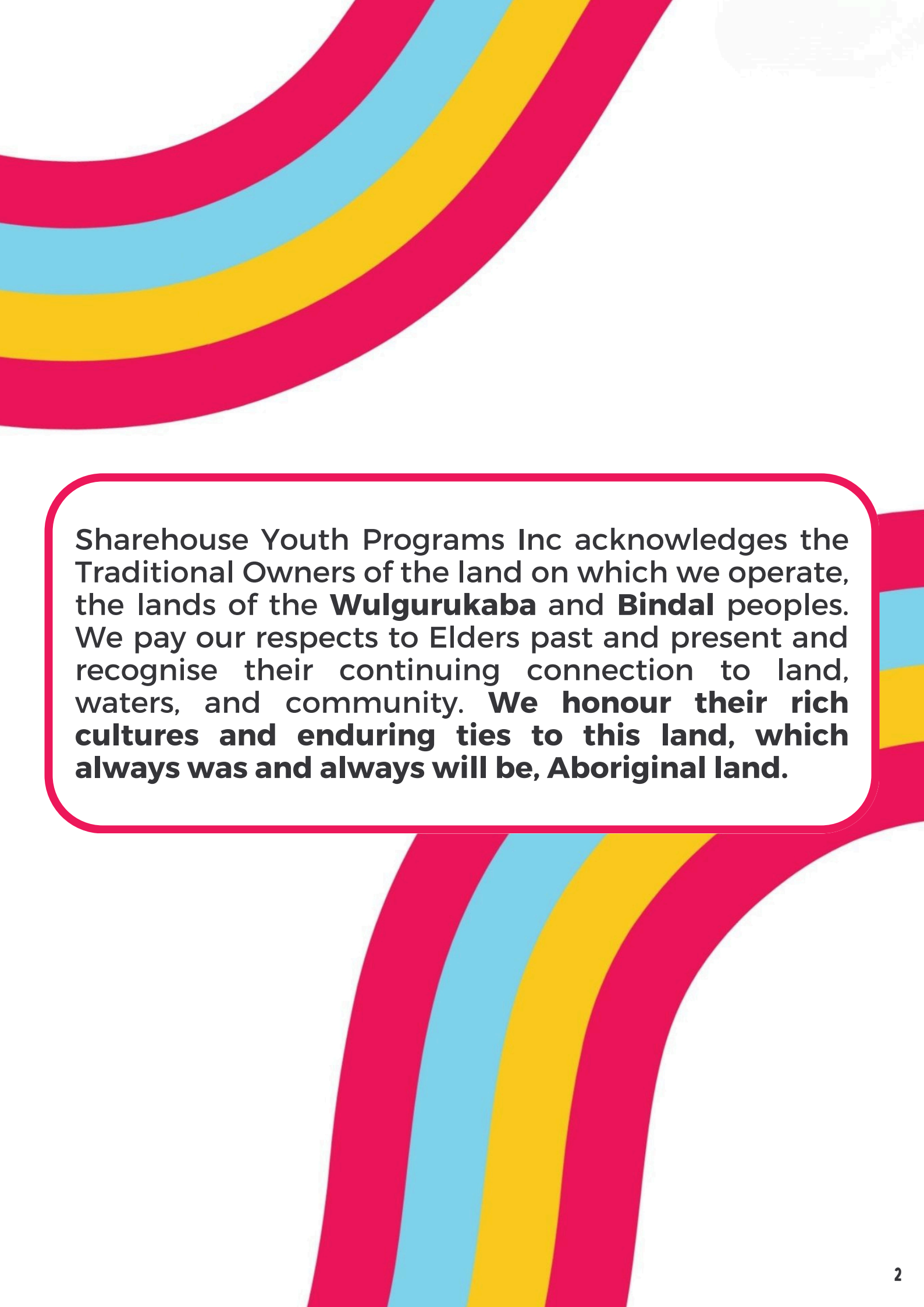


2025

ANNUAL

REPORT

A decorative graphic consisting of three thick, curved, parallel bands of color: magenta, light blue, and yellow. These bands curve from the top left towards the bottom right, framing the central text box.

Sharehouse Youth Programs Inc acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we operate, the lands of the **Wulgurukaba** and **Bindal** peoples. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and community. **We honour their rich cultures and enduring ties to this land, which always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.**

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



I am very proud to be able to write this report as the Chairperson of Sharehouse Youth Programs. Over the last year we have had some big changes in the team, but have stayed committed to meeting the needs of the young people who walk through our doors.

