



BACKPACKS 4 VIC KIDS

2021 - 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



PREPARED AND PRESENTED
FOR GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

CONTENTS

01

ABOUT

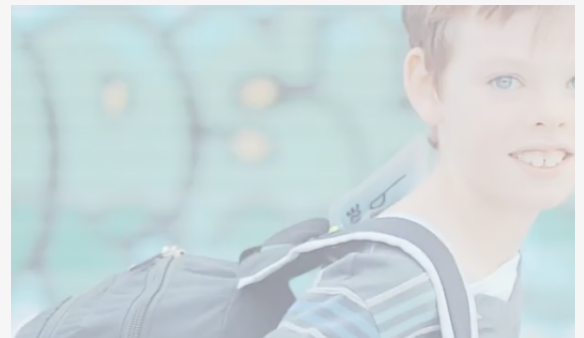
Our Vision and Values
About B4VK
President's Report
A Message from our CEO



02

OUR IMPACT

Treasurer's Report
The Difference You Made
Major Milestones
East Vic Distribution Centre



03

STRONGER TOGETHER

South West Vic Distribution Centre
Warm Hearts - Stories from recipients
Committee of Management



04

SUPPORTERS

With gratitude....*Thank you*

OUR VISION

That displaced children are provided with necessary material aid in a timely manner.



OUR VALUES

Compassion * Honesty * Fairness * Reliability * Inclusion



The Backpack 4 Vic Kids Headquarters is located on the lands of the Mayone Balluk clan, of the larger Boonerwung language group, who are in turn part of the vast Kulin Nation people and we wish to acknowledge them as Traditional Owners of the land. We would also like to pay respects to their Elders, past and present, and Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be still live in the area.

ABOUT BACKPACKS 4 VIC KIDS



Backpacks 4 VIC Kids ('B4VK') is an incorporated association, registered as a public benevolent charitable organisation holding Deductible Gift Recipient endorsement.

B4VK operates across a continuum of practice at the governance, management, operational and delivery levels that are reflective of the resources, funding, support, and participation levels from the local community.

Our strength and distinctiveness in the non-profit sector are our agility, product reliability and the combination of formal and informal methods to achieve our mission. B4VK's Headquarters is a welcoming factory, situated in the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria. It is often through informal interaction that needs of local children displaced are identified. Identifying these needs and issues through a range of methods is instrumental in informing the planning and development of activities and programs.

As a community-based and legally constituted organisation, B4VK is governed by a voluntary management commitment, comprising elected members who live, work, or participate in the local community. The Committee of Management is legally accountable to our membership base to endorse the strategic and policy framework of B4VK, ensuring the financial viability of the legal entity, and ensuring compliance with all legislative, statutory and contractual duties, obligations and requirements.

The governance model is developmental, with the governing body working co-operatively and collaboratively with staff, volunteers, clients and the wider community, thus generating a range of community benefits through our community service programs.

Our purpose is to provide material aid to children aged birth to seventeen. It's our passion to ensure that aid is of the best quality and our privilege to support children experiencing crisis, displacement, relocation and homelessness.

ABOUT BACKPACKS 4 VIC KIDS



The CEO is employed by the Committee of Management. The leadership role, while distinct from the governance role, is responsible to (a) advise and inform the governing body, and (b) to manage operations, internal processes, and day-to-day affairs and activities of B4VK.

Operational tasks are undertaken by staff in partnership with volunteers. Members of the governing body are frequently involved in the volunteer effort to complement or support the work of paid staff. The role and contribution of volunteers is significant, producing benefits for all involved.

B4VK plans, develops, and manages the operational structure of the organisation for optimal responsiveness to the complex and diverse needs of our local communities, in accordance with our statement of purpose.

B4VK provides a range of material aid programs for children aged from birth to seventeen, displaced in our local community (mainly Victoria) and from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Recipients are children who for a variety of reasons cannot return to their home nor access their belongings. Programs are developed in response to identified community needs, often in consultation with child welfare workers and out-of-home carers, and in line with available resources.

Programs are designed to meet the needs of recipients and prospective recipients. Key strengths of B4VK are our flexibility, agility, resilience, responsiveness and adaptability. Additional impact includes the addressing of social justice issues through awareness-raising, community education and social action.

