

Bridge it



2023/2024

ANNUAL REPORT



WELCOME TO OUR THIRD ANNUAL REPORT!

Bridge It launched three years ago to play a role in ending youth homelessness in Australia.

Bridge It's flagship program, The Cocoon, provides a home and support to young women who have been impacted by homelessness or the out-of-home-care system.

The Cocoon is the only supportive housing for young women in Victoria.

TAKE A TOUR OF OUR COCOON



Acknowledgement of Country

Bridge It's Cocoon is located on Bunurong Country. Bridge It proudly acknowledges the people of the Yalukut Willam Clan of the South East Kulin Nations, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, work, and play. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present. Australia always was and always will be Aboriginal land.



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“This year, we have been so excited to have been able to renovate The Cocoon through radical cross-sector collaboration.”

BY CARLA RAYNES - CEO & FOUNDER



Carla Raynes, CEO & Founder at The Cocoon during the renovation.
Photo credit: Neoteq.

Bridge It and The Cocoon has been a 20-year dream in the making for me. Walking into The Cocoon and seeing how beautiful, safe, and homely it is fills me with incredible pride to be able to provide the homes that young women deserve after a childhood filled with trauma and uncertainty.

This year has been a big one for me personally and professionally as I have been on the Westpac Social Change Fellowship, which has seen me travel across the UK to learn from programs combatting homelessness, develop my leadership capacity, and elevate greater awareness in the sector and community about what Bridge It does.

Our incredible team have stayed with us and continue to play a pivotal role in the success of the organisation. We established a Lived Experience Advisory Committee, which will continue to ensure that Bridge It draws on lived experience wisdom and holds it central to everything we do. We said goodbye to one of our Founding Board members, the amazing Christa Malkin, and thank her for supporting Bridge It's creation and early growth. Our Board also expanded to include Shayne Hood, lived experience expert, trainer, and innovator, and Philip Mendes, Australia's leading researcher in the out-of-home-care system. The high calibre of our Board is critical to our success as an organisation.



All 11 Cocoon residents we have provided homes and support to across our two-year pilot have moved into stable housing. We are still in touch with ten of these young women, who remain housed and are thriving in other life areas. The outcomes we have achieved for our young women have been quite incredible and really show the power that supportive housing can have.

This year, we have been so excited to renovate The Cocoon through radical cross-sector collaboration. This has enabled us to increase the number of young women we can provide homes to at the existing Cocoon. We also had to make the difficult decision not to pursue a second Cocoon in Bayside, Melbourne due to a number of factors, which meant that it was not feasible for us. We are working hard to secure another property to run a Cocoon in, and hope to see Cocoons all over the country in the future.

Bridge It continues to run as a result of the support of the incredible people, foundations, and businesses who fund our operational costs. Without this support, we could not do what we do, and for that we are incredibly grateful.

Together, we can end youth homelessness. By continuing to provide safe, supportive homes and advocating for systemic change, we're making a tangible difference in the lives of young women.

Thank you for your unwavering support of Bridge It.

Carla Raynes - CEO & Founder

Bridgeit

"This year, our supporters have again been marvellous in showing their support."

BY GREG RIDDER - CHAIR

Bridge It's third year has seen the continued refinement of our Cocoon model, which is demonstrating its effectiveness in creating an environment where young women can live in a supportive home that is cosy, safe, secure, and dignified while we help to build capacity for everyday life. We take joy in seeing them grow and thrive.

We continue to be inspired by the support and encouragement of so many who believe in our work and our vision for ending youth homelessness. Because of this, we will be able to substantially increase our offering in the coming year, with more accommodation and the introduction of a number of sector partnerships that will deliver additional support services from experts specific to the needs of the young women we support.

This year, we partnered with Housing All Australians and HousingFirst to renovate and refurbish areas of The Cocoon that were not previously suitable for accommodation. Importantly, this project also secured Bridge It's occupancy rights for the long term.



Greg Ridder - Chair, outside The Cocoon.
Photo credit: Lynnette Alston Photography.



Through the goodwill of Mirvac and an army of trade suppliers who provided their professional services, time, and materials on a pro bono basis, our property will be scaled from seven fully self-contained apartments to 19 and will be at full occupancy from October 2024. Their generosity and belief in Bridge It has further transformed the property into a beautiful haven, which is what our young women deserve.

