

Marist 180



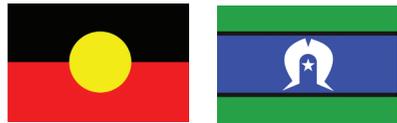
Annual Report

2025

Acknowledgement of Country

**We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners of country throughout Australia:
land, skies and seas. Remember the past, live today and dream for the future.**

Our Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group are currently drafting our next Reconciliation Action Plan. Marist180 offers our wholehearted support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart (2017). The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation to all Australians from First Nations people to unite and to build a better, shared future.





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Foreword

Over three remarkable decades, Marist180 has stood as a beacon of care, courage, and hope for thousands of young people who have faced some of life's toughest hurdles, often through no fault of their own. Our journey has been defined not simply by the provision of shelter or support, but by offering a true foundation for life—enabling young people to see fresh possibilities and rediscover hope for their futures.

The origins of our story stretch much further back than 1994/1995. From the early days of St Vincent's Boys Home at Westmead in 1896, through the establishment of group homes in 1981, to the birth of Marist Community Services in 1995, the path to today's Marist180 has been one of evolution and steadfast dedication. Now, with more than 50 homes across Sydney, the Hunter, Western NSW, and the ACT, and a team of over 500 staff supporting approximately 1,300 individuals each year, our impact is both broad and deep.

The journey has not been without its challenges. There have been times of uncertainty, when leadership was tested by abrupt funding cuts and the difficult balance between staff welfare and sustaining our mission. Many who work directly with young people have shouldered the emotional weight of compassion fatigue, confronted daily by stories that challenge belief. At every level, the wellbeing of our teams has remained central, in a sector where complexity, long hours, and high turnover are realities we face together.

At the core of Marist180 is a steadfast commitment to inclusion and diversity. Every young person who comes to us is met with a spirit of welcome, regardless of their background or journey. This non-judgemental approach—so rare in today's world—reflects both the Gospel and Marcellin Champagnat's vision, calling us to love, especially those who most need our support.

Our programs have expanded far beyond out of home care to become a comprehensive ministry of hope, supporting young people in all aspects of life.

None of these achievements would be possible without our extraordinary staff, many of whom understand hardship first-hand and now extend that same hope to others. Their compassion and solidarity are transformative, inspiring young people to connect, learn, and build their own bright futures.

The story of Marist180 is ultimately one of hope and love—a legacy rooted in Marcellin's earliest work and brought to life anew in Australia today. Together, we enable young people to look beyond their present circumstances, dare to dream, and shape a better tomorrow.



Br Darren Burge
Provincial



To watch Br Darren's address, click here.

<https://youtu.be/Al6vS0mjjok>

Chair and Chief Executive Report

2025 was a year of reflection, consolidation and renewed resolve for Marist180 as we marked 30 years of service to children and young people.

This milestone invited us to reflect not only on progress made, but on what has remained constant. Within the broader history of 132 years of Marist care in Australia, Marist180 has continued since 1994 to evolve in response to changing policy, funding and community need. What endures is our commitment to relationship - based practice, the inherent dignity of every young person, and to ensuring that those too often left without voice or choice are met with respect, safety and opportunity.

Demand remained strong across housing and homelessness, out-of-home care, and education and training throughout 2025. At the same time, the regulatory and funding environment continued to evolve, with strengthened safeguarding and accountability frameworks designed to improve outcomes for children and young people. The Board and Executive worked closely to ensure strong governance, effective risk management and financial stewardship, while keeping outcomes for young people at the centre of decision-making.

Our work within the Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors (UHM) Program continued to reflect this focus. Although referral numbers declined in line with national intake settings, the complexity of need remained high.

Across all services, we strengthened practice frameworks, reinforced safeguarding systems and continued embedding culturally responsive and trauma-informed approaches. Our workforce remains central to this work. In a year marked by increasingly complex presentations, staff demonstrated professionalism, resilience and deep commitment. We remain focused on supervision, workforce development and safe workplace practices to sustain quality and capability.

As we celebrated 30 years, we acknowledged the contribution of staff, volunteers, partners, funders and the broader Marist community. At our anniversary event, former Board Chair Br Michael Green fms reflected on the vision of St Marcellin Champagnat - grounded in practical support, educating

and skilling, and belief in the potential of every young person.

We warmly welcome Br Darren Burge as the new Provincial and look forward to working closely with him as we continue this important work. We also express our sincere gratitude to Br Peter Carroll for his leadership and steadfast support of Marist180 during his time as Provincial.

