



2023

ANNUAL REPORT



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OUR VISION

Is that all babies and children have access to nursery items essential for their safety, well-being and development.

OUR MISSION

To be a leading community organisation, partnering with like-minded agencies to make a difference for families in need, whilst reducing our environmental footprint.

OUR VALUES

Compassion

We are driven by compassion, particularly for families and children in need.

Acceptance

We treat everyone with acceptance and respect. This includes our staff, volunteers, supporters, donors, our partners and those who we support.

Support

We exist to provide support to vulnerable families and children in the community. We understand that everyone in our network contributes to this.

Sustainability

All our operations have sustainability at the core. We work towards reducing landfill by giving pre-loved items a new lease on life.

Collaboration

We are at our best when we work together. We share ideas in a respectful and inclusive manner, drawing on each other's strengths and the power of collective thinking.

CHAIR'S REPORT

As we wrap up for the end of 2023, I am once again beyond proud of what our small team at Dandelion have achieved.

The past few years have been challenging for the not-for-profit sector and Dandelion has been no exception. The cost of living crisis has affected both the demand on our services whilst simultaneously affecting our supporter community.

We have seen a 30% increase in demand and our incredible team of staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to meet this demand and ensure that children and babies across Sydney have essential items to grow and thrive.

Though it has been a tough funding environment, we have forged strong partnerships and continue to be generously supported by our network. This ongoing generosity is critical to our ongoing operations and we are grateful for the continued support to create positive changes for families in need.

Our biggest challenge remains premises to operate out of. We have been in search of premises to purchase for more than 12 months now and the lack of suitable properties has placed increased financial pressure due to ongoing rental costs. The Board remain focused on strategies for the future to mitigate this pressure and are optimistic that an opportunity will present itself in the coming months.

I would like to share my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues on the Board and to all our staff and volunteers who contribute to this wonderful organisation.

Kathryn Brennan
Chair



“

Thanks to all who have supported our work and helped us to create foundations for families to grow and thrive.

”

WHAT WE DO



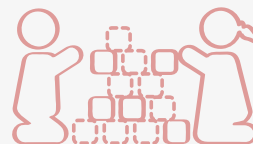
Our team accept donations of good quality preloved and new nursery furniture and items for babies and children. These items are carefully processed and then passed on to families in need.

Importantly, the work undertaken by Dandelion fills a service gap in the community service industry and is built on a partnership model, working alongside social workers and case managers to support families across greater Sydney and some parts of regional NSW.

2023 SNAPSHOT



2513 families helped



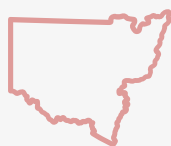
4839 children helped



273 social welfare
partners



\$1,484,169 total social and
tangible value created



42 LGAs from Greater
Sydney, Illawarra and
Regional NSW serviced
text



84.4 tonnes saved from
landfill

DRIVING DONATIONS

At the start of May 2023 Dandelion launched a donation delivery and pick up service. Social workers can have their requested items delivered or donors can have items picked up from around the greater Sydney and Wollongong areas for a small fee.

The service was launched in response to feedback from our social welfare partners about the difficulty in travelling to Taren Point to collect items, as well as feedback from the public around having a service to pick up donations.

It has been enthusiastically welcomed by the community and our new delivery driver, Lisa, has been kept busy delivering essential items for children and babies to agencies as well as directly to the houses of the families, while also picking up donations to ensure we can meet the increasing number of requests we are seeing each year.



“It is so lovely when I drop items to a family as I get to see the joy they express in receiving the items for their babies and children. The families are so grateful, and some have shared refreshments with me to say thank you. Community supporting community is what we are about, and it is special seeing it in action”

”

AUSTRALIAN OFFICE PRODUCTS CHARITABLE FUND

Back to school is a stressful time for many families who struggle to purchase all the items needed for their children's schooling.

Dandelion has been able to assist families with 300 good quality book packs and back packs for the last two years

thanks to the generosity of the Australian Office Products Charitable Fund.

Their generosity didn't end there as they also supported Dandelion with \$10,000 to help us continue to meet the needs of disadvantaged families.



GROWTH AND REFERRALS

Many low socio-economic families felt the pinch during 2023 as the cost of living increased. Dandelion really noticed the rise in need with referrals increasing by over 30%. Instead of helping 60 families a week, Dandelion was regularly assisting 80-90 families a week.

With the increase in referrals, additional donations of essential items were needed, and Dandelion was lucky to be invited to take part in the inaugural Reuse and Recycle event run by the Northern Beaches Council.

The event was held at North Narrabeen Reserve at the end of January, and was well attended. Dandelion received a large number of donations, filling a 3 tonne truck, 3.5 vans and 3 volunteers vehicles, which helped ensure we had plenty of stock to kick off the year.



