

22  
23

136 YEARS OF EMPOWERING  
VICTORIAN WOMEN & CHILDREN



*The Queen's Fund*

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**  
The Queen’s Fund respectfully acknowledges all traditional custodians of the land and waterways in Victoria and we pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.



WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

THE NEED FOR  
THE QUEEN’S FUND HAS  
NEVER BEEN GREATER.

A historical national crisis in housing stability, combined with government COVID-19 supports ending, aggressive inflation, the war in Ukraine and resultant supply chain issues, plus continuous interest rate rises, added further pressures to the cost of living and exacerbated the already fragile positions of our applicants.

This year, The Queen’s Fund received 2,232 applications, and granted a total of \$684,509, an increase of 29% from last year, and our highest amount on record.

We saw a rise of 48% in funding assistance for basic necessities (food, petrol and household goods), an increase of 30% for funding assistance with utilities, and a rise of 29% in applications for funding requests related to housing/homelessness. Educational assistance requests, previously one of our largest primary issues, rose by only 4%, demonstrating that our applicants’ priorities have changed dramatically in the face of more urgent needs. Our increase in funding to a maximum of \$400 per grant was a direct response to these changing needs.

Family violence and family crisis sadly remain the primary reason for women seeking our assistance, representing 47% of all

applications, and an increase of 40% from the previous year. At the core of our application process, however, is the ability for a woman to specifically nominate a service or item that she needs help with. These micro-choices are essential for women escaping family violence, empowering them and providing dignity through agency and self-determination.

After over two years of virtual meetings and cancelled events, personal highlights this year were our 135th Anniversary Celebration, and the re-introduction of in-person Management Meetings, where I am struck every time by the sheer breadth of experience, good will and collective energy that keeps The Queen’s Fund alive and thriving. Our ongoing information sessions with social workers have also been an invaluable resource, giving feedback about our process and providing insights into how our applicants can best be supported.

We welcomed new Committee members Melissa Whiting who brings her significant skills in leadership, career and life coaching, gender equity consulting and crisis support, and Felicity Worland, who as Deputy General Counsel at ANZ Plus, brings 20 years’ experience in legal leadership and innovation.

While we bade farewell to Lalitha O’Donhue and Erica Moloney, we continue to be grateful to Committee members Penny Montgomery, Jane McLaughlin, Margaret Allen and Lee Ann O’Connor who have dedicated 40, 26, 22 and 20 years respectively to volunteering their time and skills.

Our Committee members have never been so diverse in age and skill sets, and we now span three generations of women across a broad range of professions and life skills, united in our commitment to supporting vulnerable Victorian women and their children.

Most importantly, I would like to celebrate and honour The Queen’s Fund as a community. We give thanks to our individual donors, trusts, foundations and corporate sponsors, who through their generosity, allow us to continue supporting vulnerable Victorian women and children. But without our Board, our pro bono advisors, and our incredible Committee, each of whom play a vital role in continuing our 136-year legacy, we would simply not exist.

A huge thank you to everyone for another year of proving just how much compassionate hearts can achieve together.

*Lucy O’Sullivan*  
**PRESIDENT**

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## YEAR IN REVIEW

# IN THE PAST YEAR, THE QUEEN'S FUND HAS PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO 1,896 WOMEN AND 2,270 CHILDREN ACROSS VICTORIA.

Hearing back from our referring agencies and the women we help is the greatest gift we receive.

**"THIS HELPS HER TO STABILISE HER ACCOMMODATION WITHOUT BECOMING HOMELESS."**

The client lives in community housing and fell into substantial rent arrears when Centrelink mistakenly stopped payments for a period of three months. She was at risk of eviction after a VCAT proceeding unless she could reduce her arrears and make the repayments more manageable. The Queen's Fund paid \$350 towards her rent arrears, saving her tenancy.

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
Melbourne City Mission  
**OCTOBER 2022**

**"JUST WISH YOU COULD WITNESS MY CLIENT'S JOY AT BEING ASSISTED."**

The client has been homeless for two years. She has been staying in motel accommodation funded by her referring agency until the current time when she applied for and was accepted into one of their Community Housing properties. The Queen's Fund paid to buy bedding for the client's new home. Previously she was using her clothing for a doona and a rolled up towel for a pillow.

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
Women's Housing Ltd  
**JUNE 2022**

**"I have worked in the family violence sector for many years and cannot praise you enough. Most of the women I work with, are in poverty. The difference you make is immeasurable."**

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
Junction Support Services  
**MAY 2022**

**"THIS IS AMAZING!!! THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH, I AM JUST RAPT. TEARS OF HAPPINESS HERE, THANK YOU :)"**

The client has complicated medical issues. She can only work limited hours due to her medical conditions and claims part disability support pension. As a result she has accrued significant debts and is under severe financial stress. The Queen's Fund paid for her car registration, alleviating some pressure on her finances.

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
Doorways Salvation Army  
**NOVEMBER 2022**

**"I KNOW MY CLIENT WILL HAVE SOME HAPPY AND RELIEVED TEARS WHEN SHE RECEIVES MY TEXT MESSAGE. THE EXPERIENCE OF ACCESSING MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR CHRONIC WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES CAN BE SO INVALIDATING, AND \$400 IS NOT JUST HELPFUL FINANCIALLY BUT IN THE WAY OF VALIDATION AND CARE EXTENDED."**

A survivor of childhood trauma and family violence suffers from mental health issues and severe migraines. The Queen's Fund paid \$400 towards a neurologist appointment so she could receive treatment without enduring the long public wait list.

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
NEAMI  
**NOVEMBER 2022**

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## THE QUEEN'S FUND 135TH ANNIVERSARY

We were delighted to gather as a community again to celebrate 135 years of The Queen's Fund's work empowering Victorian women and children.

In October 2022, donors, supporters, community partners, social workers, Directors, pro bono advisors and our volunteer Committee members - past and present - came together in celebration of The Queen's Fund's 135th Anniversary.

Founded in 1887 by Lady Loch, the wife of the then-Governor of Victoria, and named in celebration of Queen Victoria's 50th Anniversary on the throne, The Queen's Fund has a long and enduring legacy. For what is now 136 years, our volunteer members have been proudly continuing Lady Loch's vision of a fund "to be dedicated to women for their relief and support in cases of disaster for which no other suitable or adequate provision exists."

Hosted at the Alexandra Club in Melbourne, the celebratory night offered a chance to reflect on the considerable hard work and dedication shown by The Queen's Fund's volunteer members over so many years. It also gave us the chance to recognise the unwavering commitment of those in our community to supporting single Victorian women and children in crisis, distress and emergency situations. In particular, we had the chance to highlight the work of the approximately 245 welfare agencies who refer women to The Queen's Fund, with our guest speaker Giselle Bayley from WAYSS speaking to the relationship between our organisations, and the profound

impact a grant from The Queen's Fund can have on the lives of women experiencing or having experienced family violence.

The Queen's Fund's 135th Anniversary event was proudly sponsored by Committee members, 2U Grocer, Origin Energy, and Vintage House Wine & Spirits.





2022/2023 NUMBERS

TOTAL FUNDS PROVIDED

Average grant: **\$361** (+8%)

**2,232 Applications** (+24%)

Average applications per month: **186** (+24%)

Fast-tracked Applications: **69** (+13%)

**\$24,043**  
VALUE OF FAST-TRACKED APPLICATIONS (+21%)

COVID-19 related: **196** (-47%)

**\$68,645**  
COVID19-RELATED FUNDS GRANTED (-47%)

First Nations Women **130** (+32%)

Refugee Women **102** (+3%)

Trusts & Foundations Donors **\$513,502** (+21%)

Individual Donors **\$157,610** (-2%)

