



Parramatta

ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT
2023



THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA

Vision, Mission, Values and Inclusion Statement

OUR VISION

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live love and fight, alongside others, to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

OUR MISSION

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus.

We share the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice

OUR VALUES

Recognising that God is already at work in the world, we value:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Compassion
- Diversity

We commit ourselves in prayer and practice to this land of Australia and its people, seeking reconciliation, unity and equity.

OUR COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION

The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.

We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children.



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LETTER FROM THE CORPS OFFICERS

Hebrews 13:16 says, “Remember to do good and help each other. Gifts like this please God.”

In 2023, Parramatta Salvos has done a whole lot of good!

We feel privileged to lead this community and join with God as He works in the city of Parramatta. When we arrived at the corps, Sarah in late 2020 and Kylie in early 2021, there was a buzz of excitement as we entered our new building and the world began to come out of lock down. With the resurgence of covid in 2021 and subsequent months of lockdown once again, our building was not open for church or community programs.

So, we hope you can join in our excitement as you read this report and see all that is now happening in our magnificent facility. A buzzing community hub during the week, and what we hope is a vibrant worshipping community on the weekends. We have tried to be responsive to the needs of our community, and have seen God work in incredible ways as we partner with Him.

The intention of this report is to encourage and inform our faith community about the missional, financial and property matters of Parramatta Corps. Our Business Team and Leadership Team hope that this report will provide transparency and accountability - helping us to be good stewards of all that God has given us. The data in this report involving people and programs is taken from the 2023 calendar year. The data relating to corps finances is taken from the 2022/2023 financial year.

We hope that our first Annual Ministry Report will be a building block for future reports. We intend to produce this document each year and build upon the information given based on your feedback. Please keep in mind that our teams have done the best they can to provide accurate information based upon what has been provided from The Salvation Army nationally. If you have any questions or comments relating to this report, we invite you to provide this feedback using the QR code below. We respectfully ask that you use this means of communication regarding the report, rather than emailing or calling during this busy season. The feedback will be reviewed and our teams will answer in early 2024.

As you look at photos, read ministry reports and view statistics, it is our hope that you are inspired. We have been so encouraged as we have put this report together and heard from our ministry leaders about what God is doing in their ministries. There is much to be grateful for, and certainly, we are grateful to each one of you as you contribute to the life of Parramatta Salvos.

On a personal note, we thank you for the incredible support you offer us as your Corps Officers. We love life and ministry here, and we are grateful for the way you love and care for us. We honour our three leadership teams for the way they embrace our ideas, challenge our thinking and passionately support the vision and mission of Parramatta Salvos. We can't wait for 2024, as we celebrate 140 years of Parramatta Corps and look forward to all that is to come!



Kylie Collinson (Major)



Sarah Walker (Lieutenant)



Scan to give feedback or visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/bgx9KPbrJz>

LOCAL MISSION PLAN

Every Mission Expression in The Salvation Army has a Local Mission Plan (LMP). The LMP asks leaders and teams to consider how their team addresses the national mission. At Parramatta Salvos, our Corps Leadership Team writes the LMP each year, based on an assessment of the needs of our faith community and wider community. The plan below highlights our goals for 2023 and the ways in which we will bring those goals to life. We are pleased to let you know that the goals listed in **green** have already been achieved in 2023. Our 2024 LMP has been submitted to the division and will be made available to the corps in February 2024.

Parramatta Corps Local Mission Plan 2023

Caring for People

We would like to support community members and our faith community with access to free or subsidised counselling, mental health education and continual support of small groups (Life Groups).

- **Engage casual counsellor using Red Shield Appeal funding. This counsellor would be available to faith community and wider community members for free or a small fee.**
- **Run 'The Sanctuary Course' regularly at Parramatta Salvos. This course educates people about mental health and how best to walk alongside those who are facing challenges.**
- Develop ongoing Life Group connections and ways for people to connect with new groups.

Creating Faith Pathways

We would like to increase opportunities for 'first steps' in people's faith journey through introductory faith pathways including Alpha and a lunch time chapel service.

