

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

*Graham House
Community Centre*



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Our Mission

Graham House Community Centre provides a high quality inclusive service that responds to the needs of individuals with empathy and dignity.

Our Vision

Graham House Community Centre aims to achieve our Mission by promoting the principals of social justice: access, equality and equality of opportunity and participation.

Our goal is to provide services that:

- Accord respect and dignity to clients
- Empower clients to achieve maximum independence and self-determination
- Are committed to quality
- Are responsive, flexible and innovative
- Are collaborative
- Involve individuals, groups and organisations in finding community responses to client needs
- Meet the highest standards of ethics and accountability
- Value workers and volunteers for their unique contributions; and create an environment to allow them to develop their personal and professional potential

About Us

Graham House Community Centre receives funding from Government Departments and other various sources to provide services to both the local community and throughout the South Burnett.

An elected Management Committee ensures Graham House Community Centre develops as a community organisation that is efficiently and effectively managed and one which operates in a manner consistent with the principles of a community based organisation.

OUR HISTORY

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

In 1912, the building located at 21 Taylor Street East, Murgon was originally built as a residence for a partner of Stock and Station Agents, Munro & Smith. This home was one of the earlier ones to be built in Murgon, the first home having been built in 1902.

PRIVATE HOSPITAL

In 1922, a local nursing sister, Miss Annie Meddleton bought the residence. Following some extensions and renovations to the building, she turned it into a private hospital. It was named "Graham Hospital", Graham having been her mother's maiden name.

Many babies of the Murgon District were born in the Graham House Hospital. The Hospital closed in 1938 and was used as a boarding house for several years.

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For many years the Queensland Methodist Church ran two Children's Homes in Brisbane, the Queen Alexandra Home at Coorparoo for girls and the Margaret Marr Home at Wynnum for boys. Both were 'not for profit' homes with very tight budgets. The children were unable to be cared for by their families, for various reasons, but small monetary support came from most families.

In December 1941, after the bombing of Pearl Harbour, there was chaos in Brisbane with the 'invasion' of American troops and Australia at war against Japan. Rationing was introduced and air raid shelters were dug in back yards because of threats of invasion. Queensland State Children's Department recommended that the Children's Homes be evacuated to a "Home" somewhere in the country in case of emergency. The evacuation occurred within two months of Pearl Harbour.

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME CONT.

Matron Meddleton, a Murgon Methodist Church member, made her former Graham House Hospital building in Murgon, available by rental, to the Queensland Methodist Church to house the evacuated Queen Alexandra Home girls. At the same time, the Margaret Marr Home boys went to a former private hospital building in Proston near Murgon.

With no Secondary Education available in Murgon, the older 'Home' girls who passed Scholarship in Murgon had to return to Brisbane to continue their education. During 1944, the District Inspector of Schools in the Murgon area, suggested that the Methodist Church consider establishing a Student Hostel in Murgon at Graham House.

METHODIST STUDENT HOSTEL

In August 1945, after the end of the World War II, the Queen Alexandra Home girls, who had been residing at Graham House, were returned to Brisbane.

The Queensland Methodist Church, following the suggestion of the School Inspector, purchased the Graham House building and grounds from Matron Meddleton in a "generous offer amounting to 1100 pounds.

OUR HISTORY CONT..

METHODIST STUDENT HOSTEL CONTINUED..

Plans and alterations went on in late 1946 making the building suitable for a hostel for students. On 1st February 1947, twenty three students signed in as the first boarders of 'Murgon Methodist Hostel' also known as 'Graham House'.

The hostel closed at the end of 1971.

ACCOMMODATION

In 1981, after the closure of the Student Hostel, the building and grounds were sold to Hu-Metal who made the pipes for the Boondooma to Tarong water pipeline. Their employees were accommodated at Graham House. Following the completion of this contract, the building was left empty.

In 1984, the building and grounds were bought by Mr Cherry who converted the building into flats.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

In 1989, the building became Graham House Community Centre.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From the President.....

As I ponder the last 12 months since the 2021 Annual Report it is evident that the years seem to be going by much quicker as we live life at a hectic pace. The Board, staff and volunteers have been extremely busy supporting the people and communities of the South Burnett. The following is only a snapshot of the incredible work undertaken this year.

Staff & Volunteers

Graham House has a long-established presence in the South Burnett and we are fortunate to have many staff and volunteers who have served the community for a long time. Longevity in a workplace is indicative of the following things: 'interesting and challenging work; learning new skills; opportunities for new experiences; respectful workplaces; development opportunities; flexible and meaningful work' (forgov.qld.gov.au)

The Board continues to look at staff development and succession planning. We have recently welcomed two school-based trainees and we look forward to them developing their work readiness and achieving their Certificate III in Business.

Thank you to our passionate staff and volunteers who invest in their roles and the community in which they live.

Community Access and Development

We had a very successful 2021 Christmas Appeal collaborating with Salvation Army. We assisted in total 90 people in total (15 Single Hampers + 65 Family Hampers + 10 Vouchers (Donated by South Burnett Regional Council) We were also the organisation nominated to receive toys donated to Big W Giving Tree. It's hard to believe it is just 67 days until Christmas! Staff are working hard in preparation for the 2022 Christmas appeal to support individuals and families who continue to feel the effects of the rising costs in living.

2022 started with several severe weather events causing havoc for our communities. Graham House had the pleasure of supporting BlazeAid with preparing meals for the volunteers and providing emergency relief to those families affected by flooding.

Graham House hosted a number of workshops within our centre including but not limited to: Kokodama, Macrame, Bonsai Workshop and Paint + Sip Workshops. We have also participated in various community activities and fundraising for acknowledgment/awareness days such as R U Ok Day and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT.

GH Clothing Co

Officially opened almost 12 months ago, GH Clothing Co has provided new learnings for us as a Board in regard to operating a retail social enterprise. We look forward to continuing to develop this enterprise and its staff to meet the needs of the community.

Donations

We are very thankful to receive very generous car donations from the Wondai Freemasons Lodge and the Murgon Services Club to add to our growing transport fleet. The community transport service provides an invaluable service to the South Burnett providing access to vital health care as well as supporting community members to maintain social and familial connections. We have also been the recipient of a generous bequest, with the funds being utilised for capital improvements to support our staff and volunteers.

Governance

This year the Board have focussed on developing our Strategic Plan 2022-2025, and reviewing our constitution in preparation for the implementation of the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020. Thank you to Gigi Lacey from Instinct Organisation Development for working with us on these documents virtually as yet another weather event occurred preventing her from being able to attend face to face. Additionally, our Policy sub-committee has been working hard on reviewing our policies and I thank my fellow Board members for undertaking this piece of work.

Marketing & Promotion

In the ever-changing and fast paced world, the need to have a variety of information sources is imperative. Marketing and promotion have been another focus of the Board through 2022. Social media provides new ways to communicate, share information and build networks. It also allows you to reach new audiences based on common interests. The Board engaged Mastered Marketing to provide guidance and mentoring to staff on presenting content for social media use. We have also been working with Tina Torrens from Torkit Business Solutions, so look out for our cinema advertisement coming soon. Thank you for the work of the sub-committee for their work undertaken in developing policies and procedures regarding marketing and promotion.

