

IGFF

Sexual Abuse Prevention



# Annual Report 2024



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## Collaborate, Educate & Commemorate

*Each year presents its own distinct challenges. At IGFF, our collaborative efforts with a diverse group of stakeholders enable us to foster a better future and cultivate a safer community.*

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# Directors' Report



**2024 has been a year of strategic evolution and diversification for IGFF, with the organisation successfully delivering new service areas and continuing to create diverse streams of revenue.**

Our team participated in extensive organisation-wide strategic planning sessions to create a road map of growth and organisational sustainability, as we move into the years ahead and look beyond the completion of the National Redress Scheme.

Our Trauma-Informed Legal Education program has been successfully delivered to law firms across Victoria and the Supreme Court's Funds in Court branch. The program has been designed to equip legal practitioners working with Survivors pursuing justice in a trauma-informed way, minimising potential harm and maximising understanding of the complexities Survivors may face while interacting with the judicial process. This program has also been adapted so it can be delivered beyond legal practitioners and assist other workplace professionals working with Survivors and assist in minimising any vicarious trauma that may occur when encountering disclosures of abuse.

IGFF has also continued to cultivate new partnerships and initiatives that ensures that the Survivors of Institutional Abuse and Sexual Assault are being publicly supported and their journeys acknowledged.

The second National Day of Recognition for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Institutional Abuse was another great success. National Survivors' Day events were hosted by the Governors of South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria and the Chief Administrator of the Northern Territory, as well as events held at the Parliaments of Tasmania and Victoria.

The Day also received considerable national media coverage and political support from politicians across jurisdictions and ideologies.

The Board acknowledges the tireless work of our Ambassadors, National Advisory Committee and IGFF staff that continue to grow the influence and impact of this important day for Survivors, and we look forward to watching the National Day continue to make a meaningful contribution to the fabric of Australia in the years to come. IGFF continues to work in partnership with international charity, The Oak Foundation, to oversee the creation of a National Sports Safety standard for elite and grassroots sports in Australia. Our established Sports Advisory Committee has produced a comprehensive report outlining the challenges sporting bodies face in keeping athletes safe in sport and provides a series of recommendations and strategies to prevent abuse from occurring in a sporting environment. The Board would like to thank the members of the Sports Advisory Committee, acknowledge their efforts in producing this report and their commitment to improving sport safety standards.

Finally, the Board wishes to acknowledge the incredible efforts and commitment of all our staff at IGFF. As a Board we will continue to oversee and assist the growth and direction of IGFF as an organisation and work to ensuring our continued success in 2025.

Richard Jabara  
Chair

Darryl McFarland  
Deputy Chair

*"It is this path that helps us achieve that oft articulated goal of Survivors – that the abuse they suffered, the betrayal and this long hard fight for recognition need not be the journey of others in the future."*

- Clare Leaney, CEO, IGFF (14 Nov 2023)  
Speech at National Survivors' Day morning tea hosted by Her Excellency, Professor Gardner, Governor of Victoria

3,443

Support Sessions offered

11

Community Awareness Raising Events

5

Special Project Advisory Committees convened



# CEO's Report



**Every year offers us the opportunity to reflect on the journey we have undertaken to date and the path we wish to tread in the years to come.**

Underpinning a very successful 2023–24 was a concerted effort by IGFF to leverage our platform as one of the foremost advocacy bodies to enhance our national profile and celebrate the collective potential we all have to effect change.

We simultaneously reached the halfway point of the National Redress Scheme, commemorated 10 years since the announcement of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and the launch of Betrayal of Trust Report and acknowledged five years since the delivery of a national apology to those impacted by institutional child abuse.

It is impossible to overstate the significance of each of the events but combined they have enacted a seismic change in the landscape traversed by our cohort.

That such significant milestones have already been achieved may lend itself to the false comfort of mission accomplished.

Instead IGFF and the Survivor community more broadly have used this to galvanize our public facing advocacy, acting as a source of changemaking for the benefit of all. Taking #every voice and every conversation on a national tour was a feature of National Survivors' Day for 2023 and saw a series of events hosted across Australia, bringing together Survivors and stakeholders in an ambitious bid to reform our adversarial dialogue, instead creating a space in which the voices of lived experience guide child protection and harm prevention measures.

