



**2016-2017  
Annual Report**

**We Can All Make A Difference**

## OUR VISION

A world united to provide respect, safety and justice for all

## OUR MISSION

Every child, young person and adult has the right to live in a safe family, within a safe community, to have stability and every opportunity to meet their potential

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### Respect for Individuals

Valuing individuals and respecting the differences between them.

### Equity in Access

Ensuring equal opportunity and the allocation of resources and services in a fair, consistent and inclusive manner irrespective of an individual's or group's cultural or linguistic background, their religion or spiritual beliefs, socio-economic status, gender, age or abilities.

### Participation

Providing opportunities for clients to have genuine participation and consultation about decisions affecting their lives.

### Empowerment

Building the capacity of people to exercise choice, gain access to resources and achieve change in their lives.

### Corporate Social Responsibility

Upholding our integrity with a genuine commitment to our community and respect for the environment.

### Recognising Cultural Diversity

Respecting and being sensitive to people from other cultural and linguistic backgrounds and their community ties.

### Privacy and Confidentiality

Respecting and upholding rights to privacy and confidentiality in all aspects of practice and management.

### Quality of Work Environment

Providing a safe, productive, comfortable and flexible work environment to enhance worker health, well-being and work-life balance.

### Respect for Indigenous Culture and Heritage

Respecting the culture, history and the importance of kinship and land to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### Partnerships and Collaboration

Working with others with the same vision to achieve Safe Futures' mission and objectives.

### Quality and Integrity

Remining visionary, professional and transparent in all aspects of practice, management, leadership and governance.

Safe Futures Foundation is committed to working with our partners, communities and government to deliver the broad reaching changes that are required if we are to make a real difference.

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Safe Futures Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.



Safe Futures Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation, primarily funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. Safe Futures also received grants and donations from other sources.

## Board of Directors



**Bernadette Dobeli**  
Chair

Bernadette came onto the wider collective of Brenda House in approximately 1990 and has been serving continuously since then. She has enjoyed work as a radiographer and continues in this role part time. She has been on school and church committees over the years and is dedicated to the eradication of violence in all settings, from the parliament to our homes, fostering respectful relationships in every interaction.



**Doreen Stoves AM PSM JP**  
Deputy Chair

As CEO of Doncare, Manningham's primary community services organisation, Doreen is known for her 'hands on' approach and for never passing up an opportunity to assist, or to involve others in assisting those in need. Doreen's work history includes 25 years at the Department of Human Services where she managed several service programs. Doreen is also a Clinical Family Therapist who has worked in private practice with individuals and families. Doreen has always campaigned for better outcomes for women and children who face adversity and this, coupled with several decades of being a foster parent to many dozens of children, saw her recognised with a Public Service Medal in 1995. Doreen was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2013. In July 2016 she received a prestigious award from Rotary International for "excellence in humanitarian service", an award given to non-Rotarians who live the Rotary ideals of "service above self".



**Angela Fitzpatrick**  
Grad. Dip. HR  
Secretary

Angela was a founding board member of Safe Futures Foundation. After a short break she re-joined the board as Secretary in 2013. Angela is an inaugural member of Health Issues Centre Consumer Alumni and contributes as a consumer advocate to a number of Melbourne's large health care providers such as Eastern Health, St Vincent's Hospital and the Outer East Health & Community Alliance. Angela is a Board Director of Women with Disabilities Victoria. Research has identified women with disabilities are twice as likely to experience violence as non disabled women. This flows on to their need for appropriate and affordable health care and specialist family violence services.

Safe Futures continued response to the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community remains the driving force behind Angela's ongoing commitment.



**Florence Mauwa**  
Treasurer

Florence has over 15 years experience in accounting and HR gained in various countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. She is a qualified accountant (FCCA) and a member of Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD UK) having begun her career in audit before moving into HR. She has worked for various large global and regional companies in the financial services and technology sectors and her current role is in a ASX20 company in Remuneration and Benefits. Florence has a particular passion for developing and transforming communities to thrive and volunteers on several community boards.



**Jessica French**

Jessica is passionate about adding value to the work of the Safe Futures Foundation by leveraging her skills and experience leading business transformation, creating effective strategies, and building successful partnerships and campaigns for community organisations. Jessica has held numerous advisory roles, working both with and in public sector and community organisations to deliver meaningful outcomes. Her experience includes public and social sector management consulting as a Manager in Deloitte's Strategy and Operations practice, business transformation delivery at Sydney Water, sponsorship management and fundraising for UN Women Australia. Jessica is committed to promoting women's empowerment and helping realise the goal of a safe future for all in our communities.



**Ellen Matusko**

Ellen is a senior health services professional with extensive clinical leadership and management experience. She holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Social Work and a Graduate Diploma in Health Administration. Ellen has led many programs and large teams and is a proven leader of change. Ellen's senior roles have focused on implementing and developing strategic and operational plans to meet organizational objectives and increase revenue. She has a record of successfully building teams and partnerships and achieving excellent service outcomes. Ellen has worked in Australia and the UK in a variety of not-for-profit organisations including Austin Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs and has extensive experience in working with the Government sector. She currently also sits on the Board of Irabena Autism services.

## Board of Directors cont.



**Tonia Sakkas**

Tonia is a partner with Davies Lawyers. She has extensive experience in industrial relations and employment law focusing on industrial agreements, enterprise bargaining, contractual disputes, discrimination, unfair dismissals and general protection claims.

Tonia also worked as a women's and children's advocate within the family violence sector for 14 years.



**Dr. Athena Bangara**

Athena is the Senior Manager, Research and Graduate Research at Monash Art, Design and Architecture (MADA) where she provides leadership and strategic advice to aid high level researcher and graduate research student outcomes. She is responsible for the the identification, development and implementation of initiatives, including support programs for researchers and graduate research students. She performs a critical role in driving the faculty's research agenda and management of the faculty's research performance. Prior to this, Dr. Bangara was the Associate Director, International Research Engagement at Swinburne, where she was responsible for the development of international research partnerships. She has also held senior strategy and policy roles at Swinburne University.



**Kerry Kornhauser**

Kerry has a background in the advertising industry including positions with two major ad agencies, Clemengers and George Pattersons. She also spent time in private health creating a private hospital chain, Australian Health Resources, and established successful private corporate accommodation hotels.

Kerry has contributed to many volunteer organisations and in 2008, was asked to chair the first Sudanese Women's Conference, which she notes, though very successful, was also very challenging. Mid 2008, she joined the Rotary Club of Albert Park and has been awarded a Royce Abbey Award, Paul Harris and Paul Harris Sapphire Awards.

She has held a variety of Rotary Board positions leading up to her Presidency in 2011-2012 and continues to be involved in strategic initiatives such as her passion for women and their role in Rotary with a personal mission to increase the current 17% of women in Rotary to 30%, which is sitting now on 28%. She is a member of the Bridge of Hope's White Dove movement working to help vulnerable girls and young women as they exit from State Care and youth justice systems, trying to create a positive difference and influence in their lives.

Kerry sits on the Violence Free Families Board and the Safe Futures Board.



## A message from the Board Chair

It is a pleasure to commend to you the annual report of Safe Futures Foundation for the last financial year.

We have had a very busy and transformative year with many challenges to face. The Board has met those challenges head on and commenced work on a new Strategic Plan that will create an exciting path going forward.

On examination of our financial situation we sought to restructure and ensure that we have a robust financial plan to position the organisation to become more sustainable. I thank our interim CEO and staff for their dedication and hard work in achieving this plan.

We take great pride in the value our work has for women and children who are at a very vulnerable time in their lives. Our staff provide services with dedication, resilience and commitment, and our teams deliver client centred services. The dedicated children's workers provide a range of support services to the many children they work with, and we look forward to the commencement of two additional therapeutic intervention children's workers as part of our consortia with Uniting/Wesley, The Australian Childhood Foundation and EACH.

We continue to build partnerships both in the sector and with key stakeholders who are

strong advocates of the organisation and have an interest in community. The recommendations of the Royal Commission are providing many opportunities for new programs and partnerships.

I want to take this opportunity to thank:

- The Department of Health and Human Services for their ongoing financial support and their support during our transformation;
- Croydon Community School for their support in providing educational links for the children who come through our doors;
- All of our staff who make a significant difference in the lives of women and children every single day;
- Our previous CEO Janine Mahoney for her years of service; and
- My colleagues on the Board who contribute enormously through their expertise, time and dedication.

I want to thank our interim CEO Ellen Matusko for her leadership, wisdom and professionalism. Finally I also thank all of our funding bodies Federal, State and local government as well as the many donors and philanthropic supporters of Safe Futures Foundation.

**Bernadette Dobeli**  
Chairperson



# A message from the Treasurer

As newly appointed Treasurer, I am pleased to present the audited Financial Report for the Financial Year 2016/17.

## Overview

The past financial year has been a challenging one for Safe Futures Foundation resulting in an operating deficit of -\$351,694 and final accumulated deficit of -\$154,484. This annual deficit is a 117% increase on the deficit recorded in the 2015/16 financial year where our final deficit was -\$161,900. \$139,539 of the deficit recorded this year related to changes in accounting treatment of income which were previously recorded on a cash basis and have now been transitioned to accrual accounting.

## Financial Governance

The new Board identified early on in the financial year that the continued trajectory of deficits would have a negative impact on the ongoing viability of the Foundation and as a result there has been significant work in the financial year to focus on the financial viability of the Foundation and ensure the Foundation continued to be a going concern. Particular focus for the period has been placed on managing and improving liquidity and reducing costs. The Boards' Finance and Strategy Committee has also worked extensively on reviewing our financial policies and revising our budgeting and forecasting plans as well as the Board reporting process to enable a sound financial footing going forward. This has included engaging external parties on a pro bono basis to provide an additional review of our accounts and policies. I am pleased to advise that the first quarter financial

forecast for 17/18 projects the Foundation ending the year in an operating surplus.

## Audited Accounts

There was a slight 3.9% year on year reduction in income for the year resulting in total income of \$3,132,558. The team continue to examine sources of funding and investigate non-grant related income streams. Overall expenditure for the year increased by 1.8% to \$3,484,252. This was primarily driven by the increase in administrative and other costs.

