



MOVEMENT OF HOPE

Annual Report
2025

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“
PREPARING
 young lives now
 so they won't need
REPAIRING
LATER
 ”

HIGHLIGHTS



of teachers say that the Kids Hope program has had a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the mentored child this year.



of teachers say that they would recommend the Kids Hope program for other students.



of teachers say that the Kids Hope program is easily implemented into the school setting.





What can you do to make a difference?

CHAIR'S REPORT

As we look back on 2025 through the lens of Kids Hope in Australia we see signs of hope amidst increasing signs of opportunity and also need. The world is clearly changing and with that change we are all experiencing instability and for many families increasing pressure or stress.

The sounds and images of global conflicts reach our lounge rooms almost every night, and the economic challenges daily weigh on so many families to put food on the table and find shelter at night. Digital technology (with AI) continues to change the way we discover knowledge, find entertainment, socialise, serve, buy and make decisions with greater speed requiring learning at fast pace.

Kids Hope and our army of mentors are not sheltered from these realities but we can be and aim to be beacons of hope. The central focus of our purpose as a registered charity is to equip and support mentors from local churches to offer love and hope to vulnerable children in schools through a listening ear and encouragement to live and learn with confidence. Its amazing but true that one mentor – one child – one hour at school each week can and does make a life changing difference.

Post-covid the anxiety and stress of children facing vulnerability in schools is more widespread and the need for more help is now more acute. One principal described this as a "Tsunami of Need". And families and government have also more pressures and less finances available for charities. For Kids Hope this has accelerated a season of change to find and support more mentors with greater efficiency and sustained effectiveness.

Our CEO Simon Warrick and the team are implementing The Kids Hope Village and online training initiatives with Board support to establish a more flexible, efficient and collaborative approach to mentoring. The vision of this new model enables multiple churches to support a single school, allows a church to serve multiple schools empowering more mentors to serve children. 'Buddy churches' can partner to share mentors and resources, multiplying local impact. The Kids Hope Village including online training aims to simplify implementation while expanding the mentor base to serve more children.

This year we welcomed Paul Chen as Chief Operating Officer (COO) to guide and assist the team to make these important changes.

We are very grateful for the generous support of our Board members and of Lisa McInnis-Smith for her advocacy, and from Patrons Marilyn Leermakers on the Sunshine Coast and Rev Tim Costello in public events around Australia. And generous support from donors and philanthropic foundations is so strategic and necessary for this work to continue.

After 8 years as Chair of Kids Hope I am stepping down and pleased to advise that Professor Patrick Parkinson is taking on the role of Chair effective Jan 1 2026. Patrick has served the Kids Hope Board with grace and wisdom for 6 years and is a recognised and experienced advocate for child health and safety in Australia.

We also express our deep gratitude for the very effective service provided by Belinda Loke to Kids Hope as a Board member for 6 years. Belinda is retiring as a Director at our AGM in December. Allan Menagh was recently welcomed as a new Board member after serving as Treasurer for 2 years. Catherine Korn continues as Director and Board Secretary and we will be adding new Directors next year. Thank you to such a generous and dedicated team of Directors who serve diligently and provide effective governance to the work of Kids Hope Aus.

In these seasons of change we express again the importance and priority of serving as mentors and volunteers to change the lives of vulnerable children by bringing lasting hope. You too are vital to Kids Hope and I encourage you to contact our team to discover more.

John Allison
Chair

BEACONS OF HOPE

CEO'S REPORT

The Kids Hope Village is more than a strategy, it is a movement. Grounded in the belief that it takes a village to raise a child, we are uniting mentors, churches, schools and supporters across the nation to stand with children facing vulnerability. Together, we are building something sustainable, scalable, and designed to create lasting impact for generations.

2025 was all about setting new foundations. Although Kids Hope was in its 21st year, there was (and still is) a lot of work to truly set up and launch the Kids Hope Village, founded on a true belief that it takes a village to serve and support kids facing vulnerability.

Following a year marked by considerable change, challenge, and illness across our staff team, we concluded 2025 stronger than ever. The team is now deeply aligned around the shared vision of building the Kids Hope Village, a national movement of people coming together to serve and support children. I would like to acknowledge Tim, Caz, Amrita, Felicity, and Paulina, each of whom demonstrated resilience, commitment, and passion throughout the year.

In the second half of the year, Paul Chen joined Kids Hope as Chief Operating Officer, an addition for which I am deeply grateful. In a relatively short time, Paul has made a significant impact, strengthening our systems and processes, policies and procedures, and, importantly, providing strong leadership and support to the team alongside me.

I would also like to acknowledge our Board, John Allison, Patrick Parkinson, Belinda Loke, Catherine Korn, and Allan Menagh (ex officio Treasurer). Each has served diligently through a year that included notable

challenges, and I am sincerely thankful for their wisdom, generosity, and commitment.

