





2025
ANNUAL REPORT



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## A message from our Board Chair

As we reflect on the past 12 months, we are filled with gratitude for your continued support of Young Life Australia. It has been a year of both challenges and blessings. Through it all, God has remained faithful. Together with your prayer, generosity, and involvement, we have seen lives impacted, communities strengthened, and hope renewed.

Young Life Australia faced significant financial losses due to a trend of expenditure outweighing income. To remain sustainable and continue our mission, the Board made the difficult but necessary decision to instigate leadership change.

A new Lead Team was formed including Mike Gaffney, Asia Pacific Senior Vice President, Kelly Winiata, Sophie Wilksch, Claire Wood, Lily Hagberg and myself. The Lead Team has prioritised local area fundraising and strengthened connections with Young Life Asia Pacific, which has provided vital support, resources, and encouragement. These changes have steadied the ship and set a course for long-term sustainability.

We are excited to share a renewed leadership structure, recognising the unique strengths God has placed within our leaders:

- Kelly Winiata appointed Country Director (from June 1, 2025). Kelly will oversee field ministry and the overall development of Young Life Australia. Even prior to her official start, she has been strengthening our team and deepening our mission's foundations.
- Sophie Wilksch appointed Operations Manager. Sophie will lead the essential behind-the-scenes functions that keep our ministry strong.
- Claire Wood Claire will focus on Marketing, Communications, and Administration, continuing her invaluable role in supporting growth.
- Lily Hagberg seconded part-time to the Young Life Asia Pacific Division, while continuing to serve Young Life Australia in bookkeeping, budgeting, and reporting.

We are thankful for this capable, passionate team, united in their commitment to lead with faith and vision.

With the challenges of the past year behind us, we move forward with renewed vision and confidence. Our focus remains:

• Building stronger local fundraising efforts

• Growing leadership capacity and sustainability

• Expanding our reach to young people in communities across Australia

• Strengthening ties with the global Young Life family

None of this would be possible without you: our members, donors, volunteers, and prayer supporters. Your commitment has carried us through a difficult season and into a new chapter filled with promise.

Together, and with God's leading, we believe the best is still ahead.

Warm regards,

**Vicki Rochow**Board Chair



## A message from our Country Director

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I'm filled with gratitude for the ways Young Life Australia continues to grow in strength, reach, and impact. Our mission to build authentic relationships with young people in the season and places that they find themselves in and to earn the right to share the hope of Jesus remains at the heart of everything we do; and this year has been marked by significant progress and deep encouragement.

#### Key Milestones:

- <u>Financial Stewardship</u>: We've seen a renewed focus on building sustainable, community-based support. Local fundraising efforts have grown stronger, empowering our teams to serve with greater confidence and stability. This is an area we are still building and growing.
- <u>Leadership Capacity Grown:</u> Intentional investment in leadership development has borne fruit. Our staff and volunteers are stepping into their roles with greater clarity, resilience, and vision for longterm impact.
- <u>MORE Campaign:</u> Young Life's presence has expanded into new communities across Australia, with the areas of Gawler and Redlands starting to be present for the youth in their communities. More young people are being reached through contact work, clubs, camps, mentoring, and school-based programs. Each encounter a chance to offer hope and connection.
- <u>APAC Support:</u> Our ties with the global Young Life family have grown stronger. Through shared learning, and collaboration, we're reminded that we are part of a worldwide movement committed to reaching young people of this next generation.

This year has not been without its challenges, navigating changing community needs, resource constraints, and the ongoing task of building trust in new areas. Yet through it all, we've seen God's faithfulness and the unwavering commitment of our teams.

As we move into the next year, our focus will be on deepening discipleship, strengthening local leadership, and continuing to grow our reach with the next generation and building the branding and support of Young Life Australia. We remain committed to walking alongside young people, meeting them where they are, and pointing them to the hope.

Thank you to our supporters, volunteers, staff, and prayer partners. Your faithfulness makes this mission possible.

Warm regards, **Kelly Winiata** Country Director



## Our Vision

Young Life Australia envisions reaching every young person in every community across the country with the love of God and the message of Jesus.



## Our Mission

Young Life Australia exists to introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith. Our purpose is to support and empower young people to make positive life choices and become leaders in their communities.

#### **ACTIVE AREAS DURING FY 2024-2025**



## **Year in Review - Local Area**





#### Armidale, NSW

Young Life doesn't begin with pancakes - it begins with people. This year in Armidale, our volunteers continued to go where young people are, meeting them in their schools and communities, and building bridges of authentic friendship.

