



**WAYSIDE
CHAPEL**

2024-2025
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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Pictured on the cover: Rachel, Wayside visitor and die-hard Rabbitohs supporter

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Wayside Chapel acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Country on which we operate; the Gadigal, Bidjigal and Birrabirragal people. For tens of thousands of years, they built community, and passed down stories and practiced culture, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. It has been our privilege and responsibility for the last 60 years to journey with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from across this magnificent land in ways that promote respect, healing and community with no ‘us and them’. We remain committed to ‘keeping the fire burning’ that reconciliation is not only a moral imperative, but also a pathway to a more equitable and just society for all Australians.

OUR VISION: LOVE OVER HATE



At Wayside, we live on the intersection between love and hate, between faith and no faith, between the haves and the have nots, the housed and the homeless, the sick and the well. We live on this intersection between love and hate in a way that helps love prevail. It is a vision that is always before us and always calling us to be more.

**OUR MISSION:
CREATING COMMUNITY
WITH NO ‘US AND THEM’**

We break down the barriers of judgement and provide a safe place where people from all walks of life are welcome.

ABOUT WAYSIDE CHAPEL

Wayside Chapel is a nonprofit organisation that supports people living outside the realm of inclusion; the stigmatised, the isolated or those experiencing homelessness. We operate two community centres in the Eastern Suburbs, one in Kings Cross and one in Bondi Beach where people can access referrals for short- and long-term crisis accommodation; information and advocacy services; referral services to health and welfare agencies; drop in wellbeing activities; and practical day to day support such as showers, clean clothing and low-cost meals. We meet people as they are without any judgement, and our door is open to all, regardless of circumstance.

MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE MARGARET BEAZLEY AC KC GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES



Wayside Chapel is a special place in our community. For over 60 years, it has been a model of inclusion and acceptance, recognising individual rights without distinction or condition. Wayside demonstrates leadership that sees people, not problems.

Over the past twelve months, despite ongoing cost-of-living pressures and economic and social strains, Wayside Chapel continues to be a place of welcome, warmth and unwavering community support. As the challenges faced by individuals and families have become increasingly complex, Wayside's response to the needs of its community has adapted.

Providing a coordinated, comprehensive approach, grounded in real relationships, there is a deepening focus on long-term pathways, rather than short-term solutions. This represents a significant shift in community care and is a powerful reminder that real change takes time, and that dignity must be the foundation of all service.

The quiet courage of staff and volunteers who consistently show up and walk alongside others — day after day, seven days a week, in good times, and through setbacks, providing consistency, hope and kindness in an unstable world, is one of the most powerful forces for good in our community. It is a beacon of care to Sydney, and beyond.

As Patron, I convey my most heartfelt thanks to all at Wayside.

**Her Excellency the Honourable
Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales**





CHAIR'S REPORT, SIMON PERROTT

It is my pleasure to present this annual report for Wayside Chapel on behalf of your board of directors. It has once again been a challenging year, and we are humbled by the support we receive from our community.

Wayside can only serve our visitors because of the support that we in turn receive from so many parts of our own community. From our staff, volunteers and generous donors to the NSW government departments, local first responders and allied health professionals in our area to name just a few, we draw on a wide range of committed individuals who work tirelessly to provide Wayside with the essential services we need to operate. We are extremely grateful to all.

Through the hard work and compassion of Pastor and CEO Jon Owen and his entire team, we keep Wayside true to our mission of creating community with 'no us and them'. We believe this has never been more important when globally we see so many examples of divisions in society and feelings of displacement and isolation.

The trend of increasing demand for our services and programs has continued from last year. We work hard to ensure Wayside adapts and evolves not only to meet growth in demand, but also to recognise that the needs of our visitor community are complex. We must constantly adapt the way we are organised to ensure we do our best to support our visitors in the numerous challenges they face.

To ensure we can continue our mission and support the hundreds of marginalised visitors we see every day, the board aspires to best practice in governance and risk management and continues our clear focus on fiscal sustainability. While the fundraising environment remains challenging for all charities, I am pleased to report a substantial improvement in our financial results this year.

For the year ended 31 March 2025, we reported total revenue of \$15.56M. This reflects the ongoing support and trust of our generous stakeholders.

We achieved a small operating surplus before depreciation of \$240,656 and a net loss after depreciation of \$540,386. Our total expenses of \$16M, which represented a year-on-year decrease of \$1M, were a result of a strong focus on cost control without compromising the core services offered.

