

Unity Restoration Life



Annual Report 2023-24



**churches
of Christ**
in NSW & ACT

churches of Christ in
NSW & the ACT for year
ending 30 June 2024



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- Churches of Christ Property Trust**
Holds property in trust and provides low-cost loans and grants to churches.
- Network Resource Team**
Supports and resources our network of churches.
- Global Mission Partners**
Partners Australian churches of Christ with overseas and Indigenous Australian communities for mission, relief and development.
- Fresh Hope Communities**
Exists to create spaces that cultivate belonging and places that feel like home.
- Australian College of Ministries**
Provides flexible online study options to equip Christians for ministry in their local church and workplace.

**churches of Christ NSW & ACT are members of ACOM and GMP in partnership with the governing boards of other States, the Council of Churches of Christ Australia (CCCA), and other organisations.*



A New Season Emerges

A Message From the Conference President

“... ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.”

– Ephesians 1:15-16

Dear friends and co-labourers in Christ,

Echoing the words of Paul to the Ephesians, on behalf of Conference Executive, I want to convey our deep thankfulness for each person who God has called to be part of our network. We give God the glory for all He has done and continues to do across the network.

It has been a joy and privilege to come alongside to serve our churches, leaders, and the wider network, as you serve and minister in your communities. After some extremely challenging winter years, there is a sense across the network that there are signs of spring emerging.

Spring is a busy season with much work to be done, preparing soil, clearing winter debris, removing weeds, pruning and shaping, planting and replanting, feeding and fertilising. Across our network, we are seeing a wide range of spring activities – there has been a laying down of things that have been the source of the harvest in past seasons, to make room for new seeds. We acknowledge the grief that comes with releasing these kingdom endeavours and are thankful to God knowing that nothing is ever wasted and all seasons have their purpose. We give thanks to God for our

leaders, past and present, who have carried the weight of these challenging seasons.

With joy, we’ve also witnessed the long story of God’s faithfulness, celebrating the fruit of visions planted in the hearts of previous generations. This includes the physical realisation of Fresh Hope Communities’ (FHC) Green Hills Residential Care Service, Nightingale Marrickville Affordable Housing (FHC), and the coming together of Stirling College (Churches of Christ VIC/TAS) with ACOM (CCNSWACT) to form a national College (ACOM) for Churches of Christ and the Christian Missionary Alliance.

Following the prolonged impact of COVID, our Network and churches are encouraged to see spring buds forming, marked by fresh energy and renewed vision. We are excited to see what God is doing in our churches, deepening relationships, cultivating unity, and strengthening new and existing ministries.

This annual report celebrates highlights such as the welcome of three newly affiliated churches, the empowering of over 70 elders through online and in-person events as well as resources like our Church Health Toolkit, the engagement and vitality of a growing group of culturally and linguistically diverse communities, the activation of our regions and the celebration of women in leadership through online events and the Belly & Bones cohort, and so much more (See the church statistics summary on p. 16).

As we move towards God’s calling for us in this new season, we have the opportunity to do the important work of spring that will enable a fruitful harvest in the future – a harvest that will bring glory to God and impact future generations. The work before us is abundant, but so is the promise of the harvest.

In Christ,

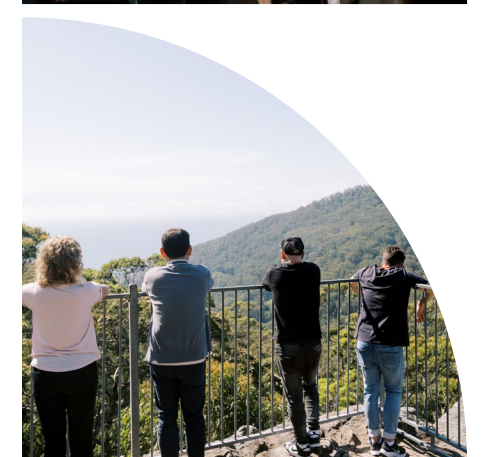


Emily Drough

Conference Executive President
Elder – Mayfield Church of Christ

“This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain – first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

– Mark 4:26-29



The Priority of Love

From the Executive
Ministry Director



At the beginning of the year, I was deeply convicted about the overwhelming priority of the love that Jesus brings. He called His first disciples to a new commandment: to love one another as He had loved them.

That this love is distinctly cross-shaped; the laying down of life for another.

That this love is first received before it can be given.

That by the enacting of this love among one another, the world would know we are His disciples.

That this love extends even to our enemies.

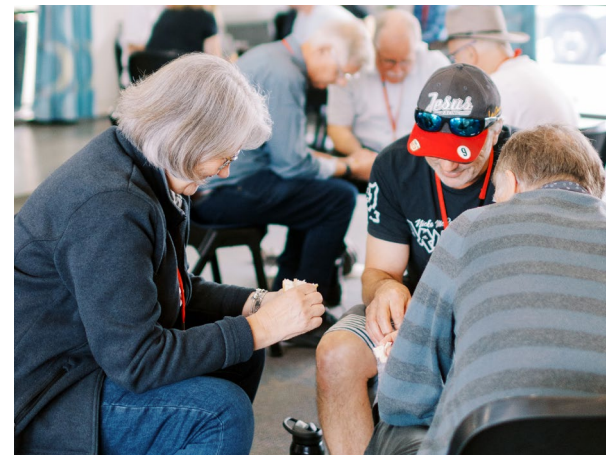
That fear does not exist in this love, but rather His perfect love drives out fear.

That God not so much has this love, but that He is this love.

That this love must be returned, or 'the lampstand' is removed.

And I am, grievously, not walking out this love as I would like. So, the quest for the year has been to seek out ways both individually and corporately of seeing this love of Jesus as central among us in our ways of being.

The CCNSWACT State Team, called the Network Resource Team (NRT), has sought to do this in a few ways. They seek this among each other as a team, as this love permeates their own lives and the lives of their teammates through forgiveness, correction, leaving 'enemy mode', holding out truth in love and the prayerful vulnerability this.



They prioritise this in meeting with our leaders one on one, seeking their health through receptive listening to God to hear His agenda of love for these leader's lives. They also seek this in our churches, sharing this message of love when present to preach and teach, and discuss our formation into Jesus' likeness in retreats like the eldership gatherings and regional leader gatherings. They also seek this in our wider network; that all our entities that steward property, care, learning and missions would promote the costly way of love that Jesus both is in Himself, and offers to us to follow in.

This is also spreading beyond our network as I meet with other denominational leaders, seeking a unity among the body of Christ in this love that models the One who sent us, for the sake of the world.

The gospel of the kingdom is a message of love that does not change, even as the ways it is outworked in a people group will change. I believe we are on the cusp of something new God is doing. It can be sensed by most, but not known as we may be accustomed to knowing things. It may be that one of the greatest ways we know anything is through the rubric of this love. Love is a way of knowing. Perhaps the new thing is a wholehearted return to the ancient way of love.

As Paul says, "These three remain; faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love."

May that love always be great among us. As you read what follows, may you see the threads of His love sewn into each story.



Daz Farrell
Executive Ministry Director



Healthy Leaders

Leading From Who We Are

Reflecting upon the past year, I am heartened by the posture of our leaders across our network. There is an overwhelming sense that God is moving and positioning His Church, so that it will be ready to love and care for the people who will encounter it afresh.

This includes those who are already part of the Church, and those who have not yet encountered it. Our leaders are anticipating a new season, and this can be both exciting and daunting. As Kym Dixon, Stephen Cha and I engage with all of our leaders, our prayer continues to be: “Lord Jesus, may we all have the courage to be obedient to your law of love, as we lead others by following you.”

At Collective in November 2023, over 150 leaders attended and received the encouragement to embrace a posture of being rather than doing before God. Our leaders are aligning themselves with the truth that each of us are dearly loved children of the King. This allows us to stand accepted and approved by the One who calls us His own – not for what we can do or achieve, but because we belong to Him. Overflowing from this posture, our leaders are increasingly leading out of who they are, rather than what they can do.



Leading from *who we are* allows us to model to our congregations and communities a counter-cultural way of being in this world.”

Leading from who we are allows us to model to our congregations and communities a counter-cultural way of being in this world. This is the mandate that our leaders are sensing and pushing into. Modelling a life lived in the reality of the kingdom of God is the way the Church will perpetually live into the calling to be ‘salt’ and ‘light’ in our spheres of influence – and this modelling is key to those who teach and shepherd, lead and care for the Church.

As I have engaged in around 120 face-to-face visitations with pastors across NSW and ACT, plus Zoom calls, conferences and shared ministry this past year, I have noticed there has been an increasing desire to develop an interdependence among the network for the sake of leader health. One example of this in action has been the ‘Belly & Bones’ cohort – a group of women from across NSW and the ACT (and QLD), intentionally journeying together to draw out from one another the voice of God for a generation. The fruit of this work has been astonishing and affirms that God desires to use every one of us, a literal ‘priesthood of all believers’, to declare that His Kingdom has come, and all are invited in to be on mission with God as He renews and redeems and reconciles all things unto Christ.