Young people in Townsville make up **13.9% of our community's population** (www.abs.gov.au) and the impact of agism is felt by many of the young people who access our services. The **vacancy rate is back under 1% in the private rental market** (www.reiq.com) and the lack of secure housing, leads many young people to be distracted by their lack of secure, appropriate and affordable long-term housing.

When preparing this report, I did an online search and the following statistics highlighted the barriers to young people being able to ensure their basic needs are met:

- Job Seeker payments for a young person living out of the family home is over **\$130 less each fortnight** than it is for Job Seekers over 21 years old. (payment finder, Department of Social Services)
- **23.0%** of all people experiencing homelessness were aged from **12 to 24 years** (www.abs.gov.au)
- **Suicide is the leading cause of death among people aged 15-24 years** (www.aihw.gov.au)
- **Young unemployment in Townsville is at 11.3%**, more than double the national rate (Labour Market Dashboard)

With all of these statistics showing the crisis that many young people are facing, alongside the negative stereotyping of young people in mainstream media, it can be challenging to see the positives. At Sharehouse, we see young people as **resilient, passionate, powerful and ready**. We draw attention to their wins and celebrate alongside them, assist them in reflecting upon their options and are their cheerleaders when they make decisions that are right for them.

So I dug deeper into the statistics reported and it supported a more encouraging view of young people.

- The majority (**around 59%**) reported that they felt happy or very happy with their life as a whole (www.aihw.gov.au).
- **74.3% aged 15 to 24** considered themselves to be in excellent or very good health. (www.health.gov.au)
- They are caring and involved in their communities: **70% volunteered** in organised activities at least once in the past year, most commonly in welfare-related care and services. (www.monash.edu)

With this year's NAIDOC theme: **The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy**, I have heard and been a part of discussions about how this next generation are strong, more willing to challenge the norms of the past and lead us into the future with passion and compassion.

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON

CONT.

Sharehouse Youth Programs' Vision is that '**Young people grow strength, inspiration and independence to confidently embark on their future life adventures**'. It is this common vision which unites the team at Sharehouse. As an organisation, this year has been full of challenges. **Lisa Hammond** has left Sharehouse and Australia to explore and take advantage of overseas opportunities and we are extremely happy for her, even on the days we miss her.

Our Operations Manager, **Julie Smith** and Team Leader, **Matthew Jarden** took over many of the tasks left undone while the MC put the effort into recruitment. This meant that our youth workers and other staff were able to continue to do what they do best in their various roles to meet the needs of as many young people as possible. Julie and Matthew both deserve a round of applause for all their efforts!

The Management Committee reviewed the CEO position, recruited and inducted (Julie did majority of the induction) our new CEO, **Christina Santarossa**. I believe that Christina is going to lead this organisation into the future with positivity and drive. She has already shown us that she is leading our team with respect, appreciation and skill.

We have set up some sub-committees to be able to involve community members, young people and a mix of staff and management committee members. These are still in establishment stages and we are hopeful that they will provide the 'think tank' ideas and solutions we desire to ensure we are working towards meeting the many unmet needs within our community.

The Management Committee has had some changes with **Luke O'Hare** leaving us and **Cherie McLaughlin** not accepting a further nomination. Both of these intelligent, skilled and compassionate people will be missed. On behalf of Sharehouse, thank you both for your commitment to our organisation.

I also want to thank the **extraordinary MC members** who have been on the committee through the last year and have accepted further nominations for this year, **Letitia Murgha**, **Anne-Frances Watson** and our amazing Treasurer, **Shane Wellington**. Also, a special shout out to our staff who support the MC in their role, specifically **Julie**, **Georgia** and **Christina**.

We also want to take a moment to appreciate our **funders** and **donators** who continue to have trust in us to put our resources to the best use for the needs of the young people that access our services.

J King

JENNY KING

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial affairs of Sharehouse are monitored by the Management Committee monthly throughout the year. As supported by the Audit Report, Sharehouse continues to maintain a healthy position.

Sharehouse continues to progress and expand, with additional spaces being leased to accommodate growth. Of note is that there has been a surplus of funding carried forward from 2024 of \$195,210, which is now expected to be paid back once requested. Sharehouse has held these funds and will be able to repay in full when requested.

Audit Report Summary

The Audit Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 was again prepared by Jessups and it is agreed they will continue in this role. There were no significant issues or recommendations from the auditor to report.

