YUMBA-META LIMITED

Annual Report 2026









Yumba-Meta Limited | Annual Report 2026

Welcome

Welcome to the 2026 Annual Report of Yumba-Meta Limited.

This report shares our progress in providing secure housing and support services that help individuals and families build more stable lives.

For more than 50 years, Yumba-Meta has supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through affordable, culturally appropriate housing. We remain committed to helping vulnerable people overcome barriers to a safe home, with support that respects their circumstances, culture and aspirations.

This year, our residential developments at Riverway Drive, Rasmussen, and Lakeside Drive, Oonoonba, mark an important chapter in our growth and contribution to Townsville's housing supply. Riverway Drive brings together social housing and patient transition accommodation, with additional land allowing for future expansion. The planned Lakeside Drive development is expected to deliver 39 affordable homes, extending our capacity to support more individuals and families.

Alongside this growth, our team continues to provide community housing, transitional accommodation and specialised support, including services for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

Our work is grounded in the belief that everyone deserves a place to call home. Thank you to our staff, Board, partners, funding bodies and community supporters for helping us turn that belief into opportunities for lasting change and stronger communities.

Acknowledgement of Country
We respect and honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this land and commit to building a brighter future together.

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this publication contains images and names of deceased persons.

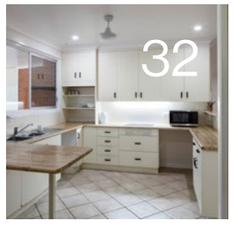
Photograph: Eva Kennedy Place at Riverway Drive, Rasmussen

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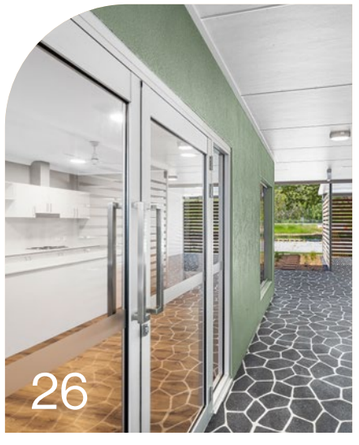
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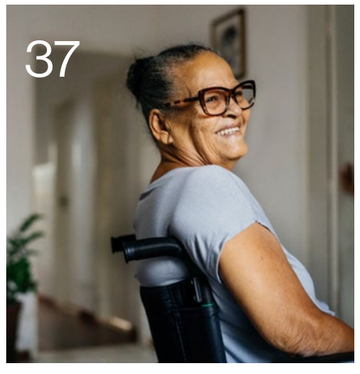
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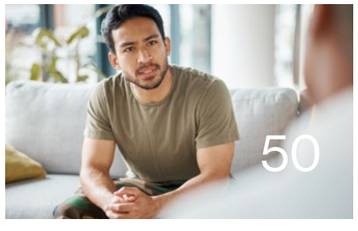
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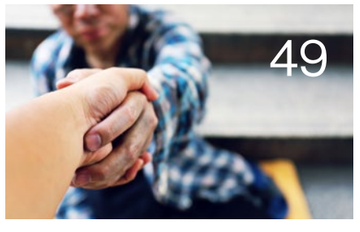
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Purpose & Achievements

Our Mission:

Advocating for First Nations People and other vulnerable groups.

Our Vision:

Achieving sustainable communities.

Our Values:

CONNECT: Identify needs and opportunities

ADAPTABLE: Committed, transparent and innovative

RESPECT: Honest, compassionate, and non-judgmental

EMPOWER: Support and motivate

Awards & Recognition

Yumba-Meta was the first Indigenous Community Housing Provider in Australia to achieve full accreditation by the National Community Housing Standards and Accreditation Council.

Human Services Quality Framework Accredited Service Provider.

Registered Tier 2 Provider with the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH).

Registered Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Provider with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

2015 National Australasian Housing Institute Award Winner – Leading Innovation Award for Professional Excellence in Housing for the Ernest and Maud Hoolihan Elders Village.

2019 National Australasian Housing Institute Award Winner - Professional Excellence in Social Housing – Continuum Model.

2022 National Australasian Housing Institute Award Winner – Executive Excellence – YML CEO Mrs Dushy Thangiah.

2022 National Australasian Housing Institute Award Runner-up – Leading Housing Development Project – Hillside Gardens.

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Building Futures

The founding of Yumba-Meta Limited

In 1973, a group of local Aboriginal people united with a shared mission: to offer housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in Townsville.

Their vision grew into Yumba-Meta Limited, now at the forefront of addressing housing and homelessness challenges, particularly for First Nations People in Townsville.

Through secure, affordable, and culturally appropriate accommodation and support, Yumba-Meta Limited effectively breaks the cycles of poverty, substance abuse, and domestic and family violence for numerous individuals and families.

For more than 50 years, Yumba-Meta Limited has greatly impacted the lives of vulnerable individuals and families, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We are committed to remaining a powerful advocate for our community, offering services tailored to diverse personal and cultural requirements, and creating positive change.

A vision in 1973 transformed housing for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

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Our range of services reflects the vital partnerships Yumba-Meta Limited has built over the years, shaping our commitment to the community.

Milestones

1973

Yumba-Meta Housing Association Ltd (YMHAL) registered as the first Indigenous community-controlled housing provider in Queensland.

1974

YMHAL purchased its first 8 homes.

1975-1995

Housing stock increased to 33 homes.

1996

Queensland Department of Housing funded YMHAL to construct 5x1 bedroom senior units at 75 Chandler Street Garbutt.

1997-1999

Housing stock increased to 45 homes.

2000

Queensland Department of Housing funded YMHAL to complete a Management Manual (Policies and Procedures) through the Best Practice Program.

2001

YMHAL purchased 6 acres of land at Innes Estate.

2003

YMHAL head office moved into newly constructed premises on 565 Ross River Road Kirwan, officially opened by Dr Ernest Hoolihan in July 2003.

2004

YMHAL became the first Indigenous Community Housing Provider in Australia to achieve full accreditation through the National Community Housing Standards and Accreditation Council.

2005

YMHAL entered into a formal partnership with Australian Red Cross to jointly manage the Homeless Early Intervention Program funded by the Queensland State Government.

2006-2007

Queensland Department of Communities funded YMHAL to manage the Queensland Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program (QIADP).

2008

YMHAL awarded management of the Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre in July 2008 and the Flora House women's shelter in December 2008.

2009

YMHAL purchased 26 acres of land at Thorn Street Mount Louisa to facilitate pathways for Indigenous home ownership.

2010

YMHAL funded through the Commonwealth Government Nation Building Economic

Stimulus Capital Grants Program to construct 7 homes.

YMHAL was awarded 62 tenancies to be managed through the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Tenancy Management program.

2011

Queensland Department of Communities funded the Breaking the Cycle program in December 2010 to operate from the Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre to support up to 10 clients at any given time.

Queensland Department of Housing funded YMHAL to manage the Dale Parker Place supported housing program to manage 20 males and 5 females in 2 locations.

Queensland Department of Communities expanded the diversionary centre to increase bed capacity from 30 beds to 50 beds.

2012-2013

The Queensland Department of Housing funded YMHAL to complete construction of 16x 2-bedroom detached homes at Innes Estate. The project was named Ernest and Maud Hoolihan Village and officially opened in August 2013 by Tim Mander Minister for Housing.

The Queensland Department of Housing funded YMHAL to manage 8 properties through the Employment Related Accommodation Program (ERAP).

2014

YMHAL received 5 more properties under the Employment Related Accommodation Program (ERAP) taking the total number of properties under this program to 13.

2015

YMHAL successfully gained Tier 2 Registration with the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH).

2016

YMHAL received Development Approval from the Townsville City Council for the Hillside Gardens residential estate project at Thorn Street, Mount Louisa.

2017

Hillside Gardens project completed with land being sold in the open market.

1145 Riverway Drive Rasmussen purchased for future development.

2018

Company name change – Yumba-Meta Housing Association Ltd (YMHAL) was changed to Yumba-Meta Ltd (YML) to reflect the current business model.

YML purchased 25 Acheron Avenue Cranbrook to operate programs.

YML became a registered Specialist Disability Accommodation Provider (SDA) with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

The Queensland Department of Housing funded YML through a competitive tender process for the management of the newly constructed Dale Parker Place facility with 40x 1 bedroom studio units.

2019

1145 Riverway Drive Rasmussen granted Development approval by the Townsville City Council.

YML successfully obtained funding through the Building Better Regions Commonwealth Grant towards construction of the Patient Transition Accommodation on 1145 Riverway Drive Rasmussen.

The Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General funded the Townsville Family Violence Support Service, increasing YML's position in the Townsville Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Sector as a specialist DFV service provider.

2020

YML officially opened Townsville's first registered specialist disability accommodation in November 2019.

Construction of the Patient Transition Accommodation commenced in May 2020.

1151 Riverway Drive Rasmussen purchased for future development.

2021

Hillside Gardens Estate sold out in February 2021.

1155 Riverway Drive Rasmussen purchased for future development and the current dwelling transformed into YML's second women's shelter. Elsie House was officially opened by Mrs. Elsie May Thompson in August 2021.

The National Indigenous Australian Agency provided operational funding for Elsie House Women's Shelter.

The Queensland Department of Housing funded YML for the construction of 4 duplexes (8 dwellings) through the Partnering for Growth 1 Program.

202 Ross River Road Aitkenvale purchased for development as YML's headquarters.

2022

The Queensland Department of Housing funded YML for the construction of 4 more duplexes (8 dwellings) through the Partnering for Growth 2 Program. 16 new dwellings through the program.

Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation facility was officially opened by Phillip Thompson OAM, Federal Member for Herbert on 28th July 2021.

Completed construction of the multi-gen home at Hillside Gardens, Mount Louisa.

Completed construction of specialist disability accommodation (shared) at Hillside Gardens, Mount Louisa.

The Riverway Drive, Rasmussen project combining 1145, 1151 and 1155 was granted Development Approval by the Townsville City Council.

Completed construction of the third specialist disability accommodation at Hillside Gardens, Mount Louisa.

Housingwise Realty, not-for-profit real estate established as a subsidiary of Yumba-Meta Limited.

The Queensland Department of Child Safety funded YML to manage 10 young people through the Residential Care Program for Young People.

2023

The Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General funded the First Nations Cultural Advisor program to the Townsville High Risk Team (HRT).

YML head office at 202 Ross River Road, Aitkenvale was officially opened on 30th September 2022 by Dr Ernest Hoolihan OAM, founding member and chairperson of YML.

The Queensland Department of Housing funded YML for the construction of 24 one-bedroom homes and 2 duplexes (28 dwellings) through the QuickStart's 1 program.

YML celebrated 50 years of service to the community with a gala dinner held on 9th June 2023.

Completed construction of the fourth specialist disability accommodation at Hillside Gardens, Mount Louisa.

CEO Dushy Thangiah awarded Medal of the Order of Australia.

2024

The Queensland Department of Housing and the Queensland Department of Health jointly provided operational funding to the Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation program. The facility officially opened for intake on 6th November 2023.

Civil Works commenced at 1145 Riverway Drive, Rasmussen in November 2023.

YML successfully obtained funding through the Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Commonwealth Grant towards construction of 5 duplexes and an office building to safely accommodate women and their children escaping violence.

2025

Completion of Stage 2 Civil Works at Riverway Drive Rasmussen

Construction of two 2x3 bedroom duplexes

2026

Queensland State Government funded YML to construct 2 duplexes for women and children exiting crisis accommodation and 24 social housing studio units.

YML's Men's Behaviour Change Program officially renamed Uncle Alfred's Legacy Program.

Purchase of additional 16.8 acres of land at Riverway Drive for future expansion.

Awarded the Oonoonba Affordable Housing Project to construct 39 homes.

In Memory of our Founder and Patron

Dr Ernest Michael Hoolihan OAM

“The Man Who Never Gave Up”

February 8, 1933 to August 25, 2026

The passing of Yumba-Meta’s respected founder, Dr. Ernest Michael Hoolihan OAM on August 25 this year, was met with an outpouring of grief and heartfelt tributes, not only from Uncle Ernie’s family and Yumba-Meta, but the broader Townsville community as well.