Graham House is unable to provide the services and support to the community without the collaborative partnerships with businesses, service providers, community groups and residents of the South Burnett. Thank you to all those who support us big and small, it does not go unnoticed.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and contribution of my fellow Board members, staff and volunteers that helped make 2022 a very successful year. It has been an honour to be the President of Graham House and I wish the incoming Board all the best for the year ahead.

Dellese Heit

MANAGER'S REPORT

There's supposed to be two things in life that are guaranteed – death and taxes – but I'm sure that being busy when you work for Graham House is another certainty. The 2021 – 2022 year has been no exception.

The highlight of this year was probably the opening of GH Clothing Co. If you haven't visited the team of Kristy, Sue and Mark yet, you'll find them at 75-77 Lamb St Murgon. We were very fortunate to have advice and assistance from business consultant David McLean throughout the process of planning, interviewing for staff and setting up the shop.

GH Clothing Co is a social enterprise fully owned and operated by Graham House. We provide brand new clothes, good value for money, for the whole family. All our profits will be used to benefit the community through job creation and providing other needed services. On 21 November 2021 we held a Grand Opening and the community support for this venture was obvious. It is our privilege to be able to support our community in this.

During the year Graham House has been involved in a number of community events and initiatives along with other local organizations. For example, groups investigating appropriate responses to the housing and homelessness crisis in our area, flood recovery, supporting Blaze-Aid who have been in our area assisting with recovery from the four floods we have had this year, Murgon Business Development Association and community events such as RUOK, Pink Up Your Town and the Kingaroy Health Expo.

Covid has continued to present us with staffing challenges although, surprising few of us have actually had it. Thanks to our staff who diligently clean and disinfect surfaces to help protect our clients and workers.

There have also been changes to the way our Domestic Violence program operates and to the funding we receive for our Transport service. These changes have been quite challenging to navigate but our teams are working hard to ensure we continue to provide the highest quality service to our community.

Cultural awareness is a priority for me because our community is quite diverse and we cannot support all our clients unless we have a high level of understanding of each group's unique strengths, challenges and needs. To improve our understanding of Indigenous culture we had a day with Tom Kirk, Indigenous Consultant. Not only is his workshop highly informative, Tom is a very entertaining presenter.

In November 2021, we were extremely honoured to receive a bequest from one of our Transport clients, Norm Smoothy. With the money he left us, we have concreted the garages and some of the driveway and put up a shade area at the back of the building. This has improved conditions considerably in the wet weather.

MANAGER'S REPORT CONT.

Then, in December 2021, the Murgon Services Club very generously donated a Kia Carnival to add to our fleet of transport service cars. Early this year, Llew O'Brien's office kindly gave us a grant to purchase a battery operated lawn mower which makes life easier for our grounds maintenance. We are so grateful for the support of other community members and organizations. Without their generosity, we would not be able to provide the services we offer.

One of the things Graham House does best is providing volunteering opportunities. At any one time we usually have around 65 to 75 volunteers driving for our Transport service, running our Family 2 Family thrift shop, working in admin and on the Management Board. It is only through the generosity of all these people giving of their time and talents that Graham House can continue to function.

In June, the Qld Council on the Aging produced a very professional video featuring our Transport service and wonderful volunteer drivers. Here is the link if you would like to take a look:

<https://www.cotaql.org.au/program-and-services/current-programs/showcasing-communities/provider-led/>

It really is a privilege to work with such a great community of paid staff and volunteers to make Murgon and the South Burnett a better place to live.

Dr. Christelle Withers-Mayne



Acknowledgement Of Country

We acknowledge the Wakka Wakka people as the Traditional Owners & Custodians of this land where we meet.

We acknowledge past, present and emerging Elders.



Our Funding Partners



OUR TEAM

Management Committee

Graham House Community Centre Management Committee ensure that Graham House develops as a community organisation that is efficiently and effectively managed and one which operates in a manner consistent with the principles of a community based organisation.



Staff



OUR TEAM Continued



Transport Services



Admin



Older Wiser Stronger



Family Support Services



Building Futures
Together

STAFF YEARS OF SERVICE

0 - 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Jess
Kimberley
Helen
Nikki
Erica
Kathryn
Karis
Simon
Jen
Christelle
Elizabeth

6 - 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Amanda H
Lauren
Amanda L
Pam
Dot
Colleen

