

ANNUAL REPORT

24  
25

138 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

# 2025 MARKS THE 138TH YEAR THAT THE QUEEN'S FUND HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE.

As the nationwide housing crisis and cost-of-living pressures continued this year, for too many women and children in Victoria, availability of and access to basic necessities such as food, a roof over their heads, and personal safety remained dangerously unstable.

At The Queen's Fund, we saw how scarcity in these most fundamental aspects of our applicants' lives affected an already precarious balance of resources. Women escaping family violence suddenly had to find safety, shelter, and food for themselves and their children, all while trying to pay bills, attend work and keep their children in school. Women with ongoing medical complications suddenly found themselves with no reliable modes of transport due to unexpected issues with their cars, and larger than expected utility bills tipped women on pensions, who had always been able to afford their rent, into arrears with no way to make up the shortfall. It was in these situations where we were able to step in and make a difference.

This year, The Queen's Fund received 2,863 applications, and granted a total of \$811,374 to 5,019 Victorian single women, single mothers and their children. This is now our highest number of applications received on record, and an increase of over 5% from last year.

Domestic violence and family crisis sadly continue to remain the primary reasons for single women in Victoria seeking our assistance, representing 48% of all applications, but appearing in

many of the other applications as a secondary or contributing factor. Basic necessities, utilities and rent continued to be the top three most requested reasons for assistance, accounting for 52% of all funds granted and reflected the struggle to survive economically that our applicants face daily.

With The Queen's Fund receiving no government assistance, our donors continued to wholly provide the vital funding we needed this year. On pg.22 Committee member Celia Godfrey and her parents Pat and Liz of the Godfrey Go Well Charitable Trust spoke with us about their motivations for donating to The Queen's Fund.

As always, we are so grateful to our incredible partnerships and on pg.21 we had the opportunity to speak with Ashton Wood of DV Safe Phones, an initiative whereby phones are provided absolutely free to a woman escaping family violence.

Highlights this year included a visit to Government House for a private audience with our Patron, the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, where Melissa Goode and I had the opportunity to speak with Her Excellency about The Queen's Fund's commitments and role in the community. Other events such as the Community Bank Windsor Partnership Presentation night and our farewell celebration of Sally McLean allowed us the chance to meet and thank our supporters personally. And as part of our on-going information sessions with our referring

agencies, we spoke with Diamond Valley Community Support and the Mirabel Foundation, giving us invaluable feedback.

This year we welcomed three new Committee members: Danielle Barlow is a former lawyer with 20 years' experience in the commercial and not-for-profit sectors, Shubhangi Shukla is a chartered accountant and finance professional and Amelia Horvat is also a chartered accountant with experience in forensic and strategy consulting.

Beloved long-time members, Sally McLean and Lee Ann Connor stepped down from The Queen's Fund this year. Please read of their achievements during their time with us on pp. 31 and 32.

It has been a true honour to stand as President for the last three years and watch this incredible organisation continue to grow and thrive under a diverse and dedicated network of Committee members, Board members and pro bono advisors. I also thank our individual donors, trusts, foundations and corporate sponsors for another year of their support.

I am excited to hand the baton over to Melissa Goode and Melissa Whiting who in a first for The Queen's Fund, will be acting as Co-Presidents. I know that they will be an extraordinary duo and I look forward to seeing The Queen's Fund continue to flourish under their leadership.

*Lucy O'Sullivan*  
**PRESIDENT**



## IN THE PAST YEAR, THE QUEEN'S FUND HAS PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO **2,302** WOMEN AND **2,717** CHILDREN ACROSS VICTORIA.

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

**"THIS FUND IS SO HELPFUL WHEN CLIENTS DO NOT MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA OF OTHER GRANTS. THIS GRANT HIGHLIGHTS THE GAP IN SERVICES AND SUPPORTS VULNERABLE WOMEN WHO ARE ON THEIR OWN."**

With long-standing medical issues that required medication while waiting for surgery, the client was struggling to pay her pharmacy bills, a situation compounded by family violence perpetrated by her adult son who had accumulated debt in her name and controlled her access to money. \$362 from The Queen's Fund gave the client financial relief during a time of great stress and enabled her to remain well connected and supported by her local chemist, while also maintaining a quality of life and sense of well-being.

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
Camcare/Access Health & Community  
**FEBRUARY 2025**

**"THIS FUNDING HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE PARTICIPANT. THE RELIEF AND JOY IN HER VOICE WHEN SHE FOUND OUT THAT SHE HAD THE FUNDING TO BUY SOME BASIC FURNITURE IN HER HOME WAS SO SPECIAL. SHE WAS SO EXCITED TO BUY A TABLE AND CHAIRS THAT HER AND HER DAUGHTER CAN HAVE AND SIT AT FOR DINNER, TO BUILD MEMORIES AND HAVE FOOD TOGETHER."**

The client and her daughter, both with disabilities, were awaiting NDIS approval and had lived in unsafe transitional housing for two years before moving into permanent social housing. The client faced family violence from her ex-partner. Since the move, she lost many belongings and lacked basic necessities like furniture, bedding, food, and clothing. A \$400 grant from The Queen's Fund has helped them start rebuilding their home.

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
Women and Mentoring  
**SEPTEMBER 2024**

**"MY CLIENT CAN NOW PUT IN PLACE STEPS TO SECURE HER HOME AND FEEL SAFE IN HER HOME. ALSO THE FUNDING WILL ALLOW HER TO PROVIDE PROOF TO THE AUTHORITIES TO ACT. MY CLIENT VALUES YOUR ASSISTANCE AND THIS WILL MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE FOR [HER] IN HER GOAL OF BEING SAFE IN HER OWN HOME."**

The client resided in a DFFH unit and was the victim of intimidating and threatening behaviour from her neighbour. She felt anxious and unsafe in her home and afraid for her wellbeing. The Queen's Fund provided a grant for the purchase of security cameras enabling the client to put a safety plan in place, allowing her to remain in her home.

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
Yarrowonga Health - Homelessness Support Program  
**FEBRUARY 2025**

**"I have always valued and appreciated this option of support for my clients in need. I thank you all for the wonderful work you do within our community."**

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
The Blue Hub Liz McDonald Counselling  
**SEPTEMBER 2024**

**"THANK-YOU FOR PROVIDING THIS WONDERFUL SERVICE FOR WOMEN WHO ARE OFTEN RECOVERING FROM FV AND REBUILDING THEIR LIVES."**

After living in transitional housing for a couple of years due to family violence, the client was approved for long-term community housing. With no family support and facing financial difficulties, along with severe anaphylaxis and a recent leg injury, the client struggled to afford a removal van. A \$400 grant from The Queen's Fund made it possible for her to move into safe housing.

**REFERRING AGENCY:**  
The Salvation Army  
**OCTOBER 2024**

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# THE QUEEN'S FUND LIMITED BOARD REPORT

**BELINDA THOMPSON**  
**CHAIR, THE QUEEN'S FUND LIMITED**

Over the past decade or so The Queen's Fund has undergone a period of modernisation. An important aspect of this over the past five years has been the pursuit and achievement of many strategic priorities, including increasing the Fund's public profile, maintaining and broadening our relationship with our generous supporters, uplifting our governance practices and succession planning.

All of this, is of course with a view to maximising the assistance we can provide to Victorian women and children. We are proud of our progress and achievements, with the number of Victorian women and children assisted significantly increasing over the past five years.

