



COMMUNITY

LIVING ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

2025-2026

Acknowledgement of Country

CLA supports people across the lands, skies, waterways and seas of First Nations people in South East Queensland, including Turrbal, Jagera/Yugerabul, Kabi Kabi, Jinibara, Wakka Wakka, Yugambeh and Quandamooka Countries. We pay respect to Ancestors and Elders whose knowledge, care and resilience continue to shape these places, and to all Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people who walk alongside us.

We acknowledge Australia as a three-flag nation.





Maiwar, the Brisbane River, and nearby pathways such as Benarrawa (Oxley Creek) have long connected communities through ceremony, trade, travel, gathering and sustenance. Historical and contemporary sources identify continuing Turrbal, Jagera/Yugerabul connections across Brisbane and Moreton Bay, while colonial records often imposed inconsistent names and boundaries. We therefore respect Traditional Owners' authority to speak for their own Country.

Across the Sunshine Coast and hinterland, Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples hold enduring responsibilities to Country. Histories of Noosa, the Glass House Mountains, Djaki Kundu (Rocky Ridge), the bunya tree and surrounding pathways show kinship, movement, cultural exchange, sacred sites and cultural knowledge, alongside the conflict and dispossession of colonisation. Kabi Kabi and Jinibara cultural heritage work keeps these histories, places and responsibilities visible.

Further inland, Wakka Wakka Country includes the Burnett River, Ban Ban Springs, the Bunya Mountains and surrounding regions. Community and native title sources reflect continuing relationships carried through language, stories, Elders, cultural meeting places and custodial responsibility, including traditions connected with the piebald eel and gatherings before travel to the Bunya Mountains. These connections show Country as family, identity, law, memory and obligation.

To the south, Yugambeh Country reaches across areas now known as Logan, the Gold Coast, Scenic Rim and Northern Rivers, with identity and responsibilities reflected in stories of Jabreen and the wedge-tailed eagle. In Moreton Bay, Quandamooka Country is the homeland of the Nunukul, Gorenpul and Nughi peoples and includes Minjerribah, Mulgumpin and surrounding lands and waters, where sea Country and totemic relationships, including the dolphin, reflect continuing connection. These pathways show longstanding relationships between neighbouring peoples, while each group maintains its own identity and authority.

For CLA, acknowledging these histories is more than a statement of respect. Our work with children, young people, families and communities takes place on living Countries, within continuing systems of cultural responsibility and sovereignty. We honour Elders past and present, recognise emerging leaders, and commit to cultural safety, self-determination and respectful partnership with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

AI use acknowledgement:

Microsoft Copilot assisted with compiling public sources, organising references, checking hyperlinks and drafting summary text. AI support does not replace cultural authority, lived knowledge or consultation with Traditional Owners. This content has been reviewed by CLA staff, and readers are encouraged to read historical sources critically, respectfully and alongside guidance from relevant Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

References

- Ancient Australia. (n.d.). Kabi Kabi Sacred Sites. <http://ancient-australia.org/kabi-kabi-sacred-sites>
- Carseldine, A. (2017). Negative determination of native title over Brisbane upheld. Crown Law Queensland.
- Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation. (n.d.). Nature, culture and history: Gheebulum Kunungai (Moreton Island) National Park and Moreton Island Recreation Area. Queensland Government.
- Fesl, E. D., Leddy Sergiacomi & Associates, and Noosa Council. (2004). Indigenous cultural heritage study of Noosa Shire. Noosa Council.
- Murphy, K., Lillis, J. and Gall, B. (2017). Jinibara Traditional Inputs for the Sunshine Coast Heritage Study. Australian Heritage Specialists Pty Ltd for Sunshine Coast Regional Council.
- Petrie, C. C. (1904). Tom Petrie's reminiscences of early Queensland: Dating from 1837. Watson, Ferguson & Co.
- Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA). (n.d.). Go back in time when Brisbane was named after a river.
- Queensland Government. (2022). Wakka Wakka native title continues the work of past generations. Ministerial Media Statements, 12 April.
- Steele, J. G. (1984). Aboriginal pathways in southeast Queensland and the Richmond River. University of Queensland Press.
- Stride, K. and Helu, L. (2015). No native title over Brisbane CBD and surrounding areas. Crown Law Queensland.
- Whalley, P. (1987). An introduction to the Aboriginal social history of Moreton Bay South East Queensland from 1799 to 1830. Peter Whalley.
- Yugambeh Nation. (n.d.). Yugambeh Country and History.

Message from the President

This year has been a year of resilience, reflection and renewal for Community Living Association (CLA).

Like many community organisations, we have faced significant challenges. Changes in the NDIS, rising costs and increasing demand for support have required us to make some difficult decisions. At the same time, we have continued to stand alongside people with cognitive disability, young people and families, helping people build relationships, strengthen their voices and create meaningful lives in their communities.

We have also continued to feel the loss of former President Denise Gibbons and long-time supporter Warren Hatt. Both made extraordinary contributions to CLA over many years, and their influence continues to be felt across our organisation. We thank them for their leadership, friendship and commitment to our community.

Despite the challenges, there has been much to celebrate.

We have continued to deliver life-changing support to young people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage. We have strengthened our work alongside parents with intellectual disability, secured new funding opportunities, progressed plans for future housing development, and invested in the systems and governance that will help keep CLA strong into the future.

One of the most important achievements this year was the development of CLA's new Strategic Plan 2026-2029. Through conversations with Board members, staff, constituents and supporters, we reaffirmed who we are, what we stand for and the difference we want to make in our communities. The plan gives us a clear path forward at a time when the community sector is experiencing significant change.

We know there are challenges ahead. However, I remain optimistic about CLA's future. We have a dedicated workforce, committed volunteers, strong community partnerships and a Board that is focused on good governance, financial sustainability and staying true to CLA's values. Most importantly, we continue to be guided by the people and communities we support.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributes to CLA. Whether you are a constituent, family member, staff member, volunteer, donor, funder, partner organisation or community supporter, you are part of what makes CLA a strong and inclusive organisation. Together, we are building communities where all people are valued.

Alan Duffy
Board President
Community Living Association Inc

Year at a Glance

Governance and Leadership

- New 2026-2029 Strategic Plan developed and adopted by the Board.
- Independent Board review confirmed strong governance, ethical leadership and inclusion of lived experience perspectives.
- Continued investment in governance, risk management, policy review and financial oversight.

Housing and Community Development

- Continued progress on the 5-9 Nundah Street redevelopment project.
- Secured \$100,000 Community Housing Futures funding to support redevelopment planning.
- Strengthened partnerships with government, community and philanthropic organisations to progress future housing opportunities.

Supporting Families

- Secured \$250,000 Queensland Government funding to strengthen support for parents with cognitive disability through Grow Together.
- Additional grants secured for the Parenting to Thrive Group.
- Parents with intellectual disability continued to lead advocacy and awareness activities across the sector.

