

Bobby Goldsmith

Foundation

FY24/25

# Impact Report

For all people seeking progressive,  
supportive care



# Acknowledgement of Country

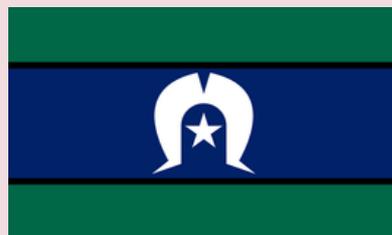
**Bobby Goldsmith Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work.**

We honour the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation (Sydney), the Dharug people (Parramatta), the Bundjalung people (Northern Rivers region) and the Kurna people (Adelaide).

We pay our deepest respects to Elders past and present and recognise the enduring strength, wisdom and cultural connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country.

We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.



This artwork is used with permission. The artist is anonymous and we acknowledge and respect the cultural ownership and creativity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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## Premier of New South Wales

### Re: Bobby Goldsmith Foundation 2024-25 Impact Report

On behalf of the Government and people of our State, I congratulate the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation on their achievements over the past 12 months.

For more than four decades, this Foundation has been a trusted source of care, advocacy and community for people living with HIV.

As Australia's longest running HIV charity and a registered NDIS provider, it also continues to meet the evolving needs of our community.

With 109 new clients now benefitting from its person-centred approach, this is a reminder that HIV remains a significant public health issue in our State.

The NSW Government is proud to support the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation, as a key partner in delivering our HIV strategy.

Your commitment to reducing stigma, improving mental health outcomes, and ensuring access to inclusive care is making a real and lasting difference.

Thank you for your work, and for continuing the legacy of Bobby Goldsmith and his friends.



The Hon Chris Minns MP  
Premier of the State of New South Wales  
in the Commonwealth of Australia



**TANYA PLIBERSEK MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR SYDNEY

Nick Lawson  
CEO  
[Nick.Lawson@bfg.org.au](mailto:Nick.Lawson@bfg.org.au)

Dear Nick,

**RE: Letter of support**

I am pleased to offer my strong support for the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) and to recognise its enduring contribution to the lives of people living with HIV.

For more than four decades, BGF has delivered compassionate, community-led support to some of Australia's most vulnerable people. From its origins in my electorate of inner-city Sydney to its expanding reach across New South Wales and South Australia, BGF has consistently delivered support with dignity, respect and care.

The Foundation's work aligns closely with the Australian Government's commitment to inclusive, person-centred social services. Whether helping individuals navigate the NDIS, tackling stigma and social isolation, or promoting mental health and wellbeing, BGF plays a vital role in ensuring no one is left behind.

I commend the BGF for its leadership, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of people living with HIV, and I look forward to seeing its important work continue to grow.

Yours sincerely,



**Tanya Plibersek MP**  
Federal Member for Sydney

13 August 2025



26 August 2025

Sent via:

### Letter of Support – Bobby Goldsmith Foundation

The Bobby Goldsmith Foundation is an extraordinary part of the Sydney community and has made a significant contribution to the lives of people living with HIV in Sydney.

Over 300 people in the electorate of Sydney are currently accessing the vital services provided by the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation. This speaks to the generosity and support provided by the Sydney community in standing by the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation for over forty years. The BGF highlights the enduring need to protect and advance HIV care and support.

The BGF's approach to HIV care is rooted in compassion, community, dignity, and solidarity, and continues to be a leading program for client-centred HIV care services.

I was honoured to unveil the NSW Blue Plaque for Bobby Goldsmith earlier this year, a crucial and permanent reminder of the lives lost and the courage of those to step up and care for one another in the face of such stigma.

I am grateful to have supported the BGF in successful funding applications, and I remain committed to working alongside the Foundation to ensure that people can access the support they need, when they need it.

I want to acknowledge the incredible work of the dedicated BGF team. The volunteers are the beating heart of the Foundation, many of whom come from my electorate.

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich  
Member for Sydney





The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Sydney  
**CLOVER MOORE AO**

### **Message from the Lord Mayor**

The Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) has had an incredible impact in our country since it was founded in 1984.

My electorate was the epicentre of the epidemic in the 1980s and '90s, and I saw the effects of HIV and AIDS on people firsthand. Many of my own friends became ill, and many passed away. I also saw how BGF's important work provided much-needed care and support to those affected.

So much has changed since those years, but BGF's work remains just as vital. I am pleased BGF's focus is now on empowering people living with HIV to live well, including its ongoing work with long-term survivors.

During the financial year 2024/2025, BGF supported 920 clients through 25,000 unique client interactions across all its services. More than 200 people living with HIV who access BGF's services live in the City of Sydney.

BGF is the only not-for-profit organisation in Australia providing frontline services and support to people living with HIV no matter their age, race, ethnicity or gender. I congratulate BGF for delivering compassionate and person-centred support so broadly within our community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clover Moore".

Clover Moore AO  
**Lord Mayor of Sydney**

# Who we are

**At Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF), we believe everyone deserves to live with dignity, connection and care – no matter their background, identity or lived experience.**

We are Australia's longest-running HIV charity and the only not-for-profit organisation providing frontline services for people living with HIV. For over 40 years, we've stood beside our clients, offering practical, emotional and financial support across New South Wales and South Australia.

Our story began in 1984, when Bobby Goldsmith – one of the first Australians to die from an AIDS-related illness – was cared for at home by a group of devoted friends and loved ones. Their compassion sparked a movement – if support could be provided for one person, it could be provided for many.

Today, BGF continues that legacy.

In 2024, we expanded our services to include disability support through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), welcoming clients from all walks of life – especially those living with HIV, LGBTQIA+ communities and all people seeking progressive, supportive care.

We are a registered not-for-profit with no political or religious affiliations.

Our mission is simple – to help people live well on their own terms through tailored, compassionate support.



# Who was Bobby?

**Bobby Goldsmith was a beloved member of Sydney's gay community and became the first publicly recognised person in New South Wales to pass away from an HIV/AIDS related illness.**

Diagnosed during the early days of the AIDS epidemic, when treatment options were extremely limited, Bobby and his partner were pioneers in advocating for better care for AIDS patients. His passing in 1984 led to the creation of Bobby Goldsmith Foundation.

Born in Hurstville, Sydney in 1946, Bobby's career path was unconventional. After completing high school, he briefly pursued teaching before moving into public service, primarily because it allowed him to enjoy his recreational activities.

Bobby was a charismatic and generous figure in Sydney's social scene, known for his excellent sense of humour. He had a passion for classical music and was a prominent social figure during a particularly vibrant period in Sydney's history, often engaging in a busy schedule of night clubbing and dancing.

Beyond his social life, Bobby was deeply involved in gay rights activism. He participated in the first Mardi Gras march in 1978 and many other protests and meetings advocating for LGBTQIA+ rights.

Bobby combined his love for swimming with his activism by representing Australia in the inaugural Gay Olympics in San Francisco in 1982. At the Games, he played a crucial role in supporting other gay and lesbian athletes and personally won 17 of the Australian team's 21 medals.

A few months after the Games, Bobby was diagnosed with HIV. With limited medical treatment available at the time, his partner Ken and many friends rallied to provide him with the dignity, love and care he needed at home.

They organised a fundraising event at the Midnight Shift on Oxford Street, raising over \$6000 – far more than was needed for Bobby's care.

Bobby passed away on 18 June 1984, at his home in Surry Hills, marking the first publicly acknowledged HIV/AIDS death in NSW.

In his honour, the group decided to continue their efforts and in July 1984, Bobby Goldsmith Foundation was established to provide community-based care, financial and practical support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Today, Bobby Goldsmith Foundation is Australia's longest-running HIV charity, continuing to provide the same individualised care that Bobby's friends first offered him all those years ago.

# Honouring Bobby's legacy

In June 2025, Bobby Goldsmith was honoured with a NSW Blue Plaque – recognising his legacy as a pioneer in HIV advocacy and LGBTQIA+ rights. The plaque was unveiled outside Universal Nightclub on Oxford Street, Darlinghurst – the site of the first BGF fundraiser in 1984.

