

# MCC

Murwillumbah

Community Centre

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Murwillumbah  
**Community**  
centre

Murwillumbah Community Centre wish to acknowledge the Ngandowal and Minyungbal speaking people of the Bundjalung Country, in particular the Goodjinburra, Tul-gi-gin, and Moorung - Moobah clans, as being the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters within the Murwillumbah and Tweed Shire where we live, work and grow.

Their enduring connection to country has provided care and shelter for countless generations. In the spirit of this deep connection we commit to providing a safe space for all, offering support, dignity and respect.

We pay our respects to the contribution of Bundjalung Elders both past and present, and to the enduring wisdom they offer.

We acknowledge the Torres Strait Islander, South Sea Islander community of the Tweed and all Aboriginal people that call Bundjalung Country home.



Cover artwork: Carolyn Tabakoff

Artwork this page and featured in this document: **Murangarra** by Chanel Taylor

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	CHAIRPERSON'S & MANAGERS REPORT
2	STRATEGIC PLAN 2025 - 2030
3	OUR PEOPLE
4	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
5	FOOD HUB REPORT
6	FINANCIAL COUNSELLING REPORT
7	STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES REPORT
8	INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT
9	COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT
10	YOUTH SERVICES REPORT
11	MISSION POSSIBLE YOUTH PROJECT
12	RECOVERY SERVICES REPORT
13	TREASURER'S REPORT AND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION



# CHAIRPERSON'S & MANAGERS REPORT

2025 has been a year of the team working hard to assist our most disadvantaged community members. The ongoing Cost of Living crisis has hit local people on low and fixed incomes hard. Across our programs the team have helped people to access food, housing, specialist services and supported them to feel connected to the community and empowered in their own lives. There have been many positive outcomes for individuals and families, and we thank the Board, Staff and Volunteers of Murwillumbah Community Centre (MCC) for their dedication, skill and kindness.

Overall MCC increased direct services by 15% this year. Across our programs we provided over 21,500 occasions of service and worked with over 3000 people. We don't count Kinship Festival and Murbah Youth Fest participants in these figures, but if we did the number of people would expand to close to 10,000. MCC gave out over 12,000 meals and our Financial Counsellor increased services by 73% to meet the increased demand. We were grateful to have had Federal government funding through the SARC program which enabled us to work with more people and to provide case management to people with complex concerns. Unfortunately, this funding was only a one-off and we are planning to reduce services again in the new year.

In January we were proud to celebrate a double win at the Tweed Shire Australia Day Awards. Our long-standing volunteer, Gary Setchell, who has led the Nullum House team for more than 14 years, received the Volunteer of the Year Award, while Murbah Youth Fest was recognised as Community Event of the Year. These awards highlight the vital role our Centre plays in Murwillumbah—bringing people together and supporting our community through care, creativity, and collaboration.

MCC is there for people in need and to support creativity, culture and celebration.

Major events this year included the 10th Kinship Festival and the 3rd Murbah youth Fest. Both events are community led and very significant for the region. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the 100's of extra volunteers who joined us to make the Kinship and Youth Festival's happen- you make the magic happen. Our Mission Possible project put on a very successful Get Prepared Day for local schools, which trained young people on disaster readiness and other skills. And we supported the Tweed Business Chamber to deliver the Laneway Festival by bringing a youth space, indigenous cultural elements, dinosaur flash mob and a fun handball activity. Murbah knows how to play and party, and MCC loves to be part of it.

Collaboration is at the heart of all that MCC does and our key partnerships this year have been with our sister community centers in the region; Janelle Saffin MP; Justine Elliot MP; Tweed Shire Council; Northern Rivers Zero; Social Futures; YWCA; The Family Centre; Bugalwena; Murwillumbah Services Club; SecondBite, the Hare Krishna's, Heart of Love and the Murwillumbah Community Care project run by the Rural Doctors Network. Our full list of thankyou's and acknowledgements is included later in the report. Thank you all for working with us to support the Murwillumbah community and to create the change we all want to see.



# CHAIRPERSON'S & MANAGERS REPORT

Last year we reported on significant board renewal and this year the board has again adapted to meet individual members circumstances and capacities and the needs of the centre. We thank Kerriann Dear, Anne Barton, Nikki Shippard and Lauran Wassal for their active contributions to the board and the community. And we welcome Jerami Grassi and David Ingham who have brought new insights and skills to MCC. Warren Polglase, Carmen Stewart and Charline-Emzin Boyd are ongoing members and have provided incredible support to staff and the centre throughout the year.

The MCC board has undertaken significant risk review activities this year to develop new policies and processes to ensure safety at the centre for staff and visitors. Training has been delivered and protocols collaboratively developed to improve all aspects of safety. As a community centre working with the whole community and without specialist funding it is difficult to maintain both a safe space and an open door to everyone.

Our team does a great job to balance this, and MCC is committed to continuing to provide the best working environment and service possible.

Financial pressure continued to be a focus for MCC in 2025, with increasing costs, fixed ongoing grants and project-based funding continually shifting. Long term co-located tenant services ended their leases during the year too due to funding cuts or changing geographical footprints. This impacted the revenue of MCC, and the finance team and Treasurer are to be commended for implementing efficiency measures that have resulted in modest overall loss for the financial year.

We hope you enjoy reading the program reports to learn more about the wonderful work done by our staff and volunteers this year. We also thank the Murwillumbah community for your generous and ongoing support of our Centre. We are your centre and the heart of the community and all that we do is enabled by your generosity, insight and goodwill.

**Warren Polglase- Current Chairperson ; Carmen Stewart- Chairperson December 2024-August 2025**

**Fiona Hunt- Manager**

There have been many positive outcomes for people accessing MCC this year. We thank the Staff and Volunteers for their dedication, skill and kindness.



# STRATEGIC PLAN



## OUR VISION

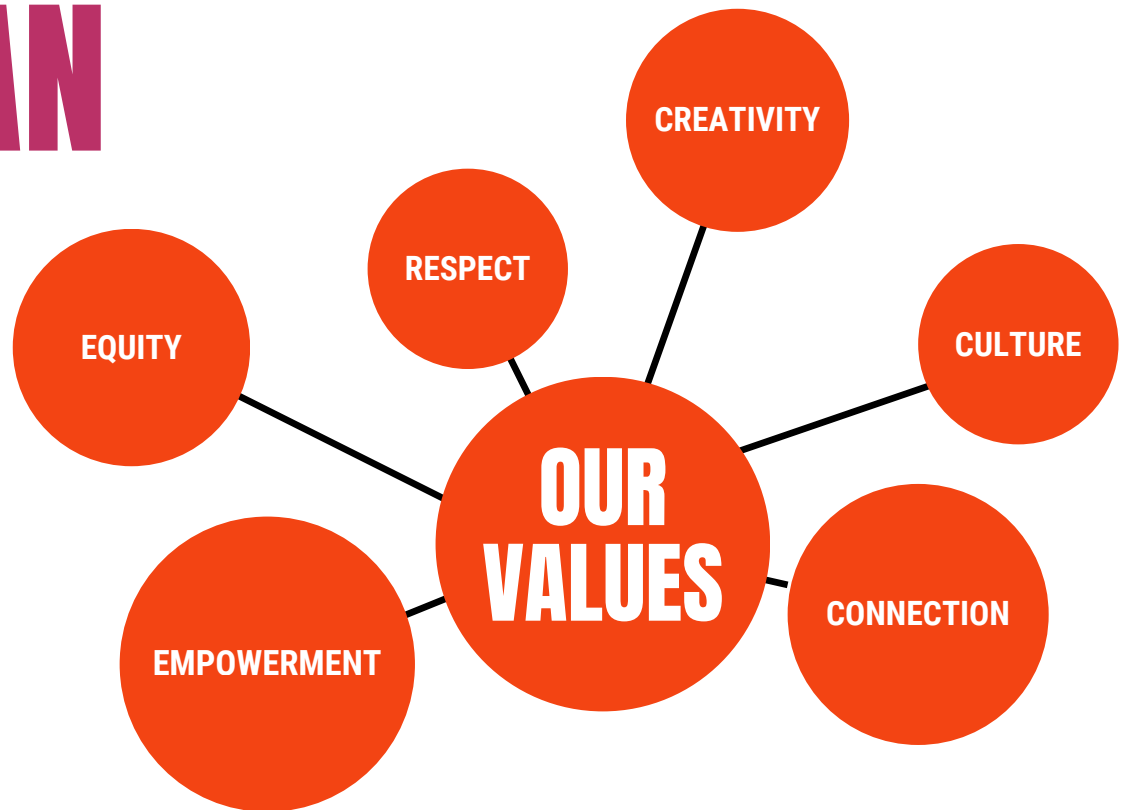
People are engaged, empowered and supported  
Our community is connected and self sustaining  
Everyone has their needs met

## OUR MISSION

To be an organisation that fosters social equity, health and wellbeing, joy, connection, deep respect and the sharing of knowledge and resources for all.



# STRATEGIC PLAN



## RESPECT

Acting with honesty and integrity  
Accepting others' values and choices  
Treating people with dignity

Acceptance - Dignity - Integrity

## CONNECTION

Working together for better outcomes  
Sharing ideas and knowledge  
Co creating solutions

Co Creation - Sharing - Collaboration

## EQUITY

Embracing difference  
Fostering inclusivity  
Advancing human rights

Rights - Difference - Inclusivity

## CREATIVITY

Responding to changing needs  
Being flexible and adaptable  
Encouraging passion and courage

Change - Passion - Flexibility

## EMPOWERMENT

Being people centred  
Recognising potential  
Encouraging self determination

People - Self Determination

## CULTURE

Appreciating First Nations culture  
Connection to Country  
Celebrating diversity

Diversity - Connection to Country - First Nations



# OUR PEOPLE

## are the beating heart of MCC

### Management Committee

Warren Polglase	Anne Barton
Carmen Stewart	Lauren Wassel
Charline Emzin-Boyd	David Ingham
Kerriann Dear	Jerami Grassi
Nicole Shipard	

### Management & Finance

Fiona Hunt	Fiona Fitzgerald
------------	------------------

### Indigenous Programs

Lara Lei	Belle Budden
Teleahsia Togo	Kelly Gilbert-Knox
Robyn Beezley	Grayson Phillips
Mudjai	Eve White
Rackell Sussyer	Steve White
Grayson Needham	Donna Taylor
Leigh Leslie	

### Financial Counselling

Sofia Werner

### Food Hub

Laurel Garnett	Jamie Rylance
Patsy Walsh	Allan Gibson

### Community Services & Reception

Eva Sanz Orio	Karen Chaffey
Kerry Pritchard	Annabel O'Flynn
Gary Setchell	Katie Panayi
Kathryn Edmunds	Suzie Coen

### Youth

Jess Porter	Mossy Cluney
Marlena Basser	Zoelle George
Christina Bennett	

### Strong and Resilient Communities

Jenny Ryan	Eva Sanz Orio
Teleahsia Togo	Jess Porter
Kerry Pritchard	Jesse Thomas- Hall

