Annual Report

2025 – 2026

Centre for
Non-Violence



About CNV

The Centre for Non-Violence (CNV) is the leading family violence prevention, response and recovery service in Victoria's Loddon region.

Our vision is gender and social equality in a violence-free world. Established in 1990, CNV is recognised for our innovative and integrated approach to increase safety and wellbeing for victim survivors to live a life free from family violence. By working with both victim survivors and adults using violence, we provide increased safety, participation and support for families and individuals impacted by family violence. CNV is committed to ensuring victim survivors of family violence are safe and those who use violence are held accountable. We welcome and support people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities. CNV works with our local communities to strengthen awareness of family violence and advocate for the safety of women, children, and diverse communities. We are a child safe organisation and recognise that children are victim survivors of family violence in their own right. We work with people across the lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung, Yorta Yorta and Wurundjeri peoples, with offices in Bendigo, Echuca, Kyneton and Maryborough. We are committed to increasing our awareness of gender identity and power, whilst acknowledging the overwhelming impact and prevalence of family violence on women and children.

Our commitment to First Nations people and communities

We recognise and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Nations people of these lands and waterways.

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' sovereignty, and sacred connection to the lands and waterways and we celebrate their strong and enduring cultures, identities, and self-determination.

We are sorry for the endured trauma and torment of powerlessness inflicted on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples because of the ongoing impact of colonisation, systemic discrimination, and white privilege.

We accept and acknowledge the invitation to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and strongly support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament and the call for a Makarrata Commission to supervise agreement, treaty, and truth-telling about our history.

We uphold the unique human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as outlined by the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and seek a future where they have power of their voice, rights, destiny, and their children flourish.

Our child and cultural safety statement

CNV is a child safe organisation. We are committed to the safety, participation, and empowerment of all children and young people that engage with our organisation, including but not limited to individuals who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and/or linguistically diverse, gender diverse and/or same sex attracted and people with a disability.

Acknowledgement of survivors of family violence

We acknowledge the strength and resilience of survivors of family violence. Family violence is a social issue that significantly impacts families and communities. We recognise the courage of individuals who have experienced family violence, along with the dedicated workers responding to family violence.

We recognise, welcome and respect people of all genders, sexuality and sexual identities. Centre for Non-Violence is committed to improving access and inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people.

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Chair and CEO Message

It gives us great pleasure to introduce the Annual Report and report on the incredible achievements of CNV over the last twelve months.

We wish we could say that the prevalence of family and gender-based violence is reducing and that primary prevention efforts are successfully addressing the drivers of gender-based violence both here and globally. Violence against women and girls remains one of the world's most pervasive human rights violations. Globally, almost one in three women - an estimated 840 million - have experienced intimate partner or sexual violence in their lifetime, a prevalence that has changed little in two decades. In 2024 alone, around 50,000 women and girls were killed by an intimate partner or family member - almost one every ten minutes. These figures remind us that the experiences we respond to across our region are part of a global crisis, driven by gender inequality and requiring sustained action at every level.

Our community - near and far - continue to experience serious risk and high rates of family violence, with increasing demand for our programs and services. Despite this increased demand, the quality of service delivered to our community remains high with our outcomes data demonstrating increased safety and wellbeing for victim survivors who receive services, as well as opportunities for adults using violence to change their behaviour, beliefs and attitudes.

Our data demonstrates the huge amount of work undertaken across our programs. In 25/26, we supported nearly 6,000 people through The Orange Door and 2,800 people in our case management and therapeutic programs for victim survivors and adults using violence. Comprehensive risk assessments recorded that more than 40% of victim survivors presented with ten or more lethality risk indicators. This is of significant concern and reflects the critical need for services like CNV. Collectively we delivered nearly 100,000 hours of specialist support, more than 15,000 nights of accommodation and distributed $1.12 million in flexible brokerage packages. These statistics – beyond just demonstrating the scale and breadth of our work – provide a strong argument for ensuring ongoing and increased funding.

The needs of children and young people experiencing violence remain a key priority for us – they represented 54% of victim survivors supported by CNV. Our work and that of our broader systems need to ensure that children are seen, heard and believed, and that their safety, recovery and wellbeing are central to service delivery and systems decision-making. Our work in supporting children and young people reflects our child centred, trauma informed approach and our commitment to strengthening safe relationships between children and their parents or caregivers. We are proud of our work: from the scope and breadth of our core services, the impact we are starting to demonstrate, as well as innovation and service development.

We continued our journey in ongoing innovation, service and program development and community engagement. This included our approach to natural disasters during the January 2026 Harcourt fires – putting in place service responses that acknowledge the gendered impacts of natural disasters. This resulted in standing up a team to directly respond and support victim survivors during this emergency crisis period and supporting local systems and community to respond sensitively and safely to those who were experiencing family violence. This demonstrates the importance of a specialist service lens across broader service delivery.

Engaging and contributing to broader public and sector debate and continuing our advocacy through events, conference presentations, social media and broader media advocacy remains a priority. Our team presented at PreventX on the unique and essential role frontline services play in prevention. We contributed to local, state and national conversations about how to strengthen repsonse to rural and regional communities and advocacy for investment in prevention and in the issues that impact safety and healing: affordable housing, fair and just laws including family law reform. In particular, housing insecurity is one of the most urgent issues experienced by people impacted by family violence in seeking support. The stories and data show that victim survivors may spend months in motels or caravan parks and can be forced to choose between ongoing violence and homelessness. This is unacceptable and demonstrates the urgency of action required at all levels of government including ensuring we have the right policy levers and funding.





Our engagement, advocacy and prevention work also means supporting events that promote gender equality, reinforcing violence prevention messaging and improving response to diverse communities.

We proudly continued our commitment to First Nations Reconciliation through the second-year implementation of our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan with strong achievements against that plan. We also launched our Rainbow Tick Accreditation journey on the Trans Day of Visibility – demonstrating our commitment to building a safe and inclusive organisation for LGBTQIA+ communities. We know that experiences of violence and barriers to safety are shaped by intersecting factors including colonisation, racism, disability, geography, gender identity, sexuality and economic equality.

The work and achievements of the team continue to reinforce our commitment to our integrated approach working across the continuum of safety, recovery, prevention and accountability. We also know that we need to keep working collaboratively with others in our community – including mobilising our community to recognise, respond and prevent family violence.

To do all of this we have committed to investing in CNV's people and leadership. Our Leadership Program, our feminist governance approach, wellbeing focus and workforce initiatives help us build a capable, inclusive, sustainable and supported workforce.

Despite all the achievements, there is still so much more to do. CNV continues our journey with a solid strategic plan that is committed to helping us move into a future where gender and social equality in a violence free world is a reality for all. We remain focused and confident of our capability to shift the dial – even if it is slow. We are resilient and committed.

All of this would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of our Board of Management, our staff, our partners and stakeholders, our government funders, donors and community supporters. Thank you to everyone for an amazing year.