Supporting Young People

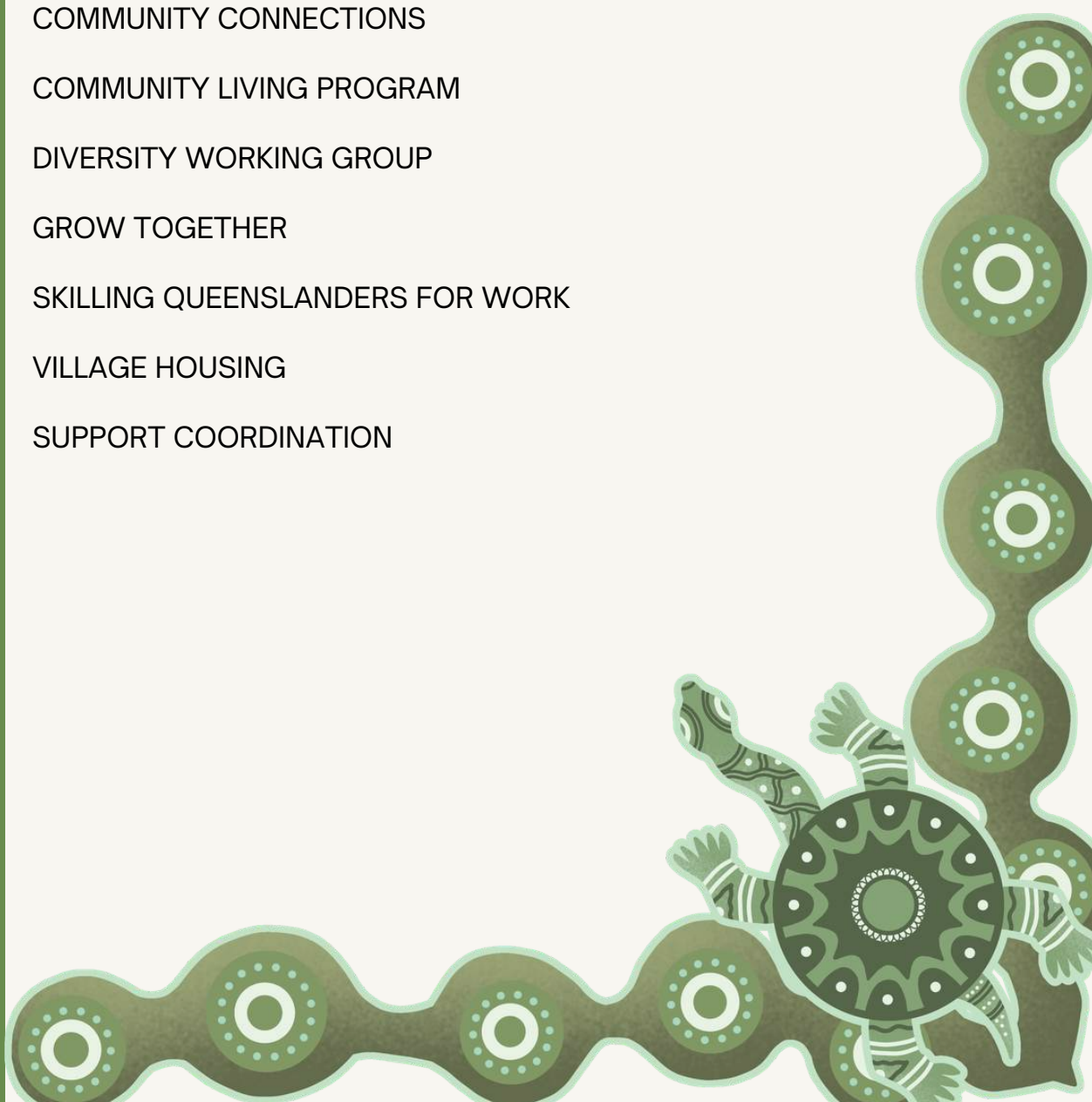
- Continued support for young people experiencing homelessness, family conflict and social exclusion through ARROS, BEROs and Community Connections activities.
- Ongoing advocacy for improved responses to young people experiencing homelessness and vulnerability.

Building for the Future

- Board and leadership team commenced implementation of a new strategic direction focused on financial sustainability, quality services and community impact.
- Strengthened organisational systems, compliance, governance and planning to support long-term sustainability.

Table of Contents

1 - 4	ABOUT COMMUNITY LIVING ASSOCIATION
5	STRATEGIC VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CLA VOLUNTEERS
7 - 8	TREASURER'S REPORT
9 - 10	ARROS
11 - 12	BEROS
13	COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
14 - 21	COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAM
22 - 23	DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP
24 - 25	GROW TOGETHER
26 - 27	SKILLING QUEENSLANDERS FOR WORK
28 - 29	VILLAGE HOUSING
30 - 31	SUPPORT COORDINATION



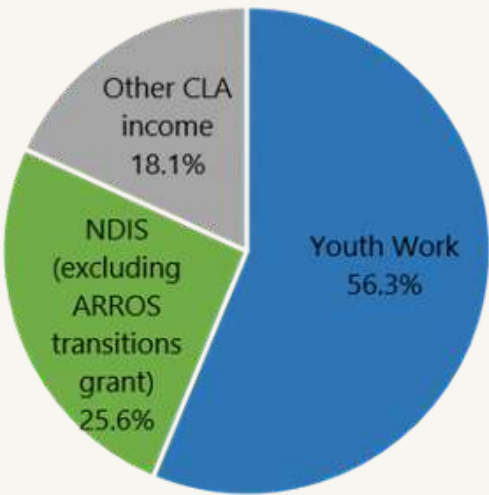
About Community Living Association

Community Living Association Inc. (CLA) is a non-government, not-for-profit community organisation. CLA was established in 1989 to support young adults with developmental disabilities, particularly intellectual disability.

Over time, CLA has grown to support a broader group of people. This includes young people who are at risk of homelessness or leaving school early, young people who are in, or have left out-of-home care, people who have been excluded from work, and parents with disability. Collectively, we call the people CLA supports **constituents**. A constituent is defined as someone who votes for some who represents them, or a single part (person) that forms a larger whole (community).

In 2025–2026, CLA received funding from a mix of sources. More than half of our funding supported youth programs, including BEROS, Community Connections and ARROS Transitions. NDIS funding also supported a significant part of our work, with additional income from rent and rental subsidies, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, project funding, investment and interest income, and other grants.

CLA Income by Funding Stream



■ Youth Work ■ NDIS (excluding ARROS transitions grant) ■ Other CLA income

CLA works to build a community where all people are included, valued and able to have control over their own lives. Our work is grounded in relationship-based practice, capacity building, and a commitment to listening and responding to the needs of our shared community.