For over fifty years our founder and patron had developed close and long-lasting working relationships with many individuals and agencies in North Queensland in his quest to improve the living standards and social status of Aboriginal and Islander peoples through highly successful housing projects in partnerships with the Commonwealth and State Governments.

In 2023, to mark Yumba-Meta’s 50th anniversary, the Board arranged for Uncle Ernie to recount his remarkable story of achievements which began in an era when most governments, politicians and bureaucrats believed Indigenous Australians were incapable of managing their own community housing schemes.

Uncle Ernie not only created Yumba-Meta but battled against forces that threatened its existence in later years. Even more importantly, he broke down many of the barriers from the early days, and marshalled support from across the cultural, social, and political divisions in Townsville.

He achieved this with his inclusive leadership and strength of character, and by ensuring that Yumba-Meta was staffed and managed so effectively that it not only provided a wide range of important community services, it also delivered them with “innovation and excellence” – winning National and State awards from the Australasian National Housing Institute.

This could not have been achieved without a much younger Ernie Hoolihan promoting access to housing as a vital part of Indigenous activism fifty years earlier and dedicating his working life to that end through Yumba-Meta.

In his memoir, he explained why affordable housing was so important for his people. “ A permanent place to live in is a big plus for Aboriginal people. It helps stabilize the kids at school, and the families don’t have to keep moving from one address to another.

“It’s also easier to get credit with an established address. Credit companies always want to know how long you’ve lived in a particular place before you can get a credit card or a loan.”

Very early in his long career, Uncle Ernie also identified care for elders as being a problem. He saw it as one of his biggest challenges, and it took almost 39 years before his vision finally became a reality with the Ernest and Maud Hoolihan Elders’ Village at Deeragun.

He also nominated the Hillside Gardens project as a” game changer” for the local Indigenous community. “It was Yumba-Meta’s vision to create a mixed tenure, inclusive, housing estate, where people from different social and cultural backgrounds could live together. This development is a vision for what an equitable and reconciled Australia could look like.”

When Yumba-Meta was launched back in 1973, Uncle Ernie didn’t have an honorary doctorate of letters from James Cook University or one of Australia’s highest civic awards to help him open doors or convince politicians and bureaucrats to listen. But the paternalistic State Government officials who controlled public housing certainly misjudged him when they tried to block his campaign to get equity for disadvantaged groups – particularly his own “mob” in North Queensland.

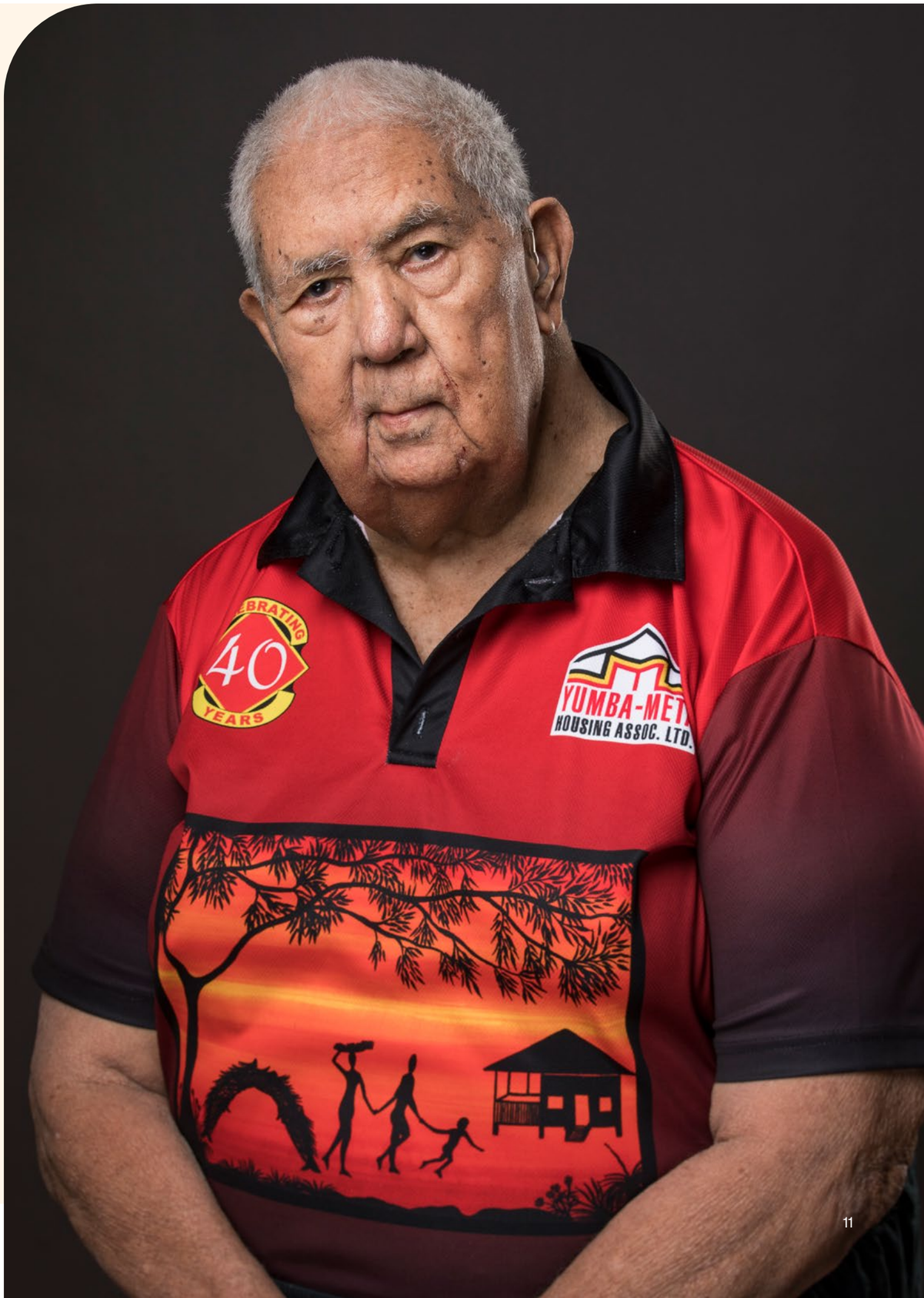
They soon discovered he was a man who could not be intimidated – he was not lacking in courage or conviction and was also inspired by his own family’s activist ancestry, both black and white. His late wife, Maud, was also a powerful campaigner and gathered support from respected Aboriginal and Islander families at a time when a show of unity and strength was needed.

Yumba-Meta not only survived, it grew into a dynamic, innovative multi-functional organization that is now celebrating its 53rd anniversary.

Our history is a story of challenges, setbacks and ground-breaking achievements... all thanks to Dr. Ernest Michael Hoolihan OAM – “The man who never gave up.”

Written by Elliot Hannay

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Message from our Chairperson

Michael Illin

WADDA MOOLI

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Yumba-Meta Limited, I remain deeply privileged and proud and truly grateful for the strategic direction, continued progress and achievements of our organisation.

It is an honour to work with, and be a part of this Board and organisation to continue this journey never losing sight of the foundations of why Yumba – Meta Limited was originally established as we continue to work towards a shared vision going into the future

Being the Chairperson of the Board of Yumba-Meta, I am truly grateful and honoured it is a privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility, with the opportunity to lead, serve, and work alongside such dedicated Board members. I am thankful for the trust, confidence and support that has been placed in me.

We could possibly not provide the direction and oversight of the organisation without the commitment and dedication from our staff led by our CEO and Senior Management Team for their continued professionalism, kindness and support, the commitment teamwork and genuine care ensuring everyone feels valued, respected and appreciated.

Collectively we will continue to walk this journey beside one another both as staff and community.

We have successfully delivered on several key outcomes that provide Yumba-Meta Limited with a strong foundation underpinned by collaboration with our partners across all sectors including:

Construction of 24 studio apartments

Purchase of 16.8 acres of land for future expansion

Awarded the Oonoonba Affordable Housing Project to construct 39 homes

Approved capital and operational funding for supported housing and families

We are also pleased to report that we remain financially strong demonstrating a high standard of accountable management through transparent financial reporting, prudent budgeting and appropriate internal controls will ensure we can continue to invest in our mission and expand our reach.

Yumba – Meta Limited continues to strengthen its service delivery through change and challenges with positive outcomes made possible by our dedicated staff who have maintained strong stakeholder engagement, building trust, fostering collaboration, aligning shared objectives and achieving positive outcomes through culturally responsive and effective services for our community.

As we look into the future we acknowledge the challenges, uncertainties and obstacles, however with our courage, resilience, unity and a positive mindset, believing in ourselves, supporting one another and remaining focused on our goals we can turn our challenges and difficulties into opportunities, creating positive sustainable change to further enhance our programs allowing Yumba – Meta Limited with continued success with a commitment to strive towards further success.

None of this would be possible without the trust and support of our elders and community, acknowledging the strength, knowledge and connection as we walk together in our next chapter in this journey, we will remain steadfast, committed and dedicated, in creating a more inclusive community for all, working towards building a future where everyone is respected, valued and able to participate.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership

Michael Illin
Chairperson

Board of Directors

Our Board brings together cultural knowledge, leadership experience, and a commitment to self-determination and community impact.



Michael Illin
Chairperson

Michael Illin is a proud Bindal Traditional Owner of the Townsville area with more than 20 years' experience in the health sector across government and non-government agencies.

He holds a Master of Indigenous Business and Leadership, a Diploma of Indigenous Primary Health Care, and a Diploma of Leadership and Management, and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Currently Program Manager of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Assessment Engagement Service within the Townsville Hospital Health Service,

A former Director of QAIHC, Michael has contributed to numerous committees and advisory groups.

Dr Janine Gertz
Director

Dr. Janine Gertz, a Gugu Badhun and NgadjonJi woman, is based in Townsville with strong ties to North and Far North Queensland.

A Lecturer of Indigenous Studies at UNSW and Research Fellow at the Indigenous Law Centre, her research focuses on Indigenous political representation and self-government.

Janine brings extensive experience in public policy, having worked in the Australian Public Service and with Indigenous community organisations.

As the granddaughter and niece of Yumba-Meta's founders, Flora and Ernest Hoolihan, Janine is proud to continue her family's legacy of community service as a valued member of the Yumba-Meta Board.

Troy Kennedy
Director

Troy Kennedy, a proud Gugu Badhun and Gudjala Aboriginal man with strong ties to Charters Towers, Greenvale, and Yarrabah, brings extensive community engagement experience to the Yumba-Meta Limited Board.

A qualified plumber with certificates in community services and restorative practice, he has held leadership roles with NRL Cowboys House, the Clontarf Foundation, and Education Queensland.

Troy's work as a Community Engagement Officer with the Department of Children, Youth Justice, and Multicultural Affairs reflects his dedication to supporting Indigenous communities.

A descendant of Yumba-Meta's founding members, he combines cultural knowledge, lived experience, and professional expertise to advocate for youth and vulnerable people.



Hon. Peter Lindsay OAM
Director

The Hon. Peter Lindsay OAM joined Yumba-Meta's Board in 2020, bringing a wealth of experience in lawmaking and governance.

His career began in television and electronics before transitioning to politics.

Peter served as a Councillor for Townsville City and then as Federal Member for Herbert for five terms, including roles as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence.

His board experience spans education, IT, mining, and government committees.

Peter is an active community volunteer, a triple past president of the Rotary Club of Townsville Daybreak, and was awarded Medal of the Order of Australia in 2016.



Robert Passmore
Director

A Chartered Accountant and Registered Tax Agent, Robert Passmore holds a Bachelor of Business in Accounting and Finance and a Graduate Diploma in Chartered Accounting. He also completed a Graduate Diploma of Psychology in 2023.

Robert has held senior leadership roles including Chief Procurement Officer and General Manager at Townsville City Council, overseeing significant contracts and complex policy frameworks.

His previous board experience includes service with the Townsville Regional Indigenous Business Network and the Wongutha Peoples Education & Recreation Trust.



