



ANNUAL REPORT



24
FINANCIAL YEAR
25



“ Since 1940,
we have responded
to the needs
of our community,
motivated by our vision
to see people
and communities
thrive.

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about us

Silky Oaks Children’s Haven (Silky Oaks) is a charitable organisation with over 84 years of dedicated service, helping individuals facing vulnerability and disadvantage find hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Founded in 1940, we have grown alongside the needs of the community to deliver high-quality social care, therapeutic, and early childhood services. Guided by a Board of Governance inspired by the Christian faith, and driven by our vision to support people and communities to thrive, our passionate team works collaboratively with community organisations and government agencies to provide impactful support and services.

ORGANISATIONAL PURPOSE

Rooted in the principles of compassion, care, and service reflected in James 1:27, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress,” Silky Oaks was founded by Clarissa Bertha Cornell (Betty) in obedience to God’s calling to create a haven for children and families in need.

While grounded in this faith-based heritage, we embrace collaboration with all who share our mission to provide hope, dignity, and holistic care, fostering an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

OUR ENTITY

Silky Oaks operates as a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) under Letters Patent pursuant to the Religious, Educational, and Charitable Institutions Act 1861–1967. Registered as a charity under the Collections Act 1966, we are committed to upholding the highest standards of governance and service delivery in alignment with our charitable mission.

FINANCIAL YEAR
2024
2025

OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to provide a tailored range of high quality social care, therapeutic and early childhood services.

We promote people's human rights, safety and wellbeing through a kind, caring and inclusive partnership approach.

We stick with people to help them find hope and achieve lasting solutions.

VALUES

COMMITMENT

We believe that every person matters and support them as long as they need help. We act with courage, dedication, commitment and resilience to advocate for their needs and help them achieve their goals.

SAFETY AND WELLBEING

We offer kind, caring, and inclusive services which protect people's human rights, safety and wellbeing

EFFECTIVENESS

We deliver high quality services that make best use of our resources and lead to effective outcomes. We encourage feedback that helps us continually improve.

RESPECT

We appreciate diversity and show respect for people's individual needs, preferences, capabilities, culture and choices.

INTEGRITY

We are transparent, honest, open and ethical in our work.

COLLABORATION

We value the expertise of our partners and our clients and enthusiastically collaborate with them to achieve the best possible outcomes.

INNOVATION

We are agile, adaptable, innovative and proactive in the way we anticipate and respond to challenges and opportunities.

VISION

"Our vision is to support people and communities To Thrive."

THE OUTCOMES WE PURSUE

Out-of-Home Care: More children and young people in Out-of-Home Residential Care will be supported, safe and well, have positive connections to family and culture, and are engaged with education, employment and social opportunities.

Inspire: More young people will be receiving tailored wraparound supports in their own communities.

Childcare: Vulnerable families and children with additional needs will be receiving accessible, high quality early childhood services.

Opportunity Shop: More people will be supported to live well through access to affordable high quality clothing and household items.

Homelessness Services: More families will be living in sustainable and secure accommodation of their choice.



Chairman's Update



JONATHAN DASS
CHAIRMAN

As Chairman of the Board of Governance, I am pleased to present the 2024–25 Annual Report for Silky Oaks Children's Haven.

This year has been one of significant transition, reflection, and faithful stewardship — closing a 79-year chapter at 218 Manly Road and beginning a new season for our organisation.

Governance and Leadership

The Board experienced several leadership transitions throughout the year as part of ongoing renewal and succession planning.

I was appointed as Chair following the resignation of Jonathan Darnell on 7 February 2025. Jonathan had served as Chair since October 2021, after an earlier period as a non-office-bearing director. He brought a considered and professional approach to governance and provided steady leadership through a time of organisational change. We thank him sincerely for his contribution and commitment to the mission and future of Silky Oaks. We also acknowledge Allan Grant, who retired in January 2025 after 40 years of dedicated service to the Board. Allan's deep organisational knowledge, unwavering commitment, and prayerful partnership have been a valued part of Silky Oaks' story.

We extend heartfelt thanks for his faithful service and the legacy he leaves behind.

To strengthen continuity, Daniel Raffell was endorsed as Deputy Chair, Ron Lawrence continued as Treasurer, Leda Barnett was appointed Deputy Treasurer, and Thiago Oliveira remained Secretary. This structure provided stability and capacity through a year of significant change.

Property Stewardship and Strategic Transition

A major focus for the Board was overseeing the Expression of Interest (EOI) process that led to the sale of 218 Manly Road to the Queensland Department of Education. Settlement occurred on 25 February 2025, closing 79 years of continuous service and community presence on that site. A leaseback arrangement for up to two years (minimum 18 months) was secured, ensuring uninterrupted program delivery while relocation planning continues.

