



**Women Up North**

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021



# Contents

About Women Up North Housing Inc (WUN)	2
Chairperson's Report	3
Executive Officer's Report	4
Our Organisation	6
Bugalma Bihyn - Healing Place	7
Operational Reports	9
Domestic Violence Response Enhancement program - DVRE	11
What is "violence against women"?	12
Research Collaboration	14
Social Impact	15
Second Bite	16
Healthy Minds	17
Our Clients	18
Family and Domestic Violence Leave Campaign	19
Facts and figures: Ending violence against women	20
Treasurer's Report	22
Technology-facilitated Abuse	24
Financials	25
Partners, Donors, Volunteers 2021	27

## Welcome from WUN Board Member Ella Bancroft

"We acknowledge and pay respects to the land and the traditional families of the Bundjalung nation.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians and their descendants whose culture and customs have nurtured and continue to nurture these lands.

We give all respect to elders past, present and emerging ...."

Ella Bancroft is a proud Bundjalung woman and First Nation member of our board.



## Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Women Up North acknowledges the Bundjalung nation and the Widjbul, Arakwal, Gumbayngirr and Yaegl peoples, who are the traditional custodians of the land that we work and walk on.

We pay respect to the Elders past, present and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of the First Nations of Australia. We will always remember that this land is, was and always will be traditional Aboriginal land.





## About Women Up North Housing Inc (WUN)

Women Up North is a Northern NSW service for women, children and young people who have experienced domestic or family violence or abuse. We are based in the Northern Rivers, working across the local government areas of Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle and Clarence Valley. We acknowledge the Bundjalung nation and the Aboriginal elders and people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we work.

Women Up North Housing Inc. is a nationally registered social housing provider. We assist women and their children who have experienced domestic or family violence, or abuse, to access and maintain private or social housing. This, along with involvement in other programs, creates a catalyst for positive change and develops opportunities to live safe, healthy lives. Throughout the Northern Rivers, WUN works with ten transitional housing properties and an Aboriginal Women and Children's Refuge, Bugalma Bihyn, to support women, children and young people escape the trauma of domestic, family and sexual violence.

WUN aims to raise awareness of the impact of family violence through empowering women and their families who have experienced domestic and family violence to create positive changes and opportunities in their lives, live in safety, and have healthy relationships. We use strengths-based programs, person-centred case management, group work and counselling.

We honour and acknowledge the journey of the women and children we walk alongside and are committed to the evidence-based principles of The Healing Program. WUN fosters relationships within our state-wide network of sector service providers, to ensure our clients have access to appropriate services that will fulfil their needs.

WUN is a nationally registered social housing provider, and a member of the Specialist Homelessness Services project through the Momentum Collective managed Northern NSW SHS Alliance Consortium.



This alliance provides Domestic and Family Violence and Aboriginal Homelessness programs from Tweed to Grafton.

Women Up North is in partnership with organisations from the Northern Rivers and beyond, to deliver programs including: the award winning Love Bites national educational violence prevention program delivered to Year 10 students; the Second Bite food program supporting disadvantaged women and their children in our community with access to weekly, healthy food; the Healthy Minds counselling program offering free mental health services to women and the State Debt Recovery Office Working Development Order program.

Our Thank You page provides a list of some of our key partners, grants and donors. We are truly grateful for your support of our vital work.

For more information on our supports and services, please visit our website [www.wunh.org.au](http://www.wunh.org.au)

## WUN Chairperson's Annual Report 2019-20



Louise Lancett

**On behalf of the Women Up North Housing Board, I wish to acknowledge the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of the land upon which we live and work. I wish to pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future as they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of Aboriginal Australia. This land is, was and always will be, Aboriginal land.**

As the Chair of Women Up North Housing it has been a privilege to work besides such a dedicated team of people. This includes fellow board members, our wonderful Executive Officer Jillian Knight-Smith, staff, trainees and volunteers. Our team is talented and diverse, with the knowledge, skills and dedication to help our clients have a brighter future, free of domestic violence.

In April the board said a sad farewell to our hard-working secretary Linda Bristow, whose work and family commitments had become greater. Thank you, Linda, for your commitment to WUN, it was valued highly by both board and staff.

Margaret Hughes joined the board this year and took on the role as treasurer. Margaret is originally from the US and has been living on Bundjalung Country since 2010. She has worked in community development and not for profit management for 17 years and is currently doing her PhD at Gribi College of Indigenous Australian People at Southern Cross University. Many thanks to Margaret for stepping into the role.

Delilah Williams is acting minute taker until the board has a new secretary. Thanks, Delilah, for stepping up once again.

Fiona Spencer is our legal representative. Fiona has been joining our meetings via Zoom since she relocated early in the year. Thank you Fiona, for your continued support.

Ella Bancroft also joins our meetings via Zoom. Ella is a Bundjalung woman and member of our board. Thank you Ella for your commitment to WUN and for your inspiring welcomes to Country.

COVID has taught us that meetings can be done differently. In December 2020 we had another flood in the back room and in response, installed stainless-steel benches. This will help curtail further damage and with cleaning up after future floods. What a year it has been with COVID-19 still ruling our lives. Cleaning, mask wearing, Zoom meetings and working from home have all become normal!

Jillian Knight-Smith our amazing CEO, has led her hard-working team wonderfully. The board wants to thank each and every one of you for adapting to all the changes and for your commitment to support each other and our clients.

To each volunteer, thank you for choosing to give your time, energy, skills and knowledge to WUN.

This year WUN received another large donation which has helped support more women and children. I wish to offer my heartfelt thank you for this donation on behalf of our clients.

I would like to acknowledge our quiet partners working behind the scenes who continue to support our work. Without them many of our clients needs would not be met.

Thanks once again to our funding partner Momentum for their support over the past year. We look forward to continuing in their partnership over the coming year.

Finally, to our clients, partners, supporters, business sponsors and funding providers, who have continued to support us throughout the year. The team at WUN thank you. We value each one of you.

Many thanks,  
Louise Lancett  
Chairperson

# Executive Officer Report

## by Jillian Knight-Smith

### Giving thanks

I would like to pay my respects and thanks to the Widjabul people of the Bundjalung nation, on whose land the WUN head office is located, and where many of our programs are delivered. I would like to pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, to the Bundjalung people with whom we work and live, and to all First Nations people with whom we work and live. Always was and always will be First Nations land...

### Keep doing what you are doing...

I would like to take this opportunity to remember and honour Reverend Aunty Dorothy Harris Gordon, whose loss, to her family, the many communities of which she was a part including us here at Women Up North, is deep and ongoing. Her contribution to community was tireless, enduring and an inspiration to all. Aunty's advice to us at WUN was simple and humbling: "Keep doing what you are doing..."

With Aunty in mind, I am very proud to announce that Bugalma Bihyn was provided with a much needed new roof by the Land and Housing Commission. We have also been most fortunate this year to receive a significant DCJ grant and donation for Bugalma Bihyn Refuge. This will fund renovations and the installation of solar panels, and will enable essential repairs. The grant, along with community donations, will make a huge difference in our capacity to safely house women and families. Our challenge and focus for 2020-21 will be to raise a further \$180,000 to complete the project.



