

Yellow Dove Australia Annual Report



YELLOW DOVE AUSTRALIA
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO AUSTRALIA

August 2023
December 2024

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

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A Message from Ryan (Founder and Director)

Dear Yellow Dove Members, Friends and Supporters,

Sixteen months ago, Yellow Dove Australia was little more than a dream—an idea sparked by the desire to bridge the gap in services for disadvantaged community groups across Australia and beyond. Today, as I create our first annual report, I reflect on our journey. I am filled with immense gratitude for the magic we've created together: a thriving community-based charity that has already made meaningful strides in health, wellness, and education.

Back in April 2023, I shared a vision with a few people close to me. Sitting atop a beautiful range overlooking Exmouth and the gulf, I imagined a world where inclusion, opportunity, and community empowerment were no longer distant aspirations but realities within reach. Inspired by over a decade of work in remote and marginalised communities, I knew there was a void to fill—a way to create a bridge between disadvantaged groups and the larger communities we share.

Yellow Dove Australia was born from that vision, carried forward by countless hours of determination, research, grant writing, and connecting with like-minded individuals and organisations. With the help of Birchgrove Legal, a dedicated Sydney-based firm specialising in not-for-profits, we established a constitution and achieved charitable status with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Together, we created a foundation that enables us to advocate for those in need and deliver transformative programs for communities.

Our success is a shared accomplishment. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our members, friends and supporters, who have contributed time, resources, and expertise. Your generosity has been the wind beneath our wings, helping us to soar toward impactful initiatives. To those who believed in Yellow Dove's mission from the start, and to the many others who joined us along the way: thank you for helping us fly.

The past 16 months of operations have been nothing short of remarkable. Through collaboration, networking, and community engagement, we've laid the groundwork for projects that promote inclusivity and empowerment. The road here wasn't without its challenges, but with persistence and a shared commitment to our mission, we've built something extraordinary.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the endless possibilities for Yellow Dove Australia. Together, we have the power to continue creating positive change, to inspire hope, and to deliver on the promise of new opportunities for those who need it most.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. Here's to many more milestones, achievements, and lives changed for the better as we continue to soar.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Ryan Chapman

Founder & Director, Yellow Dove Australia

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The Yellow Dove Australia Board of Directors

The Yellow Dove Australia Board of Directors embodies the core pillars upon which our charity is built Education, Health, Community, and Sustainability. These foundational principles guide every decision and initiative, ensuring that our work remains meaningful, impactful, and aligned with the needs of the communities we serve.

Each member of our Board brings a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to their role, representing diverse backgrounds in education, healthcare, community development, and environmental stewardship. Beyond their professional expertise, our Directors have deep-rooted connections within their communities. These connections span a multi-layered network of community members, leaders, and organisations providing invaluable insights and fostering collaboration to ensure Yellow Dove's initiatives resonate at a grassroots level.

The Board's unique combination of expertise and community engagement positions Yellow Dove Australia as a trusted and impactful organisation. They work tirelessly to uphold our vision of creating inclusive opportunities, bridging gaps in services, and empowering disadvantaged groups. By building relationships across sectors and with individuals who share our mission, the Board ensures that Yellow Dove continues to grow sustainably and deliver transformative programs.

Together, our Directors exemplify the heart of Yellow Dove Australia: a commitment to uplifting communities, fostering resilience, and creating lasting change through innovation, empathy, and collaboration.

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Ryan Chapman – Founder, Director & Member Assistance – Education Pillar

Ryan Chapman is a passionate Aquatic Educator and Drowning Prevention Advocate with a degree in Education and currently pursuing a Master’s in Inclusive Education Practices. His academic journey and professional expertise complement over a decade of impactful work in remote Aboriginal & underserved communities, and 11 years of experience in education.

Ryan has developed a profound understanding of the challenges faced by marginalised populations, particularly in accessing equitable educational opportunities. His dedication to community development is driven by a vision of healthier, brighter, and more inclusive futures. Believing deeply in the transformative power of education, Ryan is committed to uniting communities through learning, fostering resilience, and enabling them to grow and thrive together.



