



PRISON NETWORK  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022







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## Our vision is for dignity, hope and purpose for women in and beyond prison.

### PURPOSE

To journey with women in and beyond prison, providing the support and courage they need to navigate positive pathways and create change.

### VALUES

We start with acceptance

We engage unconditionally

We make connections that transition from the inside to the outside

We value family and community ties

We fill the gaps

We are here while you need us

We are driven by our faith

## OVERCOMING RESTRICTIONS

# A message from our CEO and Chair

You may have heard the saying that it is always darkest before the dawn. When you are at wits' end, it is then, that suddenly the sun breaks through.

The last year has been far from our darkest: we have made unprecedented headway in our post release programs, and in the midst of challenge, experienced significant growth. But for almost two years we have not had face-to-face connection with women in prison. We were nearing the end of our tether. And then the doors opened. Going back into prison has felt like sunlight streaming in, for our staff, volunteers, and most importantly, for the women we serve. After an extended hiatus, we are very pleased to have recommenced service delivery of our in-prison programs in both Dame Phyllis Frost Centre and Tarrengower Prisons.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to our volunteers for standing patiently in the wings, and who have reengaged with gusto. We are grateful

for your dedication, and the manner in which you engage with the work. Your enthusiasm, commitment and care for the women makes Prison Network possible.

Our passionate and devoted staff are second to none. They meet each task and challenge with skill and vigour and give themselves wholeheartedly every day. A deep and sincere thanks to each person for their contribution to Prison Network. In this last year we have farewelled Helen Walker from her role as finance officer. Helen has been a member of the team for many years and has always been prepared to fill the gaps. We have been able to release her and are grateful for her ongoing participation in our post release support work. We thank Jo Dennert who joined us for six months and added notable value to our support worker team during this time.

We also acknowledge the skill and expertise afforded to us by our Lived Experience Advisory Panel, who astound us not only with their commitment to

give back to Prison Network, but for their resilience, courage and wisdom. Thank you to each member for your valuable contribution.

And finally, we acknowledge and thank the board for their commitment in governing Prison Network and stewarding its vision. Over the last year the board has continued to strengthen the work of Prison Network and are filled with pride and confidence in its ability to deliver this vital service to women in and beyond prison. We would like to thank David Breen, who retired from the board in November. As the son of Myrtle Breen, the founder of Prison Network, it has been an honour to have David's support and insights at governance level, and we are grateful that he continues to be a champion of our work.

As you read through this annual report, we have no doubt you will be inspired by the work and impact of Prison Network. Great things are happening. But there is more work to be done. In consultation with staff, we have evaluated our current standing and worked together to dream about the future. These considerations underpin our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, in which we honour our past and grasp hold of the future. We step into the year ahead with great anticipation assured that it will be underpinned and strengthened by this ambitious strategic plan.

We welcome you to join us.

*Amelia*  
Amelia Pickering  
CEO

*Bill*  
Bill Austin  
Chair of the Board



Back — Paul Joy, Lavinia Podolak, Robert Palma (appointed Nov '22)  
Front — Carolyn Clark, Prosper Sebafundi, Jayde Taylor, Bill Austin, Kerryn Pell

## MEANINGFUL WORK

# An overview of our program areas



### IN-PRISON PROGRAMS

Inside the prisons we run programs which create points of engagement, respite from the harsh prison environment and opportunities to participate in positive activities that give women a sense of their identity, their strengths, and their value. One on one support is provided to women in prison who request it. We start engaging as early as remand when women are feeling overwhelmed and fearful. One on one support in prison helps women to unpack difficult events in their lives, plan for release and start to address issues that lead to imprisonment.



### KEEPING KIDS CONNECTED

When a parent spends time in prison, away from their family and community, it creates an adverse childhood experience for children that can have a lifelong impact. Our aim is to lessen that impact by keeping children connected to their mothers in prison and creating meaningful, positive experiences. Keeping Kids Connected provides encouragement and support to children and teenagers during a particularly vulnerable period of their lives. And the program allows mothers to continue to be engaged and active as parents during their time in prison.



### POST RELEASE SUPPORT

Time in prison separates women from the outside communities, sometimes for lengthy periods of time, which can further exacerbate social exclusion and weaken already-fragile family relationships. Breaking out of the cycle of intensifying vulnerability and sometimes repeated incarceration can feel like an impossible challenge. Prison Network builds on connections already established in prison to support women as they move back into the community, build social connections, and create positive pathways.