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“Thank you as always for the kindness and support your organisation provides and for the countless volunteer hours that make Dandelion so wonderful!”

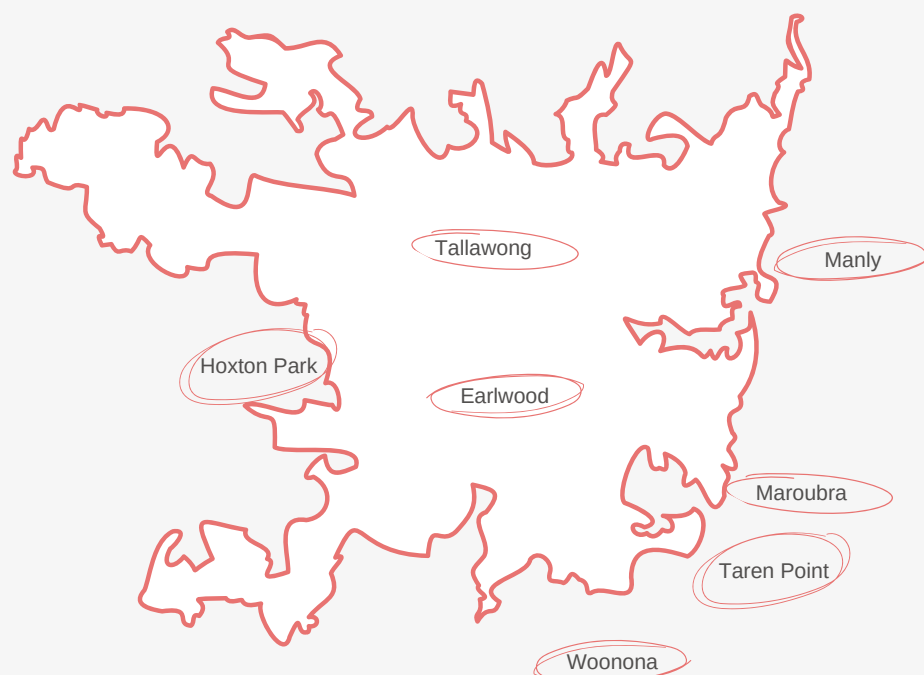
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DROP OFF POINTS

To help meet the increase in demand this year we also added two new drop off points, Earlwood and Hoxton Park, to our current drop offs and while we lost our lovely Castle Hill drop off point, we gained a new drop off point in Tallawong.

We now have drop off points at Earlwood, Hoxton Park, Manly, Maroubra, Tallawong, Woonona and our headquarters in Taren Point and we are hoping to expand this network to help us continue to receive donations of essential items for the safety, wellbeing and development of disadvantaged babies and children.

The increase in the volume of donations would not be possible without our tremendous community and we would like to say a massive thank you as without you we couldn't exist. It is due to the high-quality donations that we receive that we can help the number of disadvantaged families that we do.



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

In 2022, thanks to funding from the Social Sector Transformation Fund, Dandelion engaged The Social Impact Hub to further develop our Theory of Change, our Social Outcomes framework and review and update our Social Return on Investment.

Prior to this, the SROI calculation used by Dandelion only captured our impact related to safe sleeping and the environment. The SROI calculation has now been expanded to include the value identified in other areas, including:

- Improved child safety
- Increased family wellbeing
- More effective service for partner agencies
- More effective and engaged volunteers.

Our Theory of Change

A theory of change depicts how a program is intended to achieve meaningful, positive changes for stakeholders (outcomes)— not simply a description of what the activities and outputs are.

The theory of change was developed from a workshop in March 2022 involving Dandelion staff, board members, volunteers, partner agencies and funders. It sets out the expected short term and longer-term outcomes.

Next Steps

Work is now underway to incorporate our new measurement framework into our reporting tool. We hope to complete this in 2024 and use the revised measurements in our impact reports with support partners.

Our Impact Goals

Our vision is that all babies and children have access to nursery and personal items essential for their safety, well-being and development.

Together with our partners and supporters in the community, we are:

- Measurably addressing childhood disadvantage
- Addressing poverty at a community level
- Creating the foundations for families to thrive into the future.



“

Dandelion can be described as an essential life line for parents as they provide essential items to families to ensure their child has access to the essential needs such as clothing, a bed, car seat. Without the support of Dandelion, supporting families secure essential items would be a significant challenge and costly for the parent.

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IMPORTANT
DESIGN

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

In FY22/23 Dandelion was fortunate to have 20 different Corporate Volunteering Groups come and volunteer with us. Many of the groups have been coming and volunteering with us for several years and we are always happy to see familiar faces returning. We also had some new groups come and assist us this year and they have commented that they enjoyed the experience and will be back again in the new year!