Andie West (top right)
Board Chair

Margaret Augerinos (bottom right)
CEO

Our Impact

99,335 hours
of specialist family violence support accessed by
8,749 people

15,150
nights of accommodation provided to victim survivors and people using violence

198 people supported with crisis and transitional accommodation

2,700
Comprehensive risk assessments completed with victim survivors, including

57% children and young people

43% adult victim survivors

40%
of victim survivors had 10 more lethality indicators present at assessment – indicating imminent risk of lethality and/or serious harm

$1,129,792
total brokerage payments provided to increase safety and wellbeing across both victim survivor and people using violence programs

The Orange Door
36,624 hours
5,956 people

CNV
62,711 hours
2,793 people

Of the victim survivors we support:

18% identify as having a disability

13% identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

9% Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

4% identify as LGBTIQ+

Stories of Change:

Supporting people to live free from family violence

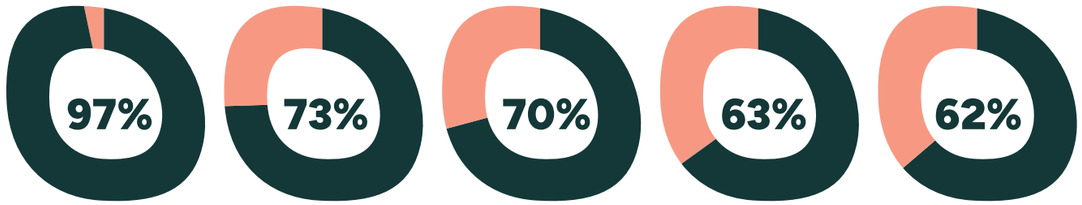
In 2025-2026, CNV provided specialist case management and therapeutic recovery support to 2793 people, with 2405 victim survivors (adults and children) supported through case management, family safety support and therapeutic programs, and well as 388 adults using violence through case management and men's behaviour change.

With **2,700** victim survivor comprehensive risk assessments completed, (57% of which were for children presenting with an adult victim survivor (mostly women)) we have seen a concerning trend: higher demand, complexity of need and most worrying: a sharp increase in the number of victim survivors presenting with multiple lethality indicators.

We work with individuals and families impacted by family violence each and every day: whether it's through safety planning, family safety contact, court support, therapeutic recovery or providing emergency or transitional housing, we see the strength and resilience of victim survivors. The journey to live free from family violence is rarely linear and takes time. Within CNV, our staff provided over the last financial year **62,711 hours** of specialist support to victim survivors and adults using violence.

For many victim survivors that we work with, housing insecurity is one of their primary concerns: because when home isn't safe...where do you go?

Indicators ranked in order of top 5 within the 12 month period



1. Controlling behaviours
2. Previous serious harm and/or threats to harm
3. Perpetrator Alcohol and/or drug misuse
4. Stalking
5. Obsessive jealousy

Cara's Story:

When home isn't safe...where do you go?

After deciding it was no longer safe to remain in her relationship, Cara* contacted CNV. She had spent weeks considering her options—worried about her children's safety, where they would live and what might happen if she left.



A specialist case worker completed family risk assessments to guide safety planning and identify Cara and her children's needs. Through this process her case worker identified 12 lethality indicators that Cara was experiencing, including coercive control, stalking, perpetrator Alcohol and Drug (AoD) misuse, financial abuse and jealousy and that the family required immediate protection. As her ex-partner's behaviour escalated, emergency accommodation was immediately arranged for Cara and her primary school aged children, Harrison and Myles, close to their school.

Accommodation was provided in a local motel, in a shared family room—with a small fridge, microwave, two beds and an ensuite—which became their temporary home. Like thousands of women and children across Australia escaping family violence, they had few alternatives.

A shortage of purpose-built accessible crisis and transitional housing for victim survivors means services rely heavily on motels and caravan parks. Cara expected the stay to be brief while she found a private rental. Instead, one week became two, then one month became three.

women and children escaping family violence spend an average of

74 nights

in crisis and transitional accommodation

During this time, Cara was supported to manage escalating risk, attend court hearings and report breaches to police.

Without a kitchen or a private space for the children to sleep, play and eat, the pressures on the family continued to grow. At times, Cara questioned whether leaving had been the right decision, particularly when safe housing felt out of reach and the risk of homelessness seemed increasingly real.

family violence is the leading cause of

homelessness

for women and children in Australia

AIHW 2025

After almost three months in the motel, Cara's case worker secured a place for the family in a purpose-built transitional home funded through the Australian Government's Safe Places program. There, Cara, Harrison and Myles were able to begin rebuilding their lives with greater stability and safety. Alongside secure housing, they accessed coordinated case management, legal assistance and therapeutic support for longer-term safety, wellbeing and recovery.

Safe and secure housing is essential to recovery from family violence. For victim survivors assessed, 53% identified safe and secure housing as a priority need. When women and children, face homelessness as a consequence of family violence, they are forced to weigh ongoing risk against the loss of housing, stability and community.

**Name and photo have been changed to protect privacy.*

"I am finally able to move on with my life after struggling with court, family law and child support. I was finally able to speak up about what I was experiencing (the family violence). Without the ongoing support of CNV I'm not sure how I would have managed, being the sole provider for the children."

Victim survivor testimony "

Stories of Change:
Supporting people to live free from family violence

A Safe Place to Call Home:

Built for purpose safe homes

On 21 May 2026, CNV, Haven Home Safe and Annie North Women's Refuge officially launched three new townhouses for victim survivors of family violence through the Federal Government's Safe Places Program.

The partnership received $2.5 million in federal funding following sustained advocacy for greater investment in emergency and transitional housing for women and children experiencing family violence in our region. Purpose-built to a high standard, the homes include additional safety features and a minimum seven-star energyefficiency rating.

At the launch, Federal MP Lisa Chesters highlighted the urgent need for more safe housing options in regional communities and reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding housing availability for those experiencing vulnerability, disadvantage and escaping family violence.

Too often, emergency accommodation means a motel room or a caravan park, sometimes for months at a time. First Nations women and children face additional barriers to accessing safe and appropriate housing and are more likely to require extended periods in emergency accommodation.

Due to risk, ongoing racism, discrimination and systemic barriers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children, experience disproportionate barriers to safe and secure housing. First Nation clients spent

2,572 nights

in emergency accommodation with 92% of stays long term (83 days)

CNV provided

12,960 nights

of emergency accommodation to victim survivors, with most family stays averaging 2-3 months

These townhouses offer privacy, dignity and the opportunity to rebuild lives free from violence, supported by wraparound services and referrals delivered by Annie North and CNV. Secure housing is more than a roof over someone's head. It provides stability and connection to family, community, school, employment and support networks, creating the foundations for safety, wellbeing and recovery.

Our shared vision is for a future where no one is forced to choose between remaining in a violent relationship and facing homelessness.

These new homes demonstrate what can be achieved through strong partnerships, community leadership and sustained advocacy. They represent not only safe and stable transitional accommodation, but a pathway to recovery, independence and hope.

For many victim survivors like Cara and her children, there are often complex legal and judicial proceedings to also navigate while managing their safety and recovery, particularly where there may also be Family Law proceedings underway (often with the person using violence as the other party).

Law reforms over recent years have begun to recognise the impacts of family violence and post separation abuse on victim survivors, particularly children, and while there is still a long hard road ahead to better mobilise systems, one avenue of support that CNV provides for victim survivors is through Family Advocacy and Support Services.

Image (L-R): *L-R: Clare Shamier (CNV), Lisa Chesters MP, Trudy Ray (Haven Home Safe), Michelle Crawford (Annie North Women's Refuge).*



Stories of Change:
Supporting people to live free from family violence

Family Advocacy and Support Services:

How CNV supports Victim Survivors in court

Since 2022, CNV has been providing Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS) to women and gender diverse people. FASS provides free and confidential legal and social support to people who have or are experiencing family violence engaged in family law proceedings. Through FASS, CNV supports victim survivors by providing immediate family violence informed social support to increase safety and wellbeing while navigating family law matters.