**\$684,509** (+29%)

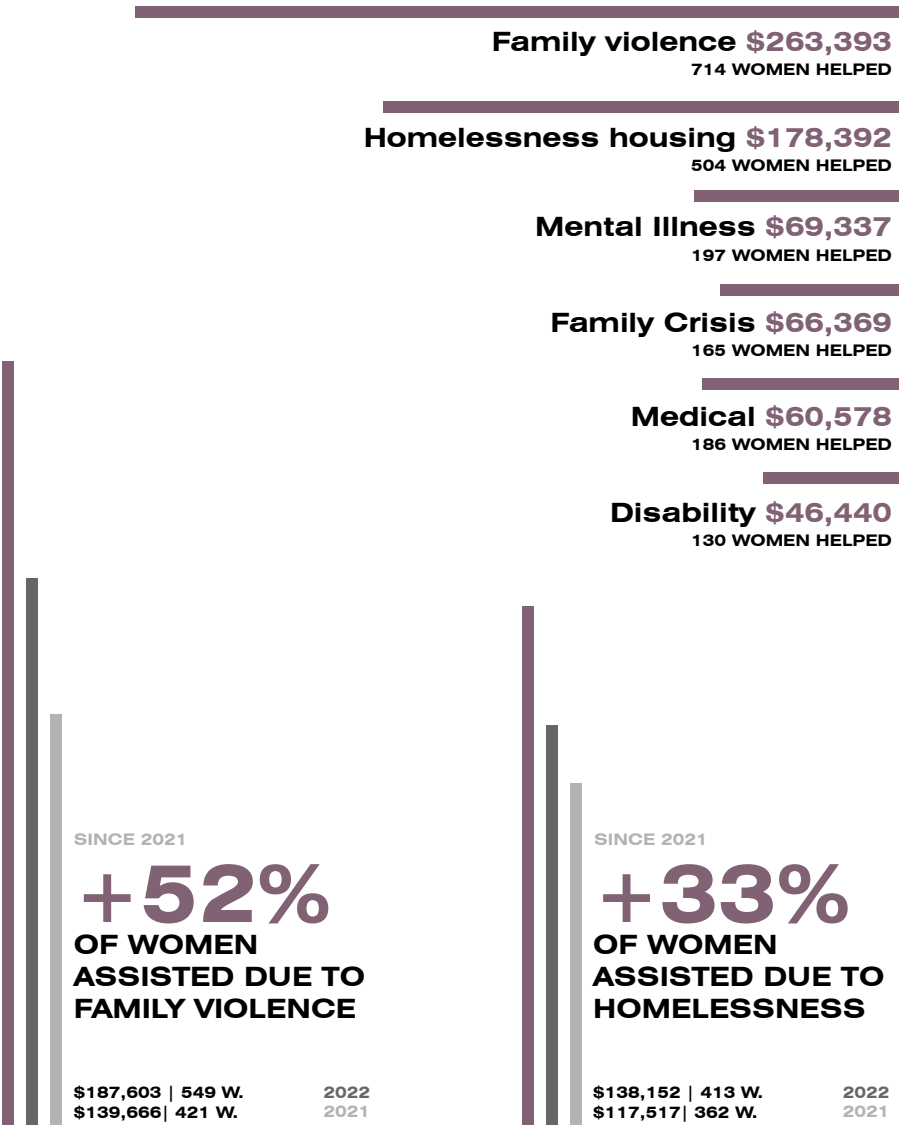


**1,896** (+19%)  
WOMEN ASSISTED



**2,270** (+13%)  
CHILDREN ASSISTED

WHY WOMEN NEED OUR HELP



(Figure in brackets represents an increase or decrease from 2021-2022)



**\$46,970**

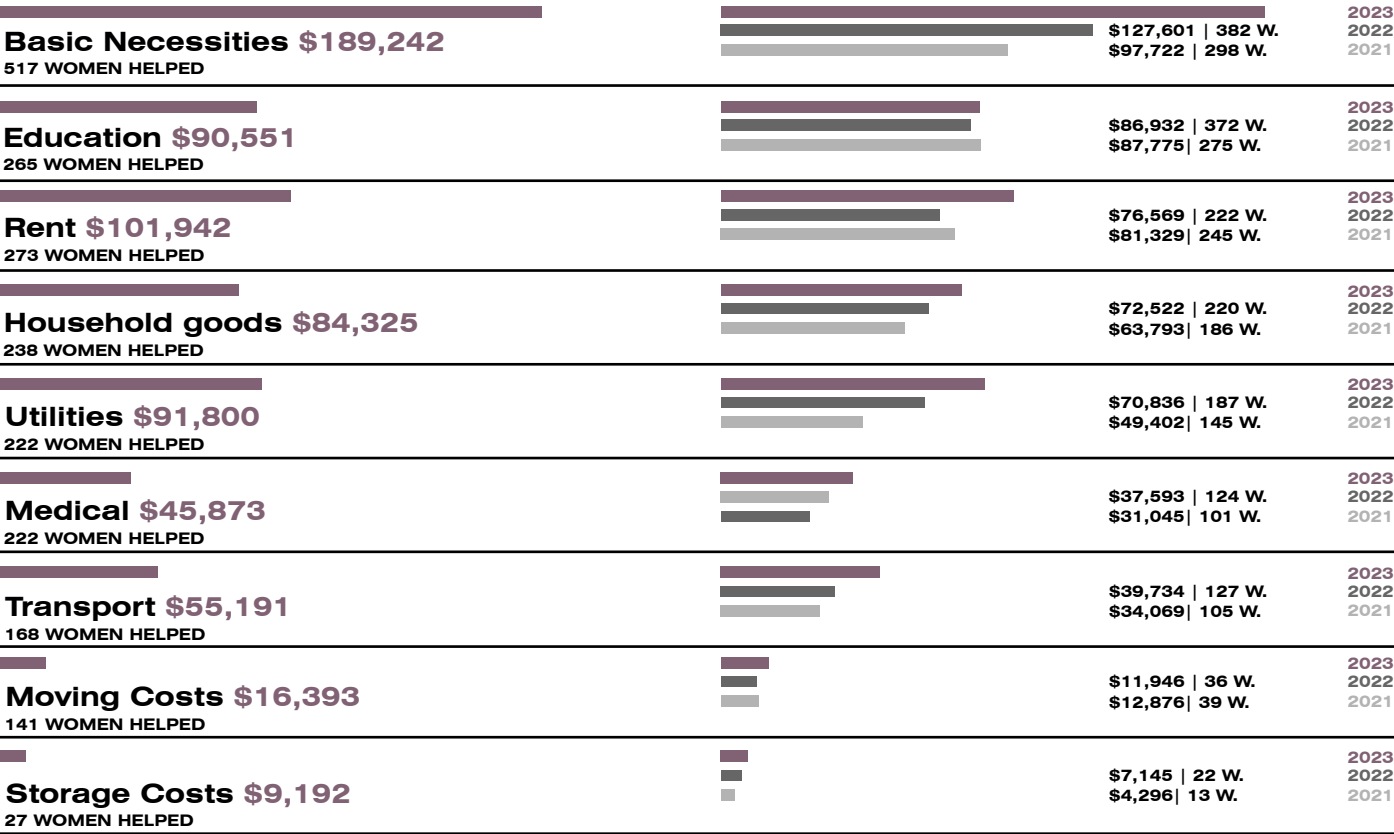
OF OUR EDUCATION FUND ASSISTED OVER **39** WOMEN TO UPSKILL THEMSELVES, AND A FURTHER

**\$43,581**

HELPED **126** WOMEN SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

WHAT WE HELP WITH

2021-2023 RELIEF REQUESTED



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND OUTGOINGS

		NOTE	2023	2022
	Donations - Capital Account	1	\$106,144	\$8,636
	Donations - Revenue Account	2	\$583,504	\$596,450
	Interest and dividends		\$104,166	\$83,451
	Total Income available for grants		\$687,670	\$679,901
	Amount granted	2	\$661,070	\$517,132
	Other expenses	3	\$15,330	\$10,052
	Net surplus		\$117,414	\$161,353

NOTE 1 - Donations to the Capital Account are unavailable for grants.  
NOTE 2 - Excludes value obtained from non-cash partnerships; includes cheques that have been re-issued.  
NOTE 3 - All expenses in 2022 and 2023 are covered by The Tivey Memorial Fund.

ACCUMULATED FUNDS  
THE QUEEN’S FUND AND TRUSTEES FOR THE QUEEN’S FUND

		2023	2022
	Net Assets	\$2,646,362	\$2,618,154

The Queen’s Fund complies with all applicable Australian Accounting Standards and Guidelines. These financial statements are audited by Accru Melbourne (Audit) Pty Ltd. Complete financials can be viewed at [www.queensfund.org.au](http://www.queensfund.org.au)

IN CONVERSATION WITH  
LAUNCH HOUSING

Launch Housing is a secular Melbourne-based community organisation that brings homelessness services and life-changing housing supports under one roof for disadvantaged Victorians. The Queen’s Fund has shared a relationship with Launch Housing for several years, and through this, in 2022/2023 was able to assist over 60 women facing financial crisis, with a funding amount of \$21,774.

Launch Housing’s Howard Ralley, General Manager, Campaigns and Engagement, shared his thoughts on the work done by Launch Housing across the past 12 months and the support provided by The Queen’s Fund.

Please tell us about the work done by Launch Housing over the last year.

At Launch Housing, our Theory of Change helps us to pursue our vision of zero homelessness in Melbourne by focusing on changes for people, communities, and society. We believe that everyone deserves another chance and the best start in life. We provide children, families and young people security, safety, and the opportunity to start afresh and to build an optimistic future.

