

# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT



Platform  
Youth Services



**WE EXIST** *to help*

VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE  
HAVE THE

**OPPORTUNITIES,**

*skills + support*

THEY NEED

to ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE

**IN THEIR**

*social + economic*

**COMMUNITIES**



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Thank you



# Chairpersons REPORT



“ FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE HOW PROUD I AM TO BE THE CHAIR OF SUCH A HARDWORKING, DEDICATED AND FOCUSED SERVICE, ONE WE ALL SHOULD BE PROUD TO BELONG TO. ”

As we come to the last quarter of 2023. We need to reflect on this past year and on Platform's functioning.

I consider it a great privilege to be the Chair of such a dynamic, hardworking service. I am ably supported by a Board of very talented, diverse and committed members who always act in the best interests of Platform. Our directors are of diverse professions and talents. They are all able to call on their strengths and work together in order for Platform to grow and thrive.

All Directors are always ready and willing to participate and involve themselves in helping Platform to pursue its aims and in strengthening the service, be it in financial or planning matters. As well, particularly in the last couple of years and following from our Business Review, the Board has been actively involved in strengthening its knowledge. To this end, the Board has undertaken extensive training in the various aspects of our service.

Most directors were able to attend the Better Boards Conference held in Brisbane in June. It was the first time in four years that the Conference was held as Covid and lockdowns prevented it. The Conference was specifically for Directors and CEOs of the NFP sector and there were delegates from around Australia. It afforded us a great opportunity to hear from various stakeholders with a focus on forging Strategic Pathways.

While there, we also had several opportunities to bond as a Board on a social level, which is something for which we rarely have time.

Part of the upskilling the Board has undertaken Cyber Training and also an extensive 3x2hour sessions of online training on LBGTQIA+ matters.

As part of our Board Meetings, we have continued regular reporting from our managers in order to develop a deeper understanding of our service.

Recently, our People and Culture Manager presented us a most comprehensive session on the new Fair Work Commission rules.

In all the work done by the Board, we are blessed to have a dedicated and committed staff led by our wonderful CEO Stephanie. You can easily run out of superlatives when you talk about Steph. She works tirelessly, ungodly hours, never complaining and never losing sight of our mission. Her ability to manage staff is next to none. The welfare of not only our clients but of her staff, is uppermost in her mind. She leads by example and Platform is all the better for having her lead.

On a personal level, she is very supportive of the Board and of me. She never hesitates to make time in her impossibly busy schedule if I need to meet with her for a catch up or to discuss matters pertaining to the Board. One of the main reasons PYS has an enviable reputation in our sector, is because of Steph's dedication, abilities and unswerving passion to help vulnerable young people reach their potential.

As in previous years, our financial position has been very sound. We were able to purchase another property in Richmond which we are using for our Education First Program. Because of our sound investments, we will be looking to buy another property hopefully in the next couple of years.

I would also like to thank our partners without whom we would not be able to deliver the best in our service.

Our partnership with Mission Australia, Link Wentworth Housing has been longstanding and ongoing. Two new partnerships into which we have entered auger well for the future, IKEA and RuffTRACK.

Ikea has provided us with much needed furniture and various packs such as bathroom and linen and kitchen set up.

RuffTRACK is our newest partner and one which has huge potential. Steph will be outlining our partnership later on. Recently, as part of our Board Site Tour, Board members visited the site and we were all impressed with the valuable work being done there to build confidence and develop abilities in young people.

We also owe our thanks to all the friends of Platform, the many companies and individuals who give us unfailing support.

Being re-accredited for ASES earlier this year has also been a huge step for Platform. This process was led by our Quality, Risk and Compliance Manager, Donna Reece, ably assisted by her staff. It involved a huge amount of work and time but a successful outcome was reached. As well as our sound financial position, our data is back on track after the last difficult years of the pandemic. Our thanks must go to the staff for making such a huge effort to shake off the problems of Covid.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge how proud I am to be the Chair of such a hardworking, dedicated and focused service, one we all should be proud to belong to. Our sound ethical practices, our committed staff and Board of Directors all have our mission of helping vulnerable young people to reach their potential firmly fixed in our minds.



Anne Wemyss





# CEO'S Report



“OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS HOLD THE POTENTIAL TO MAKE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF THOSE MOST IN NEED.”

2022-2023 has been a year of reflection, celebration, and renewed motivation. Platform's journey has always been filled with challenges and accomplishments, and it's whilst writing the Annual Report that we are reminded of why we do what we do.

Youth homelessness in Australia is a pressing social issue that demands our collective attention and action. Platform is part of that action providing a service response that is not only timely but displays compassion and provides solutions. This past year 1107 young people were supported by Platform after presenting not just at risk or experiencing homelessness but also with a range of underlying or secondary factors including family breakdowns, family and domestic violence, economic instability, poor mental health, drug and alcohol dependency or legal difficulties, all which required Platform to adopt a multifaceted approach encompassing not only accommodation support but mental health, allied health, education, and employment opportunities. This approach has seen Platform adapt with the establishment of Employment and Education First programs, expanding our medium-term options with stepped up housing, the establishment of partnerships in mental health, drug and alcohol as well as education. Our continued ability to provide innovative solutions to assist young people reach their goals also saw us allocate over \$200,000 in

brokerage support. Platform has provided support to 25% more young people experiencing homelessness than we are funded for, it is the continued over representation of Aboriginal young people at risk with 30% of Platforms clients identifying that is unacceptable. We must do better.

Working alongside young people is rewarding. The resilience of our young people who have experienced trauma and disadvantage and yet their ability to make a difference for themselves, no matter how big or small, is amazing. We have seen this firsthand with 75% of young people reaching their case management goals whilst being supported by Platform, an increase on previous years, and further increases in young people engaged in employment and education.

Through our extensive work at both local and state levels and in the national space, Platform has assumed a leading role in influencing policies and programs designed to enhance the well-being of youth throughout our community. This has been evident in our role on Service Provider Sector Advisory Group, HYAP evaluation groups, HomelessnessNSW Board and Policy Council, Western Sydney Community Forum Board, FoyerInvest, Various Communities of Practice, SHS Unit Costing, SHS Evaluation Advisory Group and our broadening strong relationships with a vast number of services across NSW. Additionally, using small grants we have highlighted our community connection and advocacy with several events, forums and campaigns.

The Community Services Sector is changing, continuing a phase of uncertainty. In the coming period we will be faced with re-commission changes, moving into an outcome focussed framework and unit costing models, significant changes in Fair Work Australia and recruitment practices and review of partnerships and alignments - all within an environment of limited affordable housing, increasing demand and increasing economic stress.

Platform will not shy away from these challenges and will continue to show dedication to achieving our strategic milestones and developing a new strategic plan, pulling on the strengths of our staff and stakeholders through consultation, planning and gaining a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape. There will be a shift into partnership development, property growth, review of the management structure and culturally safe programs. We hope to take the final steps towards the securement of a Youth Foyer, expanding housing options through the reallocation of internal resources, investment into tiny homes and strengthening our partnership with early intervention programs, like RuffTRACK. Platform recognises that it's the work of our team on the

ground that has truly driven the organisation and our achievements. Specifically, the great work they do, the profound belief in the potential of every young person they support, the laughter they bring to the office and the energy they have for Platform. Their time, commitment and dynamic are not just appreciated; but celebrated. It continues to be an absolute privilege to lead this team and to witness the hope they bring to young people.

The backbone to effective service delivery is the strong Corporate Leadership team and at Platform it's Corporates collaborative spirit that has tackled projects, solved problems, and celebrated successes whilst striving to create a positive and empowering work environment that fosters growth and innovation for all. I feel gratitude every day to work with such a team who believe in Platform, our programs, our staff and in myself as their CEO.

To the Board I am forever grateful for your faith and unwavering support. This year has been a time of collaboration and together we have tightened governance processes, invested in several learning development opportunities, orchestrated site visits and meetings with our young people but, most importantly I believe we have reached a deeper understanding of youth homelessness and the young people we serve. The Board has been pro-active in finding solutions including purchasing property to increase beds, developing new partnerships like RuffTRACK, exploring options like tiny homes for the future and supporting internal system changes.

