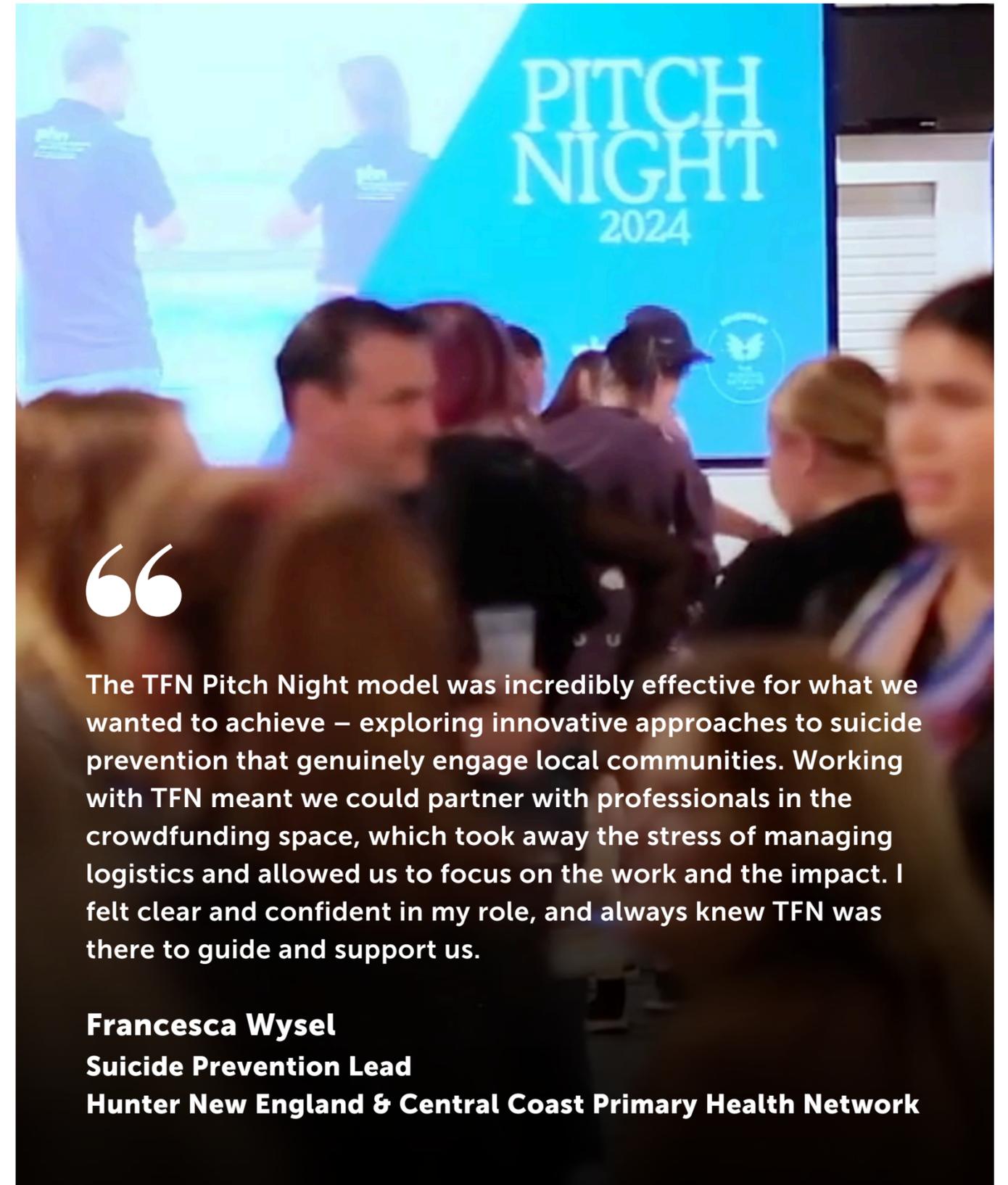
### Workplace giving & employee engagement

We design values-aligned giving experiences for teams - including giving weeks, conferences, watch parties and participatory grantmaking activations - where employees hear powerful pitches, take action together, offer pro-bono support and receive regular updates on the impact they've enabled.