This year, our supporters have again been marvellous in showing their support, and we continue to have a solid financial runway for the coming year with almost \$1 million in the bank. However, we recognise that our model does cost more to run than many other programs, and we do not shy away from that. This form of early intervention is money well spent. We believe this leads to lower lifetime costs for the government, and we will continue to encourage governments to contribute more funding to support programs with evidence-based outcomes that work.

We continue to work on this funding pathway, and are also considering other ways we can leverage the Cocoon model for greater scale and impact.

Finally, I would like to call out the amazing work and commitment of our incredible Founder and CEO, Carla Raynes, and all our staff. While we are small, we are being noticed and your work is being recognised for both its excellence and its innovation. As always, my fellow Board Members remain exceptional and give generously of their time, experience, and insight.

Thank you to everyone on this remarkable journey.

Greg Ridder - Chair and
Director

Bridge it



WHAT WE DO



Bridge It provides young women who have been impacted by the out-of-home-care system or homelessness with a home, a community, and the support to thrive at our Cocoon.

We focus on supporting women who are aged 17-21 so that they can receive youth and gender-specific supportive housing, which is not seen anywhere else in Victoria.

The Cocoon is a beautiful property in St Kilda that provides young women with a home for up to 18 months, so there's time for residents to recover, stabilise, and learn independent living skills. This means they can transition into adulthood and long-term housing.

First Nations Art by Mulganai and Dulux.

WHY WE DO IT



Bridge It team: Sage Leslie, Sam Jones, Dorian Hodgess, Carla Raynes, Jenna Wilson, Kate Mackenzie

“

Our big dream is to see a Cocoon in every state of Australia within the next five years.”
Carla Raynes – CEO and Founder.

Young people aged 19-24 see the highest rates of homelessness out of any other group.

Homelessness among women is growing significantly.

Homelessness grew in Victoria by an alarming 24% between the 2016 and 2021 censuses.

Young people who are in residential care are exited on their 18th birthday. Of these, 54% will experience homelessness within the first four years.

Key drivers of homelessness in Victoria include domestic and family violence, financial difficulties, lack of affordable housing, and mental health issues. Domestic violence is a leading cause, particularly among women and children.

HOW WE DO IT



Supports available at The Cocoon include:

- Bridge It Crew at The Cocoon 6 hours per day Monday to Friday, to provide support to our young residents.
- Lived experience mentoring, both one-on-one and in groups.
- Life and living skills development, both one-on-one and in groups. Activities include cooking, budgeting and much more.
- Therapies and wellness activities such as massage, acupuncture, naturopathy, music, art and access to a local gym.
- One-on-one coaching.
- Community experiences, including birthday celebrations, BBQs, movie nights and meals out.
- Education & employment pathways program with support to access meaningful education and employment opportunities and scholarships.



Graffiti created by Cocoon residents and Kattattak.

OUR MISSION & VALUES

OUR MISSION

To end youth homelessness by providing homes, community, and high-quality support.

Our Micro Vision

A Cocoon in every state of Australia.

Our Macro Vision

We inspire new ways of thinking so homelessness support is life-changing and long-lasting.

Our Mega Vision

We play a role in ending youth homelessness in Australia.

OUR VALUES



KEY MESSAGES

- Ending homelessness in Australia is possible.
- Building more homes is essential but insufficient. Supportive housing and skill development are critical for people with additional support needs.
- Ending homelessness is cost-effective.
- The Cocoon bridges the gap between crisis accommodation and unsupported housing, and could play a significant role in ending homelessness if adopted Australia-wide.

Bridge it

TURNED THREE!



Photo Credit: Alex Coppel



This year, we celebrated Bridge It's third birthday at Linden Art in St Kilda!

We heard from our Board Member, Shayne Hood, and Lived Experience Advisory Members, Brea Dorset and Luis Montero.