- **Form and train team to run Alpha course. Identify someone to lead facilitators and course.**
- **Begin Alpha course in lead up to Easter. Begin course on Thursday evenings in Term 1.**
- Begin lunch time chapel on a Connect Site day. This would be a casual service open to all community members.

Building Healthy Communities

We would like to rebuild Friday night Youth and Young Adults' ministry, and increase the frequency and reach of Youth and Young Adults Worship nights.

- **Establish, train and mentor new Youth & Young Adults Leadership Team**
- **Hold Youth & Young Adults social nights on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at Parramatta Salvos.**
- **Increase frequency of Youth & Young Adults Worship Nights – these nights will happen twice per term, and we will work towards expanding the team.**

Working for Justice

Increase days that Connect Site is open, with the café space open every day.

- Build volunteer pool and capacity to operate the Café from 9:30am-1pm each day.
- **Build a volunteer team and roster to manage emergency relief. This will still happen limited days during the week.**
- **Build volunteer pool and roster to manage Connect Site, drive pick-up van, cook. Focus on engaging community volunteers in these positions.**

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Business Team

The purpose of the Business Team is to provide business leadership to ensure sustainability and enable the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army Parramatta.

Team Members:

- Kim Entwistle (chair)
- John Acocks
- David Collinson (Major)
- Anthony Eden
- Barry Fischle (Major, retired from team Oct 23)
- Noel Payne

Leadership Team

The purpose of the Leadership Team is to lead the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army Parramatta.

Team Members:

- Jonathan Browning
- Gavin Entwistle
- Troy Gibbs
- Jeffrey Parker
- Margaret Poore
- Shannon Vos

Pastoral Care Council

The purpose of the Pastoral Care Council is to promote and coordinate the pastoral care of people connected to The Salvation Army Parramatta.

Team Members:

- Dot Griffin (chair)
- Kerrie Acocks
- Ray Haule
- Keith Humbley
- Montana Sandercock-Brown
- Bing Bing Tan
- Patricia Yeboah

Corps Officers

Our corps officers sit on all three of our leadership teams at Parramatta Corps.

Kylie Collinson (Major)
Team Leader

Sarah Walker (Lieutenant)
Team Member

OUR STAFF

We have had a number of staffing changes and additions at Parramatta Salvos in 2023. We are pleased to say all current roles are filled, and our staff team and co-located services are collaborating brilliantly.

Jonathan Browning - Community Pastor - Part time

Roza Gutschow - Community Program Coordinator (ACVVS and Community Engagement) - Full time

Marica Stamp - Concierge - Full time

Karen Stewart - Administration Assistant - Part time

OUR CO-LOCATED SERVICES

There are a number of other Salvation Army mission expressions that use our site to provide services to the community. We are so grateful for the work they do in supporting us and working together to meet the needs of people in Parramatta.

Doorways

1 Caseworker located at Parramatta Salvos office

Money Care

4 Financial Counsellors located at Parramatta Salvos office

ePlus Local

1 Employment Consultant - Humanitarian located at Parramatta Salvos Office

Employment Plus

Full staff located in Shop 5 at Parramatta Salvos

Eva Burrows College

Full Sydney staff located on Level 2 at Parramatta Salvos

Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACCVS)

Program coordinator located at Parramatta Salvos

MISSION VOLUNTEERS

A mission volunteer is someone who contributes time, service and skills without expectation of financial gain in order to assist in accomplishing the mission of The Salvation Army. In our corps this includes soldiers, adherents, church members, musicians, ministry leaders, weekday mission volunteers, among others. Mission roles are the specific positions they fill. We are especially grateful for all who give of their time, energy and passion to enable our mission here.



208
Mission Roles

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Gathered worship is a key element of our life as a church, and each Sunday we have three congregations that meet, and sometimes four between our 9:30am service, 11am service, Easy English Congregation (PEEC) and Youth and Young Adults Worship Night.



135

Average attendees per week
(In Person + Online Live - 9.30 & 11am)



207

Average 9:30am online views per week



245

Youtube Subscribers



1927

Facebook Followers

Parramatta Easy English Congregation (PEEC)



7

Average attendees per week



The nationalities of attendees are from India, China, South Korea, and The Philippines.

