



GEORGES RIVER
LIFE CARE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Andrew Scipione A.O.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



2019 was a productive year of development; reviewing our current offering of services and establishing a strategic plan that will enable Life Care to prioritise the growing needs in the local community. I am immensely proud of how the Board and Staff have worked together to achieve this plan that will produce positive outcomes for years to come.

Our strategic plan focuses on three key service pillars; Family Violence Support, Emergency Relief and ArtsLife, with demonstrated pathways within these service pillars; complimented by several passion-led services such as Autism Support Group, Parenting Programs and our Men's Connect Group. This disciplined approach allows us to maximise our impact and our resources, delivering quality services, whilst continually developing our capacity and commitment.

In 2019 we were successful in securing funding for various projects from a number of new partners such as Sydney Water and Stockland Care. We are grateful again in 2019 to partner with Georges River Council and Club Rivers and we thank them sincerely for their ongoing support.

Our major fundraising events, Sleeping Rough and Trivia Night were both successful and in 2019 we introduced a Christmas Appeal which had positive results.

On behalf of Life Care I would like to thank our Board for their contribution and commitment; our passionate Staff, and our generous supporters, for their ongoing encouragement of the work we do.

Glenn Power

CEO'S REPORT

In December the Board signed off on a three-year strategic plan that will help to strengthen, shape and support our great work in the local community. A key feature of the plan will be to focus our attention on three strategic pillars of service; Family Violence Support, Emergency Relief and ArtsLife (which provides creative opportunities for the disadvantaged and disabled in our community).

Whilst these three areas will become our primary focus, the remaining services will continue to be provided as the need is demonstrated.

Activity and demand for services continues to increase. We are privileged to partner with many great organisations in the community to help us meet this growing need. A special thank you to the great team at Club Rivers who continue to support us in many ways, including the hosting of our annual Sleeping Rough fundraiser, the provision of 50 food hampers and ongoing support of a number of programs through grants and assistance.

Finally, I would like to thank our amazing group of staff and volunteers. They do a fantastic job in developing and providing our services with great support and guidance from our dedicated Board. We are all looking forward to a great year ahead as we continue to support and serve those with needs in our community.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH

ArtsLife at Club
Rivers Street Fair



Vanessa Wheeler
awarded Banks
Volunteer of the Year



APRIL

Sleeping Rough
Fundraiser



MAY

Staff / Board
Planning Day



JUNE

10 years of providing
Legal Service



Stockland Care Grant
for Parenting

AUGUST

Demand for Food
Hampers triples.
Club Rivers donate
food for hampers



Georges River Council
Grant awarded to ArtsLife
Access

SEPTEMBER

ArtsLife Concert



OCTOBER

Annual
Trivia Night
Fundraiser



DECEMBER

Launched
Christmas
Appeal





LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC

During 2019 the Legal Advice Clinic provided over 70 consultations to people in need. Over 80% of attendees were women. Approximately half of attendees were getting advice because they are experiencing domestic violence. Separation advice and parenting disputes make up the other half of people assisted in the clinic.

Our major referrers to the Legal Clinic are St George Domestic Violence Team, St George Family Support Services and Moving Forward who collectively refer two thirds of our attendees, the majority of which are from domestic violence backgrounds.

Testimonials

"amazing people, very helpful"

"the advice was spot on – fantastic"

"The service and advice was very comforting and put me at ease"

"On behalf of the St George and Sutherland Domestic Violence Service I would like to thank the staff of Georges River Life Care for the invaluable services that you provide so generously to the women and children who experience and are affected by domestic violence"

**70
Consults**

**80%
Women**

**50%
Domestic
Violence**



CASE MANAGEMENT

In 2019 Life Care welcomed Ellen Power on the Case Work Team allowing for an additional 4 hours of case work to clients each week. This is in addition to Lorena's two days a week case work role.

The case work provided to our clients greatly varies according to the needs of the referral. Many of our case work clients initially come to us for ER assistance and through our intake process utilise our case work support where needed. A large part of our case work involves advocacy. Some examples include advocacy for victims of domestic violence with Department of Housing and advocacy for asylum seekers for Government support.

Case work has also included support for people in court, in education meetings and accessing medical services. Life Care's case work often involves liaising with other local services to ensure we are working holistically and consistently with individual clients, rather than providing case work already being delivered elsewhere. In 2019 there were 98 case work consultations, 80 percent of which were women.

Testimonial

"I am a single parent and I am isolated because I don't have any family here. I found a family in GRLC. They treat me with respect and consideration. Thank you so much for helping me to get through the difficulties of life and make my life a bit better."

**98
Consults**

**80%
Women**



COUNSELLING

Our Counselling Service offers a broad range of support and therapy to our community contacts, low income earners and other clients we meet via other Life Care services.

