## QHVSG ANNUAL REPORT 2020



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON



I am incredibly proud of the strong relationship between QPS and QHVSG that enables the group to provide extraordinary support to the families and friends of homicide victims.

The care and compassion shown by the QHVSG to families through this difficult and long lasting period greatly assists families to cope with these tragic events. I encourage you to explore the valuable information and support available, and to reach out to QHVSG if you or someone you know has been affected by homicide.

Katarina Carroll APM COMMISSIONER QLD POLICE SERVICE

QHVSG honours all Police Officers who have been lost to homicide whilst selflessly serving the public.



### QUEENSLAND HOMICIDE VICTIMS' SUPPORT GROUP FAMILY SUPPORT AFTER MURDER INC.

Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group Family Support after Murder inc. Annual Report 2020

We pay our respects to every person who has lost their life through homicide; all women, all children, all men. We also honour all of our members who every day continue their journey of life after homicide.

We thank all those who give their time to help others who have lost loved ones. Your contribution is priceless.

The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group Board of Directors, Operational team, Peer Supporters and Volunteers respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, Elders and Leaders past, present and emerging as Custodians of the lands across which we deliver our Family Support After Murder Services.

#### VISION

To be the leading organisation, providing high-quality support, education and reform for victims of homicide.

#### **MISSION**

Provide support to victims of homicide through:

- our unique peer network, providing a family environment of empathy, compassion and understanding;
- education and awareness for members and the community; and
- advocacy for reform on behalf of our members.





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIRPERSON - DR SAMARA MCPHEDRAN

Dr Samara McPhedran is an experienced leader who has worked for almost 20 years in research, policy, and program management positions within government and academia, as well as in the private sector. She has a track record of leading diverse teams of people, thinking strategically about the direction those teams go in, managing change, and negotiating effective solutions to difficult problems.



She is experienced in advocacy and advisory positions, with an extensive history of providing evidence-based recommendations to decision-makers to shape policy change. She has served on a number of high-level advisory groups, including state and federal Ministerial panels, and is often invited to provide advice to government about violence prevention and related challenges.

She has a strong commitment to building and strengthening collaborative relationships between different groups, and significant experience establishing and expanding networks across multiple sectors. She holds a PhD in Psychology, a Bachelor of Arts (with First Class Honours), a Bachelor of Laws, and a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice.

From 2018-2020 she was the Founding Director of the Australian-first Griffith University Homicide Research Unit.

#### DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON - LEANNE PULLEN

Leanne became engaged with QHVSG in 2012 when her son Tim was declared a victim of homicide after having been listed as a missing person. Tim's remains have never been located even though six people were charged and imprisoned over his homicide.



Leanne is a dedicated and passionate Peer Support Leader whose main focus is on providing support for members, especially those living in rural and regional areas by being an advocate for them and a confidente. Leanne is a dedicated Court Supporter and has participated in detective training. She was volunteer of the Year in 2017.

Leanne was involved in the No Body No Parole Legislation by being instrumental in having the legislation amended to include all perpetrators involved in a homicide rather than only those sentenced for murder.

Leanne brings extensive fundraising experience from her involvement raising funds for and awareness of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (QLD). From 2006 to 2012 Leanne raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help purchase lifesaving medical equipment for RFDS aircraft. Leanne actively raises funds for and awareness of QHVSG by selling raffle tickets and manning driver revivers.

As well as support meetings, Leanne organises Awareness Day and Memorial Day events and Christmas get togethers for her Support Group members. Leanne coorganised with Monique Ferrario 'A Splash of Silver', QHVSG's 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Leanne's family has appreciated immensely the support provided by QHVSG and she dedicates her time to give back.



#### SECRETARY - MONIQUE FERRARIO



Monique became a member of QHVSG when her 36 year old brother Mitchell was murdered in April, 2009.

Monique is a professional Early childhood educator and has run her own successful business for the last 20 years. She has been a volunteer with QHVSG since 2010 and in 2015 first served on the QHVSG Board of Directors as a General Board Member.

As a Peer Support Group Leader Monique is aware of the importance of peer support.

She has supported many members through home visits, telephone support, Court support and facilitating the monthly Gold Coast Support Group meetings. Monique is committed to raising awareness in the community, supporting our education programs and providing advocacy for our members. She has shown total commitment to making a difference in the life of our members.

Monique is a dedicated fundraiser and has volunteered at many events. Monique is innovative and has been involved in the organising of events such as the 2015 Brisbane Walk for Support and Family Fun Day, Annual Night of Recognition and Christmas Celebration, the Children's Christmas Party and more recently she coorganised the 25th Anniversary event 'A Splash of Silver' with Board colleague Leanne Pullen. Monique was also a key driver behind the Member Weekends which commenced in 2018.

Monique was recognised for her volunteer efforts in 2014 and 2018 when she was awarded the QHVSG Volunteer of the year.

Monique feels privileged to support our members in memory of her brother, and finds a great deal of comfort in surrounding herself with people who have experienced homicide in their lives.

#### TREASURER - STEPHEN TILLETT



Stephen is a Torres Strait Islander man, born at Palm Island and raised in communities including Palm Island, Weipa, Bamanga, Thursday Island and Cairns. Through his family, upbringing and lived experience, he has developed a strong cultural capability and an understanding of the complex challenges facing both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, which has enabled him to quickly develop networks and rapport to deliver community-led outcomes.

Stephen has a solid foundation in strategic leadership, management, community engagement and relationship building acquired during an extensive career as a police officer in the Queensland Police Service (QPS), spanning 20 years across Far North Queensland. He has over 11 years' experience as a Director on local, state and national level Boards which has further developed his strategic leadership skills and capacity to manoeuvre between different contexts and commitments.

This practical exposure complements his theoretical foundation developed through his recently completed Graduate Certificate of Business (Public Sector Management) at Queensland University of Technology.

#### GENERAL MEMBER - IAN ROWAN

In 1997 in the UK, Ian's niece Kate Bushell was brutally murdered while walking her neighbour's dog, close to her home. It is still an unsolved case for the Exeter Police. Ian vowed to honour her memory where he can and has been a White Ribbon ambassador for over 10 years. Ian started the charity Safe Streets, and is very keen to serve QHVSG.

Ian brings over 40 years' experience in the business sectors of marketing, events, finance, strategic/operational planning, insurance and banking. He has held senior positions in Not For Profit charities with DGR status in CEO and General Manager positions in community, health, public safety and emergency rescue.

positions in community, health, public safety and emergency rescue.

Ian is focusing his skills and experiences on the help, advice and support that QHVSG offer to victims of homicide.



#### GENERAL MEMBER - JULIE WATERS

Julie became a member of QHVSG in July 2011, when her son Damian Leeding was murdered. Initially Julie went to the meetings for support, but it soon became apparent to that this organisation was unique in what it did for its members.