### Students

Blu Dakers	Kathy McAlpine
Billie Doody	Leonie Nicholls
Karina Moraes	Gian Prades
Kirsten Ryan	Fran Barwick
Jesse Thomas-Hall	

### Volunteers

Gary Setchell, Jye Hackwood, Kody Farrell, Fiona Mengersen, Glen Dascombe, Robert Merlo, Sonja Lebby, Alain Legrand, Amanda Brincat, Brett Pryor, Carolynn Tabakhoff, Joy Marat, Liz Counsel, Di Human, Kathryn Edmunds, Talah Garbett, Damian Reed, Imma Adelaja, Gai Hayes, Gary Hodge, Andrew Karydas, Kalindi Godden, Shivorine Kini, Nicole Mudgway, Mandi Craig, Perri Wain, Karla Krieger, Cathy McGuinness, Lisa Clark, Letechia, Elise Lang, Jye Hackwood, Danni Grant, Dylan Porter, Courtney Hardcastle, Arjan Prasad, Kody Farrell, Diana Willock, Rena Teal, Michael Poole, Noel Westrup, Sarah Hendrikse, Raymond Lindsay, Trish Read, Kathy O'Connell, Anne Freeman, Bob Freeman, Jackie Martin, Di Hather, Jane Johnson, Sharon Cain, Kylie Burchell, Karen Carey, Desiree Tinetti, Sharmain Balston, Carolyn Tabakhoff, Frank Boifave, Dina Lamstein, Fiona Crawford, Sonia Lebby, Marcel, Ari, Rob Gee, Rachael Sanderson, Amarina Toby, Craig McNiven, Stephanie Boldeman, Allanah Willock, Suzie Coen, Julie Murphy, Penny Gordon, Lisa Gardiner, Helen Stubbin, Russel Graham, Karen Rice, Peter Bracher, Liz Counsel, Isabelle Pilonchery.







# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MCC is grateful for all our funders, partners and donors. Collaboration is at the heart of all that we do. From the Australian Federal Government to the local people who give to help feed our community, MCC thanks you and so does the Murwillumbah community.

## Funding Partners

### Australian Federal Government:

National Indigenous Australians Agency  
Department of Social Services  
Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal

### General

DharmaCare  
Dice Constriction  
Energreen Nutrition  
CAF America  
Commbank Foundation  
Granada Productions  
Headspace National  
Heart of Love Foundation  
Ingrained Foundation  
Jagun Alliance  
Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar  
Multicultural NSW  
Northern Rivers Community Gateway

### NSW Government:

Department of Communities and Justice  
Transport NSW  
NSW Office for Youth  
Department of Primary Industries &  
Regional Development

Social Futures  
Outback Spirit  
SAE Solar  
Street Smart  
The Alcohol and Drug Foundation  
The James Frizelle Foundation  
TAFE Northern NSW Aboriginal Unit  
Tweed Community Clubs  
Tweed Escapes  
Tweed Shire Council  
YWCA Australia

# WE THANK YOU

# FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Partner Organisations

Arts Northern Rivers  
Assertive Outreach Team  
Bugalwena NSW Health  
Centrelink  
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service  
Chinderah Volunteer Hub  
Consortia of Neighbourhood Centres (CONC)  
Deep Listeners  
Footprints  
GIVIT  
Headspace  
Health & Homelessness Outreach Team  
Heart of Love Foundation  
Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School  
M|Arts  
M|CORE  
Mount St Patrick College  
Murwillumbah Chamber of Commerce  
Murwillumbah Community Health Centre  
Murwillumbah CORE  
Murwillumbah Learning Community High School  
Ngunja Jarjum  
Northern Rivers Community Gateway  
Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre  
Northern Rivers Community Resilience Alliance  
Northern Rivers Housing  
Plan C  
Possums Preschool  
Resilient Lismore  
Resilient UKI

Safe Haven  
Sathya Sai College  
Securebase Solutions  
Service NSW  
SES  
Social Futures  
TAFE NSW  
The Family Centre  
The Returning  
The Small School  
Tweed River High School  
Tweed Shire Council  
Verto  
We-Ali

## Co-location partners

Community Corrections  
Epic Support Services  
Family Services Australia  
Hearing Australia  
Momentum Collective  
Mylestones  
OCTEC  
Reconstruction Authority  
Roundsquared  
Social Futures  
The Family Centre  
WISE Employment  
YWCA

THANK YOU THANK YOU!

# Donors and Supporters

A.I Inspection Pty Ltd	Momentum Collective
All Saints Anglican Church Friends group	Murray McDonald
Anglican Parish of Murwillumbah	Murwillumbah Community Garden
Bakers Delight Murwillumbah	Murwillumbah Day View Club
Beth Matsuto	Murwillumbah Farmer's Market
Big Voice Community Choir	Murwillumbah Services Club
Brian Clarke	Northern Rivers Community Foundation
Coles Murwillumbah	Nutralife Organics
Crazy Bargain Buys	ORIMA Research
Creative Crafters Group	Pasta'bah
Dinki Di	Pauline
Eat to Live	Percy Pearson
Findex	Possums Pre School
First Nations Staff Forum - Services Australia	Pottsville Beach Sports Club
GIVIT Donors	Priscilla
Glow	Reject Shop
Good360	Roma
Graham Dietrich	Rosemary Wade
Hanrahans Swiss Bakery	Rotary Murwillumbah Central
Hare Krishna- Uki	Rotary of Mount Warning
Heart to Heart	Sathya Sai College
IGA Tweed Valley Way	Scandinavian Cone Company
Jan O'Regan	Second Bite
Jet Real Estate	Seagulls Club
K-Roo	Song Dynasty Music
Kim	Stan Scanlan
Kim Rushton	TAFE NSW Northern Region
Kitz Living Foods	The Small School Community Murwillumbah
Knit Happens	Tumbulgum Fishing Club Inc
Lions Club	Tweed Escapes
M Arts	Tweed Valley Adventist Op Shop
Macro Meats	Watersports Guru
Mavis's Kitchen	Williams Group Australia
	Wollumbin St Bakery

# FOOD HUB REPORT

The Murwillumbah Food Hub is a social enterprise run by the Murwillumbah Community Centre and operates out of the Red Cross Building in Knox Park. We have been open to the public on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am-3pm, though we have recently expanded our Wednesday hours to 10am-6pm. Being more accessible to folks who work during the day will better support our mission and hopefully expand our customer base. The first two weeks of extended hours have shown promise.

We serve over 200 customers each week, with a line of familiar faces at the door when we open each Wednesday. This continues to be the busier day, generally accounting for around 60% of our takings.

We offer a broad range of affordable groceries, fresh produce, and household products to the local community. We have no restrictions on who can access the Food Hub – anyone can shop!



## Staffing

Patsy Walsh retired from the Food Hub at the end of 2024, leaving us a well-functioning store with a solid cohort of wonderful volunteers. Laurel Garnett, a former volunteer at the Food Hub, is the new Co-Ordinator and enjoying the challenge of balancing the operational demands of a retail establishment with the not-for-profit, community focus of the Food Hub. The team has adapted beautifully to the changes, and Patsy still fills in and is a core part of the Food Hub family.

**100**  
**WE AVERAGE**  
**CUSTOMERS A DAY**

## Volunteers

The Food Hub has 17 regular volunteers, both long term and new recruits. We are generally well staffed, and this brilliant, collaborative team runs the Hub smoothly. It is a joy to see the connections between volunteers and our regular customers. There is care and support woven into the role for many of our volunteers, and the Hub would not be the same without them. We are excited to celebrate Raymond's 100th birthday next year!

## Second Bite

In June the Hub hosted Coles' Second Bite Winter Appeal, a promotional campaign that featured on Sunrise. This was a great opportunity for promotion and connected us with our local Coles. We have since established a daily Second Bite pickup for MCC, which the Food Hub collects three days a week. This has been a great way to bolster our supply of free bread for all customers, as well as providing a steady supply of pantry and household items we can offer free at MCC reception.



# FOOD HUB REPORT

## Sourcing – Challenges and Opportunities

Product prices and availability remain our primary challenge. The Food Hub continues to purchase most of its stock through four main suppliers; Foodbank NSW, Aratara, C-Store and Tweed Fruit Exchange. We are feeling the pressures of inflation with all suppliers, particularly Foodbank NSW, our largest supplier. The products offered are more limited than previous years and their prices on items we regularly stock make competing with Coles and IGA very challenging.

We have a number of regular local donors including Pasta'bah, Eat to Live, the Murwillumbah Farmer's Market, the Scandinavian Cone Company and Raven's Place Farm. We also greatly appreciate local community members and food producers donating excess produce and products to us. Food donations are key to our mission and financial security. We endeavor to maintain and expand these opportunities next year.

Balancing our mission of combating food insecurity with the need to cover our operational costs will remain an ongoing challenge into 2026.

## Financials

At the end of 24-25 financial year the Hub had a \$13,000 deficit. In previous years we have appealed to other local groups and charities to meet budget shortfall, and we are optimistic that we can offset the loss incurred this year.

Whilst we built some momentum early in the year our sales figures have remained steady since August. These figures are difficult to interpret as they include food vouchers provided by the Community Centre to in need community members, and do not account for the variability of donations.

The Food Hub thanks and Acknowledges the Tweed Valley Adventist Op Shop for their wonderful support over many years.

## NRCF Grant

In September we submitted a grant application to the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) that was successful. We have been granted \$15k to install rooftop solar on the Food Hub. Pending building approval, we will proceed with that installation in the coming months. This will offer marked relief from power bills and enable us to operate more effectively over the summer months.

## ITV Grant

Raven Place Farm has collaborated with the Murwillumbah Community Centre to grow organic fresh produce for families in the area. We finished off the grant period with a free workshop, and had over 20 attendees come and support in the planting out of the space so we can continue to grow fresh produce for the area. Highlights include 40kgs of organically grown ginger, 10kgs of potato's, many bags of snow peas, endless harvests of leafy greens such as chicory, kale, silverbeet, chard, rocket, basil, coriander and Warrigal greens, all adding important nutrition for meals. What is most exciting is although the grant funding has finished, these garden beds will continue to grow food for the community centre to ensure this fresh produce is provided to those who need it most.



# FINANCIAL COUNSELLING REPORT

The 2024–2025 period has been one of significant growth, community engagement, and impactful outcomes. As financial pressures continue to mount across the region, the Murwillumbah and Tweed Financial Counselling Service remains committed to providing accessible, high-quality support to those most in need. With funding secured through to 2027, we look forward to continuing and expanding our impact in the years ahead.

The Murwillumbah and Tweed Financial Counselling Service has continued to provide vital support to the community throughout 2024–2025, operating four days per week with one dedicated financial counsellor. The service remains funded through a partnership between the NSW Office of Fair Trading and Northern Rivers Community Gateway, with current funding secured until 2027.

## Overview of Services

In the 2024–2025 financial year, we delivered a range of client-centred services designed to enhance financial literacy, support recovery from financial hardship, and promote long-term financial resilience:

- Individual Financial Counselling
- One-on-one, confidential sessions tailored to assist clients with budgeting, debt management, negotiating with creditors, and developing financial resilience strategies.
- Community Outreach
- Collaborative initiatives with local organisations to ensure our services reach vulnerable and underserved populations across the region.

