



# ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT

# 2024



Parramatta



# THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA

## Vision, Mission, Values and Inclusion Statement

### OUR VISION

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live love and fight, alongside others, to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

### OUR MISSION

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus.

We share the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice

### OUR VALUES

Recognising that God is already at work in the world, we value:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Compassion
- Diversity

We commit ourselves in prayer and practice to this land of Australia and its people, seeking reconciliation, unity and equity.

### OUR COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION

The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.

We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children.



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# LETTER FROM THE CORPS OFFICERS

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We are excited to be able to share with you our 2024 Annual Report, highlighting the many and varied ministries at The Salvation Army Parramatta.

It has been another great year; we have commemorated 140 years of God's faithfulness through this place, we joined together for our Corps Retreat at Collaroy, we have celebrated with our kids, youth and young adults and continued to love and serve God and others through all that we do.

Parramatta Salvos is an amazing place to be, and we are grateful to God for the privilege that is ours to lead here. We love that God is already at work in our community and that we are able to partner with Him and with you in helping to transform lives.

We hope that as you read this report, you will be both encouraged by all that has transpired over these last 12 months and excited for the days ahead. Each photo, story and statistic in these pages represents the life of someone who is connected to our community, someone whose life has been touched by The Salvation Army Parramatta.

Throughout the year we have considered Romans 12:1 from The Message:

*Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.*

We say it often, but we are so grateful to each of you who have done this, placed your lives before God as an offering, enabling Him to use you to help transform lives. Parramatta Salvos would not be all it is without you and your commitment and service – so thank you.

We want to thank the Leadership and Business teams once again for helping to put this report together. Please note that the people and program information relates to the 2024 calendar year and that the information pertaining to the corps finances is for the 2023/2024 financial year.

We pray that God will continue to be with us as we plan for 2025, knowing that there are even more great things in store for Parramatta Corps.

God bless you each,



**Kylie Collinson (Major)**



**Sarah Walker (Lieutenant)**

# LOCAL MISSION PLAN

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Every Mission Expression in The Salvation Army has a Local Mission Plan (LMP). The LMP asks leaders and teams to consider how their team addresses the national mission. At Parramatta Salvos, our Corps Leadership Team writes the LMP each year, based on an assessment of the needs of our faith community and wider community. The plan below highlights our goals and we are pleased to let you know that those listed in **green** have already been achieved in 2024. Goals that are yet to be met will be rolled over to 2025.

## Parramatta Corps Local Mission Plan 2024

### Caring for People

We would like to increase opportunities for people to connect with small groups - both regular Sunday attendees and our community members.

- **Review and relaunch of Life Groups: we will have a new promotional campaign for Life Groups in Term 1, reviewing existing groups, reforming groups and initiating new groups. This will correspond with a preaching series about Life Groups and discipleship.**
- Development of Care Groups: PCC have been working on developing Care Groups for those who are not connected to a ministry group or Life Group. PCC to formalise these groups and appoint facilitators. These groups won't meet together, but look out for and pastorally care for one another.
- **Faith Seminars: Quarterly seminars on interesting/current topics open to all church and community members. These may be another point of connection for people who are not in a Life Group.**

### Creating Faith Pathways

We would like to review all young people's ministries at Parramatta Corps.

- Employ a YP worker for kids/youth/families ministries and to initiate partnerships with local schools and community groups to grow our YP ministries.
- **Review all YP programs (internal and external), gaining input from current families and the needs of our wider community.**
- Focus on leader resourcing, development and consultation throughout the process to ensure we capture the voices of those who have been involved in youth and kids ministries over many years.

### Building Healthy Communities

We would like to revision and streamline seniors programs at Parramatta Salvos to make programs sustainable.

- **Begin a new program [Seniors Gathering] once a month combining Ladies Fellowship/ Golden Years-type-program for all older persons.**
- **Build team to facilitate this program and take responsibility for events.**
- **Extend invitation to this program to wider community including Market Day community.**

### Working for Justice

We would like to develop volunteer programs and engagement at Parramatta Salvos.

- **Employ a Community Engagement Worker responsible for volunteer engagement.**
- **Develop a volunteer management structure including recruitment, training, rostering and ongoing volunteer support.**
- **Increase volunteer connection, engagement and education. We would like to see more connection between weekday volunteers and church members.**

# OUR LEADERSHIP TEAMS

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## **Business Team**

The purpose of the Business Team is to provide business leadership to ensure sustainability and enable the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army Parramatta.

