

ANNUAL REPORT


2022 / 2023





Acknowledgement of Country


Operation Sunshine WA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which it is situated and throughout Australia, and pay respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging. We acknowledge and respect their continued cultural and spiritual connection to Country and the ongoing impact of colonisation and displacement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





Contents

Message from the Chairperson	4
OSWA Overview	5
Our Year at a Glance	6
Initiatives	7
• Sunshine Packs	7
• Courage Kits	7
• Rise Packs	8
• Christmas Appeal	8
Our Reach	9
Highlights of 2023	10
• Westfield Local Heroes	10
• Fremantle Running Festival	10
• Christmas Gift Wrapping	11
• Officeworks Make a Difference Appeal	11
Volunteers	12
Financial Snapshot	14
OSWA Committee	15





Message from the Chairperson


The 2023 financial year brought a with it both significant challenges and exciting opportunities.

The economic crisis had a direct impact on the financial contributions and donations of items received. In addition, the same economic crisis has resulted in an increase in incidents of family and domestic violence, putting an increase on demand for the emergency packs we provide. Whilst an increase in women and children in crisis is never something we want to see, it has been heartwarming having our team rally together to continue providing support where needed.

We also saw some fantastic new opportunities, raising both funds and our organisations' profile. It was exciting to be invited to run the Christmas Gift Wrapping Stall at Westfield Carousel, to be the chosen charity partner for the Fremantle Running Festival, and the beneficiary of the Officeworks Make a Difference Appeal. All three opportunities allowing us to raise much needed funds along with the profile of our small but mighty organisation.

The Christmas gift wrapping and Fremantle Running Festival opportunities highlighted the incredible support base behind Operation Sunshine, with almost 100 volunteers giving their time at these events. We have also enjoyed our ability to utilise the generous space provided to us by Variety WA, allowing us to increase community engagement in volunteer sessions to create Sunshine Packs for children in need. We are incredibly grateful to Variety for providing us this much needed area to operate.

As we look ahead to the new year our focus is on growth, and ensuring we continue to meet the ever growing demand within the community. To do this we are prioritising securing our own premises, allowing us to consolidate our core initiatives into one dedicated space as well as increase community engagement and facilitate larger group volunteer opportunities. Additionally, we will be working on the creation of a sponsorship program targeted at corporate engagement and contribution. The combination of these elements is expected to increase our ability to fund, create, and distribute our various packs on demand to individuals and communities in which they are needed.





OSWA Overview

Vision

A society where victims of child abuse and family and domestic violence are not further disadvantaged or victimised through systematic and societal discriminatory practise.

Mission

Operation Sunshine WA exists to support women, children, young people, and families impacted by violence and abuse or crisis.

Values

Integrity

We are committed to the respectful, ethical, and dignified treatment of our members and the community and to promoting the rights of vulnerable community members

Respect

We respect the experiences, opinions, dignity, and abilities of every individual. From our committee, to our volunteers, the organisations and community groups we work with, and the community members we support.

Innovation

We embrace change, and look for ways to continually improve. We strive to ensure our initiatives are meeting the needs of the community we support.

Collaboration

We work collaboratively, fostering a strong team culture, partnering with other organisations, businesses, and community to achieve mutual goals.

Strategic Objectives

SUPPORT - for women, children, and families impacted or displaced by violence or crisis.

ADVOCATE - to create change in community attitudes and awareness of child protection and family and domestic violence in Australia.

EMPOWER - providing capacity building opportunities to create better life outcomes for women, children, and young people.



Our Year at a Glance



659
Christmas Gifts



484
Courage
Kits



1,796
Sunshine
Packs



141
Volunteers
Engaged



64
Rise
Packs

\$232,190
Material
Aid

Sunshine Packs

[illegible]

Each pack is designed to enhance the mental and emotional health and wellbeing of the child and assist in their journey of healing from trauma. The items included have each been carefully selected to meet a specific and important need. To create a sense of self-worth, preserve dignity, show they are valued and cared about, give comfort, and help alleviate the isolation and negative impact of displacement.

In domestic violence situations women often have to flee at short notice and take little to no possessions with them. They often arrive at crisis accommodation covered in blood, with torn clothing resulting from physical abuse they have escaped.

This year we were able to provide 484 Courage Kits to 11 different women's refuges and domestic violence support services, as well as 2 direct to recipient deliveries.



Rise Packs

Rise Packs were created in consultation with a group of young men at risk of homelessness engaged in a short term accommodation program, and are distributed to organisations supporting young people at risk of homelessness.