This year PEEC has studied various chapters from Matthew's gospel, Daniel with the emphasis on chapters 9,10,11, and 12, leading into the book of Revelation.

Each week a lesson is prepared and any unusual words are highlighted with a dictionary definition.

PEEC occurs in the Seminar Room each Sunday at 9:30am and is led by Keith Humbley.

Youth and Young Adults Worship Nights

Youth and Young Adults Worship Nights have occurred twice a term in 2023. These nights are put together by a regional team of young adults from 7 different corps across Sydney, led by Zoe Entwistle. It has been amazing to watch our young leaders rise up and lead worship, preach and share their testimonies. There is also a great time of fellowship after church as everyone heads down the street for dinner!



70

Average attendees

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



212

Soldiers & Adherents



2

New soldiers enrolled



1

Newcomers lunch

Over the past 2 years, Newcomers lunches have helped us to welcome and get to know new people at Parramatta Salvos. It's a great opportunity to introduce them to our mission and ministry.

In 2022, part of our Local Mission Plan involved regular 'Salvo 101' classes for people to learn more about our mission, vision, values and doctrines in The Salvation Army, and to prepare people for soldiership and adherency. Our last round of classes had 5 participants involved.

CORPS RETREAT



65

People attended our corps retreat

Under the leadership of Lt. Cols. David and Sandra Godkin, we met at The Tops Conference Centre to explore 'Greater Things'. Our weekend away together was a time of deep worship and teaching, with beautiful fellowship and a whole lot of fun! It is our aim to hold a retreat each year as part of our rhythm at Parramatta Salvos, and will endeavour to make all future weekends as accessible as possible for all people.



LIFE GROUPS



10

Established Life Groups

Our hopes for the future:

"I would love 2024 to be a year for renewing our commitment to God through regular Bible Study/Life Groups as a Corps and individually." - **Annette Duncan** (Life Group Coordinator)

We launched Life Groups in 2022, and had a great initial uptake. In 2023, some groups combined, others changed days, and some groups didn't recommence after the Christmas break.

CHINESE DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

✝ 8

Average monthly attendees



This group meets together one Saturday each month to enjoy fellowship with one another and sit under the word of God. We talk and read the bible together in Mandarin, opening His word under a "Lectio Divinia" style of study. Each time, we share with one another the words in the bible that speak to us. We also pray for one another during our time together.

What we're celebrating:

"Some of our members shared their testimony over the year, and by His grace, we have had another year of learning, growing and loving each other." - **Bing Bing Tan (Leader)**

PRAYER NEWSLETTER & CARDS



28

People subscribed



35

Community prayer cards submitted

Our PCC have begun a prayer newsletter, to pray for requests from our church community, and requests that come from our community members through our prayer cards in the foyer. We believe in the power of prayer, and the way it brings us together as believers and helps us each connect with God.

ALPHA

For the first time in many years, we were able to offer the Alpha Course at Parramatta Salvos. Alpha is an environment for anyone and everyone who wants to explore life and the Christian faith, ask questions, and share their point of view. The three guiding elements of Alpha are Connection, Content and Conversation.



8

Weekly attendees over 10 weeks

THE SANCTUARY COURSE

How can a church become a sanctuary—a place where individuals living with mental health challenges feel safe, supported, and a sense of belonging? *The Sanctuary Course* was created to inspire and equip communities of faith that are asking this important question. Developed in consultation with mental health professionals, theologians, and people with lived experience, this eight-session study guide explores key mental health topics and examines meaningful ways to offer companionship, support recovery, and promote wellbeing.