B4VK is an independent legal entity working collaboratively with social and welfare service providers, like-minded non-profit organisations and individuals providing care in our community. Resources are sought through fundraising, donations, grants, sponsorship and bequests. From time-to-time B4VK subscribes to peak bodies for example Fundraising Institute of Victoria, Our Community, Victorian Council of Social Services. Through membership to these organisations B4VK can work collaboratively on sector based issues and needs. Through membership to these organisations B4VK can access support, resources, information, advice, advocacy, lobbying to government and training.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I'd like to thank both the outgoing and continuing Committee Members for being flexible and dependable throughout the challenges of the pandemic. Welcome to the new members onboarded throughout the year Shane Stevenson, Marianne Fearon and Stephen Shipp. Thank you all for sparing time from your busy lives to contribute to this worthy cause.

Thank you for your trust and belief in B4VK. A special thank you must go to GOLDFm104.3 and The Christian O'Connell show who ran the most successful fundraising campaign in our history. Thanks also to all individuals, companies, clubs and foundations for your continued support.

The entire B4VK team persevered through times when for many organisations, continuing was difficult. Congratulations to all involved, with delivery in every program increasing and the retail value of our impact being nearly double that of the year before. Those results demonstrate the difference the hard work of many, a bigger space and stronger support from our community makes.

On behalf of the whole Committee I'd like to thank our CEO, Sally Beard, who through unprecedented times continued to volunteer in addition to her CEO role. Sally remained focused on responding to the increasing need with strong leadership and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of children in crisis.

The end of the year saw many of our leading volunteers take well earned, and long-awaited holidays. Although that has impacted on our capacity for 2023, time off after a hard year was essential.

As we move forward to Christmas and another year of giving, I thank everyone who continues supporting the very important work of Backpacks 4 VIC Kids, changing the lives of vulnerable children.



Ross Beard
President, Committee of Management
Backpacks 4 Vic Kids

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

The 2022FY is certainly a year we can be proud of. Whilst our team remained focused on recovery, re-engagement and responding to rising need, we demonstrated care for each other and built our collective resilience like never before.

My heartfelt thanks to our valued governance team, staff and huge crew of volunteers. We've experienced several changes in our org chart due to a rapidly changing pandemic and economic environment. With the challenges of Covid-19, Backpacks 4 VIC Kids found innovative ways to meet the most urgent material needs of displaced children and, at the same time, to support the people who cared for them and each other.

This year, a grant from the Australian Government, B4VK provided our onsite volunteers with 'Happiness Hacks' - a six-month program delivered by Lisa Hester Coaching, to increase wellbeing, a sense of inclusion and support our valued volunteers. The results were positive with increased self-confidence, reduced anxiety and stronger connection to the team amongst the feedback from participants.

To all who have generously and graciously contributed to our programs this year, I would personally like to thank you for your benevolence. I consider it a great privilege that you have laced your confidence in us to make a difference in the lives of displaced children. In particular, thank you to GOLDFm and The Christian O'Connell team for the incredible and transformational fundraising campaign in Nov.

Thank you to the many supporters who have stood by our side during uncertain times and chosen to get involved in any way you can. Not only did you maximise our resources, your contributions of time, tangible goods, expertise and funds made significant differences that helped improve the lives of thousands of children **(see impact chart, pages 8 & 9)**. Your support also helped us to reach several milestones **(page 14)**. We are truly humbled by what we've achieved together.



Thank you for making it possible for us to support over 8,000 children. Your support has directly impacted on the lives of vulnerable children.

We look forward to continuing to engage with ongoing supporters and stakeholders to identify further opportunities to have meaningful and lasting impact and together, making more children smile.

