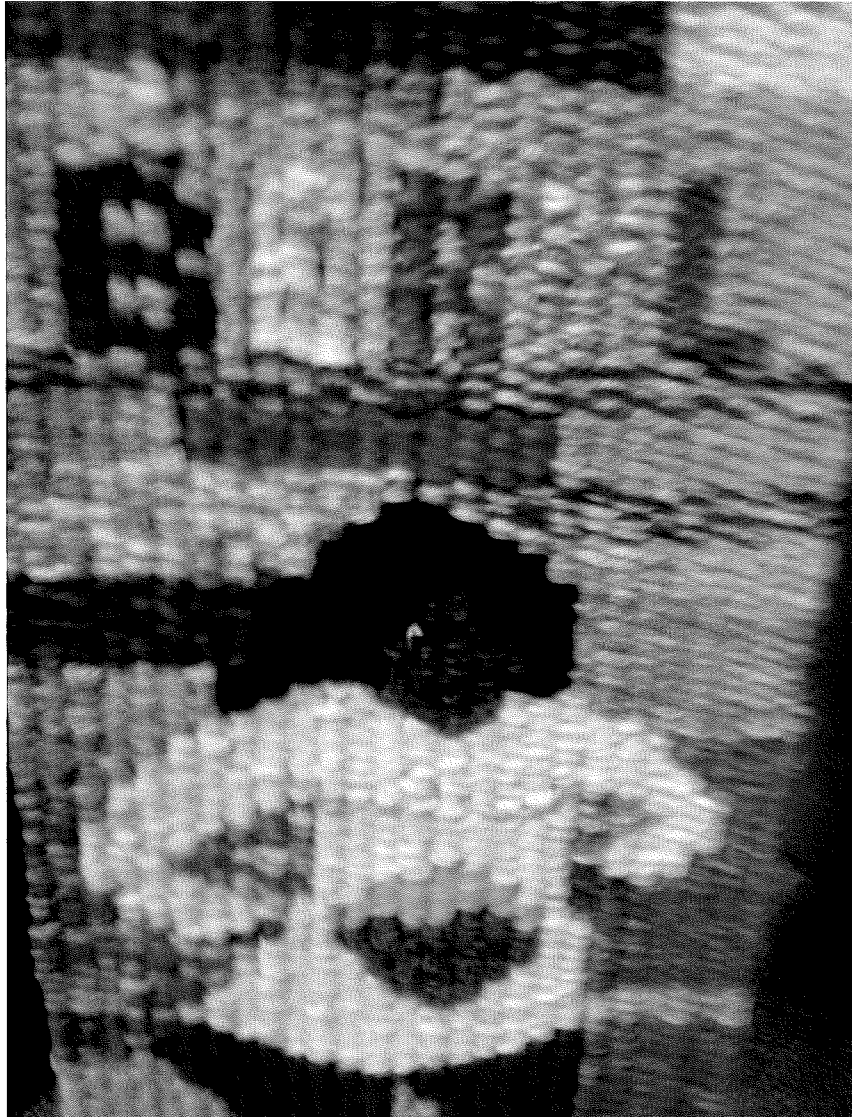


BERYL WOMEN INC.



ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

2012/2013 Annual Report

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MISSION STATEMENT

Beryl Women Inc. is committed to providing high quality support and safe accommodation to women and children escaping domestic/family violence. The organisation recognises that violence against women and children is prevalent in our society and that injustices such as sexism, racism, economic inequality and homophobia contribute to families living in crisis. To redress this, Beryl Women Inc. will provide a professional and accountable service that is based in social justice, recognising and fostering cultural diversity.

HISTORY

Originally named the Canberra Women's Refuge, Beryl was established in a house in Watson in March 1975 with a grant of \$4000 from the Department of the Capital Territory. Volunteers, who ran a 24-hour roster, seven days a week, staffed the first refuge. In 1976 the service moved to a duplex in Kingston and sometime later funding was received for employment of a skeleton staff.

In 1976 the service changed its name to Beryl Women's Refuge, after Beryl Henderson who started the original trust fund for the refuge, which, outside of the \$4000 Grant received from the government, was the sole means of supporting the cost of running the service. In 2005 the service changed its name again to Beryl Women Inc.

Beryl Henderson was an active member of the ACT Women's Liberation Movement and the co-founder of the Abortion Law Reform Association in Canberra. She also worked for Family Planning and the Humanist Society. Beryl taught languages on an Israeli kibbutz in 1960 to 1964 before coming to Australia. She returned to Israel in the late 1970s and died there in her 94th year and will always be celebrated for her dedication and commitment to the cause of equality. Beryl Women Inc. is proud to carry Beryl Henderson's name as a daily reminder that those wonderful 'big sisters' who came before us, made possible the services we have today.

At the 2006/07 Annual General Meeting the organisation ratified a name change from Beryl Women's Refuge to Beryl Women Inc.

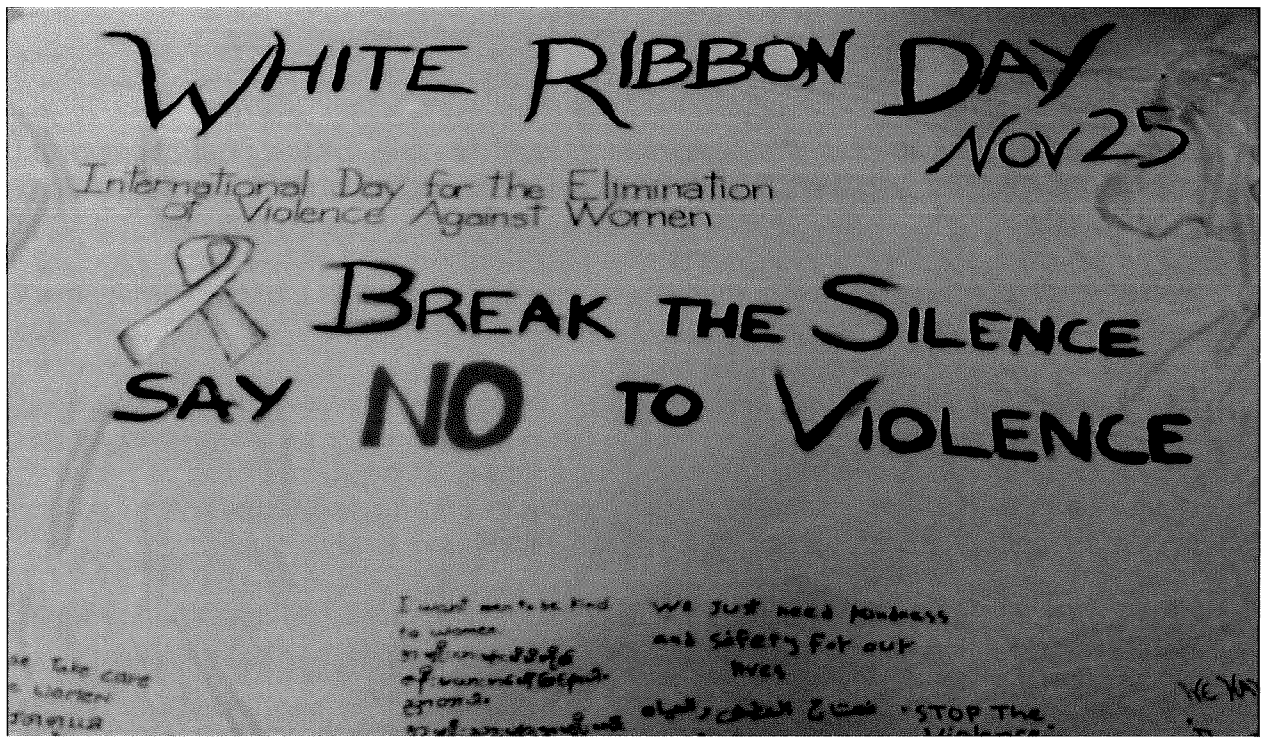
ORGANISATIONAL AIM

Beryl Women Inc. aims to contribute to the enhanced safety of the families who stay at Beryl, to their improved health outcomes, and to provide opportunities to increase their skills and confidence to manage future crisis.