## GEMMA'S STORY

### Finding a way forward

From my early childhood I was exposed to domestic violence, physical and psychological abuse. I left home at the age of 16. Most of the time I slept on the streets and slept in slums and was subject to more abuse. I started using alcohol to numb the pain.

When I was 21, I moved to country Victoria and enrolled at TAFE college to try and make something of my life. While I was there, I had a major car accident. I was seriously hurt, and it was touch and go. After emergency surgery, a blood transfusion, and three months in hospital I came good. When I was discharged my parents came to get me and I came back to Melbourne. I was still awaiting more surgery and needed rehab to learn to walk again. I was addicted to pain medication and alcohol. I went to rehab for treatment to try and get well, while I was there my mum finally had the courage to leave my dad. I left rehab to support my mum, but before long I was drinking and taking drugs again.

When I was 27, my brother Mark who was 17 at the time came looking for me. He told me he loved me and didn't want to lose me. He said he had found a rehab in a country town where I could go to get well. My dad agreed to drive me there and my brother came along for support. On our way there, my dad lost control of the wheel, the car flipped and landed on its roof, my brother went through the windscreen and was thrown out of the car. He was air-lifted to the Royal Melbourne

Hospital and remained in a coma for many months. I tried to stay sober, but all the pain, blame, guilt, and shame was unbearable, and my drug use escalated. I was arrested and faced court for drug related crimes and was sentenced to prison.

Prison Network ran a discussion group in prison and one of the volunteers Helen, came in weekly with her guitar and sang uplifting songs, and all the while there were seeds of hope being planted in my heart. Their programs and support gave me comfort and kept me strong. They even went to the hospital to visit my brother.

**Even though I had left prison, my brother remained in hospital incapacitated and hooked up to machines for 11 years and my life went from bad to worse.**

When I was 30 years of age, I was held hostage in a house by two men, I was physically and sexually abused. I managed to escape and go to the police and ended up in hospital needing surgery. My mum came to get me and convinced me to stay with her but I continued drinking. We decided that I would go to rehab again, but the night before I had to go, I fell and broke my back and fractured my skull. I spent weeks in hospital and months in

a back brace. One night, I took too much pain medication and drank too much alcohol and I accidentally overdosed. My mum called an ambulance and once again my life was spared.

My brother died in 2003. At the time I was in a relationship with a man who turned out to be just like my dad. Violent and dangerous and had put me in hospital several times.

In 2004 everything changed. It was my 40th birthday, and I picked up a daily devotion. It read like this: 'Now for 40 years you have been in the wilderness if you continue to align yourself with 'what was' instead of 'what is' then you're not ready'.

I felt God was speaking to me, and it was time for change. I left my partner and went to a rehab centre in the country.

I completed the program and stayed on as a staff member and worked in rehab centres for three years. In 2010 I came back to Melbourne and connected back in with Prison Network who continued to support me.

I have continued to grow and serve my community as a volunteer in play groups and in the Food bank. I also managed, with the support from the Prison Network, to get a qualification as a support worker for people affected by alcohol and other drugs.

My church has also been very supportive and have helped me with accommodation and with their prayers. When there have been bumps along the way I have navigated my way back with the support of Prison Network and my church community.

Over the past few years, I have continued attending the weekly discussion group, and assist in running the group. I am also a member of the LEAP group, who meet regularly to advise Prison Network about the support and programs they offer, based on my lived experience of prison and reintegration.

**It is a great joy to have once been supported by Prison Network, and now to be a volunteer and part of the team that works together to support women in and beyond prison.**





## NICK'S STORY

# Breaking the cycle of incarceration

When I was 13 years old my mother passed away. My mother's sister had been in prison, but on her release my aunty was given custody of my sister and I. Prison Network will always have a special place in my heart because they showed kindness and love when we were living in a place that wasn't so loving. We got to attend Adventure Camps every school holiday for five years and that was a pleasant distraction from housing commission home life.

I feel truly blessed to have Prison Network staff show us a glimpse of what being a normal person in society was like.

They showed my sister and I that we didn't have to continue in the circle of our family and that being a good person was the best thing someone can do.

I'm 30 years old now, I've never been arrested or been in trouble with the law and have not stayed trapped in the cycle of poverty incarceration. I went to university after high school to study. I've worked since I was 17 and had continuous employment. I followed the dreams I had, I've worked, travelled to places that I've always dreamed of, and now I'm working in my dream job. I'm living a great life and live my life by being kind to others. It's easy to remain in the circle of Housing

Commission and to follow the family's path in unlawful activity if that's all you've ever known. Many other kids that we lived with in the court did follow that path but having someone show you the other side of life, like Prison Network did, gave me the kick I needed to achieve what I want in life.

