



LEGACY BRISBANE  
ANNUAL REVIEW

2024



Supporting our veterans' families.



## *The Legacy Ode*

*Fear not that you have died for naught  
The torch you threw to us we caught.  
And now our hands will hold it high  
Its glorious light shall never die,  
We'll not break faith with you who lie  
On many a field.  
Lest we forget.*



Cover and inside cover photo credit:  
Joseph Byford

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# ABOUT Legacy

Legacy is one of Australia's oldest and most trusted charities. For over a century, we have supported the families of those who gave their life or health for their country.

We care for those in need, believing that the loss or injury of a veteran due to their service should not lead to social or financial disadvantage to his or her family.

## Our Mission

Legacy Brisbane strives to ensure that the partners and children of veterans who gave their lives or health can fully realise their potential.

## Our Vision

No dependant of a veteran suffers financial or social disadvantage as a result of their loved ones' death or injury.



# OUR Impact story

In 2024, we continued to care for our beneficiaries

**3,613**   
**Widow(er)s**

Supported with wellbeing contacts, social activities, advocacy and linkages to relevant support services across South East, Central and Western Queensland.

**115**   
**People with a Disability**

Supported through social activities and events that reduced social isolation; and linkages to relevant services, such as the NDIS.

**191**   
**Legacy Youth**

Mentored through leadership and personal development skills, promoting a sense of connectedness and belonging and assisting with their transition from teenagers into adulthood.

**22**   
**Partners & 44 Children**

**supporting an incapacitated veteran**

Engaged with Legacy in times of crisis through the Family Assist Program. Legacy provides flexible wellbeing and community support to medically discharged veterans and their families.

Through the work of our team of committed Legatees and staff who continue to find new innovative ways to respond to the challenges of service delivery.

**286**  
**Legatees**

Volunteer members who make a personal commitment to assist the families of veterans. Legatees are the backbone of Legacy and deliver Legacy services in the communities where our beneficiaries live.

**39**  
**Laurel and Care Clubs**

Social groups that bring Legacy widows together in an atmosphere of friendship and caring, reducing social isolation and promoting peer support.

**67**  
**Pensions**

Granted by Department of Veteran Affairs through Legacy advocating for widows' entitlements.

**23**  
**Beneficiary events**

From youth camps, to Christmas parties and Backyard Assists. Providing social connection, respite and tailored support activities for our beneficiaries.

Underpinned by Legacy's vision is to ensure that there is no social nor financial disadvantage to the families of our fallen or incapacitated veterans.

**Relieving financial hardship**

Legacy is there in times of hardship, providing financial support for basic needs. We advocate for our beneficiaries' rights and benefits.

**Delivering social connection services**

Legacy is there in times of loss and grief, providing ongoing social support to families. We work to ensure the emotional health and wellbeing of those we serve.

**Providing developmental opportunities**

Legacy is there for the long term, providing for the educational and development goals of families. We help those we serve to grow and thrive despite adversity.

**\$1,616,100 spent**

On service delivery throughout the year.

# PRESIDENT'S Report



As I read through the stories contained in this annual report, I reflect on how Legacy continues to serve the families of veterans' in a modern context.

We are still fulfilling a battlefield promise made over 100 years ago to look after the 'missus and the kids'.

I am enormously proud of the work that we do together – Legatees, volunteers, staff and donors – for the widows, partners and children of veterans who have given their life or health in service. I thank each of you for your service to Legacy's beneficiaries.

For me, like so many of us, my connection to Legacy is deeply personal. In my first message as President in our Torch Magazine I shared my 'why' for my commitment to Legacy.

If anything happened to my husband while he was serving, when he was deployed to Iraq, Cambodia, and various other humanitarian missions, Legacy would have stepped in to help me and our child. They still will. I have friends around Australia, who are Legacy widows and Legacy children. It is not a club anyone wants to join. But it is one I want to help.

When I worked at the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health, I led

Australia's first research looking at the consequences of deployment and service for military families. I understand "the good, the bad and the ugly" of military service professionally and personally. So much of it is so very good. But when it is bad, it is horrid.

Legacy is one way I can help the wives and children who came before me and the partners and families who, unfortunately, will need Legacy into the future.

It has been a busy year. In April, in one of my first 'jobs' as President, I represented Legacy at the dais and cheered for our Legacy contingent who marched in the Anzac parade. It is always wonderful to see our beneficiaries come together to honour their loved ones and all of those who died in service.

In June we officially 'turned the sod' for the new Legacy House at Greenslopes. It was a momentous occasion marking years of work and dedication from so many to get us to this point.

The official sod turning ceremony was attended by distinguished guests including Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD; Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, The Honourable Matt Keogh MP, Former Queensland Premier, The Honourable Campbell Newman AO, Mr Joe Kelly MP and Cr Fiona Cunningham.

The need for a central place of care for veterans and their families was driven by the interim report from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran suicide, which raised significant concerns regarding the disjointed manner by which veterans and families are currently treated.

Legacy House is the much-needed, collaborative response, offering a new Model of Care that will see connected services from providers including Legacy Brisbane, RSL

Queensland, Mates4Mates and Open Arms.

The turning of the sod ceremony was also the end of our Bring it Home Campaign. To every person and organisation who supported the campaign – thank you for bringing it home.

