

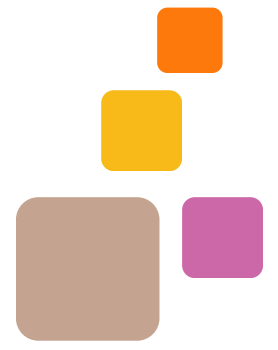
ANNUAL REPORT

2023
—
2024



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OUR VISION

Empowering communities to be the heart of inclusive social change.

OUR PURPOSE

To harness the strengths, resources and capacities of local people, to increase the wellbeing of all. As a community-led organisation we are part of creating communities that are equal, connected and empowered.



Prepared Communities

Providing pathways for inclusion, preparedness, and sustainable growth



Connecting People with Opportunities

Cultivating meaningful opportunities, partnerships and focused advocacy.



One Community Plus+

Investing in people, practice and systems.

OUR VALUES



**Staying
Connected**
to people, place
and our past



**Welcoming
All**

with respect, care and joy



**Being
Creative**
for healing, curiosity
and transformation



**Making a
Difference**
changing lives and
our world



**Empowering
Others**
to learn, take action and grow

OUR COMMITTEE

Bec Langdon

President
Joined 2015



Bec has always worked in tech and telco organisations and brings a human and customer centred approach to a technical environment. Bec started with Community Plus through the Borders Breakfast in West End.

Jane Holden

Vice President
Joined 2018



Jane joined the Committee after volunteering at West End Community House and seeing first-hand the real impact CP+ was having. The opportunity to do purposeful work with passionate and talented staff & volunteers.

Carmel Towler

Treasurer
Joined 2011



Carmel spent many years working in the community sector with people who are marginalised and experience intellectual and developmental disabilities as a Financial and Office Administrator.

Mark Hargraves

Secretary
Joined 2019



Mark brings a knowledge of governance, probity, financial & stakeholder management. Mark has lived in the local area for over a decade and believes in equality, engagement and environment are important for important factors in building a thriving community.

Marilyn Trad

Board Member
Joined 2012



Marilyn has been a member of a number of community groups and committees - most notably as president of the West End State School P&C and Fiesta organising committee. As well as the Community Plus Management Committee,

Susan Ostling

Board Member
Joined 2020



Susan is recently retired after several decades teaching Fine Art at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University though she continues to supervise postgraduate students. Susan first had contact with Community Plus through a fundraising venture.

Shannon Dooland

Board Member
Joined 2022



Shannon's technical background is as an engineer specialising in flooding. Shannon works for key partner Jacobs for over two decades and pleased to bring the connectivity of a large professional and technical services organisation into the needs of Community Plus.

Zoë Pashley

Board Member
Joined 2022



Zoe has worked in Human Resources for over 15 years, initially working with large corporate firms, and in 2017 started her own HR Consultancy Business, supporting Small to Medium Finance and Tech firms with HR needs.

Caitlin Curtis

Board Member
Joined 2023



Caitlin is a communication and engagement professional with a passion for helping people at every level. She works for Phillips Group, a strategic communications consultancy, and through that has worked across a range of areas.

MANAGER & CHAIRPERSON REPORT



Mel Hilditch

Community Plus
Manager



Bec Langdon

Community Plus
President

The past year has marked a significant period of strategic growth, operational uplift, and capacity building across all areas of program delivery for Community Plus Queensland. This report highlights our key achievements against our strategic priorities and our ongoing commitment to building community resilience, connecting people with opportunities, and investing in our people, practices, and systems.

A pivotal initiative has been our organisational commitment to supporting the Uluru Statement and the YES Campaign, recognising and celebrating the leadership and dedication of First Nations peoples. We actively connected people with opportunities for respectful and informed discussions about the Voice and joined the Yes23 campaign as allies in amplifying support for enshrining a First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution. Additionally, we embarked on developing a Reconciliation Action Plan to deepen our relationships with First Nations peoples and solidify our long-term commitment to reconciliation.

Community Plus remains dedicated to allyship and building meaningful partnerships, amplifying the voices of First Nations communities while supporting the shared pursuit of recognition, justice, and improved outcomes.