Our annual report goes into details of our achievements, our challenges and our programs highlighting the very positive year we had. I really do wish to thank everyone who contributed to our success.

In conclusion I would like to end with a final thought for consideration - our collective efforts hold the potential to make a profound impact on the lives of those most in need, forging a path towards a stronger, more inclusive, and compassionate community,

Thank you,



Stephanie Oatley  
CEO





# HIGHLIGHTS

## EXPANSION OF EDUCATION FIRST

Platform's Education First Program expanded in 2023 year providing an additional 7 long term, stable, and safe beds to disadvantaged young people in a nurturing environment allowing them to complete their tertiary studies. Both Granville House and Richmond College Street are welcomed additions. Granville House was secured in partnership with the Property Industry Foundation and College Street was purchased though internally raised funds.

In 2023-2024 Platform will be adding an additional property to the education first portfolio with a property in the mountains reallocated.

## AUSTRALIA SERVICES EXCELLENCE STANDARDS (ASES) ACCREDITATION

Platform was successfully re-accredited with ASES at certificate level in March 2023. Additionally, we reached for Award accreditation and are currently in the process of finalising the documentation for the issue of the official certificate.

## SCENIC WORLD

Scenic World at Katoomba sponsored Platform whilst hosting World Pride, attracting thousands of people and media, including our young people and staff, with a chosen group experiencing the Beyond Skyway Experience. Together funds and awareness were raised for Platforms Pride Strategic Plan and supporting our young LGBTQIA+ community.





## IKEA PARTNERSHIP

Platform formalized a partnership with IKEA who are providing essential household items to our clients including furniture like beds, sofas, drawers, tables, as well as various other necessities to make a house a home. Access to IKEA has not only reduced stress when young people are establishing a home but has provided them with trendy and on point goods that are theirs to keep. A total of 127 young individuals have been assisted with a total of approximately \$177,000 in goods donated.

## ISOLATION TO CONNECTION EVENT

Platform hosted a community engagement event bringing together the Community Sector post pandemic recognising the need for working together and establishing working partnerships for our communities. The event was attended by 120+ attendees with highlights of a panel presentation and discussion from Guests Jai Pitman, Brittany Cronin, Farmer Dave and Yusra Metwally.

## RUFFTRACK PARTNERSHIP

Platform's partnership with RuffTRACK is developing into a strong, committed and collaborative collective. RuffTRACK and Platform staff are working together to change the trajectory of young people's lives by providing support through targeted strategies and supporting young people to remain linked to education, employment and their community. Platform now has dedicated Youth Workers on-site at the RuffTRACK Farm to actively contribute to program delivery as well as leveraging our Brokerage services to increase access for more young people to participate in the program. Additionally, we have formed a collaborative partnership with Richmond High School, to run an early intervention pilot program for young people 15 to 17 years who are at risk of disengaging from school.



# GENERAL UPDATES

## PLATFORM PRIDE WORKING GROUP (PPWG)

Platform's Pride Working Group's focus has been developing Platform's standards of service, raising LGBTQIA+ awareness, delivering training, creating LGBTQIA+ safe spaces, participating in the IDAHOBIT Day community event and celebration of significant dates. The PPWG was successful with a small grant from Penrith City Council to deliver LGBTQIA+ activities during Sydney World Pride, each of Platform's houses held a Madi Gras party as part of world pride celebration.

## COMMUNITY DRUG ACTION TEAM (CDAT)

Penrith CDAT has re-established with Platform holding the Auspice of funds. Five likeminded organisations - Who's Hub, Neami National, Services Our Way, 18OTC and Platform have secured resources to enable involvement in community activities and events, focussing on building the membership base through networking and information events. Currently the CDAT is planning the next 12 months of activities with a desire to get more involved with community in the early intervention space.

## CONFERENCES

Platform were provided several opportunities to actively participate at a number of state and national conferences granting opportunities to learn, reflect and network with likeminded services. This year we attended Foyer Conference, Better Boards Conference, National Homelessness Conference, National Youth Homelessness Conference and Communities In Control.

## ADDITIONAL GRANTS

Platform applied for several small grants throughout the year that have allowed us to implement a variety of programs and events, a Yarning Circle and various events across the Nepean and Hawkesbury LGA's that encourage youth participation with community. This has included Youth Week, Youth Homelessness Matters Day, Suicide Awareness Day, World Pride, Hawkesbury Youth Fest and In House Beauty Grant.

## PLATFORM RECONCILIATION WORKING PARTY (RAP)

Platform is fully committed to our Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP) promoting reconciliation and cultural understanding. In line with this commitment, Platform undertook an Aboriginal Cultural Audit to assess our current practices and identify areas for improvement including ongoing cultural training to ensure our staff and board members are equipped with the knowledge and awareness needed to foster inclusivity and respect. Embracing events like Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week and NAIDOC Cup has provided the opportunity to celebrate Aboriginal heritage.

Platform acknowledges the significance of the Uluru Statement and stand in solidarity with the call for a Voice to Parliament, reinforcing our commitment to meaningful reconciliation and building stronger relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

## TENANCY SUPPORT AND REAL ESTATE ENGAGEMENT FORUM

In partnership with Link Wentworth, The Gender Centre, Thrive Services, Mission Australia, Strong Nation, Housing NSW. This was a productive forum with over 50 real estate property managers and staff attending to hear about how Specialist Homelessness Services can support their tenants in early intervention to reduce tenancy evictions and ongoing issues. Platform wishes to continue these conversations to increase access to housing for young people.

## CODEBREAKERS

Platform worked with Western Sydney Community Forum, Blacktown Youth Services Association (BYSA), Youth Action and Diversity Arts Australia (DARTS) to support the Codebreakers project. The project is funded by Multicultural NSW and works to engage young people from Western Sydney in conversations about race, identity and belonging on social media. Creating space where young people can build skills, and strong networks across the community, using their experiences, energy and collective power to make change. We will continue to work in partnership to provide feedback, consultation and promotion of the project.



## LENLEASE PARTNERSHIP AND PROPERTY INDUSTRY FOUNDATION (PIF)

The collaboration between Platform and Lendlease remains strong, as we receive ongoing assistance with two residential properties in Jordan Springs to accommodate our Education First clients. These properties have been providing housing for our young people since January 2022, and Lendlease has graciously extended this partnership for an additional 12 months. Given the scarcity of affordable housing, this opportunity enables us to continue our Education First program within our local community.

Our partnership with PIF was cemented with the opening of Granville house and we look forward to seeking future opportunities to increase housing capital.

## PEOPLE & CULTURE

Special mention is needed for acknowledging the ongoing work Platform has committed to through People & Culture. Over the past 12 months we have seen a number of our team develop and increase their experience moving into different roles across the organisation, as well as a number who have received promotions. We have also developed several new roles, such as our Community Youth Worker and Community Programs Manager role.

Commitment to Learning & Development and Wellbeing initiatives builds on our positive workplace culture, through the implementation of all staff workshops in Diversity and Inclusion, Workplace Bullying and Managing Stress, Building Resilience and Managing Change-Adopting a Growth Mindset and monthly events as part of our Wellbeing Calendar. Larger all team events have allowed staff to participate in our fun PRIDE event, an amazing Cultural day with local Aboriginal elders and our much-loved family picnic day. Platforms leaders also continued to develop their leadership skills, participating in a 12-month Effective Manager Program and our case workers in a 12-month Reflective Practice program.

Staff feedback remains core in developing several initiatives, particularly regarding improving communication across the organisation, including set-up of a bi-monthly communications meetings with our Supervisors and Coordinators and creation of a Staff Representative Council.



# PROGRAMS

## INTAKE

Platform's dedicated Intake position remains to be one of the busiest reflecting the increased need for our services. In 2023-2024 we will be reviewing the intake process looking to streamline and prevent the retelling of stories for our young people. We will also create a devoted student placement process to support the valuable work intake does on the frontline, giving students supported hands on experience in the field.