Jillian Knight-Smith

### Acknowledging the need

Family and domestic sexual violence and homelessness is a major health and welfare issue. Amongst the women in communities impacted by domestic and family violence (DFV), some do not survive, some lose the opportunity to raise their children, and many become and remain homeless. The current Northern NSW housing crisis, the pandemic and natural disasters place further burdens on women and their families.

Our sector continues to lobby for a boost in funding, to provide safety and security to women so that they can remain safely in their homes.

First Nations women, young women and pregnant women are at particularly high risk of Domestic violence, homelessness, and incarceration (for more on this see the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare). Older women are the most rapidly growing new homelessness cohort. Under-reporting of domestic and family violence and sexual assault often occurs because of bias.

First Nations women, women with English as a second language, women with non-residential visas, people with different abilities, members of LGBTIQ+ communities, and those with complex needs can be victims of this bias and have further barriers to support. This bias is further compounded by the shared housing refuge model. We look with hope to the future, for new models of accommodation, with a focus on individual units in safe and secure clusters.

This would afford physical and cultural safety, dignity and respect to our clients and boost the accessibility of social and affordable housing in our region.

Of the 2,192 women and children that accessed WUN in 2021, 756 (AIHW 202-2021) accessed domestic and family violence specialist homelessness services (SHS). The remainder of services provided focused on DFV support, information, referral, trauma counselling, transport, food, essential provisions and preventative education programs.

### Quality Service Achievements in 2020-2021

WUN can proudly announce that we are amongst the first organisations in the state to achieve the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) quality goal of an Australian Excellence Services certificate of accreditation. We also have renewed our social housing quality compliance through the National Registrar for Social and Community Housing (NRSCH). Thank you to our hard-working board, workers, students and volunteers, whose dedication to excellence has been celebrated in this huge achievement. I am extremely proud to be a member of this gold star team! And I am excited to see much hard work come to fruition in the coming months, as several programs and our build roll out.



### Lismore Domestic Violence Liaison Committee

WUN has the privilege of serving our community as the Secretariat for the Lismore Domestic Violence Liaison Committee ([lismoredomesticviolencecommittee.org.au](http://lismoredomesticviolencecommittee.org.au)). Lismore Domestic Violence Committee supports and shares information and practice, runs regular awareness campaigns, provides and raises funds for educational programs in community and provides information for support via our website.

### SAFER HOMES, STRONGER COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM 2019-2021

Sexual, domestic and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness in NSW. There is a severe lack of social, community and affordable housing, and an increasing reliance on the private rental market for housing solutions. Many women who have escaped violence encounter multiple barriers, and find it extremely difficult to access and sustain private rental tenancies. Safer Homes, Stronger Communities was funded by DCJ and ran from July 2019 to June 2020. Its aim was to identify what works to build effective real estate responses to sexual, domestic and family violence (DFV) in NSW. Women Up North was a pilot support member of this program and worked alongside other pilot providers and DVNSW to support this project. Funding was secured for Phase 2 of Safer Homes, Stronger Communities to develop the model into the Safer Homes Program Pilot evaluation of FY20/21.



# Our Organisation

## Vision

Empowerment, safety and equality for women, children and young people

## Our Purpose

We provide support to create safe and healthy families, and resilient communities

## Our Values

We value:

- Respect and safety
- Diversity and inclusion
- Social justice and advocacy
- Partnerships in the community

## Who We Are

Women Up North is a northern NSW service for women, children and young people who have experienced domestic or family violence or abuse. We operate in the Grafton to Tweed area.

WUNH Inc is a nationally registered housing provider. We assist women and their children who have experienced domestic or family violence, or abuse, to access and maintain private or social housing. This, along with involvement in other programs, creates a catalyst for positive change and develops opportunities for our clients to live safe, healthy lives.

WUN currently works with ten transitional housing properties and Bugalma Bihyn, an Aboriginal Women and Children's Refuge.

We are a not-for-profit charitable organisation with a tax-deductible gift recipient (DGR) status. We are a member of the Northern NSW Specialist Homelessness Services Alliance.



'Rent It Keep It' (RIKI) is a training program that provides a certificate in property care management for potential new renters. From left: facilitator Brooke, graduates Lisa and Tracey and facilitator Jenn.

## How We Work

- We work with a diverse group of women, children and young people in our communities, with culturally sensitive support delivered by Aboriginal staff for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- We partner with organisations, businesses and government, to advocate for our clients in prevention, education and early intervention against domestic violence
- We develop housing support and positive life changes for women, children and young people at risk, or experiencing domestic and family violence, and homelessness

## Our Strengths

- We are client-centred, and are committed to evidence-based principles of person-centred clinical practice
- We connect people, services and businesses to unite against domestic and family violence affecting women, children and young people
- We are a learning organisation, developing staff and client competencies, and educating our community

# Bugalma Bihyn - Healing Place

By Rebecca Lehner

## Team Leader's Report

My name is Bec and I am a proud Wiradjuri woman and team leader for Bugalma Bihyn. In acknowledgement of the Widjabul Wiabal peoples of the Bundjalung nation, I pay my respects to the traditional custodians of this Country — those resting in the Dreaming, the Elders leading us at this time, and emerging knowledge holders. I acknowledge the strength and connection of First Nations women and their children on their healing journey toward a safer future.

Bugalma Bihyn First Nations Women's and Children's Refuge has supported many Aboriginal women and their children escaping family and domestic violence throughout the past year. Many families have accessed emergency accommodation at the refuge, and additionally have received support in accessing medium-term transitional housing. While family and domestic violence continues to greatly impact the lives of First Nations families, Bugalma Bihyn Refuge has been able to greatly alleviate the burden and trauma of this violence for many through the provision of trauma-informed case management. Bugalma Bihyn is committed to providing support that is driven from a cultural perspective.

In the past we have been challenged to provide accessible refuge accommodation for First Nations women and children who have physical disabilities. It has been particularly difficult to offer a dignified, safe, and inclusive environment for Elders and others with mobility concerns, needing access to our accommodation. This year, due to our Executive Officer's tireless commitment and dedication, we have secured funding to rebuild both levels of the accommodation to make it more accessible and suited to the needs of the women and children who stay here. The rebuild will additionally allow for a re-configuration of the room sizes and capacities, and an improvement of the laundry and kitchen facilities.

The team here at Bugalma Bihyn are looking forward to being able to offer a more inclusive environment that supports our framework of practice, and better meets the dynamic and diverse needs of First Nations women and children seeking safety from domestic and family violence. The build is expected to commence in February 2022.

We have seen many changes to our team of First Nations workers this year and it has been a privilege to share and learn from each other's experience and knowledge of community, relationality, and practice. I believe resilience is a key attribute of our team of First Nations workers at the refuge and this is reflected by each and every team member in their approach to the First Nations women and children we are able to walk alongside on their journey to social and emotional wellbeing.