Team Members:

- Kim Entwistle (chair)
- John Acocks
- Anthony Eden
- Noel Payne (concluded service Nov 2024)

## **Leadership Team**

The purpose of the Leadership Team is to lead the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army Parramatta.

Team Members:

- Jonathan Browning
- Gavin Entwistle
- Troy Gibbs
- Jeffrey Parker
- Margaret Poore
- Shannon Vos

## **Pastoral Care Council**

The purpose of the Pastoral Care Council is to promote and coordinate the pastoral care of people connected to The Salvation Army Parramatta.

Team Members:

- Dot Griffin (chair)
- Kerrie Acocks
- Ray Haule
- Keith Humbley
- Montana Sandercock-Brown
- Bing Bing Tan

## **Corps Officers**

Our corps officers sit on all three of our leadership teams at Parramatta Corps.

Kylie Collinson (Major)  
*Team Leader*

Sarah Walker (Lieutenant)  
*Team Member*

# OUR STAFF

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**Jonathan Browning** - Community Pastor - Part time

**Roza Gutschow** - Community Program Coordinator (ACVVS and Community Engagement) - Full time

**Emily Inglis** - Concierge - Full time (Maternity relief position)

**Karen Stewart** - Administration Assistant - Part time

# OUR CO-LOCATED SERVICES

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There are a number of other Salvation Army mission expressions that use our site to provide services to the community. We are so grateful for the work they do in supporting us and working together to meet the needs of people in Parramatta.

## **Doorways**

1 Caseworker located at Parramatta Salvos office

## **Money Care**

4 Financial Counsellors located at Parramatta Salvos office

## **ePLus Local**

1 Employment Consultant - Humanitarian located at Parramatta Salvos Office

## **Employment Plus**

Full staff located in Shop 5 at Parramatta Salvos

## **Eva Burrows College**

Full Sydney staff located on Level 2 at Parramatta Salvos

## **Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACCVS)**

Program coordinator located at Parramatta Salvos

# MISSION VOLUNTEERS

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At The Salvation Army Parramatta we are grateful for all our mission and ministry volunteers. The ministries that are part of Parramatta Salvos would not be possible without the 114 people who contribute in this way. This year our volunteers have been required to complete mandatory training modules and we want to sincerely thank everyone who has engaged in this training. The training provides education about best practices and how we can keep our community and ourselves safe. We are well on the way to compliance in this area and are so grateful to everyone who contributes their time, service and skills.



# SUNDAY WORSHIP

Gathered worship is a key element of our life as a church, and each Sunday we have three congregations that meet, and sometimes four between our 9:30am service, 11am service, Easy English Congregation (PEEC) and Youth and Young Adults Worship Night.



## 137

Average attendees per week  
(In Person + Online Live - 9.30 & 11am)



## 313

Average 9:30am online views per week



## 342

Youtube Subscribers



## 2020

Facebook Followers

## Parramatta Easy English Congregation (PEEC)



## 6

Average attendees per week



The nationalities of attendees are from India, China, South Korea, and The Philippines.

This year PEEC has focused on their mission statement, "To know Christ - to live Christ - to share Christ" that coincides with Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

The group started sharing a devotional and any prayer concerns through 'Whats App' and still meets regularly for Friday or Sunday lunches.

## Youth and Young Adults Worship Nights

Youth and Young Adults Worship Nights have occurred quarterly in 2024. This year, Worship Nights have been centred around the theme of 'Not Just Stories', allowing and encouraging young people to go deeper into the 'stories' that are told in the bible and how they actually apply to us today. There is also a great time of fellowship after church as everyone heads down the street for dinner!



## 62

Average attendees

### What we're celebrating:

*"Each worship night has been led by different people, whether it be in preaching, worship leading, hosting or sharing a testimony. For some, this was one of the first times they had led in this sort of setting, while for others it was probably their thousandth... but each of these people brought forward their own experiences, skills and talents to create a night where young people are able to gather and worship."*

**- Zoe Entwistle (Leader)**



# CORPS RETREAT



# 72

People attended our corps retreat

This year from 9-11 August, we gathered at The Collaroy Centre and heard the stories of people in our church community. We began exploring our theme 'Ordinary People, Extraordinary God' and spent time unpacking Romans 12:1-2. The retreat was a beautiful time of fellowship and fun together.