CLA works in ways that are:

- respectful, kind and supportive of people having control over their own lives
- flexible, innovative, responsive and hopeful
- cooperative, collaborative and open to feedback
- committed to challenging and changing society through advocacy and action.

The services CLA managed in 2025–2026 were:

- ARROS
 - BEROs
 - Community Living Program
 - Community Connections
 - Employment and training programs, including Skilling Queenslanders for Work and DEFY
 - Grow Together Therapies Team (Counselling and Parenting)
 - Plan Management
 - Support Coordination, and
 - Village Housing, including crisis accommodation / headlease properties
- 



OUR FUNDING PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Community Living Association (CLA) is grateful for the support, collaboration and shared commitment of the many organisations that have contributed to our work throughout the 2025-26 year.

The achievements highlighted in this report are only possible because governments, funders, community organisations, businesses, schools, foundations, individual donors and sector partners continue to invest in inclusive communities and stronger outcomes for the people and families we support.

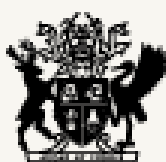
We sincerely thank the following organisations for their partnership and support.



Australian Government
The Treasury



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs



QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY, SENIORS
AND DISABILITY SERVICES



Queensland
Government

Department of Trade, Employment
and Training



Queensland
Government

Department of Housing and Public Works



Queensland
Government

Department of Education



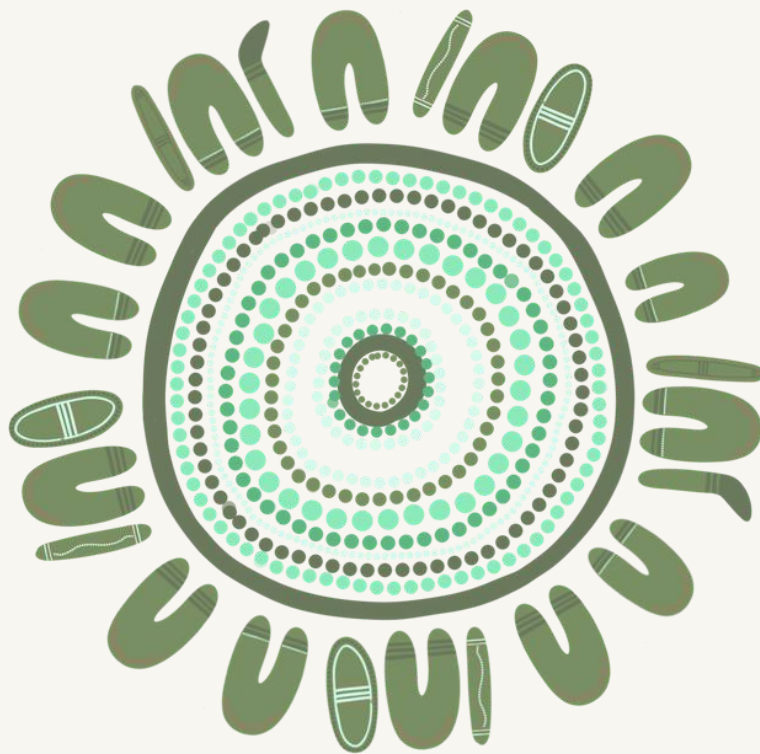
Queensland Government

Queensland Rural and Industry Development
Authority

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following organisations for supporting CLA Projects:

- Alcohol and Drug Foundation
- Aspley Special School
- Brisbane City Council Community Grants
- Commbank
- Community Housing Futures Fund
- Gambling Community Benefit Fund
- GIVIT
- Grill'd
- Hammond and Neale
- InfoXchange – Data catalyst Network
- Kedron Wavell Community Grant
- Lords Mayors Charitable Trust
- Mary MacKillop College
- Micah Projects
- Mitchelton Special School
- My Coffee Counts
- National Advocacy Collective
- Noonga Reconciliation Group
- Nundah Community Enterprises Cooperative.
- Nundah Rotary
- Paul Ramsay Foundation
- QCOSS
- QDN – Job Match All Abilities
- Queensland Academy of Creative Industries
- Queensland Foster and Kinship Care
- Queensland Pathways State College
- St Patricks College
- Street Smart
- Thread Together
- Whitebox Enterprises
- Women and Change



OUR VISION STATEMENT

By June 2029 CLA is a sustainable and ethical organisation, working alongside young people, and those with cognitive disability, to strengthen their relationships, capabilities, and connections in community.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Building Inclusive Communities Where All People Are Valued

Objectives

1. To embed governance and financial management process throughout the organisation and create an effective, purposeful focused organisation that can pay its debts now and into the future.
2. To deliver services that enable/empower young people and those with a cognitive disability to exercise agency.
3. To build trusted relationships with partners, funders, and the sector to strengthen impacts and outcomes.
4. To attract, develop and retain a skilled values driven workforce that can deliver on the vision and goals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CLA VOLUNTEERS

CLA thanks all of the volunteers who gave their time, skills and care to our organisation during 2025–26.

Volunteers are an important part of CLA. They help us stay connected to community, support our work, and strengthen what we can offer to people with disabilities, young people, families and carers.

We acknowledge the many ways volunteers contributed this year. Denise supported trainees in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program with resumes and classroom learning. Dewi, Carl and Dave S. spent time alongside constituents in the community. Maggi helped keep the op shop open each Wednesday. Dave L, Renee and Cindy shared their knowledge through CLA subcommittees.

We also thank Morrie for his ongoing support to CLA, including subcommittee work, Board meeting preparation, recycling, fundraising, and bringing his trademark (good??) humour to the work.

We are grateful to the workers and constituents who helped at weekend fundraisers, and to students on placement who contributed in practical ways, including helping with the AGM.

CLA also gives special thanks to our Board members. Board members volunteer significant time, responsibility and energy. They attend meetings, read papers, ask important questions, share their skills, and help guide CLA with care and integrity.

We acknowledge the contribution of Board members, Alan Duffy, Dan Allport, Ian Williamson, Bernard Denny, Naomi Hoole, Kristyna Dillon, Leo Delgado, Ian Hope and Paul O'Dea. We also recognise Paul O'Dea's long service as Treasurer and member of the property and finance subcommittee.

In 2025–26, 19 volunteers contributed to CLA. We are deeply grateful for every person who gave their time, energy, skills and care. Your contribution helps CLA keep working alongside people, families and communities with respect, inclusion and optimism.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ending 30 June 2026

The annual report contains the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2026. Included in the financial statements are the following:

- 1.Consolidated Profit & Loss Statement for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2026.
- 2.Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2026.
- 3.Statement of Cash Flows for the Financial Year ending 30 June 2026.
- 4.Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ending 30 June 2026.
- 5.Notes to the Financial Statements.
- 6.Management Committee's Statement.
- 7.Audit Report.

Overview

The organisation has recorded a consolidated operating loss of (\$51,045) for the financial year.

