

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement of Country	3
Patrons, Board, Staff and Funding	3
Key Partners	4
Companion House Vision, Mission and Principles	5
Companion House Goals	6
Quality Governance and Management	6
Impact Summary 2024-2025	7
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	8
Connecting to the Canberra Community	9
Board and Director's Messages	11
Service Report 2024-2025	13
Primary Health Care	13
Counselling	15
Community	16
Operations	18
Expenditure of Donations	19
Key Advocacy Issues	20
Key Performance Indicators	21
Financial Report 2024-2025	23
Board Report	23
Statement by Members of the Board	24
Statement of Financial Position	28
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	29
Statement of Changes in Members' Funds	30
Statement of Cash Flows	31
Notes to the Financial Report	32

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

As a community-based organisation dedicated to supporting adults and children who have experienced persecution, torture and war-related trauma, we recognise the historical and contemporary impacts of colonisation and support the self-determination of Indigenous Australians.

We recognise and greatly admire the strength and resilience of Indigenous Australians.

We acknowledge the rich knowledges and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have cared for this land since time immemorial and continue to do so. We acknowledge the role of local traditional custodians and knowledge holders in Canberra, where our organisation is based.

We value and appreciate that Indigenous Australians have stood alongside asylum seekers and refugees at many points throughout history to show solidarity in connection, advocacy and community. We highlight in particular the advocacy of Yorta Yorta Elder, William Cooper, who led a delegation to the German Embassy in 1938 to protest against attacks on the Jewish Community by the Nazis in Germany.

PATRONS, BOARD, STAFF AND FUNDING

PATRONS

Justice Elizabeth Evatt AO
Professor William Maley AM

BOARD

Chair
Tara Gutman

Secretary
Alison Gerard

Treasurer
Mustafa Ewazi

Members
Mohammad Ali, Jennifer Ashton, Manar Ahmad, Diva Mahesan Divakaran

STAFF

Director
Kathy Ragless

COUNSELLING TEAM

Team Leader
Ina Toumo'ua

Counsellors
Elizabeth Price, Hanalei Bickley, Mary Pekin, Laura Cooling, Maegan Williams, Sam Storey (July-Nov), Vaneitha Balakrishna (July-Feb)

External contractor
Megan Layton

COMMUNITY AND TRAINING TEAM

Team Leader
Glenn Flanagan

Projects and casework
Hongsar Channaibanya

Casework
Jennifer Tode

Projects and casework
Lailuma Haidari, Navya Garlapati, Saw Andrew Sein

MEDICAL TEAM

Team Leader
Allison McGurgan

Medical Clinical Director
Dr Christine Phillips

Practice Nurses
Allison McGurgan (Lead), Stacey Graham (Immunisation Lead), Carolyn Patrick (New Arrivals Lead), Janet Lennox, Lisa Clements

Support and patient navigation
Silvia Salas Meyer, Saw Andrew Sein

GPs
Dr Katrina Anderson, Dr Tom McGuire, Dr Rosemary Vyber, Dr Stephanie Davis, Dr Rebecca Kathage

Visiting Consultants
Dr Nishad Samad (psychiatrist), Dr Ann Harrison (psychiatrist)

OPERATIONS TEAM

Team Leader
Loan Freeman

Accountant
Oki Widodo

Admin/Reception Staff
Saw Andrew Sein, Pam Mitchell with support from Navya Garlapati, Lailuma Haidari

Cleaning and deliveries
Min Pai and Than Than

FUNDING

We acknowledge the following funding bodies and partners for their financial support:

Commonwealth Department of Health
Program Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma (PASTT) Counselling, training and community capacity building)

ACT Government Health Directorate
Counselling, and primary health services

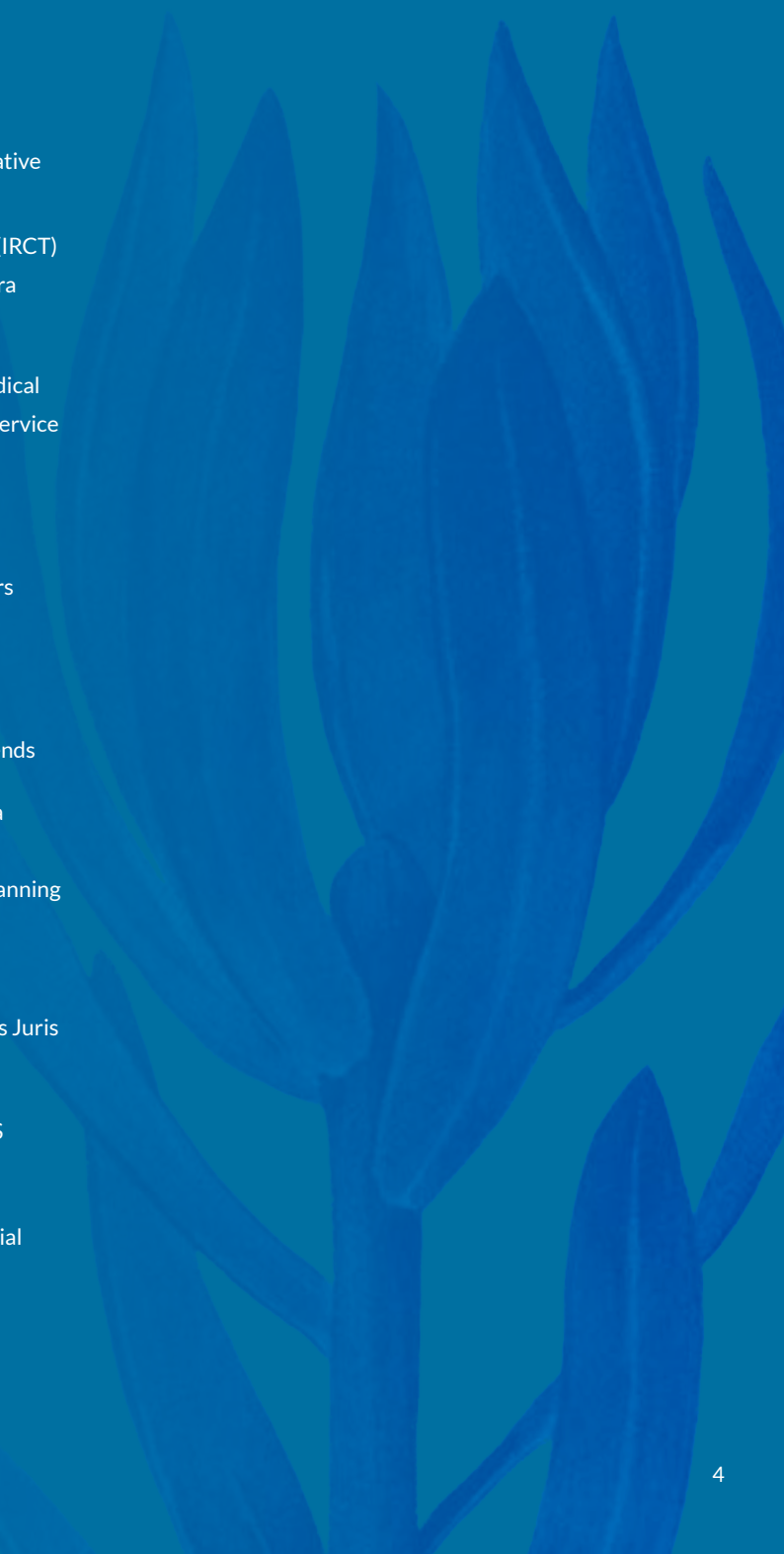
ACT Government Community Services Directorate
Children's program, community development program activities, work with young people, training and casework with families