In May 2026, we were successful in our bid to continue delivering FASS in Bendigo in partnership with Victoria Legal Aid. Delivering FASS through a long-established specialist family violence service, like CNV ensures locally informed responses, strong referral pathways and sustained engagement with community and court systems.

> **"Our early assessment and risk identification ensure that escalating family violence, coercive control and lethality indicators are recognised before court hearings, allowing safety measures to be implemented when they matter most."**
>
> CNV specialist FASS worker

CNV is committed to continuing delivery of FASS for women and gender diverse people impacted by family violence, including support at the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA).

As part of this commitment, CNV provides Specialist Family Violence Practitioners during circuit sittings who are available on-site during business hours. These practitioners provide immediate, specialist family violence support to women and gender diverse clients.

Support includes:

- risk assessment
- safety planning
- crisis support
- referrals before, during and after court events

FASS specialist workers are able to strengthen collaboration between legal, family violence, child and family and community service sectors. Importantly, our specialist workers are able to elevate children's experiences of family violence and coercive control.

"Children's experiences of violence can be overlooked in family law proceedings. Our role is to ensure children are recognised as victim survivors in their own right, with their safety, wellbeing and recovery central to decision making.

CNV specialist FASS worker "

FASS specialist workers help ensure parenting arrangements, safety provisions and court decisions better reflect children's right to safety, stability, recovery and healthy development and wellbeing.

Securing this ongoing funding to support our community over the coming years was a win worth celebrating and we hope to continue this important service for victim survivors for many years to come.

45%
of victim survivors identified legal support as a priority need

"We are proud to continue this important partnership with Victoria Legal Aid and remain committed to helping victim survivors navigate family law matters safely and confidently.

Emma Penno, Senior Manager, "
Response & Recovery,
Centre for Non-Violence

Stories of Change:
Supporting people to live free from family violence

Healing Together:
Supporting Children and Young People with lived experience of family violence

54% of all victim-survivors supported by CNV in 2025-26 were children and young people.

We work with parents and caregivers, children and young people experiencing family violence. They deserve safety, respect and the opportunity to grow, thrive and remain connected to their families, friends and communities.

Children's experiences of family violence are unique. Many are navigating their own safety and recovery within systems and settings that do not always centre their voices, lived experience or wellbeing. While we know family violence profoundly impacts children and their relationships, children's needs are often viewed through the experiences of the adults around them rather than being recognised in their own right. Integral to working with children is that their experiences are seen, heard and believed.

348
victim survivor referrals for therapeutic support, including 79 referrals for children and young people

=

2,432 hrs
individual counselling sessions

I was worried for my mum, I was worried for us kids. I didn't know if he'd find us, if he'd come back. And I was constantly scanning for escapes and safety routes all the time ... this went on for years. I'd check every single door was locked, every single window was locked ... that no one had been in the house and that nothing looked different. I lived like that for a long time, but Sarah* the children's worker from CNV helped me talk through that.

'AJ', past client who accessed CNV services as a child.

Grounded in child-centred and trauma-informed practice, Healing Together recognises the strengths and resilience of children as victim-survivors, each with unique experiences, needs and perspectives. The resources create opportunities for children to express their views in age-appropriate ways, participate in conversations about their safety and wellbeing, and build trusting relationships with the parents and caregivers supporting them.



"The Healing Together resources remind us that recovery is not only about responding to the violence that has occurred. It is about creating opportunities for children to feel heard, understood and connected, while supporting mothers and caregivers to nurture safe, trusting relationships that help families move forward together. The resources detail simple activities that parents and children can use to connect, strengthen their relationship, calm and recover together. Parents have appreciated the encouragement found in the resources."

Jillian, STC Practitioner

Knowing what helped me (having access to long term individual support) makes me want to advocate for specialist children's workers and programs [...] because these conversations and programs have a big impact on children and they are needed now more than ever.

Former client who accessed CNV services as a child.

Stories of Change:
Supporting people to live free from family violence

Jake's story:
Creating safer futures for women and children impacted by family violence



Police attended Jake's* family home after a neighbour called 000 during a family violence incident. Police issued a Family Violence Safety Notice, excluding Jake from the home, and made referrals for him and the family for specialist family violence supports. An Interim Family Violence Intervention Order was issued, and Jake was required to leave the home. Jake's partner, Annie, and their children, Charlie and Tess, were referred for risk and safety assessment.

A specialist worker from The Orange Door contacted Jake and invited him to reflect on the police reported incident and his use of family violence. Although initially reluctant to discuss what had occurred and focused on returning home, Jake acknowledged that he could be frightening when angry. His immediate concerns were the impact of the intervention order on his relationship with Annie and his contact with the children.

Jake was referred to CNV for case management and transitional housing support. During intake, a specialist men's worker identified that access to accommodation through CNV's Place for Change program, combined with intensive case management and financial support, would increase safety and stability for the family while enabling Jake to engage meaningfully in behaviour change programs.

Through one-to-one case management, Jake began to recognise the impact of his choices and engaged in men's group programs to address his use of violence. At the same time, Annie and the children were provided family safety support, with ongoing risk assessment, safety planning and coordinated case management.

Over time, Jake recognised that many of the behaviours he had previously used as responses to stress formed part of a broader pattern of family violence.

As he reflected:

"There was a lot that I wouldn't have considered as family violence, but now I know it is."

Attending CNV's 20-week father-focused **Making aMENds** program supported Jake to recognise the impact of his behaviour on his children. Through the program, he learned strategies for making safer choices and began working towards repairing his relationships with both Annie and the children.

Jake's pathway to support demonstrates how coordinated responses that combine accountability, accommodation and specialist support can create safer conditions for families while helping adults who use violence make meaningful and sustained change. It also highlights the importance of keeping children's safety, wellbeing and recovery at the centre of family violence interventions.

** Name and photo have been changed to protect privacy.*

Stories of Change:

Supporting communities to recognise and respond to family violence

Community Connections

Our community is at the heart of everything we do. Everyone has the right to live safely and free from family violence, and every community across our region has a role to play in preventing violence before it begins.

At CNV we work alongside key stakeholders, local action groups and community partners to educate, intervene earlier and deliver campaigns, projects and prevention initiatives that strengthen social justice, promote gender equality, and create safer communities for women, children and diverse groups.

Some of our favourite days of the year are the community events and campaigns that bring us face-to-face with the people we serve. From school groups, TAFE and university students to Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative (BDAC) Family Day and local council events, including the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, these opportunities allow us to connect, learn and work together towards a future free from violence.

Here is a snapshot of CNV out and about in the community!

- Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative Family Day **[1]**
- Bendigo Senior Secondary College Wellbeing Day **[2]**
- The Loddon Consortium for Gender Equality and Violence Prevention Vigil **[3]**
- The Loddon Consortium for Gender Equality and Violence Prevention 16 Days Campaign
- World Social Work-Day (La Trobe University)
- La Trobe Jobs Expo **[4]**
- Kyneton, Left Hook Write Hook **[5]**
- Castlemaine 16 Days **[6]**
- Kyneton 16 Days
- Billabongs Not Silos
- Stronger Together Macedon Ranges Kyneton
- Sisters Day Out (Echuca) **[7]**

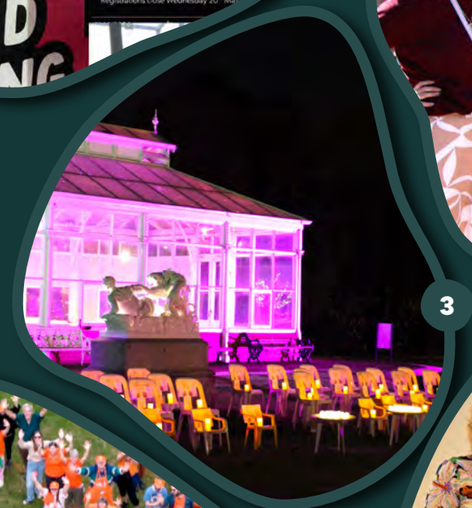
> **"Being able to hear from the students first hand on they are experiencing as young people, particularly with the rise of the manosphere has been really helpful in informing how we design future prevention programs for schools. These young people know what they need to feel safe, and it's our job to advocate for increasing access to specialist services and support."**
>
> Clare, CNV staff

Stories of Change:
Supporting communities to recognise and respond to family violence















From Floods to Fires:
Building Safer, More Resilient Communities



On 9 January 2026, catastrophic fire conditions gripped Victoria. Across the Loddon region, temperatures reached 47 degrees after prolonged drought. That afternoon, fire swept from Ravenswood towards Harcourt, destroying 54 homes, several businesses as well as countless lives of wildlife, livestock and pets.

This was not our region's first climate-related disaster. From floods to fires, communities in our region are facing more frequent and complex emergencies—and continuing to respond with courage, care and resilience.

Recovery will be long, and its impacts will not be equal. Women and children are disproportionately affected because gender inequality shapes disaster response and recovery, especially where family violence is present. By recognising this risk early, we can build safer, more inclusive recovery pathways.

After disaster, family violence risk can escalate. Housing shortages may leave victim survivors, including children, with fewer safe options, while disrupted transport, communication and services can limit access to support. Understanding these barriers helps communities respond earlier and more effectively.

When disaster strikes, CNV teams act quickly: contacting victim survivors, reviewing safety plans, and addressing housing or transport barriers that may prevent people from reaching safety. Our experience shows that timely, specialist support can make a meaningful difference.

Findings from previous regional disasters have reinforced a key strategic priority for CNV: strengthening family violence capability within emergency management systems and embedding evidence-informed, gender-responsive approaches before, during and after disasters.

Safer recovery is a shared responsibility. By working together, emergency responders, councils, community organisations and specialist family violence services can embed family violence risk into emergency planning, response and recovery. Safe housing, transport and referral pathways are essential foundations for recovery.

After the Harcourt fires, CNV joined Gender and Disaster Australia's Lessons in Disaster training and began developing practical resources. These will help local organisations, frontline emergency workers and communities recognise disclosures, respond safely and connect people with specialist support, strengthening capability across the region.

We are committed to continue working with communities and councils so specialist family and gender-based violence expertise informs every stage of emergency management.

Front-Line Services:
The missing link in prevention



In March, CNV attended and co-presented at PreventX 2026: Stories for Change, Australia's leading conference on the prevention of family and gender-based violence.

Hosted by Safe and Equal, each year, PreventX brings together practitioners, advocates and leaders from across the country to reflect on how storytelling can help shift the conditions that allow violence to persist. For CNV, it was an important opportunity to contribute to a national conversation about prevention that is grounded in advocacy, lived experience and social justice.

Our presentation highlighted the unique and essential role frontline services play in prevention.

Frontline services were founded by feminist activists who understood something profoundly important: that you cannot respond to violence without challenging the social conditions that enable it.

From the very beginning, these services were built on the belief that the personal is political.

They emerged not just to fill gaps left by mainstream systems, but as a deliberate act of political and social change.

Long before national frameworks defined primary prevention, frontline services recognised that preventing gender based violence means addressing gender inequality, systemic oppression, and the structures that shape people's everyday experiences of harm.

At PreventX, the team shared how CNV's practice has always operated with an intersectional feminist lens and informed by lived experience. Our work is not only about responding to harm; it is also about amplifying voices, identifying systemic gaps, mobilising communities and advocating for the cultural and structural change needed to prevent violence before it occurs.

PreventX 2026 provided an important opportunity to elevate the voice of frontline services in national prevention conversations and to reaffirm a core truth: lasting change depends on centring lived experience, challenging inequality and staying committed to advocacy that transforms systems as well as lives. We look forward to continuing to contribute our frontline expertise to prevention initiatives and decision-making across communities and all levels of government. Together, we can end violence against women, children and diverse communities.

CNV's approach to co-design and amplifying lived experience was showcased in Safe and Equal's Prevent X resource kit. This can be viewed HERE.

Stories of Change:

Seen, Heard and Believed, Supporting Systems Mobilisation

Local Voices for Change: Advocacy and Systems Change

2025-26 was a significant and necessary year for CNV's advocacy efforts as we continued to call for renewed commitment and investment to end family and gender-based violence across our communities.

As family violence incidents continue to rise and more victim survivors present to CNV experiencing increasingly complex, high-risk and intersectional circumstances, we have worked to amplify the voices of those seeking support. Through our integrated specialist services for victim survivors, alongside our programs for adults who use violence, we remain committed to ensuring family violence responses are evidence-informed, accessible, responsive to regional needs, and sustainably funded.

Our goal is simple: no matter where a person lives, they can access the specialist support they need, when they need it. Achieving this requires ongoing investment in evidence-based services, a responsive service system, and a shared commitment to preventing violence before it occurs.

"It takes a lot of courage for people to reach out for services. If they don't get the time and support they need, people stop seeking help, and that's when risk becomes very problematic."
Margaret Augerinos, CEO

Over the past 12 months, CNV has contributed to local, state and national conversations about the unique barriers to safety, support and justice experienced by victim survivors living in regional and rural Victoria. Issues including secure housing, sustainable funding, addressing men's use of violence, and the importance of prevention and early intervention, particularly for children and young people, have remained at the forefront of our advocacy, training and community engagement efforts.



We have shared our specialist expertise through government funding submissions, ministerial briefings, media engagement, training and workshops for councils and community organisations, and opportunities for decision makers to connect directly with frontline services and communities.

One such opportunity was a visit from Tim Richardson MP, then Parliamentary Secretary for Men's Behaviour Change. The visit showcased CNV's integrated approach to working with adults who use violence and created space for discussion about emerging challenges and opportunities across the sector.

Conversations focused on the need for placebased responses in regional communities, service gaps across the family violence system, and growing national concern about masculinities and the influence of the manosphere. CNV highlighted the increasing complexity and demand faced by perpetrator response programs and advocated for investment that would enable services to respond effectively and safely.

Engagements such as these are vital in ensuring policy discussions remain connected to the realities faced by regional communities.

AIHW Data Pilot: Making the Invisible Visible

When people reach out to CNV, they are often navigating some of the most difficult and uncertain moments of their lives.

Understanding how many people are seeking help, what support they require, and whether systems can meet that demand is critical. Yet measuring demand consistently across Australia has historically been challenging.

That is why, between March and May 2026, CNV participated in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Specialist Crisis Family and Domestic Violence Services Pilot to test a new national approach to family violence data collection.