Samuel (Sam) Savage
Director

Samuel (Sam) Savage brings to the Board of Yumba-Meta Limited more than 30 years of experience across government and community sectors, including education, housing, employment, health, youth justice, and child protection.

A proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander man with cultural ties to the Birrigubba Nation and Mauar (Rennell Island) in the Torres Strait, Sam is deeply committed to cultural knowledge, connection to Country, and community wellbeing.

Sam currently serves as Northern Queensland Emergency Services Regional Coordinator with Australian Red Cross, working across district, state, and national levels in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. He is co-founder and Chairperson of the Australian Red Cross National First Nations Recovery Group.



Aaron Harper
Director

Aaron Harper brings to the Board of Yumba-Meta Limited more than 40 years of experience in healthcare, emergency services, public policy, and community leadership.

His career includes 30 years with the Queensland Ambulance Service as a Critical Care Flight Paramedic, followed by three terms as the Member for Thuringowa, where he chaired the Queensland Parliamentary Health Committee and championed major health reforms and infrastructure initiatives.

A longstanding advocate for Yumba-Meta, Aaron was instrumental in securing operational funding for the Karingal facility, helping improve access to safe accommodation for First Nations people travelling to Townsville for medical treatment.

His practical leadership, commitment to equitable healthcare, and strong community focus bring valuable insight to the Board's strategic direction.



Report from our Chief Executive Officer

Dushy Thangiah

It is with pride and gratitude that I present the Chief Executive Officer's report for Yumba-Meta Limited for the 2025-2026 financial year.

Since our establishment in 1973, Yumba-Meta has grown from a grassroots community organisation into an organisation delivering a broad range of housing, accommodation and support services. Our history reflects the determination of Aboriginal community members who recognised the need for housing solutions that understood and responded to the circumstances of their people.

More than five decades later, that founding vision continues to guide our direction and shape our future.

As I reflect on the 2025–2026 financial year, I am proud of the ongoing commitment, resilience and dedication demonstrated by the Yumba-Meta Limited team in delivering on our mission to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community through access to safe, secure and affordable housing and culturally responsive support services.

Yumba-Meta continues to play an important role in addressing housing insecurity, homelessness and the complex challenges experienced by individuals and families across our communities. Our work is grounded in the belief that everyone deserves a safe place to call home, a sense of belonging, and the opportunity to live with dignity, independence and hope for the future.

Throughout the year, we have continued to focus on strengthening our services, building organisational capacity and progressing initiatives that support sustainable housing outcomes.

While the demand for affordable housing and specialist support services remains significant, our commitment to working alongside our community, partners and stakeholders remains unwavering.

Advancing our Housing and Accommodation Initiatives
Housing remains central to Yumba-Meta's purpose and strategic direction. We recognise that secure housing is more than a roof over someone's head; it provides the foundation for stability, wellbeing, family connection and meaningful participation in community life.

Our housing development initiatives, including the ongoing development at Riverway Drive, Rasmussen, and Lakeside Drive Oonoonba represent an important investment in the future of our organisation and the communities we serve. Building on the progress achieved in the previous financial year, we remain focused on advancing opportunities to increase housing supply and respond to identified community needs.

We also recognise the importance of providing appropriate accommodation for people experiencing vulnerability, including women and children escaping domestic and family violence, people requiring supported housing, and individuals transitioning from periods of crisis.

Through our housing and accommodation programs, Yumba-Meta seeks to provide more than immediate assistance. We aim to create pathways towards greater security, independence and long-term wellbeing, recognising that each person's circumstances and support needs are different.

Supporting Individuals, Families and Community
We understand that housing challenges are often interconnected with other social and economic pressures, and that effective responses require collaboration, compassion and a strong understanding of local circumstances.

Yumba-Meta remains committed to delivering services that are respectful, inclusive and responsive to the cultural values and lived experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

I acknowledge that the challenges facing our community cannot be addressed by any one organisation alone. Strong partnerships across government, community organisations, housing providers and other service sectors remain essential to developing practical and sustainable solutions.

Strengthening our Organisation
A strong and sustainable organisation is essential to delivering quality services and achieving meaningful outcomes for our community. During the year, we have continued to recognise the importance of effective governance, responsible resource management, sound operational systems and a capable and supported workforce.

Our investment in organisational systems and processes is intended to strengthen accountability, improve efficiency and support informed decision-making. These foundations are critical as we respond to changing service requirements, increasing demand and the expectations of our funding and regulatory partners.

We remain committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance, compliance, risk management and financial stewardship. As a community-focused organisation, we have a responsibility to ensure that our resources are managed carefully and directed towards our purpose and the needs of the people we serve.

Equally important is the wellbeing, development and retention of our staff. The work undertaken across housing, accommodation and support services requires professionalism, empathy, resilience and a genuine commitment to community. I recognise the contribution of every team member and the vital role they play in bringing our mission to life.

Partnerships and Collaboration
Our progress is strengthened by the relationships we maintain with our community, government agencies, funding bodies, service providers and other partners.

These relationships enable us to share knowledge, identify opportunities, respond to emerging needs and advocate for improved housing and support outcomes.

We value the trust placed in Yumba-Meta and recognise that meaningful partnerships require open communication, mutual respect and a shared commitment to positive change.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our partners and stakeholders for their continued engagement and support. Their collaboration contributes to our capacity to deliver services and pursue opportunities that may not otherwise be possible.

Looking Ahead
As we look towards the future, Yumba-Meta remains focused on strengthening its foundations while pursuing opportunities to expand its impact.

We must also continue to respond to the broader challenges affecting the housing and community services sectors, including the demand for affordable accommodation, the increasing complexity of support needs and the importance of securing sustainable investment.

These challenges require us to remain adaptable, forward-thinking and collaborative. They also reinforce the importance of our purpose and the need to continue advocating for solutions that place people and communities at the centre.

Acknowledgements
I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Dr Ernest Michael Hoolihan in recognition of his more than 50 years of dedicated service and enduring contribution to Yumba-Meta Ltd.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank the Board of Directors for their leadership, guidance and continued commitment to the organisation's strategic direction. Their ongoing support, governance and oversight play a vital role in ensuring that Yumba-Meta remains true to its purpose, fulfils its responsibilities and continues to serve the needs of the community.

To our staff, thank you for your dedication, professionalism and compassion. Your work makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the people and families we support. I recognise the challenges that come with this work and deeply appreciate the commitment you demonstrate each day.

I also acknowledge our consultants, funding partners, and service delivery partners. Your trust, knowledge and collaboration continue to strengthen our work and help us pursue better outcomes for our community.

Most importantly, I acknowledge the people and families who engage with our services. Your experiences, aspirations and resilience remind us why our work matters and why we must continue striving for better housing and support opportunities.

As we conclude the 2025–2026 financial year, Yumba-Meta remains steadfast in its commitment to creating stronger, safer and more inclusive communities. Together, we will continue working towards a future where everyone has the opportunity to experience the security of a home.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Dushyanthi (Dushy) Thangiah OAM
Chief Executive Officer

Meet our Senior Management Team

Our committed team at Yumba-Meta Limited is dedicated to empowering the First Nations community in Townsville for positive outcomes and improved lives.



Dushy Thangiah
Chief Executive Officer



Brenda Lucas
Manager, Dale Parker Place and First Nations Cultural Advisor



Vicky Miles
Manager, Housing Services



Lucy Kite
Manager, Townsville Family Violence Support Service



Stacey Coburn
Chief Operating Officer



Dwayne Payne
Manager, Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre



Taileah Watson
Manager, Flora House and Elsie House Women's Shelters



Jody Chetty
Manager, Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation



Changyi Liu
Chief Finance Officer



Immanuel Johanan Ross
Manager, Townsville Family Violence Support Service Male Program



Lana Anstee
Executive Assistant

Yumba-Meta Limited | Annual Report 2026

Residential Developments

16.8 acres of additional land acquired for future expansion at Riverway Drive, Rasmussen.

39 affordable homes expected at Lakeside Drive, Oonoonba.

Growing our reach. Building Townsville's future.

Yumba-Meta Limited is expanding its contribution to Townsville's housing supply through residential developments at Riverway Drive, Rasmussen, and Lakeside Drive, Oonoonba.

These investments mark an important chapter in the organisation's growth, creating opportunities to support more individuals and families.

Growth taking shape
Riverway Drive brings together social housing and patient transition accommodation, with additional land providing room for future expansion.

More affordable homes for Townsville
The planned Lakeside Drive affordable housing development in Oonoonba is expected to deliver 39 homes, creating more opportunities for individuals and families to access secure, affordable housing.

Together, these developments strengthen Yumba-Meta's capacity to meet community needs into the future.

Residential Developments

Making room for a stronger community

Eva Kennedy Place

Eva Kennedy Place brings together Yumba-Meta Limited's investment in social housing and recognition of a woman who helped establish the organisation. Part of the Riverway Drive residential development in Rasmussen, Townsville, the complex carries forward Ms Eva Kennedy's connection to Yumba-Meta and its work.

Investment in housing

Funded by the Queensland Government, the project comprises 48 social housing units of which 24 have been constructed.

The development forms part of Yumba-Meta's continuing work to increase housing supply in Townsville.

It gives practical expression to the organisation's longstanding purpose: improving access to safe, secure and affordable housing.

Delivering additional housing requires sustained investment and planning. Queensland Government funding supports this work at Riverway Drive, helping Yumba-Meta expand the housing it can provide for the community.

Recognising Eva Kennedy's contribution

Ms Kennedy was a founding member of Yumba-Meta and maintained her involvement through many years of service on its Board. Her contribution spanned both the organisation's beginnings and its ongoing governance.

Naming the complex Eva Kennedy Place recognises that enduring commitment. It also gives the development a connection to Yumba-Meta's own history, acknowledging someone who helped build the organisation and continued to support its work over time.

As the Riverway Drive development progresses, Eva Kennedy Place will carry her name into the next chapter of Yumba-Meta's housing provision.









Residential Developments

Homes for today, a legacy for the future

Alfred Smallwood Place



Alfred Smallwood Place provides stable housing while honouring a respected Elder whose work helped people build healthier relationships.

Completed and occupied, the four-home complex forms part of Yumba-Meta Limited's new Riverway Drive housing development in Rasmussen.

A place to settle

Funded by the Queensland Government, Alfred Smallwood Place comprises two two-bedroom and two three-bedroom social housing units.

These homes provide much-needed accommodation for vulnerable community members who are unable to access affordable housing elsewhere.

Having a stable place to live can make a meaningful difference to everyday life. It provides a foundation for maintaining routines, strengthening relationships and planning ahead.

For the people living at Alfred Smallwood Place, access to affordable housing offers somewhere to settle and make a home.

Honouring Uncle Alfred

Yumba-Meta named the complex in recognition of Uncle Alfred Smallwood, a respected Bindal Elder with a longstanding commitment to reducing the impacts of violence in the Townsville community.

Uncle Alfred helped men and women understand the harm caused by violence and the importance of healthy relationships with their partners.

His contribution is also recognised through Uncle Alfred's Legacy Program, officially named in his honour on 4 July 2025.

Facilitated by Yumba-Meta since 2020, the program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to understand the lasting impacts of violence and the connections between safety, behaviour change and healing.

Alfred Smallwood Place carries his name forward through housing that responds to a fundamental community need.

Four new social housing units in Rasmussen offer residents stability and a place to call home.



Housing & Accommodation

Supporting access to healthcare away from home

Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation



868
Patients

7,068
Patient nights

58
Home communities

51
Referring hospitals and health services

Occupancy has increased from 29% to 70% since opening

Patient referrals have increased by 453% and the number of referring health services has increased by 410%

Yumba-Meta Limited | Annual Report 2026

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients travelling from rural and remote communities, accessing specialist healthcare often means spending time away from home, family and familiar surroundings. Yumba-Meta's Karingal Patient Transition Accommodation provides culturally safe accommodation and practical support in Townsville, helping patients and their families manage the challenges of treatment, recovery and returning home.