As a result of the conditions outlined above, total assets took a significant hit resulting in a 44% decline in current assets to \$339,531. The reduced assets particularly our cash position have resulted in more stringent cashflow monitoring being implemented to ensure we manage our liquidity. We have also taken the opportunity to revalue our Croydon property. This revaluation was performed in the last financial year and was noted in the 2016/17 notes of the financial statements however this year we have made the relevant adjustments to the balance sheet figures. It should also be noted that due to the changes in our accounting practices, our balance sheet now reflects \$139,539 grants held in advance as liabilities. We have also worked to manage our employee benefits more tightly resulting in a reduction in our liabilities related to employee provisions.

Overall in relation to the accumulated deficit and the going concern of the Foundation, the various measures which have been implemented during the course of the year which were outlined above have resulted in arresting further decline in the financial position. This should be reflected in the Foundation's financial position in 2017/18 and the Foundation is now working to continue to manage the financial position and bring the organisation back into surplus going forward.

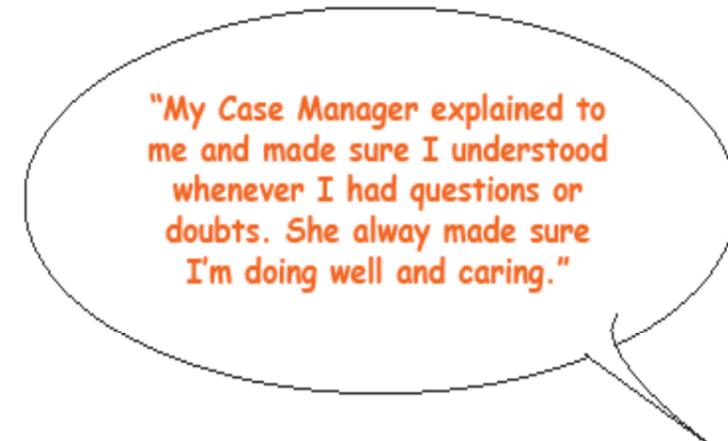
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Tooth and Kerrie McMahon for their hard work and efforts, along with my fellow Board members on the Finance Committee. In addition, we would like to thank the team at Rucker DWC Pty Ltd for their work on the

audit for us this year. Lastly and most importantly, I commend the Foundation team on the work over the past few months to implement measures that will ensure the financial viability of the Foundation going forward.

The following recommendations are made to this AGM:

1. That the AGM approves the accounts for 2016/17 as contained within the annual report.
2. That Rucker DWC Pty Ltd are appointed as Safe Futures Foundation auditors for 2017/18.

**Florence Mauwa**  
**FCCA, MBA**  
**Treasurer**



*"My Case Manager explained to me and made sure I understood whenever I had questions or doubts. She always made sure I'm doing well and caring."*

**ECARS Client**



## A message from the interim CEO

In March of this year I had the pleasure of joining the Safe Futures Foundation as interim CEO. Within a short time I learnt that together **'We Can All Make a Difference'** in the family violence sector. Consequently we have adopted this slogan as the theme for our annual report and fundraising drive. I hope that the achievements and outcomes we highlight in this report show the important and significant impact Safe Futures has on many levels. In this report we will also introduce you to the 'Wraparound' model of service delivery that will guide the work that we do in the family violence sector.

As the largest provider of specialist family violence crisis accommodation and support in Victoria, Safe Futures plays a significant role in a family's escape and recovery. Our work is extremely important in:

- Keeping women and children safe;
- Providing safe havens;
- Providing therapeutic interventions;
- Assisting with material aid; and
- Empowering women.

Of clients accessing specialist homelessness services, 33% are escaping family violence (DVRCV 2017 Infographic). The saddest truth is that the majority of people in refuge are children. At Safe Futures we have dedicated childrens' workers and partnerships with key agencies to support our work with children.

After more than 40 years of supporting women and children identify, survive, escape and recover from family violence Safe Futures continues to strive for excellence and innovation in service

delivery. A number of years ago Safe Futures, under the leadership of Janine Mahoney, funded and pioneered a program using technology for providing increased safety to women and children experiencing family violence. It was a financial risk that paid off this year with the State Government rolling out the Personal Safety Initiative across 17 regions in Victoria. Safe Futures was proud to have piloted the program and lead the way in embedding technology in everyday family violence service delivery. At Safe Futures we take great pride in our continuous commitment to the quality services that we provide and the high standard of work. In August, we were proud to become the first Family Violence organisation to receive full Accreditation against the International Standards Organisation 9001:2015 and Human Services standards.

The year has also been a year of review and transformation for Safe Futures Foundation. We have commenced work on a new mission statement and strategic plan for 2018-2022. The focus of the new plan will be on Sustainability, People and Culture, Community Partnerships, Governance and Communication. We have developed new financial strategies that will support Safe Futures sustainability and restructured the organisation to better utilise its resources and staff skill mix.

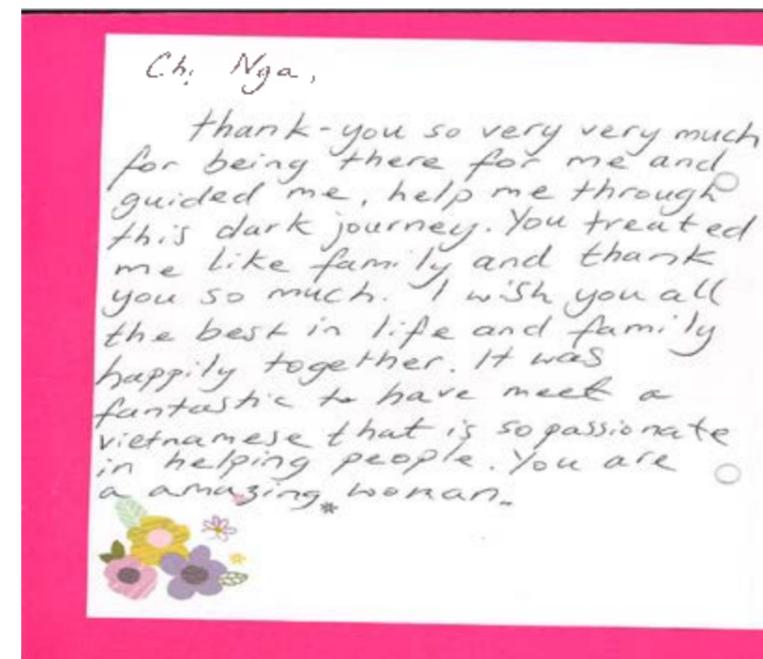
From 2018 Safe Futures will have a footprint in the West with the building of a new core and cluster refuge at Werribee. This is an exciting development that will provide us with more opportunities to provide women with a continuum of care across even more municipalities. We look forward to expanding and establishing successful partnerships in the West.

The Safe Futures Board has been an integral part of the transformation that has occurred this year. It's been actively involved in ensuring that the Governance of Safe Futures is robust and that the organisation is future proof.

I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank the Board and Safe Futures Foundation staff for their welcome and support, but most of all for trusting me to lead the financial and operational transformation of the Foundation. It has been a year of significant change and the Board and Safe Futures team have been exemplary in embracing and understanding the need to take Safe Futures into a new era. I would also like to pay tribute to the families who allow us to change their life pathway, donors, volunteers and community partners.

There is no doubt that the 2016-2017 year in review highlights that together 'We Can All Make A Difference'.

**Ellen Matusko**  
Interim CEO



# About Us

Safe Futures Foundation is a not-for-profit specialist family violence organisation based in Melbourne's east and outer eastern suburbs.

We assist women and children living with the trauma of family violence.

Through our risk assessment and safety planning process our highly-trained team assist in creating a support and needs assessment giving individuals the opportunity to make informed decision about their future.

Our team provides professional support to develop plans to empower women and their children to create a future free from family violence.

## What Safe Futures Offers



#Partnership between each, Uniting (Vic & Tas), Australian Childhood Foundation & Safe Futures Foundation  
 ^Uniting (Vic & Tas)  
 +Centrelink  
 @Legal Aid  
 \*Anglicare

**408**  
Women Supported



**470**  
Children Supported

**53%**  
women were stay-at-home mothers

**19%**  
were employed

We supported women and children from **42** nationalities who spoke **23** different languages



**40%**  
of our clients came from areas outside our Eastern catchment

We supported **120** women and **225** children through **19** crisis properties



Women stay on average **56** days in Safe Futures crisis properties

**Over 50,000** bednights of crisis accommodation provided



**11,286** hours of support provided

**38** staff including **6** children's advocates

### Bilan's Story

'Bilan' is a refugee from Somalia. She lost her parents at a young age due to the war. She became pregnant at the age of 14, and gave birth to a son. 'Bilan' later married twice and had 8 more children.

When 'Bilan' presented to Safe Futures five of her children and grand daughter were living with her. 'Bilan's' daughter was unable to care for her grand daughter due to her drug use.

'Bilan' was living in permanent housing but due to the Family Violence from her oldest

daughter's partner, the family came into refuge. Recently the family were supported by Safe Futures to move into another Office of Housing property. Safe Futures have also been able to support 'Bilan' reduce her significant Centrelink debt and are working in partnership with Eastern Community Legal Services to work through a significant number of fines.

Despite long standing hardship and with the support of Safe Futures, 'Bilan' is working through issues with depression, has enrolled in English classes and is now looking forward to improving her English skills.

# Developing a 'Wraparound' model

Wraparound is a method of engaging with individuals with complex needs that was first coined in the 1980's, and there is now emerging evidence to support its efficacy. It is an intensive and holistic method of engagement that supports individuals living in their homes and communities. Wraparound can and has been defined in different ways, but at Safe Futures it is predominantly an **intensive, individualized care planning and case management process**.

Wraparound plans are holistic and aim to develop the problem-solving skills, coping skills, and self-efficacy of family violence clients. Safe Futures Wraparound

philosophy of care begins from the principle of "voice and choice," which stipulates that the perspectives of the family – including the child or youth – must be given primary importance during all phases and activities of Wraparound.

At Safe Futures the Wraparound services and supports provided are individualised, family driven, culturally competent, and community based. Finally, the Wraparound process is "strengths based," including activities that purposefully help the child and family to recognize, utilize, and build talents, assets, and positive capacities.

## Jane's Story

'Jane', a mother of six children had previously been residing in high security refuge's and motels for the past 1.5 years awaiting an Office of Housing offer. The family's locations and security was compromised and therefore referred to our service. 'Jane' and her children were considered to be at high risk of family violence and accepted into the Risk Assessment Management Panel (RAMP) program. They were experiencing significant trauma and abuse and the family were involved with child protection.