**I often think back on my childhood and most of my happy moments we're because of this wonderful organisation, so thank you.**



## PROGRAM REPORT

# Keeping Kids Connected

**Funding from Gospel Resource, StreetSmart Australia, Coopers Brewery Foundation, Danks Trust and Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Trust allowed us to adapt our regular Keeping Kids Connected programs and engagement to meet the new demands created through the pandemic.**

Funding came at different times throughout the pandemic and for different aspects of the program, which ensured children and their families were supported through various engagement points.

**A fortnightly playgroup for children living with their mothers in prison commenced for the first time:** this was provided over Zoom, with activities and toys purchased and sent into the prison.

**Transitional support of children leaving prison:** we provided emotional support and counselling to families, assistance finding suitable childcare and/or kindergarten and filling out forms, liaising with Centrelink, connecting in with other services.

In the past year we worked with particularly vulnerable children, some of whom were homeless.

**We provided intensive support to these and other vulnerable children and teenagers outside of prison, whose mother was their primary support prior to going into prison:**

To keep children connected with their mothers we provided monthly phone

credit as well as being the liaison point between Corrections and the children.

We ensured all children received birthday and Christmas gifts.

We provided school supplies, groceries, clothing and connected the children in with relevant service providers.

Teenagers with mums in prison received intensive emotional and social support, tailored to their needs.

We supported children and teenagers as they went back to school, purchasing school and day-care supplies.

**We provided our highest number of holiday adventure camps** for children with a mother in prison, including transport to and from camp, food, drinks and after camp packages, as well as sleeping bags and appropriate clothing.

**Emotional support for children and teenagers:**

We helped children and teenagers prepare for their mothers being released from prison.

We supported children and teenagers navigate the court system and keep up to date with their parents' incarceration and court matters.

We supported a mother and child upon release through planned activities on the outside to encourage healthy and positive transition.

**Activity and craft packs sent in for child visitations with their mothers** and sent to children during lockdowns

**Supervised and facilitated zoom sessions with mothers and their children**

**Transportation for children to visit mothers**

**Prison Network will always have a special place in my heart because they showed kindness and love when we were living in a place that wasn't so loving.**



PROGRAM REPORT

# In-prison programs

Easing restrictions inside prison has been a lengthy process due to the difficulties and risk that COVID outbreaks create. It has been wonderful to finally go back into the prisons. The welcome we have received from the women has been overwhelming. Craft and Cooking, Fun With Mum, and Faith + Life Discussion Group have all recommenced.

The top 3 reasons women on the inside connect with us:  
 1. Remand Support  
 2. Fun with Mum  
 3. Exit Support



1/3

women in prison, participate in our programs each week



3000+

phone calls were made by support workers to women



EVERY WOMAN

in prison recieved a Christmas gift from us this year



1 in 3

women find themselves homeless when they are released from prison



9/10

women in prison have been victims of violence and abuse



60%

women in prison have children who are under 18

PROGRAM REPORT

# Post release support

Thanks to our partners and volunteers we have been able to continue to build on our post release work, whilst returning to in-prison programs.

Thanks to our hard working team and the contribution of our valued regular givers and new supporters we have been able to achieve this.

## Side by Side

Women leaving prison are provided with intensive support and mentoring as they navigate their way into community reintegration and tackle the issues that may have led to their incarceration.

As the support needs of women decreases, they are matched with a volunteer who will provide ongoing mentoring support. This helps to counterbalance social isolation through meaningful, safe relationships and opportunities to engage in positive activities.

## Support Groups

Three groups are held weekly, centred around different needs and interests. The groups provide peer support and socialisation. Some of the groups are peer led, providing opportunities for women to build skills and confidence.

## Katch a Break

We have continued our pilot employment program which involves placing women released from prison, who are selected and supported by Prison Network, in suitable employment within partnering corporations such as Kookai, Goddess Cleaning and Agile Services. Wrap around support is provided to participants to ensure they are job ready and able to confidentially discuss ongoing issues as they arise. Support and training are provided to participating corporations, guiding them through the process of police checks and parole conditions, alleviating staff concerns, providing a safe and comfortable workplace for someone who has experienced trauma and institutionalisation, and utilising a trauma-informed approach.

## MEL'S PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

"I had someone who was going to give me an opportunity, knowing my whole history, my past, where I was.