Cash reserves remain strong, and we have maintained an operating surplus for the first quarter of 2025-26. Cost management remains at the forefront for the board and management team to ensure Wayside achieves an operating break-even budget for the year.

It is my good fortune to chair a talented and dedicated board at Wayside. This year we added two new board members, Paul Zahra and Ruth Wicks, and we welcome their experience and fresh perspectives. We also farewell long serving member Nym Kim who has contributed to Wayside in many ways over many years, and we wish her all the best for the future.

The visitors who arrive and rely on us for support every day are the reason for Wayside's existence. We will continue to work to ensure that Wayside remains a compassionate and sustainable organisation that can be relied on to meet our visitors when and where they need us most.

Thanks to each person who is connected to our shared mission, for your support and for being part of the Wayside Chapel family. We are so grateful for your compassion, your kindness, and your generosity.

**Wayside Chapel Board Chair
Simon Perrott**

PASTOR AND CEO'S REPORT

As I look back on our past year, I'm struck by the resilience and determination I've witnessed both within our community and amongst our team at Wayside Chapel.

The cost-of-living struggles have touched every corner of Australian society, and the people we serve have felt the impacts most acutely. Yet through it all, we've remained steadfast in our commitment to walk alongside those who need us most.

People continue to find their way to our doors, seeking not just our unique support, but also connection, dignity, and hope. Whether someone visits us once or becomes part of our extended family over months and years, we meet them exactly where they are on their journey, ready to take the steps together.

Our team's ability to wrap love and care around individuals and families, connecting them with a broad and complex range of services from housing assistance to mental health support, continues to be more sophisticated and effective.

The increasing demand, year on year, has challenged us to think differently about how we create lasting change.

Rather than simply providing immediate relief, We are increasingly focused on going deeper with people—investing more time in understanding root causes, building genuine relationships, and working alongside people on longer-term pathways to stability and independence.

Crucially, we're developing better ways to track and demonstrate the outcomes of our work, following people's journeys as they move through our services and into lives where they no longer need us. It's about supporting people through their entire journey, not just meeting them at their point of greatest need.

This comprehensive approach wouldn't be possible without the extraordinary partnerships that sustain and amplify our work. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the governmental agencies whose collaboration enables us to provide wraparound support. To our private sector partners, your commitment to social responsibility creates pathways and opportunities that transform lives in ways we could never achieve alone. To our donors, the trust you place in us to be the hands that deliver your compassion and care humbles and galvanises us in our shared mission—thank you for your ongoing support.



And to our remarkable staff and volunteers—you are simply extraordinary. Your expertise, unwavering commitment, and genuine love for our community creates an environment where healing and hope can flourish. You don't just do this work; you live it with integrity, innovation, and an infectious belief in human dignity. Watching you navigate complex challenges with such skill and heart fills me with immense pride and gratitude.

This year has reinforced my conviction that Wayside Chapel's greatest strength lies not just in what we do, but in how we do it. We don't just provide services; we build relationships. We don't just offer temporary relief; we commit to walking the long road with our community, for as long as it takes.

We're here for the long haul, committed to being a constant in an increasingly uncertain world. Together, we'll continue walking this path, step by step, supporting each other through whatever lies ahead. To all who support us to do this, you have my undying gratitude and thanks.

**Wayside Chapel CEO & Pastor
Rev Jon Owen**



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**WE WILL BUILD A SUSTAINABLE WAYSIDE,
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY,
EXTENDING OUR VOICE.**

1 Build a Sustainable Wayside

Wayside acknowledges what many of us already know: if we are to be here for the next 60 years, we must invest in strong foundations. Financial sustainability ensures our mission endures. When we talk about achieving targets and diversifying revenue, we are ultimately protecting something sacred: our ability to say "yes" when someone needs us most.

2 Care for our Community

Our promise is that every person who walks through our doors will be met with evidence-based practice grounded in their lived experience. When we embed visitor voices into everything we do, when we measure outcomes that actually matter, we are not just improving services, we are proving that love can be both radical and rigorous.

3 Extend Our Voice

Wayside has a responsibility to speak up for those who are not usually heard. The insights we gain from walking alongside people experiencing society's harshest realities are not meant to stay within these walls. When we contribute to national conversations, when we share stories authentically, we are amplifying voices that too often go unheard.