GOALS OF BERYL STRATEGIC PLAN

1. To be a sustainable well governed organisation that works within a human rights framework.
2. To increase access of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children to Beryl's services.
3. Continue and consolidate collaboration with other Non-Government and Government agencies.
4. Provide a safe, supportive and flexible work environment.
5. Establish and implement an Associate Membership Program

Beryl Women Inc. would like to acknowledge and thank the women who contributed to achieving its vision in 2012/13, Committee Members; Beryl Staff including casual relief staff and our Bookkeeper.



Banner Created by Women of Beryl for Recognition of White Ribbon Day 25th Nov.

REPORT FROM BERYL WOMEN INC. CHAIRPERSON

Firstly I would like to thank all of the staff at Beryl Women Inc. (Beryl) who have provided support to women and children escaping domestic and family violence in the ACT with integrity, professionalism and passion.

2012-13 has been a challenging year for the Women's and Homelessness sectors in the ACT. The ACT government has imposed significant core operational funding cuts for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 years requiring services to focus on how these cuts will impact on service delivery and the very vulnerable group of people who receive these services. The staff and Management Committee at Beryl have worked hard to ensure that Beryl continues to provide support to women and children escaping domestic and family violence within the constraints of the funding cuts to the service.

The overall funding reduction of 35% will require a continuous review of service delivery to a very vulnerable group of women and children escaping domestic and family violence. Expenditure will be monitored very closely throughout the 2013-14 year and further adjustments to service delivery models will be made if required to ensure Beryl Women's Inc. remains in a strong position to continue to provide support to women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

I would like to express concern on the withdrawal of services to women and children escaping domestic and family violence in the ACT. The increase in the ratio of workers supporting women will inevitably result in less support for women.

Domestic Violence continues to be the primary reason for women accessing homelessness services identified in the *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection*. The current level of services available in the ACT does not meet the needs of women and children escaping domestic and family violence who continue to remain in and return to unsafe homes.

Beryl Women's Inc. continues to work closely in partnership with Toora Women Inc. and Canberra Rape Crisis Centre to deliver the Coming Home program which provides a range of services to support women leaving the prison system to prevent homelessness and recidivism.

It is important in the current political climate, both nationally and globally, that Women's Services position themselves to have a stronger voice to ensure that appropriate specialist services are available for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

Beryl's longer term strategic plan is to explore the feasibility and appropriateness for a possible merger and/or partnership with other women's services that provide support to women and children escaping domestic and family violence. Beryl will continue to explore how the women's sector would like to proceed with a view to undertake scoping work and develop viable model options. The aim of this work is to strengthen and increase the long term viability of Women's Services in the ACT.

I would also like to thank all of the Management Committee members for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. This year we welcomed Marzieh Tafreshi, Beth Sywulsky, Lillian Lesueur, and Merylyn Banfield as Treasurer. Outgoing management committee members included Caroline Fitzwarryne, Kathie Mackay, Kate Gardiner, Nadia David, Linda Addison, Ruth Jones, Lynette Valentine, Yelin Hung, Meredith Boroky and Minnie Mathew.

Once again I would like to thank all committee members for their work over the year and the staff at Beryl for the support they provide to women and children to access safe, appropriate and affordable accommodation in a very difficult housing market. I would also like to thank Beryl's Manager, Robyn Martin, for the leadership she has provided to both the staff and the Management Committee through this period of change.



Terri Francis
Beryl Women Inc.

REPORT FROM THE MANAGER

Beryl Women Inc. (Beryl or BWI) is one of the oldest women's refuges in Canberra; we have been in operation for 38 years. We manage 7 properties that accommodate 9 families (2 of which are shared accommodation) for women with accompanying children who are escaping domestic/family violence.

Beryl was established as a feminist collective, as were many of the women's services that followed. It came about in the time of the women's liberation movement, which strongly informed Beryl's approach and philosophy. It was the first women's refuge at that time and was initially named the Canberra Women's Refuge. It had a name change in 1976 to Beryl Women's Refuge, after Beryl Henderson, who started the original trust fund for the service which, outside the \$4000 grant received from the Government, was the sole means of supporting the costs of running the refuge. Beryl Henderson passed away in her home country of Israel at the age of 94, another name change occurred in 2008 to Beryl Women Inc.

Staffing

We have had 2 staff resign in the past year;

- Mel Martin
- Danielle Grant

We would like to acknowledge and thank these women for their dedication and commitment to the service over the past year and acknowledge the great ongoing work that our current staff team continue to provide to clients in the service.

Current Staff Team

- Robyn Martin (Manager)
- Lina Louis
- Angie Piubello
- Kitty Waddell
- Jennifer Dunkley
- Linda Hayden (Casual Relief)
- Charmaine Barrett
- Sulainah Mbabazi (Casual Relief)
- Penny Pestano (Casual Relief)

Strategic Direction

Beryl Women Inc. held its annual strategic planning day in June 2013, where the service reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing access to the service, in ways that meet the needs of women and children escaping domestic or family violence, our targets groups are women from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background communities.

We do this by engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and, other community organisations that work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children to raise awareness of the services that Beryl provides.

The current emphasis on combating violence within Aboriginal families provides an opportunity for Beryl to take a leadership role within the sector and within the ACT, working in partnership with other Aboriginal specific services, as well as mainstream services, to ensure that service delivery is culturally appropriate and Aboriginal families achieve the best possible outcomes.

Over the past 12 months there have been many challenges within the service and more broadly within the homelessness sector. The community sector in the ACT is subject to a period of significant change and pressure over the past 12 months, at a time when government budgets are stretched all around Australia, many community sector organisations face salary increases arising from the equal remuneration case over its long implementation phase. At the same time the Australian Government is changing the definition of a charity, altering tax arrangements, introducing a new charity regulator and initiating many other changes. The sector is also likely to see increasing competition from private sector service providers, and continues to manage the challenge of recruiting and retaining skilled workers.

Beryl Women Inc. has been coming to terms with the level of cuts identified over the next 3 years and a number of challenges have been identified;

- Ensuring that Beryl Women Inc. remains recognised by the ACT Government and non-government sector as an excellent provider of high quality support and safe accommodation to women and children escaping domestic/family violence;
- Maintaining our strong identity and profile in the ACT community as a service that is welcoming of, accessible to, and appropriately supportive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children and women and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD)
- Tailoring high quality support to meet the specific needs of women and children experiencing domestic violence taking into account their cultural background and, at times, complex needs
- Develop strong partnerships and relationships with other services based on its reputation for quality service provision, underpinned by a commitment to feminist practice, to a diverse client base

- Encourage innovative responses to client needs and allow the organisation to evolve to respond to the changing needs of the community
- Provide clear information to clients and invite feedback on changes
- Provide better linkages for clients to have their needs met including other options for support for children
- Be realistic about staff capacity
- Develop new ways of working with clients
- Enhanced service provision to women and children

The changing environment has required Beryl Women Inc. to adapt their practices to provide better services. The current climate offers the opportunity to review the existing service delivery, and to make changes in order to enhance as a means of providing this to clients we relocated our office space from Weston to our refuge site. There were also a number of factors that have contributed to this decision and include the following;

- Funding cuts
- Client worker ratio;
- Reduction in staff numbers;
- Tighter constraints on responding to On call callouts and back up on call;
- Limited time for trauma informed support due to staffing levels;
- Reduction in group work with children and women;
- Limited school holiday program;
- Travel time from our off-site office location to refuge properties

The office relocation has had the following benefits;

- Cost saving – (rent, petrol/motor vehicle costs, worker travel time)
- Eliminate travel fatigue for workers;
- Increase staff time for a more comprehensive case management practice to clients in crisis;
- Assist in the sale of a work vehicle;
- Allow in some additional monitoring of utility costs;
- Enable staff to respond to client crisis/needs within a faster timeframe;
- Engagement with clients will occur on a daily basis in the shared space (which has been identified as some of the crisis accommodation enabling more effective relationship building and support to be provided to clients in distress);
- Client safety risks and conflict can be minimised due to earlier response and intervention;
- Increased opportunities for enhanced Child Safety, engagement and support
- Improvements to refuge play spaces and common outdoor areas.