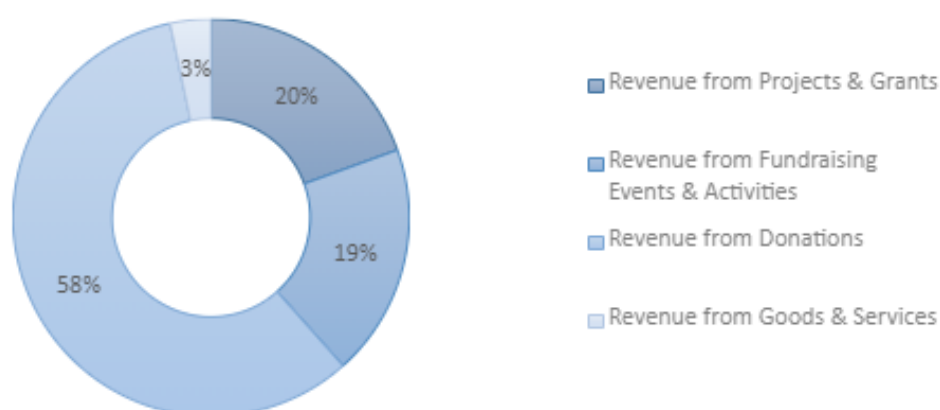
Sally Beard
CEO & Founder
Backpacks 4 Vic Kids

TREASURER'S REPORT: HELEN BROWN

Total revenue increased by 54% in 2022 compared to 2021.

Fundraising activities saw an increase of almost 40% on previous year, however the biggest improvement came from Donations which increased 65% against the 2021 year.

