
LILLIAN'S 2014 – 2015
ANNUAL REPORT LILLIAN HOWELL PROJECT INC



We gratefully acknowledge funding from the NSW Department of Family
and Community Services

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MINUTES OF AGM 13 -14

Lillian's Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 9 December 2014

Time: 7 pm

Location: Erskineville Turkish, 49 Erskineville Road,
Erskineville

Present: Helen Campbell, Naomi Crago, Ann Watchirs, Lucy Watchirs Smith, Lin Cooper, Vivian Stavris, Karen Lindley, Danielle Renwick, Katherine Marshall, Nerissa Churchman, Elizabeth Cheung, Naomi (? Surname resident), Ivy Crago

Apologies: Helen McCutcheon, Cindy Ryan, Sarah Nace

1. Acknowledgement of Country. Acknowledgement of the Elders, past and present, of the Land on which we meet.
2. Introductions
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2013 AGM.
LWS and AW requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that they were not present at the 2013 AGM.
Moved HC (moved minutes as amended) Seconded LC All carried.
4. Election of Office Bearers and Members of The Board
Helen Campbell was appointed returning officer.
The work of the outgoing committee was acknowledged; Lin was also thanked and acknowledged. The number of nominations being equal to the number of vacancies the following was elected unopposed:
President SF
Vice President AW
Treasurer Vacant
Secretary LWS
New member: Karen Lindley
5. Accept returning officers report
Moved AW, Seconded: LC All carried
6. Adoption of the Financial Statement for 2014
Moved LWS Seconded LC All carried
7. Appointment of the auditor
Move to appoint Cheryl G Hastie and Associates
Moved HC Seconded LC All carried

Meeting suspended 7:27 pm
Meeting recommenced at 7:37 pm

8. Reports on activities of Lillian's during 2013-2014.
Accept President's & Coordinator's Reports
Moved LWS Seconded HC All carried
9. Managers' report
Moved SF Seconded HC All carried
10. Staff report (Delivered by Danielle in Cindy's absence)
Moved HC Seconded AW All carried
11. Guest speaker (Nerrisa Churchman and Elizabeth Cheung past residents)
12. General Business
Lin thanked their commitment to the Lillian Howell Project and campaigning throughout the year.

Meeting closed at 8:42 pm.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Vivian Stavis 2014 -2015

This financial year has been about survival, consolidation and broadening Lillian Howell Project Inc. service delivery.

The first half of the year we continued our campaign to “Save Lillian’s” as we had been defunded through the Going Home Staying Home reform, a fight that staff, management and the community were actively involved in. Our efforts included bombarding our local MPs, the Minister, and local government and starting an online petition through Change.org to “Save Lillian’s”. Members of our committee made the most amazing banners, which we strategically hung around Sydney to raise awareness of our plight. We continued campaigning by joining other women’s coalitions and worked hard to gather signatures of support for a petition put together by SOS (Save our Services).

We started a donations page through Give Now with “Save Lillian’s” as our title and also got our website up and running to keep the community informed on our progress. We also had the Australian Services Union (ASU) advocating for us behind the scenes to remain open with the powers that be. In July, we collaborated with St Laurence House to do a media story for ABC 7.30 with Quentin Dempster, which was filmed at Lillian’s on how we work with our girls in a trauma informed way and what it’s meant for them to live here and what the loss of our service would mean to young women and girls. We also went onto 2GB talkback radio with Rev Bill Crewes to discuss our story. In October, the staff and Management received an Edna Ryan award for Community Activism, for feminist activity in the community an award we are very proud of!





Whilst the above was going on, early in August, the government announced that they would provide interim SSF (Service Support Fund) funding for services that had been defunded. Services had to fill a “niche” in service provision, we presumed that we filled this “niche” as there was no service like Lillian’s in the new service landscape, we submitted an application based on what we do. Sadly, this was rejected by FACS and we were told to resubmit with an emphasise on providing a Mentoring service to young women with no accommodation. Sal Consulting, Sally and I worked tirelessly on a Mentoring program, which we were very proud of, which we resubmitted. Late in August, FACS, Housing, Management, ASU and Staff met at Lillian’s, where FACS informed us that not only were they impressed with our Mentoring program but that they wanted to fund us to keep providing accommodation to young women and girls and that we could stay in our property and keep going as the Lillian Howell Project Inc.! Our campaigning efforts paid off!