## BROKERAGE

Platform has supported 64 brokerage applications with \$78,000 SHS brokerage funds to support case management goals including security bonds and establishment costs to support tenancies, required equipment for jobs and education, medical and dental needs, support through psychology or legal issues and even boosting cultural awareness and personal growth. An additional \$80,000 Focus Brokerage attached to HYAP assisted HYAP to support 12-15 years olds with family restoration plans, in house group work strategies, staff training and outreach support. Lastly Platform was able to help partner services deliver individual support to at risk young people with an additional \$74,000 brokerage from underspends in other program areas.

Brokerage is vital in achieving our outcomes and Platform continually look for ways to increase our resourcing to this program.

## ASSERTIVE OUTREACH TEAM (AOT)

The need for immediate and often crisis driven responses continues to increase in demand. Platform continues to meet this demand through the AOT team who are both highly skilled and highly adaptive and have capacity to engage the most challenging and complex clients, with the majority couch surfing, street sleeping or in Temporary Accommodation (TA). They provided support to an addition 5% above target and an impressive 85% of AOT clients met their case management goals with 66% of clients no longer sleeping rough in an average of 13.5 days. AOT have also been integral in Platform's new partnership with RuffTRACK, providing program support at the farm until recruitment processes was complete.

## RUFFTRACK

Whilst the partnership with RuffTRACK is very new and we only kicked off in April 2023 we have actively engaged in both the weekly RuffTRACK Round Yard and Core programs, supporting 18 young people in a farm environment, who are falling between the gaps in school and community. Platform staff have participated in two camps in Queensland and have supported young people to take the centre ring in a number of live dog shows and live performances. Additional staff support in the way of the AOT was strongly welcomed. Ted Noffs are also joining our staff every Tuesday on farm to provide additional support for young people with education and counselling around drug and alcohol.

## PENRITH OUTREACH

The Penrith Outreach Team has been actively building Platforms partnership and networks and becoming leaders in the Youth Space across the Nepean. In delivering on Platforms strategic plan the team has engaged in a multitude of events, including participation in Community Hubs, fundraising through Cambridge Park High, school hub outreach, supporting breakfast clubs, Youth Homelessness Matters Day, NAIDOC cup, NAIDOC week, Multicultural Refugee Day, Light it up reconciliation event, and the Reconciliation Week Event. Additionally, staff have supported Pride Events, International Women's Day, Breakfast Networking and Tenancy Forums.

The Penrith team continues to offer support through a Case Management model for clients requesting support with mental health and wellbeing, domestic and family violence, tenancy issues, court support, budgeting and skills education, as well as guidance in navigating employment and educational pathways.

Penrith Outreach work in partnership with Mission Australia who deliver our transitional Housing component of our contract and together we housed 57 young people in SHS properties.

## HAWKESBURY OUTREACH:

The Hawkesbury Outreach team have exceeded expectations with the number of clients supported in outreach and accommodation after weathering fires, floods and Covid throughout 2022. The Hawkesbury has several transitional properties that are continually at 100% occupancy along with three shared accommodation houses. Richmond House has evolved into a steppingstone program providing medium term accommodation support for those not ready for independent living or those too young for lease signing. The program has remained at full capacity since opening.

## BLUE MOUNTAINS OUTREACH:

We supported 120% over our annual targets, which is in line with the increase in needs within the community due to the current housing crisis. Therefore, assistance and support to maintain and sustain tenancies has been a primary focus. Blue Mountains Outreach has worked diligently this year within the community, at network meetings, schools and at community service hubs to re-establish relationships, referrals pathways and partnership opportunities that will continue to enhance the support we can provide to the young people. We are looking forward to having an additional property in our portfolio with the addition of the Blue Church Property allocated to the outreach team.

## EDUCATION FIRST

College Street: College Street is a semi supported Employment/Education First model program providing up to 2 years accommodation for residents 17-24 years who need a safe and affordable place to come home to after



working or studying. Our first cohort moved in early 2023.

Granville House and Jordan Springs: Our Education First properties at Jordan Springs and Granville have been at full capacity with excellent outcomes over the past year, with a number of students complete their HSC and move onto further tertiary studies. Partnerships have continued with students engaged in civic participation and giving back at Rochford Seniors Living. As well as new partnerships with Woolworths, providing employment and training options to students also.

## EMPLOYMENT FIRST

Following the identified need for supported housing for low-income earners – apprentices

and traineeships, Platform allocated a property ideally located to train stations and shops as an Employment First Program. Residents receive comprehensive assistance in achieving independent living and sustaining employment in a shared group with likeminded young people. Simultaneously, they work towards establishing a positive rental history that will prove beneficial in their future. Additionally, all clients are eligible for the Rent Choice Youth program on transition from our Employment First Program.

## RENT CHOICE YOUTH

This year Platform has assisted 20 young individuals in accessing the Rent Choice Youth program, a subsidized rental initiative offered by DCJ (Department of Communities and Justice). Our dedication remains as we actively advocate for and guide our young people in navigating the private rental market. We consistently foster relationships with local real estate agencies to provide sustained support.

## MY FOUNDATIONS

Platform maintains its commitment to supporting 9 additional properties via My Foundations, extending Case Management and Tenancy Support within the context of long-term subsidized housing. Our efforts are dedicated to supporting them in improving their independence whilst gradually boosting their income.

## HOMELESS YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HYAP)

HYAP has worked through the Sector wide HYAP Evaluation Process and has now transitioned to a new model strengthening the responses to support young people without child protection complexities, ensuring they do not fall between the crack within the homelessness sector. Whilst HYAP is predominately a 24/7 accommodation service our strong focus on Family restoration has seen some amazing outcomes and feedback from families with 36 young people returning to family.

## PREMIERS YOUTH INITIATIVE (PYI)

PYI provides much needed support and housing to transition young people leaving Out of Home Care into independence through a partnership with Mission Australia. Over the past 12 months PYI have supported 43 young people and 30 tenancies. 27% of young people

identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and we continue to look for culturally safe practices and support networks. PYI have proudly graduated 27 young people to independence with 74% moving to share accommodation with friends or family which is supported through the partnership.

To overcome the challenges in engagement with DCJ for referrals and leaving care plans the partnership has increased regular communication through district and statewide consultation, evaluation and feedback in preparation for the next three-year funding period.

## BAIL ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT SERVICE (BASS):

12 young people were supported through the BASS program this year with positive outcomes. These young people present with a range of complexities but the partnership between BASS and Platform has gone from strength to strength working together to support family restoration or appropriate supported accommodation. We have also been successful in the tender process to continue this program for a further 2 years along with the establishment of a third BASS bed at Penrith House.

## PENRITH HOUSE & KATOOMBA HOUSE

This year saw the residential programs in Katoomba and Penrith support many young people to remain safe whilst supporting them to achieve their individual goals. Both programs achieved their support targets, with Katoomba achieving 135% and Penrith 107%.

Katoomba House saw an increase in young people maintaining or securing employment during their stay in the program. Our case workers and youth workers have made tremendous efforts in finding and nurturing local supports to ensure young people can access services easier, whilst having better opportunities to secure employment or study, sometimes both. Katoomba is an area where services are sometimes stretched. It is great to see Ted Noff's Street Uni open in Katoomba.

Penrith House had a focus on general wellbeing through a partnership with the Y, where a program called Skills for Life was facilitated on site. This 12-week program focused on building healthy relationships, learning about mental health and sexual health, and improving confidence with job preparedness. As some of the young people who are accommodated at our sites are early school leavers, these programs are crucial in providing the skills needed to take on all of life's challenges.

Last financial year also saw both Accommodation services increase their community connections with organisations such as Ted Noffs, Street Uni's, Head to Health, Matchworks, MYST and the Salvation Army Freedom Centre who provide young people with financial counselling and support. This connection has grown to ensure young people who exit from the units have the resources to maintain their independence long term. Penrith House saw 64% of young people and Katoomba House saw 77% of young people move from crisis into stable accommodation upon exit with the connections our case workers create for these young people being crucial to long term stability.

