

ANNUAL REPORT

2026

Platform
Youth Services



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Platform Youth Services acknowledges the Darug and Gundungurra peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work, and pays respect to Elders past and present.

We recognise the strength, resilience and continuing connection to Country of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, families and communities across the Nepean, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury.

OUR VALUES

- Integrity
- Aspiration
- Respect
- Advocacy
- Connection
- Perseverance

CONTENTS

04 Chairperson's Report

06 CEO Report

16 Our People

18 Something's Coming in 2027

21 Corporate Governance Statement

22 Directors' Report

25 Auditor's Independence Declaration

26 Directors' Declaration

27 Our Structure

28 Financial Statements

31 Thank You to Our Supporters

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

ANNA WEMYSS



ANNA WEMYSS

CHAIRPERSON

As we are nearing the end of 2026, it is with great pleasure and pride that I review Platform's performance of the past year. As in previous years, we have continued to uphold our Mission Statement of helping our vulnerable young people achieve their goal of overcoming homelessness, to achieve stable accommodation, access education, job opportunities and arm them with the right tools to build stable, brighter futures.

In the year 2025-2026, our data shows that Platform, ably assisted by our wonderful staff, helped 926 young people to achieve their goals, well above our contractual target.

One of the biggest challenges we faced this year was our quest for ASES accreditation. Staff, the executive and Board members were involved in the process and we were able to gain a very desirable accreditation for five years. This, in itself is a huge achievement and has meant a great deal for our service. This commissioning has given us the opportunity to make long range plans and cement our strategic planning.

Of course, this was an extremely busy time for all and our congratulations should be extended, to our CEO, Steph and our Quality & Assurance Manager, Donna Reece and to all the staff.

While we are on the subject of our CEO, once again, we owe a great deal of thanks to Steph who is the driving force of Platform. It is difficult to find new words to describe Steph's performance. She is an exceptional individual who has the best of Platform on her mind - Platform's staff and our clients.

Her focus and care also extends to the Board. She always keeps us informed and updated on all matters and makes herself available anytime.

In July, as in past years, I completed Steph's appraisal and my report on her performance is nothing short of glowing. I am always in awe of her ability to juggle so many things simultaneously and does so with such grace and efficiency.

I must also acknowledge the wonderful people who work on a daily basis for Platform. Our frontline staff, who are capable, well trained and passionate in their approach, and are faced daily with, at times, insurmountable tasks and yet, cope admirably and succeed in guiding our clients in the achievement of their goals. The Board is always impressed with the volume of work faced by our staff and the excellent results achieved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT CONTINUES OVERLEAF

Platform also boasts a hardworking Board. Change is now a constant in our world and we must embrace it and as a board, we are all willing to adapt to change. Our Board consists now of 7 very dedicated, experienced members whose mission is to guide the service in achieving its goals. Earlier in the year we undertook a Skills Audit which identified the strengths of individual members and any gaps in our knowledge. During our Annual Planning Day in late February, we were able to set our goals for the coming year.

In the Board's quest to build a culture of reflection, we have continued our off camera sessions after our Board Meetings which gives us the opportunity as a Board, to discuss further, and explore any concerns we may have. Over the last couple of years, I feel that we as a Board are working very well together, and after at times, vigorous discussions, we reach consensus because we are always mindful of Platform's mission.

We have also continued having regular updates from the various managers which gives us invaluable insights into the workings of our service.

As well, when available, we attend conferences which pertain to our sector.

In June this year, the whole board undertook a Cultural Training Seminar with Anny Druett. Given that a large percentage of our clients identify as Aboriginal, it is imperative that we engage in increasing our knowledge of our vulnerable young people. Anny spoke to us about the organisation of nations and most importantly, about our 1st Nations peoples' preservation of sky, land and sea.



KEEP GOING, KEEP GROWING

"A CARING, ETHICAL, DYNAMIC AND SUCCESSFUL SERVICE"

One of the sad things that occurred recently was the passing of our former chair of 20 years, Lee Middleton. Lee worked tirelessly for Platform, joining when it was Open House- a very small service with little funding. Lee contributed to the continued growth and expansion of Platform. She stepped down about 6 years ago due to ill health. She continued her interest in Platform and we would often discuss Platform's progress. When I saw her for the last time, a few days before her passing, she continued to ask lots of questions about Platform, especially our Education First program. Having been an educator herself this program was very dear to her.

Our fundraising efforts this year proved amazing. We were invited to take part in the HomeSweet fundraiser which ultimately raised over $100,000 for Platform, all thanks to the efforts of staff and Board members. While very successful, this involved a tremendous amount of organisation, in particular, for Steph.

I would like to thank our many partners, whose help is invaluable to Platform. We acknowledge Link Wentworth, Mission Australia, MyFoundations, IKEA, Temple and Webster and many more. The full list can be found in our annual report. We are also very fortunate to have partnered with Property Industry Foundation which has refurbished our property in Valley Heights and Richmond House.