Rebecca Lehner  
Team Leader Bugalma Bihyn



## Bugalma Bihyn - Case Worker

*Portia Fernando Walker*

I am a proud young Bundjalung woman, my people are Gulibal (Casino), Waylabul (Tabulam) and Githabul (Woodenbong). During my time at Women Up North, I have been nurtured into becoming the caseworker and young Indigenous woman that I am. I have been supported by workers who have taken the time to teach and encourage me in the workplace, and it has been a truly amazing learning experience.

I am proud to say that during my time at Women Up North, I have been selected as a NSW Youth Advisory Council Member for 2020-2021. I am also currently an Australian Youth Advocate for mental health with Visible and Headspace. I have received both these opportunities during my employment at WUN and I am extremely grateful for all the learning experiences that have contributed to my advocacy work as a First Nations' woman, mother, and caseworker.

Women Up North has been instrumental in my journey and I appreciate all the words of wisdom, encouragement and support I have received in my time here. Working at Bugalma Bihyn has created the opportunity for me to embrace the visions I hold for strong First Nations' women and children, which has been an empowering experience. I feel the support and ongoing encouragement from the entire team has enabled me to grow to my fullest potential. I look forward to continuing to work in community and see First Nations' communities thrive, grow, and heal.



Portia Fernando Walker stands as an Australian Youth Advocate for mental health at the Governor General's office.



Nikita Towney

## Bugalma Bihyn - Trainee

*Nikita Towney*

My name is Nikita and I am a proud Dunghutti Wiradjuri woman. I have recently begun my journey with WUN and have already learnt so much.

I am currently completing a traineeship for my Certificate III in Business Admin and am doing so through Bugalma Bihyn Women's and Children's Refuge. Whilst working at Bugalma Bihyn, I have been supported by my colleagues to be able to continue my studies, as well as learn on the job. This experience has shown me what it is like working in a positive workplace that values knowledge and growth in its employees.

Women Up North are supportive and encouraging and the staff have made my transition into the workplace enjoyable. The other staff at Bugalma Bihyn have been instrumental to my learning journey and I am grateful for the wealth of knowledge and continual encouragement that is expressed by the team. Working alongside such a strong team of women is inspiring and to see their dedication to helping other women and children during possibly very distressing times, proves their commitment and resilience to helping community.

This has been an amazing journey already and I cannot wait to continue moving forward.

## Operational Reports

### First Nations Intake and Assessment Officer

*Megan Croydon*

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land in which Women Up North Housing's offices and the Bugalma Bihyn Refuge resides, the Widjabul Wiyabul peoples of the Bundjalung Nation. I would also like to extend the acknowledgement to the Traditional Owners of the land in which I live and work each day – the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation.

My name is Meg Croydon, I am a Kuku Yalanji woman who has had the absolute pleasure to be taken in and supported by the Women Up North Housing team as a First Nations Case Worker in Specialist Homelessness position. I was taken in by Women Up North as a Social Work student in 2018, where I spent seven months learning about the impact of domestic violence on women in the Northern Rivers area of Lismore, acquiring skills to work alongside these women to support them in their journey of escaping violence.

After my work placement, I was fortunate enough to be offered a position at Bugalma Bihyn refuge together with a team of proud, passionate First Nation women. I learned a lot about the needs of First Nations women escaping violence, the barriers faced by women which were unique to this community, and trauma-informed theory in practice.

After three years at the refuge, where I can put my hand on my heart and solemnly swear that no two days looked the same, I was off to start a new chapter in Melbourne – on Kulin Nation.

Amidst a pandemic, working from home was now our 'new normal', and I was so pleased to learn that these very specific skills that I had acquired over the last three years would still be of use! I was fortunate enough to be offered a position in the new role of First Nations Intake and Assessment Officer. I spent a year – mostly locked down at home – carrying out this new position.



Megan Croydon

Over the last few months, the position has changed to include the intake of Women Up North Housing and Bugalma Bihyn clients accessing our services. This year, we have observed an influx of clients who would have previously connected with Staying Home Leaving Violence through Momentum Collective. Unfortunately, the funding for this program has been discontinued in Lismore and surrounding areas. Women Up North have found dynamic ways to access funding to support these women to upgrade the safety of their homes.

I would like to say a warm thank you to Women Up North workers who I have worked with over the past four years – thank you for being warm and welcoming, for taking me under your wing and sharing your already accumulated knowledge of the sector and area. Women Up North has served as a second family, or 'Lismore family' for many years and I am grateful for the experience. I would also like to extend my thanks to Jillian Knight-Smith – I will be forever grateful for this opportunity.

Thanks for believing in me and seeing something I couldn't see in myself as a student. It has been a pleasure and privilege to grow into who I am today alongside each and every one of you!



## Women's Domestic and Family Violence case management team

*Amara Bartlett and Brooke Cotten*

WUN continued in our core work providing housing support and case management to women and children in Northern NSW who have experienced domestic and family violence despite the impact of fire, flood and COVID-19.

Our clients are located throughout the region and we are currently supporting women and children housed in social housing, medium term transitional housing, short term housing, refuges and private rental properties. The highest percentage of our clients are in Lismore, Nimbin, Casino and Richmond and our transitional housing clients are currently located in Lismore, Ballina, Byron and Murwillumbah. We have offices in Lismore and provide outreach from community centres in Nimbin, Evans Head, and Casino.

WUN provides intensive person-centred and client-led case management to support women and their families, who have experienced domestic and family violence and homelessness. We provide an integrated, wrap-around service delivery and strength-based case management, aiming to empower women and encourage them to keep themselves and their children safe and well. We work from a trauma-informed model and are continually inspired by the strengths and resources of our clients, who are survivors of highly traumatic situations. It is an honour to work alongside these women as they journey towards greater empowerment, safety and wellbeing.

## Work Development Orders

WUN continues to support our clients as a Work and Development Order sponsor. We have had many successes with clients paying off their NSW Revenue fines through participating in counselling, support, educational groups and case management, enabling them to break free of the cycle of financial disadvantage.

## Safety Action Meetings

Women Up North attends the safety action meetings which are convened and chaired by the Richmond area command of NSW Police and are

coordinated by our local Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service. These meetings ensure that government and community based support services are well engaged with victims of serious DV, with the aim of preventing injury or death. This consolidates our work with clients and ensures we are able to collaborate with other services and police to ensure the safety of our clients and build relationships focusing on prevention of violence in community.

## Love Bites

I want to say thank you to our Northern Rivers committee of Love Bites facilitators that ensured that Love Bites in our area has continued to thrive. Thanks so much for all your enthusiasm and efforts with delivering Love Bites this year. Despite all the challenges this year you delivered inspiring workshops and received some really great contributions and feedback from schools that became involved. It is also very heartening to see our young facilitators taking on some strong leadership roles this year with consistent commitment all year to keeping the programs running despite Pandemic and natural disasters. Special thanks to Keani for your work on Insta, Jamali for your great beats, and Portia for lighting the path for young First Nations participants.

Let's hope we are able to deliver more programs next year.