Andrew McInnes
Leader Health – Culture and Development



Collective Conference 2023

Healthy Churches

The Fragrance of Love in Action



As Kym Dixon handed out two vials of oil from Jerusalem, the community of NationsHeart in Canberra anointed one another around the Eucharist table, speaking words of healing and blessing upon each other. Here it was – all at once – the fragrance and the sacrifice.

The community as children of God, practising love for one another as the aroma of oil pervaded the senses – imploring this ‘body’, that they would be awoken to their scent as Christ-ones! The Christ who is taken, blessed, broken and given for “the life of the world” (Jn 6:33).

In a world consumed by appearance, what if the ‘body of Christ’ was more attentive to its fragrance?

**“For we are the aroma of Christ”
and not “... peddlers of God’s word.”
– 2 Cor 2:15,17**

It’s been a privilege to walk alongside churches in this season, attending to the fragrance of love in action: whether it’s been at Coast Community (Tumbi Umbi), where the scent of nurture for mothers and their newborns is creating a fragrant ministry of presence, or the Chapel, Burwood, where the aroma of Christ is galvanising people to share their faith as the ‘counter-narrative’ to the culture – witnessing people coming to Jesus and joining into the life of community!

The smell and taste of eating yum cha in Chatswood with Daisy and William offers a metaphor of fragrant opportunities for their community – from table-tennis evangelism to choirs and Mandarin speaking spaces for discipleship, while partnership for ‘Living Grace’ church in Tweed with a crew of radical Jesus-followers living incarnationally in Nimbin has blown a sweet wind for people on the margins of society to encounter the living, breathing Jesus of Nazareth!

We honour and bless all our churches and our partners in pioneering spaces and pray that in a season of ongoing disruption and change, they’ll continue to “... discern what is pleasing to the Lord” (Eph 5:10) and allow the fragrance of the Spirit to anoint and ready them to follow Jesus as He leads.



Nathan Marshall
Church Health and Engagement

“Therefore be *imitators* of God, as beloved children. And *walk in love*, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and *sacrifice* to God.”

– Ephesians 5:1



The *Fragrance* of Our Network

Pioneering Network Events



Belly & Bones Cohort



Seed Conference – Jo Huntington along with Kristyn Crossfield (Tumbi), Karen Gould (Bensville), Jess Chi (Epping/online Bible college), 23rd-24th November



David Bentley Hart Event (Theologian and Philosopher)



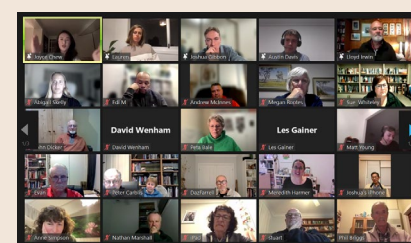
Intergenerate Conference – Connect Engadine, 24th August



House Church Event – Sydney Crystal Church, 19th October



Micro-Church Conference – 27th-28th June, Victoria



Eldership Zooms



Ash Wednesday Network Service

Alongside Churches



Katoomba Lighthouse: Supporting elders as they farewell pastors Peter and Kristin Dalbrun



NationsHeart: Facilitating elders and church as they journey through their Jubilee (50th) year



Regional Visitations: Jon Baker in Orange



Rike and Richard at River Community Church Albury



Penrith Church of Christ: Spiritual formation training for leaders



Icentral360: Support in disbanding and celebration of 17 years of intergenerational community, mission and worship!



Sydney Crystal Church: Oliver Yang's ordination and commissioning for church planting in Orange



First Nations Community Engagement: On country with the Dhiyaan community at Bethel, Dalby and at Fingal Head with Kyle Slabb



MissionHeart: Participating in outdoor missional church service



Northgate Belrose: Church Engagement



Living Grace (Tweed Heads) Church: Health and property engagement with church leadership



Kingsford Church of Christ: Redevelopment support, church health and discernment



Uncle Kev and Auntie Julie: Vehicle support



Resources for Churches

This year we've produced and supplied a range of resources to support our churches' health. Some of these are:

- Church Toolkit for elders/boards (a helpful resource for a consolidated compliance checklist)
- Constitution Guide
- Supporting three ministering people through TMAA (Interim Training)
- Exploring M4 resources for church planting
- Pioneering Book club opportunities for communities of practice

New Affiliates



Wagga Wagga Christian Church



Saegil Church



Illawarra Church of Christ

NRT Community and Communion Days



Healthy Network

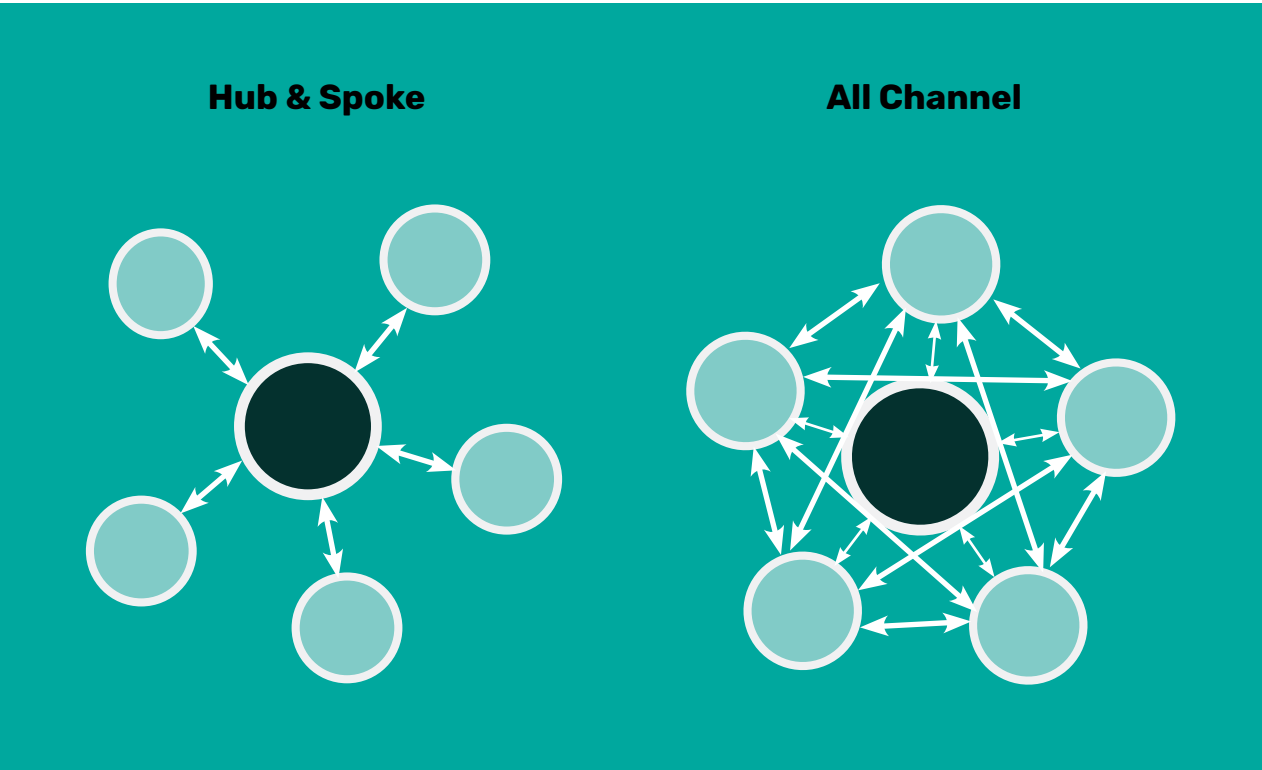
Strengthening Interdependence, Formation and Capacity



For the last few years, the Network Resource Team have been intentionally moving from a ‘Hub & Spoke’ model to an ‘All Channel’ model, seeking to strengthen the network in the areas of **interdependence, formation and capacity** so that we would see our network of churches:

- more connected to each other
- engaged in regional and strategic collaboration
- experiencing greater mutuality with the “centre” or Network Resource Team.

It has been such an encouraging year watching these dynamics develop.



