



SEWACS Budjungal Communities, Connection, Belonging

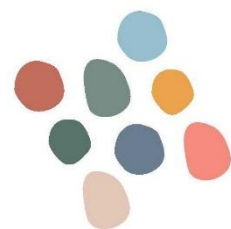
Annual Report 2024-2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We wish to acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians of the lands, waterways and airspace of the shires we work in. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge sovereignty was never ceded.

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Chairperson's Report

This year has been a busy year for SEWACS Budjungal as we implemented our rebranding with new logos and website with a planned official launch to coincide with acknowledging our 40-year anniversary in late 2025. We are so proud that the Board and SEWAC's Budjungal staff retain the passion for the vision that has held true for the past 40 years.

In 2024-25 we have worked together to progress the strategic goals identified in the Strategic Plan to support vulnerable individuals and communities in the Bega Valley and Eurobodalla. This includes developing a cultural awareness program for board and staff members which commences in September 2025.

In preparation for our re-accreditation process, we want to acknowledge the work Caroline Long, Executive Officer, has done to ensure we meet all the requirements. This included reviewing and revising all our policies and handbooks, updating our risk plans and action plans and ensuring all regulatory requirements are met. While we are still waiting on the formal outcome, the feedback has been positive with no area identified that we weren't prepared for.

In June 2025 Breanna Van Leeuwen, Chairperson, announced her resignation from the board due to a heavy workload. Brianna joined the board in February 2019 and became Chairperson in October 2019. Brianna is well respected by all board members, and we want to thank Brianna for her leadership, compassion and sage advice, as well as her friendship to many. We wish Brianna continued success in her career and acknowledge her ongoing compassion for supporting vulnerable people within the local community.

We welcomed back Angelique McKechnie who returned to the board in May/June 2025. We also welcomed Dianne Jerrard to the Board in June.

Caroline Long, our Executive Officer, has announced her intention to retire. Caroline joined SEWACS in June 2006 and has held the role of Executive Officer since June 2019. Caroline has brought a wealth of knowledge and practical experience to the role. She has seen many changes to the board and staff during this period but has always led with grace, compassion and determination. Caroline has provided us with great flexibility around her end date to enable the board to recruit for the role and to complete a handover. Such is her dedication and passion for SEWACS Budjungal. We wish Caroline much fun and adventure in her retirement.

The work of SEWACS Budjungal would not be possible without the dedicated, professional staff who deliver the programs, manage the office and support our clients as well as each other. Your continued efforts inspire us.

2025-26 means a new era for SEWACS Budjungal with both a new Chairperson and a new Executive Officer to commence, and our new branding. We remain dedicated to supporting our clients and community in addressing the challenges faced by providing safe spaces, practical support, and advocacy for those who need it most.

We acknowledge and thank our, partner organisations, funders, and supporters who continue to work with us to achieve SEWACS Budjungal vision - **Break the cycle of Domestic and Family Violence, and homelessness in our region.**

Ruth Fenwick Acting Chair on behalf of the SEWACS Budjungal Board

Board Members

The role of the SEWACS Budjungal Board is to ensure good governance measures are adopted and followed in the best interests of the organisation and in compliance with legal obligations.

Brianna Van Leeuwen - Chairperson

Brianna is the Director and Principal Clinician at Little Black Duck, providing therapeutic services to children, adolescents, and families. Brianna is dedicated to her local community and joined the board in 2019. We thank Brianna for her valuable insight into the needs of the community and her service to SEWACS.

Ruth Fenwick – Vice Chairperson

Ruth is passionate about using her broad skillset to support not for profit organisations. Ruth's work in senior public sector roles gives her experience in financial management, project and program management, corporate governance, assurance and risk, and high-level strategic advice. Ruth fosters a service delivery culture and has led the design and implementation of multiple projects and programs in areas such as welfare to work, homelessness research, compliance, grants and housing affordability.

Andrea Powell – Secretary

Andrea has over 42 years of experience as a social worker in a number of government and community-based NGO settings. She has a strong commitment to supporting the not-for-profit sector to provide quality community services in response to emerging needs and was instrumental in establishing several feminist services in the Bega Valley and Eurobodalla LGA's.

Robyn Jamieson - Treasurer

Robyn has worked in the Commonwealth public service and on private ventures. She brings experience in funding opportunities, data and systems and project management. Robyn's involvement in housing and homelessness and employment programs has fuelled her commitment to supporting not-for-profits.