The Board is now looking ahead to the next five years. With the increasing demand for support, it is important that we concentrate on ensuring The Queen's Fund has a solid foundation to provide for and to meet the growing needs of Victorian women into the future. This will require continued focus on maintaining, building and growing our relationships with our generous supporters, assessing and improving the efficiency of our operations, supporting our dedicated volunteers and maintaining strong working relationships with our social worker network. At the same time, we commit to maintaining our philosophy of providing bespoke assistance to women in need to empower them in moments of crisis.

The past year has also been a period of renewal for the Board. Two of our Directors, Gail Owen OAM and Jane McLaughlin retired and three new directors, Julia Kaye, Margarita Claringbold and Diana Heggie, joined the Board. Gail and Jane have both made enormous contributions

to The Queen's Fund over an extended period.

Gail was a Trustee of The Queen's Fund for many years and transitioned to being a member of the inaugural Board upon the change to a corporate trustee structure. Indeed, Gail was pivotal in the transition to a corporate trustee. As a Director, Gail provided important and valuable insights reflecting her deep knowledge and understanding of the structure and history of The Queen's Fund, together with her experience and expertise in corporate governance. We are grateful to have benefited for so long from Gail's commitment and experience and thank her for all the wisdom and guidance she provided to The Queen's Fund over many, many years.

In addition to being a Committee member since 1998, Jane was also an Inaugural Director of The Queen's Fund. With the benefit of her role as a Committee member, Jane provided an important perspective in Board meetings. Her energy and commitment in contributing her time and efforts to The Queen's Fund in both Committee and Board capacities is greatly appreciated and valued. While Jane has retired as a Director, she continues as a Committee member and we thank her for all her efforts.



Finally, I would like to thank Lucy O'Sullivan for her energy and the commitment with which she has led The Queen's Fund as President over the past three years. Lucy has made an enormous contribution over this time and the Board thanks her for all her endeavours. Lucy is stepping down as President on 23rd June 2025, and Melissa Goode and Melissa Whiting will be Co-Presidents from 1 July 2025, with Lucy continuing as Deputy President. We thank them for their preparedness to take on these important roles.

The Queen's Fund is incredibly lucky to have their contribution and we are appreciative of The Queen's Fund being in such good hands.

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# 2024/2025 NUMBERS

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TOTAL FUNDS  
PROVIDED

Average grant: **\$352**

**\$811,374**

**2863** Applications



Average  
applications per  
month: **239**



**2,302**  
WOMEN ASSISTED



**2,717**  
CHILDREN ASSISTED



Fast-tracked  
Applications: **58**

**\$20,707**  
VALUE OF FAST-TRACKED  
APPLICATIONS

WHY WOMEN NEED OUR HELP



First Nations  
Women **167**



Refugee Women  
**102**



Trusts &  
Foundations  
Donors  
**\$1,019,445**



Individual  
Donors  
**\$191,631**

**Family Violence \$296,629**  
904 WOMEN HELPED

**Homelessness Housing \$216,056**  
558 WOMEN HELPED

**Mental Illness \$83,790**  
243 WOMEN HELPED

**Disability \$76,910**  
209 WOMEN HELPED

**Family Crisis \$72,083**  
202 WOMEN HELPED

**Medical \$65,905**  
186 WOMEN HELPED

**“The Queen’s Fund is a  
godsend to the clients that have  
experienced so much financial  
abuse from being in family  
violence situations.”**

REFERRING AGENCY:  
Wayss  
MAY 2024



**\$73,176**

OF OUR EDUCATION FUND ASSISTED OVER **206** WOMEN TO UPSKILL THEMSELVES, AND A FURTHER

**\$37,080**

HELPED **106** WOMEN SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

## WHAT WE HELP WITH

**Utilities \$158,786**

361 WOMEN HELPED

**Basic Necessities \$134,483**

505 WOMEN HELPED

**Rent \$127,804**

328 WOMEN HELPED

**Household Goods \$107,419**

297 WOMEN HELPED

**Education \$101,256**

312 WOMEN HELPED

**Transport \$77,425**

217 WOMEN HELPED

**Medical \$56,173**

172 WOMEN HELPED

**Moving Costs \$25,038**

69 WOMEN HELPED

**Storage Costs \$13,985**

41 WOMEN HELPED

**“[A grant from The Queen’s Fund means] security, decreased stress, decreased financial hardship, a better chance of securing housing, safety.”**

### REFERRING AGENCY:

Windermere Child and Family Services

OCTOBER 2024

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# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND OUTGOINGS

		NOTE	2025	2024
	Donations - Capital Account	1	\$124,593	\$29,044
	Donations - Revenue Account	2	\$1,089,809	\$862,672
	Interest and dividends		\$126,573	\$150,758
	<b>Total Income available for grants</b>		<b>\$1,216,382</b>	<b>\$1,013,430</b>
	Amount granted	2	\$763,574	\$785,605
	Other expenses	3	\$10,946	\$10,841
	Loss on disposal of assets		\$0	\$25,735
	<b>Net surplus</b>		<b>\$566,455</b>	<b>\$220,293</b>

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 2024 and 2025 are covered by The Tivey Memorial Fund.

## ACCUMULATED FUNDS

### THE QUEEN'S FUND AND TRUSTEES FOR THE QUEEN'S FUND

		2025	2024
	Net Assets	\$ 3,573,585	\$ 2,972,078

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)



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## 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 crisis 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 donated goes to the women and children who need it most.

**“Thank you and The Queen's Fund for providing our consumers with support in their time of need. Having this option to offer makes the world of difference to people who at times have lost faith in being helped.”**

#### REFERRING AGENCY:

Western Health Mental Health and Wellbeing Service

MARCH 2025

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# OUR IMPACT

## 1

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### PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS AND ENABLING ESCAPE FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE

- \$190,261
- 506 WOMEN



The Queen's Fund provided 172 women with funding for household related items, 251 women with assistance for rent/ bond for a new tenancy, 54 women with funding support for moving costs and 29 women with help for storage costs of their belongings.

**“Funding enabled [the client] to buy groceries for herself after her savings were depleted from paying bond and first month’s rent for her new rental property, having fled family violence.”**

REFERRING AGENCY:  
Melbourne City Mission  
AUGUST 2024

## 2

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### ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- \$124,893
- 350 WOMEN



The Queen's Fund helped 172 women with medical costs such as pharmacy bills, specialist fees and medical services, 130 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 48 women with car and transport-related costs such as registration, car servicing and new tires which allow access to medical and healthcare appointments for herself or her children.

**“[The client] has started treatment for cancer and the funding was timely to support her through the process of treatment. It has reduced her level of stress and improved her mental health and supported her on her healing journey.”**

REFERRING AGENCY:  
Bayside Community Information and Support Services  
JUNE 2024

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## WHO WE ARE

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## 3

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### ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING PATHWAYS

- \$110,256
- 312 WOMEN



The Queen's Fund helped 106 women with their children's education, 206 women with furthering self-education, and sourced a refurbished computer from B2C Community IT Recyclers for 163 of those women.

**“The client is dedicated to enhancing her life and parenting skills through education. Taking courses will build her confidence and employability, creating a stable future for her and her daughter. A laptop funded by The Queen's Fund has allowed her to participate in these courses and develop essential skills, demonstrating the value of perseverance to her daughter.”**

REFERRING AGENCY:  
CatholicCare VIC  
JANUARY 2025

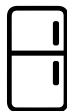
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## 4

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### ENABLING WOMEN TO GET THEIR LIVES BACK ON TRACK

- \$400,690
- 1,163 WOMEN



The Queen's Fund helped 505 women with basic necessities such as food, petrol and clothing, 297 with household related items and 361 women with their utility bills.