Snow Foundation
University fees

Multicultural Employment Services
Employment support services

KEY PARTNERS

With special recognition of the very strong partnerships with Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Traumas (FASSTT), Canberra Refugee Support (CRS), St Vincent de Paul, HelpingACT and Multicultural Hub over 2024-2025.



ACT Dental Program
 ACT Mental Health Services
 ACT Health Community Pediatrics Registrar Program
 ACT Pathology
 ADACAS Advocacy
 Arthritis Foundation of the ACT
 Asthma Australia
 Australia-Karen Organisation of the ACT
 Australian Mon Association Inc
 Australian Presence Legal and Shamili Kugathas
 Australian National University Medical School Academic Unit (AUGP)
 Australian Red Cross
 Belconnen Mall Medical Centre
 Calvary Hospital Refugee Mentoring Program
 Canberra Institute of Technology
 Canberra Refugee Support (CRS)
 Capital Pathology
 Capital Chemists
 Canberra Community Law Centre
 Canberra Institute of Technology English Language Centre
 Canberra Palestinian Community (CPC)
 Care Financial Counselling
 Celebration of African Australians
 Cooleman Court Medical Centre
 Directions Health
 Dickson College Refugee Bridging Program
 Dickson College Secondary Introductory English Centre
 Feros Care NDIS Local Area Coordination
 Forcibly Displaced Peoples Network
 Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT)
 Foodbank
 Gungahlin Family Healthcare
 GP Liaison Unit
 Greenleaf Disability Services
 HelpingACT
 Health Protection Services - Vaccine Management Unit
 Health Care Consumers Association of the ACT
 Hyperdome Medical Centre
 Interchange Health Cooperative Tuggeranong
 International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)
 Lesley Cioccarelli at Canberra Institute of Technology
 Legal Aid ACT
 Maquarie -Healthfount Medical
 Multicultural Employment Service and Multicultural Hub
 Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN)
 My Medical Charnwood
 Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA)
 Reach For Training Pty Ltd
 QTIC - Quality Training in Construction
 The Religious Society of Friends (Canberra) Incorporated
 Refugee Council of Australia
 Slater & Gordon Lawyers
 Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT
 Spectacle Subsidy Scheme
 St Vincent de Paul
 TranQuill Legal, Owen Harris Juris Doctor
 University of Canberra
 United Canberra Care, NDIS Services providers
 Snow Foundation
 Women's Legal Centre, special thanks to Vanessa Burn
 Welcome Legal

COMPANION HOUSE VISION, MISSION AND PRINCIPLES

Vision Statement

A community that supports the health, wellbeing and human rights of people who come to Australia seeking protection from persecution, war and torture.

Mission Statement

Advance the health, well-being and human rights of people who have sought safety in Australia from persecution, torture and war.

Principles of Service

- 1 We promote and respect human rights encompassing the values of respect, dignity and equality for every person.
 - 2 We acknowledge and respect the strength of our clients and promote self-determination and informed choice.
 - 3 We foster professionalism through evidence-based practice, our accountability to clients and the community, and strong staff collegiality.
 - 4 We foster partnership and collaboration with clients, partners, funders and community.
 - 5 We work within a framework of recovery that is based on building safety and control, fostering connections and belonging, and building meaning, justice and dignity.
-

COMPANION HOUSE GOALS

Goal ONE

Health Care

Safety, control and dignity

People from a refugee background and asylum seekers have access to quality primary health care and access to health services which foster well-being, bodily integrity and recovery.

Goal TWO

Therapeutic services for recovery

Safety, control, meaning, justice, dignity and connection

Survivors of torture and trauma have access to therapeutic services which build safety and control, meaning, justice and dignity and foster connections and belonging.

Goal THREE

Community education and advocacy

Safety, dignity, justice and connection

The community welcomes asylum seekers and people from a refugee background, and is sensitive to the needs and strengths of survivors of torture and trauma.

Goal FOUR

Community capacity building and casework

Safety, connections, skills, knowledge and justice

Communities, families and individuals affected by torture and trauma are strong, respected, and skilled and can access justice

Goal FIVE

Human rights

Safety, dignity and justice

Human rights principles and focus on justice underpin our work and our expertise about human rights issues inform policy makers and the community at large.

Goal SIX

Quality Governance and Management

Safety, dignity and justice

Companion House is a high quality and responsive service with excellent governance and management.

IMPACT SUMMARY 2024-2025

1526	22	16
1526 new arrivals, asylum seekers and people with complex medical needs received primary health care	22 sessions and events with Dari, Arabic and Karen speakers to build health and well-being	16 sessions of Tamil Men's support group, 10 sessions of LGBTIQ Support Group to build health and well-being
132	2504	112
132 people without Medicare received primary health care services	2504 vaccines administered	112 households received food relief from the pantry
42	264	305
42 people participated in therapeutic groups	264 people accessed torture and trauma counselling services	Granted 305 ACT Services Access Cards to assist asylum seekers access social entitlements
42	172	141
42 training sessions with external organisations with 428 participants	172 people accessed casework support, including 40 young people and 93 asylum seekers	141 households received emergency relief
48	49	
48 people received employment and training assistance	49 asylum seeker households with no income or very little income received financial relief and rental payments	
19		
19 people received scholarships for tertiary study and training		



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Articles 1-15 of 30 articles

ARTICLE 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

ARTICLE 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

ARTICLE 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

ARTICLE 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

ARTICLE 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

ARTICLE 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

ARTICLE 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

ARTICLE 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

ARTICLE 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

ARTICLE 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

ARTICLE 11

Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

ARTICLE 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

ARTICLE 13

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State and everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

ARTICLE 14

Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

ARTICLE 15

Everyone has the right to a nationality.