Last year, Launch Housing was able to help over 15,000 people with holistic housing and innovative support, education, youth and specialist services, including over 1,600 families. Support was provided through a wide variety of programs ranging from rental assistance to help them stay in their own home, financial assistance to secure a new rental property, short-term crisis accommodation at dedicated and secure locations, support finding a new home or accessing social housing, and provision of long-term housing.

What are the biggest pressures experienced by the women and children supported by Launch Housing?

We know that poverty and family violence drive homelessness. And that when children grow up with housing instability, this cycle can continue into future generations. Without doubt, the increasing pressures of the cost of living and

both the rental and housing crisis in Australia is creating a perfect storm of pressure for many women and children.

Where can the biggest impacts be made for this cohort?

At the end of the day, the biggest impact to help women and children is to give them the security of their own permanent home. We also know that housing first works. Permanent housing combined with support services is proven to create real change for families. When we rapidly re-house families, we limit additional trauma and give them the best chance to recover and rebuild. That is why we need more safe, secure, and long-term housing close to schools and services to be able to move women and families quickly into stability.

What has The Queen’s Fund meant to Launch Housing?

Funding provided by The Queen’s Fund enables Launch Housing to overcome the barriers so many

women and children encounter simply to live in a safe home. From helping mothers with young children move into a new home after fleeing family violence, to supporting women in their 60s and 70s to regain control over their lives after living in insecure accommodation for decades – these funds make a real difference. They hit the ground running and make things possible for women and children that simply weren’t before. They’re a little bit of magic in the lives of women and children who face so much hardship.



Launch Housing is a secular Melbourne-based community organisation that delivers homelessness services and housing supports to disadvantaged Victorians.

LAUNCHHOUSING.ORG.AU

**“Thank you so much once again! The Queen’s Fund is such a fantastic opportunity to assist clients in a way that enables them to get through tough times with grants for many of the expenses that are often overlooked or not available through other agencies.”**

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
Deakin University Student Association (DUSA)  
JUNE 2022



WHO WE ARE

## ABOUT THE QUEEN’S FUND

### OUR VISION

To financially assist and empower single women and children in Victoria who are in distress, crisis or emergency situations.

### OUR MISSION

The Queen’s Fund provides financial aid to single women and children in Victoria who are subject to hardship. Grants are allocated to women who are referred by community organisations and welfare agencies.

The Queen’s Fund encourages women to increase their self-worth, skills and knowledge through the:

- provision of short-term emergency relief to alleviate immediate financial crises with rent, medical and household expenses;
- allocation of educational grants to increase access to educational opportunities; and
- provision of grants which give women a chance to rebuild their lives and nurture their children.

### ABOUT US

The Queen’s Fund provides emergency funding to Victorian women and children in crisis.

The assistance we provide can help prevent homelessness, enable a woman to escape family violence, provide education or training for a woman and/or her children, pay essential medical bills or provide crucial breathing space so a woman can get her life back on track.

We work with social workers who are in the best position to determine how to help the woman in need. They continue to support her after our emergency relief has been provided.

Founded in 1887, we are one of Victoria’s oldest charities. Our committee is unpaid and we have very low overheads. A historical bequest from a committee member covers our overheads. This means 100% of the money you donate goes to the women and children who need it most.

**“Thank you for the life-changing assistance given to our client.”**

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
Healesville Interchurch Community Care Inc.  
AUGUST 2022

# OUR IMPACT

1

## PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS AND ENABLING ESCAPE FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE

- \$211,852
- 585 WOMEN



The Queen's Fund provided 238 women with funding for household related items, 273 women with assistance for rent/bond for a new tenancy, 47 women with funding support for moving costs and 27 women with help for storage costs of their belongings.

“[The client] is a single mother, family violence survivor, currently pregnant and with a 6.5 month old baby. The impact of the funding for [her] means she will be able to prioritise her rent. This will assist [the client] and her young baby to remain safely in her current housing over the Christmas and New Year period.”

REFERRING AGENCY:  
Justice Connect Women's Homelessness Prevention Project  
DECEMBER 2022

2

## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- \$106,972
- 298 WOMEN



The Queen's Fund helped 141 women with medical costs such as pharmacy bills, specialist fees and medical services, 68 women with utility bills whose need for funding support had arisen due to a medical issue, a mental health issue or a disability, and helped 89 women with car costs such as registration, car servicing and new tyres, access medical and healthcare appointments for herself or her children.

“[The client] has 5 children all with complex health issues and disabilities. She has multiple appointments to attend with them and her car is her only suitable form of transport. She is very relieved to have her car registration paid as she did not know how she was going to manage otherwise.”

REFERRING AGENCY:  
Open Place  
JANUARY 2023

3

## ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING PATHWAYS

- \$90,551
- 265 WOMEN



The Queen's Fund helped 126 women with their children's education, 139 women with furthering self-education, and sourced a refurbished computer from B2C Community IT Recyclers for 127 of those women.

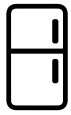
“My client is so pleased that she is able to learn this new graphic design program. It will increase her skills and ability to attain employment!”

REFERRING AGENCY:  
Sacred Heart Mission  
NOVEMBER 2022

4

## ENABLING WOMEN TO GET THEIR LIVES BACK ON TRACK

- \$365,367
- 975 WOMEN



The Queen's Fund helped 517 women with basic necessities such as food, petrol and clothing, 238 with household related items and 220 women with their utility bills.

“She will be able to establish her tenancy with basic kitchen items for the family.”

The client is a single mother with a child with high needs who fled a violent relationship with her daughter's father. She went into refuge for a period of time and is now housed. The Queen's Fund paid \$350 towards kitchen and household appliances so the client could re-establish herself in the new house.”

REFERRING AGENCY:  
City of Darebin  
SEPTEMBER 2022



OUR IMPACT

1

PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS



2

ENABLING ESCAPE FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



3

MAKING LIFE EASIER BY REPLACING/ REPAIRING VITAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS



4

INCREASED SENSE OF SELF-WORTH, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING



5

PREVENTION OF DISCONNECTION OF ESSENTIAL UTILITIES



6

IMPROVED HEALTH THROUGH THE PAYMENT OF ESSENTIAL MEDICAL BILLS & PURCHASE OF ESSENTIAL MEDICAL ITEMS



7

ENABLING ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL & ESSENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND HELPING WOMEN FEEL SAFE BY KEEPING THEIR CAR ON THE ROAD



8

ALLEVIATION OF FINANCIAL PRESSURE AND ASSISTANCE WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR CHILDREN BY PAYMENT OF SCHOOL COSTS



9

INCREASED ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES SO THEY CAN BECOME MORE SELF-RELIANT



10

PROVISION OF CRUCIAL BREATHING SPACE SO WOMEN CAN GET THEIR LIVES BACK ON TRACK



WHO WE HELP  
ENABLING DIGNITY  
THROUGH CHOICE

We take choice for granted every day. What colour socks to wear, what breakfast cereal our kids would like, whether we'll pay our electricity bill now or after we've finished our take-out coffee.

For so many of the applicants at The Queen's Fund, even these most simple, ordinary micro-choices have been denied them, sometimes for years, often decades. This may be due to income instability through illness or caring duties that prevent regular employment, or because as a single parent living in poverty, there is simply not the luxury of options. More often, choice has been denied because a woman has been living with family violence and subjected to coercive control, be it financial, emotional or physical.

Recognition of the importance of autonomy is at the heart of the Victorian Government's Victim Survivors' Advisory Council, created in 2016 as part of Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence, with the express purpose of placing people with lived experience at the centre of family violence reform.

*"The voice of lived experience places itself at the intersection of policy and pain. Victim survivors stand at that point testifying and identifying what is required for them to be safe, to survive and to thrive."*[1]

ANROWS (Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety) 2022 December Report also focused specifically on listening to the voices of victims to inform government responses to intimate partner safety. As part of their key findings, there was broad agreement among victims and survivor participants that what they valued most in

I'd like to emphasise how important The Queen's Fund is at filling the gaps when there is no other funding options available. So often criteria for assistance is narrow or there are long waits for assistance and women are forced to tell their stories again and again just to get a small bit of help. The Queen's Fund offers meaningful assistance when there is nowhere else to go and it has such a huge impact on women and their families. So thank you!

REFERRING AGENCY:  
Port Phillip Community Group  
JANUARY 2023

service providers when escaping family violence, was how the professional made them feel. Foremost as the most important response was the feeling of being listened to, of having their concerns heard and validated, and having support workers acknowledge them as individuals.