**“The funding meant that [the client's] electricity did not get disconnected, and she was able to negotiate a payment plan for the remaining amount with her provider to keep the power on for herself and her child. It also gave her some hope, which was much needed after having exhausted all her other funding options.”**

REFERRING AGENCY:  
Women's Legal Service Victoria  
SEPTEMBER 2024



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# OUR IMPACT

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PREVENTION OF  
HOMELESSNESS



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ENABLING ESCAPE  
FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE



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MAKING LIFE EASIER  
BY REPLACING/  
REPAIRING VITAL  
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS



---

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



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PREVENTION OF  
DISCONNECTION OF  
ESSENTIAL UTILITIES



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



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



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



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



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



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WHO WE ARE

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# IN CONVERSATION WITH

## CLAIRE BRITCHFORD

Claire Britchford joined the Committee in 2020 working with the Finance Sub-Committee and the Referrals Sub-Committee. With over 30 years of experience as a CPA in financial management, planning and risk in both the private and government sector, including 10 years as the CFO for the Victorian Education Department, Claire has brought a level of excellence and expertise that has been instrumental in assisting with the maintenance and ongoing success of The Queen's Fund financial operations.

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

I had never heard of The Queen's Fund until I read an article in The Age around 2017. I was particularly attracted to the organisation because of its core purpose of helping women, its secular nature, and its focus on my home state, Victoria. As a person who always looks at the numbers, I was excited about an organisation that had a sustainable financial model, and could be nimble in responding to external disruptors such as the COVID pandemic, through its internal operations and the change in demand for its services.

**There are a lot of philanthropic organisations working in this sector. What do you consider to be the things that are unique to The Queen's Fund?**

Because it is purely run by women all volunteering their time to help other women, no physical office

and our wonderful financial, legal and IT advisers supporting our operations on a pro bono basis, we can truly say that all our donations go to helping women and children in need.

Regardless of background all our volunteers are directly involved in considering applications for support which is determined by the priorities of women themselves at their time of crisis and often after other support options have been exhausted.

Due to the emergency need of the women who get referred to us, our processes allow for swift support, sometimes within a day or so.

**The maximum grant from The Queen's Fund is \$400. How have you seen this amount actually change a woman or child's life?**

It may seem a relatively small amount but because it is provided at a time of crisis and is targeted to essential needs, it can give a woman the breathing space to put more longer-term actions into place.

A recent example was a young woman who was couch surfing which made it very hard for her to keep her casual shift job or have any financial stability. As well as some food and clothing, The Queen's Fund paid for the woman to obtain a copy of her birth certificate which she needed to apply for Centrelink. This small thing opened the gate for other support that was life changing both in terms of practical help and by providing hope for the future.

**What are the most challenging aspects you find about volunteering in this sector and supporting Victoria's most vulnerable?**

I think it is challenging to read these women's stories and to be confronted by the reality of the situations in which they find themselves. I am horrified by the fact that in a first world country like Australia we still have so many women and children in dire situations.

Whilst all the stories are heartbreaking in their own way many of the situations are the result of, or exacerbated by, family violence. I think that charities like The Queen's Fund are invaluable in relieving some of the consequences for women but I am frustrated that the underlying issue remains so prevalent and resistant to positive change.

**What would you say to anyone considering volunteering for a philanthropic organisation (maybe The Queen's Fund)?**

I think it is important to do your research and choose an organisation that is a fit for you in terms of purpose, values and time availability, and the flexibility to manage the commitment around other important aspects of your life. Think about what you have to offer an organisation that could be useful; is it particular skills and experiences, or networks, or time, or all of the above? If you choose the right organisation with the right people it will be immensely rewarding and fulfilling. Just do it!





**“[A Queen’s Fund grant has a] huge impact, not only from a material aid point of view but the fact that someone cares and listens.”**

REFERRING AGENCY:  
The Mirabel Foundation  
NOVEMBER 2024





## 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 continues to increase each year. In 2024/25 The Queen's Fund received applications from 2,863, ultimately assisting 2,302 women and 2,717 children across Victoria. This is the highest number of applications received on record and an increase of 5% from last year.

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

- Sadly domestic violence continues to be the main reason why women seek emergency funding from The Queen's Fund. 40% or 904 of the women we helped this year were as a result of domestic violence. This is a devastating statistic.
- The housing crisis continues in Victoria. It is estimated that almost half of Victorians experiencing homelessness are women and that 1 in 6 are children under 12. Homelessness in women over 55 is also increasing at an alarming rate. This need is evidenced by the 558 applications received in 2024/25 requesting support for homelessness and housing related needs.
- Cost of living pressures continue to put increased strain on single women and their children. This is seen through continued increase in applications related to basic necessities and utility bills, with these two requests for relief accounting for 40% of all funds granted in 2024/25.

**“The client was able to manage her living costs, relocation costs and reduce her debts. She was able to access health support and reduce her stress and anxiety.”**

**REFERRING AGENCY:**

Bayside Community Information & Support Services  
NOVEMBER 2024

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**“The funding meant that [the client's] electricity did not get disconnected, and she was able to negotiate a payment plan for the remaining amount with her provider to keep the power on for herself and her child. It also gave her some hope, which was much needed after having exhausted all her other funding options.”**

**REFERRING AGENCY:**

Women's Legal Service Victoria  
AUGUST 2024

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# IN CONVERSATION WITH

## DIAMOND VALLEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Diamond Valley Community Support (DVCS) is a not-for-profit charitable organisation that has been serving the local Diamond Valley community since 1972.

Jeff Hallyburton, DVCS' Executive Officer, shared some valuable insights into DVCS and its amazing team, their connection with The Queen's Fund, the unique nature, the unique nature of the support they offer to those experiencing financial and personal hardship.

**DVCS was set up more than 50 years ago to provide support and assistance to those in need of relief from poverty, distress, misfortune, disability or helplessness in Banyule, Nillumbik and surrounding areas. Can you tell us more about the DVCS team and day-to-day operations?**

DVCS is largely volunteer based, with more than hundred volunteers/ students, complemented by seven part-time staff and a small pool of market casuals. Our emergency relief efforts are financed by the Federal Government and Banyule City Council, with additional funds received from grants, donations and our social enterprises.

DVCS relief operations are based in the Greensborough Plaza office and two Emergency Relief co-ordinators oversee approximately thirty qualified volunteers/students who interview clients who visit our office and give personal attention and endeavour to provide information, referrals or material items to improve their situation. This can be food vouchers, fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, pre-prepared meals, non-perishable food items, petrol vouchers, clothing, toiletries, pet food, or assistance with The Queen's Fund, Centrelink, My Aged Care applications, or referrals for financial counselling, tax help, legal assistance or housing needs.

**Can you share a little more about the reach and impact DVCS has had in the past year?**

During 2023/24, we assisted nearly 11,000 individuals and provided them with approximately \$482k worth of support. We anticipate the figures will be similar for 2024/2025. Our major project in 2024/25, the 2024 Banyule and Diamond Valley Christmas Appeals delivered age-appropriate gifts to 519 children.