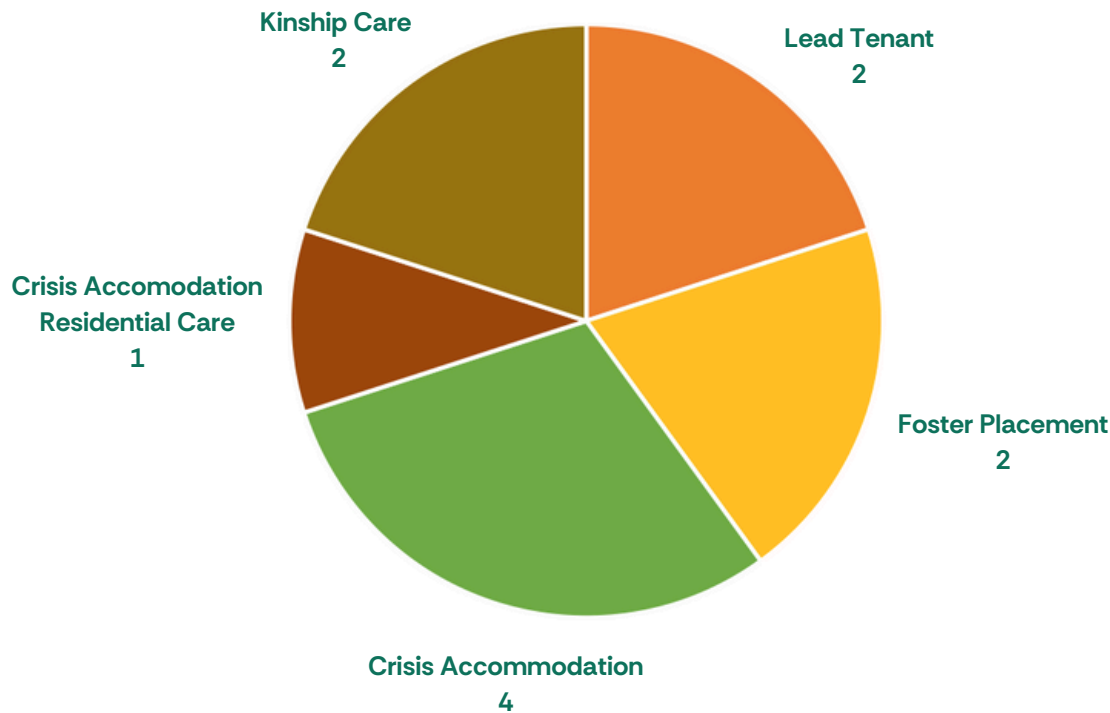
They spoke about the power of supportive housing and believing in our young women. Bringing together our team, Board, and donors to celebrate the power of Bridge It was brilliant.

Sharing a room with people who are all committed to ending homelessness and doing their bit to make it happen was so inspiring.



YEAR IN REVIEW: OUR IMPACT

HOUSING PRIOR TO COCOON



11

young women
housed at The
Cocoon.

6

engaged in
study whilst at
The Cocoon.

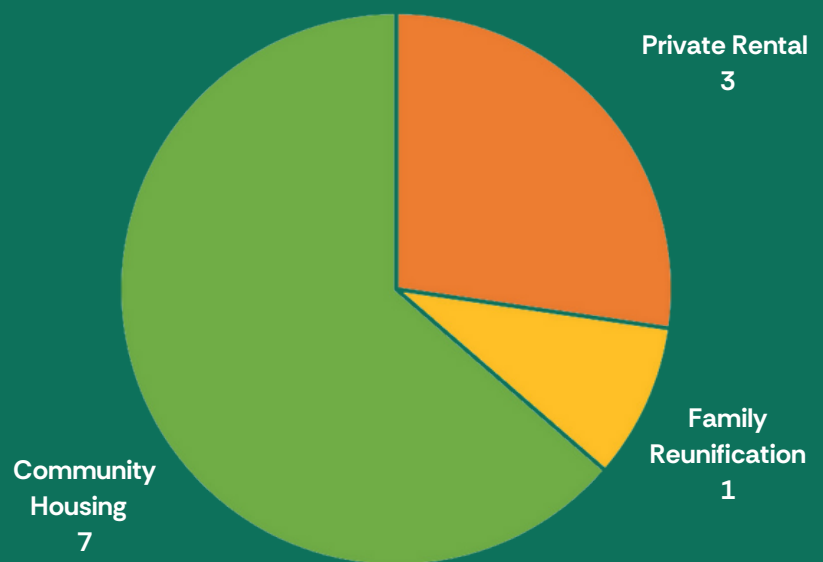
10

residents
engaged in
employment
whilst at The
Cocoon.