The negotiations then began! FACS were unable to fund us directly as we had not pre-qualified as a Lead agency in the reforms, so we were partnered with the Inner West tender winners, Youth off the Streets (YOTS) in a sub-contract arrangement and were funded under the Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP). In February, we began our partnership with YOTS, which has been a good experience to date. After much discussion our partnership name is *LOFT – Lillian’s Opportunities for tomorrow*.

We have partnered with YOTS to provide group work to the girls in the refuge, and we have had two workshops one on Anxiety and the other on Self-esteem, the girls reported that their anxiety had lessened with techniques discussed in group and that self esteem had increased through positive affirmations taught.

In January, we had a planning day with Sal Consulting, all staff and the Management Committee to consolidate our Strategic Plan and Action Plan to establish how we will work in our new funding and sub contract arrangement.

In July and January, we secured 2 more properties through our partnership with Metro Community Housing taking our transitional accommodation and independent living program from 2 to 5 beds.

Our relationships with other organisations, schools and FACS ensured that we received the referrals required to achieve the numbers needed for our service agreement. This year Lillian’s supported 54 young women. We provided 19 accommodation stays and provided an outreach case management service to 35 young women combined of low and medium effort.

Achievements of the young women have been many, and include re-engagement to school and maintaining attendance, completion and graduation of HSC, enrolment into Nursing, enrolment to Conservatorium of Music, enrolment into Hospitality (Chef), enrolment into Childcare, Hairdressing, Makeup and Beauty. Work includes, Full-time work as a croupier at Star City and Part-time work as a gardener, make up artist, McDonalds, KFC and Price Attack.

The management of Mental Health issues such as Anxiety, Depression and Personality disorders was achieved through partnerships with Camperdown Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA), Marie Bashir Short Stay Unit and Marrickville Community Health Centre. The girls that moved out of Lillian Howell Project moved either into transitional housing, Housing NSW property, Private rental market or back into the family home.

Our staff team had training in many areas of work including Trauma Informed Care, Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) Training, Mental Health crisis training, Database (CIMS), National Quality Framework Workshop, Fire Safety Training, Mental Health Connect and Youth Worker Survival Training.

Thanks go to our full time staff Cindy, Dan and Carlene and also our fabulous relief workers – Katherine, Bonnie, Sophie, Maral, Alex and Laura for their sustained efforts to provide our residents with the best possible care and support and to work collectively in the intake and assessment process with new girls. In January, we had an unexpected slump in morale coming off a difficult Christmas and concerns with pay and conditions, however this was happily worked through and staff morale is at a high. In October, we moved into this century with Online Banking and we welcomed Ping as our new Bookkeeper! We had a few Volunteers Elle, Shereen and Maral who was so awesome we employed her as a casual! We also continued to support students from Ultimo TAFE completing Certificates and Diplomas in Youth Work and Community Services, Cheryl, Jill, Laura and Alex. Laura and Alex were such exceptional students that we also employed them in a casual capacity. Thank you and Great work team!