Julie realised that she would like to be a part of helping others through this horrific journey we have to face, and consequently she has served on the board previously.

Julie is committed to supporting the board and staff to achieve greater outcomes for members in all facets of the organisation, be it support, legislative reform, education programs and research projects: building awareness and developing an inclusive engagement strategy.

Julie is a keen advocate of law reform, and will continue to support members by helping to implement new strategies for law reform, advocacy to achieve positive outcomes for our members and continue to strengthen existing relationships, while forging new ones with community organisations and government.

Julie has helped with the Marketing and Communications Projects with QHVSG Brisbane Family Fun Day, Walk for Support, International Women's Day Dining With Daisies breakfast, Gold Coast Family Fun Day and Walk for Support and the Inaugural Annual Night of Recognition and Christmas Celebration.





#### **OUR PEOPLE**

In 2020 QHVSG operated with a total of seven employees in the following roles.

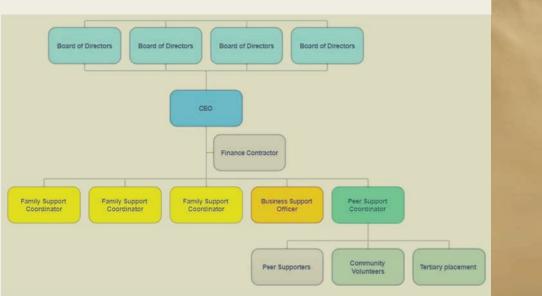
One Chief Executive Officer, one full time Business Support Officer, three full time Family Support Coordinators (all qualified Counsellors), and one full time Peer Support Coordinator. In addition, QHVSG engages an external finance contractor to provide expertise.

QHVSG has always utilised many volunteers across a variety of roles to meet our governance and operational needs.

We currently have twenty active Peer Supporters who have a lived experience of homicide, as well as thirty Community volunteers. All of these generous people are invaluable and enable us to provide 24 / 7 support across Queensland.

QHVSG also values the contribution of the twelve tertiary education workplace students who were with us in 2020.

#### ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE





#### **OUR FUNDING**

QHVSG is a not-for-profit organisation that receives the majority of its funding through government tender. The funds are supplied from the budget of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG).

We are extremely grateful for the support of the Honorable Mark Ryan MP, and Commissioner of Police Katarina Carroll APM, who have committed to an additional \$1,000,000 across a five year period - this is to be used for the provision of counselling.

QHVSG values and acknowledges the positive relationship that we continue to have with all levels of government.





#### **Donors and grants**

We are extremely grateful to have had the support of many individuals, businesses and philanthropic programs.

The not-for-profit sector is a competitive one with many wonderful causes. We sincerely thank those who have chosen to support our work.

In 2020 we acknowledge:

- The Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Harcourts Foundation
- · Jenny Stirling
- Brisbane City Council
- Trevor Evans MP
- McInnes Wilson Lawyers
- George Hartnett Metropolitan Funerals
- The Lord Mayors Charitable Trust
- Fresh Promotions
- Robertson Web Design and Development
- Story Bridge Adventure Climb
- · CETNAJ Lighting and Electrical
- Schneider Electric

We receive generous donations from many individuals which we utilise for our various programs. This ongoing support is critically important- thank you.























#### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I want to begin my report by acknowledging you, our members, and your loved ones. I pay my respects to your loss, your resilience, and your journey.

In a year marked by disruption and challenges, you have still given your time and energy to support other families through their grief, share your experiences with the wider community to create awareness and change, and help QHVSG keep the doors open and the lights on. Your generosity, courage, and kindness is inspirational.



At our 25th Anniversary Dinner at the start of the year, I found myself reflecting that the night was not only a beautiful tribute to those who have been taken from their families, but also to what people can achieve in the face of pain and adversity. From small beginnings with a handful of families coming together to support each other, grew an organisation that has spent its entire existence adapting to the unexpected, changing as it has needed to, making the best of situations, and simply getting on with whatever needs to be done. Despite many ups and downs along the way, QHVSG has not only survived, but is now able to thrive.

Thanks to this legacy of people and passion, 2020 has seen us continue to build on what we have, find new ways of doing things, and celebrate some remarkable successes. You can read more about what we have been doing in our CEO's report. I thank Brett and his team for the hard work they have put in during 2020 to support families, advocate on behalf of victims, and bring about positive reforms.

As always, our astonishing volunteers have been at the heart and soul of what we do. No matter what else has been going on, you have kept on answering the phones, caring for people, and finding new ways to connect and offer support. Even though it is not the same as being able to hug people in person, your ingenuity and willingness to try different ideas has made it possible to reach out and let others know that there is always someone there. From the Board and all of QHVSG – our deepest thanks for what you do.

I have had the honour this year of working with a wonderful Board whose first and foremost concern is making sure that QHVSG stays firmly focussed on looking after our members. Together, we have been able to explore and develop directions for the future that, even a few years ago, would have seemed impossible. Work on the next Strategic Plan is now well underway and, regardless of how the Board looks next year, this will guide QHVSG to improve and expand the care that we can provide. To Leanne (Deputy Chair), Monique (Secretary), Stephen (Treasurer), Julie and Ian – thank you for your commitment, integrity, and sheer hard work.

Whatever the future may throw at us, I am confident that QHVSG can meet those tests and – while always wishing that we did not have to exist at all – ensure that we do the best we possibly can for our members.

On behalf of the Board, I am grateful to you for your incredible support over the past year, and wish you the very best for the year ahead.

Dr Samara McPhedran



#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

#### 25 years of support



The determination and resilience of our founding members and the subsequent custodians has ensured that QHVSG has been able to provide support to the victims of homicide for 25 years. I wonder if on February 7 and 8, 1995 our founding members knew that 25 years later, their initiative would establish a group that would go on to support over 8000 individuals, not only in QLD, but from all over the world, who were impacted by over 1200 homicides.

If only we had the power to stop these acts.

I do feel that they came together to care for others and to change what they had experienced in relation to their own challenging journey. Whether that be changes to support, changes to legislation or trying to make us safer, so much has been achieved and will be achieved.

Many of us were told when we were young to never forget where you come from. I know that this group started with Peers and they will always be central to what we do. Our central role is to help families and we have a talented team of Counsellors and an increasing number of invaluable trained peer supporters. Helping families is at our core and this will never change.

We must acknowledge the contribution and continual support from the Queensland Government. Since January 1996 QHVSG have been fortunate to have secured critical funding and wide-ranging support; this ongoing bipartisan support has enabled thousands of people to be supported and enabled us to change lives. We sincerely thank Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Minister Mark Ryan for their financial support of our 25th Anniversary events.

At the wonderful 25th Anniversary 'Splash of Silver' event, we celebrated the determination and foresight of our founding members, recognised the enormous changes that QHVSG have instigated and thanked so many who have offered an open hand to support someone who faces something that no-one ever should.