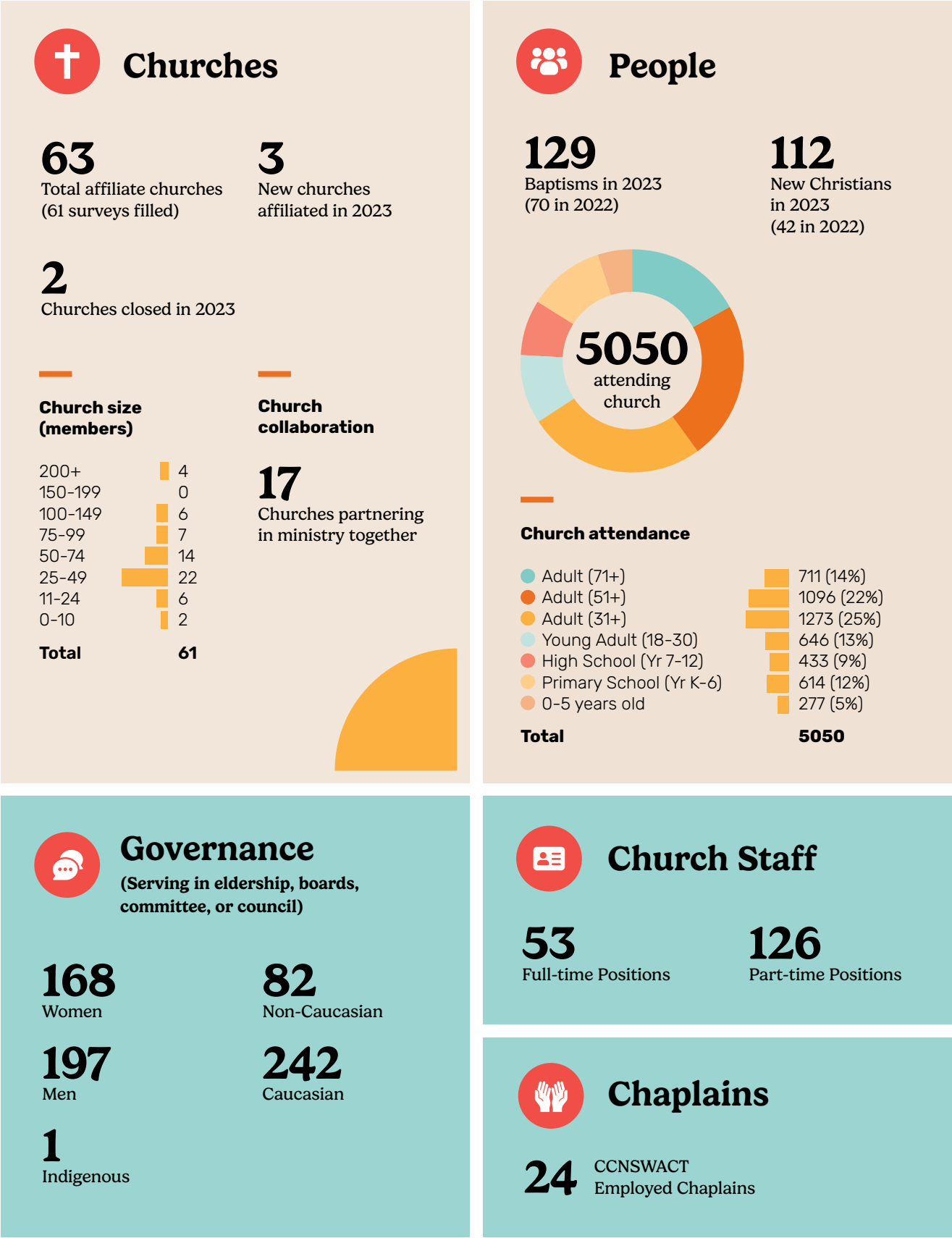
Some of the highlights have been:

- Network engagement at Paddington Church of Christ to explore future possibilities plus the development of a Working Group to explore future kingdom opportunities.
- The deepening of connections, learnings and engagement with our multi-ethnic churches.
- The orientation of 32 leaders to our CCNSWACT network at Pilgrimage 24.
- Seeing our churches invest in formational practice (retreating, formation groups and mentoring).
- Continued investment in our generations through our camping ministries - SYNC, DRASTIC and Uprising as well as regional rally nights (FUSE in November and June).
- The ongoing development of our chaplains in aged care, hospitals, schools and prisons.
- Network consultation around the newly approved Professional Conduct Protocols.
- Milestone celebrations for some of our churches: Southern Illawarra (20 years) Harvest (20 years), Forster-Tuncurry (40 years), Connect Engadine Church of Christ (60 years) and Epping (100 years).
- Ongoing work to capture and make available our archival records.
- Our annual Collective Event, which invited more than 150 leaders to slow down and deepen their attentiveness to the God who holds all things.
- Our Ethos story series that reflects on how our Ethos is embodied through our network leaders, members and churches.



Anne Simpson
Network Health & Engagement Leader

Statistics Summary 2023





Chaplaincy

An Empathetic and Non-anxious Presence

“
Chaplains see themselves most contributing to the *organisations and individuals* with whom they work.”

– Wendy Cadge

As the churches of Christ Ethos states, we wish to courageously bear witness to Jesus in our rapidly changing world with creativity and innovation, gentleness and respect. In holding methodology lightly, we actively restore New Testament patterns for the Christian life in fresh ways. With reflective experimentation, we persevere in our pioneering and we champion the ‘have a go’ mindset.

Being “Adventurous in Restoration”, chaplains go about their important work in keeping with this ethos:

Church of Christ chaplains currently provide non-anxious, empathic, life-affirming, relational companionship and, where possible, Scripture-centred guidance when serving all who avail themselves of their care.

Our chaplains continue to develop opportunities to hold space relationally. Wendy Cadge in her book *Spiritual Care* suggests that “chaplains see themselves most contributing to the organisations and individuals with whom they work.”

Whilst some might expect to hear them helping people wrestle with existential questions – why bad things happen, and what role, if any, God or the sacred plays. More often, they spoke about the spaces they help people create and hold in the midst of difficult moments rather than any content they contribute to those spaces.”

Approximately 36 chaplains are employed directly or indirectly by churches of Christ in NSW & ACT to serve in residential aged care centres, independent living facilities, public schools, hospitals, emergency services, prisons and defense force throughout NSW.

In the past 12 months, we have seen increases within the chaplaincy network in the areas of Schools, Independent Living, and Emergency Services. One of the highlights of this past year was gathering for the Chaplains Retreat at Stanwell Tops to refresh and receive from the Father. We had some excellent teaching from Rev Dr Mark Layson around the theme of Moral Injury in the workplace and a deep dive into the Apostles’ Creed by our very own Peter Carblis. There was also some creative reflective practice with ceramics and a prayer labyrinth from Tanya Tindale.

Looking forward, our Apostles’ program has plans to continue to enhance and increase the number and scope of chaplains by seeking out new and less traditional areas of serving, as well as developing plans to recruit from within our network and supplement training through ACOM and Morling College into the future.



B. Tindale

Bruce Ian Tindale
Chaplaincy Ministry Team Leader



Chaplains Retreat, January 2024



Properties & Projects

Nurturing Resources For Our Future
– Matt Young, Properties and Projects Manager

Our deep desire is to partner with churches to provide *fit-for-purpose* and contemporary buildings where *mission can be established and extended.*

Network Resource Team – Properties & Projects

As we reflect on the past 12 months in the NRT Properties & Projects team, there has been much activity within our network of churches and in our work across conference-governed properties.

Our work is not bound by a 12-month period but seeded, watered and nurtured over many years through support with development prospects, property maintenance, grants and opportunities to work with churches to re-establish mission into communities where conference properties are available.

The second year of the Property Asset Plan (PAP) for all conference-governed properties has been implemented this year and our focus has been on increasing the utilisation of our properties, implementing assets and capital upgrade projects to improve compliance and provide spaces that encourage community engagement.



Haven Church of Christ – Austral Campus

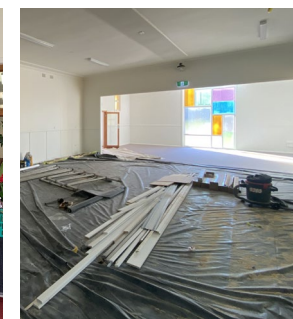
Revitalisation Comes to Southwest Sydney

The refurbishment of the Austral Campus is a great example of a God-shaped journey over four years as Austral Church of Christ discerned their future with the Network Resource Team (NRT) & Campbelltown Church of Christ. After the decision of the elders of Austral to close in late 2023, the church was re-established as a new campus under the umbrella of Haven Church of Christ (formerly Campbelltown Church of Christ).

In early 2024 the NRT Properties & Projects team and Haven, embarked on an eight-week renovation project, which included some gutting and demolition of walls in the main chapel area, internal and external painting, carpet replacement and a fire safety upgrade to both the chapel and hall.



Before



During



After



Before



After

Many blessings came in the form of a donation of more than 90 chairs from the Penrith Church of Christ and a repurposed sound desk from The Heights Family Church in New Lambton.

“This really speaks of collaboration and the idea we are stronger because we are walking side by side together.”

– John Chew, former Campbelltown Church of Christ board member

It was a pleasure to have co-laboured with Ryan Graham (senior pastor of Haven) to bring a refreshed contemporary life to a tired property asset in one of the fastest-growing suburbs in southwest Sydney.

Read this article about Austral's renewal under Haven Church of Christ.



Harvest Indonesian Church - Auburn

Safe Churches in a Different Light

Over the past 12 months, the NRT Properties & Projects team has been focused on upgrading fire and life safety compliance across our property asset portfolio. As we have undertaken to review, design, upgrade and maintain the fire services assets across the properties there has been a significant number of resources poured into these church buildings to ensure we not only meet but exceed our compliance requirements.