The campaign's success would not have been possible without the generosity of our wonderful Legacy community, including philanthropists from Queensland and beyond, State and Federal Governments, and many organisations which provided pro bono support.

There were two other highlights for me in 2024. The first was presenting the Ted Smout Award to Ella Beckwith. The Ted Smout Award is presented annually to one of Legacy Brisbane's young people for 'achieving against the odds', displaying excellent personal, community and/or educational performance and resolution during the year.

Ella was only 7.5 months old when her father passed away from cancer related to his service.

She, her mum Rebecca, and brother William were enrolled with Legacy before the funeral took place.

Ella has now completed her year 12 studies and plans on going to university to study a degree in Social Work, with a view on being a school counsellor.

She is sadly just one of many young people who has lost a parent in service at a young age. It was heartwarming to hear about the positive influence Legacy has had on Ella; from attending the annual kids' camp, to the support the family has received through their Legatee Tony Ralph.

Ella has grown into a committed, compassionate and driven young person who has a bright future ahead of her thanks, in part, to the support she has received through Legacy.



Photo Credit: Joseph Byford

The second highlight for the year was our Intergenerational project and initiative between Legacy and the Australian Catholic University led by PhD candidate Jo-anne Walker.

The project brought Vietnam War Widows and university students together once a week over an eight-week period to share wisdom, exchange ideas and discuss topics from music, fashion, love, loss and legacy.

I had the privilege to attend the last session and the bonds that had been developed between the widows and students were clear.

Some of the widows who had not really connected to Legacy before had found a new group of friends and a support network with other widows; and the students had built confidence and an appreciation of the experiences of the older generation.

I hope we can do more activities like this in the future.

Finally, at the end of 2024 the Board of Directors endorsed a new strategic plan for 2025 – 2029. This new Strategic Plan reaffirms our commitment to Legacy's Charter, Vision, Mission, and Values, outlining key objectives to guide our operations in the coming years.

As the needs of veterans' families have changed, so have we. While there has been a reduction in the number of Australian armed services personnel who lose their lives in service, we must still support the families of veterans who lose their health.

These families have complex, multi-disciplinary needs. The chronic and acute mental health crisis among armed forces personnel and veterans is also having a profound impact on their families – and Legacy is an essential part of the care response.

Our service delivery programs must remain innovative, responsive, and well-resourced. We must continue to operate with effective leadership,

strong governance, and sound financial management.

Recognising the importance of financial sustainability, we are emphasising strategic fundraising and philanthropy to diversify funding sources and ensure long-term stability.

As we look to the future, we acknowledge the enduring needs of our families.

Through our enhanced focus on service delivery and strategic philanthropy, we are well-positioned to meet these challenges and continue our vital work supporting those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

Yours in Legacy,

**Dr Annabel McGuire**  
President

# CEO'S Report



The efforts of our Legatees, staff, volunteers and supporters throughout 2024 is to be highly commended.

It was an exceptionally busy year for Legacy Brisbane as we continued to deliver our personal services from Rockhampton in the north to Logan in the south and out west to the Queensland border.

We also conducted numerous social activities for the families in our care that included over 50 monthly Laurel Club meetings, Children's Camps as well as our regular Young Family, Explorer and commemorative events such as the ANZAC Day Marches conducted throughout our wide area of care.

The President has mentioned the ongoing developments and efforts to establish our new Legacy House at Greenslopes. In 2025 we will see construction works commence with a completion date (weather permitting) in the second quarter of 2026.

The generosity of the Australian Community to provide the financial and pro-bono support to this project has been humbling and intensive from an engagement process. I wish to highlight the efforts of the Bring it Home Cabinet Members supported

by Kelly Burmester and her Fundraising Team at Legacy House. This campaign was conducted in addition to the annual operational fundraising activities conducted by Legacy Brisbane each year.

In 2024, we also witnessed the first group of Army Legatees inducted into Legacy Brisbane.

The Army Unit Legatees are current serving members of the ADF who are part of the Army's welfare Board or Rehabilitation Platoon network.

They have interactions with soldiers facing medical discharge whose families are in need of support due to the incapacitation of the veteran.

As such, these Army Legatees are the 'eyes and ears' of the Ex-Service Organisation network that could assist these families transition back into the community.

An Induction of the Army Legatees from 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (RAR), 1st Intelligence Battalion, 7th Combat Service Support Battalion, 19 Construction Engineer Works, 7th Brigade Headquarters and Directorate of Training Area Management was conducted at Legacy House Brisbane in July 2024.

At this induction training, Army Legatees were provided capability presentations from Legacy, RSL Queensland, Mates 4 Mates, Open Arms, Keith Payne Mental Health Unit and Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation. In December 2024, 8/9RAR and 6 Engineer Support Regiment also joined the program.

It is intended to expand the program to all Army Units at Enoggera in 2025 as well as HMAS Moreton based at Bulimba.

During 2024, the Final Report for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide was released. Many Legatees, staff and families of Legacy contributed to the outcomes of the Commission.

Legacy Australia and Legacy Brisbane sent letters to Federal and State Leaders seeking their commitment to implement the 122 Recommendations coming from the seven volumes of the Final Report.

Legacy will continue to advocate for families supporting a veteran with physical and psychological incapacitations due to service life.