In 2019 over 45 counselling sessions were provided. Over 90% of our clients are subsidized. Our service primarily caters for individuals who are on pensions, low income earners or students. This service continues to reach people who are suffering from anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, relationship issues and domestic violence.

Testimonials

"Kids were showing signs of anxiety and the counselling really helped them get through a very hard court case"

"My counsellor was fantastic - I was in a very bad place and she helped to prevent me from ending my own life"

"My counsellor was professional, non-judgmental and connected really well with me and encouraged me"

"It would have been impossible for me to afford this counselling without your support"

**45
Sessions**

**90%
Subsidised**



EMERGENCY RELIEF

2019 saw an increase in referrals for Emergency Relief. Referrals came from the Government sector such as Centrelink and Housing, self-referral via public forums such as Google and 'Ask Lizzy', schools and NGO's including Moving Forward, St George Family Support Service and Riverwood Community Centre. We also noted an increase in word of mouth referrals, with needy members of the community requesting assistance after hearing from other clients. 142 clients were assisted financially either with bills or food vouchers while 342 hampers were given out during 2019.

**142
Bills Paid**

**342
Food
Hampers**

**\$3500
NILS**

CARE TEAMS

Community Care provides opportunity to support a range of people in need through the provision of food hampers and social support. This care is provided by volunteers who are supervised by our Care Coordinator, Suzanne Sharp. In 2019 we introduced fresh food hampers, in association with Hands & Feet. This has been a very popular addition to our services, and we have seen up to 18 families benefitting from receiving a fresh food hamper twice every month.

The Care Team also came alongside our fresh food service with more frequent coffee and chat events. These events along with Life Care Women provided great opportunities for our team to help our isolated clients build stronger connections and friendships.



ARTSLIFE KIDS

We had another great year at ArtsLife introducing two new workshops; Visual Art and Hip Hop Dance. Adding these two workshops allowed us to cater for an even broader range of kids in our local community.

In march we ran a hip hop workshop at the Riverwood Street Fair and in October we ran a drama workshop at Club Rivers for their school holiday program. As a result we welcomed new families to our regular weekly workshops.

Our annual concert in September was a huge success and it was a real highlight to see so many children proudly showcasing their talents and skills . It was also wonderful to see the relationships that had formed between families.

**99
Regos**

**30%
Subsidised**

ARTSLIFE ACCESS

We continued to run programs in Term 1-3 with Sylvanvale.

In Term 4 we welcomed Jess Walsham on the team to facilitate the program alongside Laura Fishwick. Jess and Laura have been doing an incredible job developing a new and exciting program for 2020. We would like to thank Club Rivers and Georges River Council for their generous grants to help continue this program.



AUTISM SUPPORT

The Autism Support Group continued strongly in 2019 with a stable base group of about 20 families and each year meeting new faces.

Our centre-based meetings held Wednesday mornings every 3 weeks during school terms equates to 15 meetings on site per year. There are usually another dozen mobile day meetings at cafes and restaurants in the St George and Sutherland Shire areas. We have between 3-10 parents attend each one.

A survey conducted showed that about 30 percent of families have not been able to attend due to the day or time of the meetings. To increase our access we will have more evening meetings and also facilitate the families meeting up for social events on one Saturday per month eg we recently had a 'girls day out' lunch at Hazelhurst for teens on the spectrum and their mums.

With referrals from the Case Management Team we have been able to meet families of various faiths and cultures. An Arabic interpreter helped a single mother of Muslim faith to join our group one morning, and luckily one of our mums was able to converse with her in Arabic directly to find out how we could help. We have also had recent immigrants from the Philippines come to the group with their newly diagnosed toddler.

Our members have also accessed the Counselling service, Legal Clinic and other services.

Testimonials

"I do not know how I would have survived without the group"

"The group is a real life-saver!"



SHINE

Shine is a unique personal development program for 11-14 year old girls. The curriculum is nationally endorsed by the Institute of Group Leaders and fits into the Quality Teaching Framework, School Leadership Capability Framework and Values Education Policy.

Shine is run over 8 weeks and uses a holistic approach, reinforcing that every individual is unique with different strengths, qualities and skills and has been successfully implemented in High Schools and Community Centres. This program, based on WORTH, STRENGTH & PURPOSE has the potential to not only inspire but to bring cognitive change in regard to how a student thinks about herself and her future.

Eighteen Year 7 Shine students from Georges River Campus at Peakhurst completed Shine 2019. Parents and School Representatives attended the Graduations where the students had an opportunity to share their experience of Shine and which outcomes resulted from being in the program.

Testimonials

"I have more confidence"

"Shine showed me how to work through problems"

"I had opportunities to express myself through activities and group time"

Joy Scipione has facilitated SHINE at Georges River Lifecare for 10 years and it is valued by the school leadership and the WELLBEING Program of the school.





MEN'S CONNECT

In 2018 we commenced a Men's Connect Group with funding from Georges River Council. The group is designed to engage men who are struggling with a range of issues including mental health problems and isolation.