NDIS

NDIS has reported a net loss for the Year of (\$477,780). The results reflect the claiming and billing of service provision up until 30 June 2026.

Prior to the end of the previous financial year, the Management Committee made the decision to restructure the NDIS division as it was incurring significant losses. This has resulted in the amount of loss being reduced, however, under the current structure of the NDIS this division will always incur a significant loss. Further restructure of this division has been made subsequent to year end to reduce the losses further. This includes the closure of Plan Management and Counselling.

GRANTS

A number of smaller grants have been acquitted as at 30 June 2026 with each grant being fully expended with no overruns.

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work projects (Regen and Good Foods) are expected to fully expend their grant money by the end of the respective projects.

BEROS finished the financial year with a small surplus of funds that will be expended in the next financial year.

The grant for the Pilot Program for Grow Together was received at the end of April. Expenditure on this program to date is in line with the grant budget.

All grants received have been spent in accordance with Service Agreements with payments authorised in line with Grant Budgets.

INVESTMENT AND PROPERTY INCOME

CLA's investments and property income returned a surplus of \$216,420 for the financial year which helped to underwrite the losses from the NDIS operations.

BALANCE SHEET

The balance sheet remains strong with net assets of more than \$16,000,000 which is represented by the property assets.

Earlier in the year we obtained independent valuations for all properties. These valuations have now all been brought to account with the properties market values now fully reflected on the Balance Sheet.

In addition, we have brought to account the value of the Village Housing Units onto our Balance Sheet, with a corresponding liability to the State (Government). Under the original funding arrangements, we have acquired some equity in each of these properties.

Cash at Bank of \$2,204,730 shows the organisation to be in a comfortable position and with a current ratio of 2.11 it remains able to pay its debt as and when they fall due.

The investment fund balance of \$969,034 grew by over \$60,000 during the financial year and provides another buffer for the financial position.

The organisation has no bank debt and more than sufficient cash funds to be able to meet its financial obligations.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

1.5 – 9 Nundah St development – to the date of this report contracts have been signed for a total of \$378,815 of which \$226,180 has been spent to date. In total the organisation has committed to expenditure of \$862,660 on this project. Accordingly, there is an outstanding commitment of \$596,480.



ARROS

The last year has been a time of big change for ARROS, with adjustments to NDIS funding reducing our team from six to two workers. Despite increased caseloads, and additional pressures within the broader system, ARROS has continued to respond flexibly to young people with intellectual and/or cognitive disabilities across North Brisbane and Moreton Bay whilst staying true to our relationship-based framework that we know works for this cohort. We have been able to continue our mission of working alongside young people in the exciting, challenging, and complex years of emergent adulthood to find places to live, roles for meaning, spaces to belong, and a community that welcomes and includes. The young people ARROS currently support are coming of age in a time of crisis (housing, cost of living, etc.), with the impacts of these crises felt most acutely among this already marginalised group. ARROS workers would like to acknowledge and celebrate the young people we work alongside for their continued commitment to reaching their goals and living life on their own terms in such a challenging time.

Some Statistics from the year :

37

Young people
accessed
intensive
individual support

17

Referrals received
for NDIS and
Transition and
Post Care Support

9

Young people
exited the service
having met their
long-term goals

89%

Percent of
accepted referrals
who engaged in
ongoing support



ARROS

Some outcomes from the year:

- Young people accessed and sustained tenancies through CLA housing programs, including the Head Lease Program which has enabled young people to access housing of their own for the first time,
- Young people have sustained Department of Housing tenancies, and have developed their capacity to understand their rights and responsibilities as tenants,
- Young people have successfully completed Probation and Parole orders and have developed their capacity to navigate the justice system,
- Young people have accessed assessments of diagnoses of disability, and have developed insight into their own disability support needs,
- Young people have sustained employment, and have successfully applied for Disability Support Pension to supplement where necessary,
- Young people have increased their capacity for self-advocacy, and have been able to stand up for themselves across systems including Child Safety, Justice, and Housing.



BEROS

Across 2025–2026, BEROS continued to meet young people where they were — in crisis, in transition, in placement stress, in hospital settings, and in the everyday moments where trust is built slowly over time. Our impact was not only in the number of outreaches, hours of support or overnight stays provided, but in the way the BEROS Crew kept showing up when young people’s circumstances were unstable, complex and often isolating.



We stayed connected when things were uncertain. BEROS maintained contact with young people during periods of crisis, placement fatigue, hospital presentations and major transitions. These connections helped reduce isolation, kept young people visible to the systems around them, and allowed future options to remain open even when immediate solutions were limited. For young people approaching or over 18 years of age, BEROS also facilitated connections with Extended Post Care Support, helping maintain continuity of support once leaving care.

We used practical support as a pathway to trust and safety. Outreach, transport, food support, brokerage and regular check-ins created opportunities for workers to build trust and have important conversations about risk, choice, goals and next steps. In many cases, small practical acts of support became the starting point for safer decisions and stronger engagement.

We helped young people be heard. BEROS advocated alongside young people in case planning, placement discussions, health and crisis responses, housing, education, disability, legal and youth justice processes. This included clarifying young people’s wishes, supporting communication with services, and encouraging responses that were trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate and grounded in young peoples lived experience.

We strengthened belonging beyond formal services. The work of BEROS included relationship repair, family and natural-support connection, stakeholder meetings and planning that recognised young people need more than service responses; they need community, trusted adults and people who continue to believe in their capacity for connection and change.

We translated our learnings & young people's voices into advocacy. We used what we learnt alongside young people to strengthen our practice, clarify our procedures and advocate for better responses across the sector. We learnt through reflective practice, policy review, professional development, stakeholder discussions and listening to young people. We supported young people to participate in interviews or join a research advisory group with the University of Queensland team who are continuing their research into self-placing. We also compiled young people's experiences and feedback into BEROS' submission to the Child Safety Inquiry. Our priority was to ensure the realities faced by young people who self-place is understood not as individual "behavioural issues", but in the broader context of systemic failings.

BEROS is one part of a much larger community response to young people living away from placements. Young people continue to remind us they need more than emergency responses: they need trusted adults, practical help, strong advocates and systems willing to keep trying when things get tough. We thank our whole BEROS Crew, our CLA colleagues and community, as well as our sector colleagues who continue to work in a constrained environment, to push for better outcomes.

Looking ahead: In 2026–2027, BEROS will focus on strengthening our transition-from-care practice, embedding young people's feedback into our service design, practicing cultural humility, and protecting workforce sustainability so BEROS can continue offering consistent, relational and accountable support to young people in highly-complex circumstances for years to come.



Over the past 12 months, Community Connections continued partnering with young people, families and local schools to prevent early home and school leaving through creative problem solving, safe support relationships and strong outcomes.

The Reconnect Program delivered 912 sessions to 108 young people, with 100% reporting satisfaction with the support received. Beck and Lauren's advocacy and sector relationships helped reduce young people's risk of homelessness.