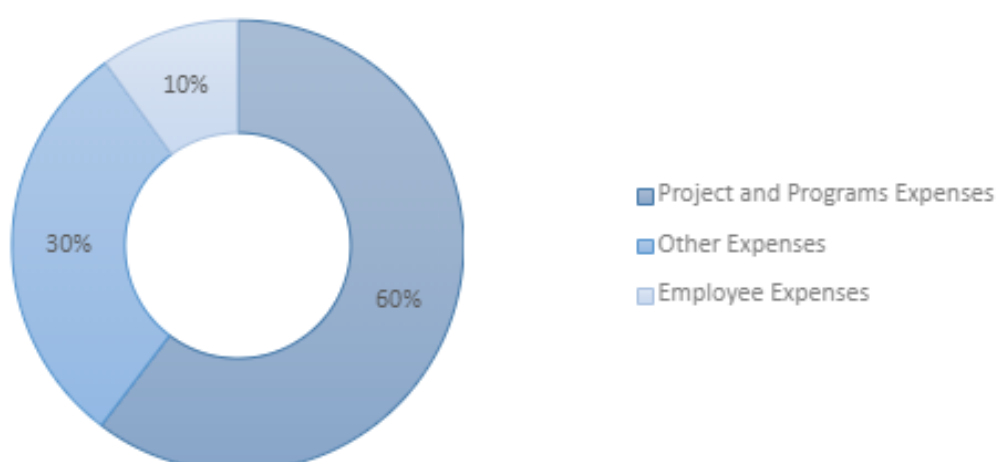
Revenue July 2021 - June 2022



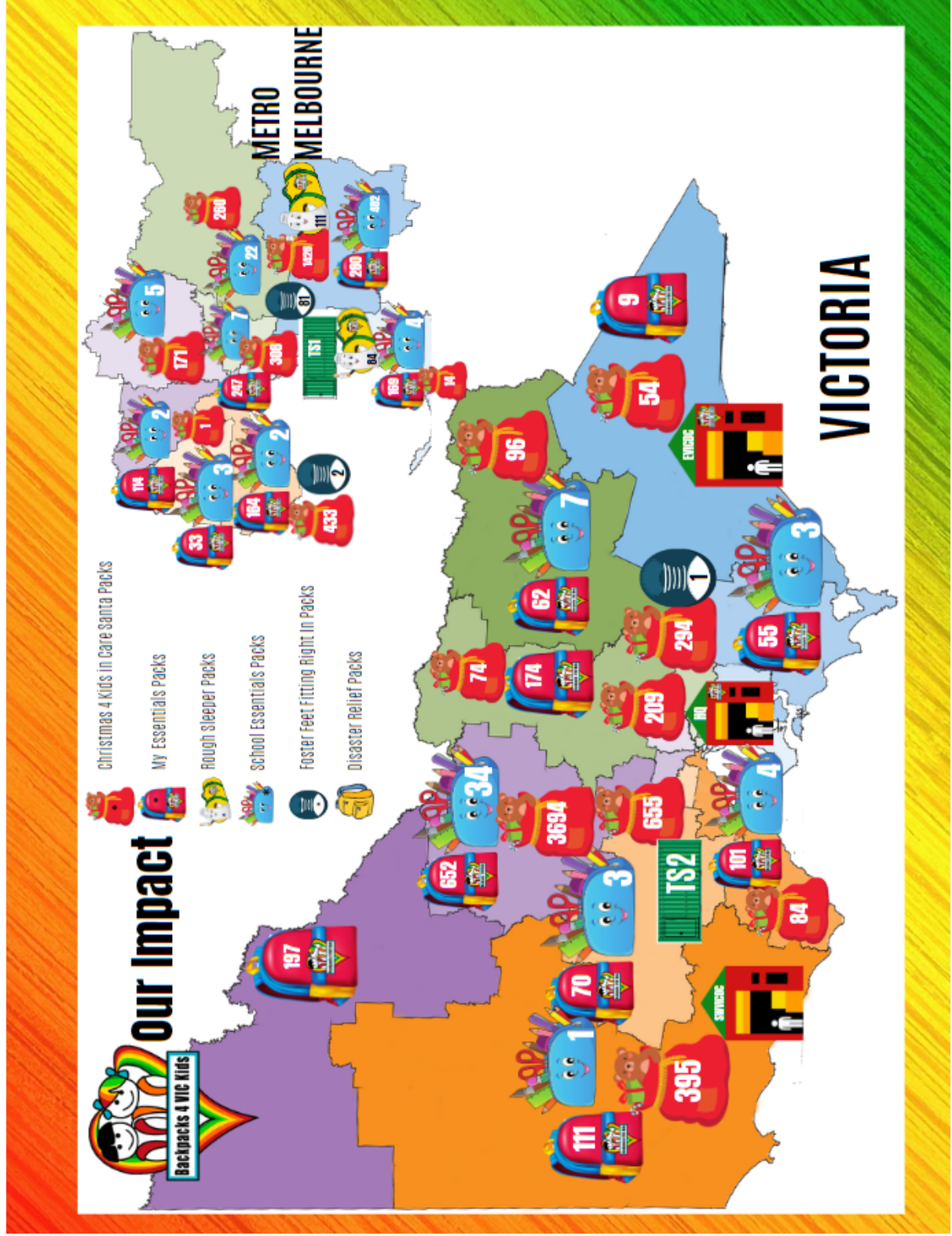
Total expenses increased by 22% in 2022 compared to 2021.

Costs associated with delivering Programs and Projects is the main contributor.

Expenses July 2021 - June 2022



THE DIFFERENCE YOU MADE - LOCALLY



THE DIFFERENCE YOU MADE - NATIONALLY

09



EAST VIC DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

In October 2021, we announced the opening of our new East Vic Distribution Centre with the voluntary management of Ian & Keryn McCluskey. The centre, based in Bairnsdale, houses a range of My Essentials (ME) Packs from size 0000 to size 18 to facilitate urgent deliveries in the area.

B4VK currently have involvement with 12 organisations within the Gippsland area. We are proud to have a distribution centre where care workers and care providers have the ability to readily access our ME Packs and other resources that contribute to the safety and wellbeing of children in need.

Located in Bairnsdale, this centre also accepts appropriate donations to fill backpacks on behalf of B4VK.

We welcome Ian & Keryn to our B4VK family and look forward to a long and happy collaboration with them.



SOUTH WEST VIC DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

The number of backpacks distributed by SWVICDC this last financial year was 79. We have a full stock of 76 on hand. For Christmas of 2021, 450 Santa Packs were packed and distributed. Many people and organisations contributed by donating items and money.



As well as liaise with the local agencies to ensure they have ME Packs for their children going into emergency care, we collect donations. Most of these are sent to Cranbourne for packing. We have received a huge number of items for backpacks and Santa Packs, many of which are lovingly hand-made (especially blankets). This is as a direct consequence of the relationships we have established with local fundraising / social groups such as Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, View Club, Presbyterian Church, Freemasons and various Probus Clubs. We have delivered 9 presentations over the year and it has been a matter of course that the groups then become donors.

There are a number of independent 'friends of B4VK' who also donate as well as local businesses such as Ray White Real Estate, Owen Truss, Morton Power, South West Community Foundation, and Warrnambool Bowls Club. Because of the large amount of donations, we have organised to take the donations to Melbourne and have the van pick them up from Fitzroy.