It was important to capture the lived experience of our communities seeking support to be included in this groundbreaking pilot. Far too often regional and rural communities are left out of the picture despite experiencing higher rates of family violence.

The pilot sought to capture not only people who received support, but also those whose needs could not be fully met at the time.

For every person who receives support, there may be others experiencing similar circumstances who face delays, are referred elsewhere, or are unable to access assistance immediately due to workforce, service capacity constraints and geographical location.

Our participation ensured the experiences of people seeking support in Central Victoria help inform the development of a future national data collection framework.

Why Better Data Matters

Behind every data point is a person seeking safety, support and stability.

By participating in the pilot, CNV contributed to a better understanding of:

- **Demand for specialist crisis family violence services**
- **Service capacity and workforce pressures**
- **Unmet need across regional communities**
- **Opportunities for service and system improvement**

While the pilot focused on data, its purpose is ultimately about people. By helping create a clearer picture of both service delivery and unmet demand, we are contributing to a stronger evidence base for policy, funding and service planning. Because every victim survivor should be able to access the safety and support they need, when they need it most.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful staff at CNV for everything you have done, not just for me, but for our community."

Victim Survivor Testimony

Stories of Change:

Seen, Heard and Believed,
Supporting Systems Mobilisation

International Women's Day: The Personal is Political

On 8 March, CNV marked International Women's Day under the global theme **Balance the Scales**, calling on legal and justice systems to listen to, believe and respond effectively to the lived experiences of women and children impacted by family and sexual violence.

Our statement highlighted the urgent need for systems that provide genuine accountability, safety and access to justice. It was also an opportunity to reflect on the structures and institutions that continue to disadvantage and silence many victim survivors when they seek protection, recognition and redress.

At a time when men's violence continues to shape the experiences of women and children at personal, community and global levels, we must pay attention not only to individual acts of violence but also to the systems that enable harm to occur and persist. How courts respond, how police respond and how governments respond all have a direct impact on safety, accountability and justice.

Meaningful change requires more than incremental reform. It requires a commitment to transforming systems, so they centre the voices, rights and experiences of those most impacted by violence.

CNV remains committed to advancing legal and justice system reform through advocacy, partnership and community leadership, working towards a future where every person can live free from violence.

From Ableism to Allyship

CNV continues our strong partnership with Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV), hosting the Bendigo Hub and supporting co-location of regional staff and key activities throughout the region. A key activity this year was the Ableism to Allyship disability-led forum held in May to explore ableism, identify barriers people with disability may experience and together build inclusive solutions with the community. WDV and CNV co-facilitated a participatory workshop on the day to explore what works in relation to accessibility.

"The way our streets, buildings and public spaces are designed has a big impact. This workshop was developed to open up conversations about what works, what creates challenges and how thoughtful design can support welcoming, more accessible spaces across Bendigo and surrounding districts."

Liz Wright (Program Manager Community Inclusion and Women's Empowerment (WDV)

Stories of Change:

Seen, Heard and Believed,
Supporting Systems Mobilisation

Workplace Training

CNV delivers a range of training across the region, tailored for workplaces, community action groups and professionals. CNV has been delivering 'Recognise, Respond and Refer Workplace' training at the City of Greater Bendigo for over the past two years. This training has been offered to leaders, supervisors, community ambassadors and front-line staff to increase staff knowledge, skills, and confidence in recognising, responding, and referring to family violence services and supports.

"I feel very resourced and confident with the practical tips."

RRR attendee

Celebrating World Social Work Day

On 17 March, CNV partnered with La Trobe University, Bendigo Health and Annie North Women's Refuge to celebrate World Social Work Day.

The event brought together social workers and social work students to celebrate the profession and reflect on the 2025 international theme, Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society.

The day consisted of a panel where members shared personal and professional reflections on the role of social work in driving positive change, exploring questions including:

- What shifts are needed at systems, community and individual levels to help communities unite for change?
- What does "Harambee" or "pulling together" look like in practice?
- How can social workers help rebuild hope and strengthen connection in divided communities?

The discussion highlighted the vital role social workers play in fostering inclusion, advocating for social justice and supporting communities to create lasting change.



CNV continues to strengthen its partnership with La Trobe University through a range of initiatives, including the La Trobe Jobs Expo, social work student placements, in planning the upcoming celebration of 30 Years of Social Work Education in Bendigo and development of a regional social work network.

Our Rainbow Tick Journey Begins...

Family violence doesn't discriminate, but far too often the services that the LGBTQIA+ community access for support do.

Family violence disproportionately impacts people from trans and gender diverse communities with early research indicating lifetime prevalence between 60-80 per cent and that while the drivers of violence are the same for cis-het community, many trans and gender diverse people experience unique forms of abuse and violence including elevated rates of abuse and/or rejection from family of origin and targeted hate-crimes.

CNV is committed to providing inclusive and safe services for anyone experiencing family violence, regardless of gender or sexuality, and part of our continuous improvement journey is to bring together sector alongside specialist LGBTQIA+ expertise to guide us on our journey.

Conversations Matter – A trans and gender diverse roundtable

On the 26th August 2025, CNV alongside Zoe Belle Gender Collective and WHLM hosted the inaugural Trans and Gender Diverse Roundtable. We had an incredible response within the sector, with senior delegates attending from CASACV, City of Greater Bendigo, Headspace, Bendigo Community Health, Haven Home Safe, ARC Justice, Anglicare, Thorne Harbour Health and the Zoe Belle Gender Collective. With such strong representation, we were set for meaningful conversations that amplified community voices to drive real impact in this space. We were thrilled to also welcome Joe Ball, Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQA+ Communities to the roundtable as well, an absolute treat to have such an inspirational figure make their way up the highway to support us on this journey!

The Launch: A Rainbow Tick Journey Begins

On the 31st of March this year, on Trans Day of Visibility, CNV officially launched our Rainbow Tick journey.

We spent an enriching day celebrating some of the incredible achievements the trans and gender diverse community have made in championing community and systems change and amplifying the lived experience of trans and gender diverse people who have experienced family violence – and what services like our own need to do to ensure that everyone who seeks support is safe, included and respected.

Our staff came together in a shared celebration to officially launch CNVs Rainbow Tick journey. Special guest speaker Starlady rounded out the celebration and spoke of their journey in creating the Zoe Belle Gender Collective – an organisation dedicated to improving the lives of trans and gender diverse people through training, workshops and dedicated resources and campaigns.

The launch of our Rainbow Tick journey is an important step in strengthening our policies, practices and culture to ensure our services and workplaces are inclusive, safe and affirming for LGBTQIA+ communities. As a feminist, values led organisation, this work is part of our broader commitment to dismantling systemic barriers and strengthening cultural safety across all of the work we do.



Stories of Change:
Seen, Heard and Believed,
Supporting Systems Mobilisation

Global Learning, Local Impact: Reflections from the #5WSC

CNV Board and staff were proud to attend the Fifth World Shelter Conference in Sydney from 16 to 18 September, joining more than 1,200 delegates from 60 countries committed to ending genderbased violence. Organised by the Global Network of Women's Shelters and WESNET, the conference theme, Connect, Challenge, Change, resonated strongly throughout the three-day program.

As the world's largest conference by and for those working at the grassroots to end violence against women and children, the conference provided a powerful platform for learning, sharing experiences and strengthening a global movement for change.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the conference was the richness of global perspectives. Hearing how different countries are responding to gender-based violence sparked new ideas, challenged assumptions and **reinforced the value of feminist partnerships and collective action**.