Change of the scale we seek to achieve is not an isolated incident, nor carried by a lone individual – it is the collective effort of many voices pulled together over many years and decades with a shared vision for improving society.

Whilst accomplishing our mission may still be someway off, it is scaffolded by the bravery, fortitude and resilience of a community determined that their trauma not be repeated and by skilled professionals whose dedication and commitment ensures we each play a part in building a safe, kinder and supportive Australia for future generations.

Clare Leaney  
CEO





Throughout October and November 2023 , a quorum of Governor's , Administrators, and State Parliaments around Australia hosted commemorative Morning Tea's in recognition of National Survivors' Day. Bringing together Survivors and their families, organisations, Government representatives and a host of other stakeholders, this marked the second anniversary of the day and has provided a vital platform for building future engagement.



# Survivor Services



**"Be the Change that you wish to see in the World" serves as an inspiring call to action that empowers us to take control of our lives and become agents of positive change (Mahatma Ghandi).**

As much as humanly possible, IGFF Survivor Services staff 'show up' every day, smiling and ready to take another incoming call, resource an email query, meet with clients where they feel comfortable, actively listen to stories of challenge and loss, and problem solve with clients about their goals and next steps to be made with informed choice.

What appears to be out of reach is our core work – meaningful recognition of harms done; compensatory options now available through legislative change in fields of civil litigation; recent initiatives by State and Federal Schemes providing Redress and Reparations for historical harms inflicted upon our most vulnerable; The Stolen Generations of First Nations; Mothers suffering Forced Adoptions; Survivors of Institutional childhood sexual abuse; and Forgotten Australians who experienced abuse and neglect during childhood instead of safety and care.

Where the scales are tipped toward isolation and disadvantage from lifelong impacts, IGFF's Survivor Services are provided by compassionate and determined Casework staff. We have been working together as a team for over five years toward sexual abuse prevention, recognition of the diverse needs of Survivors and access to best practice trauma care options. Every comment, every smile, every action is a seed that we sow in the fertile soil of our lives.

We recognise that specialist support and up to date information helps clients feel more empowered to explore their Rights. This resourcing is facilitated from the long-term experience of IGFF's Casework staff; support to access independent legal advice; community education and outreach

workshops. In 2023 to 2024, our Team facilitated a Steering Committee of seven Victorian Redress Support Services providing interactive workshops for community workers and groups in the regional centres of Bendigo, Warrnambool and Traralgon.

IGFF's Survivor Services and Casework staff continue to lead community development and advisory programs such as The Xavier College Past Harms and Safer Futures Committee. We provide trauma care training and ongoing support to staff and Survivors from Victorian school communities including The Geelong College and Wesley College with incoming requests for next year.

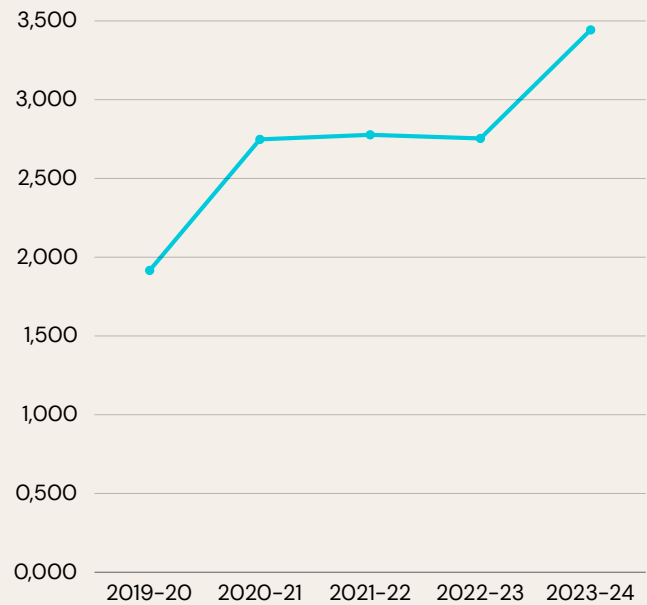
Debby Boone's quote, "Dreams are the seeds of change. Nothing ever grows without a seed, and nothing ever changes without a dream", inspires us to invest in the practical efforts of groundwork for evolution. We are being the Change we want to see.