Above all, we honour the courage of the young people who engage with our services. As a Catholic organisation in the Marist tradition, Marist180 enters its fourth decade committed to social justice, professional excellence and responsible stewardship, determined to remain a stable and trusted presence for those we serve.



Hon. Barbara Perry
Chair

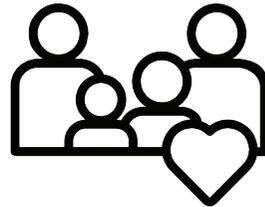
Peter Monaghan
Chief Executive Officer

Clients Assisted in Our Programs



Casework Support Program

32



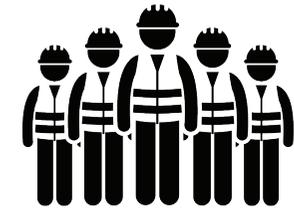
Intensive Family Preservation

16



Intensive Therapeutic Care

112



Skilling Queenslanders for Work

33



Homelessness Services

269



Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors

46

Total Clients Assisted

674



Celebrating 30 Years of Marist180

Marist **180**



In 2025, Marist180 proudly marks 30 years of service to young people and families. Among the various celebrations held across the year, the Marist community gathered on 20 June at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill for a Eucharist, address and dinner honouring this significant milestone. On that evening, Brother Michael Green delivered a stirring reflection on the heart and history of our mission.

Brother Michael reminded us that while Marist180 was formally established in 1995 (as Marist Community Services), our story reaches back much further, to 1836 and the vision of Saint Marcellin Champagnat in Lyon, France. When Marcellin entrusted the care of orphaned boys to the Marist Brothers, he insisted they be guided by "fatherly concern," "gentleness and firmness," and "affection rather than severity." His conviction was simple yet profound: every young person deserves a home, someone who believes in them, and the opportunity to flourish.



That spirit shaped the Brothers' work in Australia, including their partnership in 1896 in taking responsibility for St Vincent's Boys Home at Westmead. Through changing eras, from large residential institutions to contemporary, community-based and therapeutic models of care, the mission evolved, but its heart remained constant: creating safe homes and life-giving relationships for vulnerable young people.

The late 20th century brought significant reform and renewal. Services diversified and relocated, new programs emerged, and in 1995 Marist Community Services was incorporated as a new entity. Renamed Marist Youth Care in 2002 and Marist180 in 2016, the organisation grew to become the largest non-government provider of out-of-home care in NSW, expanding into family preservation, homelessness services, intensive therapeutic care, supported



independent living, refugee support, and specialist programs for First Nations young people.

This growth has never been linear or without challenge. It has required agility, courage and fidelity to Marist values: family spirit, simplicity, presence, humour, and an unwavering belief in young people. Through times of uncertainty and transformation, Marist180 has remained steadfast in its purpose: to accompany, enable and inspire those most at risk.

Today, we honour the leadership of our Boards, from the inaugural chairmanship of the late Ron Mulock AO KSCG to the present leadership of the Honourable Barbara Perry, and we thank our CEOs, leaders, staff, carers, volunteers, partners and supporters. Across three decades, thousands of dedicated professionals have created places of safety and belonging for young people who needed them most.

As Brother Michael concluded, the Marist village is large, and it is alive. For 30 years, Marist180 has embodied a tradition that began nearly two centuries ago: building homes, nurturing dignity, and opening pathways to possibility.

We celebrate with gratitude. We look forward with hope.



To watch our anniversary video click here:

<https://youtu.be/JOwtczhFEzw>

Marist Pilgrimage

The Marist Pilgrimage was a 19-day spiritual odyssey shared with 28 Marist educators, personnel, and Brothers from Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Australia. Together we journeyed through the cities and towns where the Apostles Paul, John, and others established the earliest Christian communities beyond Roman Palestine—retracing their paths and deepening our own religious understanding.

Our pilgrimage began in ancient Corinth, where Paul lived for nearly two years and later addressed two of his most significant Letters to the Corinthians. Standing at the very site of the Rostrum, where Paul once preached the Gospel, we bridged two millennia as we gathered under olive trees to share communion.

Continuing in Paul's footsteps, we travelled to Philippi, to the banks of the Zygaktis River and the Holy Baptistery of Saint Lydia—the first person in Europe to accept Christianity. There, in that sacred place, we were invited to renew our own baptismal vows, echoing Lydia's commitment made some 2,000 years before.

Upon reaching Italy, we crossed Rome to the Marist General House, joining with members of the Marist community. It was here that we encountered the depth of Marist history: exploring archives that preserve the handwritten letters of Saint Marcellin and viewing records from some of the earliest Marist schools in New South Wales.