The economic climate is also having an impact on the service system. Homelessness services across the ACT have received significant funding cuts that take effect from the 1st July, 2013. The department of Social Housing and Homelessness has been topping up funding via the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) so far, and with a new agreement if ACT gets less due to per-capita funding models, they will not be able to top up funding as they have been.

- The 2006 Census reported 1,363 people were homeless in the ACT on Census night. Of those, 125 persons identified as Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander. Although Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander people were 1.25 % of the ACT population in the 2006 Census, they comprised 19.7 % of people staying in homeless accommodation and 3.8 % of rough sleepers.
- Under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (Homelessness NPA), the ACT Government has identified local targets in consultation with the Australian Government. One of those targets is to decrease by one third the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are homeless to fewer than 83 people by 2013.
- The National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and Homelessness NPA articulate a range of service delivery and policy reforms aimed at improving housing affordability and homelessness outcomes, and more broadly at addressing the issue of social inclusion, including responding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage.

In order to achieve this target, affirmative action is needed.

- The need for affirmative action is reinforced in the national Close the Gap campaign.

Beryl Women Inc. has always had an ongoing relationship with the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities and a strong commitment to reconciliation, which has been evident in past and current practices. The service's reputation within both of these communities has always been outstanding. Prior to the establishment of First Point, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women would make direct contact with the service, often as the first call when seeking safe accommodation. We were also seen in the sector as an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander service even though we are a service for all women with dependent children escaping domestic/family violence.

Beryl continually maintains strong collaborative working relationships with many Aboriginal specific organisations, Government and Community across the sector. Effective relationships with service providers that are culturally appropriate ensures that Aboriginal families accessing the service are respected and empowered to achieve better outcomes and improved health, wellbeing and safety.

REFERENCES

- ACT Implementation Plan – National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness, 2013
- “The Decline in the Number of Aboriginal Women Accessing Beryl” Research Paper 2011
- White paper on Homelessness: The Road Home 2008

In this context of a changing environment and funding cuts, Beryl has been meeting with other women’s services on the development of partnerships and collaboration in order to be part of a holistic response to women and children escaping domestic violence. Beryl Women Inc. recognises its importance for the future of the service; that change is embraced, and innovation is essential, in order to continue to meet the increase in numbers of people in need of support and accommodation & the increasing complexity of their needs – within the context of the limited resources available.

The challenge associated with this, is that it’s a huge job and a lengthy negotiation process which will take time. It would be counterproductive if we amalgamated to strengthen our organisations only to face staff or community backlash. Each organisation has a separate identity, herstory and values; staff and communities could be concerned about losing their service. Another factor to consider if amalgamations occur, is ensuring Sector and Directorate support as well as the impacts to the Women’s sector and more importantly, the women and children who access our services.

The changing environment requires our service to adapt our practices to provide better services. The current climate offers the opportunity to review the existing service delivery and to make changes to enhance services to women with Children escaping domestic/family violence.

Service Management

- The biggest challenge for Beryl Women Inc. in 2012/13 has been the uncertainty around recurrent funding beyond 2013 and insecurity of what the Directorate is planning for the homelessness sector and in particular, Women's Services;
- Sector reforms proposed for 2012/13 have a major impact on the sector. These reforms impact the following areas for organisations:
 - Reviewing of Contractual arrangements
 - Developing Skills development Program
 - Equal Remuneration Order
 - Introduction of New Charity Regulator ACNC
- Ensuring that Beryl Women Inc. remains recognised by the ACT Government and non-government sector as an excellent provider of high quality support and safe accommodation to women and children escaping domestic/family violence;
- Increased demands to sit on various steering committees and working groups;
- Working from Weston Creek;
- Employment issues
- Pre-Qualification process;
- Changes within the Committee;

The Alliance – Coming Home Program

The Alliance between Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, Toora Women Inc. and Beryl Women Inc. has enabled women exiting prison a through care option, with housing provided which has been a beneficial program for the women involved. The building of an effective working partnership has seen a strengthening of sector relationships and a service model that allows for greater access to resources for clients by combining expertise and knowledge from specific areas such as Sexual Assault support for women and children, Drug and Alcohol support and Domestic violence support. A specialised program that caters to the needs of female clients with a specifically feminist focused framework is vital for engaging women exiting prisons and enabling women to rebuild their lives after the experiences of trauma, and violence that many of these women have survived through.

Website

The website has been a valuable tool for women and their families living with violence in the Canberra Community to access information about the service and Domestic Violence supports in the ACT. There have been a number of enquiries during 2012/2013 directed through the website regarding donations. This has been a benefit to the service and has enabled a more public face for the organisation in the ACT community. It continues to be updated and up-graded and we are currently discussing innovative ways in which the website can be more beneficial to the service. We want to promote the service to a larger number of women and potential funding sources which will effectively increase services to women and children accessing the service.

Domestic Violence Christmas Program

This program commenced on the 17 December 2012 and ended on the 28 January, 2013. Motel accommodation was provided for women and children escaping domestic violence during this period.

During this program, we accommodated 2 single women both escaping domestic/family violence.

Support to these women included the following which was delivered within a case management framework.

- Accommodation
- Emotional support
- Financial support
- Support and advocacy in applying for Police assistance to recover personal belongings.
- Material aide
- Planning & referral to other community support services

Clients were provided with a number of material items including food as well as Xmas Hampers. We also provided phone cards, bus tickets, taxi vouchers and had purchased a mobile phone (with credit) for those clients that didn't have a mobile phone.

The service is expected to secure exit points for clients at the end of the program. 1 Woman exited into a Beryl Women Inc. vacancy and the other woman exited to youth accommodation.

Donations

Beryl Women Inc. has had the fortune to have received interest from varied community groups, philanthropic donators work places and individuals in offers of ongoing financial support and donations of children's items and household items.

The generosity has enabled the service to use funds for larger projects, purchasing of large electrical items, garden improvements and whole house furniture setups for some clients that moved to long term housing. A number of smaller projects are able to be planned for such as beauty days for women, free trash and treasure days, health and wellbeing gifts, and children have been provided with sandpits in play-areas and children's indoor furniture. We would like to especially acknowledge the following donors for their support to the women and children in the service.

The Snow Foundation: Funds for development of Therapeutic Space for women and children's groups.

The Attorney Generals Dept.: For ongoing workplace giving activities for food and cleaning packs, stationery packs and cash donations.

Eternity Church: Eternity Shelter Project- Children's Furniture and Sand Play equipment

Grants

The service has been very active in applying for funding grants in this period and has achieved great outcomes with the following grant received:

Infrastructure Grant: Community Support and Infrastructure Grant

The above grant has been put towards improvements and upgrading of furnishings, to all properties.

