

QHVSG
ANNUAL
REPORT
2022





A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON



I am honoured to be the Patron of the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group (QHVSG). The significant work undertaken by the QHVSG cannot be understated in providing ongoing support to the families 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 2021-22 Financial year.

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

To 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 around 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.

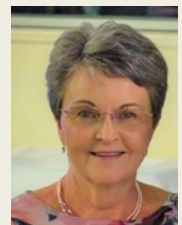


She is experienced in advocacy and advisory positions, with an extensive history of providing evidence-based recommendations to decision-makers to shape policy change. She has served on a number of high-level advisory groups, including state and federal Ministerial panels, and is often invited to provide 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 is internationally recognised for her contribution to public debate and scholarship into homicide and other forms of violence, and from 2018-2020 was the Founding Director of the Australian-first Griffith University Homicide Research Unit. She holds a PhD in Psychology, a Bachelor of Arts (with First Class Honours in Psychology), a Bachelor of Laws, and a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice. She has held honorary title with the Department of Economics at the University of Otago (New Zealand) and is also an Honorary Associate Professor in the TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland. She currently runs her own business.

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 confidante. Leanne is a dedicated Court Supporter and has participated in detective training. She was recognised for the work that she contributes to QHVSG when she was awarded the QHVSG 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 revival stations.

As well as Peer Support meetings, Leanne also organises Awareness Day and Memorial Day events along with Christmas get togethers for her Support Group members. Leanne co-organised 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 more than 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. Since then Monique has served as the Treasurer and more recently, as the Secretary.

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 co-organised 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 was the co-recipient of the QHVSG 2022 Volunteer of the Year award alongside her mother, Gai.

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

TREASURER - CONOR O'BRIEN



Conor's professional career spans 15 years in which time he has held various commercial, economic and policy advisory roles. Conor has worked within a variety of commercial and public service organisations including utilities, global advisory firms and the Queensland Parliament. Conor possesses intimate knowledge of Queensland policy and law making processes along with professional and academic experience in infrastructure development and financing.

In 2020 Conor gained entry into the University of Queensland's Doctor of Medicine (MD) program. During his medical studies Conor has focused on developing the skills necessary to achieve excellence in patient centred care through translation of biomedical and psychosocial knowledge to the clinical environment. Conor has special interests in critical care and rural medicine, and management of patients experiencing traumatic stress.

Conor joined the QHVSG Board in 2021 after learning of the important and unique contribution the organisation makes to the wider community through both support and advocacy for those impacted by homicide. Through his role on the Board, Conor works to assist in the development and execution of the QHVSG's operational and strategic objectives to ensure the organisation's capability enables it to continue to deliver the highest quality support services and advocacy.

GENERAL MEMBER – CHRIS CLARKE

Chris Clarke is a former crime reporter with 10 years' experience working in newspapers across the country.

Having covered some of the nation's most heartbreaking crimes and tragedies, Chris has been honored to have been in touch with countless men and women who have chosen to share their loved one's story with him.

After several years in North Queensland and Tasmania, Chris began at The Courier-Mail in 2017 where he became a mentor for young reporters covering homicide. The role allowed Chris to work closely with members of QHVSG to deliver informed and compassionate news to Queenslanders, as well as campaign for law and policy changes to help bring justice to families in need.

Furthermore, Chris has given talks at Queensland schools about the role of journalism in our society, and the importance of compassion when reporting on homicide.



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.

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



GENERAL MEMBER – JULIE WATERS

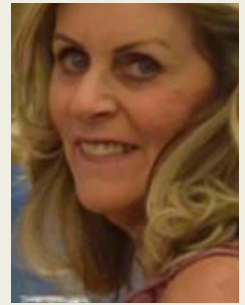
Julie became a member of QHVSG in July 2011, when her son Damian Leeding was murdered. Initially Julie went to the meetings for support, but it soon became apparent to her that this organisation was unique in what it did for its members.

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 for a number of years.

Julie is committed to supporting the board and staff 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 the Marketing and Communications Projects Committee with the 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.



EX OFFICIO MEMBER – DR PETER MARTIN APM

Professor Peter Martin holds an appointment as Professor of Practice, Griffith Criminology Institute, Griffith University. Previous to this he was the Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) having taken up the position in November 2017. Prior to this appointment he was the Deputy Commissioner, Queensland Police Service (QPS). Peter was a police officer in Queensland for 38 years.

He is a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Faculty of Health, School of Psychology and Counselling at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). Peter is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland and was awarded Doctor of the University (honoris causa), Griffith University. He also has an Executive Master's in Public Administration through the Australian and New Zealand School of Government and Griffith University. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Justice Administration as well as other tertiary qualifications. He is a graduate of the Leadership in Counter-Terrorism (LinCT) Pacific Program.

He was awarded the Australian Police Medal on Australia Day 2008 for his contribution to policing and the community of Queensland.



OUR PEOPLE



In 2022 QHVSG operated with a total of seven employees in the following roles:

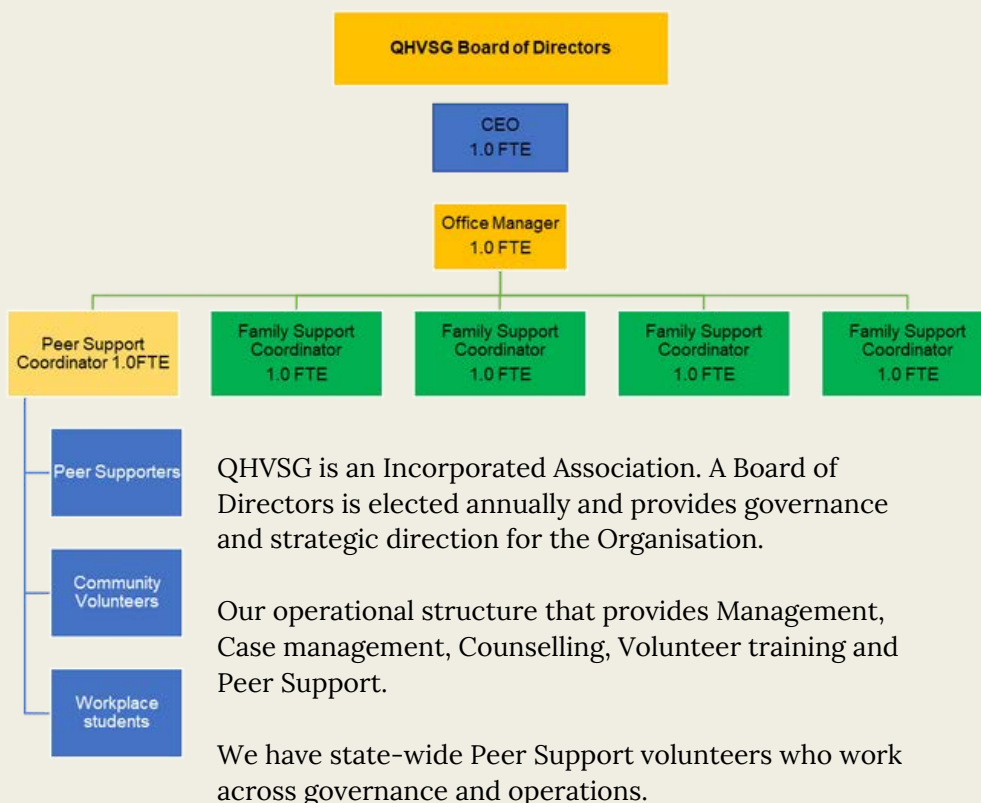
One Chief Executive Officer, one full time Office Manager, four full time Family Support Coordinators, and one full time Peer Support Coordinator. In addition, QHVSG engages an external finance contractor to provide expertise.