Megan Sprague
Executive Manager, Governance & Risk



Heritage Pilgrimage Reflection Day

As part of our 30 Year Anniversary celebrations, the Heritage Pilgrimage Reflection Day invited staff to engage meaningfully with the rich history and evolving story of Marist and Marist180.

Throughout the day, participants journeyed to key historical sites across Sydney CBD and Westmead/Parramatta, including Central Station, Circular Quay and Parramatta, locations that have given birth to and shaped our community and mission. Through guided activities, multimedia resources and shared dialogue, staff reflected on the stories connected to these places.

Designed as an immersive and reflective experience, the program created space to walk, listen, observe and connect, with our shared history and with one another. Moments of quiet reflection, group discussion and storytelling deepened understanding of the past and appreciation for the ongoing impact of our work.

The day concluded with a focus on the present and future, highlighting the continuing evolution of Marist180 within our community.

Marist Noel



The Marist Noel project grew from Marist180's strong desire and commitment to capture the true spirit of Christmas for the children and young people in our care, ensuring they experienced a meaningful and memorable celebration, including receiving gifts of their choice.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our suppliers, community donors, extended Marist family and supporters, the campaign exceeded its \$50,000 target. We are sincerely grateful to every individual and organisation who contributed so generously to this effort.

We were especially thankful for the gifts donated by families from St Gregory's Junior School, Campbelltown, and students from St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, with special acknowledgement to Ms Robyn Bowen and Ms Jessica Bryan for their leadership and encouragement of their school communities. Commonwealth Bank staff and Year 10 students from Marist College Kogarah also generously volunteered their time to assist with gift wrapping, bringing wonderful energy and enthusiasm to the campaign.

Additional fundraising initiatives included donations through the NSW Return and Earn scheme and a raffle of a generously donated iPhone from Optus. We warmly congratulate Christina Sheiles, this year's raffle winner, and thank Optus for their valued partnership and support.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the many Marist schools and to Christ the King Primary School, North Rocks, for their fundraising efforts and commitment to making a difference.

Through the generosity of so many, more than 200 children and young people received Christmas gifts this year. This collective effort reflects the strength of our Marist community and the power of working together to bring joy and hope to those in our care.

Together, we are truly creating positive change.



To find out more about this project, please visit:

www.marist180.org.au/donate



Celebrating cultural diversity and fostering inclusion

NAIDOC Event



International Woman's Day



Harmony Day



Wear it Purple



National Reconciliation Week



National Skills Week



Staff building activities

Middle Leaders Retreat



Staff Service and Program Awards



A Place to Call Home Campaign Workshop



Heritage Pilgrimage Reflection Day



World Day for Safety at Work



Catholic Social Services Australia Conference



Champagnat Day Awards

St Marcellin Champagnat was a man of deep faith and action. His strong belief in God and his genuine love and care for others shaped the way he lived and led. Creating lasting bonds and nurturing relationships were central to his mission, a mission that continues today through the Society of Mary, the Marists, across the world.

Champagnat Day honoured his enduring legacy and recognised the significant impact of Marist180 staff, whose commitment and care positively influence the lives of the young people and families we serve. Each year, team members nominate a colleague who truly reflects the Marist Way, someone whose dedication, integrity and teamwork embody the Marist Pillars in their daily work.

As part of this year's celebration, we continued a cherished Marist tradition. In the early days, St Marcellin placed the names of Brothers, young people and community members into a small brass heart, entrusting them to Mary's care. In that same spirit, we placed the names of every staff member and young person into our own Marist heart, now displayed at La Valla as a reminder that we all belong to the Marist180 family.



Our Champagnat Day Awards winners for 2025 were:

Family Spirit

Andrew Tong
Kristy Burns

Love of Work

Arthur Frail
Charlie Olerick

Simplicity

Jay Yakobus Too
Sean Trull

Way of Mary

Sonia Carney
Derilene Martin

Presence

Julia Glanville
Kayla Bird

Young Achiever

Zena Dib

Good News Stories



Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors

From New Beginnings to Bright Futures: Nisreen and Noor's Journey



When Nisreen and Noor first entered the care of Marist180's Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors (UHM) program, they faced a daunting challenge: beginning a new life in Australia without any knowledge of the English language. Through determination, hard work and the unwavering support of the Marist180 care team, the siblings quickly developed their language skills, adapted to their new environment and began to thrive.