Training

We are committed to the ongoing training and development of our workforce, aimed at the provision of high quality services for our client group. In keeping with this commitment we have provided staff with a range of training options, detailed below, to enhance and consolidate their

OHS for Managers - Parasol

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid - Strategic Centre for Leadership, Learning & Development

Family Violence Provisions in Australian Immigration Law - Legal Aid ACT

WESNET Safety Net Training- WESNET

Bring Up Great Kids- Australian Childhood Foundation

Trauma Informed Practice – Australian Childhood Foundation

Human Rights Obligations for ACT Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Organisations - ACT Human Rights Commission

Collaborative Working Relationships in the Community

Beryl has been involved in a number of consultations within the ACT community, some of those being are listed below;

YWCA Group “Making Safe Connections”.

The service was fortunate to run an 8 week program called Making Safe Connections in collaboration with YWCA Housing Support Program.

The group’s aims were to enhance women’s self-esteem, facilitate relationship building with other women and services, gain a greater understanding of the impacts of domestic violence on wellbeing and social connections, and assist women to gain improved confidence to make healthy, safe and supportive relationships in their future. Some difficulties with the program involved childcare provision due to cost and availability. 6-8 Women attended and feedback was very positive in regards to increased learning and improved confidence with making new connections in their lives, within personal relationships and with support services.

Our 2 services have a much closer working relationship since running of this group and clients have benefited by increased referrals and engagement with the YWCA training and education programs and childcare provision.

Other collaborations have been as follows;

- Presentation on domestic violence to Kaleen High school – (year 10 students);
- Presentation to Migrant Resource Centre (roundtable);
- YWCA –. Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women’s leadership project;
- Participation in the ACTCOSS submission on Letters of offer to Non-Government providers of housing and homelessness support services;
- Women’s Health Service – My Past My Present My Future Program
- Women’s Services stall at NAIDOC on the Peninsula;
- Service stall at Homelessness Connect Day in the City
- We were invited by the ACT branch of White Ribbon Foundation to do a presentation about Beryl and support that women and children receive when accommodated within the service, there were approx. 40-50 men in attendance, after the presentation, we were available to answer questions, this presentation was part of a broader presentation that involved DVCS and the Police.
- **Respect, Communicate, Choose Respect, Communicate, Choose** - The service was approached to participate in an expert panel as part of a respectful relationships program the YWCA of Canberra has developed and will be delivering in primary schools– *Respect, Communicate, Choose Respect, Communicate, Choose* is a primary violence prevention program targeted at children ages 9-12 to be delivered in schools, as this was based around children, Beryl’s Child Support Worker attended and formed part of the panel.

- **Prevention of Violence against Women & Children – Partners in Prevention Luncheon** - The function was a joint initiative of the Domestic Violence Prevention Council and the Governance Group for the ACT Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Strategy, *Our Responsibility: Ending violence against women and children*. The function also had the support of the White Ribbon Foundation.
A short video has been produced to raise awareness of the prevalence of violence against women and to bring these issues firmly into the local context and 'Canberra backyard', I participated in the team of narrator's for the video, I was also involved on the day of the luncheon in the capacity of facilitator on one of the tables.

The service also attended a range of other meetings, consultations, steering groups, launches, rallies and events of significance to our organisational history. Some of these were:

- NAIDOC celebrations;
- Launch – DVPC Strategy for Prevention of Violence against Women & Children;
- Ministerial Forum on Homelessness;
- Nguru Program Reference Group (Canberra Rape Crisis Centre);
- Coming Home Alliance
- DV-alert Reference Group;
- Focus Group – Homelessness Sector;
- Remembrance Quilt Hanging at Parliament House
- Reconciliation Breakfast; and,
- ACTCOSS Budget Briefing.
- International Women's Day Lunch
- Community Integration Governance Group(Through Care Development)
- ASU Equal Pay Prime Minister Luncheon
- Joint Pathways
- Women's Services Network
- ACT Shelter
- AMARWA Stand Up Conference

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the women from the community who volunteer their time and commitment as members of the Committee of Beryl Women Inc. Thanks for all of your hard work and outstanding contributions as members of the governing committee; I greatly appreciate all of your efforts.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of the Social Housing and Homelessness Services staff of the Community Services Directorate, Women's Services, ACT Legal Aid, and Women's Legal Centre, Centrelink (Social Workers and Community Contact Officer); Office for Women and the many other services who directly or indirectly supported Beryl Women Inc. during the past financial year. We hope to continue to work in collaboration with all in the coming year.

Robyn Martin
Manager

SERVICE DELIVERY

Beryl Women Inc. prides itself on being an organisation that encourages a learning culture, and is innovative in its response to supporting women and children escaping domestic violence. This is evident in that women who have accessed the service over the past 5 years have not re-entered the service, a milestone that we are proud of.

Staff have spent many hours updating the Beryl properties to ensure the service is compliant in relation to fire safety. We previously had "mud maps" for safety evacuation plans installed in all properties; we now have professionally drawn plans installed in all properties, and plans are now secured in each property.

Women accessing the service who have interest in property, have money, or who are working have had impacts on case management, compelling Support Workers to change the way in which they work with these women. Other challenges have been as follows:

- Property maintenance issues;
- One property being off line since March due to water damage, this will impact the number of women who have accessed the service over the financial year;
- Women not following the rules resulting in being asked to leave the service due to safety issues for themselves, other women and workers;
- Slow responses from Housing ACT
- Lack of exit points

Trends – 2012/13

- Increased number of donations of clothing, furniture, white goods and various other items, this influx has been very much appreciated however, storage has been an issue;
- Sexual assault issues with both women and children;
- Increase in the number of women who are not Australian residents accessing the service with no access to Centrelink benefits, housing, medical & dental, increasing costs of service provision to clients in this position;
- Rise in the number of women presenting with diagnosed complex mental health issues ranging from depression/anxiety type disorders and post-traumatic stress disorders;
- Increase in young women with babies and toddlers with unique needs and challenges of living in a refuge setting;
- Developing innovative programs that are recognised by Social Housing and Homelessness Services;
- Continue to seek out opportunities that promote collaboration and partnerships that support women and children escaping domestic/family violence;
- Writing successful grant applications.

Maintenance issues with a number of Beryl properties have taken up a lot of time, and the majority of these issues can be traced to the age of the properties.

We handed 2 properties back to Housing ACT, as both properties were requiring major ongoing maintenance repairs. One of these properties had been off-line (not suitable for people to reside in) for several months, and after an inspection, the other property was also identified with having the same structural issues.

We have since been allocated 2 replacement properties which has increased our outputs, however, the service has also experienced periods of up to 2 weeks of vacancies.

Vacancies that have occurred during this period have been within the shared space, Women are refusing this style of accommodation and choosing to remain living with violence. Following are some reasons why they are refusing the offer of accommodation;

- Lack of privacy;
- Lack of independence;
- Restrictions on visitors to the property;
- Access to space within the shared space;
- Different parenting styles and conflicts arising as a result;
- Levels of client distress triggering other women in the house which then affects that women's wellbeing;

The design of the properties is not conducive to sharing.

There have also been several incidents of making an offer of accommodation to women who have accepted the space/property, with a date and time organised for them to enter the service, and they have not arrived. This has increased the workload around trying to track them down to ensure they are safe. This has been a contributor to the timeframe in which properties/space has remained vacant.

There have also been a number of inappropriate referrals in that they have not meet the criteria of the service. One of those referrals was for a woman with 2 children who arrived from the UK and had been in Australia for 2 weeks, the women had arrived in Australia on a Protection Visa with no financial support at the time of the referral however. The referral was declined as there was no imminent risk to her safety and, we were also financially supporting another client who had no income due to residency issues at the time.