We focused on getting to know young people by name and showing them that their lives have purpose. Our two Clubs restarted with great energy, and we were back serving pancakes and handing out ice blocks to students at Armidale Secondary College, while the Coffee Cart at Newling School ran weekly, creating opportunities for genuine connection.

New Gap Year students moved into the house on Kirkwood Street and threw themselves into ministry life. helping build momentum across our programs and community activities. By the start of 2025, we knew over 200 young people by name, and our leaders could be found cheering at football games, swimming carnivals, and cricket matche, sharing life with teenagers in their world.

This year also brought key leadership changes. In June, Kelly Winiata stepped into the new role of Country Director, focusing on field ministry and the development of Young Life across Australia. In Armidale, Caity Howie took on the role of Acting Area Director, bringing strong local insight and passion for leading our teams forward.

It was a year defined by connection, consistency, and care -showing young people that they are seen, known, and loved.











#### Barossa Valley, SA

The past year in Young Life Barossa was full of change, celebration, and community. In July 2024, Anneka Sauerwald (née Wilksch) joined the team while Tiffany Voigt took maternity leave. Soon after, leaders from across South Australia gathered for a training day with Gawler and Kapunda to help launch Young Life Gawleran exciting expansion in the region.

Our biggest Trivia Night yet took place in August, followed by a Club Campout at Bethel in September. Over summer, 13 campers and a team of volunteers shared an incredible week at camp. In February, Tiffany returned after welcoming her son, Titus, and we farewelled Anneka with thanks for her contribution.

Barossa programs restarted with Club, WyldLife, Breakfast Clubs, and Lunch Club in local high schools, and several volunteers began helping with a local church's confirmation class, strengthening church partnerships in the community.

In May, we celebrated 15 years of Young Life in the Barossa, marking a significant milestone in our journey. Soon after, Sophie Wilksch began Long Service Leave, with Alison West joining the team in her place.

It was a year defined by gratitude, growth, and God's faithfulness as we continued to walk alongside young people and see their lives transformed through community and faith.





### Year in Review - Local Area





#### Blacktown, NSW

It was a year of growth and momentum for Young Life Blacktown. In April 2025, we established a new Blacktown Committee, bringing together long-time supporters and new members to strengthen the ministry's stability and sustainability.

More young people went deeper in their faith, with several choosing baptism and connecting into local churches. We also began to see a growing pipeline of student leaders, with some starting Discovery Bible Study groups in their schools.

Our Drop-In Club continued to thrive, averaging 80–90 teenagers each week, creating countless opportunities for contact work and friendship. Volunteer numbers grew, and new church partnerships formed, broadening our reach across the community.

A major highlight was being selected to join the Global Cities Initiative by Young Life Global—an incredible opportunity that helped accelerate our impact and expand our capacity to reach more young people.

We also hosted our first-ever Trivia Night, bringing together more than 100 people from the community for a night of fun, connection, and support for the mission.

This year marked a strong step forward for Young Life in Blacktown—built on faith, teamwork, and a shared passion to see young people find hope and belonging.



#### Canberra, ACT

This past year marked a season of transition and renewal for Young Life Canberra. In March, we farewelled Mike Peereboom and his family as they relocated to Port Macquarie to begin a new chapter. We are deeply grateful for Mike's faithful leadership and care over the Canberra ministry during the past two and a half years. Mike continues to serve on Young Life staff as Adventure Activities Coordinator, contributing to the National Operations team.

We were thrilled to welcome Aaron Oliveira as the new Area Director for Canberra. With many years of experience in relational and pastoral ministry, Aaron has brought fresh energy, wisdom, and a deep heart for young people to the role.

Our regular programs continued steadily throughout the year, including Breakfast Clubs at Belconnen High and Melba High, and the Thursday Drop-In at Melba, supported by a dedicated team of volunteers.

It was a year of change, gratitude, and new beginnings as Young Life Canberra continued to invest in relationships and create spaces where young people feel seen, supported, and known by name.









#### Hobart, TAS

This year, the Young Life Hobart team continued to intentionally seek out and engage teenagers in their world, at schools, sports events, and other places where young people gather.

While teens were eager to connect, the team faced the ongoing challenge of relaunching the Club program, reflecting the significant need in the community.

Looking ahead, plans are in place to deploy a staff member into the community to relaunch Club, provide consistency, equip volunteers with training in relational evangelism, and strengthen partnerships with local churches and evangelistic organisations. These steps aim to grow and sustain the local ministry, building deeper relationships with Hobart's young people.