**Amara Bartlett and Chair of NRCF John Callannan.** NRCF has been supportive of Women Up North programs Love Bites and Bugalma Bihyn. *Image: Jonathon Miller*

## Domestic Violence Response Enhancement program - DVRE

*By Jenny Warrington*

**Specialist Homelessness Services Domestic Violence Case Worker**

The Domestic Violence Response Enhancement is an afterhours domestic violence response program funded by the NSW Specialist Homelessness services program stream of the Department of Community and Justice (DCJ).

Women Up North has been providing DVRE since 2015. Over this last 12 months we have had a total of 194 calls to respond to. In September we received 34 calls, the highest monthly amount of calls in the period. WUN's DVRE team consists of four specialist case workers rostered to ensure we can provide a 24/7 response service for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence and homelessness.

Through the DVRE we provided after hour support to refuge residents and other clients and emergency support work. This service includes the provision of emergency accommodation, transport, food and personal care products. Being part of this program is allowing Women Up North to keep our community safe, help to break the cycle of domestic and family violence and enable at-risk women and children to feel safe and supported.



# What is “violence against women”?

Violence against women is a serious and widespread problem in Australia.

But violence against women is also preventable. To prevent violence against women we need to understand it.

Get informed with these key facts on the problem.

In Australia, violence against women is called many different things, including domestic violence, family violence, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault.

You can find the full definitions in the glossary of *Change the story*.

<https://www.ourwatch.org.au/change-the-story>

## What is “violence against women”?

Violence against women is any act of gender-based violence that causes or could cause physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of harm or coercion, in public or in private life.

— UN Declaration



## Key statistics on violence against women in Australia

**1 a week** On average, one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner

**1 in 3** Australian women (30.5%) has experienced physical violence since the age of 15

**1 in 5** Australian women (18.4%) has experienced sexual violence since the age of 15

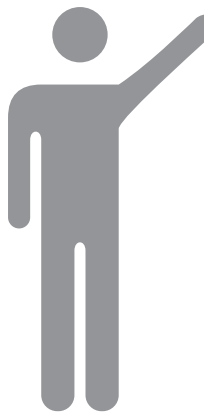
**1 in 3** Australian women (34.2%) has experienced physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by a man since the age of 15

**1 in 4** Australian women (23.0%) has experienced physical or sexual violence by current or former intimate partner since age 15

**1 in 4** Australian women (23.0%) has experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner

**x 3** Australian women are nearly three times more likely than men to experience violence from an intimate partner

**10 per day** Almost 10 women a day are hospitalised for assault injuries perpetrated by a spouse or domestic partner



Women are more than twice as likely as men to have experienced fear or anxiety due to violence from a former partner

Almost one in 10 women (9.4%) have experienced violence by a stranger since the age of 15

Young women (18–24 years) experience significantly higher rates of physical and sexual violence than women in older age groups

There is evidence that women with disability are more likely to experience violence



**1 in 5** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women aged 15 and over has experienced physical violence in a 12-month period. Over one-third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who have experienced physical violence in the year preceding 2014-15 identified an intimate partner as the perpetrator of their most recent experience of physical violence.

There is a lack of comprehensive, population-wide data on violence experienced by LGBTIQ people; however, existing data and research suggests that rates of violence experienced by LGBTIQ people are at least comparable to that experienced by wider female population. For example, one study has found that lesbian, bisexual and heteroflexible women are at least twice as likely to experience physical violence by a partner than heterosexual, cisgender women.



In 2017-18, the number of women making calls to elder abuse helplines across Australia exceeded men, with emotional and financial abuse most commonly reported.



There is a lack of comprehensive, population-wide data on prevalence and impacts of violence against women from migrant and refugee backgrounds. Specific studies suggest high prevalence rates and specific issues of complexity, such as partner using a woman's temporary migrant status as a means of violence.



## The impact and cost of violence against women

Violence against women takes a profound and long-term toll on women's health and wellbeing, on families and communities, and on society as a whole.

- Intimate partner violence is the third greatest health risk factor for women aged 25-44, with the first being childhood abuse and neglect.
- In 2014–15, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women were 32 times as likely to be hospitalised due to family violence assaults as non-Indigenous women.
- Based on 2015 analysis, violence against women in Australia is costing Australia \$21.7 billion each year.
- Women who experience partner violence during pregnancy are 3 times as likely to experience depression.
- Domestic or family violence is a leading driver of homelessness for women.

## Gender inequality and other forms of discrimination and disadvantage

- Australia's full-time gender pay gap is 14.0%, with women earning on average \$241.50 per week less than men.
- On average, women spend nearly 32 hours a week on household labour and caring for children, compared with nearly 19 hours by men.
- While women comprise almost half (47.0%) of all employed persons in the labour force, women continue to be under-represented in traditionally male-dominated industries, and in managerial positions across industries.
- In 2018, only 35% of Australians who have witnessed workplace sexual harassment in the previous 5 years took some form of action.
- In 2018, 19% of the Australian population reported have experienced racist or xenophobic discrimination in the previous 12 months.



## Research Collaboration: supporting the long-term psychological recovery of victim/survivors of intimate partner violence.



Susanne Lohmann is a clinical psychology PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne and Phoenix Australia, which is the Australian National Centre of Excellence in Posttraumatic Mental Health. Her PhD research investigates the mental health consequences of intimate partner violence, with a particular focus on the complex trauma sequelae of coercive control.

Intimate partner violence is associated with a high prevalence of long-term mental health consequences including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety and substance use disorders, but most existing policy recommendations focus on safety and crisis management and do not include psychological support that addresses the traumatic and long-term mental health impacts on victim/survivors. Whilst some women may recover relatively quickly after they have left an abusive relationship, many women, particularly those who have been exposed to coercive control, the most severe and chronic pattern of psychological IPV, are at high risk of long-term mental health consequences including complex PTSD and may benefit from trauma-focused psychological care.

Susanne's PhD research aims to address this gap by investigating the mental health impacts and mechanisms of coercive control to inform the development of trauma-focused programs to support victim/survivors' long-term recovery.



Susanne Lohmann

Susanne has teamed up with WUN for one of her PhD projects, which is a qualitative interview-based study that uses a community-based participatory research approach, aiming to enhance understanding and integrate knowledge with action to improve the wellbeing of those most affected. This project aims to deeply listen to the experience, needs and wants of women who have been exposed to intimate partner violence, particularly coercive control, and to identify themes that can inform the development of psychological interventions that can support the long-term recovery of victim/survivors. For her study, Susanne would like to interview 20 women who have experienced intimate partner violence. This study has received ethics approval by the University of Melbourne and all interviews will be conducted in a safe and supportive environment at WUN premises.



## SOCIAL IMPACT

### Reanna's Story

My parents were the ones that rang Women Up North, and I got to see their counsellor. WUN helped me make a safety plan, and it was a few months later before I was ready to go. WUN workers helped me get my own identity papers, income, phone, bank account, finance counsellor and solicitor. The children and I are now living our lives with no more extra debt and no more fear about his moods ... it was hard at first, we were all on edge and nervous day and night.