### Impact storytelling & pitch coaching

Our non-profit workshops (group and 1:1) build narrative clarity, confident delivery and stronger asks, equipping leaders, boards and volunteers with practical tools and a digital toolkit to communicate outcomes and secure better funding partnerships long after the session ends.



“

The TFN Pitch Night model was incredibly effective for what we wanted to achieve – exploring innovative approaches to suicide prevention that genuinely engage local communities. Working with TFN meant we could partner with professionals in the crowdfunding space, which took away the stress of managing logistics and allowed us to focus on the work and the impact. I felt clear and confident in my role, and always knew TFN was there to guide and support us.

**Francesca Wysel**

**Suicide Prevention Lead**

**Hunter New England & Central Coast Primary Health Network**



# When employees take the driver's seat

AIRTRUNK CONNECT, BALI  
POWERED BY TFN, 2024 & 2025

**At AirTrunk's annual conference, the energy in the room shifts the moment the "Ignite Your Impact" crowdfunding session begins. Three frontline charities step into the spotlight. Around the room, every employee holds a personal allocation from AirTrunk's Social Impact Fund to direct. As the stories land, hands go up, colleagues champion causes that touch their own lives, and the live tally climbs. And the session becomes a shared act of giving where purpose is made visible.**

AirTrunk came to TFN with a clear brief. Their employee surveys showed people believed the company's commitment to social impact was genuine, yet nearly one in five felt they wanted more opportunities to get involved. So TFN

handed employees the steering wheel. This is participatory grantmaking in practice, delivered through TFN's 'Powered by TFN' event model. We coach the presenters, run the live crowdfunding, and design the mechanics so employees can lead the giving, see their impact, and have fun while they do it. It turns corporate values into a lived experience with real world impacts that employees are directly responsible for.

The response has been emphatic. In 2024, the crowdfunding session was voted by employees as one of the best parts of the conference. In 2025, attendance grew again and the format matured, blending live pledging with problem-solving sprints through a partnership with Social Impact Hub, so teams could offer skills as well as funds.

Following the first event in 2024, AirTrunk reported a significant lift in employees' sense of engagement with the social impact program alongside stronger internal pride and connection to purpose. Externally its approach to sustainable finance and employee-directed giving attracted industry-wide attention.

"We created an opportunity for our people to connect directly with our social impact partners, to hear their human-impact stories and see the difference AirTrunk's support can make. We also gave our team a say in how our social impact funds are distributed, deepening their connection to the program and our partners," says Rob Bartrop, AVP Social Impact & Community at AirTrunk.

For TFN, the partnership speaks to why Powered by TFN exists. We bring the scaffolding of a proven live crowdfunding event model and place decision-making in the hands of the people who will own the outcome. It aligns with our mission to ignite giving, build capability and deepen community connection, while meeting a company's goals for meaningful employee engagement.

Most of all, it changes what a conference can do. This is not a keynote to applaud and forget. It is a roomful of people directing resources, applying their skills, and becoming a part of the impact. Participation becomes contribution, and contribution becomes change. TFN creates these moments – and the momentum that follows.

## Airtrunk staff reflect on the event:

"It made me see AirTrunk in a new light. It is one thing to hear about social responsibility, another to witness it first-hand."

"How generous. It cements why I love working here."

"It was empowering to see our collective efforts come together, especially knowing that we could donate the funds to an NGO of our choice"

"This was the most memorable moment of the conference...I found it very engaging. Listening to AirTrunk employees championing each charity through their own lived experiences resonated with me"



# Our Network of Support

As a true collective, TFN relies on the generosity and support of our network: everyday Australians, philanthropists, foundations, businesses, non-profit organisations and social enterprises that share our passion to create social change. Thank you for making our work possible.