**That's an incredible figure. Are there specific aspects of the services offered by DVCS that you are particularly proud of?**

We are very proud that we provide a personalised, empathetic service which strives to help everyone, even if only a little bit, feel better when they walk back out our door.

**What are the biggest challenges experienced by DVCS?**

Our biggest challenges are maintaining our volunteer workforce, dealing with the increasing complexity of our clients' issues and securing funding to deliver our full suite of services.

**What does financial support via The Queen's Fund mean to DVCS?**

The Queen's Fund has been extremely beneficial to a large number of our clients, particularly the older women who attend our service. They are often dependent on the State Pension and with increased medical costs and supports required, often coupled

with having gone through a divorce or a death of a partner, are left vulnerable with limited income. One such client moved into a one-bedroom unit and had very little money in her account after moving.

When she attended our service we realised she had no money and could not afford a washing machine, with the closest services for a laundrette 4kms away by bus. These funds were invaluable for her.



**DIAMOND VALLEY**  
community support

DVCS is a not-for-profit charitable organisation that has been serving the local Diamond Valley community since 1972. DVCS services are free and confidential.

They assist over 11,000 people experiencing financial and/or personal hardship each year. They provide a range of counselling, advice and referrals services along with many community programs.

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**DVSUPPORT.ORG.AU**

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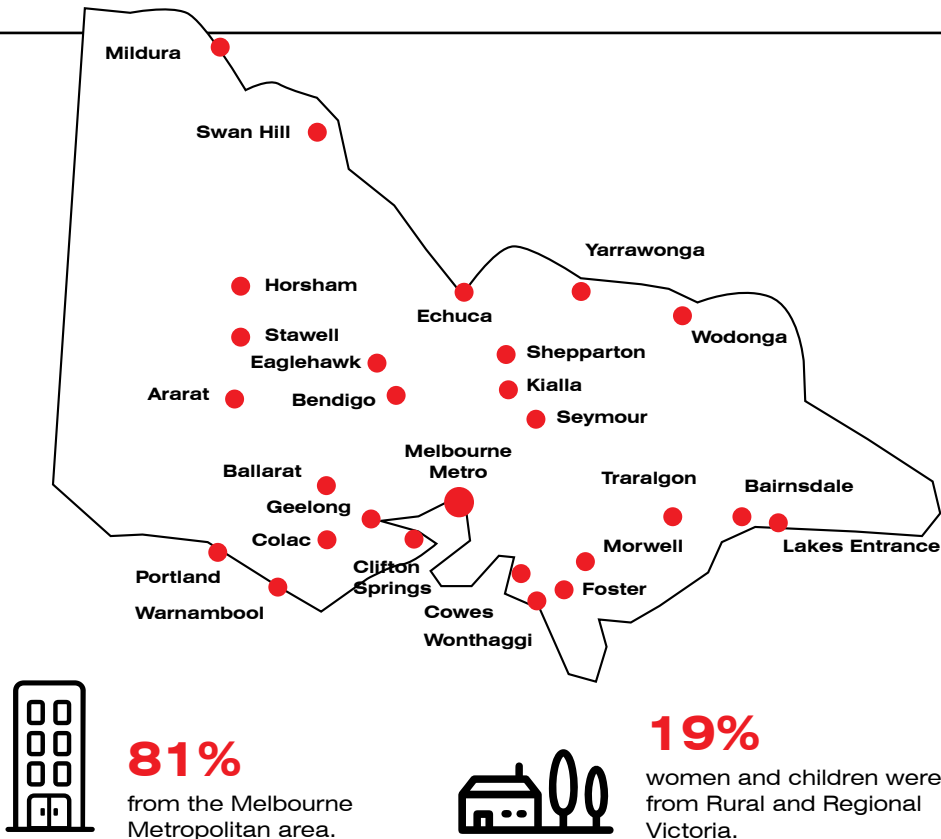
# REFERRING AGENCIES

The Queen’s Fund received applications from 343 national and state agencies from across Victoria during the 2024/2025 period. There were 63 new client postcodes.

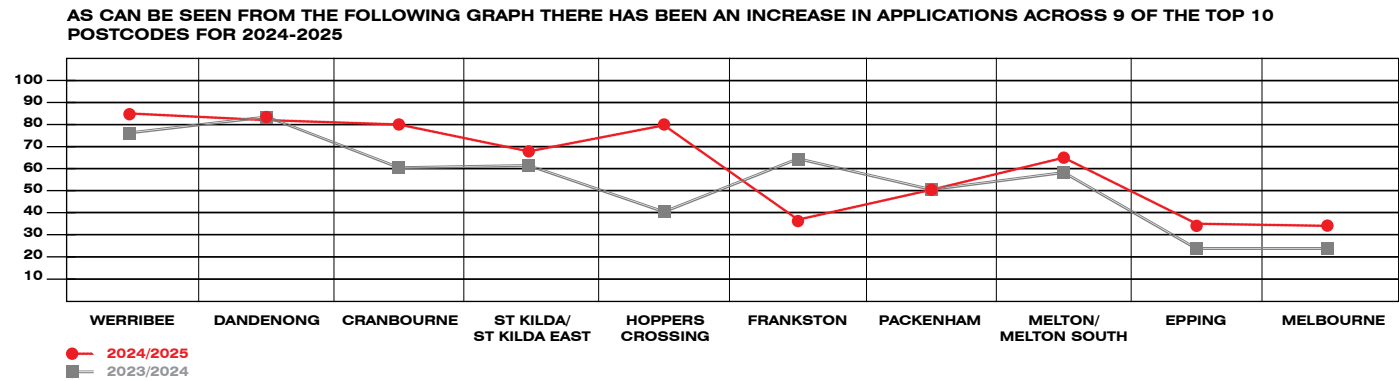
Our top ten agencies accounted for 38.28% of the 2,863 applications.

The ten agencies that made the most applications to The Queen’s Fund in 2024/2025 were:

- WAYSS LTD
- THE SALVATION ARMY
- UNITING VIC / TAS
- WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
- QUANTUM SUPPORT SERVICES
- GENWEST
- ANGLICARE VICTORIA
- MELI
- LAUNCH HOUSING
- BETTER HEALTH NETWORK



The Queen’s Fund applications received during the 2024/2025 financial year were from the Melbourne Metropolitan area as well as Regional Victoria including but not limited to Ararat, Arnold, Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Belmont, Bendigo, Bonnie Doon, Castlemaine, Clifton Springs, Cobaw, Cobram, Colac, Corio, Cowes, Cribb Point, Drouin, Eaglehawk, Echuca, Foster, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Indented Heads, Jan Juc, Kangaroo Flat, Kialla, Kyabram, Lake Bolac, Lakes Entrance, Lang Lang, Leongatha, Leopold, Loch Sport, Mansfield, Mildura, Mooroopna, Moe, Morwell, Newcomb, Ocean Grove, Portland, Sale, San Remo, Seymour, Shepparton, Swan Hill, Tallangatta, Traralgon, Tynong, Warragul, Wangaratta, Warnambool, Wendouree, Wodonga, Wonthaggi and Yarrawonga.





## SOME OF THE REFERRING AGENCIES WE WORK WITH



# OUR PROCESS

## 1 THE NEED

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



## 2 APPLICATION

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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

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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

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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

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



**“Client has secured safe housing and has nothing. Funding will enable her to restart her life. Thank you for [the] support. [The] process was quick, efficient and professional.”**

**REFERRING AGENCY:**

Victorian Aboriginal Health Service  
FEBRUARY 2025

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## OUR SUPPORTERS



In February this year, The Queen's Fund's President and Deputy President, Lucy O'Sullivan and Melissa Goode, were delighted to meet with our patron, the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC.



