



ANNUAL REPORT

2025/26

Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre Inc.



Annual Report 2025/26

Our roots are deep. Our future is ours to grow.

WHO WE ARE

Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre began in 1969 as the Community Aid Service, after a local public meeting brought neighbours together to help one another. It started in a single room above a local butcher shop, with volunteers offering hospital transport, home help and emergency relief. In 1989 it became Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre, and in 1995 it moved to Waldron Road, where our head office, Elizabeth Marks House, honours the coordinator who helped shape it.

More than fifty years on, the spirit is the same. We are a place where people in Chester Hill and the wider Bankstown area find care, connection and hope, at every stage of life.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

We work to relieve hardship and support people through difficult times, in collaboration with other agencies. We connect people with the right help when it sits beyond our own services. We champion social justice, access and equity, and we believe every person deserves to make their own choices and shape their own future.

WHERE YOU WILL FIND US

Elizabeth Marks House

89-91 Waldron Road, Chester Hill

Our head office and community hub, home to family support, community programs and our front door for everyday help.

Roundabout Youth Centre

104 Carlingford Road, Sefton

A safe and welcoming space for young people, playgroups and families, managed and supported by our Child, Youth and Family team.

Outside School Hours Care Centre

231 Wellington Road, Chester Hill

Before and After School Care and Vacation Care for children from nine local primary schools.

CHNC Guide Hall

159 Waldron Road, Chester Hill

A community space where older people and local groups come together to connect and take part.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report reflects on a year of transition and renewal. It celebrates what our people and partners achieved together, acknowledges the collaboration that made it possible, and holds us to a culture of learning and continuous improvement as we plan for the year ahead.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and gather, and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

LEADERSHIP

President's Message

It is a great honour to present this President's Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre for the 2025-2026 year.

This past year has been a testament to the incredible work being done at our centre. I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact of our programs, from vital children and youth services to essential family and seniors' support. Our community garden, skills training, and various social activities like garage sales and sewing classes have all played a crucial role in building a stronger, more connected community. The genuine gratitude expressed by those we serve is a powerful reminder of our purpose. One person shared, "I felt so alone, but now I feel so much better because of this community," while another highlighted the practical support they received, such as food and clothing. These stories are a testament to the heart of Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre, which is not just about providing services but about reaching out and helping people build better lives through social connection.

Our core service provision remained robust and steady throughout the year. Notably, our family and youth services successfully transitioned from the NSW Government's Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) program to the new Community and Family Support (CAFS) program, securing continued state investment in early intervention. Furthermore, the Australian Government confirmed the extension of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) as a standalone program through 30 June 2029, offering our senior clients greater stability and certainty. Together, these pivotal funding milestones provide Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre with a solid foundation for strategic forward planning.

Financially, total revenue for the fiscal year reached \$2,358,833. While this represents a decrease from the previous year, primarily reflecting the planned conclusion of our Home Care Packages program, our core funding streams remain well-balanced. Government grants accounted for just over half of our total income, while fee-for-service revenue from our Out of School Hours (OOSH) care and community programs contributed more than a third. In an environment of rising operational expenses, we remain vigilant and firmly committed to diversifying our revenue streams to ensure Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre's long-term financial resilience. Comprehensive details are available in the accompanying audited financial statements.

This year also marked a significant organisational transition. We extend our deep gratitude to Dale for her years of dedicated service and lasting contributions to Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre. As our organisation grows in scope and complexity, the Management Committee resolved to establish the position of Chief Executive Officer to guide Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre through its next chapter of transformation.

In April, we were pleased to welcome Amy Wong as our inaugural CEO. Amy brings extensive leadership experience in community services, with specialised expertise in child and family welfare, alongside proven acumen in strategic management, operational excellence, and systemic advocacy. In her initial months, Amy has engaged thoughtfully with our staff, volunteers, and community stakeholders, laying down a clear vision and strategic roadmap for sustainable growth.