# 140TH CELEBRATIONS



On the weekend of 21-22 September, we came together to celebrate 140 years of The Salvation Army in Parramatta. Joined by special guests Mjs. Brendan and Sandra Nottle, we held a dinner on Saturday evening, recognising the past, celebrating the present and looking forward to the future at Parramatta Corps. On Sunday we joined together for worship and were reminded of the ways that our extraordinary God can work through us everyday, ordinary people to do incredible things in the City of Parramatta and beyond.

# CHINESE DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

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† 12  
Average monthly attendees

This group meets together one Saturday each month to enjoy fellowship with one another and sit under the word of God. They talk and read the bible together in Mandarin, opening His word under a "Lectio Divinia" style of study. Each time, they share with one another the words in the bible that speak to them. They also pray for one another during their time together.

# LIFE GROUPS

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 7  
Established Life Groups

Life Groups continue to meet and some have reformed in 2024. Life Groups are an excellent way to connect with others in our faith community, and a wonderful source of care and support.

# PRAYER NEWSLETTER & CARDS

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30

People subscribed

This year we have grown our prayer newsletter. We have received prayer requests from our community members who use our prayer cards which are available in the foyer and from our church family.

Through this newsletter we have been able to make contact with the person who needed prayer if they give their information to be contacted. We then have been able offer help in a practical way.

The Pastoral Care Council and those who are faithful prayers know that the material things are temporary, but our prayers for another person can affect them for a lifetime .

# LIVING WELL COMMUNITY

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This ministry is still being shaped by our team and community pastor, Jonathan. There is a growing sense of community, especially around our cafe, and it is our hope to build on this further in 2025. Counselling support has been provided to 7 members of our wider corps community, 2 people who have been referred through Moneycare and 2 others who have sought emergency support throughout the week. Some of these have been once-off sessions and others have been met with on a more regular basis.



## THE SANCTUARY COURSE

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How can a church become a sanctuary—a place where individuals living with mental health challenges feel safe, supported, and a sense of belonging? *The Sanctuary Course* was created to inspire and equip communities of faith that are asking this important question. Developed in consultation with mental health professionals, theologians, and people with lived experience, this eight-session study guide explores key mental health topics and examines meaningful ways to offer companionship, support recovery, and promote wellbeing.

Run by Jonathan Browning, this course is for anyone who wants to learn about faith and mental health. Now the third year that Parramatta Salvos has run this course, it requires no previous training or expertise—just a willingness to engage in dialogue with other believers. This year 7 people participated in the 8 week course.

## FAITH SEMINARS

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This year we introduced Faith Seminars to open up discussion around current topics of interest in our world. Facilitated by Clayton Spence, these seminars gave insight into a biblical and Salvation Army perspectives on current issues, while also opening up discussion from people within the group.

# CREATIVE MINISTRIES

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Our creative teams play a vital role in creating an atmosphere of worship for us each Sunday. We have many talented people who contribute through our ensemble, brass band and tech team. We also have a diverse preaching team and a significant amount of church members who contribute by reading the word of God on our Bible Reading roster.

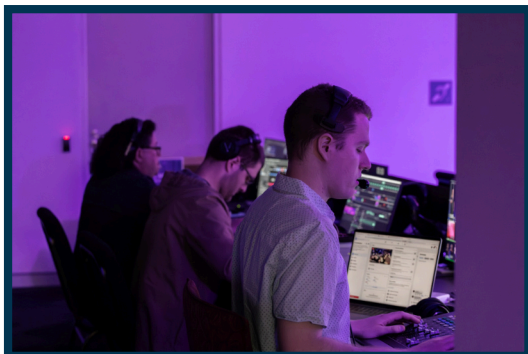
 **15**  
Members of our  
Worship Ensemble

 **22**  
Members of our  
Brass Band

 **13**  
Members of our  
Tech Team

## Ensemble

We are fortunate to have many gifted musicians at Parramatta who continue to lead us into a space where we can connect with God. Our Ensemble enable this to happen in our 9.30am service each week and we are grateful for the way they use their talents for the glory of God. This year has seen some new members join the group, adding new voices. Once again Easter and Christmas have been significant times of worship for us, made all the more powerful through the worship music.



## Brass Band

The core function of our band is to support the Sunday worship service. The broader role is providing a wider community presence for the Corps in a number of ways. At various times during the year and in the Christmas concert, our band combines with other musical groups in the corps demonstrating the extra dimensions that can be added when diverse musical groups exist. This year our band was able to support the community by playing at the ANZAC Dawn Service, the Remembrance Day Service at Prince Alfred Park, the Christmas Carol Service at Kurrajong, monthly services for the residents of The Willows, regular service for the residents of Constitution Hill and the Christmas Carol Service at Dooralong.