Rachel Last  
Executive Manager of Survivor Services

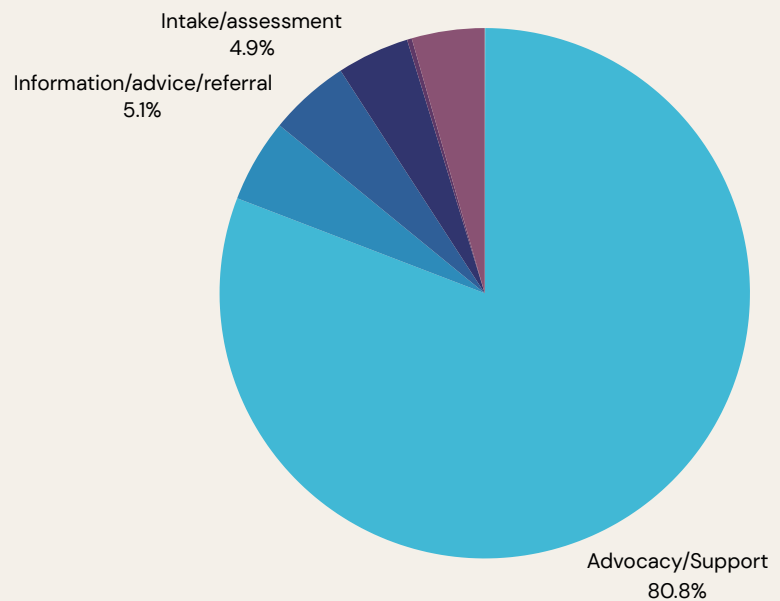


# 2023-24 KEY STATISTICS

## Growth in Client Services



Number of Casework sessions (<1000 – 2900+) provided to national clients from June 30 2019 to June 30 2024.



Number of Casework sessions by service type provided to national clients from June 30 2023 to June 30 2024.

# Governance and Grants



**Good governance is underpinned by sound strategic planning and operational mapping that ensures IGFF experiences sustainable growth.**

IGFF continued to work closely with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services throughout the year, ensuring that the experiences and interests of Survivors remain front of mind in the setting of policy. IGFF and DSS were also able, in an environment where government expenditure is highly constrained, to lock in grant funding for 2024-25 to 2026-27, to ensure that IGFF could continue to deliver casework and advocacy support for Survivors engaging with the National Redress Scheme as a path to redress and recovery.

IGFF also continued to work closely with the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, which provided significant grant funding contributing to IGFF's support for the substantial numbers of Victorian Survivors progressing their redress through civil litigation pathways or the criminal prosecution of those responsible for the abuse they suffered. IGFF and DFFH were also come to an agreement whereby IGFF will provide specialist advocacy and support for Survivors after they have accepted a redress offer under the National Redress Scheme. This ongoing support under the Victorian Government's National Redress Counselling and Psychological Care service will ensure that IGFF will be able to continue to Survivors who would otherwise risk 'falling through the cracks' as they deal with the long-term consequences of their abuse.

IGFF continued to build on its strong relationship with Oak Foundation, a large international charitable foundation that provides grants across the world promoting social justice and supporting vulnerable people to understand and pursue their rights. With Oak's valued support, IGFF has been delivering a project working with (and supporting) Survivors of abuse in elite sport to drive change towards more trauma-informed responses to disclosures in sporting organisations. IGFF and Oak are exploring how this work can be built on to drive broader, faster and more enduring change.

Stemming from highly successful strategic planning workshops involving all of IGFF's staff and our Board, 2023-24 also saw IGFF embark on a thorough and wide-ranging review of our identity, the nature of our business going forward, and what IGFF will need to do to continue to thrive into the future. This is especially important in the context of the prospect of the Commonwealth National Redress Scheme finishing in 2028.

Phil Lindenmayer  
Head of Governance and Grants  
Company Secretary



# Community Feedback

## VSC Feedback

4.7

Attendees reported an overwhelmingly positive experience of the VSC ranking their participation in meetings as 4.7 out of 5

100%

100% of attendees would recommend the VSC to a friend

## TILE Program Feedback

*Fantastic training session that had very practical tips on acting for client's with trauma - anonymous training participant 2023*

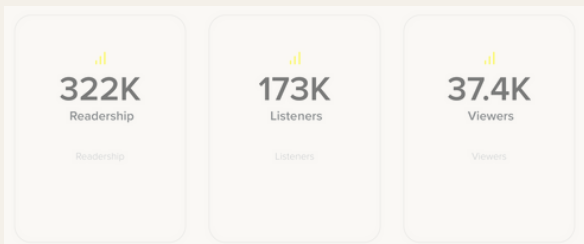
# National Survivors' Day



Every Ribbon, Every Conversation, and #EveryVoice counts.