#### Our advocacy

We advocate for individual members, and for systemic changes on a daily basis and we encourage members to raise their concerns with us, so that we understand the issues. We continue to develop and maintain healthy stakeholder relationships which keeps doors open to facilitate constructive conversations.



#### Family Law Court

2020 has seen work undertaken on a national level in relation to Family Law processes. Delays in Family Law Court proceedings create issues for our members, when the perpetrator is still able to maintain a legal position of control over their children.

To address this QHVSG requested to meet with the Chief Justice, requesting for the fast tracking of decision making authority on an interim basis (if in the children's best interests) so critical decisions can be made for already traumatised children. We met with the representatives of the Chief Justice of the Family Law Court in September 2020, and can report that significant steps are being taken to address the issue.

#### Access to QLD Court hearings

As a result of the COVID restrictions, courts across Queensland have had limited seating and some QHVSG members have had difficulty accessing hearings. We addressed the issue when it arose and we are grateful for the willingness of many Senior Registrars across QLD Magistrates Courts to listen to our concerns. Whilst it is always the Magistrates who decide access, our contact point is the Registrar.

Whilst this may seem to be a simple process, we need to appreciate that access is at times only possible for one or two people in the public gallery.

The Executive Director of the QLD Magistrates Courts and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution have both been very supportive of our advocacy and we have been able to secure access for most members; this at times involved establishing video links to enable the family to have access to the hearing.

As a result of advocacy, access was also provided for the No Body No Parole hearings. These public hearings have typically been held in the Brisbane Magistrates Courts, however this also changed as a result of COVID restrictions. We thank QLD Corrections for arranging access for our families.

The Parole Board QLD also welcomed input from QHVSG as they reviewed the conditions that prisoners must adhere to if released on parole. The Board have been willing to listen to our input and we will continue to discuss concerns as required.

#### First Nations People Project Group

QHVSG is proud to be work closely with Victim Assist QLD in the recent establishment of a Supporting First Nations Peoples after Homicide project group. The group includes representatives from VAQ, QHVSG and the DPP and will investigate how all agencies provide culturally appropriate case management practices for First Nations People.

Indigenous people comprise three percent of the Australian population (ABS 2009; ABS 2012) yet constituted 13 percent of homicide victims.



#### State level recognition for our Peer Support Program

QHVSG was selected as one of three finalists in the 2020 Queensland Volunteering Awards. Our Peer Support Program was judged within the Volunteering Impact Award, which recognises impactful, positive and enduring change in their community, through innovative leadership in volunteers, and effective volunteer involvement.

Although we did not win the category, we should all feel very proud that QHVSG has been recognised for the incredible contribution to the lives of others. The support that is offered to our members by our volunteers is life changing, and it is appropriate that we celebrate this very significant state level award.

Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to our Vision and our Mission. I look forward to our Peer Support program showing continued growth and excellence.



#### **Election commitments**

Dr McPhedran and I acknowledge the many QLD Members of Parliament who met with us to discuss our election commitment requests.

QHVSG is pleased with the recent election commitments from the Labor Government, which were confirmed to us by the Deputy Leader on 30 October 2020. These include:

- the provision of \$1,000,000 additional funding over five years to enable QHVSG to deliver counselling services to victims of crime;
- amending the ministerial guidelines around No Body No Parole Legislation to confirm that the timeliness of any truthful, complete and reliable information or evidence, provided by the offender, is of paramount importance when the Parole Board of Queensland is deliberating about whether to grant parole or not;
- referring the serious violent offender regime for review to the QSAC within the first 3 months of returning to Government;
- investigating moving to five-year funding periods for QHVSG.

Within the first 12 months, the Labor Government will convene a roundtable(s) of key stakeholders, including victims' advocates and legal stakeholders to consider the multitude of issues that arise from discussing the following:

- 1. Changes to terminology in the Mental Health Court,
- 2. Amend the right to silence; and
- 3. Introduce ability for the prosecution to introduce evidence of a defendant's bad character at trial.

We commend all parties and independents for their genuine interest and willingness to engage in discussions and we look forward to continued success on behalf of members in 2021.

#### Thank you

To the operations team, who respond to every new homicide in QLD and who help guide our members on the journey that no-one should face. Whether it is the first phone call, debriefing after a verdict, or helping with parole submissions, your tenacity and empathy is remarkable. Thank you for choosing to work where you do.

Without our Peers and our Community volunteers, we would not be where we are. Your selfless contributions changes lives and I sincerely thank you for the wide range of responsibilities that you undertake.

In 2020 your 12,000 hours of giving equates to a monetary value of \$561,591. Whilst this is a remarkable effort, the real contribution to the wellbeing of someone else cannot be measured. Please feel proud of what you do for the members of QHVSG.

Thank you to Samara, Leanne, Monique, Stephen, Ian and Julie, who worked so hard on the 2020 QHVSG Board of Directors. It's easy to forget that each of these wonderful volunteers has significant commitments outside of these roles; we are fortunate to have the depth of talent that we do.

Sadly, Stephen will not be able to commit to the Board in 2021. As Treasurer he has been wonderful to work with and I know that his dedication and comradery will be missed.

As I did last year, I would like to specifically acknowledge the work of Detective Inspector Damien Hansen and Detective Senior Sergeant Chris Knight of the QLD Police. These officers have been incredibly supportive of our work and have made a real difference in the lives of so many of our members. The team that they lead have an incredibly difficult role, and we thank each and every one of you for your dedication.

I also thank Todd Fuller QC who is always incredibly supportive of our work, and the hard working Victim Liaison Officers who keep us up to date with court matters.

I acknowledge the genuine support that QLD Corrections and the Australian Border Force provide for us, and thank you for being open to listen to the challenges of our members.

The Director of the Queensland Health Victim Support Service Michael Power and Social Worker Catriona Harwood have provided great insight into the use of Restorative Practices and I thank them for including QHVSG in their project work.

To our members; thank you for allowing us to help and support you. We hope that what we provide helps you to navigate through your journey. Please know that we are just a phone call away.

Take care

Brett Thompson Chief Executive Officer



#### OUR FINANCIAL REPORT

QHVSG finished the financial year slightly over budget, finishing the year with a deficit of \$1219.79.

Total revenue for QHVSG increased by \$123057.95 this year (approximately 20%), with grants received being almost \$56,000 higher than the previous financial year. The remainder of the revenue increase was mainly generated from our profitable 25th anniversary events, which raised \$27,568.53, a \$12,000 profit from the QLD Electrical Association Luncheon and COVID-19 assistance from the government, which was \$38,691.

Borrowings were eliminated by finalising the vehicle loan in the previous financial year, meaning that we currently have no financial liabilities for vehicles. Donations to QHVSG decreased this year by approximately 40%, as the tax appeal and Christmas appeal were not undertaken.