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

We currently have 23 Peer Supporters who have a lived experience of homicide, as well as 8 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 six tertiary education workplace students who were with us in 2022.

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). QHVSG have been successful in securing the 2022-2028 tender after being chosen as the preferred provider in November in 2021.

We are extremely grateful for the continued support of the Honourable Mark Ryan MP, and Commissioner of Queensland Police Service Katarina Carroll APM, who have committed to an additional \$1,000,000 across a five year period. We are now in the third year of this support.

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. We sincerely thank those who have chosen to support our work by financial or pro-bono contributions.

In 2022, we acknowledge:

- The Department of Premier and Cabinet
- The Queensland Police Service
- McInnes Wilson Lawyers
- Robertson Web Design and Development
- Logan City Council
- Speaker of the House
- Ma's Pizza Kitchen, Mackay
- Kmart
- New Haven Funerals North Queensland
- Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens
- Beautiful Doves
- Domino's Pizza
- Subway
- Coles
- Woolworths
- Payne Print, Mackay

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 courage, and the astonishing generosity you show in giving back to QHVSG and the community. Whenever I have met with you, whether that be one on one, at awareness days or other events, or in other circumstances, I have never ceased to be amazed at how readily you give of yourselves to support others and how determined you are to make sure that nobody ever has to face their loss alone.



It is that belief – the belief that support should always be there – that continues to guide everything QHVSG does. In the days immediately following a homicide, we are there. When a family must face their loved one's killer in court, we are there. When somebody feels they can't go back to work because they don't know what to say to their colleagues, we are there. When a child is disconnecting from school because of what they have gone through in losing a parent, sibling, or other loved one, we are there. Ultimately, we are there as families slowly work out how they can function again. We exist to help families however they need, for as long as they need, but always with the goal and hope of those families one day no longer needing us at all.

This year has seen ups and downs, as always, and you can read more about what we have been doing in the CEO's report. On that note, I thank Brett and the team in the office for their hard work throughout the year, and for their dedication to our members. We have seen some well-known faces depart and some new faces join the office throughout the year, however the team has kept the lights on and always been there despite disruptions and difficult circumstances. Thank you for the care and service you provide, and the kindness you show to families in need.

Alongside the operational team, our dedicated volunteers have yet again risen to any challenge that comes their way. We are thankful to have a network of peers and community members across the state. The unselfish and unstinting support these volunteers give to others is truly inspirational. Thanks to their commitment, our members can always pick up the phone and talk to somebody who cares about them. It is because of our volunteers that our members can always find a shoulder to cry on, a voice of compassion, and even some laughter. From the Board and all of QHVSG – our heartfelt gratitude.

It has been a year of consolidation and reflection for the Board as we continue to implement our Strategic Plan 2021-2024. The Plan reflects our firm belief that providing top quality support to members should be at the centre of all that we do. With our funding from the Queensland Government now renewed until 2027, we have been looking to the longer-term and having many discussions about what shape the next era for QHVSG needs to take and how to get to where we want to go. We are proud of what we do now, however we can always do so much more. Over the coming years, we are aiming to not only build on what we already do, but to further expand the supports we provide to include a number of new programs and services.

I have had the pleasure of working with a remarkable Board who bring a range of different backgrounds and perspectives to our discussions, and whose diverse knowledge and experience broadens and deepens our ability to guide QHVSG's direction. To Leanne (Deputy Chair), Monique (Secretary), Conor (Treasurer), Julie (regular member), Ian (regular member), Chris (regular member), and Peter (ex-officio member) – thank you. Sadly, a number of those Board members are departing at the upcoming AGM. I express my tremendous gratitude for their valuable contributions.

On a personal note, after almost five years on the Board – the majority of which have been spent as Chairperson! – I have made the difficult decision to move on. I firmly believe that regular renewal of all key roles within an organisation is crucial to avoid stagnation and complacency, as well as to maintain a focus on the future and think strategically about how to effectively meet that future. I also believe that when you care about an organisation, you have an obligation to do all you can to ensure that the organisation has the skills and capabilities it needs to best position itself to respond to, and overcome, current and emerging challenges. These are not just words to say – they are principles and values that should guide how we act. It has been a true honour to have served.

On behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank you for the support you have given to QHVSG, and I extend my very best wishes to you for the year ahead.

2023 QHVSG Educational Scholarship

Proudly sponsored by McInnes Wilson Lawyers



2023 QHVSG Educational Scholarship

We know that homicide has an enormous impact on our lives – this can hold some people back from reaching their goals in education or in their careers. Our educational scholarships aim to make this path easier.

Each year in Queensland, we award a one-off grant of \$2500 to a young person who wants to undertake tertiary education or who commenced studies in a justice or mental health related course.

In 2023, the award is made possible by the generosity of the team at McInnes Wilson Lawyers.

Scholarship details?

- Scholarships are awarded annually
- Applications are open now
- Selection will be made by the QHVSG Scholarship Committee
- The successful applicant must attend the Awards Ceremony and provide media release consent

Who can apply?

To apply for a scholarship, you must meet the following criteria:

- You need to be between 17-22 yrs of age (permission from a parent or guardian is required for children under the age of 18)
- You need to have lost an immediate family member to homicide in QLD
- You must be eligible to attend a tertiary or vocational institution such as University, College or TAFE
- You have commenced or have been accepted into a justice or mental health related course in 2023

Criteria for assessment

- Your personal goals
- Your current achievements
- Your career pursuits and how this scholarship will help achieve your goals
- Your community involvement

Please contact us via admin@qhvsg.org.au for an application form, or for further information.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



It is an absolute honour to be the be a part of an organisation that continues to provide specialised services to those who have lost a loved one to homicide. Representing your needs only comes about by listening to our members, and I sincerely thank the many people who I have had the opportunity to speak with over the past twelve months. Your insights and experiences are invaluable and your stories create enormous motivation to forge ahead with advocacy for change.

Of course change is not possible to do in isolation, and I am pleased to report that we have continued to strengthen our stakeholder relationships through respectful dialogue and mutual respect.

New service agreement awarded to QHVSG

QHVSG was successful in securing the QLD Government service agreement for the provision of victim's services specifically to support people who have been impacted by homicide.

The new funding agreement is provided through the Department of Justice and Attorney General and is managed by Victim Assist Queensland. The new tender commenced on July 1, 2022 and concludes June 30, 2027.

Another election commitment has been honoured with the new homicide support tender being over 5 years instead of the previous 3 years. There is an option to extend this for another 12 months after the initial 5 years, which will see us funded until June 30, 2028. We will of course then apply to continue our service in the next tender period from July 1, 2028.

We acknowledge the Department of Justice and Attorney General for showing the willingness to consult, and for their continued confidence in our unique support services.