I think that's the big freak out about trying to get employment, having a past like mine, but it just meant that, my days were filled. It meant that, I could have a routine. It meant I was trying something different in my life, a new chance to try and regain

my life back, I suppose. Because without money you can't support yourself – I wouldn't have been able to get the rental that I've got now. I wouldn't have been able to get my daughter home.

**There are so many things that I desperately wanted to have back in my life, but with no employment, and no routine, no one to give me that opportunity, it would have been so hard.**

Having a job, saved me from going backwards. It's been a massive part of my recovery and journey. I've finally got my life back and the things that I dreamt of are actually coming true."





## Stronger together

For women seeking to create positive pathways upon release from prison, it is often necessary to break away from existing communities. A history of incarceration can make forming new communities incredibly challenging, leaving women feeling isolated and vulnerable.

Thanks to funding from Mercy Foundation, we have created a new program, Stronger Together, to facilitate social inclusion activities for women who have been released from prison and are seeking to recover from addiction and past traumas. It aims to build a strong community of safe, non-judgemental support, which encourages social inclusion and builds a bridge from marginalisation into community connectedness.

Whole day outings are held monthly for 15 to 25 women. Outings include fun activities that can be enjoyed without using substances, a dining experience, and a chance for women to socially

engage. In addition to the outings, two 'retreats' are held each year over a weekend in regional Victoria. The retreats will include recreational activities as well as support group sessions which focus on building resilience; developing positive peer networks; identifying strengths; and life skills.

## More Than a Home

One of the biggest issues facing women leaving prison is suitable housing. The provision of transitional housing can be a crucial aspect of a woman's post release success.

**Women who experience unstable housing at any point post-release are significantly more likely to return to prison than those who have a safe and stable place to live.**

For over ten years Prison Network has rented a unit to support women transitioning out of prison.

Alongside the unit, we provide wrap around support assisting each woman who participates to move towards independence, employment and building a safe and supportive community. 90% of the women who have participated, have gone on to live positive lives, and not returned to prison. Our More than a Home Program has proven to be a solid foundation to build from.

This year, thanks to the very generous donation from a couple of special supporters, we were able to purchase the property that we have been renting for several years. This has made a way for Prison Network to continue to build on the success of the More Than a Home program. By working with supporters, funders and landlords we have been able to significantly expand this important area of work to three transitional homes that have supported six women and their children with stable housing over the last year.



Image (right): Stronger Together paint-in-the-dark day activity





OUR VOLUNTEERS

# Volunteer report

Despite the declining trend in volunteering across the not-for-profit sector, the number of Prison Network volunteers has remained strong.

This is a testament to loyalty and patience of our wonderful team who seek to make a difference in the lives of the women we work with. We welcome many newcomers and say farewell and thank you to many others for the devotion, commitment, and time they have contributed over the years.

We could never have imagined the length of time it would take to get to a point where the prisons could safely run programs again. We are so grateful to be back spending time with the women. Tuesday Craft started back in full swing as if there had never been time off. It was clear we were missed. Witnessing the joy on the faces of both the women inside and the volunteers, as we reunited for the first time, was really something. Fun with Mum is a little quieter due to many other factors for families and children on the outside, but still so appreciated by the children and mothers who do attend. Friday night craft at Tarrengower is also building momentum.

A challenge for us at Prison Network has been keeping the volunteers engaged who have not had the chance to contribute

over the last 12 months to 2 years. Volunteers for programs like Game On Day have been patiently waiting for news that we will be starting back.

Being limited to what we can do inside the prison, our focus shifted to engaging volunteers outside the prison. Building our Corporate Volunteer days and our Side-By-Side program (post release support and mentoring) has kept the team busy. These are two exciting initiatives that will lead to greater and more meaningful impact.

Significant work has commenced for our team and volunteers in becoming a Trauma Informed Care organisation, with the aim of ensuring every interaction across all our services supports a women's recovery from trauma. Most women in prison suffer from complex trauma. As most of our volunteers come in direct contact with the women we work with, we want to support and equip our volunteers to recognise trauma symptoms and respond appropriately, supporting a woman's recovery journey.

We have great optimism for the opportunities ahead for our volunteers and the meaningful impact they continue to have.