Alina Chaparro – Director, Secretary – Sustainable Pillar

Alina Chaparro brings her expertise as a Chemical Engineer and Sustainability Professional to Yellow Dove Australia as the leader of our Sustainable Pillar, leveraging her international experience in energy, risk management, strategy, and advisory consulting to drive impactful community initiatives. Currently pursuing a Master's in Sustainable Energy at the University of Queensland, Alina combines her technical acumen with a passion for fostering equitable and sustainable transitions.



Her experience in integrating sustainability into organisational strategies aligns seamlessly with Yellow Dove's mission to promote health, education, community, and sustainability. Alina's focus on stakeholder engagement, value-driven solutions, and change management enhances the charity's ability to deliver innovative programs that address environmental and social challenges. As a vital part of Yellow Dove's leadership, she is dedicated to ensuring that sustainability remains a cornerstone of its work, benefiting communities for generations to come.



Scott Fisher – Director – Health Pillar

Scott Fisher brings his expertise in Clinical Exercise Physiology to Yellow Dove Australia as the leader of our Health Pillar. With a passion for improving community health, Scott applies his extensive knowledge in exercise-based treatments for conditions such as lower back pain, diabetes, cardiac rehabilitation, and cancer management to Yellow Dove’s mission of fostering healthier and more resilient communities.



Since founding Empowered Healthcare in 2017, Scott has dedicated himself to creating meaningful change at the grassroots level, a vision he continues to champion through Yellow Dove. His experience includes lecturing on Exercise and Diabetes at the University of Technology Sydney, running recovery workshops for elite sporting teams, and contributing to fundraising initiatives for the Cancer Council of NSW.

A former national-level swimmer and surf lifesaver, Scott also brings a strong focus on sports performance, recovery, and rehabilitation. Whether in the clinic, the classroom, or on the beach, his commitment to empowering others aligns perfectly with Yellow Dove’s holistic approach to health and community wellbeing.

Kurt Herzog – Director – Community Pillar

As the leader of Yellow Dove Australia’s Community Pillar, Kurt Herzog brings an unparalleled dedication to fostering healthier, more connected communities. Drawing from a 17-year career in the aquatics industry and a wealth of experience in community development, Kurt’s work exemplifies his passion for empowering people and creating lasting social impact.



Since transitioning from his career as a professional swimmer—where he represented Australia at World Championships and international meets—Kurt has devoted himself to initiatives that drive meaningful change. One of Kurt’s recent projects was the Remote Pools Project in the Northern Territory, where he revitalised neglected swimming pools in remote Aboriginal communities, reducing drowning rates, improving health outcomes, and generating employment opportunities.

Kurt’s extensive background includes leadership roles with local councils, where he developed swim programs and community engagement frameworks, and as a brand manager for a global performance swimwear company. His expertise in team building, risk assessment, and strategic planning is invaluable to Yellow Dove’s mission of uplifting marginalised groups through education, health, and sustainability.



Yellow Dove Australia's Vision and Mission Statement

Vision

Our vision at Yellow Dove Australia is to cultivate a world where communities are connected, empowered, and transformed through impactful education, health, and well-being initiatives, ensuring a more equitable and vibrant future for all.



Mission

Yellow Dove Australia is dedicated to empowering and uplifting marginalised communities through fostering strong relationships and implementing impactful programs in education, health, and overall well-being. Our mission is to drive positive change, create sustainable solutions, and promote lasting transformation to ensure a brighter, more equitable, and vibrant future for all.



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Organisational Overview

Yellow Dove Australia is a dynamic community-based charity dedicated to creating lasting positive impacts through its foundational pillars of Education, Health, Community, and Sustainability. Guided by a deep commitment to empowering marginalised and underserved populations, Yellow Dove Australia aims to build inclusive and resilient communities where individuals thrive together.

Education is at the heart of our mission, with programs designed to uplift and empower through knowledge and skill-building. By promoting lifelong learning and facilitating access to resources, we bridge gaps in access and opportunity. In alignment with this, our Health initiatives focus on improving physical and mental well-being through innovative, community-driven programs, addressing immediate needs while fostering long-term wellness.