CONNECTING TO THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY IN 2024-2025



Clockwise from above: Afghan families walking in Tidbinbilla (2), Rainbow Group climbs Mt Ainslie.



Below: Karen Masterchef.

Far Bottom: Puime Kaneshan, pharmacy student and women's leader, addresses University of Canberra and Companion House's collaborative World Refugee Day event, 2025.

Right: Tamil Mens Group climbs Mt Painter.



FROM THE BOARD

Tara Gutman, Board Chair on behalf of the Board of Companion House

Tara's father and three of her grandparents came to Australia as refugees. Tara began her legal career working in the arts and entertainment industry in Sydney, before taking up a pro bono role 20 years ago developing the court to try Khmer Rouge crimes in Cambodia. She has since worked in international law and advocacy roles with Cambodian Government, UNDP and the Red Cross. Now with Lexbridge Lawyers, she specialises in international humanitarian law, protection of cultural heritage and human rights.



This year has been marked by resilience, impact, and hope for Companion House. While internationally, conflicts are being fought with flimsy regard for the baseline principles of human rights and international humanitarian law, here in Canberra, our clients inspire us with their strength and determination to rebuild their lives with dignity.

Our services remained focused on creating safe spaces for recovery — from health care and counselling to casework, education, and community connection. More than 1,500 people received primary health care, 264 accessed specialised counselling, and 2,504 vaccinations were administered. Young people and asylum seekers were helped into education, training and employment pathways, and our community programs fostered belonging. Our training reached over 400 professionals, strengthening the wider community's capacity to respond with compassion and understanding.

We were especially encouraged by an independent client satisfaction survey: people

consistently reported feeling respected, cared for, and valued; many described Companion House as the first place in Australia where they truly felt seen and supported — a testament to the humanity and professionalism of our workforce.

Looking ahead, the Board is committed to strong governance and leadership to sustain this welcoming community where those who have endured unimaginable hardship can rebuild their lives. We warmly thank our valued supporters and partners for standing with us in this mission. Together, we will continue building a community in Canberra where healing, justice, and belonging are possible.

TARA GUTMAN

BOARD CHAIR

on behalf of the Board of Companion House



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Kathy Ragless, AM

Kathy has 33 years' experience in the management of community programs, initiatives and organisations spread across ACT, South Australia and NSW in both community and government sectors. She comes with a Masters of Arts from the ANU, a Diploma of Business Management and decades of experience in community work.



Companion House was founded on the principle that all people share a common humanity, affirming the dignity and value of all people. We were also founded on the principle that human rights are universal, indivisible, and inalienable. Articles 1-15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is reproduced in this report, a reminder of historical international commitments.

Adopted in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights remains a powerful statement. A copy of the Declaration hangs on the wall at Companion House. Yet, around the world, we are witnessing a deep failure to uphold these principles and a retreat from the idea of shared humanity itself. Nowhere is this more evident than in the unfolding genocide in Palestine, which reflects a broader collapse in the credibility of Western human rights discourse.

We also have continued to witness mass atrocities and crimes against humanity in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Tigray and Ukraine. While some of these crises receive international attention, others are met with silence and neglect. Selective concern reveals deep inequities in how the global community responds to human suffering.

Companion House also recognises the deep suffering caused by the systemic and cruel oppression of women in Afghanistan, alongside the crimes against humanity and ethnic persecution that continue to impact many of those we support.

At the same time, in Australia we have also long seen the right to seek asylum challenged

in the fray of domestic politics, alongside policies of mandatory detention off and onshore that clearly erode human dignity and human rights commitments.

In the face of these realities, Companion House continues to walk alongside people from Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Palestine, Ukraine, Congo, Syria, and many others. We are privileged to stand in solidarity with survivors of genocide, torture, war, and persecution, by providing essential services within spaces of safety and respect where rebuilding can begin.

As a health service, we focus on both primary health care and counselling, aiming to support health, well-being, and trauma recovery. Around this core, we also work to bridge gaps in services, build community connections, influence policy, and improve public understanding.

We take seriously our responsibility to provide high-quality, evidence-based services. We are committed to building expertise, continuous learning, and strong governance in everything we do.

Our work is deeply rooted in local community and made possible only through collaboration — with our staff, board, funders, communities, partners, donors, and friends. Thank you for your trust and support and commitment to shared humanity.

KATHY RAGLESS, AM

DIRECTOR
Companion House

SERVICE REPORT 2024-2025

Primary Health Care

Funded by ACT Health Directorate, Medicare and donors

SERVICE LEADERS



Dr Christine Phillips AM

Dr Chris has a 37 year career as a doctor with 25 years at Companion House. Chris is also Professor of Social Foundations of Medicine at ANU Medical School and has decades of experience as a renowned teacher and researcher.



Allison McGurgan

Ally has been a registered nurse since 1993, with decades of nursing experience behind her including ten years in the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department as a triage nurse. Ally has been Lead Practice Nurse at Companion House since 2019 and has worked in General Practice for 18 years.

SERVICE FOCUS

Primary health care services at Companion House maintained a strong focus on long appointments, interpreter use and accessible and respectful health care. The service is for (1) new arrivals from a refugee background in their first two years in Australia (2) asylum seekers and people on temporary refugee visas and (3) people with complex care needs.

SERVICES PROVIDED

As illustrated in numbers below this is a service with strong demand, servicing 1526 people in Canberra. The service has strong strengths in coordination, support to patients in patient navigation of local health systems, provision of vaccinations and treatment of complex health conditions driven by years of health deprivation and trauma.

2024-2025	NUMBER
Active patients	1526 people
New patients over the year	229 people
Number of vaccines administered	2504 vaccines
Number of patients transitioned to partner GPs in the community	250 people
Patients without Medicare	132 people

The team includes six GPs, four nurses and two support staff/patient navigators. We also have a visiting psychiatrist and a weekly session from a paediatric registrar.

The largest single group of patients were people from Afghanistan, although there were patients from over 42 different cultural groups.

Service sustainability and meeting intense demand continues to be the central challenge of the service. At the same time, the coordination and scaffolding the service provides patients supports high level health and social outcomes.



SERVICE REPORT 2024-2025

Primary Health Care (cont.)

PATIENT EXPERIENCE

In February 2025, an external consultant, Helyar and Co, conducted focus groups with medical patients to gather feedback and gauge satisfaction. The report to Companion House documenting patient experiences of the medical service reported that feedback was overwhelmingly positive. This was illustrated by this comment made in every focus group:

This is the best/most helpful/easiest to navigate organisation I have dealt with in Australia."