11 + YEARS OF SERVICE

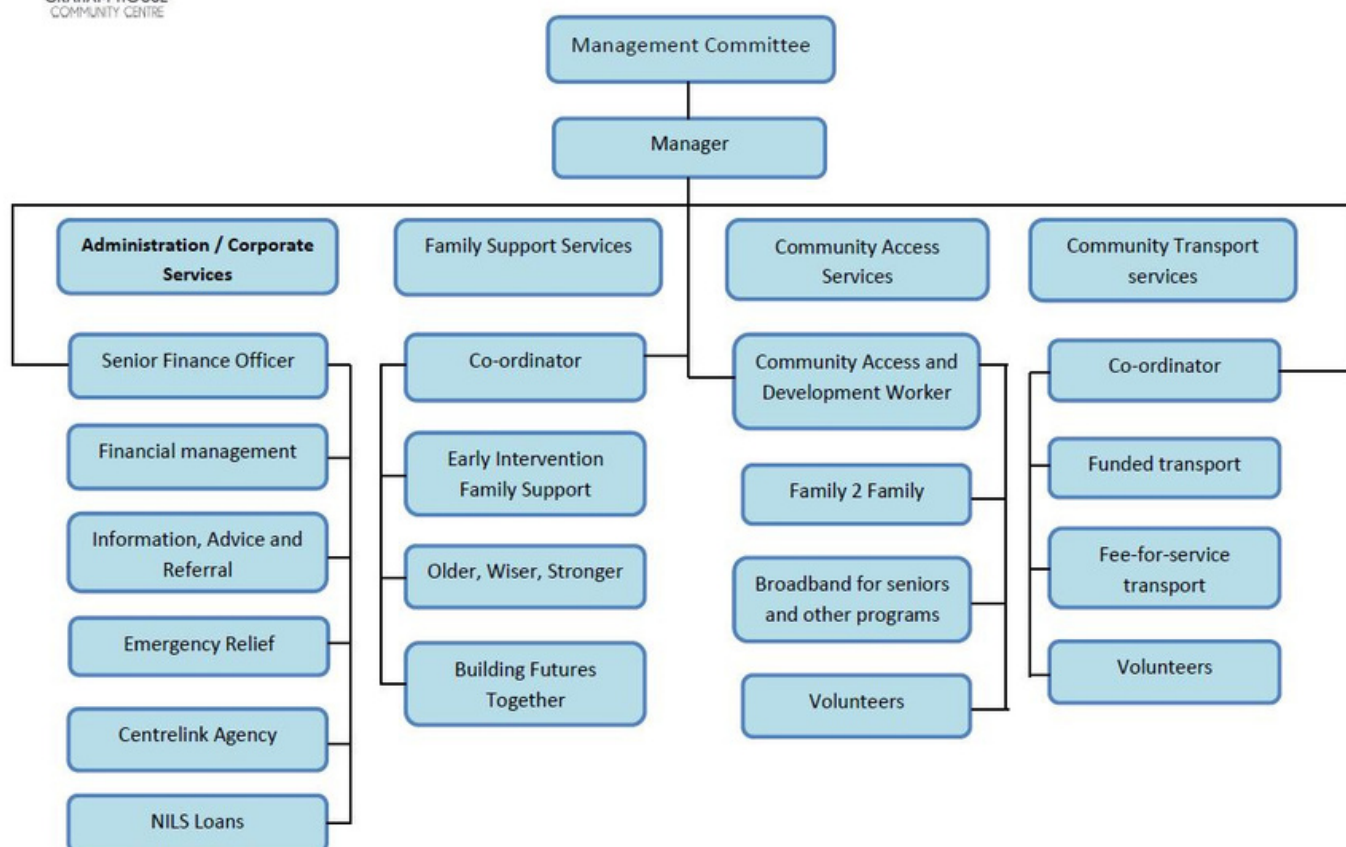
Maree
Veronica



Our Organisational Structure

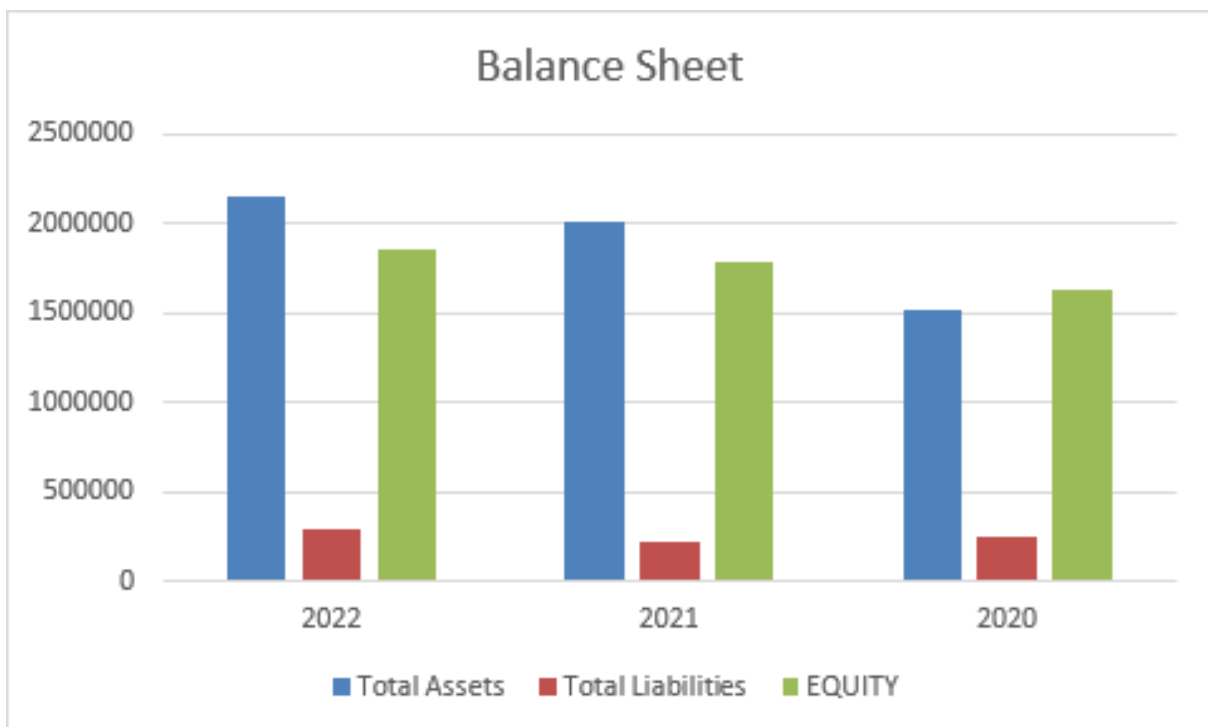


GRAHAM HOUSE ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



FINANCE

Graham House Community Centre's full audited report is located at the end of the annual report.



Centre Programs

Older Wiser Stronger Program

Funded by: Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG)

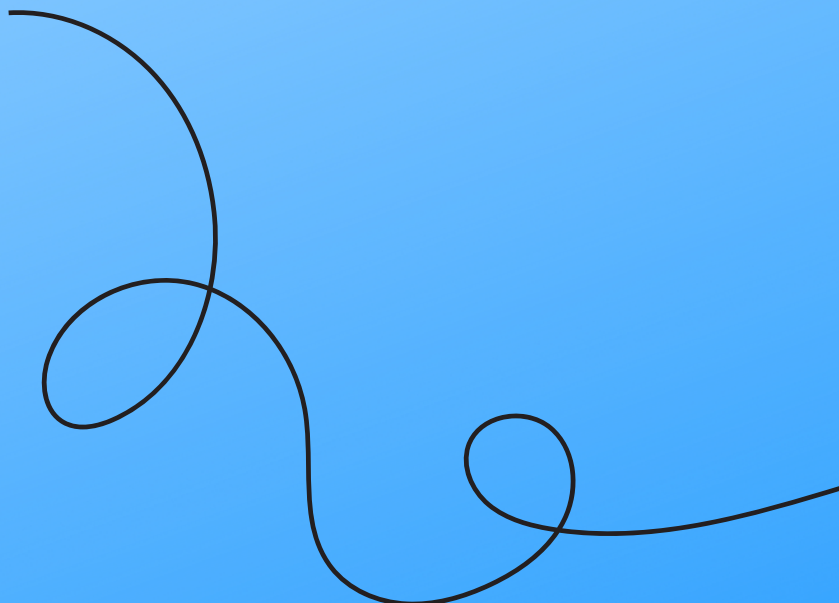
OWS is funded to work with men who have used abusive and violent behaviours within their family relationships. The OWS program adheres to the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women: Domestic and Family Violence Services, Practice principles, Standards and Guidance (Department of Child Safety, Youth and Woman, 2020). GHCC believes that victims' rights, safety, and dignity are paramount; staff understand domestic and family violence; our services are evidence-informed; men are supported to understand the drivers of their behaviour and led in ways they can begin to choose personal accountability for these behaviours; services are culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; services are client-centred and accessible for all and OWS collaborates with other organisations to provide an integrated response.

Our staffing consists of two (2) experienced part-time domestic and family violence counsellors based at the GHCC office in Murgon and outreaching to men across the South Burnett. Men are referred to OWS from government and non-government organisations plus many men self-refer.

Individual sessions have been provided during 2021-2022 at venues across the South Burnett as well as via phone and video conference.