Looking ahead, the Committee will collaborate closely with Amy and the management team to elevate our governance standards, sharpen our operational cadence, and proactively pursue strategic grant and funding opportunities to ensure the long-term vitality of our services.

Sound governance relies on a broad depth of expertise. Over the coming year, the Committee will actively seek to enrich its composition by recruiting new members with specialised expertise across finance, law, community services, and business management. A stronger, more diverse Committee will further enhance our oversight, better serve our community, and strategically position Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre to navigate future opportunities and challenges.

In closing, I express my sincere appreciation to my fellow Committee members for their unwavering dedication and strategic stewardship, as well as to our funders, partners, and community members for their continued trust. Together, Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre stands on strong foundations with a well-defined direction for the future.

David Um

President

Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre



*David Um, President of the
Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre
Management Committee 2025/26*

LEADERSHIP

CEO's Message

Neighbourhood. It is my favourite word in our name. It is not about postcodes. It is about people, relationships and the trust that holds a community together.

I joined Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre as Chief Executive Officer in April, with a deep respect for what makes this organisation special. I came to build on it.

For more than fifty years, Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre has been the place Chester Hill and the wider Bankstown area turn to, in good times and in hard ones. That legacy was built by many hands. Dale, who led Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre for many years, laid the foundations on which we all stand today. Thank you, Dale.

It lives on in our people. In 2025/26, our team walked alongside more than 860 people and supported more than 480 food and emergency relief cases. Behind those numbers are a parent who found help early, a teenager who found a safe place after school, an older neighbour who found friendship over lunch, and a family in crisis who found an open door. This is the work of our staff and volunteers. I thank them, and our Management Committee, for welcoming me so warmly.

It was also a year of change. Our family and youth services transitioned to the NSW Government's new Community and Family Support program, with support for families continuing throughout. With the Commonwealth Home Support Programme confirmed to 2029, our older clients now have greater certainty.

It takes a village to raise a community, and Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre is there at every stage of life, for every background. Our community garden is a rare green sanctuary, where gardeners and neighbours grow fresh produce, share knowledge across cultures and care for the environment together.

To our funders, government agencies, local council, clubs, community organisations, businesses and donors: thank you. You are part of this village, and your support and collaboration make our work possible. Whether Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre leads or works alongside others, every partnership should serve the same purpose: stronger social outcomes and a more connected, cohesive community.

Looking ahead, my priority is to listen to our clients, families, staff and volunteers. The best ideas for our community will come from our community, including our children and young people, who deserve a genuine voice in the programs designed for them. We will continue to explore approaches that strengthen the physical and social wellbeing of every age group, and make our care more consistent and personal. That means building on early support such as speech therapy at our playgroups, creating purposeful programs that lift the engagement and confidence of children and teens, and offering meaningful programs that help our older community stay connected and overcome social isolation.

With universities and vocational colleges, we will develop the next generation of community workers. Together, we will bring greater clarity of purpose to our work, and a reach that touches more lives.

Our roots are deep, and our future is ours to grow.

Amy Wong
Chief Executive Officer
Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre



Amy Wong, Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNANCE

Our Management Committee

Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre is governed by a volunteer Management Committee elected by our members. The Committee provides strategic direction, financial oversight and accountability, working closely with the CEO to ensure Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre remains well governed and true to its purpose.



David Um
President



Charbel Nammour
Vice President



David Crawford
Secretary



Violet Olive
Treasurer



Christy Cabote
Committee Member



Janine Blythe
Committee Member



Amy Wong
Chief Executive Officer

CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Walking alongside families at every stage

Our Child, Youth and Family Services help children, young people and families across Bankstown and surrounding communities build stronger relationships, safer homes and brighter futures. Our team works across two community hubs, our head office in Chester Hill and Roundabout Youth Centre in Sefton, delivering programs across two streams:

- **Community Strengthening:** building inclusion, skills, participation and connection.
- **Wellbeing and Safety:** targeted support for the safety, stability and wellbeing of children, young people and families.