"The conference was a powerful learning experience, particularly hearing frontline stories from women around the world. CNV had a strong presence, especially in the session on working with men, and emphasised the urgency and power of women-led change.

CNV Board member

Many of the issues discussed resonated with what our own regional communities experience: housing shortages, workforce capacity, service integration and equitable access to specialist support. The conference reinforced that while contexts may differ, our shared commitment to safety, equality and justice unites us.



"There are ongoing challenges in the sector that we share, especially globally with the pushback from right-wing and men's rights movements, resulting in some ground being lost on previous progress.

CNV conference delegate

As we returned to our communities and continue this work, we carry with us the energy, solidarity and inspiration of the global movement. By drawing on international evidence, sharing practice wisdom and centring lived experience, we can continue strengthening systems that promote safety, dignity and recovery for women, children and communities.

"I felt empowered, and I don't want to lose that passion. Having time to reflect and immerse yourself in the content was incredibly inspiring.

CNV conference delegate

Global Voices for Change:

The movement to end gender-based violence is global. Together, we are stronger.

While advocacy begins at home, we also recognise that gender-based violence against women, children and diverse communities is a global issue and requires us to come together collectively to resist and act for the protection and realisation of gender and social equality in a violence free world.

CNV is committed to dismantling oppressive systems and structures of inequality, power and privilege and increasing actions by people, systems and within structures was able to contribute to change. CNV contributed to a range of global stories for change this year, from joint submission with Women with Disabilities Victoria to the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**, providing input to the draft guidelines on addressing multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and through presentations and attendance at the **70th session of the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) in New York**.

Advocating for Change: Submission to the UN OHCHR

This year, CNV in partnership with Women with Disabilities Victoria contributed to the draft guidelines on addressing multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities. This was an opportunity to highlight the importance of understanding that family and gender-based violence is a prevalent issue for many women and gender-diverse people with disability in Australia. In this submission we were able to highlight that nearly 1 in 5 Victorian women has a disability; representing a significant portion of the population who experience multiple layers of discrimination based on gender, disability, race, age, or sexual orientation. It was imperative to

In 2025-2026,

1 in 5 victim survivors

supported by CNV identified having a disability

both organisations that we ensured that the OHCHR was able to have a lens on the prevalence of family violence experienced by women, children and gender-diverse people with disability in Australia.

In the submission we highlighted that victim survivors with disability often face complex and intersecting factors that impact their journey to safety, including (but not limited to):

- Living in Rural/Regional Communities (lack of services, lack of accessible infrastructure and transport)
- Housing (discrimination in screening practices by private landlords and real estate agencies, inaccessible and unsuitable housing options)
- Specialist Support (lack of access to inclusive services)
- Healthcare (lack of inclusive services, prevalence of ableist, sexist and misogynistic attitudes)
- Transphobia, homophobia, racism and socio-economic status

Global Voices for Change:

The movement to end gender-based violence is global. Together, we are stronger

We also highlighted that First Nation, migrant, refugee or diverse communities are at even greater risk of experiencing serious risk, death and disability as a result of family and sexual violence often at the hands of an intimate partner or carer. First Nation women with disabilities who are also experiencing chronic restrictive health conditions, are for example, three times more likely to experience family violence by an intimate partner than a non-First Nation's woman.

This submission was an important collaborative project between CNV and WDV to continue calling for global systems and change and accountability for UN member states to adhere to their obligations under the UN Human Rights Charter.

Reflections from New York: CSW 2026

In March 2026, CNVs CEO Margaret Augerinos travelled to New York to attend the 70th session of the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women (CSW).

Across the whole program it was inspiring to see the incredible capacity of people right across the globe to continue to resist and act on protecting and advancing hard fought for rights against a backdrop of ever-increasing risk, harm and conflict.

The hard truth is that we live in a world where every 10 minutes a woman is killed as a result of gender-based violence and as a global community we have a responsibility to call out and resist the moves by powerful state actors to wind back long and hard fought for gains and rights.

And we got to see this in action at CSW, where some member states including the USA sought to wind back agreements and language focused on acknowledging the diversity of lived experience and human rights. Due to the coordinated and collective action of other member states - and civil society activists and advocates, this bid to overturn these hard fought for agreements ultimately failed, sending a clear message that as a global community, we will continue to rise up and resist against this new wave of backlash and oppression.

I am thankful for the global sisterhood that is working overtime to advocate for a just and equal world.

Margaret Augerinos

Ultimately, what CSW reinforced is that achievement of rights is not linear nor assured. In the world we are living in - we need, more than ever to work hard to maintain our current rights and status - and work even harder to advance and continue making progress.

Our People:

Transformational Leadership, advocating for change

As a specialist family violence organisation working across Central Victoria's rural and regional communities, CNV is committed to investing in our people, from student placements through to executive and Board of Management to be confident and courageous leaders paving the way for the change we seek to see in our society: gender and social equality in a violence free world.

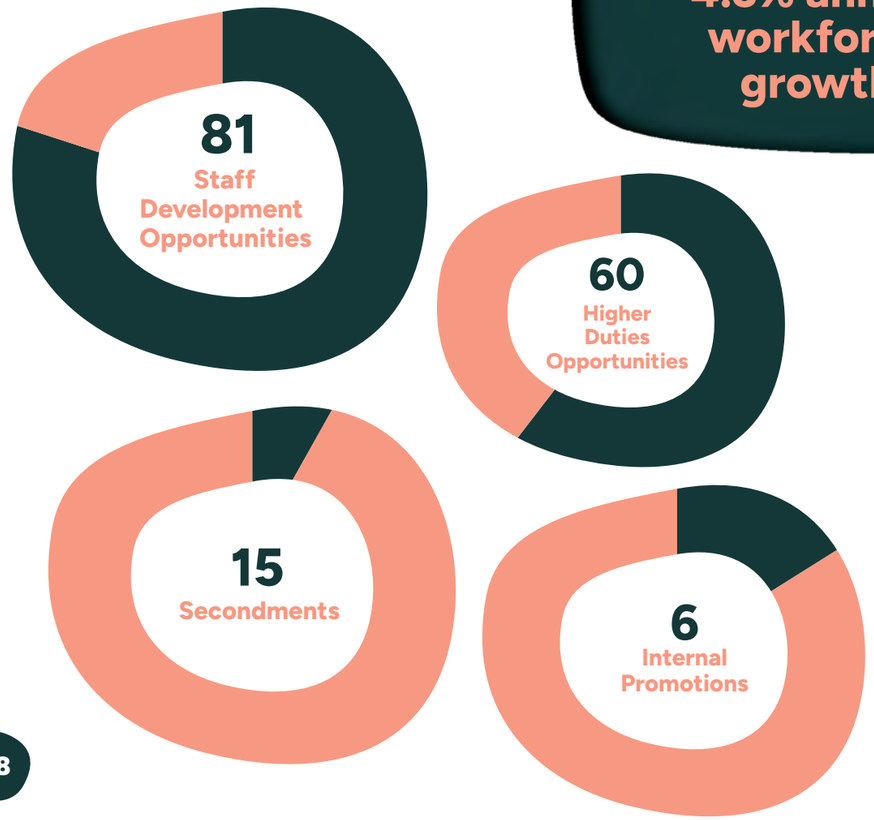
After yet another year of growth across the organisation, the corporate services team has been leading our staff through transformational change and leadership training across all teams.