27

Weekly attendees over 8 weeks in 2022

10

Weekly attendees over 8 weeks in 2023

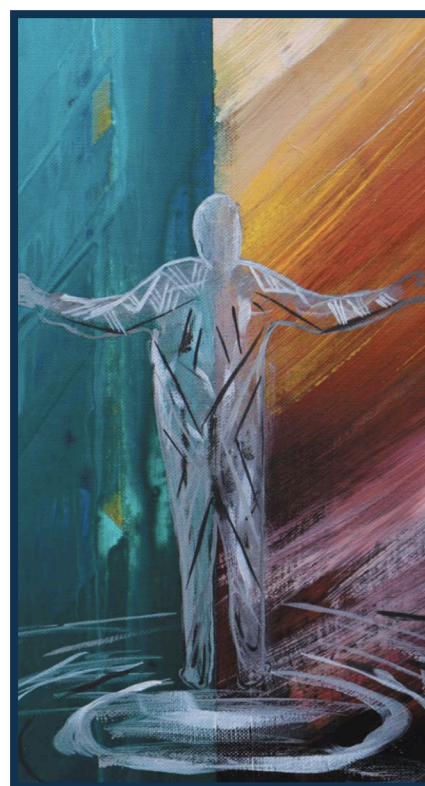
Run by Jonathan Browning, this course is for anyone who wants to learn about faith and mental health. It requires no previous training or expertise—just a willingness to engage in dialogue with other believers.

It's our aim to continue educating our community about mental health by engaging with The Sanctuary Course each year.

What we're celebrating:

"From the Psalms which were read each week and in particular the 23rd Psalm, the church community should be a safe place for people with mental health problems, and we can be the implements of comfort, support, protection and hope."

- Paul Lucas (Participant)



CREATIVE MINISTRIES

Our creative teams play a huge role in creating an atmosphere of worship for us each Sunday. We have many talented people who contribute through ensemble, our brass band and our tech team. We also have a diverse preaching team and a significant amount of church members who contribute by reading the word of God on our Bible Reading roster.

Ensemble

Worship comes in many forms, but often people associate 'worship' with music. Our Ensemble creates a platform where people are allowed to connect with God and worship in a way that feels personal, comfortable and free through music. This is done during our regular 9:30am service, but also special events; Easter and Christmas specifically, where worship music is an enormous part of creating the atmosphere.

Our hopes for the future:

"I would love to see:

- *Participation - Continuing commitment and willingness to be in the group*
- *Growth - More people who show an interest in being a part of the group and growth within the group itself; that people demonstrate a willingness to improve, to deepen and to strengthen their craft*
- *Environment - We continue to create the environment where people are free to worship in whatever way they feel comfortable." - Zoe Entwistle (Ensemble Group Leader)*

Brass Band

The core function of our band is to support the Sunday worship service. The broader role is providing a wider community presence for the Corps in a number of ways. At various times during the year and in the Christmas concert, our band combines with other musical groups in the corps demonstrating the extra dimensions that can be added when diverse musical groups exist. This year our band was able to support the community by playing at the ANZAC Dawn Service and the Remembrance Day Service at Prince Alfred Park, the Christmas Carol Service at Kurrajong, monthly services for the residents of the Willows regular service for the residents of Constitution Hill and the Christmas Carol Service at Dooralong.

What we're celebrating:

"We are continually encouraged by the appreciation that so many people express from within the Corps and from these broader community groups." - Ian Roberts (Band Sergeant)

Tech Team

The tech team supports all events and activities at the church through technology - primarily audio, video and lighting. We hope to see the tech team continue to grow - both in capability and capacity. As our church grows into more areas of ministry, this team will be able to support through technology.

Our hopes for the future:

"I continue to be encouraged by the number of people who engage with us online - 19% of our live congregation on a Sunday morning joins us through our live stream. When we add-in viewers throughout the week, we have hundreds of extra people joining our church each week. I am also always encouraged when our team members express interest in learning more and taking on different roles." - Anthony Eden (Tech Team Leader)

CREATIVE MINISTRIES



13

Members of our
Worship Ensemble



20

Members of our
Brass Band



12

Members of our
Tech Team



YOUNG PEOPLE

Each Sunday, Kids Church operates during our 9:30am service, where our children learn about Jesus through stories, craft, singing and games.

Our Youth meet every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month - this is a fun opportunity for our youth to gather, connect and learn more about Jesus.



6

Average Kids Church attendees



8

Average Youth Group attendees

What we're celebrating:

"Every Sunday during the school term, our children get together for some worship, fun and sharing time before we have our lesson where we learn more about God and The Salvation Army. What a blessing it has been seeing the children grow in their faith and their journey with Jesus." - Katelyn Parker (Kids Church Leader)



MEN'S BRUNCH

This year we trialed a Men's Brunch at Parramatta Salvos, where men were invited to gather for a cooked brunch on a Saturday morning. We hope to increase the frequency of this ministry in 2024.