The Day of Recognition for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Institutional Abuse was established in 2022 by IGFF and LOUD fence to acknowledge the strength and courage of Survivors and their supporters and is held annually on the second Tuesday of November. The second annual National Survivors' Day was an immense success and built upon the significant success achieved in 2022.

The Day received exceptional media coverage and significant political support in 2023.



Ambassadors were prevalent in national media with televised interviews on major networks and radio, providing interviews outlining their experiences and drawing attention to the importance of the Day.

In 2023 National Survivors' Day events were hosted by the Governors of South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria and the Chief Administrator of the Northern Territory. It was an honour to receive this support, and we thank the respective Governors and the Chief Administrator for their generous support and hospitality. The events were well attended by the Survivor community, and we acknowledge the superb efforts of our Ambassadors that spoke and represented on the day.

IGFF also thanks and acknowledges the Parliaments of Victoria and Tasmania for hosting parliamentary events and providing representatives with the opportunity to speak

directly with lawmakers of all political persuasions, to outline the experiences and challenges Survivors face. We also acknowledge Prime Minister Albanese for recognising the Day in Federal Parliament, Victorian Shadow Treasurer, Brad Roswell MP for discussing the day in the Victorian Parliament, the leadership team of the Australian Greens for publishing an important video recognising the importance of Day and survivors and the countless politicians at both the state and federal level for using their social media to publicise the Day and demonstrate their support.

\*The comprehensive National Survivors' Day report and media coverage can be found here:

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IGFF has been working tirelessly in 2024 to build upon the success of the National Survivors' Day and to continue the important work and mission of the Day for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Institutional Abuse here in Australia.

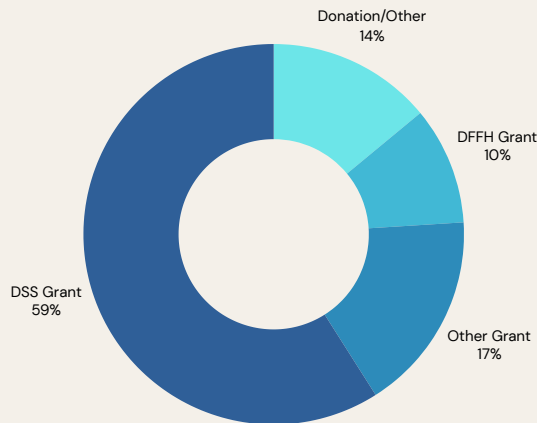
Joe Stroud  
Chief Operations Officer

Megan Bridger-Darling  
Project Coordinator

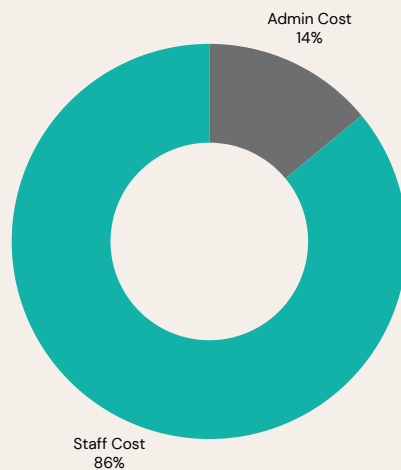
# Finances

## Revenue Breakdown

This financial year saw a successful diversification of revenue activities into areas other than grants. Staff wages and on-costs constituted 86% of the total IGFF expense thereby ploughing back bulk of the revenue into providing services.



The administration expenses were kept to the minimum despite higher costs due to inflation. The Board, Senior Leadership team and Staff at IGFF remain fully committed to working hard, creatively and innovatively to continue to raise revenue/funds into the future to maintain and grow IGFF's activities.



Srini Vasam  
Chief Financial Officer



## Funding Providers



Department of  
Social Services

Department of  
Families, Fairness  
and Housing

The Oak  
Foundation

Our Generous  
Donors





## *Acknowledgements*

Thank you to our generous donors for supporting our work and our people who help IGFF achieve its vision of a better future for those impacted by institutional abuse.

**IGFF**  
Sexual Abuse Prevention