## Catalyst Partner

AMP Foundation

## Flagship Partners

5 Point Foundation

Accenture

Bright Moon Trust

Harris Charitable Foundation

Macquarie Group Foundation

The Snow Foundation

## Capacity Partners

Brian M Davis Foundation

Bupa Foundation

Burton Taylor Foundation

Clare Murphy Fund

Evans & Partners

The Frederick Mulder Foundation

Hantomeli Foundation

Helen Lofthouse

June Canavan Foundation

Manos Foundation

PNI Foundation

Waratah Education Foundation

## Event & Matching Partners

Accenture

AMP Foundation

Aspen Medical

ASX

Atlassian

Brian M Davis Foundation

Canberra Airport

Clayton Utz

Deloitte Foundation

Envato Foundation

Equity Trustees

Esparq Ventures

Evans & Partners

Gabo Foundation

Hands Across Canberra

Intrepid Foundation

John James Foundation

Millfords

Morgans Foundation

Pengana Capital

PNI Foundation

The Property Collective

Queensland Gives

Waratah Education Foundation

## Event Supporters

First Nations Advisory Council  
*(see pg. 13)*

Esparq Ventures

Payments Consulting Network

Queensland Gives

She Gives

Swinburne Philanthropy and  
Social Impact Alumni Sub-Fund (SPSIA)

The Funding Network International

VivCourt Trading

## Regional Partners

Give Where You Live Foundation,  
Geelong

United Way, Glenelg

## Clients

AirTrunk

AMP Foundation

Hall & Wilcox

Hunter New England and Central  
Coast Primary Health Network

Nepean Blue Mountains Primary  
Health Network

Tasmania Community Fund

The Freedom Hub

The University of Western

Australia

WentWest Western Sydney

Primary Health Network

YMCA NSW

## Pro Bono & Alliance Partners

Allens Lawyers

Baker McKenzie

Blue Rock

Clayton Utz

Elen Mogilevski Consultancy

For Purpose Alliance

FundraisingForce

Hall & Wilcox

Impact Boom

Kilfinan Australia

KPMG

Lynxx

Parkour Consulting

Redd Flagg

Social Impact Hub

Social Venture Partners Melbourne

Tanarra Social Purpose

The Commons

Vidzero

VivCourt Trading

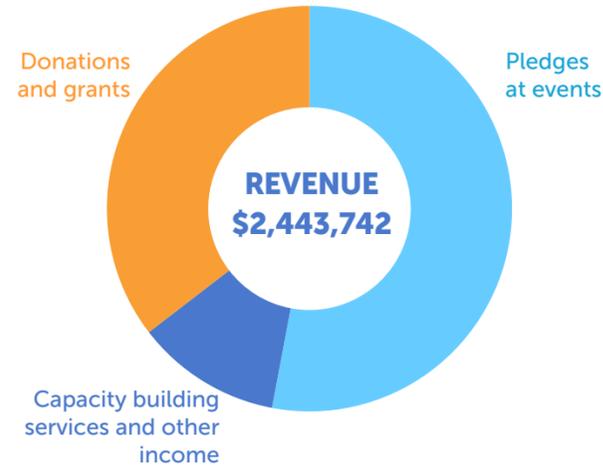
Vu Consulting

Workplace Giving Australia

# Financial Statement

These accounts are an extract from our audited annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025, which are available via the ACNC and on request.