The packs contain basic hygiene products and personal care items including a towel and change of clothing to ensure basic needs are met when transient or living in crisis accommodation.

We provided 64 Rise Packs to 3 organisations providing youth homelessness accommodation.

Christmas Appeal

Each year we partner with multiple out-of-home care organisations to provide Christmas gifts to children and young people in out-of-home care across WA.

The gifts provide a sense of joy and excitement to these young people at a time when being separated from their families can be even more painful and amplify the negative emotional impact of their displacement.

This year we partnered with Accordwest, Department of Communities Armadale, Foundations Care, Mercy Care, Wungening, and Yorganop to provide Christmas gifts to 659 children in care.



Our Reach

In 2022/2023 financial year we provided support across the following areas of Western Australia:

Broome
Bunbury
Busselton
Derby
Fitzroy Crossing
Katanning
Kununurra
Mandurah
Narrogin
Newman
Perth Metropolitan Suburbs
Roebourne



Highlights of 2023

Westfield Local Heroes

One of the Operation Sunshine Committee, Helen Coles, was recognised for her countless hours of volunteer work and incredible commitment to helping women and children in need as a finalist in the Westfield Local Heroes Campaign at Carousel Shopping Centre.

An absolute highlight to see one of our committee members and the value of the work we do recognised, this opportunity also helped raise our profile and provided a much needed grant of \$5,000 towards our initiatives.



Westfield
Local Heroes

Finalist 2022

Awarded a \$5,000 grant

Fremantle Running Festival

On Sunday 27 November 2022 we took a team of 8 volunteers to run a hydration station at the Fremantle Running Festival. Chosen by Western Australian Marathon Club as the charity partner for the event, this gave our team an opportunity to engage with participants and assist with the running of the event.

Our volunteers were crucial to our ability to participate on the day, and put in a massive effort to ensure the participants had water available when passing our station. We are incredibly grateful and lucky to have such an amazing support base, who

step up when we need them and allow Operation Sunshine to benefit from opportunities like this. The event raised \$5,000 to be utilised across our various initiatives. We are grateful to Western Australian Marathon Club for supporting Operation Sunshine WA and allowing us to be a part of this fantastic community event.



Christmas Gift Wrapping

In December 2022 we were the charity partner for Westfield Carousel's Christmas Gift Wrapping Stall. The gift wrapping stall provided an opportunity to raise money, raise our organisations' profile, and increase volunteer participation.

For two weeks, from 11-24 December, we had 89 volunteers participate over 48 shifts, totalling 568 volunteer hours. Running the gift wrapping stall gave us an opportunity to engage with the community, and have conversations about the important work we do in and for the community. It also allowed us to meet more of the wonderful people who support us as they stepped forward to assist by volunteering at the stall. This was our biggest volunteer event of the year, and we were overwhelmed by the level of support we received.



Officeworks Make a Difference Appeal

Throughout June 2023, Officeworks raised money and awareness for Operation Sunshine in their Make a Difference Appeal. Across 8 stores in Western Australia, staff displayed posters and gave out flyers raising awareness for Operation Sunshine and the Sunshine Pack initiative. The teams in each of the stores also collected customer donations and sold various items in store to raise money for the appeal.

The end result was an incredible donation of \$44,559!

Although the donation would not be received until the next financial year, the appeal was a highlight for Operation Sunshine in the 2023/2023 financial year. We are incredibly grateful to the effort from all staff involved and to everyone who donated to the appeal.



Volunteers

As a 100% volunteer run charity, volunteers are vital to the work we do. We have an amazing network of people supporting us across various activities to contribute to our mission of supporting women, children, young people, and families impacted by violence and abuse or crisis. In 2022/2023 we have had approximately 141 volunteers participate in activities including; bag tag making, packing Sunshine Packs, packing Courage Kits, packing Rise Packs, wrapping gifts for our Christmas Appeal, gift wrapping at the gift wrapping stall, assisting at events, transporting deliveries, and picking up donations.

Our success as an organisation, and in meeting our objectives, is due to the contribution of our volunteers.