'Jane' successfully obtained long term secure and affordable housing in the private rental market within 8 weeks of her support period commencing with Safe Futures Foundation. 'Jane' was originally supported and assisted to make the initial application into the private rental market and was then empowered to make continuous applications

on her own accord and was approved for a brand new property in her chosen area.

'Jane' received financial assistance through several means to secure the home, these included a Private Rental Access Program, Flexible Support Package and Housing Establishment Funds. This funding was used for bond, rent in advance, furniture items, removalist, white goods and other basic needs.

While onsite the children participated in equine therapy and other excursions and outings through the children's program. The children are now able to enrol into school on a permanent basis and settle into a community, living free from violence.

The family are now extremely happy, excited, building new friendships and ready to rebuild their lives. They will continue to have ongoing support around Family Violence within the Risk Assessment Management Panel program.

# for client services

The Safe Futures implementation of a wraparound model is dependant on our community partnerships, collaborative action, access to needed supports and services, human resource and development support, and accountability. We strive to provide a Wraparound response to our clients across all phases of family violence ( see Figure 1.) and collaboratively develop individualised care plans as required).

Across Wraparound programs, people in a variety of different roles – both professional and non-professional – play important roles in carrying out the Wraparound process with families and their children. Most typically,

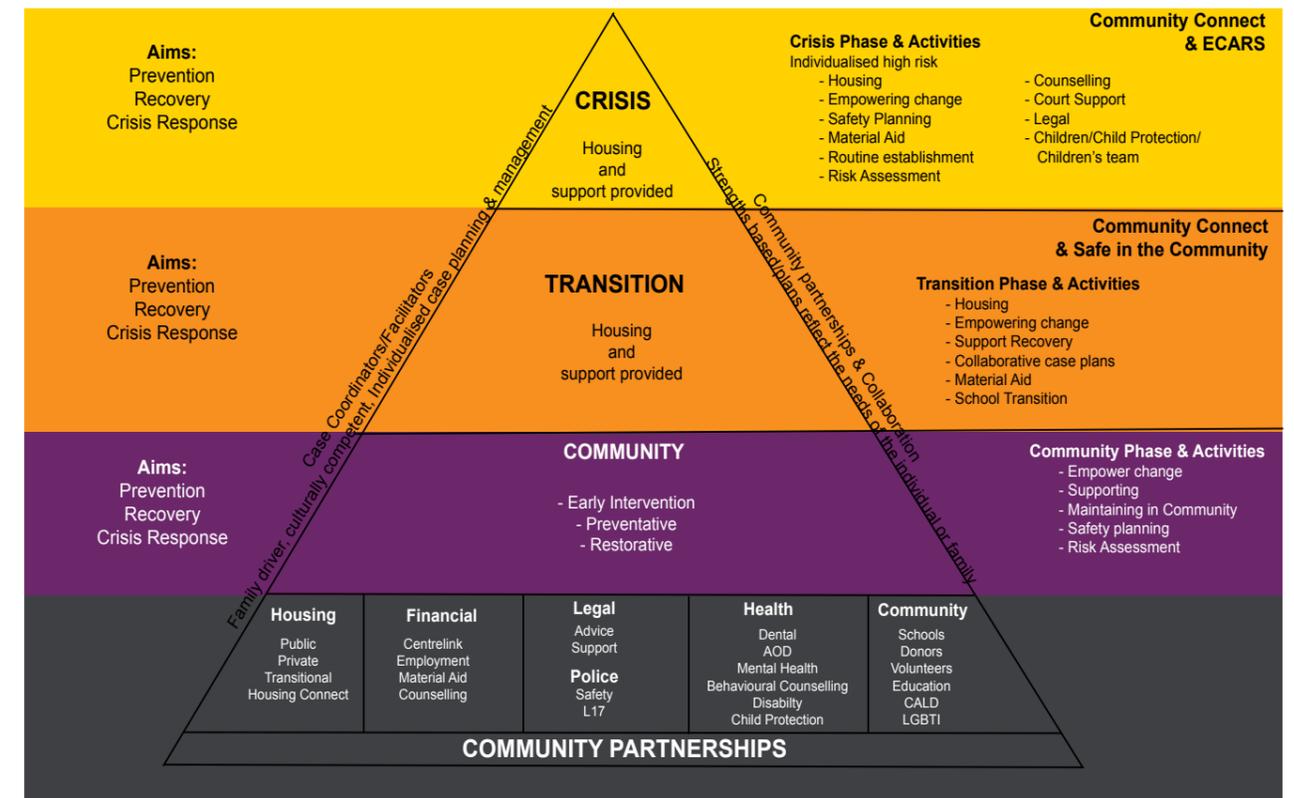
implementing a Wraparound model requires a cadre of individuals who are trained and supported to effectively lead the process. These individuals are most commonly Wraparound facilitators (or care coordinators), family support partners, and youth support partners.

This year we have used the 'Wraparound' model to identify the gaps in our services and prioritise the building of the partnerships and sponsorships required to wrap the services around our clients as required.

Figure 1. Safe Futures Foundation Specialist Family Violence 'Wraparound Model'

## SAFE FUTURES FOUNDATION SPECIALIST FAMILY VIOLENCE 'WRAPAROUND MODEL'

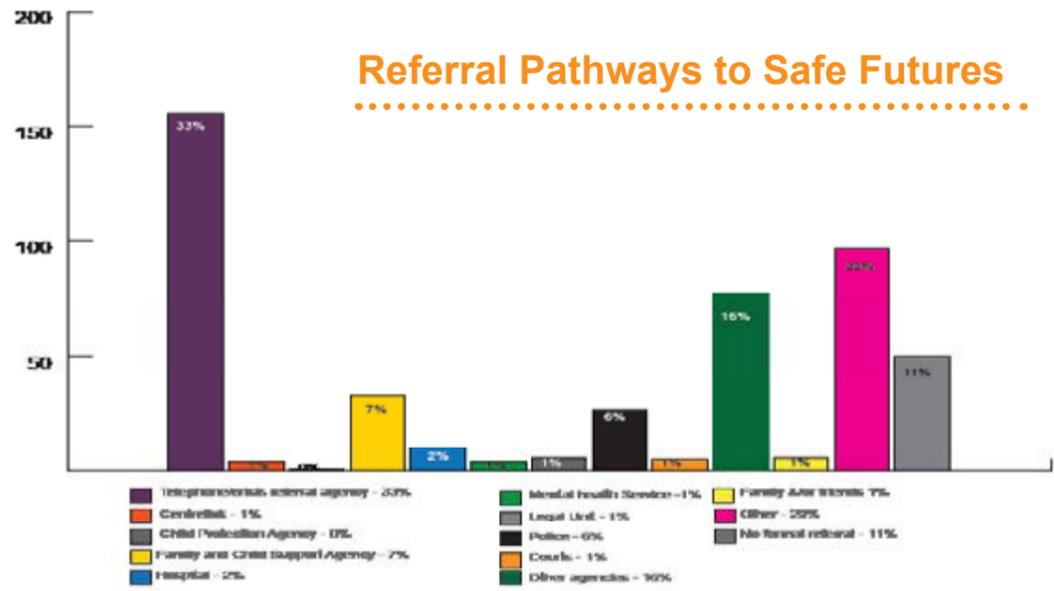
- Designed for our clients with Specialist Family Violence needs  
Our Mission: To provide client centred responses to family violence with a focus on intervention, prevention, crisis and recovery