The service has experienced a higher than usual number of young women with infants and toddlers escaping domestic/family violence over the year, with the women's ages ranging from 17 to 21yrs. Support workers working with young women have experienced many challenges as the needs of young mothers are at times different to working with older women with children. Younger mothers that have experienced homelessness can have stronger social ties to peer supports which can be a protective factor, but can also cause conflict with the lack of privacy in share housing and refuge rules that places limits on peer interaction at the refuge. The service attempts to take into the differing needs of each client group by placing women with shared interests and ages together into accommodation but this is always not possible. Flexibility and negotiation regarding visitor rules has allowed for peer support when young mothers are struggling to cope with parenting and a lack of respite or family support.

The service aims to minimise barriers to young mothers engaging in supported accommodation to enable them to achieve stability and safe longer term housing.

Community Linkages

Links to services and advocacy on behalf of clients have been in relation to specific support needs:

- Employment
- Training Courses/Women's Information Referral Centre
- Tertiary Education Support
- Community Food Banks
- Financial Counselling Services
- Legal Aid/ Street Law
- Centrelink Social Work Team and Community Engagement Team
- Women's legal service
- Translation and Interpreting Service (TIS)
- Migrant Refugee Services
- Women's Health Practitioners
- Crisis Mental health Services/Trauma and Psychological Services
- Victims Support services
- Pregnancy support
- Childcare Providers
- Child at Risk Health Unit
- Child Specific Developmental Needs
- Early Intervention Education
- Dental Health

Client Functions

A number of events have been held during the year involving client participation, following are just some:

NAIDOC Day BBQ – Celebration and Sharing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture

Harmony Day Luncheon – Celebration and sharing of Multiculturalism

Seasonal Trash n Treasure Days - provision of donated goods such as household items, personal items and children's toys and books.

Mother's Day – Mother's Day Luncheon

Christmas Celebration – Client Xmas Party

Tapestry Project – Centenary of Canberra

Therapeutic Support

Beryl has a strong focus on creating a therapeutic environment that encourages a sense of community and connectedness for women and children.

Regular women's groups are provided to support women in building connections within their community and sharing stories that empower and provide emotional support and strength to families.

Groups encourage self- development, education, increased social skills, confidence building, healthy self- esteem and positive relationships. Some of the topics covered at groups have been good budgeting, car maintenance, parenting, healthy cooking, health and wellbeing and stress management.

During the reporting period the service has had an MOU with Relationships Australia for Counselling for women and children.

Clients have been able to access a number of sessions of immediate counselling when they are in need of specialised support. This is funded by Beryl Women Inc. and families are able to access longer term support at a reduced cost.

This service has meant families do not need to be put on long waiting lists for emotional support when they are in crisis and are able to be responded to in a timely manner. Families have found this to be very useful when entering the service as they are able to build a rapport with a counsellor at the beginning of their journey and have continued ongoing support to assist them in managing future stressors in their lives. Support is also child focused providing holistic support to families and addressing the needs of both women and children. Support is also provided regarding contact, custody and shared parenting, enabling safety to be addressed whilst supporting women and children post domestic violence and family breakdown.

Outreach Support

Outreach support to clients during this reporting period has increased, a number of these families are ex-clients receiving ongoing support from the service for a short period of time whilst they are transitioning into their new home and community. Outreach support to this client group has centred on connecting to community and services within the area.

Beryl is also providing outreach support to women referred either through First Point, self-referral or through another organisation, the number of these referrals has increased. Outreach support has centred around domestic violence support, court support and housing support, with applications and transfers of government housing due to perpetrators knowing address of properties, and not adhering to Domestic Violence Orders or women fleeing family/neighbourhood violence.

Child/Youth Support Program

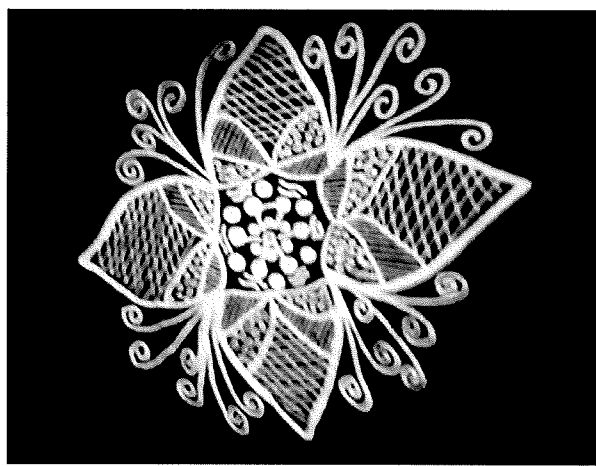
Beryl provides individualised case plans for children and young persons that are accommodated in the refuge and in an outreach capacity.

The service also provides for social engagement activities during school holidays and afterschool groups for youth and school age children. Playgroups are also provided for mums to connect with their infants and younger children and build connections with other mothers of young children.

We have had a high number of children under the age of 5 in the service during the 2012/13 reporting period and have responded to the needs of this age group by connecting with the community around sourcing of additional children's furniture and outdoor play equipment for all properties. The service aims to promote healthy child development by providing access to developmentally appropriate play equipment and spaces at all properties.

A majority of women accessing the service during this reporting have been young women with babies and toddlers; support provided has been around parenting skills education, referrals to Child and Family Centres and community engagement.

Our support to young people has provided a focus on educational needs as many young people experiencing homelessness struggle with engaging in school due to family breakdown, financial difficulties and lack of stability in their lives. The service works collaboratively with High Schools, Colleges and government agencies, engaging schools around safety planning and educational support for youth so that they are better supported in their school environment and positively engaged with their peers. Access to donated IT equipment such as laptops and computers have been provided to families to assist with educational support.



Design by Client (14yrs)

SERVICE DEMOGRAPHICS

Number of Clients

This year Beryl Women Inc. provided supported accommodation to 47 women with 79 accompanying children, 126 clients in total. This is a slight increase to last year (43 women, 82 accompanying children, 125 in total). During this financial year we have had a significant length of time that Beryl waited to be allocated a new property to provide medium term accommodation. This property was a replacement for a property that had been handed back to the department due to it being unsuitable for our program. This new property came online late in this reporting period.

We did however in this reporting period provide support and accommodation to 2 families, one consisting of a grandmother with the care of 5 grandchildren and the other being a mother and 4 children in "A Place to call home program". This program was offered by the department during this financial year. The program offered community organisations the capacity to be in the role of tenancy manager and support provider to individual families for a period of 12 months and then the families remained in the properties and were signed back to being a housing tenant.

Waiting times for allocations of properties for public housing has increased for all property sizes. Women with 1 child are staying longer in the refuge due to the available housing stock and the limited stock of 2 bedroom units/townhouses/apartments and houses. Although Housing ACT guideline state that once approved for priority housing families will be housed within 3 months this is more often not the case. Some of the properties for which Housing have limited stock such as above mentioned 2 bedroom properties and also larger properties of 5 or 6 bedroom can take up to a year or more to secure.

Overall we provided accommodation and support to 132 clients. We provided outreach support to 4 families consisting of 4 women and 2 children. Many families who exited the service received ongoing follow up support for a period of months. The amount of days provided for this support: which is expected to be provided by Housing ACT yet not funded by our funding body was quite significant. Beryl aims to provide holistic support and recognises that continuing support to families when they have secured independent housing is an essential component of our support model for families even when it is not specifically funded to provide this service.

Over all Beryl provided 11950 days of support to 51 families: this included 9657 days of accommodation (this includes A place to call home program) to 47 families, 385 days of Outreach support to 4 families and 1908 days of follow up support.