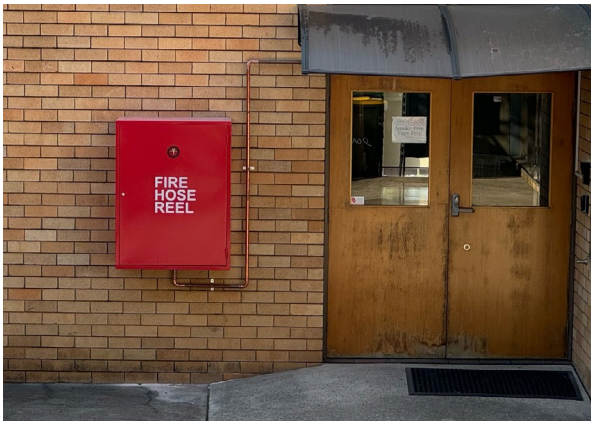
A recent example was our Auburn property, which required the upgrade of fire hose reels to the externals of the building and the installation of a fire panel at the entrance to monitor smoke detection in the event of a fire in the building.

With impending implementation of tighter controls on fire services in buildings in NSW, churches will be required to meet this legislation set out by local governments and the NSW Fire Brigade from 13 February 2025.



Matt Young

Matt Young
Properties and Projects Manager



New fire hose reels at Harvest Indonesian Church

Snapshot of the Past 12 Months

Unity Multiplies Our Kingdom Impact

Our heart is to support and engage actively with churches across our network in providing a range of support and advice through our Church Partnership Program.

Over the past 12 months we have been involved in the following:



These look like:

- Major Projects**
Project feasibility, concept, partnership and consultant management and development.
- ConfEx Properties**
Utilisation of ConfEx properties for establishing churches and ministries, including refurbishment, maintenance and licencing.

- Partnership Projects**
 - Licencing, leasing, rental agreement and management of properties
 - Project advice and feasibility
 - Consultant support and engagement
 - Legal and Planning advice
 - Compliance and WHS
 - Construction and refurbishment management with builders
 - Council engagement





The Property Trust

Supporting Our Network’s Mission
– Chairman Steven Martin

As Chairman of the Property Trust (the, ‘Trust’¹), and on behalf of its board, it is my pleasure to present the Property Trust Annual Report for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

The Trust is *for* churches.

The trustees of the Trust are ‘alongsiders’ who partner and support the local church through all seasons as you expand the boundaries of God’s kingdom here on Earth.

We help build churches by:

- providing low-cost loans to build places of kingdom community;
- stewarding bequests to create grants to fund ministry activity; and
- holding the real property of churches in trust to ensure the sacrificial giving of past and present generations are kept for the cause of restoration.

Who governs the Trust for our churches?

Each of our nine board members (trustees) commit to a nine-year term to facilitate long-term planning, consistent stewardship and deep engagement with churches.

Members (trustees) of the Trust as at June 2023:

- Ms Patricia Chan;
- Mr Christopher Emmanuel;
- Mr David Kelly
- Mt Steven Martin (Chairman);
- Mr Philip Smith;
- Mr Mark Speechly;
- Mr Shamus Toomey (Registrar);
- Mr Willy van den Berg; and
- Mr Allan Vincent (Deputy Chairman).

Following the 2023 Conference Annual General Meeting, the Trust welcomed Mr David Kelly and Mr Mark Speechly and welcomed back Mr Shamus Toomey.

After more than 16 years of faithful service to our Network of churches, Mr Philip Smith has made the decision to retire from his position on the Trust. Phil has contributed significantly to the Trust and our churches during his membership. His experience in the building industry, his service at Asquith church, and his love for Jesus have helped steward our finances and church engagement. His wisdom and presence will be greatly missed.

How does the Trust serve our churches?

We are the incorporated body for churches of Christ in NSW & ACT that can engage with government and others on our churches’ behalf. As an incorporated entity, the Trust can enter into contracts, apply for grants, and exercise legal agreements. These services include but are not limited to:

- Safe custody of bank guarantees, contracts, historic certificates of title, leases, plans, etc.;
- Facilitation of property sales, purchases, and building contracts;
- Administration of estates and trust funds;
- Execution of statutory forms (development applications, construction certificates etc);
- Facilitation of grant applications – e.g. NSW Community Building Partnership; and
- Investments (deposits) and Borrowings (loans) via the CCI Fund (refer following).




Churches of Christ Investment Fund (NSW & ACT) (“CCI Fund”)

The CCI Fund is a place churches can steward, invest and grow funds entrusted for care. When churches invest with us, the CCI Fund is able to provide low-interest loans to other churches within our Network so they can continue to expand their ministries.



Whilst CCI Fund interest rates are subject to change, from 1 July 2024 a competitive interest rate of 3.50%pa is being offered to church investors (with Small, ‘Cash Boost’ loans also being offered from 3.50%pa, and, Standard Principal and Interest loans offered from 4.80%pa).

FY24 STATISTICS ABOUT THE CCI FUND:

-  Investments held by the Trust: **35+ investments totalling approx \$23 million**
-  Number of churches that invest: **25**
-  Funds provided for grants: **approx \$152,000**
-  Funds provided for crisis accommodation for women and their households: **\$100,000**
-  Current total of loans made to churches: **approx \$6.6 million**

¹ The Trust is a perpetual, “legal person” constituted and incorporated pursuant to the terms of the Churches of Christ in New South Wales Incorporation Act 1947 (the, “1947 Act”). Inter alia, the 1947 Act sets out the purpose and powers of the Trust; its relationship to Conference; and other matters – for example – the process for churches passing special resolutions.

**Do you have a financial need for ministry?
The Trust can provide a Cash Boost.**

Often churches find themselves with significant unbudgeted expenses without having the financial capacity to cover them. It could be replacing the sound desk, fixing the bus, or purchasing playground equipment to meet the needs of a growing children's ministry.

Recently, the Trust has created low-interest 'Cash Boost' small loans that can spread out an expense over a five-year period.

Perhaps you want to create a space just for your flourishing youth group but don't have the financial capacity to fit it out. You could apply for a \$5000 cash boost repaid at just \$21 per week. This more manageable sum could be met from your operational budget or by a commitment by members of the church.

Reflecting on 2023-24

Over the past year we have been privileged to meet with church leaders to hear stories of the Holy Spirit stirring new kingdom activity to life. We have been alongside the redevelopment of properties that create new ministry and community space, releasing finances to grow ministries, funding grants that bless and grow ministries, and more. We are excited to listen to how God is stirring new life in your church and invite you to share that with us so we might use our gifts and talents to serve your church.



Steven Martin
Steven Martin
Chairman



Allan Vincent
Deputy Chairman

Working With Engage Community Church

The past financial year has been a significant one for Engage Community Church (previously known as Rivergum), particularly in reference to its building project. The Property Trust has been an integral partner and supporter in these developments. Engage's board, with key leaders from the church, underwent a spiritual discernment process regarding the potential sale of the land and, instead, decided to seek alternative and more affordable church premises. The Property Trust was then instrumental in guiding the church through the provision of voting resolutions and guidelines on the voting process.

The Property Trust empowered Engage's board to be able to purchase warehouse facilities suitable for a future church home. Engage's board has since entered formal discussions with a developer for the purchase of some units in a new warehouse complex in Rouse Hill. The Property Trust and, in particular, Mr James Cartwright, has been a valuable and constant contributor for this purchase.

The board, and church, of Engage has been so appreciative of the critical role the Property Trust has played in these major developments and new path forward for Engage.



Troy Blair
Senior Pastor
Engage Community Church



Fresh Hope Communities



Board Chair Address

Fresh Hope Communities is a mission-based, not-for-profit organisation. That means we do what we do for impact, not for money. Our pockets aren't deep, but our motivation to make a difference, in service to God, is boundless.

We have a long history in Aged Care and are clear-eyed about how complex service in this sector can be, but sometimes it's the harder things in life that are really worth doing; and the challenging situations the ones where we discover what our best looks like and what we're truly capable of.

This year was one of those years where we saw many years of hard work come to fruition on several projects.

To highlight just two, it was an honour and a privilege to visit and experience the enthusiasm and hospitality at the newly opened Green Hills Residential Care Service at the Friends and Families Open Day and to be part of the media launch of our first Affordable Housing venture, Nightingale Marrickville. So much care, thought and hard work have gone into creating these facilities that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also functionally exceptional in terms of design, sustainability and care for the surrounding landscape, all the while having our residents' care needs, comfort and dignity front of mind.

Both of these important mission milestones have been incredibly complex to deliver but are testament to the diligence and expertise of our staff and organisations we've partnered with to bring these to fruition.

Serving and caring for our elders and those who might be considered "on the margins" is not a chore, but a privilege.

Jesus exhorted us to care for those in need and exemplified it in His own life.

We aren't just delivering a service to residents, tenants and guests, but our role is to meet them where they are, welcome them home, offer hospitality, care and service. This is all in an effort to cultivate a sense of belonging and build a community based on the Christian values on which Fresh Hope Communities was founded.

To our staff and volunteers, every time I get up close to the work that's being done in Fresh Hope Communities, I feel humbled and inspired and incredibly proud to play my part in the work that we do and the mission that we have. I want to thank and encourage you on behalf of the Board and wish you well. Please know that we are doing everything we can to support you to be the bright light and faithful presence you are in the lives of so many people.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raewyn Williams".