11

residents
transitioned into
the housing of their
choice following
their stay at The
Cocoon.

HOUSING EXITS POST COCOON



10

COCOON EXPANSION: RADICAL COLLABORATION

Bridge It's Cocoon pilot was run in a property owned by community housing provider, HousingFirst. For the two years that we ran the Cocoon pilot, we had seven apartments available for young women and one communal space. That left an additional 11 apartments sitting vacant, as they were not renovated.

Radical cross-sector collaboration saw all of these apartments being renovated this year, ready to become homes to 16 young women in October 2024.

We want to thank our key partners: HousingFirst, who own the building; Housing All Australians, who engaged the construction industry to work on the project; Mirvac, who took on the role as builder; RPS and SEMZ, who managed the project; and K2LD architects, Simon Ellis landscape architects, and all of the other businesses who generously donated their time and products.

This collaboration with corporate partners and donors demonstrates the power of business and community involvement in ending homelessness



Photo Credit, Social Garden.

Be Styled Interiors
 Beston
 Betta Home Living
 Bowens
 BRT
 Cabots
 Caesar Stone
 Cazaam Kitchens
 Commercial Blinds
 DEC Group
 Delta Group
 Demtech
 Dulux
 Executive Heat Cool
 Five Star Insulation
 FX AUS
 GWA Group (Caroma)
 Hydro Horticulture
 Jaytee Electrical
 K2LD
 Kirkwood Kitchens
 Kovstruct
 Kogan.com
 Kwik Serv Scaffold
 Lakewood Kitchens
 Lee Bro Fencing
 Marbut Stone Pty Lt
 Mirvac Residential
 Originate Interior Design
 PLP Building Surveyors
 Polytec
 Quest Apartments
 Regency
 RPS Group
 Schneider Electrical
 SEM Windows
 SEMZ
 Simon Ellis Landscapes
 Smeg
 Social Garden
 SRD Fire
 Urban
 Urbis
 Volare
 Whelan the Wrecker
 and many more

A HUGE THANK YOU TO SOME OF OUR OTHER AMAZING SUPPORTERS



Donors who funded the renovation and furnishings

Brian and Virginia
McNamee Foundation

StreetSmart

Merry People

Jamie and Rebecca Gray
Foundation

ARK Capital



Virgin Unite was one of Bridge It's first backers, and they have remained on the journey with us! We were over the moon to welcome the inspirational Sir Richard Branson to our Cocoon in December 2023. Richard got to meet two of our residents, and hear from them how powerful it has been living in supportive housing at The Cocoon.

WHAT OUR GENEROUS DONORS HAVE TO SAY

Sir Richard Branson - Founder, Virgin Group

"I felt very fortunate to visit a Cocoon in Melbourne and to meet some of the wonderful people who have benefitted from the initiative. We shared stories and ambitions, and it was clear to me how cared-for and at-home they felt. I'm so pleased that Virgin Unite backed Bridge It's very first Cocoon back in 2022 and we all sincerely hope to see Cocoons all over Australia in the coming years."



Tania Austin - Founder & CEO, DECJUBA Foundation

"At the DECJUBA Foundation, we're passionate about supporting charities and founders with big dreams. Our mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of 25 million people by 2025, and we do this by partnering with amazing partners who create lasting and tangible change.

Bridge It aligns with our purpose at DECJUBA Foundation – the team's dedication to addressing homelessness is so impactful. They have a sustainable model that can be scaled across the country to make a real difference while never losing sight of the individual's right to a safe and welcoming place to live."

Lisa Keenan - Executive Director, MECCA M-POWER

"We at MECCA have been impressed by Bridge It's bold vision to end youth homelessness in Australia. Their approach felt innovative and holistic, resonating with MECCA's company values. Bridge It's Cocoon program goes beyond just providing shelter; they truly empower their young residents across all aspects of life. It's been a privilege to support these young women by providing multi-year unrestricted funding for the charity to operate and donating the time and talents of our teams as well as MECCA products and makeovers, helping the residents feel confident, beautiful, and cared for."



Radek Sali - Chair, Light Warrior Group

"Bridge It is a genuine place of care that we have proudly been involved with since inception. The Cocoon offers a safe warm home that offers a true place of refuge to those who most need it. Their groundbreaking work is extremely important, and I hope in the near future more vulnerable women will be able to access their services across Australia."



