



Backpacks
4SA Kids

Annual Impact

Report

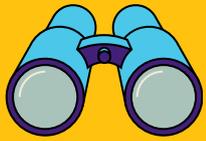
Providing resources that contribute to the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people during periods of displacement from home and routine care

2023 - 2024

Doing it for the kids because they're worth it!



About Us



Vision

Backpacks 4 SA Kids exists to provide resources that contribute to the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people during periods of displacement from home and routine care.



Mission

No child or young person will be without the items needed to support and comfort them in times of emergency displacement from their home.



History

Backpacks 4 SA Kids was launched as a result of two South Australian families supporting a QLD charity called Backpacks 4 Aussie Kids.

Through involvement in the charity, it became very clear that there was substantial support and demand in SA for a project similar to Backpacks 4 Aussie Kids and that creation of a locally based charity was not only viable but in fact would thrive within our amazing supportive community.

To this end, work was undertaken to adapt the project to suit the needs of children who have been displaced from their homes within SA, while also incorporating the provision of support to children accessing emergency services such as foster care, domestic violence shelters and youth homeless shelters.

Our initial thoughts were to do a few backpacks between our families with a goal of just 10 backpacks as a starter program. By the end of the first year so many people had joined our goal to make a difference we had supplied 564 backpacks to kids in need. Each year since we have grown and adapted to help fill the needs/demands of our emergency services community.

Because they're worth it



Every child
deserves to
feel

cared for



While the year brought many challenges, Backpacks 4 SA Kids, together with its community, remained committed to providing support, joy and smiles to a record number of children and young people experiencing homelessness in South Australia.



Because they're worth it



Youth Homelessness Statistics 2022/23

2306

Children under nine in Greater Adelaide

2443

Youth between 10 and 19 in Greater Adelaide

1450

Children and youth in regional SA

Imagine...

...the stress & anxiety that a child endures as they are taken from or have to leave their home... leaving possessions and comfort behind. Sadly that's the reality facing thousands of kids in our community.



Programs

Details

Outcome



Backpacks

For kids who leave home with little notice and often have no clothing or other essentials

- 6060 Backpacks delivered



Home Starter Packs

For families who are starting again or kids transitioning from out-of-home care

- 279 Home Starter Packs delivered



Anchor Packs

Designed for young people aged 12-25 who are experiencing homelessness

- 487 Anchor Packs delivered

Because they're worth it



The year in review



As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible impact our community has made.

Backpacks 4 SA Kids has continued to thrive, thanks to the unwavering support and dedication of our community including volunteers, board members, financial donors, educators, ambassadors, in-kind donors, corporate partners, agencies, and the young people we serve.

Our mission is not only to create a supportive community for the kids but also to foster a sense of passion and purpose among all members of our community.

Rachael Zaltron
Founder and CEO



Because they're worth it

Highlights



WHS

This year, we underwent an in-depth Work Health and Safety (WHS) audit hosted by Moore McPhee. This audit has reinforced our commitment to providing a safe and comfortable environment, resulting in robust WHS procedures and policies that ensure the safety of everyone involved.

In-Kind Reporting

We have also developed an In-Kind Recording Program, which has allowed us to capture the overwhelming support we have always known of but never been able to quantify. This system provides valuable insights into the true movement of stock donations and the impact they have on the kids and families who need us most.

Australian of the Year - SA Local Hero

I am honoured to have been named the Australian of the Year SA Local Hero, a recognition that underscores the incredible impact of our Backpacks 4 SA Kids community. This award has provided opportunities to raise awareness at various events, including the IWD Business Chamber Luncheon and the Australian of the Year luncheon, reaching over 7,000 people and spreading the message that our kids are 'worth it'.

Regional Impact

Our attendance at the TACTIC conference highlighted the need to refocus and engage with our regional community, which utilizes 30% of our programs. We have strengthened our relationships with long-term supporters such as Cochranes Transport, SA Power Network Employee Foundation, and Eagers Foundation, and have developed new partnerships with Educators SA and others.

Sustainability

As we move into 2024/25, our focus will be on sustainability, the essential need for a warehouse, and the ongoing development of relationships with agencies. We are committed to maintaining our community's strength to ensure that as many children in crisis as possible know they are valued and supported.



This year has highlighted that the success of Backpacks 4 SA Kids is not defined solely by the number of backpacks or programs we distribute, but by the strength and unity of the community that supports this mission. Together, we are creating a lasting impact on every level, from the individual to the collective. As we continue to grow and evolve, our focus will always be on the well-being and empowerment of those we serve. Thank you for being an essential part of this community and for helping us make a difference in the lives of so many.

Because they're worth it

Regional Impact

At Backpacks 4 SA Kids, we believe that no child should go without, no matter where they live.



In the 2023/24 financial year: 30% of our program's products were distributed to regional Australia, reaching children in remote and rural communities who need support the most.



That's 2521 Backpacks, Home Starter Packs, Anchor Packs, Christmas gifts and other essential items sent beyond metro areas.