Responding to a longstanding need

Karingal was established to address a recognised gap in accommodation for patients travelling to Townsville for specialist and tertiary healthcare. Patients may need to remain in the city for appointments, diagnostic investigations, surgery, ongoing treatment or recovery following hospital discharge.

Without suitable accommodation, patients can face difficulties attending appointments, following treatment plans and maintaining contact with healthcare providers. For those travelling considerable distances, arranging accommodation and transport can create additional pressure during an already demanding time.

Karingal combines supported accommodation with holistic case management to address these barriers. Its model recognises that access to healthcare depends on the practical and social support available to patients throughout their stay, alongside the clinical care they receive.

Accommodation for patients and families

Located at 1145 Riverway Drive in Townsville's Upper Ross, Karingal occupies a site purchased by Yumba-Meta in 2017.

The purpose-built facility comprises 16 accommodation units: 12 self-contained units configured for twin-share occupancy by patients and approved escorts, and four family units for larger family groups supporting a patient during treatment or recovery.

This accommodation mix recognises the role of escorts, carers and family members in supporting patients away from community. It allows Karingal to respond to different household circumstances and healthcare needs, including patients who require extended stays.

Patients are referred for oncology, renal care, cardiology, orthopaedics, women's health, paediatrics, rehabilitation and other specialist services unavailable within their home communities. Karingal supports patients across these different healthcare pathways rather than serving a single clinical program.

Practical support throughout the healthcare journey

Karingal's support includes assistance with appointments, transport, communication with healthcare providers and arrangements to return home. Case managers also connect patients and families with other services and practical resources where needed.

Karingal's staffing structure comprises 13 positions: a program manager, three case managers and nine support workers. Together, this team provides support for patients with differing health needs, family responsibilities and social circumstances.

Working with hospitals, Indigenous Liaison Officers, community contacts and other agencies, staff help patients navigate unfamiliar services and remain connected to care. Support can include clarifying appointment requirements, coordinating travel and assisting with the practical arrangements associated with treatment and discharge.

Increasing demand and stronger referral connections

Karingal continued to experience growing demand during 2025–26. By May 2026, the program had received 439 patient referrals, exceeding the 290 referrals recorded across the full 2024–25 financial year. In 2023–24, the program received 86 referrals.

Reported occupancy increased from 29 per cent in 2023–24 to 48 per cent in 2024–25, reaching 69 per cent in the available year-to-date figures for the 2025–26 reporting period.

Referrals come from hospitals, health services and clinical programs across North Queensland and the Northern Territory. The expanding referral network reflects increasing awareness of Karingal and its role in supporting patients who need to travel for care.

Demand encompasses individual patients and accompanying family members, reinforcing the importance of providing both twin-share and family accommodation.

A sustained investment in community wellbeing

Planning for Karingal began in 2009. In 2011, the project received $100,000 in State Government funding to develop a business plan, but subsequent project funding was withdrawn in 2012.

The project progressed following Yumba-Meta's land purchase and the allocation of $2.89 million through the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund in 2019. Yumba-Meta contributed a further $3.6 million from its own self-generated funds. The facility was completed and officially opened in July 2021.

Securing operational funding took longer. In July 2023, annual funding of $2.105 million was approved for an initial three-year period, jointly funded by the Queensland Government's housing and health departments. The funding period runs from October 2023 to September 2026, with patient accommodation operations commencing in November 2023.

A 20 per cent funding uplift for 2024–25 increased annual operational funding to $2.526 million, excluding GST.

Continued investment supports the service's capacity to respond to growing demand and provide accommodation that helps patients remain engaged with treatment, recovery and their planned return to home communities.

Karingal represents Yumba-Meta's sustained commitment to helping patients access healthcare while remaining accommodated, supported and connected during their time away from home.

Karingal

Patient Transition Accommodation

FY2023/24 to FY2025/26

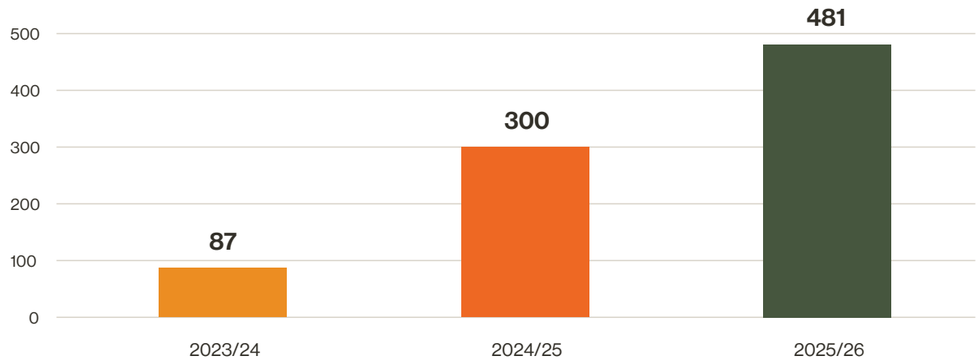
868
referral records across all years

481
referral records in FY2025/26

+452.9%
FY2023/24 to FY2025/26

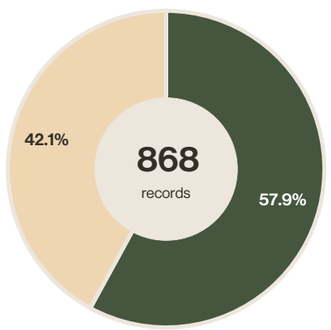
Patient referral records

Annual totals from the supplied dataset



Recorded gender

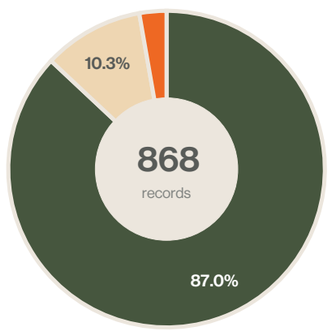
All years combined | 868 records



Female	503 | 57.9%
Male	365 | 42.1%

Exit pathways

All years combined | 868 records



Returned home	755 | 87.0%
Other accommodation	89 | 10.3%
Admitted to hospital	24 | 2.8%

Counts represent referral records; repeat stays may be included.

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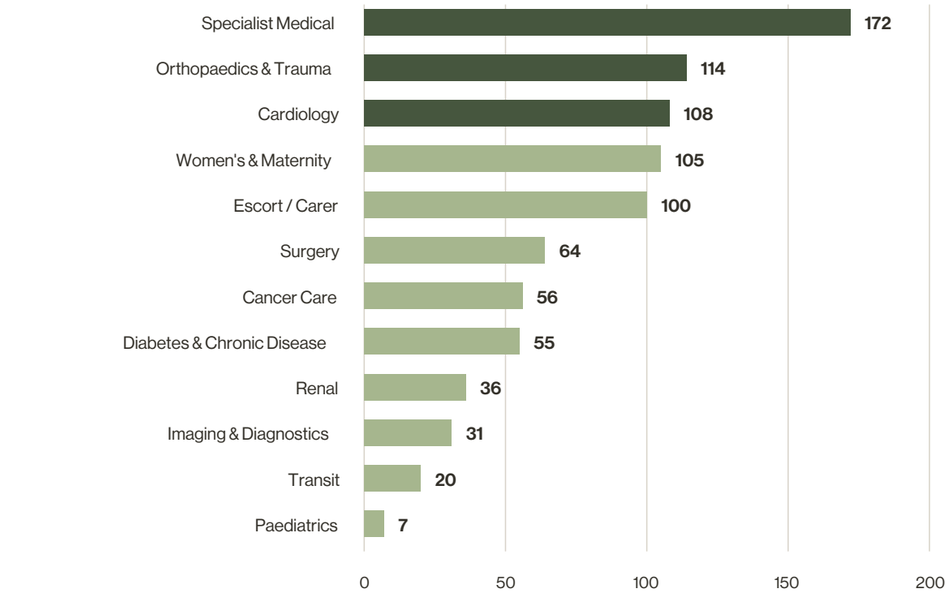
Karingal

Health care pathways and referrals

FY2023/24 to FY2025/26

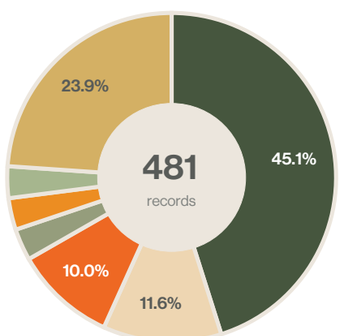
Purpose of stay

All years combined | category counts total 868 records



Referring health services

FY2025/26 only | 481 referral records



Mt Isa Hospital	217 | 45.1%
Doomadgee Hospital	56 | 11.6%
Mornington Island Hospital	48 | 10.0%
Hughenden Health Service	15 | 3.1%
Cairns & Hinterland	15 | 3.1%
Richmond Health Service	15 | 3.1%
All other referring services	115 | 23.9%

Six largest source labels shown separately.



Housing & Accommodation

Providing secure homes for those most in need

Long-term Community Housing

Yumba-Meta Limited (YML) provides housing to over 440 people daily, supporting some of the most vulnerable members of the community who face barriers to accessing private housing.

Managing 195 tenancies under the Long-term Community Housing Program, 8 Specialist Disability Accommodation tenancies, 16 under the Transitional Housing Program, and 16 Crisis Accommodation rooms, and 28 Housingwise properties, YML offers more than just a place to live.

We aim to empower tenants by helping them sustain long-term housing. Our properties cater to individuals and families in need of secure, appropriate, and affordable housing, especially when other options fall short.

YML's comprehensive intake process ensures we understand clients' immediate and long-term needs, allowing us to offer tailored support.

As a leader in North Queensland's housing sector, we advocate for stronger, more sustainable policies, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

YML provides affordable housing to individuals and families on low to moderate incomes, focusing on those who struggle to find accommodation in the private rental market.

Our housing management includes:

Delivering high-quality housing services

Offering properties in well-located, mixed-tenure developments

Reducing tenant occupancy costs through good environmental design and proximity to services

Ensuring tenancy sustainability through effective management

Providing an accessible and transparent service

Encouraging tenant involvement in their housing and the organisation

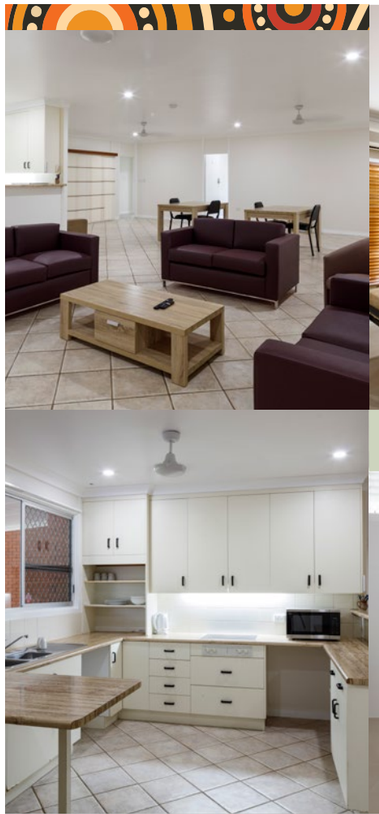


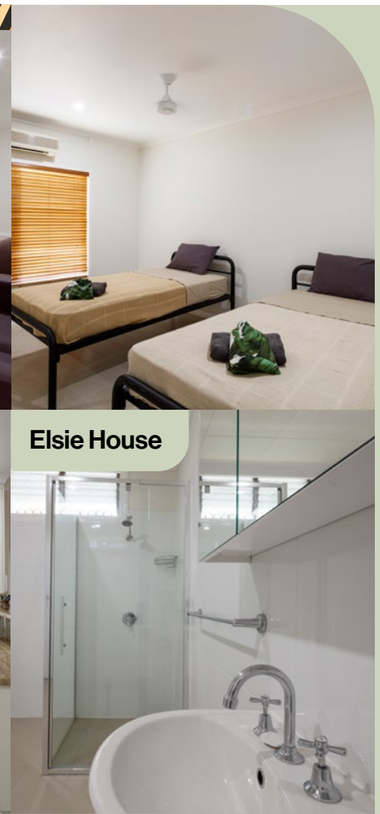
Every day, we house over 440 people, creating safe spaces for those who need it most.