Finally, we managed to get our own safe place to live, and I got some work and did a training course. I might do more study, I am still getting used to being able to make my own choices and being responsible for everything. The best thing I did was tell my family and ask for support. I was embarrassed, but that is behind me now.





## Second Bite and our donation delivery program

By *Bridget Bible - DV Case worker, Ma Social Work*

### Women Up North, Second Bite and Coles Goonellabah working together to support families in need.

The SecondBite food program works in conjunction with Coles Goonellabah. Each week Coles Goonellabah donates food to WUN, enabling us to deliver bread, meat, vegetables, fruit, and eggs to women and children affected by domestic violence and homelessness in the Lismore area.

Second Bite sources fresh, nutritious food from supermarkets that is in surplus to requirements and works with local community organisations to redistribute to those individuals and families who may be struggling to afford food. Knowing that bread and other foodstuffs will be delivered on Monday morning, is of great help to our clients, alleviating some of the stress of budgeting and household bills. Clients have told us what a huge difference the food deliveries make to their lives. Women Up North have been involved with the SecondBite program since 2014.

### Maintaining dignity

WUN is a grateful recipient of donations that make a real difference in the lives of the families we support. These donations enable us to provide families and women with products and resources to manage health and personal hygiene, attend school, study, work and participate in the community.

Donations including food, school bags, assistance with uniforms and health and hygiene products are of immense benefit to our clients and their family members. These donations enable our clients to focus on important life events, study, work, school and health appointments in the face of the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, poverty, homelessness, and domestic violence.

### Farewell and thank you

It is with sadness and gratitude that I say farewell to Women Up North. It's been over two years since I walked through the doors as a student, had the good fortune to stay on as a casual and then had the amazing opportunity to take on a contract to fill a long service leave position.

I can see how much I have grown as a DV case worker, since I started (very tentatively) as a student. I have come a long way. I've learnt so much and I will be able to take that all with me.

I want to thank everyone for your kindness, support, teachings and all the laughs. What an amazing organisation WUN is, and I'm so proud to have been a part of it. Thank you.

Bridget.



### Thanks to Coles Alstonville

By *Brooke Cotten*

2020 saw the fifth year of the people of Alstonville donating to the Women Up North Christmas Appeal. Coles Alstonville kindly donated a tree and space for their customers to collect tags from our tree and replace them with gifts. These gifts were then distributed to our clients and their children, relieving the stress of Christmas for these families. There are often small gifts left over for the families experiencing crisis during the Christmas period, which helps bring some comfort to some children and mothers.

Women Up North very much appreciate the generosity of the team at Coles Alstonville, and their customers, for their continuing support.



## Healthy Minds

By *Judith Long*  
Counsellor - Healthy Minds

I am a registered Medicare and Healthy Minds Mental Health counsellor contracted through the North Coast Primary Health Network's Healthy Minds Connect to Wellbeing Program. I have been providing this counselling service to Women Up North Housing since July 2016.

Healthy Minds prioritises clients who are:

- Experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Living in rural and remote areas
- Culturally and linguistically diverse
- At risk of suicide
- Perinatal

The other referral pathway which is used to attend my practice is a GP Mental Health Care Plan. The past year has seen two major events create some differences to my practice delivery and access: the local bushfires and COVID-19.

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on mental health. In response, Medicare's Better Access extended its Care Plans from 10 to 20 sessions per annum from January 2021 to July 2022. I have seen an increase in referrals from this pathway as a result.

With ongoing lockdowns and restrictions there has been a large increase in telephone and Zoom counselling sessions. Prior to COVID, my caseload was approximately 70% face-to-face, 25% over the phone and 5% on Zoom. Recently these figures have almost reversed, and I now see 35% of clients face to face, 45% over the phone and 20% on Zoom. I envisage that this trend is likely to continue. From a therapeutic standpoint, I prefer Zoom to phone consultations, and experience better outcomes (particularly trauma healing) when a client and myself can see one another. However, there remain some barriers, as not everyone has access to this technology.

Over the past 12 months I have provided approximately 360 counselling sessions.







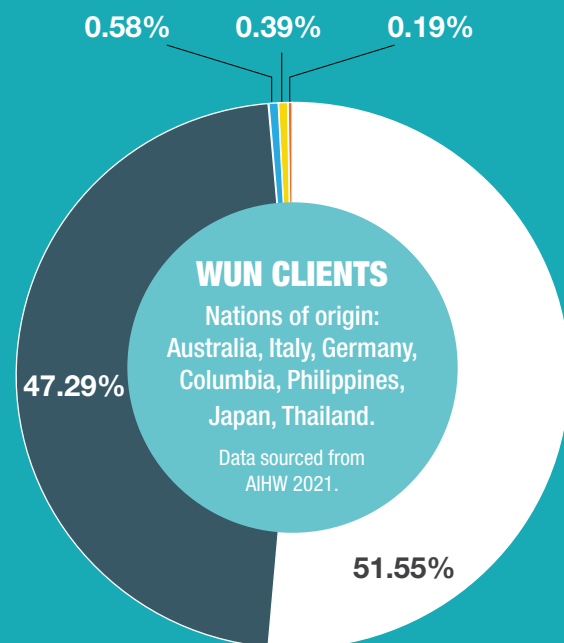
# Where our clients are located



ALSTONVILLE  
 ARMIDALE  
 BACKMEDE  
 BALLINA  
 BARKERS VALE  
 BOOERIE CREEK  
 BOORABEE PARK  
 BOOYONG  
 BOX RIDGE  
 BROADWATER  
 BROOKLET  
 BRUNSWICK HEADS  
 BYRON BAY  
 CABBAGE TREE ISLAND  
 CASINO  
 CLUNES  
 CORAKI  
 CUNBALUM  
 EAST BALLINA  
 EAST LISMORE  
 EDEN  
 EDEN CREEK  
 EVANS HEAD  
 FAIRY HILL  
 GENEVA  
 GEORGICA  
 GIRARDS HILL  
 GOLD COAST  
 GOOLMANGAR  
 GOONELLABAH  
 GRAFTON  
 JIGGI  
 KEMPSEY  
 KYOGLE  
 LARNOOK  
 LEEVILLE  
 LISMORE  
 LISMORE HEIGHTS  
 LITTLE ITALY

LOWER DYRAABA  
 MACLEAN  
 MAROM CREEK  
 MARSDEN  
 MCLEANS RIDGES  
 MEERSCHAUM VALE  
 MONGOGARIE  
 MURWILLUMBAH  
 NIMBIN  
 NORTH LISMORE  
 NORTH NOWRA  
 PORT MACQUARIE  
 POTTSVILLE  
 ROCKVILLE  
 SLEEPY HOLLOW  
 SOUTH CASINO  
 SOUTH GUNDURIMBA

SOUTH HAMILTON  
 SOUTH LISMORE  
 SYDNEY  
 TABULAM  
 TAREE  
 THE CHANNON  
 TULLERA  
 TWEED HEADS SOUTH  
 WARDELL  
 WEST KEMPSEY  
 WIANGAREE  
 WOLLONGBAR  
 WOODBURN  
 WOODENBONG  
 WYRALLAH



- Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin
- Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin
- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin
- Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin
- Don't know

## Family and Domestic Violence Leave Campaign

**Australian Unions is renewing its call for a minimum of ten days of paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave to be included in national workplace laws to help women escape violent situations. Australian Unions demand that the Federal Government act to give every worker access to paid family and domestic violence leave.**

### Why do we need family and domestic violence leave?

Escaping a violent relationship takes time and money.