The group is facilitated by Stewart McNaughton who has extensive experience in dealing with men with challenging backgrounds.

The group is steadily developing with Friday lunches and the opportunity to participate in narrative therapy sessions led by Stewart. In 2019 the groups went from meeting monthly to fortnightly. We now have a number of regulars who have connected in well to this program and to other programs conducted by Life Care.

PARENTING PROGRAMS

In 2019, Life Care ran 8 courses with over 90 participants. Courses included 123 Magic, Circle of Security & Engaging Adolescents. We recieved funding from Stockland Care that allowed us to offer fully subsidised registrations to a number of the participants that were experiencing financial hardship. We made some great connections and referrals to other services such as Emergency Relief and Case Management.

Testimonials

"1-2-3 Magic was truely life changing. I feel like with the support I received and the tools I now have , I have a handle on parenting my kids again..."

"Circle of Security has taught me many tips and techniques to help me become a better parent and develop stronger relationships with my children..."

2019 FINANCIALS

GEORGES RIVER LIFE CARE LIMITED

ABN 41 293 074 701

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	NOTE	2019 \$	2018 \$
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash Assets	2	154,734	109,290
Receivables	3	6,171	9,125
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		160,904	118,415
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		160,904	118,415
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Payables	4	16,613	4,608
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		16,613	4,608
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>		16,613	4,608
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		\$ 144,291	\$ 113,807
<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND RESERVES</u>			
Accumulated Funds	5	104,437	113,807
Reserves - Grants Unspent	6	39,854	-
<u>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>		\$ 144,291	\$ 113,807

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes attached

2019 FINANCIALS

GEORGES RIVER LIFE CARE LIMITED NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

NOTE 7 SEGMENT INFORMATION (PROJECT INCOME & EXPENDITURE)

2019	Autism Support	Parenting	Counselling	Legal	Shine	Grandparents	Trivia Night	Fundraising & Marketing	Appeal	General	Food Bank	Arts Life Access	Arts Life Visual Art	Arts Life Life Care	Life Care Women	Care	Strength	Mens Group	Total
INCOME																			
General Donations		1,000							11,149	41,275	2,718			605	68				56,616
Course Donations		3,045																	3,045
Christmas Donations										109,310									109,310
Rent Donations										2,972									2,972
Rent Subsidy										40									877
Craft Donations			837																130
Counselling Subsidised			130																-
Counselling Receipts																			-
Government																			-
Grants - Other										4,500				1,000					61,208
Function Donations										23,886									36,622
Deposit Interest							500			12,836									2,246
Dance Fees																			12,944
Dance Fees Subsidised														200					200
Music Tuition														34,075					34,075
Music Tuition Subsidised														200					200
Visual Arts														1,120					3,245
Sundry Income										1,049				2,125					1,949
TOTAL INCOME	-	4,045	867	-	-	-	13,438	-	11,149	186,078	2,718	16,800	6,120	51,149	68	27,208	7,000	-	325,637
EXPENSES																			
Staffing	2,164	7,830						6,758		8,223		12,719	17,039	1,559	17,866			4,949	80,227
Printing and Stationery		207	66	31						508		68	84	258	31			35	1,289
Books and Subscriptions		887								314			1,170						1,300
Catering and Supplies		529			365	63	887			1,170	6,415	110	394	975	1,191	363		1,192	13,653
Gifts										375			300	386					735
Equipment Purchases										4,787									5,183
Equipment Hire																			-
Utilities/Rent		55	69	55						110,758				50					110,987
Miscellaneous										4,289				2		60			4,351
Insurance										784									784
Superannuation		631						31				534		2,530		2,766			8,110
Contractors			4,158	13,200						1,617			1,725	43,330			7,000		69,413
Transport																309			309
Guest Speakers																			-
Community Support																			-
Staff Development																			-
Major Event										245									245
Other Fees																			-
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,164	10,239	4,293	13,286	365	63	887	6,790	-	134,070	6,415	13,431	2,203	64,940	2,750	21,515	7,000	6,176	296,596
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(2,164)	(6,194)	(3,325)	(13,286)	(365)	(63)	12,538	(6,790)	11,149	51,008	(3,697)	3,469	3,917	(13,791)	(2,681)	5,693	-	(6,176)	29,241



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND

SHEDDEN & GREEN PARTNERS

ABN 43 723 342 276

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To: The Members of Georges River Life Care Ltd

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

We have audited the financial report of Georges River Life Care Ltd, which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2019, Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Accounts.

In our opinion the financial report of Georges River Life Care Ltd has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31st December 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent required for special purpose financial reports, and Division 60 the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibility of Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation of the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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In preparing the financial report, the responsible entities are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

The audit objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report. As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the audit opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during the audit.



Shedden & Green Partners
David C Shedden FCA – Partner

Dated: 7th May 2020
Miranda NSW

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS





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