Other comments included:

"It's always been a positive experience."

"The people at Companion House were the first people in Australia to treat us with respect and we get a feeling of being valued that we had not had before."

QUALITY

Companion House's 2024-2025 clinical audit identified that Companion House:

98.5%

Exceeded all the national targets for cascades of care in the **Hepatitis B** strategy-proportion of people at risk of hepatitis B who have been screened and diagnosed (achieved 98.5%)

95%

Exceeded the national targets for cascades of care in the **Hepatitis C** strategy -Proportion of people at risk of hepatitis C screened and diagnosed (achieved 95%)

93%

Exceeded our own targets regarding the testing of people with **diabetes - HbA1c** measured in last 12 months (achieved 93%)

99%

Exceeded the **95-95-95** targets for the **HIV** strategy with proportion of people at risk of hepatitis B who have been screened and diagnosed (achieved 99%)

Companion House was accredited against the RACGP Standards for General Practices for a third time in March 2025. The service has been accredited against RACGP standards since 2018. The service also had a consultant review Medicare billings in the service to analyse trends and any missed opportunities.

SERVICE REPORT 2024-2025

Counselling

Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health, ACT Community Services Directorate and ACT Health Directorate

SERVICE LEADER



Ina Toumo'ua
Ina Toumo'ua is a registered psychologist with 21 years' experience in her field including 18 years at Companion House and seven years as team leader. Ina comes with lived experience of the refugee journey.

SERVICE FOCUS

We provide counselling services to survivors of torture and trauma across the age spectrum. The service is trauma-informed, person centred and utilises strength-based approach to support individual and community healing from trauma, to restore hope, trust and healthy relational outcomes. Clients and counsellors work collaboratively in order to identify clients' goals and needs and seek to gain a thorough understanding of the personal impact of torture/trauma on the client and their broader community.

QUALITY

Companion House participated closely in new data and quality projects with the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT) over 2024-2025. This included building a new database and implementation of new National Minimum Data Set over 2024-2025. The service also had a successful mid cycle review for accreditation under National Standards for Mental Health Services in December 2024.

SERVICES PROVIDED

2024-2025	NUMBER
Active counselling clients	264
Therapeutic groups	3 groups with 32 members
Symptoms	75% of people had moderate or severe anxiety, 59% of people had moderate or severe depression and 80% had traumatic stress symptoms.
Experiences	50% of people were survivors of physical, psychological or sexual torture, 23% of people had witnessed the death of others.

The impact of trauma treatment observed is varied and includes improvements across the spectrum of emotional, cognitive, behavioural, interpersonal domains: reduction in stress associated physiology, increased ability to manage pain, less somatisation, increase in positive coping strategies, redefined sense of purpose and meaning and healthier relationships with loved ones and improved quality of life.



SERVICE REPORT 2024-2025

Community

SERVICE LEADERS



Glenn Flanagan

Glenn has a Masters of Philosophy and has 15 years' experience as a secondary school teacher with ten years teaching in an Introductory English Centre in Sydney. He also had nine years' experience working in the HIV community sector working with adult groups and peer education before starting work at Companion House 16 years ago as trainer, becoming team leader 15 years ago.

CASEWORK

We provided casework and advocacy with priority for torture survivors, families with children, young people, asylum seekers and temporary refugee visa holders. The service focused on housing, disability, social entitlements and a wide range of other life issues. Three caseworkers participate in this work.

2024-2025	NUMBER
Active casework clients -Total	172
Young people in casework	40
Asylum seekers households	93

TRAINING

Training sessions focused on the impact of torture and trauma and the refugee journey, working in a recovery model, working in an ethical way with survivors of torture and trauma, working cross culturally with survivors of trauma, communicating with survivors from diverse language backgrounds and dealing appropriately with our own emotional reactions as workers.

Our training sessions particularly focused on health care workers and community sector workers.

2024-2025	NUMBER
Number of training sessions	42 sessions
Number of people who participated	428 people
Number of organisations which participated	45 organisations

Feedback from training sessions was consistently high. Feedback included:

- "Thank you for a great opportunity to discuss important topics that I will be able to bring back to my team and practices",
- "Glad it was a full day training - engaging throughout",
- "It was a great presentation, informative, with lots of useful information",
- "Presentation was good and well updated and provided important insights on how we can work with diverse populations with respect and autonomy",
- "All relevant, great delivery, well-paced",
- "I came away with some great learnings",
- "Engaging, a good amount of time for each section",
- "The whole training was very useful",
- "Presentation was very creative and engaging",
- "Really important information",
- "[Trainer] was kind, well informed and professional",
- "Trauma recovery framework was really useful",
- "Very engaging and knowledgeable facilitator".

SERVICE REPORT 2024-2025

Community (cont.)

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We provided Secretariat to Acute Rental Support Coordination Committee (ARSCC), providing rental support with Canberra Refugee Support, St Vincent de Paul and Red Cross to ensure asylum seekers families do not become homeless. We managed the discretionary funds granted by the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs for financial relief for asylum seekers without income.

2024-2025	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
Financial assistance and /rental payments to asylum seekers	49 households
Emergency relief – bus tickets, food vouchers, medications	141 households

EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND EDUCATION

A continued priority is support for people to access education and training and employment pathways. We have three main priorities: Young people, asylum seekers and isolated women.

We supported students with the cost of study in:

Year 12 at CIT, Diploma of Graphic Design, Diploma of Project Management ,Certificate 4 in Cybersecurity, pharmacy degree, nursing degrees, Diploma of Health Administration, PhD focused on Sudanese Australians and prevalence of Vitamin D deficiency, DJ training music camp, white card asbestos and silica training, dentistry degree, heavy truck license.

2024-2025	DETAILS
Financial support for people to access training and gain drivers licences	15 people, mainly asylum seekers
Identification of job pathways, sourcing employment and training (in partnership with Multicultural Hub)	48 people
Support for young asylum seekers with university fees and living costs	4 young asylum seekers

COMMUNITIES

We ran regular sessions and events with community members from Afghanistan, Arabic speakers and Karen community members focused on health, well-being and community.

Over the year the team also collaborated with the counselling team to hold sessions with the Tamil Men’s Support Group. The group provided opportunities for discussion and mutual support with walks and excursions. In addition, team also led the LQTBIQ+ Social Club with the Counselling team. The group provides support group meetings for LGTBIQ+ community members from refugee backgrounds, with discussions and excursions.