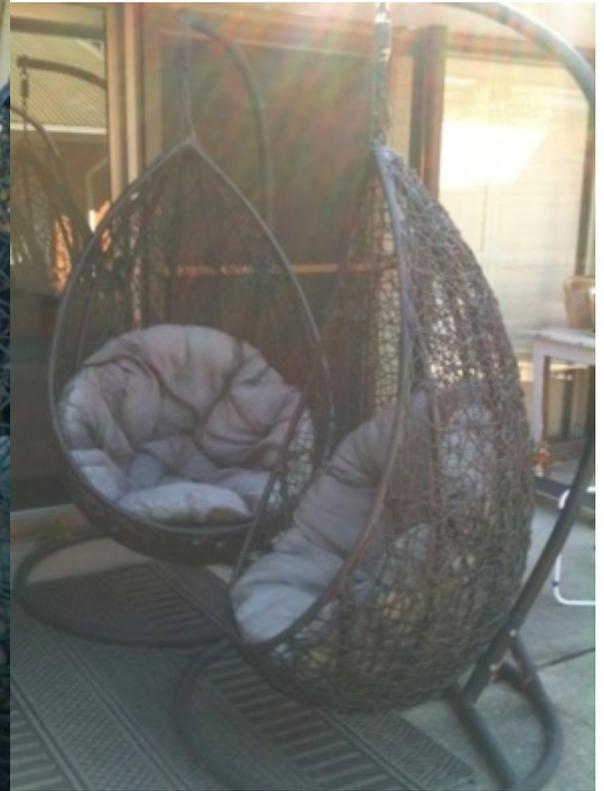




SAL Consulting continued to provide an excellent job with professional supervision to all staff and consolidating and assisting us with tender applications and Strategic planning. They are all brilliant and I want to thank Lisa Gardiner, Liz Summers and Frances for their support.

The Management Committee have been fantastic in their dedication to the survival of Lillian's. Without their determination and willingness to give more than is asked, Lillian's would probably have collapsed. A huge Thank you to Ann and Naomi (who made our awesome banners), Sally, Helen, Lucy, Karen and Victoria. We welcomed Karen and Victoria to the Committee in October and December respectively.

There are so many Sponsors and supporters that we need to thank. A very big Thank you goes to Karen Lindley who is the benefactor of Purple Angels, who in January provided the funds to create a therapeutic outdoor garden space. She bought hanging egg chairs and round lounge furniture and a BBQ (which the girls have not stopped using), got our car repaired, and has organised an enormous amount of furniture donations!



Thank you to Ivy for organising Canterbury Girls High School to fundraise for Christmas presents and also for a monetary donation. Thank you to Erko Turkish (for hosting our meetings), Erko dentist for pro bono dental work for our girls, Erskineville Family Medical Practice (for always making time to see our girls), Shenkin (for their awesome coffees and for employing our girls on occasion), OZHARVEST (who supply food every Thursday), Pay it forward: who provided brand new bikes and helmets, makeup for the girls, clothing donations, new pyjamas, flannelette sheets and blankets, DVNSW & YOTS: necessary toiletries, mobile phones and cleaning products and Power Freight removals for helping move our girls at no cost!! These people have enriched the lives of our girls with their kindness and generosity and have also helped with our bottom line!

Vivian Stavis
Manager



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sally Fitzpatrick 2014 -2015

In July 2014 I wrote this paragraph for a speech I was giving... it was part of my introduction...

"I am also currently involved in a struggle with the NSW Government to save a young women's refuge threatened with closure. I am the President of the Management Committee, upon which I have served for a decade. We have a comprehensive healing model, which we have developed over 25 years, which are determined to save from being dismantled. We are the only service providing 24/7 care to young homeless women in NSW."

As of June 2015, I am so proud to be able to report that we have survived. This has been due to the unwavering commitment of our girls, staff and management committee, as well as our community partners. As Vivian will report, we are now stronger than ever.

So back in July 2014 our campaigning was in full swing. We had nothing but blind faith to guide us. But not one of us believed it was possible to close down a service as important and longstanding as ours and leave under 16 year old girls bereft of support. We were galvanised by the fantastic coverage Lillian's and St Laurence House received from ABC's 7.30NSW on 25 July that featured interviews with our girls and coincided with the launch of an open letter to the Minister calling for the continuation of medium term services. We were quite strident in the social media space, with posts like "make no mistake Government has abandoned medium to long term services" and we strongly urged our supporters to write to their MPs and the Premier.

On 31 July we participated in a Day of Action in support of women's refuges and against the widespread closures we were witnessing. Hundreds of signed petitions were presented to the government, amongst which were hundreds collected by Naomi, who was a force of nature working the crowd every weekend at Addison Road ... as well as our girls and staff who signed up most of Erko!