*Dear Prison Network,*

*We would like to thank you for all the love, support and kindness you have shown to us and our families over the years.*

*Your grace gives us hope and your light guides us towards a brighter future. You have faith in us when we don't have faith in ourselves, and you show up with a smile when it feels like the whole world is frowning at us.*

*You teach us that our mistakes don't define us and that is the greatest gift of all.*

*With so much love and respect,  
From the women of Tarrengower*

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

### Meet Di

**Di started volunteering with Prison Network in Jan 2019 and is part of our DPFC craft team.**

"I feel great fulfillment walking alongside, as closely as you can, someone who is in prison. Walking with a woman who has been dish out a dreadful life, on a path they didn't choose and struggle to get away from. In a lot of instances, because of their circumstances, choices were made for them, and they find themselves caught in a cycle

We all have stuff in life that we find difficult, our own pain and trauma. Who knows what any of us would do if we were

desperate. The women we walk with don't need judgement. They need to know that someone cares about them, someone loves them and will just talk to them as a valued person and accept them for who they are.

Prison Network has a genuine care and concern for each woman individually, not as a collective of women locked up in prison, but each one as individuals, with their own situation. I connected with Rosey\* the first time I went in. We laughed, we talked, and I know it has made a difference for her. It certainly did for me."





## LEAP REPORT

# Hearing from the women who have been there before

**The Lived Experience Panel was formed in 2021 to provide insight, advice and recommendations to Prison Network to enable them to best serve women in prison, and post release.**

This committee also assists Prison Network to build their understanding of the challenges and issues faced by women in prison, and when leaving prison. We believe that it is important for Prison Network's leadership to hear from the people who have received their support and know first hand about the services delivered. No matter how effective a service is, there is always room for improvement, and we are well placed to provide feedback that can inform these improvements.

As a collective, we have different experiences, perspectives and have engaged with Prison Network in different ways. Between us we have a wealth of experience that helps support Prison Network's practises and reduces the stigma of incarceration.

No one can tell your story for you or voice your experiences. So, we choose as a collective, to use our voice to support the growth and impact of Prison Network. We relish the opportunity to inspire and influence others and we would hope that our voice will inspire and influence change. Many of us have not felt validated in life; have lived with shame, regret and at times, not felt worthy. But Prison Network have invited us in and their honour of us, and our collective voice, is validating and builds up in us a sense of self-worth and value.

We all appreciate and value the opportunity to give back to the organisation that has supported us and that we want to see grow. It also provides us with an opportunity to connect with and learn from each other as a small community with shared experiences. Being part of LEAP provides avenues for purpose, and growth. We have enjoyed being on a formal committee, developing the terms of references and sharing the responsibilities of chairing meetings. Working with a community of kind, respectful and inspiring women, in a way that is purposeful, non-judgemental, and engaging has been a joy.

We also acknowledge that we are a piece of the puzzle. And that there are many pieces of the puzzle that make Prison Network's work possible. Those of you reading this report, and who support Prison Network, are another important part of the puzzle, and we need you. As a group we want to see Prison Network well-funded as we know firsthand the kind of impact Prison Network has, and how they consistently fill the gaps. We need people to get behind them and support them. And we ask you to do that. Prison Network's support is magnificent, and because of them, so many women don't go back.

We will continue to make improvements and do our part, and we ask that you do too.



STRATEGIC PLAN

# Honouring the past and grasping hold of the future

For over 75 years Prison Network has been a source of hope, dignity, and purpose, providing support to women in Victorian prisons, and their families.

Throughout its extensive history, Prison Network has remained highly valued by women we work with, Corrections Victoria and our supporters. After years of working in the Victorian criminal justice sector, honing a suite of programs and services that have deeply impacted the lives of thousands of women, and experiencing many organisational challenges and

achievements, we are now experiencing unprecedented momentum and growth. For this growth to be sustainable and meaningful it is crucial we have a solid foundation upon which to build. And so, it is from this platform that we are keen to leverage our rich history, legacy, and learnings to expand our work with a sustainable and evidence-based approach to transformational change.

Over the last year, Prison Network staff and board have gathered at off-site planning retreats, full-day brainstorming sessions, and conducted extensive

consultation with our LEAP committee in order to develop a Strategic Plan that honours the past, and grasps hold of the future.

The Board is proud to announce a 2025 Strategic Vision that will see **Prison Network as a well-known respected, reputable organisation delivering high impact evidence-based programs and services to women in and beyond prison in Victoria.**

The four strategic pillars that will guide our strategic focus are:

**High impact**

Strengthening and extending delivery of high value and high impact programs and services to women in and beyond prison.