In this reporting period we had 21(41% of 51families) 25 years or younger. What we have noticed with this client group is that the families with young mothers are more likely to have a much shorter stay with us, move from one crisis to the next without any resolve to previous issues. They tend to struggle with house rules and have a higher amount of conflict with other residents if accommodated in the shared properties.

17 client (13% of 132 clients) were born overseas, of these 15 (11.3% of 132 clients) were from culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds and this comprised 12 families (23.5% of 51 families) which was a total of 33 clients (25% of 132 clients). 2 clients (1.5% Of 132 clients) who were born overseas were from English speaking backgrounds and comprised 1 family (2%of 51 families).

As previously reported, the Service has been working towards enhancing access to our service for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women throughout the year. Engagement with Aboriginal & Torres Strait islander services, and raising our profile within this community, has contributed significantly to increased numbers accessing the service. In this financial year we supported 15 Aboriginal families (29.5% of 51 families) which was a total of 37 clients (28% of 132 clients).

15 families were recorded as unassisted. These are referrals made by First point to Beryl to receive support in the form of accommodation or Outreach support. These 15 either declined support or were not eligible. Many families decline accommodation when the vacancy is at one of Beryl's shared properties.

During this period we have had an increase in women that are accessing training and education. Types of education vary from Distance University Studies to VET courses. The service refers women to educational supports and supports with childcare access so women are able to achieve their educational goals and financial independence.

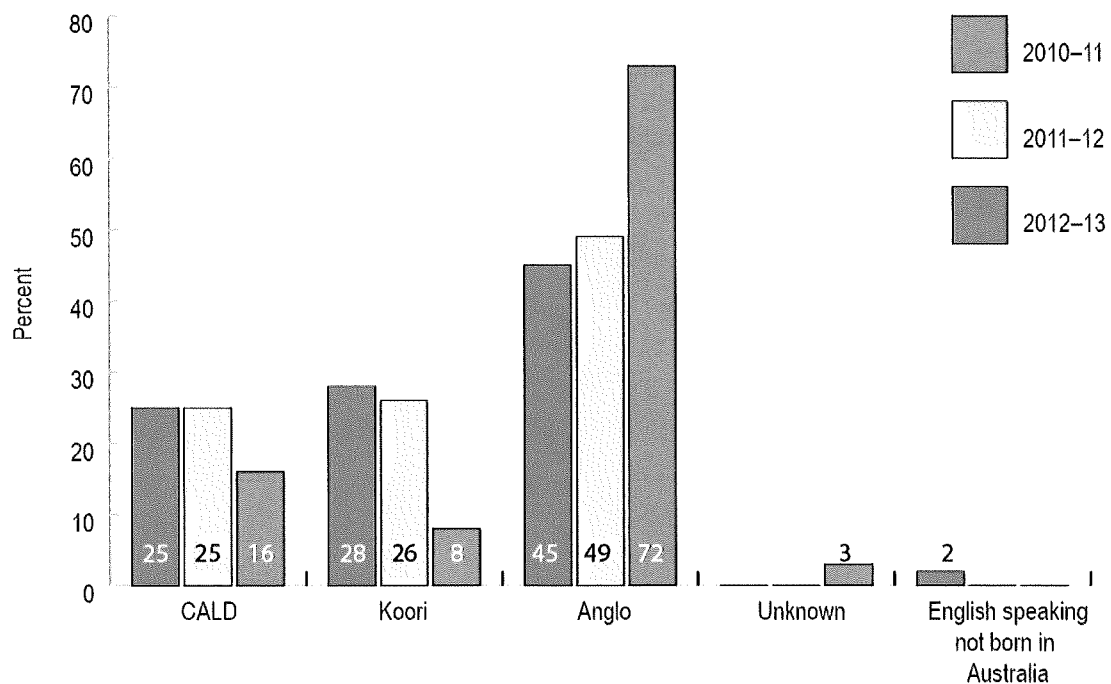
Source of Referrals

The largest percentage 80% of referrals has come through First Point (the first point to get support for homelessness). 20% of referrals are from other sources including from ex-clients, Aboriginal specific services and other community and Government organisations are also contacting the service directly, including Guan Gulwan, Winnunga, Child Protection or other crisis accommodation services.

The following graphs provide some key demographic data about clients who accessed Beryl Women Inc. during 2012/2013.

Cultural Breakdown

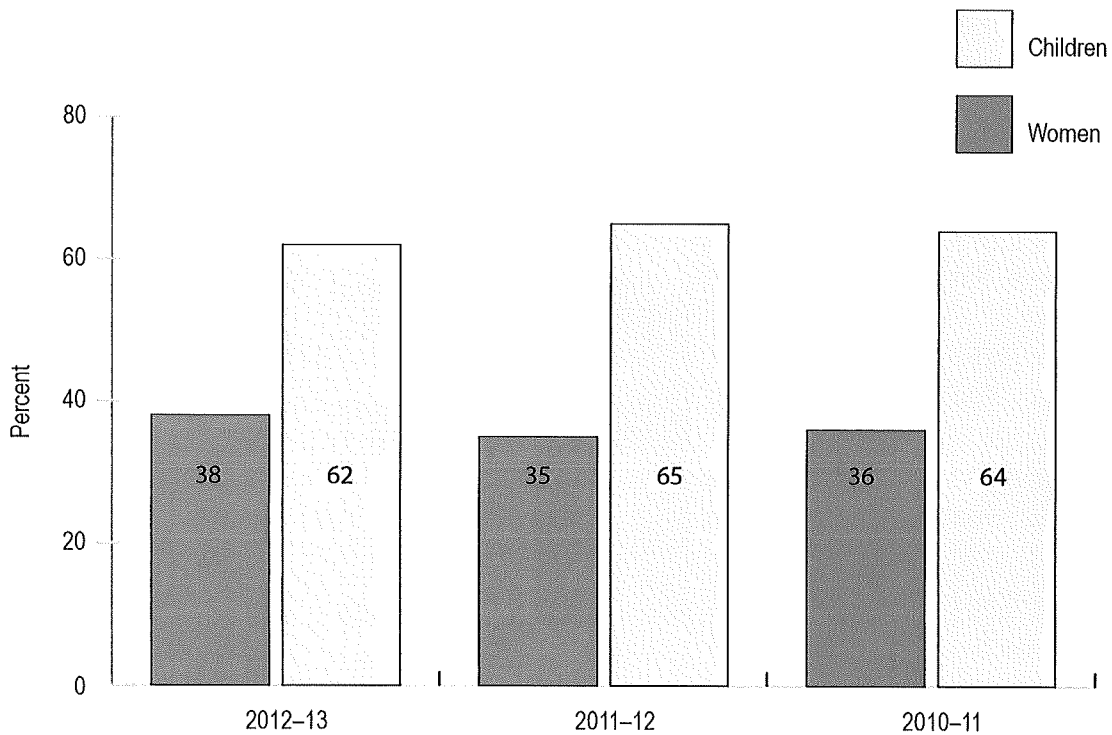
During this financial year, we have seen a slight increase in the % of women from the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities and Culturally & Linguistically Diverse communities accessing the service. (Total percentage includes children)



Culturally and Linguistically Diverse 25%, Koori 28%, Anglo 45%, English speaking not born in Australia 2%

Breakdown on Women and Children

Accompanying children make up the largest % of clients accessing the service as shown in the following graph. These children, having been directly or indirectly affected by the impacts of domestic/family violence, suddenly find themselves homeless, disconnected from their school community, family and social networks, often arriving at the refuge with very little of their personal belongings, which only adds to their sense of isolation.