Looking ahead, the Kids Hope Village has positioned us well for growth. It has enabled us to plan for team expansion. We are positioned to engage more churches, partner with more schools, and ultimately support more children facing vulnerability, a number that continues to grow at an exponential rate.

While it is easy to focus on large numbers, every number represents a person. Mentors like Tom remind us why this work matters. After building trust with his mentor child, Tom now describes their relationship as reciprocal, saying he "inspires me." It is remarkable what happens within us when we are willing to invest in another.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Kids Hope Village throughout 2025, our mentors, coordinators, pastors, donors, teachers, principals, chaplains, staff, board members and everyone else who has contributed so meaningfully. You are the Kids Hope Village, and together we are making a lasting difference.

I'm very much looking forward to building on the foundation created.

Simon Warrick
Chief Executive Officer

IT TAKES A VILLAGE



Creating lasting impact
for generations.



Our vision: a mentor for every Aussie kid who needs it

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

OPERATIONS REPORT

It's a real privilege to have joined Kids Hope Australia this year. Coming in, I was struck by the team's dedication and the simple, powerful difference one hour a week makes in a child's life. I'm building on a very strong foundation, and my goal is to help this incredible work reach even more children who need it across Australia.

This past year has been what our Chair rightly called a "season of change". We've all heard the stories from schools about the "Tsunami of Need" children are facing. This was reflected in the long list of schools waiting for our program last year. The central question for my team and me became very clear: how do we help our amazing army of mentors bring hope to more children?

A New Way to Connect: The Kids Hope Village

Our answer is **The Kids Hope Village**. This vision for a more flexible, collaborative way of working is exactly why our team undertook the major systems update that began last year.

Specifically, The Kids Hope Village helps us:

- **Link multiple churches to one school.** This is perfect for schools with many children waiting for a mentor.
- **Bring churches together.** We can now help churches in a local area to team up, share their mentors and resources to make a bigger difference together.
- **Make things simpler.** By putting our training online and smoothing out our processes, it's now easier for churches and mentors to get started and feel supported. This frees them up to focus on the children.

This new approach is our direct operational response to the growing need. It gives us a solid footing to grow sustainably and welcome more people into the Kids Hope family.

The Difference We're Seeing

Even while managing all this change, our focus has remained on the children. This year, we were able to support 985 children through 1100 total volunteers across the country.

Our annual evaluation once again confirms the power of this simple idea. The data from our mentor and teacher evaluation is incredibly encouraging. We are seeing trends that mirror the fantastic results of last year, including:

- **93.13% of teachers believe the Kids Hope**

program has had a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the mentored student this year.

- **100% of teachers would recommend the Kids Hope program for other students, and 99.01% reporting it is easily implemented in their school.**
- **96.95% of mentors felt that they have benefited from being a mentor.**

These numbers show that the model works. But the stories really bring it to life. As one teacher has quoted: "For my student it is an opportunity to be valued and seen and to have someone special. She counts the minutes till her mentor arrives and its very motivating. Although I don't think it can change the many challenges this child faces or improve outcomes, it is so so so [sic] vital to her!"

What's Next?

My main job in the coming year is to help the whole Kids Hope community get comfortable with these new tools and ways of working. Our priorities are simple and clear:

1. **Fully roll out The Kids Hope Village.** We want to make sure all our coordinators and partners feel confident and supported using the new platform.
2. **Find more mentors.** We will use our new, more flexible approach to actively recruit more mentors and 'buddy churches', with a clear goal of reducing the school waiting list.
3. **Keep listening and improving.** We'll use the feedback we get to keep making our processes and support better for everyone involved.

The need out there is great, but so is our determination. With these new operational tools in place, we are in a better position than ever to chase our CEO's vision of a Kids Hope mentor for "every Aussie kid who needs it". I want to thank our whole team for your tireless work this year. I can't wait to see what we build together.

Paul Chen
Chief Operating Officer



LAYING THE FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL REPORT

2024/25 was a year of stabilisation and laying the foundation for the future of the Kids Hope Village.

While income was consistent with the year prior, expenses were closely monitored, investing only in expenses necessary to stabilise our organisation or prepare for our future, setting us in good stead for the next year with an operating surplus of \$31,916.

That said, it is important to acknowledge our

P&L shows a net deficit of \$28,574. This is due to investment losses of \$60,490.

It is important to note that the investment is still held and is in a conservative portfolio, one which we are confident will bounce back in the coming years. This adjustment was made at the recommendation of our auditor, allowing for full transparency of our finances.