This year, we proudly opened the new Yeronga Community Centre, a significant achievement reflecting our collective advocacy, collaboration, and teamwork over many years. This purpose-built facility embodies the values of Community Plus, fostering welcome, sustainability, and resilience. Our gratitude extends to the Community Plus Queensland Committee, staff, volunteers, and partners, whose invaluable support contributed to this success. The design, led by Archipelago and supported by our corporate partner JACOBS, prioritises community needs and sustainability, providing a solid foundation for the growth of our Community Development, Tenancy Advice, and Community Resilience programming.

We would like to thank the Queensland Government, particularly Economic Development Queensland, the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism, Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety and the Arts for their commitment and investment in our community.

MANAGER & CHAIRPERSON REPORT

As we navigated the rising cost of living and the ongoing housing crisis, we observed an increase in community members seeking our services. Our proactive approach allowed us to collaboratively address these challenges, ensuring we remain responsive to the evolving needs of our community. Our deep understanding of and embeddedness in the Inner South enables us to effectively tackle local needs and priorities. As a relatively small yet dynamic organisation, we have refined our ability to adapt and support community-led processes in response to ongoing social, economic, and environmental challenges.

Our primary strategic focus has been on investing in One CP+, which encompasses our people, practices, and systems. By aligning processes, enhancing performance, and fostering a culture of continuous learning, we aim to empower our staff and volunteers for the future.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Board members, staff, volunteers, and community partners. Your dedication and passion have been instrumental in achieving our goals. We invite everyone to join us in fostering community growth through volunteering, donations, and participation in events. Together, we will continue to create a future where community is at the heart of inclusive social change.

In conclusion, Community Plus Queensland has demonstrated resilience and a deep commitment to our community over the past year, paving the way for future growth and impact. We look forward to what we can achieve together in the coming years.

Bec Langdon, Chair
Mel Hilditch, Manager
Community Plus Queensland

FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT



**Making a
Difference**

Community Plus remains dedicated to working in partnership with First Nations peoples, fostering meaningful relationships, and advancing reconciliation. This year has seen significant progress in amplifying First Nations voices through key projects and initiatives, reflecting our long-term commitment to allyship and creating spaces for First Nations communities to be heard, recognised, and empowered.

Reconciliation and Collaboration

In 2023, Community Plus aligned with the YES 23 campaign, reflecting our organisational values. Collaborating with Mob 23, a grassroots collective of First Nations peoples from Southeast Queensland, to educate Australians on the Uluru Statement from the Heart ahead of the Voice Referendum. Post-referendum, we hosted an event in partnership with Uluru Dialogues and Mob 23, where 160 people reflected on the referendum's impact. Led by Professor Megan Davis and Aunty Pat Anderson AO, the event initiated discussions on how to continue the journey toward justice and recognition.

Brisbane Festival Collaboration

This year's collaboration with Brisbane Festival saw the "Meanjin Sunrise" project brought to life, thanks to our First Nations Advisory Group. The festival also continued our work with Jessie Lloyd for "West End Stories: Meanjin Recovered." Elders such as Aunty Dawn Daylight and Uncle Adam Hopkins shared personal stories through song, continuing the vital work of truth-telling and cultural expression.

People's Park Activation

The Kurilpa Kiosk in People's Park continues to be a hub for social inclusion and cultural engagement. After completing an upgrade in April 2024, the space has become safer and more accessible. This has strengthened ties with the First Nations community, enabling regular cultural activities and creative expression such as music-making and storytelling, fostering deeper trust and collaboration.

FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

02



Making a
Difference



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TEAM



Community Plus Queensland build stronger communities by responding to the current and ongoing impacts of climate change in and across the Brisbane LGA, through development and delivery of recovery and resilience projects and programs. The Community Resilience Team had an active year advocating to all levels of government for change and support for vulnerable communities to prepare, strengthen and build resilience in their own households, neighbourhoods and the wider community.