The Profit and Loss shows a profit for the year of \$86,454. The team at Sharehouse and management committee continue to monitor funds and all attempts are made to expend where possible. We are negotiating with Department of Housing the result of this year's surplus.

The Balance Sheet continues to show Sharehouse with a strong position. Sharehouse currently has Net Assets of \$1,068,717, which includes bank balances totaling \$1,140,228. Sharehouse currently has sufficient assets to cover all liabilities expected to arise during the 2026 Financial Year, shown as current liabilities in the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Management Committee:

The accompanying accounts are properly drawn up so as to present fairly the financial position of the Association at 30 June 2025 and its results and cash flows for the year ended in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards and the provisions of the Corporations Law.

The report indicates that Sharehouse Youth Programs Inc is in a strong financial position and has necessary funds to repay its debts as and when they fall due.

S. Wellington

SHANE WELLINGTON

ABOUT US

Sharehouse Youth Programs Inc. is a community-based, not-for-profit organisation that has supported young people in Townsville since 1979. For over 45 years, we have provided vital services to those aged 16-25 who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

Beyond accommodation, Sharehouse delivers programs that support independence. These include **Step Into Housing** and **Safe Start**, which offer safe, stable housing and **Street Reach**, a mobile outreach service assisting with Centrelink, housing applications and essential life skills.

Since 2022, **Step Into Success** has grown into a free in-house course building employment readiness, confidence, and pathways to study for young people.

Each year, hundreds of young people access Sharehouse services. Our approach is grounded in respect, individualised support and long-term outcomes, creating pathways to housing, education, employment and independence.

OUR VISION

**YOUNG PEOPLE GROW STRENGTH,
INSPIRATION AND INDEPENDENCE
TO CONFIDENTLY EMBARK ON
THEIR FUTURE LIFE ADVENTURES.**

OUR MISSION

**WE SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE ON
THEIR JOURNEY TOWARDS
INDEPENDENCE INCLUDING
HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND LIFE
SKILLS.**

OUR VALUES

**INDEPENDENCE & EMPOWERMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY
INDIVIDUALITY & CELEBRATION OF
DIVERSITY
GROWTH**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

GROWTH

PROGRAMS

OUR PEOPLE

ACCOMMODATION



GOOD NEWS STORY



When June was referred to Sharehouse by Australian Red Cross, she was navigating one of the most difficult chapters of her life. As a young mother experiencing homelessness, financial hardship and mental health struggles, her main focus was keeping her one-year-old son safe. For weeks, June and her son slept in their car, often with the engine running overnight to keep cool. Despite exhaustion and uncertainty, her love for her child kept her strong - and it was that motivation that led her to take a leap of faith and reach out to Sharehouse for help.

From the moment she arrived, June described feeling safe, welcomed and understood. She quickly formed a strong connection with her Youth Worker, Lucille, whose compassion and dedication became a guiding light throughout her journey. **“Lucille has gone above and beyond to make sure that me and my son’s needs were met,”** June shared. **“Having that connection made me feel a sense of belonging, safety and care - almost like a mother figure to me.”**

Securing accommodation through Sharehouse was a turning point. After months of sleeping in her car or short-term motels, June and her son finally had a stable and secure place to call home. This stability gave them the chance to rest, rebuild and regain a sense of normality. For her young son, it meant having a consistent routine and a safe space to play and grow. For June, it brought the opportunity to focus on her recovery, set goals and begin planning for a brighter future.

Beyond housing, Sharehouse supported June in many practical ways - helping her find employment, connect with a quality daycare and access essential items such as food and nappies. She was linked with **Parent Pathways**, where she began working towards her P1 licence through driving lessons. June shared that the support she received from Sharehouse **“has been life-changing,”** allowing her to feel more independent and capable.

June also experienced deep personal loss during her time with Sharehouse, tragically losing her infant at the start of 2025. During this heartbreaking period, the team provided emotional support and helped cover funeral costs to ease the financial strain. **“That help meant everything to me,”** June said. **“I’ll forever be grateful that they were there for me during the hardest time of my life.”**

GOOD NEWS STORY

With time, encouragement and the right support network around her, June began to rediscover her confidence and sense of purpose. She has become more proactive in her day-to-day life, setting goals and celebrating milestones - from attending appointments and completing her driving lessons to re-entering the workforce. Each achievement, no matter how small, has brought her one step closer to long-term stability and independence.