This was one of the most significant decisions in the organisation's history — reflecting a shared commitment between the Board, leadership team, and staff to steward resources responsibly and position Silky Oaks for long-term stability. The sale enabled the acquisition of a new permanent headquarters at 27 Mount Cotton Road, Capalaba, providing a lasting foundation for future growth and service delivery.

The sale of 218 Manly Road also signalled the planned transition and closure of the Early Learning Centre, which had operated faithfully for 35 years. This major change was

managed with care and transparency, ensuring families, staff, and the community were well supported throughout.

Governance, Compliance, and Risk

The Board oversaw a successful Human Services Quality Standards (HSQS) recertification in October 2024, with all prior non-conformities closed ahead of schedule. Regular financial and audit reviews reaffirmed strong governance and accountability, with an unmodified auditor's opinion confirming sound financial management. The Board also reviewed the organisation's response to Cyclone Alfred (March 2025), ensuring appropriate risk management, staff safety, and operational continuity.

Reflection and Gratitude

This year has represented both change and renewal for Silky Oaks. We have seen long seasons conclude, new opportunities emerge, and the strength of our community and faith continue to guide every step. The transitions in property, leadership, and service have reminded us of what endures — our mission, our people, and the purpose that defines this organisation.

Although my tenure as Chairman is still new, I recognise the weight of this responsibility as both an honour and a calling. I remain humbled to serve the Lord in this capacity and grateful for His provision of strength, wisdom, and discernment.

I wish to thank our Board for their unity and passion for the mission of Silky Oaks, and our CEO, Russell Hamlet, for his transparent leadership, professionalism, and dedication through an extraordinary season of change. Russell's work to strengthen culture, refine systems, and reposition the organisation has ensured Silky Oaks is ready for a strong and sustainable future.

We give thanks to God the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, whose provision and faithfulness have guided Silky Oaks through this time of change. It is by His grace that we have remained steadfast, and through His continued guidance that we look forward with confidence and hope.

CEO's Update

The 2024–25 year has been a season of change, challenge, and courage for Silky Oaks Children's Haven. It has stretched us as an organisation – our staff, volunteers, and the families we serve – yet through it all, we've seen our people and clients rise to meet these challenges. Their resilience, teamwork, and commitment have continued to reflect the heart of Silky Oaks.

Organisational Transitions and Property Developments

This year's most significant milestone was the completion of the Expression of Interest (EOI) process and the subsequent sale of 218 Manly Road to the Queensland Government, with settlement on 25 February 2025.

The decision, made in partnership with the Board and underpinned by prayer, discernment, and a commitment to faithful stewardship, marked the close of a 79 year era at that site and the beginning of a new chapter for Silky Oaks.

“Through every challenge and change, our people have stayed true to who we are and to our vision, supporting individuals and communities to thrive

made possible through the sale proceeds. This acquisition strengthens our long-term sustainability and provides a stable foundation for future operations.

A portion of the proceeds from the Manly Road sale has been reinvested into owned property, with the remainder carefully managed to support ongoing growth, maintain stability, and create opportunity for the years ahead.

Early Learning Centre Closure and Legacy

The sale of the Manly Road property also led to the planned transition and eventual closure of the Early Learning Centre (ELC), which had served families and children for 35 years.

Following the property settlement, the ELC concluded operations on 11 April 2025, earlier than the anticipated December closure. The transition was managed with care



RUSSELL HAMLET
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

and transparency between the ELC team, office staff, and families, ensuring a smooth and supportive process for all.

A farewell celebration was held on 12 April 2025, attended by both current and past staff, families, and volunteers. It was a wonderful time to reflect, reconnect, and honour the many seasons of relationship, education, and care shared through Silky Oaks' ELC.

The closure was bittersweet, marking the end of a long and valued chapter of community service, yet also affirming the lasting impact of our investment in children, families, and staff. With the sale of the property requiring all teams to relocate, the ELC, as a purpose-built facility, could not be moved, resulting in the closure of the service.

Program and Service Delivery

During the year, our former One Place program, which provided emergency overnight accommodation for at-risk and homeless young people, was transitioned into Daintree Cottage, a licensed residential care service offering stable, long-term placements.

This change was made in consultation with the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services and reflected our commitment to providing safe, sustainable, and relationship-focused care. The transition addressed risks that Silky Oaks could not accept under the previous short-term service model, ensuring we continue to provide quality care environments that prioritise the wellbeing and stability of children and young people.

In December 2024, we held a soft launch of the new Silky Oaks Pantry at 218 Manly Road, followed by its official launch on 19 March 2025 with grant funding support from Brisbane City Council and the Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust. The Pantry replaces our former community hamper

CEO's Update



Flavia De Oliveira Director (centre) farewells the Silky Oaks Early Learning Centre families with Alesha Bagley, Administration and Accounts Officer (left) and Lindsay Venturato Assistant Director (right)

model and strengthens our commitment to addressing food insecurity with dignity, compassion, and genuine partnership.

