

Lifeboat Geelong Foundation Report - January 2024 to June 2024

A Message from Fr. Kevin Dillon, Board Chair

This report is really an “interim” Report, as “Lifeboat” will be moving its Annual General Meeting from the Calendar Year to the Financial Year. Accordingly an Annual Report for the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 will be issued in July, in conjunction with the AGM for the same period.

This Report on activities and development for “Lifeboat” is relatively brief, but will be expanded when a more complete Report is issued on June 30 this year.

This year has been a period of resilience and meaningful, steady service and to a degree, growth for the Lifeboat Geelong Foundation. Through your support, we have continued to provide life-changing assistance to survivors of Church-related sexual abuse and their families, ensuring they receive the care and dignity they well and truly deserve.

Special thanks to our many donors, our dedicated staff, and the community partners for making this possible. Together, we have strengthened our Foundation and expanded our outreach to those in need of many kinds.

Mission and Vision

Mission: To provide comprehensive support for victims/survivors of church-related sexual abuse and their families, helping them rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

Vision: To provide a supportive community where every individual feels heard, supported, and empowered to manage and where possible to overcome the many challenges inflicted upon them as a consequence of the abuse they have suffered.

Year in Review of 2023 / 2024

Client Impact

As is central to our work, Lifeboat has assisted numerous clients with housing, medical needs, basic utilities, and many other areas of personal support.

We have supported many so-called “compensation” processes, thus enabling clients to regain financial stability.

Of particular importance has been our celebration with and for clients in relatively small but meaningful gestures, like Christmas and Birthday cards and vouchers, to bring joy to clients’ lives, and emphasise the message to them that what Lifeboat does is done “because they’re worth it”.

Community Engagement

Partnership with the Mary MacKillop Conference of St Vincent de Paul and other organisations to enhance the support that can be provided to individual people.

Innovative Programs

Implementation of an Alternate Therapy Grant, offering art therapy, massages, music lessons, and psychiatric support.

Expanded outreach through donor-funded medical alarms and transportation initiatives.

Investigation of a project to allow victims / survivors who wish to do so to compose an autobiography to tell their life's story in written form. A number of meetings have been held with "Beyond Words" to assist us in this new step.

Review:

The Board has established a sub-Committee to conduct an exhaustive Review of "Lifeboat" and its activities and mission. It is expected that this Review will be completed early in 2025, and will be an effective "guiding light for the worthwhile progress of "Lifeboat" across the coming years.

Financial Overview – July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Summary

- Total Income: \$277,653
- Total Operating Expenses: \$268,118
- Net "Profit": \$9,534

Breakdown

Income Sources

- o Donations: \$211,936
- o Car Project: \$27,948
- o Raffle: \$9,204

Expenditures

- o Client Accommodation: \$86,040
- o Medical/Dental Costs: \$38,860
- o Wages and Salaries for Administrative and Pastoral Support: \$45,412

Client Support Activities (Reports from Josephine Barnes and Trudy Maiden):

- Personal engagement with clients remains the cornerstone of our support, through which Lifeboat provides listening ears, guidance, and connections to local and other resources.
- Delivered practical help such as food vouchers, motor registration assistance, and dental consultations.

Looking Ahead

We will be trying to:

- # Enhance outreach programs, including group activities and therapy sessions.
- # Expand partnerships to address long-term housing and healthcare challenges.
- # Lifeboat anticipates that there may well be significant negative fallout for our clients as a result of the recent decision of the High Court with regard to the vicarious legal responsibility of the Church pertinent to offences committed by priests and religious and others engaged in by and through the Church. Accordingly, we anticipate the demand on our services will be increased.

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all donors, volunteers, supporters and partners whose generosity makes our mission possible. Special thanks to the staff for their tireless dedication.

Fr. Kevin Dillon A.M.
Chair
Lifeboat Geelong Foundation
November 26, 2024