Investment in our team supports capability building, retains talent and strengthens connection to culture and CNVs feminist values.

Highlights this year have included:

- Implementation of the Leadership Development Program
- Organisation-wide Cultural Awareness and Anti-Racism training
- Men's specialist practice development
- Introduction of the Safetrac Learning Management System
- Enhancement of orientation and induction programs

119 Staff / 4.3% annual workforce growth



From Little Things Big Things Grow:

CNVs Leadership Program

Over the last year, CNV has been implementing the Leadership Program to support the organisation through a period of rapid workplace growth and to strengthen our feminist leadership approach.

Beginning this journey it was important to reflect on **what kind of leaders do we want to be?**

The Leadership Program was intentionally designed to strengthen belonging by creating a culture where all staff see themselves as leaders, regardless of position. By acknowledging leadership at all levels, CNV reinforces that every employee contributes to organisational culture, client outcomes and continuous improvement. Through inclusion, empowerment and shared responsibility, our goal is that staff feel valued for their contribution and connected to CNV's broader purpose.

Supported by the CNV Board and Executive Leadership Team, the Leadership Program was a strategic response to the need for a stronger, shared leadership culture. Designed to align with CNV's Feminist Governance Framework and provide an operational model that translates feminist governance into everyday leadership practice, the program connects the Board's commitment to feminist-informed governance with clear leadership expectations across the organisation.

It is grounded in CNV's vision of gender and social equality in a violence-free world and informed by principles including intersectional feminism, an ethic of care, diversity, lived experience, equality, human rights, power sharing, and dismantling oppressive systems, including decolonising practices.

"There are so many opportunities and if you're passionate about social justice and ending family violence and you have feminist values, CNV is the place to work."

CNV Team Leader

Our People:

Transformational Leadership, advocating for change

CNV's Leadership Approach prioritises four interconnected principles:

- **Ethical leaders:**
  model integrity and apply organisational values and an intersectional feminist lens in everything they do. They show courage and respect in decision making, and work to build a culture of transparency, accountability and excellence.
- **Adaptive leaders:**
  see strengths, harness potential and create an environment for staff to thrive. They are connectors who see the value in collaboration, consultation and in building positive relationships to flourish in times of constant change.
- **Impactful leaders:**
  are visionary thinkers, who empower, inspire and motivate. They are courageous and skilled communicators, showing empathy and building trust and rapport. They harness their expertise and specialist knowledge to amplify the impact of our work, and further CNV's collective mission.
- **Inclusive leaders:**
  work to build teams that embrace diversity, inclusion, equity and belonging, and foster workplace climates of cultural and psychological safety to allow others to thrive to the best of their abilities. They think critically about power, creating the right environment for promoting leadership as a 'practice, not a position'. They courageously advocate against injustice and inequity.

In the 2025-2026 FY, CNV Staff completed

2,719 hours of learning and development,

including professional development, orientation, cultural awareness, anti-racism training, leadership development and specialist practice training

The Personal is Political: Embedding our Feminist Principles to build an inclusive and progressive workplace

Feminist Leadership is recognising that women often carry disproportionate care responsibilities and undertake significantly higher unpaid workloads. At CNV we believe that this should never be a hinderance or barrier to career progression.

As a predominantly female-led workforce we recognise the gendered impacts on career progression. Our leadership approach is deeply embedded in intersectional feminist principles: recognising that leadership exists at all levels and that the change we seek to see in the world starts with us.

A sustainable, inclusive and culturally safe workplace values diverse leadership approaches beyond traditional, predominantly patriarchal norms.

84% of staff have flexible work arrangements in place

Our People:

Transformational Leadership, advocating for change

2026 marks a special milestone: celebrating 10 years of the CNV Wellbeing Working Group!

For a decade, the Wellbeing Working Group has supported CNV's commitment to employee wellbeing by championing initiatives that promote healthy lifestyle practices, creating opportunities for staff to build their health literacy, and contributing to the development of supportive programs and resources.

The group's work is guided by five key pillars of wellbeing:

- **Mental Health**
- **Physical Health**
- **Nutritional Health**
- **Connection**
- **Financial Wellbeing**

As we celebrate this 10-year milestone, we thank the many staff members, past and present, who have contributed their time, ideas and passion to promoting wellbeing at CNV. Your efforts have helped create a healthier, more connected and supportive workplace for everyone.

Image: *CNV staff at our Maryborough site now have access to a staff wellbeing room... a calm space where staff can take time to recharge, reflect, and focus on their wellbeing throughout the workday*



Student Placement: from Learning to Practice

CNV provides high-quality placement experiences that support student learning, professional development and the integration of theory into practice. Students are welcomed as valued members of the team and provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the work of the organisation while developing knowledge and skills relevant to their field of study.

"One of my most significant learning experiences was gaining insight into CNV's work with men who use violence. This deepened my understanding of accountability, behaviour change and the importance of a whole-of-system response to family violence. It provided valuable context for understanding how services contribute to the safety and wellbeing of women and children.

2025 student placement "

We recognise the importance of building the capacity of the rural and regional workforce and are committed to supporting the next generation of practitioners. Experience shows that students who undertake placements within their local community are more likely to remain in the region and pursue careers locally, contributing to a stronger and more sustainable workforce. Through quality placement experiences, we aim to foster professional growth, strengthen sector capability and support improved outcomes for individuals, families and communities affected by family violence.

Beyond placement at CNV, students have found meaningful careers working in the sector and have continued their social change advocacy:

"I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to begin my career in such a values-driven organisation. Those early experiences played a significant role in shaping my emerging professional identity, grounding my practice in strong feminist and critical frameworks.

Past social work student "

59% of staff
have 3+ years of experience at CNV

Our People:
Transformational Leadership, advocating for change

Staff Story:
A Leadership Journey at CNV

No matter where our staff are on their leadership journey with CNV, we are committed to investing in and supporting staff to realise their career goals. With 81 internal development opportunities across the 2025/2026 financial year, we have many stories of transformational leadership in action.

One such story is from our valued staff member Laura who began their journey with us as a new graduate, initially working with CNV at the Orange Door (Loddon) before moving across to CNV in case management and earlier this year stepped into their own leadership role as Team Leader:



"I came to work for CNV as a new graduate and I think my journey has been really well rounded because I've worked within the Orange Door, before I came over to CNV in case management.

Being supported by CNV to participate in leadership programs, along with mentoring, I was able to see that being in a leadership role is more about being a role model, a change maker and a transformative leader.

CNV's a great organisation with so many different roles and opportunities change roles and progress, things like project work. There's always really exciting stuff happening in that space.

Laura, R&R Team Leader "

Our People:

Transformational Leadership, advocating for change

Truth-telling, Justice and Treaty: CNVs allyship journey. Treaty is here!

For many years, CNV has stood as a committed ally in advocating for truth-telling, justice, treaty, and reconciliation.

When news broke mid-way through last year, that the Victorian Parliament had tabled Australia's first Treaty bill, excitement rippled through the organisation, and we were incredibly thrilled to have the opportunity to hear first-hand from the First Peoples' Assembly - Senior Regional Northwest Engagement Officer and proud Yorta Yorta man, Jordan Knight about the journey to Treaty. These information sessions were available both online and in person to offer an important opportunity for staff to deepen our understanding of the Treaty process and reflect on how we can show up individually and collectively as allies and advocates.