Workforce, Culture, and Wellbeing

Our people are the heart of Silky Oaks, and this past year we focused on strengthening how we connect, collaborate, and work together toward our shared purpose.

The management team came together to reflect on and deepen their understanding of our Vision, Mission, and Values – exploring how these principles are lived out across the organisation each day. Through open discussion and collaboration, the team identified the cultural behaviours already shaping our workplace – what was working well, where challenges existed, and where growth was needed.

From this process, a consolidated set of Cultural Behaviours was developed and grouped under three core themes: Communication, Collaboration, and Trust. These now guide how we work, connect, and lead together, helping to build a culture where people feel valued, equipped, and empowered to contribute and succeed.

Following this development, those same leaders commenced a nine-month leadership program focused

on self-awareness, practical leadership, and personal growth. This initiative continues to build momentum toward confidence, unity, and a culture where our people thrive, and our mission is lived out each day.

Quality, Compliance, and Financial Performance

We achieved HSQS recertification in October 2024, closing all prior non-conformities ahead of schedule and reaffirming our commitment to continuous improvement.

While the financial year recorded a deficit due to legacy liabilities and the ELC closure, underlying operations remained stable and strategically aligned. A portion of the property sale proceeds has been set aside to strengthen liquidity and create a sustainable income stream for future obligations and development.

Reflection

This has been a defining year for Silky Oaks. Through every challenge and change, our people have stayed true to who we are and to our vision, supporting people and communities to thrive.

I am deeply thankful to our Board, staff, volunteers, and supporters for their dedication and care throughout a year of transition. As we look ahead, we remain focused on building strength, stability, and opportunity for the next chapter of Silky Oaks' story.



Silky Oaks:
Helping people and
communities achieve
hope for a brighter
tomorrow



JONATHAN DARNELL
CHAIRMAN
JUL 2024-JAN 2025



JONATHAN DASS
CHAIRMAN
FEB 2025-JUN 2025



ALLAN GRANT
DIRECTOR
JUL 2024 - JAN 2025



THIAGO OLIVEIRA
SECRETARY



RON LAWRENCE
TREASURER



JANICE JOHNSON
DIRECTOR



LEDA BARNETT
DIRECTOR



DANIEL RAFFELL
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Residential Out-of-Home Care

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Residential Team provides fully supported 24/7 accommodation for children and young people under the age of 18 years who need care and protection, and subject to a Child Protection Order.

We offer a safe, therapeutic, out-of-home environment that supports recovery from the impacts of physical, psychological, and emotional trauma.

Our service is guided by the Hope and Healing Framework for Residential Care, and the Queensland's Out-of-Home Care framework, which ensures our work is trauma-informed, child-focused, and designed to nurture healing and growth.

The program focuses on supporting our clients to thrive and develop independent living skills, empowering young people to live a full and meaningful life within their community.

Operating from a client-centred and strengths-based framework, we recognise that children and young people are the experts in their own lives. We encourage their active participation in program planning to help shape their time in our care.



CHRISTINE STEWART
RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS
MANAGER



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past 12 months, the Silky Oaks Residential Program has continued to grow and evolve.

Our cottages have experienced transitions in client placements, staffing, and program delivery, all of which have strengthened service provision, improved outcomes, and enhanced stability for the young people in our care.

During this period, we have conducted seven staff inductions, welcomed 27 new team members, and held three team-building

events to strengthen morale and foster a positive team culture.

We have also commenced internal staff succession planning, with a Residential Support Worker stepping into a House Manager role, and our coordinator at One Place transitioning into a House Manager position following the program's closure.

These initiatives have contributed to a more cohesive, skilled, and motivated team, ensuring the highest standard of care for our children and young people.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

At the end of 2023, Bay Cottage welcomed a sibling group, bringing the total number of young people in the cottage to four

When the siblings first arrived, the team worked through a range of complex behaviours, collaborating closely with their stakeholder group to provide consistent, supportive, and therapeutic care. Over the following months, the team addressed a variety of complex health needs, requiring intensive support from the Bay Cottage team, health providers, and Child Safety.

The siblings also received ongoing assistance from their cultural support agency, which worked intensively with them and the care team to help stabilise the placement and strengthen family connections.

During this period, the House Manager focused on stabilising the core team, who built strong, therapeutic relationships with the siblings. These trusting relationships helped the children feel safe and supported, allowing them to settle into their new home environment.

While the siblings initially struggled with education and therapeutic engagement, the consistency and



collaboration between the care team and external stakeholders have led to remarkable progress. All are now attending school full-time, actively participating in their learning, and showing growth in areas that were previously challenging.