## Tech Team

The Tech Team supports many events and activities within our church. Our team of 13 serves diligently across audio, presentation, and live streaming. In 2024 we welcomed two new team members. In the last 12 months our live streams have been watched on YouTube for more than 2,000 hours and over 1,000 hours on Facebook. For every 1 person who gathers in-person at our church on a Sunday there are at least 3 other people joining us online.

# YOUNG PEOPLE

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In 2024, we combined the 2 sections Mini God Squad and Kids Church into one Children's Ministry section called Sunday Squad. This operates during the 9:30am service during the school term. We have been blessed this year with new friends joining us as we learn more about God's plan for us and how we can serve Him.



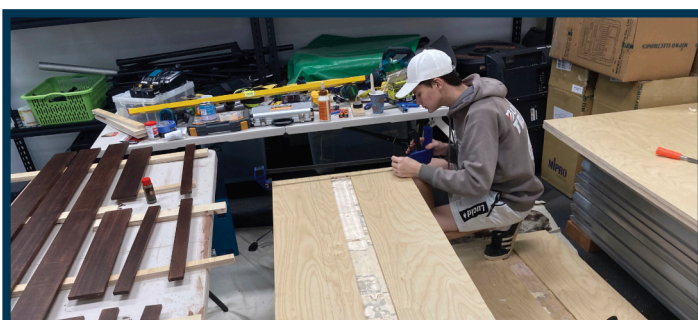
Our Youth have joined with other Salvos across Sydney for UNITED events, and 9 campers travelled to our State Youth Camp this year for NSW/ACT. We also had a group of young adults attend Interstate Basketball and Netball Carnival.



# MERCY SEAT REBUILD

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At our 140th Celebrations we were able to dedicate our new mercy seats. Isaac Bust and Anthony Eden took on this project with funds donated by the Coia and Robinson family in memory of our dear friend Margaret Robinson. We celebrate and thank Isaac and Anthony for contributing to our citadel in this significant way. The new mercy seats feature timber from the Smith Street mercy seats, as well as the new timber from our current worship hall.



# SALVOS COMMUNITY CONNECT

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This year, our building continues to be open to the community 5 days a week. Salvos Community Connect is a space for people to come and access our cafe and services. Our Community Café operates on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday, providing free coffee and cold drinks, snacks, and a safe space for people to connect. On Wednesday we are also able to provide a meal for community members as they wait for our Market. On Tuesday and Thursdays, an instant tea and coffee station is provided and community members are welcome to sit and enjoy our space.

On Monday and Friday volunteers also hand out Emergency Relief gift cards provided by the Salvos Phone Assistance Line (PAL).

We love that Community Connect is staffed by volunteers and supported by our Community Program Coordinator, and other wrap-around services like our Doorways Caseworker and Moneycare Financial Counsellors.



## 320

Free coffees/cold drinks per week



## 120

Free hot meals on a Wednesday weekly



## \$92,940

In Emergency Relief given out at Parramatta Salvos from the PAL

## COMMUNITY MARKET

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Each week on Wednesday, people visit our Community Market. For a \$2 donation, people can access fresh produce and pantry items donated through our partnerships with Second Bite and Food Bank. This year we've had a hairdresser on site at no cost, to cut hair twice a month on Market Day.

Both the Community Connect and the Community Market are funded by our Red Shield Appeal funds and corporate donations.

This year we've also enjoyed monthly volunteer appreciation lunches sponsored by Nando's monthly, and volunteer outings.

### Our collaborative partnerships:

- Second Bite (Coles): provide free meat, fresh produce and grocery items
- Food Bank: provide fresh produce and grocery items at a low cost
- Nike Parramatta: provide free returned shoes and clothing in wearable condition
- Bunnings Northmead & Rydalmere: provide free goods for transportation of market items
- Local business and schools: provide food and cash donations
- Ginger Restaurant, Harris Park: grocery items and hot meals
- Good 360: clothes, mobile phones and SIM cards

### What we're celebrating:

*"We are a community, within a community, serving the community!" This has been our motto for 2024. We are all about community here at Parramatta Salvos - **Roza Gutzchow** (Community Program Coordinator)*



# ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUPS

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People with various levels of English come together to learn new words and English sayings; growing their vocabulary and conversational skills. People also come along to meet friends and connect in meaningful ways. This important ministry has been going for more than 30 years, and we have even empowered some who were participants to be leaders of small groups. Some participants remain after the class to participate in a bible study, and this group has also grown in 2024!