During the year, our NSW Department of Communities and Justice funding transitioned from the Targeted Early Intervention program to the new Community and Family Support program.

2025/26 AT A GLANCE

561 INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS	~70% FROM CALD BACKGROUNDS	90 SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP SESSIONS
104 YOUNG PEOPLE CONNECTED	40+ PARENTS IN PARENTING PROGRAMS	102 IN FAMILY CAPACITY BUILDING

Client figures reflect recorded 2025/26 DEX data.

Who we supported

Most of the people we supported were women and children, particularly mothers and female carers attending playgroups, parenting support and learning activities. Around 45% were born outside Australia, and most families spoke a language other than English at home.

Common needs included housing and rental relief, relationship breakdown, domestic and family violence, and financial hardship. Our team responded with inclusive, trauma-informed and culturally responsive support.

OUR PROGRAMS IN 2025/26

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING	WELLBEING AND SAFETY	COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
• Adult Education and Skills • Work Readiness Program • Learn to Sew • Community Garden Activities • Vicinity Garden Group • Children's Sports Program • Online Cooking Program • Youth Drop-In • Tweens Drop-In & Homework Help • School Holiday Programs • Parent Groups (Arabic and Dari)	• Playgroup with Speech Therapy • Tuning into Kids • Tuning into Teens • Bringing Up Great Kids • Parent and Family Wellbeing • Youth Individualised Support • Family Case Management	• Children's Week Spring Festival • Family Garden & Sustainability Workshops • Women's Water Safety • Women's Wellbeing Program • Youth Excursions • Young Drivers' Safety and Lessons • Roundabout Youth Centre Aboriginal Mural • Joint School Holiday Program

Building community strength

- **Adult education and skills:** community courses with TAFE NSW, including floristry and cake decorating, and a work readiness program with MTC Australia.

- **Learn to Sew:** practical skills such as making reusable bags and aprons, building confidence, creativity, and sustainable habits.
- **Community garden:** gardening and sustainability skills through the Royal Botanic Garden's Community Greening Program, with our Vicinity Garden Group bringing women from diverse backgrounds together to grow food and share cultural knowledge.
- **Active and healthy families:** children's sport, online cooking and tech-free school holiday programs that build teamwork, healthy habits and family time.
- **Youth and Tweens Drop-In:** weekly safe spaces where young people can relax, play, get homework help and connect with trusted adults.
- **Parent groups:** peer support and information for parents and carers, including Arabic and Dari-speaking groups.



Supporting wellbeing and safety

- **Playgroup:** our twice-weekly playgroup remained a vital connection point for local families, with weekly speech therapy sessions, supported by Bankstown Sports Club, giving parents practical strategies for their children's development.
- **Parenting programs:** evidence-based programs including Tuning into Kids, Tuning into Teens and Bringing Up Great Kids, alongside our Parent and Family Wellbeing program.
- **Youth individualised support:** one-to-one support for young people facing challenges with housing, education, employment and family relationships.
- **Family case management:** 102 clients supported to set goals and connect with housing, financial, mental health, domestic and family violence and early intervention services.



A safe place for young people

This year, 104 young people connected with our youth services at Roundabout Youth Centre. Alongside drop-in and one-to-one support, they enjoyed Youth Week, Winter Wonder Fest, bowling, movies, Flip Out and school holiday excursions to Luna Park and Sydney Action Park. Twenty-five young people were supported with driving lessons, a practical step towards independence.



Help when it matters most

When families faced financial hardship or crisis, our door was open. Our team provided practical support, including essential household items, clothing, toiletries and Sydney Water support. Thank you to Woolworths Chester Hill, Dignity, AusRelief, Good360 and GIVIT for helping us support our community when they needed it most.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Canterbury-Bankstown City Council: Children's Week Spring Festival, Family Garden and Sustainability Workshops, Women's Water Safety, youth excursions, the Roundabout Youth Centre Aboriginal Mural and our Joint School Holiday Program.