## Key Achievements

### Client Engagement

- Total Clients Supported: 131
- This represents a **72.37%** increase from the previous year (**76 clients in 2023–24**), reflecting both rising demand and increased outreach effectiveness.
- Total Appointments Held: **760**
- Each appointment provided tailored financial guidance and support based on the unique needs of each client.
- Debts Waived Through Advocacy: **\$190,300**
- Through direct negotiation and advocacy on behalf of clients, a total of **\$190,300** in debts was waived, significantly alleviating financial stress for many households.

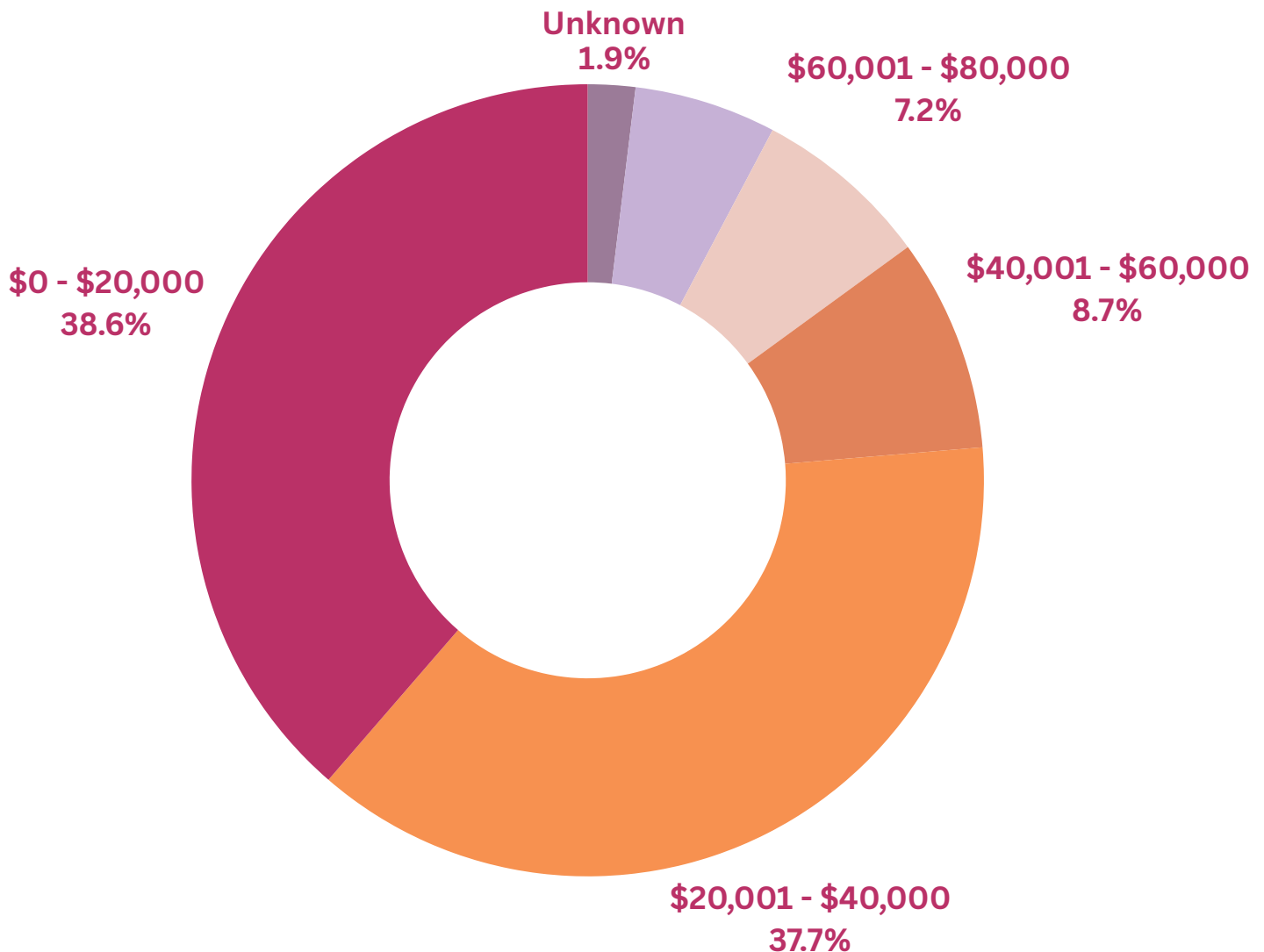
**51**  
**YEARS OF**  
**FINANCIAL**  
**COUNSELLING**



# FINANCIAL COUNSELLING REPORT

**We service the most vulnerable of clients.**

**In 2024-2025, 79% of client's income was below \$40,000 per annum.**



## **Community Engagement and Partnerships**

Partnered with the **SARC program** to deliver a budgeting and financial literacy workshop, expanding access to financial counselling for individuals who may not traditionally seek out these services.

## **Ongoing Interagency Networking:**

Actively engaged in the **Northern Rivers Financial Counselling Interagency**, which meets regularly to: Share service updates, provide access to relevant training, address emerging trends and challenges in the financial counselling sector

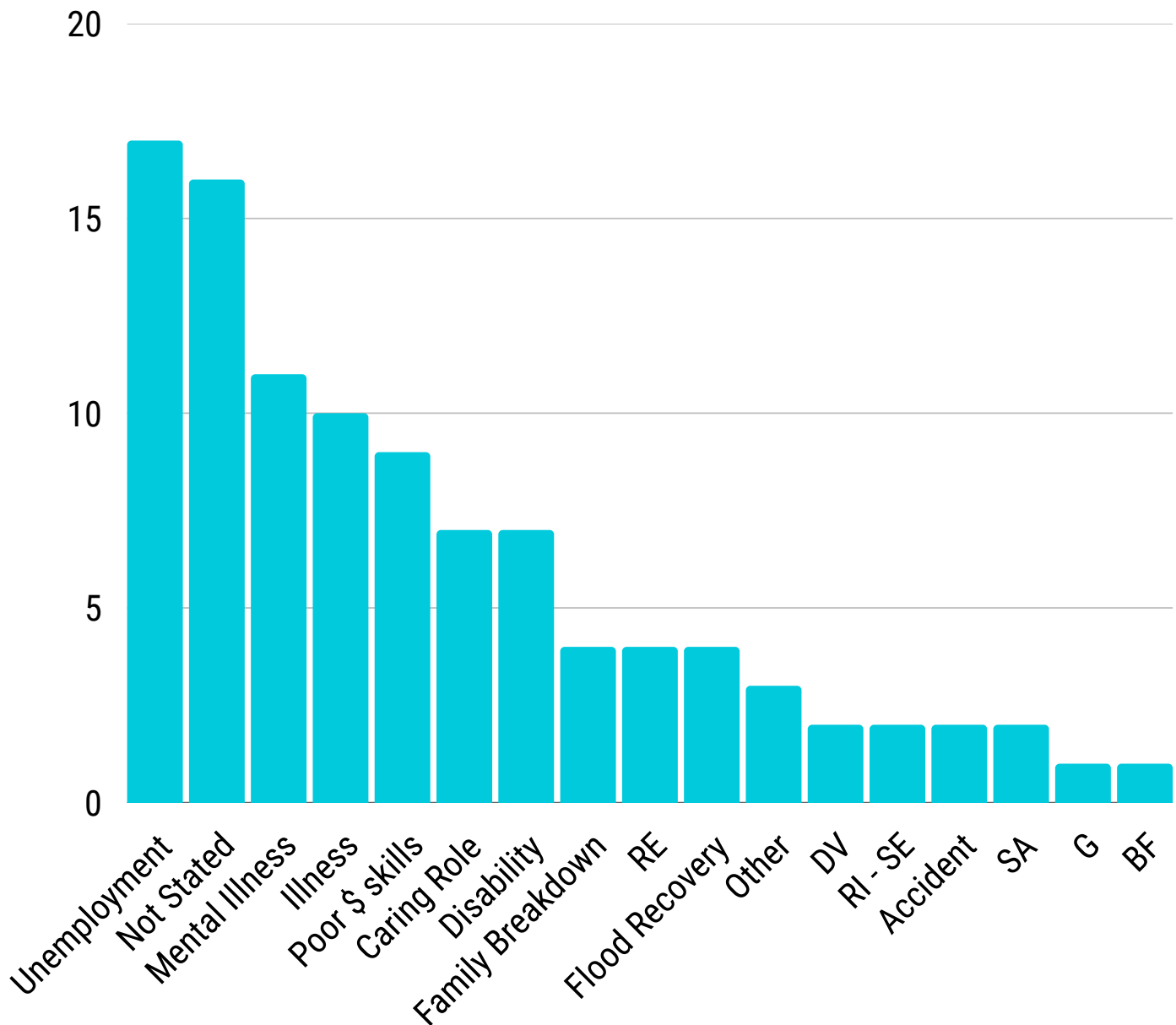
## **Referral Pathways and Professional Collaboration:**

Continued to maintain strong referral relationships with local agencies, including **Services Australia, Local Council's** and **Community Legal Services**, ensuring holistic support for clients across multiple areas of need.

# FINANCIAL COUNSELLING REPORT

## Key Source of Difficulty.

Shown in descending order, with Unemployment the largest source.