June now looks toward the future with hope and determination. Her goals include obtaining her full licence, securing permanent housing and continuing to build a strong, stable life for her family. As a proud young Indigenous woman, she aspires to work with other young people and families facing hardship, using her experiences to inspire and empower others.

“Sharehouse has been more than just accommodation,” June reflected. “They genuinely care. They listen, they support and they help you rebuild. They’ve given me and my son stability, hope and a fresh start - and they can do the same for anyone willing to take that first step.”



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Sharehouse Youth Programs is governed by a **volunteer** Management Committee, who share their time, talents and expertise to help the Sharehouse team to improve the lives of young people in Townsville.



**JENNY
KING**
.....
Chairperson



**LUKE
O'HARE**
.....
Vice
Chairperson



**DR ANNE-
FRANCES
WATSON**
.....
Secretary



**SHANE
WELLINGTON**
.....
Treasurer



**CHERIE
MCLAUGHLIN**
.....
Member



**LETITIA
MURGHA**
.....
Member

OUR PEOPLE

The team at Sharehouse are passionate about helping **local at-risk youth**. With decades of experience between us, we have the skills and knowledge to work with young people to help them live their best lives.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*
OPERATIONS MANAGER
TEAM LEADER
PROPERTY ADMIN OFFICER
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COACH
YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER
YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER*
YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER*
YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER*
YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER
MOBILE SUPPORT WORKER*
MOBILE SUPPORT WORKER
MOBILE SUPPORT WORKER
OPERATIONS SUPPORT
ADMINISTRATION TRAINEE

CHRISTINA SANTAROSSA
LISA HAMMOND
JULIE SMITH
MATTHEW JARDEN
LAETITIA MUTHU
JORDAN LANE
LUCILLE MARTIN
KATHLEEN MELVILLE
AALIYHA D'AGUIAR
TOBIAS MARHIN
BENJAMIN BROMLEY
JAMES TAPAU
LUCAS MCCLELLAND
DAVID DUNCAN
PETA NIBBS
GEORGIA HILL
ETHAN JOHNSTONE

*Indicates staff members who have since farewelled Sharehouse.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



It has been a year of **meaningful progress** and **unwavering commitment** at Sharehouse. As a small but resilient organisation working to support young people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness in Townsville, the team at Sharehouse have continued to demonstrate what is possible through **purpose-driven work**, strong values and collective effort.

The landscape in which we operate is constantly shifting, shaped by broader social and economic challenges. Yet in the face of uncertainty, the team has remained focused, agile and dedicated which has been instrumental in helping Sharehouse strengthen services, respond to emerging needs and expand our reach within our community.

As the incoming CEO, I am pleased to present the team's achievements over the past 12 months. From enhancing support pathways to building stronger partnerships, every step forward has been underpinned by a shared commitment to **empowering young people** and **advocating for lasting change**.

The ongoing housing crisis continues to hit North Queensland hard, with young people disproportionately affected. Limited access to affordable accommodation, rising cost-of-living pressures and the scarcity of local mental health and support services have all intensified the vulnerabilities our young people face.

Despite these challenges, Sharehouse has provided crisis accommodation, mobile support, employment and life skills training and case management support to almost **300 young people**. Behind each statistic lies a narrative of resilience and growth—a young person who, through engaging with appropriate support, is progressing toward safety, stability and hope.

Sharehouse continued to strengthen collaborative relationships with local service providers through regular attendance at community networking events, including **NQ Connect Forum**, **NQ Women's Leadership Forum**, **Housing and Homelessness Network** meetings, **Townsville Youth Services Networking Forum**, **Local Level Alliance**, **Townsville Youth Alliance** and **Community Information Centre (CIC)** meetings. This collaboration is central to our community-based approach and will continue to underpin our strategic efforts moving forward.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT CONT.

We continued to enhance brand visibility and increase community engagement through an improved website, active management of social media platforms and regular newsletters. Another priority has been investing in the professional and personal development of staff through opportunities to attend conferences and forums including the **Platform 1225 Conference** in **Brisbane**, **AHURI Australian Homelessness Conference** in **Adelaide** and the **National Homelessness Conference** at the **Gold Coast**.

Looking ahead, our strategic priorities for the upcoming year include:

- **Diversifying revenue streams** through partnerships, grants, and community fundraising initiatives to ensure future sustainability.
- **Extending our office space** to accommodate more programs and activities, providing holistic support to our young people on site and out in the community.
- Working towards **increasing housing stock** and availability of crisis and transitional accommodation beds to meet the growing regional demand.
- **Continuing to advocate** for young people and contributing to broader policy dialogues regarding youth services, housing and regional disadvantage.
- **Seeking engagement** from young people who have accessed our services to ensure ongoing focus on the priorities of those in our community.