The NSW Government's Blue Plaques program celebrates individuals who have shaped history and culture in NSW.

Installed at sites of personal or public importance, each plaque tells a story of courage, creativity or community impact. Bobby's inclusion acknowledges not only his life, but the powerful act of compassion that led to the founding of BGF.



Scan the QR code to learn more about Bobby and the Blue Plaques program

“Bobby Goldsmith was a hugely influential figure at a time when the LGBTQIA+ community was fighting for its fundamental rights and forging its identity in Australia.”

— The Hon. Penny Sharpe, NSW Minister for Heritage

# Our mission and values

**At BGF, our mission is to help people living with HIV – and all those seeking progressive, supportive care – to thrive.**

We don't just talk about our values. We live them. Every service we deliver, every conversation we have and every decision we make is guided by the principles that define who we are and what we do.

## Inclusivity

We celebrate the unique backgrounds, experiences and strengths each person brings to our community. We promote diversity and treat everyone with respect and courtesy.



*“We supported a young man with autism who struggled to leave his home. By consistently providing the same support worker, we built trust and helped him feel safe. Now, he visits the local shops, has a new phone and even goes to the hairdresser.”*

— Esther, Care Liaison Officer

## Compassion

We genuinely care about the wellbeing and potential of our clients and our team. We understand and empathise with their experiences and challenges, offering support without judgement.



*“Another client, who uses a wheelchair, asked for regular outings. Now he enjoys meals out, trips to Chinatown and the Sydney Fish Market. His family says he's happier and more engaged than ever.”*

— Glenn, Care Liaison Officer

## Empowerment

We are committed to helping everyone feel supported to achieve their goals. We enable our clients and team members to live fulfilling, self-directed lives.

*“When a client's Disability Support Pension was unfairly rejected, our team advocated for him - and won. We helped him manage debt, secure stable housing and furnish his new home. Today he's rebuilding his life through our Health and Wellbeing programs.”*

— Emma, Financial Counsellor

## Solidarity

We actively listen and empathise with our clients and colleagues. We put ourselves in the shoes of others to build stronger, more supportive communities.



*“One client's complex mental health challenges meant he was often dismissed by other services. At BGF, we listened without judgement, stood by him through setbacks and helped him reclaim stability and dignity.”*

— Hannes, Alcohol and Other Drug Case Manager

These values aren't just words on a page but the foundation of everything we do, every day.

# A message from our President

**It has been a privilege to serve as President of Bobby Goldsmith Foundation and in my first year in this role, I've had the opportunity to witness the strength of BGF's mission in action – through the dedication of our staff, the resilience of our clients and the unwavering commitment of my fellow Board members.**

I extend my sincere thanks to each of my colleagues on the Board for their time, expertise and shared belief in the importance of inclusive, community-led care. I would also like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of BGF's staff. Across every team, and especially among frontline workers, I have seen a deep commitment to care, professionalism and compassion.

*“The work of BGF staff is not always easy, but it is always done with integrity and skill. It is their expertise and humanity that bring BGF's mission to life everyday.”*

This year, our governance structures have continued to provide a strong foundation for BGF's work. Our sub-committees have played a critical role in ensuring oversight across finance, risk, strategy and service delivery.



Their contributions have helped guide key decisions and ensure BGF remains accountable, transparent and aligned with its values.

As a Board, we have also supported the evolution of BGF's Strategic Orientations 2024-2028 - a bold and considered roadmap that will guide the organisation's growth over the coming years.

This strategy reflects our shared commitment to evolving with purpose, deepening our impact and ensuring that BGF remains a trusted provider of support for people living with HIV and those seeking inclusive disability care.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on strengthening our governance, investing in our people and ensuring that BGF continues to lead with compassion, integrity and clarity of purpose.

It is an honour to be part of this next chapter in BGF's journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla Treloar'.

Professor Carla Treloar AM  
President  
Bobby Goldsmith Foundation

# A message from our Acting CEO

**This year, Bobby Goldsmith Foundation supported more than 920 people living with HIV across New South Wales and South Australia — delivering over 25,000 client interactions through case management, financial counselling, health and wellbeing programs, alcohol and drug support and NDIS-accredited disability services.**

These numbers reflect more than just activity. They speak to the trust our community places in us, the complexity of the challenges our clients face and the dedication of our team to meet those challenges with compassion, skill and care.

In FY24/25, we welcomed 110 new clients living with HIV — highlighting the ongoing need for our services. We expanded our services in South Australia, launched new wellbeing programs in the Northern Rivers and deepened our support for priority populations in Western Sydney. We also began preparing for aged care accreditation, recognising the growing needs of older people living with HIV and the gaps in existing service systems.

Our financial year was marked by both growth and challenge. Operating revenue increased to \$4.85 million, driven by strong NDIS income and a revitalised fundraising program. However, operating costs rose significantly, reflecting the real cost of delivering high-quality, person-centred care in a complex and evolving environment.



We ended the year with an operating deficit of \$1.27 million — a signal of the pressures facing community organisations like ours.

In response, we undertook a major organisational restructure, merging teams, redefining roles and streamlining operations to ensure long-term sustainability. These changes were difficult but necessary. They also reaffirmed the strength of our workforce — a group of purpose-driven individuals who bring empathy, expertise and resilience to their work every day.

We invested in our people through new training modules, updated policies and a refreshed recognition program. We launched our annual staff engagement survey, which showed that over 97% of employees feel proud to work at BGF and find meaning in their roles. We also welcomed new Community Support Workers in South Australia and the Northern Rivers, strengthening our local presence and peer-led care model.

Our fundraising efforts saw renewed momentum, with over \$750,000 raised through appeals, events and donor engagement. We received generous bequests and secured multiple sources of grant funding — a testament to the generosity of our supporters and the strength of our partnerships.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to expand our support for older Australians through aged care service delivery. This marks a significant milestone in our journey, allowing us to formally serve clients eligible for government-funded aged care services — a growing and multifaceted cohort. As the average age of our clients continues to rise, we are committed to ensuring that no one falls through the cracks due to eligibility gaps or systemic barriers.

We will also continue to invest in fee-for-service activity, strengthen our regional presence and develop new programs that reflect the evolving needs of our community.

None of this would be possible without our staff, volunteers, partners and donors. Thank you for standing with us — for believing in our mission and for helping us build a future where everyone can thrive.



Mike Searle  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Bobby Goldsmith Foundation

## Leadership update

In 2025, we farewelled CEO and Company Secretary Nick Lawson, after nearly nine years. Nick's leadership helped shape BGF through a period of growth and transformation.

Reflecting on his time, Nick said "I am very proud of the service and support that BGF offers to some of the most marginalised members of Australian society. Standing alongside our courageous clients and working with such a committed team, has been an honour."

Nick's legacy includes expanding BGF's presence in Western Sydney, Northern NSW and South Australia, enhancing our NDIS work and leading BGF through our 40th anniversary.

BGF President Professor Carla Treloar expressed gratitude for Nick's contributions.

"Nick has had a profound impact on the mission BGF proudly serves. His leadership strengthened our services across HIV support, disability and emerging aged care needs and he leaves behind a strong organisation grounded in dignity and compassion."

# Strategic Orientations

Our Strategic Orientations 2024-2028 outline a bold and forward-thinking roadmap that builds on our legacy while responding to the changing needs of the people and communities we support.

*“BGF’s Strategic Orientations reflect our commitment to evolving with purpose - expanding our services, deepening our impact and remaining a trusted voice for the communities we serve.”*

— Nick Lawson, former CEO

This strategy affirms our commitment to people living with HIV while expanding our role as a trusted provider of disability services. It reflects our belief that everyone deserves access to inclusive, high-quality support that enables them to thrive.

Over the next four years, our work will be guided by three strategic goals:



Improving quality of life through high-impact programs and services that are person-centred, culturally responsive and grounded in lived experience.



Contributing to an enabling policy environment by advocating for the social determinants of health, amplifying client voices and working in partnership to influence systems-level change.