Poor \$ Skills : Poor money skills / Reduced financial literacy

RE : Reduced Employment

DV : Domestic Violence

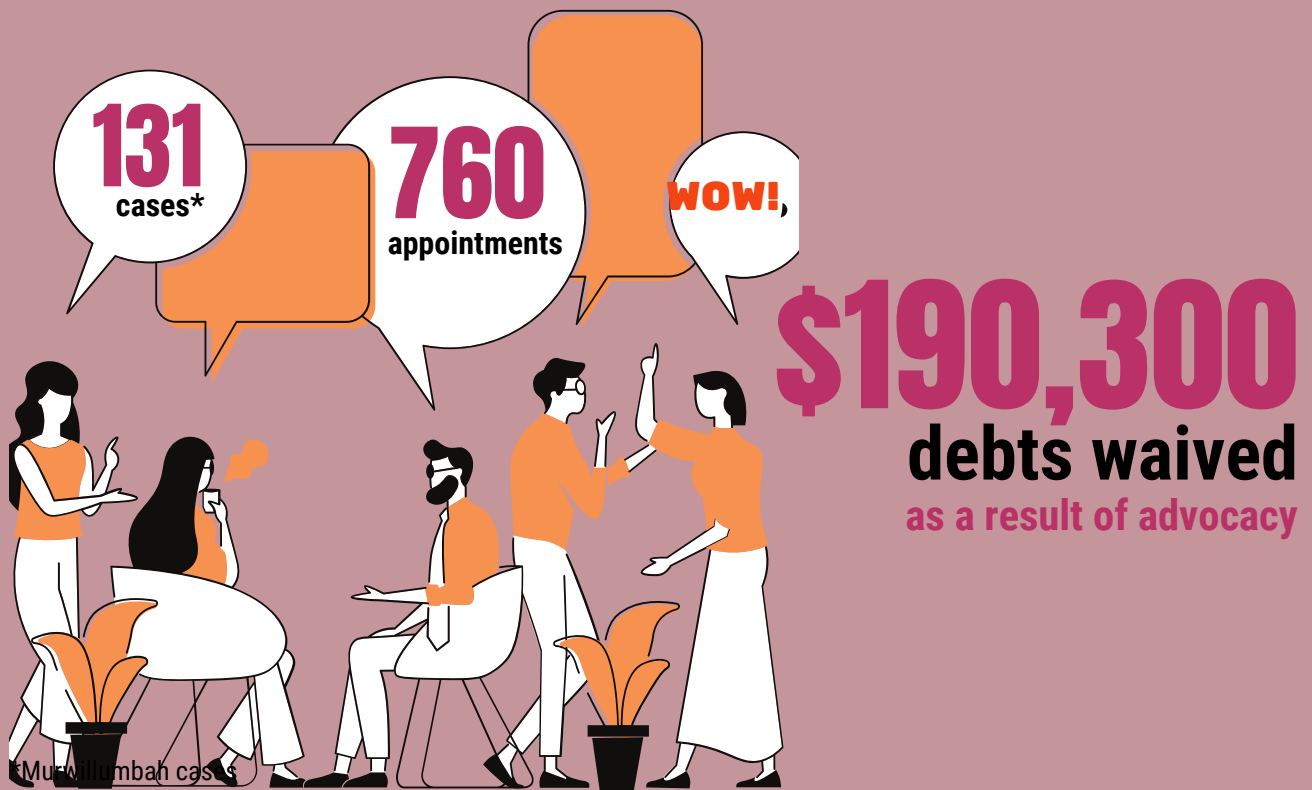
RI-SE : Reduced Income from Self Employment

SA : Substance Abuse

G : Gambling

BF : Business Failure

# FINANCIAL COUNSELLING REPORT



Every client who engages with the Murwillumbah and Tweed Financial Counselling Service receives confidential, professional, and independent financial guidance. Services are tailored to each individual's circumstances and are delivered with empathy and respect.

"Our service supports not only financial recovery but the rebuilding of financial confidence and self-determination. Each session is an opportunity to empower our clients to make informed, sustainable decisions about their financial future."

– Sofia Werner, Financial Counsellor



# STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES (SARC)

**Our program model enabled two Community Support Workers to be present at Nullum House during Drop-In, 9am – 12 noon, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday's and case work appointments 5 days per week. Nullum House had previously been volunteer driven for over 15 years. The SARC program has provided a significant boost to the services on offer.**

The Murwillumbah Community Centre (MCC) received a one-off grant to deliver the SARC program during 2025, which we publicly called the Inclusive Communities Program.

This place-based support program for vulnerable people is based at the Nullum House drop-in center and offers support for disadvantaged people on pathways to self-reliance and empowerment through local driven community solutions that support them to participate socially and/or economically.

The focus of this program is to work with individuals to:

- Foster a sense of community connection & belonging
- Enhance individual capacity and encourage civic engagement & independence
- Link people with services, community led initiatives and group activities to reduce isolation and increase social participation
- Improve skills and access to paid work opportunities
- Improve self-reliance, empowerment, and wellbeing.

Services have included individual support, group work, work experience opportunities and links to specialist services for young people, people with a disability or mental health issues, women, people without employment & their families.



COMMUNITY

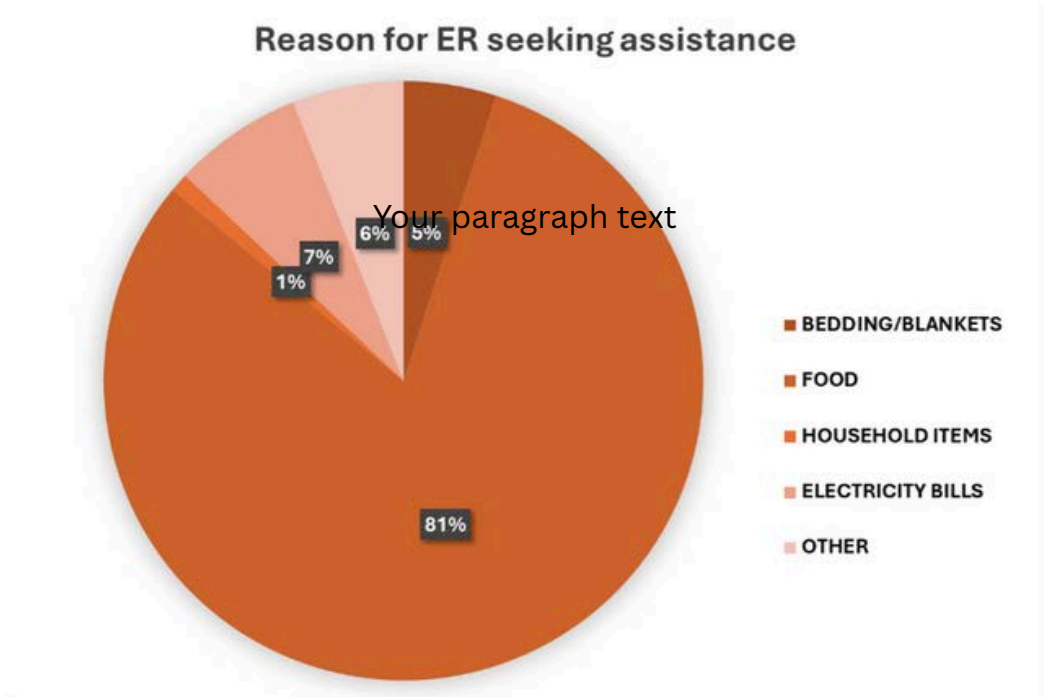
# STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES (SARC)

## Emergency Relief

Since the start of the Inclusive Communities Program, emergency relief has been delivered from Nullum House, creating a dedicated drop-in space for community members seeking material aid and easing demand on MCC’s reception. These appointments have enabled SARC workers to build relationships and identify broader support needs.

MCC provided food hampers, vouchers, care packs, bedding, camping items, white goods, and other essentials through GIVIT and community donations.

In total, **\$129,995** in emergency relief was distributed — a significant increase from **\$73,345** the previous year.



Totals	Occasions of services	New clients	Existing clients	EAPA	Food hampers	Material wellbeing & Homelessn ess goods	Coles & Food HUB vouchers	GIVIT vouchers and goods
24-25	817	282	118	\$50,950	587 \$24,035 value	\$7,375	\$7,660	\$39,975
+/- from 23-24	24.35%	29.95%	n/a	51.86%	34.94%	-23.38%	31.16%	195.02%

# STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES (SARC)

## NULLUM HOUSE

Nullum House is our social inclusion centre and drop-in space located next to the Main Hub. As included in the Community Services Report, we provided **2771** occasions of support and assistance to people attending Nullum House this year, which is a **15.3%** increase from the previous year. This increase has been supported by the presence of the SARC team who have been able to respond to the service needs of clients, freeing the volunteers to focus on Food preparation and serving and assisting people to access the facilities.

<b>Meals</b>	4950 (up from 4056 in 2023-24)
<b>Tea &amp; Coffee</b>	4323 (up from 4160 in 2023-24)

The Nullum House team of volunteers are tight knit, resilient, and very kind. They have reported decreased levels of stress and increased feelings of support through having workers present and responsible for the safe operations of the centre. The SARC program has enabled a strengthening of ways of working, with clear respectful and safe guidelines for operation and clarification of roles and responsibilities between volunteers and community support workers. This has been an additional successful outcome of the program.

Nullum House is also supported by regular visiting outreach services which offer easy access to broader support for people facing challenges. These include Centrelink outreach, Services NSW, the Homeless Health Outreach Team (HHOT), Alcohol and other Drugs, Engagement Team, Footprints and the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre. Having these services regularly onsite is an invaluable offering for clients, and we have an extended network for referrals appropriate to meet individual and family needs.

### Good News Story 1

The team supported a young man experiencing homelessness and alcohol dependency who faced barriers due to his citizenship status. Through coordinated support, he was linked with alcohol and mental health services, legal and immigration advice, and provided essential items including food, clothing, and bedding. With assistance from Centrelink outreach at Nullum House, he now has an income and a clear pathway toward stability.







# STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES (SARC)

## Individual Support

SARC Workers have provided individual case management with clients during MCC open hours and/or by appointment, five days a week this year. Since February 2025, the team has supported over 130 people. This has been 471 individual sessions of support and does not include the in passing conversations or follow-up calls the team has made to advocate for their clients. Workers discuss needs and set goals with each client and work to link them with support and pathways. Clients can have multiple support sessions, and the extra capacity of this program has enabled the team to achieve great outcomes.



### Good news Story 2

'Clare' is a woman in her 50's who had been sleeping in her leaking vehicle for over a year. She has a terminal health condition. Clare originally came in for the meals and gradually disclosed more and reached out for help. She has many pet dogs who are a lifeline for her. During a hospital stay, her beloved dogs were impounded, escalating her distress and triggering trauma responses linked to past experiences. Through coordinated multi-agency efforts, we facilitated the safe return of her dogs. She has consistently engaged with our service, secured temporary accommodation for a period, and is now linked with other services, including mental health and housing. The SARC team provided material aid, help to get her identification, and ongoing advocacy to ensure she receives the wraparound support she needs.

This outcome highlights the power of collaboration, trauma-informed care, and community education in restoring dignity and stability for people navigating complex life circumstances.



# STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES (SARC)

## SARC Youth Support

Demand for one-on-one support has been high and continues to grow. The program has received referrals from families, young people themselves, local high schools, Department of Communities and Justice, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Social Futures, NDIS providers, and other community services. This referral base demonstrates the level of need and the strong community trust in MCC's youth program.

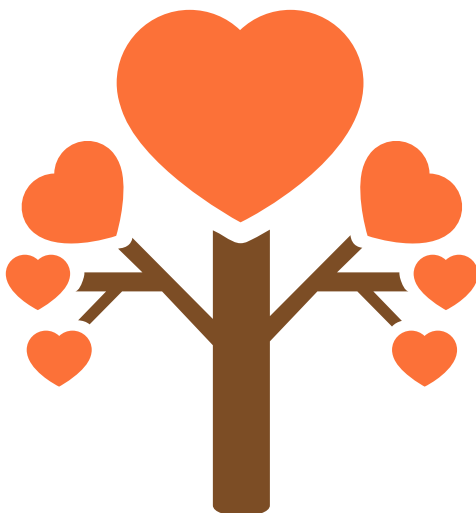
The Youth Worker provides individualized, trauma-informed, and person-centered support, recognising each young person's unique experiences, strengths, and mental health needs. Ongoing professional development, including Love Bites facilitator training, ASIST, NAPCAN, and a Trauma-Informed Certificate, ensures care is evidence-based and responsive. Collaboration with schools, families, and community services enables coordinated, wrap-around support.