Marjorie McKnight

Marjorie is devoted to volunteering in local community organisations. Marjorie has been an active member of the CWA since 2008 and SEWACS since 2019. Marjorie has taken on a number of key roles in the board.

Angelique McKechnie

Ange has worked in community development and disability in the local area for many years and joined the board in 2016. Ange was welcomed back this year after taking some personal time.

Dianne Jerrard

Dianne has worked in the community sector and the public sector for over 32 years and is currently employed by the Local Aboriginal Lands Council and Homes NSW. She has a strong commitment to Aboriginal culture and community.

Executive Officer's Report

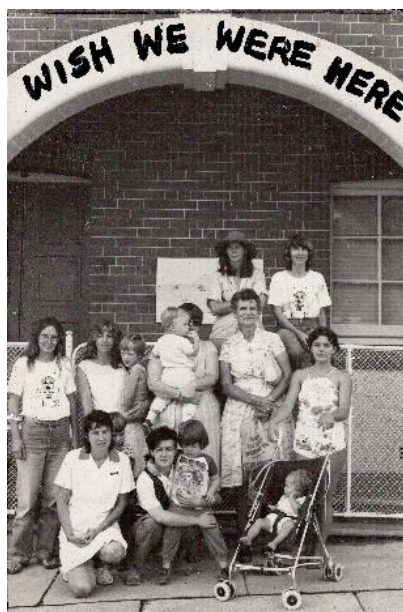
This year has been a year of change. We were notified our pilot Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV) project in Moruya would become part of the Bega SHLV program and would no longer be regarded as a pilot. We were approached by Coordinare to run a site-based health program, which included GP accessing our Moruya service to provide vital health support on site, a practice nurse and a counsellor. This is to begin in the next financial year, but has taken many stages of planning. Long term planning and consultation has resulted in ground being broken to build three x two bedroom units. I have been confidently assured this will be completed by December 2025.

I made a commitment to work through our re-accreditation process, which has been achieved. A few final reports to submit to achieve full accreditation, but to achieve an initial rating 97% is a testament to the professionalism of the organisation.

We are also in our 40th year of operation and a birthday is being planned for November. This will also incorporate the launch of our new(ish) trading name - SEWACS Budjungal.

This will be my last official annual report. I will be taking leave in December 2025 and will transition into retirement from then. This has been a long, but fulfilling journey and I need to take the opportunity to say thank you to all the amazing people I have worked with over the last 19+ years. My working relationship with this organisation has been a long one. Fulfilling child care obligations while workshops or events were being held in 1989-1990 to relief worker in the 1990s, Staying Home Leaving Violence program manager in 2006 and finally to executive officer in 2019. This has been a large part of life and I cannot express enough the impact this has had. It led to my choice of studies and has had a major impact on my career.

To everyone I say thank you and I wish the organisation well and I hope it continues to maintain its core values and continue to provide client centred services.



Achievements

SEWACS Budjungal continuously works to maintain the ASES accreditation and is on track for re-accreditation next year.

We successfully applied for two grants from the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club – one for self-care of clients and staff and one for staff to attend a world conference in Sydney. There was a grant from Fire and Flourish to make improvements for the women in crisis accommodation.

Staffing

This year we welcomed Nakita, Bethany and Michelle as new staff members at our Eurobodalla site and Naomi at our Bega site. We farewelled some long-term staff members – Vicky, Kylie and Kylie – as well as Donna, Jacquie, Edith, Indigo and Tijo.

During the year we hosted two Whole of Organisation (WOO) days, one in December one in May. These are opportunities for staff and board members at both sites to get together and enjoy some team building, fun activities and nice food.

Students

We continued to support students through placements with our programs. These include Eleanor who completed of her second placement of her social work degree in Bega, Bethany who completed her first placement with Eurobodalla SEWACS, and Sallie who completed her diploma placement with the Bega office. We wish them well in completing their studies.