It is estimated that moving to find a new, safe place for yourself and your family can cost up to \$20,000 and take more than 140 hours – but federal laws currently only provide for five days of unpaid leave.

Paid family and domestic violence leave can give a woman – and it nearly always is a woman – the time, support and job security she needs to escape and recover from an abusive relationship.

One in three employers now offers this leave. All state and territory governments do as well but two out of three employees are still missing out.

A woman's safety shouldn't depend on her employer. The Federal Government must act now to give all workers access to paid family and domestic violence leave.

It takes paid leave to leave. And we won't wait, because women can't wait.

Support paid family and domestic violence leave for all workers by signing the petition:

**[megaphone.org.au/petitions/we-won-t-wait-because-women-can-t-wait](https://megaphone.org.au/petitions/we-won-t-wait-because-women-can-t-wait)**

The more people and organisations calling for paid leave, the easier it will be to convince political parties to do the right thing.

You can download a We Won't Wait Campaign Guide for actions you can do in your workplace to build support for the campaign, including getting your employer to publicly support it.



**At least 10 days paid family and domestic violence leave for all.**

Workplace Campaign Guide


Australian Unions  
 We're for workers




# Facts and figures: Ending violence against women

Availability of data on violence against women and girls has increased significantly in recent years. Visit our research and data page for more information on why data is critical to UN Women's work supporting women and girls experiencing violence.


**Globally, an estimated 736 million women—almost one in three—have been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their life (30 per cent of women aged 15 and older).** This figure does not include sexual harassment. The rates of depression, anxiety disorders, unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV are higher in women who have experienced violence compared to women who have not, as well as many other health problems that can last even after the violence has ended.

 **Most violence against women is perpetrated by current or former husbands or intimate partners.**


More than 640 million women aged 15 and older have been subjected to intimate partner violence (26 per cent of women aged 15 and older)

 **Of those who have been in a relationship, almost one in four adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 (24 per cent) have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or husband.**


Sixteen per cent of young women aged 15 to 24 experienced this violence in the past 12 months.

 **In 2018, an estimated one in seven women had experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or husband in the past 12 months (13 per cent of women aged 15 to 49).**


These numbers do not reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has increased risk factors for violence against women.

 **Calls to helplines have increased five-fold in some countries.**


Rates of reported intimate partner violence increase because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Restricted movement, social isolation, and economic insecurity are increasing women's vulnerability to violence in the home around the world.

 **By September 2020, 52 countries had integrated prevention and response to violence against women and girls into COVID-19 response plans.**

121 countries had adopted measures to strengthen services for women survivors of violence during the global crisis, but more efforts are urgently needed.

 **Globally, 6 per cent of women report they have been subjected to sexual violence from someone other than their husband or partner.**


However, the true prevalence of non-partner sexual violence is likely to be much higher, considering the particular stigma related to this form of violence.

 **One hundred thirty-seven women are killed by a member of their family every day.**

It is estimated that of the 87,000 women who were intentionally killed in 2017 globally, more than half (50,000) were killed by intimate partners or family members. More than one third (30,000) of the women intentionally killed in 2017 were killed by their current or former intimate partner.

 **At least 155 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, and 140 have laws on sexual harassment in the workplace.**


However, even when laws exist, this does not mean they are always compliant with international standards and recommendations, or that the laws are implemented and enforced.

 **Globally, violence against women disproportionately affects low- and lower-middle-income countries and regions.**


Thirty-seven per cent of women aged 15 to 49 living in countries classified by the Sustainable Development Goals as "least developed" have been subject to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in their life. Twenty-two per cent of women living in "least developed countries" have been subjected to intimate partner violence in the past 12 months—substantially higher than the world average of 13 per cent.

 **Fewer than 40 per cent of the women who experience violence seek help of any sort.**


In the majority of countries with available data on this issue, among women who do seek help, most look to family and friends, and very few look to formal institutions, such as police and health services. Fewer than 10 per cent of those seeking help appealed to the police.

 **Adult women account for nearly half (49 per cent) of all human trafficking victims detected globally.**


Women and girls together account for 72 per cent, with girls representing more than three out of every four child trafficking victims. Most women and girls are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

 **In 2019, one in five women, aged 20–24 years, were married before the age of 18.**


During the past decade, the global rate of child marriage has declined, with South Asia having the largest decline during this time. Today, the risk of child marriage is highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than one in three women, aged 20–24 years, were married before the age of 18. Child marriage often results in early pregnancy and social isolation, interrupts schooling, and increases a girl's risk of experiencing domestic violence.

 **At least 200 million women and girls, aged 15–49 years, have undergone female genital mutilation in 31 countries where the practice is concentrated.**


Half of these countries are in West Africa. There are still countries where female genital mutilation is almost universal, where at least 9 in 10 girls and women, aged 15–49 years, have been cut.

 **15 million adolescent girls worldwide, aged 15–19 years, have experienced forced sex.**

In the vast majority of countries, adolescent girls are most at risk of forced sex (forced sexual intercourse or other sexual acts) by a current or former husband, partner, or boyfriend. Based on data from 30 countries, only one per cent have ever sought professional help.

 **School-related gender-based violence is a major obstacle to universal schooling and the right to education for girls.**

Globally, one in three students, aged 11–15, have been bullied by their peers at school at least once in the past month, with girls and boys equally likely to experience bullying. While boys are more likely to experience physical bullying than girls, girls are more likely to experience psychological bullying, and they report being made fun of because of how their face or body looks more frequently than boys.

 **Across five regions, 82 per cent of women parliamentarians reported having experienced some form of psychological violence while serving their terms.**

This included remarks, gestures, and images of a sexist or humiliating sexual nature, threats, and mobbing. Women cited social media as the main channel of this type of violence, and nearly half (44 per cent) reported receiving death, rape, assault, or abduction threats towards them or their families. Sixty-five per cent had been subjected to sexist remarks, primarily by male colleagues in parliament

**To find up-to-date data, visit [UN Women's Global Database on Violence against Women and the Women Count Data Hub](#).**



# Treasurer's Report

I am very honoured to join the Women Up North Housing Board this year, serving as treasurer. I am originally from Fort Worth, Texas, but have been living in Bundjalung Country for the last 12 years. My professional background is in youth and community development and non-profit management, primarily working with communities to develop meaningful employment and training pathways and alternatives to the dominant criminal justice system. I am currently completing a PhD with Gribi College of Indigenous Australian Peoples. I would like to join others in acknowledging Bundjalung Country and paying my respects to Elders past, present and emerging. I pay my respects to the Bundjalung people, the traditional owners and custodians of this land where I live, work and raise my family.