Over the past 12 months, the team has supported the siblings to reconnect with extended family, participate in extracurricular activities such as soccer and birthday celebrations, and strengthen their connection to culture and community.

The siblings continue to thrive in their care environment at Bay Cottage, demonstrating continued progress across all areas of their individual care plans.

STATISTICS

27 New staff hired in the last 12 months

8 Clients transitioned back to Family

28 Clients provided placements. The decline in numbers is due to the closure of One Place, our emergency accommodation program.

3 Clients transitioned to Semi-independent living arrangements

3.28% Increase in Client Incident Reports since last year

Out of our 28 clients, 13 clients identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, making up 46.4% of our clients this year

“Our children and young people are at the heart of our work. Their voices guide and shape everything that we do.”

Inspire Program

PROGRAMS

PROGRAM UPDATE

It was business as usual for the Inspire Therapy and Outreach program in 2024/25. As with all Child Safety funded Counselling and Intervention Support (CIS) services, demand continues to outweigh capacity and there is a considerable waitlist.

Despite this challenge the team of Therapists and Therapeutic Support Workers continue to provide trauma informed wraparound support to the children, young people and parents/carers they work with.

In addition to one-on-one therapy or outreach support, the therapy team delivered the Circle of Security Parenting program (COSP) whilst the Outreach team facilitated the activity based REMAP group program for 12-17 year olds.

There was minimal staff change during the year across both teams as they maintained delivery of individual and group programs for child safety referred children and young people in the Brisbane/Moreton and Southeast Regions.

Feedback from our clients, families and stakeholders continues to highlight the excellent work of the Inspire Program and indicates Silky Oaks stands out as a Child Safety Support Service.

STATISTICS

- 51** 2024/25 Client numbers for South East Region
- 50** 2024/25 Client numbers for Brisbane/Moreton Region
- 101** Total of children & young people, including their families/carers supported throughout the year



TERRI BRADLEY
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
MANAGER

Outreach & REMAP Outcomes

It is with great pride that we acknowledge the achievements and growth of one of our young people, who has shown remarkable resilience, maturity, and determination throughout his journey in out-of-home care.

This young man has transitioned successfully from foster care to semi-independent living and recently to independent living at the Gold Coast Foyers. He has embraced each stage with responsibility and focus, continuously working toward building a positive and independent future.

Recently, he completed over 100 hours of driving lessons and is scheduled to obtain his driver's license. He has also demonstrated excellent financial management, saving a significant amount from his Centrelink payments and part-time employment.

A clear reflection of his planning and discipline.

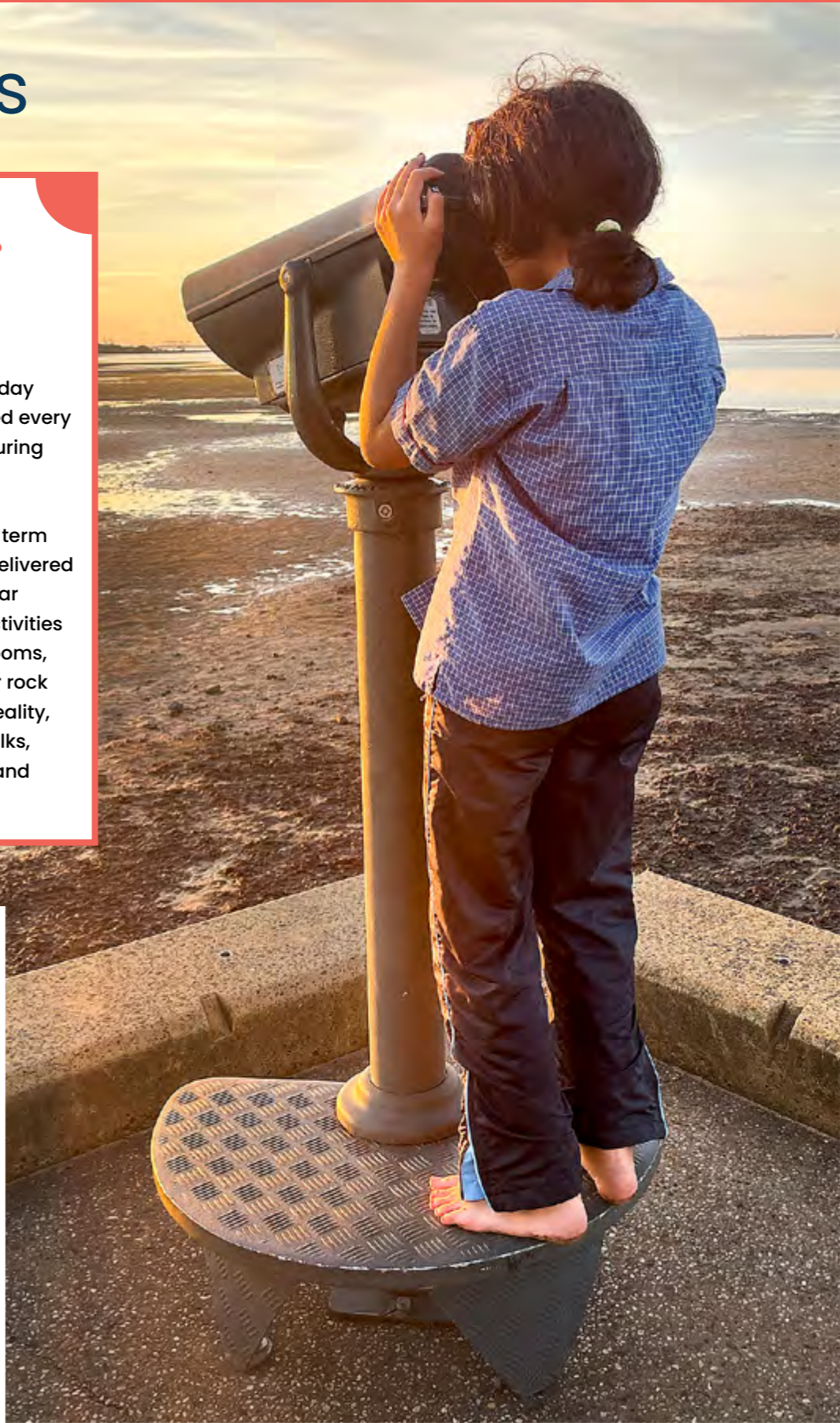
In education, this young man has completed his final year of high school and will soon graduate, already having secured enrolment at university to study a Bachelor of Business from 2026. His dream of starting his own business shows great ambition and confidence in his abilities.