Raewyn Williams
Board Chair
Fresh Hope Communities

“We aren’t just delivering a service to residents, tenants and guests, but our role is to meet them where they are, welcome them home, offer hospitality, care and service.”

– Raewyn Williams



Q&A with Chief Executive Officer Daniel Dwyer



We sat down with Daniel Dwyer, the CEO of Fresh Hope Communities, to hear his thoughts on the year that's been and what's in store for Fresh Hope Communities in the future.

How would you summarise this past year?

In its earliest days, Churches of Christ Community Care (now known as Fresh Hope Communities) served those in need within the local community. This began with a Boys Home for orphaned children in 1936 at Dunmore House, Pendle Hill, and two years later, a home was built to accommodate women in aged care – now Ashwood Residential Care Service. From these humble beginnings, ministry work continues in residential care, retirement, outdoor (including Christian camping) experiences and affordable housing.

This year our Board and Executive Leadership Team put deliberate effort into furthering our Strategic Intent by developing a Strategic Plan. The plan encompasses our current work and future intent.

I would say this past year can be best summarised in two words: **purposeful progress**.

What have been some of the highlights?

It has been a busy but rewarding year with three major development projects being commissioned.

A new Retirement Community, Cedar on Collins in Kiama, opened in September 2023. We've had a number of residents move in and they've quickly made Cedar their home, forging friendships with their neighbours and immersing themselves in community life.



The buildings themselves are of course a tremendous achievement, but far greater than this is seeing *our mission, vision and purpose realised into being* – seeing that impact our residents, tenants and guests, not just in these new builds, but across all our service streams."

In January, our redeveloped Green Hills Residential Care Service opened with our residents moving in. We had an official opening with a Friends and Family Open Day in May and saw over 300 people in attendance, many taking tours of the site – enjoying food, entertainment and activities for all the family.

Nightingale Marrickville, our Affordable Housing pilot, was launched with a Media Day attended by NSW Housing Minister Rose Jackson, NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully and Deputy Mayor of the Inner West Council Chloe Smith. The site is now occupied and we have had a significant amount of interest from the media, councils and Federal and State ministers – many of whom have visited and want to find out how more communities like this can be developed in Sydney.

The buildings themselves are of course a tremendous achievement, but far greater than this is seeing our mission, vision and purpose realised into being – seeing that impact our residents, tenants and guests, not just in these new builds, but across all our service streams.

Is there anything you'd like to say to the Fresh Hope Communities team?

Beyond sharing my thanks, I would like to say – you should be really proud of yourselves for everything you've brought to Fresh Hope Communities this year.

It's easy for us to get caught up in the busyness of serving our residents, guests, their friends and families that we forget to take stock and reflect on our achievements.

Together, we are single-minded about providing quality service and hospitality to those under our care. Though the sectors we operate in are complex, we are guided by our purpose, mission and vision along with our values of kindness, connection, integrity and optimism.

As we continue to provide accommodation, a sense of belonging and a feeling of home to those under our care, we all remain clear-eyed about continuing this good work, as part of the legacy of Churches of Christ Community Care.



Daniel Dwyer
Chief Executive Officer
Fresh Hope Communities



Green Hills Residential
Care Service

Chief Operating Officer Report

Development Activity

2023-24 has been a huge year of achievement for Fresh Hope Communities, highlighted by the completion of three major building developments across three different service streams of our organisation. Our CEO Daniel Dwyer has addressed these achievements and the positive impacts they will have on our organisation for many years to come, however from a financial perspective, the completion of these major developments represents a collective investment of \$117 million across a four-year period.

The operations team has done a tremendous job in commissioning and preparing these new buildings for occupation, which is evidenced by the numerous stories from our new residents on how much joy has come from being a part of these new award-winning communities. There will be more announcements to come on some exciting new partnerships to further cultivate these communities once fit-outs are complete on some new spaces, particularly at Marrickville and Green Hills.

Financials

2023-24 was a year of improvement financially for Fresh Hope Communities, continuing the trend of improving financial returns from the challenging Covid-impacted years. Whilst the cost of commissioning new sites had an impact in 2024 in line with expectations, there was a significant improvement in returns from our Residential Care services, primarily on the back of improving occupancy to levels well above industry averages. Returns from our Retirement Living communities were stable relative to last year, with the financial results for the The Tops slightly below expectations due to adverse impacts from high interest rates and high inflation. Fresh Hope Communities' net worth increased by 16% over the year from the completion of the three major developments and improving operating returns.

Corporate Services

This year has been a challenging but hugely rewarding year for our Corporate Services teams across the areas of ICT, Finance and Commercial, Property Services, Property Development and Procurement. The commissioning of new sites has been the focus for these teams throughout the year, alongside the normal challenges faced by our team such as cyber security threats, changes and upgrades to key business systems and the restructuring of some teams to align with strategic initiatives.

Spending on building upgrades, equipment upgrades, refurbishments and furnishings for our ageing buildings has increased since the Covid-impacted years, both in terms of the number of projects undertaken and dollars spent. A total of \$7.9 million was invested in the last 12 months on building upgrades, equipment upgrades, refurbishments and furnishings which was the largest annual capital spend on our older building stock in the past three years. A further annual capital investment of \$11.3 million (not including capital spend for large developments) has been earmarked for FY25 to ensure some of our older buildings continue to meet the needs of our future customers.



Nightingale Marrickville

Business Systems

A new planning and delivery team was established during the year, which will oversee an important program of upgrading our key business systems and investment into new systems, crucial in supporting the delivery of our key strategic initiatives. During 2024, an upgrade to our Corporate Finance system was completed and investments in new business systems were also completed in the areas of People Management, Customer Relationship Management and Medication Management. The program of work coming up for this team over the next two years includes the rollout of new systems for Rostering and Payroll, Asset Management and Procurement, and Resident Financial Management.



Signature of Scott Griffiths

Scott Griffiths
Chief Operating Officer
Fresh Hope Communities

Residential Care Services

Green Hills Celebrates at its Family and Friends Open Day

Fresh Hope Communities' redeveloped residential care service in East Maitland opened its doors at its Friends and Family Open Day on Saturday 25th May.

Billed as a celebration for families and friends of residents and staff, over 300 people came to enjoy the day and there was something for everyone, with free food, live music and entertainment, a petting zoo and arts and crafts for the kids.

The ceremony opened with a Welcome to Country by Uncle Les of the Wonnarua people and a warm welcome to residents, families and guests by Mayor of Maitland Philip Penfold.

An address by Fresh Hope Communities Board Chair Raewyn Williams highlighted the long history of the organisation's operations in Maitland. "We have a long history in Aged Care and are clear-eyed about how complex this can be, but sometimes it's the harder things in life that are really worth doing; and the challenging situations the ones where we discover what our best looks like and what we're truly capable of."



Ribbon Cutting (Left to Right): Shannon Fitzgerald, Green Hills Manager of Residential Services; Resident Jill Wade; Mayor of Maitland Philip Penfold; Daniel Dwyer, CEO Fresh Hope Communities; Sarah Ramsey, General Manager Residential Care and Raewyn Williams, Board Chair, Fresh Hope Communities

While this was the official opening, current residents transitioned to the new 158-bed development in January, which offers a contemporary multi-level residential care facility that incorporates a new model of care in a non-institutional 'household' environment.

Sarah Ramsey, General Manager of Residential Care, shared further, "Fundamentally, the Household Model is not just a care approach; it's a way of being – a commitment to improving the quality of life for our residents by creating a home, not just a place to live."

"Sometimes it's the harder things in life that are really worth doing; and the challenging situations the ones where we discover what our best looks like and what we're truly capable of."

Vanessa, the daughter of 87-year-old June, can attest to this. "Looking at Mum today, you'd never know how hard her life has been. In all honesty, if it wasn't for this place, Green Hills and Fresh Hope Communities, we wouldn't have her today. This place has made her come alive."

Accommodating 15-16 rooms within each household, the emphasis is on providing premium care while fostering independence and enhancing the quality of life.

Fresh Hope Communities CEO Daniel Dwyer shared, "This place, it's not just about a great structure, it's about what the structure, the building offers people, our residents, our staff and many of you here today – friends, family, key community contributors. It has been fantastic to hear the reports from residents who have moved in. There is a real sense of connection in this place - of residents to staff, residents to one another and the beautiful landscape. We're very proud of what we've been able to deliver here and it's our hope that we will continue to provide a place that feels like home for many years to come."



Celebrations at the Friends and Family Open Day, Green Hills Residential Care Service



Retirement Communities

Henley Brae Retirement Community Celebrates 21 years of Service

It's been said that "Ageing is not 'lost youth' but a new stage of opportunity and growth." If you want to get a sense of what that looks like, you don't have to go much further than Henley Brae Retirement Community in the picturesque Southern Highlands.

Only an hour out of Sydney, and a short drive to Bowral, Henley Brae is tucked away at the foot of Mount Alexandra Reserve. Where quality of life meets the idyllic outdoors, this community at the gateway of the stunning Southern Highlands is exactly what people have needed to live a fulfilling retirement.

Residents who call this place home are stalwarts in the community – retired teachers and lecturers, homemakers, businesspeople, tradesmen, doctors, community volunteers and a host of others who have spent years contributing to the fabric of our communities.