10_x10

Photo: Jenna Wilson (Partnerships Coordinator), Dorian Hodgess (Projects & Operations Coordinator), Sam Jones (Lived Experience Mentor),

A HUGE THANK YOU TO 10X10!

Bridge It wants to give a massive thank you to the incredible team at 10x10 for the opportunity to pitch at their event. Our Lived Experience Mentor, Sam, courageously shared her personal experiences and spoke about the power of her role at Bridge It.

Spreading the word about what we do is so important to us, as a small charity with big ambitions to support young people facing complex challenges. We're so grateful for platforms like 10x10 that allow us to connect, make a difference, and get some extra funding for our important work!

We raised nearly \$15K on the night. Following on from this, we connected with the team at ARK Capital who donated a further \$25K to furnish The Cocoon. ARK are also now working with us on our dreams to establish a Housing Trust, so we can purchase a second building to run a Cocoon out of.



The One to End Youth Homelessness Merry People x Bridge It

Bridge It launched The One to End Youth Homelessness Campaign, which asks businesses to donate the profits of one thing that's relevant to their business.

Our founding partner on this campaign was Merry People, the creators of THE viral gumboot.

They're not just about stylish footwear; they're committed to making the world a better place. We co-created a gumboot to share the profits from sales, and raised a huge \$35,000!

Together, we're walking the walk to end youth homelessness.



We have created a limited edition, co-branded Bobbi Boot to give homelessness the boot. 20% of all sales was donated to Bridge It to help provide more young women with a safe home.



Danielle Pearce - CEO & Founder, Merry People

CREATING HOMES AND TRANSFORMING LIVES



Photo Credit: Alex Coppel
First Nations Art by: Mulganai and Dulux
Graffiti by: Kattattak.

Bridge it



Bridge It's Team Leader Kate Mackenzie talks about her role.



Bridge It

TEAM FEATURE

As the Team Leader at Bridge It, my role is to ensure The Cocoon runs smoothly. My goal for each day is to support my team and create a positive environment for everyone. I want to ensure our residents get the best possible support, and that subsequently, our team feels empowered and appreciated.

What I Find Most Rewarding

What's most rewarding about my role is seeing the young people we work alongside get the opportunity to have fun and be themselves. It's also rewarding knowing that I work in a program that has exited 100% of the people we supported through the Cocoon program into accommodation of their choice.

Why I Joined Bridge It

I have worked in the homelessness sector in Melbourne since 2017. This has provided me with an in-depth understanding of the horrific impacts of homelessness. I joined Bridge It because I wanted to be proactive and be a part of creating something that can end homelessness long-term.

A Thank You to Our Team

I'm so grateful for our incredible team. Their dedication, passion, and commitment to our mission is inspiring. Deciding to end youth homelessness is no small feat, but our team show up and take on this challenge every day. I feel honoured to be part of such an amazing team.



LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Photo: Sarah Morris, Brea Dorsett, Luis Montero

Sarah Morris

Sarah is a social worker and early career academic who also has lived experience of out-of-home care. She's passionate about incorporating lived experience within her professional practices, whether by contributing to academic literature and projects or working collaboratively with organisations to create programs that are trauma-informed and therapeutically aligned.

Luis Montero

Luis is currently studying a Diploma of Community Services. He has lived experience, both as young person who struggled with homelessness and as a young parent at 18. Now at 24, Luis has his five-year-old son in his full-time care. When he's not at Bridge it, Luis enjoys being a dad, painting, and playing board games with friends.

Brea Dorsett

Brea is a fierce and passionate human rights advocate and intersectional feminist. She was exposed to homelessness during her year 12 VCE studies and transitioned into supportive housing. This was a pivotal moment for Brea, where her passion for being a voice for the voiceless was ignited. Brea has taken her advocacy efforts as far as both State and Federal Parliament.

LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVISORY FEATURE – SARAH MORRIS

As a young person, I experienced episodes of transience before being taken into care.

All children and young people deserve safe homes where they can thrive. I utilise my experiences of being bounced around a broken system to inform the work I do as a qualified social worker, working with organisations to better programs and future social policies.