Empowering Others

The year started with support from the Queensland Government for funding for additional 4 Service Navigators to provide support via the Service Navigation Target Rebuild Case Management through the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. Funding was advocated by our team to ensure that we were able to empower community members, to assist them to navigate Government support such as: Resilient Homes Fund, Structural Assistance Grants, Rental Support Grants and other assistance available for our flooded community for the next financial year. Employing Larissa, Jayne, Emily and Simone the new Service Navigators empowered us to have a wider reach across the Brisbane LGA and provide one on one support to community members to build their resilience in their homes and themselves for the future.

Making A Difference

Team members attended the NCQ Disaster Resilience Forum, on the Gold Coast in July 2023 and launched the Qld Neighbourhood Centres Strategy for Disaster preceding the Disaster and Emergency Conference. Melinda spoke about Strategy No 3 Influence policy and shaping funding programs.

The Resilient Kurilpa project received \$100,000 in joint funding from the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding arrangements to continue the work across the peninsula. Supporting the community-led initiative, fostering creativity and the sharing of local knowledge and resources to help residents plan for future floods. Gathering stories and insights that will build the 4101 community's resilience in the face of any future disaster events.

The Service Navigation team supported over 300 households in their recovery and resilience efforts, helping flood-affected residents navigate complex systems through the Resilient Homes Fund. The team worked with homeowners to raise, retrofit, or rebuild their homes, while also advocating for necessary changes to the program better serve the community's needs as well as assisting with Buy Backs, ensuring vulnerable community members relocated out of flood zones.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TEAM



Staying Connected

We also supported Resilient Homes Fund expos for builders and homeowners, which have since expanded across the state. Continuing the work of Category C Flexible Funding Grants enabled our team to provide a wide range of training and resources, including Psychological First Aid, Disaster Management, Mental Health First Aid. The grant also funded disaster preparedness products like flood bags, radios, and chargers, displayed at events and loaned to other groups.

Welcoming All

Thanks to our wide network with the support of NCQ and Benarrawa we established the Brisbane Neighbourhood Centres Disaster Network, bringing together 27 centres to share knowledge and support each other in disaster preparedness and response.

Supporting Rocklea State School and its P&C in their recovery and resilience-building project, we began a community garden initiative and assistance for their homework club by providing meals and sandwiches for children in need. Our team has collaborated with the school using a community development framework and looks forward to the project's progress in 2024-25, aiming for positive outcomes for this small school's community.

Being Creative

Our eight-year partnership with OzHarvest Qld deepened after the Christmas 2023 storms damaged their Salisbury facility, making it unfit for use. CRT's ethos is to assist community groups affected by disasters, and we used a solution-focused approach in supporting OzHarvest. We expanded our partnership, allowing OzHarvest the use of Yeronga Community Centre's kitchen, so they could continue their initiatives such as Cooking for a Cause. This also provided Community Plus with additional meals for the community. We extend our gratitude to OzHarvest for their continued support in 2023-2024, which has strengthened our partnership through shared facilities in 2024.

Community Resilience Team was proud to be nominated as a finalist in the 2023 Resilient Australia Awards for the Community Award. The team received a Highly Commended recognition for the Community Resilience and Recovery Program, highlighting the collective efforts of our staff, volunteers, and community members who made a significant impact in the lives of those affected by the 2022 flooding disaster. This award celebrates the dedication and resilience of our entire team in supporting the community during challenging times.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TEAM



ANNERLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE



Being Creative

Annerley Community Centre provides a welcoming environment for community members to connect, engage, and access various resources and support. With a focus on inclusivity and collaboration, the centre offers diverse programs and services that promote personal growth and community involvement.

Being Creative at Annerley Junction Festival

Annerley Junction Festival is a vibrant celebration of community spirit and innovation, showcasing the diverse creativity of the Annerley area. Featuring a wide range of local talents, with seven musical acts, 22 artists in the exhibition, and over 60 stallholders and food trucks. The festival committee prioritised inclusivity, adding a diversity coordinator and implementing initiatives such as braille programs, disability access toilets, and quiet spaces. Successfully promoting community diversity, foster an inclusive neighbourhood, nurture local creativity, encourage a sustainable and liveable community, and bring people together.