Corporate Volunteering groups are invaluable to us as they provide extra hands to help us process the large volume of donations we receive. Groups help us with tasks such as putting up cots and bassinets to be safety checked, sorting and packing clothes, linen and toy packs, cleaning highchairs and baths, and checking games and puzzles have all their pieces.

Some groups even held donation drives at their workplaces and brought donations with them when they volunteered!

If you think your workplace might enjoy some bonding time while helping children from disadvantaged families, please contact James Lavender at volunteer@dandelionsupport.org for more information.



ANZ COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

In 2022 Dandelion was successful with an ANZ Community Foundation grant for \$20,000. The grant supported our *“Good night, sleep tight – Keeping vulnerable babies safe when they are sleeping”* project.

76 families received 9 new cots, 6 new bassinets and 46 preloved cots and bassinets to allow babies and children to sleep safely. The funding also allowed us to purchase 8 newborn car seats, 3 single prams and 3 double prams and to provide 58 preloved prams and car seats so the children were traveling safely.

Toy, clothing and linen packs were also able to be completed with funding for essential items such as pjs, socks, undies, mattress protectors and batteries, ensuring babies and children had access to what they needed for their wellbeing and development.

We would like to thank the ANZ Community Foundation for their generous support and for partnering with us to give children from 76 disadvantaged families the best start to life possible.





INVESTING IN WOMEN NSW

In May 2023, Dandelion was delighted to find we were successful with our Investing in Women NSW program application for our *“Improving participation and wellbeing of disadvantaged mothers from Western and South Western Sydney”* program.

We received \$50,000 to help us with meeting the need of disadvantaged families in the Western and South Western Sydney areas and it came at a great time as many families from these areas were struggling to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads let alone worry about purchasing costly items for their babies and children.

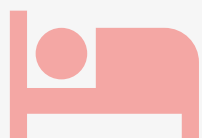
The grant is ongoing, and we will be looking to complete it in 2024 but feedback we have already received suggests the project in nearly every case has helped to reduce the financial stress of the family and has also improved the mental health of the family.

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“Thank you for your amazing support to our clients. It really makes a direct positive impact for the children and families”.

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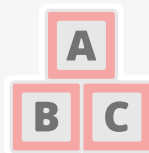
YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION



1800 linen
packs



5168 clothing
packs



2598 toy
packs



187
bouncers



842 car
seats



205
bassinets



132 double
prams



506 cots



172 baby
baths



636 single
prams



194 high
chairs

OUR SUPPORTERS

Dandelion Support Network would like to thank all businesses, individuals and community groups who have supported our work during the year.

Financial Supporters

- Big Sister Foundation
- Australian Office Products Charitable Fund
- Abcomsure
- Be Kind Sydney
- Chatelaine Quilters
- Commonwealth Bank of Australia Caringbah Branch
- Cronulla Chamber of Commerce
- Cronulla Polar Bears Winter Swimming Club
- Cronulla RSL
- Engadine Rotary Club
- Feros Hotel Group
- Inner Wheel Club of Sutherland
- ITSM ITS Management
- Moniq Taoube Banbury Cottage Families
- Optiver
- Spinify Foundation
- Sutherland Shire Solo Parents
- Sutherland Toy Restoration Society
- Sylvania Bowling Club
- The Cowell Mirisklavos Foundation
- Woolooware Ladies Golf Club
- Woonona Lions Club

In Kind Supporters

- Australian Office Products Charitable Fund
- Australian Turf Club
- Banabae
- Bedhead Hats
- Big W Menai
- Burraneer Bay Rugby Club
- Caringbah Rotary Club
- Carlray
- Como Preschool
- Ego Pharmaceuticals
- Erin Molan
- Everlearn Preschool
- Friendly Dummy
- Good360
- Little Darlings Preschool
- Lokahi Foundation
- Maroubra Ladies Probus
- Nursing Angel
- Orchard Early Learning Centre
- Pramfix
- Redsbaby
- ReLove
- Roundabout Canberra
- Share the Dignity
- SIXT
- Stitching Hearts
- St Joseph's Primary School
- The Blue Hand Group
- The Nappy Collective
- Thread Together
- TJ's Swim School
- Toyota Motor Corporation Australia

OUR SUPPORTERS

Corporate Volunteering Groups

- ANZ
- Australian Turf Club Track Team
- Banabae
- CCSG
- Cisco
- CommBank
- Deloitte
- Dnata
- Korn Ferry
- Macquarie
- Mirvac
- Mulesoft
- Ping Identity
- PwC
- Salesforce
- SB Recruitment
- Service NSW
- Slalom
- Sydney Airport
- Westpac

School Volunteering Groups

- Hurstville Public School
- Our Lady Star of the Sea



GRANTS 2022/23

ANZ Foundation Grant - \$20,000

Australia Post Grant - \$1,000

Bayside ClubGRANT, Brighton Le-Sands RSL Club and Earlwood Bardwell Park RSL - \$7,500