During 2024, I had the pleasure of being invited to be a member in the Department of Veteran Affairs Aged Care Task Force and on the Queensland Veterans' Advisory Council. This provided the opportunity to ensure the voices of families were considered at both federal and state level.

Advocacy to all levels of Government is an important aspect of Legacy's work in the community and I thank the numerous Legacy Brisbane Directors, Contact Group Chairs, Legatees, staff and volunteers for your advice and support throughout 2024 to ensure the support and services to those families in our care is never forgotten.

During 2024, the new Legacy Emerging Leaders Network (ELN) concept was formed with several events conducted under the leadership of the inaugural chair – Ms Ellie Jacobs.

The ELN are young adults commencing their professional journey in their chosen career that have a strong sense of social purpose and support for Legacy. This year the ELN hosted a Trivia Night at Kedron Wavell RSL that raised \$12,000 for Legacy services.

The ELN also supported the Legacy Gala Dinner, Golf Day and the Legacy Brisbane Giving Day. The ELN provides Legacy the opportunity to promote the services and support of Legacy in the community to a younger cohort than what we traditionally recruit to become Legatees.



## Beneficiary Programs

It has been a busy year in terms of our work with beneficiaries. During 2024, Legacy Brisbane engaged with a PhD candidate Jo-anne Walker from Australian Catholic University (ACU). The project involved volunteers from our Vietnam War Widow cohort engaging with students from ACU to undertake an eight-week project looking at the benefits of intergenerational support to both the older and younger cohorts involved. A full report is provided on Page 10.

In 2024, Legacy Brisbane continued its partnership with Feel the Magic, a charity supporting grieving kids to run two separate day camps for families to help them heal after the loss of a loved one.

There were 14 client events including our annual youth camp in January. In 2025, after receiving family feedback, Legacy Brisbane will trial a Children's Camp in September to move away from the heat, humidity (and torrential rain) that has impacted the past two January camps.

To assist families coming together over the 2024/25 Christmas and New Year Holiday period, Legacy Brisbane conducted three separate day activities focusing on fun and socialisation for our younger Legacy family members.

Our Legacy Brisbane Backyard Assist (BYA) Program continues to attract strong support from the Army and corporate community. It is intended to continue to conduct this activity throughout 2025 however, there is a strong need to identify suitable homes. In 2025 the BYA program will be conducted in March, May, June, July, August and October.

## Fundraising, Marketing and Communication

I continue to be humbled by the financial and pro bono support Legacy receives from many differing people and organisations throughout the area we serve.

In our new Strategic Plan, we have captured many of our experiences during the Legacy House capital raising campaign to create a new Philanthropic Pillar to assist Legacy Brisbane in sustaining its services to those in our care.

There are numerous charities in the veteran and family sector creating a very competitive environment to raise funds for services. Where appropriate, Legacy Brisbane will continue to collaborate with those organisations providing good services to veterans and their families.

Legacy Brisbane will continue to advocate strongly for the families in our care to ensure no social or financial disadvantage to the families where the veteran has given their life or health in service to our country.

Finally, as we commence providing our services in 2025 under the new Strategic Plan, as mentioned by the President, we look forward to the build of the new Legacy House at Greenslopes commencing and growing our collaborative community of care to ensure our services meet the needs of a broad demographic of family members in our care.

Yours in Legacy,

**Brendan Cox**  
CEO

# THE LEGACY BRISBANE Strategic Plan 2025-2029



The Strategic Plan 2025 – 2029 identifies five Strategic Pillars to guide our operations in fulfilling our charter and achieving our vision of no social or financial disadvantage for the families of our fallen and injured veterans. The pillars are:

## Leadership & Governance

# 1

**Goal:** Ensure effective leadership, governance, planning and reporting to achieve organisational goals and regulatory requirements.



## Service Delivery

# 2

**Goal:** To provide compassionate, timely, and flexible support that meets the unique needs of our community, empowering individuals and families to thrive and improve their quality of life despite their loss.



## Financial Sustainability

# 3

**Goal:** Ensure current and future organisational capability and sustainability through sound financial management, diversified income and informative reporting.



## People & Culture

# 4

**Goal:** To provide the people and culture capability and capacity to deliver Legacy Brisbane's services.



## Philanthropy Fundraising & Communication

# 5

**Goal:** Increase philanthropic support to Legacy through the giving of time, talent and funding to ensure we have the volunteers, skills and funds needed to deliver our mission to the families of fallen and injured veterans.

*“With the support we have received through Legacy, we are now in a better place as a family and focused on the future.”*

– Legacy Widow Anna Nickel –

# OUR DESIRED FUTURE

## Legacy Brisbane in 2029

### Service model

Programs delivered by a knowledgeable and supported workforce



### Governance

Structured to deliver the mission and strategic priorities



### Effective workforce

Well-trained and supported Legatee, paid and volunteer workforce



### Partnerships & alliances

Symbolic and meaningful relationships for research, services and evaluation



### Quality & accountability

Clear policies, procedures and practices within a quality system



### Brand health

Recognised as the foremost provider of family support in the Defence and Veteran community



### Communication

Managed, purposeful and effective internal and external communication



### Technology

Appropriate technology to secure effective knowledge management



### Financial strength

Diverse revenue streams, strong balance sheet to fund services into the future



### National representation

Continuing involvement in Legacy Australia to add value to national policies and strategic direction



### Planned & measurable impact

Planning, delivering and measuring impact from an evidence base



# BRING IT HOME Campaign

## The Bring it Home Campaign successfully concluded in 2024

The Bring it Home campaign has been a tremendous success for Legacy and the Brisbane community. The tagline for the Bring it Home campaign was, "It started with a promise, help bring it home".