I will end on this note. On behalf of our Board, I am indeed very proud to lead such a caring, ethical, dynamic and successful service which continues to remain faithful to its mission of helping to break the cycle of homelessness.



Anna Wemyss
CHAIRPERSON

CEO REPORT

STEPHANIE OATLEY

Every year at Platform brings change, challenges and new opportunities, but what does not change is our purpose, we exist to break the cycle of youth homelessness.



STEPHANIE OATLEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Young people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness remain at the heart of Platform. We are driven to ensure young people have somewhere safe to go, people who will listen and genuine opportunities to build the life they want. And whilst housing is critical, we know that a roof alone will not break the cycle of homelessness and is why we continue to build on the support programs we provide.

2025-2026 was an important year for Platform.

The previous years were characterised by significant growth. This year was different. It was about taking stock of that growth, looking honestly at what was working and what needed to change and making sure we were building an organisation and service system that could be sustained into the future.

This has meant making some difficult decisions. It has meant challenging some of the ways we have traditionally operated, realigning services, reviewing structures and thinking differently about how young people move through Platform.

At times change can be uncomfortable, particularly when there has already been considerable change around us. I am incredibly appreciative of the way our people have continued to adapt while keeping young people at the centre of their work.

BUILDING TO LAST

Perhaps the most significant achievement of the year was securing five-year funding certainty for our SHS, HYAP and DFSV homelessness programs.

This gives Platform a level of stability that allows us to look beyond the immediate funding cycle and think more strategically about what young people will need from us over the coming years.

Securing our contracts was only part of the work. We also used this period to take a broader look at Platform: our programs, our people, our resources and how we are positioned for the future.

Through an intensive planning cycle, our staff, leadership team and Board came together to consider what is important to protect and where we need to work differently. This has been an opportunity to look beyond individual programs and consider Platform as a whole, ensuring our resources, structures and priorities are aligned with the organisation we want to be.

This work is now informing a refresh of our Strategic Plan and further organisational realignment for the new year, giving us a clearer direction and a stronger foundation for the next stage of Platform's growth.



BUILDING TO LAST

CEO REPORT CONTINUES OVERLEAF

926

YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED THIS YEAR

We are committed to working towards a stronger end-to-end service model where a young person can come to Platform at any point and, depending on what they need, move through assessment, accommodation, case management, transitional or longer-term housing and ultimately towards independence. Creating an environment that leads towards independence means not only housing, but also education, employment, living skills, relationships, wellbeing, community connection and having someone who continues to believe in what is possible.

This year, 926 young people were supported by Platform. Each number represents a young person with their own story and future. While the number of young people supported was lower than previous years, it remains 23% above our contractual target and reflects our decision to work with young people for longer periods and focus more strongly on sustainable outcomes. Importantly, we saw a 10% increase in young people exiting Platform with secure tenure, with 63% leaving with secure housing compared to a state average of 38% (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare).

Our partnerships remind us that Platform cannot do this work alone. I particularly acknowledge Link Wentworth, whose longstanding relationship with Platform continues to provide housing, opportunities and a local approach to solving homelessness.
A highlight for everyone this year was Link Wentworth's HomeSweet. This was the first time it has been held in Western Sydney, bringing together business and community to create awareness and raise more than $300,000, one-third of which was donated to Platform as a HomeSweet Beneficiary. This money will go directly to supporting young people through our Brokerage and other programs. Looking forward to the next one!

Mission Australia has also been an important partner in the delivery of our services and has been for many years, walking alongside our team and directly supporting young people. I thank them for their collaboration as some of our arrangements change and others continue to develop.

MyFoundations, the Property Industry Foundation, SHOKAI Ausbao, TOTS, Temple & Webster and IKEA have all contributed to expanding or improving the places young people call home. Alongside them are the many local organisations, businesses, community groups and individuals who provide practical support every day. Sometimes that contribution is a property or a major project. Sometimes it is furniture, food, blankets, fundraising, expertise or simply answering the phone when one of our workers needs assistance.

To every organisation and individual who has partnered with Platform this year: thank you. It all matters.

TO OUR BOARD

I want to sincerely thank our Board.

Governance can sometimes be seen as something that happens behind the scenes, but the quality of governance has a very real impact on the strength and sustainability of an organisation.

This has been a year that required our Directors to be engaged and available. They have considered risk, challenged thinking, explored opportunities and supported decisions that have not always been straightforward.

Our full Board Planning Day was particularly valuable as an opportunity to review Platform's governance, reflect on our achievements and consider the Platform we want to be in the future.

I particularly thank our Chair, Anna Wemyss, our Audit & Risk Committee Chair, Richard Sargent, and local signatory Deryk Learmonth, for their counsel, generosity and support. I also thank every Director for the time, expertise and perspective they bring to Platform.

TO OUR PEOPLE

To the Platform team, you have my greatest appreciation.

The frontline staff meet young people on some of the most difficult days of their lives. They respond to crisis, navigate systems that can be frustrating, advocate when an answer is needed, celebrate achievements and sometimes they are simply there. This is the face and the heart of Platform.