Family Support Room in State Law Building

The QLD Attorney General has always been extremely supportive of our work, and I am pleased to report that the Minister has supported QHVSG having a dedicated office within the State Law Building in Brisbane. I acknowledge Perry Munro, Executive Director Facilities for DJAG, for his wonderful support in the logistical aspects of the office establishment.

This central location has been provided pro-bono, and allows us to be close to the courts and key stakeholders. It has also provided a space for families to take time away from the court setting as needed.



Hon Chief Justice Alstergren recognises QHVSG advocacy

On June 6, 2022, the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFOA) introduced the Critical Incident List. The advocacy which led to its establishment was initiated by QHVSG in late 2020 with the support of Dr Jacoba Brasch QC. Jacoba has since accepted a role as Judge on the FCFOA.

On June 23, I was humbled to be invited to attend a full ceremonial sitting of the FCFOA, where Jacoba was formally welcomed to the bench. During the formal proceedings our advocacy was formally recognised by both Her Honour and the Hon Chief Justice Alstergren. His Honour has also invited QHVSG to meet in six months to discuss how the process is working from our perspective.

It is tragic that such a process must exist. It is also essential to support the children who are placed into these situations.

To read about the critical incident list, follow the link below.

<https://www.fcfoa.gov.au/innovations/critical-incident-list>



Hon Chief Justice Alstergren and QHVSG CEO Brett Thompson meet after Hon Jacoba Brasch was welcomed to the Federal and Family Court of Australia



Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Judge, Hon Jacoba Brasch QC (centre) with QHVSG CEO Brett Thompson and NSW HVSG Executive Director Martha Jabor OAM.

Supreme Court space secured



Attending court can be an incredibly challenging aspect in a victim's journey. Whether the hearing is a single day, or across several weeks, we know that providing in person support for those who have requested it is paramount. We do this by providing paid staff and trained volunteers.

To enhance our ability to support families, I am pleased to report that QHVSG have secured a dedicated office within the Brisbane Supreme Court. The space was previously used by the Court Network Victim Support Unit and will allow our court support teams to be on hand as needed. The space also provides a private area for families to be when not inside the court room.

We thank the the Honourable Chief Justice Catherine Holmes AC for supporting our request. I also acknowledge Julie Steel, Executive Director Supreme and District Courts and Deputy Principal Registrar Amanda O'Brien for the logistical support.

Crime scene clean up

Gaps in the crime scene clean up process post homicide have been impacting members and to address the concern, I raised the issues with QPS and with VAQ.

A project team consisting of Julie Webber (Director VAQ), Detective Superintendent Craig Morrow and myself have established a process whereby QHVSG will take on the responsibility for all homicide crime scenes across Queensland from December 12, 2022. QHVSG will receive additional funding to enable us to manage the processes.

Funds will to be placed into our account by VAQ, which will be used to pay for this service. This will enable a faster response to the cleaning processes, and efficient payments. It will also ensure that families are not asked to be involved in arranging these works or being having to deal with any invoices.



Tuition support for QHVSG children

We know that homicide can negatively impact a child's schooling. As well as an increase in absenteeism, children may experience a change in relationships, decreased academic performance and challenges with memory and attention.

Having specialised support to address these challenges can be extremely beneficial, and we are pleased to have commenced individual in-school tuition for QHVSG members.

Feedback has been outstanding with one school even finding funds to enable more hours of support.

We will expand this service in 2023.

The impact of journalism from lived experience

'It is impossible to overstate the impact of hearing the testimony of two women whose lives have been devastated by homicide. The students will not forget how the actions of the media can either help or significantly hinder families already suffering.'

I firmly believe this initiative will result in graduate journalists better equipped to appropriately respond to stories involving the relatives of victims of homicide.'

These were the words of QUT lecturer Susan Hetherington, who witnessed two of our incredible Peer Supporters discuss their experiences with what they saw as ethical and unethical journalism. Now in our second year of this project, we will look to expand the experience to other universities.

I sincerely thank Sonia and Carolyn who presented so incredibly well.



Thank you

As mentioned, it is impossible for QHVSG to work in isolation - the ability to develop and maintain effective relationships with stakeholders is paramount. I am proud of what we have established.

I would like to specifically acknowledge the work of Detective Superintendent Craig Morrow and welcome back Detective Inspector Damien Hansen. Both of these officers have been an incredible source of information and their support for our work goes well above any expectations.

I acknowledge and thank Detective Inspector Chris Knight, who after twelve years in the homicide space takes on a new role outside of the state crime command. Chris has been extraordinary in his work in with the No Body No Parole legislation, and quite simply is a fine example of what a compassionate operator is.

The leadership at Victim Assist Queensland is truly engaged with our work, and I thank in particular Director Julie Webber for her professionalism in working with me.

I acknowledge the genuine support that Queensland Corrective Services, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Parole Board Queensland, Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council and the Queensland Health Victim Support Service provide. Our relationships with the organisations are strong, and I thank the leaders of these teams for their ongoing willingness to genuinely listen to our perspectives.

The last year has been a challenging period in many ways, and I thank the operations team who are working so closely as a team. We choose to work in an organisation that was founded to help people in the worst of circumstances, and you are doing it so well. We have a wonderful mix of skills within our office team and are well placed to do great things as we move forward. To Sarah, Savannah, the two Sandra's, Val, and Doy - En Avant!

To our Peer Supporters. In 2021-22 your 12,692 hours of giving equates to a monetary value of \$538,775. To put this in perspective, this is almost equivalent to our annual service agreement.

There is no doubt that there is a decline in volunteering across the world, and Queensland is not immune to this. However, I am proud to state that we have not lost any Peer Supporters in the past 12 months. I feel that is testament to the intrinsic value that supporting others brings and how simply incredible you all are. I thank you for your dedication, your perseverance and your selfless sense of purpose.

I make special mention of a community volunteer Geraldine Ferris. Geraldine has been an after hours phone supporter for 15 years and has now moved to full retirement. This is an incredible contribution from an amazing ex-nurse, pilot, motorcycle enthusiast and family elder. You are one in a million and we thank you sincerely!

The QHVSG Board will be significantly different in 2023 and I want to take this time to acknowledge and thank outgoing Directors Samara, Ian, Chris and Peter. Your generosity of time is greatly appreciated, and I thank each of you for your commitment. I also thank Monique, Leanne, Julie and Conor who have re-nominated - your input and dedication has also been invaluable.

Most importantly, I thank all those who give permission for our teams to help you. At a time when all trust can be lost, you show faith in QHVSG to support you - this is an honour beyond comprehension and one that we will strive to meet every single day.

Take care,

Brett Thompson
Chief Executive Officer

OUR FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2021-22 financial year saw the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group Inc. (QHVSOG) achieve a net operating surplus of \$96,222 which was a reduction of \$78,044 compared to the 2020-21 financial year. This result was driven by an increase in expenditure across a number of areas of the organization, most notably staff costs, including wages and superannuation, which increased by \$56,117 to \$610,997. Grant funding increased by \$47,937 and included \$200,000 in funding from the Queensland Police Service as part of a \$1,000,000 grant to be delivered over five years starting in the 2020-21 financial year. This increase was offset by cessation of COVID-19 payments which were valued at \$56,333 in the 2020-21 financial year. Donations increased significantly compared to the previous financial year however their value remains only a small proportion of total revenue. Increasing donations is an area of focus for the organization as diversifying revenue streams is likely to become more important over the longer term.