Photography Competition

This year's Community Connection + Belonging (CC+B) photo competition raised awareness of the CC+B initiative and highlighted the importance of connection and belonging. Attendees at the community lunch submitted photos capturing the theme "Pillars of Community," celebrating the strength of local connections. Photos were voted on by community lunch attendees and the public, with winners announced at the Monday Community Lunch featuring guest politician Nicole Johnston. A total of 13 submissions were received, and Laureena, a long-time volunteer, reflected on the lunch's impact on fostering social inclusion.

Wild Rides Initiative

Active Travel 4 Annerley and ACC hosted the Wild Rides workshops and parade to promote community ownership of local roads. Many residents feel that Ipswich Rd divides Annerley, making connections challenging amidst heavy traffic. The Wild Rides initiative sought to bridge this gap, connecting the east and west sides. Two bike decorating workshops were held at Annerley Baptist Church, facilitated by Carnivale Republic and attended by 20 participants. The bike parade occurred a week later, starting at Braille House on the western side of Ipswich Rd and travelling to Dudley St E. The parade, marshalled by Annerley Active Travel, featured music and entertainment from Carnivale Republic, encouraging community members to join in and experience a lively Ipswich Rd.

ANNERLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE



Being
Creative

23/24 Statistics

4420
Volunteer
Hours



5466
Food Items
Distributed



12
Volunteers
Per week

8531
Activity
Attendance

5088
Annual
Centre Visits

YERONGA COMMUNITY CENTRE



Staying
Connected

Yeronga Community Centre offers a friendly space for community members to meet, use our facilities, create connections, learn new things, and access support. With our move to 62 Park Rd, the centre has continued to be a 'Welcome Hub' for community members, shared with co-locators Annerley-Stephens History Group and All Gauge Model Railway Club.

YCC Grand Opening

Our purpose-built centre at Parkside Yeronga opened to the community in December 2023, with a Grand Opening celebration in May 2024. Community members have embraced the new centre, making it an accessible and inclusive space to engage and connect with others.

Excursions

Over the past year, we visited Warwick, the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers, Bribie Island, and Boonah. Our excursions provide opportunities for community members to connect with people from various backgrounds, including those from social groups, local social housing, and individuals recovering from the February 2022 flood, along with newcomers to the centre. These excursions are partly funded by our Containers for Change program, where our volunteer John Ellis collects and exchanges containers from his neighbourhood and donations at the centre.

Community Meals

At Yeronga Community Centre, we continue the long-standing tradition of a Community Breakfast every Wednesday morning. Our volunteers, including Michael, John, and William, serve as familiar faces, cooking on the BBQ as you walk in. After moving, we held our first annual Christmas Community Lunch in the new space, welcoming 170 community members for a delicious roast meal prepared by our amazing volunteers. It was a great opportunity for the wider community to connect over a shared meal, many visiting for the first time and learning about our support services.

YERONGA COMMUNITY CENTRE



Staying
Connected

23/24 Statistics

3068

Volunteer
Hours

33

Volunteers
Per week



10,764

Annual
Centre Visits

18,024

Food Items
Distributed



991

Activity
Attendance



WEST END COMMUNITY HOUSE



Welcoming
All

WECH is dedicated to fostering a sense of unity and inclusion, where everyone is seen as part of a collective “US” rather than divided into “them and us.” The Open House at WECH serves as a daily expression of this philosophy, providing a welcoming space for all. Weekly activities and special events reinforce this commitment to inclusivity and our Community Plus value of Welcoming All.

OzHarvest Markets

The OzHarvest Markets at WECH unite people from diverse cultural backgrounds, including China, Iran, Greece, Spain, Mongolia, and Taiwan. The inclusive environment has encouraged many participants to transition from being food recipients to actively contributing to the market's operation. They assist with tasks such as bringing in deliveries, distributing treats, and sorting produce for accessibility. A particularly memorable moment has been witnessing the community joyfully working together to break down vegetable boxes, a task that was once handled solely by staff.

Art Gang

Art Gang provides a weekly inclusive space, welcoming those who are marginalised and fostering a vibrant environment where participants are recognised as artists and valued community members. On 7th June, WECH held its 2024 Showcase at Bunyapa Park in West End. The sunny event attracted over 70 people and featured art sales by Art Gang, an Acknowledgement of Country by local musician Jenny Pineapple, a sausage sizzle by the WECH brekkie crew, a community art mural, and music from the Whoopee Do Crew. It was a proud and successful day for our art and music crews, celebrating their creativity.