Building a strong, effective and sustainable organisation through workforce development, governance, strategic investment and a commitment to continuous improvement.

*“This strategy is more than a plan - it’s a promise to our clients, our supporters and our team. It sets a clear direction for how we continue to lead with compassion, integrity and inclusion.”*

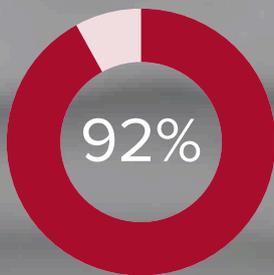
— Carla Treloar, BGF President

# HIV in Australia today

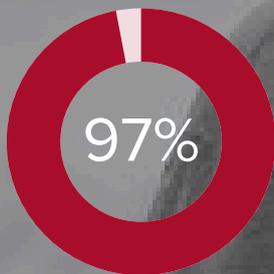
Australia continues to make progress in the response to HIV – but the journey is far from over.

At BGF, we support people living with HIV every day and we know that behind every statistic is a person navigating stigma, health challenges and the need for compassionate care.

There are an estimated 30,010 people living with HIV in Australia today. While treatment options and outcomes are good, late diagnoses and inequalities persist – for people from all communities.



of people living with HIV are aware of their status

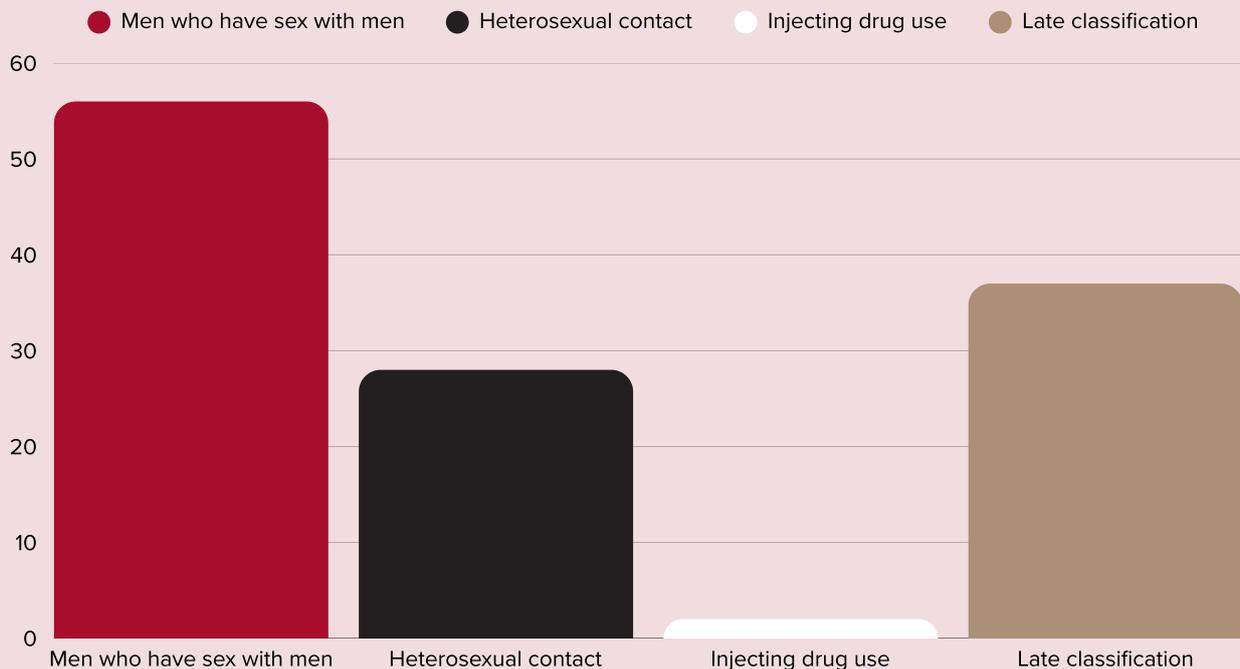


of those diagnosed are receiving treatment



of those on treatment have an undetectable viral load

# New HIV notifications



**HIV-related stigma remains a barrier to care despite progress in treatment and awareness. Stigma continues to impact the lives of people living with HIV in Australia.**

Findings from the HIV Futures 10 survey reveal:

**30%** 

of participants reported experiencing negative treatment by health workers in the previous year

**47%** 

said people did not want to have sex or an intimate relationship with them because of their HIV

To avoid negative treatment:

**44%** 

chose not to disclose their HIV status to health workers

**26%** 

delayed accessing health care

**44%** 

did not attend a follow-up appointment

These figures highlight the ongoing need for inclusive, trauma-informed care and the importance of BGF's work in reducing stigma and improving access to support.

## Working with priority populations

**While HIV rates are declining overall, some communities continue to face disproportionate challenges.**

People born in South-East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean experience higher rates of HIV and are more likely to be undiagnosed.

In fact, an estimated 23% of people living with HIV born in South-East Asia, for example, are unaware of their status.

BGF is responding to these inequities through our expanded services in Western Sydney, where we work alongside culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities to provide tailored support.

Whether through case management, financial counselling or health and wellbeing programs, our team is committed to meeting people where they are – with respect and care.

We know that stigma, language barriers and inequality can prevent people from accessing the support they need. That's why our work in Western Sydney and throughout NSW and SA is grounded in community connection.

### Linh's story

**Linh, a 30-year-old woman living with HIV, came to BGF during a time of deep uncertainty.**

Originally from Vietnam, she was facing an unstable housing situation, financial hardship and food insecurity. Linh had also experienced sexual harassment and was struggling with her mental health.

With the support of her BGF case worker, Linh was connected to affordable housing options, legal referrals and visa support. She was also referred to BGF's Health and Wellbeing programs and supported in accessing other essential services. Linh's story reflects the complex challenges faced by many people living with HIV from CALD backgrounds – and the importance of community-led, compassionate support.



Note: name has been changed and stock image used to protect client privacy.

## Disability in Australia today

**Living with a disability in Australia means navigating a world that, despite becoming more inclusive, still presents daily challenges.**

From accessing health care and housing to finding meaningful employment and community connection, people with a disability often face barriers that others don't see.

Today, one in six Australians live with a disability. That's 4.4 million people, each with their own story, strengths and support needs. Disability can be physical, intellectual, sensory, psychosocial or neurological – and for many, it intersects with other aspects of identity, including culture, gender, sexuality and health needs.

**50%**

of Australians aged 65+ live with a disability

**40%**

of people with a disability need formal support services

**37%**

of NDIS participants identify autism as their primary disability

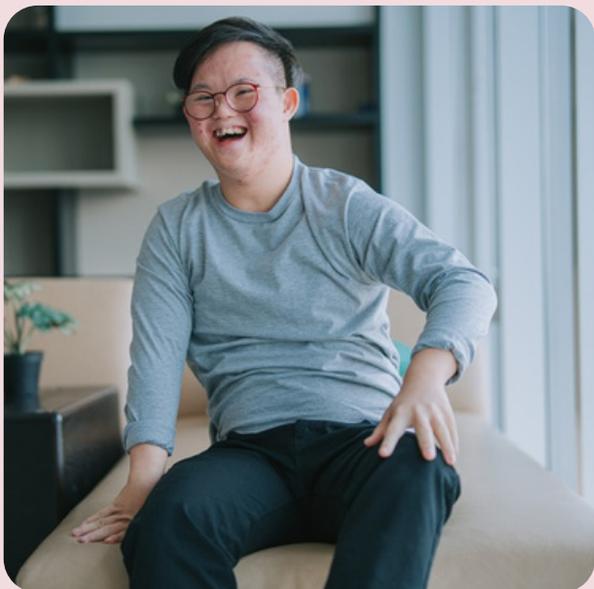
**9.2%**

of NDIS participants are from CALD backgrounds

**7.9%**

of NDIS participants identify as First Nations

The NDIS supports over 610,000 Australians and at BGF we support people living with a disability to live well – especially those who also live with HIV, are part of the LGBTQIA+ community or come from culturally diverse backgrounds. Our services are tailored, compassionate and grounded in lived experience.