The Community pillar is rooted in collaboration, encouraging active participation and shared ownership. We engage local community members in co-designing grants, managing projects, and implementing programs. From consultation to execution, this collaborative approach ensures initiatives are meaningful, impactful, and culturally relevant. Sustainability underpins all our efforts, fostering enduring outcomes that respect and preserve the resources and cultural fabric of the communities we serve.

By integrating these four pillars into every aspect of our work, Yellow Dove Australia empowers individuals to take charge of their futures. Through partnerships, capacity-building, and grassroots action, we create opportunities for communities to grow stronger, healthier, and more united, paving the way for a brighter and more equitable tomorrow.

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Highlights of the Year

1. Successful Fundraiser by Kocreate - Supplying Washing Machines to Wiluna Remote Community.

We are incredibly proud to share the success of our collaborative effort with Kocreate to provide washing machines to families in the Wiluna Remote Community. Kocreate's event night in April 2024 raised \$1800, which was directed toward purchasing two high-quality washing machines for families in need. Despite logistical and transport challenges, the machines were successfully delivered on July 19th, 2024. We would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Bevan and Hera from the Shire of Wiluna for their patience in holding the goods during the wait for delivery, as well as Anne-Marie from the Shire for her incredible effort in transporting the machines from Kalgoorlie, a 10-hour return trip. The community support was pivotal, and Mr. Wayne from the Wiluna Remote Community School also played a crucial role in assisting with the final delivery. This initiative exemplifies our commitment to improving the quality of life for remote communities and providing essential resources where they are needed most.



2. June Connect - Therapeutic Art for People Living with Impairments.

The June Connect initiative, held in early June, was an inspiring and impactful event designed to foster personal development, social connections, and community engagement. Led by Ryan Chapman on behalf of Yellow Dove Australia, June Connect offered a series of therapeutic art sessions and sensory activities aimed at individuals living with impairments. These sessions provided not only an artistic outlet for self-expression but also a means of fostering emotional connection among participants. The initiative encouraged creativity and personal growth, with caregivers and family members joining in, ensuring an inclusive environment for everyone involved. The overwhelmingly positive response from the community validated the importance of creating accessible spaces for engagement, connection, and healing. The program proved to be a significant step in fostering inclusion and creating opportunities for individuals to form new friendships, making a meaningful difference in the lives of those involved.



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3. Successful First Birthday and Launch of Yellow Dove Australia.

In August, Yellow Dove Australia celebrated its first year of operations with an exciting launch event, reflecting on a year of growth, impact, and progress. This milestone was not only a celebration of our achievements but also a reaffirmation of our mission to empower and uplift marginalised communities. The event raised an impressive \$2,830, which will help support the expansion of our ongoing initiatives in education, health, and community development. This achievement highlights the trust and support of our growing network of donors, partners, and community members who are instrumental in helping us create positive change. As we reflect on this significant milestone, we are more committed than ever to continuing our work in fostering healthier, more connected, and empowered communities.

4. Sponsorship of Sunshine Coast Grammar Lifesaving Club.

Yellow Dove Australia's sponsorship of the Sunshine Coast Grammar Lifesaving Club underscores our commitment to supporting local organisations that promote safety, health, and well-being. Our contribution of \$2,000 towards the team's memberships for the 2024 World Lifesaving Championships enabled the team to participate in this prestigious event. Their success, including Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals, highlighted their exceptional skill and dedication. One of the most memorable moments was their historic win in a Lifesaving Event, marking a significant achievement for the club and the broader lifesaving community. This sponsorship aligns with Yellow Dove Australia's focus on fostering healthy communities, supporting drowning prevention education, and providing young athletes with opportunities to develop their talents on the world stage. We are proud to have played a part in their success and look forward to continued partnership in the future.

5. Community Development Through First Aid and CPR in Timor Leste.

A key highlight of the year was Yellow Dove Australia's successful mission to Timor Leste, where we delivered First Aid and CPR training to individuals across Dili, Tibar, Gleno, and Arturo Island. This initiative was made possible thanks to funding from the Wanless Family Fund via the Australian Communities Foundation, along with Yellow Dove Australia's own contribution of \$2,000. Over the course of the 10-day mission, 175 Timorese individuals received First Aid and CPR training, with 99% of participants learning these vital life-saving skills for the first time. The training program not only provided participants with essential knowledge and skills to respond to emergencies but also helped boost their confidence in managing critical situations. This initiative is a prime example of how Yellow Dove Australia's education programs are making a real difference in communities by enhancing safety and building resilience. We are proud to have empowered the Timorese people with the skills needed to save lives and contribute to their community's overall well-being.