We are proud of our partnership with Community Bank Windsor, who generously donated \$5000 to The Queen's Fund in November 2024, assisting approximately 13 Victorian women, including single mothers and their children, facing distress, crisis and emergency situations.

**Pictured here:** Julie Scott and Danielle Barlow, Community Bank Windsor and Lucy O'Sullivan, The Queen's Fund President.



The Group Technology team at ANZ Bank raised over \$2,000 for The Queen's Fund as a partner charity for their 40-day Walking Challenge. Pictured here are Secretary of The Queen's Fund and ANZ employee Lucy Saliba alongside ANZ Walking Challenge organiser Alistair Mendez at a celebratory morning tea. Thank you to ANZ for their support, which was made possible through the Shout for Good fundraising platform.



In April, we gathered as a community of volunteers and supporters to say farewell and thank you to our former President, Sally McLean, following her retirement from The Queen's Fund. Sally's considerable contribution over many years was something to celebrate, and we thank all who were able to attend to mark this special occasion.

**Pictured here:**

- Sally McLean (ex-President The Queen's Fund), Frieda Yeo, Danielle Barlow, Anna Hoy, (Committee members)
- Mary-Louise Archibald (Donor)
- Thelma Castles OAM (ex-President The Queen's Fund) and Belinda Thompson (Chair of TQFL)
- Melissa Goode, Committee, Prof. Kenneth Thomson and Scott Thomson, Donors



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# IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DV SAFE PHONE

ASHTON WOOD, CEO AND FOUNDER

Established in 2020, DV Safe Phone is a charity that collects, refurbishes and distributes donated phones to survivors of domestic violence (DV). We sat down to chat with Ashton Wood, Founder and CEO and asked him for his insights on the journey of setting up a charity that has had such a big impact on the

**Can you tell us a bit about DV Safe Phone – what is your charity's mission and what do you aim to achieve?**

DV Safe Phone's mission is, "We empower domestic violence victims to live safe, connected lives through sustainable technology solutions." We do this by gifting safe phones to DV survivors through our network of agency partners (safe houses, police stations, DV agencies, and hospitals). These safe phone kits (phone, charging cable, SIM card) provide survivors with hope, connection, and a means to escape their situation.

**How did this all start for you personally – would you mind sharing your journey within the sector in setting up the charity?**

DV Safe Phone's journey began in 2020 when a conversation with an ex-police Senior Sergeant on the importance of a working mobile phone to domestic violence survivors changed my life. I immediately knew I could make a difference. DV Safe Phone was born to ensure that every call for help would be heard. Working out of a spare room at home, I started collecting phones and quickly realised the scale of the challenge. I knew I couldn't do this alone, so I assembled a small team of dedicated professionals and called on everyone I knew. We developed solid relationships with support agencies and community groups to ensure DV Safe Phone could help as many survivors as possible.

**What do you think the greatest challenge or greatest reward has been on this journey to getting DV Safe Phone to where it is today?**

We have just sent out our 12,000th phone. That is 12,000 people who have been provided with a means to escape violence, rebuild, reconnect, and hope for a brighter future. I'm immensely proud of our nationwide networks of 400+ agency partners, 1,000+ phone collection partners, and hundreds of community and corporate partners. These networks were built from scratch and I'm so appreciative of everyone who's supported us along the way. That little request for my old mobile phones has become a movement.

**In working with other organisations, referral agencies, social workers etc – including The Queen's Fund – what are the common themes or stories from survivors that they're telling you, that you've come across?**

We've received over 2,000 testimonials from agencies and victims, and the central theme is the positive difference a safe phone can make to a DV survivor. Many of the testimonials speak of gratitude, joy and relief for the survivor.

They often ask when we need the phone back and it's a pleasure to inform them that it's a gift to them, as part of their new (and safer) life and it's theirs to keep.

**What have you learned while partnering with organisations such as The Queen's Fund and how do you think organisations like ours can support you/work with you in the future?**

The Queen's Fund is a very trusted name and other organisations know the due diligence you put into every funding decision. Sharing your support with others helps us build trust with others and helps us continue our mission, to ensure that no call for help goes unheard.



DV Safe Phone provide free mobile phones to domestic violence and law enforcement agencies, safe houses and hospitals, to provide to victims of domestic violence, to keep them safe and connected to support.

**DVSAFEPHONE.ORG**



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WHO IS HELPING US

## IN CONVERSATION WITH **Godfrey Go Well Charitable Trust**

Pat Godfrey and Celia Godfrey

**Please tell us a little about the Godfrey Go Well Charitable Trust. When was it created and what are its funding priorities?**

**Pat:** The Godfrey Go Well Charitable Trust was formed in 2023 when we realised a significant return on a business venture in which I had been involved from its inception. Liz and I felt that we really didn't need that money because of our age and our secure financial position so we made the decision to use the funds for people less fortunate than ourselves. The trust is overseen by us and our three children Celia, Nadia and Christian who each bring their own expertise and dedication to the cause.

Liz and I have been frequent charitable donors throughout our lives and have a good understanding of where in the community there is a need. We are especially aware of families who are struggling to meet their commitments, including single parents of young children. Healthcare is also an important priority, along with support for homeless people and foodshare programs.

**Celia:** Throughout their lives, Pat and Liz have demonstrated unwavering dedication to philanthropy and community support. Their passion for making a difference has been shared with their children, and we three are very proud to participate in the legacy that continues their work through the GGWCT.

**Please tell us about your role within the Godfrey Go Well Charitable Trust, and also how you came to be involved with The Queen's Fund.**

**Celia:** Pat, Liz and we three siblings are Directors of the GGWCT and jointly participate in decisions about investments and allocation of funds.

Following the lifelong example of my parents' charitable work I have personally supported several causes close to my heart. In

addition to this, my clinical work with disadvantaged families, and strong social justice principles led me to The Queen's Fund.

I first heard about The Queen's Fund from a colleague as a useful source of funding for vulnerable clients. I quickly realised that it was something I should become involved with myself, first as an individual donor, then applying to become a member of the volunteer Committee.

It is such an honour to be part of The Queen's Fund. While at times it feels like the challenges faced by so many of our sisters are overwhelming, the camaraderie, expertise and generosity of this amazing bunch of women gives me hope for the future.

**What inspires the Godfrey Go Well Charitable Trust to support The Queen's Fund?**

**Pat:** The work of The Queen's Fund supporting single women in need perfectly aligns with the values of the GGWCT. The fact that The

Queen's Fund directs its entire funding towards women in need, being completely volunteer-run, also impressed us enormously.

**Celia:** We know that single women are one of the most vulnerable groups in society, and are often solely responsible for the care of young children or elderly family members. Both family violence and the cost of living crisis have an inordinate impact on this group so it is important that we do what we can to help.



THE GODFREY  
*go well*  
charitable trust

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# OUR SUPPORTERS

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## PROBONO ADVISERS



Andrew Lane  
Cressida Staggard



William Moore



Samuel Lees



A. Woolf Consulting.



Glenda Morrison



Maree Davidson AM

## CORPORATE PARTNERS











## CORPORATE SUPPORTERS





work education and resource exchange  
foundation inc.