They commenced their education at a local primary school in Western Sydney, where they embraced every opportunity to learn and achieved strong academic results. They later progressed to a comprehensive high school in

the Parramatta region, continuing to demonstrate dedication and perseverance.

Now in their final year of secondary education, both are completing their Higher School Certificate, a milestone representing years of commitment and ambition. Nisreen's outstanding academic performance has earned her an early university offer to study Secondary Teaching, with the goal of inspiring future generations. Noor plans to pursue a career in the construction industry and aspires to one day establish his own business.



From an early age, both siblings demonstrated responsibility and independence. Nisreen began

To protect the privacy and safety of the young people and families we support, the names used in these stories have been changed. In some instances, identifying details have also been modified. These stories remain true reflections of the journeys, achievements and outcomes experienced by those in our programs.

working at 14, balancing school and employment with discipline and focus. She progressed through roles in retail and hospitality and now holds a permanent part-time position, where she has received recognition for her professionalism and leadership. Noor has worked part-time in the construction sector for the past two years, gaining practical skills and earning praise for his reliability and strong work ethic.

At 17, both obtained their driver licences on their first attempt, and Nisreen purchased her first car using her own savings. Shortly before turning 18, they secured Rent Choice Youth assistance and transitioned into private rental accommodation, a significant milestone reflecting their readiness for independent living.

From arriving in Australia without English to becoming independent, motivated and community-minded young adults, Nisreen and Noor's journey reflects resilience, gratitude and the powerful impact of consistent support and opportunity.



To find out more about this program, please visit:

<https://www.marist180.org.au/unaccompanied-humanitarian-minors>

Intensive Therapeutic Care

Ally's Resilient Journey to Safe and Independent Parenting

At 15 years of age, Ally had self-placed with a family friend when she discovered she was pregnant. Faced with significant challenges at a young age, she made the courageous decision to keep her baby and commit to building a stable and positive future.

Throughout her pregnancy, Ally demonstrated maturity and determination. She ceased using alcohol and other drugs, disengaged from negative peer influences and strengthened her independent living skills. Following the birth of her daughter, she successfully completed a mothers and babies program.

Importantly, Ally currently has no involvement with the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) in relation to her daughter, a significant achievement that reflects her safe and consistent parenting.

After graduating from the program, Ally transitioned into a Marist180 Supported Independent Living (SIL) placement. She and her daughter, Angel, are thriving. Ally is an attentive and nurturing mother, with no concerns identified regarding her parenting. She has developed strong budgeting skills, saved emergency funds and independently provides for her young daughter's needs.

Ally is now exploring childcare options so she can return to school or TAFE to complete her Year 10.

Her journey reflects resilience, accountability and sustained personal growth.



Oscar's Journey to Stable Employment and Independent Living

Seventeen-year-old Oscar resided at Francis House, a Marist180 Intensive Therapeutic Care home in Orange, NSW. In January 2025, he secured employment with a local carpentry company, a significant milestone in his journey toward independence.

Oscar has demonstrated strong commitment and determination, progressively increasing his working days and hours. His efforts have been recognised by his employer and reflect the dedication he has invested in building a positive future.

During his time in Intensive Therapeutic Care, Oscar worked diligently to complete his independent living skills checklist and successfully obtained his Learner Driver Licence. He focused

on developing practical skills to prepare for adulthood, while maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

In October 2025, Oscar achieved another important milestone, transitioning into a Marist180 Therapeutic Supported Independent Living placement in Orange, NSW. He has embraced the responsibilities of living independently, takes pride in maintaining his home and continues to build stability in both his employment and personal life.

Oscar's journey reflects the impact of therapeutic support, structured skill development and consistent encouragement. His progress demonstrates what is possible when young people are provided with the right environment, guidance and opportunities to succeed.



To find out more about this program, please visit: <https://www.marist180.org.au/intensive-therapeutic-care>

Specialist Homelessness Services

From Sleeping Rough to Finding Home



After years of unstable housing and periods of sleeping rough, one young person supported by Marist180's Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) program has secured safe and stable accommodation.

Earlier this year, he reconnected with Marist180 after losing contact with services. The SHS team responded with compassion and urgency, securing temporary accommodation while advocating for priority housing through strong local partnerships.

Within one week, he was offered a two-bedroom unit, a place to call home. His caseworker supported him to establish the property, arranging furniture, utilities and initial rental payments through brokerage assistance. Receiving the keys marked a transformative moment. For the first time, he expressed feeling safe, secure and able to focus on his future. His journey highlights the impact of timely advocacy,

collaborative partnerships and consistent, compassionate support.