Kurilpa Derby

In 2023, WECH proudly hosted a marquee at the Kurilpa Derby, a vibrant community event celebrating local talent and engagement. The marquee showcased artwork from the Art Gang alongside the crochet group. A collaborative group artwork, organised by student Anna, was a highlight of the display, drawing attention from attendees and reflecting the creative spirit of the community.

WEST END COMMUNITY HOUSE



Welcoming
All

23/24 Statistics

4100

Volunteer
Hours



1220

Food Items
Distributed



26

Volunteers
Per week

7 280

Activity
Attendance

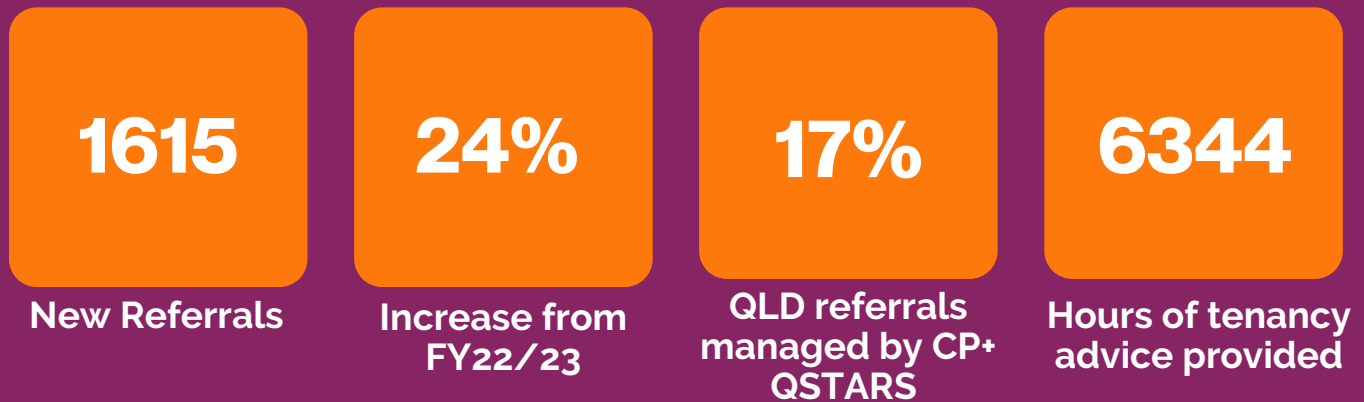
10 400

Annual
Centre Visits

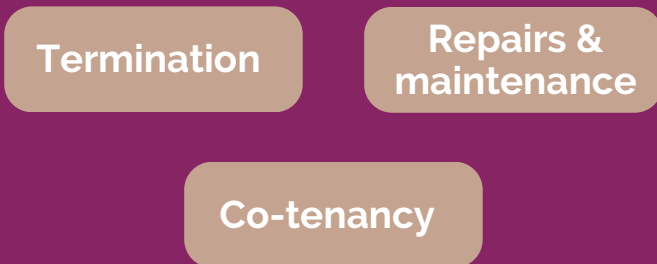
The Queensland Statewide Tenant Advice and Referral Service (QSTARS) is a free independent advice and referral service for all Queensland renters managed by Tenants Queensland and delivered by Community Plus throughout the inner south of Brisbane.

The QSTARS team at CP+ has had a highly productive and impactful year, responding to the increasing demands of Queensland's housing crisis. This support has been critical in helping tenants navigate a challenging environment, as housing instability continues to grow.