A core activity at OWS is the men's behaviour change program (MBCP). DJAG released the Perpetrator Intervention Services Requirements in January 2022 (Department of Justice and Attorney-General, 2022) to set a minimum program standard across the sector, leading to consistent, quality outcomes for victims and perpetrators. GHCC are proud to continue to offer the South Burnett a specific MBCP. The MBCP is held for two (2) hours per week over 18 weeks. During the past year the program has been offered in Murgon, Nanango and Kingaroy during office hours and one program after-hours.

The safety and freedom of victim-survivors, including children, underpins the MBCP, therefore OWS refers victim-survivors to a Women's Advocate. This role is given to a suitably qualified female DV counsellor to provide an advocacy service for the victims and their children.



Centre Programs

Older Wiser Stronger Program continued

Research into MBCP identifies “motivation and engagement in the program are a fundamental starting point” (Carswell & Taylor, 2022, p.3). Men participate in the GHCC men’s behaviour change program for a variety of reasons including being mandated to attend. Below are some examples of feedback participants have provided at the end of their participation in the MBCP. Men have reported the following:

·‘In group, I found it very helpful to realise my emotions, reactions and choices so I can make more positive choices in life and control my emotions for the best outcome to continue to better myself and give my children a more positive and healthier father’.

·‘Thank you for all the help so I can learn to be the best version of myself’.

·‘I can’t thank you enough, you don’t understand how much you have helped me’.

·‘I would like to thank you all for teaching me about myself when I didn’t want to come at all at the start’.

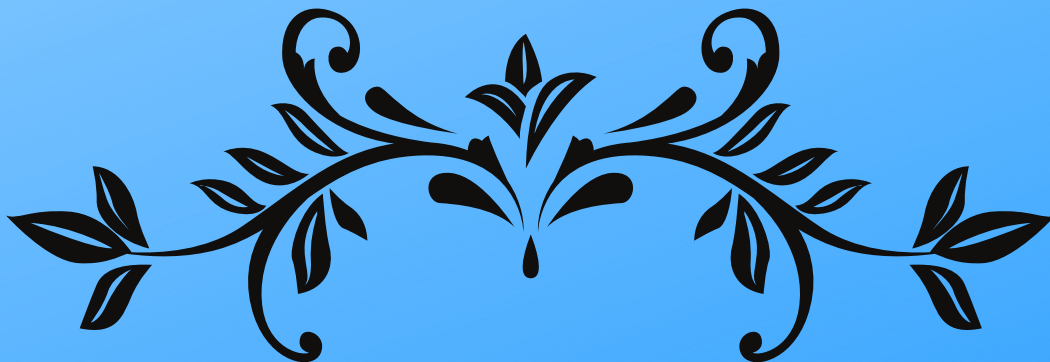
GHCC is committed to ongoing development of services and staff to ensure responses are within appropriate theoretical frameworks relevant to domestic and family violence. Staff are enthusiastic about the new perpetrator intervention services requirements ensuring GHCC is offering the most appropriate services for men living in the South Burnett.

Reference:

Carswell, S., & Taylor, A. (2022). Men choosing change evaluation: Longer term program outcomes. Uniting Care.

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Woman. (2020). Domestic and family violence services. Practice principles, standards and guidance. Queensland Government.

Department of Justice and Attorney-General. (2022). Perpetrator intervention services requirements. Queensland Government.



Centre Programs

Building Futures Together Program

Funded by: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

Staff: Elizabeth Kennell & Karis Ross

Building Futures Together (BFT) support parents and children who have required intervention by Child Protection Services and have been referred to BFT for Intensive Family Support by the Department of Children. BFT work with families who have either signed an “Intervention with Parental Agreement (IPA)” or families who are approaching re-unification with their children who have been in foster care. BFT Family Support Workers work closely with both the families and Child Safety with an aim of strengthening families and keeping them together.

Many of the parents with whom BFT work are affected by their own childhood developmental trauma (often having been brought up in foster care themselves) and/or an undiagnosed disability. The parents have been unable to access the support they needed and have struggled to cope with their subsequent daily challenges. Unfortunately, the children suffer neglect and abuse from parents who do not have the personal resources to ensure the needs of their children are met. The parents require support to address their own needs and to build on the strengths they have to develop further capacity to attend to the needs of their children.

There are many barriers for parents to overcome in order to focus on and progress in developing their capacity for positive parenting. These are a product of their difficult life experiences. These include:

- Mental health challenges, often from their own childhood experience of sexual assault, abuse and neglect.
- Disrupted education, leading to unemployment and a higher percentage of illiteracy.
- Poverty and homelessness, which has been exacerbated by the current housing and cost of living crises.
- Transport problems in this rural area.
- Problematic substance use, as people try to self-medicate to manage their distress.
- Domestic violence
- Ongoing legal issues.

The majority of families that BFT work with are non-Indigenous Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island families bear additional barriers including the ongoing effects of colonization, with intergenerational trauma, and institutionalised and personal experiences of racism. Families from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds also have the additional challenges of racism, language and cultural barriers.

Centre Programs

Building Futures Together Program continued

A high percentage of the children in the families have special needs, especially a need for support with their developmental tasks (such as speech, physical, emotional and social development) and for assessment for conditions such as ADHD and Autistic Spectrum. Due to the circumstances in many families, the children have often encountered adverse childhood experiences and live with the effects of trauma. Many children are referred for NDIS support.

Access to suitable health and allied health professionals who would provide the needed assessment and treatment of both parents and children continues to be limited in this rural area. BFT often work hand in hand with the Graham House Men's Behaviour Program and Family Support Service staff.

This past year has seen many good news stories as BFT have seen the successful reunification of children with their parents or the adequate development of parenting capacity to be reunited with their children. We have had the privilege of supporting parents as they have developed an increased understanding of their own behaviour and needs, and their children's behaviour and needs appropriate to the child's developmental stage.

BFT have provided practical support to assist parents to create a safe household. This has included providing furniture, clothing and emergency relief. This has also included creating routine in the household and developing household rules. We have also liaised with schools and health professionals to improve outcomes for children. BFT attempt to surround the family with community supports and facilitate their access to those supports.

BFT have assisted parents to overcome barriers by gaining employment, obtaining driver's licenses, referring and supporting parents to engage with Mental Health Services, working with Child Safety to locate suitable housing, referring parents for support for problematic substance use and for domestic violence and supporting parents as they face legal processes of various kinds.

BFT have also seen some children removed from their parents, as the parents' barriers proved too great to overcome with current resources and within the available time limits.

All the families that BFT have worked with have benefited from the one-to-one engagement with supportive BFT workers who endeavour to listen carefully to parents and children and respond in a non-judgemental way. Together with the family, we identify goals that will lead to a more desirable outcome. Many parents have goals and dreams that they have not been able to activate due to their circumstances. BFT support the parents to achieve their goals for a better life for them and their children.

Over the past 12 months, there have been several changes within the BFT Team. In December 2021, our part time family support worker Michelle O'Connell left to pursue further career development opportunities.