We are delighted to report that funds raised through the campaign will make the new Legacy House a reality at Greenslopes in 2026.

The campaign's success would not have been possible without the generosity of our wonderful Legacy community, including philanthropists from Queensland and beyond, State and Federal Governments, and organisations which provided pro bono support.

There were many positive interactions during the campaign. They reinforced both the impact Legacy has on families of veterans, and the need for the innovative wrap-around model of care that Legacy House will help deliver.

*"Our conversations with many stakeholders during the campaign period have solidified our resolve that Legacy now has to provide this new model of care – the need is really there, and we know the difference it will make to veterans and their families over the coming decades,"* said Steven Goakes, Bring it Home Campaign Chair.

At a thank you event for Bring it Home Campaign donors held in

November, Legacy Brisbane CEO Brendan Cox said,

*"This occasion marks the beginning of a new Legacy model of care for veterans and their families that will serve generations into the future with the honour, integrity and fellowship they deserve."*

*We look forward to celebrating the opening with all of our wonderful campaign supporters. It will be a chance to express the gratitude of Legacy Brisbane in a place they have helped create – a place where veterans and their families receive comprehensive care, in a 'home' filled with warmth, understanding and compassion."*



# SOD TURNING For Legacy House

Commencement of construction on Legacy House was marked with an official sod turning on the site on 21 June 2024.

The ceremony was attended by the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence

Personnel, the Honourable Matt Keogh MP, Former Queensland Premier The Honourable Campbell Newman AO, as well as the Finance Chair and Coorparoo Ward Councillor Fiona Cunningham and Member for Greenslopes Mr Joe Kelly MP, who attended on behalf of the Brisbane City Council and Queensland State Government respectively.

Brendan Cox said, "For too long appropriate levels of care have been hard to come by and even harder to sustain for people who have sacrificed their lives and health for our country.

*Legacy House is one way we can give wrap-around health and emotional support that goes well beyond an isolated conversation."*



Photo Credit: Joseph Byford

## A place of caring

Legacy House has been designed by award-winning architects Hayball, who drew on insights from the lived experience of Legacy families. The Greenslopes site was home to the iconic Red Cross sheds which served as an important functional monument to the Australian Red Cross organisation's Second World War effort.

There are design references to that heritage in the new Legacy House. Legacy House will encourage conversations, and support sharing and healing.

Legacy House will help provide a new model of care to families of the fallen. This model will continue to be based on service, respect and gratitude.

However, it will better meet the contemporary challenges that families face, making it easier for them to access substantial, long-lasting, and comprehensive support.

Several veteran organisations will group together in a Collaborative Cell within the new Legacy House.

These include: Mates for Mates (providing mental health assistance to veterans and their partners); RSL Queensland (providing general

assistance to veterans and families) and Open Arms (a 24/7 mental health service for veterans and their families).

These providers will link with healthcare services delivered out of Greenslopes Private Hospital and the Keith Payne Mental Health Unit. It is intended that the Model of Care will be evaluated over time by the Gallipoli Medical Research Unit and other research partners.

This collaboration will help families navigate the complex environment of Ex-Service Sector and community organisations and provide holistic support that is wrapped around the family unit.

# AN INTERGENERATIONAL Bond

## Combating Social Isolation for Older Australians

Vietnam War widows and university students were brought together over an eight-week Intergenerational Project thanks to a collaboration between Legacy and Australian Catholic University.

The program was led by PhD candidate Jo-anne Walker. Activities were run for 90 minutes every Friday in Legacy House over the eight-weeks and included singing, dancing, a fashion parade and the creation of a podcast covering topics such as music, fashion, love and legacy.

*"This program was more than just a series of conversations, or a set of activities; it was a beautiful exchange of stories, wisdom, and laughter,"* Jo-anne said.

*"Each of our remarkable widows and our enthusiastic university students brought something unique to the table."*

*"Over eight weeks, we explored the rich tapestry of our widows' lived experiences surrounding the Vietnam War and of life in Australia during that time."*

*"We have shared memories, learned from each other, and created bonds that I hope will last long beyond this program's completion."*

Reflecting on the experience one Legacy Widow said, *"I've learnt that young people have incredible feeling and empathy for older generations."*

Whilst one of the students said, *"I think about how brave all of these ladies are because they have obviously had some traumatic times and experiences."*

The aim of this program was to contribute to the research into the benefits of intergenerational

programs and assist Legacy in developing new ways to engage younger volunteers to support older widows.

The impact of an intergenerational program is multi-dimensional helping to combat social isolation for older Australians, building young adults' confidence, and strengthening relationships between generations.

Intergenerational research has highlighted many physical, cognitive, social, and emotional benefits for participants including reduction in isolation and loneliness, improving self-worth, purpose, strength and respect for others, enjoyment and fun, exchange of ideas and acquisition of new skills and knowledge.