Bankstown Sports Club: speech therapy at Playgroup, the Women's Wellbeing Program and young drivers' safety and lessons.



Our team

Rana (Coordinator), Monira (Program Officer), Mona and Salam (Caseworkers), and Serene, Nabila and Rouba (Program Assistants). Thank you, too, to our students and volunteers.



CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

In Their Own Words

Behind every program is a family or young person finding their way. Here are a few of their voices.

A FAMILY'S EXPERIENCE AT PLAYGROUP

"Although we have since moved out of the area, we still travel around 30 minutes each way, twice a week, to attend. We continue to come because we genuinely value the environment and the experience the centre provides for our children.

When our son was younger, he wasn't speaking, and we were becoming concerned about his speech. Through the playgroup, we were able to access a speech therapist and identify his speech delay early. He has since made great progress and no longer needs speech therapy.

Both of our children have made their first friendships through the playgroup. They look forward to seeing the other children and enjoy the activities, where they explore, create, play and socialise. The playgroup has been a really positive experience for our children and has also given us support and guidance as parents when we needed it."

Nicole, Playgroup parent



A SAFE PLACE TO BELONG: YOUNG PEOPLE AT ROUNDBOUT YOUTH CENTRE

"It's a safe space for everyone. I just like chilling here after a long day. I enjoy the company and food; it's just my place to hang out, like a second home. They're like my best friends. They're trusted adults for me."

Somia

"It's amazing. I feel so comfortable, and I come whenever I can. The food is my favourite part."

Alyssa

"I love all you guys. You're all wonderful people, and we love hanging out with you all."

Destiny

Looking ahead

We will keep reviewing our services and developing programs that respond to the changing needs of families, building on what works and strengthening our partnerships. Our commitment remains accessible, inclusive and culturally responsive support that helps children, young people and families feel valued and build positive futures.

When families feel supported and young people feel safe, a whole community grows stronger.

CHILDREN SERVICES

Outside School Hours Care

A safe place to play, belong and grow

Every school morning and afternoon, and every school holiday, Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre's Out of School Hours (OOSH) service gives children from across the Bankstown area a place where they are safe, welcome and free to be themselves.

We provide Before and After School Care and Vacation Care for children from nine local primary schools. Our bus service connects eight of those schools to our centre, giving families safe, supervised travel at the end of the school day, wherever their child's school gate is.

Our children reflect the community we serve. They come from many cultures, languages and family backgrounds, and that diversity shapes everything we do. Children see their own backgrounds valued, learn about and celebrate each other's, and build friendships that reach across cultures, ages and schools.



2025/26 AT A GLANCE

191 CHILDREN ENROLLED	12,909 ATTENDANCES	9 PRIMARY SCHOOLS SERVED	8 SCHOOLS ON OUR BUS RUN
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Why OOSH matters

- **Peace of mind for families:** reliable care before and after school and through the holidays, so parents and carers can work, study and plan with confidence.
- **Time to play and try new things:** active play, creative activities, incursions and excursions that build curiosity and confidence.
- **Friendships and social skills:** children learn to share, cooperate and lead, alongside children from other schools and age groups.
- **A trusted place outside school hours:** familiar educators and a consistent routine that help children feel secure.

We thank the Australian Government for its support of our service through the Community Child Care Fund.

Looking ahead

We will keep strengthening our program and practice, investing in our educators' development, and keeping child safety at the centre of everything we do. Our aim is simple: an OOSH environment where every child feels safe, knows they belong, and can't wait to come back tomorrow.

Growing Together

Families are our partners in every child's care. Here, in their own words, three families share what OOSH means to them.

"My daughter Samantha really enjoys after school care, and I'm grateful for the care and support she receives. The team has been wonderful in understanding her needs and keeping me updated on how she's going. It gives me peace of mind knowing she is in a caring, supportive place where she feels comfortable and happy."

Xuan, parent of Samantha



"My son Vincent really loves the centre and always looks forward to being there. The educators are kind and gentle with the children, and they make him feel comfortable, supported and happy. Thank you to the whole team for creating such a warm, caring and positive environment."