CEO REPORT CONTINUES OVERLEAF

Behind those frontline teams are people managing the properties, the finances, compliance and risk, the data, all aspects of human resources and the administration required to keep an organisation like Platform operating effectively. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Refuge Accounting team - Seng La, Luan La and My Hoa for their continued dedication to our financial compliance - they remain a valued business partner of Platform. These roles are the backbone of platform.

This year has asked a lot of our people. There have been service adjustments, new contract negotiations, new team members, different ways of working and changes both internal and external to the organisation. It's not always easy and we will not always get everything right, but we will continue to listen, learn and work at being an organisation where good people want to stay and our work remains purposeful for young people.

I am incredibly grateful for the professionalism, commitment and care Platform staff demonstrate. I am proud of the work we do, the way we support one another and, above all, the commitment we show to young people. It is an absolute privilege to lead them.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

It can take a lot to reach out for help. Young people share their stories with us, help shape our programs for others and remind us why this work matters. Young people are the reason we turn up every day, and our proudest moments are seeing these young people break the cycle and secure a home. We thank them for having trust in Platform.

LOOKING FORWARD

There is much to be proud of this year.

We have secured five-year funding with flexibility in service delivery, strengthened our housing pathways, achieved important accreditation milestones, invested in our properties and people, strengthened governance and risk management, developed new service approaches and continued to contribute to broader conversations about youth homelessness. We have fundraised, planned, celebrated and worked alongside awesome services and individuals.

But there is also much more to do.

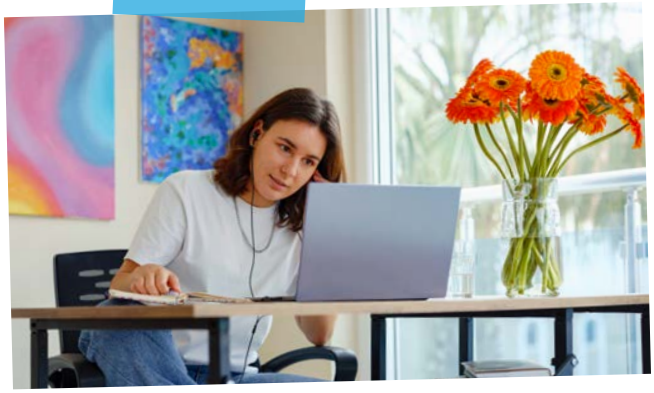
The number of young people needing help remains concerning. Appropriate and affordable housing remains extraordinarily difficult to find, and the complexity facing many young people means short-term responses will never be enough. Balancing longer support periods with the demand remains a focus for us.

Platform will continue to advocate strongly for young people and for a dedicated approach to youth homelessness that recognises that young people are not simply younger adults. Early intervention matters. Family work matters. Education and employment matters. Safe housing matters. And providing the right support early can change the direction of a young person's life.

As we move into the next five years, I feel confident about Platform's direction. We are not focused on growth for growth's sake. We are focused on being leaders, sustainable and purposeful; making better use of our limited resources; creating opportunities when we see them and continuing to build a service response that gives young people the best possible chance of moving beyond homelessness.

Our purpose remains very clear.

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.



SOMEWHERE SAFE TO GO



Stephanie Oatley
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2025-26

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

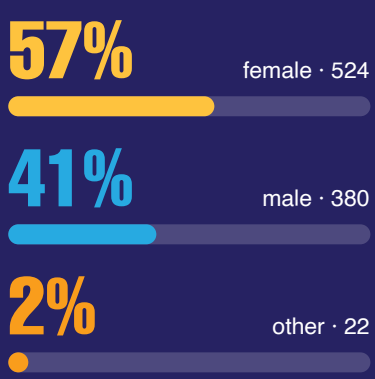
WHO CAME TO US

THIS YEAR WE SUPPORTED

926

young people aged 12–25

GENDER



30% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

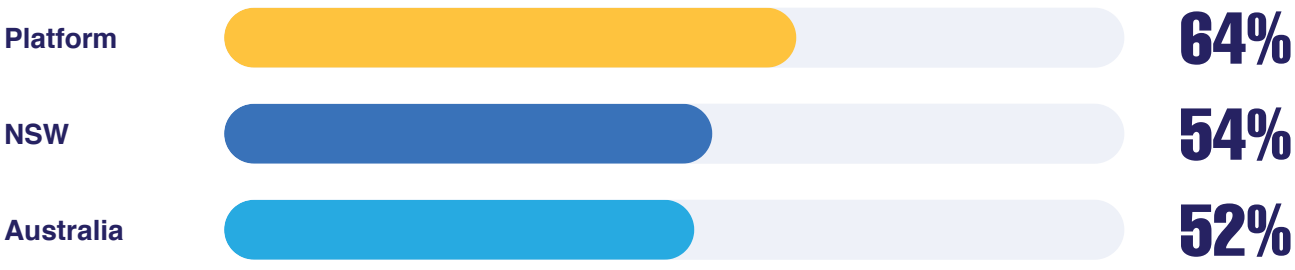
280 YOUNG PEOPLE

7% identified as culturally and linguistically diverse

66 YOUNG PEOPLE

ALREADY HOMELESS WHEN THEY CAME TO US

MARCH 2026



Platform figures are 2025–26 support periods. NSW and Australia figures are March 2026.