We're proud to be an NDIS-accredited organisation, but our work goes beyond compliance. It's about dignity, choice and connection.

# How we help

**We support people to live well – whether they're living with HIV, navigating a disability or seeking inclusive, progressive care.**

Our services are tailored to each person's needs, goals and circumstances and delivered with compassion, dignity and respect.

We work across NSW and SA, walking alongside clients from the moment they reach out, helping them overcome challenges and build a life of connection and choice.

## HIV services

We provide case work and management, financial counselling, alcohol and drug support and uplifting health and wellbeing programs. We understand the impact of stigma, isolation and mental health challenges – and we're here to help people thrive, not just survive.

## Alcohol and drug support

We offer confidential, non-judgemental support for people navigating substance use. Our team helps clients manage triggers, access counselling and build healthier routines – always with a focus on harm reduction and personal empowerment.

## Financial counselling

We help clients tackle debt, access superannuation when eligible and feel more in control of their money. Our team advocates with banks, energy providers and government agencies and provides hands-on support with budgeting and financial skills.

## Health and wellbeing programs

From yoga and cooking workshops to peer-led social groups and creative therapies, our programs are designed to uplift, connect and empower. We support long-term survivors, younger people living with HIV and anyone else living with HIV who are seeking community and connection.

*"I would have no hesitation in recommending these programs to others. It helps restabilise social skills and being able to work with others."*

— Anonymous

## Disability support

We deliver NDIS supports through our Community Support program. Our team provides in-home care, transport to appointments, help with daily tasks and social connection. We specialise in supporting people from LGBTQIA+ communities and those with complex needs, but we also welcome people from all walks of life.

*“At BGF, we help clients cut through the red tape and reconnect with the world. The first step is the hardest - but once you meet us, you’ll feel at home.”*

— Frank, Community Support Worker

BGF is more than a service provider. We’re a partner, walking alongside our clients as they take steps towards a brighter future.

# Our impact

**In 2024-25, BGF supported 920+ people living with HIV across NSW and SA – providing tailored, compassionate care that meets people where they are.**

We delivered more than 25,000 unique client interactions through our programs and services, including HIV case management, financial counselling, alcohol and drug support, health and wellbeing programs and NDIS-accredited disability support.

This year, 110 new clients reached out to BGF for the first time – a reminder that our work continues to meet the emerging needs of those in our community.

## BGF in South Australia

**In SA, BGF continues to provide vital support to people living with HIV.**

This year, 125 South Australians received support, primarily through financial assistance. Our presence in the state has grown steadily, thanks to the dedication of our team, including Jo Morgan, who was recently recognised by the Positive Ageing Group.

Jo and BGF were awarded a certificate of appreciation for “the incredible work in support of the SA HIV positive community” and included in the South Australian HIV/AIDS Honour Roll for dedicated service.



Now in its third year, the ARTsters program continues to thrive, offering clients a creative outlet and a sense of community and connection. Artworks have been displayed at several community events and plans are underway for a dedicated ARTsters exhibition in the future.

Importantly, BGF continues to offer community support to people living with HIV.

This work is critical in bridging the gap for clients waiting for NDIS and My Aged Care assistance, ensuring that no one falls through the cracks during this transition period.

## BGF in Western Sydney

**In Western Sydney, BGF continues to provide life-changing support to people living with HIV who are navigating complex challenges – from housing insecurity and mental health to domestic and family violence.**

Jay's story is one of resilience, courage and recovery. After fleeing a violent domestic partnership and experiencing homelessness, Jay was referred to BGF for case management in early 2025. With support from his daughter, Jay relocated but faced unsafe temporary accommodation and significant trauma. BGF worked in close collaboration with our sector colleagues from Penrith Sexual Health, Link Wentworth Housing, HOMES NSW as well as the NSW Police to advocate for safe housing, access to victim support services and trauma-informed care.

Through coordinated referrals, Jay was placed on a high-priority housing register, granted an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) and supported to access funding. BGF also assisted Jay in securing the Disability Support Pension and accessing his superannuation on compassionate grounds to enable vital dental and eye care that has helped rebuild his confidence.

Today, Jay is safely housed, employed and socially connected. His journey reflects the importance of culturally safe, person-centred support – and the power of collaboration between service providers.



BGF's work in Western Sydney continues to provide care for people from diverse backgrounds, especially those facing systematic barriers. As demand grows, so too does the need for integrated services that meet people where they are.

## BGF in the Northern Rivers

**BGF continues to deliver tailored, compassionate support in the Northern Rivers, shaped by the needs of the region and grounded in over a decade of local service delivery.**

With around 80 clients across the Northern NSW and Mid-North Coast Local Health Districts, BGF provides intensive support to up to 10 clients at any one time, alongside ongoing support through light-touch case work and regular social catchups.

The Northern Rivers is home to the highest age demographic of people living with HIV in NSW and many clients face intersecting challenges including social isolation, poverty, disability and housing insecurity. Our work this year has seen permanent housing for two clients and safe temporary housing for many others. We continue to have strong relationships with DCJ Homes, local housing providers and several homelessness services.

We also launched a new cooking program and developed a client-led support group, which hosts regular social gatherings. These initiatives help grow our community, reduce isolation and ensure our clients receive support tailored to their needs.



# Our clients

## Roger's story

### **Roger was facing a difficult chapter in his life.**

Living with HIV for over a decade, he found himself isolated, without stable housing and struggling to manage his health. The physical toll of long-term treatment had begun to affect his mobility and he was relying on government support to get by.

With help from BGF, Roger was connected to emergency accommodation and later supported into a more permanent home.

His case worker helped him navigate housing applications, secure basic furnishings and access food relief. Regular check-ins ensured his housing remained stable and BGF also supported him in preparing for employment—helping him write a resume and identify job opportunities aligned with his skills.

With stable housing, access to food and employment support, Roger is now rebuilding his life with greater independence and renewed confidence.



*“With stable housing and support, I'm rebuilding my life with confidence and independence.”*

## Amina's story

**Amina is a young woman from Western Sydney, raising children while managing the realities of life with HIV.**

Despite working part-time in a caring profession, she found herself overwhelmed by rising living costs, limited financial support and the emotional strain of doing it alone.

When things became too difficult to manage, Amina turned to BGF. Her case worker helped her access practical support – food relief, financial guidance and assistance with essential household items. She was also connected to mental health services and supported in her search for more stable housing.

Amina now has access to essential supports, improved financial stability and is working toward securing long-term housing for her family.



*“BGF helped me find stability - for myself and my children - when I felt like I had nowhere else to turn.”*

## Theo's story

**Theo has lived with HIV for many years, carrying the weight of past trauma and the challenges of ageing with a complex health history.**

Living in regional NSW, he found himself without stable housing, disconnected from community and struggling with his mental health.

When Theo connected with BGF, his case manager worked alongside him to build a foundation of support.

He was referred to mental health services, assisted with applications for housing and disability support and helped access medical care.

BGF also provided financial support and helped Theo establish daily routines to bring structure and stability back into his life. With housing, health and financial supports now in place, Theo is living with greater stability and continues to engage in services that support his wellbeing.



*“Having structure, support and someone to walk alongside me has made all the difference.”*

## Darren's story

**Darren has lived with HIV since the 1990s and continues to navigate the challenges that come with ageing, health complications and living alone.**

He works part-time and lives in public housing, where recent issues have forced him into temporary accommodation.

Feeling isolated and alone, Darren reached out to BGF. Our team helped him access community programs to rebuild social connections and advocated for clearer communication around his housing situation.



Temporary accommodation was extended and Darren was linked with social groups to help him reconnect and feel less alone.

Darren now has secure temporary accommodation, renewed social connections and ongoing support to manage his housing situation.

*“I feel less alone now. I've found connection and I know I'm supported.”*

## Shane's story

**Shane has spent much of his life working in the arts, sharing his love of performance with young people.**

Living with HIV and several other health conditions, he's faced periods of instability and uncertainty – most recently when he was given notice to vacate his home with only a few weeks to find somewhere new.