This young person is an inspiring young man whose hard work, independence, and positive outlook highlight the potential of young people in care when supported and believed in. His journey is a true testament to perseverance and self-belief.



Highlights of the Outreach/REMAP Program during 2024/25

- REMAP school holiday program facilitated every school holidays during 24/25.
- Successful school term REMAP program delivered throughout the year which included activities such as escape rooms, go-karting, indoor rock climbing, virtual reality, mini golf, bush walks, sailing, kayaking and swimming.



Inspire Program



Sandplay is an intervention often used in therapy

THERAPY OUTCOMES

Working directly with the relationship between a young person and their primary carer opens up numerous therapeutic opportunities, especially when it comes to bridging gaps in understanding and communication.

Teenage boys aren't known for effective communication at the best of times, let alone when they live with ADHD and trauma. Understanding how living with ADHD and trauma impacts the daily functioning of this young person, helped the carer begin to see him in a different light beyond the presenting behaviours.

When both carer and the young person were in a safe and supported therapy space, the young person had increased capacity to speak up about his struggles around ADHD medication, going without technology, anger management, consideration of others, remembering tasks, boredom intensifying impulsivity, and feeling heard. He was also able to express how much he

Highlights of the Therapy program during 24/25 include:

- Circle of Security Parenting program facilitated twice in the year, in Term 4 2024 & Term 2 2025.
- One Masters of Art Therapy student placement supported in Inspire Therapy during the year.



TERRI BRADLEY
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
MANAGER

values and appreciates the relationship he has with his carer and living with her.

The shift toward hearing, understanding and following the support needs of the young person, resulted in a change to his ADHD medication, reducing stress levels by resetting consequences each day, increasing stimulation with scheduled technology time and sporting activities, establishing visual prompts for remembering tasks and school deadlines, receiving rewards immediately following task completion, and exploring the significance of the carer relationship. This joint work ultimately prevented the placement from breaking down and supported the reduction of challenging behaviours as well.

The joint sessions were for a timely season, and now the young person is back to individual therapy sessions, exploring the next chapter in his story.

Flexibility to follow the needs of a young person within caring relationships is key for supporting change that makes a world of difference for thriving parenting relationships and placements.

Family Care and Support

PROGRAM UPDATE

Our Specialist Homelessness Service, Family Care and Support was again challenged during 2024/25. Not only has demand been much higher over the last few years, there's also been a constant challenge in staff recruitment. In 2025 we have finally attained a full team of four workers after a few years of being short staffed.

Our four program components; Centre-based support, Mobile Support, Immediate Housing Response (IHR) & Supported Accommodation provide case management support to achieve the best housing outcomes for people experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness.

Whilst our services are often at capacity, our Housing Support Workers prioritise connection and relationship with our clients to provide the best possible support, tailoring goals to meet the unique needs of each person. Despite our program operating with only 3.5 workers, the team achieve excellent results and receive great feedback.