We are grateful to our funders for their continued support- **Department of Housing and Public Works** and **Department of Trade, Employment and Training**, for making it possible for us to sustain and expand the essential services we provide. Our achievements are the result of the collaborative and dedicated efforts of our **staff, volunteers** and **Management Committee** as well as the generous support of our donors and community partners, including OzHarvest, Civil Geotechnical Consultants and The Good Box. To each of you: our sincerest gratitude; your belief in our mission continues to drive us forward despite the challenges.

Looking ahead, we remain ambitious and optimistic. Guided by our values and the voices of the young people we serve, we are well positioned to build on this year's progress and continue making a meaningful impact. **We look forward to another year of responding to and championing the needs of young people in our community, striving to brighten futures and change lives, one young person at a time.**



CHRISTINA SANTAROSSA

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT



This year has been one of **growth** and **learning** across all areas of our operations. Despite the many challenges facing our community, our programs have continued to adapt with care and purpose, supporting young people as they work toward stability and independence.

Our dedicated team continues to make a real difference through their compassion, commitment and creativity. We have strengthened our systems to make sure our support stays consistent, accessible and of high quality. Improvements to our intake processes and communication between agencies have helped us respond more quickly and effectively to the needs of young people. Working closely with local partners and housing providers has also helped us find practical solutions and reach more people who need our assistance.

Our team has embraced new ways of working to stay flexible and focused. Better coordination has allowed us to spend more time doing what matters most: supporting young people. Ongoing staff training has built confidence and connection across our team, reminding us that the strength of Sharehouse lies in its people. **As we look ahead, Sharehouse will continue to strengthen partnerships, improve service pathways and provide person-centred support that gives young people hope and opportunity.** Together, we remain committed to helping every young person feel seen, supported and empowered to build an independent future.

JULIE SMITH



SPECIALISED

HOMELESSNESS SERVICE

22%

22% UNDER
18 YEARS OF AGE

61% ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER



CULTURALLY AND
LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

3.7%



43 FAMILIES,
INCLUDING COUPLES

PRIOR TO ACCESSING SHAREHOUSE - OUR CLIENTS WERE:

12%

DIAGNOSED WITH A
MENTAL HEALTH
CONDITION

26%

SLEEPING
ROUGH

68%

UNEMPLOYED

14%

EXPERIENCING
DOMESTIC &
FAMILY VIOLENCE

AT A GLANCE



192

CLIENTS



5699

OCCASIONS
OF SUPPORT



6180

CASE MANAGEMENT
HOURS WORKED



10302

BEDNIGHTS



340

NIGHTS (DURATION OF
AVERAGE STAY)

CRISIS ACCOMMODATION



The **2024-2025** reporting period presented continued challenges as seen in previous years. Most notably the continued increase of rental prices has placed private rental housing options beyond the reach of many young people. This, combined with the broader increase in cost of living, has significantly impacted the availability of both immediate and long-term housing options for young people in our community.

Safe Start Program has continued to provide **fully furnished transitional units**, allocated according to individual needs, to support young people as they work towards securing sustainable long-term housing. Over the course of the year, **79 young people** accessed Sharehouse accommodation programs.

Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, **47 young people** were signed up for properties and vacated. At the close of the reporting period, a total **32 young people** were actively engaged in our services and residing in Sharehouse accommodation within the Townsville community.

Of the 47 young people who exited during this period:

- **9 transitioned to the Youth Foyer**
- **1 entered alternate supported accommodation**
- **6 transferred internally to other Sharehouse properties**
- **3 relocated interstate**
- **22 returned to live with family or friends**
- **2 secured Department of Housing properties**
- **4 obtained private rental accommodation**

These outcomes reflect the critical role of Sharehouse in providing not only safe and stable accommodation, but also meaningful pathways towards independence and long-term housing stability.

LAETITIA MUTHU
PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

STEP INTO SUCCESS

FACILITATOR'S REPORT



The Step Into Success program continued to support and empower young people from **March 21st, 2024 to March 20th, 2025**, working with a total of 101 participants over the year. Of these, **52 secured employment, 17 entered further education or training** (with 9 of these outcomes paired with employment and 8 as standalone outcomes) and **1 participant returned to school**.