# SHARING Anna's Story

Originally from Eastern Europe, Anna was working overseas when she met Craig, a Navy Officer.

They fell in love, got married and moved to Craig's home country Australia, where they settled and had their two children daughter Zena and son Anatoli.

Craig served his country in the Navy for 26 years during which time he served in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor.

Sadly, like many veterans, Craig suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of his service and in 2019 Craig lost his life.

Anna and Craig had been married for 17 years and Anna was left with two small children; Zena was five and Anatoli was just three at the time.

Anna said, "I went to sleep that night a wife and I woke up a widow."

Legacy was one of the first organisations Anna was put in touch with. "When Craig passed away I did not know where to go or what to do. We didn't have family support and I felt lost, hopeless, helpless and alone. As soon as Legacy got in touch they knew exactly what to do. Legacy has been my support ever since. They helped me pick up the pieces."

Legacy was able to provide Anna with the practical support she needed to claim the family's entitlements through Department of Veterans' Affairs. But more importantly Legacy have provided a support network to Anna and her young family particularly through the support of her Legatees Margaret and Helen.

"Legacy has become my friends, my family." Anna said.

Legacy was there to support Anna and her family to focus on their emotional health and process their grief through various activities and workshops organised by Legacy.

*"Both Zena and Anatoli have attended Legacy's Youth Camps and we have attended Legacy's Feel the Magic Camp and Family Christmas Party. These events help the kids feel normal because every child who attends has lost a parent."*

*"Five years on from losing Craig, Legacy has always been there. With the support that we have received through Legacy we are now in a better place as a family and focused on the future."*

Anna's story inspired the Legacy community to give generously on Legacy's third annual Giving Day in October, raising over \$302,000 for Legacy services.



Photo Credit: Joseph Byford

# Legacy responds to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

## Urgent action required

In September 2024, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide released its final report containing seven volumes of findings and 122 recommendations.

The report calls on greater collaboration amongst service providers and greater coordination across Government and non-Government departments to support veterans and their families transitioning from Defence into the community.

Legacy Australia responded with an open letter to parliament, strongly urging bipartisan support to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission without delay. In particular, the establishment of a new authoritative statutory body to provide oversight for the delivery of the recommendations.

Following this, Legacy Brisbane CEO Brendan Cox wrote an open letter to the then Premier of Queensland and Leader of Opposition, urging them to support veterans and their families who choose to settle in Queensland.

The letter urged the Queensland Government to address issues around lack of data collection, schooling, childcare, employment and health including encouraging the Queensland Mental Health Commission to recognise veterans and their families as a vulnerable group.

Legacy has witnessed first-hand the immense stressors that service life places on members and their families. The consequences of supporting a loved one experiencing mental ill health, PTSD, trauma, and/or suicidality are profound and long-lasting.

In December, Legacy was pleased to see the Government's acceptance of 104 out of 122 recommendations with a further 17 under consideration.

While the response was positive, Legacy looks forward to seeing further detail on how the recommendations will be implemented.

Legacy welcomes the establishment of the Defence and Veterans Services Commission and supports its role as an independent body tasked with addressing the systemic issues that have contributed to the loss of defence personnel and veterans to suicide.

Legacy remains committed to working closely with the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA), the Defence Family Advocate Charlotte Webb

and the Veteran Family Advocate Commissioner Gwen Cherne, the RSL and other ESOs to ensure families of veterans are at the forefront of the implementation of these recommendations.

Our priority has always been and will continue to be the wellbeing of veterans' families, and we are committed to creating lasting change.

To read the open letters to parliament click on the links below.

Defence & Veteran Suicide a Priority



An Open Letter to QLD Premier & Leader of the Opposition



# MIA SHARES HER Legacy Story

## 2024 Legacy Youth Ambassador

Legacy Youth Ambassador for 2024, Mia bravely shared her Legacy story at the Legacy Gala Dinner in November; supported by her mum, sister Chloe and Legatee Stuart.

Mia's speech started with, "Hi, everyone. I am Mia, and this is my sister, Chloe. We're here today to share a story that's close to our hearts. Our dad was in the Army in 3RAR, which means he was a Paratrooper. My dad served 8 months in East Timor which he was incredibly proud of. He was only 34 when he passed away from suicide."

"The memories I have with my dad, though few, are ones that I hold close to my heart. He called me his 'Princess', and he made me feel like one, too. He was funny, warm, and caring, always making me feel loved. My memories of him might be brief, but they're powerful.

"When he passed away, everything changed for us. I was just six years old, and Chloe was only four. At that young age, it was all so confusing. I remember feeling like a huge piece of my world was suddenly missing. I would wonder where he was and why he wasn't with us. I'd ask our mum, and I could see the heartbreak in her eyes every time. She tried so hard to explain something that even grown-ups have trouble understanding.

"Through all the confusion and pain, our mum became our rock. She stepped up to make sure Chloe and I were safe, happy, and always surrounded by love. Somehow, she took on both roles as mum and dad, giving us everything we needed."

Mia went onto describe the network

of support provided through Legacy.