2024-2025 COMMUNITY SESSIONS	NUMBER
People from Afghanistan on both physical and mental health, family excursions, community building and social entitlements. Sessions included sleep and well-being, diabetes prevention, asthma support, women’s support, Eid party for women, Tidbinbilla visit and building family connections	15 sessions
Tamil Men’s Group	16 sessions
LGTBIQ+ Social Club	10 sessions
Newly arrived Arabic speakers on health care, well-being and asthma management.	4 sessions
Karen community sessions on primary health care, aged care and Karen MasterChef competition	3 sessions

SERVICE REPORT 2024-2025

Operations

SERVICE LEADER



Loan Freeman

Loan has worked at Companion House for 18 years, subsequent to completing a degree in tourism management and working as an English teacher in Japan. Loan comes with lived experience of the refugee journey.

Alongside day to day operations, the team are responsible for granting and distribution of ACT Services Access Card. ACT Government does not fund Companion House for this function and it has been provided pro bono for over a decade.

ACT SERVICES ACCESS CARD

The ACT Access Card is an entitlement and ID card to enable asylum seeker access to ACT Government funded services. The card is granted by Companion House in partnership with the Office of Regulatory services (ORS) and Office of Multicultural Affairs.

The operations team granted 305 ACT Services Access Cards over 2024 -2025 in partnership with Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) and maintained Access Card database and data.

People from Sri Lanka, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, China and Pakistan were the largest groups of asylum seekers.

KEY CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Most common languages:

- Farsi
- Dari
- Hazaragi
- Arabic
- Karen
- Tamil
- Spanish
- Urdu
- French
- Ukrainian

SERVICE REPORT 2024-2025

Expenditure of Donations

DONATIONS

\$107,664 of donations were expended, donated by generous individual donors to Companion House over 2024-2025. A very large proportion of these funds were directed to asylum seekers, with low or no income. Migration costs were all spent on fast track applicants and assisted ten households.

\$23,966	Accommodation and rental payments
\$28,884	Food, clothing and basic necessities vouchers.
\$14,928	Migration assistance and document translation for asylum seekers
\$5137	Pharmacy costs
\$4158	Pathology and Imaging
\$4118	Transport assistance
\$6661	Utilities assistance

UNIVERSITY DONATIONS

\$53,557 was expended on educational expenses, predominantly young asylum seekers.

\$24,824	University fees for four asylum seeker students
\$5360	Canberra Institute of Technology fees and charges for five asylum seeker students
\$25,369	Vocational training and living expense support for ten students

SERVICE REPORT 2024-2025

Key Advocacy Issues

ASYLUM SEEKERS

Companion House advocated for systems and partnerships to support the basic needs and rights of asylum seekers in our community.

We note the very long journey many asylum seekers have had, the despair this has created and the resilience and capabilities asylum seekers offer our community. Some of the asylum seekers we worked with had prolonged immigration detention experiences, either onshore or offshore, before entering our community, which was a contravention of asylum seeker rights and creates long term physical and mental health harm.

Companion House worked with 310 asylum seekers over the 2024-2025 year.

Companion House continued our commitment to asylum seekers through:

- Granting of ACT Asylum Seeker Access Cards and maintenance of data
- Provision of medical care for asylum seekers, including asylum seekers without income
- Payment of medications for asylum seekers without income
- Scholarships program for asylum seekers seeking tertiary education in partnership with the University of Canberra
- Scholarships for people in training and skills building
- Partnership with Canberra Refugee Support and St Vincent de Paul to provide rental payments and living allowance to asylum seekers with no income through donations
- Partnership with Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) to manage OMA Humanitarian Discretionary Funds for asylum seekers without income
- Provision of small amount of pro bono migration assistance and sourcing of migration assistance and advice
- Prioritisation of asylum seekers in casework and employment service
- Advocacy to policy makers

KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES

Companion House worked with services, policy makers and funders to advocate regarding:

- Access to social entitlements, particularly social housing
- Support for asylum seekers without income living in destitution.
- Understanding issues for LGBTIQ asylum seekers
- Asylum seekers service access in the ACT
- Use of interpreters in service delivery across service systems, particularly in the health system
- Asylum seeker access to migration advice and assistance
- Health effects of long-term detention on people in indefinite detention
- Anti-torture advocacy
- Access to education for asylum seekers.



SERVICE REPORT 2024-2025

Key Performance Indicators

EFFICIENCY INDICATORS

1. 100% of organisational expenditure is dedicated to achievement of identified strategic priorities each financial cycle.

Achieved 100% 2024-25.

2. A minimum of 75% of total funds expended is dedicated to direct service delivery each financial year.

Achieved 75% 2024-25.

3. Staff structure maintains 80% of staff in direct service delivery against strategic priorities each financial year.

Achieved 2024-2025.

4. Overall client to staff ratios are maintained within 10% variation of 1:50 and do not significantly decline or increase in any given period each financial year.

Within variation 2024-2025.

5. Staff retention rates do not fall below the range of 8 average years of service or annual and staff turnover of less than 10% in a year.

Average length of service 10.7 years in 2024-25.

MISSION INDICATORS

1. Survivors of torture and trauma who used Companion House maintained/improved physical and mental health and reported well-being and social benefits from engagement with our organisation: target percentage of 70%.

Achieved at 78% 2024-25.

2. Local community-built understanding of refugees and survivors of torture and trauma: target of 300 people in training annually.

428 people achieved 2024-25.

3. Our organisation influenced public policy directions at the local level in the area of asylum seekers policy: target of two key policy areas.

Achieved impact on public policy directions on income support for asylum seekers and maintenance in discretionary funding over 2024-25.

4. Local communities affected by torture and trauma-built skills and knowledge in employment and training pathways: target of 100 people.

48 people in 2024-25.

5. We build partnerships and better access to services for vulnerable people through maintenance of existing partnerships and formation of new formal alliances in identified sectors of need: target 2 new formal strategic partnerships each year.

Maintained existing partnerships and built one new partnership 2024-25.

6. We can demonstrate commitment to continuous improvement through accreditation against mental health and primary health care standards.

Achieved accreditation against RACGP Standards for General Practice for a further three years in March 2025 and a successful mid-term review against National Standards for Mental Health Services in December 2024.

Companion House Assisting Survivors
of Torture and Trauma Incorporated

ABN 98 349 936 816

Financial Report

For the year ended 30th June 2025



FINANCIAL REPORT

2024/25



FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-2025

Board Report

The Members of the Board present their report on Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated “the Association” for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The names of members of the Board in office throughout the year and at the date of this report, unless otherwise stated are:

- M. Ahmad
- A. Gerard (Secretary)
- J. Ashton
- T. Gutman (Chair)
- D. Mahesan Divakaran
- M. Ewazi (Treasurer)
- K. Ragless
- M. Ali

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Companion House is a non government community based organisation working with adults and children who have sought safety in Australia from persecution, torture and war related trauma. The organisation provides medical, counselling and a range of community services. There was no change to the nature of this activity during the year.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN STATE OF AFFAIRS

No significant changes in the Association’s state of affairs occurred during the year.