 **35**  
Average weekly attendees



# CRAFT GROUP

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This year we saw our 100th craft group attendee! Some have joined as a result of their connection with Parramatta Salvos through the cafe or Connect Site, but primarily members are invited to attend by others who attend the group.

The Craft Group is very welcoming and friendly. Some come just to talk while others knit, crochet, paint, draw, colour in, cross stitch, do diamond art or hardanger. Some are very skilled while others come to learn from other members of the group. The group has also been raising funds through donations for craft materials to give to different projects.



 **20**  
Average weekly attendees

# SENIORS GATHERINGS

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Our Seniors Gathering commenced in March this year and each month the group has gathered for either an in-house guest speaker or an outing. We have visited Old Government House in Parramatta Park, enjoyed presentations from Ron Inglis on Salvation Army Anzacs and Paul on the History of Rock and Roll, as well as visited several cafes in the area. This is a wonderful group of fellowship, where people can connect in an informal way.



# OUTREACH SERVICES

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Each month, Parramatta Corps is given the opportunity to lead the Christian service at The Willows Retirement Village. Our brass band supports this service musically, and this year a roster of 8 different people from our corps accepted the invitation to lead the service. This is a wonderful ministry opportunity that brings together the residents of the village, many of whom are unable to get to regular church services. Our band also supports the Christian gatherings at Constitution Hill Village quarterly, which provide music and a bible message for residents, and frequently has more than 90 people in attendance.



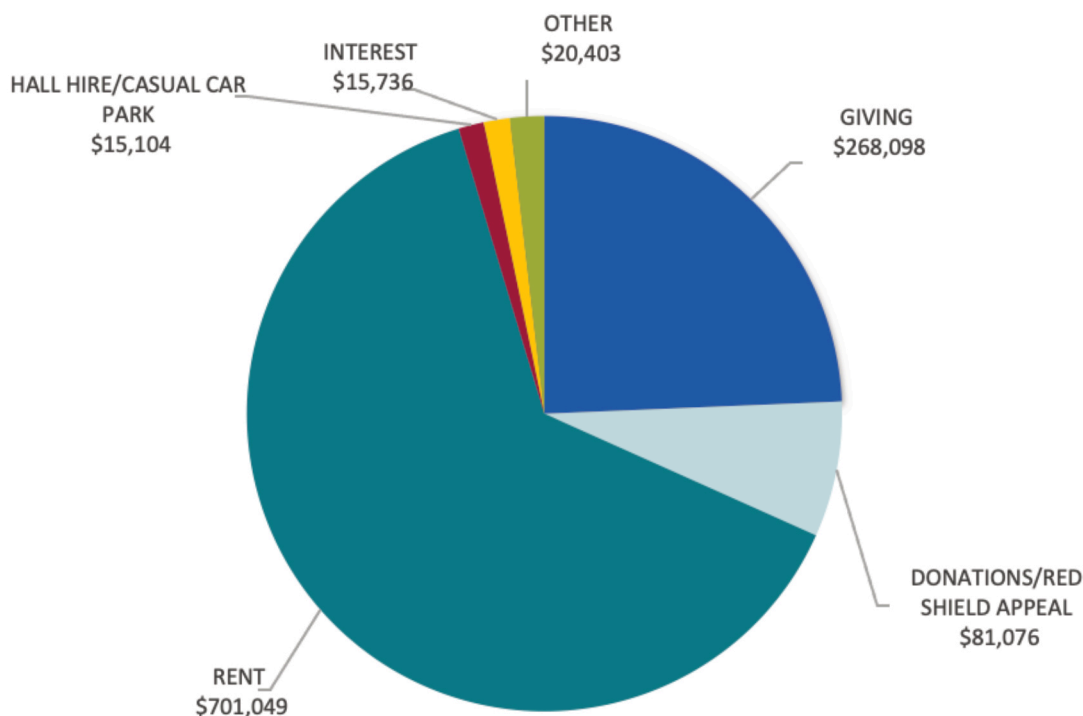


# FINANCE REPORT

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The summary financial information provided covers the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 and includes both Corps and Community Service accounts.