6. Happiness CO Foundation – Grant Recipient, \$5,000

Yellow Dove Australia is thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Happiness Co Foundation to deliver our Cultural Connection program. This initiative aims to empower youth and adults of Aboriginal heritage by fostering pride in their culture through therapeutic art and tactile activities. The program will create opportunities for participants to connect with their heritage, build a sense of belonging, and strengthen community ties. We are incredibly grateful to the Happiness Co Foundation for supporting our mission to uplift and celebrate cultural identity. To be delivered in 2025.

7. Variety Foundation – Grant Recipient, \$570

We are thrilled to announce that Yellow Dove Australia has been awarded a \$570 grant from the Variety Foundation to support our Brush and Wash Project. This wellness initiative focuses on promoting strong dental hygiene among Aboriginal students in remote schools, fostering lifelong habits for healthy smiles and overall well-being. The funding will enable us to provide essential dental hygiene resources and engaging educational sessions, empowering students to take charge of their oral health. We are grateful to the Variety Foundation for their support in making this impactful project a reality. To be delivered in 2025.

8. The Scanlon Foundation Annual Community Grants Program – Community Swim Project

We are thrilled to announce that Yellow Dove Australia has been awarded funding through The Scanlon Foundation Annual Community Grants Program. This incredible opportunity will support our Community Swim Project, empowering young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds with essential water safety skills and pathways to employment.

Through this initiative, participants aged 15-25 will learn water safety across various aquatic environments, gain qualifications as swim teachers, and receive support to secure employment in the field. This project embodies our commitment to fostering community inclusion, education, and opportunity. We are deeply grateful to the Scanlon Foundation for believing in our vision and enabling us to make a lasting impact. To be delivered in 2025.



Fundraising and Donor Recognition

At Yellow Dove Australia, our fundraising efforts are driven by a shared vision of creating empowered and connected communities. Over the past year, we have been fortunate to witness a growing network of supporters who have enabled us to deliver impactful programs and initiatives in education, health, and community development. Fundraising plays a crucial role in sustaining our work, allowing us to expand our reach, increase the scope of our projects, and respond to the needs of underserved communities. We deeply appreciate the generosity of our donors and partners, whose contributions are making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

Our fundraising initiatives are as diverse as the communities we support, ranging from community-driven events to corporate partnerships and philanthropic support. These efforts allow us to pool resources and raise awareness about the importance of sustainable development, community well-being, and equitable opportunities for all. In the past year, we have successfully hosted several fundraising campaigns and events, including Bunning BBQs in three different locations and our first anniversary launch event, which raised significant funds to further support our initiatives. These events not only raised vital funds but also helped spread the word about the vision and mission of Yellow Dove Australia.



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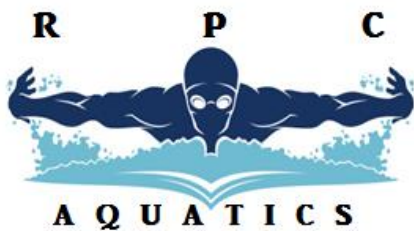
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Volunteer Contributions and Thanks

At Yellow Dove Australia, our volunteers are an integral part of our success and growth. Their dedication, skills, and passion for making a positive impact allow us to deliver transformative programs and services to communities in need. From assisting with local events to providing hands-on support in remote locations, our volunteers contribute their time, energy, and expertise in ways that drive the mission of Yellow Dove Australia forward and enable us as a community to achieve our goals.

Our volunteers have played key roles in a variety of initiatives, including community outreach, educational workshops, health and wellness programs, and fundraising events. For example, during our First Aid and CPR training mission to Timor Leste, our volunteer Laura Gurowski, was instrumental in assisting in delivering life-saving education to 175 Timorese individuals, helping to enhance community safety and build local capacity. Her efforts not only improved the confidence and preparedness of participants but also contributed to strengthening cross-cultural relationships and fostering a sense of solidarity across borders.