The financial ramifications of COVID-19 impacted the organisation in the later part of the financial year, with events being cancelled and extra expenses required to allow the operational team to work remotely.

Over the 12-month period, IT costs increased by \$41,515 due to the purchase of a new server, and replacement of desktop computers. A grant of \$35,000 had been secured to enable this to occur. There were also increased costs which resulted from office staff needing to relocate to home offices due to COVID-19. Setting up remote server access and general software for each team member was also required.

Moving the operational staff to full time hours to better support our members has increased the staffing wages and provisions, however the Board felt this a necessary service for our members.

Despite the overall expenses for the 2019/20 financial year increasing by approximately 13% from the previous year, QHVSG has an accumulated surplus of \$153,891.75.

QHVSG appreciates the support from the Department of Justice and Attorney General for providing our funding, which ensures our operational staff and volunteers can continue to deliver support to families across the State.

We also acknowledge the generosity of the Palaszczuk Government for their very generous donation in recognition of 25 years of QHVSG.

Finally, we acknowledge the support from our members in their fundraising efforts and for continually raising public awareness for our organisation. Your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated.



#### Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group Inc. Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30th June 2020

		2020	2019
Income			
Crant Income			
Grant Income		040 007 04	550 040 50
Grants Received		612,237.31	556,312.50
Group Income			200
Bequests		12/1	500.00
Covid-19 Income		38,691.00	100-7-2012-F-0-7-2012-F-0-7-2012-F-0-7-2012-F-0-7-2012-F-0-7-2012-F-0-7-2012-F-0-7-2012-F-0-7-2012-F-0-7-2012-F
Donations		4,837.59	8,021.00
Fundraising & Promotions		63,914.25	31,304.69
Sales		100.00	postalización.
Interest Income		487.53	1,811.00
Membership		59.00	35.00
Sundry		102.91	10.50
Tax Appeal		(=)	3,752.34
Profit/(Loss) on Sale	_	4,484.48	109.09
		724,914.07	601,856.12
Expense			
Administrative Expenses			
Accountancy	4,237.50		4,687.50
Auditors Fees	1,380.00		1,380.00
Bank Service Charges	1,426.95		588.62
Board Expenses	2,559.40		3,555.66
Consulting IT Services	54,312.89		12,797.50
Dues and Subscriptions Paid	5,468.49		3,943.77
Equipment Hire & Acquisitions	3,857.35		6,059.98
Gifts & Donations	546.41		237.09
Legal Fees	c=		3,000.00
Insurances	4,143.53		3,725.68
Interest Paid	22.44		868
Lease Fees	3,029.29		3,304.68
Licence & Permit Fees	1,382.08		1,784.68
Postage - General	3,174.16		5,008.95
Printing	2,393.72		3,001.58
Stationery	1,266.07		2,825.49
Professional Fees	900.00		9,710.50
Registrations & Licences	101.90		321.07
Repairs	<del>(2)</del>		46.54
Stamp Duty	7 <u>-</u> 1		788.25
Telephone	9,965.40		14,404.69
Total Administrative Expenses		100,167.58	81,172.23
Client Related Expenses			
Court Support	-		207.36
Meeting Costs	266.76		313.83
Parking	35.41		121.44
Peer Support	3,633.31		15,375.19
Total Client Related Expenses		3,935.48	16,017.82

## Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group Inc. Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30th June 2020

		2020	2019
Motor Vehicle			
MOTOL AGUICIG			
Fuel, Oil and RACQ	638.76		960.32
Depreciation	1,793.00		5,566.00
Parking & Tolls	1,104.63		763.55
Lease	1,974.27		£5.
Motor Vehicle Service Costs	722.64		1,549.32
Registration & Insurance M/V	1,532.49		1,755.93
Total Motor Vehicle		7,765.79	10,595.12
Property & Energy Expenses			
Cleaning Costs	1,462.50		2,042.38
Electricity	2,169.13		2,238.02
Property Management	818.10		1,067.41
Rent	20,375.82		19,911.24
Waste Disposal	196.27		392.90
Total Property & Energy Expenses		25,021.82	25,651.95
Staff Costs			
Allowances	10,444.78		5,687.78
Staff Provisions	7,902.98		(2,122.12)
Superannuation	42,317.93		37,524.11
Wages WorkCover	472,444.51 12,836.12		417,231.21 12,063.89
VVOIKCOVEI	12,030.12		12,003.09
Total Staff Costs		545,946.32	470,384.87
Staff Management			
Staff Supervision	7,565.00		8,500.00
Staff Training	2,968.18		3,615.39
Staff Amenities	591.40		867.59
Staff Event	18.18		35.90
Total Motor Vehicle		11,142.76	13,018.88
Other Expenses			
Depreciation	1,514.00		) <del>-</del>
Fundraising Expenses	400.00		810.18
Promotions & Displays	28,448.73		21,339.60
Travel	538.78		2,455.11
Volunteer Expenses	1,252.60		1,103.30
Total Other Expenses	-	32,154.11	25,708.19
Total Expense	_	726,133.86	642,549.06
Net Income/(Loss)	-	\$ (1,219.79)	\$ (40,692.94)

## Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group Inc. Profit & Loss Appropriation for the year ended 30th June 2020

	2020	2019
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(1,219.79)	(40,692.94)
Prior Years Adjustment	-	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(1,219.79)	- 40,692.94
Accumulated Surplus/Deficit - Beginning of Year	155,111.54	195,804.48
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ 153,891.75	\$ 155,111.54

## Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group Inc. Statement of Financial Position as at 30th June 2020

		2020	2019
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets			
WBC 308940 - Working		203,181.68	63,360.44
WBC 308959 - Debit Cards		2,100.12	1,404.86
WBC 308967 - Interest Rental Bond Authority		289.99 1,620.00	144,859.96 1,620.00
Accounts Receivable	_	1,620.00	1,533.59
Total Current Assets	_	207,191.79	212,778.85
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment			
Motor Vehicles - At Cost	19,645.23		39,509.57
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(12,473.80)		(25,665.98)
		7,171.43	13,843.59
Office Equipment	131,083.52		131,083.52
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(127,134.77)		(125,664.77)
		3,948.75	5,418.75
Accom Plant & Equipt At Cost	2,594.14		2,594.14
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(2,192.60)		(2,148.60)
	. <del></del>	401.54	445.54
Total Non-Current Assets	_	11,521.72	19,707.88
TOTAL ASSETS	· -	218,713.51	232,486.73
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Accounts Payable		1,710.62	9,675.70
PAYG Tax Payable		8,571.00	4,194.00
Superannuation Payable		5,302.55	3,143.91
Tax Payable		(2,253.94)	(3,874.96)
Provisions		40.007.40	40 404 45
Employee Entitlements Other Current Liabilities		48,307.43	40,404.45
Accruals		3,184.10	18,655.26
Total Current Liabilities	_	64,821.76	72,198.36
Total Variont Elabilities		37,021.70	72,100.00

## Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group Inc. Statement of Financial Position as at 30th June 2020

	2020	2019
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Loans		
Motor Vehicle Lease - St George		5,176.83
Total Non-Current Liabilities		5,176.83
TOTAL LIABILITIES	64,821.76	77,375.19
NET ASSETS	\$ 153,891.75	\$ 155,111.54
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Accumulated Surplus at beginning of the year Net Surplus/(Deficit)	155,111.54 (1,219.79)	195,804.48 (40,692.94)
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	\$ 153,891.75	\$ 155,111.54

#### OUR PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM



The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group was founded in North Queensland in 1995 by five families, all affected by homicide. These families united to advocate for effective support and acknowledgement by the State government in relation to the enormous distress co-victims of homicide experience.