In total, **61 participants (60.39%)** achieved a positive post-program outcome by engaging in employment, training, or returning to education.

Sharehouse remained dedicated to removing barriers to participants by providing transport assistance and nutritious meals through our ongoing partnership with **OzHarvest**. These supports continue to play a vital role in helping young people engage fully in the program.

Looking ahead, we're excited to share that work has officially begun on a brand-new training space. This upcoming space will be used to enhance the learning environment, offering a fresh, modern and inspiring setting where participants can feel supported and motivated as they work toward their goals.



JORDAN LANE
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COACH

STEP INTO SUCCESS

TESTIMONIALS

Step Into Success is more than a program, it's a stepping stone for young people to discover their strengths and plan for their future. The reflections shared by participants show how gaining practical skills and guidance can spark confidence, open new doors and create lasting change.

”

ONCE I HEARD ABOUT STEP INTO SUCCESS I DECIDED TO CHECK THEM OUT. EVERY DAY WAS FUN AND DIFFERENT - I'D DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN WITH NO HESITATION.

”

THIS PROGRAM MADE ME MORE CONFIDENT AND MOTIVATED TO GO BACK INTO THE WORKFORCE. IT MADE ME FEEL CONNECTED, SUPPORTED AND LISTENED TO.

”

ATTENDING STEP INTO SUCCESS HAS HELPED ME APPLY FOR JOBS, IMPROVE MY CONFIDENCE, AND MADE ME LESS ANXIOUS ABOUT HANDING IN RESUMES.

”

THIS CLASS MADE ME MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT MY LIFE AND KNOWING THERE'S PEOPLE THAT ACTUALLY WANT TO HELP. JORDAN AND OTHERS GAVE ME MOTIVATION TO WORK AND DO SOMETHING WITH MY LIFE.

”

I WOULD LIKE PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT ATTENDING STEP INTO SUCCESS IS A LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITY. STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAT CAN HELP YOUR FUTURE.

”

JORDAN IS THE COOLEST TEACHER YOU COULD EVER HAVE. HE'S LAID BACK AND EVEN SHOWED ME HOW TO MAKE COFFEE USING THE BARISTA MACHINE.

”

THE STAFF HERE ARE FRIENDLY, HELPFUL AND REALLY MADE THIS PROGRAM USEFUL. JORDAN WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND TO HELP US REACH OUR GOALS.

”

STEP INTO SUCCESS IS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE STRUGGLING TO FIND WORK. IT HELPS YOUTH STAY OUT OF TROUBLE AND BUILD BETTER FUTURES.

STEP INTO SUCCESS

GOOD NEWS STORY



After being referred to Sharehouse through The Salvation Army's youth rehabilitation program, Lilly reached out seeking housing and support to rebuild her life after recovery.

When Lilly first visited Sharehouse, she described the experience as **welcoming and supportive** – a place where she immediately felt comfortable asking for help. Moving into Sharehouse accommodation gave her the stability and safety she needed to focus on her recovery and goals. With regular check-ins and encouragement from staff, she began to build her independence and confidence. Access to OzHarvest's weekly food boxes helped Lilly budget and ensured she always had healthy meals, easing financial stress during her transition to independent living.

Motivated to keep growing, Lilly joined the Step Into Success program to build confidence and work towards employment. Through the program, she gained valuable communication and goal-setting skills, inspiring her to study a Certificate III in Community Services with hopes of one day working in youth rehabilitation. With support from **Civil Geotechnical Consultants (CGC)**, Lilly received a laptop to assist with her studies, helping her stay organised and complete assignments from home.

Over time, Lilly achieved several milestones – including earning her P's and completing her First Aid course – strengthening her independence and self-belief. Having stable housing, strong community connections and a clear career path has given her a renewed sense of purpose and direction.

Today, Lilly continues to focus on her studies and recovery, building a strong foundation for a positive and independent future. She encourages other young people to reach out for support, sharing that **"Sharehouse truly cares and wants to see you succeed. Their support has helped me find stability, confidence and direction – and they can help you too."**



OUR SUPPORTERS

CIVIL GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTANTS (CGC)

Since forming our partnership with **Civil Geotechnical Consultants**, Sharehouse has been able to significantly enhance the support provided through our **Step Into Success Program**. CGC's generosity has allowed us to gift participants with devices, including **laptops, tablets, and smartphones**, upon completing the program. These tools have become vital for job seeking, study and ongoing personal development, ensuring young people are better equipped to pursue their goals.