# our DEDICATED, COMMITTED



**Stephanie Oatley**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Jerri Kelly**  
Executive Assistant



**Nikita Orphin**  
Executive Assistant



**Louise Wilcockson**  
Client Service Analyst



**Rebecca Borg**  
People and Culture Manager



**Donna Reece**  
Quality, Risk & Compliance Manager



**Tracey Weir**  
Facilities Officer



**Tina Orphin**  
Officer Corporate Support



**Seng La**  
Accountant



**Luan La**  
IT Support



**Emma Jordan**  
Manager Programs



**Kailene Adams**  
Community Programs Lead



and

AWESOME

TEAM



**Lauren O'Grady**  
Coordinator



**Debra Toseni**  
Coordinator



**Suzanne Burrell**  
Intake officer



**Leanne Reihana**  
Coordinator



**Debbie Court**  
Coordinator



**Kylie Rodriguez**  
Coordinator



**Katerina Tahija**  
Case Worker



**Stuart Stanmore**  
Senior Case Worker



**Julietta Dodd**  
Case Worker



**Breanna Moore**  
Case Worker



**Suzan Zunic**  
Family Worker



**Tracie Harris**  
Case Worker



**Jane Townsend**  
Case Worker



**Ellisa Sullen**  
Case Worker



**Rikkilyn Paul**  
Transitional Housing Worker



**Abok Ding**  
Transitional Housing Worker



**Cheryl Wasley**  
Case Worker



**Lisa Carozza**  
Case Worker



**Celine Valerie**  
Community Youth Worker



**Basil Geyer**  
Youth Worker



**Zoe Touma**  
Youth Worker



**Jeremy Goater**  
Youth Worker



**Jody Wolffe**  
Youth Worker



**Cassandra Wynbergen**  
Youth Worker



**Sam Phelan**  
HYAP Youth Worker



**Sharyne Jewell**  
Youth Worker



**Steve Matongo**  
Youth Worker





Jessica Van Der  
Case Worker



Valerie O'Mahony  
Case Worker



Fifita Tiinit  
Case Worker



Saskia de Jong  
Case Worker



Kerem Tokdogan  
Case Worker



Clint Tonkies  
Youth Worker

ABSENT:  
PETER THORSBY



AT PLATFORM, WE COULDN'T DO WHAT WE DO  
WITHOUT OUR INCREDIBLE TEAM, WHO WORK  
TIRELESSLY EVERY DAY TO HELP VULNERABLE  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.



# Corporate

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT



Platform Youth Services Limited is committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance to ensure the organisation achieves its stated objectives in ways that are transparent, accountable and effective. Corporate governance arrangements are reviewed annually by the Board. The Board's conduct is governed by Platform's constitution.

### THE BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Setting and monitoring the strategic direction of the organisation
- Approving and monitoring financial reporting including financial budgeting and forecasting
- Establishing policies and guidelines to ensure accurate and timely financial and operational reporting
- Establishing policies on risk oversight and management
- Establishing guidelines for levels of delegation of authority
- Promoting ethical and responsible decision-making
- Appointing, nurturing and measuring the performance of the Chief Executive Officer and the organisation
- Ensuring that the Board is and remains appropriately skilled to discharge its responsibilities and duties, and to meet the changing needs of the organisation and sector
- Ensuring that Platform complies with Corporations Law and all other relevant legislation
- Providing guidance on and overseeing the performance of other key aspects of Platform's operation

### COMMITTEES

The Board has established the following committees to assist the Board with governance:

- Governance and Planning
- Asset and Risk

Each committee has terms of reference that set out its role, responsibilities, composition and structure. The terms of

reference are reviewed annually. Committees report regularly to the Board and minutes of meetings are provided.

### ETHICAL STANDARDS

The Board promotes practices that are transparent and uphold the principles of good citizenship. All Directors and staff sign a code of ethical conduct and register of interests. Directors are required to disclose any potential conflict of interest at the start of all Board meetings, when the Board determines an appropriate response which may require a Director to remove themselves from discussions, decisions or votes. In the case of staff, any actual or perceived conflict of interest must be declared to management in accordance with policy. The Board has a policy and a code of conduct to guide compliance with legal, statutory and other obligations to all stakeholders.


### BOARD PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The performance of the Board and its committees and Directors is reviewed regularly to ensure that Directors and the Board work effectively and efficiently to maintain high standards of governance and fulfil their functions set out in the Board charter. The performance review covers areas including the Board's role, strategic directions, oversight of service delivery, legal and regulatory framework, financial and risk management, knowledge of the community housing sector and relationship with the Chief Executive Officer.

### BOARD COMPOSITION & RENEWAL

The Board considers that individually and collectively the Directors bring an appropriate mix of skills, experience and expertise. Information about Directors and their skills and experience can be found in this report.

The Board regularly reviews and evaluates its succession planning process. A Board skills matrix identifies the skills and experience of current Directors and the skills and experience that the Board considers necessary and desirable for the future. This matrix will help guide renewal and recruitment.





# DIRECTORS' REPORT

Platform Youth Services Ltd is registered as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital under the provisions of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The Directors present the financial report on Platform Youth Services Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2023 and report as follows:

## DIRECTORS

The names of the Directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:



### ANNA WEMYSS

*Bachelor of Arts, Dip Ed*

**Chairperson; Chair Governance and Planning Committee**

**Year appointed: August 2015**

Anna joined Platform Youth Services in November 2013. Anna is a Probus Club Member and a local to the Blue Mountains district. Being a retired High School Teacher specialising in English, she yields over 30 years' experience in working with young people. Anna has also successfully owned and run a catering business.



### SIMONE ANGUS-CARR

**Board Secretary, Audit and Risk Committee**

**Year Appointed: February 2016**

Simone joined Platform Youth Services in 2014 after being on the Turning Point Youth Accommodation Service Board. Simone is local to the Penrith area and has worked in youth accommodation and outreach. Simone previously worked for the Nepean Youth Drug and Alcohol Service since 2005 across Nepean Blue Mountains, Western Sydney and Southwest Sydney. Simone currently manages programs for the Ted Noffs Foundation.



### COLIN LENTON

*B.Bus – Accounting, FAICD*

**Treasurer; Audit and Risk Committee**

**Year Appointed: June 2015**

Colin joined Blue Mountains Youth Accommodation and Support Services in 2008. Colin has several current Board positions in Government, Banking, Health, Education and Not-for-Profits. He has owned and operated a hotel and guesthouse- conference centre in the upper Blue Mountains. Colin continues to work toward his goal in streamlining and improving businesses and their structures through Board Corporate Governance.



### DERYK LEARMONTH

*Bachelor of Laws, DipLaw (LPAB)*

**Governance and Planning Committee**

**Year Appointed: October 2018**

Deryk is a principal of Williamson + Learmonth Solicitors. Deryk studied at Dundee University in Scotland, and the Legal Profession Admission Board in Sydney. Deryk practices in the areas of Family Law, Civil & Criminal Litigation, and Wills and Estates. Deryk is well known to the Penrith Community having advised local people and businesses since 2014.



### GEORGE RABIE OAM

**Audit and Risk Committee**

**Year Appointed: August 2015**

Initially joined Nepean Youth Accommodation Services in 2009.

George operated Little and Rabie

Betta Home Living, an electrical appliance retail store that he started in 1974. He has served on the Boards of Betta stores for four years and Retravision for some 17 years. George is on the Board of Nepean Business Alliance, formally a Director for Nepean Medical Research Foundation (Medical Research Funding) and Rotary Club of Penrith Valley. George has been a Member of Penrith Chamber of Commerce for 40 years. In 2014, George was awarded OAM for his service to the Community.



### REBECCA EVANS

*Bachelor of Teaching - Early Childhood, Cert IV Training and Assessment*

**Governance and Planning Committee**

**Year Appointed: October 2018**

Rebecca a proud Aniwana Country woman joined Platform in 2021. Rebecca has lived and worked on Darug Country for 30 years with her passion of education leading her to teaching. Rebecca has held various roles through TAFE in areas largely focused on Youth and Community. Rebecca currently works with students in years 7- 10 with low literacy and numeracy and disengaged from education, along with focusing on student wellbeing ensuring students have their basic needs for a positive school experience.