Rita, parent of Vincent



"Jana has been coming for three years, and her younger sister Danya is in her first year. Both girls feel safe, comfortable and supported, and they come home excited after every vacation care incursion and excursion. The team is caring, approachable and always willing to listen."

Rasha, parent of Jana and Danya



Our team

Ofa (OOSH Centre Director), Raj and Melissa (OOSH Responsible Person/Educator), Faride (Educator) and Sabrina (Educator).



Play is how children learn. Belonging is how they thrive.

AGED CARE SERVICES

Independent, active and connected

At Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre, our Aged Care Program supports older people to remain independent, active and connected within their community.

Through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), we provide practical assistance and social opportunities that respond to the individual needs, interests and choices of the people we support, from shopping assistance and medical transport to individual social support, community outings, Social Lunches and social groups.

Over the past year, our program has continued to grow, adapt and respond to the needs of our community. From supporting clients with the practical things that keep them independent at home, to creating opportunities to get out, socialise and meet others, every part of our program helps keep older people engaged and connected.

2025/26 was a year of continued connection, support and activity. Our Aged Care Program remained a place where older people could access support, build friendships and feel part of something bigger.

2025/26 AT A GLANCE

7,313

CHSP HOURS DELIVERED

115

OLDER PEOPLE SUPPORTED

SERVICES PROVIDED

Shopping Assistance

Medical Transport

Accompanied Outings

Social Lunches

Social Support

Social Calls



Accompanied outing to Clontarf



Social Lunch



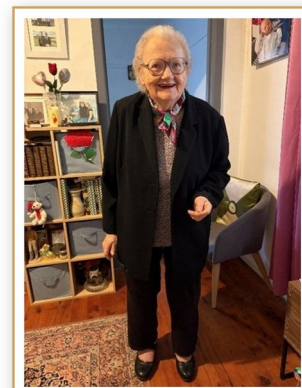
Outing to Western Sydney International Airport

More than a service: stories of connection

“It feels like coming home! When I hear the bus arrive, my heart starts beating and I am alive.”

For Barbara, Social Lunches are more than a day out. What began with Social Lunches and community outings has grown into a place where she feels welcomed, connected and truly herself. She looks forward to the familiar faces, the smell of food from the kitchen and the chance to sit, talk and share stories. “The outings are my life,” she says.

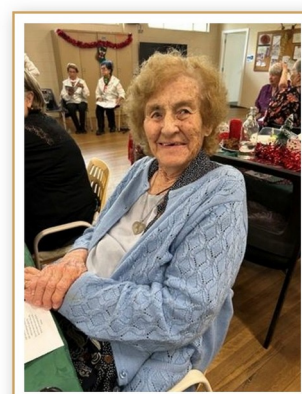
Barbara, Social Support client



“The highlight of Mum’s week and the light in her life.”

That is how Denise describes her mother Mildred’s Wednesday Social Lunch. After losing her husband and several close friends, Mildred first came every second week while she got to know the group. With the warmth and encouragement of our staff and volunteers, she formed friendships and began looking forward to every Wednesday, finding laughter, companionship and a renewed sense of belonging.

Mildred, CHSP client



What began with an exercise class grew into a friendship that has lasted 16 years.

June first joined our CHSP program with her husband and began attending the exercise class. When Marj and Anne later joined, the three women quickly became close friends. Sixteen years on, they are still friends and still coming to Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre together, a reminder that the impact of social support reaches far beyond a service.

June, Marj and Anne, CHSP clients



Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS)

2025/26 also marked the conclusion of Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre’s Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme, following the end of Commonwealth funding on 30 June 2026. While it was a difficult transition for the older people and volunteers who had built meaningful friendships through the program, our team worked alongside the community to help those friendships continue wherever possible.