From this grassroots beginning, volunteer peer support groups and activities were established across Queensland. After 25 years QHVSG is still committed to the practise of mutual support and self-help.

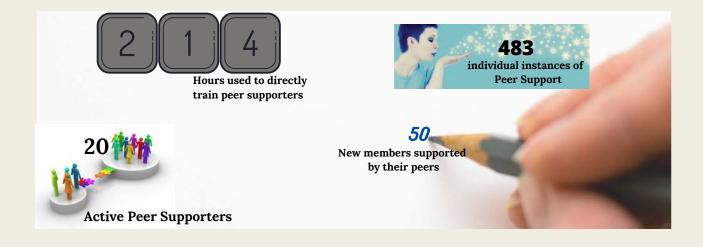
Our peer facilitated activities, such as monthly support groups, peer to peer phone calls, social events, community awareness days and memorial days, are crucial to the recovery of families and enable us to build a community of survivors.

Six new Peer Supporters undertook training and existing Peers undertook a range of support and self care learning sessions through Blue Knot. In total two hundred and fourteen hours of operational time was used to facilitate training.

There were six Peer Support Groups operating across QLD which for three months needed to meet online. Despite this, we saw twenty seven meetings take place.

We were pleased to see every Peer Meeting now being facilitated by Peers. This has been an objective of QHVSG and we are very grateful for both existing and new group leaders.

Fifty new Peers accessed support, with 483 individual instances of support recorded. Reporting is a critical aspect of the program and to support this, a new online portal was developed.



#### Our Peer Supporter contributions

Our Peer Supporters undertook a wide range of tasks that are vital within our mission. These roles are matched to the interests and skill sets of the individual.

LIVED EXPERIENCE FORUM

REGISTER

LOGIN

#### Tasks undertaken included:

- Online forum moderation
- After hours telephone support
- Board of Director roles
- Community education
- · Court support
- Event organisation and attendance
- · Fundraising
- Peer Support Meeting facilitation
- Professional Education to Detectives and university students
- Supported and facilitated Peer Support weekends
- Telephone support

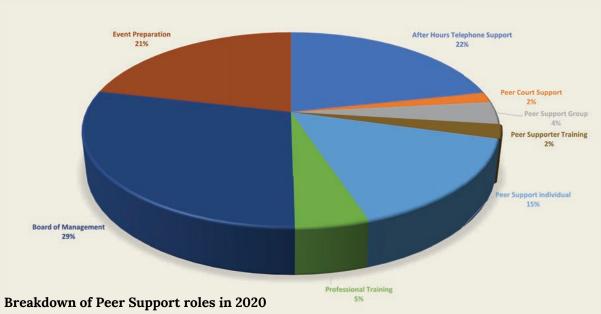
In 2020 our Peer Supporter Volunteers provided 4630 hours of voluntary time.



\$205,109

PEER SUPPORTER FORUM

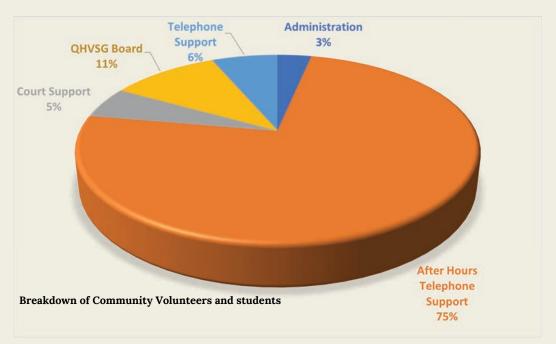
Monetary value of Peer Support Hours in 2020



#### Our community volunteers and workplace students

Our community volunteers do not have a lived experienced of homicide but without question, demonstrate deep empathy for our cause. Working side by side with our peers, these individuals work in many areas, and undertake the majority of after hours telephone support, 365 days every year.

Like our peer supporters, our community volunteers undertake a wide range of tasks to support all aspects of the organisation and their contribution is priceless.



QHVSG supports the professional development of tertiary level students who are undertaking studies in psychology, criminology, counselling and human services. Students undertake formal work-placement for a minimum of 50 hours.

Our links to Griffith University, the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and a range of other colleges, are long term and beneficial for all parties.



\$356482

Monetary value of Community volunteer and student placement hours in 2020





#### THE IMPACT OF COVID - 19

As was the case for all organisations, QHVSG needed to adapt quickly as a result of the global pandemic – our mission to provide support still existed; we just needed to do things differently. An organisational level policy was approved by the Board of Directors on 14 March, which was followed by the establishment of a COVID response team by the end of March.



With Government Health Directives changing rapidly, we knew that it would be a matter of time before the office would need to be closed. In preparation, working from home policies and guidelines were implemented to minimise the disruption to our work. On March 14, due to a close contact incident, the QHVSG Office closed; we did not return physically until 13 July. We were relieved that no employee, Peer Supporter or Community volunteer had contracted the virus; we will remain cautious.

Unavoidable costs were incurred as we moved to establish remote IT systems for each member of staff. This included adaptations to the telephone system, our server, the Case Management data base, as well as setting up and training in the use of Microsoft teams.

The transition was handled with a high level of professionalism by the Office team and the next focus was how our key stakeholders were adapting - as one of many organisations who work with victims' of homicide, we knew that we needed to now adapt to their needs.

The restrictions to QLD Courts, the inability to conduct face to face support (including monthly Peer Support meetings), and the cancellation of major events are just a few of the challenges that arose.

QHVSG organises several events each year, which could not take place in 2020. These included the Homicide Awareness Day, Peer Support Weekends, and also the majority of Memorial Days across QLD. We were also due to present at the 12th International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society in July, however it was unable to go ahead.

Thankfully we were able to conduct an online vigil for Memorial Day on October 17, which was created by Monique Ferrario. The event shared many wonderful photographs and tributes that had been provided by our members.

Across the 2 hour period which culminated in a 15 minutes loved ones slide show, we had a reach of over 46,000 views. We thank the many people who provided support through kind words, likes and shares.