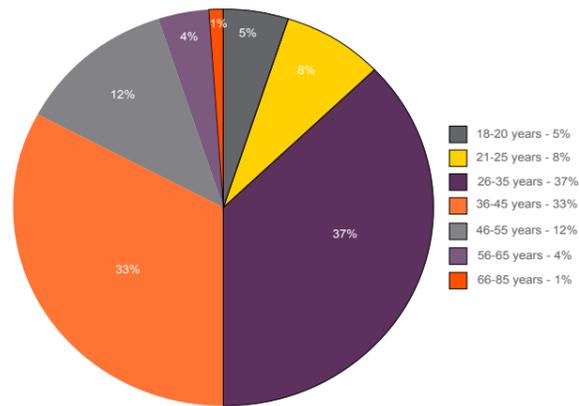
Ellen Matusko © 2017

3 Phases of wraparound at Safe Futures Foundation

# Accomplishments for 2016-2017

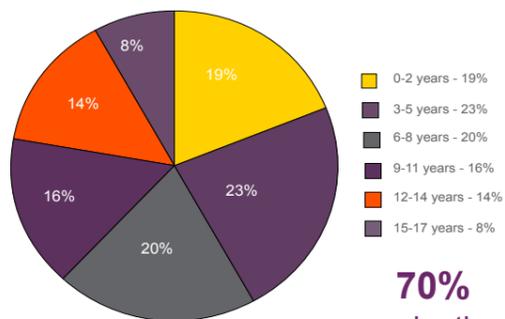


### Age of Women



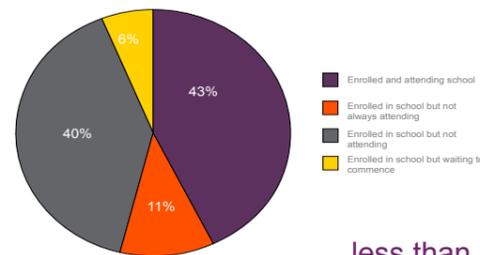
**70%**  
aged between  
26 to 45 years

### Age of Children



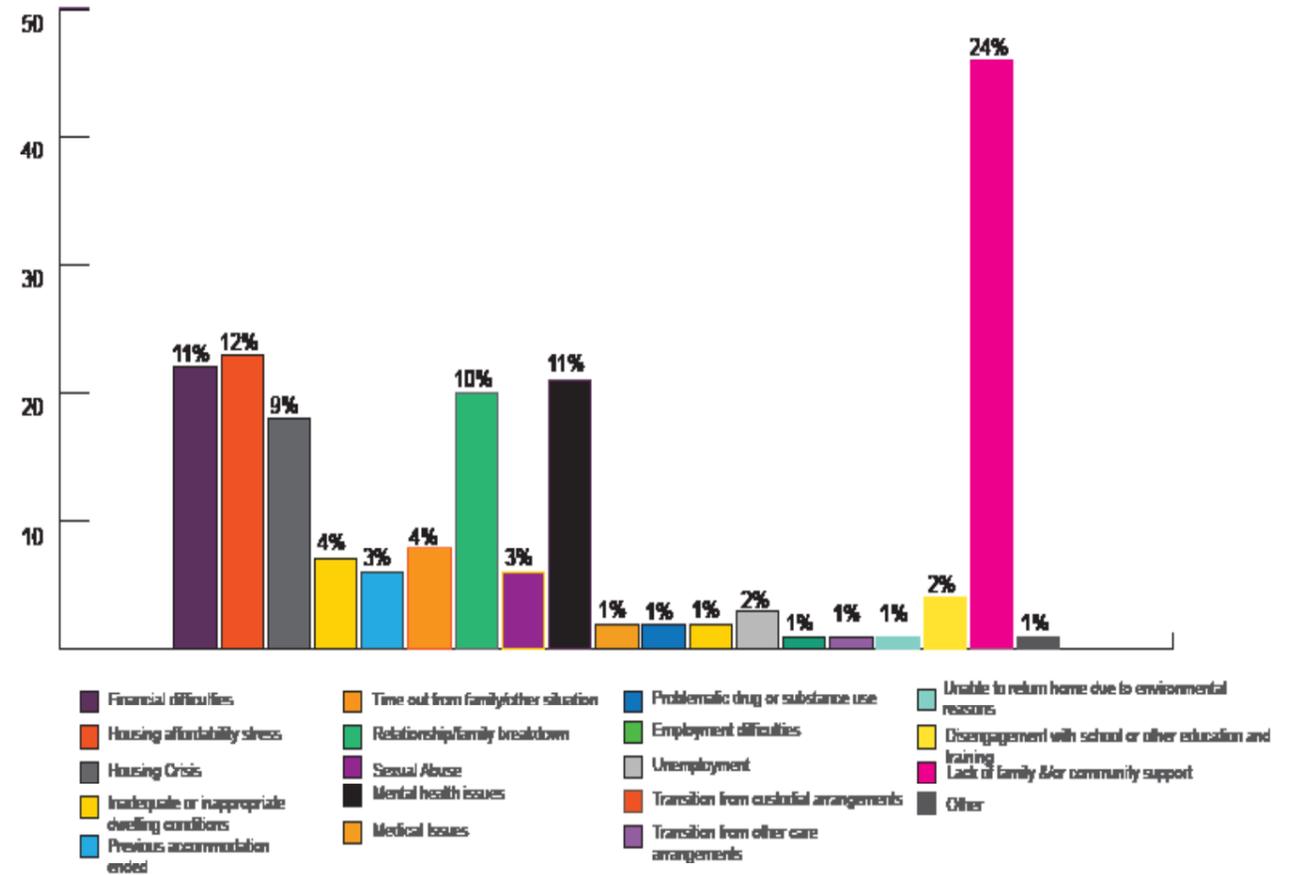
**70%**  
under the  
age of 11

### Children's Education Engagement

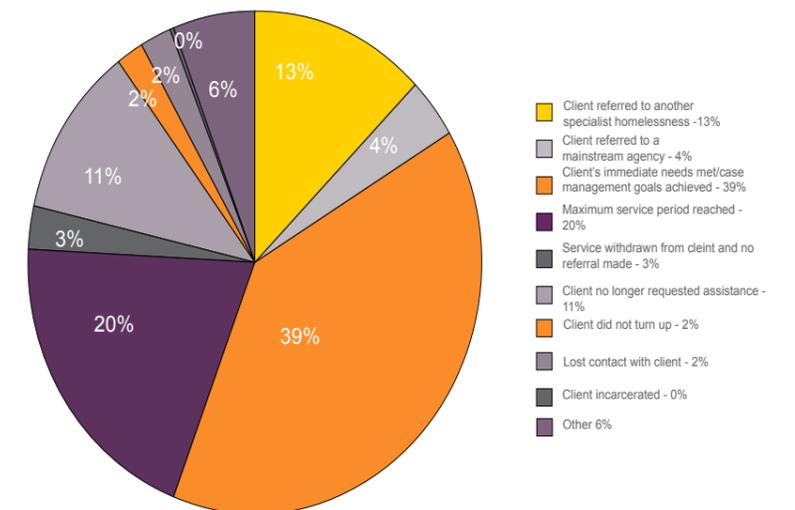


less than  
**1/2**  
were attending  
school regularly

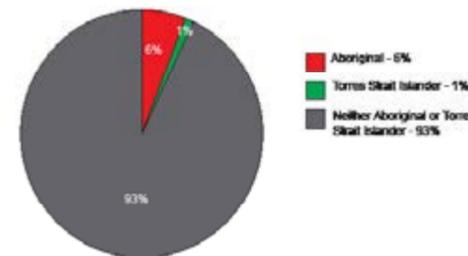
### Reasons clients request assistance other than family violence



### Reason for closing with clients



### Number of Indigenous Clients



# Accomplishments for 2016-2017 cont.

Safe Futures Foundation has continued to implement components of our strategic plan across a number of key goals and outcomes.

We have continued to provide the best possible outcomes for women and children experiencing family violence as evidenced in the reports from the different teams.

## Personal Safety Initiative

Safe Futures Foundation continued to deliver the Personal Safety Initiative for the full 2016-2017 financial year and for a few months into the new year.

The Personal Safety Initiative provided security upgrades for women who were separated from the violent partner, had their Intervention Order (IVO) in place and were at risk of the intervention order being breached. Upgrades included the provision of a smart track safety device, upgrades to security for the home and the provision of CCTV to monitor the home (see Table 1).

The Victorian Personal Safety Initiative's key objectives were kept in the forefront of service delivery throughout the project.

- empowering women experiencing family violence to make better choices about their safety and wellbeing
- providing high risk women with additional security measures to help keep

her and her children safe in their homes and communities;

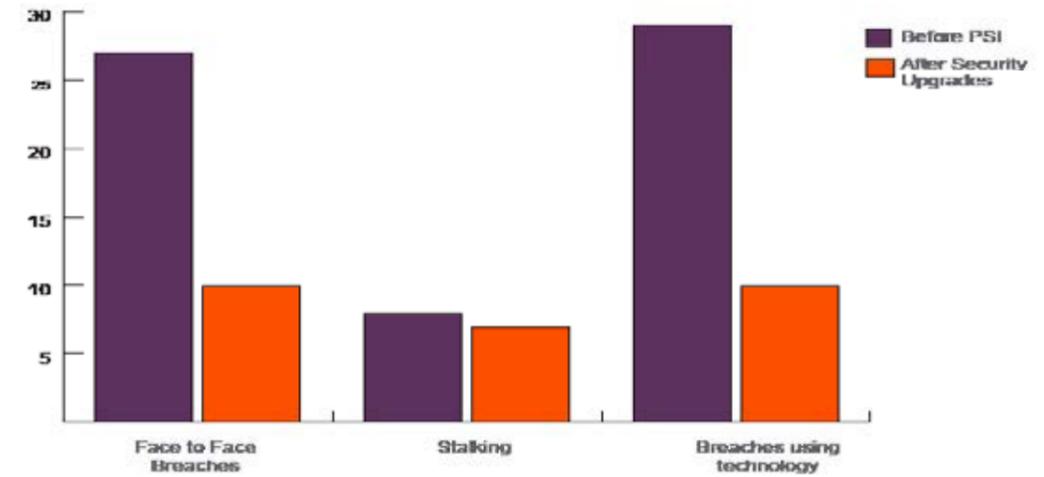
- building women's understanding of the family violence response and justice systems and supporting them to report and pursue intervention order breaches in court;
- detering perpetrators from breaching intervention orders;
- providing mechanisms for capturing admissible evidence in situations where breaching of IVO's are occurring; and
- supporting police and court responses.



Table 1: PSI Number of participants, children and security provided

Agency Region	Number of participants consented to PSI	Number of dependent children	Provided with a TrakSafe device	Property Safety Audit provided	Security Upgrade Package provided
SFF Inner East	24	41	23	10	10
SFF Outer East	16	15	16	11	9
Quantum SS	16	15	16	11	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>

Table 2: Personal Safety Initiative: Reduction in Breaches



There were remarkable reductions in perpetrator breaches of intervention orders following the implementation of security upgrades. Table 2 demonstrates that both face to face breaches and breaches using technology (phone, face-book, messaging) more than halved.

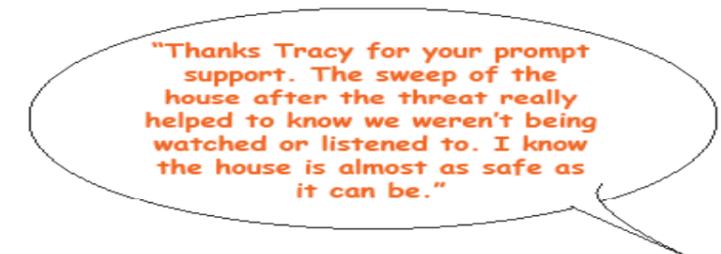
The Personal Safety Initiative met all the key objectives of the pilot project. A Personal Safety Initiative is now being rolled out in 17 regions across Victoria. Domestic Violence Victoria will lead the implementation with guidance provided by a State-wide Steering Committee.

## Improving responses from the First to Know Agencies

Safe Futures Foundation in partnership with Uniting Wesley successfully applied for funding to co-locate a family violence worker within the Homelessness Open Door service. Many women seeking homelessness assistance approach the open door service seeking housing following a relationship breakdown either immediately or after a number of months or years. Many of these women have experienced recent and long term family

violence. The purpose of the co-located worker is to assist the crisis workers to recognise and respond to family violence issues, provide training on family violence responses and making a referral to the specialist agency if the women and children need support because of the family violence.

The project was funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund in 2016- 2017 and will continue into 2017-2018.



SIC Client

# Accomplishments for 2016-2017 cont.

## Responding to Children - Resilient Kids Resilient Women

Safe Futures Foundation in conjunction with Uniting Wesley, EACH and Australia Childhood Foundation applied for funding under the Department of Health and Human Services submission to deliver therapeutic responses to women and children who have experienced family violence to assist them in their recovery.

The partnership between Uniting Wesley (the lead agency), Safe Futures Foundation, Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF), and EACH in the delivery of a Family Violence Therapeutic Intervention Program for adults and children, brings together recognised experience and highly regarded expertise in the provision of proactive, innovative and responsive service models. Informed by an understanding of gender based violence the programs are an innovative, integrated, collaborative model of therapeutic interventions that are both evidence informed and evidence based to aid the recovery of adults, children and young people as victim survivors of family violence.