It is a privilege to serve on the board at a pivotal time for the organisation. On the one hand, like the broader community, we are feeling the ongoing effects of the pandemic and the increased demand for services. Women, children and young people are being hit particularly hard by the effects of successive lockdowns. On the other hand, we are fortunate to be in a stable financial situation, due to staff continuing to deliver high-quality essential services through program funding, and also due to the tireless fundraising efforts of the CEO and the generous contribution of private donors.

We are excited to have secured funding this year for much needed renovations to Bugalma Bihyn which will begin soon. We have also secured funding to support ongoing upgrades to our information systems, which are especially crucial in this period of increasing online engagement. We finished the year with a financial surplus, which will provide a helpful buffer in these uncertain times.



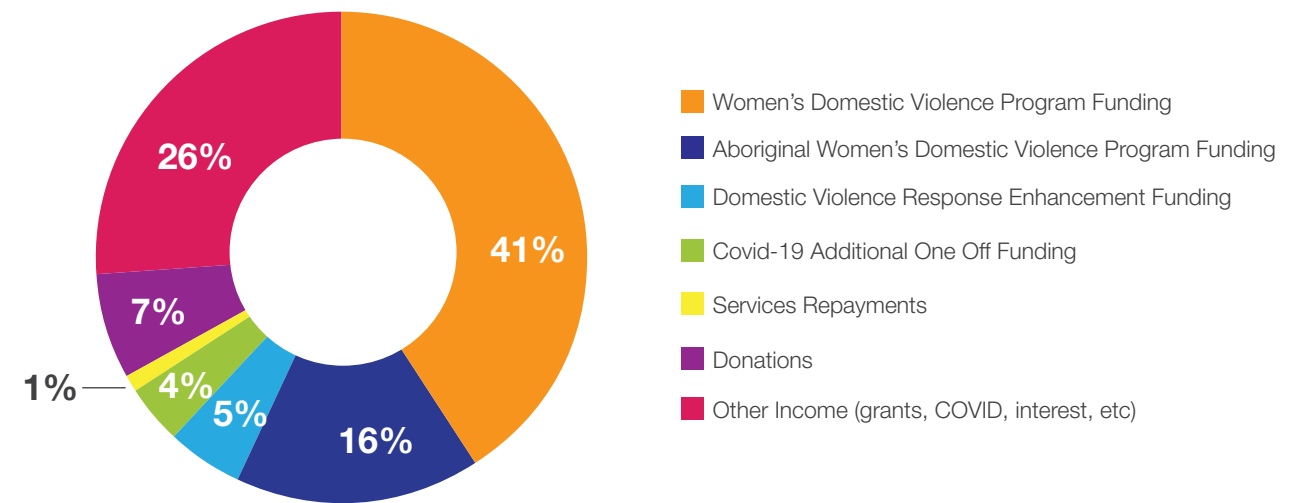
Margaret Hughes

As always, government support for domestic violence and specialist homelessness services, although crucial, does not begin to meet the demand. We continue to rely on philanthropic grants and private donations to supplement our government contracts in order to adequately support the needs in the local community. Thank you to all who have provided financial support this year!

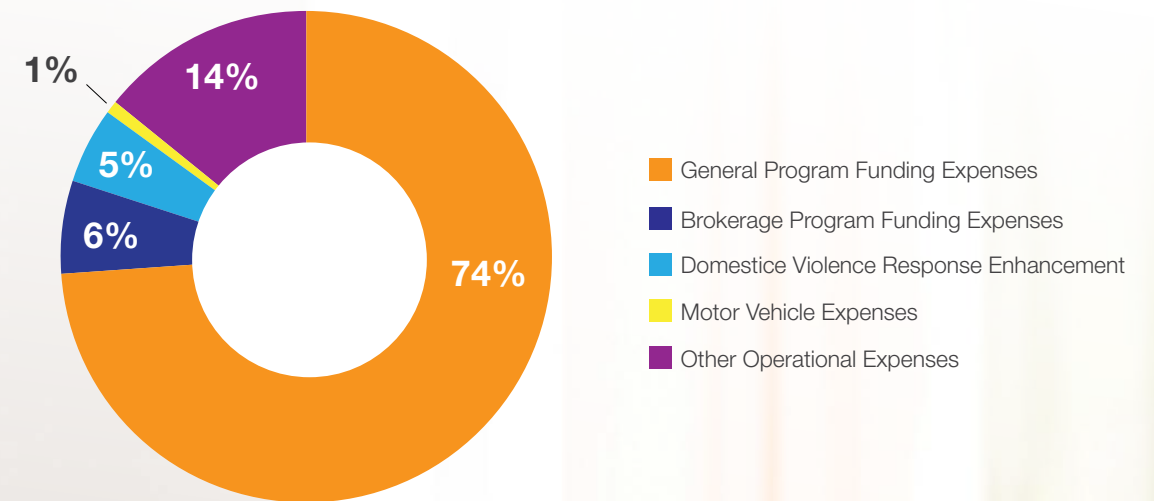
If you are moved to support our vision of empowerment, safety and equality for women, children and young people, please consider making a financial contribution toward putting this vision into practice. There is more information about our work and how to contribute on the Women up North website: [wunh.org.au](http://wunh.org.au)

Margaret Hughes  
Treasurer

## WUN Income 2020-2021



## WUN Expenses 2020-2021



# Technology-facilitated Abuse

Technology-facilitated abuse is a form of domestic violence in which abusers control, stalk and harass their victims using technology. Research shows that technology-facilitated abuse has become a key part of domestic and family violence. If you are experiencing domestic and family violence, safe access to technology is important, so you can stay connected to your family and friends and get information and support.

## It includes a range of behaviours

- sending abusive text messages or emails
- making continuous threatening phone calls
- spying on and monitoring victims through the use of tracking systems
- abusing victims through social media sites
- sharing intimate images of someone without their consent (also known as image-based abuse or 'revenge porn')
- using technology to control or manipulate home appliances, locks and other connected devices.



## Some warning signs

- Seems to know what you are doing online when they normally would not have access to this information.
- Seems to know where you or your children are or turns up unexpectedly where you are.
- Knows information from your private conversations, messages or emails.
- Has access to your phone or computer or requests passwords or pin codes.

- Constantly checks on you through social media activity or text logs.
- Sends frequent and unwanted texts or messages or makes calls that are abusive or silent.
- Posts defamatory comments, or things that are designed to humiliate or ridicule you or spreads malicious rumours on social media.
- Constantly posts or sends messages that are harassing, threatening or demanding, such as 'what are you doing?', 'who are you with?', 'where are you?'



## What can you do to protect yourself?

- Set strong passcodes and passwords to secure your online accounts and devices, change them frequently and do not share them with anyone.
- Turn off location services on your phone and computer, and do not 'check in' through your social media accounts.
- If your partner or ex-partner set up your device or you share an account, it may be necessary to set up a new account and restore your device to factory settings.
- Be aware of your privacy when posting online — avoid posting identifying information about your location, including in photos.
- Use your social media accounts safely — block unknown or abusive people and use the highest level security and privacy settings on your accounts to make sure your posts are only seen by the people you choose.