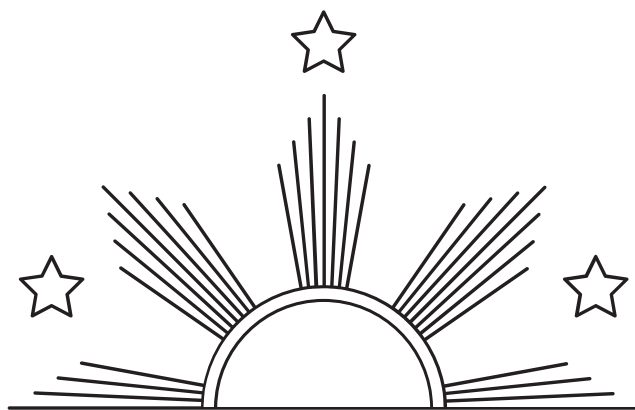
Centre Programs

Building Futures Together Program continued

This ultimately led to the development of the position of Team Leader for Graham House Family Support Service. Kathryn Hunt, a Senior Social Worker commenced in this role on May 9, 2022. Kathryn is providing crucial leadership and support for all arms of the Family Support Service, including BFT. This has allowed BFT to focus on client work, while Kathryn has been able to provide essential supervision and guidance, develop and refine the work of BFT, attend to general organisation and improvement of day-to-day work processes, complete administrative tasks such as developing use of the TRACCS data system for BFT, and communicate and network with Child Safety and other stakeholders in the community. Kathryn has also been able to focus on the care of the team and on professional development. This will greatly improve the productivity and effectiveness of BFT's work.

BFT would like to thank Christelle Withers-Mayne for her support of BFT prior to the appointment of Kathryn Hunt. We would like to thank Kathryn Hunt for her much-appreciated support so far. We would also like to thank Graham House for their support in providing this ongoing opportunity to offer hope to some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community.

BFT Family Support Team are very excited that Elizabeth Kennell is the recipient of the prestigious 2022 Joy Kite Award for excellence in family support work. The award was presented during the annual Child Protection Awards dinner on September 9, 2022. Elizabeth has been a quiet and consistent achiever for many years, supporting families involved with the Child Safety system with commitment and compassion. We are very proud to have Elizabeth on our team and heartily congratulate her on her achievement!



Centre Programs

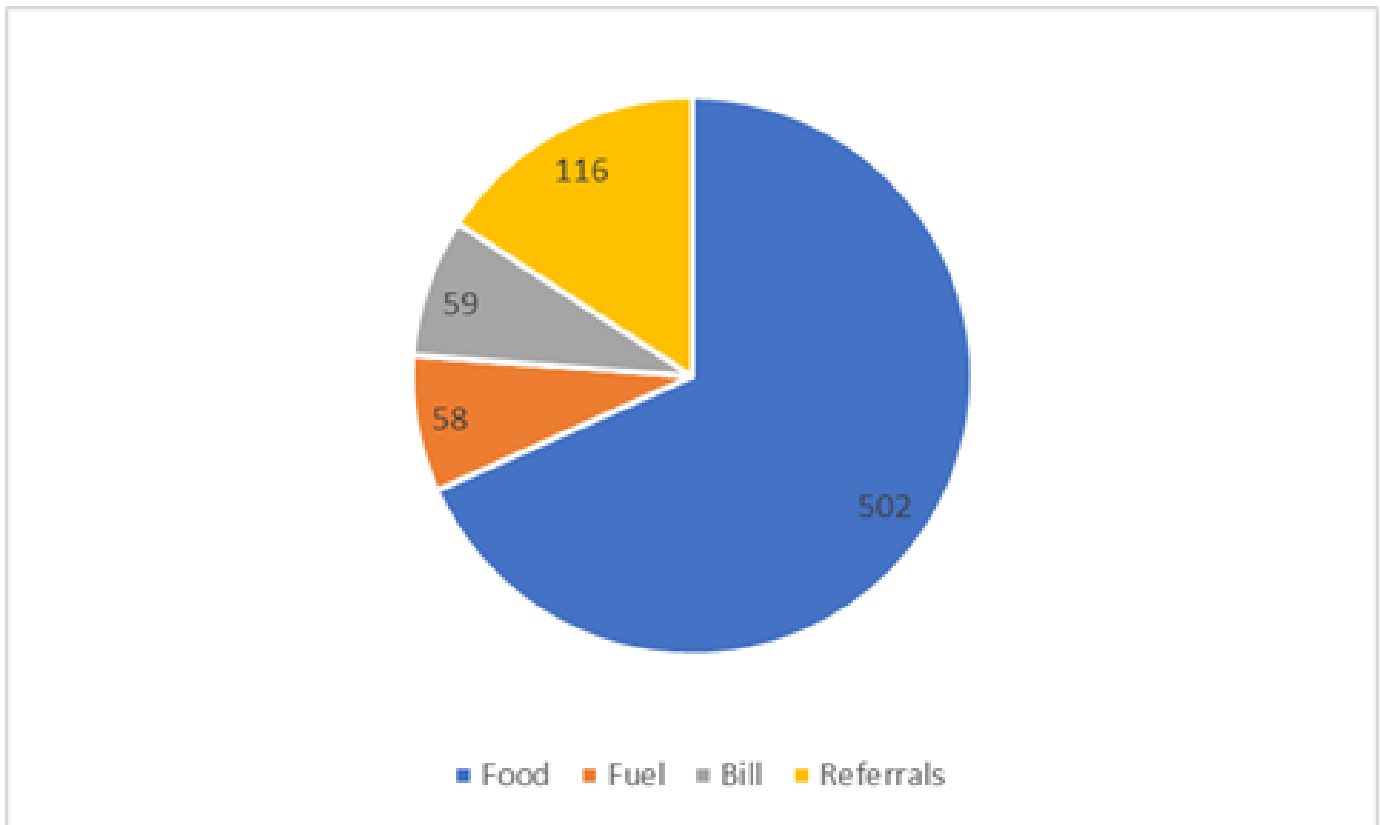
Emergency Relief

Funded by: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

Emergency Relief is available to help people deal with an immediate financial crisis situation in a way that maintains the dignity of the individual and encourages self-reliance.

Emergency Relief assistance can be in the form of:

- vouchers of a fixed value (for example, food, transport or chemist)
- part-payment of an outstanding account (for example, rent / accommodation, utility account)
- budgeting assistance
- information, advocacy and referrals



The government has recognised the pressures that COVID has put on the community and the costs associated with the pandemic and as a result Graham House received additional funding to assist the community during this time.

The centre also received additional funding as a result of the devastating floods that affected the area in early 2022.

Together with other Emergency Relief organisations in the area, we will continue to support clientele who are experiencing financial difficulty.

Centre Programs

Family Support Services

Funded By: Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Family Support Services aim to reduce harm or risk of harm to children and young people, prevent crisis or problems within families from arising or escalating and stabilise or maintain family wellbeing. Family Support Services:

- Improves the wellbeing and safety of children, young people, and their families
- Builds the capacity of families to care for and protect their children
- Provides linkages to local support services and community groups that enable families to access the resources they need to build their capacity, solve problems, and make positive choices/changes
- Prevents entry or re-entry to the statutory child protection system

The Family Support worker provides centre based and in-home family support under a case management framework.