The collaboration between highly experienced service providers ensures that victim survivors

will be provided with seamless service delivery to meet their needs and aid their recovery. Building on existing programs including children's resources in the Homelessness and Family Violence sector the model seeks to innovate therapeutic responses to women and children who have experienced family violence. Service delivery components include the provision of therapeutic assessment and planning undertaken by expert clinicians who then have access to a number of therapeutic offerings that can meet the individual needs of clients - including groups for children from birth to primary school age (Refer Table 3). The extensive linkages that come with this partnership span the following service sectors; family violence, homelessness, family services, health and allied services including mental health and alcohol and other drug services.

Safe Futures Foundation has funding for a children's case manager and a children's group worker. The service will be delivered over 2017-2018.



Table 3: Children's Therapeutic Groupwork Programs

Group	Target Group	Facilitating Agencies	Targets
Footsteps	Mothers and babies	Wesley/SFF	16 mothers and 16 babies
Little Sunbeams	Mothers and pre-school children	Wesley/SFF/EACH	20 mothers and 30+ children
Cool Kids	Primary school age children	Wesley/SFF	32+ children
Koori Kids are Kool Kids	Aboriginal primary school age children	Boorndawan William/Wesley	20+ children
Circle of Girls	Grade 5/6 girls	Wesley/SFF	60-80 young girls
Being Boys	Grade 5/6 boys	Wesley/SFF	60-80 young boys
Seeking Safety Girls	Adolescent girls	Wesley/SFF	16 young women
Seeking Safety Boys Camp	Adolescent boys	Wesley/SFF	16 young men
Feelings and Reflections	Women	EACH/SFF	20 women



# Safe in the Community



The Safe in the Community (SIC) program provides support to women and children in the Eastern Suburbs who are experiencing the effects of abuse or are at risk of further harm, due to Family Violence.

connected to our service can begin with a query being made on their behalf from another service, in the form of a secondary consult or with a more defined process in the form of a phone referral. This may come from Community Services, police, legal agencies and hospital social workers (Refer Table 4). Importantly, after receiving our number or reconnecting -having already used our service- the affected person may self-refer. With our referral form being circulated amongst services, the agencies that send them through are widespread and we receive them from hospital emergency, psychologists, counsellors, family and children's services, homelessness agencies and mentoring programs.

The Safe in Community program provides a women's advocate who can:

- Carry out a comprehensive Intake and Risk Assessment for Women and Children, which provides the essential information needed to develop a Safety Plan and a Case Plan;
- We can offer a referral to a Children's Advocate within Safe Futures;
- We then provide practical information and emotional support so clients can implement their safety plan and remain in their own homes, with hopefully less fear and risk of further harm;

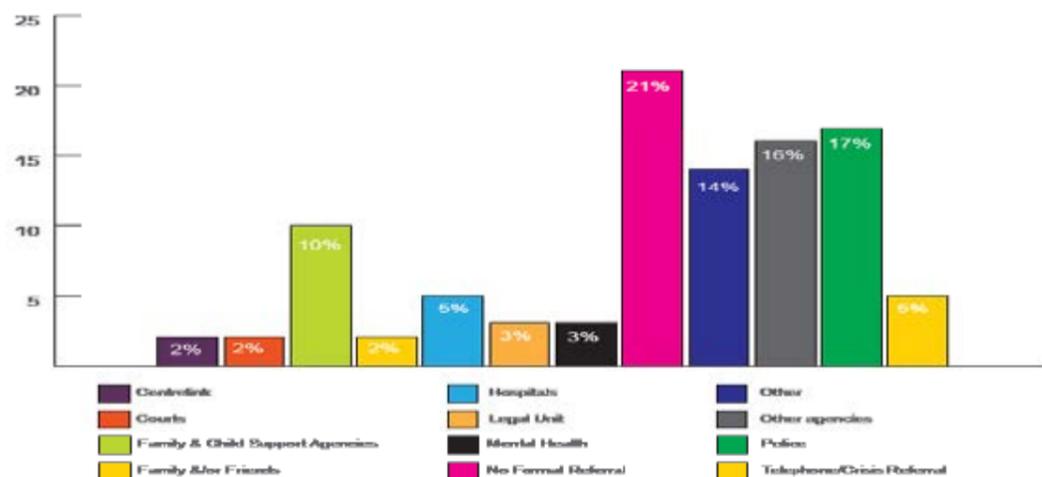
The women we meet have the opportunity to be supported while staying closely connected to family and community by remaining in their homes or moving to a more sustainable property within the community they live. This may not only have a positive affect on their wellbeing and recovery, but it is their right and choice to do so.

For these people we support them to do this in the safest way.

The stories that come with individuals or families we first meet are all separable from one another and it is not unusual that the layers of complexities have become overwhelming for them to deal with. Our individualistic response relies on us hearing their story and is tailored to suit their needs.

The pathway our clients have taken to become

Table 4: Safe in the Community Referral Pathways



- We provide information to clients about the elements of Family Violence that affect people and assist them to understand their rights under current legislation, applicable to their individual situation;
- We assist clients to access support from Police and Courts if required and can provide information relating to Intervention Orders, including Exclusion Orders;
- We can provide advocacy and support with Solicitors, Child Protection and Family Court and referrals to appropriate professionals and services; and
- We can arrange for interpreter services through the Victorian Interpreting and Translating Service if required.



SIC Client

## Highlights

This year relationships with other services have been strengthened further and new one's established. We have commenced working with and responding to referrals from Angliss Hospital and attending the emergency department in an effort to provide a timely response to women experiencing family violence. We have also worked on strengthening our relationships with Ringwood court and continued supporting women during the stress of court attendance.

Two team members completed 3 days of 'Beyond the Violence' training facilitated by Anglicare. The training equipped workers to co-facilitate the 'Beyond the Violence' Program with other organizations.

Our team went to the National Aborigines and Islanders Day of Observance Committee (NAIDOC), march early in July and were proud to be representing Safe Futures in supporting cultural inclusivity, rights and to be part of the celebration of culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Kerri**  
Team Leader  
Safe in the Community

## Persistence - A Case Study

It can take a lot of effort in some instances, for a worker to stay engaged with a client. As we know a person's story has many layers and making life changing decisions involves a process.

Women present at Safe Futures for a number of reasons, she is not always close to making important decisions. It is not uncommon that a woman decides to speak to us due to feeling that she has simply had enough of being treated poorly or told that she is the cause of all the household problems; she is tired of being answerable to another at all

times; she is degraded in front of her children with every decision being questioned and undermined; she is emotionally and physically abused with violent outbursts or she is being sexually abused.

Even though the woman has made the brave decision to contact us, she will most likely be unsure of how she is going to make the changes needed to live a happier life. It is also likely that she has become conditioned to believe that if she does make a decision for example, to obtain an Intervention Order or

# Safe in the Community cont.

leave the home, that this may cause misery to other family members and therefore it is all her fault. This will cause her to question her decisions. Taking action often increases the risk for women and children.

We may not hear the story in these exact words but these factors are often the underlying sentiments of her decision making process.

## Casey:

\*Casey was referred into SIC from another agency due to historical Family Violence perpetrated by her husband. Casey, her husband and their children had migrated to Australia 4 years previously and were experiencing severe financial hardship as she was not working and her husband had been off work due to a workplace injury.

A Safe Futures Case Manager pointed out the long term strengths that would occur if changes were to be made to the level of exposure Casey and her children had with Family Violence at home. Initially, a risk assessment was undertaken as Casey and the children were living in the family home and the Safe Futures Case Manager recommended that the family connect with a counsellor. The children developed a rapport with both the counsellor and Safe Futures Case Manager. Both the case worker and the counsellor had discussions with the children regarding relationships with others at school, the concern they held for their mother and father and how they could self manage the issues that frequently upset them. The Safe Futures Case Manager referred both of the children to a program that would run for 8 weeks for children who would benefit and grow from having positive male role models to spend time with. The program would provide personal challenges and hurdles that they would discuss and face with their peers and the male leaders. However, the children were not able to start straight away. In the next few months they had the opportunity to enlist again, and with much

support and deliberation, the children's father took them himself. The positive ways in which the children were responding to the program came as a powerful reminder of the beneficial impact these programs have when attended routinely and how they can employ real change in the lives of young people. The Safe Futures Case Manager provided other options for Casey to connect to some peer support groups herself to give her a sense of belonging and to be more empowered to make decisions for her and her family. She was not able to take up the opportunities offered in the first few months.

After much contemplation, Casey attended a course which provided the opportunity to reflect on her family violence experiences and how the emotional residue is still persistent and has consequences for the whole family and how they interrelate with each other.

Clients, like Casey, will often fluctuate about the certainty of their decision making processes and accordingly we find it valuable to aim to provide clients with multiple referral options depending on their needs. Similarly staff will seek secondary advice from health care professionals as necessary.

When we began working with Casey, she told us her complex story of having lived in our country for many years, though most of her belongings were still in storage in her country of origin. She was overwhelmed by her husband's mental health needs including constant threats to self harm. He would have violent outbursts where he broke furniture and verbally insulted the children and his wife. The Case Manager did some amazing work with her, supporting her to gain access to respite and items for the home and she is currently in the process of assisting Casey to access funding for education which will assist her to gain employment and ensure financial independence for herself and the children. Safe Futures recently provided her with new clothes to alleviate the anxiety of not having a

wardrobe suitable for interviews or a workplace.

## Challenges

The biggest challenge we faced with Casey was her initial goal of being referred into Safe in the Community; which predominantly lay in Casey's desire to leave her husband. As we started working with Casey, her emotional capacity to go through with the separation proved to be too difficult. Some days she seemed desperate and impatient to leave – and other days would remark on the progress that her husband was making and expressed her severe guilt if she chose to leave when the family were making attempts to maintain healthy relationships. This back-and-forth would cause Casey to draw away from us for weeks at a time, then present again with extreme issues in the home.

Concerns grew for the wellbeing of the children with the continued Family Violence that was being experienced in the home and the children were presenting with behavioural issues consistent with children who are experiencing Family Violence, such as bedwetting, mood swings, poor school performance and anxiety.

The Case Manager had to report to Child Protection which impacted the relationship between the worker and Casey, however as she was not presenting in a manner which demonstrated that she had intention to leave her husband, the protective concerns of the children became paramount.