**Evidence based**

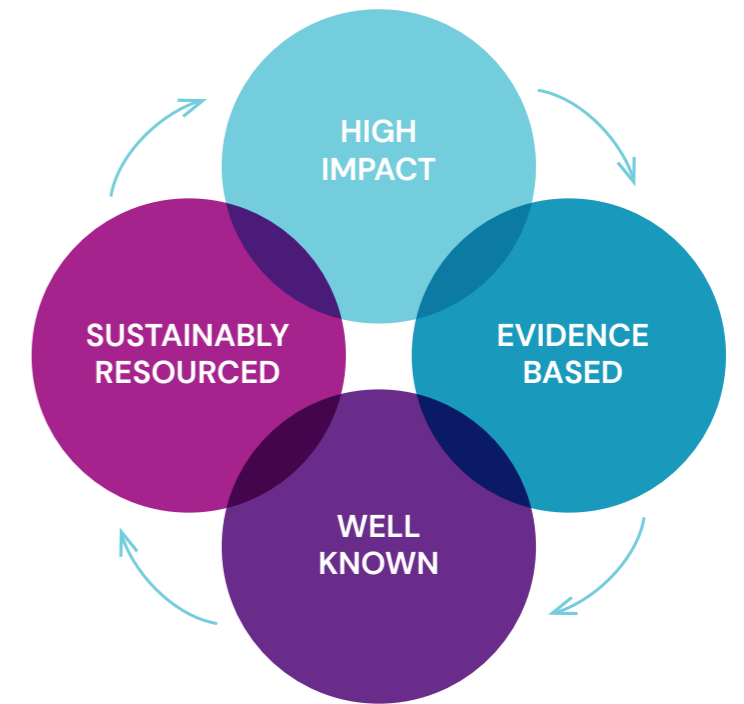
Ensuring delivery of an evaluated, evidence-based model of support with clearly demonstrated outcomes.

**Well known**

Respected, widely known and well-regarded as a support organisation making a significant impact.

**Sustainably resourced**

Well-resourced to deliver high impact programs and services that are sustainable for the long term.





## OUR BRAND REFRESH

# Becoming well-known

As part of our upcoming strategic focus of honouring our rich history and grasping hold of the future, Prison Network has undergone a brand refresh.

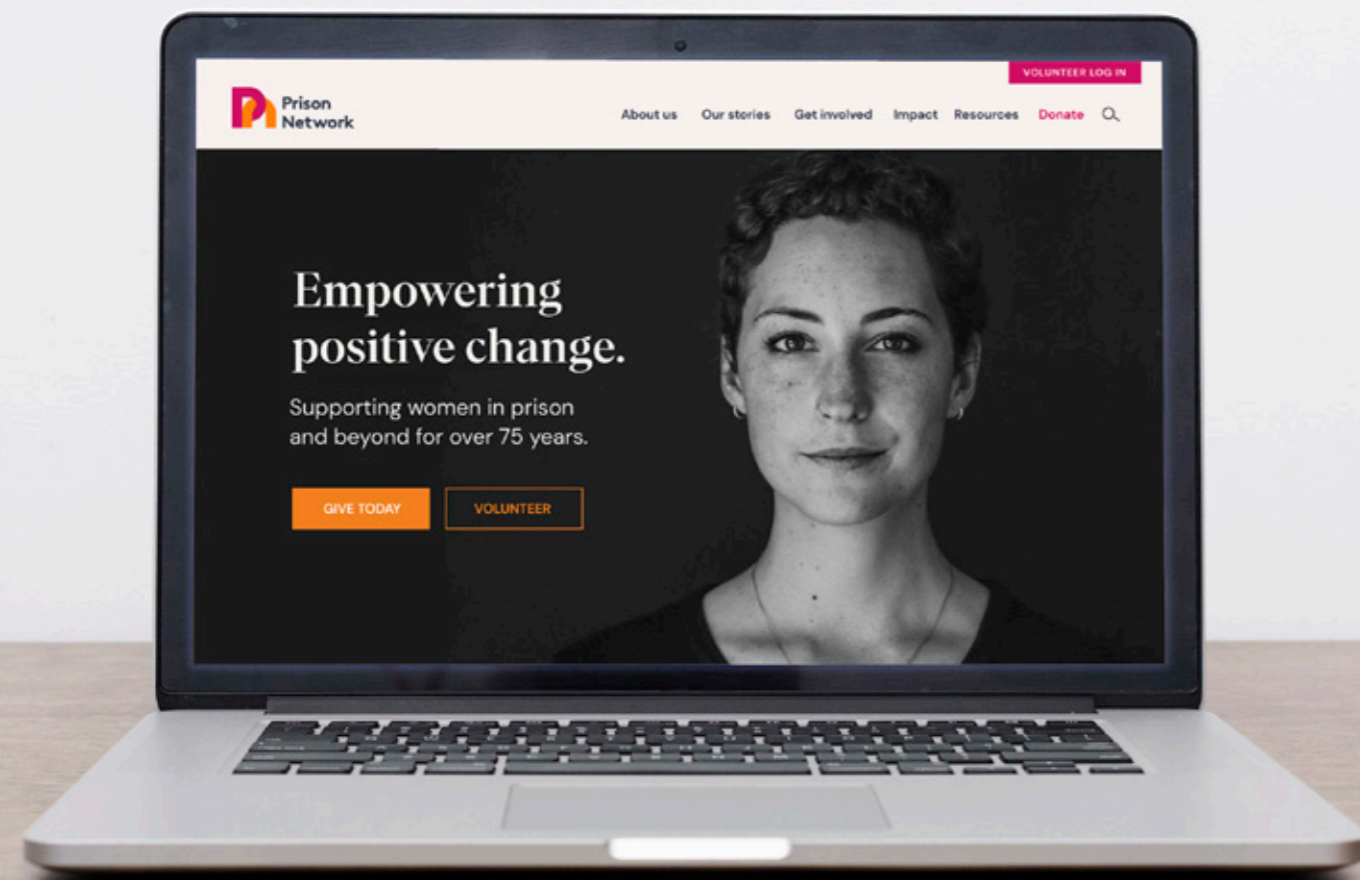
You will notice that the change in our branding is an evolution rather than a radical shift and reflects our values, who we are and what we do. Throughout the process the LEAP group was consulted, who were shown early options and who guided the current design. Their feedback was invaluable.