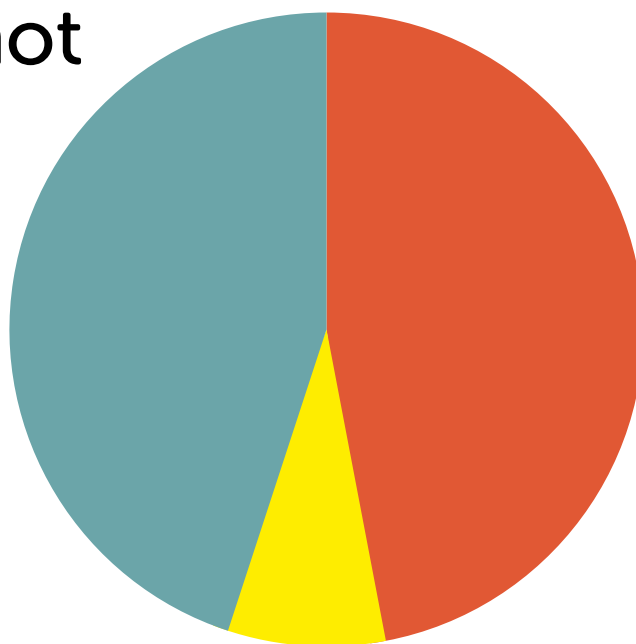


Financial Snapshot

Income

Grants
\$72,333.26

Donations
\$75,598.26



Fundraising
\$12,918.46

Christmas Appeal
\$4,090.48

Courage Kits
\$21,585.14

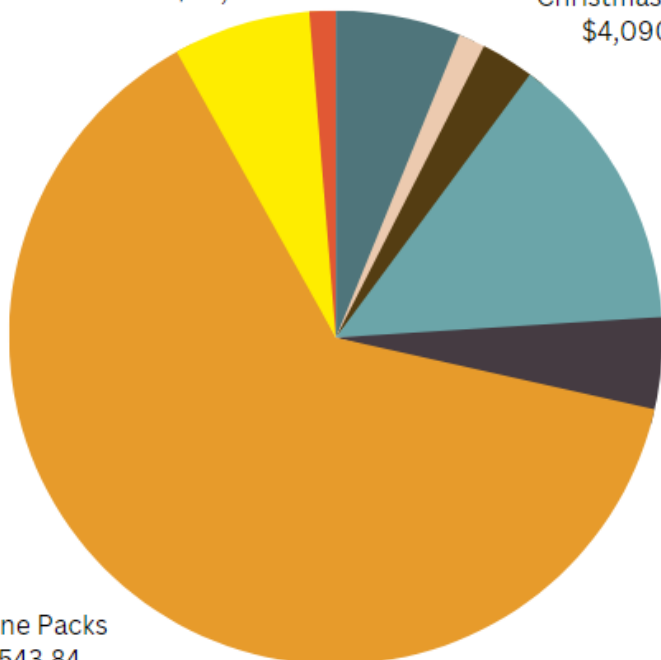
Rise Packs
\$7,057.20

Expenditure

Sunshine Packs
\$98,543.84

Storage Fees
\$10,580

Admin
\$9,598.73





OSWA Committee

Leah Atkinson - Founder and Chair

With a Bachelor of Social Science and Graduate Certificate in Human Services; Child and Adolescent Welfare, Leah has worked in the child protection sector for a number of years and serves as member of the Lived Experience Advisory Group on domestic violence for the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing.

Erin Tan - Secretary and founding member

Erin holds a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Business Law. Specialising in Risk and Compliance Erin has worked in the finance industry for 18 years and serves on a number of diversity and inclusion committees

Catherine Turner - Treasurer

A Chartered Accountant with Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Arts degrees, Cathy has a background in social services, auditing, and business administration. Cathy believes in community service and is committed to making a positive difference in the lives of women and children.

Helen Coles

Helen has a Bachelor of Nursing, a Graduate Diploma in Midwifery, and has contributed as co-author on numerous published midwifery journal articles. Helen is passionate about caring for women and their newborns and has spent over 10 years working in Western Australia's largest specialty hospitals.

Karen Leggett

Having obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree in English literature in the UK, Karen completed a Diploma of Education after migrating to Perth. Karen has been employed as a teacher with the Department of Education for 16 years and has taught in a range of primary schools.

Melissa Boag

Melissa is a Certified Professional Project Manager with experience in stakeholder engagement, estate and master planning, design coordination, and procurement, contract, and construction management. With 18 years in the construction industry, Melissa brings her problem solving and well-developed communication skills to the team.





www.operationsunshinewa.org.au



hello@operationsunshinewa.org.au



[operationsunshinewainc](https://www.facebook.com/operationsunshinewainc)



PO Box 206
Cannington WA 6987