Over time it was discussed whether or not our services were enabling - not only Casey but her husband as well, to continue to exist in a chronic Family Violence environment all whilst the organisation was supplying support and assistance. Often the lines were blurred and it

was questioned whether, through case management, the Case Manager was inadvertently providing financial support to the client's husband.

When the concerns became problematic, the Case Manager explained to Casey the conflict of interest and attempted to close, suggesting that engagement with her may be inappropriate as we are primarily an organisation which assists women and children. Casey was deeply distressed and stated that without Safe Futures she would have no way of being able to leave the relationship and that our involvement with the family was significant, she just needed more time.

With ongoing support, we have seen remarkable changes in Casey, her husband and with the children and have come to appreciate that some journeys take longer to come to fruition than others. We have come to respect the woman and her decisions in a more holistic and profound manner, even though it is challenging at times. We have let the woman choose her path and be there as support – even if it takes time. This case provided a valuable lesson and important reminder that even though a client is moving an inch at a time; she is still moving.

If we had chosen to focus on all the hurdles and obstacles and resistance we experienced, whilst losing sight of the humanity of the woman, we would have lost Casey and possibly lost any hope of providing the client with the emotional tools she needed.

Casey has made tremendous headway since we first met her and once we looked towards all the positive attributes of her case work and not the deficits, the real change was achieved.

# Community Connect and Safe Children Bright Futures

Community Connect provides crisis accommodation, case management and support for women and children at imminent risk. The Safe Futures dispersed accommodation model delivers a range of self-contained units that provide safety, security and privacy for all clients.

The Safe Children Bright Futures team aims to provide an early intervention, holistic program model in which the services wrap around the child, the sibling group and the family.

Eastern Crisis Advocacy Response Service (ECARS) in partnership with the Victorian Police, Eastern Domestic Violence Service, Safe Steps and Wesley Homelessness Services provides a twenty-four hour, seven day a week crisis response for women and children in the Eastern region.

The twelve months from July 2016 to June 2017 was, as always, one of change. This has meant adjustment and accommodation to new positions and staff which everyone has responded to very positively. Staffing has settled over time, and the refuge is a happy place.

Life is never dull here.

When women come into ECARS the intention is to keep them on-site for up to a week to enable the ECARS workers to provide the maximum amount of support before they either move into one of Safe Futures crisis properties or another more appropriate facility. In ECARS, the support women receive may involve appointments for immigration, Centrelink, lawyers, Intervention Orders, Doctors, Maternal Child Health Nurse check-ups, Child Protection and real estate agents to name just a few. ECARS is a very busy place and time, and Nga and Georgina

work tirelessly with the women. Occasionally the families need to stay longer on-site. This may be because we recognise that the situation with a family may mean that we need longer to assess their needs, particularly with regard to trauma. Sometimes we have a Crisis property that we want to move them into but the property is not ready due to maintenance issues. Things don't always go to plan!

Just prior to Christmas the Refuge was more like a holiday camp without the rules. We had four families, with 15 children aged between 3 and 13 and every day was a challenge. We had barbecues, breakfast club and mums dyeing each other's hair!

The Community Connect team, Jenni, Catherine, Nat and Kay have recently had huge success with their applications to Women's Housing on behalf of their clients. Many families have moved into long-term housing; for them the path to homelessness is over. The majority of the families have gone to the Western and Northern suburbs of Melbourne, into new developments and new houses. This has also meant a turnover in Transitional Housing opening up vacancies for more clients to be assisted over a longer period of time. The case managers' brief again includes whatever has not been completed in ECARS plus many issues that become more evident as they work longer with the women; mental health support, referrals to parenting groups and Family First support in the home.

The Children's Team, officially Safe Children, Bright Futures, Zoe, Mala, and Claire work closely with the Community Connect case managers to achieve the very best outcomes for the children and their mothers.

Up until the end of 2016 school year we worked closely with Croydon Community School to provide an on-site educational environment so that the children had the opportunity to keep up with their education. The program changed at the start of this year and now the focus is on re-enrolment at their new schools as well as supporting students who have disengaged from education. The Project officer, Aime, is also responsible for the 'Respectful Relationships' Program in the outer east as well as liaising with our feeder schools.

## Highlights

One highlight for clients and case managers at the Refuge has been a grant that funded the building of an outdoor table and shade structure beside the playground. This has given women and their children somewhere to meet and chat over coffee or a shared meal. It is also a great space for outdoor games and art.

Two grants, one for art therapy and another for animal therapy have made an enormous difference to our clients. The trainers bring the dogs on-site and teach the children to interact with the trained dogs in a variety of circumstances. Some children start being too frightened to be near the dogs but by the end are able to feed them from their hand, give commands and sit quietly petting them.

A number of the children have had one-on-one therapy with ponies, learning how to use empathy, affection, trust and awareness of the impact of non-verbal behaviour. This is led by a trained therapist with many years of experience working with traumatised people. Our former staff member Margaret Banks, herself a trained art therapist, was successful in applying for these grants. The difference these opportunities have made to both women and children is invaluable. Thankyou Margaret.

**Roz**  
**Team Leader**  
**Community Connect**



# Finance & Corporate Services

## Human Resources



Human Resources has been focused on a number of continuous improvement tasks during 2016-2017. This included but was not limited to:

- Undertaking 'Return to Work' Coordinator training;
- Revising, developing and implementing a recruitment and induction process and exit interview checklists;
- Mobilising our new 'SharePoint' internal communication tool;
- Sourcing and coordinating the Safe Futures professional development program;
- Improving the safety of staff by implementing a new Staff record keeping system
- Managing the recall, leave and after hours roster; and
- Assisting with the Children's Christmas party.

Staff at Safe Futures attended the following training:

- First Aid;
- Introducing ISO 9001;
- Webinar – Grant Applications;
- Responding to Fair Work Claims;
- Child Led Practices;
- Common Risk Assessment Framework;
- Return to Work Coordinator Training;
- Discrimination, Bullying and Harrassment in the Workplace;
- Technology facilitated abuse – Understanding the Issue and How Frontline Workers Can Improve The Safety;
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training;
- Out of Hours Conduct;
- Therapeutic Life Work;
- Support and Supervision – Volunteers Training;
- HSR Training;
- Supporting Your Client Through the Legal System;
- Infants & Toddlers – Using Hope to Address Relational Trauma;
- Doing Housing;
- Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry – HR Forum;
- Introduction to the Family Violence Sector;
- Beyond the Violence Facilitator Training.

**Kate**  
HR Officer

## Quality & Accreditation

Safe Futures Foundation underwent an Accreditation process in August 2016 against the Department of Health and Human Services Standards and International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). What this means for Safe Futures is that we are able to demonstrate our ability to provide consistent quality services to our clients. We were the first Family Violence organisation to meet 100% of the standards against the new ISO 9001:2015.

### Charity Tick of Approval

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commissions (ACNC) introduced a charity verification tick which shows that organisations are "transparent and accountable by highlighting their presence on the ACNC Charity Register". Safe Futures Foundation proudly receives and displays this 'tick'.



**Kelly**  
Business Systems Manager

## Property Management

Safe Futures manages 19 crisis accommodation properties to support the Community Connect Program.

These properties range from 8 to 30 years of age. In conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), these properties are maintained to a basic standard with any other property upgrade requests being considered as part of state-wide asset planning priorities. Even with this support from DHHS, keeping the properties and gardens maintained and looking presentable for our clients can be extremely difficult.

Other ongoing challenges for our property management team is replacement of linen, furniture, mattresses and white goods. Safe Futures supported 367 new women and children through these properties this financial year and the wear and tear on these assets makes it difficult for staff to keep the

properties looking as good as they would like to support our clients to help them begin their recovery from Family Violence.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contractors both from the Department and individuals that assist in helping us to keep the properties safe and presentable for our clients

In addition to the crisis accommodation we are also provided with 39 Transitional Housing Management properties to ensure our clients are able to further recover in stable housing. We would like to thank Community Housing Limited, Salvocare and Housing Choices for working so closely with our clients to keep them in safe accommodation.

**Jesse**  
Property Officer

Photographs: Safe Futures Foundation Refuge Properties



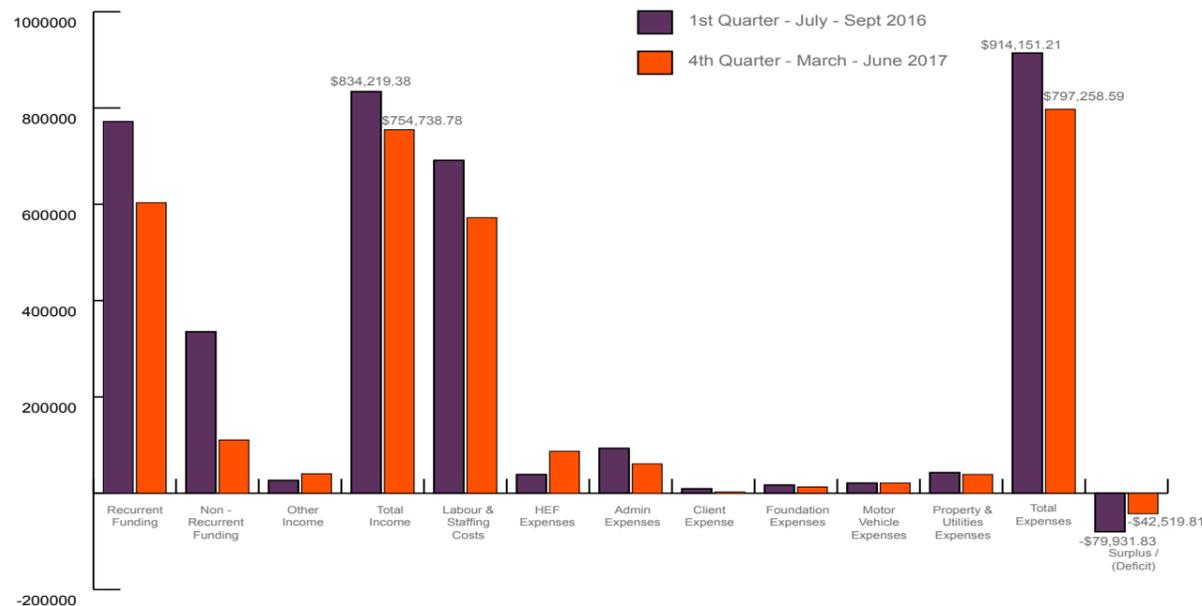
# Finance & Corporate Services cont.