Total expenses increased from \$693,279 to \$758,770 in 2021-22. Aside from increased staff costs, other expenditure areas increased modestly including motor vehicle expenses (increasing from \$3,855 to \$11,598) and other expenses (increasing from \$10,951 to \$15,449), including promotions and displays and travel expenses. Expenses across other categories remained relatively stable for the year. The impact of high inflation is likely to increase operating costs over the short to medium term, highlighting the importance of prudent cost management as well as retention of funds from the operating surplus to reduce risks associated with unforeseen costs.

QHVSOG maintains a strong asset position primarily due to cash assets which are valued at \$449,251, which is a \$82,951 increase on the previous financial year. This leaves the organization with total assets \$460,391. Total liabilities reduced from \$50,014 to \$36,010 in 2021-22 due to a reduction in employee entitlements associated with a number of staff changes over the period. The organization's net asset position has improved markedly from \$328,157 to \$424,380. This leaves QHVSOG in a good position to weather uncertainty associated with a challenging economic environment as well as providing an opportunity to pursue initiatives from our strategic plan and to increase service provision to members and expand our reach across the State.

QHVSOG has been chosen as the preferred supplier for Homicide Support Services for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's Victims Services Funding Program for the period 2022-2027. This very significant achievement ensures a level of revenue certainty that will be fundamental in continuing to deliver QHVSOG's important support and advocacy services.

However, we will continue to maintain restraint over costs while we improve and expand our service provision over coming years to ensure we maintain our position as the primary homicide victims support service provider in Queensland.

Conor O'Brien
QHVSOG Treasurer



Prepared by

**SMB ACCOUNTING PTY LTD
ACCOUNTANTS**

**738 Gympie Road
CHERMSIDE QLD 4032**

**QUEENSLAND HOMICIDE VICTIMS' SUPPORT
GROUP INC.**

**AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30th June 2022**

Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group Inc.
Statement of Financial Performance
for the year ended 30th June 2022

	2022	2021
Income		
Grant Income		
Grants Received	843,728.18	795,791.28
Group Income		
Covid-19 Income	-	56,333.00
Donations	11,485.04	3,401.38
Fundraising & Promotions	3,883.27	11,310.13
Sales	287.28	10.91
Interest Income	-	0.48
Membership	31.00	6.00
Tax Appeal	153.85	692.29
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	859,568.62	867,545.47
Expense		
Administrative Expenses		
Accountancy	4,455.00	5,182.50
Auditors Fees	1,282.50	1,140.00
Bank Service Charges	647.94	630.67
Board Expenses	9.23	52.15
Consulting IT Services	39,798.56	25,105.55
Covid-19 Expenses	-	385.14
Dues and Subscriptions Paid	14,792.09	9,103.87
Equipment Hire & Acquisitions	1,195.65	2,371.26
Gifts & Donations	(9,660.47)	62.73
Insurances	5,668.99	5,304.91
Lease Fees	2,478.84	2,616.37
Licence & Permit Fees	1,755.47	1,187.51
Postage - General	2,717.69	2,368.12
Printing	1,613.66	962.38
Professional Fees	-	1,400.00
Registrations & Licences	639.85	3,636.60
Stationery	1,666.37	1,810.20
Sundry Expenses	-	796.78
Repairs	-	94.55
Telephone	8,429.90	9,267.21
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Administrative Expenses	77,491.27	73,478.50
Client Related Expenses		
Meeting Costs	237.50	140.06
Parking	-	23.27
Peer Support	3,239.71	14,394.35
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Client Related Expenses	3,477.21	14,557.68

This statement should be read with the attached Notes and Audit Report.

Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group Inc.
Statement of Financial Performance
for the year ended 30th June 2022

	2022	2021
Motor Vehicle		
Fuel, Oil and RACQ	1,213.55	517.12
Depreciation	1,147.00	1,434.00
Parking & Tolls	6,861.33	481.80
Motor Vehicle Service Costs	1,029.71	135.72
Registration & Insurance M/V	1,346.70	1,286.38
	<u>11,598.29</u>	<u>3,855.02</u>
Total Motor Vehicle	11,598.29	3,855.02
Property & Energy Expenses		
Cleaning Costs	2,079.96	1,950.00
Electricity	2,574.50	1,816.24
Property Management	1,822.31	863.56
Rent	20,667.86	20,707.68
Rates	69.70	-
Waste Disposal	194.00	302.00
	<u>27,408.33</u>	<u>25,639.48</u>
Total Property & Energy Expenses	27,408.33	25,639.48
Staff Costs		
Allowances	9,740.04	9,847.54
Staff Provisions	(14,298.09)	(15,884.59)
Superannuation	51,388.44	45,680.09
Wages	547,283.86	501,931.72
WorkCover	16,863.33	13,285.56
	<u>610,977.58</u>	<u>554,860.32</u>
Total Staff Costs	610,977.58	554,860.32
Staff Management		
Staff Supervision	7,619.12	8,682.28
Staff Training	4,075.22	818.18
Staff Amenities	352.99	416.65
Staff Event	320.69	19.64
	<u>12,368.02</u>	<u>9,936.75</u>
Total Staff Management	12,368.02	9,936.75
Other Expenses		
Depreciation	796.00	1,095.00
Fundraising Expenses	750.40	200.00
Promotions & Displays	10,557.27	7,937.82
Travel	2,850.22	425.78
Volunteer Expenses	496.00	1,292.98
	<u>15,449.89</u>	<u>10,951.58</u>
Total Other Expenses	15,449.89	10,951.58
Total Expense	<u>758,770.59</u>	<u>693,279.33</u>
Net Income/(Loss)	<u><u>\$ 100,798.03</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 174,266.14</u></u>

This statement should be read with the attached Notes and Audit Report.

Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group Inc.
Profit & Loss Appropriation
for the year ended 30th June 2022

	2022	2021
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	100,798.03	174,266.14
Prior Years Adjustment	(4,575.58)	-
	<u>(4,575.58)</u>	<u>-</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	96,222.45	174,266.14
Accumulated Surplus/Deficit - Beginning of Year	<u>328,157.89</u>	<u>153,891.75</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	<u><u>\$ 424,380.34</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 328,157.89</u></u>

This statement should be read with the attached Notes and Audit Report.

Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
as at 30th June 2022

	2022	2021
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash Assets		
WBC 308940 - Working	449,251.41	366,300.17
WBC 308959 - Debit Cards	1,980.00	969.14
WBC 308967 - Interest	289.99	289.99
Trade Debtors	200.00	-
Rental Bond Authority	1,620.00	1,620.00
	<u>453,341.40</u>	<u>369,179.30</u>
Total Current Assets		
	<u>453,341.40</u>	<u>369,179.30</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant & Equipment		
Motor Vehicles - At Cost	19,645.23	19,645.23
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(15,054.80)</u>	<u>(13,907.80)</u>
	4,590.43	5,737.43
Office Equipment	131,083.52	131,083.52
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(128,949.77)</u>	<u>(128,189.77)</u>
	2,133.75	2,893.75
Accom Plant & Equipmt. - At Cost	2,594.14	2,594.14
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(2,268.60)</u>	<u>(2,232.60)</u>
	325.54	361.54
Total Non-Current Assets	<u>7,049.72</u>	<u>8,992.72</u>
	<u>7,049.72</u>	<u>8,992.72</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>460,391.12</u>	<u>378,172.02</u>
	<u>460,391.12</u>	<u>378,172.02</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables		
Accounts Payable	3,534.03	5,439.80
PAYG Tax Payable	8,504.00	6,268.00
Superannuation Payable	3,784.75	4,112.03
Tax Payable	(4,115.04)	(3,169.74)
Provisions		
Employee Entitlements	13,124.79	32,422.84
Other Current Liabilities		
Accruals	11,178.25	4,941.20
	<u>36,010.78</u>	<u>50,014.13</u>
Total Current Liabilities		
	<u>36,010.78</u>	<u>50,014.13</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>36,010.78</u>	<u>50,014.13</u>
	<u>36,010.78</u>	<u>50,014.13</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 424,380.34</u>	<u>\$ 328,157.89</u>
	<u>\$ 424,380.34</u>	<u>\$ 328,157.89</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Accumulated Surplus at beginning of the year	328,157.89	153,891.75
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	96,222.45	174,266.14
	<u>424,380.34</u>	<u>328,157.89</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	<u>\$ 424,380.34</u>	<u>\$ 328,157.89</u>
	<u>\$ 424,380.34</u>	<u>\$ 328,157.89</u>

This statement should be read with the attached Notes and Audit Report.

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 27 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.

Nine new Peer Supporters undertook training through our Peer Support Coordinator, and existing Peers were provided with the opportunity to undertake a range of support and self-care learning sessions through Blue Knot and the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement. In total, four hundred and seventy hours of operational time was used to facilitate training and provide de-briefing for Peer supporters.

There were ten Peer Support Groups operating across Queensland throughout the 2021-22 year, as well as two online sessions. A total of forty four Peer Support Group meetings took place.

We also welcomed a new Peer Support Group in Cairns.

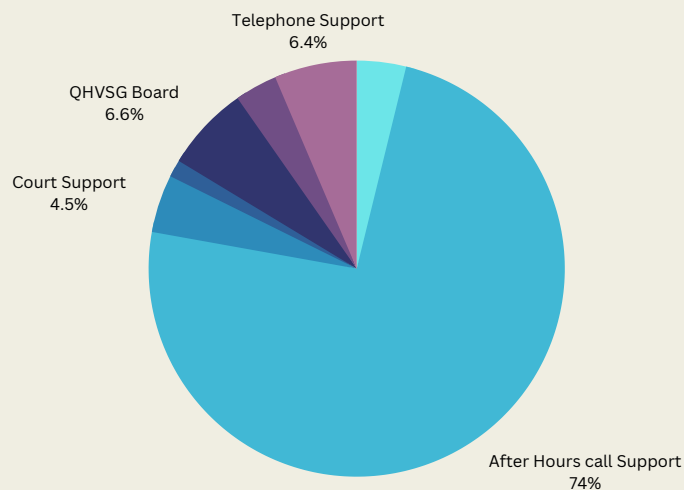
Fifty four new Peers accessed support, with 348 individual instances peers instances of support recorded.



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.



**Breakdown of Community Volunteers
and Workplace Students for the 2021-22 Financial Year**

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.

8441 hours of
contribution

\$358,320.45

**Monetary value of
Community Volunteer and student
placement hours in 2021-22 FY**

8

Community Volunteers

6

**Tertiary
Workplace
Students**

Our Peer Supporter contributions


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

Tasks undertaken included:

- After hours telephone support
- Board of Director roles
- Community education
- Court support
- Event organisation and attendance
- Fundraising
- Peer Support Meeting facilitation
- Professional Education to university journalism students
- Supported and facilitated Peer Support weekends
- Telephone support
- Queensland Police Detective training

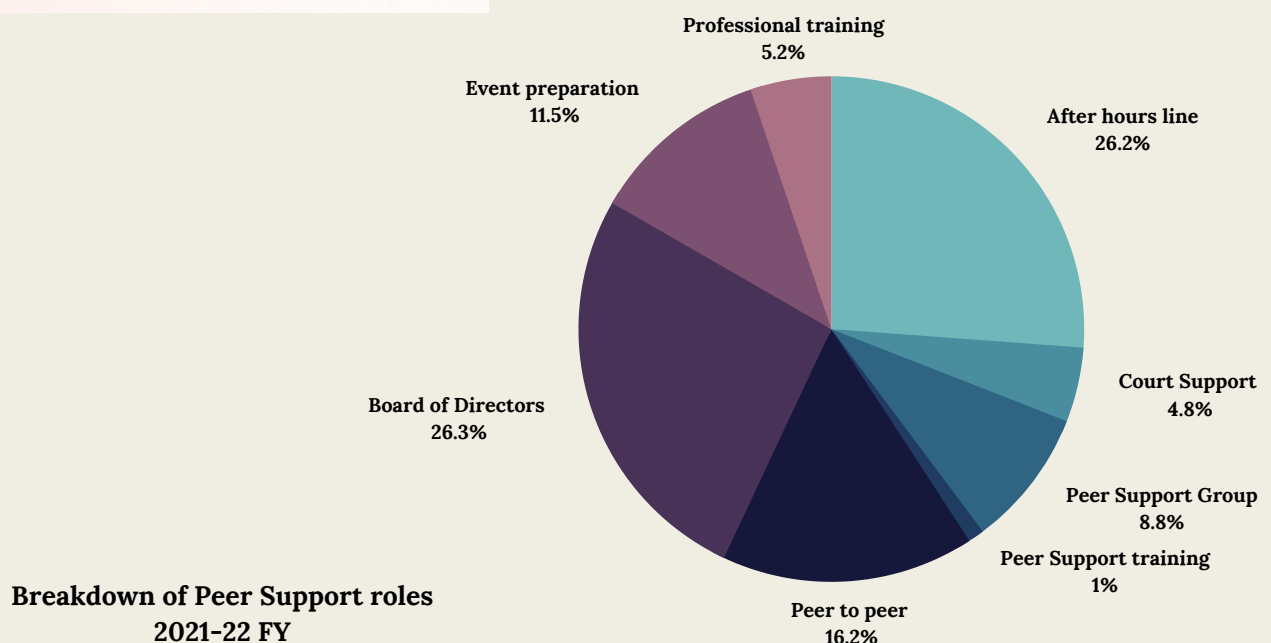
In 2022, our Peer Supporter Volunteers provided 4251 hours of voluntary time.

4251 hours of
contribution

Thank you... 

\$180,454.95

**Monetary value of
Peer Support Hours in 2021-22 FY**



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Sadly we continue to see violence impacting the lives of many people and as can be seen below, our team responded to fifty new homicide cases last financial year. Each homicide is responded to based upon the individual needs of those left behind, and we acknowledge every loss of life as equally important.

Number of new homicides responded to
by QHVSG in the 2021-22 financial year

50

13 females



37 males



2

less male homicides than 2020-21

3

less female homicides than 2020-21



Source. QHVSG database. 2022 *

1.7.21 - 30.6.22

*figures refer to the number of homicides that QHVSG was
formally notified of by the Queensland State Crime Command.