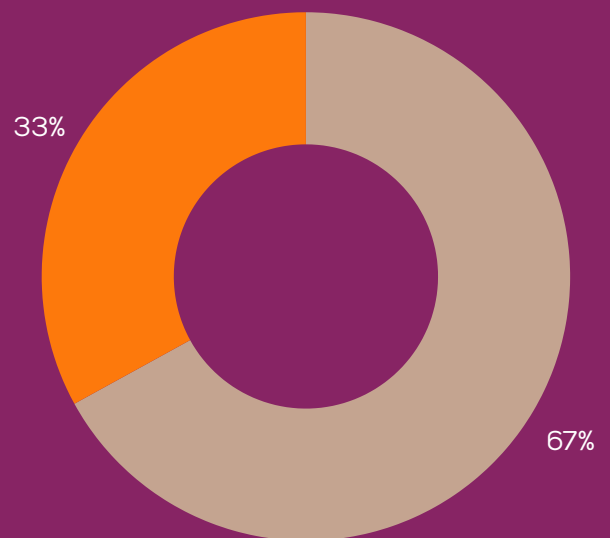
Referral Statistics



Top 3 Presenting Issues



The team's work is more essential than ever as we continue to advocate for renters' rights and provide much-needed assistance to those most at risk.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Income

The operating surplus for the year ended 30 June 2024 amounted to \$44,394 (2023: \$74,427).

Recurrent government funding increased to \$2,114,232 (2023: \$1,469,035) primarily related to funding the growth of Community Resilience Team.

Employment expenses increased to \$1,827,856 (2023: \$1,333,204), primarily related to the growth of the Community Resilience Team.

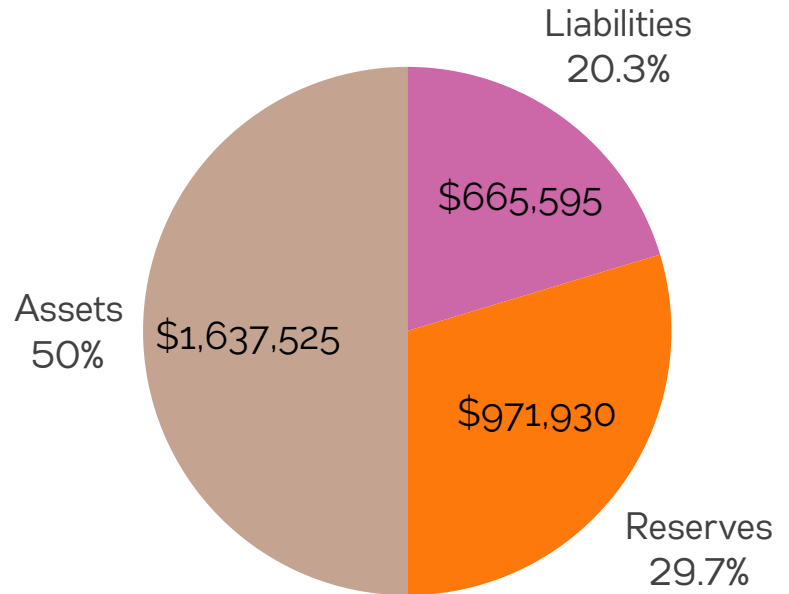
Donations received increased to \$93,331 (2023: \$81,504)

Balance Sheet

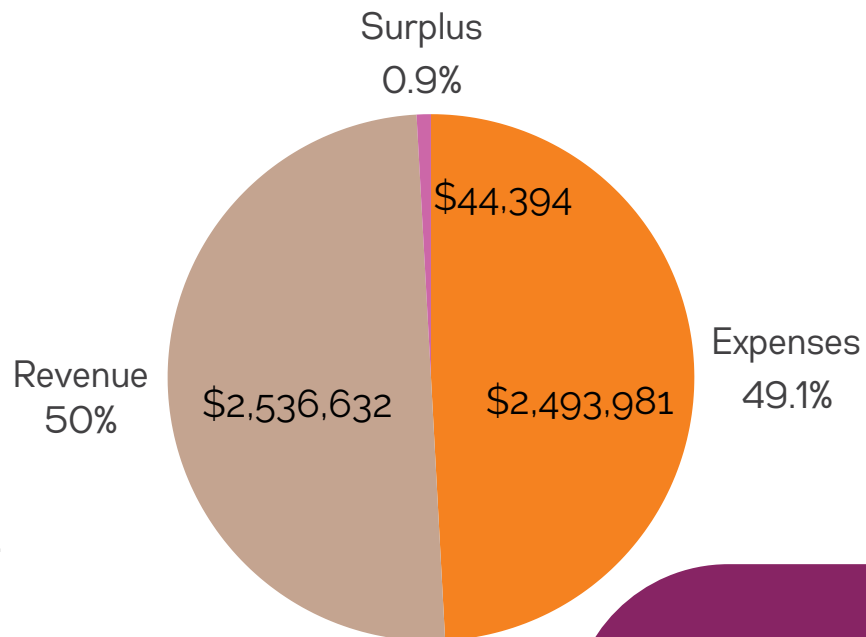
Community Plus+ continues to be in a strong financial position: Member Funds increased to \$971,930 (2023: \$927,536).