Allan Menagh
Treasurer



Revenue	2025	2024
Affiliation & Training Fees	\$159,245.25	\$146,348.97
Grants, Donations & Fundraising	\$358,480.88	\$367,246.79
Investment & Other Income	\$10,156.89	\$12,082.29
Total Income	\$527,883.02	\$525,678.05



Expenses	2025	2024
Advertising, Marketing and Fundraising	\$6,160.35	\$401.58
Employee Costs	\$402,062.69	\$512,553.26
Administration	\$28,839.35	\$71,642.96
Professional Fees	\$36,375.56	\$43,034.54
Rent & Occupation Costs	\$8,365.35	\$3,180.50
Travel and Motor Vehicle Expenses	\$14,164.04	\$10,543.21
Total Expenses	\$495,967.34	\$641,356.05

Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$31,916	(\$115,678)
Investment Losses	\$60,490	\$0.00
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$28,574)	(\$115,678)

LEADERSHIP

Kids Hope is guided and supported by a remarkable group of professionals who lead and govern our organisation. Our leaders bring deep expertise, heartfelt commitment, and a shared passion for empowering children. We acknowledge and thank these dedicated leaders for their generous contribution and unwavering support.

OUR BOARD



JOHN ALLISON
CHAIR [Outgoing]
Chairman of LogicalTech Group & Company Director in IT and NFP sectors



PATRICK PARKINSON
CHAIR [Incoming]
Emeritus Professor of Law at The University of Queensland and Executive Director, Publica



CATHERINE KORN
SECRETARY
Small business owner in the Facilities Maintenance Sector; bookkeeper at DFK Gooding



BELINDA LOKE
Founder, Managing Director & Principal Lawyer of Legalex



ALLAN MENAGH
TREASURER
CEO of Menagh Advisory

EXECUTIVE TEAM



SIMON WARRICK
Chief Executive Officer



PAUL CHEN
Chief Operating Officer

OUR PARTNERS

Thank you to our partner organisations for their invaluable support of Kids Hope. Through their ongoing investment, we're able to continue expanding our impact in communities across Australia.

If you or your organisation would like to support our work by volunteering your services, we'd love to hear from you.



OUR PATRONS



REV TIM COSTELLO AO

Rev Tim Costello AO was the CEO of World Vision for 10 years and as Kids Hope moved into an era of independence, Tim's personal interest and belief in the program inspired him to agree to be the patron of Kids Hope. We appreciate Tim's commitment to represent the Kids Hope cause as he travels extensively and communicates to a far-reaching audience of influential leaders, community representatives and people with a passion to make a difference.



MARYLIN LEERMAKERS

It was through Marilyn Leermakers' vision that the Kids Hope program transitioned from World Vision to a separate entity. Marilyn has always been passionate and dedicated to the cause and willing to go 'beyond the call of duty'. Marilyn worked tirelessly to provide Kids Hope with a wonderful platform, with exemplary quality assurance and a proven reputation that will continue to develop and expand long into the future.

OUR AMBASSADOR



LISA MCINNES-SMITH

We are privileged to have Lisa McInnes-Smith as our Kids Hope Ambassador. Lisa is an international speaker and Hall of Fame presenter and has presented to more than two million adults across twenty-six countries. She is also the author of seven best-selling books. Lisa's heart for children and communities is inspiring and we are thrilled to have her representing Kids Hope and promoting the many benefits to schools and churches.

STRONG LEADERSHIP

JOIN OUR SUPPORT BASE

As a not-for-profit community organisation, Kids Hope relies on assistance to effectively impact the lives of thousands of children across Australia. Our one-to-one mentoring is provided free of charge to all public schools. Your generosity will support this life-changing mentoring and empower Aussie kids to thrive.



FIND OUT MORE

1 DONATE

Your **\$52** supports a **child with mentoring for a month**. That's less than \$2 a day!
Your **\$3200** supports a **school with mentoring for a year**. That's less than \$9 a day!

GIVE ONLINE

<https://kidshope.org.au/donation/>

BANK TRANSFER

Kids Hope Aus Ltd
BSB 033-002
Account number 797472

2 PILLARS OF HOPE

A **Kids Hope Pillar** invests \$1,000 per month to provide critical support to the core structure of Kids Hope, strengthening and sustaining our current work, while enabling us to strategise for the future. We are seeking 100 organisations or individuals across Australia who are committed to long-term impact and organisational sustainability.

Email Simon Warrick for more information or see: <https://kidshope.org.au/pillar/>

3 VOLUNTEER

Kids Hope does not run on donations alone. Hundreds of people give generously of their time and talents. If you would like to contribute in this way, please visit our website to find out how you can be involved: <https://kidshope.org.au/get-involved/>

4 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

We are proud to collaborate with other like-minded organisations to empower vulnerable kids and communities to thrive. Our **Corporate Sponsorship Package** has several ways in which you can collaborate.

Email Simon Warrick at admin@kidshope.org.au to find out how you can become a Kids Hope Sponsor today.



Kids Hope is a not-for-profit community organisation which is partially funded by the generous donations from supporters.



YOUR
OPPORTUNITY



ABN 66 167 768 158
PO Box 6170, Vermont Sth, VIC 3133
03 9780 4823 | kidshope.org.au