62

RECIPIENTS TRANSITIONED

13

VOLUNTEERS TRANSITIONED

9

FRIENDSHIPS CONTINUED

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the ACVVS volunteers, partner organisations and community members who supported the program over the years. Their time, commitment and collaboration

created meaningful connections for older people in our community and made a lasting contribution to the success of ACVVS.



The people behind the program

Behind every service is a team of people who make connection, support and community possible. Our Aged Care team works together with our dedicated volunteers to run the program. From volunteers who have been part of Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre for more than 16 years to those who joined just six months ago, each brings their own time, energy, skills and companionship, creating meaningful experiences and strengthening the sense of belonging at the heart of our program.



Our team: Anusha (Aged Care Team Leader), Laila (Social Support Worker), Ma (Support Worker), Thong (Community Worker) and Sophie (Program Assistant).

Our volunteers: Yolla, Ray, Beverley, Joanne, Thi Yen, Thi Cuc, Mary, Janine, Hung, Phung and Muoi.



Looking ahead

As we look to the year ahead, our focus remains on providing meaningful, person-centred support that helps older people stay independent, connected and active in their community.



CHSP CONTINUES THROUGH TO 2029

The recent announcement that the Commonwealth Home Support Programme will continue as a standalone program through to 30 June 2029 provides greater certainty for our program, our clients and the wider community. The Australian Government has confirmed that CHSP will remain separate from the Support at Home program while consultation continues on its longer-term future. For Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre Aged Care, this is an opportunity to keep building on what works while responding to the changing needs of the people we support.

OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

PERSON-CENTRED	Continue providing support that responds to individual needs, interests and choices.
CONNECTION	Create opportunities for friendship, participation and belonging.
OUR PEOPLE	Continue supporting our staff, volunteers and students.
COMMUNITY	Strengthen relationships with clients, volunteers and community partners.
ADAPTING	Stay responsive to changes in the aged care landscape and the needs of our community.



While the aged care landscape continues to evolve, our purpose remains the same: supporting older people to live independently, stay connected and feel a valued part of their community.

CORPORATE SERVICES

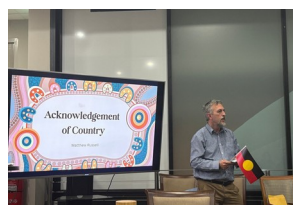
The foundation behind every service

Every program at Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre relies on the work that happens behind the scenes. Our corporate and frontline services keep the organisation running every day, making sure good governance, best practice and staff development are in place so our program teams can focus on the people they serve.

Our people, our foundation

Our people are the foundation of everything we do. Our team brings together a rich mix of cultures, backgrounds and qualifications, spanning early childhood education, social work, psychology, community development, child and adolescent wellbeing, and education and training. Between them, they speak many of the languages of our community, including Arabic, Vietnamese, Dari, Urdu, Hindi, Cantonese, Mandarin and Croatian.

Our staff work in close partnership with volunteers and students on placement, who contribute their time, local knowledge and skills across our programs. This collaboration also helps develop the next generation of community sector workers. Across every role, our team shares a commitment to respectful, inclusive and person-centred service for people of all ages and backgrounds.



EVERYDAY SUPPORT AT OUR FRONT DOOR

Fresh bread is donated daily by Woolworths Chester Hill and shared with community members in need. We sincerely thank the Woolworths Chester Hill team for their generous, ongoing support. Our team also coordinates emergency relief for people facing financial hardship, with more than 480 cases supported this year, as well as weekly employment services and periodic Tax Help sessions.

WHAT OUR CORPORATE SERVICES DO

ADMINISTRATION

Our front door and daily operations

- Reception and community enquiries
- Records management and reporting
- Facilities, room bookings and site safety
- Office systems and communications

FINANCE

Sound stewardship of every dollar

- Budgeting and financial planning
- Grant management and acquittals
- Accounts, payments and reconciliations
- Annual audit and financial reporting

HR AND PAYROLL

Supporting the people who support our community

- Recruitment and onboarding
- Accurate payroll and award compliance
- Staff training and professional development
- Working with Children Checks and staff screening

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Voluntary governance and oversight

- Strategic direction and oversight
- Financial stewardship and risk management
- Policy, compliance and legal obligations
- Support for, and accountability of, the CEO

Our corporate services are guided by a culture of continuous improvement, strong governance and accountability. We regularly review and improve our processes, policies and practices to meet our

regulatory and compliance obligations, manage risk responsibly and create a safe, welcoming environment for our staff and community members.