Stunning landscaped grounds and well-maintained facilities play host to a diverse range of recreational activities, and organised social outings and events.

Residents enjoy opportunities to engage in further learning through U3A courses covering literature, language, music, history and more. Bridge and Mahjong, art and sewing, men's social group, health and wellbeing classes, garden and walking groups are also popular activities in this community.

Here, residents enjoy a retirement lifestyle they thoroughly deserve. And if that's not reason enough to celebrate, there's another reason to pop the bubbly, as Henley Brae has turned a youthful 21 years old. Celebrations at this 'coming of age', was a party for the ages according to residents and staff.

Guests enjoyed a high tea-style party complete with cupcakes, finger sandwiches, mini quiches, scones and of course a glass or two of bubbly – all to a backdrop of balloons and a Spotify playlist curated by the residents themselves with favourite songs from when they were 21.

"We exist to create spaces that cultivate belonging and places that feel like home."

Residents were also invited to share photos of themselves at 21 with a 'Then and Now' slide showcase that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Daniel Dwyer, CEO of Fresh Hope Communities, raised a toast acknowledging the milestone and the community of residents and staff that make Henley Brae a truly wonderful place to call home.

Residents were equally enthusiastic about the celebration and appreciative of all who made it happen.

Dutch immigrants, Paul and Olga, who left the Netherlands with little more than the clothes on their backs in the 1960s, have been residents at Henley Brae for the past four years and were amongst those who came to celebrate.



Residents, staff and guests celebrate at Henley Brae's 21st birthday high tea

Paul presses the point, "It's true you know. We're living the dream. Given our background, all the trials and tribulations and all we have come through, this is peaceful, it's centrally located and we can still go out and about and do things."

Belinda Edwards, General Manager of Retirement Living for Fresh Hope Communities, shared, "As an organisation, we exist to create spaces that cultivate belonging and places that feel like home. Henley Brae has exemplified this for 21 years. It's a pleasure to be here to celebrate this milestone with them."

So as this party winds down and last drinks are served, one thing is certain, this retirement community is just getting started. For these youthful retirees there's more to broaden their understanding in and contribute to, new experiences to have and more opportunities for meaningful connections.

Affordable Housing



‘A Glimmer of Hope’ Paves the Way for More Affordable Housing in NSW



Tree Planting Ceremony (Left to Right): Dan McKenna, CEO Nightingale Housing; Chloe Smith, Deputy Mayor Inner West Council; Daniel Dwyer, CEO Fresh Hope Communities; Rose Jackson, NSW Minister for Housing; Paul Scully, NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

While the weather couldn’t decide whether to pour with rain or clear to bright sunshine throughout the day, there was no questioning the mood at the official opening of Nightingale Marrickville at our Media Launch held jointly with Nightingale Housing and SJB Architects in April.

It was a buoyant, positive atmosphere with the gathering of media and government representatives and invited guests including NSW Minister for Housing Rose Jackson, NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully and Deputy Mayor of the Inner West Council Chloe Smith.

Dan McKenna, CEO of Nightingale Housing, shared opening remarks, “It is with immense gratitude to Fresh Hope Communities and churches of Christ in NSW & ACT and their vision to provide affordable housing to the Marrickville community, that Nightingale has completed its first-ever project in Sydney and first-ever project for renters, at affordable rates. If it weren’t for Fresh Hope, a project for us in Sydney was just not feasible.”

Daniel Dwyer, CEO of Fresh Hope Communities, gave a powerful speech that highlighted the power of partnership, and the sheer determination to see this project come to fruition – despite the surprising number of setbacks throughout the project.

“We could not have delivered this project without the site and ground lease from churches of Christ in NSW & ACT. We could not have done this without the community cultivation and sustainability model pioneered by our colleagues at Nightingale Housing. We could not have done this without the staff team and financial stewardship of Fresh Hope Communities. And all the key community decision makers along the way who have helped find a way when there wasn’t one.”

Minister Jackson delivered a passionate address saying, “The young people who are the future of our city don’t see their future here and it is buildings like this one, this is the place that you can touch and feel, the tangible way we are trying to change that. And so for us to see this building come to life is a glimmer of hope in what is otherwise a difficult time for NSW when it comes to the housing crisis.”

Deputy Mayor Smith acknowledged the difficulties that presented during the six-year journey to get to this point.

“It should not have taken as long as it did to get 54 affordable housing units developed here in the Inner West where it is so desperately needed. So we are proactively trying to be part of the solution and we have been deeply inspired by the model of Nightingale Marrickville and to try emulate that and deliver more housing in this model across the Inner West.”

The formalities concluded with a ceremonial planting of a Banksia tree on the rooftop terrace garden.

As our Nightingale Marrickville residents continue to settle into their new homes, there has been ongoing attention on what this pilot has achieved in addressing the social issue of affordable housing, especially in the rental space. We are looking forward to exploring more opportunities to deliver accommodation in a similar way with other like-minded organisations with growing support from local councils and the state government who are proactively engaging in the issue.



Left to Right: Daniel Dwyer, CEO Fresh Hope Communities; Emily Drough, Conference Executive President; Raewyn Williams, Board Chair, Fresh Hope Communities; Rose Jackson, NSW Minister for Housing; Dan McKenna, CEO Nightingale Housing

Outdoor Experiences



The Tops has been rebranded and over the year we've seen the new look unfolding across communications and the site itself with new wayfinding signage being installed as well.

Over the past year, The Tops and Corporate Communications teams have been working with James Agency to create a brand identity that is strong and modern, and one that aligns with the experience guests have on site. Check out The Tops' new website at thetops.com.au.

A lot of work has gone into creating meaning through the new logo supporting their beloved tagline 'Life to the Full'. Below is the breakdown of the four symbols that make up The Tops' new brand identity:



Connection

Key words: Interaction, community, belonging.

Dr Brené Brown describes connection as, "The energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard and valued."

This matters to us and our hope is that we create an environment where you feel seen, heard and valued.



Grow

Key words: Expansion, transformation, discover, overcoming, metamorphosis.

You are capable of more than you think. Possibility and transformation is everywhere – both in the big things and the seemingly small. Our hope is that the steps you take expand your thinking and overcoming challenges here will grow your confidence, abilities and character.



Place & space

Key words: Environment, nature, immersive experience, retreat.

Nature is grounding and plays an important role in our lives – it can quiet racing minds, give us a sense of awe and perspective. We're confident that as you immerse yourself in our stunning natural environment you'll feel all of those racing thoughts and anxieties fall away.



Fun

Key words: Enjoyment, playfulness, active, positive, experiential, physical.

Hosting you brings us joy! We are intentional about creating experiences that make you feel energised, exhilarated and at ease. **This is Life to the Full!**





Australian College of Ministries



The Australian College of Ministries is committed to *serving disciples of Jesus* who are serious about kingdom living.”



We are a college of ministry, specialising in equipping God’s people wherever they work, minister and live – in the church, workplace and community. This is our heart as we partner with our churches to help prepare people for kingdom service.

A major focus of this year has been the coming together of the two colleges, ACOM and Stirling. While this commenced at the beginning of 2023, we continue to work on bringing the best of the two colleges together as we move towards the vision of ‘One National College’ for Churches of Christ in Australia and the Christian Missionary Alliance in Australia. A positive step towards this goal was welcoming Churches of Christ VIC/TAS as new company members of ACOM.

We are pleased to report that we have enrolled 235 students into new awards this year. This is the largest enrolment of students into new awards in the history of the college and a positive sign for future growth and sustainability.

A new Doctor of Ministry Cohort commenced at the beginning of July. This is a five-year part-time program with the first three years focusing on coursework, with the final two years dedicated to thesis research implementation and writing. This course integrates a student’s vocation and calling with their context of ministry while drawing on sources of theology through the Christian tradition to develop new skills and enhance competencies in ministry leadership.



ACOM staff retreat

ACOM's student body is thriving, with over 600 students studying for a variety of awards focusing on Ministry Formation, Professional Development, Leadership and Mission, Christian Counselling, and Chaplaincy.

We continue to be blessed by students' stories of transformation and equipping for the ministry and mission that God has called them to. Read Nicole Gorzalka's story on the next page. Nicole commences as ACOM's Student Engagement Manager for Counselling students in October.

Finally, we are pleased to report that the Sydney College of Divinity, of which ACOM is a founding member, continues to grow and thrive as a University College, with six new Member Colleges joining over the past 12 months.

We continue to be thankful for the opportunity to contribute to the development of high-quality graduates (107 this year), which sees them serving in key church and ministry positions around the country.



Neale Meredith

Neale Meredith
Principal & CEO
Australian College of Ministries



“My ACOM story began when I was employed by Churches of Christ to be a chaplain in an aged care facility in Batemans Bay.”

“The criteria for accepting the role was that I needed to originally do my Diploma of Ministry, however, I was offered the opportunity to do the Bachelor of Ministry. Having left high school in Year 9, I was daunted by the study. At the start, I had no idea how to write an essay. In fact, I didn't submit a cover sheet on my first one. My first marker gave me some advice on what I could do to improve my essay, and the student engagement manager supported me through the first subjects.