We continued to defend gender specific, 24/7, medium term accommodation for our girls. We put our case out to the general public via a petition on Change.org that achieved over 3,000 signatures:

"Lillian's has long been regarded as providing a benchmark in high quality, relational- based care, providing a much needed, gender-specific, medium term to long term supported housing option for young women within the specialist homelessness sector. Over this time, we have supported many young women escaping family and domestic violence, who have experienced trauma, abuse and neglect, to heal, flourish and break the cycle of homelessness."

As well as telling our story, we called upon the Minister to intervene. Despite numerous advances and the high profile of our campaign, no visit was forthcoming from the Minister, who stubbornly maintained that services were not being closed down. However, we were strongly supported by Opposition and crossbenchers several of whom visited the service and advocated strongly in parliament for the continuation of refuges for young women.

Social media and community activism by our girls, staff and the committee continued for the better part of the year culminating in us receiving the Edna Ryan Award “for feminist activity in the community”. A Community Activism Award in October and Lin Cooper receiving a mentoring award. What a celebration that was and Pagan Kael’s photo of the staff and committee on stage with Naomi and Ann’s fabulous banner became our Christmas thank you card; because by Christmas time: We had won! We had been invited back to the table by FACS to help in the design of specific refuges for younger people and, with the unflinching support of the Australian Services Union, by October we had finalised a new service description with FACS and our partners Youth of the Streets for a medium term homeless service for girls and young women. By November we were ready to announce our continuation with, yes! three years of funding!, under the Homeless Youth Assistance Program (see our media release in text box below).

Throughout all our campaigning, we acknowledge the support of the Australian Services Union – who made us their feature campaign, legendary journalist, Wendy Bacon, who was especially supportive to me personally and wrote about Lillian’s on several occasions in *New Matilda* and *Friends of Erko*, SOS Women’s Services for ensuring the needs of young women were included in the overall campaign for women’s refuges; and the No Shelter Collective for their inclusiveness and dedication; and last but not least, Quentin Dempster and St Laurence House.

What a moment to be hanging up my boots as President of Lillian’s after five years. Or as I prefer to say... Step into the role of critical friend. We have some amazing research to do in the next few years that I have the opportunity to leverage from my new role at Western Sydney University. We are going to put on record what we do so that other young people may benefit from the translation of Lillian’s practice so that other young people across the world may be able to share its unique benefits.

Sally Fitzpatrick
President

Media Release

The Lillian Howell Project is delighted to announce that Lillian's refuge for girls and young women has been funded for three years under the NSW Government's new Homeless Youth Assistance Program.

This is a real victory for community and a real victory for everyone who has supported our struggle to ensure girls and young women with a history of trauma and who are homeless would continue to be provided gender specific services under Going Home Staying Home.

It is also a huge victory for the young women residents of our service who have been hugely courageous despite great uncertainty.

Although this is a great day for Lillian's, we recognise that there are equally deserving independent services that have closed or are now unrecognisable as new service providers stamp them in their own mould.

Lillian's has a proud tradition of being community based and run on feminist principles and that is how we will continue. Feminist services are essential while oppression and violence are an inherent and often acceptable part of the world in which we live. Our practice shows that services run from a feminist, anti-oppression framework are profoundly effective in helping to heal, empower and change the lives of the clients who access them.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with our partners in the Sydney area. Our service provides medium term supported accommodation in a therapeutic setting. Our residents, aged 13-17 years are given the opportunity to complete their secondary education and to heal while supported by highly skilled staff. It is the only service of this kind in New South Wales.

We congratulate the Minister on the establishment of HYAP, which is a long overdue reform in the provision of specialist homelessness services to those under 16 years of age. We commend the department for working with experienced services in the sector and young people themselves in the program's design.

We want to thank the Australian Services Union and the No Shelter Collective and SOS Women's Services for their staunch campaigning on this issue. We thank all of you who signed our online petition and wrote such inspiring and moving comments. We thank those of you who sent us messages of encouragement and wrote to MPs on our behalf and stood by your belief in independent services run by and for your community.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Victoria Bell 2014 -2015

The audited financial statements covering the financial year 2014-15 for Lillian's are available here tonight.