FY 2025 IN NUMBERS



37,405
instances of
wraparound support*



57,391
items of clothing and
blankets given out



89,378
meals served



283
daily visitors on avg



11,488
showers provided



160 tonnes
of clothing diverted
from landfill via
Wayside Op Shops



575
volunteers



23,056
volunteer hours
donated

*Includes Service Brokerage, Housing, Referrals, Outreach and other support for Crisis and Care Coordination



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: THE WAYSIDE WAY

MEET

Wayside Chapel’s Community Services Centres, one each in Bondi Beach and Kings Cross, are the first interaction most of our community will have with Wayside.

These Community Services Centres (CSCs) are the open doors that greets visitors not as problems to be solved, but as people to be met.

In the past 12 months, Wayside’s CSCs have expanded activities and service offerings to provide holistic support to visitors with complex needs. Visitors to Wayside seek community connection, healthy affordable meals as well as essentials like showers and clothing.

Many arrive in crisis and staff offer support for issues arising from homelessness, mental health challenges, legal matters, substance use, unemployment, and family violence.

Visitor engagement has flourished through new initiatives like Alphabet Soup, a group for LGBTQIA+SB visitors, as well as weaving, writing group, music production and free haircuts. Offsite activities such as theatre trips, gym sessions, and street soccer have also been highly valued. Community lunches and dinners, weekly **OzHarvest** market visits, and partnerships with grocery retailers and restaurants continue to support food provision and social inclusion.

Health partnerships remain vital. **St Vincent’s Homeless Health** provide onsite weekly clinics and have also trialled onsite diabetes and podiatry services. **Kirketon Road Centre (KRC)** and **Hepatitis NSW** delivered onsite Hepatitis C testing. Joint outreach services with KRC, operating twice weekly, and monthly sessions with **Odyssey House** continue to successfully connect rough sleepers with ongoing support. We continue our ongoing partnership with **Centrelink** to provide outreach services at both Kings Cross and Bondi.

Staff development has included training in autism awareness, cultural competencies, harm minimisation, and child safety, ensuring our team remains skilled and responsive to community needs.



PEOPLE OF
WAYSIDE

Carol

VISITOR

Wayside Chapel has a great community feel and is a very special and important place to me. When I felt depressed, it helped me in so many ways. You have a little chat, and you help each other. Not only do you have the emotional support, but people try and help each other where they can and I like that feeling of community. It would be huge if Wayside didn't exist.

SUPPORT

Beyond the ‘front door’ of the Community Services Centres, Wayside Chapel offers visitors wraparound support through our Care Coordination programs which help people move towards health and healing.

We’re there beside people, for each step no matter how many it takes or how many times someone needs to start again.

Care coordination operates across both Kings Cross and Bondi Beach supporting visitors to find stable housing, mental health services and community connection. Our collaboration with the **Homeless Persons’ Legal Service** ensures visitors can access free, onsite legal assistance.

This year saw numerous housing successes, with several at-risk visitors successfully placed in social housing.

Staff have provided comprehensive support, including accompanying visitors to **ReLove** to furnish their new homes. The Pathways team have also developed strong collaborations. **Sydney East Community College** have delivered vocational training for visitors including White Card, RSA, Food Safety, and First Aid certifications, while partnerships with **St Vincents Ozanam Learning Centre** offer seven-week entry-into-care courses for community services, aged care, and disability work. Our partnership with Services Australia enables onsite Centrelink clinics, improving access to welfare support.

The Women’s Space provides drop-in facilities on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with visitors enjoying all kinds of meditative activities such as knitting, drawing, colouring in, and board games. The women thank staff every day for providing a fun, relaxing, and engaging environment where they can ‘just be’. Staff in the Women’s Space delivered a first round of psychoeducation group, covering subject matter such as safe relationships, financial literacy, counselling via KRC and nutrition.

Mob Space underwent renovation planning while maintaining care coordination services and supporting major events including NAIDOC Week celebrations and the YABUN Festival. First Nations men were engaged through partnerships with **Babana** and **Tribal Warrior** facilitating mental health discussions and support.

Wayside Chapel is proud to work together with other non-profits and organisations, **noted in bold**, collaborating for maximum impact of the communities we serve.



PEOPLE OF
WAYSIDE

Andrew

LIVED EXPERIENCE SPEAKER

I've experienced some of the best and worst times of my life in Sydney. Some places still send shivers down by spine, and others, like the Community Cafe and chapel at Wayside in Kings Cross, remind me that Sydney can be a place where everyone belongs. I lead walking tours around the Cross with the Wayfinders groups. When one student asked me why I do it, I said 'so that you don't end up here.'