# OUR DONORS

## TRUSTS FOUNDATIONS COMMUNITY GROUPS CORPORATES

Alan and Mary-Louise Archibald Foundation  
Alice Letitia D’Esterre Taylor Estate  
Allens Charity Committee  
Ambrose Foundation  
ANZ Group Services Tech  
Bendigo Bank - Community Bank Windsor  
Benevity Giving Platform  
Collier Charitable Fund  
Erdi Foundation  
Estate of Nancy H Rodd  
Fair World Foundation  
Friends of Trinity Trust  
Gandel Foundation  
Helen Gyles Turner Samaritan Fund  
Jenkins Foundation  
Link 21 Foundation  
Mornington Country Women’s Association Inc  
Nepean Women’s Golf Club  
Ocean Grove Uniting Church  
Opportunity Shop “the dove”  
Pierce Armstrong Trust  
Price Family Foundation  
The Alfred Felton Bequest  
The Barnes Bequest  
The Gidleigh Foundation  
The Godfrey Go Well Charitable Trust  
The Hugh D.T. Williamson Foundation  
The J Permsew Foundation  
The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust  
The McPhee Charitable Trust  
The Prescott Family Foundation  
The Stuart Leslie Foundation  
The Tivey Memorial Fund  
The Victorian Golf Club  
The William Angliss Charitable Fund  
Toorak Ecumenical Churches  
Opportunity Shop  
Vera Moore Foundation

## WORKPLACE GIVING PROGRAM

Morgan Stanley Australia Ltd

## MONTHLY DONORS

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

## INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous	J Hookey	W Ramsay
N & Y Bayley	B Hughes	M Readman
J Bell	G Hund	S Reddy
W Bennett	C Ingleby	J Rehfish
L Bongiorno	E James	S Roberts
R Bowen	U John	A Robson
B Britchford	W Jones	C Ryan
C Britchford	M Kenny	N Ryan
T Brougham	A & R King	A Sale
J Burnes	A Lane	L Saliba
C Burns	J & J Lord	M Sallmann
A Chlebnikowski	S Maine	B Schilling
J Coleman	H McInnes	J Sharwood
K Couston	S & J McInnes	J Short
P Cox	J & P McLaughlin	B Slater
F Curtis	R McLaughlin	B Smith
H Dale	S & M McLean	R Spurio
P Davis	T & D McLean	D Stockdale
K de Bont	R McLeish	S Sulaiman
A Draffen	J McMahan	J Tai
A Eg	S Minshall	B Thompson
K Ekeberg	J Molina	C Thompson
F Elliott	H Moylan	J Thomson
H Evert	L Neve	K & B Thomson
N Farr	L Newton	B Tress
J Forrest	D Nielsen	C & R Vance
D Gibb	A Orre	J Walling
R Gillard	T Overend	M Watson
C Godfrey	M Palmer	D Webb
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Archibald	R Pitt	I Withell
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M Grundmann	T Puehringer	F Yeo
P Hameister	A Quarrell	
A Hood	K Ramsay	

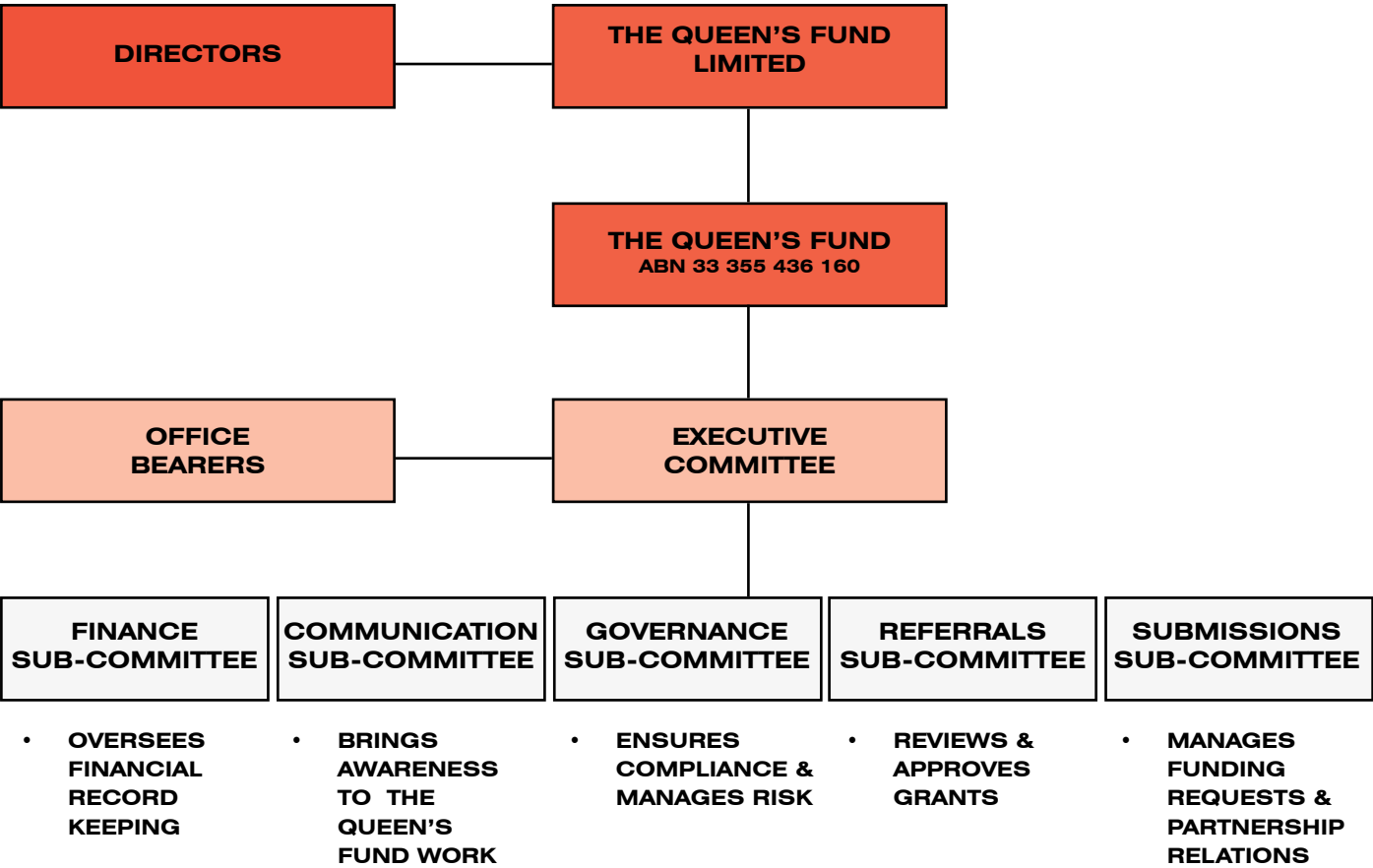
## WHO IS HELPING US



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HOW WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

# OUR STRUCTURE



# VOLUNTEER NUMBERS

0

NUMBER OF PAID  
POSITIONS



28

NUMBER OF  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS  
POSITIONS



8

BOARD MEMBERS



8

NUMBER OF  
PRO BONO  
ADVISERS



4,752

TOTAL HOURS  
VOLUNTEERED PER  
ANNUM

(Committee and Board only)