As we came to the end of the year, we were finally able to hold our first public event of 2020. After confirming that Santa was available to attend, we set about decking the halls of Mabel Park for the 2020 Children's Christmas Party. It was a fitting finale to 2020 – seeing people of all ages smile.



#### **OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS**

More than one homicide is too many and our thoughts are with all those who have been impacted by these senseless acts. Our loved ones who are lost are from our families, they are our friends, they are our work and school colleagues and they are our sporting and community group connections.

Regardless of your connection, we acknowledge your loss and we offer you support whenever you need it.

Over the past 12 months QHVSG has responded to two more homicides compared to 2019 \*; in that year we saw a significant increase across QLD. We hope that with the genuine efforts that are being made by so many to prevent violence, we will witness a significant decrease in this abhorrent trend.

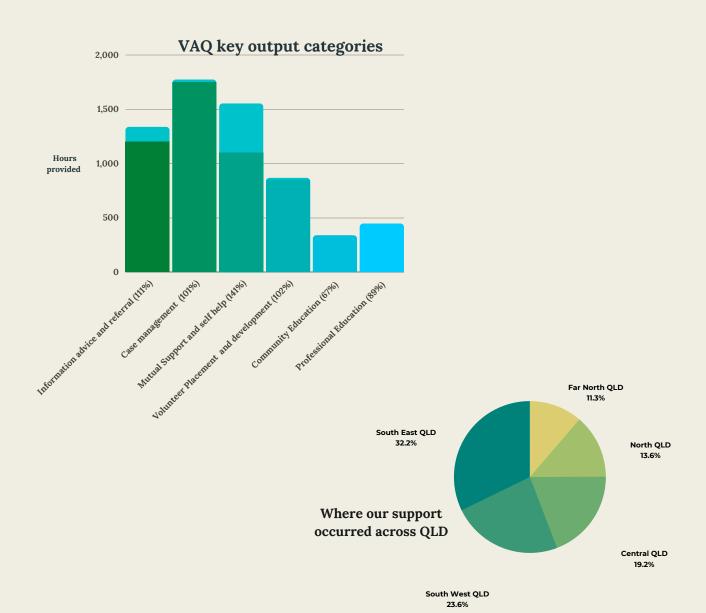


#### **Output measures**

In our 25th year of operation, QHVSG has again provided enormous levels of support across Queensland. We have a contractual obligation to the Queensland Government to meet specific operational measures known as outputs, and we are required to report to Victim Assist Queensland (VAQ) each quarter. VAQ is a business unit within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

QHVSG met all output targets across the 2019–2020 financial year, with the exception of the community and professional education. These two aspects of our work were impacted as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions; put simply the opportunities to provide the usual level of training and development to professional and community sectors decreased.

QHVSG was proactive around communicating this concern to VAQ, who were satisfied that we were meeting all obligations.



#### **OUR EVENTS**

Despite the inability to physically gather due to the COVID restrictions, QHVSG did manage to conduct three major events where members were able to come together in person.

The 25th Anniversary Dinner on 8 February 2020 and the Children's Christmas party on 29 November were two highlights, and were both driven by Peer Supporters. They were both absolutely wonderful.



#### A reflection by Leanne Pullen and Monique Ferrario

It was an absolute honour and privilege to organise QHVSG's 25th Anniversary Dinner - "A Splash of Silver".

Many months of love, compassion, hard work and lengthy phone calls went into ensuring that we respectfully acknowledged our founding members and the ensuing 25 years of support and friendship. The night wasn't about celebrating the fact that we need to exist because in a perfect world there would be no need for our organisation to exist. It was to celebrate the foresight and dedication our incredible founding members had 25 years ago for future members.

We celebrated the comradery, the support, the courage and the beautiful friendships that this organisation helped to create between members who share a heartbreaking bond. We paid tribute to our members and their loved ones who are no longer with us. We acknowledged our founding members without whom we wouldn't have an organisation and showed our appreciation of what they did for those who would sadly walk the same path behind them.

It's remarkable that after 25 years, the support for QHVSG is still strong and that was clearly evident by the attendance on the night. Throughout the evening QHVSG's many achievements and milestones were acknowledged, and past and present staff members and volunteers were thanked.

We were privileged to hear from guest speakers; Founding Member Sherrie Meyer, QHVSG's first Patron and former Queensland Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson AO, APM, QHVSG's current Patron and Queensland Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll APM, The Honourable Mark Ryan, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, QHVSG's Chief Executive Officer Brett Thompson and QHVSG's Chairperson Dr Samara McPhedran.











As with any event there are many people behind the scenes who offer their knowledge, support and services. We would like to once again thank the Queensland Government for financially supporting QHVSG's 25th anniversary events, AMH Learning Supplies, Robertson Web Design and Development, George Hartnett Metropolitan Funerals, Simplicity Funerals, Village Roadshow Theme Parks, Payne Print & Sign, Cruise Whitsundays, QT Hotels and Resorts, Story Bridge Adventure Climb, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Pandora Jewelry, Susie from Welcome Change Realty, C&KE, Bob Atkinson AO, APM, Dr Samara McPhedran, Sarah Megginson, Billy Moore, Tim Class-Auliff, Sherrie Meyer, Joan Flack, Dr Ted Flack, Nicole Didlick, Julie Waters, Gary Pullen, Gai Ferrario and last but certainly not least our incredible Master of Ceremonies, Doris Zagdanski.

We would also like to thank the staff at Victoria Park and Baker Boys Band for helping us create a special evening that all of those in attendance will remember for many years to come.

A Splash of Silver was a beautiful event and we are grateful to all of those who were able to come along to help us thank our founding members and all of the incredible people who have made this organisation what it is today.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you all.

Leanne Pullen and Monique Ferrario



#### Sherrie Meyer's 25th Anniversary speech...

Thank you for having me. I am honoured to be here today speaking especially on behalf of the five founding families of Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group: the Deakes and Meyer families. Scherie Johnson; Debbie Chilmaid; Bronwyn Kitching and their families. QHVSG has certainly come along way and it is timely on this - the 25th anniversary - for us to remember those early days.

In 1995, our family was 2 years down the track after homicide. Gabe was just 17 when he was taken from us. Our family was heartbroken and traumatised beyond belief. Doug and I were struggling with just surviving each day - not to mention trying to parent five young children who were dealing with their own devastating loss.

Needless to say - Our family was desperately trying to learn how to live again. During this time, I had been reaching

out to anyone in Australia who might understand what we were going through. Someone to talk with about our pain. There was literally nothing available that addressed our situation. Our family felt so alone. We saw the normal world moving on - but we were not a part of it.

I clipped magazine articles, scoured newspapers, wrote letters to strangers who had suffered horrific crimes. I felt like a stalker and a crazy woman! We even agreed to give stories to news media just to raise a voice for families left behind after murder.

It was one such story we gave to a Townville newspaper that would become the seed for QHVSG.