63%

WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE LEFT US
exited to stable tenure

526 of the 842 support periods that ended during the year

53% 447
in education or employment

32% 272
engaged in education

31% 262
engaged in employment

28% 238
returned to family

93% of young people leaving **Education First** exited to stable tenure

59% of young people leaving **HYAP** returned to family

ASSERTIVE OUTREACH

249
young people supported by the team

→ **117**
were in emergency accommodation when they presented

→ **96**
moved on from emergency accommodation

OUR PROGRAMS

A YEAR OF CONTINUED COMMITMENT

STRENGTHENING THE ORGANISATION FROM WITHIN

Alongside changes in the external environment, Platform completed a comprehensive internal review and reset our planning priorities, laying the groundwork for a new strategic plan in 2027. Four intensive planning days brought together staff, the leadership team and the Board to reflect on Platform's direction and help shape the next chapter.

Bookkeeping and payroll were brought back in-house with the appointment of a Financial Administrator, adding capacity to Platform's corporate team while retaining Refuge Accounting as a valued financial partner.

Platform also made the strategic decision not to renew its SHS transitional housing subcontract with Mission Australia. This will see 11 properties and the associated funding return to Platform's direct management, creating stronger pathways for young people, greater continuity with case workers and less duplication across administration and financial functions. New case workers were welcomed to Platform to support the transition.

At the same time, Platform commenced the realignment of Katoomba House towards a more flexible model for young people aged 18 to 23, building on the success and learnings of the Richmond House model. This will provide longer-term support, respond to a broader group of young people and make better use of an important housing resource in the Blue Mountains.

Through sustained advocacy, Platform also secured a commitment from Homes NSW to transition Youth Initiative funding into mainstream SHS funding. This provides greater certainty for the program and, importantly, continued support for the young people. Over the next twelve months, Platform will work closely with funders to help shape the new model and ensure the needs of young people remain central to its design.

GROWING OUR HOUSING CAPACITY

Platform's housing partnerships continued to strengthen housing capacity this year. In partnership with Link Wentworth, a longstanding housing partner, Platform resubmitted its National Housing Infrastructure Facility application through the new Building Crisis Housing Plan Initiative, this time with an approved Development Application and a Penrith project ready to build.

Through the partnership with the Property Industry Foundation, major upgrades were completed at Valley Heights, with further works underway at Richmond House. Platform also acknowledges the generous support of SHOKAI Ausbao and its contribution to Granville House, another example of what can be achieved when industry partners invest in housing and opportunities for young people.

Platform was also awarded 12 months of Homelessness Innovation Fund (HIF) funding to trial a 24/7 medium-term accommodation model at its Lemongrove property. The project delivered positive outcomes for young people; however, Homes NSW did not continue the model beyond the funded period.

Lemongrove remains an important housing asset for Platform. Its future use is now being considered, with a focus on short-term accommodation for young people aged 18 and over while Platform case workers support them to secure safe, longer-term housing.

Platform has more than 54 properties and 119 beds, five of which are owned by Platform.

LEADING IN THE SECTOR

Platform contributes actively to leadership across the homelessness, housing and youth sectors, ensuring the experiences of young people and frontline services are represented in conversations that shape policy, practice and service delivery. This includes participation in sector forums, roundtables, workshops, consultations, working groups and communities of practice, as well as representation on the Boards of Homelessness NSW, Shelter NSW and Western Sydney Community Forum. Platform is a regular contributor to Yfoundations, sector advisory meetings, high needs and accommodation panels, and provides submissions and practical feedback on key reforms, policies and sector documents. Platform also has a strong voice in Aboriginal sector engagement and advocacy through Program Manager Kailene Adams, and remains actively connected locally through interagency networks and partnership meetings across the communities it serves.



HOMESWEET 2025

One of the year's major fundraising and awareness events was the HomeSweet Sleepout, Link Wentworth's annual event bringing together staff, partners, community members and supporters to shine a light on homelessness. Platform was grateful to be a beneficiary of HomeSweet alongside Women's Shelter.

Just over $300,000 was raised, with Platform's share allocated directly to young people through its brokerage program, providing practical support where it is needed most. Platform's CEO finished as the top individual fundraiser, while the Corporate team was the top fundraising team on the night.

Platform has been invited to make a three-year commitment to HomeSweet and sincerely thanks everyone who sponsored, promoted, fundraised and took part. The event was a strong example of organisations and community coming together around a shared purpose.



BREAK THE CYCLE

IMPROVING ACCESS TO SUPPORT

One of the most important changes this year was the introduction of Platform's centralised assessment model, creating a more consistent entry point for young people seeking support.

A dedicated Homeless Assessment Worker now provides a more direct response to young people and referrers, helping to reduce duplication and improve coordination across Platform's programs. The focus is straightforward: understand what a young person needs as early as possible and connect them with the right response.