They show that we experienced a small operating deficit of \$1,076. This was attributable to a much larger wages bill; partly due to the ongoing pay increases achieved by the Equal Pay campaign run by the Australian Services Union. These wage increases started in December 2012 and will continue to happen every 6 months for the next 8 years. But two main occurrences led to this increased expense.

Firstly, it was once again a year of uncertainty due to Going Home Staying Home and Lillian's being defunded. New staff had to be employed on a casual basis as contracts could not be offered in the circumstances. Employing casually is expensive for a service, which operates 24/7 - unlike a fast food business Lillian's can't send casuals home if it's a bit quiet. Cindy was away for a few months, so casuals filled the gaps and we thank them wholeheartedly as we recognise how difficult it was for them.

Secondly, the permanent wages. Staffing expenses were quite high as Lin Cooper was paid out for her 26 years of service in January and in March there were concerns from staff regarding pay and conditions, however this was happily worked through and staff was paid accordingly. We are now paying at the SCHADS award for all conditions, to eliminate confusion.

We received interim funding from Family and Community Services (FACS) from July – October, Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP) funding from November – January and then HYAP funding via our subcontract arrangement through Youth off The Streets (YOTS) from February – June due to our campaigning success and remaining open!

We received triple the funding from donations for this financial year due to our GIVE NOW donations site and the community's increased awareness of Lillian's from our campaigning.

Our food bill was down by half! - Thanks to OZHARVEST, whose food deliveries are eagerly anticipated each week and the increase in food, especially meat, donated by more supermarkets coming on board such as ALDI.

Ping Wang, our new bookkeeper joined us in October. We also moved into this century with online banking once Ping came on board, thanks Ping! Thanks also to Monika and Cheryl from CGH accountants for auditing our financial records.

In conclusion, we enter our next financial year with all accruals and provisions in the bank and nearly \$23,000 equity.

- Victoria Bell
(Treasurer)

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Cheryl G Hastie 2014 -2015

Lillian Howell Project Incorporated ABN 22 465 606 851

Directors' Declaration

In the directors' opinion:

- a) the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. Accordingly, as described in note 1 to the financial statements, the attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the New South Wales Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and associated regulations;
- b) the attached financial statements and notes thereto comply with the Accounting Standards as described in note 1 to the financial statements;
- c) the attached financial statements and notes thereto give a true and fair view of the incorporated association's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- d) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the incorporated association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the directors:


Chairman
22 (09) 2015
Date:
Sydney

Lillian Howell Project Incorporated

ABN 22 465 606 851

**Income & Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2015**

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Income		
FACS Grant	286,877	472,800
Funding from YOTS	175,000	-
Dividends Received	91	89
Interest Received	521	0
Rental Income	17,084	18,430
Donations & Sponsorship	12,156	4,580
Sundry Income	421	-
Total income	492,150	495,899
Expenses		
Staffing Expenses		
Wages and Salaries	529,088	329,645
Superannuation	35,518	33,931
Workers Compensation	9,890	13,424
Staff Development	5,000	-
Additional Support Workers	10,000	-
Consortium Expenses	-	1,892
Supervision	7,200	3,600
Movement in Long Service Leave Provn	(53,316)	9,080
Movement in Annual and Personal Leave Provn	(114,257)	70,321
Staff Recruitment	95	102
Total Staffing Expenses	429,218	461,995
Property Costs		
Electricity	2,233	2,506
Repairs & maintenance	6,443	1,128
Household General Replacements	407	320
Insurance-Contents	5,727	5,589
Edible Garden Project	-	46
Total Property Costs	14,810	9,589