Feeling overwhelmed, Shane and his BGF case worker navigated the housing system together, coordinating his move and financial support options. During moments of distress, BGF provided emotional support and practical guidance, helping Shane to stay focused and hopeful.

With BGF's help, Shane has now secured new housing and continues to access support that helps him manage his health and wellbeing.

*“BFG helped me stay hopeful during one of the most uncertain times in my life.”*

## Ray's story

**Ray lives in regional NSW and has faced a number of health and financial challenges in recent years.**

An acquired brain injury and an unmanaged diabetes diagnosis made daily life difficult. Housing insecurity also added to the stress.

With support from BGF, Ray was able to resolve outstanding debts, secure a new rental property and access health services to better manage his condition.

He was also supported in applying for aged care services and is now looking to start part-time work in his local community.

Ray now lives in a safer, more stable home and has improved his health management.



*“I've got a safer home, better health and the chance to work again - things I didn't think were possible.”*

# Our people

BGF's impact is driven by a dedicated team of professionals and volunteers who bring compassion, expertise and purpose to everything they do.

Our workforce in FY24/25 included:

16



full-time permanent staff

22



part-time permanent staff

16



casual staff

54



total team members

Our team work across offices in Sydney, Parramatta, the Northern Rivers region and Adelaide, extending our reach and providing comprehensive support to communities well beyond these locations.



This year, we launched recruitment initiatives in SA and the Northern Rivers, expanded our mental health psychosocial safety training and improved our Surry Hills office space to create a more welcoming environment for our clients and team members.

The BGF team remain highly engaged:

**97%** of staff say their job provides a sense of meaning and purpose



**97%** feel proud to tell people they work for BGF



**1.7%** staff attrition rate remains low



BGF's people are more than staff – they're advocates and allies who are proud of the work they do every day to support our clients and communities.



## Meet Hannes - Alcohol and Other Drug Case Manager

**Hannes is part of BGF's frontline team, working with clients who are navigating some of the most complex and challenging moments of their lives.**

As an Alcohol and Other Drug Case Manager, he supports people living with HIV who are also managing substance use, mental health issues and housing insecurity.

Hannes has helped clients recover from addiction, find safe housing, reconnect with services and re-enter the workforce. His work is a testament to the power of compassion, person-centred care and to the impact BGF staff make every day.

*“Many of my clients are in crisis when they come to us. My role is to walk alongside them - to advocate, to listen and to help them take steps towards stability, whatever that looks like for them.”*



# Our patrons

## Ita Buttrose AC OBE

**Ita Buttrose has been a dedicated supporter and friend of Bobby Goldsmith Foundation since the 1980s.**

Her longstanding relationship with BGF was formally recognised in 2013 when she was made an Honorary Life Member and again in 2023 when she was appointed co-patron.

A distinguished media figure and public health advocate, Ita has shown unwavering commitment to the HIV/AIDS sector. As Chair of the National Advisory Committee on AIDS during the 1980s, she played a pivotal role in shaping Australia's national response to the epidemic.



Ita continues to champion compassion, education and understanding—highlighting her enduring commitment to improving the lives of people affected by HIV/AIDS.

## Hamish Macdonald

**Hamish Macdonald is an award-winning journalist who has covered wars, disasters and major world events. He is the host of ABC Radio Sydney's Morning program and the co-host of 'Global Roaming' on ABC Radio National.**

Hamish has won numerous awards including a Walkley for current affairs journalism and was named Young Journalist of the Year by Britain's Royal Television Society.

He joined BGF as co-patron in August 2024.



## Farewell to The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG

**In October 2024, we farewelled The Hon. Michael Kirby after more than two decades as patron.**

Michael's leadership, compassion and unwavering support have been instrumental in shaping BGF's legacy.

Alongside his partner Johan van Vloten, Michael stood with BGF through some of the most challenging years of the HIV epidemic, offering wisdom, advocacy and hope.

We thank Michael and Johan for their extraordinary service and enduring legacy.



Scan the QR code to view Michael and Johan's farewell message

# We remember



David Polson  
1954 - 2025

**David Polson AM was a trailblazer, a tireless advocate and a cherished friend of BGF.**

As one of the first 400 people in Australia diagnosed with HIV, David faced the fear and uncertainty of the early epidemic with extraordinary courage and grace.

Over nearly three decades, David participated in 28 HIV drug trials – more than almost anyone globally – enduring lasting side effects to help pave the way for the lifesaving treatments available today. His contribution to the development of triple therapy changed countless lives, yet David never saw himself as a hero. He simply believed in doing what was right.

David's advocacy extended far beyond clinical trials. He shared his story publicly for over 28 years, challenging stigma and inspiring change.

He was a proud BGF ambassador, a community champion recognised by NAPWHA and a passionate supporter of Qtopia and memorials honouring LGBTQIA+ communities affected by discrimination.

In 2023, David was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to community health through HIV education and advocacy. That same year, he received the HIV Hero award at the ACON Honour Awards.

Despite his extraordinary contributions, David lived modestly. He was a gracious host, a loyal friend and a joy to be around –outrageously funny, wickedly clever and always kind. His ability to make others laugh was matched only by his generosity of spirit.

David passed away in February 2025. His legacy lives on in every life changed by his advocacy, every treatment made possible by his courage and every person who finds strength in his story.

We remember David with love, gratitude and deep respect.

# Your support

For more than 40 years, BGF has walked alongside people living with HIV because of the kindness and generosity of those who give. From one-off donations to lasting legacies, our work is only possible thanks to a community that continues to give, year after year.

NSW Health

**\$2,309,400**

This vital funding supports BGF's core services and strategic alignment with the NSW HIV Strategy

Individuals and businesses

**\$238,088.41**

These contributions come from generous individuals and corporate partners who believe in BGF's mission and the power of grassroots care

Funding and grants

**\$213,700**

These funds were secured through competitive grants and philanthropic partnerships that recognise the value of BGF's programs and services

Bequests

**\$213,282.58**

Legacy gifts from compassionate supporters have helped ensure our long-term impact and sustainability

Events

**\$109,688.97**

These events brought people together in celebration and generosity, showing the joy of giving

Community groups

**\$72,325.99**

Local organisations and grassroots groups show the love and care that exists for BGF in the local community

This year BGF advanced its fundraising strategy through a combination of high-impact events and targeted appeals, strengthening donor engagement, expanding reach and securing vital funding to support our programs and services.

## The Red Ball Gala Auction

**In October, BGF continued its 40th anniversary celebrations with a spectacular evening at Sydney Town Hall for The Red Ball Gala Auction.**

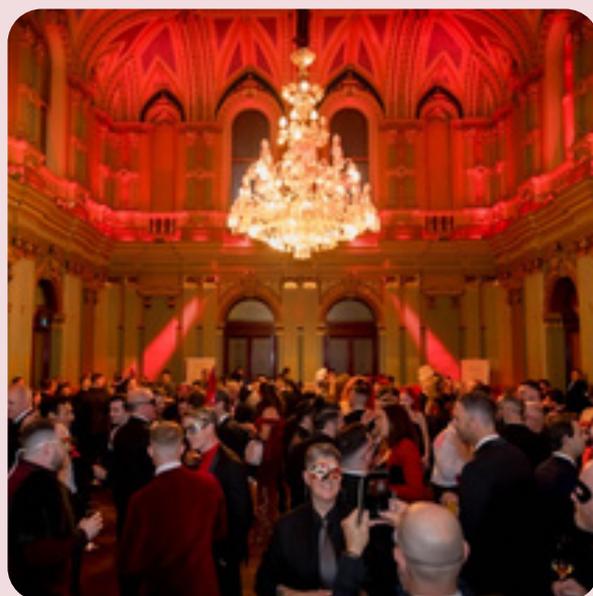
Hosted by BGF ambassador Etcetera Etcetera and comedian Jackie Loeb, the event brought together over 200 guests—including special guest and newly appointed BGF patron Hamish Macdonald—for a night of celebration, generosity and shared purpose.