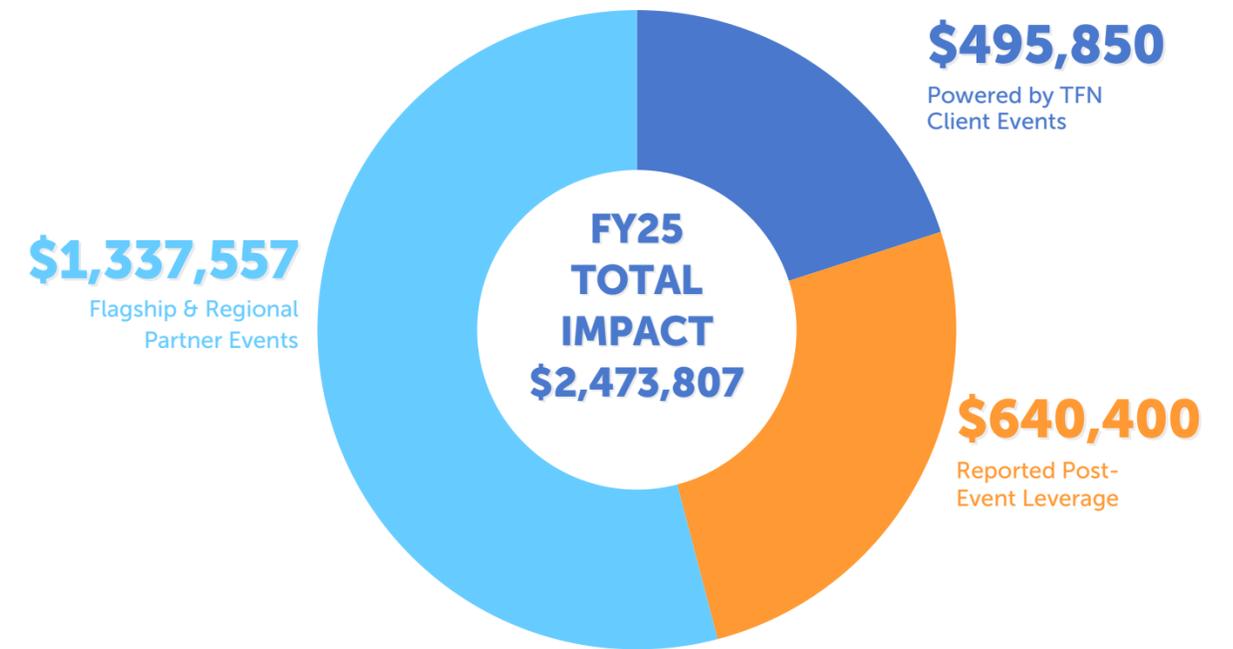
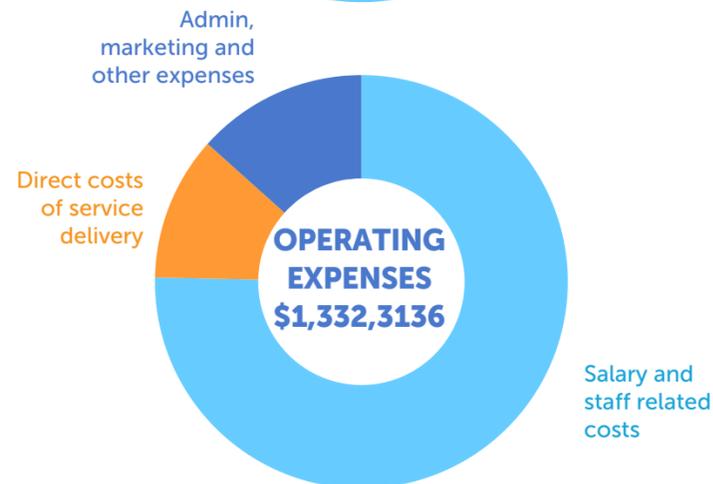
| <b>REVENUE</b>                              | <b>(\$)2025</b>  | <b>(\$)2024</b>  |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Pledges at events                           | 1,294,541        | 939,238          |
| Capacity building services and other income | 283,419          | 149,689          |
| Donations and grants                        | 865,782          | 672,584          |
| <b>Total Revenue:</b>                       | <b>2,443,742</b> | <b>1,761,511</b> |



| <b>OUTGOINGS</b>          | <b>(\$)2025</b>  | <b>(\$)2024</b>  |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Project distributions     | 1,184,726        | 857,641          |
| Operating expenses        | 1,321,137        | 1,274,382        |
| <b>Total Outgoings:</b>   | <b>2,505,863</b> | <b>2,132,023</b> |
| Interest Income           | 19,556           | 20,872           |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit):</b> | <b>(42,565)</b>  | <b>(349,640)</b> |



| <b>BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING EXPENSES</b> | <b>(\$)2025</b>  | <b>(\$)2024</b>  |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Salary and staff related costs         | 1,003,521        | 886,018          |
| Admin, marketing and other expenses    | 178,080          | 237,819          |
| Direct costs of service delivery       | 150,534          | 150,545          |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b>        | <b>1,332,136</b> | <b>1,274,382</b> |
| Equity                                 | 453,503          | 496,068          |



Note: TFN only processes payments for its Flagship events and select regional and client events. Numbers for events where TFN did not process payments are estimates only and based on data provided by partners, clients and alumni.