## INCOME July 2023 to June 2024



**Total: \$1,101,467**

## TENANTS AND VENUE HIRE

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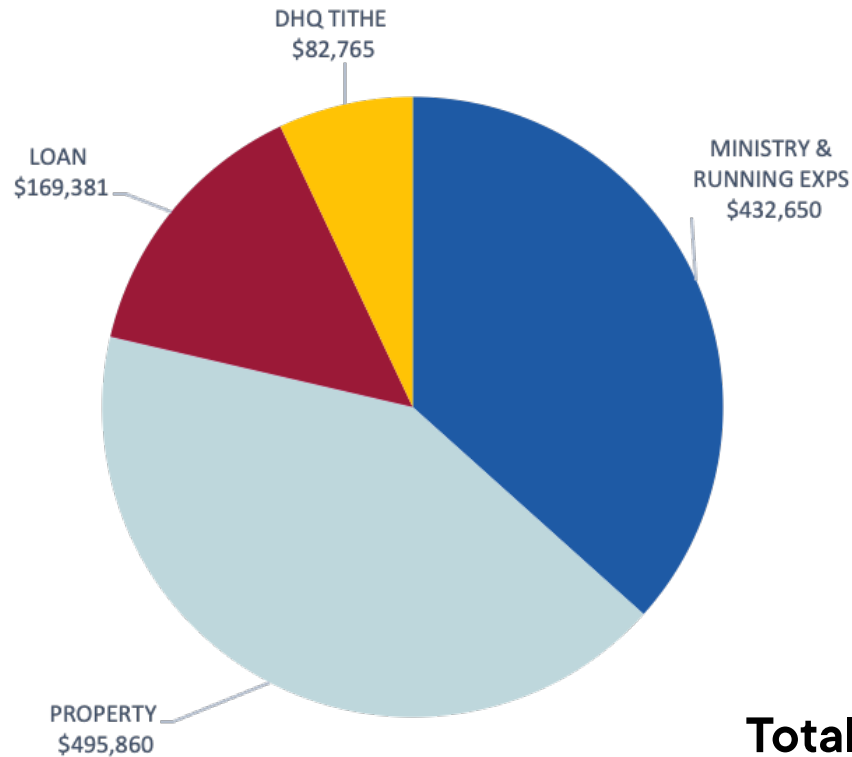
Our building comprises five separate shop fronts on the Ground Floor, with Church facilities and areas leased to other Salvation Army functions on Level 1. Of the six tenancies, five are currently leased with the final one available for tenancy.

Over the past 6 months, the sales and leasing team have been showing potential tenants through the vacant shop. We hope to have this leased in 2025 to generate additional income. We are also working at expanding our capacity for weekday venue hire of our beautiful facilities.

# FINANCE REPORT

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## EXPENSES July 2023 to June 2024



*Property Expenses include an increased contribution to our Property Maintenance Reserve (\$130k in FY24 v \$60k in FY23) and capital expense to fit-out Shop 5 (\$147k).*

### Loan Amount

- Total borrowed: \$1,400,000
- FY23 Repayments: \$100,993
- FY24 Repayments: \$78,003
- Balance Remaining: \$1,221,004

### Loan Information

- FY23 Interest Paid: \$78,104
- FY24 Interest Paid: \$91,378
- Term: 15 years
- Interest Rate: Variable

***Additional payments can be made throughout the year to pay off the loan quicker than the 15 year term.***

***Decisions regarding extra loan payments will be balanced with resourcing mission and ministry requirements and opportunities.***

# KEY DATES - 2025

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Our Corps Calendar is always available online and is updated regularly. The link is provided each week in our newsletter, Parramatters. To help you plan for 2025, here are some key dates already in the Corps Calendar.

## **Sunday 2 February**

Visit from Territorial Commander and installation of new Divisional Commander at Parramatta Corps

*10am combined service with Commissioner Miriam Gluyas*

*12pm fellowship lunch (bring a meal to share)*

*2pm Installation/affirmation of appointment for Major Robyn Black*

## **Friday 18 April**

Good Friday 10am service

## **Sunday 20 April**

Easter Sunday 10am service

## **Weekend of 24-25 May**

Red Shield Appeal

## **Weekend of 22-24 August**

Corps Retreat at the Collaroy Centre

## **Sunday 21 September**

Local Mission Planning Workshop with Fellowship Lunch at 12pm

## **Sunday 2 November**

Kids & Youth Sunday 10am service



Parramatta

ORDINARY   
PEOPLE   
EXTRAORDINARY   
GOD 