New Student Wellbeing Officer partnerships with Mitchelton Special School and Queensland Pathways Secondary College joined ongoing work with Aspley Special School and Queensland Academy of Creative Industries. Hundreds of young people took part in wellbeing activities, and over 70 received one-on-one support to strengthen school connections. Thanks to Anastasia, Caitlin & Mitch for your wonderful work supporting young people

As the financial year ends, two significant service milestones are approaching.

First, we will launch the Participation Action Research Report into under-16s' experiences of homelessness, Still, the System Fails Us. The report centers the voices of young people and workers, highlighting what is needed to prevent entrenched homelessness from a young age.

Copies are available via the following link [still-the-system-fails-us.pdf](#)

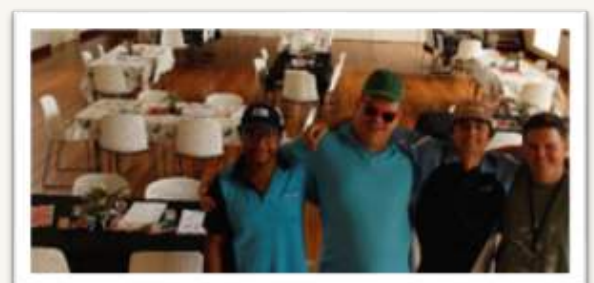
The second is a team restructure due to financial pressures on CLA from NDIS reforms and the continual decline in prevention and early intervention youth funding. The Community Connections team will now operate as a 4 day a week service and the office will be closed on Fridays from 4 September 2026. The change has also seen our Team Leader, Cate Ryan's, farewell after 18 years at Community Connections. Thanks Cate, for your many years of passionate support of young people, families and stakeholders; skillfully leading the team and building capacity across the sector.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

"THIS IS THE MOST FUN I HAVE HAD IN MY WHOLE LIFE" (YOUNG PERSON, 18)



ASPLEY SPECIAL SCHOOL STUDENTS AT ELDERS LUNCH NOVEMBER 2025





Community Living Program

CLP delivers individual support and group work programs to people with intellectual and/or cognitive disability. Our Team includes 1 Team Leader; 4 Key Workers; 3 Community & Homespace Workers; 2 Casual Support Workers; and 4 Volunteers. Over the past 12 months, CLP Team has demonstrated resilience and a strong commitment to constituent-led practice. We have worked hard to continue supporting constituents in the ever-changing NDIS context, strengthen our practice, compliance and service delivery systems, achieve sustainability targets, and navigate staffing changes.

Some highlights include:

CLP Team provided 8337 hours of individual support to 60 constituents. CLP Individual Supports assist constituents to identify and achieve goals for capacity building, participation and inclusion, relationships and wellbeing, and agency, decision making and voice.

CLP Team provided 578 group work hours to 46 members in 5 group work programs, including Nundah All Stars, Shared Meal, Fitness Group, Learning And Voice Everyday (LAVE), and Train Enthusiasts (finishing up in June 2026).

CLP Volunteers Dave, Dewi, Carl, and Maggie have generously given their time, skills and care to support individual and group work projects with constituents and assisted the success of LAVE, NAS and CLP Op Shop.

CLP enjoyed partnerships with Mary Mackillop College, Nundah & Saint Patrick's College, Shorncliffe to support Nundah All Stars and Shared Meal. We greatly value the resources and hands-on contribution staff and students have made to building community with us.

CLP teamed up with Grow Together and CLA Support Coordination to host the CLA Constituent Christmas Party in December 2026, generously supported by the Lord Mayors Charitable Trust.

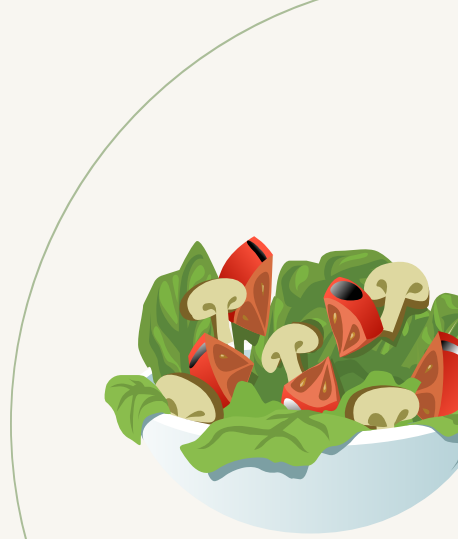
In 2026, we farewelled Senior Key Workers Siyu Song and Emma Perske; and casual worker Donna Bryan. Thank you to Siyu, Emma, and Donna for the wonderful contributions you made during your time in CLP Team. You will be missed!

We welcomed new Community and Homespace Workers, AnnMarie and Carolina; and hosted social work placement students Lincoln and Sridhi. Thank you to all CLP Team members for your commitment to supporting constituents and each other, and to building community in CLA and beyond!

We are grateful to CLP constituents, families and significant others for allowing us to work alongside. It is a pleasure and a privilege to do this work together. Many thanks to all the people across CLA who support the work and wellbeing of CLP Team. We very much enjoy and appreciate your ongoing support, knowledge, wisdom, innovation, creativity, fun and compassion.



SHARED MEAL



Shared Meal continues to offer a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space for members to come together, socialise, build friendships, and develop a strong sense of community. A key feature of the program is that members are actively involved in decision-making. All members have the opportunity to share their ideas, have their voices heard, and vote on decisions relating to Shared Meal.

Through regular participation, members have opportunities to strengthen their feelings of respect, belonging, confidence, and connection. Shared Meal also supports members to develop important social and life skills, including communication, teamwork, cooperation, informed decision-making, problem-solving, and participating in group discussions.

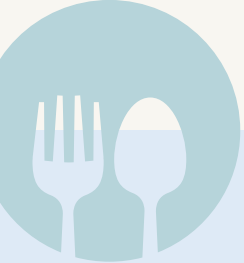
An important outcome of Shared Meal is the opportunity for members to build and maintain meaningful relationships. Members enjoy spending time together in a relaxed and supportive environment, developing friendships and strengthening their connections with others in the community. The program encourages members to participate according to their interests and abilities, while also providing opportunities to try new roles and develop independence.

Throughout the year, a variety of activities and responsibilities were offered, including:

- Board games and group activities
- Birthday celebrations and special occasions
- Movie nights and shared entertainment
- Planning activities and group decision-making
- Relationship building, social connection, and cooperation
- Cooking, food preparation, and kitchen skills
- Food safety and hygiene
- Serving meals and helping with clean-up
- Taking responsibility for shared spaces

These activities provide members with opportunities to contribute to the group in different ways. Members are encouraged to take on responsibilities such as cooking, serving dinner, cleaning up, managing rubbish, setting up activities, and supporting other members. These experiences help build confidence, responsibility, teamwork, and a sense of achievement.