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

Lillian Howell Project Incorporated
ABN 22 465 606 851

Income & Expenditure Statement (cont)
For the year ended 30 June 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Administration Expenses		
Accounting	5,447	1,174
Audit Fees	2,091	2,091
Administration Expenses	1,398	724
Bank Fees	117	167
Consultant's Fees	6,640	-
Office Supplies & Replacements	8,056	1,303
Postage	260	105
Printing	126	-
Resources & Education	888	895
Sundry Expenses	272	-
Telephone	3,993	3,539
Travel	108	583
Motor Vehicle Costs	2,071	4,170
Total Administration Expenses	31,467	14,751
Residents Expenses		
Education & Amenities	1,317	2,008
Activities & Entertainment	4,040	538
Residents Personal Living Expenses	1,320	796
Food & Housekeeping	8,964	17,838
Other Expenses (Xmas, Birthdays, etc.)	2,090	2,220
Total Residents Expenses	17,731	23,400
Total Expenses	493,226	509,735
Net Profit (Loss)	(1,076)	(13,836)

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

Lillian Howell Project Incorporated
ABN 22 465 606 851

Detailed Balance Sheet
As At 30 June 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Current Assets		
St George Cheque Account	27,078	275,357
St George Saver Account	113,021	-
Clearing Account	(80)	-
Petty Cash	1,600	800
Total Current Assets	141,619	276,157
Total Assets	141,619	276,157
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors		
Accrued Expenses	1,148	-
St George Credit Card	2,814	-
Union Fees Payable	45	(4)
Superannuation Payable	2,596	803
Employee Payroll Package	-	1,590
	<u>6,603</u>	<u>2,389</u>
Tax Office Creditors		
PAYG Withholding	3,633	5,772
GST	(537)	(798)
	<u>3,096</u>	<u>4,974</u>
Provisions		
Provision for Annual and Personal Leave	17,686	131,943
Provision for Long Service Leave	6,543	59,859
Provision for Replacement Vehicle	37,500	37,500
Provision for Cyclic Replacement	15,684	15,684
Provision for Staff Training	5,000	-
Provision for Entertainment	4,000	-
Provision for Wages	10,000	-
Provision for Consultation	5,000	-
Provision for Office Equipment	3,576	-
Provision for Garden Maintenance	4,200	-
	<u>109,189</u>	<u>244,986</u>
Total Current Liabilities	118,888	252,349
Total Liabilities	118,888	252,349
Net Assets	22,731	23,808
Equity		
Retained Earnings	23,808	37,644
Current Earnings	(1,076)	(13,836)
Total Equity	22,731	23,808

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

Lillian Howell Project Incorporated

ABN 22 465 606 851

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of Preparation

In the directors' opinion, the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the New South Wales legislation the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and associated regulations. The officers have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members of Lillian Howell Project Incorporated.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the disclosure requirements of:

AASB 101: *Presentation of Financial Statements*
AASB 108: *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*
AASB 1031: *Materiality*
AASB 1046: *Interpretation and Application Standards*

as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities. These financial statements do not conform with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the association in the presentation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Revenue recognition

Grants are recognised at their fair value over the term of the grant.

Interest and dividend revenue is recognised as received.

Donations and other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, and annual leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in current liabilities in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Lillian Howell Project Incorporated

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Lillian Howell Project Incorporated, which comprises the Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2015, and the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the directors' declaration.

The directors' responsibility for the financial report

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the constitution and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a fair presentation, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Lillian Howell Project Incorporated as at 30 June 2015, and of its financial performance for the year then ended on that date and complies with Australian accounting standards to the extent described in Note 1.

Cheryl G Hastie
Chartered Accountant
CA 79748

Dated 3 November 2015

STAFF REPORT

Cindy Ryan 2014 -2015

This year has been a steep and intensive learning curve for all of us here at Lillian's. The first part of the year was a particularly anxious and difficult time as we didn't get any indication that we would be funded, in fact quite the opposite, until August 2014. Hence those first few months were filled with active campaigning and endless attempts to keep Lillian's open in whatever form we could.

Save Our Services, The No Shelter Collective, and every member of the management, staff, our families, and local supporters and friends, did whatever they could working tirelessly on our campaign to 'Save Lillian's'. In June we met with Natalie Lang from the ASU and she made a commitment to make saving Lillian's the ASU's Number One project in the 'Going Home Staying Home' reforms. The mix of intensive union support, and the endless campaigning from everyone involved with the service paid off. Our heartfelt and profound appreciation goes out to everyone who participated in the 'Save Lillian's' campaign. Most of you, particularly the management worked above and beyond expectations and capacities. You are officially all superwomen and deserve a countenance of thanks that words cannot convey.