OPERATING RESULTS

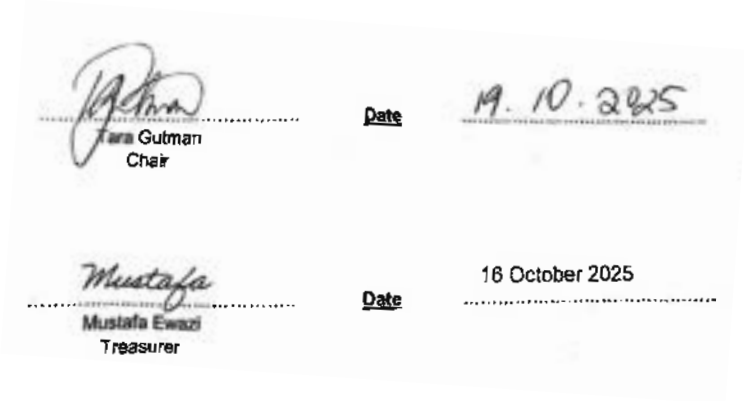
The surplus of the Association for the year amounted to \$94,022 (2024 - \$65,326)

AFTER BALANCE DATE EVENTS

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in future periods.

LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS

The Association expects to maintain the present status and level of operations.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-2025

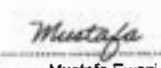
Statement by Members of the Board

The Members of the Board have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity. The Board have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Members of the Board of the Association the financial report including the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of changes in members' funds, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act); and

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated as at 30th June 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date;
2. Comply with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1; and
3. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board and is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

 Tara Gutman Chair	<u>Date</u> 19.10.2025
 Mustafa Ewazi Treasurer	<u>Date</u> 16 October 2025



THOMAS DAVIS & CO
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AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 (ACNC ACT)

As the lead partner for the audit of the financial report of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2025, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2025 there have been no contraventions of:

- (a) the auditor independence requirements under section 60-40 of the ACNC Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (b) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

THOMAS DAVIS & CO.

S A Wagschall

PARTNER

Chartered Accountants

SYDNEY,
Date: 22nd October, 2025

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A member of



Independent legal & accounting firms

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

**TO THE MEMBERS OF COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA
INCORPORATED**

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in members' funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the Board.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including;

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June, 2025 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ACNC Act, the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including independence standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Association's financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Board Members for the Financial Report

The Board Members of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board Members are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board Members either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



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ALL FORMS OF TAXATION

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board Members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



THOMAS DAVIS & CO.



S A Wagschall

Partner

Chartered Accountants

SYDNEY,
Date:

19/10/2025

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-2025

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30th June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,192,171	1,035,404
Trade and other receivables	4	1,460	100
Investments	5	34,156	32,653
Lease Asset	6	10,998	-
Total current assets		1,238,785	1,068,157
Non-current assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	8,389	9,979
Total non-current assets		8,389	9,979
Total assets		1,247,174	1,078,136
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accruals	8	89,041	59,352
Contract liabilities	9	340,510	300,140
Provisions	10	285,065	291,820
Lease Liability		8,700	-
Total current liabilities		723,316	651,312
Non-current liabilities			
Lease Liability		3,012	-
Total non-current liabilities		3,012	-
Total liabilities		726,328	651,312
Net assets		520,846	426,824
Members' funds			
Retained surplus/(deficit)	11	520,846	426,824
Total members' funds		520,846	426,824

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-2025

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30th June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current assets			
Revenue	2	3,385,163	2,923,620
Employee Benefits		(2,144,586)	(1,922,146)
Depreciation		(5,714)	(2,502)
Computer Expenses		(86,781)	(27,476)
Insurance		(97,509)	(87,095)
Medical Contracts and Expenses		(265,436)	(214,353)
Program and Donation Expenditure		(485,763)	(379,924)
Rental Expenses		(56,081)	(52,202)
Other Expenses		(149,271)	(172,596)
Surplus / (Deficit) before Income Tax		94,022	65,326
Income Tax Expense	1(c)	-	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) after Income Tax		94,022	65,326
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total comprehensive income attributable to the members of the association		94,022	65,326

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-2025

Statement of Changes in Members' Funds for the year ended 30th June 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Accumulated Surplus - Beginning of Year	426,824	361,498
Surplus / (Deficit) after Income Tax	94,022	65,326
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Accumulated Surplus - End of Year	520,846	426,824

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-2025

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30th June 2025

	Note	2025 \$ Inflows (Outflows)	2024 \$ Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities			
Interest received		33,052	28,604
Grants received		3,052,396	2,658,919
Other receipts		337,222	312,130
Payments to suppliers and employees		(3,265,903)	(2,832,637)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	11	156,767	167,016
Cash flow from investing activities			
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		-	-
Payments for property, plant and equipment		-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		-	-
Cash flow from financing activities			
Hire purchase and lease payments		-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		-	-
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		156,767	167,016
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		1,035,404	868,388
Cash at the end of the financial year	3	1,192,171	1,035,404

**COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Reporting Framework

These financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting preparation requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act). The Members of the Board have determined that the association is not a reporting entity as there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements, AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, AASB 1031: Materiality and AASB 1054: Australian Additional Disclosures.

The association has concluded that the requirements set out in AASB 10 and AASB 128 are not applicable as the initial assessment on its interests in other entities indicate that it does not have any subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Hence, the financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis of Preparation

The financial report, except for cash flow information, has been prepared on an accruals basis. It is based on historical cost, and does not take into account changing values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

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

Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue and other income

The association is first required to determine whether amounts received are accounted for as Revenue per AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers or income per AASB 1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities.

**COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(a) Revenue recognition (continued)

Funding arrangements which are enforceable and contain sufficiently specific performance obligations are recognised as revenue under AASB 15. Otherwise, such arrangements are accounted for under AASB 1058, whereupon initial recognition of an asset, the association is required to consider whether any other financial statement elements should be recognised (eg. financial liabilities representing repayable amounts), with any difference being recognised immediately in profit or loss as income.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of taxes paid. Revenue is recognised for categories of income as follows:

Grants and donations

Contributed assets

If the association receives assets from the government and other parties for nil or nominal consideration in order to further its objectives, these assets would be recognised in accordance with the recognition requirement of other applicable standards (AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138).