The evening also honoured BGF ambassador Matt Rule, recipient of the Simon Dunn HIV Champion Award, recognising his outstanding advocacy and support for people living with HIV.

The Red Ball raised over \$100,000—our most successful fundraiser of the year. These funds directly support BGF’s programs and services across NSW and SA, helping people living with HIV access the care, connection and support they deserve.

*“In our 40<sup>th</sup> year, it's humbling to see how much we have achieved together - and it's because of your support that we're able to continue providing care and support to those living with HIV.”*

— Mat Paine, former BGF Board President



## Strategic fundraising appeals

**FY24/25 saw BGF invest in a multi-channel fundraising strategy designed to grow our donor base, strengthen our brand and test new approaches to audience engagement.**

Through three key appeals – Tax, World AIDS Day and Mardi Gras – we reached more than 480,000 people and raised a combined \$146,977.81.

Each campaign offered valuable insights into how supporters engage with our cause and how different channels perform across acquisition, conversion and retention. We trialled new formats, refined our messaging and expanded our use of digital platforms including SMS, paid and organic social content, out-of-home display advertising and email marketing. These efforts were supported by strategic partnerships and targeted media planning.

While some channels delivered stronger returns than others, each campaign deepened our understanding of donor behaviour, particularly around seasonal giving, major gifts and digital engagement.

BGF is committed to building a sustainable fundraising model that balances innovation with proven strategy, which will lead to smarter, more responsive campaigns that connect meaningfully with our supporters.



# Partnerships in action

**At the heart of BGF's work is a commitment to high-quality, person-centred support for people living with HIV.**

This is made possible through our enduring partnership with NSW Health, whose funding underpins the delivery of our core services across NSW.

NSW Health's investment enables us to provide tailored support to hundreds of clients each year. As a key implementation partner of the NSW HIV Strategy, BGF plays a vital role in supporting treatment adherence, reducing stigma and improving quality of life – particularly those facing complex health and social challenges.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to public health, equity and inclusion. It ensures BGF's services remain accessible, responsive and grounded in the lived experience of priority populations including First Nations people, culturally diverse communities and those ageing with HIV.

We are pleased to work alongside NSW Health to deliver meaningful outcomes for the needs of our communities.

We also gratefully acknowledge the support of our broader network of partners, whose contributions help sustain our programs and extend our reach. Their continued partnership is vital to our mission and impact.



# Our Board

**Strong governance is the foundation of BGF's work. It ensures we remain accountable to our mission, transparent in our operations and responsive to the communities we serve.**

Our Board and sub-committees provide strategic leadership and expert oversight across all areas of the organisation – from client services and financial management to risk, investment and fundraising. Together with the Executive, they help guide BGF through change and ensure we continue to deliver high-impact support to people living with HIV and a disability.

## Board members

The Bobby Goldsmith Foundation Board comprises diverse, experienced and dedicated professionals who bring expertise in health, finance, governance, social justice and community engagement.



**Professor Carla Treloar AM**  
**President**

Scientia Professor at UNSW, expert in HIV-related stigma and social research. Serves as President and Chair of the Client Services Governance Committee.



**Michael Harrison**  
**Co-vice President**

Senior Lead at QBE Insurance. Serves as Co-vice President and Chair of the Board Nominations and Governance Committee.



**Dan Holland**  
**Co-vice President**

Director of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability at Endeavour Group. Serves as Co-vice President.



## Ramon del Carmen

### Treasurer

Chief Financial Officer of Sydney Health Network. Serves as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee.



## Dr. JR Baker

Chief Executive Officer of Primary and Community Care Services.



## Fraser Drummond

HIV and sexual health physician, former Medical Director at Viiv Healthcare.



## Brian Johnson

Head of Strategy and Client Services at ELM Responsible Investments. Serves as Chair of the Investment Committee.



## David Kay

Consultant in human services and disability services.



## John Walton

Marketing leader in the primary healthcare, clinical research and pharmaceutical sectors.

## Thank you and farewell

We acknowledge the contributions of Mathew Paine, Linda Bracken and Tina Eggers, who stepped down from the Board this year. Their leadership and commitment have helped shape BGF's direction and impact.

## Sub-committees

BGF's sub-committees bring together Board members and external experts to provide focused oversight and strategic input. These groups ensure our services are safe, our operations are sound and our strategy remains aligned with the needs of the communities we serve.

### Client Services

- Carla Treloar – President, Chair
- Dr. JR Baker – Board member
- Fraser Drummond – Board member
- David Kay – Board member
- Mike Searle – Acting CEO + Director, Client Services
- Sarah Portwine – Sub-committee member

### Investment

- Brian Johnson – Board member, Chair
- Dr. JR Baker – Board member
- Ramon del Carmen – Treasurer
- Lorraine Hall – Sub-committee member
- Nick Lawson – former CEO
- Avnit Raj – Sub-committee member

### Finance and Audit

- Ramon del Carmen – Treasurer, Chair
- Dan Holland – Co-vice President
- Nick Lawson – former CEO
- Avnit Raj – Sub-committee member

### Board Nominations and Governance

- Michael Harrison – Co-vice President, Chair
- Motofumi Kotsuka – Director, People, Culture and Administration
- Nick Lawson – former CEO
- Mike Searle – Acting CEO + Director, Client Services

## Board attendance

Board member	Attendance FY24/25
Carla Treloar – President*	5/6
Michael Harrison – Co-vice President	6/6
Dan Holland – Co-vice President	6/6
Ramon del Carmen – Treasurer	5/6
Dr. JR Baker	6/6
Fraser Drummond**	2/2
Brian Johnson**	2/2
David Kay	4/6
John Walton	5/6

\*Commenced as President in January 2025

\*\*Joined BGF Board after first meeting of new financial year

## Executive

The BGF leadership team works in close collaboration with the Board and wider BGF team to implement strategic goals and deliver high-impact services.



**MIKE SEARLE**  
*Acting CEO + Director,  
 Client Services*



**SCOTT MAXWELL**  
*Executive Assistant and  
 Office Manager*



**RHYS LEPPARD**  
*Director, Public Engagement*



**MOTOFUMI KOTSUKA**  
*Director, People, Culture and  
 Administration*

# A message from our Treasurer

**The 2024–2025 financial year was one of both challenge and resilience for Bobby Goldsmith Foundation.**

While we saw growth in revenue — particularly through NDIS income, fundraising and bequests — we also experienced a significant rise in operating costs, reflective of the increasing complexity of client needs and the true cost of delivering high-quality, person-centred care.

The resulting operating deficit underscores the broader pressures facing community organisations in a constrained funding environment. In response, BGF undertook a major organisational restructure to ensure long-term sustainability, while continuing to invest in service delivery, workforce development and regional expansion.

Despite these challenges, BGF remains in a stable financial position, with strong governance, prudent financial management and a clear strategy for the future. Our focus remains on diversifying income streams, strengthening partnerships and ensuring that every dollar spent delivers meaningful impact for the people we serve.

We are grateful to our supporters, donors, funding partners and staff for their continued trust and commitment.