On a bleak day in January – out of the blue – I received a phone call from a man named Reg. He was calling me in Innisfail from Townsville. I could hear his wife Moureen in the background. Reg said he had just read an article about Gabe in the Townsville Bulletin. He had seen our story as his own family's story was also in that very paper. I got so excited to talk to another survivor I think I was babbling hysterically. This stranger was mirroring my own thoughts, pain and injustice. I learned that the Deakes's had been busy and were also in contact with Scherie Johnson who had reached out after seeing the same newspaper articles.

Before we knew it and after a whirlwind of phone calls—the first meeting of QHVSG was planned for February 7th. Remember this is old school stuff—landlines only—no mobiles, internet, computers or email—snail mail and newspapers were our lifelines then. We began immediately to spread the word. A meeting would be held so homicide survivors in Queensland could come together for support—as peers. Now the logistics of this meeting were not easy. As you know—distances are vast in North Queensland and each of us were working families with children. The Deakes' agreed to have the meeting at their place in Townsville.

They graciously opened their home and hearts and offered to put everyone up. Even though we were all virtually strangers, we had already developed a close bond. Bronwyn who had lost her sister, travelled with me from Cairns as Doug was staying home with our own kids. Sheree (who also lost her sister) and Debbie (whose young son died only the month before) attended from Townsville.

There were children playing, noisy banter and lovely refreshments put on by Moureen – just like any Aussie backyard party. But then we got down to it. With the children settled out of hearing the meeting began in earnest.

Gathered in a haphazard circle of sleeping dogs, camp chairs and wooden benches, under the eaves of an old Queenslander, the extraordinary stories began to unfold. The raw pain and trauma was mixed with incredible love and energy and as tears flowed, hugs were given and hands were held tightly. We helped each other get out what we wanted to say and we just sat in silence when we needed to do that

too. This was the very first time (2 years after his death) I was able to actually say out loud – my son Gabe was murdered.

Interestingly as I look back at that time, and our stories; I am aware of recurrent issues that are equally relevant today. Out of the 5 homicide stories in the founding families that night, here are some facts:

All the victims were women and children. 3 women were killed by their partners

- 2 victims were teenage boys under 18 years
- All perpetrators were known to their victims.
- The five homicides impacted 16 immediate children/siblings.
- And remember A life sentence for murder was only a 13 year minimum.

It becomes apparent, the research potential in our support group is phenomenal from the early days of 1995 to now in 2020. A bit more on that later...

Back to that night - Now it was not all fairies and light at that first meeting. Let me tell you. Among the copious tears - there were intense feelings of frustration, anger, injustice and yes even vengeful thoughts. Not everyone agreed on how to move forward, there were many suggestions and also heated debate. These families had endured cruel injustices in the aftermath of murder.

There was scarce information and families depended on the police for most support. There was no phone number/crime clean up/counselling/funeral assist or financial relief. There was no court support or how to survive after court. Families with no arrest or whose loved ones were missing were in a no man's land. It was truly a living nightmare for survivors.

We did come to some conclusions that night. We had come together searching for a new way to live and move forward. We knew that information is power and back then we felt utterly powerless. We knew we had to educate ourselves and others about better ways to support families. We also knew that deep down - love was the emotion that underpinned our connection that night.

Soooo... despite the differences of opinion, different personalities and positions in life; It was a unanimous decision to join together as a group of peers to begin a network of support and to stand up with each other. The next day an interim committee was announced in the newspaper. I was very surprised and a bit terrified to be nominated the first president of the QHVSG.

That first year was a whirlwind of education and work for our small group. We desperately needed money so fundraisers were organised. Moureen was an expert sweet talker. Even the Greyhound bus succumbed to her cajolery providing fare discounts to travel to Townsville each month for committee meetings. I had to buy a meeting rules book, as I had no clue how to run a professional meeting. I actually still don't.

We managed to incorporate -met with politicians and ministers - embraced public media - and commenced close ties with the Queensland Police and Deptartment of Justice. We joined hands with sister homicide groups in NSW and South Australia. We published the first newsletter. We lobbied, protested, and begged for better treatment for homicide survivors; we wrote letters till we could not see straight. We did this while working, raising our families and still grieving our own lost loved ones.

We commenced support meetings in Townsville, Cairns and Brisbane. Our rate of members grew steadily and really jumped after the first Brisbane event with 500 people attending. I will never forget that meeting as I looked out over the sea of faces and as each person stood up and shared their horror. My daughter was murdered – my husband was murdered – my mother was murdered – my

baby was murdered and on and on and on... I felt so humbled by the sheer magnitude of grief and outpouring of love. It also energised us to ramp up this fight for justice. By the end of the year we had support contacts operating in Cairns – Townsville – Gold Coast – Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.

We were soon joined by other dedicated people who worked tirelessly. There is not enough time to mention each one, but I hold them in my hearts forever.

I believe the most important accomplishment that first year was our role in the establishment of COVA the Criminal Offence Victims Act of 1995. Members across the state spent hours travelling, writing submissions and debating with government officials and Ministers in the drafting of this bill. By the time it was passed, homicide families were finally recognised as victims of crime and the first supports and compensation commenced. We were pleased with our efforts and knew that we were on the right track.

Sadly, however, when COVA became legislation - the support was not extended to families prior to the passage of the Bill. This included the founding members. This was a huge disappointment for us working behind the scenes. We knew the circumstances of all those families that were suffering still. It was extremely hard to reconcile that we were not included as genuine victims of crime. Never the less, we did not stop there and we continued to fight for better services for all families in Queensland.

Now the first 3 years, QHVSG was a completely volunteer organisation. Other than a few minor grants we were self funded. I remember that with our first small grant, we supplied every committee member with a fax machine. That

was our state of the art communication until email was established. You would come home to find your office floor literally covered in mountains of paper -the good ole days!

Finally however in 1998, QHVSG received its first funding and you could not wipe the smiles from our faces!

We have achieved so many accomplishments over the past quarter century. A few I would like to mention from the early days that stand out to me.

- The first office and accommodation houses aptly named Haven House in the north and Solace House in South Queensland. They opened up our connection with so many members.
- Our valued relationship with the Queensland Police. We recognise specifically their continuing role as our Patron. I also mention the Homicide Detective training here as I believe this has cemented best practice and mutual respect for our members and the officers who support them in the most vulnerable time of their lives.
- Our connection with the Department of Justice and Victim Assist Qld and the professional support members receive when traveling through the legal system. A few things in particular have improved the legal journey such as Victim Impact Statements and access to court transcripts.
- Another vital lifeline I mention here. As soon as this service opened its doors in 1997, my family joined what was then the Concerned Persons Register now the Victims Register. For over 2 decades this service informed us about the offender status in our case. After 26 years in prison the offender was released on parole only 3 months ago. The Victims Register provided us information throughout the ordeal and time to prepare an action plan to survive this difficult time. They will continue to provide us information as it comes to hand. I remember fighting for the Victims Register in the early days of QHVSG and it has been invaluable to our family.