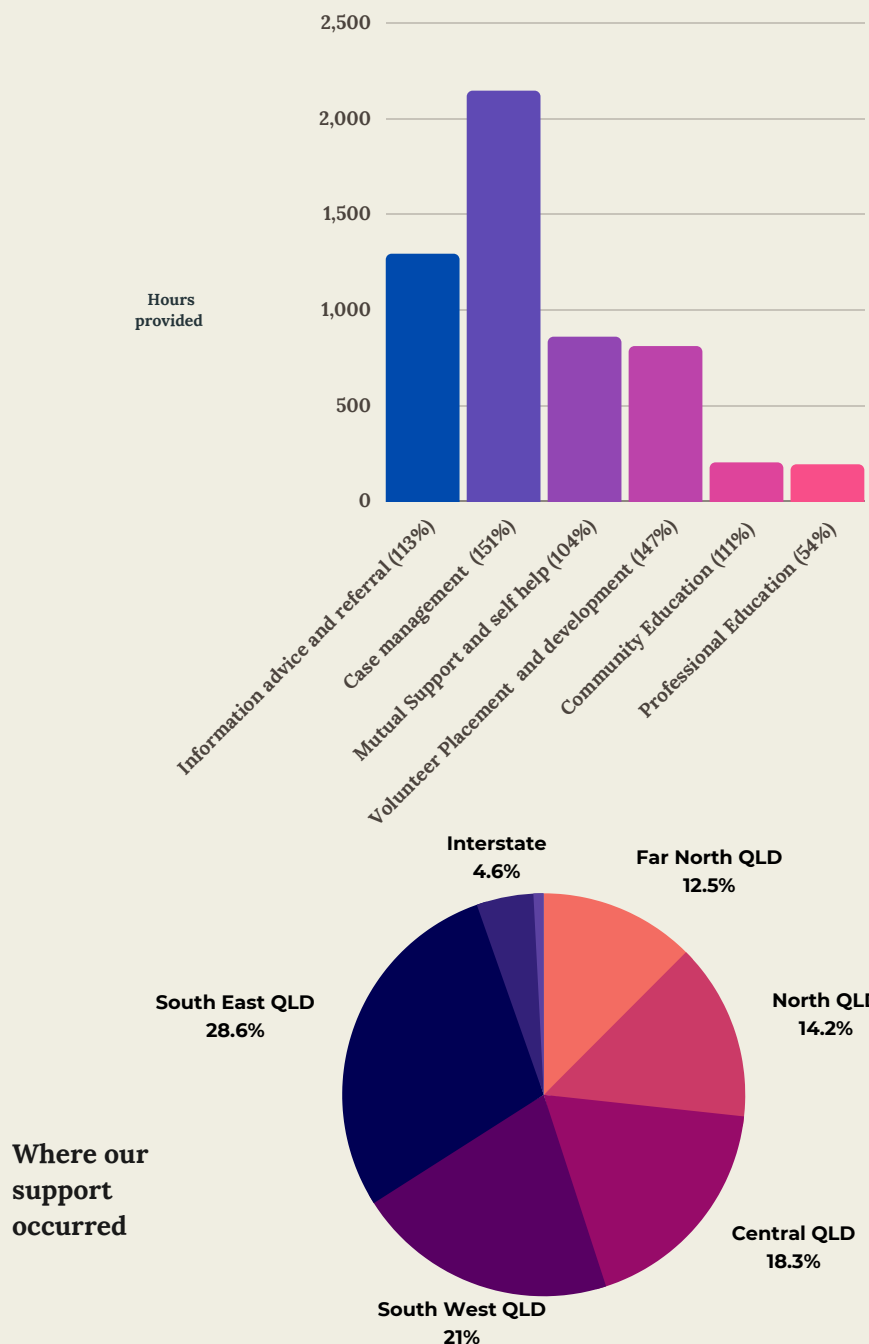
Output measures

The end of the 2021-22 financial year marked the conclusion of the 2017-2021 service agreement with Queensland Government.

QHVSG exceeded all output targets across the 2021-22 financial year, with the exception of the professional education. This aspect of our work was 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.

Overall, our ability to exceed the performance measures placed us in a strong position to apply for the 2022-2028 tender process.

VAQ key output categories



OUR EVENTS

With COVID-19 restrictions being eased, we have been able to conduct more events across the past twelve months. In particular, we were able to re-commence in person Memorial Days and Member support weekends.

In 2022, a range of events were successfully undertaken which included:

- Men's and women's weekends at Coochiemudlo Island
- Homicide Awareness Days
- QHVSG Memorial Days in Southern, Central and Northern QLD regions
- Night of Recognition at QLD Parliament House
- Children's Christmas Parties
- Bridge to Brisbane

Member Support Weekends

The men's support weekend took place from September 9-11. The Coochiemudlo site was perfect for the group to take time out, get to know others, and feel the benefit of peer support. All activities were optional, but we all joined in. From golfing to Finska, and fishing to storytelling – it was simply wonderful.

Of course, the connections that were built will be ongoing and all those that attended now have a larger support network. It was wonderful to witness the mutual respect and willingness to listen.

I acknowledge the ongoing support from Bill Huntley as the facilitator. Bill is fantastic and we appreciate all that he does.



The women's support weekend was also held at beautiful Coochiemudlo Island and to say it was incredible is an understatement. Six incredible, strong women came together to share their stories, meet new friends, be cared for, pampered and fill their hearts.

The conversations flowed, there were tears, laughter, hugs and food aplenty. When you hear words like 'this weekend has changed my life', it truly shows just how special and vital these weekends are.

We could not have held this weekend without our amazing Peer Support Coordinator Sandra who was just wonderful - putting everyone at ease, running activities and helping the volunteers.

We also could not have held this weekend without the incredible Martha Jabour OAM from HVSG NSW who took such beautiful care of the ladies - we knew they were in safe and loving hands with you and we thank you for all that you do.

Thank you also to our volunteers Gai and Monique who came to ensure the ladies were well feed and looked after. These incredible volunteers are an inspiration and ask for nothing in return.



QHVSG Night of Recognition

The QHVSF Recognition Awards publicly acknowledge exceptional Police, Media and Service Providers across Queensland who have gone above and beyond the everyday demands of their role and displayed exceptional qualities of compassion and empathy towards our QHVSF members.

Now in their fifth year, the state wide awards highlight the need for a compassionate, trauma informed approach when working with people who have lost a loved one to homicide.



Damian Leeding Compassion in Policing Award Presented by Julie Waters

Julie is the loving mother of Detective Senior Constable Damian Leeding. Damian was murdered in the line of duty 10 years ago and Julie feels that sponsoring the Damian Leeding Compassion in Policing award is a wonderful way to honour her son's memory.

Julie and her family are honoured to sponsor this award as a wonderful reminder of the individuals in Policing who exude the qualities of care and compassion and go above and beyond in the most challenging of situations.