And in December 2025, in an Australian first, treaty in Victoria became a reality. This was an historic and powerful milestone reflecting decades of advocacy, resilience, and self-determination by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. CNV strongly supports this progress and recognises that when it comes to First Nation cultures, communities, and Country, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are—and always will be - the experts.

We also recognise that we are not experts ourselves, but we are deeply committed to listening, learning, and supporting First Nations Australians in meaningful and respectful ways.

Truth-telling and Justice

Our allyship journey also recognises that our work must address the ongoing harms perpetuated by oppressive systems and the need as a mainstream organisation to reflect on and address our approaches to decolonising practices. Over the last 12 months, CNV has been working to strengthen our cultural safety in the workplace and in our work with clients and community through supported mechanisms such as our Reconciliation Action Plan, improved data collection and evidencing prevalence and outcomes of service as well as investing in cultural understanding and safety training, including First Nation led On Country training for staff to strengthen allyship connections and understandings of truth-telling, justice and treaty.

This is part of our continuous improvement to ensure that we are able to better tailor services and advocacy to support folk from First Nation communities: including staff, clients and the broader community.

13% of victim survivors

supported at CNV identified as from First Nation community

Our People:

Transformational Leadership, advocating for change

As a family violence organisation, this work is essential to improving our responses to First Nation women and children experiencing family violence. National data highlights the profound inequity faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, who are 35 times more likely to experience violence-related harm requiring hospitalisation. However, responses to family violence frequently fail to provide culturally safe and equitable support. Racism, discrimination and the persistent misidentification of victim survivors as perpetrators undermine safety, trust and access to justice. As a result, many First Nations women face significant risks in disclosing or reporting family violence.

> **"First Nations women reporting family violence to police are more likely to be identified as offenders."**
>
> Yoorook Justice Commission, June 2025

Decolonising systems, workplaces and our communities is necessary work. While progress has been made, ongoing harm continues. We acknowledge the enduring impacts of colonisation, dispossession, and intergenerational trauma, and we remain focused in our journey to walk alongside First Nations Peoples and Communities in solidarity.

In Closing

As we reflect on the year that was, and begin our journey into the new year, we bring with us our specialist knowledge and expertise, embed new learnings, and continue to advocate for change that will improve the lives of all victim survivors of family violence. Their safety and wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do.

> **"Thank you so much for everything you've done. Your help, your patience and the way you've guided me through each step has meant more than I can put into words. I truly wouldn't have gotten this far without your support and encouragement."**
>
> Victim survivor testimony

Our Supporters

We're grateful to the many generous supporters who make our work possible. The following businesses, community organisations and funding bodies have provided financial and inkind support this year. We also appreciate donations from several generous individuals, who are not listed but have been personally thanked.

Program Funders

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

The Orange Door, victim survivor crisis response and recovery programs, flexible support packages and other brokerage, case management, programs for people using violence including men's behaviour change and Place for Change, therapeutic recovery programs, family violence system integration programs, housing and homelessness support.

Anglicare Victoria

Victims Assistance Program

Paul Ramsey Foundation

Children and young people case management

Haven; Home, Safe

Commonwealth Emergency Relief Program

Western Victoria Primary Health Network

Family Violence Connector Program

Victoria Legal Aid

Family Advocacy and Support Services

Donations

- Backpacks 4 VIC Kids
- Bendigo Family Financial Services
- Bendigo Health Youth Mental Health Service **[5]**
- Boort Netball Club
- BUPA Kyneton **[6]**
- Castlemaine CWA
- Early Bird Espresso
- Fernwood Fitness **[1]**
- GoldFM Bendigo **[2]**
- La Trobe University
- Leanganook Women's Alliance
- Light Chapel Church **[3]**
- Melbourne Podiatry
- Next Steps Australia
- Pink Honey **[4]**
- Rapid Relief Team
- Robe
- Salvation Army Bendigo
- Second Chance Bendigo
- Share the Dignity
- Sunshine Bendigo
- The Nappy Collective
- Verve Running
- Zonta Bendigo

"With many thanks to all of our supporters including anonymous donations, your support is invaluable."













Treasurer's Report



The Centre for Non-Violence concluded the 2025–2026 financial year with a deficit of $364,500. CNV continues to maintain a strong financial position, underpinned by a healthy asset-to-liability ratio. This ensures our ongoing viability and capacity to deliver impactful services aligned with our strategic objectives.

Revenue for the year totalled $16,920,038, a slight increase from the previous year's $16,367,602. Expenditure across all programs and operations amounted to $17,284,538, down from $17,301,148 in FY 2024–2025.

Board member remuneration commenced in July 2025 following the adoption of the organisation's new Constitution at a Special General Meeting held in March 2025. As a feminist organisation, we recognise effective governance requires significant expertise, accountability, and commitment. Remunerating Board members reflects our commitment to valuing this contribution, acknowledges labour that has traditionally been undertaken on a voluntary basis, and supports the high standard of oversight, strategic leadership and stewardship expected of the Board.

As at 30 June 2026, CNV's total assets stood at $15,557,646 with liabilities of $5,307,022, resulting in total equity of $10,250,624. While this represents a decrease from last financial year, our balance sheet remains robust.

These financial outcomes reflect the strong governance provided by the CNV Board and CEO, and the excellent financial management and oversight from Lauren Davies (Executive Manager Corporate Services) and Cassie Peace (Head of Finance & Accounting).

Melissa Maher
Treasurer

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2026	2026 $	2025 $
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,480,250	3,464,564
Trade and other receivables	80,675	15,423
Financial Assets	9,876,186	9,496,346
Other assets	304,966	292,247
Total Current Assets	**13,742,077**	**13,268,580**
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	404,544	646,004
Intangible assets	180,616	227,051
Right-of-use assets	1,230,409	1,434,799
Total Non-Current Assets	**1,815,569**	**2,307,854**
Total Assets	**15,557,646**	**15,576,434**
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,015,885	1,024,695
Employee Benefits	1,678,543	1,586,572
Contract Liabilities	748,739	399,019
Lease Liabilities	305,552	270,775
Total Current Liabilities	**3,748,719**	**3,281,061**
Non-Current Liabilities		
Employee Benefits	141,565	118,061
Lease Liabilities	1,416,738	1,562,188
Total Non-Current Liabilities	**1,558,303**	**1,680,249**
Total Liabilities	**5,307,022**	**4,961,310**
Net Assets	**10,250,624**	**10,615,124**
Equity		
Retained Earnings	10,250,624	10,615,124

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2026	2026 $	2025 $
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from customers	18,565,592	16,383,577
Donations Received	-	5,059
Interest Received	394,583	430,286
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(17,002,317)	(15,134,058)
Net GST paid to ATO	(1,272,420)	(1,159,754)
Finance costs	(107,948)	-
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	**577,490**	**525,110**
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	50,573	54,534
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(110,113)	(203,565)
Purchase of financial assets	(379,840)	(1,505,517)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	**(439,380)**	**(1,654,548)**
Cash flows from financing activities		
Repayment of lease liabilities	(122,424)	(256,059)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**15,686**	**(1,385,497)**
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3,464,564	4,850,061
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	**3,480,250**	**3,464,564**



Centre for
Non-Violence

Postal address: PO Box 958,
Bendigo VIC 3552

Email: reception@cnv.org.au

Phone: (03) 5430 3000

ABN: 12 974 015 985

Inc No. A0020202P

cnv.org.au