The Auditor has provided us with a clear Audit of our finances with no exceptions. You can read in the financial report, The Auditor's Opinion, Basis for Opinion, and their responsibilities in auditing our books.

Financial Position



Operating Surplus



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Community Plus would like to thank all of our collaborators, partners, supporters and friends.

Our Partners

All Gauge Model Railway Club
Annerley Baptist Church
Annerley-Stephens History Group
Archipelago Architects
BrisFest with Jessie Lloyd
Brisbane City Council
Community Recovery
Economic Development Queensland
Energy and Public Works
Department of Housing and Public Works
Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism,
Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety and the Arts
JACOBS
National Emergency Management Australia
Resilient Homes Fund
Tenants QLD
Triple AAA Murri Radio
Queensland Reconstructive Authority

Elected Representatives

Cr Nicole Johnston
Cr Trina Massey
Cr Fiona Cunningham
Cr Steve Griffiths
Mark Bailey MP
Graham Perrett MP
Amy McMahon MP
Peter Russo MP
Jess Pugh MP
Milton Dick MP
Max Chandler Mather MP

Supporters & Sponsors

A and J Electrical
AMC Construction
Annerley Library
Annerley RSL
Apex Brisbane
A Place to Belong
Austen Building Group
Aust First Lending
Aunty Dawn Daylight
Aunty Deb Sandy
Avison Property & Construction
Baby Give Back
Baked Relief
Bakers Delight Yeronga
Belong
Benarrawa Community Development Association
Braille House
Brisbane Neighbourhood Centres Disaster Network
Blue Heeler Group
Building Better Communities
Bunnings Rocklea
BSSSC
Caxton Legal
Coles Fairfield
Create Annerley
Cycling Safety
DTM Express
Edmund Rice Foundation
Ekibin Lions
Emmanuel City Mission
ETC Body
Fairfield Library
Fridge Angels
Food Connect Foundation
Foodbank
GIVIT
Grill'd Fairfield
Holland Park Church of Christ
Inala Hub / Southwest Brisbane Community / Legal Centre Inc.
Ipswich City Council
Indi Tansey
Junction Fest Group
Kurilpa Scouts -Yeronga
Labor Party Annerley
Legal Aid QLD

Life Church Salisbury
Lions Club Pinelands
Lions Ekibin
Macdonald Restumping
MacPhie Consulting
Magic Ant Network - Lachlan Boyes
Metro South Mental Health
Micah Projects
Mob23
Moorooka Lions
Multicultural Australia
Murri Ministry
Neighbourhood Centres Queensland
Oxley Creek Catchment Association
Oxley Flood Action Group
Oz Harvest
Pantry Assist Annerley
QCOSS
QCWA
Red Cross
Renegade Coffee Roasters
Resilient Kurilpa
RNA Solutions
Rocklea State School
Rotary Club South Brisbane
Rotary Club Stones Corner
Rotary Taylor Bridge
Safe Communities
Salvation Army
Siganto Foundation
Southside Antiques Centre
Southside Eyewear
Stanton and Treby Sales
St Sebastian's School
Sundays Cafe Rocklea
The Greengrocer Fairfield
The Junction at Annerley
Traction
Turnstyle Community Hub
Uniting Care Financial Council
Vintage Collective
Voodoo Rabbit Fabric
Welcome Dinner Project
West End Uniting Church
Wilderness Society
Yeronga Bakery
Yeronga Bushcare Group
Yeronga Community Garden
Yeronga DP RSL
Yeronga State School
Yeronga State High School
Yes23
YDRA