#### Year in Review - Local Area





#### Redlands, QLD

This past year has been both extremely exciting and monumental for Young Life Redlands. After years without an Area Director, I have stepped into the position and begun re-establishing a vision and pathway forward for our Area, under the incredible guidance and mentorship of our Country Director and Lead Team. While this has been an imposing journey to embark upon at times, we have already this year shared a vision for Young Life in our city with many of our local churches and community members, and have also almost established a new Area Committee to support & guide the Area and its Director moving forward.

This past year has seen a lot of time spent in prayerful planning and navigating as we have sought how to establish our Area anew, and we are now so incredibly excited to be taking closer steps towards launching ministries afresh (such as Young Life Club!) and funding a paid Area Director role. There are already many volunteers eager and at-the-ready to become involved with Young Life Redlands once we launch, who have seen the culture of Young Life through the local Chaplaincy Program we provide and are passionate to see more young people ministered to through our wider ministries.

Over the past few years, we have seen multiple young people from the Redlands come to faith through Young Life — especially from our journeys to Summer Camp every January and the ongoing relational ministry we continue with them in the weeks, months & years following. We even recently baptised two of our Junior Leaders after they felt God put it upon their hearts to do so following their involvement as Summer Camp Work Crew this year!

We cannot wait to see what God has planned for our Redlands in the nearing future, and hope to look back over our shoulders a year from now and give praise to Him for the work He will have begun & blessed, and the young people he will have started drawing back into His arms through the people & ministries of Young Life Redlands!









## Year in Review - International





#### The Balkans

In the Balkans this year it was significant as it marked the first full year of being a distinct geographic region of the Young Life ministry in Europe. This year the formation of our first Regional Leadership Team came together including a strategic mix of both field and functional leaders from the different nations we serve, and are also resourced by those from Central Europe that we're relationally connected to. We also held both a Balkans regional Prayer weekend in Greece in September 2024 for the first time, as this is a new nation we are developing, and our first regional conference in Albania in February 2025 that really helped solidify for our staff, DGLs and volunteers the beginning of our culture of the Balkans region.

The ministry is currently active in:

- Albania with 4 open ministries and 1 developing; 557 KKBN; 27 average kids in club; 7 in campaigners
- Bulgaria with 4 open ministries but a few key cities being developed: 452 KKBN, 48 average kids in club;
   5 campaigners
- North Macedonia with 3 open ministries and 1 developing; 245 KKBN; 52 average kids in club; 22 in campaigners
- Romania (working to legally open a foundation currently) with 2 open ministries and 3 developing; 456 KKBN; 20 average kids in club; 24 in campaigners
- Montenegro (volunteer led, not legal yet) with 1 open ministry; 75 KKBN; 17 average kids in club

There has been a real push in North Macedonia towards more campaigners discipleship groups and it has grown significantly this year with this focus. A challenge is to open the legal organization in Romania, as it has been pushed back and prayers are needed for the groundwork in Greece and for the strategic partners to help plant an area of ministry in Attica, a suburb of Athens.

It has been a challenging year with a lot of firsts, but I am most grateful to our hardworking and dedicated team of staff, DGLs and leaders who fearlessly proclaim the gospel and continue to serve sacrificially. We are a volunteer led movement, and this year in the Balkans there were 151 volunteer leaders serving to reach the 1785 KKBN across these diverse nations.

God continues to provide the resources to hire national staff and bring teams to serve at our camps, so we praise Him for all of His provision and the growth. May He continue to have all the glory, even through some disruption this year with some long-term staff turnover.





## **Year in Review - International**













## Year in Review - International





#### The Baltics

The past 12 months have been among the busiest and most fruitful we've experienced. After years marked by the challenges of COVID and the challenges of a regional conflict, we've entered a new season—a season marked by growth, restoration, and renewed momentum.

Everything we've done this year has centered around growth. We've deepened relationships with local churches, recruited and trained new staff and volunteers, and invested deeply in the lives of teens and pre-teens—meeting them where they are and pointing them toward Jesus. We launched impactful proclamation events like Club, saw our camping ministry expand, and witnessed God inspire more people to join His mission of reaching the lost and discipling the found.

While the years behind us often felt like a spiritual and emotional winter, we now sense the warmth of spring. The sun is breaking through grey clouds, and we see fresh life budding all around us. This is a direct answer to prayer. To witness more youth hearing the Gospel, to see staff and volunteers multiplying—it fuels our hope and confidence in the legacy God is building here. We believe the impact will extend far beyond our time.

As we approach 25 years of ministry in Belarus, we're deeply encouraged by the fruit of long-term faithfulness. One of the most exciting developments has been the emergence of multigenerational leadership. What began when Lera and I pioneered Young Life in Belarus and Lithuania—training a small group of local leaders—has now grown into something much larger.