Circle of Security Parenting Program

At times all parents feel lost or without a clue about what our child might need from us. Imagine what it might feel like if you were able to make sense of what your child was really asking from you. The Circle of Security® Parenting™ program is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened.

What are the main benefits of the Circle of Security Parenting program?

- Learn how to develop a positive and secure relationship with your child
- Learn how to read your child's needs and understand their emotional world
- Gain an understanding of your own parenting style (strengths and weakness) and how that may differ from your partners' style.
- Find ways of working as a parenting team together.
- Learn ways to help regulate your child's big emotions.
- Become a more consistent parent so your child can develop to their full potential feeling safe and secure.

Community Kitchen

The purpose of the Community Kitchen is to have families involved who would like to gain knowledge of how to prepare and cook a meal on a budget

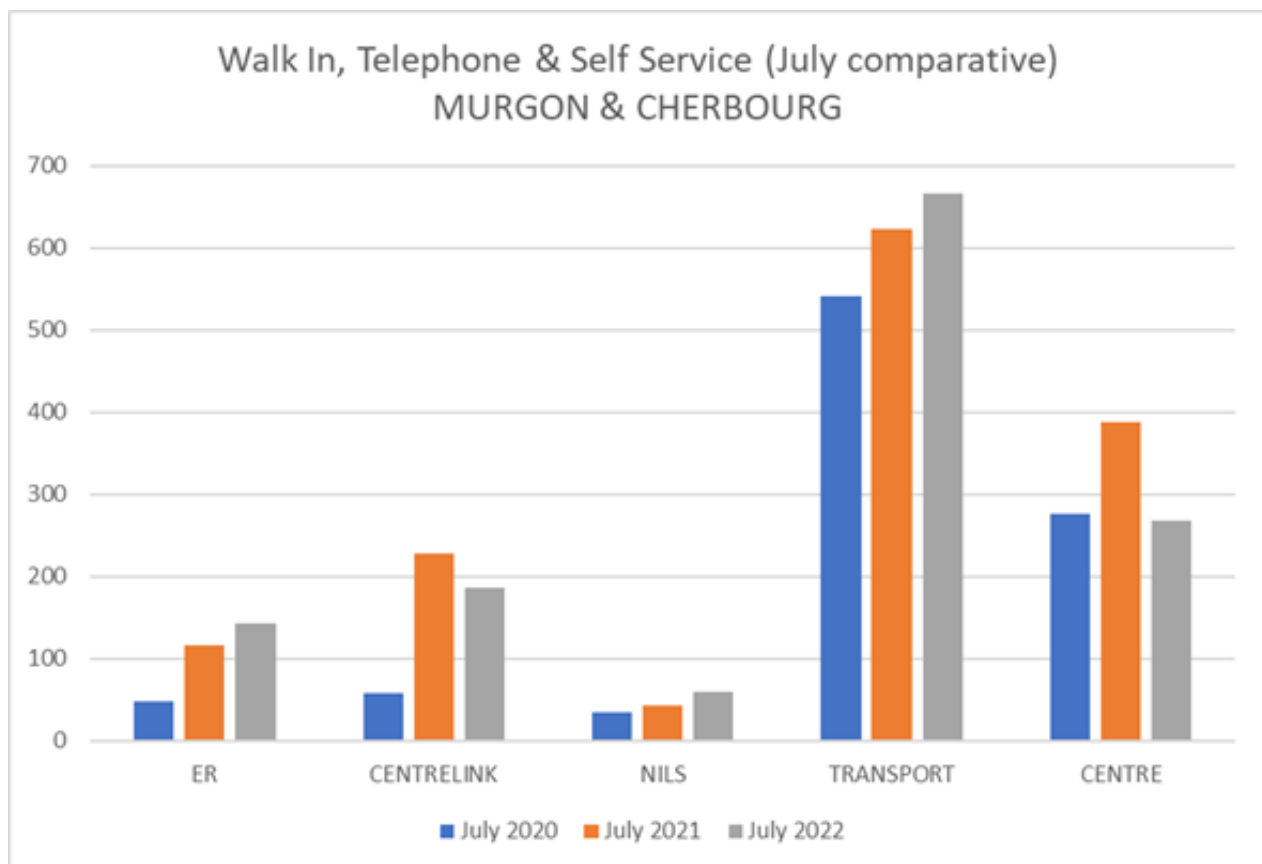
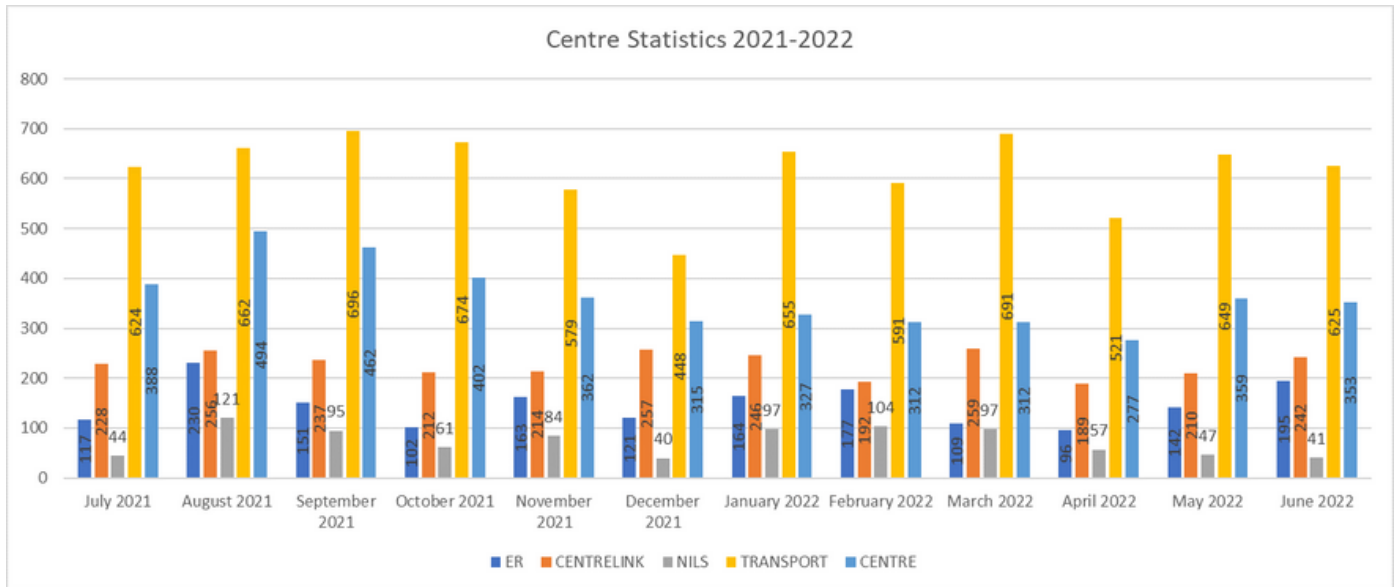
There are many benefits to Community Kitchens including that they:

- increase access to healthy meals
- help the community to develop life skills such as growing of fresh food, budgeting, meal planning, cooking and social skills
- support members of the community to connect and start new friendships

With the centre's Community Garden, we have access to fresh veggies which has helped deciding recipes for the week. Participants are learning what fruit and veggies are in season which helps teach family budgeting especially with the rising prices of produce.