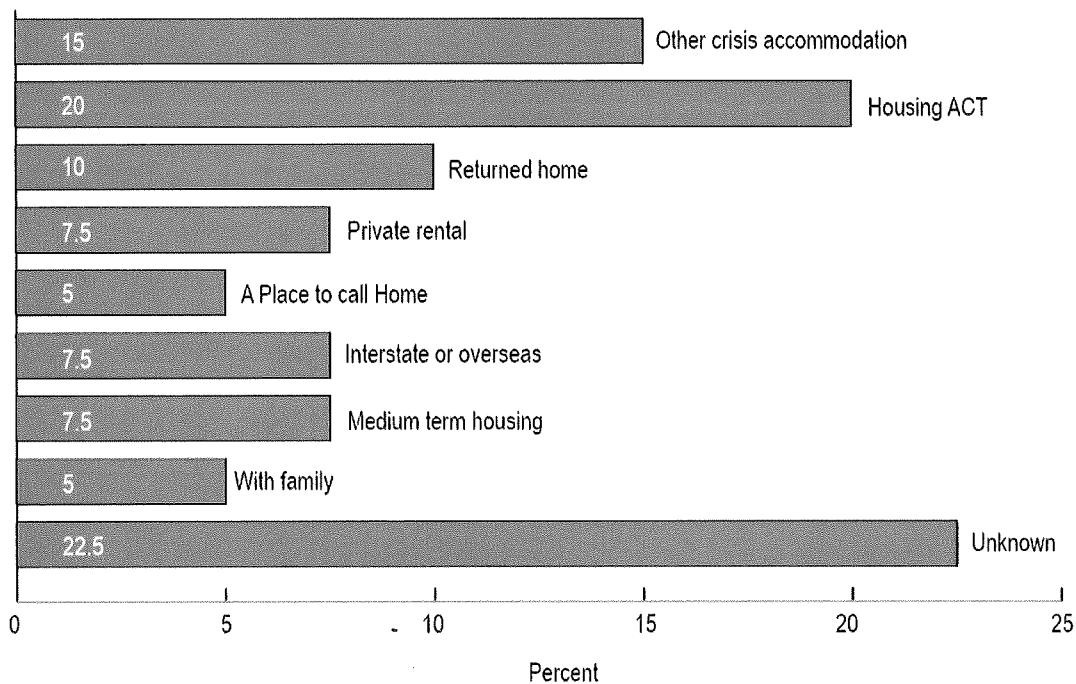


51 (38% of 132) adults and 81 (62% of 132) children. Adults include a grandmother staying with mother and granddaughter. Some interesting stats for this year are 47 (58% of 81 children) were 5 or under. 15 (18.5% of 81 children) were 12 years or over and 8 families (16% of 51 families) had 4 or more children.

Destination after Exit from the Service

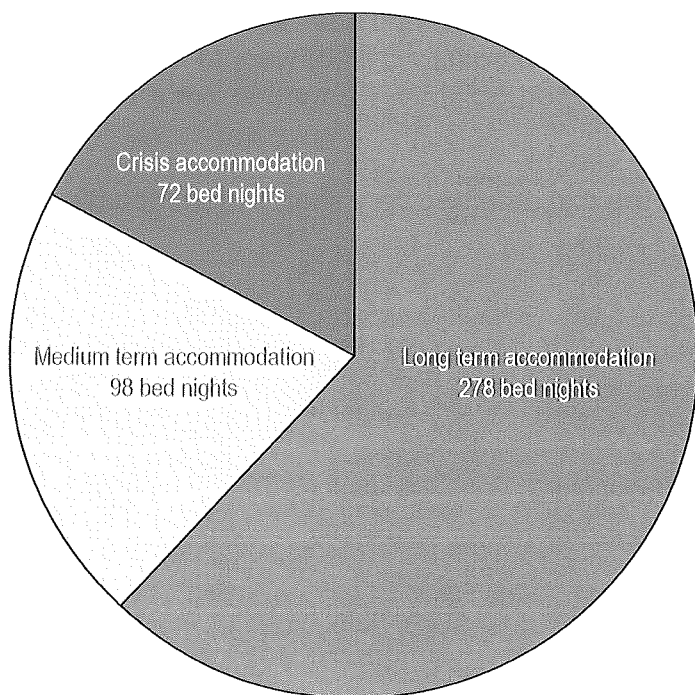
Beryl provided support to 51 families of these 4 were outreach only. Of the 47 families we supported with accommodation 6 were ongoing at the end of this period. Of the 41 families that left the service in this financial year 15% (6) went to other crisis accommodation (3 of these were due to the families being found by the perpetrator of violence), 20% (8) secured independent housing with Housing ACT, 10% (8) returned home (for 3 of these families the perpetrator had moved away or was excluded from returning to property due to DVO's being in place), 7.5% (3) secured private rental, 5.0% (2) were in A Place to call Home properties (for 1 of these families there tenancy was signed back to housing in this reporting period), 7.5% (3) went interstate or overseas, 7.5% (3) went to medium term housing while waiting for allocation with Housing ACT, 5% (2) went to live with family and 22.5% (9) were unknown.

Many of the families in the unknown in the exit data had very short accommodation and support periods.



Length of Stay

The average length of stay ranges from 12 to 17 weeks, a slight increase from last year where the average length of stay for clients was 15 weeks or more, this can be attributed to women with one child residing in the service for longer periods as exit points were limited, with some families staying longer than 6 months.



Average length of stay

Short term

We provided 6457 bed nights to 106 clients with the average being 72 bed nights.

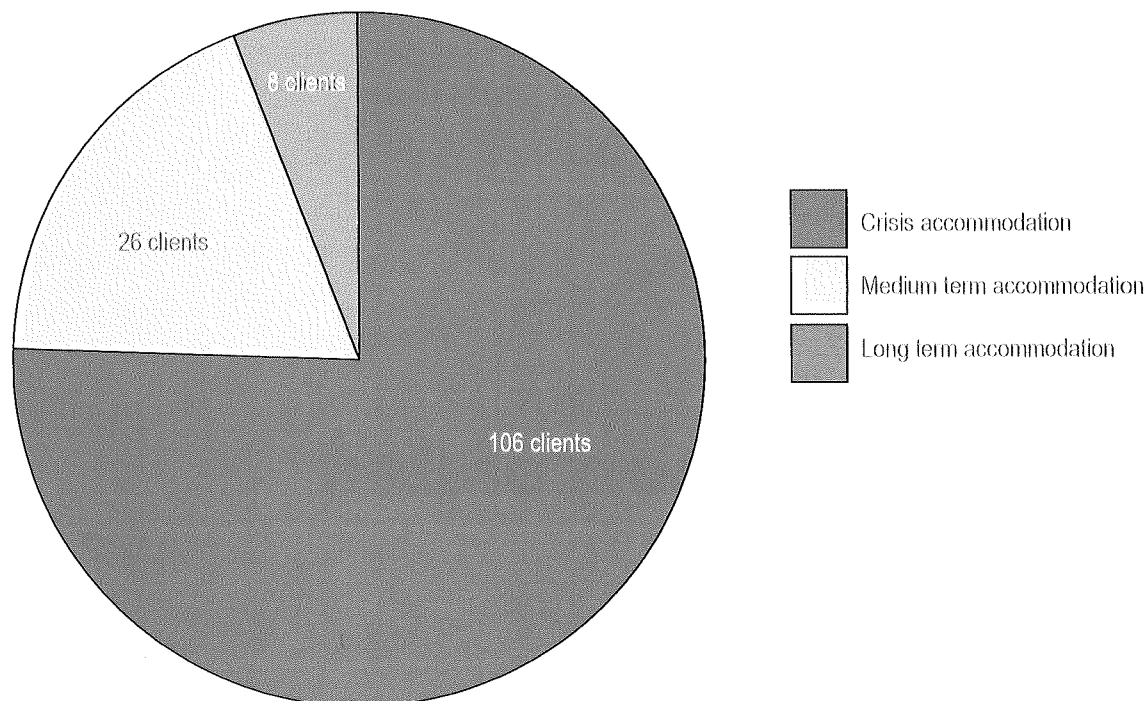
Medium term

We provided 2554 bed nights to 26 clients with an average of 98.2 bed nights.