Sessions focus on goal setting, wellbeing, practical skill development, and pathways to education or employment, alongside referrals to specialised services as needed. Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, we worked with 17 young people through brief interventions and referrals and maintained regular one-on-one support with a further 12 young people, highlighting the growing need for tailored, high-quality youth support.



## Good news Story 3

A young person experiencing family conflict and grief after losing both parents received support through one-on-one sessions. The Youth Worker helped them process their grief, develop communication skills, navigate relationships, and set achievable goals. Support also included engagement in the After School Youth Group and advocacy with their school and DCJ case manager. When services ended, the young person reported feeling happier, more settled, and more in control of their life.



# STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES (SARC)

## Groups and Workshops

Throughout the year, a range of workshops supported participants to build life skills, enhance communication, and strengthen wellbeing. Sessions included Mother Care, Nonviolent Communication, Meditation, Budgeting, Nature-Based Self-Compassion, Drug & Alcohol Awareness, WomanSpeak, and Cooking and Affordable Eating.

Anonymous feedback showed high satisfaction, with participants reporting improved confidence, self-care, and social connection.

Visitors were also linked to community-led groups promoting inclusion and participation, such as art and craft, youth programs, yoga, cultural groups, self-help groups, and community events.

Additional services operating from Nullum House during Drop-In times included Grow Peer Mental Health Support, Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre Domestic Violence Service, Mankind Men's Group, Heart of Love Friday Lunch, and the Soup Kitchen twice weekly.



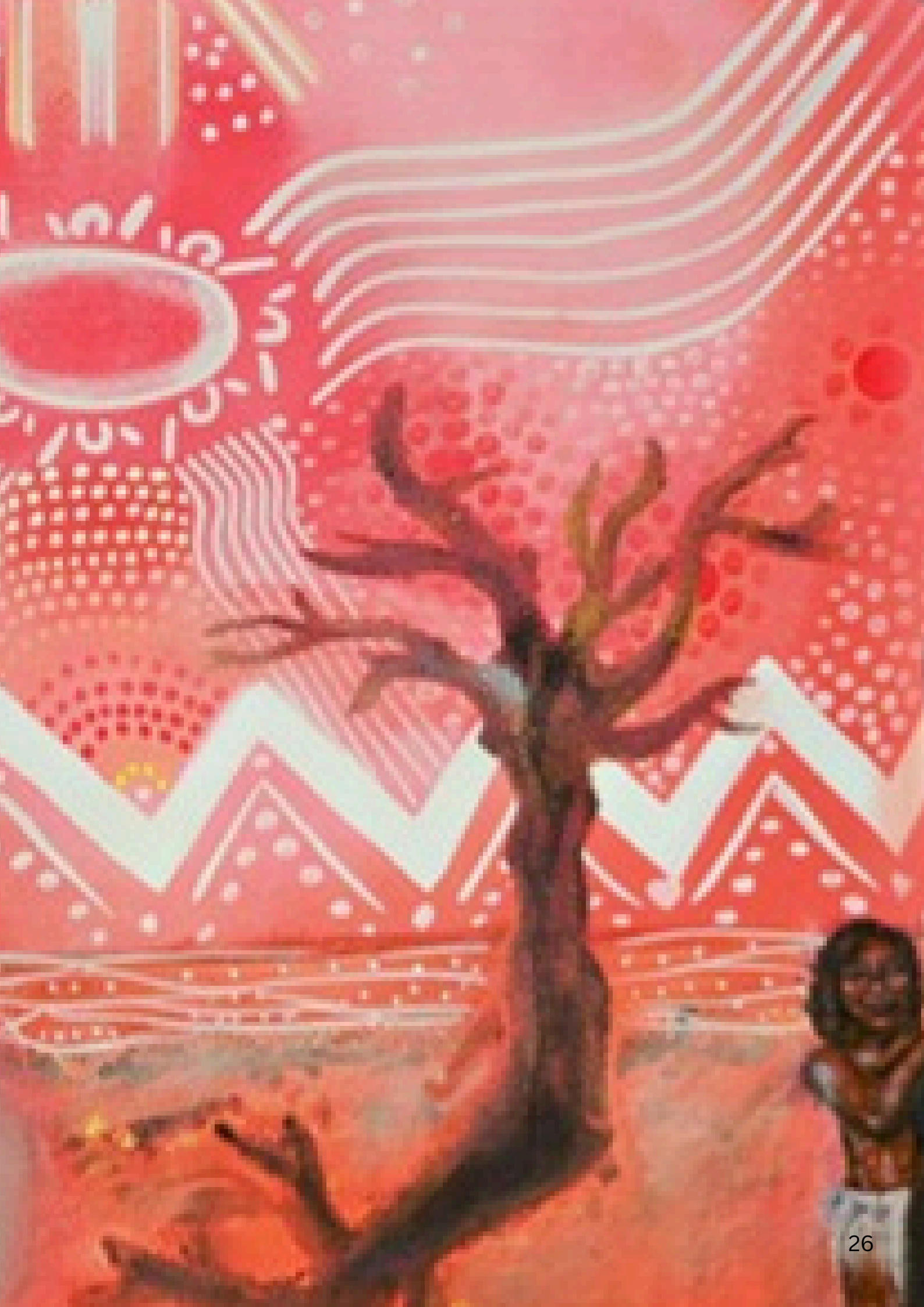
## Overview

Nullum House continues to support a high number of people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage, with many new visitors presenting with complex needs. Rising living costs and the ongoing housing crisis remain key pressures, and many individuals face challenges navigating an overloaded service system.

The SARC team has strengthened coordination and partnerships through active involvement in the Northern Rivers Zero Project and local Tweed Zero initiatives, working collaboratively to remove barriers, identify housing pathways, and deliver person-centred, wrap-around support.

Through the SARC program, professional support workers are now based at Nullum House during drop-in hours, enhancing service capacity and accessibility. This presence allows for immediate engagement, warm referrals, and ongoing relationship-building, creating pathways toward stability and deeper support when individuals are ready.









# INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT

**Murwillumbah Community Centre's Indigenous Programs are Aboriginal-led and community-driven, developed in close partnership with local Elders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. Each program strengthens cultural identity, connection, and belonging through self-determination and local leadership. Together, these initiatives nurture kinship, empower families, and build resilience for the wellbeing and safety of children and community.**

## **Kids Caring for Country (KCFC)**

This year marked the sixteenth year of Kids Caring for Country, a milestone that reflects the program's strength, consistency, and cultural integrity. Many children who began as toddlers are now young leaders, supporting the next generation and carrying culture forward – a true sign of the program's success.

Each week, families gathered in a culturally safe space guided by the Respect Circle, ensuring everyone is welcomed, heard, and seen. This foundation of unity and relational respect continues to nurture healing, confidence, and cultural identity.

Throughout the year, the group focused on Bundjalung language, dance, song, and storytelling. Older jarjums took on responsibilities in ceremony and caring for younger children, fostering pride and belonging. Mudjai, as cultural facilitator, remained a steady presence whose patience and guidance continue to strengthen the group.

Partnerships with NSW Health and Bugalwena Aboriginal Health supported delivery of the Go4Fun program, co-facilitated by KCFC parent and community member Eve White alongside Ronella Phillips. Over ten weeks, families explored whole foods, nutrition, cooking, and holistic wellbeing, taking home ingredients each week to continue healthy practices at home.

KCFC also partnered with the Returning Aboriginal Organisation to deliver a ten-week Bundjalung language series led by Grayson Phillips, supporting families to build pronunciation, translate songs, and deepen understanding of language and meaning. This collaboration strengthened cultural confidence across generations.

The heart of KCFC remains the dedication of its leadership team, Elders, staff, parents, and young people who continue to come together in culture, care, and connection.





# INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT

## Aboriginal Family Support

The Aboriginal Family Support Program continued to provide culturally safe counselling, emotional support, advocacy, and practical assistance to families across the region. Aunty Robyn Beezley leads this work with deep cultural insight, compassion, and relational care. Many of the families supported have experienced intergenerational trauma, grief, or disconnection. Robyn's ability to hold people with gentleness and dignity remains central to the healing work that happens here.

Robyn is strongly supported in this work by Teleahsia Togo, whose role has expanded significantly this year. Teleahsia provides case support, emergency relief coordination, program organisation, and day-to-day community support. She is also the person who holds the threads between programs – responding to crises, supporting parents and young people, linking families into transport, ensuring food relief is culturally appropriate and delivered with respect, and maintaining communication across the entire Indigenous Programs team. Teleahsia's presence brings steadiness, clarity, and continuity. Her work often happens quietly, behind the scenes, yet it is foundational to the success of every program.

Recognising that many families require therapeutic support beyond counselling, Robyn has continued to coordinate the partnership with psychologist Penny Gordon, who travels to the centre bi-monthly to see clients at no cost, without the need for GP referral or waiting periods. This trauma-informed, culturally grounded partnership has been life-changing for many families who otherwise would not access or feel safe within clinical mental health services.

Together, Robyn and Teleahsia continue to create gentle spaces for healing, uplift, belonging, and hope.



**“Through compassion, cultural wisdom, and deep community connection, Aunty Robyn and Teleahsia hold space for families to heal, rebuild, and thrive. Their work embodies the heart of our Centre – walking gently beside people through trauma, offering dignity, advocacy, and hope, and ensuring no one is left without support.”**

# INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT

## Guyahyn Playgroup

Guyahyn Playgroup continued to provide a culturally enriched early learning environment for jarjums aged 0–5 and their families. Operating from the Kingscliff TAFE Jindi Playspace and Northern Rivers Children's Services Playgroup Yard, the program maintained strong participation and a nurturing atmosphere. Guided by Team Leader Rackell Sussyer and Lead Cultural Educator Kelly Knox, Bundjalung language, cultural play, and early childhood development were woven throughout each session, supporting parents as first teachers and strengthening identity and family connection.

This year introduced Guyahyn Community Day, welcoming Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families to come together in culture and connection – a joyful and inclusive event now set to continue annually. The team also farewelled Grayson Needham, whose five years of dedication as educator, cook, driver, and cultural leader leave a lasting legacy.

The Guyahyn Extension Program, funded by the Heart of Love Foundation, continued to support Aboriginal children transitioning into early education through culturally grounded, play-based school readiness activities.



## Doobai Dreaming Women's Group

Doobai Dreaming Women's Group is a collaborative partnership between Murwillumbah Community Centre and New South Wales Aboriginal Health. The program delivers weekly therapeutic and cultural arts sessions that provide Aboriginal women with a safe and supportive space to connect, share experiences, and strengthen cultural identity. Through activities such as weaving, storytelling, and other cultural skill-building workshops, participants are supported to develop confidence, leadership, and community involvement. The group also hosts guest speakers who share knowledge on a range of health and wellbeing topics, promoting holistic growth and empowerment among women.