More than shelter and a safe place to start over

Flora House and Elsie House Women's Shelters

Housing & Accommodation









Elsie House

Yumba-Meta operates two vital Women's Shelters, Flora House and Elsie House, providing essential support for women and their children escaping domestic and family violence.

Elsie House is federally funded to support First Nations women and children, while Flora House is a mainstream service available to any woman and child experiencing domestic and family violence.

These shelters offer a safe, welcoming, and non-judgmental environment, with Flora House featuring ten bedrooms and Elsie House accommodating six.

The benefits of these shelters extend far beyond providing immediate refuge. They serve as crucial lifelines for women seeking to break free from abusive situations, allowing them to regain control over their lives.

By offering round-the-clock support, we ensure that residents have access to essential services such as crisis counselling, safety planning, and legal advocacy.

This holistic approach empowers women to heal from trauma and develop the skills necessary for independent living.

Both Elsie House and Flora House foster a sense of community among residents, which is vital for emotional recovery.

Children living in these shelters also benefit significantly; they receive counselling and support that helps them process their experiences, reducing the likelihood of perpetuating cycles of violence in the future.

Yumba-Meta's commitment to these services is rooted in the belief that every woman deserves a life free from violence.

By providing safe accommodation and comprehensive support, Flora House and Elsie House not only enhance individual well-being but also contribute to healthier communities.

Through our efforts, we aim to create lasting change for women and children affected by domestic and family violence, helping them build brighter futures.





Flora House







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Elsie House

Three-year service profile | 2023/24 to 2025/26

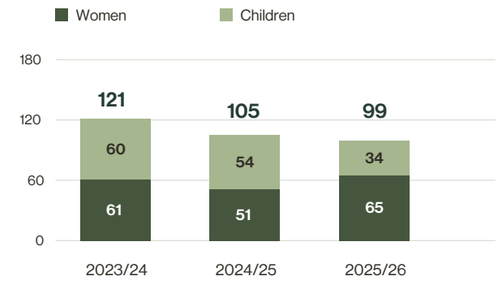
Limited safe exit pathways are leading to longer stays, reducing the number of women and children the shelter can accommodate

-18.2% change in total clients 2023/24 to 2025/26

+19 percentage points occupancy 2023/24 to 2025/26

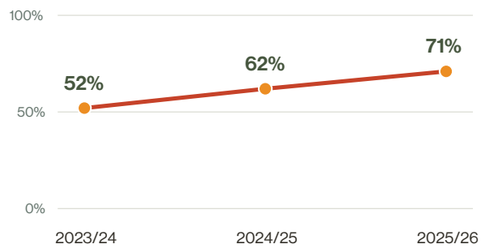
Total clients

Women and children, by financial year



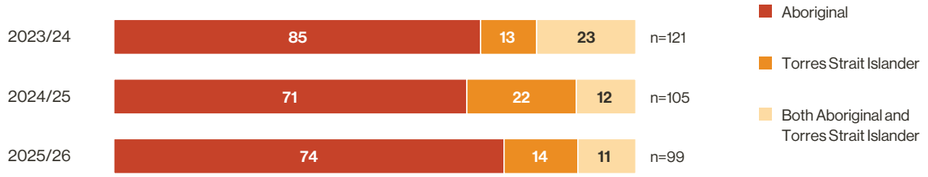
Occupancy

Reported occupancy rate



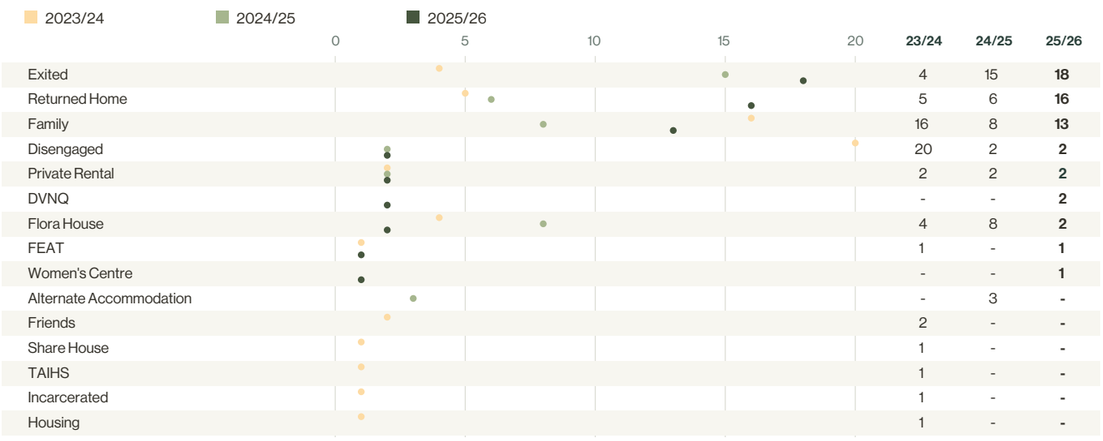
Client cultural identity

Each bar = 100% of that year's clients; segment labels show client counts



Exit pathways

Reported counts; categories are kept separate across years



	23/24	24/25	25/26
Exited	4	15	**18**
Returned Home	5	6	**16**
Family	16	8	**13**
Disengaged	20	2	**2**
Private Rental	2	2	**2**
DVNQ	-	-	**2**
Flora House	4	8	**2**
FEAT	1	-	**1**
Women's Centre	-	-	**1**
Alternate Accommodation	-	3	**-**
Friends	2	-	**-**
Share House	1	-	**-**
TAIHS	1	-	**-**
Incarcerated	1	-	**-**
Housing	1	-	**-**

- = not listed in the supplied data; it does not mean zero.

Flora House

Three-year service profile | 2023/24 to 2025/26

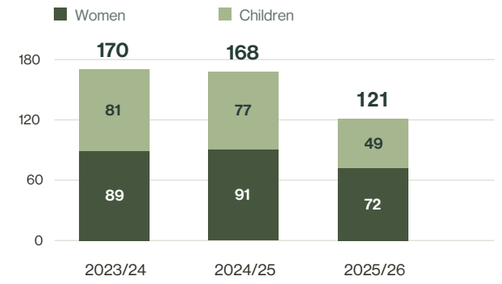
Limited safe exit pathways are leading to longer stays, reducing the number of women and children the shelter can accommodate

-28.8% change in total clients 2023/24 to 2025/26

+29.9 percentage points occupancy 2023/24 to 2025/26

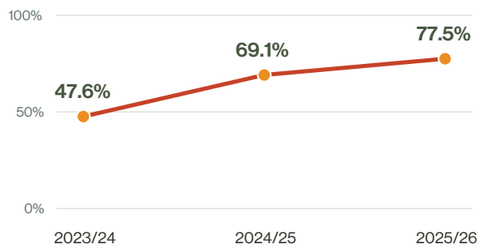
Total clients

Women and children, by financial year



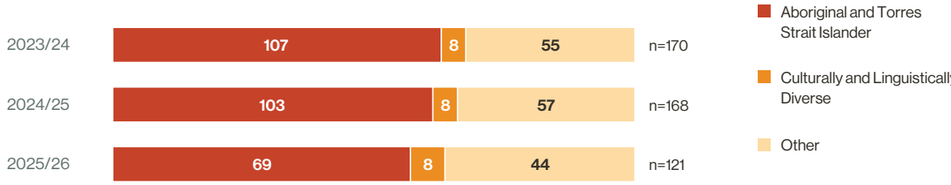
Occupancy

Reported occupancy rate



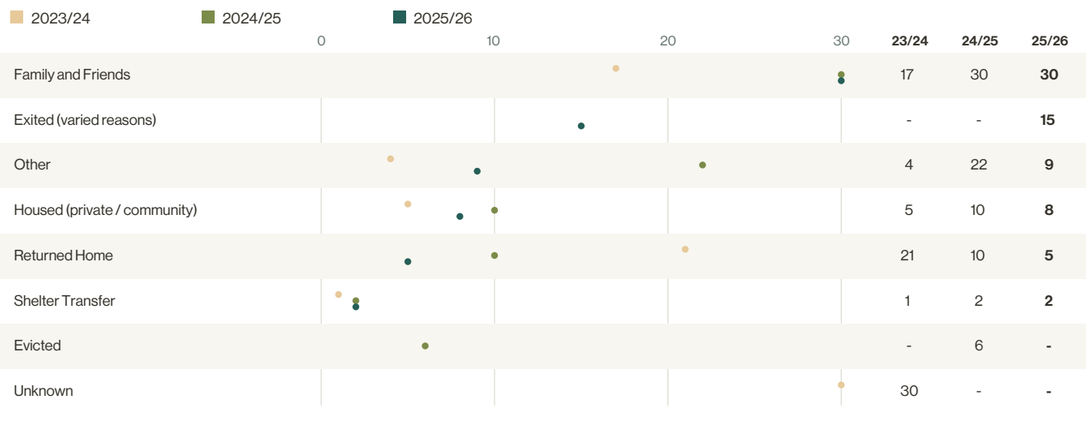
Client cultural identity

Each bar = 100% of that year's clients; segment labels show client counts



Exit pathways

Reported counts; categories are kept separate across years



	23/24	24/25	25/26
Family and Friends	17	30	**30**
Exited (varied reasons)	-	-	**15**
Other	4	22	**9**
Housed (private / community)	5	10	**8**
Returned Home	21	10	**5**
Shelter Transfer	1	2	**2**
Evicted	-	6	**-**
Unknown	30	-	**-**

- = not listed in the supplied data; it does not mean zero.



Housing & Accommodation

Property partnerships with a purpose

Housingwise Realty

Your choice of rental manager helps build stronger communities

Housingwise Realty combines personalised property management with a commitment to improving lives. As a social enterprise and subsidiary of Yumba-Meta Limited, it gives Townsville property owners an opportunity to support people facing housing barriers while having their investment professionally managed.

Personal service, shared benefits

A registered not-for-profit real estate agency, Housingwise Realty directs 100% of its profits towards charitable initiatives that improve outcomes for vulnerable people.

Its boutique approach keeps the focus on relationships. By managing a select portfolio, the agency provides attentive service to property owners and tenants, with an emphasis on clear communication and care for the homes entrusted to it.

This approach supports owners seeking reliable management and tenants looking for a secure home in the private rental market.

Owners who help make a difference

Housingwise Realty currently manages 28 properties. Among its key partners are Mike Carney Toyota and Sardina Family Trust, property owners who have chosen the agency to manage their rental properties.

These partnerships support the agency's continuing work and demonstrate how property owners can contribute to its social purpose through an everyday business decision.

An invitation to property owners

For people facing discrimination or other barriers in the private rental market, finding a home can be difficult. Housingwise Realty works to broaden housing opportunities while providing professional management for owners.

By partnering with Housingwise Realty, more property owners can help extend this work, connecting the care of their investment with a lasting contribution to the community.

Yumba-Meta Limited's SDA Initiative



Yumba-Meta Limited is committed to providing quality homes for individuals living with disabilities.

In November 2019, we proudly delivered Townsville's first newly built and NDIA-accredited Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) after two years of development.

Located at Hillside Gardens, these homes are designed to accommodate eight SDA residents. Each property features wide doorways, spacious hallways, and adjustable-height kitchen benchtops with wheelchair accessibility, ensuring they meet the diverse needs of residents.

Despite the successful construction of these properties, connecting suitable tenants to available SDA accommodations remains a challenge due to the requirement for NDIS referrals.

Yumba-Meta actively advocates for individuals needing access to appropriate housing by educating NDIS support coordinators and relevant agencies.

Recognising the ongoing community need for purpose-built tenancies, we are dedicated to expanding our SDA offerings.

Our focus on creating inclusive environments enhances the quality of life for residents while promoting independence and dignity.

Through our efforts in providing Specialist Disability Accommodation, Yumba-Meta aims to empower individuals with disabilities and ensure they have access to safe, supportive housing options.