- I also truly commend the many media outlets here for supporting QHVSG from the beginning and by listening and learning along with our members about sensitive and compassionate journalism.
- Then there is the dedicated volunteer force who work so tirelessly to continue our early model of support, education and reform. I have been honoured to work with many selfless volunteers while on the management committee and also as a staff member. We have achieved so much with your hard work and yet we have much more work ahead of us.

I said earlier on that I would speak further about research potential now that we have a quarter of a century under our belt. Research is an area of expertise that our organisation is uniquely set up for. We have valuable data and information to tap into. Most importantly we have a wealth of family's stories to learn from. As most people who know me are aware, I am particularly concerned about the children who are living in the aftermath of murder.

My current role is a child trauma counsellor. I provide therapy for children and young people who experience complex trauma. My clients include children who have experienced homicide and even third generation homicide survivors. Trauma can continue down through generations – impacting each member of the family in different ways. It has immediate and longterm affects. It invades our sense of safety and ability to trust; it can influence behaviour, boundaries, socialisation and even a child's development – just to name a few. And we are only scratching the surface.

I remember today especially the 16 children of the founding members. They are all adults now and some with their own children. Some managed well in their recovery while others have struggled tremendously. Their lives were forever changed by murder and the traumatic events that occurred in their lives. They all have powerful stories.

We have such a treasure of stories in our history - not only of horrific violence and grief - but of love and the determination to rebuild lives. We have stories from families from all walks of life. This collection of history is so powerful. Through these powerful stories, we have gained information and knowledge and incredible research potential. I believe QHVSG has the ability to make a huge difference in crime prevention and intervention in the future; as well as in the study of complex trauma and bereavement and how it impacts families and their recovery.

We have a wealth of information and we are no longer powerless!

After Gabe's death, our children went through every age and stage of grief imaginable. They supported each other when Doug and I were simply not emotionally present. They encouraged Doug and I to move forward in rebuilding our lives. They grieved so heavily and continue to do so, and yet they maintain their spirit for life. Today I am proud to say (and might embarrass them) they are the kindest, funniest and most empathetic people I know.

Fawn who was 19 at the time of Gabe's death is a psychologist – Annie who was 10 is a doctor – Caitlin 8 now, a paediatric nurse – Graeme was just 5 and now a medical scientist and Conor, only 8 months old, is now a physiotherapist. We could open our own medical centre. Doug and I have been truly blessed. Thankyou to my dear family.

Gabe would be so proud of you all!

Thank you to all the current QHVSG Volunteers, Staff and Committee for continuing the dream of the Founding Families. Thank you to all the government and non government services for supporting our members so well over the years and, of course, for the vital funding to continue and hopefully expand our services.

Thank you to all QHVSG members along the way that have added your voice and energy to the ongoing welfare of families living after homicide. And especially to the members who were not recognised by COVA prior to 1995, but who fought so valiantly for the rights of others. You are legends and you are recognised!

Thank you to the founding members – while it was an unbelievable and challenging journey – it was always an honour to work with you all. RIP to those members we have lost.

Finally to the reason we are all here - to our dearest loved ones.

Thank you for the incredible power of your love that will always be our connection to you. That love has given us the energy and the ability to connect as peers, and stand with each other as friends.

Sherrie Meyer 8 February 2020



#### A unique gathering

On the evening of Friday 7th February 2020 sixty QHVSG peers, staff and supporters completed the Story Bridge Climb to celebrate 25 Years of resilience, love and dedication to support those who have lost someone to homicide. Some even abseiled as well.

It was wonderful to have two of the founding members attend with their family. Sherrie and Doug Meyer may not have been aware of how many people their initiative was going to help since February 7, 1995....you started something incredibly important.

To leave a lasting memory for us all, The Story Bridge lit up as we walked across it, to specifically recognise QHVSG. The light display continued "Lighting up for love" for the next seven days.

Two of the Story Bridge participants provided unexpected fundraising for QHVSG. Deanna Beilby and Kristy Bell have raised over \$800 towards our work; this kind of support allows us to do much more. Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP (representing the Hon Mark Ryan) was on hand to thank Kristy, Deanna and Kelly from the Story Bridge Climb for their contribution to our event.

Special thanks also Story Bridge Adventures for donating \$1200 to QHVSG.



#### Children's Christmas Party

Another great event that took place in late November 2020, with around ninety members joining in the fun.

It's a wonderful day for kids who can ride a pony, jump and slide on the inflatable playground and of course, eat lots of delicious food. Thanks to the generosity of fellow members, each child also received a personally suited gift.

Santa made a special appearance despite the hot weather, with the QLD Police Community Liaison officers providing transport to and from the event.

Monique and Gai Ferrario do an amazing job each year arranging and running the Children's Christmas Party. This year was no exception.

Thank you to all who attended and made it such a fun day. A huge thanks to other QHVSG members who came and volunteered time.



#### Memorial Day 2020

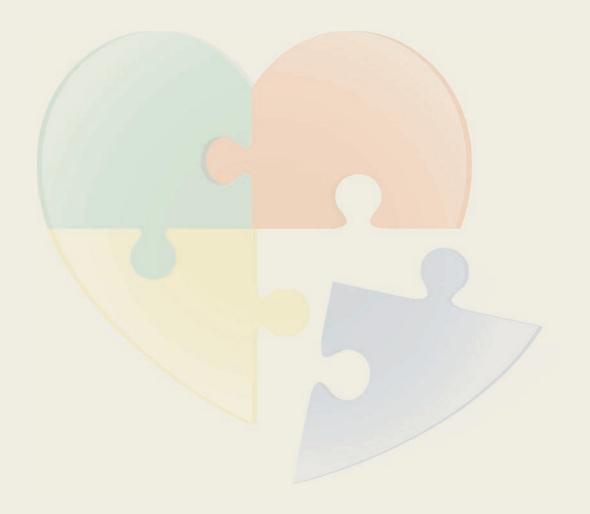
QHVSG's Memorial Day enables members to come together to remember their loved ones while being supported by both peers and staff. While we would have loved nothing more than to hold a beautiful Memorial Day to pay tribute to our loved ones, due to restrictions we were unable to do so.

Despite the challenges, the 2020 Memorial Day was still very special.

On 17 October at 10am we lit a candle online and asked members to keep the candle burning in honour of their loved one, by sharing the candle to their own Facebook page and by lighting a candle at home. Tributes of loved ones were then displayed on our Facebook page and a memorial photo slideshow was posted at the end of the event.

Across the 2-hour period which culminated in a 15-minute loved ones slide show, we had a reach of over 46,000 views.

We thank the many people who provided support through kind words, likes and shares and sincerely thank Monique Ferrario for initiating the concept.



Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group Family Support after Murder Inc. Annual Report 2020 www.qhvsg.org.au