*"I wish service providers would treat every client as a human ... each client's needs are different." "I wish service providers could offer REAL assistance for everyday needs."*[2]

At The Queen's Fund, central to our application process is the ability of an applicant to choose exactly the type of funding that she needs, be it for basic necessities such as food, household goods or petrol, or help with a utilities bill. Maybe an applicant needs text books or a laptop for a child who won't be able to participate at school without these educational supports. Perhaps there's a pharmacy bill that is causing anxiety and a deterioration of already fragile mental health, because without payment, vital medication will be inaccessible.

This funding discretion allows an applicant crucial autonomy over her own life. So many women who apply for grants from The Queen's Fund are already dependent upon other institutions that continually require the demoralising obligation to prove adequate need, and to fit those needs into prescribed categories. By enabling choice and control, whether it is requesting school shoes for her children, a mattress so she no longer needs to sleep on the floor, or simply the ability to buy exactly the food that she and her family enjoy, a woman is able to engage directly with her own healing and the rebuilding of her life.

At The Queen's Fund, we are grateful that we have been given the opportunity to empower women through choice, and at the most vulnerable times in their lives, assist them in finding dignity through agency and self-determination.

[1] - Foreword: Victim Survivors' Advisory Council: [www.vic.gov.au](http://www.vic.gov.au)  
[2] - "I just felt like I was running around in circles." ANROWS Research Report, Issue 22, December 2022.





## THE NEED FOR THE QUEEN'S FUND

The Queen's Fund supports single women and children in Victoria who are in distress, crisis or emergency situations.

The need for The Queen's Fund is not going away, in fact it is increasing. Applications in 2022/23 increased by 24% from the prior year, and the funds granted increased by 29%.

There are a number of factors which are driving this increase in need for our emergency funding support:

- inflationary pressures outpacing any increases in wages and government support, resulting in having sufficient funds to purchase basic necessities becoming increasingly difficult. Funding for basic necessities increased by 48% over the last year;
- the housing crisis that is being seen across Victoria, and especially in regional areas, has resulted in a 33% increase in grants to help fund rent for single women and their children. This is an extremely critical issue, especially for women who are fleeing family violence;
- the Russia / Ukraine conflict has caused petrol prices to soar - resulting in women being unable to purchase petrol or significantly limit their car usage. We have seen a 39% increase in funds granted to cover transportation needs;
- linked to this is the energy crisis and a transition to green energy resulting in sky rocketing energy bills that become more and more difficult to pay. Grants for assistance with paying utility bills have increased by 30% over the last year.

**“As a result of the funding the client has financially managed to meet daily living costs including food on the table and utility bills.”**

REFERRING AGENCY:  
MiCare  
JUNE 2022

**“The assistance provided on the last two applications have prevented a family being evicted and the prevention of items being sold and lost forever, the assistance is life changing.”**

REFERRING AGENCY:  
Anglicare Victoria  
AUGUST 2022

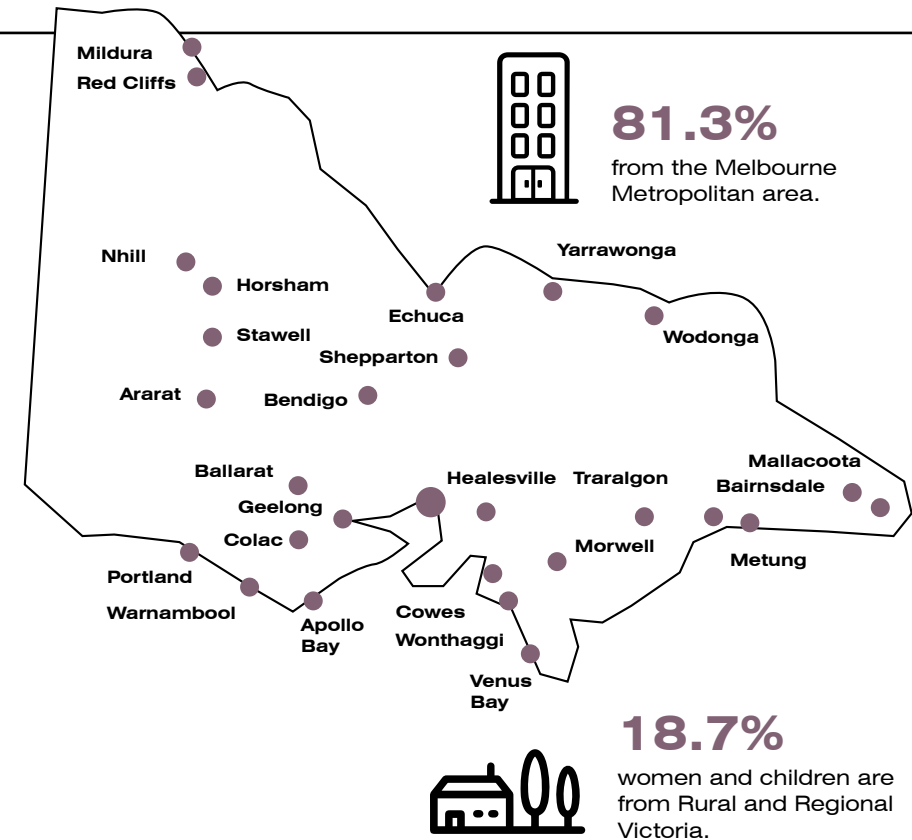
REFERRING AGENCIES

We received applications from 240 national and state agencies across Victoria, 90 of which had not previously applied in the 2021-2022 period.

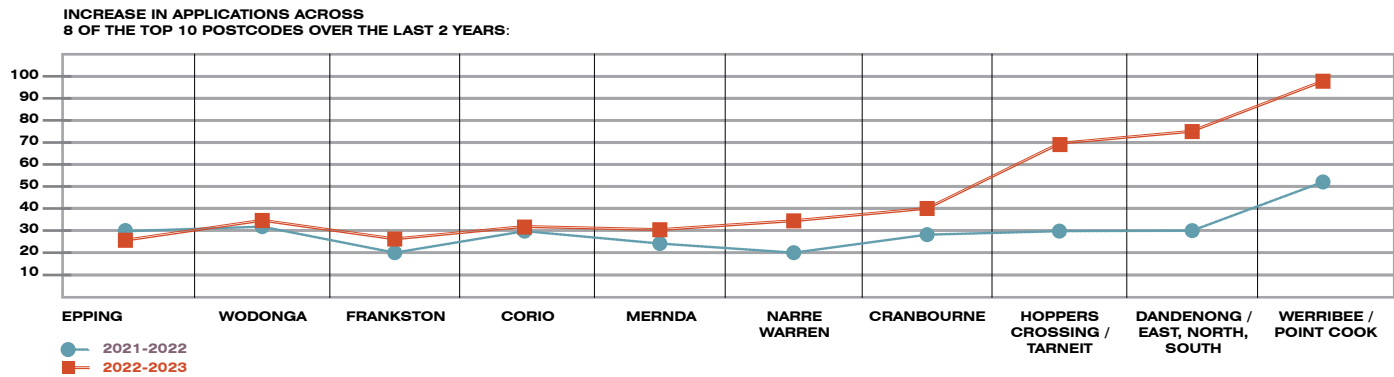
OUR TOP TEN AGENCIES ACCOUNTED FOR 44% OF THE 1,896 APPROVED APPLICATIONS.

The ten agencies that made the most applications to The Queen’s Fund in 2022-2023 were:

- WAYSS LTD
- THE SALVATION ARMY
- UNITING VIC / TAS
- CAROLINE CHISHOLM SOCIETY
- ANGLICARE VICTORIA
- LAUNCH HOUSING
- THE BRIDGE YOUTH SERVICE
- BETHANY COMMUNITY SUPPORT (BCYF & BETHANY HAVE MERGED AS MELI)
- WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
- SACRED HEART MISSION



The Queen’s Fund applications received during the 2022-2023 financial year were from the Melbourne Metropolitan area as well as regional Victoria including but not limited to Apollo Bay, Ararat, Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Bellbrae, Belmont, Benalla, Bendigo, Camperdown, Castlemaine, Colac, Corio, Cowes, Drouin, Echuca, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Lakes Entrance, Lang Lang, Leongatha, Leopold, Mallacoota, Metung, Mildura, Mooroopna, Morwell, Numurkah, Port Campbell, Portland, Sale, San Remo, Shepparton, Stawell, St Leonards, Traralgon, Venus Bay, Warragul, Warrnambool, Wodonga, Wonthaggi and Yarrawonga.



SOME OF THE REFERRING AGENCIES WE WORK WITH





## OUR PROCESS

### 1 THE NEED

Single Victorian woman is in crisis, distress or an emergency situation.