Housing & Accommodation

Housing and support to leave homelessness behind

Dale Parker Place



Dale Parker Place (DPP) provides essential accommodation and support for single males, females, and couples without children who are experiencing homelessness, including those sleeping rough or facing chronic homelessness.

Our goal is to help residents achieve independent, sustainable housing and engage with the community.

Currently, DPP maintains an occupancy rate exceeding 98%, with many clients successfully transitioning into private or community housing. Our dedicated staff offer individualised case management around the clock, ensuring that each client receives the support they need for a smooth transition to appropriate accommodation.

In 2016, Department of Housing replaced the original 25-tenancy building with a modern complex featuring 40 one-bedroom units, which opened in August 2017. This expansion allowed us to provide long-term housing solutions for individuals who may not be able to sustain public or community housing.

DPP's positive influence on Townsville's homeless population is evident, as reflected in the reduced occupancy rates at the Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre.

We receive referrals from various sources, including self-referral, the Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre, Homelessness Health Outreach Team, Residential Rehabilitation Services, Case Coordination Group and other Homelessness Services.

At Dale Parker Place, we are committed to making a difference in the lives of those we serve by fostering a supportive and welcoming environment.

Housing & Accommodation

A secure home for those who came before us

The Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village



The Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander seniors comfortable homes, peaceful surroundings and a sense of community.

Since opening in 2012, the Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village has provided retirement village-style housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents aged 55 and over.

Set among trees on six acres in Deeragun, the village comprises 16 modern, low-maintenance two-bedroom units. The peaceful setting supports independent living, with opportunities for connection and companionship close to home. Consistently high occupancy reflects the continuing need for this housing.

The village honours the late Dr Ernest Hoolihan OAM and his late wife Maud, founders of Yumba-Meta Limited. Their long-held vision was to create a community where Elders could live comfortably in a supportive environment.

Taking 11 years to realise, the village was officially opened by the then Minister for Housing and Public Works, the Hon. Tim Mander.

Helping residents manage everyday living costs has also been a priority. In 2018, Yumba-Meta began a solar project to help ease the burden of electricity bills. Yumba-Meta funded solar panels for the first eight units, installed in late 2019. The remaining eight units received panels through the Queensland Government's Solar for Rentals Rebate, with installation completed in 2020.

Today, the village continues to fulfil Ernest and Maud's vision. By bringing together suitable housing and a supportive community, it contributes to residents' physical, social and emotional wellbeing, while respecting their independence and stage of life.

Housing & Accommodation

Providing 24/7 support for those in crisis

The Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre

The Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre is a sobering-up facility open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, designed to support people at risk of self-harm or to others due to public intoxication.

The Centre provides a safe and familiar place to sober up, a clean bed, healthy meal, hygiene and laundry facilities and basic first aid if necessary.

Assistance is provided to those who are too intoxicated to meet their basic needs unaided.

The Centre is an alternative to the Townsville Police Watch House. Clients are transported to and from the Centre.





Housing & Accommodation

A home in Townsville for work and learning

Employment and Education Housing Program

Yumba-Meta's Employment and Education Housing Program (EEHP) provides 13 specialised tenancies for Indigenous individuals relocating to Townsville from remote communities. This initiative supports those seeking employment, education, or training opportunities, playing a crucial role in fostering self-sufficiency and community integration.

The program offers transitional accommodation that is not only safe but also designed to meet the unique needs of its residents. By providing a stable living environment, we empower individuals to focus on their personal and professional development without the added stress of housing insecurity.

Residents benefit from tailored support services, including access to job training, educational resources, and career counselling. This holistic approach encourages participants to build skills necessary for long-term success in the workforce. Moreover, the program promotes cultural connections, helping individuals maintain ties to their heritage while navigating urban life.

The EEHP is more than just housing; it is a pathway to independence and empowerment. By facilitating access to essential resources, we aim to break the cycle of disadvantage faced by many Indigenous individuals.

Through this program, Yumba-Meta is committed to creating opportunities that lead to sustainable employment and educational attainment, ultimately contributing to stronger communities. Our focus on transitional support ensures that each participant can thrive as they embark on their journey toward a brighter future.

Completed Major Project

Landmark estate paved the way to home ownership for indigenous families

Hillside Gardens Residential Estate

Hillside Gardens Residential Estate stands out as a remarkable achievement in Yumba-Meta Limited's property development portfolio.

Nestled on 50 acres at the foothills of Mt Louisa, this estate was specifically designed to create pathways to home ownership for Indigenous individuals and families.

Out of 41 land lots, 34 were successfully sold to private buyers, with the remaining lots retained by Yumba-Meta.

The final lots were sold during the 2020-21 financial year, culminating in total land sales of $2.2 million.

This financial success has enabled Yumba-Meta to reinvest in the community, fostering sustainable housing solutions.

The staged development approach allowed Yumba-Meta to progressively fund the subdivision. As blocks were sold, the proceeds financed the construction of rental housing and supported three young Indigenous families on their journey toward home ownership.

Hillside Gardens not only offers well-designed homes but also cultivates a village-like atmosphere in an enviable location close to essential amenities.

By facilitating access to home ownership, Yumba-Meta is making a lasting impact on the lives of Indigenous families, promoting stability and fostering community resilience for generations to come.







My Yumba-Meta Story

Andrew Ned Karingal Client

When Andrew's injured leg became infected after surgery, intensive follow-up care was called for. Not an easy task given he'd been living on the land mustering cattle.

That's where Yumba-Meta Limited's Karingal branch stepped in. Providing short-term supported housing for remote patients accessing medical care in Townsville, the service is a literal life-saver.

"As well as making sure you get to your medical appointments, they'll sit down and have a cup of coffee and a yarn with you. They care about you as a person," Andrew says.

"The doctors look after my legs but, with Karingal, I've got someone I can talk to – like the guys I rode horseback with mustering cattle. I went everywhere from Charleville (in south-western Queensland, along the Warrego River) to Kalumburu in Western Australia – they've got a station there near Carson River. I've lived that life since I was a teenager."

While he's in Townsville receiving treatment, Andrew is making the most of the opportunity to reconnect with his three-year-old son Victor.

"My eldest son – I never seen him grow up. I was always away working, working, working. They start talking and you miss that. Like, when did that happen?"

Thanks to Yumba-Meta, he not only has men's group and a staff member close by 24/7 to support him, but Andrew can also seek long-term housing. And, as he transitions to a new way of life after his injury, that's making all the difference to his recovery.







My Yumba-Meta Story

Gazier (Guzza) Tamwoy TFVSS Client

When Guzza left correctional custody after serving a seven-year sentence, he returned to a world that had completely shifted. But with Yumba-Meta there to support him, he didn't slip through the cracks. Now he uses his experience as an ex-offender on probation to guide the next generation away from the prison gates.

"Even before I got out, I knew Yumba-Meta were going to be there for me," Guzza says. "They came to Stuart Prison and ran their clinics, which started to build that connection. That meant a lot to me as a Torres Strait man from Badu Island. Being in prison, you lose track of society and how things work out here. You don't have that support network and, as a cultural person, your whole life is built around family.

"I knew they would help me with practical things like getting my birth certificate, a driver's licence and a bank account, as well as counselling and a men's group to help me handle those uncomfortable feelings.

"Back when I was growing up, I couldn't talk to anybody. I felt very shut down. I lost my self-esteem. Everything was bottled up, and I didn't even understand how to reach out to anyone."

Guzza's journey has now come full circle. He serves as an elder-brother figure for younger men struggling with cycles of domestic and family violence.

Travelling to regional centres such as Charters Towers to take part in cultural mentoring, he shares his own story to break down barriers and show others how healing from trauma can begin.

"If I see my brothers out there struggling, I tell them there's a place where they can get help. This is where your healing starts—sitting in your own yarning space, with your own people, expressing how you feel and working out how to take those next little steps towards reconnecting with family."



My Yumba-Meta Story

Jackie Page Housing Officer

Jackie is no stranger to hardship, having lost a son to suicide when he was 20 and her husband to cancer not long after.

After managing her husband's medication during his illness, Jackie decided to study nursing. Then she saw an advertisement for a support worker at Yumba-Meta and was drawn to the opportunity to help others.

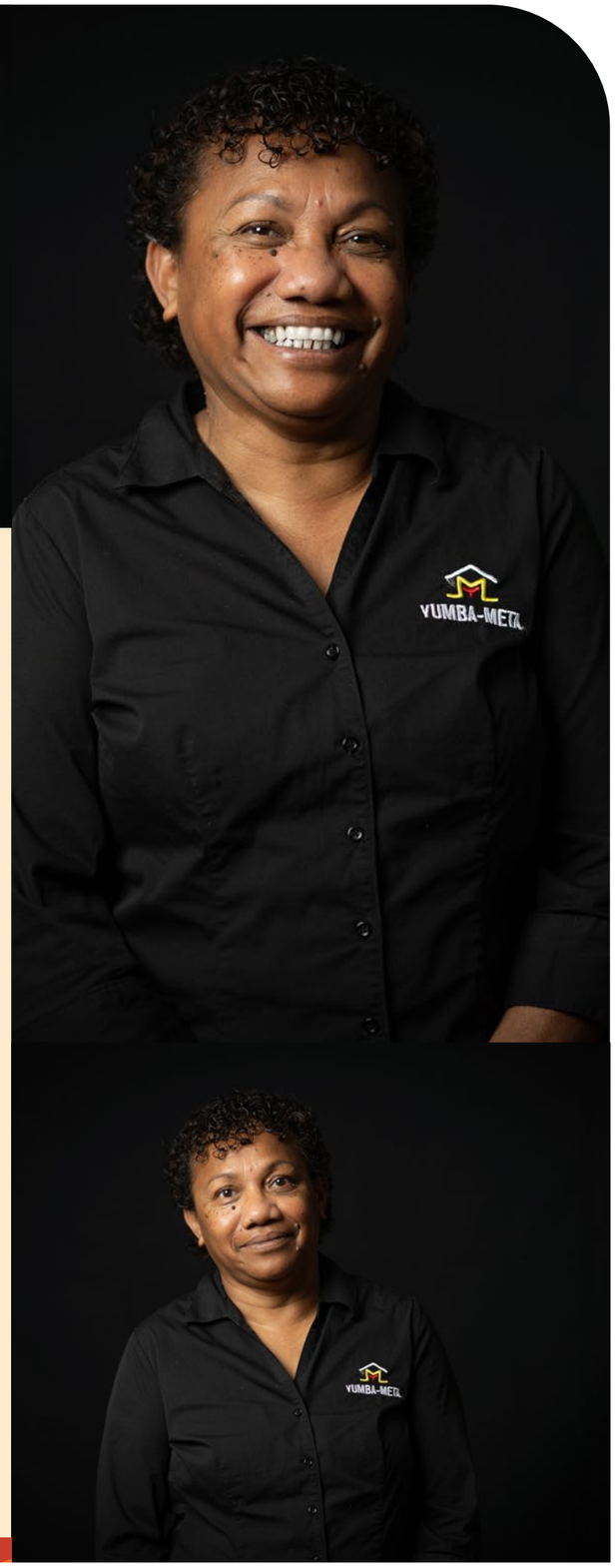
Jackie started at Flora House, a shelter for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

In 2016, she became a housing officer—a role in which she has helped some of those same women settle into safe homes.

"So, when there's a vacant property, we go through and get it ready to be tenanted again. That's step one. Then my manager will have a referral, and I'll take them to look at the property. If it's suitable, we go through the process of sending them to the Department of Housing to get their bond loans and such."

In the "real world", Jackie says, it is all about money. At Yumba-Meta, it is about helping people. As a housing officer, she may also be the first to notice when a tenant is in trouble.

"It's about building that long-term rapport, where they feel free to speak to me. Part of my role is to connect them with whichever service they might need to overcome the challenge they're facing. So, you're much more than a property inspector. You're a case manager, in a way. At Yumba-Meta, we all share the same mission of helping others, and that's what makes it a great place to work."





My Yumba-Meta Story

Joey Ronke Support Worker

For more than a decade, Joey has watched Yumba-Meta's crisis care and community housing services grow—from the driver's seat of a bus to his current role as a support worker.