This story is a beautiful example of the difference that compassionate, consistent support can make in a young person's life. Through the dedication of the Marist180 SHS team and their strong community partnerships, a young person who once faced homelessness now has the stability and hope he deserves.

Our SHS team believe that every young person deserves a safe place to call home - and stories like this remind us why we do what we do every day.

A Journey of Resilience and Reconnection



At 18 years of age, Jennifer has demonstrated remarkable resilience in her journey towards independence, stability and family reunification. Supported by the SHS program, she transitioned from temporary accommodation to her own private rental home, a significant achievement.

Identifying as Aboriginal, Jennifer actively engages with Aboriginal services to strengthen her cultural connection. She attends the Literacy for Life Aboriginal Program four days per week and participates in the Drive for Life Program to complete her driving hours. She also attends Street University weekly, demonstrating her commitment to growth and community participation.

Family remains her priority. She currently has supervised access visits with her two-year-old son and is working through the Family Court with the goal of regaining full custody and rebuilding her family unit.

After completing her stay at HAYS House, she faced challenges securing housing. With support from her SHS caseworker, she reflected on past experiences and approached new opportunities with patience and focus. Within eight days, she applied for 13 rental properties and successfully secured a private rental. She contributed her own savings towards rent and accessed Rentstart Assistance for her bond.

Jennifer's journey reflects self-awareness, determination and the power of consistent support.



To find out more about this program, please visit:
<https://www.marist180.org.au/specialist-homelessness-services>

Intensive Family Preservation

Strong Foundations, Brighter Futures

When Monique first engaged with the Intensive Family Preservation (IFP) program at Marist180, she was determined to create a better future for her family. What followed has been a powerful story of resilience, growth and meaningful change.

With the support of the IFP team, Monique secured stable housing, providing a safe and consistent home for herself and her two young children. This important milestone created stability and security, giving the family a strong foundation to move forward.

Monique also achieved a significant personal goal by obtaining her learner licence. With funding for 10 driving lessons provided through the program, she independently managed the process, selecting her instructor and arranging lesson times around her family responsibilities. Each lesson strengthened her confidence and independence.

As a single parent to two children diagnosed with Level 2 Autism Spectrum Disorder, Monique continues to prioritise their developmental and emotional wellbeing. She successfully enrolled both children in a local preschool within walking distance of their home and, with support from her stepmother, ensures their consistent attendance. She now actively participates in their occupational therapy sessions, demonstrating her ongoing advocacy and commitment.

Recognising the importance of early intervention, Monique ensured her children gained access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, enabling vital supports to assist their development. Through the Dandelion Program, the family also received essential items including clothing, toys and linen, easing financial pressure and supporting daily stability.

Today, Monique remains focused on strengthening her parenting skills, maintaining her mental health and building a secure future for her children. Her journey reflects the impact of timely support, practical assistance and a dedicated partnership between families and Marist180.



In Conversation: Stories That Inspire Hope

Since our beginnings as Marist Community Services and Marist Youth Services, Marist180 has remained steadfast in its mission to create hope and positive change in the lives of young people at risk and their families. For more than three decades, we have walked alongside children, young people and families across our communities, delivering programs that strengthen stability, build resilience and support brighter futures.

As a Catholic organisation, Marist180 is part of the global Marist network, which spans 81 countries worldwide. Our work is grounded in compassion, community and a deep commitment to the dignity and potential of every young person.

This year, among the various celebrations held throughout the year, we were proud to host a special dinner in partnership with Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The evening featured a meaningful question and answer conversation highlighting lived experience and frontline insight. We were honoured to hear from Marist180 former client Elaha Qasimi, youth worker Isileli Koloamatangi and Program Manager Andrea Thomas, in discussion with Director Patrick O'Reilly.



We invite you to watch the conversation and learn more about the impact of this work here: https://youtu.be/zW_vf4IEufg

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Since commencing its first Queensland program in October 2015 under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative, Marist180 has delivered 24 vocational programs across south-east Queensland.

Through these programs:

635
participants accessed further
vocational training

583
gained formal qualifications

412
secured employment

Our very first program in 2015 was designed to support people experiencing long term unemployment or significant barriers to work to gain practical skills and complete a Certificate III in Individual Support, creating pathways into the aged care sector.

Delivered in partnership with Inala Elders and hosted within their community space, 29 participants successfully completed the qualification. Of those, 20 moved directly into casual, part time or full time roles in care services.

One of those participants was Conner Carter.