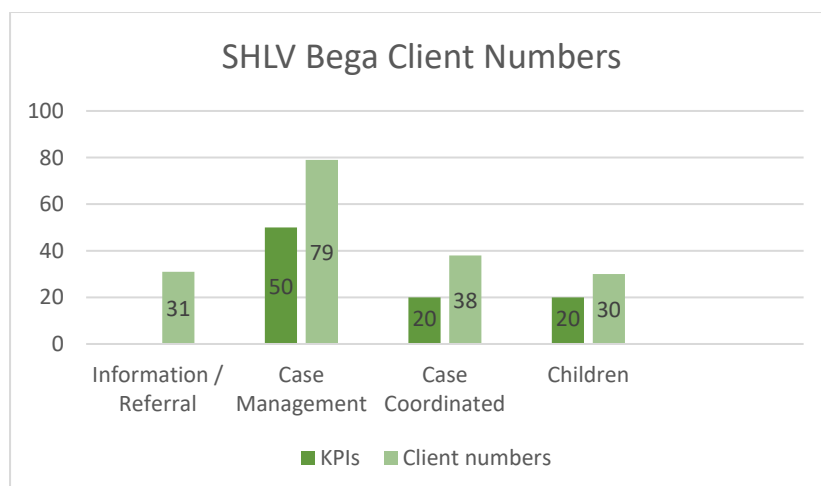


Tori, Angelique ad Vesna at Bega Mental Health Day

Program Reports

Staying Home Leaving Violence Bega

Staying Home Leaving Violence Bega responded to 169 referrals with 79 adults receiving case management and 38 receiving case coordination. We also provided services to 30 children.



As part of our safety program, SHLV supported clients with:

- Applying for Apprehended Violence Orders
- Court support
- Advocacy with housing, health, finance and education
- Safety planning and risk assessment
- Referrals for counselling supports
- Referrals to Legal supports
- Provision of educational resources
- Victims' services and Escaping Violence Claims (\$112,051)
- Vouchers (\$8,265)
- Fines reduced (\$1,534)
- Security camera and solar light installations (39)
- Provision of Dash Cams (15)
- Provision of Wesnet phones (3)
- Provision of personal security resources including torches and personal alarms (63)

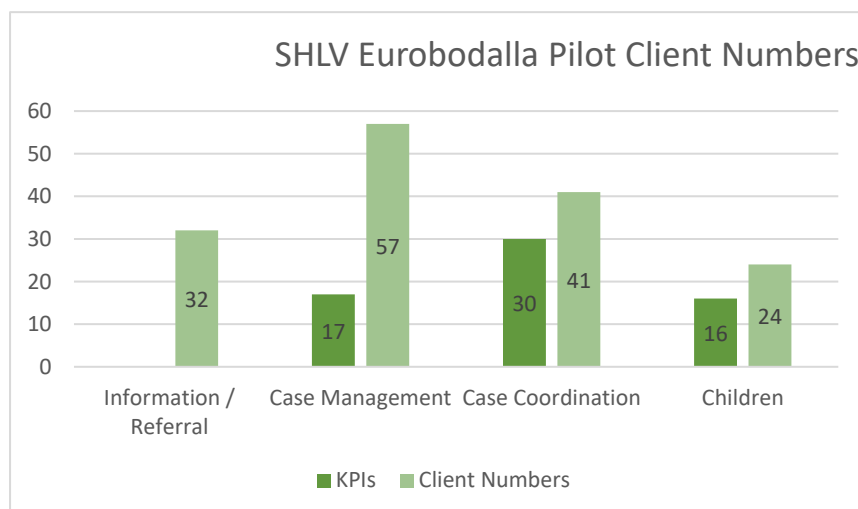
Throughout the year, SHLV staff delivered five community education sessions and actively participated in interagency and Safety Action Meetings to strengthen collaboration with external services and ensure safe, holistic support for clients.

SHLV also took part in key awareness and promotional events, including the *16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence*, in partnership with the local Domestic and Sexual Violence Committee. Woolworths staff contributed resources to a fundraising event at Tura Beach Woolworths and hosted an information stall during Mental Health Month at the Uniting Church in Bega.

Furthering our commitment to community partnerships, staff were invited to join the Katungul Women's Healing Centre Advisory Committee and took part in significant cultural and community events, including NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Staying Home Leaving Violence Pilot - Eurobodalla

The SHLV pilot was presented with some positive news; it will no longer be seen as a pilot and will be incorporated into the Bega SHLV team. As this was recognised as an expansion of an existing program it did come with a decrease in funding, but the continuation of the program means this vital program can continue to operate within Eurobodalla. The variation in funding also meant that a stand alone office was no longer feasible and the program needed to move back into a shared office space with the refuge.