**This information is from the Domestic and family violence eSafety Commissioner.**  
**For more information visit: [esafety.gov.au/key-issues/domestic-family-violence](https://esafety.gov.au/key-issues/domestic-family-violence)**

## Financials

### Women Up North Housing Inc

#### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

		\$	\$
Revenue	4	1,127,024	908,289
Employee expenses	5	(599,461)	(551,803)
Other expenses	5	(300,909)	(292,021)
<b>Profit before income tax</b>		<b>226,654</b>	<b>64,465</b>
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Profit from continuing operations</b>		<b>226,654</b>	<b>64,465</b>
<b>Profit for the year</b>		<b>226,654</b>	<b>64,465</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>226,654</b>	<b>64,465</b>

#### Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2021

		2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	861,763	114,030
Trade and other receivables	7	22,882	4,387
Other financial assets	8	426,078	214,518
Other assets	10	4,326	42,909
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,315,049</b>	<b>375,844</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	9	15,095	26,151
Right-of-use assets	11	22,716	45,442
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>37,811</b>	<b>71,593</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,352,860</b>	<b>447,437</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	12	107,843	36,497
Lease Liability	11	22,872	21,601
Employee benefits	14	64,935	56,677
Other liabilities	13	631,085	9,764
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>826,733</b>	<b>124,537</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee provisions	14	21,365	20,068
Lease Liability	11	1,961	26,685
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>23,326</b>	<b>46,753</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>850,059</b>	<b>171,290</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>502,801</b>	<b>276,147</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		502,801	276,147
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>502,801</b>	<b>276,147</b>



## Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2021

	Retained Earnings	Total
Note	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2020	276,147	276,147
Profit for the year	226,654	226,654
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>502,801</b>	<b>502,801</b>

2020

	Retained Earnings	Total
Note	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2019	211,681	211,681
Profit for the year	64,465	64,465
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>276,146</b>	<b>276,146</b>

## Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
Note	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Receipts from customers	1,918,394	948,869
Payments to suppliers and employees	(938,297)	(870,467)
Interest received	2,833	4,757
Interest paid	(1,940)	(2,547)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	15 <b>980,990</b>	<b>80,612</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	(15,205)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	-	(15,205)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Payment of finance lease	(21,696)	(17,150)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(21,696)	(17,150)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	959,294	48,257
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	328,548	280,291
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	15(a) <b>1,287,842</b>	<b>328,548</b>

## Partners, Donors, Volunteers 2020-2021

### Drink Less for Domestic Violence Campaigner Lauren Bice.



In September 2021, Lauren Bice launched a fundraising campaign for survivors of domestic violence with funds going to Women Up North. In acknowledgement of the links between alcohol abuse and domestic violence, Lauren's campaign on the crowdfunding platform My Cause states:

Today I am quitting alcohol until the end of October to raise money for Women Up North. Women Up North is an organisation located in Lismore (Northern NSW region) that are dedicated to supporting a safe and healthy environment for families and communities.

They assist women and their children who have experienced domestic / family violence or abuse, to access and maintain private and social housing. The strong encouragement for positive change and assistance, in the development of opportunities to live safe and healthy lives, is so important for the future of women and children in Australia today. We all know very well, that not everyone is given equal opportunities in life, and this needs to change.

For more information on family violence relating to alcohol, please visit:

<https://fare.org.au/policy/family-violence/>

Lauren's campaign has a fundraising goal of \$2000 and at the time of writing, is very close to that target, with \$1700 raised.

You can see Lauren's campaign here:

[mycause.com.au/p/264094/drink-less-for-domestic-violence](https://mycause.com.au/p/264094/drink-less-for-domestic-violence)

### Lauren Bice - Drink Less for Domestic Violence crowdfunding campaign donors, as listed on mycause.com

Lauren Bice	Lyndall
Dan Murphy	Sonja
Savanagh	Sam C
Madeline	Kim
Norm	Parki
Tanya	Stacey
Riley	Jared S
Ursula	Rae
Georgia	Julie
Dawsey	



Hilary Riggs and her partner Geoff Brooks heard on ABC Local that Women Up North Housing had an increase in clients this year, and that the one-off 'Staying Home Leaving Violence' program funding, that paid for locksmiths and security, had dried up. Hilary and Geoff very generously donated \$2,000 which, alongside a small donation from Bunnings, will assist women and families to remain safely in their own homes by providing these crucial service.

### At home security and safety devices for women experiencing domestic and family violence

Hilary Riggs and Geoff Brooks

Bunnings Lismore

Rouse Water



## Our generous recurring donors and other big-hearted fundraisers and community members

Alex Clarke Birthday fundraiser

Alyssa Milan

Amanda Lyons

Amber Gooley

Amir Shuv-Ami

Brenda Reyes

Charlotte Lyndon

Charmaine Ferreira

Del Rainbow

Elizabet Smith

Emma Bellamy

Jaye Huxley

Jessica Kearney

Justina Edwards

Kenneth Birchall

Laura Tyrie

Lee

Loco Love

Lotus Cruse

Lucia Ariotti

Margaret Lee

Margaux Lee

Melisa Brooks

Murray Smee

Natasha Hart

Nicholas Margan

Nicola Dawson

Philip Buckler

Rebecca Gibson

Rob

Robert Hanepen

Sarah Armstrong

Sofie Neuendorf

Trenton Baillie

Uif Steinvorth

## Corporate Donors

Alice Miyagawa Shrine River Soundscapes

Bunnings Lismore

Coles Alstonville Christmas campaign

Coles Goonellabah

Frigidair Lismore

Goonellabah Physiotherapy Centre

Lismore City Council

Rous Water

Sails Motel Brunswick Heads

VERTO Christmas campaign 2020

## Education Groups

Catholic Education Office Lismore

Griffith University

Lismore, Kadina, Richmond River, Southern Cross, Kyogle, Casino, Woodenbong and Nimbin High Schools

Southern Cross University

Susanne Lohmann at the University of Melbourne

The Rivers College of Advanced Education

The students and staff at Kadina and Lismore High, Woodlawn and Trinity.

The University of Melbourne

Trinity College

## Pro Bono

Paul Gallagher of GS Lawyers

Steve Bolt of Bolt Findlay

## Community Groups, Foundations, Charities and Trusts

Allannah and Madeline Foundation

Eureka Football Club

Ian Potter Foundation

NRCF

Period Pack

Rize Up

Share the Dignity

Wales Trust

ZONTA



## CAN YOU HELP US REACH OUR FUNDRAISING TARGET?

Women Up North Housing have a fundraising target of \$180,000 to finish important renovations on the refuge, to make it more inclusive and accessible. Scan the QR code to find out more and donate.







# Women Up North

## **ANNUAL** REPORT 2020/2021



Women Up North Housing Inc  
40 Wyrallah Road  
East Lismore NSW 2480

PO Box 5197  
Lismore NSW 2480

Phone 02 6621 7730  
Fax 02 6621 8819

Email [wunh@wunh.org.au](mailto:wunh@wunh.org.au)

---

[www.wunh.org.au](http://www.wunh.org.au)