### RICHARD SARGENT

*MBA, FCCA*

**Chair Audit and Risk Committee**

**Year Appointed: October 2018**

Richard joined Platform in 2018.

Richard has held senior executive positions in Finance and Transformation with large multinationals for over 20 years. He was Head of Finance for Castrol Australia for over 6 years. Richard has worked in Australia, the UK and Singapore. He was a director of a manufacturing JV between BP and Caltex for 3 years. Richard held the treasurer role for a school charity in the UK in 2015/2016.



### CASSANDRA MULLER

*Bachelor of Science, Masters Human Resources and Industrial Relations*

**Board Secretary: Governance and Planning Committee, Remuneration Committee**

**Year Appointed: August 2021**

Cassie worked at NAB for 2 years in the role of Chief People Officer for Digital, Data and Technology, prior to this she worked with the Woolworths Group for over 10 years in a variety of HR and Transformation roles. Cassie is a commercial, outcome focused, senior executive with extensive strategic and operational HR and IR experience.







## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the company during the financial year was the provision of a range of services for vulnerable young people. The services include the provision of accommodation, early intervention services, transitional housing and outreach and community programs within the private and public housing sectors. There was no significant change in the nature of those activities during the year.

## OPERATING RESULT

The net surplus for the 2023 financial year was \$191,418; a decrease of 42% on the 2022 FY surplus of \$328,583. This is mainly due to the cessation of once off COVID-19 support grants received in the prior financial year 2022. The company is a not-for-profit entity and is exempt from the payment of income tax.

## REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Total income was \$6,785,090 (2022: \$6,964,884). The decrease in income was mainly due to the cessation of additional once off grants from NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) including the Social Sector Support Fund and the COVID-19 Partnership grants received in the prior year 2022. Operating expenses for the 2023 FY was \$6,593,672 which also decreased in line with the reduction in income (2022: \$6,636,301).

Critical to our success, has been the financial support provided by our funders, NSW Department of Communities and Justice, Wentworth Community Housing, Penrith City Council, Hawksbury City Council, Odyssey House, and our collaborative partnership with Mission Australia.

## SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

The company's short-term objectives are to:

- offer vulnerable young people a range of support services that develop wellbeing, resilience and transferable life skills so they can actively participate in their social and economic communities
- support vulnerable young people aged 15-25 by engaging all sectors of our local communities in ongoing partnerships and support programs
- be a recognised leader in the provision of youth support services as evidenced by the success of our programs

## LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

The company's long-term objectives are to:

- establish and maintain relationships that foster social inclusion and community reconnection for vulnerable young people
- be sustainable and strive for continuous improvement so as to offer the best possible outcomes for the vulnerable young people requiring our assistance

## STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING SHORT AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

To achieve these objectives, the company had adopted the following strategies:

- the company strives to attract and retain quality staff and volunteers who are committed to working with vulnerable young people in need. The company believes that attracting and retaining quality staff and

volunteers will assist with the success of the company in both the short and long term

- staff and volunteers work in partnership with a range of community stakeholders, and this is evidenced by the ongoing support of the company's projects and initiatives. The company ensures community stakeholders understand and are committed to the objectives of the group through ongoing education for the projects to succeed
- staff and volunteers are committed to creating new and maintaining existing programs in support of the underprivileged people. Committed staff and volunteers allow the entity the ability to engage in continuous improvement
- the company's staff and volunteers strive to meet consistent standards of best practice and provide clear expectations of professional accountabilities and responsibilities to all stakeholders. This is evidenced by the performance of staff and volunteers, being assessed based on these accountabilities, and ensures staff are operating in the best interests of the underprivileged people and the group

## MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

The number of meetings held during the year, and the number of meetings attended by each Director are as follows in the table

Director	Eligible Meetings	Attended Meetings
Anna Wemyss	9	9
Colin Lenton	9	6
George Rabie	9	7
Simone Angus-Carr	9	5
Richard Sargent	9	9
Deryk Learmonth	9	7
Cassandra Muller	9	8
Rebecca Evans	9	6

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The company will continue to participate in the provision of youth services to help vulnerable young people have the opportunities, skills and support they need to participate actively in their social and economic communities.

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

The auditors' independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2023 has been received and can be found on the following page.

**Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:**



**Anna Wemyss**  
Director



**Colin Lenton**  
Director

**PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD**  
**ABN 57 734 571 056**

**FINANCIAL REPORT - 30 JUNE 2023**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF**  
**PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD**

***Opinion***

We have audited the financial report of Platform Youth Services Ltd which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Directors' Declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Platform Youth Services Ltd is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended, and
- b) complying with *Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to the Directors of the company, would be in the same terms if given to the Directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

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

***Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report***

The Directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.



**PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD**  
**ABN 57 734 571 056**

**FINANCIAL REPORT - 30 JUNE 2023**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF**  
**PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD**

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at *The Auditing and Assurance Standards Board* and the website address is <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

In addition, our audit report has also been prepared for the members of the company in accordance with section 24(1) of the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*.

Accordingly, we have performed additional work beyond that which is performed in our capacity as auditors pursuant to the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. These additional procedures included obtaining an understanding of the internal control structure for fundraising appeal activities and examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting compliance with the accounting and associated record keeping requirements for fundraising appeal activities pursuant to the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and Regulations.

It should be noted that the accounting records and data relied upon for reporting on fundraising appeal activities are not continuously audited and do not necessarily reflect after the event accounting adjustments and the normal year-end financial adjustments for such matters as accruals, prepayments, provisioning and valuations necessary for year-end financial report preparation.

The performance of our statutory audit included a review of internal controls for the purpose of determining the appropriate audit procedures to enable an opinion to be expressed on the financial report. This review is not a comprehensive review of all those systems or of the system taken as a whole and is not designed to uncover all weaknesses in those systems.

The audit opinion expressed in this report pursuant to the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* has been formed on the above basis.

25 August 2023

Anna Wemyss  
Chairperson  
Platform Youth Services Ltd  
2 Macquarie Avenue,  
PENRITH NSW 2750

Dear Anna,

**Re: Final report on the audit of Platform Youth Services Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2023**

We have now completed our audit of the financial statements of Platform Youth Services Ltd ('Platform Youth'), for the year ended 30 June 2023 and are pleased to present our final report to the Board of Directors and Management on the results of our audit which is attached to this letter.

The purpose of this report is to clarify any outstanding issues that may exist, outline the key findings of our audit and discuss independence issues as well as any matters that may impact on the future of the financial report and audit.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact either Stuart Hutcheon or myself.

Yours faithfully,



**StewartBrown**  
Chartered Accountants



**Justin Weiner**  
Audit Partner



# Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	3,555,298	4,221,833
Trade and other receivables	7	113,428	98,364
<i>Total current assets</i>		3,668,726	4,320,197
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Capital work in progress	8	13,160	
Property, plant and equipment	9	3,455,919	2,638,712
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		3,469,079	2,638,712
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>7,137,805</b>	<b>6,958,909</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	10	322,162	358,249
Employee benefits	11	644,598	656,383
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		966,760	1,014,632
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Employee benefits	11	180,273	144,923
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>		180,273	144,923
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,147,033</b>	<b>1,159,555</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>5,990,772</b>	<b>5,799,354</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Accumulated funds		5,710,555	5,519,137
Reserves	13	280,217	280,217
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>5,990,772</b>	<b>5,799,354</b>
The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements			

# Statement of Profit or Loss

## AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Revenue</b>	4	6,782,539	6,964,884
<b>Other income</b>	4	2,551	-
		<b>6,785,090</b>	<b>6,964,884</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration expenses		(358,858)	(356,816)
Depreciation expenses	5	(179,846)	(228,261)
Donations expenses		-	(50,000)
Employee benefits expense		(4,386,034)	(4,062,861)
Insurance expenses		(157,937)	(165,440)
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	5	-	(1,534)
Office expenses		(148,144)	(110,416)
Program expenses		(1,183,015)	(1,437,872)
Property and lease expenses		(179,838)	(223,101)
		<b>(6,593,672)</b>	<b>(6,636,301)</b>
<b>Surplus before income tax</b>		191,418	328,583
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		191,418	328,583
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>191,418</b>	<b>328,583</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements



# Statement of Changes in Funds

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Accumulated Funds \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	<b>5,190,554</b>	<b>280,217</b>	<b>5,470,771</b>
<b>Comprehensive income</b>			
Surplus for the year	328,583	-	328,583
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>328,583</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>328,583</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>5,519,137</b>	<b>280,217</b>	<b>5,799,354</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2022</b>	<b>5,519,137</b>	<b>280,217</b>	<b>5,799,354</b>
<b>Comprehensive income</b>			
Surplus for the year	191,418	-	191,418
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>191,418</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>191,418</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>5,710,555</b>	<b>280,217</b>	<b>5,990,772</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

# Statement of Cash Flows

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers and government		922,848	906,062
Payments to suppliers and employees		(6,971,100)	(6,946,548)
Donations and fundraising income		2,875	26,790
Government grants received		6,291,045	6,778,663
Interest received		95,459	23,349
<i>Net cash flows from operating activities</i>		341,127	788,316
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		5,000	-
Purchase of capital work in progress		(13,160)	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(999,502)	(144,295)
<i>Net cash flows from investing activities</i>		(1,007,662)	(144,295)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(666,535)	644,021
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		4,221,833	3,577,812
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	6	3,555,298	4,221,833

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

# NOTES

## to the financial statements FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

### NOTE 1 - CORPORATE INFORMATION

Services Ltd is registered as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital under the provisions of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

The company provides range of services for vulnerable young people. The services include the provision of accommodation, early intervention services, transitional housing and outreach and community programs within the private and public housing sectors.

The registered address and principal place of business of the company is: 2 Macquarie Avenue, Penrith NSW 2750

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 18 September 2023.

### NOTE 2- BASIS OF PREPARATION

#### Statement of compliance

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures. The company is a not-for-profit entity for the purposes of preparing these financial statements.

#### Basis of measurement

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected noncurrent assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

#### Comparatives

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year. Where the company has retrospectively applied an accounting policy, made a retrospective restatement or reclassified items in its financial statements, an additional statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period will be disclosed.

#### Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The Directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company.

#### Key estimates

##### Impairment - general

The Directors assess impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluation of conditions and events specific to the company that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

#### Estimation of useful lives of assets

The estimation of the useful lives of assets has been based on historical experience as well as manufacturers' warranties (for equipment and furniture) and turnover policies (for motor vehicles). In addition, the condition of the assets is assessed at least once per year and considered against the remaining useful life. Adjustments to useful lives are made when considered necessary.

#### New and revised standards that are effective for these financial statements

Several amendments to Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations are mandatory for the 30 June

2023 reporting period. These include:

- AASB 2022-3 Amendments to AASs – Illustrative Examples for Not-for-Profit Entities accompanying AASB 15 (effective for the year ending 30 June 2023)
- AASB 2020-3 Amendments to AASB 116 – Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use (effective for the year ending 30 June 2023)
- AASB 2020-3 Amendments to AASB 137 – Onerous Contracts – Cost of Fulfilling a Contract (effective for the year ended 30 June 2023)

The application of the amendments to AASB 15, AASB 116 and AASB 137 have not had a material impact on

the carrying values of the company's asset, liability or equity balances; nor a material impact on the disclosures

in the financial report nor the recognition and measurement of the company's revenue or expenses.

#### New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

Certain new accounting standards, amendments and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 30 June 2023 reporting periods and have not been early adopted by the company. These include:

- AASB 2020-1: Amendments to AASs – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current (effective for the year ending 30 June 2024)

- AASB 2021-2- and AASB 2021-6: Amendments to AASs – Disclosure of Accounting Policies (effective for the year ending 30 June 2024)

- AASB 2021-2: Amendments to AASB 108 – Definition of Accounting Estimates (effective for the year ending 30 June 2024)

- It is not expected that AASB 2020-1, AASB 2021-2 or AASB 2021-6 will have a material impact on the company in future reporting period





## NOTE 3 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

### Income tax

Platform Youth Services Ltd is a not-for-profit institution exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Platform Youth Services Ltd has deductible gift recipient (DGR) status.

### Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

### Revenue recognition

Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of returns, trade allowances and duties and taxes including goods and services tax (GST). Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

#### *Grants*

The majority of the company's programs are supported by Grants received from the government and other nongovernment bodies. Grants received on the condition that specified services are delivered, or conditions are fulfilled, are considered reciprocal. These grants are initially recognised as a liability and revenue is recognised as services are performed or conditions fulfilled. Revenue from non-reciprocal grants is recognised when the company obtains control of the funds.

#### *Rental income*

Rental income is accounted for on an accrual's basis, where the tenancy has been agreed and it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the company and the future economic benefit can be measured reliably.

#### *Donations and bequests*

The timing of the recognition of donations, grants and fundraising depends upon the point in time at which control of these monies is obtained. Control would normally occur upon the earlier of the receipt of the monies or notification that the monies have been secured.

*Interest revenue* Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

#### *Rendering of services*

Revenue from fees received for services and management fees are recognised when the service is provided.



### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of twelve months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts.

### Trade receivables

For all sources of recurrent income, trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less provision for doubtful debts. Collectability of trade receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. A provision for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the provision is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

### Property, plant and equipment

#### Recognition and measurement

Land and buildings are shown at their fair value based on periodic valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings. All revaluation adjustments are applied to the asset revaluation reserve. Each other class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalised as part of that equipment.

Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalised as part of that equipment. Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in the statement of comprehensive income. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

#### Subsequent costs

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the statement of comprehensive income during the financial period in which they are incurred.

#### Carrying Amount

The carrying amount of property, plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the Directors to ensure that it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

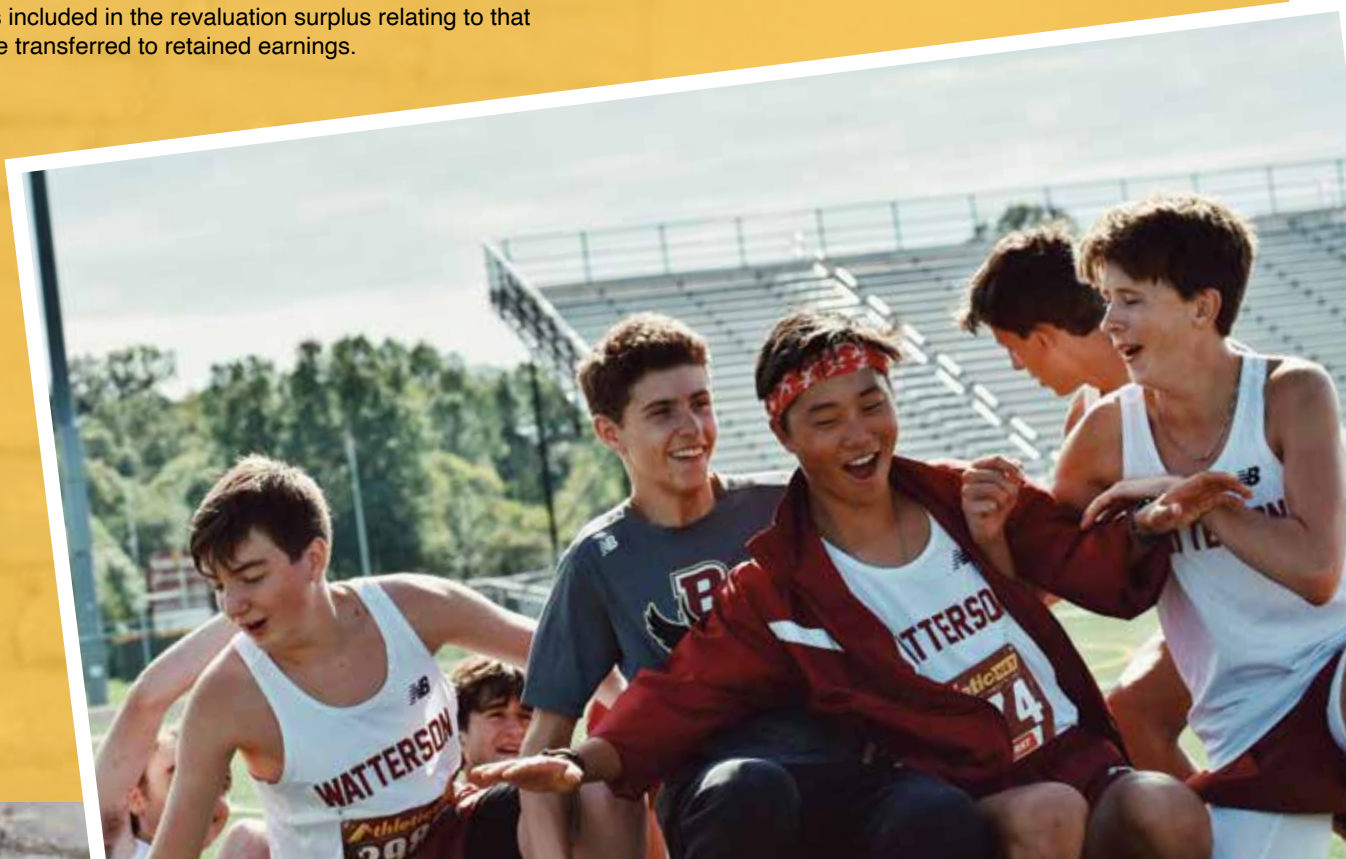
#### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land and capital works in progress, is depreciated on a straight line basis over the asset's useful life to the company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Leasehold Improvements	Term of Lease
Equipment & Furniture	3 to 13 years
Motor Vehicles	4 to 6 years