## Possums Extension Program

Through our partnership with Possums Preschool and funding from The Heart of Love Foundation, this program supports Aboriginal children aged 3–5 years to build school readiness in a culturally grounded way. Guyahyn educators embed cultural values, kinship principles, and play-based learning into every activity, nurturing identity, confidence, and connection. The Possums Extension Program bridges the transition from Guyahyn Playgroup to preschool, ensuring families experience a smooth and culturally enriched pathway into early education.



# INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT

## The Kinship – Annual Community Event



The 2025 Kinship Festival marked ten years of celebrating culture, family, and community on Country. The festival continued to be guided entirely through a First Nations lens, where everything – including food, workshops, ceremony, and performances – was provided free of charge to ensure equal access and remove all hierarchy or barriers to participation. The focus for this milestone year was deepening relationships, rather than expanding the scale of the event. The feeling of the day was one of warmth, unity, and deep connection. Despite the logistical challenges of the park being double-booked with the Makers and Finders Market, the festival remained calm, collaborative, and harmonious. The event was an outstanding success and reaffirmed Kinship Festival as one of the most meaningful community-led cultural gatherings in the region.

The event also engaged 140 community volunteers, demonstrating the unity and spirit that emerges through the collective effort of creating Kinship.

Many of the dance troupes, artists, and families involved have been part of the festival since its early years, symbolising the continuity of culture and the intergenerational bonds that define our community. In 2025, we honoured Aunty Kath Lena, a cherished founding contributor, remembered for her guidance and tradition of blessing the communal meal – a practice that continues to represent the festival's values of equality, fellowship, and care.

The sharing of a free community meal remains at the heart of Kinship, served by volunteers with love and purpose, ensuring every person who attends feels seen, nourished, and part of something greater.









# INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT

## Transport Access Regional Partnerships Grants Program – Move It Mob Style

The Move It Mob Style Transport Program continues to provide reliable, culturally safe transport across the school term, averaging six one-way trips per week. This vital service enables community access to programs such as Guyahyn Playgroup, Kids Caring for Country, Doobai Dreaming, and Kinship Doobai Dancers.

This year, the program supported travel to key cultural events including the Women's Dreaming Festival at Yarrowarra, Minjunbil Culture Camp, and performances at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. For many families, transport remains the essential link that makes participation possible.



Donna Taylor joined as driver, bringing warmth, reliability, and trauma-informed care to the role. She introduced sensory tools and calming activities, transforming the bus into a culturally safe and supportive space. Donna's work was coordinated by Teleahsia Togo, whose consistency and communication ensured strong family relationships and smooth weekly transport operations.

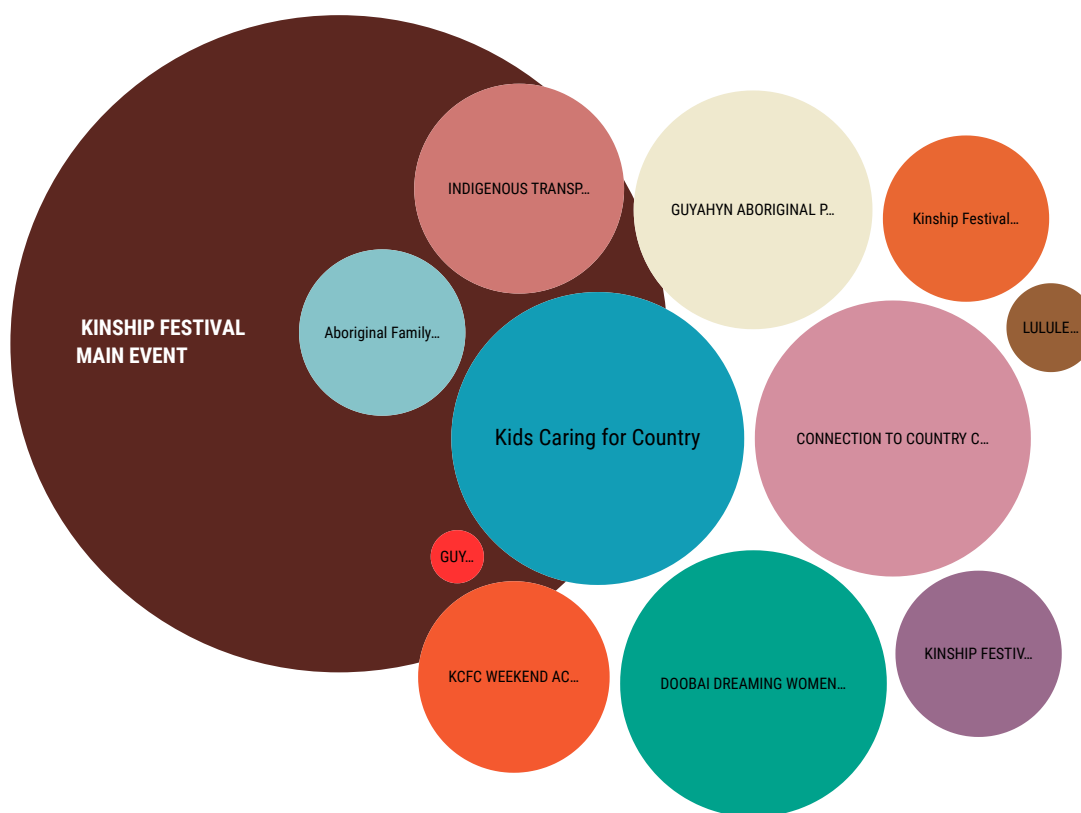
## Lululemon Yoga Teacher Facilitator Training

This year also marked the beginning of the Bunyarabugalma Project, supported by the Lululemon Community Wellbeing Grant. Bunyarabugalma is a culturally grounded wellbeing resource that teaches Bundjalung language alongside movement patterns inspired by local animals and landforms, combined with breathwork, mindfulness, and trauma-healing practices.

The grant supported thirteen community members to undertake Yoga Teacher Training, expanded community wellbeing workshops, and enabled development of the Bunyarabugalma website. This work strengthens local Aboriginal leadership in culturally grounded somatic healing and will continue through February 2026.



# INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS REPORT



## MCC Indigenous Program Activities

	TP	0-12	S
KIDS CARING FOR COUNTRY	189	67	34
ABORIGINAL FAMILY SUPPORT	67	24	148
KINSHIP FESTIVAL MEETINGS	54	2	34
KINSHIP FESTIVAL MAIN EVENT	6000	3000	1
KIDS CARING FOR COUNTRY WEEKEND, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS	74	38	25
LULULEMON COMMUNITY WELLBEING GRANT YOGA TEACHER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT	13	15	24
GUYAHYN ABORIGINAL PLAYGROUP	145	63	34
GUYAHYN EXTENSION PROGRAM AT POSSUMS PRESCHOOL	5	5	38
DOOBAL DREAMING WOMENS WELLBEING PROGRAM	126	9	38
INDIGENOUS TRANSPORT PROJECT	78	31	*275

TP = Total Participants. 0-12 = Participants 0-12 years. S = Sessions

\*one way trips



# Our greatest success

We approach our work with respect and cultural humility, listening deeply and honouring the many ways of knowing and being within our community. Through responsibility and reciprocity, we share knowledge, time, and care — ensuring that every person who seeks support feels valued and empowered.

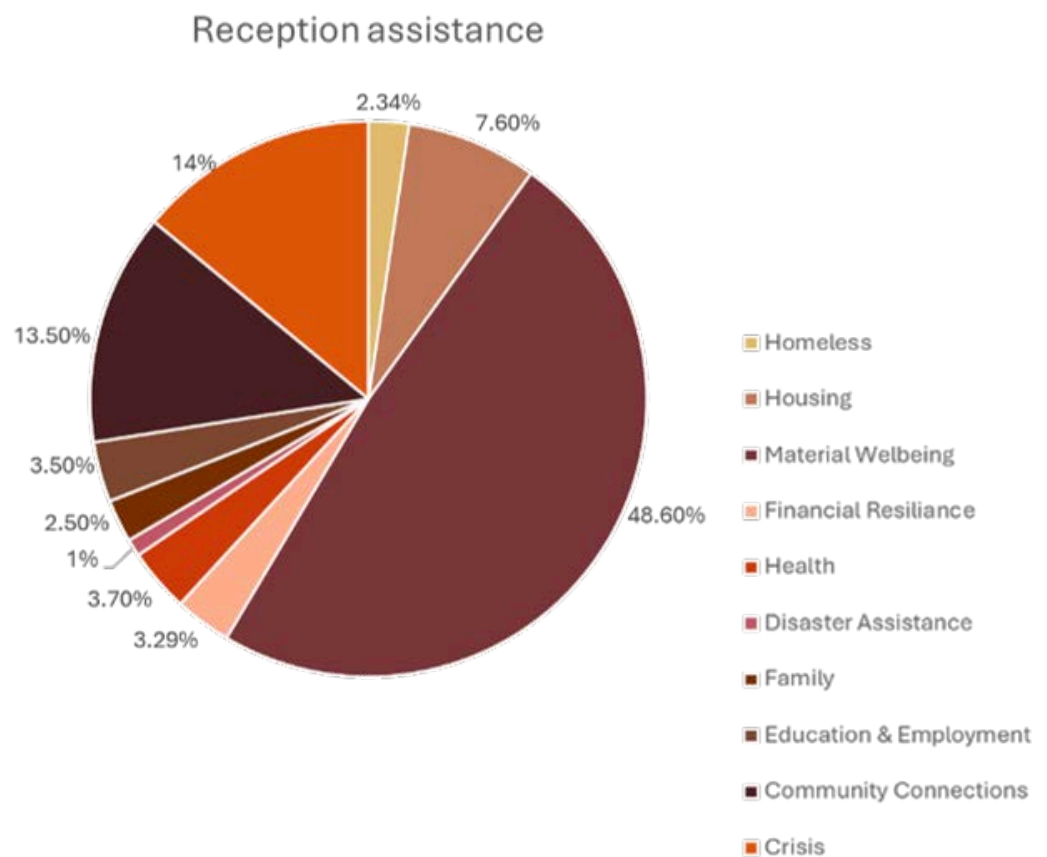


# COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

In 2024–2025, Murwillumbah Community Centre has continued to evolve as a place of connection and care—strengthening local partnerships, expanding services, and celebrating the contributions of our volunteers and community members. Guided by our commitment to equity, empowerment and connection, we have continued to strengthen the social fabric of our community—supporting people through times of need while also celebrating creativity, resilience, and collective achievement.

Our work this year reflects the diversity and strength of Murwillumbah itself: from providing essential relief and wellbeing support to fostering opportunities for belonging through arts, culture, and shared experiences. Across every program, partnership, and event, the Centre has remained a welcoming hub where people find not only assistance but also purpose, participation, and hope.

The outcomes presented in this report reflect the dedication and collaboration of everyone involved - our dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who work side by side to create a more connected and caring Murwillumbah.



**9936**

**people accessed  
our centre through  
our main hub in  
2024-2025**

**7000 frozen meals  
donated and distributed**

- 55.38% were women, 11.34% children and young people.
- We have distributed between 550 and 680 frozen meals each month.
- 24.5% of reception enquiries were dealt with over the phone and 75.5% were individuals dropping in or attending appointments at the centre.



# COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

## COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING PROGRAM

Through the Targeted Earlier Intervention Program, funded by the Department of Communities and Justice, MCC delivers a range of activities and services designed to build social and community connections, enhance inclusion, cohesion, and participation and support members of our community who are in need. These initiatives also strengthen broader local networks through community consultations, interagency meetings and pathways to employment and skills building, contributing to the wellbeing of our whole community.

### Individual Advocacy & Support

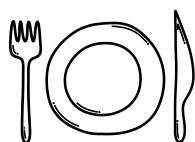
People access our service as a first point of contact. We provide brief intervention and assistance from a culturally safe and trauma aware and informed framework, and refer to specialist services when their needs required more specific and specialised support.

Advocacy & Support	Identified clients	Unidentified clients	Occasions of services
GENERALIST	118	27	209
YOUTH	11	3	71
INDIGENOUS	75	0	100
TOTAL	204	30	380

### Advocacy & Support statistics 2024-2025

#### Nullum House

In the 2024-2025 financial year, we provided 2771 occasions of support and assistance to people attending Nullum House who were accessing our meals program, shower and laundry facilities (a 15.3% increase from previous year).



**Meals 4950**  
(up from 4056 in 2023-24)



**Tea & Coffee 4323**  
(up from 4160 in 2023-24)



**Showers 581**



**Washing Loads 368**

Nullum House Drop-in offers simple services including showers and clothes washing, along with breakfast and lunch. The meals were greatly appreciated. The volunteers make a valuable contribution, and their participation and efforts have been remarkable.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

## Social Participation

Social participation activities are aimed at building protective factors (connectedness, community support, peer networks) which reduce vulnerabilities. By fostering participation, belonging and positive social engagement, these initiatives contribute to increased wellbeing, resilience and stronger community networks.

Our social participation activities are strongly supported by our volunteers, who play an important role in supervising and assisting participants, as well as leading activities themselves. They bring a wide range of skills and experiences, which they generously share with their groups, helping to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone involved.

### Playgroup:

In October 2024 we partnered with Joeys Pouch Early Learning Centre who were able to secure funding to run a community playgroup for families with children between 0 and 3 years old. It has been a great addition to our community groups expanding the activities we provide to include mothers/carers and babies to enjoy our facilities and the views of Knox Park. We have 22 children registered attendance between 5 to 12 people per session.

### Art Program:

The Art Program has 28 registered participants attending regularly, plus a few casual attendees that join sporadically and an average of 14 people attending each week. The program is sponsored by Findex Financial Advisory and Accounting Services, whose generous support enables the purchase of art materials and the coordination of our annual exhibition.

### Craft Group:

This is a completely community-led group, formed in response to requests from participants of a previously funded project. Over time, it has grown both in numbers and in the variety of skills and crafts shared. What began with rug-making from old bed sheets has expanded to include knitting, crochet, clothing alterations using a donated sewing machine, and more recently papier-mâché and decoupage projects. Members actively teach each other new skills and source materials through community donations. The group typically sees 5 to 10 regular attendees, with numbers occasionally reaching 15 people.

### Yoga classes:

Our yoga classes attract an average of 11 participants per session, with 24 registered members and more than 25+ occasional attendees joining regularly. Promoting health and wellbeing is at the heart of our mission, and we strive to ensure these classes are accessible and affordable, particularly for our older community members.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

## Training and employment pathways

Our centre supports training and employment pathways through volunteering and student placements, offering hands-on experience, practical skills, and professional networks. These opportunities help build confidence, apply knowledge in real-world settings, and often lead to further study or employment in the community, health, and social services sectors. In 2024–25, 8 students completed placements in Social Work, Mental Health, and Counselling, while 21 volunteers supported the Nullum House meals program, afterschool youth group, Art and Craft programs, and community events.

We provided training opportunities to 70 people, including staff, students, volunteers, community members, and youth, to build skills and strengthen teamwork. Training sessions covered areas such as suicide prevention, trauma-informed practice, support skills in DFV and sexual violence prevention, youth leadership and event management, supporting personal development and capacity building across our programs and services.

Community consultations, team and interagency meetings

Community consultations and sector meetings are vital to our centre, ensuring our programs and services reflect local needs and address emerging issues while fostering community engagement, social cohesion and inclusion, and empowering residents to contribute to decision-making. Consultations also guided planning, strengthen partnerships, and help build the capacity and resilience of our community. This financial year we have run 10+ meetings with a total attendance of 146 people:

Nullum House monthly team meetings

Northern Rivers Volunteer Coordinator's meetings

Tweed Shire Youth Network meetings

Recovery and Preparedness Community Consultation

Murbah Youth Fest pre and post event meetings





# COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

## Events

### Homelessness Week

In August 2024, we marked the week with a special event celebrating our support for our most vulnerable community members, those experiencing homelessness. Nullum House has been operating entirely without government funding, relying on community donations and the support of our volunteers, with Dharma Care playing a key role in fundraising. The day included participation from Social Futures, Safe Haven, Service NSW - Murwillumbah, and the Tweed and Lismore Harm Reduction teams, making it a collaborative celebration of community support. A total of 85 people attended the event.

### Nullum House Xmas lunch

As in previous years, we invited Nullum House participants, partnering services, staff, and community members to celebrate together. Our team prepared roast chicken, salads, seasonal snacks, and sweets, while guests enjoyed games, prizes, Christmas hampers, carols, and festive decorations. Thanks to the support of local businesses and donors, the event was a success, with over 65 people attending.

### Xmas Gift Day

In December 2024, our second annual "Xmas Gift Day" supported around 250 community members through generous donations from local organisations, businesses, and individuals. Gifts were wrapped and packed by volunteers from the Commonwealth Bank and Heart of Love Foundation, helping ensure everyone could enjoy the holiday season. It's a wonderful reminder of the power of giving and the importance of coming together as a community.

### Art Exhibition

At the end of 2024, participants from the Art Program showcased their work at the Small Works Gallery from 29 November to 5 December. Around 125 people attended throughout the week. The exhibition was a wonderful success, highlighting the talent, confidence, and sense of belonging fostered through the program.

**OUR WORK THIS YEAR REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY AND  
STRENGTH OF MURWILLUMBAH ITSELF**

# YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Located at the Murwillumbah Community HUB, the Murwillumbah Youth Centre is a dynamic space where young people feel safe, supported, and connected. We offer after-school programs, workshops, holiday activities, and individual support designed to build life skills, enhance wellbeing, and strengthen pathways to education and employment. Our focus is on creating opportunities that foster inclusion, belonging, and confidence, helping young people feel valued and empowered to thrive.

## After School Youth Group

The MCC After School Youth Group runs twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30–5:30 pm for young people aged 11–17. It offers a safe, welcoming space where youth can connect, belong, and build positive peer relationships.

Each session offers a variety of activities including art, cooking, and outdoor games, along with occasional workshops and excursions. Sharing afternoon tea together fosters a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere that encourages participation, conversation, and connection.

This strong and consistent attendance reflects the program's relevance and positive reputation among local young people. Many attend regularly, while others join after receiving individualised support to build confidence and social skills. The group continues to provide a safe, inclusive space that fosters connection, growth, and community engagement.

This year, Rotary visited and was so impressed by the level of engagement and sense of safety that they offered ongoing support through donations of sports equipment, cooking supplies, games, and weekly coles vouchers for food. This partnership reflects the strong community impact and positive environment created at the Youth Centre.

**95 AFTER SCHOOL GROUP SESSIONS!**

**545 EPIC OCCASIONS OF SERVICE,**

**AN AVERAGE OF 16 AWESOME PARTICIPANTS**



# YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

## Murbah Youth Fest 2025

Now in its third consecutive year, Murbah Youth Fest was an even bigger success, celebrating the creativity, talent, and community spirit of local young people. The youth-led event ran from 10 am to 4 pm and was extended due to its growing popularity, creating a space that brought youth and the community together through music, art, and shared connections.

This year's festival introduced several exciting additions, including professional judges which was a recommendation from 2024 participant feedback. They presented 1st and 2nd place awards for the Talent Quest and Battle of the Bands, along with a People's Choice Award. The program also featured a Welcome to Country performance, run by the Indigenous Program at MCC, as well as extra solo performances, a cosplay showcase, crowd favorites like bubble soccer, and Tweed Valley Basketball running 3x3 games throughout the day.

A dedicated team of 12 Youth Action Group members, including returning participants and new recruits, helped plan and deliver the event. MCC partnered with Tweed Shire Council and collaborated with 19 community services, including several new partners, providing an awesome opportunity for young people to learn about the support and services available to them. The day featured 16 Talent Quest and Battle of the Bands acts and 12 youth-led stalls, where young people sold artwork, facilitated workshops, and showcased their creative skills.

Funded by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) with support from Tweed Shire Council, the event attracted attendees from Murwillumbah, the Northern Rivers, and the Gold Coast. Murbah Youth Fest continues to grow each year, strengthening youth leadership, creativity, and belonging within our community.

Recognition: The Youth Action Group, received the Australia Day Community Event of the Year Award (2025), officially signed by the Mayor of Tweed Shire, acknowledging the outstanding success and community impact of the 2024 festival.





# YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

## Youth Holiday Program

MCC's Youth Holiday Program provides free, inclusive, and engaging opportunities for young people aged 12–17 including those experiencing financial or social disadvantage. This year we supported three Young People under guardianship to participate and build social connections. Across the three school holiday breaks leading up to June 2025, we delivered 12 activities, offering social, creative, and active experiences that promote connection, wellbeing, and skill development.

The program featured a wide range of activities to suit diverse interests, including bounce sessions, karaoke, swimming pool outings, virtual reality experiences, drumming workshops, skating, Tree top challenge and more. Activities were planned in collaboration with young people, ensuring they reflected participants' interests and ideas. We also worked with key stakeholders to help facilitate workshops at MCC, further enriching the experience for participants.

To ensure accessibility, transport and lunch were provided for all participants. Each activity accommodates up to 10 young people, and demand was high, with all sessions fully booked.



# MISSION POSSIBLE PROJECT

The Mission Possible project was funded through Social Futures Youth Participation Fund. The project was a youth leadership initiative supporting young people aged 14–18 to build resilience and lead community action. Delivered in four phases—Engagement, Workshop, Project, and Community Activation—the program combined youth-led co-design, mentoring, and hands-on project development. Initially focused on disaster preparedness, participant feedback shifted the focus to Resilience Leadership more broadly, empowering interns to design and implement projects on issues like sustainability, social justice, emotional wellbeing, and the arts.

Fifteen interns were recruited, with a focus on engaging LGBTQIA+, neurodiverse, and disengaged students. Thirteen completed the module workshops, six completed projects, and five more remain committed to future implementation. Projects included an emotional literacy card game, a feminist open mic event, an environmental sculpture, and public artworks promoting inclusion. Interns received mentoring, funding, and opportunities to connect with community partners—boosting their skills, confidence, and sense of belonging.

The program culminated in the Get Prepared Day, reaching 257 students with hands-on preparedness activities, including peer-led stations. Participants and teachers reported strong outcomes.