Nominees

- Detective Senior Sergeant Mark Mooney, Detective Sergeant Chris Lafferty and Detective Senior Constable Nathan Starkey from Cleveland -Nominated by Debbie Goodlet
- Detective Senior Constable Andrew Thompson from Logan Police Command -Nominated by Patrick Walsh
- A joint nomination for Detective Senior Constable Daniel Hubbard and Detective Senior Constable Julian Libbis from Burleigh Heads - Nominated by Maryanne Lewis
- Detective Senior Constable Mat Wickson and Detective Senior Constable Kelly Burbank from Bayside Criminal Investigation Branch - Nominated by Gloria Ford, Mavis McCarthy and Judith Graveson and Tammy Davis
- Detective Senior Constable Matthew Wyllie from Logan District CIB - Beaudesert CIB/ CPIU
- Nominated by Bernadette Schiller
- Sergeant Scott Prendergast from Kingaroy CIB - Nominated by James McLeod
- Detective Senior Constable Joshua Wyper - Nominated by Lisa Geppert

2022 Damian Leeding Compassion in Policing Award recipients

**Detective Senior Sergeant Mark Mooney,
Detective Sergeant Chris Lafferty
and Detective Senior Constable Nathan Starkey**



Compassion - Noun: Sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others. "The victims should be treated with compassion." This definition should also contain the names of Mark Mooney, Chris Lafferty and Nathan Starkey as perfect examples of how to treat victims with compassion.

On 8 February 2018 our journey began with the discovery of James by Albert. From that moment, Mark Mooney was in constant contact with us. I waited for his call every night at 8.30-9.00 and he never disappointed. He had to endure my ramblings and hysteria during those early days and he did with compassion and respect. This continued until he handed the case over to Chris and Nathan when the two evil beings were arrested by them on the 21st and 22nd February.

Chris and Nathan have shown their compassion in numerous ways. They held off arresting Alana's mother until the day after Alana's 6th birthday so that it would not have a negative impact on an innocent little girl. They have always put our feelings first and from the beginning have shown us the utmost respect and understanding. Never once did I feel like I was a nuisance or a burden to them, even after some crazy emails and phone calls, I was always treated with compassion.

Chris and Nathan showed Albert so much empathy. After both mistrials Chris wasted no time in going to see Albert as he wanted to be the one to explain to Albert why there was a mistrial and what to expect. He did not have to do that, but again it showed the extra mile that this team were willing to go for us. Chris last spoke to Albert the Saturday before Albert passed away and was a welcome presence at Albert's funeral.

Over the past four + years these three amazing men and their teams have been our rocks. They have supported, listened, advised and showed us that we were not alone and that we could count on them every step of the way.

Compassion, empathy, understanding and respect. That is what they all showed us time and time again.

Mitchell Ferrario Compassion in Media Award Presented by Gai and Monique Ferrario

The Ferrario family chose to sponsor this award because of their experience with the media during the trial into Mitchell's death. There were some terrible untruths written about him and at times it felt like he was the one on trial, not the offender.

Mitchell's family hope that by sponsoring this award, it will serve as a reminder to the media that there are real people behind the stories they report on, and that what they say can have a damaging and lasting impact on the families left behind.

They also hope that this award will show our members that there are truly compassionate media representatives who honour our loved ones, and who care about making positive changes to the lives of others. This is a legacy that the family know Mitchell would have been proud to leave behind.

Nominees

- Ann Wason-Moore from the Gold Coast Bulletin - Nominated by Bernadette Schiller
- Jeremy Pierce from the Gold Coast Bulletin - Nominated by Lili Greer

2022 Mitchell Ferrario Compassion in Media Award recipient

Anne Wason-Moore



I met Ann last December and she did a story printed in The Gold Coast Bulletin on the mass murder at Ayer's Rock Inland Hotel which occurred on 18th August 1983. This was a heinous crime in which a Road train was driven through a Hotel and 5 people lost their lives and many others were injured.

I was one of the survivors of this crime and it has had a devastating effect on my life. Ann wrote this story with compassion and a great deal of empathy to me.

Through this story which Ann wrote, I have been contacted by several other survivors, and family members of those murdered who have never had anyone to speak to about this terrible night in our lives. Also it has brought attention to the fact that the Offender is coming up for parole after 38 years when his original sentence was for 5 terms of his natural life.

ABC Darwin (Matt Garrick) has done follow up stories about this crime, Nina Michelle has done a podcast about the Truck Murders, That's life have also done a story about this too. I feel Ann has brought attention to this crime with care and compassion to the survivors. Ann has also brought awareness of the Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group which is really good for anyone who was unaware of this group.

Brad Lees Compassion in Service Award Presented by Maureen Sutton

Maureen is the loving grandmother of little Brad Lees whose life was taken in 2012. Brad was 2 years, 1 month and 24 days young when he died. There are no words to describe the loss of an innocent child.

Maureen says "Sponsoring the Brad Lees Award for Compassion in Service has given us a meaningful and positive way to pay tribute to Brad, and to acknowledge and thank the many people who help victims of homicide on the road to recovery by their acts of compassion and kindness.

It is a special privilege to honour Brad in this way and keep the dream of him alive.

There is no foot too small that it cannot leave an imprint."

Nominees

- Danny Boyle from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions - Nominated by Debbie Goodlet
- David Clayton and Staff from New Haven Funerals North Queensland - Nominated by Leanne Pullen
- Hon Justice Jacoba Brasch - Nominated by Tony Castel

2022 Brad Lees Compassion in Service Award recipient

Danny Boyle - Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions



Compassion - Noun: Sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others. "The victims should be treated with compassion. " This definition should also contain the name of Danny Boyle as a perfect example of how to treat victims with compassion.

February 2022 saw the third trial, a judge alone trial, with the amazing Danny Boyle as the Prosecutor, the person that was given the task to get justice for James. Danny and his team worked tirelessly to ensure that this trial would not end up in a third mistrial as they wanted Justice for James. Justice for Albert. Justice for Alana and Justice for us all.

As busy as Danny was at the time he personally always called us to update us on what the next steps were. Even now as we await for any updates on the appeals, it is Danny who contacts us to let us know what is happening and explaining the process.

On the day the judgement was handed down, 23 March 2022, it was only fitting that Danny read out Albert's Victim Impact Statement, because he knew what it would have meant to Albert to put his thoughts and feelings into words.

Over the years this amazing man has been our rock. He has supported, listened, advised and showed us that we were not alone and that we could count on him every step of the way. Compassion, empathy, understanding and respect. That is what Danny has shown us time and time again.

QHVSG Volunteer Of The Year

Presented by Jonty Bush MP

Nominees

- Tim Class-Auliff - Nominated by Llyod and Suzanne Clarke
- Gai and Monique Ferrario - Nominated by Bernadette Schiller
- Julie Hand - Nominated by Gai Ferrario
- Leanne Pullen - Nominated by Lili Greer
- Bernadette Schiller - Nominated by Elaine Pearson
- Monique Ferrario - Nominated by Kerry Walsh
- Peter Muller - Nominated by Tony Castel

2022 QHVSG Volunteers of the year

Gai and Monique Ferrario



Gai and Monique are two of the most amazing women I have ever met.

They run the Gold Coast QHVSG meetings monthly. Gai and Monique are always there for the members, they are always available for a chat to anyone who needs to talk. They do so much unseen volunteer work with members.

They have both suffered great loss themselves with the loss of a son and brother with the murder of Mitch Ferrario, yet they both always have a smile a cuddle or an ear for others in their time of need.

They both do fundraising for the QHVSG. They volunteer for the Children's Christmas party. They do home visits with new members (which is a very difficult thing to do).