\$257,696

ESTIMATED  
REPLACEMENT  
COST OF  
VOLUNTEER LABOUR  
PER ANNUM <sup>1</sup>

(Committee and Board only)

NOTE 1 [www.wevolunteer.org.au/  
volunteer-services-replacement-  
cost-calculator/](http://www.wevolunteer.org.au/volunteer-services-replacement-cost-calculator/)

Volunteering Victoria, State of  
Volunteering Report 2020, Table 25:  
Cost to the Victorian community of  
replacing volunteers' labour, p.63



**“This fund is so helpful when clients do not meet certain criteria of other grants. This grant highlights the gap in services and supports vulnerable women who are on their own.”**

REFERRING AGENCY:  
Camcare/Access Health & Community  
FEBRUARY 2025

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# OUR PEOPLE

## PATRON

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Her Excellency Professor the  
Honourable Margaret Gardner AC,  
Governor of Victoria

## TRUSTEE

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

## DIRECTORS OF TQFL

---

Andrew Baxter  
Katie Bayley  
Margarita Claringbold  
Diana Heggie  
Will Jones  
Julia Kaye  
Belinda Thompson (Chair)  
Lucy Warner  
Frieda Yeo

## COMPANY SECRETARY OF TQFL

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Shireen Reddy

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

---

OFFICE BEARERS  
Lucy O'Sullivan (President)  
Melissa Goode (Deputy President)  
Lucy Saliba (Secretary)  
Frieda Yeo (Treasurer)

## CHAIRS OF SUB- COMMITTEES

---

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

## OTHER MEMBERS

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Astrid Ajzensztat  
Margaret Allen  
Danielle Barlow  
Sophie Bernadeau-Short  
Ilaria Bigaran  
Claire Britchford  
Lee Ann Connor  
Celia Godfrey  
Amelia Horvat  
Anna Hoy  
Melisa Hudson  
Jane McLaughlin  
Penny Montgomery  
Dimity Morgan  
Shireen Reddy  
Shubanghi Shukla  
Emily Tang  
Melissa Whiting  
Mandy Wong  
Felicity Worland

**"I love the work The Queen's Fund  
undertakes to help women.  
I know that the previous clients  
we have helped to secure funding  
have been very appreciative. The  
process is well documented and  
easy to follow. Please keep up the  
AMAZING work you all do."**

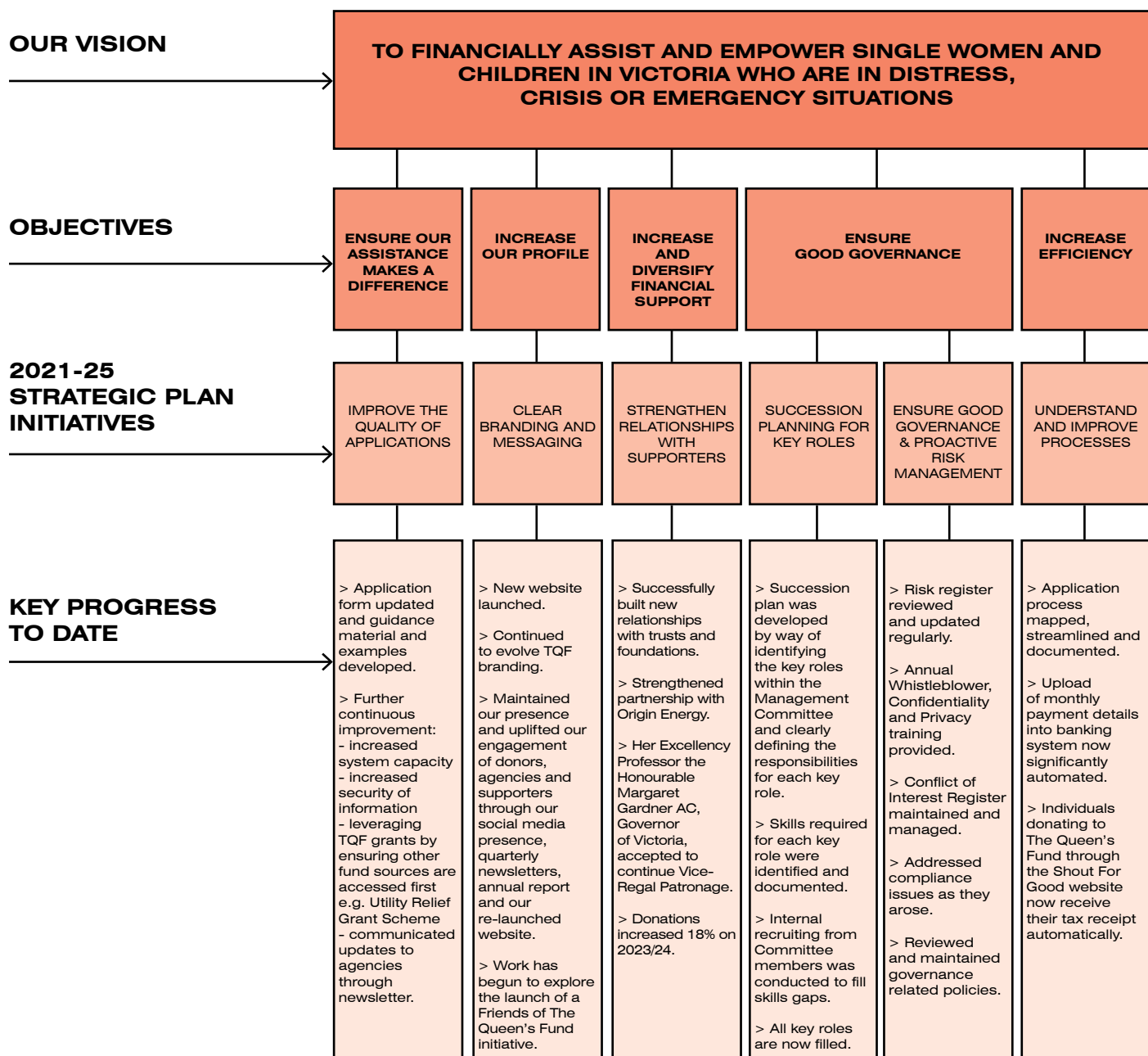
REFERRING AGENCY:  
Opendoor  
FEBRUARY 2025

# 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

Sub-committees established by the Management Committee, are tasked with implementing the action plans and tracking key progress against those plans. Oversight is provided by the Management Committee through regular reporting and monitoring.

Our strategic plan guides our efforts to what is important for our clients, supporters and volunteers now and into the future.



## HOW WE MAKE IT HAPPEN



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# IN CONVERSATION WITH

## LUCY SALIBA

Lucy Saliba joined The Queen's Fund in 2022 working on the Communications Sub-Committee and has been in the role of Secretary of the Management Committee for the last 3 years. With over 20 years experience working in manufacturing, project management and strategy roles across a wide variety of industries, Lucy brings a broad depth of experience to The Queen's Fund. Her calm efficiency and meticulous attention to detail in her role as Secretary is crucial to the ongoing operational success of The Queen's Fund.

**Your mother, Sally McInnes, was a long-time Committee member for over 20 years before she stepped down in 2021. Was her involvement with The Queen's Fund your inspiration to join?**

Absolutely. Mum was so passionate about the work The Queen's Fund did, and she really treasured her time spent as a Committee member. I have very fond memories of Mum's involvement, be it her telling us about her day spent at the Town Hall reviewing applications, her sitting at the computer on a Sunday night writing a grant application and of course the numerous requests for IT assistance when The Queen's Fund became digital! I always knew that I wanted to get more involved in a charity, so when I moved back to Melbourne and Mum mentioned she was thinking of retiring from The Queen's Fund, it seemed like the perfect time for me to get involved.