"I started with Yumba-Meta as a bus driver for the elders' village—the Ernest & Maud Hoolihan Elders Village,"

Joey says. "Now I'm a support worker at Karingal, and I've worked at Gurindal—the Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre—as well."

Working across these services, Joey has seen how Yumba-Meta helps people move from homelessness towards stability.

"For clients, the journey to stability often starts at Gurindal, which is a short-term solution to get them off the street, fed and showered," Joey says.

"They can sleep in a clean, warm bed and have breakfast the next morning. But the true strength of the system lies in what happens after that first night."

If they choose to take part in the Breaking the Cycle program, clients can move from overnight shelter into structured accommodation at places such as Dale Parker Place.

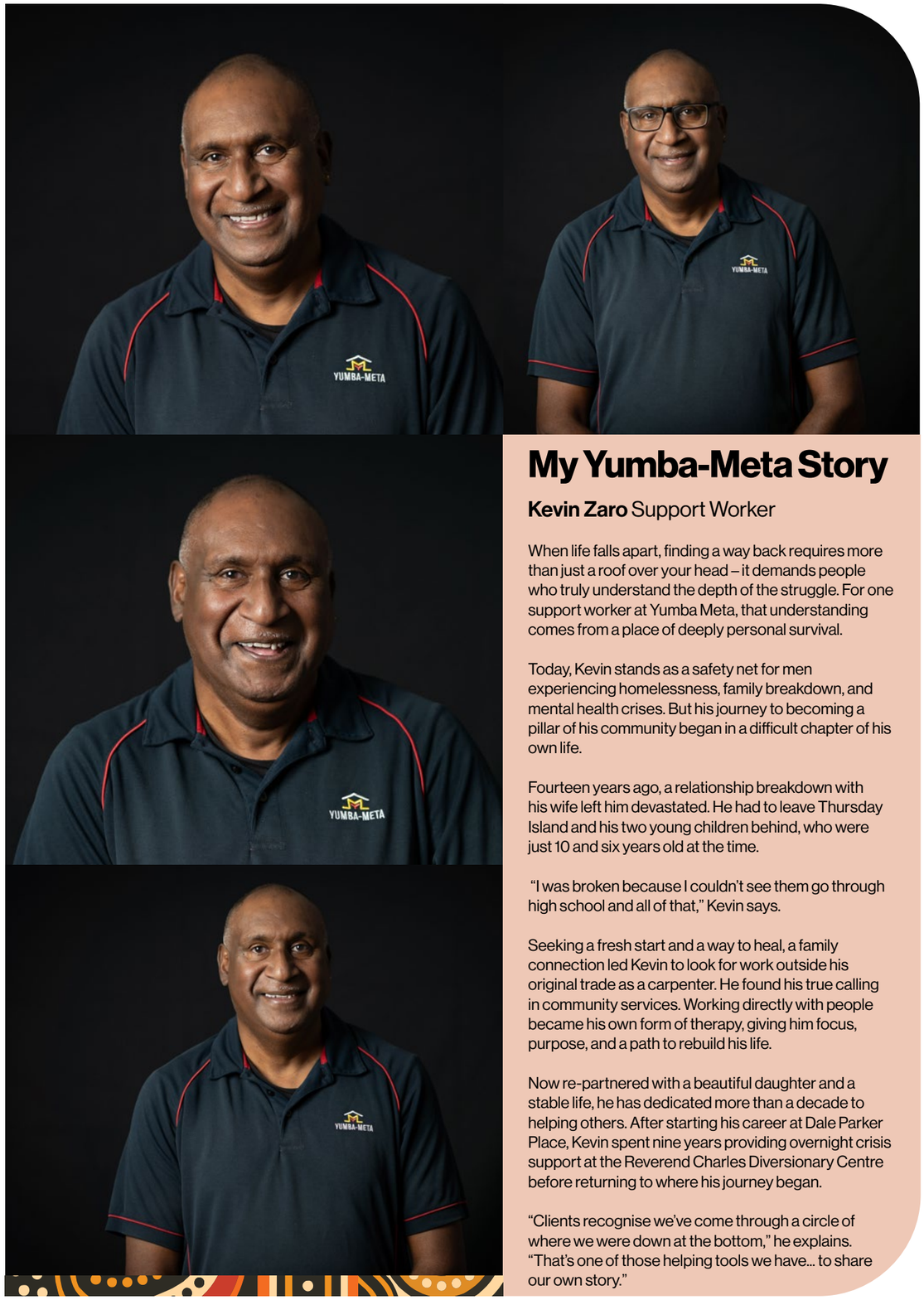
"The difference with Yumba-Meta is they're more of an advocate. They see what the needs are and advocate to get those needs met. They're proactive in terms of working to address any gaps."

Having a secure roof over their heads and reliable transport to medical appointments can make a significant difference for clients. It means less time worrying about where they will sleep or how they will get to their next appointment—and more time focused on moving forward.

Even when clients experience setbacks and return to the facility, its open-door approach means they can seek support again.

"They feel like they can talk more and be more open because they're in a good environment where they have that support," Joey says.

"I've got Indigenous heritage myself—my grandma's half Aboriginal—and I'm trying to learn more about our history, so that's another reason I love my job. Yarning with some of the elders about what they went through and how they look at life is phenomenal."



My Yumba-Meta Story

Kevin Zaro Support Worker

When life falls apart, finding a way back requires more than just a roof over your head – it demands people who truly understand the depth of the struggle. For one support worker at Yumba Meta, that understanding comes from a place of deeply personal survival.

Today, Kevin stands as a safety net for men experiencing homelessness, family breakdown, and mental health crises. But his journey to becoming a pillar of his community began in a difficult chapter of his own life.

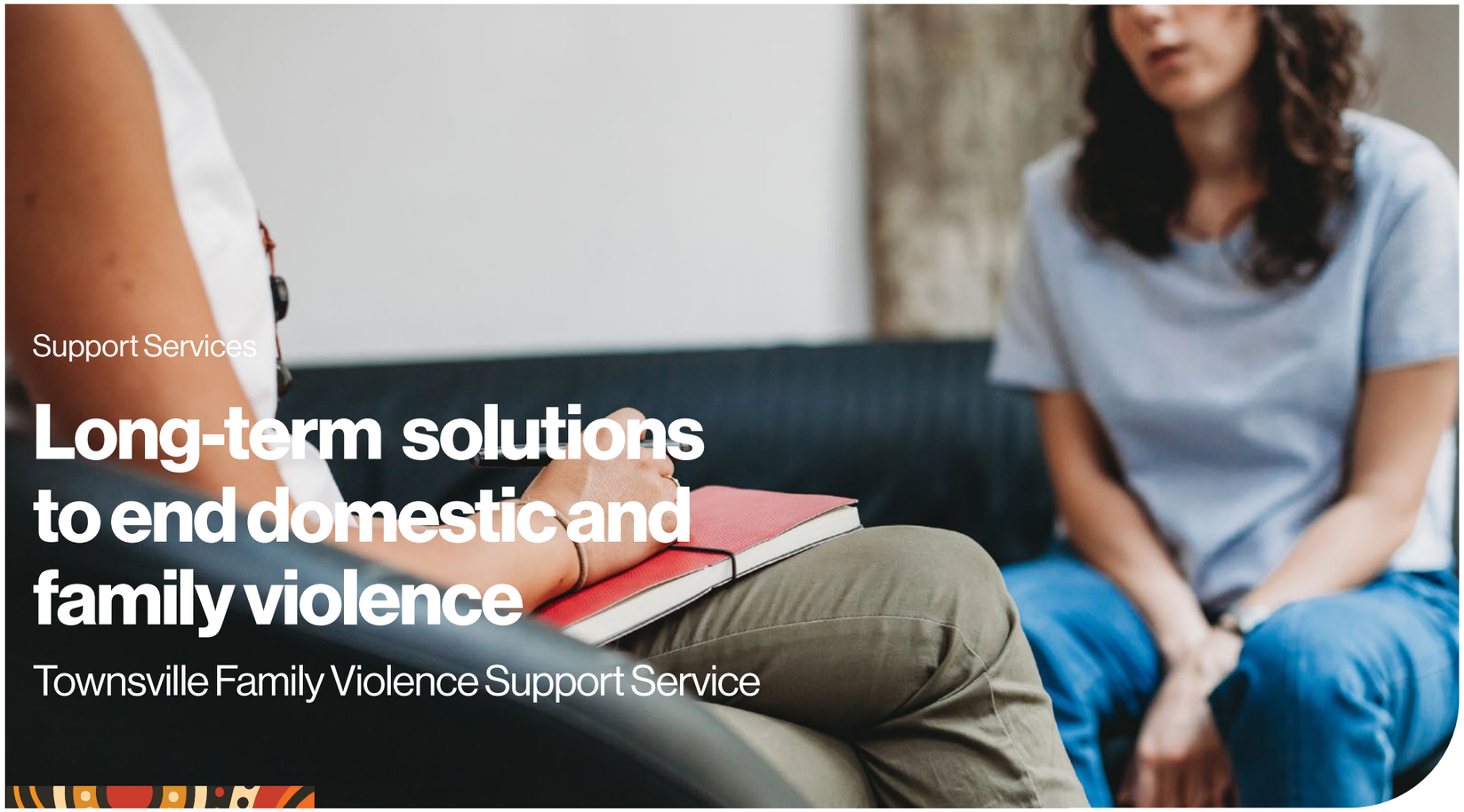
Fourteen years ago, a relationship breakdown with his wife left him devastated. He had to leave Thursday Island and his two young children behind, who were just 10 and six years old at the time.

"I was broken because I couldn't see them go through high school and all of that," Kevin says.

Seeking a fresh start and a way to heal, a family connection led Kevin to look for work outside his original trade as a carpenter. He found his true calling in community services. Working directly with people became his own form of therapy, giving him focus, purpose, and a path to rebuild his life.

Now re-partnered with a beautiful daughter and a stable life, he has dedicated more than a decade to helping others. After starting his career at Dale Parker Place, Kevin spent nine years providing overnight crisis support at the Reverend Charles Diversionary Centre before returning to where his journey began.

"Clients recognise we've come through a circle of where we were down at the bottom," he explains. "That's one of those helping tools we have... to share our own story."



Support Services

Long-term solutions to end domestic and family violence

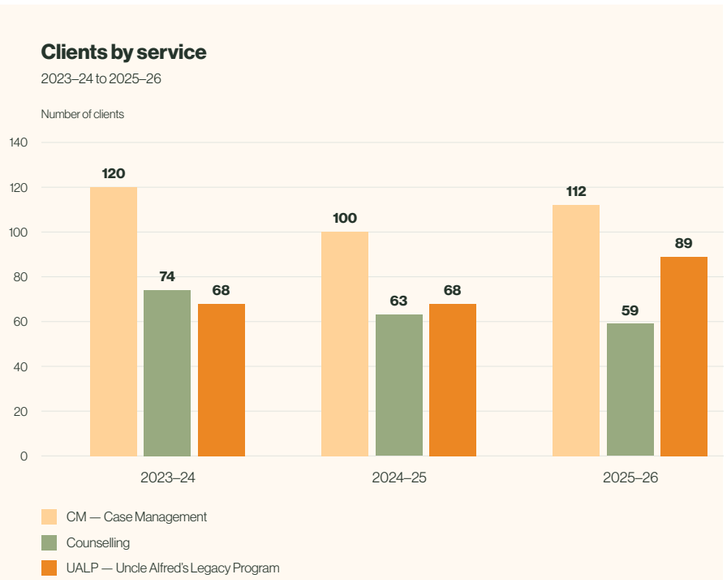
Townsville Family Violence Support Service

Townsville Family Violence Support Service is a domestic and family violence support service assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing and/or using violence.

This service is trauma informed and delivered within a healing framework, prioritising victim safety and working to reduce violence and abusive behaviour.

Ultimately, the program's goal is to achieve best outcomes for families by keeping families safe.

Best outcomes can mean many things – from working with persons using violence to proactively changing entrenched behaviours, to supporting clients to access and understand protection orders, court support, counselling, case management, information or referrals.