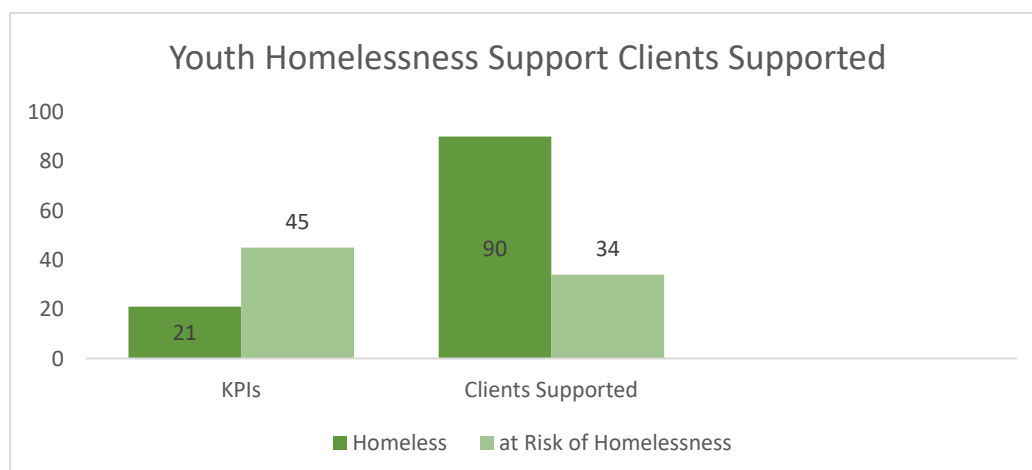
Throughout the year, SHLV Euro staff delivered three community education programs. These were to counsellors, the aged care providers and a presentation to the Eurobodalla Family Network.

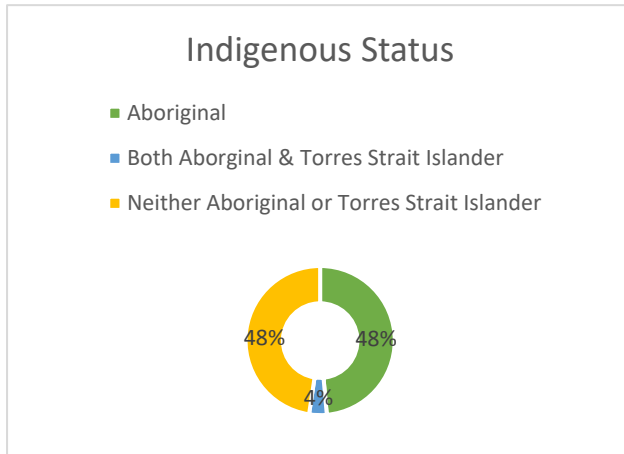
Feedback

"I appreciate all the information & support provided to me by SHLV & since engagement, I feel better equipped & confident to make informed choices for myself, my wellbeing, welfare & safety."

Bega Valley Youth Homelessness Support Service

This has been a very busy year for the Youth Homeless Support Service. Incoming referrals have exceeded their funding requirements, with a total of 105 young men and women supported this financial year. The majority young people supported were women – 60% of all clients.





As can be seen in the chart, 52% of the young people supported identified as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both. This is an increase on last year's 49% and highlights the shortfall in social housing within our area.

There was an increase in referrals for young people in the 16 year old age range compared to last year. There was also a continuing trend of young people presenting as pregnant or becoming pregnant soon after engaging with the service.



The youth program staff were involved in several project and partnerships this year that helped provide a quality service to young people presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness. The program participated in this year's Street Count, which involved a 4 am start. Our youth service has been participating in a drop-in program incorporating youth Justice, SHaWS, Campbell Page and Headspace through a drop-in centre in the mall Tuesday afternoons.

The program has developed some very positive relationships with local estate agents which led to positive outcomes for clients. The collaboration with Southern Cross Housing and Mission Australia also led to some great client outcomes in both social and private housing.

Staff have been actively involved in the youth Communities of Practice which involved "Tyranny of Distance" and "Sector Change". This gave face to face workers an opportunity to have a voice in how services are delivered in regional communities.