Caring people, trusted services, a connected community.

COMMUNITY SALES

Pre-loved, well-loved

Once a month, our garage sale turns the centre into a bustling community marketplace, and every week our clothing sale opens its doors to anyone looking for a bargain.

Behind the scenes, our volunteers collect donations from homes across Bankstown and surrounding areas, then sort, price and display every item with care. People come from near and far to find something they love at a price they can afford.

Every item that finds a new home is one less item in landfill, making our sales a simple, everyday way to promote recycling and reuse. Clothing that does not sell locally still finds a second life: we regularly donate it to One Ten Enterprise, which sends pre-loved clothing to countries where it is in demand. Over time, the sales have also become a regular meeting place where neighbours catch up, regulars become friends and new faces are welcomed in.

60+

SALES HELD IN 2025/26

\$47,723

IN COMMUNITY SALES TO SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS

Why it matters

- **Affordable for everyone:** quality pre-loved goods at prices that ease the pressure on household budgets.
- **Good for the planet:** reuse and recycling keep usable goods out of landfill.
- **Connection, every week:** a familiar, welcoming place where people meet regularly and look out for each other.
- **Community giving back:** donations from local households are passed on to others in the community.
- **Supporting our programs:** funds raised through our sales help support Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre's community programs.

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers Janine, Jack, Steve, Tony, Hung, Lyn, Leanne, Bernice, Mary and Barbara for their dedication to our sales, and to the many community members who generously donate goods throughout the year.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

More than a garden

Our community garden is a green sanctuary in the heart of Chester Hill: a place to grow, learn, share and slow down. It is home to gardeners from many cultures, a classroom for children and a quiet space for anyone who needs one.



26

GARDEN PLOTS

2

COMMUNITY PLOTS FOR OUR WOMEN'S GROUP AND
HOMESCHOOL CHILDREN

Why a community garden matters

- **Fresh, healthy food:** gardeners grow and share their own produce.
- **Wellbeing:** time outdoors, gentle exercise and a calm space to unwind.
- **Learning:** practical skills in gardening, sustainability and caring for the environment.
- **Cultural exchange:** gardeners share seeds, recipes and knowledge from their home cultures.
- **Connection:** friendships form across ages and backgrounds, easing isolation.



A mosaic that brings the garden to life

In May 2026, in collaboration with Canterbury-Bankstown Council, headspace and members of the local Aboriginal community, an Aboriginal mosaic artwork was added to our garden. The ideas of children, young people and students shaped its design, and their creativity brought it to life: a lasting celebration of culture, Country and the many hands that care for this space.



Cared for by community

For years, our volunteer Community Garden Management Committee has maintained and cared for the garden, keeping it thriving for everyone who uses it. Working in partnership with the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, we also host workshops that promote environmental education and sustainable living across our community.



Thank you to our Community Garden Management Committee volunteers, Richard, Evelyn, Selma, Masuda and Hilda, for their years of care, dedication and hard work in keeping our garden growing.

We also thank **Canterbury-Bankstown Council** for its annual funding, which keeps our garden thriving and supports our ongoing sustainability efforts.

A shared space where cultures meet, green thumbs flourish and sustainability takes root.