During a meeting with FACS in August the attending representatives made it clear that Lillian's *would* be receiving funding and would continue to operate as a 24-hour medium term residential service. There was a general cry of 'YAY' by those attending, and I'm sure we all did an imaginary jig around the table. It was a very precious moment.

However it took a considerable amount of time to sort out the nuts and bolts of the new agreement which was finally signed in February 2015.

This funding was contingent upon us forming a partnership with Youth Off the Streets. This means Youth Off the Streets are now our lead agency and, as such, we are subcontracted to them. They receive and pass on the money and present the final reports we give to them to FACS. They get a fee of 12.5% of our funding for this, which equates to \$60,000. Sadly this means we are \$60,000 worse off, as our funding did not increase to incorporate this loss.

We are still working actively with the union to apply for this money as there are a number of services, particularly women's services, in the same position, and the union has formed a women's group where our focus is to address and redress this issue. As union rep. Cindy is on this team, but all of the staff from Lillian's are welcome to attend.

One of the other major changes that came with the new agreement was that we now had to provide services to 80 young women per financial year. This was broken down into 20 girls to be accommodated and 60 outreach cases. With only one worker on shift this seemed like an impossible ask.

However since November we have accommodated 19 young women and provided outreach to 35 young women who required a combination of medium and low effort case management.

Working with this number of young people with (still) only one paid worker on shift has meant each of us has really had to step up to the plate. As well as the increase in case-loads, house-meetings, referrals and outreach work there has been a considerable change in our record keeping. Each of us has had to learn about and master this and find time to fill in the many forms each day we have to submit to FACS. Double cover is still a major issue for the Lillian's evening staff which will have to keep fighting for.

The staff have team have been amazing:

Our fearless leader Viv has a 'can do' attitude, and when all seems hopeless she is still in the mix trying to make something from nothing. She is the (beautiful) face of Lillian's and has the capacity to network, form alliance's, deal with people from all aspects and levels of the industry and always make a professional impression. She (like the rest of us) is always learning, but her catch phrase "let's free fall with this one" sticks with me not only in the job but in my life in general. Lead on Viv, you are generous and fair with the staff and work well and for with the young women from whatever perspective you are doing it.

Dan is an inspiration. She works as hard as anyone I have ever worked with. Dan is always on top of what needs to be done and her 'holistic' approach to case-management means all of the young people she works with are receiving; medical, dental, psychological, social, educational, financial and therapeutic support. If Dan is required to do something it's done, and if she has time she will help each of us with stuff that we need to do. Dan and Carlene are also amazing at finding resources that can hugely change a young women's life. Dan you are compassionate, boundaried and constantly remind me what it is to give my all and do so with great humility and grace.

Carlene is one of the most creative case workers I have ever met. She too comes from a holistic perspective and as well as attending too all of the needs stated in above in Dan's approach, Carlene brings her creative skills to case-work sessions. She works therapeutically with the young women through art. For one of the young women Carlene and SXX have almost finished a family tree. The tree is not only well researched but something that looks beautiful and will be a sacred object in this young women's life always.

Bonnie, (and helper dog ginger) is a great part time/relief member of the team. Bonnie has computer skills like none of us oldies so is always fixing things and helping to teach us more about that mysterious technology. Bonnie, you are so kind but understand so well what it means to come in and see where each girl is at and work within the perspective of a teamwork model. All of you circus, dance and fitness all inspire the girls and I think they can hardly wait for you to come on so that learn more tricks from barrel. I hope your knee operation corrects things and you will be as good as new soon.

I have had a period of illness this year being diagnosed with an auto immune disease and having to be on a hideous mix of steroids and chemotherapy. I have had to take time off and thank everyone who has supported me and taken over my case-load. My gratitude is huge and you are an amazing team. I was also chosen to be a member of the ACCDP Board. The board is currently writing a Code of Ethics as part of professionalising the sector and its aim is to have a college up and running within the next few years. These are exciting days from the industry as it lifts our role to a newer more professional level.