During Covid both Gai and Monique have always been available for any of us members to talk when we need them. They both work and yet always have the time for others. They do a lot of unseen work, never expecting accolades.

As we all sail through our sea of grief and loss, Gai and Monique make all of our journeys easier with a word or a smile. Most of us can only aspire to be the incredible women that Gai and Monique are.

They are such an asset to QHVSG and its members. I cannot think of more deserving recipients for this award.

Queensland Police Service nominees

Report by Detective Superintendent Craig Morrow Operations Commander Homicide Group, State Crime Command

Last night I had the privilege to attend the Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group 'Annual Night of Recognition' at Parliament House. Special mention though to those QPS officers nominated for the '2022 Damian Leeding Compassion in Policing Award', presented by Julie Waters.

There were eleven nominees (nominated by the families of homicide victims) for this award, which demonstrates the wonderful work that all our police do when dealing with the families of homicide victims.

Each nominee was so very much deserving of the recognition, with Detective Acting Inspector Mark Mooney, Detective Acting Senior Sergeant Chris Lafferty and Detective Senior Constable Nathan Starkey taking out the award. I'd also like to acknowledge the words spoken by Chris Lafferty, in identifying how important and rewarding it has been to have connected with a family that have experienced significant trauma in their life.

Other nominees included DSC Andrew Thompson (Logan), DSC Daniel Hubbard and DSC Julian Libbis (Burleigh Heads), DSC Mat Wickson and DSC Kelly Burbank (Bayside), DSC Matthew Wyllie (Logan), DSC Scott Prendergast (Kingaroy) and DSC Joshua Wyper (Burleigh Heads)

The role of case officers and family liaison officers is so crucial to the success of any investigation. Well done to all involved.



Homicide Awareness Days

The Brisbane Awareness Day was a successful one, with a wide range of organisations and Members of Parliament in attendance. QHVSQ members were able to speak directly with the leaders from the ODP, Parole Board QLD, QLD Police Service, Corrective Services and of course QHVSQ.

We sincerely thank the Honourable Curtis Pitt MP, Speaker of the House for his support of this event.



QHVSG Memorial Days

Our Memorial days were able to commence after two years of online events. They were well supported and occurred in three regions - Southern QLD (Brisbane), Central QLD (Mackay) and Northern QLD Cairns).

Southern Queensland

The Southern QLD Memorial Day took place at Brisbane City Hall and we sincerely thank all those who attended. Tributes were read by QHVSG staff and one very young and brave member who had lost her dad.

Music was supplied by Hallie Pedrola, who is a solo artist and also in "The Australian Voices" group. Her voice provided the perfect ambience as families lit candle of remembrance.

Guests enjoyed some delicious light refreshments after the formal part of the service, and as always, spent time connecting to each other. Our peers truly have a unique bond, and memorial days provide a very special time to foster these connections.



Central Queensland (Mackay)

Sincere thanks to one of our incredible peer supporters for arranging the Mackay Region Memorial Day Service. The event on Sunday 9 October was well attended and was a perfect example of how peer support can truly be of benefit.

Leanne Pullen spent many hours seeking local business support to minimise the costs to QHVSG, set plans, invited guests, and made everyone feel incredibly well supported. I cannot thank Leanne enough for the huge amount of voluntary work that she does for others.



David Clayton from Newhaven Funerals has been a long-term supporter of the Mackay Peer Support Group. David provided a range of support, including paying for the wonderful butterfly release. It is very fitting that David was nominated in this year's compassion in service awards.



Northern Queensland (Cairns)



Another incredible Peer Supporter was heavily involved in the organisation of the Northern QLD Memorial Day event on 15 October. Cairns based Peter Muller has volunteered with QHVSG since 1995 and worked closely with Val and Sandra from the QHVSG office to run a beautiful Memorial Day at 'The Couch' in Cairns.

Kind words, reflective tributes and genuine support underpinned the day. We are so pleased that the Cairns Peer Support Group is again being so active and we thank all of those who attended and look forward to being able to continue such wonderful support.



Mackay Awareness Day

On Sunday 19th June, Mackay members came together to enjoy the beautiful weather and each other's company at the Botanic Gardens.

The group started the day with an awareness walk and checked out our daisy garden which hadn't come into full bloom yet. A wonderful lunch was well received thanks to the culinary skills of Gary Pullen. An enjoyable afternoon was then spent rock painting.

Special thanks to Leanne Pullen for organising this special event for members



Children's Christmas Parties

South East QLD Childrens Christmas party

QHVSG's South East Queensland Children's Christmas party was held on Sunday and what a fantastic day it was! Around 100 people came together to play, eat and of course meet Santa!

Days like this are impossible to achieve without the help of dedicated volunteers and staff. We thank you all for working so hard to make this day so special for QHVSG families.

A very special thank you to the team at Domino's Logan Central for their extremely generous donation of 40 delicious pizzas and 10 garlic breads to feed the masses!

Breathtaking Balloons Australia, Brisbane Pony Parties and Brisbane Jumping Castle Hire were all there to provide lots of fun and entertainment for the children and their families.

Thank you to the Logan Police for making sure Santa found his way safely to the party when it was too hot for the reindeer to bring him!

To Santa - we thank you for coming along to spoil the boys and girls again this year, especially when you are so busy!

Most importantly, thank you to all of the families who joined us on the day. We hope you enjoyed the day and can't wait to see you there again next year



Mackay Children's Christmas party

QHVS's Mackay Children's Christmas party was held on Saturday the 26th of November at the Miniature Trains. The weather was perfect, and a wonderful afternoon was had by all in attendance.

A special thanks must go to Queensland Fire and Rescue Service who arrived in a big red truck allowing the children the opportunity to sit in it and try out some of the equipment. One little guy was so impressed that he didn't want to get out of the Fire Engine.

Thank you to volunteers from Mackay Society of Model Engineers Inc. who drove the trains. The trains are as popular with the adults as they are with the children.

Thank you most sincerely to Terri- Lee from Let's Just Face It Entertainment who once again entertained the children with balloon twisting and her magical face/arm painting. Terri-Lee's artistic abilities are amazing. Several grown-ups also lined up to try out Terri-Lee's talent.

Special thanks to the Mackay individuals and businesses who generously donated, making the afternoon such a success, with an extra thank you to Payne Print who are always very generous and ready to help.

Thank you to Gary for manning the barbecue, Zac for being a great Aussie Santa and his eager, elf helper Angela. Thank you to all the families who attended, and I hope that you all had a wonderful, fun filled afternoon.

Merry Christmas to you all.



Bridge to Brisbane



It was wonderful to have a QHVSG team in the 2022 Bridge to Brisbane. Our office team didn't set any land speed records, but we had a wonderful day out.

We were also very happy to raise \$2011 for our members, which will be put to great use.

We look forward to doing this again in 2023, and invite members, stakeholders and supporters to join the fun!

A special thankyou

Tony Cribb is a New Zealand artist who has given QHVSG permission to use one of his wonderful poems. The poem appears in one of his pieces called 'Little wings of hope', which is shown below.

We know that whilst grief may not go away, we also hope that by filling our lives with supportive people and uplifting experiences, that it can have less influence on us over time.

Thank you Tony.





**Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group
Family Support after Murder Inc.
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