On initial recognition of an asset, the association recognises related amounts (being contribution from owners, lease liabilities, financial instruments, provisions).

The association recognises income immediately in profit and loss and the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

Operating grants and donations

When the association receives operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficient specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15. When both these conditions are satisfied the association identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant, recognises a contract liability for these obligations and recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations the association recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards, recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions) and recognises income immediately in profit and loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

When the association receives a capital grant, it recognised a liability for the excess of the initial carrying amount of the financial asset received over any related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer) recognised under other Australian Accounting Standards.

If a contract liability is recognised as above, the association recognises income in profit and loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

**COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(a) Revenue recognition (continued)

Interest received

Interest revenue is recognised on a time proportionate basis that takes into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

Dividend income

The Association recognises dividends in profit or loss only when the Association's right to receive payment of the dividend is established.

Fundraising and other income

Fundraising and other income are generally recognised as revenue when received. Contributions that are received for specific purposes are recognised as revenue when the funds are expended. Where those funds have not been fully spent at balance date this revenue is recognised in advance.

(b) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year, together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at their nominal amount.

The association obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as part of accounts payable and other payables in the statement of financial position.

Contributions are made by the association to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses as incurred.

(c) Income tax

Taxation has not been provided for as the association is exempt for taxation under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as it is a public benevolent institution.

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are brought to account at cost, less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

**COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than the recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount. A formal assessment of the recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present (refer to note 1(e) for details of impairment).

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including leasehold improvements, are depreciated over their useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use, to their residual values. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvements.

The depreciation rates for each class of asset are as follows:

Asset	Rate	Method
Office and Other Equipment	10% to 40%	Straight line
Motor Vehicles	22.5%	Diminishing balance
Improvements	5%	Straight line

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gain and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they arise. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained surplus.

(e) Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and the value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and the Association would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of a class of asset, the Association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

**COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(e) Impairment of assets (continued)

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is debited against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for the same class of asset.

(f) Leases

At the inception of contract, the Association assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the Association where the Association is a lessee. However, all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (lease with remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Initially the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Association uses the incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows:

- fixed lease payments less any lease incentives;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;
- the amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantee;
- the exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options;
- lease payments under extension options if lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options; and
- payment of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease.

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date as any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right-of-use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset, whichever is the shortest. Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Association anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

**COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(g) Cash and cash equivalents

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

(h) Financial instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the association commits itself either purchase or sell the asset (trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs except where the instrument is classified "at fair value through profit or loss", in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Trade receivables are initially measured at transaction price if the trade receivables do not contain significant financing components or if the practical expedient was applied as specified in paragraph 63 of AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are subsequently measured at:

- amortised cost; or
- fair value through profit and loss

A financial liability is measured at fair value through profit and loss if the financial liability is:

- a contingent consideration of an acquirer in a business combination to which AASB 3: Business Combinations applies;
- held for trading;
- initially designed at fair value through profit or loss

All other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Financial Instruments (continued)

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating interest expense to profit or loss over the relevant period.

The effective interest rate is the internal rate of return on a financial asset or liability. That is, it is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash flows through the expected life of the instrument to the net carrying amount at initial recognition.

A financial liability is held for trading if it is:

- incurred for the purposes of repurchasing or repaying in the near term;
- part of a portfolio where there is an actual pattern of short-term profit taking; or
- a derivative financial instrument (except for a derivative that is in a financial guarantee contract or a derivative that is in an effective hedging relationship).

Any gains or losses arising on changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss to the extent that they are not part of a designated hedging relationship.

The change in fair value of the financial liability attributable to changes in the issuer's credit risk is taken to other comprehensive income and is not subsequently reclassified to profit or loss. Instead, it is transferred to retained earnings upon derecognition of the financial liability.

If taking the change in credit risk to other comprehensive income enlarges or creates an accounting mismatch, these gains or losses should be taken to profit or loss rather than other comprehensive income.

A financial liability cannot be reclassified.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are subsequently measured at:

- amortised cost;
- fair value through other comprehensive income; or
- fair value through profit or loss.

**COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Financial Instruments (continued)

Measurement is on the basis of two primary criteria:

- the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset; and
- the business model for managing the financial assets.

A financial asset that meets the following conditions is subsequently measured at amortised cost:

- the financial asset is managed solely to collect contractual cash flow;
- the contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates.

A financial asset that meets the following conditions is subsequently measured at fair value through other comprehensive income:

- the contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates.;
- the business model for managing the financial asset comprises both contractual cash flow collection and the selling of the financial asset.

By default, all other financial assets that do not meet the measurement conditions of amortised cost and fair value through other comprehensive income are subsequently measured at fair value through profit and loss.

The Association initially designates a financial instrument as measured at fair value through profit and loss if:

- it eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency (often referred to as "an accounting mismatch") that would otherwise arise from measuring assets or liabilities or recognising the gains and losses on them on different bases;
- it is in accordance with the documented risk management or investment strategy and information about the groupings is documented appropriately, so the performance of the financial liability that is part of a group of financial liabilities or financial assets can be managed and evaluated consistently on a fair value basis; and
- it is a hybrid contract that contains an embedded derivative that significantly modifies the cash flows otherwise required by the contract.

The initial measurement of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss is a one-time option on initial classification and is irrevocable until the financial asset is derecognised.

Equity Instruments

At initial recognition, as long as the equity instrument is held for trading or is not a contingent consideration recognised by an acquirer in a business combination to which AASB 3 applies, the Association makes an irrevocable election to measure any subsequent changes at fair value of the equity instruments in other comprehensive income, while the dividend revenue received on underlying equity instruments investments will still be recognised in profit or loss.

**COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Financial Instruments (continued)

Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised and derecognised at settlement date in accordance with the Association's accounting policy.

Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expire or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the entity no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are discharged, cancelled or have expired. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability, which is extinguished or transferred to another party, and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

(i) Trade and other payables

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

(j) Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except:

- (i) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
- (ii) for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

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SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
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**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(k) Provisions

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

(l) Economic Dependency

The Association's continuing operations are based on the understanding that there will be future government grants to cover ongoing commitments.

(m) Comparative Figures

Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in the current year.

Where the Association retrospectively applies an accounting policy, makes a retrospective restatement or reclassifies items in its financial statements, a third statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period in addition to the minimum comparative financial statements must be presented.

(n) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Association.

Key Estimates

(i) Impairment

The Association assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluating conditions and events specific to the Association that may be indicative of impairment triggers.