**What is a good example of the way in which you have seen The Queen's Fund make a difference through one of our grants?**

I think it is hard to single out a specific example. Every referrals weekend, when I read through approximately 60 applications from different women in need of emergency assistance, I am reminded how important the work of The Queen's Fund is. It may be paying \$350 for a removalist van to help a mother move herself and her children to escape domestic violence, \$400 towards a car rego which enables a woman to continue to have a registered car to get to medical appointments, or funding a laptop for a single mother looking to get back into the workforce – the difference the funds can make to the lives of these women is huge.

**The Queen's Fund is now 138 years old. How has it stayed relevant and sustainable for so long?**

My initial thought is that it is depressing to think the need for The Queen's Fund is still so strong – if anything it is increasing. But then I think thank goodness we are still here and able to help close to 200 women each and every month of the year. I believe the reason The Queen's Fund has continued to be

such a thriving charity is directly due to the amazing women on the Committee, starting out with Lady Loch 138 years ago, through generations of women who want to give back and help those in need.

**How has volunteering affected your personal or professional life?**

It has had a very positive impact on all aspects of my life. Very simply I think it helps make me a better person. Be it spending time over a weekend reviewing applications from women who are really struggling, preparing the Agenda for the upcoming Management meeting or writing a social media post – it really helps to ground me and put things in perspective. Being able to give back to those in need in such a direct, tangible way is extremely rewarding.

The other day I was doing referrals and I overheard my 10 year-old daughter explain to her friend that "My Mum is helping women and their children who are in trouble. She reads applications from them to find out what they need money for and then they help them".

Hearing that put a huge smile on my face. As my Mum did to me, hopefully I am showing my children the importance of helping others and giving back.



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**" ... And thank goodness we are still here and able to help close to 200 women each and every month of the year. "**

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## HOW YOU CAN HELP

# SUPPORT US

### MAKE A ONE TIME DONATION

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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)**

### BECOME A RECURRING DONOR

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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

### DONATE THROUGH WORKPLACE GIVING

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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.

### 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 138 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.

### VOLUNTEER

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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.

You can also volunteer through your workplace by offering your or your teams' time or expertise for a day or over a longer period, to assist with some of the many improvement projects that The Queen's Fund is running internally. Contact us at the email below to discuss what opportunities there may be for your workplace to donate time or expertise.

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

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# GOODBYE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## SALLY McLEAN



**From the moment Sally McLean joined The Queen's Fund in May 2013 until she stepped down in December 2024, her energies were tireless and exceptional, truly transforming the organisation into the agile, unique charitable service that we are today.**

As a practicing lawyer, her expertise in drafting and negotiating contracts and experience in regulatory and compliance obligations were in sharp evidence as she served in numerous roles, starting as Deputy President 2014-2015 and 2019 and President from 2015-2018 and 2020-2022, serving on the Management Committee and Referrals Sub-Committee from 2013 until 2024, and perhaps most notably, serving as a member of the Submission Sub-Committee (the team bringing money in the door) for her entire time at The Queen's Fund, even when she was President. She was also Chair of Submissions from 2014 - 2015 and then again in 2019.

During her time with the Submissions team, she was instrumental in growing donations to the revenue account (the account from which our grants are funded) over 330%, from \$199,940 in April 2013 to \$862,672 in April 2024. This huge injection of funds contributed to The Queen's Fund being able to help 647 women a year in 2013 to 2,253 women in 2024.

In addition, she served on the Governance Sub-Committee from 2015-2019, was Chair from 2015-

2016, and was a Director of The Queen's Fund Limited from 2017 to 2019. This was all achieved while she worked as in-house counsel with a global construction group and raised a family of three children!

Specific projects she implemented included setting up The Queen's Fund on Google for Nonprofits, giving Committee members a domain-name based email address for the first time and enabling the creation and maintenance of all operational documentation for the entire organisation. In 2016 Sally established the partnership with B2C Community IT Recyclers. This partnership enabled us to deliver a refurbished laptop complete with software installed direct to a woman in need's door for under \$350 and remains one of our most valued and requested partner offers.

Sally also established the pro bono partnership with Shine Solutions, which facilitated the creation of a secure, cloud-based portal for applications for funding. This enabled the Committee to securely access data in the portal anywhere, anytime which ultimately led to efficient remote working. This was of particular importance when Sally steered The Queen's Fund through the COVID-19 Pandemic, transferring a previously wholly in-person organisation to a more nimble, responsive and now largely on-line organisation, increasing The Queen's Fund's capacity to both fund applications and source new supporters and donors. This greater flexibility allowed The Queen's Fund to

attract a dynamic, skills-based Committee, with Sally personally recruiting Frieda Yeo (Treasurer) and Melissa Goode and Melissa Whiting (Incoming Co-Presidents).

Sally was a beloved and deeply respected member of The Queen's Fund and leaves a legacy of excellence and community compassion of which Committee members and applicants alike, continue to be the fortunate recipients. Her unwavering dedication to improving the lives of the women and children who accessed our services will continue to serve as an inspiration to us all for years to come.

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# GOODBYE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



## LEE ANN CONNOR

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**Lee Ann Connor joined the Committee in 2000, when it comprised only 12 women, and along with Penny Montgomery, Margaret Allen and Jane McLaughlin, she is one of The Queen's Funds longest-serving Committee members, an indication of the strength of belief Lee Ann has long maintained in providing her services.**

In the twenty-five years of her time with The Queen's Fund, Lee Ann held the positions of Secretary, Convenor of the Referrals Sub-Committee, and Deputy President. In addition, for several years she managed all correspondence and was the first point of contact for many applicants at The Queen's Fund and participated in the decision to grant funds to well over ten thousand women and children. Lee Ann was also responsible for implementing our fast-track system in 2014, an expedited application response that allows funding to be assessed and distributed within forty-eight hours. This is truly crucial to providing emergency support and we are grateful for Lee Ann's practical and efficient solution that is used sometimes daily in the organisation's operation.

With her involvement in The Queen's Fund spanning two and half decades, Lee Ann saw the organisation change from a handful of committed women, meeting monthly at the Melbourne Town Hall and assessing every

application together, then writing and posting off cheques to social workers and agencies, to the much larger community of 37 Committee and Board members that it is today.

Lee Ann says, "...Introducing Sub-Committees within the General Management Committee a few years ago was a great change, which has enhanced our capabilities and allowed us greater scope to access potential donors and the numerous agencies who apply to us on behalf of their clients."

With her unique sense of The Queen's Fund's history and evolution, Lee Ann was able to bring perspective and context to many policy and strategic decisions and was an invaluable source of legacy context, reminding us always that our role is first and foremost to act in the best interests of the women and children to whom we dedicate our time and energies.

"I think the stories of our many clients and their struggles to keep their lives intact, and how we can help in small but significant ways, makes what we do worthwhile... and it is wonderful that there is an organisation that for so long has been dedicated to supporting women and their families."

Lee Ann's unwavering commitment to empowering vulnerable women and children during her time with The Queen's Fund will be greatly missed and we thank her for all

her contributions and dedication which have enhanced our growth and success. Her compassion and empathy will be long remembered.



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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