The impact of this support has been evident in the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from participants, many of whom have shared that having access to their own device has **opened opportunities that would otherwise have been out of reach**.

We are deeply grateful for CGC's ongoing commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people in Townsville and look forward to continuing this partnership in the years ahead.

”

THE CONTRIBUTION FROM CGC HAS EMPOWERED ME TO APPLY FOR JOBS ONLINE WITH CONFIDENCE AND I FEEL IT WILL HAVE THE SAME EFFECT ON OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE.

”

IT'S AMAZING TO KNOW THERE ARE COMPANIES OUT THERE STILL HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY - I FEEL GRATEFUL AND SUPPORTED.

”

THIS DEVICE WILL HELP ME WITH MY TAFE STUDIES AND TO PURSUE MY CAREER IN COSMETIC NURSING.

”

THE DEVICE FROM CGC IS GOING TO HELP ME AND OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE GET A FIGHTING START IN OUR CAREERS

”

CGC ARE LEGENDS! THEIR SUPPORT HELPS US WITH OUR EDUCATION AND BUILDS CONFIDENCE TO REACH OUR GOALS.

”

THE DEVICE FROM CIVIL GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTANTS GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE A HEAD START TO BUILD THEIR CAREERS.



OUR SUPPORTERS

OZ HARVEST



OzHarvest supplies fresh food to Sharehouse, ensuring young people have regular access to healthy meals and reducing food insecurity.

THE GOOD BOX



The Good Box supplies care boxes filled with essential items that bring comfort and dignity to young people experiencing homelessness.

SHARE THE DIGNITY



Share the Dignity donated a menstrual vending machine for free use in our Sharehouse Bathroom and Laundry facility.

SAINTS ROTARY



Townsville Saints Rotary supported Sharehouse through funding and donations, helping provide essential packs.

COMMUNITY DONORS



Generous community donors contributed financial and in-kind support, helping Sharehouse continue delivering vital services to young people in need.

FORD TOWNSVILLE



Ford Townsville generously provided signwriting for the new Sharehouse bus, enhancing community visibility and awareness.

CONNECTING YOUNG MUMS



The **Connecting Young Mums** program is built on the belief that no young mother should feel alone in her journey. The program provides a safe, welcoming space where young women can come together, share experiences and build meaningful connections with others who understand the challenges of early motherhood.

In 2025, Connect Young Mums has continued to **foster strong peer networks, with participants often describing the friendships formed as one of the most valuable aspects of the group.** These connections provide encouragement, shared wisdom and practical support that extend well beyond the program itself.

Alongside building friendships, the program has also helped young mothers:

- **Build confidence in their parenting and decision-making.**
- **Learn practical skills through group activities and workshops.**
- **Reduce social isolation, creating a sense of belonging and community.**
- **Access support networks, linking with services and opportunities that strengthen independence.**

The group has become a place where young mothers lift each other up, celebrate milestones and provide reassurance during difficult times. By focusing on connection and mutual support, Connecting Young Mums continues to empower participants to strengthen their own wellbeing and create nurturing environments where their children can thrive.



ESSENTIAL PACKS

Each year, many young people come to Sharehouse with little more than the clothes they are wearing. To provide immediate relief and restore a sense of dignity, we distribute Essential Packs that contain practical items to meet their everyday needs.

In 2025, our Essential Packs included:

- **Hygiene Packs** with toiletries, towels and personal care items.
- **Bathroom Packs** providing basics such as soap, shampoo and sanitary items.
- **Parent Packs** for young mothers and fathers, including nappies, bottles, blankets and baby care essentials.

These packs make an immediate difference in the lives of young people in crisis, giving them comfort, stability and the assurance that they are supported. Beyond meeting practical needs, they also serve as a first step in building trust and connection, opening the door to longer-term support through Sharehouse programs.

The demand for Essential Packs continues to grow and the generosity of our community plays a vital role in keeping this initiative sustainable. We remain deeply grateful to the individuals, businesses and community groups who donate items and funding to ensure these packs are always available when needed most.



**HYGIENE
PACK**



**PARENT
PACK**



**BATHROOM
PACK**

COMMUNITY

NAIDOC 2024

In July 2024, Sharehouse hosted a vibrant NAIDOC BBQ celebrating the theme “Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud.” Staff members Matthew and David prepared the food early in the morning, including a delicious Kup Murri, while guests enjoyed live entertainment, games and prizes. The event brought together young people, families and community members to celebrate culture, connection and pride in a welcoming, inclusive space. It was a powerful reminder of the importance of community and cultural identity for young people.