Feedback from families the FCS team have placed in motels continues to be fantastic:

"We felt welcomed and love from all staff, it made a scary uncertain time have a level of comfort of the future being brighter."

"...lifted me up when I was down, was able to be a voice of reason in an anxiety attack, able to house me and the boys together. Helped me set realistic goals, and guide me through the steps as we went along."

"Brilliant Service. Every support and help obtained and met perfectly!"

227 People supported with housing / homelessness across all 4 areas of the FCS program (centre-based, mobile support, supported accommodation & IHRF)

Client Outcomes

After a lengthy period of housing instability, our client, a single mother with two children, successfully transitioned into stable, secure accommodation with the support of Silky Oaks and a local Community Housing Provider (CHP).

She moved into a property through the CHP transitional housing program, providing her with safe, affordable, well-located housing with access to services and supports.

With consistent advocacy from Housing Support Workers, she was able to secure a property in her preferred location, allowing her and her children to remain connected to their strong support networks.

Since moving in, HSWs have continued to provide ongoing guidance and practical support, helping her maintain the tenancy and promoting her overall wellbeing.

Throughout this process, the client has shown significant growth, gained confidence and developed the skills to independently manage her new home.

The client shared that the guidance and support she received were essential in helping her family feel secure, empowered, and confident throughout their housing journey.

Op Shop

The Silky Oaks Op Shop has once again shown that it is more than just a store — it is a place where stories are shared, friendships are formed, and dignity is restored.

Over the past year, we've continued to grow as a boutique-style community hub, blending affordability with creativity and sustainability. From our themed Super Saturdays to the launch of a serene garden nursery, every change has been made with one goal in mind: to bring joy and connection to our community. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of this mission, and their warmth, humour, and creativity can be felt in every corner of the shop.

Impact at a Glance

This year, we reached a milestone of 30,000 items sold and over 11,500 volunteer hours donated. These numbers tell a powerful story: every sale sustains our services, and every hour given is a gift to the community. The ripple effects are remarkable—sleeping bags have gone to Rosie's for those sleeping rough, linen has helped the RSPCA, and clothing has been delivered to local vets and the Redlands special needs school, ensuring resources are reused, not wasted. Even leftover wool has been turned into beanies and scarves by a volunteer, providing warmth for those who need it most.

Memorable Finds & Stories

Each year delivers a trove of surprises, and this year was no exception. From centuries-old coins that inspired curiosity about their origins to a Gucci t-shirt worth hundreds that thrilled fashion lovers, our shelves have showcased items as varied as our visitors. One memorable coincidence was a model London bus, numbered 76—the very route that one of our volunteers' fathers had once worked as a conductor—reminding us that the Op Shop is about more than secondhand goods; it's about the unexpected connections that unite people. Sporting memorabilia also appeared, including signed photos of rugby legend Benji Marshall and donations from



MARIA BROWN
FINANCE MANAGER

cricketer Matthew Hayden, adding excitement. Not every donation was glamorous; some were quirky, others less appreciated, but together they made for a vibrant and memorable year.

A Story of Dignity

Perhaps the most powerful moments, however, come not from the objects but from the people. One story that touched all our hearts involved a former client who had rebuilt her life, finding both employment and secure housing. She returned to the shop seeking help for her child's high school formal. With kindness and care, our volunteers rallied together to provide not

just an outfit, but also a pair of shoes, ensuring that the young person could celebrate their milestone with pride and confidence. In that moment, the Op Shop became more than a store — it became a source of dignity, encouragement, and hope.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, our vision is clear: to continue deepening our community impact, embracing innovation, and inspiring new generations of shoppers to choose sustainability.

With every donation, every purchase, and every volunteer hour, we are shaping a story that is bigger than all of us, a story where compassion meets creativity, and where sustainability is woven into the fabric of everyday life. The Silky Oaks Op Shop will remain a place where treasures are discovered, lives are touched, and hope is renewed.



“With every donation, every purchase, and every volunteer hour, we are shaping a story that is bigger than all of us”

Early Learning Centre Farewell!



Our Early Learning Centre continued to provide a warm, engaging, and supportive environment for children and families until 11 April 2025. It also remained a key part of the Silky Oaks community, nurturing curiosity, creativity, and meaningful connection.

Throughout the year, we celebrated many milestones, from graduations and family gatherings to the everyday moments of learning and laughter that shaped the Centre's character. At our Farewell to Silky Oaks event on 12 April, more than 100 people joined us—including many past staff and families—reflecting the strong and enduring relationships built over the Centre's 35 years. The commitment and professionalism of our staff ensured a smooth and compassionate transition as we prepared for closure.