### 2 APPLICATION

Woman meets with social worker (or similarly qualified professional). Social worker applies to The Queen's Fund on behalf of the woman for assistance via online portal.

Assistance provided is in the form of:

- monetary grant for rent, utilities, household items, basic necessities, medical assistance, education for self or child, transport, storage and moving costs; or
- utility debt waiver & appliance grant.



### 3 ASSESSMENT

Applications are considered through 2 channels:

- fast-track to secure housing or if there is a threat of eviction/disconnection; or
- referral meeting – 3rd weekend of every month.



### 4 APPROVAL

Upon approval, grants are sent directly to the nominated third party payee or Referrer via BPAY, EFT, cheques or debt waivers.

A letter of confirmation is sent to the Referrer.



### 5 RECEIPT OF GRANT

The Referrer meets with the woman to provide confirmation of funding and (if applicable) cheque.



**“Thank you to The Queen’s Fund for assisting our client. I have not put in a fast track application for a client before, and am very appreciative of how fast this application was approved for our client.”**

**REFERRING AGENCY:**

Justice Connect Women’s Homelessness Prevention Project  
MAY 2022

## WHO IS HELPING US

## IN CONVERSATION WITH LOUISE KURAMOTO

Executive Officer for the Jack Brockhoff Foundation

**Private organisations such as the Jack Brockhoff Foundation are vital in providing community support and funding in addition to state and federal government programs. Why was the Jack Brockhoff Foundation created?**

Sir Jack Brockhoff’s career was in the family business, Brockhoff Biscuits Pty Ltd (later to merge with and be renamed Arnotts Biscuits), rising through the ranks and eventually becoming Managing Director in 1950. Sir Jack was always philanthropic at heart, influenced primarily by the community work of his mother.

The original endowment by Sir Jack of \$5 million was made in the 1970’s, but the majority of the endowment followed his death in 1984. The total contributions to the Foundation by Sir Jack comprised just over \$12m. 47 years later, the Foundation has a corpus of \$60m and has given away over \$100m to eligible charities. What an incredible legacy!

**Please tell us about your own journey within the philanthropy sector and what your current role as Executive Officer of the Jack Brockhoff Foundation entails.**

I have been lucky to have played a role in the philanthropic sector for the past 15 years. I started my philanthropic career at the Myer Family Company (now Mutual Trust) as grants coordinator/administration assistant, earning my stripes from one of the pre-eminent philanthropic families in Australia. Since that time, I have held roles at the R E Ross Trust and Australian Communities Foundation.

In my current role as Executive Officer of the Jack Brockhoff Foundation I am responsible for the strategic direction of the Foundation’s grant making and its evaluation of impact.

The communications and brand of the Foundation is also something I will focus on over the coming years as we continue to refresh and communicate the impact Sir Jack’s generosity continues to have in the Victorian Community.

**There are many private smaller philanthropic organisations such as The Queen’s Fund doing invaluable work with our community’s most vulnerable. Why does the Jack Brockhoff Foundation choose to support The Queen’s Fund in particular?**

The Queen’s Fund is an organisation that continues to grow and adapt to the needs of the community. The elements of the organisation that give me confidence that funding is well targeted and reaching those most in need are the connections it maintains with a broad variety of case workers and community

organisations who are working directly with the community. This is critical to continuing to remain relevant and impactful in the ever-changing landscape we work within.

**How have you seen the need for funding change during your time working within the philanthropy sector?**

In the time that I have been working in the philanthropic sector, inequality has continued to widen, and climate change has become a climate emergency. This frustrating reality is a clear calling to us in the philanthropic sector that we must not only fund the symptoms of the systems and structures that are resulting in these intractable issues becoming worse, we also need think about our work with a systems change lens if we are ever going to break cycles and make long term, sustainable change.



The Jack Brockhoff Foundation was established in 1979 by the late Sir Jack Brockhoff. Sir Jack Brockhoff was Chairman and Managing Director of Brockhoff Biscuits Pty Ltd, a business established by his grandfather in 1880.

The Foundation exists to support the health and wellbeing of all Victorians.

**JACKBROCKHOFF.ORG.AU**



# OUR SUPPORTERS

## PROBONO ADVISERS



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A. Woolf Consulting.



Rod Bridger  
Steph Bennett



Natalie Franks

Glenda Morrison

## CORPORATE PARTNERS



MARCH.STUDIO

## CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



# IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ORIGIN ENERGY

Without the support of our generous corporate partners, The Queen’s Fund would not be able to empower so many vulnerable Victorian women and children. The help they have provided this financial year is more urgent and vital than ever.

As the cost of living soars, these partnerships play an important role in helping families in need so they can continue to pay their utilities bills, put food on the table, afford discounted household goods, discounts on a new pair of glasses or refurbished laptops to empower themselves through education and keep connected to loved ones. Our partnerships help us to lift the burden for a moment, giving Victorian women the opportunity to get back on their feet and the potential to grow.

Leading energy retailer Origin Energy has been proudly supporting the work of The Queen’s Fund since 2018 through its Debt Waiver Program. Origin has been able to assist many women as part of its national program, providing bill credits to vulnerable customers who have been unable to pay their Origin debts. This financial year, Origin and The Queen’s Fund have helped 29 women, along with 43 children, waive their energy debts to the amount of more than \$30,000. That’s an average of approximately \$1,034 per bill for each woman.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our friends at Origin Energy for their incredible and continued support towards making a positive impact on women and children’s lives.

## THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, ORIGIN AND THE QUEEN’S FUND HAVE HELPED



29  
WOMEN



43  
CHILDREN

## WAIVING MORE THAN

\$30,000

## WORTH OF ENERGY DEBT.



That’s an average of around  
\$1,034 per bill for each woman.

“We’re so proud of this partnership with The Queen’s Fund, whose important work helps to give vulnerable women in Victoria the crucial breathing space they need to get back on their feet after significant financial hardship or abuse.”

- JAN PRICHARD, GENERAL MANAGER  
CUSTOMER CARE AT ORIGIN



READ MORE

<https://www.originenergy.com.au/blog/vulnerable-women-victoria-queens-fund/>

OUR DONORS

TRUSTS  
FOUNDATIONS  
COMMUNITY GROUPS  
CORPORATES

2U Grocer  
Alice Letitia D’Esterre Taylor Estate  
Allens Charity Committee  
Ambrose Foundation  
Benevity Giving Platform  
Collier Charitable Fund  
Erdi Foundation  
Friends of Trinity Trust  
Helen Gyles Turner Samaritan Fund  
Jenkins Foundation  
John Russell MacPherson Fund  
Link 21 Foundation  
March Studio  
Minter Ellison  
Ocean Grove Uniting Church  
Opportunity Shop “the dove”  
Origin Energy  
Pierce Armstrong Trust  
Stanley Heath Fund  
The Barnes Bequest  
The Danks Trust  
The Hugh D.T. Williamson Foundation  
The J Permsew Foundation  
The Jack Brockhoff Foundation  
The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust  
The McPhee Charitable Trust  
The Stuart Leslie Foundation  
The Tivey Memorial Fund  
The Victoria Golf Club  
The William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund  
UK Online Giving Foundation  
Vera Moore Foundation

WORKPLACE GIVING  
PROGRAM

Morgan Stanley Australia Ltd

MONTHLY DONORS

A Drysdale  
C Dynon  
C Elston  
C Tran  
M Munro  
I Smith  
M Wong

INDIVIDUALS

A Alston	G Hund	P Prior
A Barry	C Ingleby	A Quarrell
D Betts	H Jamieson	M Readman
C Britchford	E Jasper	A Robson
W Britchford	W Jones	AP Sabharwal
F Carmody	M Kenny	A Sale
E Cheah	R & A King	L Saliba
K Cheung	C Kleine	M Sallmann
A Chlebnikowski	A Lane	B Schilling
J Coleman	J Lord	C Schmidt
LA Connor	H McInnes	R & SA Scrivener
K Couston	S & J McInnes	B Slater
P Cox	D McLaughlin	G Slonim
F Curtis	J & P McLaughlin	R Spurio
H Dale	R McLaughlin	R Talib
K De Bont	S McLaughlin	B Thompson
L Duncan	S & M McLean	C Thompson
J Durik	T & D McLean	K & B Thomson
H Evert	S & M Minshall	J Tuomisto
S Gaga	J Molina	J Ulrik
D Gibb	H Moylan	C Vance
C Godfrey	J Murray	S Vandertop
M Goode	L Neve	J Walling
H Gray	S Ng	R Walthall
K Hand	S Nikolajsen	M Watson
A Haridan	A Orre	M Whiting
S Harkin	J Owens	I Withell
R Harlock	M Palmer	L Wong
J Hills	K Prince	F Yeo
J Hookey	K Prince	