Those first leaders have gone on to disciple and equip the next generation, and now we're seeing a fourth wave of junior leaders being raised up. This kind of multiplication is at the very heart of our mission and a clear testimony to God's faithfulness over time.

By the Numbers: Highlights from the Past Year

- 2 new areas established in Belarus
- 5 summer camps held this year (up from 4), including the launch of a pre-teen camp in Lithuania
- 193 total campers a 39% increase from last year

One of the most powerful moments for us this year came during one of our camps in Lithuania. Historically, Lithuania has been a tough mission field with slow spiritual responsiveness. But this summer, we witnessed a breakthrough: 34 young people put their faith in Jesus. It was a beautiful, unexpected outpouring of the Holy Spirit—and a reminder that no field is too hard for the Gospel.

A constant need you can pray for is the need we have for more local staff and volunteers who are called and equipped to reach teens with the love and truth of Jesus. We continue to pray for individuals who will carry the vision forward—training others, discipling youth, and boldly living out the Gospel in their communities. This not only enables us to reach more youth but allows us to fully pass on the mission to locals.

Please also pray for us and our team as we navigate the delicate balance of boldness and wisdom. In our region proclaiming the name of Jesus can bring real risk, we ask for discernment, courage, and favour as we move forward with the mission God has entrusted to us.

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### **Year in Review - International**



#### Asia Pacific

This year, we celebrate God's faithfulness in allowing Young Life Asia Pacific to venture into deeper waters, answering his call to reach places where ministry has not yet existed. With a vision inspired by Luke 5, we are casting out our nets in hopes that God will provide a miracle in the hearts of young people.

Two uncharted territories include Fiji and Samoa, where we are laying the groundwork for future ministry. In Fiji, that effort is led by Rosi, a local leader with a deep heart for teen moms and teenagers. What began with YoungLives, our outreach to teen moms, has expanded as volunteers build relationships through prayer, village visits, and even connections with a local women's rugby team. At the center of it all is prayer. We've been praying for the Pacific Islands for many years. Rosi and her team are building the ministry on prayer, but they aren't just praying for their own communities. This team sees Fiji, one of the first nations to greet the sunrise each day, as uniquely placed to lift up the world in prayer. With this strong foundation, we are trusting God to fully establish Young Life in Fiji and Samoa as official ministries in 2026.

The Lord is also using Young Life to reach more young people than ever before in areas where religious persecution is prevalent. God is moving, and it is our humble privilege to witness his great work in the lives of so many.



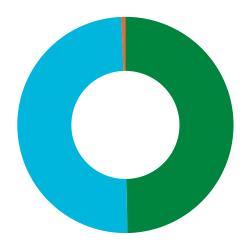






## **Financials**





#### Revenue

Total Revenue: \$1,491,034

#### Expenses

Total Expenses: \$1,482,020

#### Net Profit

Profit: \$9,014



**View the entire Audited Financial Report here** 

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

		2025	2024
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	4	1,437,313	1,328,674
Finance income	5	458	5,439
Other income		53,263	28,342
Employee benefits expense		(922,477)	(975,000)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(38,132)	(40,694)
Administration expenses		(248,543)	(182,459)
Program expenses		(239,924)	(225,461)
Training expenses		(29,288)	(53,267)
Fundraising expenses		(1,968)	(14,951)
Finance expenses	5 _	(1,688)	(1,568)
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax		9,014	(130,945)
Income tax expense	_		
Surplus for the year		9,014	(130,945)
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax			
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Revaluation gain/(loss) for property	_	<u> </u>	586,779
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax			586,779
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	_	9,014	455,834



## Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS	_		
Cash and cash equivalents	6	196,240	237,621
Trade and other receivables Financial assets	7 8	52,384	69,499
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	° -	182,241	178,660
	_	430,865	485,780
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		4 202 222	1.075.004
Property, plant and equipment TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	9 _	1,203,066	1,275,984
	_	1,203,066	1,275,984
TOTAL ASSETS	_	1,633,931	1,761,764
LIABILITIES CURRENT LIABILITIES Trade and other payables Employee benefits TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES Employee benefits TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	11 12 —	149,230 127,764 276,994 19,431	231,602 182,499 414,101 19,171
	_	19,431	19,171
TOTAL LIABILITIES	_	296,425	433,272
NET ASSETS	-	1,337,506	1,328,492
EQUITY Reserves Retained earnings	_	586,779 750,727	586,779 741,713
TOTAL EQUITY	_	1,337,506	1,328,492