"Being a part of Legacy has also been a lifeline for us. Legacy isn't just an organisation to me—it's a community, a family. Growing up, Legacy camps became a space where I could open up about what I was feeling and connect with others who understood. Being able to share my thoughts with people who were going through the same thing made a world of difference," Mia said.

"Legacy has been a pillar of support throughout my education, helping me overcome challenges and achieve my dreams. During high school, I struggled deeply with Maths.

Legacy stepped in to provide tutoring from a local legatee who happened to be a high school Maths teacher. Thanks to their support, I was able to pass Maths in both Grade 11 and Grade 12—a feat that once seemed out of reach.

"When I expressed my desire to attend university, Legacy didn't hesitate to assist me. They guided me through the daunting application process and even offered financial support to ensure I could pursue my studies without the burden of financial stress.

"Looking back, I can see how Legacy gave me the courage to face my grief and, ultimately, to find hope. It taught me that, while losing my dad is a part of my story, it doesn't define who I am.

His memory is with me always—sometimes it's bittersweet, sometimes comforting, but always close to my heart."

Thank you Mia for being a wonderful Legacy Youth Ambassador for 2024 and so bravely sharing your experiences with our supporters at the Legacy Gala Dinner.



Photo Credit: Joseph Byford

# FEEL THE MAGIC Day Camps

*“... what you do for us is priceless ...”*

Young Legacy families had the opportunity to connect and share their grief journeys in a supportive environment thanks to two Feel the Magic Day Camps held this year.

Legacy partnered with Feel the Magic—a charity supporting grieving kids and teenagers to heal after the death of a parent, guardian, or sibling—to deliver the two camps.

The first camp was held on 11 May at Redlands IndiScapes Centre and the second camp was held on 12 October at the Eco Centre at Griffith University.

Both day camps combined fun activities such as art sessions, interactive science shows and eco-tours with Feel the Magic facilitated sessions on grief that allowed families to open up about their feelings and to connect with each other.

Feel the Magic attendee Emma said following the experience, *“I really want to thank you all for Saturday - it was such a beneficial experience for all of us. Thank you all for the care and work that went into it. I hope you all realise what a wonderful job you do of creating a safe space for us. We value it highly and what you do for us is priceless.”*

Christine Jones a Legacy volunteer who attended the pilot Feel the Magic Camp held in 2023 said, *“The*

*one-day camp provided opportunities for fun activities, and importantly, helped attendees understand the psychology behind grief and to be able to connect with other families in the same situation.*

*“Strategies were given on how to manage feelings of grief on a day-to-day basis.*

*The encouragement from the leaders for attendees to take part let them know that there was safety in that space and it was ok to acknowledge their feelings and emotions. It was all about support.”*

Legacy thanks RSL Queensland for funding the two Feel the Magic Camps in 2024. We look forward to more events like this in the future.



# GETTING UPSTREAM To Support Families in Need

*“We owe the families of veterans wraparound support and care.”*



In an Australian-first model, Legacy Brisbane is working with the Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera to train Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel as ‘link workers’ to connect transitioning families in trauma to Legacy.

This pilot program has been developed by Legacy Brisbane CEO Brendan Cox after he completed a Paul Tys Churchill Fellowship looking at the care and support offered to veterans’ families in the UK, USA and Canada.

Brendan said, *“In Legacy, we acknowledge ‘when a Defence member joins, a family serves’ and therefore we have a national obligation to serve families where a veteran suffers from their military experience. It is not just a veteran in trauma, it is a family in trauma.”*

Currently, there are three suicide deaths of veterans every fortnight in Australia, with ex-serving males 42% more likely to die by suicide than non-serving males (Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, 2024).

If veterans are discharged involuntary, including medical discharge, their level of risk is higher.

Veteran families often have issues with family cohesion and providing a stable and safe home environment post discharge. 45.5% of transitioned Defence personnel expose their intimate partner to some form of violence (DVA, 2023).

*“We owe the families of veterans wraparound support and care. We must come together as a community to deliver clinical and social supports in a holistic manner. We must engage with families early in their Defence experience – and nurture their journey into the community of their choice,”* Brendan said.

To achieve this ‘upstream effect’ Legacy Brisbane wrote to the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart AO, DSC in October 2023 to establish Army Unit Legatees (link workers) in each Army Unit at Gallipoli Barracks.

The Chief of Army supported the trial that began in June 2024. Army Unit Legatees received induction training, presentations from Legacy, RSL Queensland, Mates4Mates, Open Arms and Gallipoli Medical Research staff.

Brendan said, *“These Army Unit Legatees are the ‘eyes and ears’ of Legacy in Army.”*

*With our Army Legatees now established we will meet families early in their transition journey rather than waiting for families who have endured trauma, suffering and violence over many years.”*

# NEW 'SEASONS' PROGRAM LAUNCHED for Legacy Explorers



Legacy Brisbane's Explorers (beneficiaries with a disability) had more opportunity to connect with each other thanks to four social events held at Legacy House this year.

Called the 'Seasons' program, these events were funded thanks to a BUPA Foundation Community Grant.

In February, the Explorers had the opportunity to participate in a clay workshop organized by RawArt at Legacy House. The day began with everyone mingling and catching up with each other, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie. The clay workshop was the day's highlight with Explorers molding clay pinch pots and experimenting with different texturing techniques.