Our Strategic Pillar of 'Well Known' sees Prison Network as a 'respected, widely known and well-regarded support organisation making a significant impact'. This will be made possible by our capability to engage with the online world of new media, tools and platforms, with an updated Style Guide that provides more scope across all communications and collateral. We were incredibly fortunate to receive philanthropic funding to enable us to make this significant step forward.

We are so pleased with our 'new look' and how it will position us for the future.



Prison Network's new logo launching in November 2022



## DONOR STORY

# A life-changing opportunity

Prison Network is supported by hundreds of individuals and families that make our work possible. One such supporter has been funding the rent on one of our 'More than a Home' transitional units. They shared with us why.

"A Prison Network support worker spoke to the women in our church several years ago about the work of Prison Network. She told us about the over 600 women in the DPFC, how over 80% of them were survivors of abuse, often childhood sexual abuse. She told us about the complex world the women enter when they leave prison.

She told us that Prison Network had one unit, and that out of the eight women who stayed there after release, seven went on to rebuild their lives after prison. She said she wished they had ten more houses.

Seven out of eight is an unheard-of success rate in most development work, and as I sat there, I knew we had to do something.

What do you do with wealth when you're in a position of privilege? Our culture tells us to invest in our superfunds, in property,

in the future, and with this advice comes the accompanying anxieties about plunging stock markets and rising inflation. But for us this quiet instruction resonates: 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

When we looked at our surplus income, we wanted to invest it in the most secure, eternal way possible: In people.

### An investment in people is an investment that never goes to waste.

Women coming out of prison have a window of opportunity in which they can rebuild their lives. The stakes are high. Their old life and the reminders of it are never far away. Finding employment takes time. Securing their lives can feel like an impossible task. So much of that work is dependent on them.

All this rebuilding is just a little easier to do when she knows she has a secure roof over her head. We trusted the staff at

Prison Network to provide women not just with a safe home but with the emotional and practical support they needed to succeed. It was evident to us that their model worked, and we played a part by providing funding for accommodation.

Offering someone a second (or third, fourth, fifth) chance is something that is integral to our faith and the work of grace we believe we are called to act out in our society. We have been given grace and want to extend the same.

Over the past year, we've read updates with delight. We have prayed for the woman in our home, as she's faced challenges, and extended our hope that this home would be a place from which she could rebuild her life, one day at a time. We can't wait to see what happens next, and we are excited to continue supporting Prison Network's vision to continue to provide such a life changing opportunity for women as they leave prison.

An investment in people is an investment that never goes to waste. To put it simply, it is the easiest yes."



## SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

# Organisations and pro bono acknowledgements

**Blaze Your Trail** continues to provide invaluable support as we grow our impact measurement and supporter engagement. Blaze Your Trail was established in 2021 to help charities and small businesses get the most out of technology. Alongside revolutionising charities, Blaze Your Trail provides practical hands-on learning opportunities, mentoring and support to find pathways to employment for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, who are also often parents trying to return to work, and people looking to change their career to technology roles. We are incredibly grateful to Jessica and the team for their hard work, and belief in the importance of what we do.