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.





### Impairment of assets

Assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment. Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units).

Impairment losses are reversed when there is an indication that the impairment loss may no longer exist and there has been a change in the estimate used to determine the recoverable amount.

### Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within

30 days of recognition of the liability. The carrying amount of trade and other payables is deemed to reflect fair value. Income received in advance Income, other than government contract income, that is received before the service to which the payment relates has been provided is recorded as a liability until such time as the service has been provided, at which time it is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

### Employee benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may not satisfy vesting requirements. Those cash outflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows.





2023  
\$2022  
\$**NOTE 4 - REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME****Operating revenue**

Grants and subsidies	6,387,639	6,737,989
Client service fees	129,047	83,164
Rent received	29,490	25,248
Other operating revenue	142,006	75,744

	<b>6,688,182</b>	<b>6,922,145</b>
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**Other revenue**

Donations	2,875	26,790
Interest income	91,482	15,949
	94,357	42,739

<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>6,782,539</b>	<b>6,964,884</b>
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**Other income**

Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	2,551	-
<i>Total other income</i>	2,551	-

<b>Total revenue and other income</b>	<b>6,785,090</b>	<b>6,964,884</b>
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**NOTE 5 - EXPENSES****Depreciation**

Depreciation		
Capital and leasehold improvements	3,818	4,589
Equipment and furniture	117,661	117,308
Motor vehicles	58,367	106,364

<b>Total depreciation expenses</b>	<b>179,846</b>	<b>228,261</b>
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Bad debt expense	33,895	518
Impairment - trade receivables	(15,061)	1,150
Net loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	1,534

**NOTE 6 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash at bank and on hand	1,007,475	659,260
Term deposits	2,547,823	3,562,573
<i>Total cash and cash equivalents</i>	<b>3,555,298</b>	<b>4,221,833</b>

2023  
\$2022  
\$

## NOTE 7 - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

## Current

Trade receivables	441,104	41,997
Provision for impairment	(526)	(15,587)
Interest receivable	-	3,977
Rental bonds	5,690	1,400
Other receivables	8,916	19,548
Prepayments	55,244	47,029

<b>Total current trade and other receivables</b>	<b>113,428</b>	<b>98,364</b>
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**Provision for impairment**

Opening net carrying amount	15,587	14,437
Increase in provision	(15,061)	1,150

<b>Closing net carrying amount</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>15,587</b>
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## NOTE 8 - CAPITAL WORK IN PROGRESS

## Non-current

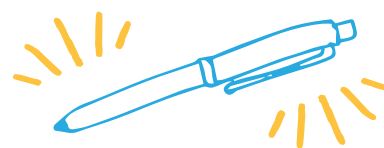
Capital work in progress - at cost	13,160	-
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<b>Total capital work in progress</b>	<b>13,160</b>	<b>-</b>
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**Movements in carrying amounts**

Opening net carrying amount	-	-
Provision for impairment	13,160	-

<b>Closing net carrying amount</b>	<b>13,160</b>	<b>-</b>
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2023  
\$2022  
\$

## NOTE 8 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Land and Buildings \$	Leasehold Improvements \$	Equipment & Furniture \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Total \$
<b>At 30 June 2022</b>					
Cost	-	162,449	492,749	541,997	1,197,195
Valuation	2,300,941	-	-	-	2,300,941
Accumulated depreciation	-	(67,859)	(483,012)	(308,553)	(859,424)
	2,300,941	94,590	9,737	233,444	2,638,712
<b>Movements in carrying amounts</b>					
Opening net carrying amount	2,300,941	94,590	9,737	233,444	2,638,712
Additions	851,902	-	115,953	31,647	999,502
Disposals	-	(85)	(515)	(1,849)	(2,449)
Depreciation charge for the year	-	(3,818)	(117,661)	(58,367)	(179,846)
Closing net carrying amount	3,152,843	90,687	7,514	204,875	3,455,919
<b>At 30 June 2023</b>					
Cost	-	160,904	565,801	544,450	1,271,155
Valuation	3,152,843	-	-	-	3,152,843
Accumulated depreciation	-	(70,217)	(558,287)	(339,575)	(968,079)
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>3,152,843</b>	<b>90,687</b>	<b>7,514</b>	<b>204,875</b>	<b>3,455,919</b>

## NOTE 10 - TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

## Current

Trade payables	76,279	54,334
Grants unexpected	-	96,594
GST payable	84,573	81,123
Other payables	161,310	126,198
<b>Total current trade and other payables</b>	<b>322,162</b>	<b>358,249</b>

## NOTE 11 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

## Current

Annual leave	453,623	476,532
Long service leave	190,975	179,851
<b>Total current employee benefits</b>	<b>644,598</b>	<b>656,383</b>
<b>Non-current</b>		
Long service leave	180,273	144,923
<b>Total non-current employee benefits</b>	<b>180,273</b>	<b>144,923</b>



2023  
\$2022  
\$

## NOTE 12 - RESERVES

Asset revaluation reserve	280,217	280,217
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>280,217</b>	<b>280,217</b>

### ***Nature and purpose of reserves***

The asset revaluation reserve records revaluation increments to fair value for certain non-current assets.

## NOTE 13 - KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

### ***Remuneration of key management personnel***

The aggregate amount of compensation paid to key personnel during the year was:	257,805	226,520
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## NOTE 14 - AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

### **Fees paid to StewartBrown, Chartered Accountants:**

Audit of the financial report	10,000	9,400
Preparation of the financial report	2,000	1,900
<b>Total current trade and other receivables</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>11,300</b>

## NOTE 15 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

### ***Directors' remuneration***

In accordance with the company's Constitution (clause 59.1), a Director is not to be paid fees for acting as such except payment or reimbursement of reasonable disbursements relating to the business and activities of the company.

## NOTE 16 - LIMITATION OF MEMBERS' LIABILITY

The company is registered under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012 as a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$2.00 (plus GST) each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. At 30 June 2023 the number of members of this company was 8 (2019: 8).

## NOTE 17 - ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

Platform Youth Services Ltd is dependent on the ongoing receipt of government and other community based organisations to ensure the ongoing continuance of its programs. At the date of this report, the Directors have no reason to believe that this financial support will not continue.

## NOTE 18 - EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER BALANCE DATE

There were no significant events occurring after balance date.