In June, our wonderful Explorers came together once again to enjoy a day of art and friendship. The second Seasons event of the year took place

at Legacy House as a 'Paint-n-Soft-Drink-Sip' day. Explorers painted, made tote bags and learned how to make linocuts. For many Explorers, it was a first experience using different art techniques, and that made it a very special event. Lunch was enjoyed by all and provided more time to connect, chat about the day's activities and just catch up in general.

In September, the Explorers came together for the Spring Event, a day filled with music, laughter and community. Thanks to Musicare, the event was packed with instruments for everyone to try. Attendees experimented with drums, guitars, and other instruments, creating a lively atmosphere as people played, laughed, and danced together. The sound of music and the sight of friends connecting filled the room with a warm, positive energy.

One of the highlights of the day was a special podcast recording. This podcast offered a unique opportunity for the Explorers to share their stories, reflections, and

memories. Participants spoke about their experiences with Legacy, their journeys, and what days like this mean to them.

The last Seasons event for the year was the annual Christmas party. Held over three fun-filled hours, the event included a special performance by an Elvis Presley impersonator – who had the Explorers singing and dancing along to the classic tunes. A talented caricature artist gifted a personalised framed caricature to each Explorer as a memento of the day.

These Seasons events, whilst a lot of fun for Explorers, volunteers and staff alike, also play an important role in connecting Legacy's beneficiaries with a disability to each other for peer and social support, and to Legacy's services.

These events also provide an important touch point for Legacy's Community Services Officers to help identify areas of concern and provide further support as needed.

# A LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION To Volunteering



Centenarian, Legatee Allan Quartermaine OAM, was awarded the 2024 Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award from Volunteering Queensland at a ceremony at Brisbane's City Hall on May 22.

Born in 1923, Allan's lifetime of service began with three years in the Royal Australian Navy during WWII and has dedicated his life ever since to volunteerism and community service.

Allan has been a Legatee for over half his life. Both Allan and Legacy shared a 100th birthday in 2023!

Allan joined Legacy in 1967 when he was president of the Far Northern District of the Returned Services League of Australia, Queensland.

Due to the close association to Legacy, Allan was asked to join as a Legatee including his appointment as President of Mackay, Queensland Legacy Club.

His leadership and exemplary conduct were inspirational to each Branch Legatee and to the community.

Later, within Sunshine Coast Legacy, groups formed to manage specific tasks such as fundraising or social events for widows. Each group required a leader, which inevitably led to Allan.

Allan's leadership qualities, honed through his participation in community groups and especially the experience with Legacy in country towns and cities, were of invaluable benefit to Sunshine Coast Legacy and were inspirational to other Queensland clubs.

With over 60 years volunteering for Sunshine Coast Legacy, (and counting!) Allan was responsible for the implementation of foundational projects and procedures, currently in place.

Allan ensured the delivery of quality support to Sunshine Coast Legacy's Widows and children.

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, and joint Patron of Legacy Brisbane with Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD, presented the award to Allan, where he also received a standing ovation from the attendees.

Legacy thanks Allan for his outstanding service to Legacy and the community.

# Financials



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ABN 76 898 082 094

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE LEGACY CLUB OF BRISBANE LIMITED

### OPINION

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024 and the summary statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial report of The Legacy Club of Brisbane Limited (the Company) for the year ended 31 December 2024. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 18 March 2025.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of that audited financial report, on the basis described in the notes to the summary financial statements. However, the audit of the summary financial statements is restricted to the equivalent extent as the audited financial report of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon.

### THE AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT AND OUR REPORT THEREON

We expressed a qualified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 18 March 2025. The basis for our qualified audit opinion was based on the fact that donations, appeals and other fundraising events are a significant source of fundraising revenue for the Company. The Company has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of fundraising prior to entry into its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding revenue from this source was limited, our audit procedures with respect to fundraising income had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We therefore were unable to express an opinion whether fundraising income of the Company recorded was complete.

### MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUMMARY

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in the notes to the summary financial statements.

### AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

**UHY Haines Norton**  
Chartered Accountants

Brisbane, 24 March 2025

**Reece Jory**  
Partner

Liability Limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

UHY Haines Norton, a partnership in Brisbane (ABN 76 898 082 094) is an independent member of UHY Haines Norton an association of independent firms in Australia and New Zealand and a member of UHY, an international association of independent accounting and consulting firms.

Not your average  
bean counters...

**Summary Statement of Comprehensive Income  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Total revenue from operating activities	7,891,606	5,065,120
Total expenses from operating activities	(4,312,360)	(4,325,748)
<b>Operating Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>3,579,246</b>	<b>739,372</b>
Other income and expenses	2,569	12,844
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>3,581,815</b>	<b>752,216</b>
Other comprehensive income	672,441	25,681
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>4,254,256</b>	<b>777,897</b>