Other volunteers, including the Baxter-Reid Family, the Baxter-Winch Family, the Jones Sisters, the Sunshine Coast Grammar Lifesaving Team, and the Johnstons, have played a crucial role in organising and hosting community Bunnings BBQs across various regions of Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. Their efforts have been instrumental in raising funds and fostering community spirit.

As part of our commitment to recognising the efforts of our volunteers, Yellow Dove Australia regularly acknowledges and celebrates their contributions. We make it a priority to thank each volunteer personally, provide certificates of appreciation, and invite them to special events where they can connect with other supporters. We also work to ensure that volunteers gain valuable skills and experiences through their work with us, helping them to grow personally and professionally.

In the coming year, we aim to expand our volunteer network even further, providing more opportunities for people to engage with our mission. We are also looking to offer free first aid and CPR courses to our active and current members of Yellow Dove Australia as a gracious thank you.



In conclusion, the contributions of our volunteers are invaluable to the success of Yellow Dove Australia. They are at the heart of every project we undertake, and their hard work and dedication make a lasting difference in the communities we serve. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the individuals who have volunteered their time, expertise, and energy this year. Without them, our ability to empower communities and create positive change would not be possible. We look forward to continuing to work alongside our volunteers, building a brighter future together.



Looking Ahead

As Yellow Dove Australia continues its mission to empower and uplift communities through education, health, and well-being initiatives, we are excited to announce the following projects, which will further our goal of creating positive, sustainable change.

First 500 Project - Train the Trainer in Timor Leste

Our "First 500 Project" aims to address the critical need for trained first responders in remote and isolated areas of Timor Leste. This initiative will train and employ local staff to deliver First Aid and CPR training to their own communities, ensuring that vital skills are passed on and accessible to those who need it most. By empowering local trainers, we are building sustainable community health infrastructure and fostering a culture of care.

Project Costs: \$40,000 (12 months)

Active Communities Project

The "Active Communities Project" will engage local Timorese people in afternoon sports programs designed to improve both physical health and mental well-being. This initiative will also offer free health checks to close the disparities in healthcare access. By encouraging active participation, we aim to promote lifelong health habits, community unity, and education on the importance of maintaining healthy minds and bodies.

Project Costs: \$30,000 (12 months)

Lifesavers and Leaders

This project focuses on developing the next generation of leaders through a two-day workshop aimed at high school students. Participants will receive emergency response training, CPR, and First Aid certifications, along with one business competency to support their employability. The "Lifesavers and Leaders" program empowers young people with critical life skills, fosters leadership potential, and instils confidence in their ability to make a difference in their communities.

Project Costs: \$37,000 (10 weeks)



Cultural Connection

Yellow Dove Australia's "Cultural Connection" program delivers therapeutic art practices to First Nations youth, fostering a deep connection to their heritage and strengthening bonds between generations. By providing a platform for Elders and youth to share culture and wisdom, this program promotes emotional well-being, cultural pride, and unity within communities.

Project Costs: \$12,000 (6 months) – FUNDED.

Community Swim

Our "Community Swim" project is designed to support migrant and refugee communities by offering swimming lessons, teaching qualifications, and employment opportunities within local pools. This initiative provides individuals with valuable skills, helps bridge gaps in community integration, and creates sustainable employment pathways within aquatic facilities. The project aims to create a more inclusive community by building confidence, skills, and job prospects.

Project Costs: \$27,000 (10 - 15 weeks) – FUNDED.

Annual Fundraising Gala, June 2025

In addition to these impactful projects, we are looking forward to hosting our Annual Fundraising Gala. This event will bring together our supporters, partners, and community members to celebrate the progress we've made and raise vital funds to continue our work. The Gala will feature guest speakers, entertainment, and opportunities for individuals and organisations to contribute to Yellow Dove Australia's initiatives. Funds raised will directly support the sustainability and expansion of our programs, ensuring that we continue to make a lasting impact in the communities we serve.

As we move forward, we remain committed to creating positive, long-lasting change. These projects reflect our continued dedication to empowering communities and fostering sustainable development. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our partners, volunteers, and donors, and we look forward to the impact we can achieve together in the year ahead.