In October 2021, we were fortunate enough to gain the use of 40ft shipping container to stock and pack our Santa Packs. Reg Owen, has very generously given us indefinite free use of the container which is kept cost free on his land in an industrial section of Warrnambool. We are extremely grateful to him for his very kind support.

We would also like to say a special Thanks to Allen's Transport who delivered 200 Santa Packs to Portland and Hamilton for free.

B4VK would like to make a special Thankyou to Jenny & Peter for the fantastic work you do for our organisation.



Manager, South West Vic Distribution Centre
Backpacks 4 Vic kids

YOUR DONATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"I AM A CHILD PROTECTION SOCIAL WORKER BASED AT THE ORANGE DOOR IN HUME MORELAND, I ALSO USED TO WORK AT THE CENTRAL AFTER HOURS CHILD PROTECTION AND HAVE WITNESSED FIRST HAND THE SMILE THAT THE BACKPACKS PUT ON CHILDREN'S FACES AT A REALLY DIFFICULT TIME. I HAVE SAT IN POLICE STATIONS FOR MANY HOURS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND THE ACTIVITIES IN THE BACKPACKS HAVE BEEN A LIFE SAVER IN TERMS OF KEEPING THE CHILD ENTERTAINED AND DISTRACTING THEM FROM THE FEAR AND ANXIETY CAUSED BY THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE SITUATION THEY ARE FACING. SO A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL"



"I AM A KENNERLEY FOSTER CARER. OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS I HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH TWO BAGS FOR NEWBORN BABIES.

THE CONTENTS OF THE BAGS ALONG WITH THIS WONDERFUL PROJECT HAVE GIVEN ME SOME MUCH NEEDED RESOURCES TO ASSIST WITH THE CARE OF THESE TWO SPECIAL LITTLE PEOPLE. THIS IS A HEARTFELT THANK YOU, YOUR GENEROSITY MEANS A LOT!"

"IT WARMS MY HEART KNOWING THAT SOMEONE SPARED A THOUGHT FOR US AND PACKED THESE ABSOLUTELY AMAZING BACKPACKS. EVERY ITEM IN THE BACKPACKS SHOWS THE CARE AND LOVE. I COULDN'T BE MORE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS! I'LL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS"

YOUR DONATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"WE REALLY APPRECIATE ANY HELP YOU CAN PROVIDE, WE SEE SO MANY KIDS WHO HAVE LITERALLY NOTHING WHEN WE PICK THEM UP. FOR THEM IT'S LIKE CHRISTMAS WHEN THEY'RE OPENING YOUR PACKS. THE SOFT TOY IS SO IMPORTANT, EVEN FOR THE OLDER KIDS. IT'S GOOD TO SEE THEM IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR, AFTER THEY'VE LOOKED THROUGH THE BACKPACK, AND SEE THEM SNUGLING INTO THE SOFT TOY, OR HOLDING IT TIGHTLY IN THEIR HAND, BUT YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT, YOU JUST KEEP DRIVING"



"ON BEHALF OF THE ORANGE DOOR LODDON PARTNER AGENCIES AND ITS CLIENTS, A HEARTFELT THANKS TO BACKPACKS 4 VIC KIDS AND ALL THE SUPPORTERS OF THE PROGRAM. IT MAKES A VERY POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SO MANY"

"JUST RECEIVED TWO CHRISTMAS SACKS FOR THE BOYS, FIRST TIME OUR AGENCY HAS GOT INVOLVED. GREAT LITTLE BUNCH OF ITEMS FOR THE BOYS & WILL CERTAINLY MAKE CHRISTMAS DAY EASIER!"

MAJOR MILESTONES

Transformational support for B4VK

Throughout the challenges of Covid-19, Backpacks 4 VIC Kids continued to meet the most urgent material needs of displaced children and, at the same time to support the people who care for them.

Your steadfast, continuous support during uncertain times and involvement helped us to maintain vital connections with the most vulnerable members of our community.

Here are just a few of the milestones we achieved together over the year



Thank you for being part of this journey. We value your trust and support.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

B4VK has a Committee of Management with nine positions. Thank you to all Committee Members of 2022FY who have contributed to monthly general meetings, extra projects and our 7th Annual General Meeting held in November 2021.