Conner was referred to the program by his aunt, who recognised his potential and believed that,

with the right structure and encouragement, he could build a different future. When Conner commenced the program, he was navigating complex and deeply personal challenges, with physical, mental and sexual trauma and a range of ongoing issues with self-harm and identity crisis. His life at the time was marked by instability and destructive coping behaviours. Yet beneath that, there was determination. He wanted something different for himself.

Conner's pathway through the course was not straightforward. He experienced extreme highs and lows and at times his behaviours disrupted his progress, including an injury that temporarily set him back. There were moments when stepping away would have been easier. Instead, Conner returned. He engaged with additional mentoring, accepted support and gradually built the discipline and resilience required to complete his studies. He did not give up on himself.

Achieving his Certificate III was more than a qualification. It represented consistency, accountability and belief in his own capacity to succeed.

In July 2016, Conner secured his first role in aged care. Over the following years, he continued to build his skills, maintain employment and strengthen his sense of purpose. He stayed connected with his Marist180 support worker, reaching out when he needed guidance, whether preparing a resume, seeking a reference or sharing a milestone that mattered to him.

Ten years on, Conner is now the founder of

Carter's Care Support Services. He employs his lived experience, empathy and professional training to support others facing complex challenges.

Conner's journey reflects not only the impact of structured training and sustained support, but the extraordinary personal effort required to confront trauma, change behaviours and persist through setbacks. His success has been earned through courage, hard work and a refusal to let his past define his future.



To find out more about this program, please visit:
<https://www.marist180.org.au/skilling-queenslanders-for-work>

First Nation Programs

Daramu

Tribal Warrior Cultural Cruise

The outing aimed to strengthen young peoples connection to culture, promote pride in their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, and support positive community engagement.

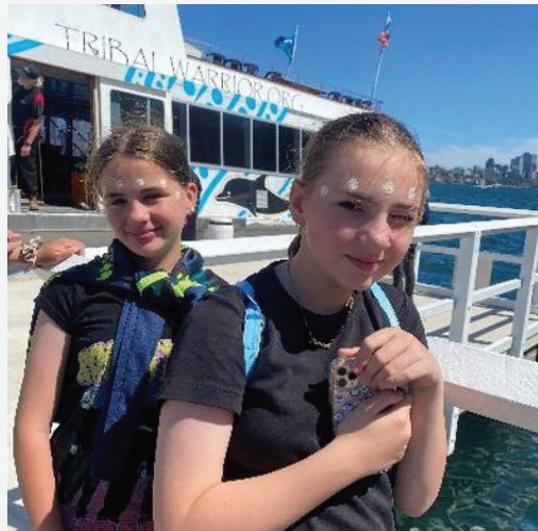
During the cruise, the young people travelled across the harbour while learning about the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the land and waters surrounding Sydney. The tour guide shared significant stories about the area's history, including the site where the First Fleet arrived and the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal communities.

The group then travelled to Clark Island (Be-lang-le-wool), a culturally significant site, where they were welcomed with traditional practices. Young people were painted with ochre and took part in cultural song and dance, strengthening their understanding of Aboriginal heritage and traditions.

The day offered a powerful opportunity for the young people to connect with culture in a positive, hands-on way while building a sense of belonging and pride in who they are. The excursion was a meaningful reminder of the importance of culture in healing, learning, and community strength, values at the heart of the Daramu Program.



To find out more about this program, please visit:
<https://www.marist180.org.au/daramu>



Young People being welcomed onto Clark Island by having Ochre painted onto their face



The Young People and the Daramu Team with the Tribal Warrior Team at Clark Island

Mudjin Byala - Good News Story

Over 12 weeks of consistent, culturally grounded support, the Mudjin Byala Program at Marist180 walked alongside Mary Lou through its "In Class School Support initiative".

For Mary Lou, school had at times felt overwhelming. Maintaining focus after first break was a particular challenge, and moments of frustration could quickly affect her engagement in the classroom. Through twice weekly in class support, a dedicated Mudjin Byala Caseworker became a steady and trusted presence, providing calm guidance, encouragement and practical strategies to help her re engage in learning.

Support strategies were shaped by Mary Lou's Yarn Circle Plan Meeting, ensuring her voice, strengths and aspirations remained central. By working closely with teachers, wellbeing staff and Aboriginal Education Officers, the Caseworker helped create a coordinated and culturally respectful approach that strengthened Mary Lou's confidence and participation at school.

Cultural identity was an essential part of this journey. An Aboriginal led support presence within the school reinforced culturally safe practice and encouraged pride in identity and community. Mary Lou was supported to see her culture not only as part of who she is, but as a source of strength.