Although this chapter has concluded, we remain deeply proud of the positive and lasting impact the Centre has had on children, families, and the broader community. The Centre grew from Silky Oaks' strong foundation and enriched our work in many meaningful ways. While its doors have closed, the experiences and relationships it nurtured will always stay with us as we continue supporting children and families.



Community Pantry

In December 2024, we began a new chapter in food support by transitioning from our long-standing food hamper service to the Silky Oaks Community Pantry.

For years, our hampers offered essential relief to families and individuals facing hardship. From June to December 2024, the Food Hampers continued to ensure no one in need went without.

However, as living costs rose, we saw an increasing need for more choice and flexibility in food assistance.

In response, we envisioned a pantry-style service where community members could select their own groceries, access affordable nutritious food, and maintain dignity and respect.

The Pantry opened its doors in December 2024, offering a welcoming space with quality food, essential household items,

“As living costs rose, we saw an increasing need for more choice and flexibility in food assistance”

and free goods to ease financial pressure.

More than just a service, it represents community in action – a model of compassion,

dignity, and inclusivity reflecting Silky Oaks’ commitment to supporting those in need.

Since its launch, the Pantry has become a valued resource, empowering families, individuals, and seniors to make choices that best suit them while building confidence and connections.

The shift from pre-packed hampers to a community pantry honours our strong foundation and adapts to current needs.

This success is made possible by the ongoing generosity of partners, donors, and successful grant funding, which sustain daily operations and underscore the importance of this service.

All revenue and donations received through the Pantry are reinvested directly into restocking food, essential items, and supporting day-to-day operations, ensuring this service remains sustainable.

Together, we continue to build a future where access to nutritious food, dignity, and community connection is available to all.

Looking ahead, the Silky Oaks Community Pantry is a promising and enduring program, ready to grow with the community.

With continued support, we will ensure that every person who walks through our doors feels valued, supported, and empowered to thrive.



PANTRY GOOD NEWS STORIES

These stories show how Silky Oaks Community Pantry provides practical support and fosters resilience, dignity, and connection in the community.

One local parent shared that before the Pantry opened, they often felt embarrassed needing food assistance and worried about providing healthy meals for their children. Now, visiting the Pantry is a positive experience, allowing them to choose nutritious foods their children enjoy. They described the Pantry as “a welcoming space that reminds you you’re not alone.”

A retired couple, long-time supporters of Silky Oaks, were unexpectedly struggling after health issues and rising living costs. Having once donated to Silky Oaks they were hesitant to seek help themselves, however, they were warmly welcomed at the Silky Oaks Community Pantry and reassured that the service was for everyone. Being able to choose their own groceries made them feel respected and independent. Now they visit regularly and often chat with staff, describing the Pantry as “a lifeline that gave us back a little confidence.”

A young family with two small children turned to the Silky Oaks Community Pantry after the father lost his job and their savings dwindled. Despite their best efforts, rising grocery and living costs made it hard to get by. Discovering the Pantry was a relief – they found a welcoming, non-judgmental place to access quality food at affordable prices.

The mother said choosing their own groceries, including healthy lunchbox items and fresh produce, greatly improved their wellbeing. Through conversations with staff, they also learned about other local support programs, helping the family regain stability and confidence.



(Left to Right) Maria Brown, Russell Hamlet, Loren Schofield, Lady Mayoress Nina Schrinner, Councillor Alex Givney

PANTRY TESTIMONIALS

“As a single Mum of 3, the pantry has been a real blessing. It helps me stretch my dollar further. Thank you to Silky Oaks and the wonderful team that run the pantry. It’s always so welcoming.

“We both work, but with rent and expenses going up, the pantry has really helped us stay on top of things. I love the school snacks on offer for the kids and the variety of options available.

“With the rising grocery costs and living alone, things can be tough. The pantry has made a big difference. I can get good food and still have money left for bills. It’s a fantastic community service.

“Thank you for opening the pantry. You have given me dignity as I get to choose the food that I want.”

“It is absolutely incredible what you have done here with the pantry. It has allowed our clients to be able to purchase food and have better choices for their food.”

“This is such an asset to the community. The variety of foods and how it has all been set out, is truly a credit to Silky Oaks.”

“Thank you so much for setting up this shop. You don’t know what it means to me to be able to come here.”

“Thank you to Loren and the team. It is such an amazing thing that she has done and such a benefit to the community.”