I think my experience of studying through ACOM has taught me so much – not just about the art and science of pastoral care, but also good theology that has caused growth and maturity in my life. The study, facilitations and readings unlocked a greater understanding of my role in being with another person, an image bearer. Holding space for the people I was coming alongside became sacred ground for me. I would highly recommend anyone who is in any form of ministry to study through ACOM.”

– Nicole Gorzalka



2023 Graduates



Churches of Christ in Australia

Master of Arts

Jillian REAY-SMITH – Red Hill – ACT

Master of Leadership

Emily BORNHUTTER – Rivers – QLD

Andrew CRIGHTON – Hervey Bay - QLD

Rod CLEMENTS – ACOM – VIC

Jacqueline CRIGHTON – Hervey Bay - QLD

Master of Theological Studies

Judy FRANCIS – Campbelltown – NSW

Grant DUTHIE – Bundaburg - QLD

Casper BADENHORST – True NORTH - WA

Aaron MITCHELL – Wallen Gateway - VIC

Master of Theology

Erin WILLIAMS – Discovery – VIC

Graduate Certificate in Arts

Laura SNOOK – The Lakes – QLD

Graduate Certificate in Leadership

Joshua COLE – Gisborne – VIC

Graduate Certificate in Professional Supervision

Naomi THORNE – Red Cliffs – VIC

Bruce THORNE – Red Cliffs – VIC

Stephen Sutton – ACOM – VIC

Paul CAMERON – Discovery - VIC

Graduate Diploma in Theological Studies

Eily HOBBS – Little Mountain – QLD

Bachelor of Ministry

Marie VINEY – Clayton – VIC

Bachelor in Counselling

Peter FUNKE – Hervey Bay - QLD

Associate Degree in Counselling

Rebekah COLLINS – True North - WA

Diploma of Christian Studies

Paul GIANKOULIDIS – Sanctuary Park – QLD

Brianna WATSON – York Street – VIC

Richard SIBUN – River Community – NSW

Diploma of Ministry

Nicholas CLARK – Hawksbury – NSW

Rebecca CHRISTIAN – Kingsthorpe – QLD

Jemimah DILLON – Campbelltown – NSW

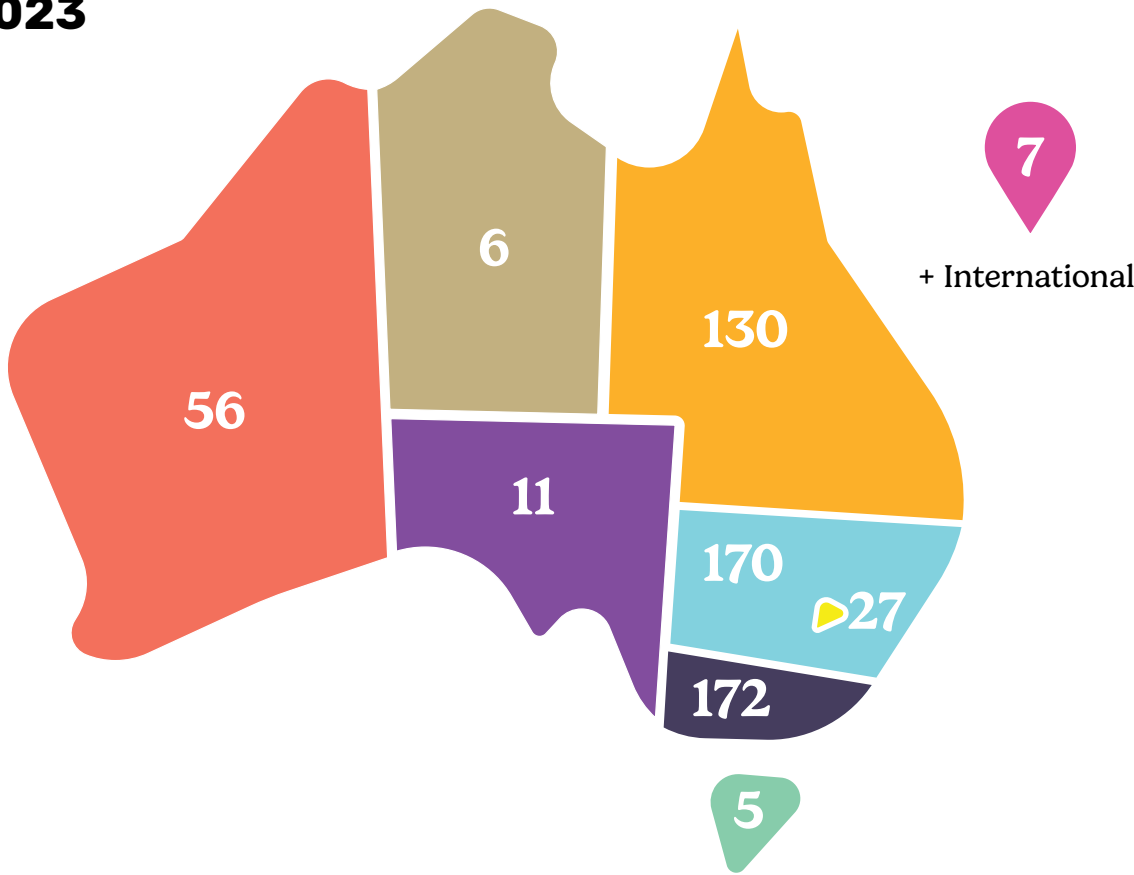
Undergraduate Certificate in Ministry

Samuel BAILEY – York Street – VIC

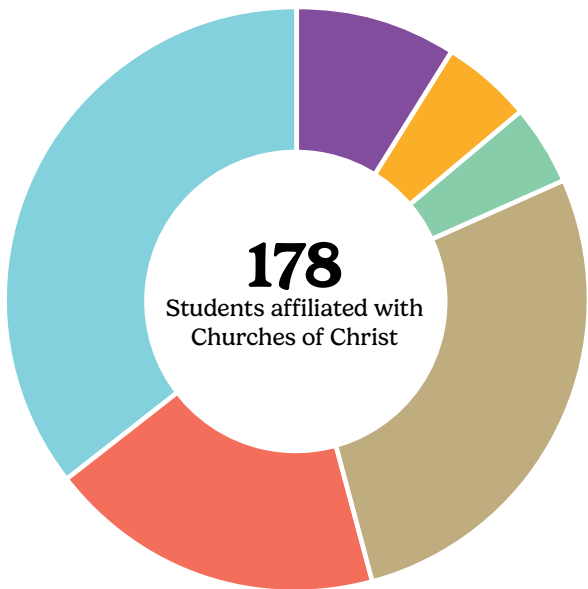
Andrew NORTON – Toowoomba North – QLD

Seth PETERSON – One Community – VIC

ACOM Students 2023



Churches of Christ Student Ministry Involvement



Senior Minister/Leader	16
Associate Minister	9
Counselling	8
Specialist Ministry	49
Internship	33
Other/Para-Church	63

Global Mission Partners



Global Mission Partners is grateful to the 25 churches and 230 supporters in NSW and ACT who have contributed over \$80,000 to help our partners overseas (COCOA and ICP) and here in Australia (IMA) to bring hope in hard places.

Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) has enjoyed the benefits of being fully accredited with DFAT's Australian Aid program and becoming a member of the Church Agency Network (CAN), which has allowed many of our partners to receive increased support for their relief and development projects, including livelihood training in India, disaster recovery in Vanuatu, refugee assistance in South Sudan and innovating to install solar-powered boreholes in Zimbabwe. Our partners have also been responding to natural disasters and emergencies in places such as South Sudan, Bangladesh and Gaza.

International Church Partnerships (ICP) partners in PNG and South Sudan have reported large numbers of baptisms and new churches are being planted in countries like Indonesia and Zimbabwe.

On a visit to Zimbabwe this year, I experienced one church plant that had only commenced in October 2023 and has already seen 74 baptisms – signs of more people finding new life in hard places.

Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) sponsored the Raising our Tribal Voice conference hosted by the University of Divinity in February and hosted a number of emerging Indigenous Christian leaders for this event. Dareton Youth and Community Centre continues to provide a loving environment for the young Indigenous people in the Sunraysia area.



Two new initiatives we have developed this past year include facilitating a national Churches of Christ Disaster Community of Practice (CoP) and confirming endorsed ministers in NSW/ACT can now take part in our Discovery Trips and gain Professional Development points. The Disaster CoP has met three times this past year to learn from one another and brings together a group of experienced emergency responders in our movement who seek to collaborate in times of crisis. The purpose of our Discovery Trips are to help develop leaders in their cross-cultural leadership competencies and mission connections with plans to host groups on-country here in Australia and in Zimbabwe in 2025.

Global Mission Partners leadership team and Board has been refreshing our vision and values and has developed a new 2030 Strategic Plan focused on equipping leaders for impactful holistic mission. The road ahead is full of hope.