Long term (A Place to Call Home Program)

We provided 646 bed nights to 8 clients with an average of 278 bed nights.

Accommodation Type



Crisis Accommodation

Crisis Accommodation is available in share housing. Up to 6 rooms are available for families in crisis and are provided with intensive support when they first enter the service. Safety planning, immediate needs and emotional support are some of the key areas of support in this period.

Medium Term/Transitional Accommodation

Medium Term Housing provided to families consists of 3 stand alone 3 bedroom properties and 2 x 2 bedroom units. Ongoing needs such as family law issues, safety planning, referrals to specialised supports and assistance to sustain tenancy and obtain long term housing are provided to families.

Long Term Housing

Long Term Housing is provided with the housing first model. Beryl Head Leases the property and families are provided wraparound support for the period of their tenancy. The client then has the tenancy signed over at end of support period which can be up to 12 months. This program is provided to families that are recovering from Domestic Violence and have ongoing Safety planning.

Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

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30 June 2013

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Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

Committee's Report


30 June 2013

Your committee members present their report for the financial year ended 30 June 2013.

Committee members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Merrilyn Banfield (appt. 02/2013)
 Ara Creswell (appt. 07/2013)
 Lilian Lesueur (appt. 03/2013)
 Beth Sywulsky (appt. 06/2013)
 Rhonda Woodward (appt.07/2013)
 Meredith Boroky (res. 07/2012)
 Caroline Fitzwarryne (res. 12/2012)
 Yelin Hung (res. 11/2012)
 Kathie Mackay (res. 04/2013)
 Lynette Valentine (res. 01/2013)


 Farzana Chowdhury (appt. 07/2013)
 Terri Francis
 Paula McGrady
 Marzieh Tafreshi (appt. 03/2013)
 Linda Addison (res. 10/2012)
 Nadia David (res. 01/2013)
 Kate Gardiner (res. 02/2013)
 Ruth Jones (res. 07/2013)
 Minnie Mathew (res. 06/2013)

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were the provision of crisis accommodation for women and children.


Significant changes

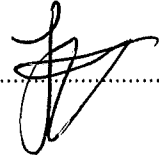
No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating result

The surplus of the Association for the financial year amounted to \$ 90,399 (2012: \$ 125,680).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee:

Committee member: 

Committee member: 

Dated 18 November 2013

Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

Statement of Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

		2013	2012
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	2	848,797	849,648
Salaries and wages		(442,040)	(435,749)
Office expenses		(153,003)	(118,612)
Client support services		(97,797)	(94,831)
Coming Home partnership		(65,558)	(49,232)
Other grant and programs expenses		-	(21,268)
Loss on disposal of assets		-	(4,276)
Net surplus for the year		90,399	125,680
Total comprehensive income for the year		90,399	125,680

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	229,708	164,559
Prepayments		4,996	5,990
Accrued income		499	516
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		235,203	171,065
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	4	103,453	92,068
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		103,453	92,068
TOTAL ASSETS		338,656	263,133
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	33,201	40,316
Employee benefits		72,382	80,143
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		105,583	120,459
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL LIABILITIES		105,583	120,459
NET ASSETS		233,073	142,674
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
General funds		233,073	142,674
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		233,073	142,674

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

Statement of Changes in Funds

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

2013

	General Funds	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2012	142,674	142,674
Net surplus	90,399	90,399
Balance at 30 June 2013	<u>233,073</u>	<u>233,073</u>

2012

	General Funds	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2011	16,994	16,994
Net surplus	125,680	125,680
Balance at 30 June 2012	<u>142,674</u>	<u>142,674</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

**Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2013**

	2013	2012
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts	928,274	889,249
Payments	(822,194)	(795,199)
Interest received	7,594	2,860
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	6 <u>113,674</u>	<u>96,910</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	14,000	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(62,525)	(3,832)
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>(48,525)</u>	<u>(3,832)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	65,149	93,078
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	164,559	71,481
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	3(a) <u>229,708</u>	<u>164,559</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991*. The committee has determined that the not-for-profit Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statement have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or , except where stated specifically, current valuation of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

(a) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful life of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready to use.

(b) Impairment of assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of comprehensive income.

(c) Cash on hand

Cash on hand includes cash on hand and deposits held at call with banks.

(d) Employee provisions

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting year. Employee benefits have been measured and reported at the amounts payable based on employee rates current at year end.

(e) Income tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(f) Revenue

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies continued

(f) Revenue continued

Government grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

(g) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

(h) Accounts payable and other payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

2 Revenue

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
- NAHA funding	657,723	639,193
- Rental income	52,100	62,775
- Donations	12,832	1,158
- Interest received	7,594	2,860
- Coming Home partnership	67,442	49,295
- A Place to Call Home program	9,500	19,000
- Other grants	25,837	30,843
- Other income	15,769	44,524
Total Revenue	848,797	849,648

3 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and in hand	30,608	5,070
Term deposits	199,100	159,489
Total cash and cash equivalents	229,708	164,559

Beryl Women Incorporated

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

3 Cash and Cash Equivalents continued

(a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	229,708	164,559
Balance as per statement of cash flows	229,708	164,559

4 Property, Plant and Equipment

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Plant and equipment		
At cost	165,003	141,640
Accumulated depreciation	(127,748)	(100,742)
Total plant and equipment	37,255	40,898
Motor vehicles		
At cost	95,923	91,692
Accumulated depreciation	(29,726)	(40,522)
Total motor vehicles	66,197	51,170
Total property, plant and equipment	103,452	92,068

(a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Plant and Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at the beginning of year	40,898	51,170	92,068
Additions	23,998	38,527	62,525
Disposals	-	(12,748)	(12,748)
Depreciation expense	(27,641)	(10,752)	(38,393)
Balance at 30 June 2013	37,255	66,197	103,452

Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

5 Trade and Other Payables

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Unsecured liabilities		
ATO payables	12,078	22,908
Employee accruals	12,473	8,485
Trade payables	3,440	3,413
Sundry accruals	5,210	5,510
	<u>33,201</u>	<u>40,316</u>

6 Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Surplus for the year	90,399	125,680
Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows:		
- depreciation	38,393	24,918
- (profit)/loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(1,252)	4,276
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	-	5,632
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments and accrued income	1,011	(1,873)
- increase/(decrease) in income in advance	-	(31,144)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(7,116)	(21,094)
- increase/(decrease) in provisions	(7,761)	(9,485)
Cashflow from operations	<u>113,674</u>	<u>96,910</u>

7 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

The financial report was authorised for issue on 18 November 2013 by the Committee.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

Beryl Women Incorporated

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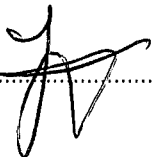
Statement by Members of the Committee

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 9:

1. Present fairly the financial position of Beryl Women Incorporated as at 30 June 2013 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Beryl Women Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Committee member 

Committee member 

Dated 18 November 2013

Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

Independent Audit Report to the members of Beryl Women Incorporated

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report being a special purpose financial report, of Beryl Women Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Officers' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Beryl Women Incorporated are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committees' responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Beryl Women Incorporated

ABN: 76 948 558 167

Independent Audit Report to the members of Beryl Women Incorporated

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects,, the financial position of Beryl Women Incorporated as at 30 June 2013, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991*.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Beryl Women Incorporated to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Hardwickes



Robert Johnson FCA

Canberra

18 November 2013