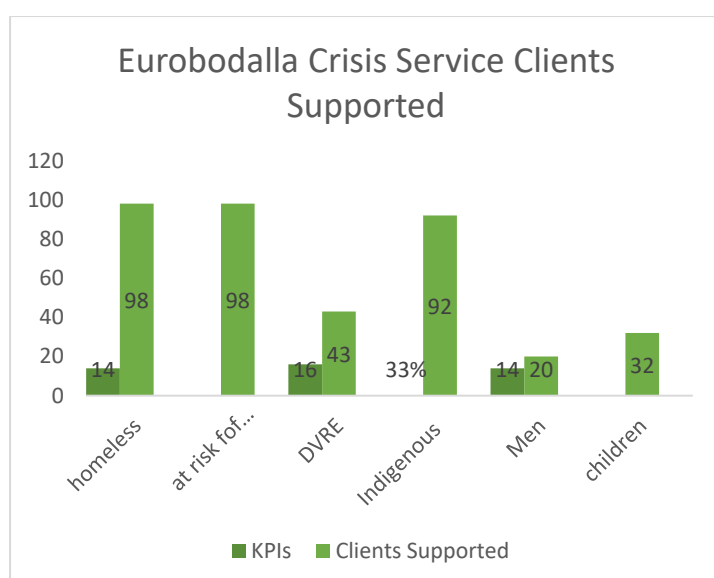
Men's behaviour change training was really inspiring and provided useful tools that can be applied to client work. Two young people received their P's using the L's to P's driver mentorship through Eden access centre.

Feedback

- “SEWACS is an amazing support group who were able to help me with my financial and housing problems as well as being very supportive and helping me tick off any goal I had whether it was big or small. I would highly recommend SEWACS to anyone and everyone who is struggling at the moment and just need some support to get back on track in life”
- "Thank you for everything I don't think I'd be where I am today if it wasn't for the help I've received from all of you at Bega Youth."

Eurobodalla Domestic and Family Violence Homelessness Support Service

This financial year the program supported 148 women, 32 children and 20 men. Of those clients supported, 92 identified as First Nations. The largest age range for people supported were aged 26-35 years, representing 25% of all clients.



We provided holistic support and case management to our resident and outreach clients. This includes practical support provided to access financial aid, counselling, brokerage, WESNET DV safe phones, and domestic violence education. We delivered 1:1 support through the Men's Family Violence Intervention program. Emergency camping packs were given out to families in need when other modes of emergency accommodation were unavailable. We provided emotional and social support to clients in need of support while in crisis.

This financial year, we focused on offering opportunity to engage in self-care and wellness. We were able to achieve this through several small grants to provide self-care and wellness workshops, and create a creative, healing space in the refuge. We improved the physical spaces of our refuge by having murals painted in family rooms and the child playroom.

We worked with rotary volunteers who assisted packing hamper's and women's sanitary bags. Rotary also donated durable children's trikes for the refuge.



Children's play space mural "Djoongga" (Octopus)

Art Therapy Workshop, offsite with art therapist Ness Shannon - women from diverse backgrounds came together in a warm and welcoming space to explore their creativity. The session provided a safe and supportive environment for self-expression, healing, and connection through art. It was lovely to assist in this meaningful event, witnessing the unique stories and emotions that emerged through each activity. Events like these highlight the

power of community, creativity, and the importance of mental well-being. A delicious lunch was also provided and enjoyed by all.

We co-facilitated the delivery of *Love Bites* respectful relationships program to Narooma, Moruya, Batemans Bay High School, Carroll College and St Peters High Schools. On site craft and cooking activities happened throughout the year.



We provided children's activities at Mogo Big Day out for NAIDOC



StreetSmart have been supportive in supplying sheets and towel sets for our clients

Our Partners and Supporters

SEWACS acknowledges and thanks our funding provider, Department of Communities and Justice, for their continued support.



Communities
& Justice

We acknowledge the work of all our partners and supporters including Jobs Australia, WESNET, Homelessness NSW, Domestic Violence NSW, Yfoundations, Community Industry Group. These organisations assist us in keeping abreast of the changes and challenges our industry faces.

Organisations such as StreetSmart have greatly assisted us in providing new sheet sets and towels. Too Good generously donated pamper/vanity packs that contain essential shampoo, conditioner and a micro weave towel and Back Pack Beds have supported us by selling quality swags and sleeping bags at a very reduced cost. The youth program has been utilising the Coordinated program of free CIMS and data for phones. This has been extremely helpful.