Canterbury Bankstown Council Community Grant - \$4,400

CCI Giving Donation - \$6,000

Cumberland ClubGRANT, Wentworth Leagues Club - \$7,500

Department of Social Services Volunteer Grant - \$3,000

Dooleys ClubGRANT - \$7,500

Georges River ClubGRANT, Club Central Hurstville - \$6,400

Investing in Women NSW Grant - \$50,000

Parramatta ClubGRANT, Club Parramatta - \$7,500

Randwick ClubGRANT, The Juniors - \$3,000

Sutherland ClubGRANT, Sutherland Trade union Club and Engadine Bowling Club- \$10,000

WW International - \$21,809





Bassinet Linen - Boys

Younger Single

Cot Linen - Boys

Rubbermaid
Commercial Products
EXECUTIVE
SERIES

“

“We are thankful for Dandelion for being flexible specially when the items have been requested to be available earlier than the given due date. As a service we are very fortunate to have Dandelion service that can provide baby items for our client. Thank you so much”

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Dandelion makes every effort to embody sustainability in our leadership, culture and throughout all our operations. The underlying premise of our work is to share what is already available and connect it with someone who needs it

Repairs

Before discarding items, our skilled team of repairers mend donations where possible to avoid waste. We also work with partner organisations such as PramFix to undertake specialty repairs.

Paperless Office

Dandelion Support Network continues to go to great efforts to operate as a paperless office. We make the most of technology for our operational systems and processes, and continue to streamline these to realise efficiencies.

Partners

Thanks to MS Australia who have assisted with repurposing unsuitable donations of toys, linen and clothes.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BALANCE SHEET	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,583,018	1,653,445
TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	28,661	29,842
INVENTORIES	9,126	11,241
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	10,417	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,631,222	1,694,258
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	112,057	36,230
RIGHT OF USE ASSETS	-	11,158
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	112,057	47,388
TOTAL ASSETS	1,732,279	1,741,916
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	21,603	14,591
SHORT-TERM FINANCIAL LIABILITIES	83,333	11,158
PROVISIONS	40,126	10,968
OTHER	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	145,062	36,717
TOTAL LIABILITIES	145,062	36,717
NET ASSETS	1,587,217	1,705,199
EQUITY		
RESERVES	12	12
RETAINED PROFITS	1,598,205	1,705,787
TOTAL EQUITY	1,598,217	1,705,199

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

PROFIT AND LOSS

2023

REVENUE

DONATIONS - INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITY GROUPS	156,866
DONATIONS - CORPORATE	82,695
PARTNERSHIPS	100,000
MEMBERSHIP FEES	34
CLUBGRANTS	48,800
OTHER GRANTS	53,214
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	58,085
INTEREST INCOME	22,128
TOTAL REVENUE	521,823

EXPENSES

OPENING STOCK ON HAND	11,241
STOCK PURCHASED FOR FAMILIES	148,081
CLOSING STOCK	9,126
MARKETING	366
AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION	2,500
ACCOUNTING & LEGAL	3,454
CONSULTING FEES	1,100
AMORTISATION - LEASED ASSETS	52,825
DEPRECIATION	7,506
SUPERANNUATION	28,308
WAGES & SALARIES	271,436
HOLIDAY PAY	29,158
TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS	6,972
INSURANCE	12,761
ELECTRICITY	3,733
PACKAGING	13
PRINTING & STATIONERY	1,912
RENT	27,473
MAINTENANCE	2,168
STORAGE EXPENSES	415
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,804
BANK FEES	197
CLEANING MATERIALS	840
POSTAGE AND SHIPPING	4
OTHER EMPLOYER EXPENSES	73
TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION	726
GENERAL GRANT EXPENSES	1,250
INTEREST EXPENSE	207
TELEPHONE, IT AND INTERNET	6,177
VOLUNTEER EXPENSES	10,924
WASTE	2,307

TOTAL EXPENSES

628,805

PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR

(106,982)





“

To see the smiles on little faces who have been through a rough time, is wonderful, your service does this with the donations of clothes and toys that the families could not afford to purchase , thank you.

”

ABOUT US

Our network was established by two mothers who noticed an opportunity to enhance the great work of the community services industry in supporting vulnerable families by being able to provide material goods to those families. From this desire to make a difference combined with a passion for sustainability, Dandelion was born.

The Dandelion Support Network team accept, sort, and safety check pre-loved nursery equipment and children's clothes for distribution through local hospitals and support agencies. We receive no government funding for the services we provide.

Once donated, the items are given a new lease on life. All the goods are processed by staff and volunteers who follow strict quality assurance standards so that they can be enjoyed by their new owner. Once the items are ready for their new home they are packed up with love ready for a new family.