We faced the challenge this year with COVID 19 learning different ways of being available to families with more phone conversations and video links and there were floods which again proved to be a challenge with not having access to families in need. By working with other services provide the support overcome some of the barriers.

Centre Statistics



COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Program Aim: To offer the South Burnett Community coordinated, planned transport options to people who are transport disadvantaged, according respect and dignity to clients.

Funded by: Department of Health & Aged Care Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.

Outcomes for Clients:

93% of clients surveyed were very satisfied overall with the Graham House Transport service that they have received.

96% of clients surveyed were very satisfied with the professionalism and courtesy of Graham House Staff & Volunteers

90% of clients surveyed would recommend our organisation to a friend or colleague

What do clients like most about the Service:

"They help as soon as they arrive, help getting into and out of the car, pushing the trolley and putting the groceries in and carrying them into my home. I know that I couldn't do my fortnightly grocery shopping without them. Plus, the ladies are always very friendly."

"I have to travel 200klms to doctors which is very important, and I go shopping at Aldi it cuts my shopping bill in half. They always make sure I get to the doctors, shopping, and everything. I go down and sit for a while, always welcome. I wouldn't be where I'm now without their help, they go above and beyond to get me out of darkest times and the community relies on them, we love the drivers they are always helpful with your tasks."

"They take on setting up your appointments if having problems, they take the stress out of getting everything organised"



COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

SERVICE DELIVERY SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

**ACTIVE
REGISTERED
CLIENTS**

2097

322

**NEW
REFERRALS**

CLIENTS SERVICED

CHSP (Federal Funding)

QCT (State Funding)

FEE FOR SERVICE



Community Transport Volunteers

Let's hear from our Volunteers:

.....

"I have had a lot of clients I have taken to lots of places and they are always very happy with the service. I think that as a driver I have helped many people and I think that Graham House Transport is a very useful service to our community and is very much needed. I think it is a shame that there is not enough people to drive the cars for GH. I know in the time I have been a driver I have met lots of people and made some friends over the time. It has been a pleasure to have had the time driving, and the staff are always very happy to help if needed"

.....

"I've been a volunteer driver for a few years
Graham House Transport is a well-run operation with helpful office staff who organise all the necessary things regarding cars and trips.
I'm provided with everything I need to know by email or phone well in advance of the date concerned
I can see that the service I provide on behalf of Graham House Transport helps each individual. Almost without exception the clients I drive appreciate what the Transport Service can do for them.
I meet a wide variety of interesting people.
It constantly reminds me how fortunate I am regarding my own health and wellbeing
It feels good to put back a little into the community I live in
It helps me remain current with modern technology and systems, such as email, mobile phone, in car satnav
Overall, it's a pleasure for me to do the easy part while Transport staff do the hard work. Anyone looking for something meaningful and rewarding to do should consider becoming a volunteer driver, just contact Graham House Transport and see what you think."

.....

"I have been a volunteer for going on 8 years. I have had a good time and find it very rewarding when you have transported someone to hospitals in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Gympie or shopping in Kingaroy or Caboolture. I have had pick ups from airports and have picked up people to come and visit their mum for Christmas etc. I enjoy helping people. They are very happy to have assistance for the trip."

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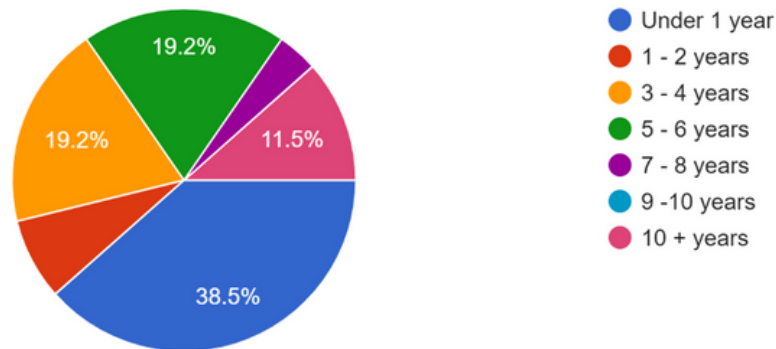
"I retained my confidence to drive in busy traffic... I learnt history of the area by meeting many people who had lived in the South Burnett for years..
I achieved my essential daily routines quicker on the days I had driving assignments!
Participating in a great community initiative, at no financial cost to oneself, its a good feeling. I felt just a but more worthwhile contributing to the community. Better than watching the tele, drinking tea and snacking. Lovely team at Graham House.

Community Transport Volunteers

Here's some results from a recent Volunteer Survey:

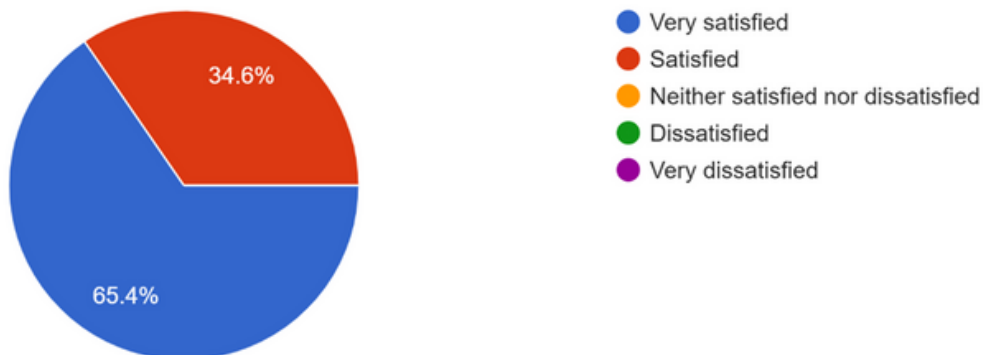
How long have you volunteered for Graham House Community Centre?

26 responses



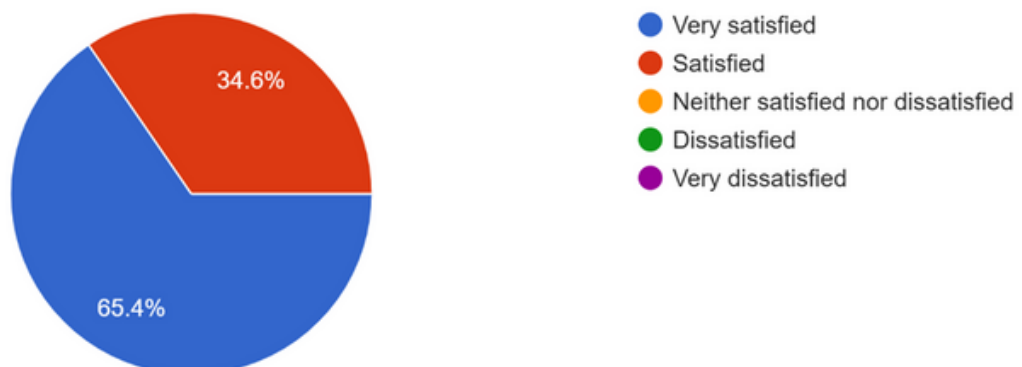
Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your volunteer experience with our organisation?