# Our People

## TEAM



**Kristen Lark**  
CEO



**Andrea Heffernan**  
Director -  
Programs & Impact



**Rebecca Harris**  
Director - Partnerships &  
Engagement



**Rabia Lockwood**  
Director - Communications  
& Systems



**Jacinta Parsons**  
Lead MC &  
Pledging Facilitator



**Aaron McNeilly**  
Advisor -  
Special Projects



**Maddi Alderuccio**  
Manager - Programs &  
Impact



**Prerana Naidu**  
Coordinator - Events &  
Partner Experience



**Isabel-Marie Valencia**  
Marketing Specialist



**Eesha Agrawal**  
Coordinator - Business &  
Team



**Asad Abbasi**  
Finance Officer

## BOARD

**Shaun Kamler**  
Chair

**Bill Marynissen**  
Deputy Chair

**Melissa Abu-Gazaleh**  
Board Director

**Jordan Griffiths**  
Board Director

**Lisa Grinham**  
Board Director

**Liza-Jayne Loch**  
Board Director

**Sam Trattles**  
Board Director

**Bianca Stern**  
Board Observer

**Meaghan Lynch**  
Company Co-Secretary

**Dr Christine Song**  
Company Co-Secretary

## GOVERNANCE

TFN Australia is committed to best-practice governance and processes that enhance our effectiveness and ensure transparency and accountability to our stakeholders. TFN is a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and registered as a charity with the Australian Charities & Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC), constituted as a public company limited by guarantee called The Funding Network Australia Limited (ABN 75 166 134 774), which has deductible gift recipient status, item 1.

## CONSULTANTS

**Troy Benjamin**  
Co-MC

**Emily Carr**  
Pitch Coach

**Richard Duncan**  
Pitch Coach

**Wayne Herbert**  
Co-MC

**Rob Irving**  
Pitch Coach

**Julia Limb**  
Pitch Coach

**John Loebman**  
MC & Pitch Coach

**Heidi Prowse**  
MC & Pitch Coach

**Fae Robinson**  
Pitch Coach

**Matt Wicking**  
MC & Pitch Coach

# How to Get Involved



- DONATE TO TFN**  
Create a ripple effect by donating to TFN and making our work possible.
- PLEDGE AT AN EVENT**  
Hear stories from grassroots organisation addressing society's biggest challenges and pledge your support.
- VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME**  
Offer your time and expertise to TFN or one of our alumni partners.
- BE AN EVENT PARTNER**  
Contribute matched funding, host an event, and encourage your workforce and clients to attend a TFN event.
- HOST A WORKSHOP**  
Sponsor or participate in a TFN workshop that builds the skills of non-profit leaders, teams and boards.
- HOST AN EVENT**  
Engage TFN to engage you staff and power your next fundraising or corporate giving event.

## Global Impact

**TFN Australia is part of a global network that includes affiliates in 14 countries around the world.**

The Funding Network was founded in the UK in 2002 and introduced in Australia in 2013 by Lisa Cotton and the late Steve Lawrence AO.

To date, the global network of 24 members operating across 14 countries has raised over £20 million, with £10.2 million in the UK. These funds have supported the work of over 2,700 small non-profit organisations around the world and improved the lives of tens of thousands of their beneficiaries.



FUNDING  
NETWORK  
AUSTRALIA

# EQUITY & INCLUSION

LIVE CROWDFUNDING EVENT



# We're unleashing Australia's capacity for good.

TFN is the largest grassroots giving platform in Australia, inspiring everyday Australians to engage in a culture of giving.  
**And there's so much more that we can do.**

Your support is essential for TFN to continue to be a major catalyst for growth for the most innovative social change initiatives of the next decade.

**DONATE TODAY**



[www.thefundingnetwork.com.au](http://www.thefundingnetwork.com.au)  
[info@thefundingnetwork.com.au](mailto:info@thefundingnetwork.com.au)