ADVOCATE

Wayside is built on a foundation of rebellious love, of speaking out about the causes of pain so that we may help to alleviate them. We extend our voice to educate and call for action, so that our community can move towards justice and inclusion.

Wayfinders School Experience Program

This year, hundreds of students visited Wayside through our growing Wayfinders program, engaging firsthand with life on the streets of Kings Cross.

Over a single morning, students hear real stories of resilience and radical welcome, gaining insight into homelessness, addiction, mental health and marginalisation. They also learn what it means to walk alongside those doing it tough. One teacher said, "Hearing Andrew's personal story added reality to the issue of homelessness... it was very impactful."

This year 22 schools engaged with Wayside through the Wayfinders program, giving 505 students the opportunity to understand the challenges people face and imagine a more just and compassionate world.

Using our Voice

As part of our advocacy agenda, Wayside Chapel participated in the NSW Drug Summit in December, with Pastor and CEO Rev Jon Owen delivering the message to government that policies should be aimed at supporting people, not punishing them.



PEOPLE OF
WAYSIDE

Chantal

STAFF

I have been at Wayside in some way or another since 1983. I first arrived from New Caledonia and this was one of the first places I found community. It was like I found a new home. They call me 'Mrs Claus' here, because I wouldn't miss a Wayside Christmas Day Street party for anything. It can be a really sad day for so many of our community. If we can make it less sad for people, then we have achieved what we wanted on Christmas Day.

CELEBRATE

We often say that Wayside meets people on the worst day of their life, and it's true that we do. We also meet people on some of life's most joyous occasions, and on the average day where spirits rise triumphantly above circumstance.

Wayside Christmas Day Street Party

In 2024, Hughes Street once again became a hub of joy, music and welcome for our annual Christmas Street Party.

With roast lunches, birthday cake for Wayside's 60th and surprise performances —

including a Tina Turner-in-drag set that got the crowd dancing — the day was unforgettable. Our incredible staff and volunteers made it all happen, ensuring everyone was fed, welcomed and seen.

For those who might otherwise spend Christmas alone, it was a moment of connection and celebration where no one was left out.

Sunday Services

Our Sunday Services at Bondi Beach and Kings Cross now include morning tea, deepening the sense of connection and community. Kings Cross's weekly roast lunch remains a much-loved tradition, and more people than ever are stepping up to lead, speak and serve.

Wayside's Got Talent

Open to visitors, staff, volunteers, and the community, Wayside's Got Talent is a celebration of confidence through song, dance and standup. We held two talent shows in 2024, giving dozens of performers the chance to stand in the spotlight while hundreds of community members enjoyed the camaraderie and entertainment.

Life's Biggest Moments

Our congregation continues to be a vital, vibrant part of Wayside and of people's biggest life moments. In the past year we've held dozens of baptisms, weddings and funerals for people who have been an important part of our community and those who chose to celebrate under the banner of Love Over Hate.

CELEBRATE

NEARLY
800 PEOPLE
ATTENDED
CHRISTMAS
DAY LUNCH



120 kg
of turkey



80 kg
peeled prawns



800
hand-made
Christmas puddings



115
litres of ice cream



150
volunteers and staff
on the day



OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS:

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE



Op Shops

Our op shops truly represent the Wayside mission of creating community of no ‘us and them’. Like the corner stores of old, people can stop in for a welcoming smile and a chat and we see our visitors and customers giving each other glowing praise over a new outfit or sharing a laugh over a flamboyant new item that has arrived on the shop floor. In FY25, the ops shops delivered critical funding to Wayside’s programs and kept the emergency clothing cupboard filled for our visitors.

Fundraising

Appeals and Campaigns
Wayside supporters rallied behind our annual Christmas and Winter campaigns, when at the loneliest and the coldest times of the year, Wayside visitors need extra love and care. Our Donate a Plate, Warm a Heart and other campaigns raised nearly \$5 million of mostly small-dollar individual donations to fund a year of critical services and support for our community.

City2Surf
Wayside Chapel once again had a strong representation in the City2Surf race, which is billed as the world’s biggest fun run. In FY25 we achieved our highest fundraising result ever in the event, with \$101,000 raised.

60kms for 60 years
In August 2024, we sent a team of fundraisers to the Red Centre of Australia to trek 60kms of the Larapinta Trial in commemoration of Wayside Chapel’s 60th anniversary. The trek received overwhelming positive feedback and cultivated connections on Country for Wayside’s community members while raising \$107,000.