Possible Forecasts

As we look towards the future, Yellow Dove Australia is committed to expanding our reach and impact by introducing new initiatives and scaling existing ones to better serve the communities that need us most. With a focus on sustainability, community empowerment, and long-term transformation, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. The following projects represent key areas of growth for Yellow Dove Australia in the coming year:

The Cool Room: A Social Space for Mental Well-Being

"The Cool Room" is a social and therapeutic space designed to promote mental well-being through safe, structured engagement for individuals with varying needs, particularly in underserved communities. In addition to the sensory and creative art activities we currently offer, The Cool Room will evolve into a hub for peer support, mindfulness sessions, and group activities that foster connection, healing, and community bonding. By providing a safe environment for individuals to share their experiences, manage stress, and improve their mental health, The Cool Room will be integral in supporting the emotional and psychological needs of our most vulnerable groups.

We aim to expand The Cool Room's reach by increasing accessibility through extended operating hours and adding resources that enhance the program's effectiveness. This initiative aligns with Yellow Dove Australia's vision of holistic support, encompassing education, health, and wellness. We foresee The Cool Room becoming a central pillar in our community-driven approach to mental health, offering not only relief and support but also a sense of belonging and hope.

Project Costs: \$150,000 (24+ months)



Sustainability and Future Goals

As Yellow Dove Australia continues to grow, we are focusing on the sustainability of our projects and programs, with a strong emphasis on education as a cornerstone of our initiatives. We understand that lasting change is built upon the foundation of accessible, quality education, and we are committed to expanding educational opportunities as part of our holistic approach to community development. By strengthening our educational programs alongside our work in health, community, and well-being, we aim to create lasting transformation for the individuals and communities we serve.

Through partnerships with local organisations, businesses, and government agencies, we aim to build a self-sustaining model that ensures the continued success of our initiatives. Our educational programs, such as the "First 500 Project" and the "Active Communities Project," are designed to empower individuals with critical skills and knowledge, from emergency response training to sports education, which will serve them well beyond the duration of our involvement. We are also exploring innovative approaches to education that integrate technology, local knowledge, and community-driven solutions.

Our efforts will also focus on diversifying our funding sources, with a commitment to grant writing, community fundraising, and corporate sponsorships. This will ensure that our educational programs are not only accessible but also scalable, reaching even more communities in need.

Looking ahead, we aim to expand our influence both locally and globally, particularly in areas where our educational initiatives have already had a significant impact. Projects like The Cool Room and The Yellow House exemplify our belief in the power of community-centred solutions, but education remains the driving force behind our work. Through these programs, we seek to uplift marginalised groups, reduce disparities, and create a more inclusive society by fostering a culture of lifelong learning and personal growth.

The forecast for Yellow Dove Australia is one of growth, innovation, and resilience. As we enter a new chapter, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead to expand our educational reach and continue to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and communities, together with our partners, donors, and community members.



Conclusion

As we reflect on another year of growth and impact, Yellow Dove Australia stands firmly committed to our mission of empowering marginalised communities through education, health, and well-being initiatives. With a focus on sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity, we have expanded our reach both locally and globally, bringing transformative programs and services to those in need.

Our partnerships, whether with local organisations, businesses, or government agencies, have been instrumental in helping us build a self-sustaining model for the future. The success of projects such as June Connect, Community Development through First Aid and CPR and upcoming projects serves as a testament to the power of collaboration and community-centred solutions.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities that lie before us. The future of Yellow Dove Australia is one of resilience and continued impact, where we will remain steadfast in our commitment to reduce disparities, foster growth, and create a more equitable society. As we expand our educational initiatives and work to diversify our funding sources, we are confident that the positive change we have already witnessed will continue to ripple through communities, empowering individuals to build a brighter future for themselves and for those around them.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, volunteers, and supporters for your unwavering commitment to our cause. WE hope we see you all soon at our 2025 Fundraising Gala in June.

Together, we are shaping a more inclusive, vibrant world—one community at a time.

Ryan Chapman *CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO AUSTRALIA*
Founder & Director, Yellow Dove Australia



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