Together, we are ensuring that BGF can continue to meet the evolving needs of our community — now and into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ramon del Carmen'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ramon del Carmen  
Treasurer  
Bobby Goldsmith Foundation

# Financial information

## Accountability

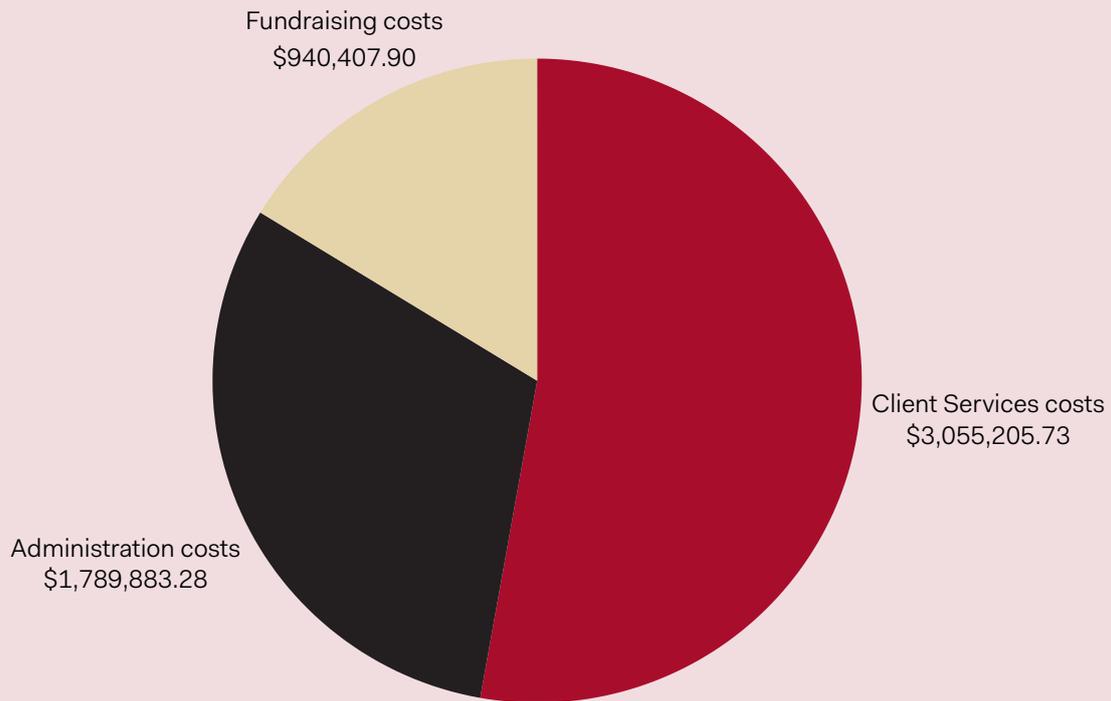
A copy of the signed and audited financial statements for FY2024/25 are available on the [BGF website](#) or on request from the BGF office.

## Income Statement

	2023-24	2024-25
Income and Expenditure		
Operating revenue	\$4,410,205	\$4,610,283
Operating expenses	\$5,785,497	\$6,199,438
Operating surplus/deficit	-\$1,375,292	-\$1,589,155
Financial income/loss	\$588,071	\$857,469
Profit on sale of assets	-	-
Bequests	\$269,745	\$213,283
Net surplus/deficit	-\$517,476	-\$518,403

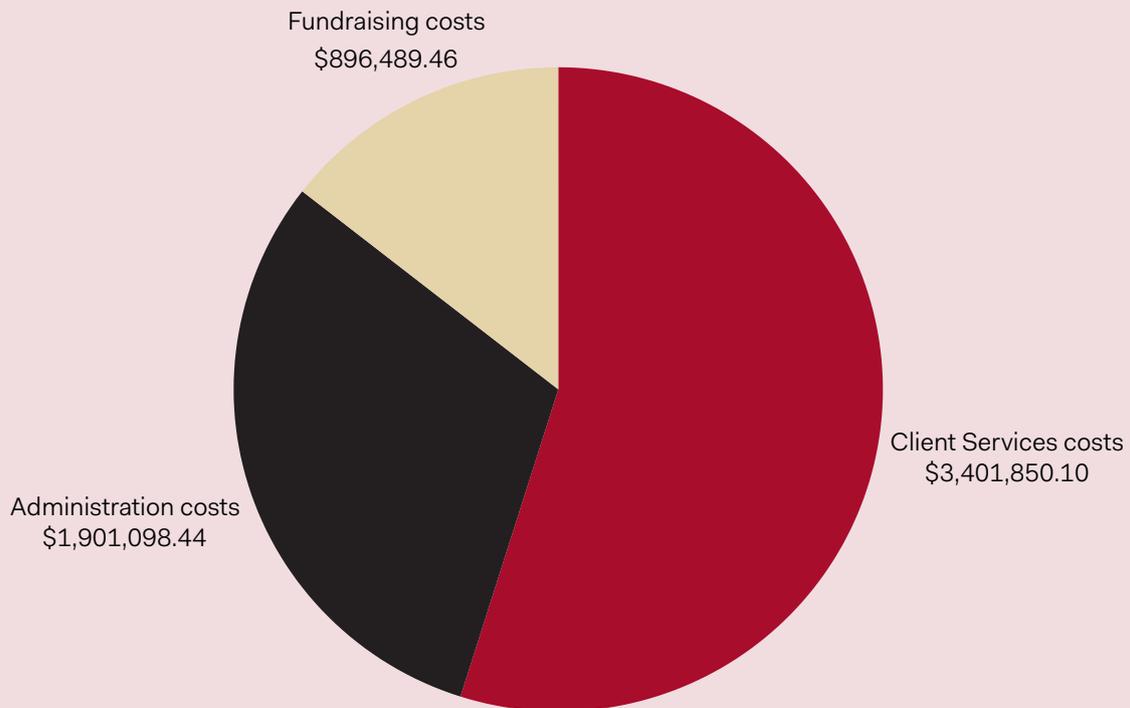
	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Assets and Liabilities</b>		
Total assets	\$9,310,775	\$8,733,906
Total liabilities	\$1,092,760	\$1,034,294
Total equity	\$8,218,015	\$7,699,612
<b>Cash Flows</b>		
Net cash from operating activities	-\$537,685	-\$632,652
Net cash from investing activities	\$687,645	\$1,814,794
Net cash from financial activities	-\$249,842	-\$272,841
Cash and cash equivalents as 30 June	\$78,574	\$1,238,833
<b>Ratios</b>		
Current assets/current liabilities	10.26:1	9:49
Cost of CS/total expenditure	53%	55%
Cost of admin/total expenditure	31%	30%
Billable services/total operating revenue	33%	37%