When Bridge It asked me to be on their Lived Experience Advisory Committee, I jumped at the chance to work with them. Bridge It is more than a youth homelessness initiative; they are passionate about creating long-term positive outcomes for vulnerable young women. I feel privileged to be a part of this transformative organisation, and to use my lived experience to enhance both the organisation and the support that The Cocoon's residents receive.

Bridge It does more than provide safe housing; they create a home where community is fostered.





RESIDENT STORY

So many horrible things happened to me when I was a little kid. I was not safe with my family, so I was moved to multiple foster homes. I would mix water and toothpaste in a glass sometimes because I was so hungry when some of them refused to give me food. I was sent to live with a foster carer who had significant mental and physical health issues, which resulted in me having to look after her.

One foster carer made me sleep outside in winter in a dog kennel, and it was only when I climbed inside through the cat door, I was able to sleep inside. When I told child protection, they said that I was lying. I remember staying with my mum's foster carer (yes – she had been in the system too!) and I was made to bathe in filthy water which was only replaced every three days.

I was continually passed through different foster care homes and never felt loved. I'm mature for my age because I had to grow up quickly. When I was 16, I was put into accommodation that is called "lead tenant" which is rental property where I was supposed to be living with an adult, but he was never there. I had the house broken into and everything stolen. It was so scary.

Now I am living at The Cocoon in Melbourne, and I am completing my year 12 equivalent. I have also recently finished a mechanic course and I have been offered a job. I'm currently learning how to drive. I feel safe and supported and like I have a real home.

The Cocoon has offered me a safe and cozy space to be able to let my walls down and enjoy doing the little things in life. I have grown so much as a person in the past few months, having a little support group by my side.

WHAT OUR RESIDENTS SAY ABOUT THE COCOON



"The Cocoon is a place where you can remake your own friends and family. Living at The Cocoon has allowed me to focus on my mental health without being judged, and to live and work at my own pace. There is no judgement or unhealthy expectations from the community. I really love the openness and kindness of the community and I love getting together for cooking groups. I am more hopeful for the future. I'm doing a traineeship as a barista, and I am looking forward to studying mental health to support lots of people in the future."

"In the last 12 months, I have gained employment, I started courses in hospitality and mental health, and I have developed friendships that are possibly lifelong with people who understand and support me."

"Due to Bridge It, I was able to find housing and get the support I needed to grow."

"I feel that Bridge It has helped me to take control of my own future, by helping me to make my own decisions in life about how I identify myself as a person and through helping others that have gone through similar struggles as me. Knowing that I have the ability to overcome big problems in life and solidifying my sense of resilience gives me confidence. Living at The Cocoon and meeting other people like me helped me to realise how far I've come in life."

"Bridge It helped me to rebuild my life when I was in a tough spot. The support they provided, from finding stable housing after the program, to caring for my overall wellbeing and health during the program, helped me to realise I wasn't alone. I feel like it is a lot easier to advocate for myself in life as an adult now because of their guidance."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors brings together a wealth of experience and connections from a diverse range of industries. Having a solid Board means a strong foundation. We welcomed two new board members this year – Philip Mendes and Shayne Hood. We are incredibly fortunate to have their wealth of experience and unique perspectives and expertise to strengthen our efforts.



Greg Ridder
Director & Chair

Greg is a seasoned Non-Executive Director and Chair with extensive experience in business strategy and leadership in Australia and internationally. A commercial leader with a strong ethical focus, Greg is currently Chair at both Kogan.com and Life Without Barriers and also serves on the board of PNG Sustainable Development Program.



Carla Raynes
Founder, CEO & Director

Carla has worked in frontline and management positions in the homelessness sector in the UK and Australia for 20 years. Her experience spans crisis accommodation, drug and alcohol support services, tertiary hospitals, and youth residential units. Carla Founded Bridge It alongside her team in 2021. In 2024 Carla launched an all-women's speakers agency called Challenge The Label.





Jane Tewson AO CBE
Director

Jane is the Founder and Director of Igniting Change. She is passionate about bringing lived experience into all aspects of her work and, in the process, has spent her life turning old-fashioned ideas of charity upside down. She's a true innovator and lateral thinker, with a global reputation for inspiring individuals and organisations to work together for social change. She's founded five charities, all of which are flourishing today. She's known for her creative initiatives, including Comic Relief (Red Nose Day) in the UK, which has raised more than a billion pounds.