Despite the financial challenges of the year the Corporate Services team were pleased that the strategies put in place by the Board and Safe Futures finance team made an impact on the 4th quarter figures. The comparative figures confirm that significant savings had started to be made across almost all areas of the Foundation.

Going forward the team is confident that Safe Futures will continue to improve its liquidity by adhering to the strategies and changes adopted to strengthen the organisations financial future.

**Kelly**  
Business Systems Manager

## Comparison between 1st and 4th Quarter Expenses



## Grants and Donations at Safe Futures

We acknowledge, with gratitude, the enormous contribution of government, philanthropic trusts, Private Ancillary Funds, community organisations and individuals who support Safe Futures Foundation.

Whereas government funding is allocated to Safe Futures Foundation for specific core business, access to money from philanthropic trusts and community organisations can often provide more targeted needs that would not otherwise be possible for our clients. The benefits from philanthropic money have in many cases, provided assets and services that are fundamental to the journey of recovery for many

women and children.

In the past 12 months we have been fortunate to access funds and donations for:

- Equine & Dog Therapy - **Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Fund**
- Bed Linen and basic household needs - **Impact for Women**
- eTapestry Customer Relationship Management Tool - **The Wood Family Trust**
- Buddy Bags - **The Alannah and Madeline Foundation**
- Food - **OzHarvest**
- **Mods & Rockers**

# Grants Make A Difference

## The Jack Brockhoff Foundation

A generous Jack Brockhoff Foundation grant has enabled us to install a wonderful heavy duty outdoor table which provides a central place for mothers to be in the fresh air with their children and to watch them play in a safe place. A pergola has also been installed overhead so that rain, hail or shine, women and children are able to gather together to create a greater sense of community.

Our thanks to the Jack Brockhoff Foundation for enabling us to create this fabulous outdoor central gathering place.

## StreetSmart

We are indebted to StreetSmart for its many generous grants over past years. Through their brilliant annual CafeSmart and DineSmart campaigns they have supported us to provide childcare while women attend court sessions; security alarms and lighting; food relief and Creative Arts Therapy with women and children.

This assistance plays a pivotal role in the recovery of families after experiencing abuse, violence and homelessness.

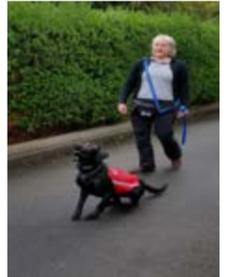
## Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Fund

Thank you to the Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Fund who granted us with \$10,000 so we could provide Therapeutic Responses to the Children in our refuge. This included art therapy, mindful drumming, dog therapy and equine therapy. It has been found that equine therapy helps children to gain valuable communication and social skills including self-care and increasing a positive attitude. In addition, mindful drumming helps children and young people to express their emotional issues. This grant has assisted us to improve outcomes for the children who attended this programs.

## Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation

Thanks to a **Youth in Philanthropy** grant we have in conjunction with the Dogs for Life program at the Centre for Service and Therapy (Australia) Pty Ltd been able to run animal assisted therapy programs with children in refuge.

This program focused on working with specifically trained dogs to assist people at risk to achieve therapeutic goals. The positive experience includes having fun but more



importantly embracing positive living concepts such as trust and confidence, relating to others well, sharing with and supporting one another and creating positive relationships. It is hugely important to focus on each child in the program in order for them to achieve their maximum potential and to provide them with a tool kit of life skills and social skills to cope with things when life doesn't quite work out the way they may have envisaged.

## FEED Melbourne Appeal -

Thankyou to the FEED Melbourne Appeal for support received during 2016/2017. We have been granted \$7,050 for baby formula, fresh vegetables and basic staples. As women and children come into refuge we are able to provide basic staples until they can go shopping and settle into their accommodation. This assistance from FEED Melbourne enables women to feel supported and nurtured when becoming homeless as they first flee control, abuse and violence in the family home.

# We can all make a difference - Getting Involved

There are many ways you can support Safe Futures to make a difference in the lives of children, young people and adults.

## Make a Donation

Your gift will help Safe Futures continue to provide essential services that are not covered by government funding.

You can donate online at:

[www.safefutures.org.au](http://www.safefutures.org.au)

## Donate Goods

Our programs helping children, young people and adults in crisis and are always in need of items such as non-perishable food, toiletries and other good quality household essentials such as furniture and crockery.

For more information about donating goods please call:

**(03) 9877 0311**

## Become a Regular Giver

Making a commitment to bring about safety and stability for children, young people and adults is easy. Simply nominate an amount you feel comfortable to be deducted from your account or credit card. We will stay in contact with you to advise you how your donation is making a difference.

For more information about becoming a regular giver please call:

**(03) 9877 0311**

## Fundraise for Safe Futures Foundation

All our programs have areas that benefit from extra funding to make a difference and provide added value for women and children.

You can raise money yourself for Safe Futures Foundation. Organise your own fundraiser, get together with your friends and family, local community group, school or workplace. The options are endless - from organising a sports day, bingo or trivia night, afternoon tea, or even asking for donations in lieu of presents at a special event.

## Become a Corporate Partner

There are many ways your business can support and benefit from a relationship with Safe Futures Foundation:

- Business partnership/contributions
- Workplace Donations
- Fundraising
- Pro bono and in-kind support
- Sponsorship of events and programs

For more information about becoming a Corporate Partner please call:

**(03) 9877 0311**

## Become a Volunteer

Join our volunteer program and become an integral part of Safe Futures Foundation. We are always on the lookout for enthusiastic people.

For more information about becoming a volunteer please call:

**(03) 9877 0311**

# Thank you

We acknowledge with great appreciation the following donors, trusts and foundations, community groups, congregations, business and the government whose generosity and commitment this year enables us to do the important work we do

## Community Partners

Ambulance Victoria  
Anglicare  
Australian Childhood Foundation  
Australasian College of Emergency Medicine  
Benwerrin  
Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service  
CEHL Housing  
Centrelink  
Community Housing Limited  
Courts - Magistrates, Children's, Family  
Croydon Community School  
Department of Education and Training  
Doncare  
DHHS - Office of Disability  
DHHS - Homelessness and Family Violence Teams  
Domestic Violence Victoria  
EACH  
Eastern Emergency Relief Network  
Eastern Regional Family Violence Partnership  
EDVOS  
Health - a range of Hospitals, Medical and Health Care Services  
Housing Choices  
InTouch  
Knox City Council  
Knoxbrooke Inc.  
Manningham City Council  
Maroondah City Council  
Melbourne University  
Migrant Information Centre  
Monash University  
Office of Housing  
Quantum Support Services  
Salvation Army - East Care  
Swinburne University of Technology  
The TOWN Club - Blackburn  
The Michael Centre

Victoria Police  
Wesley Mission Victoria  
WESNET  
Women with Disability Victoria  
Victorian Legal Aid - Ringwood  
Yarra Ranges Council

## Corporate Support

AMart - Nunawading  
Bank Australia  
Bunnings - Bayswater  
Bunnings - Croydon  
Coles  
Enterprise Architects  
Eye Trend - Box Hill  
Forty Winks - Chirnside Park  
Good Guys - Bayswater  
IPP Consulting  
JB HiFi  
K-Mart - Chirnside Park  
Legend Australian Holdings  
Logan and Mason  
Phillip Webb Real Estate - Doncaster East  
One Tech  
Perry Weston Solicitors  
Property AU  
Ray White Real Estate  
SMC Monitoring Centre  
Telstra (Innovation Hub)

# Thank you cont.

## Trusts, Foundations and Philanthropic Support

Alannah and Madeline Foundation  
Australian Women's Network  
Danks & Annie Danks Trust  
Frank & Flora Leith Charitable Trust  
Good 360  
Hazel Peat Perpetual Foundation Charitable Trust  
IOOF Foundation  
Impact for Women  
Jack Brockhoff Foundation  
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation  
RACV Community Foundation  
RSPCA - Kinder Kids Program  
RE Ross Trust  
Street Smart  
Too Good  
The Wood Family

## Community Support

Any Time Fitness  
Art A Dente  
Aussie Farmer's Direct  
Australian Shero Association  
Church of Christ Community Care  
Country Club Quilters  
Dogs for Life  
Gracedale Knitting Circle  
Igniting Change  
I Made it Toys  
Knitting for the Needy  
Our volunteers and contractors  
Rotary Club - Balwyn  
Rotary Club - Croydon  
Rotary Club - Ringwood  
Rotary District 9810  
Scorseby Uniting Church  
The 59 Club Australia Inc.

Share the Dignity  
St Kilda Mums  
St Vincent's Hospital  
The Benjamin Andrew Footpath Library  
The Nappy Collective  
Waverly Patchworker's Guild  
Women In Touch

## Individual Donors

C. & D. Corkery  
D. Zanin  
D. Cooper  
J. McGrath  
J. & H. Seymour  
J. Davies  
J. Ibbetson and Family  
K. & D. Yong  
K. Ryan  
K. Ischia  
M. Banks  
M. Thomas  
M. Lonsdale  
M. Read  
J. Witt  
R.J. Nation  
R. Staedler  
R. de Silva  
S. Robertson  
S. Brown  
T. Barwick

# Financial Report



Our Ref: R479717

2nd October 2017

Ms Bernadette Dobeli  
Chairperson of the Board of Directors  
Safe Futures Foundation Inc  
PO Box 12  
RINGWOOD VIC 3134

Dear Ms. Dobeli

### SAFE FUTURES FOUNDATION INC

We advise that the audit for the above entity for the year ended 30 June 2017 has recently been completed.

Auditors are encouraged by our Professional Body to issue a management letter at the completion of each audit as a means to advise management of any matters noted during the course of the audit.

Our audit work involves the review of only those systems and controls as adopted by management, upon which we wish to rely for the purposes of determining our audit procedures. Accordingly, our examination may not have identified all the control weaknesses that may exist. Furthermore, our audit should not be relied on to disclose defalcations or other similar irregularities, although their disclosure, if they exist, may well result from the audit tests we undertake.

We have appreciated all of the assistance given to us in undertaking this audit.

As a result of our examination of the books and records, we would like to bring the following matters to the attention of the Board: -

### Going Concern

The entity incurred a net loss of \$351,694 at the year ended 30 June 2017 and, as of that date, the entity has an accumulated deficit of \$154,484 which may cast doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

We have discussed this with the Treasurer and the Chief Executive Officer. We understand that the Directors took action to reduce costs and improve liquidity and profitability which will be reflected in the current and future years.