The issue of family violence is often ingrained within families across many generations, and this is where the early intervention piece is critical to the long-term solution.

This program is unique in that it deals with both persons using violence and victim survivors to attempt to break the cycle of family violence.

At the core of this service, is education. From YML's experience working with domestic and family violence victim survivors, there is a misconception that a protection order is 'only a piece of paper'. At the same time, persons using violence sometimes don't understand the conditions of their court order to avoid violating the order.

The Townsville Family Violence Support Service works closely with victim survivors and persons using violence to understand court orders.



Support Services

Holistic approach to substance abuse changes lives

Breaking the Cycle Program

The Breaking the Cycle program, managed at the Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre, is a targeted initiative designed to break the cycle of substance abuse and homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.

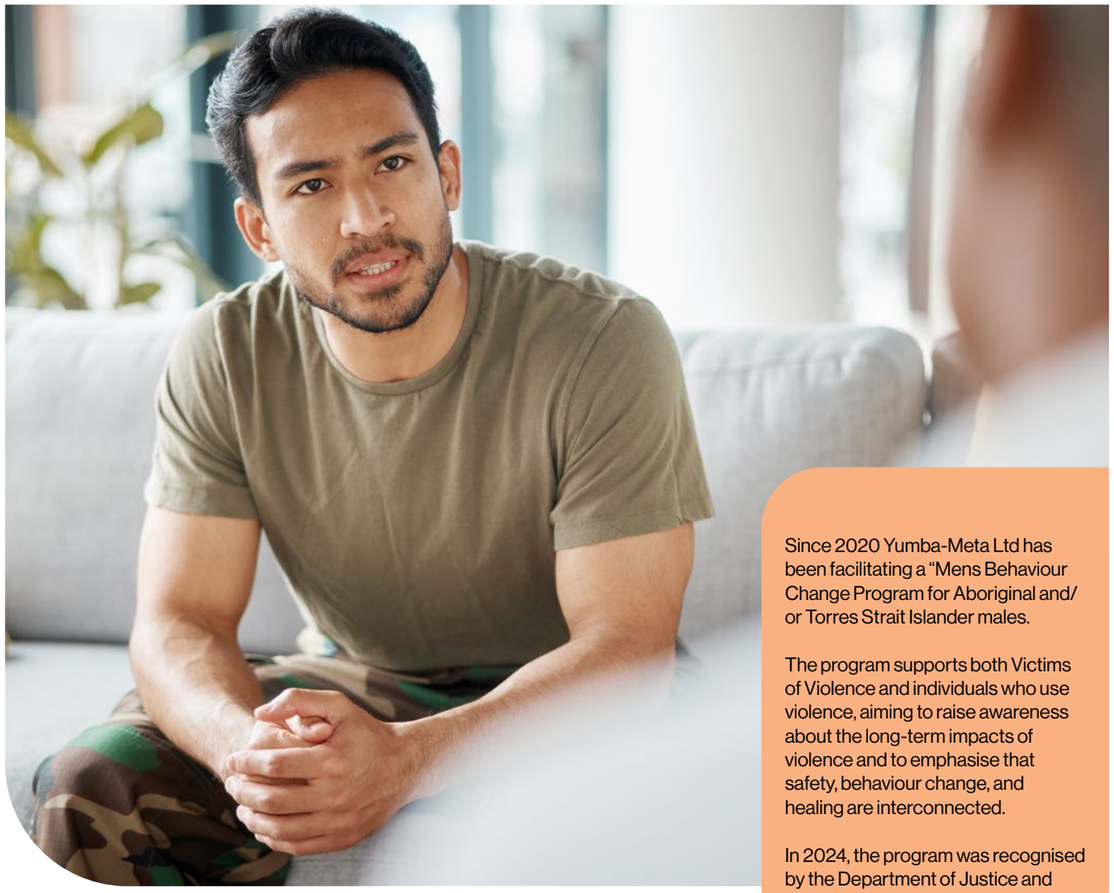
By allowing participants to remain at the centre for an extended period, the program provides the incentive and support needed to engage with the comprehensive services offered.

All regular clients of the Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre are encouraged to join Breaking the Cycle.

The program aims to help participants transition to more stable accommodation, such as Dale Parker Place, community housing, or private rental, based on their individual capacity to maintain a tenancy.

Through this holistic approach, Breaking the Cycle empowers participants to address the underlying issues contributing to their substance abuse and homelessness.

By fostering a supportive environment and connecting clients with tailored services, the program facilitates long-term, sustainable change in the lives of those it serves.



Since 2020 Yumba-Meta Ltd has been facilitating a “Mens Behaviour Change Program for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander males.

The program supports both Victims of Violence and individuals who use violence, aiming to raise awareness about the long-term impacts of violence and to emphasise that safety, behaviour change, and healing are interconnected.

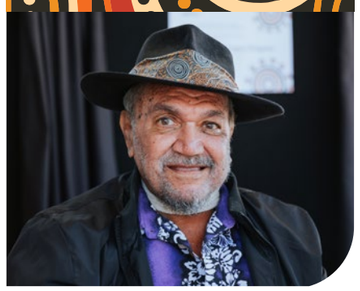
In 2024, the program was recognised by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and approved as a condition of bail.

On 4 July 2025, the program was officially named “Uncle Alfred’s Legacy Program” in honour of Uncle Alfred Smallwood, a respected Bindal Elder, acknowledging his longstanding dedication to reducing the impact of violence within the Townsville community.

Support Services

Breaking cycles, strengthening relationships, supporting healing

Uncle Alfred’s Legacy Program



Uncle Alfred Smallwood

Support Services

A bright future awaits

Weeburra Thulgarri Tutoring and Mentoring Program

Yumba-Meta Limited is dedicated to enhancing the physical, social, and emotional well-being of Indigenous children while strengthening their cultural connections and resilience.

In 2018, we acquired 25 Acheron Avenue, Cranbrook, with the vision of establishing a community centre to facilitate an early intervention tutoring and mentoring support program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Launched in July 2021, the Weeburra Thulgarri program – meaning “One Big Family” – targets children aged 7-8 years (Year 2) to improve school attendance, classroom engagement, literacy, numeracy skills, and overall confidence.

By fostering self-esteem and a sense of belonging, we aim to increase the likelihood of these children completing high school and pursuing further education.

Partnering with three local primary schools – Rasmussen State School, Kelso State School, and Aitkenvale State School – Yumba-Meta conducts two sessions per day, four days a week.

Students travel to the community centre via the Yumba-Meta bus, supervised by a teacher’s aide and staff. They are provided with healthy lunches before starting their activities.

The program is deeply rooted in cultural and spiritual values, ensuring that young children receive support that resonates with their identity.

By focusing on holistic development, Yumba-Meta is committed to nurturing the next generation of Indigenous leaders.

Through initiatives like Weeburra Thulgarri, we strive to create a brighter future for Indigenous children in our community.











Special Events

Eva Kennedy Place Official Opening

Wednesday 29 July 2026



































Special Events

NAIDOC Week Celebration

















Special Events

Harmony Day Celebration

















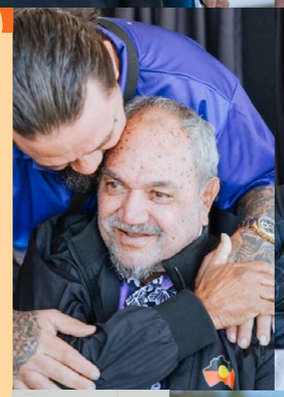
















Special Events

Alfred Smallwood Place Official Opening and Uncle Alfred's Legacy Program Launch

Friday 4 July 2025

















Financial position

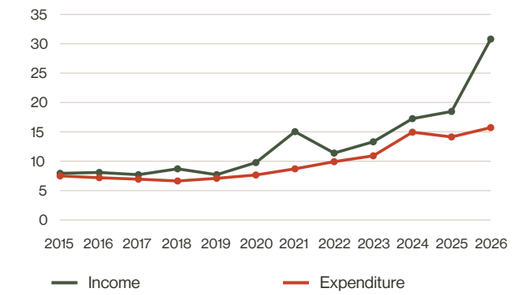
Capital strength and liquidity | As at 30 June 2026

TOTAL ASSETS	EQUITY	TOTAL REVENUE	TOTAL EMPLOYEES
$91.5m	$83.4m	$30.8m	86

Balance Sheet and liquidity trends

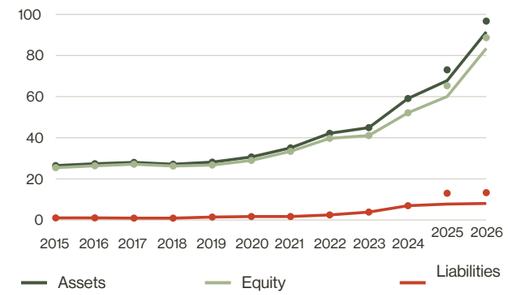
Income and expenditure trend

AUD millions



Assets, equity and liabilities

AUD millions



Statement of cash flows

Cash flows	2026	2025
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash receipts from customers	29,656,086	20,069,178
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(16,499,009)	(14,291,535)
Cash generated from operations	13,157,077	5,777,643
Interest received	31,535	76,701
Finance costs	(221,587)	(35,777)
Net cash from operating activities	**12,967,025**	**5,818,567**
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	(19,824,771)	(6,808,664)
Proceeds from sale of equipment	35,456	16,364
Net cash used in investing activities	(19,789,315)	(6,792,300)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from long-term borrowings	4,254,000	-
Payment of long-term borrowings	(612,172)	(127,248)
Net cash used in financing activities	3,641,828	(127,248)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**(3,180,462)**	**(1,100,981)**
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	4,301,778	5,402,759
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	**1,121,316**	**4,301,778**

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June	2026	2025
Current assets	2,812,032	5,955,295
Non-current assets	88,645,419	61,818,422
Total assets	**91,457,451**	**67,773,717**
Current liabilities	4,843,842	7,416,410
Non-current liabilities	3,186,056	319,422
Total liabilities	**8,029,898**	**7,735,832**
Net assets	**83,427,553**	**60,037,885**
Equity	**83,427,553**	**60,037,885**

Key Financial Highlights – FY2026

Record Revenue: For the first time in Yumba-Meta's 53-year history, total revenue exceeded **$30 million**.

Strong Asset Growth: Total assets increased from **$61.8 million** in FY2025 to **$88 million** in FY2026, up approximately 42%..

Investment in Housing: YML invested nearly **$20 million** in long-term housing assets, strengthening its asset base.

Figures in AUD. Parentheses denote cash outflows.

Thank you to our business consultants, partners, and stakeholders for their continuous professionalism and commitment to supporting Yumba-Meta Limited.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Legal Services

Aitkenvale State School

Anglicare

Australia CEO Challenge

Australian Red Cross

Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA)

Department of Housing & Public Works

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Department of Families, Seniors , Disability Services and Child Safety

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Department of Social Services- Commonwealth

Department of Youth Justice

DV Connect

First Nations Women's Legal Service

Gambling Benefit Fund

Holding Redlich

Jamen Wilcox (Consultant)

Martin Locke Homes

Jessup's Audit Partners

Kelso State School

Mara Services

Margin Media

Mike Carney Toyota

Mr. Angelo Licciardello (Consultant)

Murri Watch – Community Patrol

National Australia Bank

National Disability Insurance Agency

National Indigenous Australian Agency- NIAA

DV NQ

OZHarvest

Q-Shelter

Queensland Health

Queensland Police Service

Rasmussen State School

Rosel Sherwood

Ryan Catholic College

Scott Morrison Design

SDA Services

Sera's Women Shelter

StreetSmart Australia

Supergreen Solutions

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation

The Womens Centre

Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services

Townsville City Council - Mayor's Christmas Tree Appeal

Townsville Grammar School

Wilson Ryan Grose Lawyers

Wulguru Health & Wellbeing

Zephyr Foundation

Zonta Club of Townsville Metro Inc.

And consultants, contractors and individuals who have helped us through the year.

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