Shayne Hood
Director

Shayne's journey began amidst family violence, addiction, and criminality in his youth. Through resilience and a dedication to justice, he transformed his struggles into a catalyst for change. Recognising common challenges, he committed himself to supporting others and fostering positive impact. As a leading consultant and workforce trainer in complex social work, youth work, and community settings, Shayne's authentic "real talk" approach cultivates self-determination and earns him trust as a mentor and advisor.



Edward Ring
Director

Edward is the co-founder of marketing software company, Cuttable, which leverages ai to assist businesses scale their marketing. Previously Ed worked with Conscious Investment Management, a leading Australian impact investment fund that is focused on delivering social housing in Australia. Outside of this, Ed has a management role in two Melbourne-based foundations.



Philip Mendes
Director

Philip is a former child protection worker turned academic who has taught social policy and community practice to social work students at Monash University for over 25 years. He specialises in research exploring the adult lives of young people who have grown up in out-of-home-care, and the impact of the wider systems and structures that can either advance or limit their life outcomes.



Kim Dema
Secretary

Kim has held multiple Board and Committee positions over the past ten years. She provides a high level of financial acumen, specialising in strategic business growth and scenario-based modelling. Her experience spans both the not-for-profit and for-profit sectors, within both corporate settings and private family groups. Kim has been involved in a range of charitable activities, both locally and internationally.



Christa Malkin
Director (until 2023)

Christa brings a wealth of corporate operational experience, having spent most of her career in the financial services industry. She is experienced in leading large teams of high-performing salespeople, often in fast-paced and challenging environments with robust regulatory frameworks. Christa has extensive experience in sales, relationship management, P&L management, and HR.



Carla Raynes - CEO & Founder

Carla founded Bridge It in 2021 to address the urgent need to create safe, affordable housing for young women in Melbourne. Carla has spent nearly two decades working in the homelessness space, and is a trailblazer in trialling creative approaches to find a long-lasting solution to homelessness.



Kim Dema - Chief Finance Officer

Kim has 15 years of accounting and finance experience across a broad range of sectors, including finance, investments, and property development. For the past ten years, Kim has worked for large private family offices as CFO, with responsibility for large investment holdings across venture capital, private equity, property, and operating businesses.



Kate Mackenzie - Team Leader

Kate is a qualified social worker with experience working for homelessness services in Melbourne, and was on Bridge It's founding team. She has an in-depth understanding of the service sector, as well as the challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness. Kate manages Bridge It's day-to-day operations, leading and supporting the team.



Dorian Hodgess - Projects and Operations Coordinator

Dorian is an experienced youth worker who has worked in youth supportive housing programs across Melbourne. He has extensive experience in leadership roles and working directly with young people. Dorian's work at Bridge It focuses on the development of procedures and overseeing the organisation's growth.



Jenna Wilson - Intake and Partnerships Coordinator

Jenna is a mental health and advocacy professional with experience in the homelessness and mental health sectors. Jenna assisted with the creation of Bridge It, and is committed to ensuring that young people have a beautiful and supportive home. Jenna manages the intake of new residents, as well as Bridge It's partnerships with external organisations.



Sam Jones – Lived Experience Mentor

Sam has lived experience with mental health, and her passion is supporting others through similar challenges. Sam provides invaluable support, guidance, and inspiration to The Cocoon's residents through group sessions, co-design of the programs, and drop-in support.



Sage Leslie – Housing and Wellbeing Coordinator

Sage has completed extensive study in counselling, and has experience working as an advocate in crisis family violence services. Sage provides support to The Cocoon's residents to assist them in achieving their life goals. Sage also manages the groups and therapies program.



Jo McKinney - Housing Coordinator

Jo is experienced in the mental health and homelessness sectors, having worked in both frontline and leadership roles. Jo provides support to The Cocoon's residents, to enable them to fulfil their potential and work towards achieving their aspirational goals. Jo also manages the students who are on placement with Bridge It.



Review from Kim Dema – Chief Financial Officer.....