26 responses



Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your volunteer experience with our organisation?

26 responses



Community Transport Social Trips



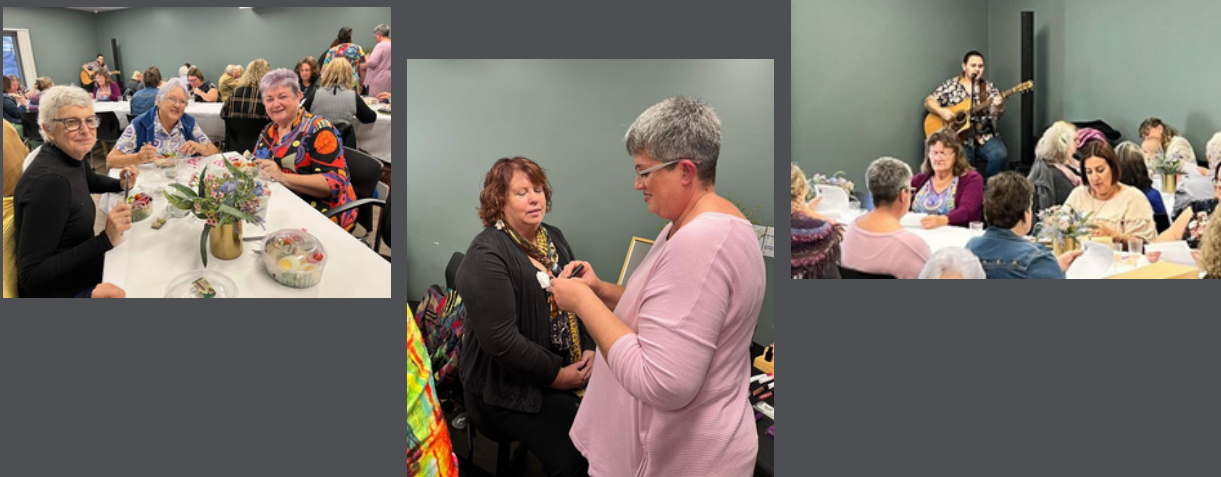
Biggest Morning Tea



Graham House Community Centre held a Biggest Morning Tea on Thursday 26th May 2022

77 people were in attendance on the day
Rockin our Abilities performed for everyone on the morning
The Murgon Hospital Auxiliary made \$250 from their raffle
Donated \$415 to Queensland Cancer Council

Ladies Long Lunch



Ladies Long Lunch was held on 11th May 2022 & this was a collaboration with R Health

Andrea from R Health spoke on the day regarding Mental Health + Self Care.
The Coffee Bar 4605 provided lunch for the ladies on the day
Participants were able to make and take home an essential oil blend
Complimentary massages and mini facials were offered to the participants

Shout a Volunteer a Coffee

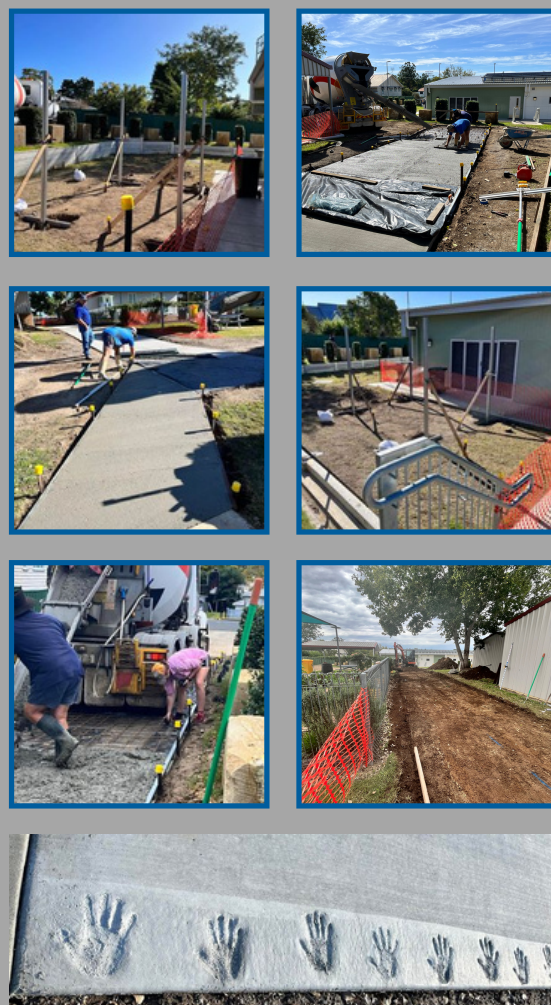


In recognition for Volunteers Week in May - Graham House Community Centre collaborated with Murgon Coffee Bar 4605 to run a Facebook Promotion "Shout a Volunteer a Coffee"

These were some of the Volunteers in our community that were nominated to receive a Coffee.

Thank you to Shaun + Helen for your continued support.

ARTWORK ON CONTAINER



GH CLOTHING CO

Graham House Community Centre Social Enterprise

GH Clothing Co is owned and managed by Graham House Community Centre, a Not For Profit charity organisation.

As a Community Centre, our mission is to serve our community in as many ways as possible.

Part of our Mission Statement says that we will strive to empower our community to meet their own needs.

GH Clothing Co is a social enterprise, we trade to intentionally meet a community need, create employment, and provide training opportunities. 100% of our profits go back into the community to provide access to services which are not readily available.

Towards the end of 2020 it was announced that one of the largest stores in town would be closing in March 2021. There would be no where in Murgon to buy family clothing, footwear and underwear.

Graham House realised that this would have a serious impact on many families who do not find it easy to travel 50kms or more to shop. It would also potentially damage the rest of our business economy.

People in the Murgon and surrounding areas would be likely to do most of their shopping in Kingaroy or Gympie if they had to travel there for clothing.

The Management Board of Graham House decided to invest in establishing this clothing store. It is one way we can support our community to continue to be self sufficient to thrive and to be a great place to live.

By supporting GH Clothing Co you are helping real people in your local community.



GH Clothing Co

GRAND OPENING

GH Clothing Co. has officially opened its doors. Kristy and her staff commenced trading on 8th November 2021.

The Official Grand Opening Celebrations were held on 20th November 2021.

The store celebrated its opening with official cutting of the ribbon, giveaways and cake.

Special thanks to Crow FM for broadcasting live on the day, The Coffee Bar 4605 for your generous donation, the guest speakers and everyone from the community who dropped in during the day and supported the event.



Our Year in Pictures