Building Connections with Local Schools

This year, Shared Meal was also very pleased to welcome students from Mary MacKillop College and St Patrick's College to join us. Their involvement created valuable opportunities for members to meet new people, develop social connections, and share experiences with young people from the wider community.

The visits provided a positive opportunity for everyone involved to learn from one another and experience the importance of inclusion, friendship, and community participation. These connections also helped strengthen Shared Meal's role as a place where people of different backgrounds and experiences can come together, participate, and feel welcomed.

We look forward to continuing to develop these community connections and creating more opportunities for members to participate in inclusive activities with local schools and community organisations.

What Our Members Say

Member feedback continues to demonstrate how valuable Shared Meal is to the people who participate. Members have told us:

- "I like to come to the Shared Meal to see friends and enjoy the fun time together."
- "I like to play in different roles during the Shared Meal, for example, cooking, serving dinner, clearing the rubbish bin, and more."
- "I like meeting friends, gathering for dinner, and building connections. Shared Meal should keep going."

This feedback highlights that Shared Meal is much more than sharing a meal. It is an important opportunity for members to **belong, contribute, make choices, develop skills, build friendships, and participate actively in their community.**

The continued enthusiasm and participation of members demonstrate the positive impact of the program. We are proud of what members have achieved throughout the year and look forward to continuing Shared Meal as an important part of our community activities in the coming year.



LEARNING AND VOICE EVERYDAY (LAVE)

L.A.V.E. is a CLP group that provides a safe, respectful and encouraging space for members to build reading, writing, communication and confidence. The morning group meets on Friday 10-12 ; the afternoon group meets on Friday 12pm to 2pm.

L.A.V.E values collaboration, inclusivity, support, respect, independence and valuing every person's ideas. Through our regular sessions, members strengthen communication, decision-making, problem-solving, social connection, emotional regulation and leadership. Members developed a group agreement to be on time, take turns, respect privacy, listen to each other, use the Feeling Wheel to share emotions, and ask for assistance when needed.

Members describe L.A.V.E. as a place where they can learn in a positive, non-confrontational way, be valued, contribute ideas, and connect with others.

Members value L.A.V.E. because it allows them to catch up, have meaningful conversations about feelings, participate in activities, and enjoy games and creative work together

Over the past year, L.A.V.E. members have taken part in a broad range of creative, learning and social activities. Highlights included visiting GOMA, making Members Medals to recognise each person's qualities and skills, creating a Joyful Garden, decorating coffee mugs, making sensory bottles, screen printing T-shirts and bags, cooking, making cards and seasonal craft, playing word games, and taking turns choosing music. These activities gave members opportunities to practise literacy, share interests, try new skills and celebrate each other's strengths.





Group members identified many achievements from the year:

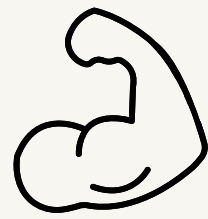
- Improved reading and writing, increased confidence, greater independence with word searches and writing tasks, learning new craft skills, sharing and taking turns, and continuing to attend each week with commitment and effort.
- Turning up consistently and giving their best.
- Working through challenges together. When an issue arose around members asking others to make their coffee, the group discussed it and agreed on a new rule that supported independence while still allowing members to ask for help when needed.

Looking ahead, L.A.V.E. members are keen to build on what is already working well. Priorities for the next 12 months include preparing a showcase with individual speeches and displays of the group's work, doing more cooking, word searches, crafting, art, painting, memory games and topic-based learning connected to members' interests.

Members also expressed interest in new experiences such as reading a book, visiting the city library, travelling by CityCat, going to train or motor museums, visiting a track yard, and holding sessions or picnics outdoors. Overall, L.A.V.E. continues to be a valued group where members learn, contribute, connect and grow together.



FITNESS GROUP



The adventure continues!

What a wonderful and adventurous year it has been for Fitness Group. Our members have continued to show great enthusiasm, commitment and encouragement for one another, creating a welcoming space where fitness feels fun, social and achievable. The friendships within the group have grown stronger, and it has been wonderful to see members motivating each other, sharing laughs and enjoying being active together.

Throughout the year, we revisited many favourite locations, including Sandgate, Shorncliffe, Boondall Wetlands, Roma Street Park and the City. We also enjoyed exploring new places such as the Story Bridge, the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens and the Brisbane River boardwalks. Whether the sun was shining or the rain meant putting on ponchos, the group continued to show up with a positive attitude and a strong team spirit.

Fitness Group continues to offer much more than exercise. It supports physical health, mental wellbeing, confidence, independence and social connection. Our end-of-term healthy cooking sessions have also been a special opportunity to come together, share a meal and celebrate the progress made throughout the year. This report recognises the energy, achievements and friendships that make Fitness Group such a meaningful part of our members' lives.



Voices from our Group

Member feedback shows that Fitness Group continues to be valued as a place for friendship, fun and connection. Members shared that they enjoy “going to different places,” “walking with friends,” “talking to friends,” and having “a lot of laughs” together.

Their comments highlight how important the social side of the group is, with walking becoming more than just exercise, it is a chance to connect, share jokes, play games, sing funny songs and enjoy time outdoors together.

Members also reflected on the positive impact Fitness Group has had on their health, confidence and independence. Goals included “trying to do as much steps as I can each week,” “help my fitness,” “losing weight,” and being “active and healthy.” Others spoke about feeling more confident using public transport, practising conversations with friends, leaving home more often and being able to spend more time outside in the community.

The feedback also shows the group's strong sense of teamwork and commitment. Members remembered highlights such as doing new walks, walking around beautiful places and continuing together even when it rained. These voices show that Fitness

Group supports not only physical wellbeing, but also confidence, independence, friendship and a genuine sense of belonging.





NUNDAH ALL STARS

This year the Nundah All Stars have been getting ready for the musical. The theme is “Music Through the Decades”. Members can choose to perform any song from any decade. We started rehearsals in March. Rehearsals were at Wavell Hall, now we are back at Mary Mackillop School.

Constituents, AnnMarie, Sam, CLP students and support workers have all done a great job. Everyone has helped the musical get where it is. When you do a musical of this scope it’s a lot of work. It doesn’t happen overnight. We’ve all done well and worked hard. We have planning meetings. We plan out who is going to sing what song, who is going to go up on stage, and we practice our songs. We choose our own individual song and practice it at rehearsals. We discuss and vote to choose the group songs.

The Scriptwriting Group write down who will be performing, plan how to introduce everyone, and plan the performance order. We have a group song, Act 1 performances, Act 2 performance, then another group song at the end. Craig makes the background behind each performer. He meets each person to find out what they want on their background. The Fundraising and Promotions Group get donations for the raffles. They make flyers and posters to let everyone know the performance date, where it’s held, and the start time.