“Without these backpacks, many children in our care would arrive with nothing. The support reaching our regional area is invaluable.”

Caseworker

Because they're worth it

Chairpersons Statement



As Chairperson of Backpacks 4 SA Kids, I am proud to reflect on a year of extraordinary achievements and milestones. Guided by our strategic priorities - Program Delivery, Community Engagement, Sustainability, and Governance - Backpacks 4 SA Kids has continued to ensure support children and young people during times of crisis.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

Over the 2023/24 year, our Backpacks program supported over 6000 children with emergency backpacks filled with essential items.

Our Home Starter Packs program has expanded through generous grant funding which has enabled us to support 279 families this financial year, a significant increase over 2023.

Young people experiencing homelessness continue to have access to our Anchor Packs program which has supported 487 children this year.

Our Christmas Present program continues to ensure that Children in care have access to Christmas gifts with 5227 presents distributed this year thanks the generosity of the South Australian community.

To date, Backpacks 4 SA Kids has provided support to over

100,000
children

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our community remains at the heart of everything we do. Our organisation would not exist without the generosity of our volunteers, donors and corporate supporters.

This year, we:

- Increased active volunteer participation and defined additional roles to enable us to sustainably support program growth.
- Acknowledged the invaluable contributions of our in-kind service providers, ranging from transport and financial support to digital media expertise. Their donations have been instrumental in advancing our mission.
- Leveraged our social media presence to engage and mobilise supporters, share updates, and raise awareness of our programs and drop-off locations.

This focus on community engagement not only spreads awareness but also strengthens the personal connection between volunteers, donors, and the children we serve.



SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is critical to our future, and this year, we continued work to address our most significant challenge: finding a new warehouse to accommodate our growing operations.

Despite generating a significant amount of interest and support, we are still seeking a long-term, affordable solution. This will remain a key priority area for the upcoming year.

Additionally, we remained committed to ethical fundraising practices, maintaining a low cost-per-dollar-raised ratio.

GOVERNANCE

Underpinning all our efforts is a strong foundation of governance. The board and management team have worked tirelessly to:

- Continued focus on Workplace Health and Safety
- Ensure compliance with all legislative and safety requirements.
- Monitor risks while supporting the strategic priorities.



LOOKING FORWARD

As we move into the financial next year, we will continue to build on our strategic priorities to ensure Backpacks 4 SA Kids can sustainably grow and meet the rising demand for our services. I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our volunteers, staff, and community partners. Together, we are creating a lasting impact, ensuring every child and young person who experiences displacement from home or routine care feels valued, supported, and comforted.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting Rachael and the team on this journey

Gavin Woolford
Chairperson

Because they're worth it



Our Board



We are proud to present the dedicated individuals who generously contribute their time, expertise, and passion to guide our organization towards achieving its mission. Our volunteer board members bring a wealth of diverse experience and unwavering commitment to their roles, ensuring the success and sustainability of our endeavors.



GAVIN WOOLFORD

Chairman

Member since July 2018



KARYN LEIGESTER

Treasurer

Member since Oct 2022



VICKI SHEARER

Secretary

Member since 2017



KERRY PAGE

Member since June 2017



TONY TAYLOR

Member since May 2021



PAUL JEVNIKAR

Member since March 2022

Because they're worth it

Our Team

In the 2023/24 financial year, the dedicated team at Backpacks 4 SA Kids has continued to make a remarkable impact on the lives of vulnerable children and young people in South Australia. Each team member plays a vital role in ensuring the success of our mission. We celebrate their contributions and the difference they've made this year. Together we are changing lives, one backpack at a time.

Sandy Woods

Strategy & Business Improvement

Sandy's expertise has been instrumental in driving our long-term sustainability and growth.

Therese McAuley

Administration

Therese is the backbone of our administrative functions, ensuring that every detail is managed with precision.

Rachael Zaltron

CEO & Founder

Rachael's vision and leadership remain at the heart of everything we do. As the founder of Backpacks 4 SA Kids, her unwavering commitment to supporting children impacted by crisis has inspired our ongoing growth and innovation.

Kelly Barker

Operations Manager

Kelly ensures the smooth running of our day-to-day operations. Her organisational skills and attention to detail guarantee that every pack is delivered with love and care.

Glenn Fuller

Warehouse Support

Glenn ensures that our warehouse operations run like clockwork. From managing inventory to coordinating deliveries.



Community Support

The Heart of Backpacks 4 SA Kids



At Backpacks 4 SA Kids, our impact is only possible because of the incredible support we receive from our community. Every pack we provide is a direct result of the generosity, dedication, and kindness of those who believe in our mission.



Volunteers

Our dedicated volunteers are the driving force behind everything we do. From packing backpacks to sorting donations, coordinating logistics, and assisting with fundraising efforts, our volunteers give their time and energy to ensure children in crisis receive the essentials they need. This year, our volunteer community contributed thousands of hours, demonstrating the power of collective compassion.