(ii) Plant and Equipment

As in indicated in Note 1(d), the Association reviews the useful life of plant and equipment on an annual basis.

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**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(n) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements (continued)

Key Judgements

(i) Performance obligations under AASB 15

To identify a performance obligation under AASB 15, the promise must be sufficiently specific to be able to determine when the obligation is satisfied. Management exercises judgement to determine whether the promise is sufficiently specific by taking into account any conditions specified in the arrangement, explicit or implicit, regarding the promised goods or services. In making this assessment, management includes the nature/type, cost/value, quantity and the period of transfer related to the goods or services promised.

(ii) Lease term and Option to extend under AASB 16

The lease term is defined as the non-cancellable period of a lease together with both periods covered by an option to extend the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise that option; and also periods covered by an option to terminate the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain not to exercise that option. The options that are reasonably going to be exercised is a key management judgement that the Association will make. The Association determines the likelihood to exercise the options on a lease-by-lease basis looking at various factors such as which assets are strategic and which are key to future strategy of the entity.

(o) New and Amended Accounting Policies

AASB 2020-1: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates

The entity adopted AASB 2020-1 which amends AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current. It also clarifies the meaning of "settlement of a liability".

The adoption of the amendment did not have a material impact on the financial statements.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-2025

Note 2 - Revenue

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Grants received	2,635,544	2,266,271
Medicare income	377,842	315,291
Donations received	285,442	259,682
Hall hire	36,225	36,883
Other income	17,058	16,889
Interest received	33,052	28,604
	3,385,163	2,923,620

Note 3 - Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash at bank & on hand	1,192,171	1,035,404
	1,192,171	1,035,404

Note 4 - Trade and Other Receivables

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Trade Debtors	1,460	100
	1,460	100

Note 5 - Investments

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Term Deposit	34,156	32,653
	34,156	32,653

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-2025

Note 6 - Lease Asset

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Lease Asset	15,122	-
Less Accumulated depreciation	(4,124)	
	10,998	-

Note 7 - Property, Plant and Equipment

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Building Improvements at cost	17,215	17,215
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(11,503)	(10,706)
	5,712	6,509
Plant and Equipment at cost	105,817	105,817
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(105,709)	(105,662)
	108	155
Motor Vehicles at cost	68,934	68,934
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(66,365)	(65,619)
	2,569	3,315
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	8,389	9,979

Note 8 - Trade and Other Payables

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	89,041	59,352
	89,041	59,352

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-2025

Note 9 - Contract Liabilities

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Grants Received in Advance	265,882	216,959
Unexpended Donations	74,628	83,181
	340,510	300,140

Note 10 - Provisions

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current		
Annual Leave	187,527	199,403
Long Service Leave	97,539	92,417
	285,065	291,820

Note 11 - Retained Surplus / (Deficit)

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Balance at the beginning of the year	426,824	361,498
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	94,022	65,326
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance at the end of the year	520,846	426,824

Note 12 - Reconciliation of Cash Flows

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Operating surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities after income tax	94,022	65,326
<i>Non-cash items</i>		
Depreciation	5,714	2,502
Reinvested interest on investments	(1,503)	(1,324)
Lease accounting effect	(3,410)	-
<i>Change in operating assets and liabilities</i>		
(Increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	(1,360)	21,916
Increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	29,689	1,247
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	40,370	55,441
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	(6,755)	21,908
	156,767	167,016

Note 13 - COVID-19 Pandemic

There was no material impact of COVID-19 on Companion House regarding asset impairment or going concern based on impact on ongoing grants during the year.

Note 14 - Events after reporting date

To the best of our knowledge there are no events occurring after balance sheet date that require reporting or adjustment.

THANK YOU

A very big thank you to the many friends and donors who have worked with us over the year, with special thanks to:

Generous donations from organisations

Snow Foundation, Tall Foundation, Canberra Refugee Support, Catholic Development Fund Donation, Richardson Family Trust, students at St Francis Xavier College, St Paul's Anglican Church, Manuka, Medical Women's Society of the ACT, Holy Covenant Anglican Church.

Weekly stocking of Companion House pantry

HelpingACT and Mohammad Ali for weekly food donations to stock the Companion House pantry.

Donation of rental property

Anne Marie Nichol for donation of rental property at cost for over 14 years –an outstanding contribution.

The Australian National University Medical Students Society

For generous provision of donations from their annual ANU Med Revue –an enormous and very useful contribution over many years –with sincere thanks.

Generous donors to Companion House

With a special shout out to the great generosity of donors to Companion House. We appreciate this commitment so much, with special thanks to the Estate of the late David William Kain, Jennifer and Brett Yeats, Geoff Buchanan and many other anonymous donors.

University of Canberra

For waiving international fees for asylum seekers and working in partnership with Companion House to ensure students get their tertiary education.

Health professionals going above and beyond

Dr Nishad Samad for her leadership in psychiatric care, the Islamic Medical Association of the ACT and Dr Nicole Sides for her long term commitment to access to fertility services. Dr Tuan Pham for making ENT services accessible, Dr Loc Lam for commitment to making dental services accessible and the University of Canberra Eye Clinic.

Migration services and citizenship support

Jennifer Tode for provision of pro bono migration services at Companion House and to Jenny Rae who is providing wonderful volunteer support by assisting people fill in citizenship application forms.

Psychiatrist network

External psychiatric reports for asylum seekers: Dr John Saboisky, Dr Meredith Whiting and Dr Ann Harrison.

The leaders and peer mentors from all the communities we work with

Particularly Manoranjitham Ramachandran, Zalei Chinzah, Sameer Al-Azraqi, Inas Alkhazragi and Chitra Arvind.

Weekly free range egg deliveries

Vanessa Crimmons and the O'Connor Uniting Church for weekly deliveries of 30-60 dozen free range eggs and the farmer Bernie Cusack who gives them a discount and delivers the eggs every week.

Friends who keep helping us

Digby Habel and Greg St John for handyman support, Pat Toumo'ua and Able Rubbish Removals and Nai Kwae Mon, for audio support to Companion House AGMs over eleven years.

Donations of material goods

St Pauls Anglican Church Manuka for donations and support especially Claudia Hyles, Phoenix Knitters, Sandra McPhearson for warm knitted goods, Goodwin Village Farrer for warm knitted items, U3A art class for their fundraising and support for our food pantry, Wildflour bakery, Michael Reid for delivering bread from Coles.

Plant and fresh food donations

Canberra Seed Savers Cooperative for donations of plants for garden planting, O'Connor community gardens for regular donation of fresh vegetables and herbs.



Companion House