This connection deepened when she participated in a cultural experience with Tribal Warrior. Welcomed through traditional practices, she and the other young people were painted with ochre and took part in cultural song and dance, strengthening their understanding of Aboriginal culture and connection to Country.

Over this period, Mary Lou demonstrated increased engagement in the classroom, stronger relationships with staff and peers and growing confidence in herself and her identity.

Her story reflects the impact of consistent, youth centred and culturally responsive support in helping young people feel safe, connected and ready to learn.



Community Connection Hub

Held from 10:00am to 1:00pm bi-monthly on a Tuesday, the Community Connection Hub Day acts as a one-stop shop where community members can easily access over 20+ key local and government services under one roof.

From Births, Deaths and Marriages to Services Australia, Service NSW, Revenue NSW, and many more, the event makes it easier than ever for community to get the support they need all in one convenient location.

The most in-demand service continues to be NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages, providing essential documentation and registration services for those who may otherwise face barriers to access.

Thanks to growing support and attendance, Marist180 are proud to announce that the program has been successful with their application and awarded a **ClubGRANT**, which will now enable the implementation of transportation assistance for those who have trouble travelling to the Hub.

This new initiative will help remove yet another barrier to access and ensure that even more of the community can benefit from the services offered at the Community Connection Hub Day.

“We heard from community members that transport can be a real challenge, especially for seniors, people with disability, or families with young children. Thanks to the ClubGRANT, we can now provide transport support and ensure no one is left behind”.

Attendees are also treated to a free BBQ and cold drinks, creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere that brings people together not just for services, but for connection and conversation. The initiative is run in partnership with Real Futures, who help ensure cultural safety, employment support, and engagement for local Indigenous communities.

As the event continues to grow in popularity, so does its impact. Attendees have praised the ease, accessibility, and overall community feel of the Hub Days.

With strong partnerships, a welcoming vibe, new transport options, and essential support all in one place, our Community Connection Hub Day is becoming a staple in the Mt Druitt community calendar.



Partnerships and Advocacy

Investing In Early Support For Families



Youth Homelessness Matters Day



A Place To Call Home



Right to Wellbeing and Safety



Human Rights

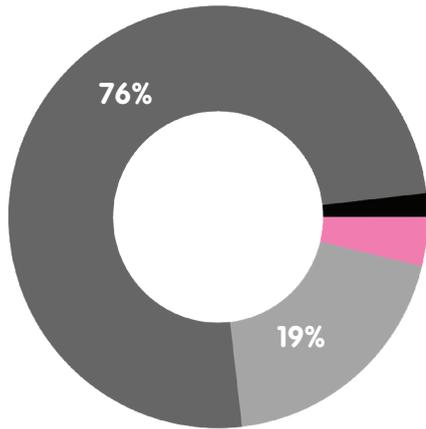


Rights to Housing



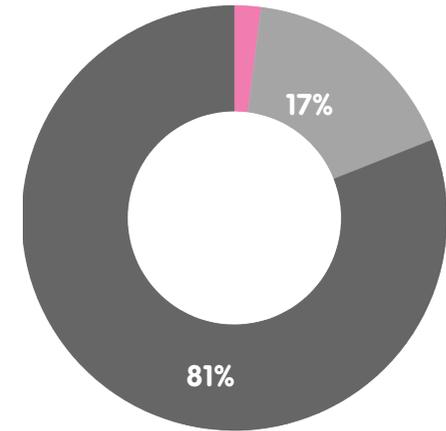
Financial Summary

Revenue FY 23-24

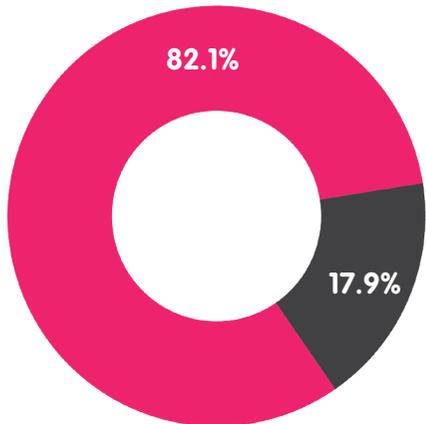


- Government Grants - State
- Government Grants - Federal
- Property Income
- Other Income