PANTRY STATISTICS

FOOD HAMPERS	(JUL 24 TO DEC 24)
TOTAL HAMPERS ISSUED	133
TOTAL ADULTS SUPPORTED	212
TOTAL CHILDREN SUPPORTED	187
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION PAID	\$515

COMMUNITY PANTRY	(DEC 24 TO JUN 25)
TOTAL PANTRY TRANSACTIONS	541
TOTAL ADULTS SUPPORTED	757
TOTAL CHILDREN SUPPORTED	478
TOTAL PANTRY SALES	\$10,435

PANTRY ITEMS SOLD	(DEC 24 TO JUN 25)
QTY \$1 SOLD	1842
QTY \$2 SOLD	1993
QTY \$3 SOLD	817
QTY \$4 SOLD	227
QTY \$5 SOLD	135
TOTAL FREE ITEMS	1090
TOTAL FREE FROZEN MEALS	559

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS WON		
LORD MAYORS CHARITABLE TRUST	Nov-24	\$2,000
LORD MAYORS CHARITABLE TRUST	Dec-24	\$5,675
LORD MAYORS CHARITABLE TRUST	Apr-25	\$2,000
LORD MAYORS CHARITABLE TRUST	Jun-25	\$3,186

PUBLIC DONATIONS (PERSONAL)			
Dec-24.....	\$1,500	May-25.....	\$20
Dec-24.....	\$10	May-25.....	\$20
Jan-25.....	\$50	Jun-25	\$350
Feb-25.....	\$12		

TOTAL GIFTED	\$14,823
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Financial Statements

Silky Oaks Children’s Haven Inc

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	NOTE	2025 \$	2024 \$
Trading and operating income		1,338,484	1,883,492
Other income	4	23,337,433	10,014,276
Employee benefits expense		(8,377,489)	(8,471,820)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(333,872)	(328,527)
Organisational costs		(42,890)	(26,297)
Other expenses	5	(3,242,806)	(3,701,975)
Deficit for the year		12,678,861	(630,850)

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE \$	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS \$	TOTAL \$
2025			
Balance at 1 July 2024	12,272,664	859,499	13,132,163
Transfer of revaluation reserve (asset sold)	(11,575,198)	11,575,199	1
Surplus for the year	-	12,678,861	12,678,861
Balance at 30 June 2025	697,466	25,113,559	25,811,025
2024			
Balance at 1 July 2023	12,272,664	1,490,349	13,763,013
Deficit for the year	-	(630,850)	(630,850)
Balance at 30 June 2024	12,272,664	859,499	13,132,163

Statement of Financial Position

30 June 2025

	NOTE	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	6	21,662,482	38,048
TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	7	67,825	186,114
OTHER ASSETS	8	141,772	7,096
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		21,872,079	231,258
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	7	-	18,750
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	9	6,042,068	14,867,799
RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS	11	-	242,338
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		6,042,068	15,128,887
TOTAL ASSETS		27,914,147	15,360,145
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	10	706,111	580,205
SHORT-TERM PROVISIONS	13	650,000	750,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	12	397,296	496,377
OTHER LIABILITIES	14	285,049	69,716
LEASE LIABILITIES	11	-	74,564
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,038,456	1,970,862
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	12	64,666	65,605
LEASE LIABILITIES	11	-	191,515
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		64,666	257,120
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,103,122	2,227,982
NET ASSETS		25,811,025	13,132,163
EQUITY			
RESERVES		697,466	12,272,664
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		25,113,559	859,499
TOTAL EQUITY		25,811,025	13,132,163

Financial Statements

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	NOTES	2025 \$	2024 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from customers		12,170,285	12,136,939
Payments to suppliers and employees		(11,928,100)	(12,121,524)
Interest received		351,752	2,457
Interest paid		(8,215)	(42,197)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	20	585,722	(24,325)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Movement in property, plant and equipment		21,038,712	893,990
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		21,038,712	893,990
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Payment of borrowings		-	(835,000)
Payment of lease liabilities		-	(73,585)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		-	(908,585)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents held		21,624,434	(38,920)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		38,048	76,968
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6	21,662,482	38,048



Acknowledgements and Thanks

SUPPORTERS and PARTNERSHIPS

Silky Oaks would like to thank the following supporters and partnerships:

- Financial donors
- Strategic partnerships and alliances
- Local, State and Federal elected representatives, past and present, who have supported Silky Oaks through advocacy, engagement and community partnership.
- Local Churches
- Charities and not-for-profit organisations
- Local education providers
- Schools and P&C associations
- Suppliers, contractors, and business partners
- All individuals, clubs and community groups who have donated to us.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING PARTNERS

Silky Oaks acknowledges our government funding partners:

- Brisbane City Council
- Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services
- Department of Housing and Public Works

We acknowledge and thank all staff, volunteers, and contractors who continue to partner with us to support people and communities to thrive.



REDLANDS HUB

(HEAD OFFICE)

27 Mount Cotton Road, Capalaba, QLD 4157

PO Box 242, Capalaba QLD 4157

BAYSIDE HUB

218 Manly Road, Manly QLD 4179

PO Box 5157, Manly QLD 4179

P 3906 8888 | F 3906 8899

SILKYOAKS.ORG.AU

ABN 72 083 136 809