STRENGTHENING OUR HOUSING PATHWAYS

Platform supports young people at different stages of homelessness — from those at immediate risk or in crisis through to young people needing longer-term support to secure and sustain housing. Housing is critical, but lasting stability can also depend on family relationships, education, employment, health, practical living skills and having the right support in place. Platform continued to review how its accommodation and housing responses meet these needs.

As mentioned, Katoomba House commenced its transition to a new service model designed to provide young people with a more flexible pathway towards independence, supported by stronger connections with outreach services across the Blue Mountains.

Penrith House relocated during the year with minimal disruption to young people. Importantly, the move also enabled Platform to remove shared bedrooms from its crisis accommodation. Young people staying at the service now have their own bedroom, providing greater privacy and a safe space during a difficult period in their lives.

The HIF trial at Platform's Lemongrove property demonstrated the value of a 24/7 medium-term option for young people with complex needs, providing the level of support and time needed to work with external services and build a pathway towards independence. During the funded period, 16 young people were supported out of crisis, including young people who had previously moved between services. While the outcomes were positive, Homes NSW did not extend the funding beyond the trial period.

At Valley Heights, improvements undertaken with the support of the Property Industry Foundation included an additional bedroom and new bathroom, increasing the number of young people Platform can accommodate in the Blue Mountains.

Platform's Tenancy Support services also continued to work further upstream, assisting young people experiencing rental arrears, tenancy difficulties or risk of eviction. Helping a young person keep an existing home is just as important as helping them find one.

MORE THAN HOUSING

Housing is central to Platform's work, but ending homelessness requires much more.

Across Platform, young people were supported to reconnect with education, enter employment, develop living skills, manage finances, strengthen relationships and build the confidence needed for greater independence.

Platform's Youth Initiative continued to support young people transitioning from statutory out-of-home care, while HYAP provided specialist responses for younger adolescents experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Outreach teams across the region worked within local communities to identify young people earlier and connect them with housing and other supports.

Partnerships with education providers, employment services, community organisations, housing providers and government agencies remain an important part of this work. No single organisation can address youth homelessness alone, and strong local relationships allow Platform to provide more coordinated responses to young people.



SPECIALIST RESPONSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE

Platform's specialist Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Program continued to support 30 young people in the Hawkesbury experiencing or at risk of violence, providing safety planning, housing assistance, advocacy and connections to legal and specialist services.

During the year, Platform secured a five-year funding extension for this work through the NPA New Frontline & Community Workers contract. This provides important stability and enables specialist frontline support to continue through to June 2030.

Platform was also invited to contribute to the development of a National Model of Care for children and young people who are victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence.

Nous Group, on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Social Services, met with Platform staff and young people to hear directly about what works, where gaps remain and what needs to change. Six young people chose to participate, ensuring their lived experience and perspectives could contribute to the development of a safer and more responsive national approach.

Platform provided partnership support to DVWest supporting domestic violence data collection across the district.





PEOPLE & CULTURE

SUPPORTING OUR PEOPLE TO THRIVE

Our people are at the heart of Platform and in 2025–26 we continued to invest in creating a workplace where people feel supported, connected, valued and able to grow.

This year, we continued to invest in our people by aligning and strengthening the way we approach supervision, performance, learning and development and career planning. The focus has been on helping staff build their skills and confidence, while ensuring we have the right capabilities to meet the changing needs of Platform and the young people we support.

LISTENING TO OUR PEOPLE

Our annual Staff Climate & Culture Survey gives our people an important opportunity to tell us what is working well and where we can do better.

Staff told us that they value supportive teamwork, responsive leadership, learning opportunities and opportunities for professional growth. They also identified areas where we can continue to improve, particularly around communication, workload and creating a consistently safe and respectful workplace.

Importantly, we didn't just listen, we've begun turning that feedback into action. Teams have developed their own ideas for making positive changes through our 'One Thing' initiative, giving staff a direct role in shaping the culture and experience of their workplace.

STAYING CONNECTED TO OUR PURPOSE

Connection to our purpose remains one of the things that brings our people together and keeps us grounded in why we do what we do.

Activities such as Youth Homelessness Matters Day provided staff with opportunities to step outside their usual roles, deepen their understanding of the experiences of young people entering our services, connect with colleagues and reflect on the impact of our work. It was also a reminder of the compassion, professionalism and dedication our people bring to supporting young people every day.

Our commitment to purpose also extends to cultural awareness, connection and reconciliation. Our Reconciliation event, delivered in partnership with Koori Kinnections, provided an opportunity for staff to come together, learn and reflect on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and experiences and consider how we can continue to strengthen culturally safe and responsive practice across Platform.

These opportunities to connect, learn and reflect are an important part of maintaining our shared sense of purpose and strengthening the culture we want to create at Platform.