Revenue FY 24-25

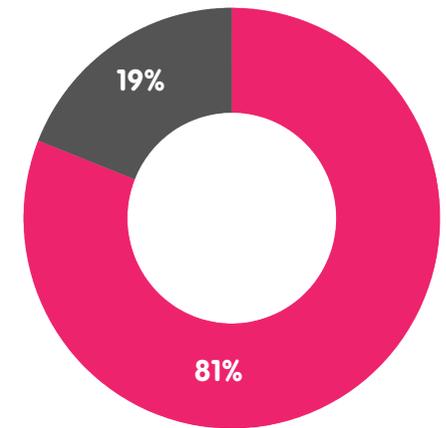


Expenses FY 23-24

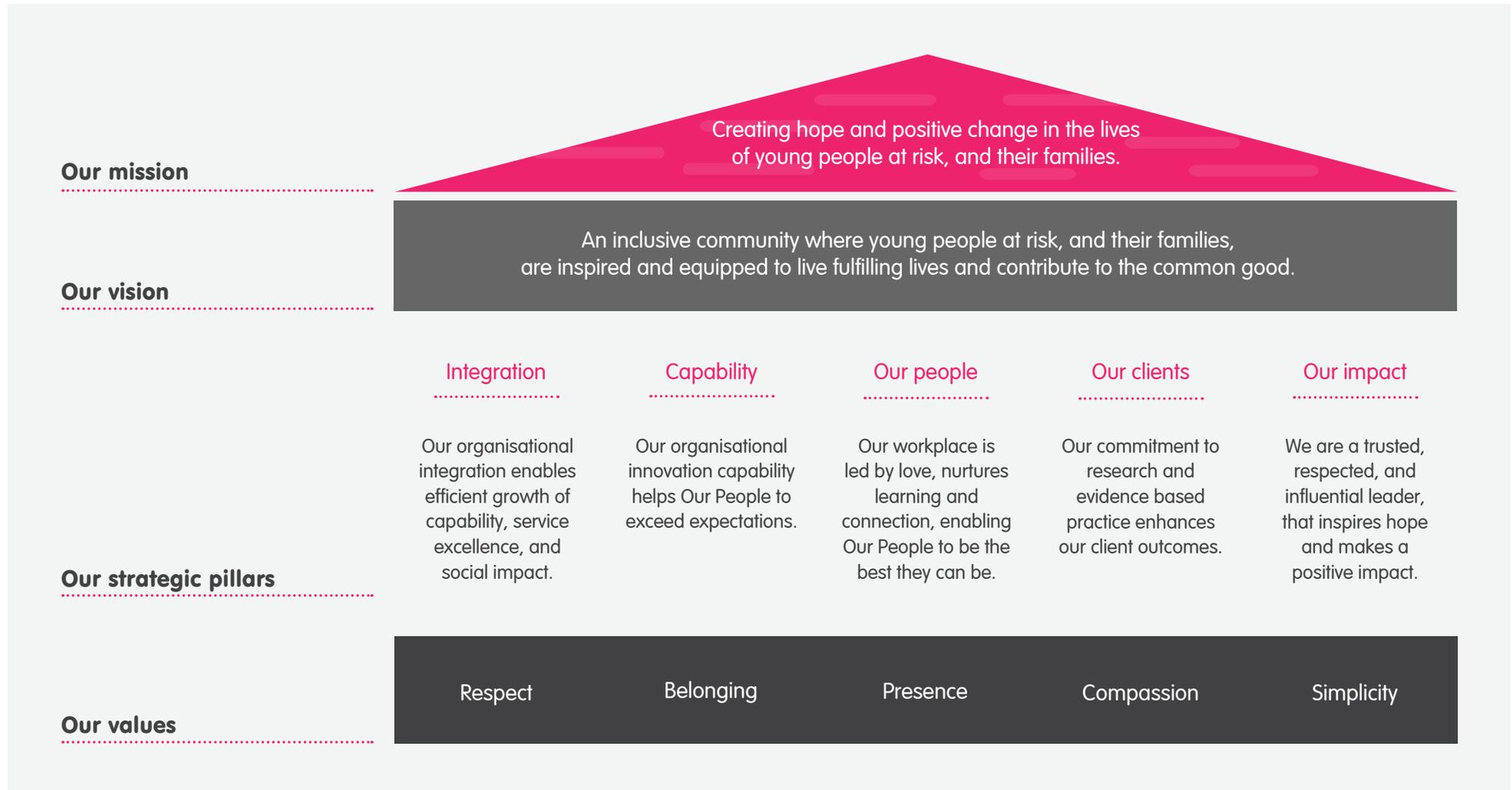


- Employee expenses
- All other expenses

Expenses FY 24-25



Our strategy 2022-2025





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