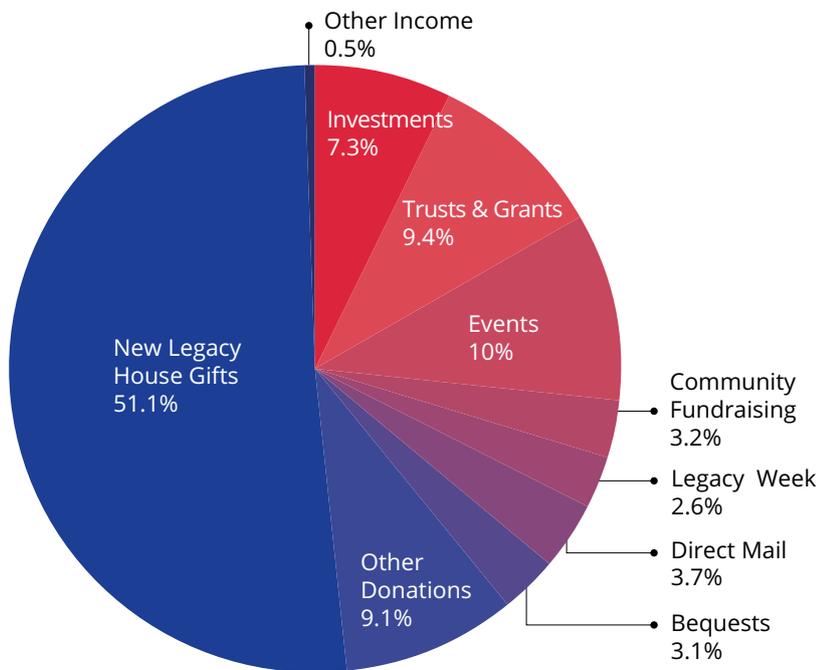
**Summary Statement of Financial Position  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Total current assets	4,446,040	1,218,272
Total non-current assets	17,268,325	16,180,849
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>21,714,365</b>	<b>17,399,121</b>
Total current liabilities	795,773	709,298
Total non-current liabilities	662,652	688,139
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,458,425</b>	<b>1,397,437</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>20,225,940</b>	<b>16,001,684</b>
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>20,255,940</b>	<b>16,001,684</b>

These summary financial statements have been derived from The Legacy Club of Brisbane Limited's annual financial report. The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of The Legacy Club of Brisbane Limited. The Legacy Club of Brisbane Limited's annual financial report is available on our website at <https://www.legacy.com.au/clubs/qld/brisbane/about-us/>.

# 2024 Financials

## 2024 Income Sources

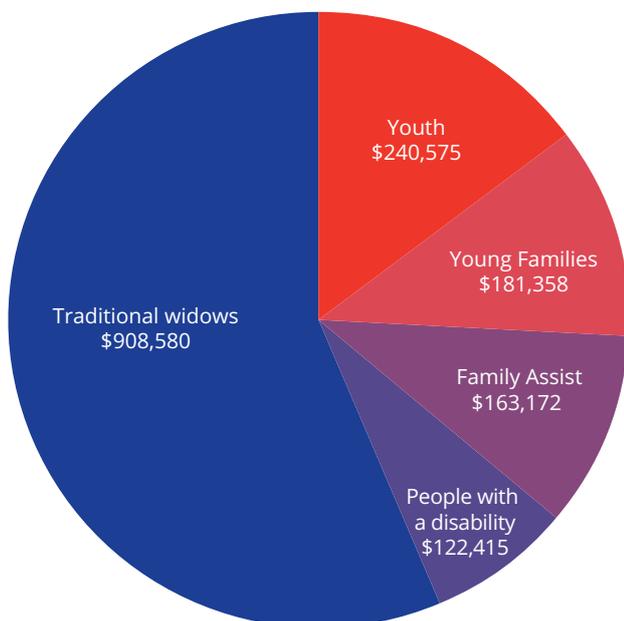


“  
With our Army Legatees now established, we will meet families early in their transition journey rather than waiting for families who have endured trauma, suffering and violence over many years.

”

— Brendan Cox  
CEO, Legacy Brisbane —

## 2024 Community Services Program Funding



# OUR Board of Directors

President, Legacy Club of Brisbane &  
Chairman, Board of Directors

Non-executive Director & Vice President

Non-executive Director & Treasurer

Non-executive Director

Non-executive Director

Non-executive Director

Non-executive Director

Non-executive Director

Non-executive Director

Dr Annabel McGuire

Simon (Don) Roach AM

Kerry Parry

Prof Elisabeth Findlay

Paul Smith

Todd Crowley

Anne Irwin

Dr Amy Johnson

Andrew Middleton

**We thank the following Board members  
who ended thier service on the Board in 2024**

Rob Murray

Paul Power

COL Gavin Ware





## Supporting our veterans' families

### LEGACY BRISBANE

Legacy House, 41 Merivale Street  
South Brisbane Q 4101  
07 3029 5600  
admin@legacybrisbane.org.au

### LEGACY SUNSHINE COAST

106 Memorial Drive  
Maroochydore Q 4558  
07 5443 9841  
suncoast@legacybrisbane.org.au

### LEGACY ROCKHAMPTON & CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

Suite 3, Tobruk House  
8 Archer Street  
Rockhampton Q 4700  
07 4922 4010  
admin@legacyrockhampton.org.au

### LEGACY FRASER BURNETT

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admin@legacyfraserburnett.org.au

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 [@legacyaust](https://instagram.com/legacyaust)

 [linkedin.com/company/legacybrisbane](https://linkedin.com/company/legacybrisbane)

[legacy.com.au/brisbane](https://legacy.com.au/brisbane)