SUPPORTING OUR PEOPLE THROUGH CHANGE

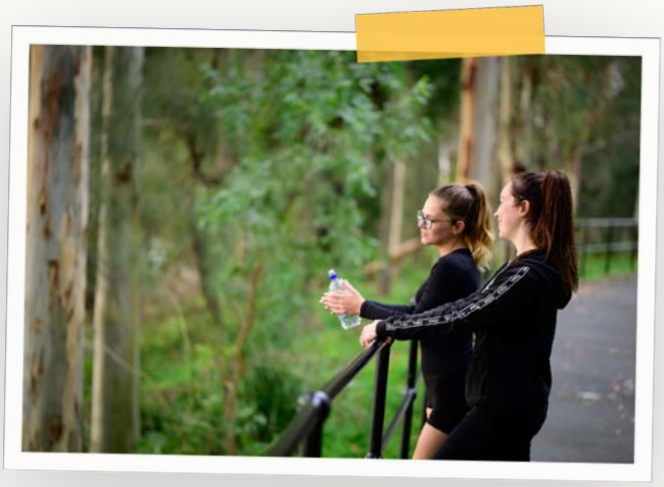
Like many organisations working in the homelessness sector, Platform experienced significant change during the year as we responded to changing service needs and the broader funding environment.

Throughout this change, our priority has been to support our people through clear communication, consultation and practical support. This has included working with affected staff to identify opportunities to remain within Platform wherever possible, while ensuring our workforce is positioned to meet the needs of the young people we support into the future

CREATING A FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE WORKPLACE

We also continued to strengthen the foundations that support our people at work. During the year, we updated our workplace policies and practices in response to changes in employment legislation and industry requirements, including clearer arrangements around working hours and the Right to Disconnect, as well as the introduction of the new Community Services Portable Long Service Leave Scheme and other changes affecting the homelessness and community services workforce.

Our commitment to our people also extends beyond Platform. We continued to contribute to sector advocacy and industry initiatives focused on improving working conditions, workforce sustainability and recognition for the Specialist Homelessness Services workforce. Through our engagement with industry groups and unions, Platform is actively contributing to the broader conversation about how we attract, support and retain the skilled people needed to deliver quality homelessness services.



COMING 2027

SOMETHING'S COMING

AND WE CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU



NO PEEKING – NOT LONG NOW

WATCH THIS SPACE

A NEW LOOK, SAME PURPOSE

Next year Platform will look different. Our name, our purpose and the young people we walk alongside stay exactly the same, but the way we present ourselves is being rebuilt from the ground up.



A new website

Easier to find help, easier to reach us.

A new logo

Still ours, still recognisable, sharper.

DOING IT PROPERLY

QUALITY AND ACCREDITATION

CELEBRATING OUR ASES ACCREDITATION

In April 2026 we successfully retained our Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES) accreditation at Certificate and Award Level, confirming our continued compliance with all standards of the ASES Quality Framework.

The assessment provided an opportunity not only to demonstrate our compliance with the ASES standards, but also to showcase the commitment, professionalism and quality of service that our staff demonstrate every day.

Retaining our ASES Certificate and Award Level status is something we can all be proud of. It reflects the dedication of our people, the valuable voices of our clients and our shared commitment to delivering high quality, client centred services. While we celebrate this achievement, we also remain focused on continuous improvement and ensuring that the people we support remain at the heart of everything we do.

COMMUNITY HOUSING PROVIDER REACCREDITATION

The Office of the registrar of community housing is the independent regulator that ensures that NSW has a safe, reliable, and fair community housing sector.

Platform is an approved community housing provider under Tier 3 deemed as a small provider managing a small number of properties. Tier 3 providers are required to submit return every 2 years in 2 phases.

July 2026 we underwent the 2nd phase of our accreditation which covers Community Engagement, Governance, Probity, Management. Reaccreditation awarded.

This achievement highlights Platform's continued compliance with sector standards and its dedication to providing quality accommodation services.

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
- Audit & Risk
- Remuneration

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 AND 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 2026 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; REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

YEAR APPOINTED: AUGUST 2015

Anna joined Platform Youth Services in November 2013. Anna is a Probus Club Member and was a long-time resident of 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.



COLIN LENTON

B.Bus – Accounting, FAICD

TREASURER; AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE; REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

YEAR APPOINTED: JUNE 2015

Colin joined Blue Mountains Youth Accommodation and Support Services in 2008. Colin has held several Board positions in Government, Banking, Health, Education and Not for-Profits over the past 25 years. 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. Colin is also a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



RICHARD SARGENT

MBA, FCCA

CHAIR AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

YEAR APPOINTED: OCTOBER 2018

Richard provides CFO services to SMEs through the CFO Centre. Richard has over 20 years of experience in senior executive roles in Finance and Transformation at large multinationals. He served as Head of Finance for Castrol Australia for more than six years and has worked in Australia, the UK, and Singapore. Additionally, Richard was a director of a manufacturing joint venture between BP and Caltex for three years. In 2015/2016, he held the position of treasurer for a school charity in the UK.