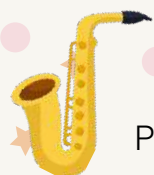
The Nundah All Stars performance is on Friday 25 September at Mary Mackillop College. At 5pm we have the BBQ and sell merchandise and raffle tickets. The performance starts at 6pm. This year we have to be finished by 9pm. We are lucky we can use the school. People know where it is and they can get to it easily. The school has good facilities. We can have a sausage sizzle and space to set up tables for merchandise and raffles.

“Come and watch the Nundah All Stars musical to enjoy yourself, have fun for a couple of hours, and don’t be worried about anything! Come and watch people have fun doing what they have rehearsed. See people who have worked hard since March. Everyone deserves a big round of applause for their hard work”.

“I like coming to Nundah All Stars, meeting people, going on stage to sing my songs. I enjoy the sausage sizzle and performing on stage to sing my song. I’m not embarrassed, I just walk up there. Come to the performance to watch us sing. It makes people happy. The audience can clap”.

“The musical is community. It’s about enjoying yourself with your friends and building community. It’s a group of very supportive people, you’re not doing it on your own, you’re not forced to do it”.

Written by Susan, Karen, Jonathan, and Emma



DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP



The Diversity Working Group continued our work to make CLA more inclusive, safe and welcoming. Throughout 2025-2026, the group shifted its focus from policy development towards policy implementation, staff engagement, education and organisational practice improvements.

Key Achievements:

Policy and guidance: The group finalised the Diversity and Inclusion Policy. The policy was approved and shared across CLA. The group also updated its Terms of Reference.

Diversity Action Plan: The plan set out clear priorities and actions. It guided the group's work during the year and helped members track progress.

Staff learning: The group developed and delivered an anti-racism workshop for CLA staff. The workshop focused on anti-racist practice and responding to radicalised beliefs. Feedback was collected to improve future learning.

Staff survey: The group reviewed the Diversity and Inclusion Survey results. A summary was prepared for staff. The findings were used to identify future actions and training needs.

Inclusive practice: The group supported a consistent and inclusive email signature. Staff could include flags, pronouns and links to inclusion information alongside an Acknowledgment of Country and campaigns that CLA have formally adopted. The group also shared Easy Read anti-discrimination resources.

Awareness and participation: The group coordinated activities for important cultural and diversity days, including Survival/Invasion Day, National Apology Anniversary, International Women's Day, Harmony Day, IDAHOBIT, National Reconciliation Week, Pride Month, Refugee Week, NAIDOC Week, Wear It Purple Day, International Day of People with Disability and Human Rights Day. The group developed calendars, allocated responsibilities across teams and embedded these activities into organisational communications and social media planning.

DWG welcomed new members and involved students in projects. This helped increase participation across CLA.

First Nations and reconciliation work

The group supported early work on First Nations identified roles, reconciliation planning and stronger commitments to cultural safety across CLA.





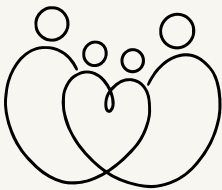
Grow Together

Megumi and Michael continued to work their counselling magic as part-time Accredited Mental Health Social Workers. More often out and about than behind a desk, they connected with people who can be harder to reach and who may not otherwise engage with mental health support.

645 Hours of Support	484 Sessions	45 People Supported
----------------------	--------------	---------------------

The team kept inclusion, responsiveness and quality firmly at the centre of their work. When the changing NDIS landscape threw a few curveballs, our skilled and creative practitioners explored Mental Health Care Plans, Medicare referral pathways and Employee Assistance Programs, while taking counselling into the community, including a parent morning tea at Aspley Special School.

Despite the team turning over every stone, the counselling service will close in September 2026 after it became clear the current funding environment was no longer a workable fit. We celebrate Megumi and Michael’s combined 26 years at CLA...a remarkable innings filled with warmth, humour and unwavering passion. We will miss Megumi’s gentle smile and Michael’s unmistakable laugh echoing through the office, but we cannot wait to see where these two remarkable people take their talents next.

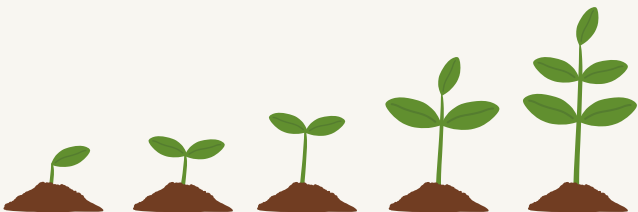


Parenting:

This year, the parenting team took a moment to look back at what made us proud, what gave us a few niggles and where we want to head next. One reflection summed it up perfectly: we often punch above our weight. With three team members making up almost two full-time roles, we may be small, but we are mighty.

899 Hours of Support	497 Sessions	19 Parents Supported	48 Children Supported	19 New Referrals and/or Enquiries
----------------------	--------------	----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------------------

The year brought its fair share of hurdles. We continued to navigate the twists and turns of the NDIS while many families faced housing pressures, rising fuel and living costs, and fewer supports to draw on. Even when the road became bumpy, the team kept showing up, adapting and advocating alongside families, often stretching support beyond what individual funding allowed. We are grateful to the committee for giving us the flexibility to step in where it mattered most.

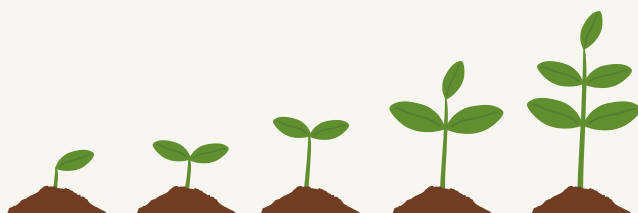


In June 2026, years of persistence paid off when Disability Services funded a new pilot project. Relief quickly made room for possibility and for the chance to ask: What could our work look like if we had a little more room to move? And so, Parent Advocacy, Connection and Early Support (PACES) was born. The name captures the heart of the pilot project: meeting families where they are, responding to what matters most to them right now, and walking alongside parents at their pace, in their way, and towards the goals that matter to them.

We may be one of the only programs in Australia doing this work, and demand is knocking from well beyond our doorstep. A data improvement project with Infoxchange helped us turn numbers into a much clearer story: the need is far greater than our current reach. In fact, 74% of referrals were declined because families lived outside our catchment, with enquiries travelling all the way from Sydney.

At the heart of it all are the parents who welcome us into their family lives—the good days, the hard days and everything in between. Their strength, resilience and determination continue to inspire us, as does their drive to make the path a little smoother for other parents. Our peer-parent group, Parenting to Thrive, brought this spirit to life through some standout moments:

- Taking Sydney by storm at the 2025 ASID Conference—made possible by group members and the wider CLA community rolling up their sleeves for several weekends of fundraising.
- Giving the Lived Experience Consultant role room to grow through opportunities including:
- Contributing to the National Advocacy Collective (NAC): Supporting Parents with Intellectual Disabilities.
- Partnering with UQ to employ two parents as peer researchers for the Empowering Peer Parent Advocacy Research Project.
- Sharing lived experience at Queensland Foster and Kinship Care’s monthly information panel for prospective foster carers, helping build understanding of intellectual disability and parenting while strengthening relationships with birth parents.