## Our Expenses 2023-24



Total: \$5,785,496.91

## Our Expenses 2024-25



Total: \$6,199,438

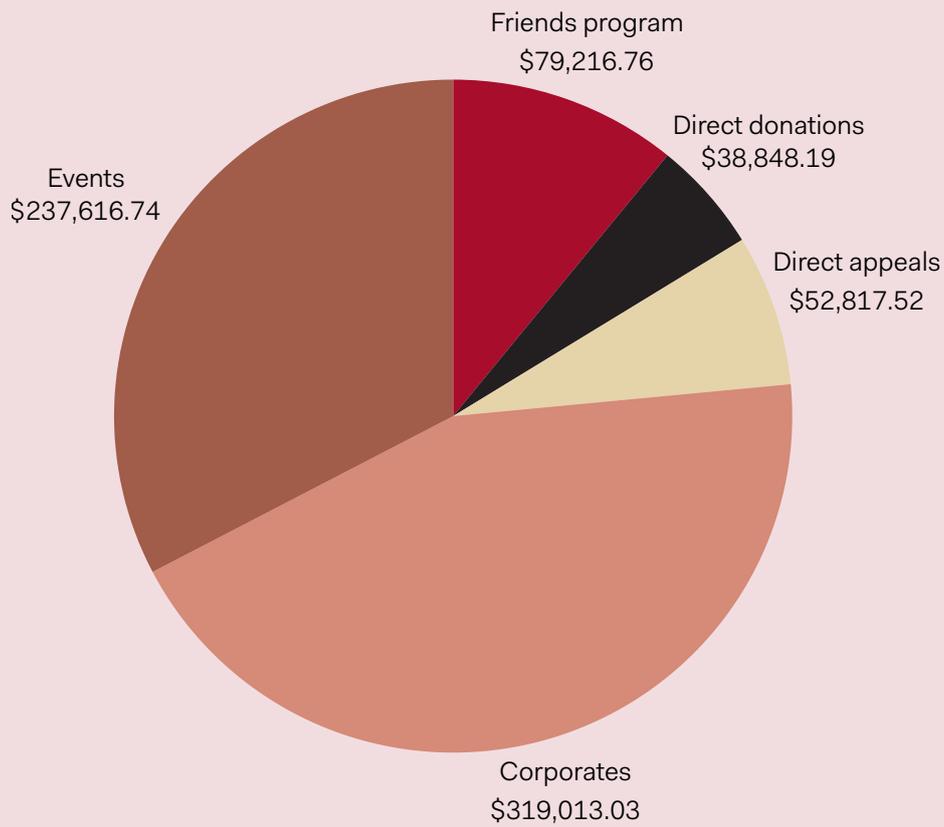
# Our Revenue 2024-25



Total 2023-24: \$5,268,021.00

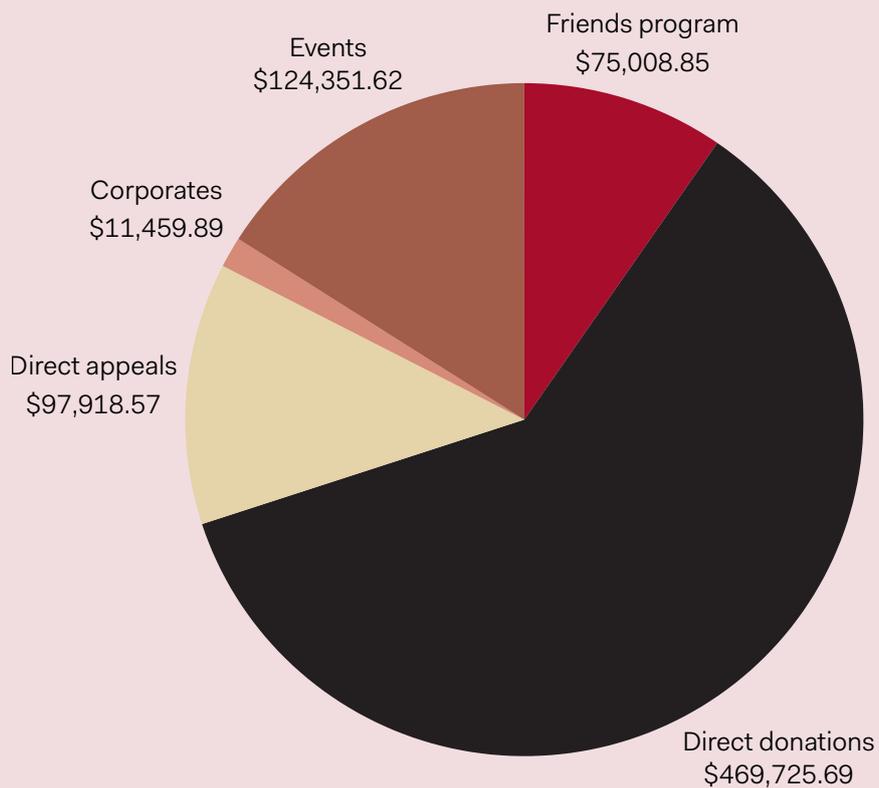
Total 2024-25: \$5,681,035.00

## Fundraising Income 2023-24



Net fundraising surplus:  $-\$56,849.79$

## Fundraising Income 2024-25



Net fundraising surplus:  $-\$118,027.84$

# Thank you

**At BGF, we know that real impact is never achieved alone. It takes a community of volunteers, donors, partners, sponsors, advocates and allies all working together to create lasting change.**

This year, we extend our deepest thanks to the many people, businesses and organisations who have stood beside us. Your support has helped people access vital services, rebuild stability and live with dignity.

Whether you gave your time, shared your expertise, made a donation or partnered with us – thank you.

## **We acknowledge and thank:**

Brian Abel	Barry French	Diana Mason
Pamela Aleixo	Neil Galletly	Alan Maurice
Michael Argy	Manivannan Gopalakrishnan	Zann Maxwell
Duncan Armitage	Ian Gordon	Eugene McGarrell
Dr. JR Baker	Con Gotis-Graham	Clive Miller
Mark Andrew Bennett	Alex Greenwich MP	Kieran Moran
Mark Bloch	Lorraine Hall	Terry O'Neill
Simon Brown	Brendan Hammond	Douglas Paisley
Orlane Bulters	Michael Harrison	Neil Pennock
Walter Burfitt-Williams	Kathleen Harrison	Evelyn Perusco
Ita Buttrose AC OBE	Brian Harrisson	Andrew Pickles
Diane Byron	David Haysom-McDowell	Sarah Portwine
Ashley Casey	Dylan Hodgson	Lynne Rafferty
Joseph Catanzariti	Dan Holland	Kevin Redmond
Carlene Colahan	Kim Hoover-Sadler	Kenneth Reed
Jenna Cooper-Muir	Carl Hornibrook	Peter Reeve
Michael Coward	Lynton Jamieson	Timo Rissanen
Michael Dalton	Brian Johnson	Matthew Robertson
David Davies	Carina Jordaan	Bradley Russell
Brett Davies	Tyler Juel	Peter Sams
Chris Day	David Kay	Mark Sayer
Peter de Waal	Ian Kelly	Steven Shadwell
Ramon del Carmen	Michael Kirby AC CMG &	Andrew Shipton
Dwight Dowda	Johan van Vloten	Senator Dean Smith
Marie-Louise Dreux	Mark Lalor	Stephen Soelistic
Stephen Drinkwater	Ross Lambert	Colin Stephenson
Fraser Drummond	Tom Lazarus	Nigel Stevenson
Jack Edwards	Richard Lees	Sandra Sweeney
John Fisk	David Libter	Julia Swift
Fiona Fitzpatrick	Elisabeth Luke	Vicki Tennant
Mark Flint	Hamish Macdonald	Professor Carla Treloar AM

Ellen Trevanion  
Chris Tsilinkos  
Di Vertigan  
Tim Vial  
John Walton  
Bradley Watson  
Murray West  
Mark Wheeler  
Alan White  
Kym Whittington  
Kimberley Williams  
Danni Wilson  
Sue Wood  
Adam Worling  
Fabio Zilio



## Trusts, foundations and businesses

ACON (Bradley Bower, Bo Justin Xiao)  
Adventus (Jacob McCredie, David Tynan)  
Anchor Estate (Selena Obeid)  
Apple  
Beaumont People (Kaitlin Allen)  
Becker and Minty  
Bistro Rex  
Blackmores  
Brennan Lynch Foundation  
Canva  
Carbonetti Consulting (Alex Carbonetti)  
Catalyst Training (William Bennett)  
City of Parramatta  
City of Sydney  
CleanupOZ (George Osaghae)  
Clifford Chance  
Coca-Cola Amatil  
Commonwealth Bank  
Diving for Life Inc.  
Endeavour Group  
Etrainu (Cassandra Sawtell)  
GiveOUT  
Habitat Women (Kristeen Chao)  
HIV Aids Legal Centre (HALC)  
Impact Advising (Chloe Barton)  
Indigenous All Stahz (Kai Clancy)  
Intuit  
JMD Ross (Louise Rayner)  
Kinselas Hotel (Kieran Strang)

Lion Corporate  
Marque Lawyers (Wesley Rogers)  
Merivale  
My Journey Australia (Marc Ferguson, Gabrielle McCutcheon, Richard Terry)  
National Australia Bank  
National Indigenous Australians Agency  
NSW Department of Communities and Justice  
NSW Health  
Palms on Oxford  
Perpetual  
Redfern Legal Centre  
SAMESH  
State Street Australia  
Stonewall Hotel  
Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre (Stephen Lunny)  
Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras  
Sydney Lyric Theatre  
Sydney Rams Ten Pin Bowling League  
Tenant CS (Hannah Feltham, Francois Rollin)  
The Identity Clinic (Storm Hassett)  
The Imperial Erskineville  
The John Appleton Fund  
The Walter and Eliza Trust  
Universal Hotel (Dillon Shaw)

ViiV Healthcare  
Webgirl Consulting (Kristin Sinclair)  
XCommercial (Nelson Ferreira)

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Bobby Goldsmith

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Foundation

Thank you for supporting BGF and our mission to help people living with HIV to thrive.

P: (02) 9283 8666

E: [bgf@bgf.org.au](mailto:bgf@bgf.org.au)

W: [www.bgf.org.au](http://www.bgf.org.au)