For Maral, Alex, Sophie, Ria and Laura you are the best. You come in read the book, equip yourself with knowledge for the shift, and work with such kindness, empathy, humour and boundaries. It has been a dream to have such a qualified available team of women who could all easily be full time workers here at Lillian's.

The Residents, young women or girls:

Each of you is so special and unique. You keep us on our toes. When you first arrive many of you are quite frightened, traumatized and anxious. It is such a hard thing to living away from home and my heart is always with you at this time.

This year every one of our girls has either been employed or attended school TAFE or Uni. Sometimes things don't quite work out so went to plans B, C and D until you find your niche and a place for you to settle and grow. Trauma brings with it psychological, medical, dental, behavioural, risk taking and destructive behaviours, anxiety and a plethora of other complications that often require intense support. We try in every way to provide this.

The longer the girls stay, the more they settle, their self-esteem improves, the destructive behaviours reduce, their sense of community and respect for others increases and their capacity to self sooth becomes second nature.

As you read the above you will see that work we are doing here is linking in with and producing successful results from Bruce Perry's six core strengths. Things that I thought were impossible, like sense of community and attunement and empathy for others are coming to fruition. The girls here genuinely move, grow and change. They attach and feel seen. The push through the difficult times and success, brings with it its own sense of possibility and achievement.

We have also had two of our ex residents have babies, 3 young women receive permanent DOH flats. Most of the young women attend some form of counselling and self-growth and all of them leave Lillian's knowing how to cook, clean and budget. If someone stays at Lillian's for more than 3 months change will happen, the workers, environment and management are all there to support this and now we also have people off working, finding people who help make our house wish list come true. Particular kudos to you here Karen.

The young woman who live at Lillian's are my inspiration. You are older and wiser than your years, you work hard to face the demons that haunt you and

you rejoice in the success of others. You are kind and caring, you WANT to change, to grow and have meaningful lives and you do your best to make this happen.

I thank everyone who has supported Lillian's from the gardener, to Peter the tech wiz, SAL consulting, the management, the staff and all of you truly amazing young women. I wish us all better times in the year to come and hope that Lillian's keeps getting the financial, community and people support it so deserves.

Cindy Ryan

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS

2014 -2015

Lillian's has helped me a lot when I needed them, they provided me with a home, and helped me out every way they could, and they still do, the girls I live with and the workers all feel like another family to me. They let me know that I am cared about and there are people who will help me when I need it. Lillian's has become a home not only to me but to many others who they have helped.

JXXX

I moved into Lillians in April 2015 and have lived here for almost 8 months. Prior to living here, I was living with my parents in an unsafe environment so I moved in with my grandma. However this was just as detrimental to my mental health due to my grandma's own mental health issues. I suffered from severe depression whilst living with my parents and debilitating anxiety whilst living with my grandma and during the initial stages of my transition into Lillians.

During this time of extreme instability many aspects of my life suffered. One of these was my schooling, which I almost dropped out of. I was unable to control my anxiety, which prevented me from completing everyday activities. However, with the unrelenting help and support from all of the caseworkers and students, I was able to finish my HSC, get my anxiety under control, sharpen my social skills, and develop vital living skills, allowing me to obtain inherent confidence in myself. Shortly I will be moving into independent living through Lillian's partnership with Metro housing.

I've grown and achieved more as a person in these past eight months than I ever could have hoped for. At one point I pondered whether I would even be capable to work or study due to my anxiety but now I have two jobs and I have been accepted into the E12 scholarship at Sydney University. I thought that there was no point in living and that my life was meaningless and hopeless, but now through being at Lillian's I have found this to be untrue. I am eternally grateful for everything that all the staff at Lillian's have done for me and all the long hours they have spent investing into all the lives of the girls living here. They have given us hope and another chance to really live to our full potentials.

Prior to residing in Lillian's I was worried that it would be dangerous and scary like other refuges, but once I moved in I realised how wrong I was. Lillian's is the safest and most amazing place I have ever lived; I didn't know that a place this great even existed! Living here is the best thing that ever happened to me.

AXXX