# Director's Declaration



The Directors of the Platform Youth Services Ltd declare that:

1. The financial statements, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
  - (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company.
2. In the opinion of the Directors there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



**Anna Wemyss**  
Director



**Colin Lenton**  
Director

21 September 2023



# Director's Declaration

**UNDER THE CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING ACT 1991**



In the opinion of the Directors of Platform Youth Services Ltd:

- (i) The financial statements and notes thereto give a true and fair view of all income and expenditure with respect to fundraising appeals conducted by the organisation for the year ended 30 June 2022; and
- (ii) The statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022 gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company with respect to fundraising appeals conducted by the organisation; and
- (iii) The provisions of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991, the regulations under that Act, and the conditions attached to the authority to fundraise have been complied with by the organisation; and
- (iv) The internal controls exercised by the company are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by the organisation from any of its fundraising appeals.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



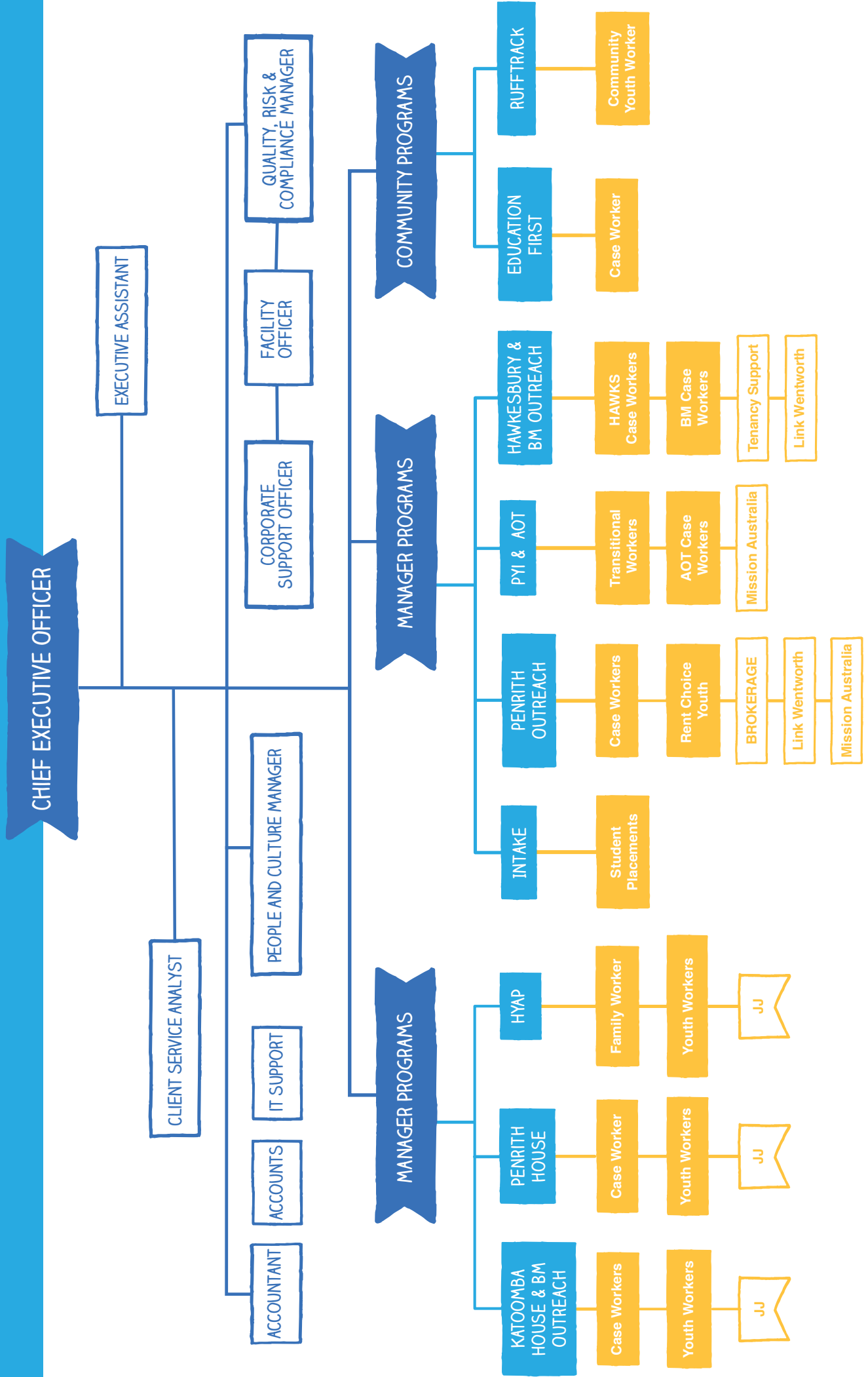
**Anna Wemyss**  
Director



**Colin Lenton**  
Director

29 September 2022

# PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD ORGANISATIONAL CHART





# we COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT without YOU!

## CONTRACTED PARTNERSHIPS

- Link Wentworth Housing
- Mission Australia
- Lendlease
- Property Industry Foundation (PIF)
- Shokai Ausbao
- MyFoundations

## FUNDING BODIES

- Department of Communities & Justice:
  - Specialist Homeless Services
  - Homeless Youth
- Assistance Program
  - Premiers Youth Initiative
  - Bail & Accommodation
- Support Services

## PEAKS

- Homelessness NSW
- Yfoundations
- Shelter NSW
- NCOSS
- Western Sydney Community Forum
- Youth Action
- Mountains Community Resource Network
- The Foyer Foundation

## INTERAGENCIES & WORKING GROUPS

- Hawkesbury / Penrith Youth Interagency
- Blue Mountains Community Interagency
- Penrith Homelessness Interagency
- Nepean Blue Mountains District Specialist Homelessness Services
- Together Home High Needs Panel
- WSNBM Accommodation Panel
- Service Provider Sector Advisory Group
- Communities of Practice -Premiers Youth Initiative
- Communities of Practice – HYAP
- Communities of Practice – Service Standards

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Penrith City Council
- Blue Mountains City Council
- Hawkesbury Council

## HEALTH SERVICES

- Ted Noffs - Street University
- Nepean Drug and Alcohol Service

## CORPORATE SUPPORT

- CMY
- Australian Federation of Employers and Industries
- The Creative Fringe

## DONORS AND MATERIAL AID SUPPORT

- Scenic World
- Ikea
- Lewis Foundation
- Cambridge Park High School
- Pay it Forward Nepean
- Hawkesbury Helping Hands
- Our Community Cares
- Junction 142 Katoomba
- Christ Mission Possible
- Mama Lana's Community Foundation
- T & D Sisters (Theotokos Demiana)

## STAFF SUPPORT

- Access EAP
- Connect Consultancy
- SAL Consulting
- 4iLeadership
- Human Tribe

## SERVICE DELIVERY PARTNERS

- RuffTRACK
- MYST
- NCNS
- Peppercorn Community Services
- ASURIA
- Centrelink Outreach
- Woolworths

OUR NEIGHBOURS AT ALL  
OUR VARIOUS PROPERTIES



TOTAL  
*young people*  
SUPPORTED

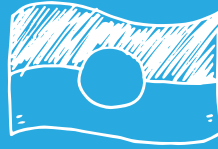
431  
MALES

+ 643  
FEMALES

+ 33  
OTHER

TOTAL 1107

34%



13%

OF OUR CLIENTS IN THE 22-23 FINANCIAL YEAR

IDENTIFIED AS ABORIGINAL OR  
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

IDENTIFIED AS CULTURALLY

AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSE

## Outcomes

73%

EXITED INTO  
STABLE HOUSING  
AT END OF  
SUPPORT PERIOD

69%

SUPPORT  
TO MAINTAIN  
TENANCY

28%

RETURNED TO  
FAMILY

23%

IN  
EMPLOYMENT  
ON EXIT

38%

EDUCATION  
ON EXIT

68%

RECEIVED  
BROKERAGE  
SUPPORT  
TO ACHIEVE  
GOALS

77%

PRESENTED  
IN NEED OF  
MENTAL HEALTH  
SUPPORT

**Platform**  
Youth Services

PHONE: (02) 47 600 800  
PLATFORMYS.ORG.AU

PENRITH: 22-24 LEMONGROVE RD  
KATOOMBA