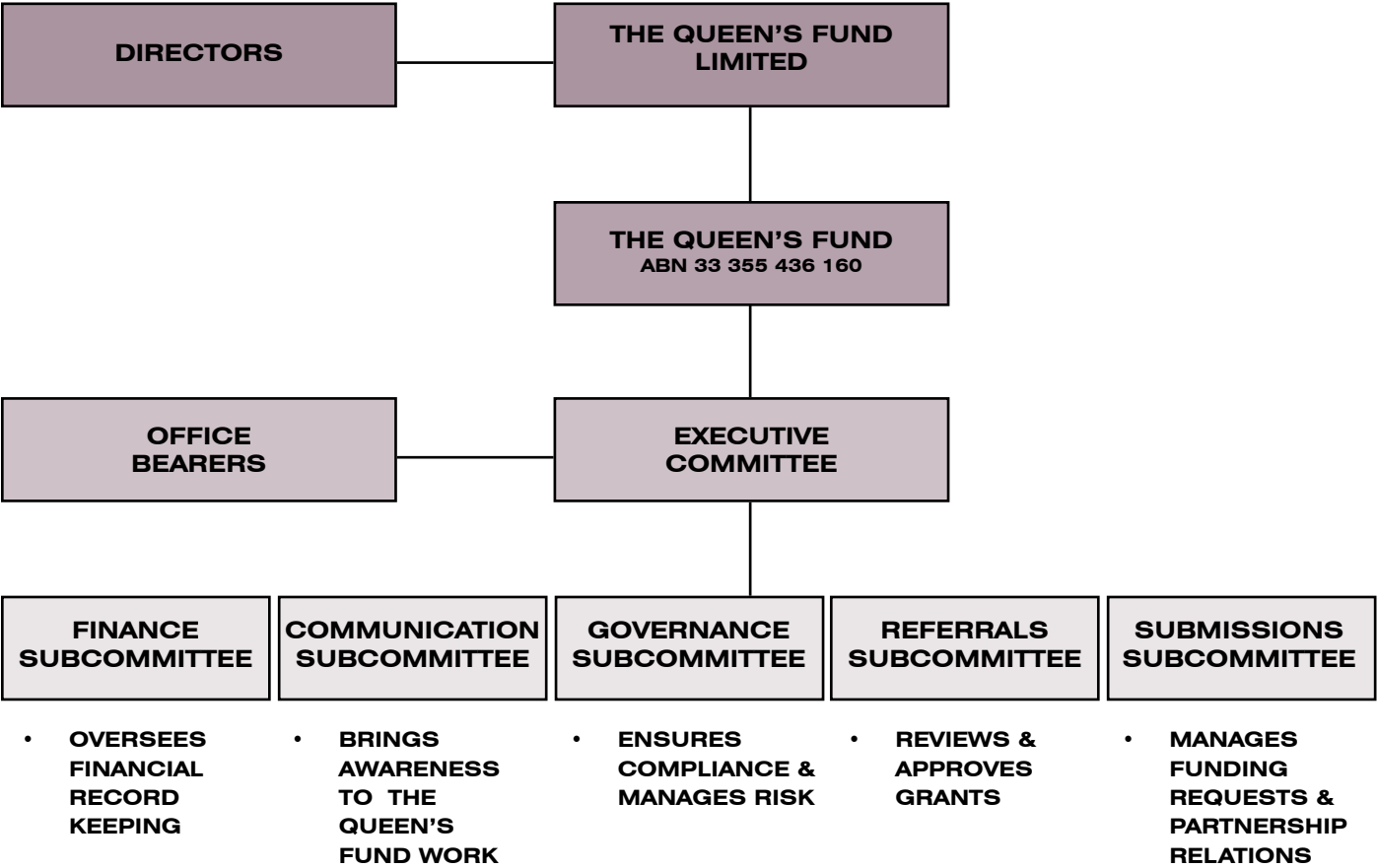
“This funding assisted with the set up of a new home after fleeing from Domestic and Family Violence. It allowed my client to have choice and control over what was purchased - this was very empowering.”

REFERRING AGENCY:  
Uniting  
MAY 2022

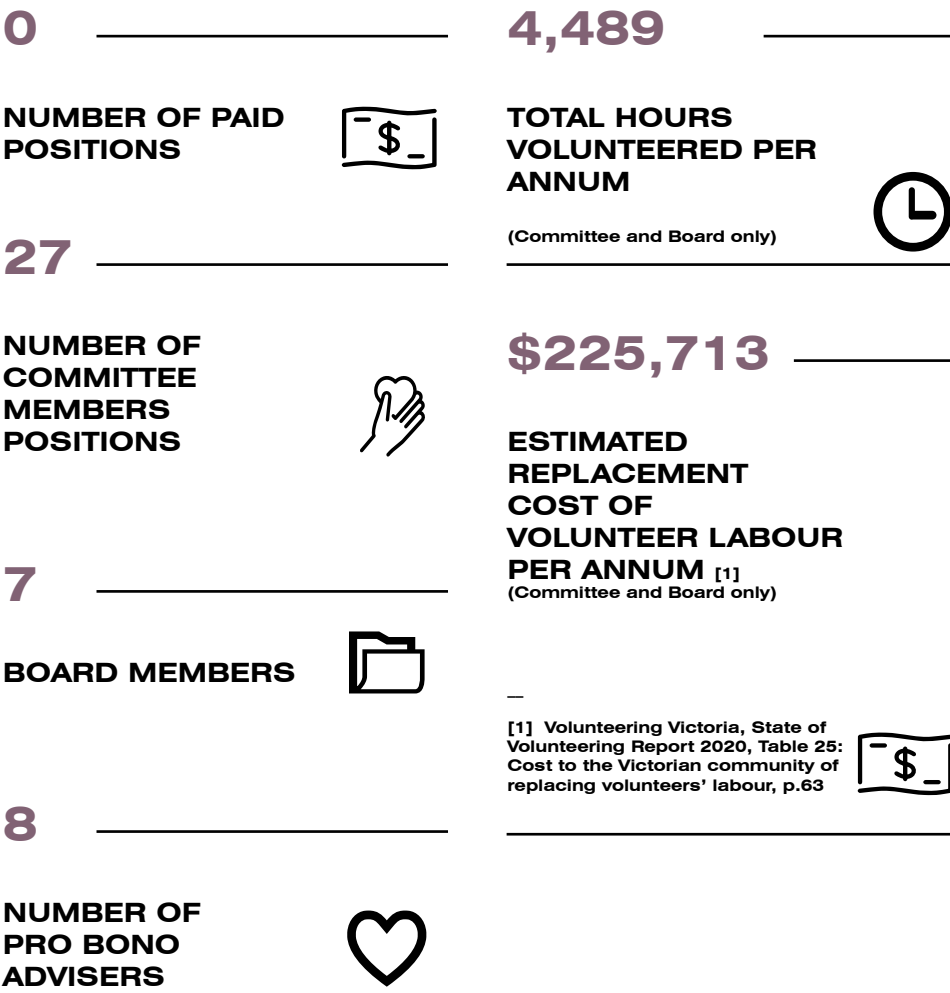


HOW WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

OUR STRUCTURE



VOLUNTEER NUMBERS





# OUR PEOPLE

## PATRON

The Governor of Victoria  
The Honourable Linda Dessau AC

## TRUSTEE

The Queen’s Fund Limited (TQFL)  
(ACN 622 589 600)

## DIRECTORS OF TQFL

Andrew Baxter  
Katie Bayley  
William Jones  
Jane McLaughlin  
Gail Owen OAM  
Belinda Thompson (Chair)  
Frieda Yeo

## COMPANY SECRETARY OF TQFL

Shireen Reddy

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### OFFICE BEARERS

Lucy O’Sullivan (President)  
Astrid Ajzensztat (Deputy President until March 2023)  
Lucy Saliba (Secretary)  
Frieda Yeo (Treasurer)

## CHAIRS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Kathryn Couston **SUBMISSIONS**  
Beatrice Collins **GOVERNANCE**  
Anne-Laure Cavigneaux **COMMUNICATIONS**  
Lili Zhao **REFERRALS**  
Frieda Yeo **FINANCE**

## OTHER MEMBERS

Margaret Allen  
Sophie Bernadeau  
Ilaria Bigaran  
Claire Britchford  
Lee Ann Connor  
Melissa Goode  
Anna Hoy  
Melisa Hudson  
Jane McLaughlin  
Sally McLean  
Erica Moloney  
Penny Montgomery  
Dimity Morgan  
Lalitha O’Donahue (until March 2023)  
Emily Tang  
Melissa Whiting  
Mandy Wong  
Felicity Worland

# IN CONVERSATION WITH SHIREEN REDDY

Shireen Reddy joined the Committee in 2019 as a member of the Referrals Subcommittee, reviewing applications and funding each month. She also spent time in both the Governance and Submissions Subcommittees, and was Secretary of the Management Committee from 2020 to 2022, before becoming a permanent member of the Governance Subcommittee in June 2022. She is currently Company Secretary for The Queen’s Fund Limited.