Challenges included participant dropouts (largely due to academic and personal commitments), inconsistent school engagement, and the complexity of messaging to diverse target groups. Lessons learned point to the value of delivering the program within a single calendar year, formalising school partnerships, and refining outreach strategies.

Despite these challenges, Mission Possible clearly demonstrated the power of youth-led, inclusive, community-connected programs. Several projects are continuing beyond the program's end, with strong potential for lasting impact.



# MISSION POSSIBLE PROJECT

## Participant program satisfaction

Satisfaction with the modules was very high at an average of 96%, further demonstrated by the high level of engagement, participation, and responsiveness from the interns.

Participants strongly indicated that they felt more positive about being able to contribute to their community at an average of 93%. This was supported by the enthusiasm that the interns showed around identifying and developing their projects.

The increase to 100% in feeling more connected with others in the community occurred after the 'connect with community' module and the 'call in support' module. In both modules, community members participated and showed support for the young people's projects, clearly having an impact on the intern's sense of connection and confidence.

Over the duration of the program, there was an increase in feeling more connected with peers, starting at 71% after module 1 and increasing to 100% at the end of module 6, demonstrating a strengthening of the relationships between the young interns over time.

## Get Prepared Day participant satisfaction

47/50 teams completed a feedback sheet at the end of the day. The results were very positive, showing the event and the activities had a strong impact on the young people.

- 90% enjoyed the day
- 91% felt more positive about being able to contribute during a natural disaster
- 88% said their skills had improved.
- 86% felt more resilient
- 84% were satisfied with what was provided
- 79% felt more connected to their community
- 78% felt more confident
- 68% felt more connected to their peers





# MISSION POSSIBLE PROJECT

## Good news stories from Mission Possible

### Stepping into leadership

A young self-identifying, neurodiverse, queer and non-binary person started the project with their team of 6 peers. They were quiet in their group in the early modules but was observed over time to contribute articulate and passionate ideas. We noticed and supported their natural leadership skills shortly after someone in the group who had previously been the leader had a life circumstance change and was no longer able to continue in the role. It was asked if the student would like to take on this new role highlighting the leadership qualities they were already performing such as attending every group, taking notes, and organising timelines for the group. After taking on this new role it was observed this person was no longer the quiet one in the group but became the main communicator to the rest of the group, initiating actions and the group trusting them to speak on behalf of their project.

When the community expo date arrived most of their group were unable to attend due to illness and other commitments. This young person stepped up and represented the group extremely well. They showed leadership and support for the other young people who were also present but experiencing extreme social anxiety.

This young person is still leading the project and has full intention to complete the project as was envisioned by the group.

### Putting feminism on the map in Murwillumbah

A self-identifying LGBTIQ+ 16 years old young woman, passionate about feminism began her project wanting to put on a public protest for Murwillumbah. The protest was to shed light on gender targeted sexual harassment and the idea that women should be able to wear what they want in peace. Staff were supportive of her idea but outlined the reality of the large amount of work needed to carry out a protest.

Taking on board the feedback, the participant was able to pivot. She changed her project to being a creative and supportive event for women to come together in a safe space where they can wear what they want and celebrate. The event would provide a safe space (private venue) to share poetry, spoken word and music on the topic and support each other. The participant received mentoring through Mission Possible from a local comedian and political candidate involved in supporting past feminist events and protests. The intern successfully delivered the event at MJAarts and it was a well-attended by, safe and celebratory evening. It was a women's only event with female bar staff, security and attendees spanned generations. Feedback was very positive with participants stating that they felt uplifted, heard and that they had never attended an event quite like it.

*Well done!*



# RECOVERY SERVICES REPORT

## Recovery Services

### Murwillumbah Flood Recovery Program

Murwillumbah Community Centre continued to support our community members affected by the 2022 Floods through the Healthy North Coast funded Community Wellbeing and Resilience Program which ran until November 2024.

By the end of this 2-year funded project, the Murwillumbah Flood Recovery Program has not only assisted 309 individuals and families recovered from the immediate crisis after the floods but has also strengthened the community's ability to respond to future disasters and contributed to building a more cohesive and self-reliant community.

In the last phase of this funded program June to December 2024, we continued to provide the following activities:

53 new participants accessed the program for the first time with a total of **92 people** accessing individual support and case coordination through our Recovery Support team.

35 people attended training workshops and 83 people participated in the Bunyarabugalma workshops.

We ran a new iteration of the Recovery Conversations training to gain skills in deep listening, accidental counselling and psychological 1st aid strategies in partnership with Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre, for their staff and volunteers and 2 new sessions of SafeTALK workshops to gain suicide awareness and basic skills to respond to people in need, including young people this time.

The average percentage of participants who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander was **25%** with periods reaching up to **42%**. This is a high rate considering that only **4.5%** of the Tweed Shire residents identify as Indigenous.



Data from our participant's feedback survey shows:

- **91.9%** of surveyed participants reported improved access to services after participating in our program.
- **86.8%** of surveyed participants reported improved wellbeing as a result of participating in the program.
- **79.4%** of surveyed participants reported improved skills and knowledge after attending training, group activities and individual support.
- **96.9%** of participants surveyed reported being satisfied with the service they received.

The delivery of this program has positioned our organisation in the recovery and preparedness space and as a result, we have established and strengthened bonds and partnerships with a great number of organisations and groups specialised in disaster and recovery such as SES, Red Cross, Safe Haven, M-CORE, Plan C, Chinderah Volunteer HUB, Resilient Lismore, Resilient Uki, Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre, Service NSW, Centrelink, Murwillumbah Community Health Centre, Northern Rivers Community Resilience Alliance and NSW Reconstruction Authority.

# RECOVERY SERVICES REPORT

## Stronger Together for Tomorrow Project

Following the conclusion of the Healthy North Coast grant, we secured an additional \$25,000 from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) through their Prepare and Recover Grant. This funding enabled us to continue our Stronger Together for Tomorrow Project, providing ongoing disaster recovery and preparedness support for community members still affected by previous floods and the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Alfred in March 2025.

Through this additional support, we were able to:

Attend the evacuation centre during and after TC Alfred, offering individual emotional support and linking evacuees to essential services.

Provide ongoing case coordination for **30 people**, assisting with access to grants (via GIVIT), financial aid, home repair programs, and mental health services.

Strengthen our partnership with MJCORE, facilitating volunteer assistance for residents impacted by TC Alfred.

Host a community consultation with residents and first-response organisations to review responses to climate events and identify areas for improvement. A follow-up report compared findings with the June 2023 consultation, highlighting key insights.

Enhance collaboration through active participation in the Community Resilience Network and the Northern Rivers Community Resilience Alliance.

Deliver a SafeTALK suicide awareness workshop, equipping community members with practical skills to recognise and respond to distress.

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WHEN A DISASTER HAPPENS IS YOUR COMMUNITY. WITH THE SUPPORT I'VE RECEIVED, I'VE BECOME STRONGER AND LEARNED TO STAND UP FOR MY RIGHTS — AND TO HELP OTHERS IN MY COMMUNITY DO THE SAME. THE RECOVERY TEAM HELPED ME GET BACK ON MY FEET AND GAVE ME THE CONFIDENCE TO SUPPORT OTHERS AS WELL." FLOOD RECOVERY PARTICIPANT.

**Feedback given by  
Recovery Program  
participants**





# TREASURER'S REPORT

---

## Financial Overview

I am pleased to present the financial statements for The Community Centre. The Centre's financial stability continues to rely significantly on government grants allocated to specific programmes. However, the availability of these grants is under increasing pressure, which poses challenges to our ability to deliver services that meet the needs and expectations of the community.

## Strategic Initiatives

In response, management will, over the next 12 months, review existing activities, explore new revenue opportunities, and consider partnerships with organisations that share our values.

## Financial Performance

- **Total Revenue:** \$1.68 million, a slight decrease from last year's \$1.69 million
- **Retained Earnings:** \$223,223, down from \$243,769 last year
- **Programme Costs:** Reduced, partially offsetting the decline in revenue

## Outlook

The coming year will be critical, with the Management Committee working closely with Centre management to develop a strategic plan that ensures continued service delivery.

---

The financial statements are tabled for review, and questions are welcome

# AUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION



INDEPENDENT AUDIT SERVICES

[www.iasauds.com.au](http://www.iasauds.com.au)

T 07 2808 9400 M 0433 652 880  
Level 4, Suite 400  
33 Quene Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Marwillumbah Community Centre Inc.

ABN 79 409 111 809

## Anditor's Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 to the Responsible Persons of Murwillumbah Community Centre Inc.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2025, there have been:

- (1) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit, and
- (2) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT SERVICES

Chartered Accountants

Jiahai Thom

Director

Brisbane, QLD



CAANTARES ACCOUNTANTS  
0800 017 100 000 000

Dated 30 October 2025

Independent Audit Services Pty Ltd 131 409 111 809 204 275

Limited liability by a scheme approved under Professional Standards England  
Registered Audited Accountancy No. 498755

# AUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Murwillumbah Community Centre Inc.

ABN 79 075 211 819

## Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2025

**ASSETS**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents

Trade and other receivables

Inventories

**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS**

**NON-CURRENT ASSETS**

Property, plant and equipment

**TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS**

**TOTAL ASSETS**

**LIABILITIES**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Trade and other payables

Contract liabilities

Employee benefits

**TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES**

**NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Employee benefits

**TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES**

**NET ASSETS**

**EQUITY**

Retained earnings

**TOTAL EQUITY**

Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
6	666,566	501,381
7	34,560	9,200
8	12,578	7,701
	<u>713,704</u>	<u>518,282</u>
10	140,605	169,885
	<u>140,605</u>	<u>169,835</u>
	<u>854,309</u>	<u>688,117</u>
11	70,724	38,886
8	479,466	341,573
12	41,557	63,889
	<u>591,741</u>	<u>444,348</u>
12	38,345	-
	<u>38,345</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>631,086</u>	<u>444,348</u>
	<u>223,223</u>	<u>243,769</u>
	<u>223,223</u>	<u>243,769</u>



# FIND US HERE...

## Murwillumbah Community Centre

**Knox Park, Nullum Street  
Murwillumbah NSW**

**Phone 02 6672 3003  
reception@mccentre.org**

**Web: <https://mccentre.org.au/>**

## Social Media URL's 2025

**MCC Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064714956841>

**MCC Food Hub**  
[https://www.facebook.com/p/Murwillumbah-Food-HUB-100072061846237/?locale=eu\\_ES](https://www.facebook.com/p/Murwillumbah-Food-HUB-100072061846237/?locale=eu_ES)

**Youth Instagram**  
<https://www.instagram.com/murbahyouth2484/>

**Kinship Festival Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/thekinshipfestival>

**Kinship Festival Instagram**  
[@kinshipfestivalmurwillumbah](https://www.instagram.com/kinshipfestivalmurwillumbah)

**Kids Caring For Country**  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064524826606>

**Guyahyn**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/930066557042780>

**Doobai Dreaming**  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089861385979>

**Bunyarabugalma**  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553396616238>