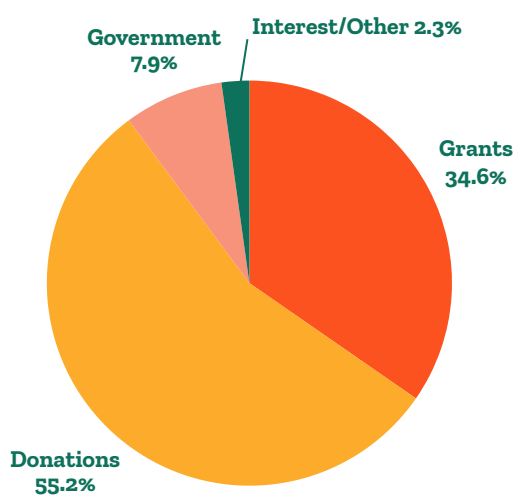
Bridge It remains in a strong position, with \$962k in the bank at June 2024.

Of these funds, \$868k is held over for FY25 grants in advance. This includes a mix of capital works projects and operational expenses.

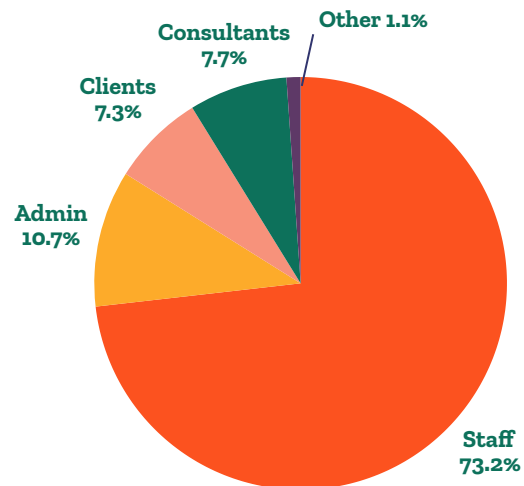
With anticipated operational expenses in FY25 of \$986k, Bridge It has ten months of funding already secured through tied, committed grants and cash at bank. All planned capital projects at The Cocoon are fully funded.

Future grants and donations will continue to ensure Bridge It remain operationally sustainable, affording the opportunity to commit to further projects. These opportunities include cash investments into "future funds" that will be used for operational expenses.

Our goal is to ensure Bridge It has one year of operational expenses held year-round.



INCOME	\$
GRANTS	297,457
DONATIONS	477,925
GOVERNMENT	68,338
INTEREST/ OTHER	19,468



EXPENSES	\$
STAFF	517,457
ADMIN	257,925
CLIENTS	68,338
CONSULTANTS	19,468
OTHER	9,031

A HUGE
THANK YOU

**TO SOME OF OUR
OTHER AMAZING
SUPPORTERS LISTED
BELOW**

Brian and Virginia McNamee Foundation

Igniting Change

Brian M Davis Foundation

Decjuba Foundation

MECCA Brands Pty Ltd

Capricorn Foundation

Virgin Unite

Payton Foundation

The Sunnyside Foundation

Merry People

John & Betty Laidlaw Legacy

Jamie and Rebecca Gray Foundation

ANZ Community Foundation

Antipodean Endowment Fund

Grant Family

StreetSmart Australia

Wingate Capital

NetWealth

P & S Bassat Foundation

Australian Philanthropic Services

Mutual Trust

Be BlueRock Foundation

and many more

OUR STRATEGY

GOAL





**A SECOND
COCOON**

Bridge It's big goal for the year is to secure a second Cocoon.

To make this dream a reality, we are exploring the following ideas:

- Raising donations and grants to purchase a second Cocoon.
- Accessing a building on a peppercorn lease arrangement.
- The creation of a Housing Trust to enable a group of philanthropically minded investors to purchase units through trust that would enable us to buy a Cocoon.

Big thanks to the team at ARK Capital and Hall and Wilcox for supporting us with this!





Photo Credit: Eve Wilson, Design Files.

Cocoon Social Franchise Aspiration

We have had strong interest from organisations across the country who love the Cocoon model and want to open their own Cocoon.

We have been working with Tanarra Social Purpose to take the first steps towards the creation of a Cocoon social franchise model.

This would provide partner organisations with the Cocoon model, resources, secondary consult, and a community of practice which would enable them to open and run their own Cocoons.



Bridge it

**We exist thanks to
good vibes, goodwill,
and good coffee.**

**Seriously, Bridge It depends on donations. Support us to
play a role in ending youth homelessness, one person at
a time.**

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