SIMONE ANGUS-CARR

Bachelor of Community Welfare, Graduate Diploma Counselling, Masters Public Health Service Management, Masters Social Work

BOARD SECRETARY, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE, REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

YEAR APPOINTED: FEBRUARY 2016

Simone joined Platform Youth Services Board 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. Since 2005, Simone has worked for Drug Health Service across Nepean Blue Mountains, Western Sydney. From 2018 Simone moved over to the NGO sector remaining in the Youth Drug and Alcohol space currently working for the Ted Noffs Foundation as National Outclient Director.



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.



REBECCA EVANS

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

GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

YEAR APPOINTED: OCTOBER 2021

Rebecca a proud Aniawan 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 focused on Youth and Community. Rebecca currently works with students in years 7-12 whom are disengaged from education, she focusses on wellbeing ensuring students have their basic needs for a positive school experience.



CASSANDRA MULLER

Bachelor of Science, Masters Human Resources and Industrial Relations

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

YEAR APPOINTED: AUGUST 2021

Cassie joined GrainCorp as the Chief People Officer in May 2024, Cassie leads both the People and Culture and Health, Safety and Environment functions. Cassie worked at NAB in the role of Chief People Officer for Digital, Data and Technology. Prior to this, Cassie was with the Woolworths Group for over 10 years in both HR and Transformation roles. Cassie has also worked at Dubai Ports World and Coles Myer in a variety of HR positions.

MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

The number of meetings held during the year, and the number of meetings attended by each Director.

DIRECTOR	ELIGIBLE	ATTENDED
Anna Wemyss	7	7
Colin Lenton	7	6
Simone Angus-Carr	7	5
Richard Sargent	7	6
Deryk Learmonth	7	6
Cassandra Muller	7	6
Rebecca Evans	7	5
Adam Smith**	1	1

** resigned during the year (15 September 2025)

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 year was $213,896 (2025: surplus of $1,601,804). The company is a not-for-profit entity and is exempt from the payment of income tax.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Total income was $8,181,225 (2025: $9,332,996). Operating expenses for the 2026 FY was $7,967,329 (2025: $7,731,192).

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, Western Sydney Community Forum 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 12-25 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.

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 2026 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

21 September 2026

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

Under s60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012

To the Directors of Platform Youth Services Ltd

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2026 there have been:

(a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and

(b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



StewartBrown
Chartered Accountants



Justin Weiner
Partner

21 September 2026

DIRECTORS' 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 2026, 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, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:

   (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022; and

   (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2026 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
21 September 2026

Colin Lenton
DIRECTOR

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 2026;

(ii) The statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026 gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company with respect to fundraising appeals conducted by the organisation;

(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.