Financial Donors

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, businesses, and community groups who provide financial support to sustain and expand our programs. Whether through one-time gifts, regular contributions, workplace giving, or major donations, every dollar allows us to reach more children in need. Their generosity ensures we can continue providing essential resources to children who need us.

Grant Providers

Grants from government bodies, foundations, and philanthropic organisations enable us to enhance our operations and extend our reach. These critical funds help us invest in infrastructure, purchase bulk supplies, and develop new initiatives to better serve vulnerable children and young people across South Australia.

In-Kind Providers & Goods Donors

The generous contributions of businesses, retailers, and individuals who donate items and/or services play an essential role in fulfilling our mission. These donations make it possible for us to pack and deliver care to children who need support, reminding them that they are seen, valued, and loved.

Agencies & Partners

We work closely with social workers, foster care agencies, emergency services, and community organisations that promote and utilise our services. Their advocacy and collaboration ensure that backpacks and other essential resources reach children at their most vulnerable moments. These partnerships are vital in creating a strong network of care and support for children who need it most.

Treasurers Report

The 2023-24 financial year has been one of a high level of effort and activity by the whole Backpacks 4 SA Kids Team, boosted by the profile generated from the South Australian Local Hero Award from the Australian of the Year Committee.

The continued level of donations and grants during 2023-24 has resulted in a surplus of \$281k which underwrites the ongoing operations of the organisation which are experiencing new demands and cost increases along with the yet unresolved requirement for new warehousing. The Backpacks 4 SA Kids Board have been building a reserve fund for several years to support new warehousing and the team remain committed to finding an affordable and appropriate solution. The warehouse reserve fund totals \$650k at 30 June 2024.

We are fortunate to have a broad range of donors – individuals, community groups and corporates for their cash donations. We are also immensely grateful for the substantial and varied goods and services provided as in-kind to support all programs which were valued at \$678k for the financial year.



Our organisation is substantially supported by a few major donors:

- 👉 Eagers Automotive
- 👉 Team Cherry Foundation
- 👉 The Lewis Foundation
- 👉 SAPN Employee Foundation
- 👉 Intelligent Foundation
- 👉 Cafe Sia

The team preparing grant applications have also achieved success with \$137k in grants to support specific program funding including the following:

👉 Morialta Trust	\$36,000
👉 Myer Community Fund	\$30,000
👉 SA Department of Human Services	\$16,000
👉 Peoples First Bank	\$15,000
👉 Rotary Club of Adelaide	\$15,000
👉 Sandvik Mining	\$10,000
👉 Future 2	\$10,000



Karyn Leicester
Treasurer

We are encouraged by all forms of support to Backpacks 4 SA Kids and the capacity it provides to meet demand to support a wide range of vulnerable and displaced South Australians.

Finances

EXPENSES & DEDUCTIONS

Program delivery costs	\$904,228
Depreciation and amortisation	\$45,542
Employee benefits expense	\$272,392
Administration costs	\$56,940
Warehouse costs	\$18,646

\$1,297,748



Income Summary

\$709,842

Donations -
Cash

\$678,135

Donations -
Goods & Services

\$137,205

Grants

\$40,390

Fundraising

\$9,470

Interest income

\$3,345

Other income

Operating Surplus for the year **\$281,845**

Operating Results



For the year end 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,027,346	773,434
Trade and other receivables	4	22,514	6,811
Other Assets	5	-	6,320
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,049,860	786,565
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	19,482	18,506
Right of Use assets	7	41,325	61,172
Intangible assets	8	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		60,807	79,678
TOTAL ASSETS		1,110,667	866,243
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	25,674	24,489
Employee benefits	10	16,509	32,167
Lease liabilities	11	41,793	37,710
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		83,976	94,366
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	10	28,323	28,323
Lease liabilities	11	-	27,031
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		28,323	55,354
TOTAL LIABILITIES		112,299	149,720
NET ASSETS		998,368	716,523
MEMBER'S FUNDS			
Accumulated funds		716,523	634,467
Surplus for the year		281,845	82,056
TOTAL MEMBER'S EQUITY		998,368	716,523

Auditors Report



Independent auditor's report to the members of Backpacks 4 Kids Incorporated

Report on the audit of the financial report

Our opinion on the financial report

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Backpacks 4 Kids Incorporated (the Association) has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

What was audited?

We have audited the financial report of the Association, which comprises:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024,
- the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended,
- the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended,
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended,
- notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and
- the committee's report
- the statement made by the members of the committee.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in *the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Association's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee Members for the financial report

The committee members of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The committee member's responsibility also includes such internal control as the management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The management is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar3.pdf

This description forms part of our auditor's report.



William Buck (SA)
ABN: 38 280 203 274



G.W. Martinella
ABN 38 280 203 27
Partner

Dated this 11th day of February, 2025.

We thank you for your continued support to help us make a difference to kids in need in SA



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