We would be pleased to discuss the above noted matters with you at your convenience. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

**GEOFF JOHNSON**  
Director

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**Safe Futures Foundation Inc.**  
**Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2017**

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

Your board members submit the financial report of Safe Futures Foundation Inc. financial year ended 30 June 2017.

**Board Directors**

The names of board directors throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Bernadette Dobeli	Jessica French	
Tonia Sakkas	Doreen Stoves	
Florence Mauwa	Ellen Matusko	(resigned from Mar 2017)
Angela Fitzpatrick	Althena Bangara	(resigned from Feb 2017)
Kerry Kornhauser		(resigned from July 2017)

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the foundation during the financial year were offering a suite of programs to protect adults, young people and children from control, abuse and violence.

**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**Operating Result**

The operating deficit for the 2017 financial year amounted to \$351,694.

As stated in Note 10 of the Notes to the Financial Statements, grants received for the 2017 financial year were not brought in as income where the related expenditure had not been incurred. This is a change of accounting treatment and had the effect of increasing the deficit for the 2017 year by \$139,539.

Becoming aware of deteriorating liquidity before the end of the 2017 financial year, Directors took action to reduce costs and improve liquidity and profitability which will be reflected in the current and future years.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors of the board.

*B. Dobeli*

Director

*A. Clanna*

Director

Dated this *21st* day of *September* 2017

**Safe Futures Foundation Inc.**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Government grants		2,952,114	3,092,027
Other grants		33,413	23,125
Interest		9,421	15,729
Other income	9	<u>137,610</u>	<u>129,063</u>
		<u>3,132,558</u>	<u>3,259,944</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Accounting fees		6,458	11,498
Audit fees		13,116	13,547
Bank charges		1,515	949
Depreciation expense		9,536	10,294
Utilities expense		78,202	95,750
Advertising and promotion		451	758
Administration & other expenses		924,824	865,351
Salaries and wages – superannuation		194,344	191,559
Salaries and WorkCover		<u>2,255,806</u>	<u>2,232,138</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>3,484,252</u>	<u>3,421,844</u>
Current year operating (deficit)/surplus before income tax	10	(351,694)	(161,900)
Income tax expense	1 (a)	-	-
Net current year operating (deficit)/surplus after income tax		(351,694)	(161,900)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>TOTAL OPERATING SURPLUS &amp; COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		(351,694)	(161,900)
<b>RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		197,210	359,110
<b>RETAINED(DEFICIT)/ SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<u>(154,484)</u>	<u>197,210</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

### Safe Futures Foundation Inc.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	223,005	532,120
Accounts receivable and other debtors	4	101,653	62,638
Prepayments		14,873	12,649
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>339,531</b>	<b>607,407</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	3	1,883,884	598,420
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,883,884</b>	<b>598,420</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,223,415</b>	<b>1,205,827</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable	5	27,929	46,207
Grants in advance	10, 1(h)	139,539	-
GST & PAYG withheld payable	6	80,057	83,982
Provisions for employee benefits	7	148,030	192,109
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>395,555</b>	<b>322,298</b>
<b>NON -CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions for employee benefits	7	29,627	28,602
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>29,627</b>	<b>28,602</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>425,182</b>	<b>350,900</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,798,233</b>	<b>854,927</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Capital		657,717	657,717
Land and building revaluation reserve	1b	1,295,000	-
Accumulated (deficit)/surplus		(154,484)	197,210
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<b>1,798,233</b>	<b>854,927</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

### Safe Futures Foundation Inc.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Notes	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from government grants		2,952,114	3,092,027
Other grants		33,413	23,125
Interest received		9,421	15,729
Other receipts		238,134	126,915
Payments to suppliers of goods and services		(1,048,993)	(953,041)
Payments to or for benefits of employees		(2,493,204)	(2,442,383)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>		<b>(309,115)</b>	<b>(137,628)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net cash provided by/ (used in) property, plant and equipment		-	(36,000)
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	-
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(36,000)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		-	-
Net increase/(decrease) cash held		(309,115)	(173,628)
Cash at beginning of year		532,120	705,748
Cash at end of year	2	223,005	532,120

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Safe Futures Foundation Inc.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

### Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Reform Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

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

#### a. Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### b. Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Freehold land and buildings are shown at revaluation by an external independent estate agent, no amortisation applied.

#### c. Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the committee reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

#### d. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits include annual leave, sick leave and long service leave provided after seven year's service.

#### e. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

#### f. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

#### g. Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

## Safe Futures Foundation Inc.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

### h. Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised as received. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

Projects income recognition in the current financial year, relating to the provision of services has been determined with reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the end of the reporting period and where the outcome of the contract can be estimated reliably. Stage of completion is determined with reference to the services performed to date as a percentage of total anticipated services to be performed. Where the outcome cannot be estimated reliably, revenue is recognised only to the extent that related expenditure is recoverable. (Refer Note 10)

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

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

### i. Leases

Leases of PPE, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset (but not the legal ownership) are transferred to the association, are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for that period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease term. Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

### j. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

### k. Financial Assets

Investments in financial assets are initially recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value, which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through an equity reserve.

### l. Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

## Safe Futures Foundation Inc.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Note 2: Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash at banks	222,505	531,320
Cash on hand	500	800
Total cash and cash equivalents	223,005	532,120
<b>Note 3: Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Office Furniture & Equipment	23,085	23,085
Less accumulated depreciation	(21,770)	(20,912)
	1,315	2,173
Household Furniture & Equipment	52,894	52,894
Less accumulated depreciation	(27,894)	(25,554)
	25,000	27,340
Outdoor Equipment	38,840	38,840
Less accumulated depreciation	(7,837)	(4,391)
	31,003	34,449
Land and Building - at revaluation (2016 at cost) 362-364 Maroondah Highway, Croydon	1,815,000	520,000
Less accumulated depreciation	-	-
	1,815,000	520,000
Motor Vehicles	26,176	26,176
Less accumulated depreciation	(14,610)	(11,718)
	11,566	14,458
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	1,883,884	598,420
<b>Note 4: Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors</b>		
Trade Debtors & Other Debtors	41,653	2,638
Accrued Income	60,000	60,000
	101,653	62,638
<b>Note 5: Accounts Payable</b>		
Superannuation Payable	18,734	18,870
Trade Creditors	9,195	27,337
	27,929	46,207
<b>Note 6: GST and PAYG Withheld Payable</b>		
GST Payable	50,296	58,058
PAYG Withheld Payable	29,761	25,924
	80,057	83,982
<b>Note 7: Provisions for Employee Benefits</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Annual Leave	122,505	156,339
Sick Leave	25,525	35,770
	148,030	192,109
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
Long Service Leave	29,627	28,602

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## Safe Futures Foundation Inc.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
<b>Note 8: Cash flow information</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities to Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		
	\$	\$
Operating (Deficit)	(351,694)	(161,900)
<b>Non-cash flows in deficit from ordinary activities</b>		
Depreciation	9,536	10,294
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities</b>		
Decrease/(increase) receivables/prepaid	(41,239)	(2,637)
Increase/(decrease) in grants advance	139,539	-
Increase/(decrease) in other creditors	(18,278)	14,015
Increase/(decrease) provision for employee benefits	(43,054)	(17,945)
Increase/(decrease) in GST & PAYG withheld payable	(3,925)	20,545
<b>Net cash used by operating activities</b>	(309,115)	(137,628)
<b>Note 9: Other income</b>		
Donations - General	15,950	52,400
Donations - SafeTcards	-	25,414
Fundraising	-	575
Centrelink & other income	121,660	50,674
	137,610	129,063
<b>Note 10 : Grant in advance</b>		
In the 2016 financial year, High Risk Family Violence Responses (PSI) grants income (\$520,000) received from the department was included as income even though the expenditure relating to the grant had not been incurred. This is in accordance with Safe Futures Foundation Inc's accounting policy at the time.		
In the 2017 financial year, under the same circumstances, directors decided not to bring in as income the amount of \$139,539 of grants received where the related expenditure had not been incurred. (See Note 1(h)).		
The effect on the change in accounting treatment is that the current year deficit has been increased by \$139,539.		
<b>Note 11 : Going concern</b>		
The entity incurred a net loss of \$351,694 at the year ended 30 June 2017 and, as of that date, the entity has accumulated deficit \$154,484 which may cast doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.		

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**Safe Futures Foundation Inc.**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the board the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 8:

- 1) Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Safe Futures Foundation Inc. as at 30 June 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2) At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Safe Futures Foundation Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the board and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Board Chair B. Dabeli ..... Bernadette Dabeli .....

Treasurer F. Mauwa ..... FLORENCE MAUWA .....

Dated this 21st day of September 2017

**Submission of financial statements to annual general meeting –  
incorporated associations**

*Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*

Sections 94(3), 97(3) and 100(3)

Florence Mauwa  
Angela Fitzpatrick  
Bernadette Dabeli being a member of the committee of the  
Safe futures foundation certify that –

"I attended the annual general meeting of the Safe futures foundation,  
held on the 2/11/17 and the financial statements of the association  
for the financial year ending on June 2017 were submitted to the  
members of the association at that general meeting."

Signed: AF

Date: 2/11/17

B Dabeli, 2/11/17.

F Mauwa 2/11/17

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
UNDER DIVISION 60-40 OF  
THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMISSION ACT 2012  
TO MEMBERS OF

**Safe Futures Foundation Inc.**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2017 there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Geoffrey B Johnson  
Of Rucker DWC Pty Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
Mitcham VIC

Dated : 4th August 2017

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
**SAFE FUTURES FOUNDATION INC**

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Safe Futures Foundation Inc., which comprises the committee's report, the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2017, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

**Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The committee of Safe Futures Foundation Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, 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. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Safe Futures Foundation Inc. as at 30 June 2017 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012.

**Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution**

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Safe Futures Foundation Inc. to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

**Uncertainty Related to Going Concern**

I draw attention to Note 11 in the financial report, which indicates that the entity incurred a net loss of \$351,694 during the year ended 30 June 2017 and, as of that date, the entity has accumulated deficit \$154,484. As stated in Note 11, these events or conditions, indicate that an uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



Geoffrey B Johnson  
of Rucker DWC Pty Ltd  
Chartered Accountants

Mitcham, Victoria  
Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2017