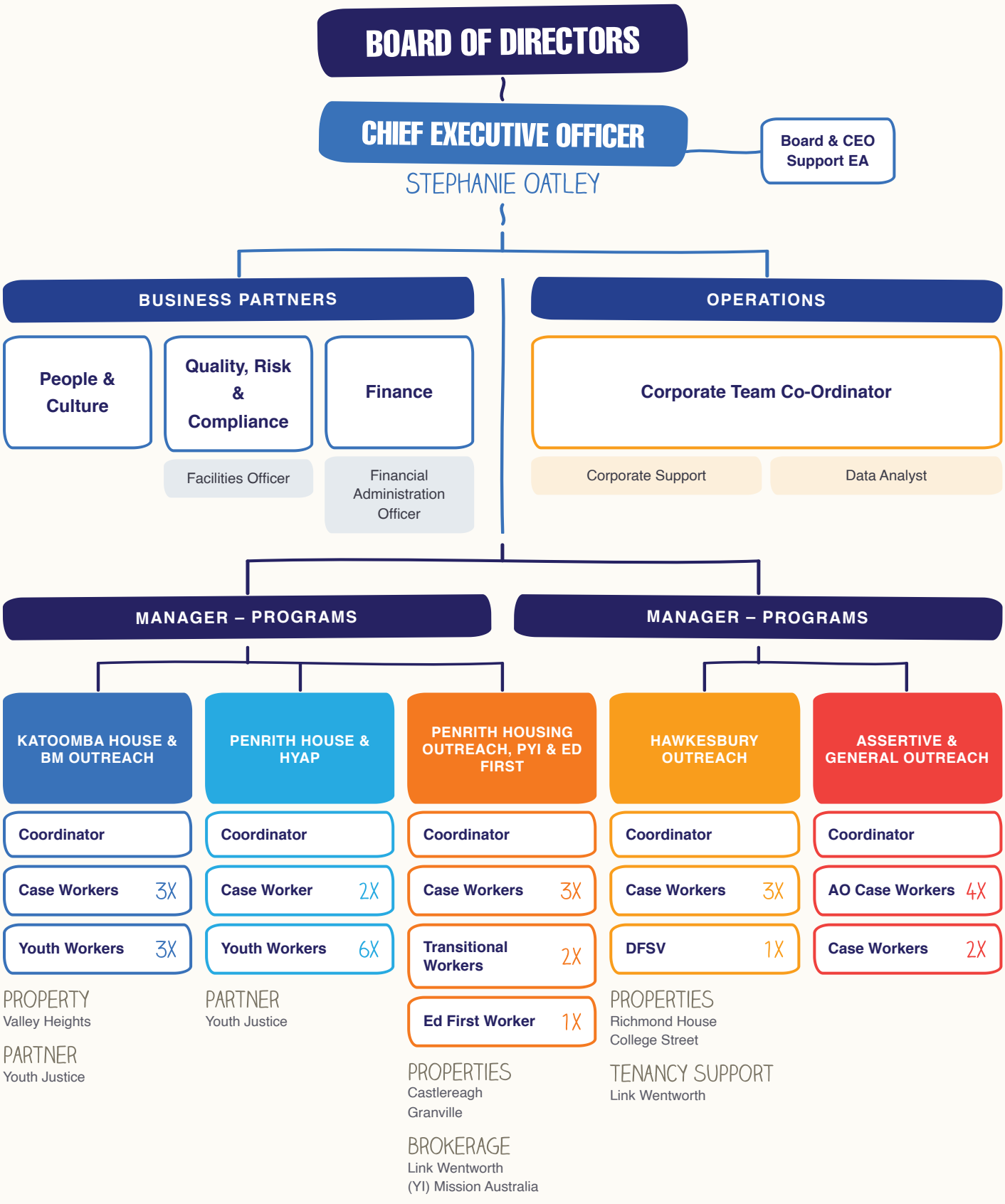
Anna Wemyss
DIRECTOR
21 September 2026

Colin Lenton
DIRECTOR

HOW WE'RE PUT TOGETHER

OUR STRUCTURE

LAST UPDATED MAY 2026



AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2026 $	2025 $
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,365,032	3,627,454
Trade and other receivables	173,914	219,492
Total current assets	**3,538,946**	**3,846,946**
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	5,877,721	5,924,861
Right-of-use assets	197,811	—
Total non-current assets	**6,075,532**	**5,924,861**
Total assets	**9,614,478**	**9,771,807**
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	682,575	1,247,424
Employee benefits	704,480	681,805
Lease liabilities	41,005	—
Total current liabilities	**1,428,060**	**1,929,229**
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefits	154,624	192,685
Lease liabilities	168,005	—
Total non-current liabilities	**322,629**	**192,685**
Total liabilities	**1,750,689**	**2,121,914**
Net assets	**7,863,789**	**7,649,893**
FUNDS		
Accumulated funds	7,863,789	7,649,893
Total funds	**7,863,789**	**7,649,893**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2026 $	2025 $
Revenue	8,181,225	9,278,759
Other income	—	54,237
	8,181,225	**9,332,996**
EXPENSES		
Administration expenses	(255,457)	(259,565)
Depreciation expenses	(203,769)	(209,153)
Employee benefits expense	(5,254,936)	(5,038,399)
Finance costs – lease liabilities	(20,604)	—
Insurance expenses	(668,858)	(620,958)
Program expenses	(1,326,352)	(1,363,305)
Property and lease expenses	(237,353)	(239,812)
	(7,967,329)	**(7,731,192)**
Surplus before income tax	**213,896**	**1,601,804**
Income tax expense	—	—
Surplus for the year	**213,896**	**1,601,804**
Other comprehensive income	—	—
Total comprehensive income for the year	**213,896**	**1,601,804**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS

	ACCUMULATED FUNDS $	ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE $	TOTAL $
Balance at 1 July 2024	**5,767,872**	**280,217**	**6,048,089**
Comprehensive income			
Surplus for the year	1,601,804	—	1,601,804
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—
Total comprehensive income for the year	**1,601,804**	**—**	**1,601,804**
Balance at 30 June 2025	**7,369,676**	**280,217**	**7,649,893**
Balance at 1 July 2025	**7,369,676**	**280,217**	**7,649,893**
Comprehensive income			
Surplus for the year	213,896	—	213,896
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—
Total comprehensive income for the year	**213,896**	**—**	**213,896**
Balance at 30 June 2026	**7,583,572**	**280,217**	**7,863,789**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2026 $	2025 $
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from customers and government	1,042,282	898,900
Payments to suppliers and employees	(8,568,888)	(7,994,481)
Donations and fundraising income	136,505	1,881,664
Government grants received	7,192,529	7,546,922
Interest received	101,184	116,581
Interest paid – leases	(20,604)	—
Net cash flows from operating activities	**(116,992)**	**2,449,586**
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	—	85,453
Purchase of capital work in progress	—	(3,636)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(109,501)	(2,512,178)
Net cash flows from investing activities	**(109,501)**	**(2,430,361)**
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Repayment of lease liabilities	(35,929)	—
Net cash flows from financing activities	**(35,929)**	**—**
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**(262,422)**	**19,225**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	3,627,454	3,608,229
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	**3,365,032**	**3,627,454**

THANK YOU

To the funders, housing partners and supporters who stood alongside young people this year — thank you.

Link Wentworth

MISSION AUSTRALIA

Homes NSW

My Foundations YOUTH HOUSING

Property Industry Foundation

DV WEST



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Platform Youth Services

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