CHRISTMAS PARTY



To close out 2024, Sharehouse hosted a Christmas celebration at Kingpin Bowling, proudly funded by the Townsville City Council's Christmas Together in the Community grant. The evening was filled with bowling, laser skirmish and plenty of laughter, giving young people and their families a joyful opportunity to connect and celebrate the festive season together. It was a wonderful way to finish the year - bringing warmth, fun and a strong sense of togetherness to the Sharehouse community.

COMMUNITY

POP-UP COMMUNITY BBQS

Throughout the year, Sharehouse hosted a series of pop-up community BBQs across Townsville, creating safe and welcoming spaces for young people to connect. These gatherings encouraged social inclusion, provided free meals and linked participants with local support services and programs. Each event helped strengthen community connections and built trust between young people and service providers.



YOUTH FEST



In 2025, Sharehouse proudly took part in Townsville's Youth Fest - a major celebration of young people in the region. The event brought together local services, community groups and hundreds of young attendees for a day filled with activities, entertainment and connection. Sharehouse's presence provided an opportunity to engage directly with young people, promote our programs and advocate for youth empowerment and inclusion in the community.

COMMUNITY

PREMIER STEVEN MILES' VISIT

A highlight of 2025 was a visit from Queensland Premier Steven Miles, which gave Sharehouse the opportunity to showcase our programs and advocate for young people in Townsville. The Premier's visit shone a light on the challenges faced by at-risk youth and emphasised the critical role of community services in preventing homelessness and creating pathways to independence. It was an important recognition of the impact of grassroots youth support.



TRIPLE J HACK



In 2025, Sharehouse was featured on Triple J's Hack program, bringing national attention to the issue of youth homelessness. The segment shared the voices of young people supported by Sharehouse and highlighted the life-changing impact of housing, employment and life skills programs. This national coverage raised awareness of the challenges faced by young people in Townsville and reinforced the importance of investing in local, community-driven solutions.

GOOD NEWS STORY



When Kasey first reached out to Sharehouse, she was facing one of the most difficult times of her life. Experiencing family and domestic violence while pregnant and threatened with homelessness, desperately searching for safety and stability. **“Before I gained support from Sharehouse, my life was full of stress and uncertainty,”** Kasey recalls. **“My mental health was being significantly impacted - I was battling depression and anxiety while preparing for my new life as a mum.”**

Connecting with Sharehouse brought an immediate sense of relief. **“I was greeted with kind and empathetic people who made me feel comfortable and supported,”** she said. Her Youth Worker, Lucille, became a cornerstone of her journey, offering professional and compassionate care that supported both Kasey and her newborn baby. They worked on small but powerful goals - building confidence, developing independence and reconnecting with the community.

Through Sharehouse, Kasey was provided with safe accommodation, which became the foundation for her next chapter. **“The accommodation was the bridging stone for me to step into my own success,”** she said. **“It gave me the chance to start defining what I wanted my life to look like.”** One highlight during her time in the program was taking part in a Mother’s Day Fun Run with other young mums. **“It was an amazing experience and a great way to celebrate mums while being part of the community.”**

Feeling safe and supported allowed Kasey to process her experiences and rediscover her passion for writing. This led to the publication of her first book, **Let My Soul Breathe**. **“Publishing something so vulnerable feels like a hug, not only to my younger self but also to others who have faced the unthinkable,”** she said.

Kasey’s journey is a story of courage, healing and hope. Today, she continues to inspire others through her resilience and storytelling. Her book is available for purchase on Amazon. **“Never lose hope,”** she shares. **“Every experience helps shape who you are meant to become.”**

OUR FUNDING BODIES

Sharehouse Youth Programs is proudly supported by the **Queensland Government** through key departmental partnerships that make our work possible.

We are funded by the **Department of Housing and Public Works** to deliver:

- **Mobile Support** – outreach and case management for young people across Townsville.
- **Immediate Supported Accommodation** – safe housing for those in crisis.
- **Transitional Supported Accommodation** – helping young people gain independence and long-term stability.

Our **Step Into Success** program is funded by the **Department of Trade, Employment and Training** through the **Ready for Work** initiative, supporting young people to build confidence, skills and employment pathways.

We thank both departments for their continued support and belief in our mission. **Together, we create pathways to independence and brighter futures for young people.**

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“The strength of a community is measured
by the compassion of its people.”
- **Coretta Scott King, 2000**