To all who have served this past year on our Committee of Management, thank you for taking time out of your busy days and evenings, contributing to the future of Backpacks 4 VIC Kids. You have an amazing ability to bring out the best in all of us.

Thank you for your time, kindness and commitment.

Thankyou for your contribution to our governance



DARRIN BAYLISS-WHITE

My volunteer role for B4VK is driven by a commitment to positively impact the lives of others - even if it is only a small impact. B4VK provides me the opportunity to match my corporate skills, to my personal values. As individuals we all have something we good at, and it is important to use these skills to help others who may be less fortunate.



**BELINDA COOPER-
GREEN**

To bring hope to children in need is why I volunteer with Backpacks 4 VIC Kids



**DEBBIE
MEDLEY**

I feel that I make a difference, in helping, caring for kids in difficult times.



ROSS BEARD

I accepted the role of President to continue steering B4VK in a positive direction. I'm happy to help where I can



SALLY BEARD

I just want children to feel better. It's a pleasure and a privilege to lead this organisation.



HELEN BROWN

The mission, the children's circumstances and being able to help the carers in some way in taking care of the children is the reason I volunteer. I feel somehow that it's making a difference

Welcome aboard



I volunteer my time because I am passionate about improving the lives of others less fortunate than myself

SHARNI TAYLOR



I feel strongly about the cause of B4VK. I want to help achieve their purpose and growth as an organisation

MARIANNE FEARON



I heard about B4VK on Gold Fm and the purpose of the charity really resonated with me. I jumped on the chance to be on the committee to connect with a community that wants to do some good

SHANE STEVENSON



Sally and I worked together 30 years ago and recently reconnected. Sally asked me to join her committee as I have a background in governance and would be great in the role.

STEPHEN SHIPP



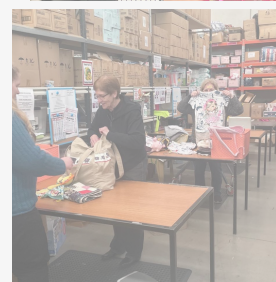
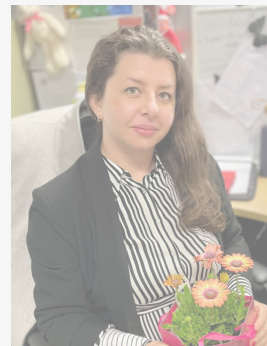
THANKYOU TO



ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO DONATE
THEIR PRECIOUS TIME TO HELP B4VK
PROVIDE ESSENTIAL MATERIAL
CHILDREN.

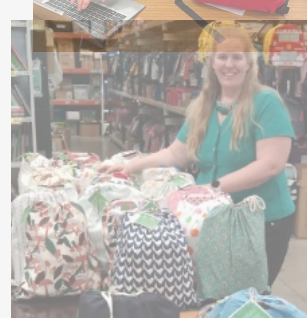
98% OF OUR IMPACT IS ACHIEVED BY
VOLUNTEERS.

HAPPY 1ST B4VK-IVERSARY...



Alla Andrews
Belinda Cooper-Green
Brenda Immormino
Chris Furlong
Claire Casement
David Knappstein
Donna Campbell
Dot Smith
Heather De Souza
Ingo Shroeter
Julie Kendall
Justin Ku
Kaye Drury
Kerry Harris

Lesley Hopkins
Lindy Archer
Lorraine Farlow
Marianne Fearon
Marianne Innes
Marie Yapp
Marilyn Wareing
Monika Hazler
Naarah Rodriguez
Robyn Clarke
Sheryl Porteous
Sue Adam
Tiffany Toth
Victoria Brown



THANKYOU TO ALL

**IN-KIND SUPPORTERS
AND VOLUNTEERS**

**MAJOR DONORS,
PARTNERS AND
CORPORATE
SUPPORTERS**

**FUNDRAISING, CAMPAIGN
AND PROJECT
SUPPORTERS**

**COMMUNITY GROUPS,
SCHOOLS AND NON-
PROFITS**

**PARTNER DISTRIBUTION
AGENCIES**

**Because of you,
thousands of children
have been supported**