Legacies of Love
In FY25, we received an extraordinary \$438,161 from gifts in Wills which was thanks to nine generous supporters having made the profound decision to leave a legacy of love for our community. Gifts like these allow us to plan for a future where Wayside Chapel can continue helping people get back on their feet and move towards health and healing.



PEOPLE OF
WAYSIDE
Robyn
SUPPORTER

I was drawn to Wayside because of what Wayside does, how it helps marginalised people in such a real and practical way. I always think ‘that could be me’. I decided to leave a legacy with a gift in my Will because it feels incredibly good to be able to do something that’s for the future, so that I can have an impact even when I’m not here.



OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Wayside Chapel exists because of the generosity and dedication of our partners and supporters. From philanthropic giving to corporate support to individual donations, each gift is an investment in the community we serve, and the future we build together, one where love always triumphs over hate.

Philanthropic Supporters

We extend our deep gratitude to our philanthropic partners, whose transformational gifts provide the foundation of support Wayside Chapel needs to continue to deliver on our promise of support to our community.

Neilson Foundation	Anonymous
Gregg Foundation	Sally Breen Family Foundation
Anonymous	Michel & Michele Bribosia
Rob Keldoulis	Turnbull Foundation
Phillips Family Giving Fund	Wilson Foundation
Peter Freedman AM	Anonymous
Geoff Norman	The McNally Foundation
Campbell Edwards Trust	Anonymous
Fell Foundation	Ruth Armytage AM
The Wales Family Foundation	National Club
Sir James McNeill Trust	Anonymous
Ian Martin AM and Linda Martin	Patterson Pearce Foundation
Greg and Rowan Hanley	Malcolm Halstead
Anonymous	Anonymous
The Lewis Foundation	Dick and Pip Smith Foundation
Anonymous	Russell Mills Foundation
John and Cath Murray	Alexander Michael and Tony
Coffey Family Foundation	White Endowment Fund
Concomitance Foundation	Angus and Katie Firth
Susan Maple-Brown AM	Anonymous
Anonymous	O'Sullivan Family Gifts
David Brand Foundation	Carla Zampatti Foundation

Corporate Partners

With multi-year support from dedicated Corporate Partners, Wayside can sustain innovation and growth and operate from a position of strength.



Supporters

We acknowledge our committed supporters who generously provide in-kind or monetary donations that help to meet the vital needs of our community.

Escala Partners	Slumbertrek	Underworks
Re:Love	RODE	Think Tank Group
Commonwealth Bank	The Butler / Applejack Hospitality	Ord Minnett
OzHarvest	Coca Cola and CCEP	
A&O Shearman	Houston	

Government Support

Wayside Chapel thanks our government partners for their funding and program delivery support.

Australian Government	NSW Government	City of Sydney	Waverley Council
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2024-2025 FINANCIALS

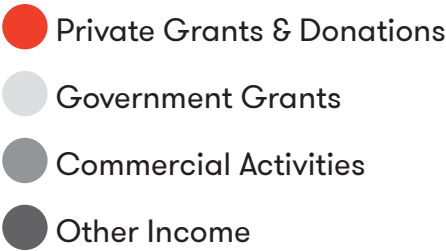
Income Statement

	2024/2025 \$'000	2023/2024 \$'000
Revenue	15,556	14,909
Expenses	16,096	17,180
(Deficit)	(540)	(2,271)
Investments in Future Operations	356	258
Net Deficit	(184)	(2,013)
Loss on Revaluation of Land & Buildings	-	(2,155)
Overall Deficit	(184)	(4,168)

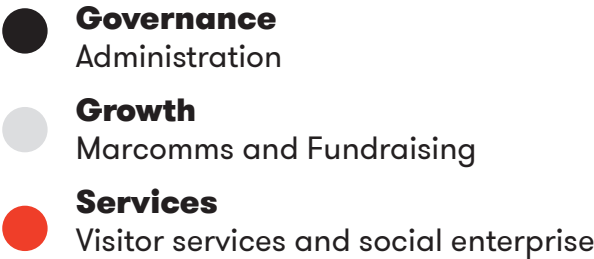
Balance Sheet

	31 March 2025 \$'000
Assets	59,056
Liabilities	2,344
Equity	56,712

Where Our Funding Comes From



Percentage of Funds Spent on Services, Governance & Growth



Staff Costs per Program





WAYSIDE CHAPEL

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Gadigal Country**

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