#### Statement of Cash Flows

#### For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

		2025	2024
	Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from customers and government		282,369	211,618
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,539,961)	(1,298,712)
Donations and fundraising received		1,131,764	1,021,354
Interest received		458	5,439
Interest paid	_	(1,688)	(1,568)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	16	(127,058)	(61,869)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		85,677	-
Purchase of financial assets	_		(23,859)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	_	85,677	(23,859)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:	_		
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	_		
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		(41,381)	(85,728)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		237,621	323,349
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6		
Cash and Cash equivalents at end of illiandar year	_	196,240	237,621

#### Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2025

	Accumulated funds	Asset Revaluation Surplus \$	Total
Balance at 1 July 2024	741,713	586,779	1,328,492
Surplus for the year	9,014		9,014
Balance at 30 June 2025	750,727	586,779	1,337,506
Balance at 1 July 2023	872,658		872,658
Deficit for the year	(130,945)	-	(130,945)
Total other comprehensive income for the period		586,779	586,779
Balance at 30 June 2024	741,713	586,779	1,328,492





#### Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 to the Responsible Persons of Young Life Australia Limited

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

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

WSC Group - Audit, Pty Ltd

A F Gilbert, CA Director

25 / 11 / 2025



#### Responsible Persons' Declaration

The responsible persons declare that in the responsible persons' opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes for the year ended 30 June 2024 satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013.

Responsible person Vicki Rochow	Responsible person
Dated this 25 day of November 2025	

## **Operational Highlights**





#### **Entity Business Name Change**

Young Life Australia has successfully transitioned from an incorporated association to a company limited by guarantee, and our name is now Young Life Australia Ltd.

This transfer, under section 601BM of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), does not create a new legal entity or affect our property, rights, obligations, or legal proceedings. Our ABN remains unchanged, our ARBN becomes our ACN, and our contact details stay the same.

This change was required following direction from the Australian Charities and Notfor-profits Commission (ACNC). The ACNC determined that our former structure, which combined religious and charitable work, could no longer hold Tax Deductible Gift Recipient (TDGR) status. To retain TDGR and ensure ongoing financial strength, we were required to separate these functions into two entities:

- Young Life Australia Foundation (YLAF) our registered religious entity (ABN 98 649 274 859), established in 2021. YLAF is not eligible for TDGR.
- <u>Young Life Australia Ltd (YLAL)</u> the newly registered Public Benevolent Institution (PBI), eligible to retain TDGR. (ABN: 96 592 278 795)

To safeguard TDGR and ensure ongoing financial strength, YLAF is now the sole member of YLAL. The same directors and members continue across both entities, ensuring continuity of leadership and governance.

This outcome is the result of years of careful planning and collaboration, securing a structure that strengthens our capacity to serve young people into the future.



#### Gap Year

Our <u>Gap Year</u> program has continued to grow and strengthen over the past year. Designed for 18–25 year-old followers of Jesus who want to be disciples who make disciples, the program is open to both domestic and international applicants. This year we were delighted to host four international Gappies.

The Gap Year experience is all about living in community, forming deep friendships, embracing new adventures, engaging in local ministry, and sharing plenty of fun and laughter. At the same time, it provides a season of significant personal and spiritual growth. We have thoroughly enjoyed walking alongside this year's Gappies and celebrating all that God is doing in and through them.





## **Looking Forward**





#### Known Campaign

We're aligned with our global Young Life affiliates in the Known Campaign. Our goals for now until 2030 is to:

- · Model Relational Ministry
- Inspire a Volunteer Movement
- · Develope Kingdom Leaders
- · Going Together



#### Adventure

Building a outdoor adventure program that extends and enhances our current programs. Inspiring young people and adults alike to stretch themselves, experience nature as God intends it, and have fun in the process.



#### Inspiring a Volunteer Movement

Committing to investing in and inspiring a volunteer movement - Pray for, recruit, and equip volunteers who share the life of Jesus, make disciples and inspire others.

Our goal for the next five years is to inspire volunteers

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." - Romans 12:4-5

## **Closing Remarks**

As we reflect on the past year across our communities, we are grateful for the faithfulness, dedication, and passion of our volunteers, staff, and supporters. Together, we have seen young people known by name, encouraged in their faith, and given opportunities to grow, lead, and belong. Every pancake served, conversation shared, and program run has been part of a bigger story. A story of hope, transformation, and enduring impact.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain committed to walking alongside young people, equipping leaders, and partnering with communities to ensure that every teenager has the chance to be seen, heard, and loved.