John Lamerton
John Lamerton
Chief Executive Officer



Judith received safe water when a borehole was drilled in Gwemvurachena Village, Zimbabwe



Young Indigenous leaders with Global Mission Partners staff at the Raising our Tribal Voice for Justice conference





**“A new command
I give you: Love one
another. As I have
loved you, so you must
love one another. By
this everyone will
know that you are my
disciples, if you love
one another.”**

– John 13:34-35 (MSG)



2023–24 Financials *The Year In Review*

Audited financials will be provided separately to this report. What follows is a consolidated summary of the financial statements of churches of Christ in NSW, Fresh Hope Communities and the Property Trust.

churches of Christ in NSW & ACT

A modest surplus of \$1.89M was achieved for the year ending 30 June 2024 for churches of Christ in NSW. This was as a result of investment returns, the sale of assets and the consolidation of rental returns on Conference-governed properties. Rental returns included the back payment of the Land Lease for the Marrickville Affordable Housing Project.

Conference expenditure overall for the year was stable relative to the previous financial year with staff costs, administration costs, property maintenance and depreciation slightly lower than the previous year. There were no other material items of note affecting the financial results for the year ending 30 June 2024.

Fresh Hope Communities

Fresh Hope Communities (FHC) generated a very healthy profit for the year of \$44.8 million, primarily on the back of the revaluation of our Retirement Communities. The biggest contributor to this was the Cedar on Collins Retirement Community at Kiama, which was completed in mid-2023 and brought to account at market value for the year ending 30 June 2024, solidifying the decision to purchase the site in 2019.

Commissioning of new developments had an adverse impact on earnings this year with three new communities completed and opened during the year, namely Cedar on Collins Retirement Community Kiama, Green Hills Residential Care Service and Nightingale Marrickville Affordable Housing. Incurring losses in the early stages of new developments is common with fixed costs exceeding revenue whilst units and rooms are gradually occupied.

Earnings for our Residential Aged Care services (excluding the new Green Hills community) improved significantly for the year ending 30 June 2024, with an improvement in the result of \$3.2 million when compared to last year.

After many years of lobbying by industry associations and providers, care workers in aged care finally received a well-deserved pay increase of approximately 15% (average across all care-related classifications) during the year, which was funded from an increase in government subsidies.

Retirement Living communities generated a 15% increase in profits compared to last year, (excluding Cedar on Collins Retirement Community Kiama). Occupancy for our Retirement Communities remains strong and FHC's continual investment in upgrading units and common spaces ensures our villages are well sought after and maintain a strong brand presence in their respective local communities.

Guest days at The Tops were strong during the year, however were below levels observed in 2023. This was mainly due to sustained high inflation and cost-of-living pressures, which affected bookings for the corporate and community group markets. The schools market remained strong throughout the year. As a result, returns for The Tops were lower for the year ending 30 June 2024, with results also impacted by high inflation, which increased catering and other hospitality costs for the year.

Our Affordable Housing communities, primarily Nightingale Marrickville, were very well occupied with close to 100% occupancy as at 30 June 2024. The urgent need for affordable accommodation in Sydney was evidenced when almost all apartments were secured by renters within one day of the ballot for Nightingale Marrickville opening. Given that Nightingale Marrickville is close to 100% occupied, it is currently generating a small cash profit without any external funding or assistance.

The Churches of Christ Property Trust

The Churches of Christ Property Trust produced a very strong result for the financial year ending 30 June 2024, on the back of strong investment earnings and positive year for the investment markets generally.

The surplus for the year ending 30 June 2024 was \$1.35 million, well ahead of the result in 2023 of \$0.7 million.

Church loans remained relatively stable throughout the year with a reduction in the total loans balance overall through regular repayments from borrowers. There were three major loan transactions completed during the year, which were provided to help the growth and relocation of two churches in the network.

Deposits held in the Churches of Christ Investment Fund grew significantly during the year, with an increase of 35% generated primarily from several property sales, with proceeds held on Trust. This balance will reduce in the coming months with future property purchases expected to settle for the relocation of some churches in the network to more appropriate locations.



Scott Griffiths
Chief Operating Officer
Fresh Hope Communities



2023–24 Financials

Revenue	FY24 \$m	FY23 \$m	Change %
Fees from residents, clients, students and customers	41.9	38.3	9%
Government and other funding	54.3	45.3	20%
Revenue from investments	0.4	3.8	(89%)
Other revenue	0.2	0.4	(50%)
Total revenue	96.8	87.8	10%

Expenditure			
Staff costs	69.0	60.8	(13%)
Operational and care services	3.3	3.3	
Hospitality services	7.8	7.2	(8%)
Property, utilities, depreciation and amortisation	14.9	13.4	(11%)
Administration	12.0	11.2	(7%)
Other expenditure	2.2	0.9	(144%)
Total expenditure	109.2	96.8	(13%)

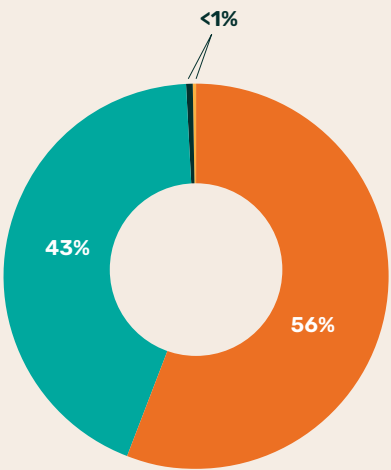
Net Profit / (loss)	(12.4)	(9.0)
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Other significant items		
Gains / (losses) from market movements in investments	1.1	3.3
Gains / (losses) from property valuations	59.3	5.7
Total Gains / (losses) from assets	60.4	9.0

Total Profit / (loss)	48.0	(0.0)
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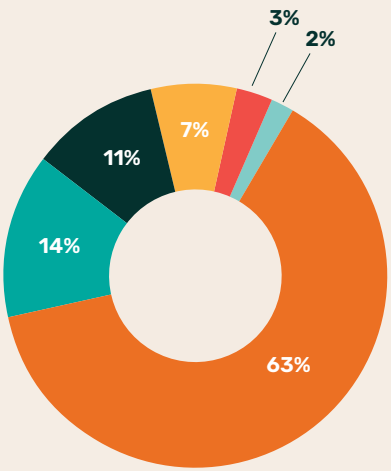
Revenue

Where did our revenue come from?	FY24 (\$m)
Government and other funding	54.3
Fees from residents, clients, students and customers	41.9
Interest, dividends and other investments revenue	0.4
Other revenue	0.2
Total Revenue	96.8



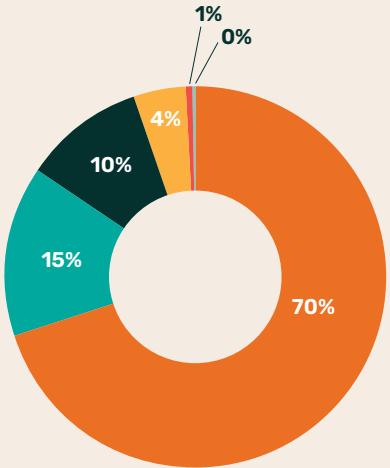
Expenditure

Where did we spend our revenue?	FY24 (\$m)
Staff costs	69.0
Property, utilities, depreciation and amortisation	14.9
Administration	12.0
Hospitality services	7.8
Operational and care services	3.3
Other expenditure	2.2
Total Expenditure	109.2



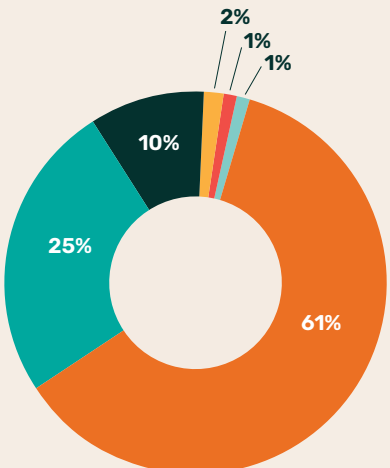
Revenue by Service Type

Revenue by Service Type	FY24 (\$m)
Residential Care Services	67.7
Venues and temporary accommodation	14.1
Retirement Living	9.9
Network resource team and chaplaincy	4.3
Investments, properties and Trust loans	0.6
Affordable Housing	0.2
Total Revenue	96.8

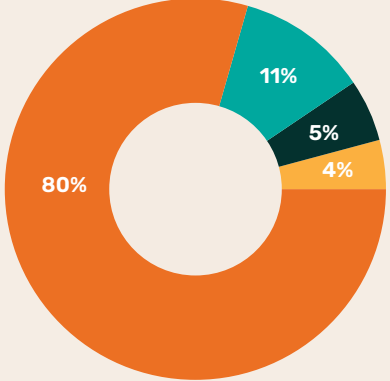


Assets and Liabilities

Composition of our Assets	FY24 (\$m)
Fixed assets and property	383.4
Investments - property	158.3
Investments - equities and financial	60.0
Receivables and other	10.9
Cash	6.9
Church Loans	6.2
Total Assets	625.7



Composition of our Liabilities	FY24 (\$m)
Refundable deposits - aged care	275.6
Provisions, loans & trust deposits	38.2
Payables and accruals	18.8
External loans	13.7
Total Liabilities	346.3





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