**Hyperspike** has provided extensive pro bono IT support by assisting Prison Network to set up new MS365 systems and IT infrastructure that has supported our backend administration. They have also graciously continued to provide ongoing day-to-day IT support. We are very grateful to Kelvin and his team for their patience and efficiency in responding to our team's requests and challenges.

Thank you to **Maddocks** who have provided pro bono legal advice and support over the past year. The amazing team at Maddocks have worked with us to ensure that we are meeting our legal and compliance obligations through a thorough review and updating of several important policies. We are incredibly grateful for their outstanding support.

**World Vision** have been a significant support to Prison Network through the provision of pro bono office space. It has been invaluable for us to have a place to meet with funders and partners, and for our staff to use as a base to work and collaborate. Sincere thanks to World Vision for their generosity and hospitality.

We also want to thank Williamstown Church of Christ for their use of space for our staff.

Many individuals, churches and community organisations give to Prison Network on a regular basis. We are incredibly grateful for their ongoing and loyal support.

## THANK YOU

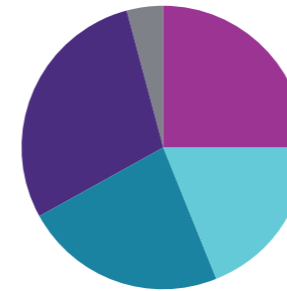
**Major contributions from Trusts, Foundations and Pro bono partners include:**

- Igniting Change
- Gospel Resource
- Coopers Foundation
- Department of Justice
- Magistrates Court
- Mercy Foundation
- StreetSmart Australia
- Shine On Foundation
- One Church
- Steer
- Our Kitchen Table
- Pinchapoo
- Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Trust
- Australian Communities Foundation
- Gourlay Charitable Trust
- Planet Shakers
- Neuma Care



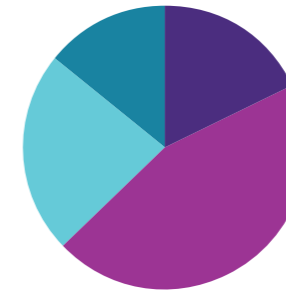
## FINANCIALS

Revenue FY2122



- Donations
- Government Funding
- Major Donors
- Philanthropic, Trusts & Foundations
- Other income

Expenses FY2122



- In-prison Program Costs
- Post-release Program Costs
- Administration & Accountability
- Fundraising & Promotion

Revenue Sources	\$	%
Donations	155,726	25%
Government Funding	114,321	19%
Major Donors	142,240	23%
Philanthropic, Trusts & Foundations	180,000	29%
Other Income	23,530	4%
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>615,817</b>	<b>100%</b>

Expenses	\$	%
In-prison Program Costs	106,205	18%
Post-release Program Costs	266,056	45%
Administration & Accountability	139,325	23%
Fundraising & Promotion	83,345	14%
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>594,932</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>20,885</b>
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The financial statements for 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 for Prison Network were audited by Seward Dawson. A full set of audited statements are available on the ACNC website.



## GET INVOLVED

# Opportunities to support our work

### Support Financially

Please consider supporting Prison Network financially. Giving to Prison Network will allow us to sustain and grow our impact, ensuring that women who need our support are seen and supported. You may wish to pledge your gift towards:

- one of the many programs we run
- the rental gap of a property ensuring that a woman leaving prison has a home to go to
- a matching donation on Giving Tuesday

You can make a once off donation, become a regular giver or choose to leave a legacy gift in your will.

Your generosity in whatever way you choose to support us will be greatly appreciated and will make a life-changing difference to women and their families.



### Become a Volunteer

The work of Prison Network relies on the contribution of our wonderful volunteers. If you would like to join our team and journey alongside women in and beyond prison we would love to chat to you about how you can be a part of this life transforming work.



### Contact details

PO Box 46 Kerrimuir Vic 3129  
(03) 9873 4190

[admin@prisonnetwork.org.au](mailto:admin@prisonnetwork.org.au)

ABN: 66004639347

[prisonnetwork.org.au](http://prisonnetwork.org.au)



Prison Network is a public benevolent institution and is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient (item 1) with charity tax concessions (TCC). This means that we can provide tax-deductible receipts for any donation of \$2 or more. Our ABN is 66004639347 and our registration to fundraise in Victoria is FRO014555