On a more local level we work with the Bega Mental Health Hub, Campbell Page, Community Mental Health, Community Pantry, Directions – ShaWs, Katungal, Legal Aid (Kerry), Little Black Duck Therapy, Mission Australia, Pathways, Sapphire Neighbourhood Services, South Coast Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service, Women's Resource Centre.

A huge thankyou to the individuals and organisation who make generous donations to support our organisation and clients. These include Quota Narooma, St Johns Anglican Women, Tura Beach Woolworths, Bronwyn, Lisa Jane Beauty, Sian, Melville, Partners of Veterans Euro, Euro local women's art, CWA Pambula, Moruya Rotary, NRMA Merimbula, Carolina, Batemans Bay Horticultural Society, Narooma Law, Narooma Uniting drop in.



The Woolworths team at Tura Beach fundraising for SHLV

Thank you, Alison Simpson, for your generous donation of one of your paintings. Pictured with Vesna and Caroline.



Treasurers Report

SEWACS Budjungal has once again demonstrated strong fiscal responsibility throughout the 2024–25 financial year. Despite operating within tight budgetary constraints, we successfully maintained the same level of high-quality service delivery while improving our overall financial position compared to the previous year.

Although we recorded a modest deficit this represents a significant improvement—nearly halving the loss incurred in 2023–24. This positive trend reflects the organisation’s ongoing commitment to returning our accounts to surplus and ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

Our services continue to be delivered with excellence, as regularly acknowledged by our clients, even as we navigate limited resources. This year included several non-core expenditures, notably our ASES accreditation process. Nevertheless, we managed to keep total overspend within 1% of the approved budget—a testament to our disciplined financial management.

Looking ahead, my aim for SEWACS Budjungal is to achieve a small surplus in the 2025-26 financial year with continued improvement in the years to follow. This will leave us well-positioned to invest in new projects that further enhance our services.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Caroline and Sylvia, whose dedication and financial understanding have been instrumental in steering us closer to the black. Caroline’s efforts to curb unnecessary spending and Sylvia’s knack for stretching every dollar have made a real difference. I also recognise the commitment and financial awareness of program managers and staff, who consistently balance client needs with available funds—your efforts are deeply appreciated.

Together, we continue to build a financially resilient organisation that delivers meaningful impact.

Robyn Jamieson

Treasurer

Financial Reports

South East Women and Children's Services Inc

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Income			
Income from funding bodies		1,896,628	1,789,958
Rental income from properties		24,505	25,272
Rental income from clients		16,786	11,776
Other Income	4	80,423	80,262
WorkCover Reimbursement		-	43,098
Total income		2,018,342	1,950,366
Expenses			
Program Administration expenses	5	1,893,337	1,919,575
Properties expenses	6	23,393	11,200
Resident/client expenses	7	126,427	77,745
Total Expenses		2,043,157	2,008,520
Operating surplus/(deficit) before income tax		(24,815)	(58,154)
Income tax	3.a	-	-
Operating surplus/(deficit) attributable to the members of the association		(24,815)	(58,154)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		(24,815)	(58,154)

SEWACS accounts are audited by Kothes Chartered Accountants and submitted to Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

South East Women and Children's Services Inc

Statement of financial position
As at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash assets	8	638,317	722,574
Trade receivables		3,240	(459)
Total current assets		641,557	722,115
Non-current assets			
Fixed assets	9	145,356	179,952
Total assets		786,913	902,067
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables			
Trade creditors		27,324	4,798
		27,324	4,798
GST & PAYG payable			
GST collected		130,177	125,960
GST paid		(99,940)	(94,201)
PAYG		18,610	20,750
		48,847	52,509
Provisions			
Employee entitlements			
Annual Leave Provisions		72,658	112,521
Long Service Provisions		82,664	84,333
Sick Leave Provisions		31,872	35,899
Time in Lieu Provisions		1,449	2,605
Total		188,643	235,358
Other liabilities			
Accrued funding	15	74,358	137,240
DV committee funds		7,690	6,866
Bond for clients		570	1,000
		82,618	145,106
Total current liabilities		347,432	437,771
Total liabilities		347,432	437,771
Net assets		439,481	464,296
Equity			
Retained earnings		439,481	464,296

Contact Us

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