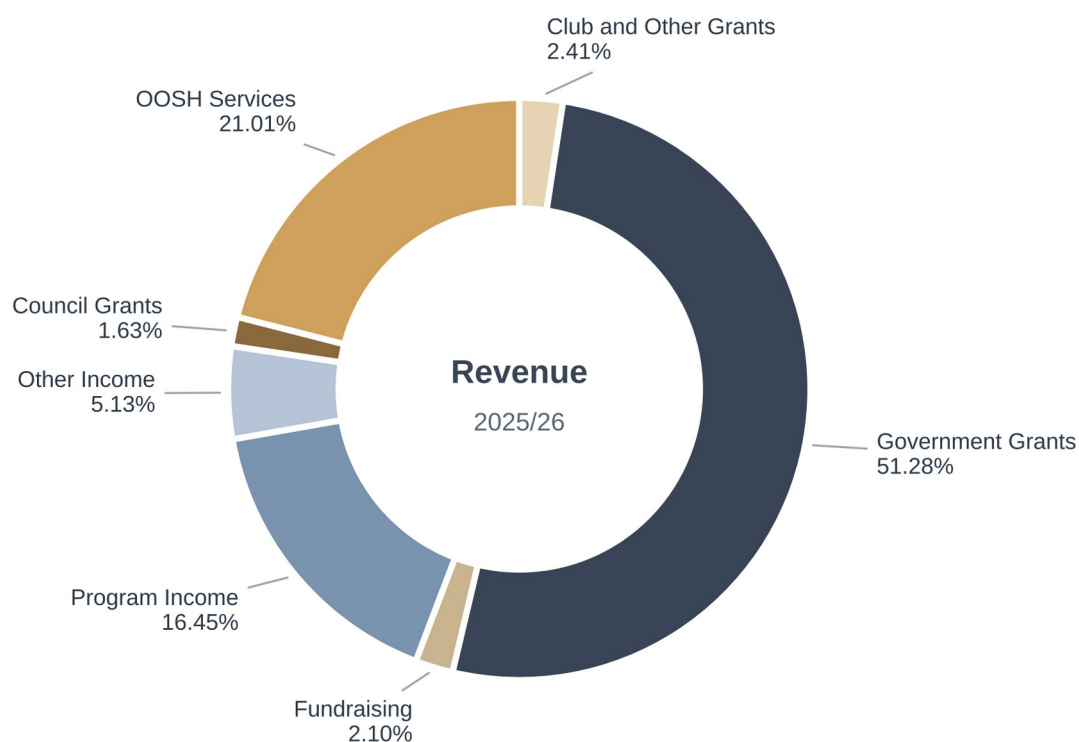
GOVERNANCE AND REVENUE

Where our funding comes from

In 2025/26, government grants provided just over half of Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre's revenue, supporting our family, youth and aged care services. Fees from our Out of School Hours service and program income contributed a further 37.5%, while the remaining 11.3% came from other income, club and council grants, and fundraising.

This mix reflects both the importance of our government partnerships and the strength of our self-generated income. We will continue to explore ways to diversify our revenue and strengthen Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre's long-term sustainability.

2025/26 AT A GLANCE



REVENUE BY SOURCE

● Government Grants	51.28%	● Club and Other Grants	2.41%
● OOSH Services	21.01%	● Fundraising	2.10%
● Program Income	16.45%	● Council Grants	1.63%
● Other Income	5.13%		

Percentages of total revenue for the year ended 30 June 2026. Figures are rounded and may not total exactly 100%. Full details are provided in the audited financial statements.

OUR COMMUNITY

Moments from our year

A glimpse of the people, places and moments that made 2025/26 so special.



OUR COMMUNITY

More moments together



THANK YOU

Our funders and partners

Our work is only possible because of the funders, partners and local organisations who stand alongside us. Thank you for your trust, your generosity and your shared commitment to our community.

FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS





THANK YOU

To our members, clients, families, volunteers, staff, funders and partners, thank you for being part of our community in 2025/26.

CONTACT US

Chester Hill Neighbourhood Centre Inc.

Elizabeth Marks House, 89-91 Waldron Road, Chester Hill NSW 2162

PO Box 446, Chester Hill NSW 2162

Phone (02) 9645 3700

Email administration@chnc.org.au

Web www.chnc.org.au

ABN 62 023 599 895