Currently working in the public sector as a senior legal and policy advisor on technology transformation projects, Shireen brings an invaluable level of expertise and institutional knowledge.

**Please tell us how you first heard about The Queen’s Fund and why you decided to become involved.**

I first heard about The Queen’s Fund from another member, Beatrice Collins. I was relatively new in the country and was seeking to become involved in some community work and connect with more people. The mission of The Queen’s Fund, helping vulnerable women and their children, resonated with me. I admired that the Fund is managed entirely by volunteers who held down jobs as well. I wanted to contribute my time and skills to this incredible organisation that is over 135 years old! I met with Sally McLean, who was President at that time, and we discussed my potential roles. She mentioned that the position of Management Committee Secretary was coming up for election, and believed that I would be a good fit for the role.



**You have held several positions in The Queen’s Fund since you joined in 2019. How have you seen the need for The Queen’s Fund change?**

The Queen’s Fund plays a very important role in the charity space and is distinguishable because of its flexibility and that 100% of the donation goes to the woman or child in need. The need for The Queen’s Fund has not changed over the years but the volumes for certain types of applications have increased. I joined The Queen’s Fund a few months before the COVID-19 pandemic which saw more women lose their jobs than men and a rapid increase in violence against women. Since the pandemic, The Queen’s Fund is assisting more women who are victims of family violence or who are homeless.

**How have you seen The Queen’s Fund evolve and respond to the changing needs of our applicants?**

The wonderful thing about The Queen’s Fund is its flexibility. This is evident in the provision of urgent funding with a very quick turnaround time. There is a quest for continuous improvement by

**"If I can expend my time so that a woman and her children can have food on the table or that she is able to escape family violence, then it is so worth it."**

all those involved in the Fund. The referral process was reviewed, and changes made to make the process more efficient and effective. Earlier this year, funding amounts were increased to provide more value to the women we are assisting. Some applications that come through to The Queen’s Fund are complex, touching on the issues of gender identification and age. Given the skill set of the volunteers, rational discussions and informed decisions are made in alignment with wider policy considerations and current societal values.

**The Queen’s Fund grants are only a few hundred dollars. How have you seen these amounts change the lives of our applicants?**

Regular feedback from the social workers reflects just how much a couple hundred dollars can have immense positive impacts and value. The grants given allow the women some breathing space to get back on her feet.

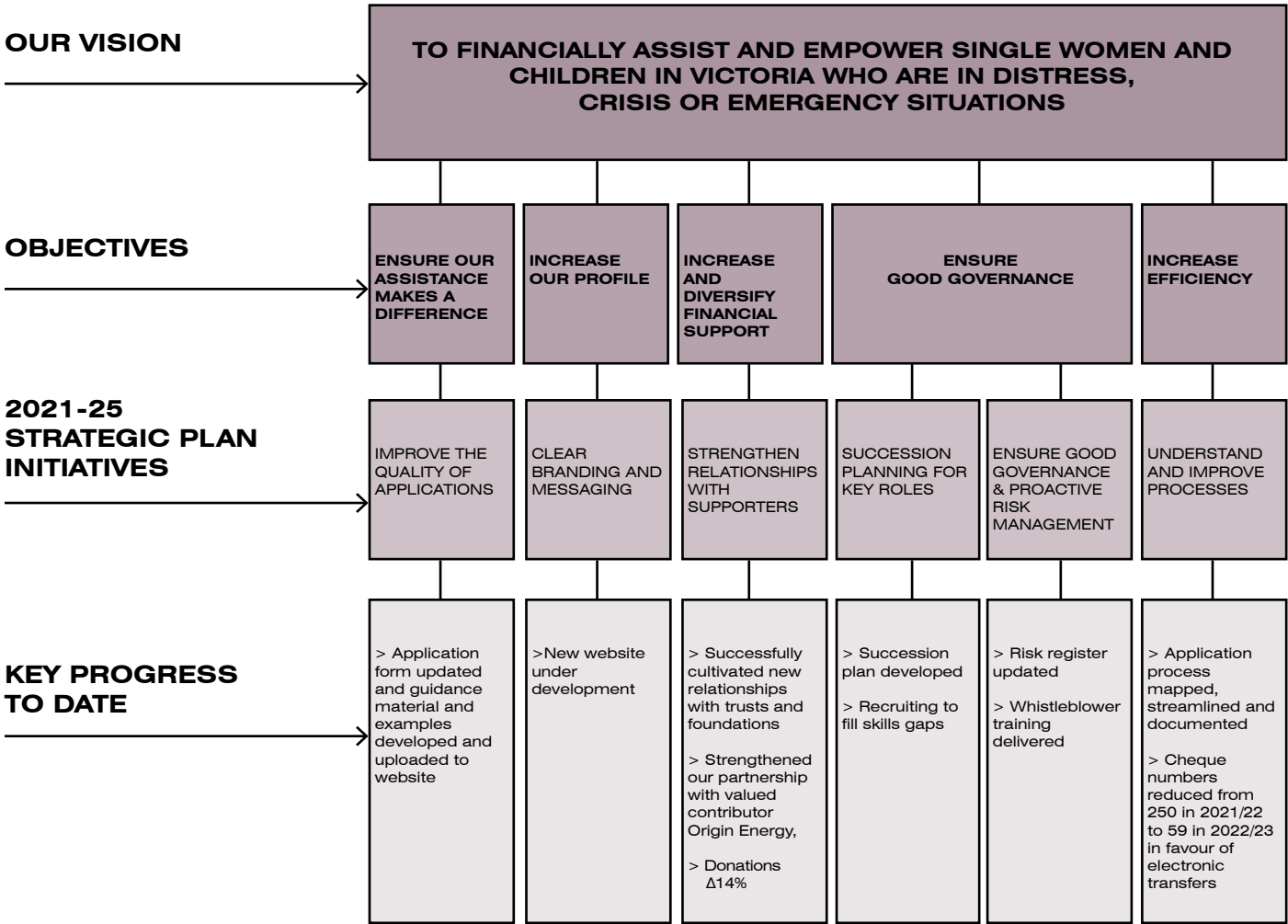
**As volunteers, sometimes it’s hard to keep a commitment going, even if it’s a cause one really believes in. What keeps you still volunteering for The Queen’s Fund after four years?**

I am blessed to work with such an amazing group of women that keep me motivated and accountable. Also, if I can expend my time so that a woman and her children can have food on the table or that she is able to escape family violence, then it is so worth it.

# 2021-25 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Management Committee, at its planning retreat in April 2021, identified five objectives to support its achievement of The Queen's Fund vision. To achieve those objectives, six key initiatives have been identified and action plans developed.

Smaller teams, established by the Management Committee, are tasked with implementing the action plans and key progress against those plans has been achieved to date. Oversight is provided by the Management Committee through regular reporting and monitoring. Our strategic plan guides our efforts to what's important for our clients, supporters and volunteers now and into the future.



# IN CONVERSATION WITH ASTRID AJZENSZTAT

Astrid Ajzensztat joined the Committee in 2021 as a member of the Referrals Subcommittee, reviewing applications and funding each month. With her professional experience, she quickly became a Referrals Team Leader, and was appointed Deputy President in 2022. Astrid is currently on a leave of absence until October 2023.

## How did you find out about The Queen's Fund?

Before my current position at Uniting as the Children and Young Person's Practice Leader in the Inner Eastern Orange Door, I was working as Case Manager at McAuley House. A previous team leader of mine was on the Management Committee, and my colleagues and I used to apply for The Queen's Fund grants on behalf of our clients as often as we could.

## There are a lot of charities in this sector. What was different about The Queen's Fund that inspired your support?

The Queen's Fund provides for things that are outside of the normal scope of funding but are critical to the health and wellbeing of the women and children who apply. The Queen's Fund funding offers relief in terms of emergencies but also promotes the agency of women and children. Agency and choice are things that often get lost in the wider service system, despite the major organisations' best

efforts. I am so proud to know that The Queen's Fund is committed to women and children being the experts in their own lives.