Skilling Queenslanders for Work

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) Program continued to achieve strong outcomes throughout the 2025/2026 financial year.

The 2025 Re-Gen Project exceeded its key performance indicators (KPIs), with 93% of trainees graduating with a Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management and 55% achieving employment outcomes. The Good Food Project also met its KPI targets, with 87% of participants successfully completing a Certificate II in Hospitality.

Both projects successfully engaged participants from diverse backgrounds, including migrants and refugees, people with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, young people transitioning from the child safety system, and individuals affected by family and domestic violence. We are pleased to report that both projects secured funding for 2026 and have already recorded a number of positive employment outcomes from their first intakes of the year.

The SQW team also experienced several personnel changes during the past year. Program Supervisor Christian Seja and Project Worker Wing Wu both moved on from Community Living Association. They were replaced by Emma Perske, who transitioned from the Community Living Program (CLP) team, and Paula Herrera, who has been involved with the Re-Gen Project since undertaking her student placement in 2024. The Re-Gen team also welcomed Laurence “Loz” Martin as a part-time Support Worker.

In addition to the positive outcomes achieved by participants and trainees, the Re-Gen Project continued to make a valuable contribution to the local environment and community through partnerships with organisations including Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, Virginia Bushcare, Pine Rivers Catchment Association, Beelarong Community Farm, Northside Connect, Hendra Pony Club and NCEC.

The SQW team looks forward to continuing to support participants in achieving positive education, employment and community outcomes throughout the remainder of the current funding period. The team remains committed to securing ongoing funding to ensure these valuable programs can continue to be delivered in 2027 and beyond.



Village Housing

Inclusive Living for a Stronger Community

Village Housing is a long-term housing program operated by CLA, providing affordable, secure, and well-maintained accommodation for participants of Community Living Association and other eligible individuals across North-East Brisbane.

The program is founded on an inclusive housing model that promotes independence, community participation, and positive social outcomes. Through a diverse tenancy portfolio and strong community connections, Village Housing supports residents to establish stable homes, build meaningful relationships, and live fulfilling lives within their local communities.

Property Portfolio and Asset Management

Village Housing manages a portfolio of 12 dwellings across North-East Brisbane, providing affordable housing options for individuals receiving low incomes, disability support payments, or pensions.

The portfolio comprises of:

6 standard units: accommodating 7 tenants

4 Crisis Accommodation Program (CAP) units: accommodating 6 tenants

2 houses: accommodating 3 tenants

To ensure properties remain safe, comfortable, and fit for purpose, a range of maintenance and improvement works were completed throughout the year, including:

Flooring replacement

New window coverings

Appliance upgrades

Fixture and amenity improvements

These upgrades contributed to improved tenant comfort, safety, and overall property presentation while supporting the long-term sustainability of the housing portfolio.

Village Housing also continued to provide rental assistance and subsidies to eligible tenants experiencing housing hardship, helping residents maintain stable and sustainable tenancies.

As demand for affordable housing continues to increase, Village Housing remains focused on strengthening housing outcomes, maintaining quality accommodation, and supporting residents to live independently while actively participating in their communities.



Crisis Accommodation Program (CAP)

Village Housing delivers the Crisis Accommodation Program (CAP) in partnership with the Queensland Department of Housing. The program provides short-term accommodation and practical housing support to individuals experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, or other circumstances that place their accommodation at risk.

CAP plays a vital role in supporting vulnerable community members by providing safe and secure accommodation, reducing the risk of homelessness, and assisting individuals to secure more stable long-term housing outcomes. Through person-centred support, the program helps residents strengthen independent living skills, improve housing stability, and build the confidence and capacity needed to achieve greater self-sufficiency and community participation.

In addition to accommodation, eligible participants may receive rental subsidies and financial support to assist them in accessing and maintaining housing within the private rental market.



Support Coordination

2025-2026 was another significant year for the Support Coordination Team. Amid ongoing changes within the NDIS environment, the team continued to support people and families to navigate increasing complexity, advocate for their rights and achieve outcomes that enhanced safety, stability, participation and quality of life.

Our impact at a glance for last financial Year (2025 - 2026)



The stories behind these numbers reflect the resilience, determination and aspirations of the people we support. Through relationship-based practice, collaboration and advocacy, constituents were supported to pursue greater choice, safety, connection and participation in their communities.

Safety and Security

- A constituent was able to remain living in their family home through access to appropriate housing modifications, maintaining important family and community connections.
- Improved collaboration across government departments, community and informal support networks strengthened safety and wellbeing outcomes for constituents with complex support needs.

Building Relationships

- Constituents were supported to make informed decisions that strengthened their personal safety and autonomy in relationships.
- Stronger circles of support enabled family members, friends and community connections to play a greater role in responding to constituents' needs during times of crisis.

Building Resources

- Constituents successfully accessed advocacy from their local Member of Parliament and community resources to address barriers affecting their NDIS funding and support arrangements.

- Families increased their preparedness for future decision-making through succession planning.

Building Knowledge

- Constituents who are under formal guardianship order were supported to express their preferences and participate in decisions affecting their housing, finances and support arrangements.
- Service providers increased their understanding and responsiveness to constituent needs through collaboration, shared planning and practice development.

Being, doing and becoming

- Constituents increased their participation in community life through employment, micro-business and meaningful social connections.
- Constituents pursued personal goals that reflected growing confidence, contribution and connection within their local communities.

As the NDIS continues to evolve, the Support Coordination Team will focus on supporting people to respond to change, strengthen informal and community networks, and build sustainable arrangements that promote long-term wellbeing. We will continue to advocate alongside constituents and families to ensure they have the information, relationships and resources they need to pursue the lives they choose.



The Support Coordination Team would like to acknowledge and say a big thank you to:

- Constituents, their families and supporters
- The Management Committee
- Tania and Eden for your guidance
- Finance and admin team – Scott, Sally, Sylvia, Jess P, Jenny, Mandy and Beulah
- IT team – Andrew and Will
- CLP, ARROS, Grow Together, Community Connections, BEROS and NCEC.

Thank You



COMMUNITY
LIVING ASSOCIATION

BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT SUPPORT, AFFIRM AND VALUE ALL PEOPLE

This report was compiled by placement students of CLA. We would like to extend our gratitude for CLA's continuous support, guidance and contributions to future generations of social workers.

Want more information? Contact us.

<https://www.communityliving.org.au/>

5 Nundah St, Nundah QLD 4012

(07) 3266 5633