## What are some of the ways in which you have seen The Queen's Fund make a difference through the funding we provide?

Oh gosh, where to start?! The Queen's Fund has supported people to maintain their housing and utilities, engage with education, commence recovery from trauma... the list goes on. But I think what gives me the greatest joy is seeing how The Queen's Fund has facilitated stronger bonds between women and their children after their relationships have been ruptured, often by family violence. \$400 might not seem like a lot of money, but it's enough to fund activities that provide safe, fun and quality time between parents and their children, which is so crucial after trauma.

## In your time with The Queen's Fund, have you seen a change in the types of funding requests, and if so, to what do you ascribe these changes?

Most recently I have noticed huge increases in requests for rent/ mortgage/rates assistance, food and petrol costs. This seems consistent with the current cost of living crisis our community is going through, but the added layer is how many applications are coming from women who have experienced

family violence. Victoria is leading transformational work in the way we speak about family violence and how the system is changing to support victim survivors and keep users of violence accountable. However, what we're seeing reflected in The Queen's Fund applications is that women and their children are still required to choose between violence and poverty.

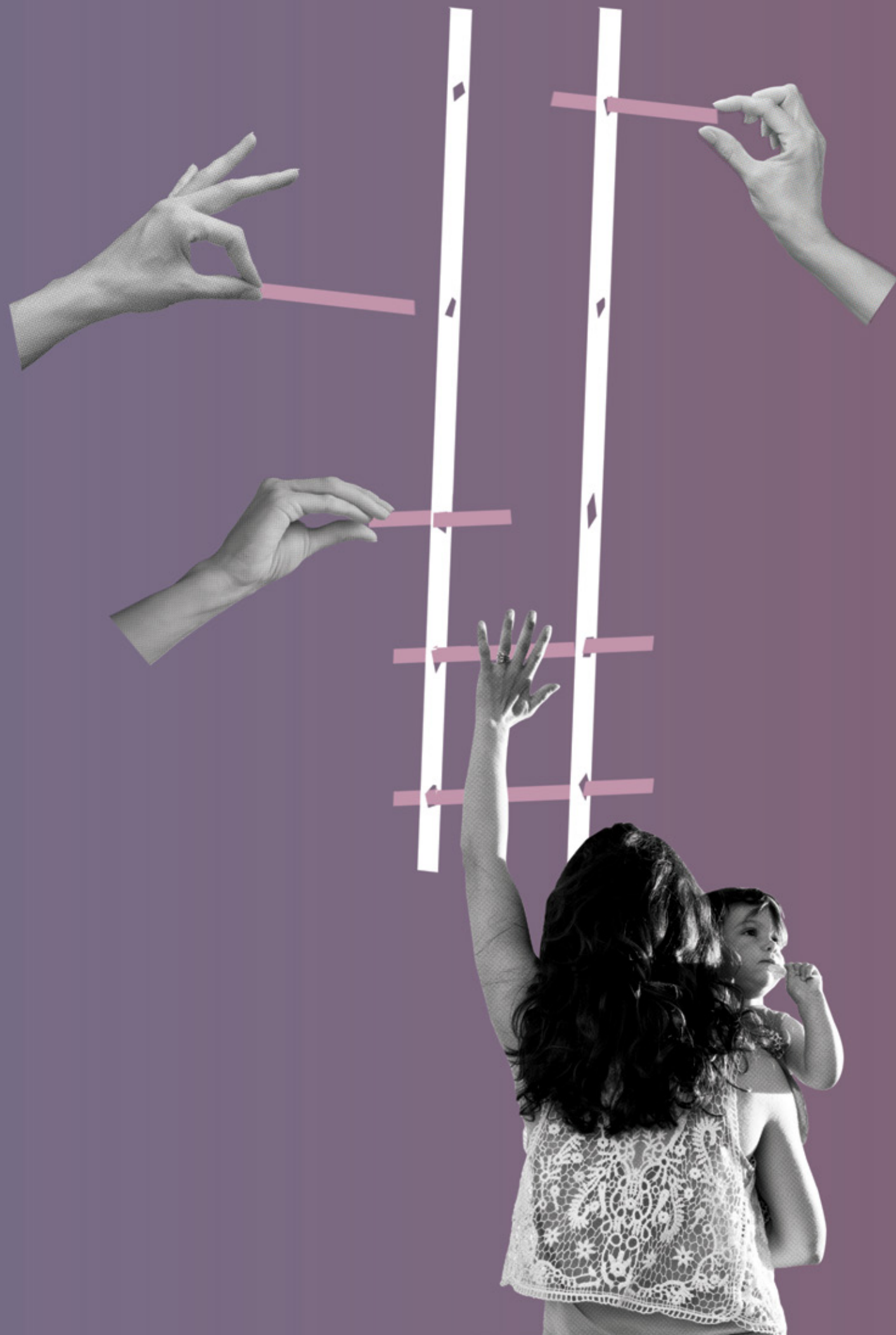
It seems clear that this is something that requires more than just government and service sector changes - we all have something to contribute, as individuals, communities, charities and businesses large and small.

## What have been the most rewarding aspects of working with The Queen's Fund?

Knowing that 100% of donations made to The Queen's Fund go straight into meeting the needs of applicants. It's a real privilege to be working alongside a group of such amazing women on the Committee - their commitment to the legacy of The Queen's Fund, skills and passion are the reason why The Queen's Fund is still going strong after 136 years.



" Agency and choice are things that often get lost in the wider service system, despite the major organisations' best efforts. "



## HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT US

### MAKE A ONE TIME DONATION

Your donation, no matter how large or small, will provide vulnerable women and children crucial breathing space to get their lives back on track.

Details on how you can donate can be found on our website:

**[www.queensfund.org.au/donate](http://www.queensfund.org.au/donate)**

### LEAVE A BEQUEST

Leaving a bequest to The Queen's Fund is a special way of leaving a lasting legacy with an organisation that has been around for over 135 years. It also allows us to plan for the long-term future.

Please email **[enquiries@queensfund.org.au](mailto:enquiries@queensfund.org.au)** to organise a confidential discussion.

### BECOME A RECURRING DONOR

Your monthly donations provide a degree of certainty in our ability to provide assistance to women in need.

When you donate to The Queen's Fund online, simply tick the recurring donation box or set up a scheduled monthly transfer with your bank to:

**Account name:** The Queen's Fund  
**BSB:** 063 – 019  
**Account Number:** 1012 8344

### VOLUNTEER

The Queen's Fund has been run entirely by volunteers since 1887. You could help to make a difference to the lives of Victorian women in need by joining one of our Subcommittees. We are looking for passionate enthusiastic volunteers with interests, skills or expertise in PR/marketing, governance, law, finance and community or welfare services.

Please email **[enquiries@queensfund.org.au](mailto:enquiries@queensfund.org.au)** with details of your skills, experience and availability.

### DONATE THROUGH WORKPLACE GIVING

You can help change lives every payday. Workplace giving is an easy and tax-effective way to support The Queen's Fund. It also provides us with a steady, regular source of funds, enabling us to plan for the future.



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# GOODBYE

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### LALITHA O'DONOHUE

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**This year we say goodbye to Lalitha O'Donohue who has been a Committee Member since 2017.**

Lalitha's involvement with The Queen's Fund began in 2009 when she worked at DLA Piper as a lawyer and generously gave her time as a pro bono consultant. She continued in this role until 2015, and in 2017 formally joined The Queen's Fund and was appointed to the Submissions Subcommittee. Later, she transferred her skills to the Referrals Subcommittee, and during COVID-19, was appointed as a Team Leader for the remote Referrals, steering her team nimbly through this unprecedented format, and then continuing in this role thereafter.

Lalitha leaves us after over 13 years of contributing her compassion, good humour and wide advocacy and communication skills to take up a new role in the Vulnerability sector within personal banking, where her empathy and philanthropic experience will continue to help our most vulnerable Victorians.

### ERICA MOLONEY

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**This year we say goodbye to Erica Moloney who has been a Committee Member since 2017.**

Erica joined The Queen's Fund in 2017, and became Convenor of the Communications Subcommittee, where her wealth of strategic and creative experience as a PR professional was put to great use developing promotional material and raising the profile of The Queen's Fund.

Erica assisted in driving many projects in relation to our social media presence, and particularly through COVID-19, helped with press releases and social media posts that were instrumental in reaching and informing our donors and referring agencies.

She was appointed Deputy-President from 2019-2021, and we wish her well and are grateful for her time spent at The Queen's Fund, where her passion and drive was used to support Victorian women and children in need.

The Queen's Fund is a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) with charity tax concessions. Our ABN is 33 355 436 160

**THIS REPORT HAS BEEN PRINTED ON 100% POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED PAPER.**

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