15

Average attendees

FLOURISH

Flourish occurs 4 times a year for women at Parramatta Salvos, and is an opportunity for connection and fellowship. This year we have enjoyed food, cookie decorating, guest speakers and a walk together.



30

Average attendees

SALVOS COMMUNITY CONNECT

This year, our building has been open to the community 5 days a week! Salvos Community Connect (previously the 'Connect Site') is a space for people to come and access our cafe and services. Our Community Café operates on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday, providing free coffee and cold drinks, snacks, and a safe space for people to connect. On Wednesday we are also able to provide a meal for community members as they wait for our Market. On Tuesday and Thursdays, an instant tea and coffee station is provided and community members are welcome to sit and enjoy our space.

On Monday and Friday, volunteers also hand out Emergency Relief gift cards, provided by the Salvos Phone Assistance Line (PAL).

We love that Community Connect is staffed by volunteers and supported by our Community Program Coordinator, and other wrap-around services like our Doorways Caseworker and Moneycare Financial Counsellors.



240

Free coffees/cold drinks per week



120

Free hot meals on a Wednesday weekly



\$130,040

In Emergency Relief given out at Parramatta Salvos from the PAL

COMMUNITY MARKET

Each week on Wednesday, people visit our Community Market. For a gold coin donation, people can access fresh produce and pantry items donated through our partnerships with Second Bite and Food Bank. Once a month, services such as Centrelink, Sydney Water and the NSW Police set up information booths to enable community members to access information and help with these service.

Both the Community Connect and the Community Market are funded by our Red Shield Appeal funds and corporate donations.

Our collaborative partnerships:

- Second Bite (Coles): provide free meat, fresh produce and grocery items
- Food Bank: provide fresh produce and grocery items at a low cost
- Nike Parramatta: provide free returned shoes and clothing in wearable condition
- Thread together: provide free new clothing
- Bunnings Northmead & Rydalmere: provide free goods for transportation of market items
- Community Migrant Resource Centre: provide free community classes
- Local business and schools: provide food and cash donations

What we're celebrating:

"We love that we have so many volunteers who are engaged in delivering the mission of Parramatta Salvos. Each week these volunteers pick up, sort, pack, cook, serve and hand out food to those in our community who are doing life tough. What a gift these volunteers are to Parramatta and to our wider community!" - Kylie Collinson (Corps Officer)



ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUPS

People with a variety of levels of English come together to learn new words and English sayings; growing their vocabulary and conversational skills. People also come along to meet friends and connect in meaningful ways. This important ministry has been going for more than 30 years, and we have even empowered some who were participants to be leaders of small groups. A small group now remain after the class to participate in a bible study.



32

Average weekly attendees

What we're celebrating:

"Every new person is a good story. Being told by one man that he was so touched by the welcome he received when he was so unsure if he would be welcomed." - **Ian Martin (ECG Leader)**



CRAFT GROUP

Our Craft Group commenced in February 2022, and since that time 81 people have attended with 75% of attendees being from the community. Some have joined as a result of their connection with Parramatta Salvos through the cafe or Connect Site, but primarily members are invited to attend by others who attend the group.

The Craft Group is very welcoming and friendly. Some come just to talk while others knit, crochet, paint, draw, colour in, cross stitch, do diamond art or hardanger. Some are very skilled while others come to learn from other members of the group.

What we're celebrating:

"Group members have been supported through significant health issues and personal struggles. When required, people are linked to other services or professionals, this being particularly useful to the majority of group members whose primary language is not English." - **Denise Thomas (Craft Group Leader)**



15

Average weekly attendees

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Ladies Fellowship provides a place for women to gather together, build friendships, give support and care, encourage learning and share the love of Christ with each other. There is a different leader or guest speaker each week with a variety of topics based on the four focus areas of Worship, Fellowship, Education and Service.

Members are also given the opportunity to donate weekly to the missionary fund for Women's Ministries overseas, corps and local special projects. This year we have supported The Salvation Army International Development, Sponsorship, The Self Denial Appeal and the Territorial 'Making it Happen' project for ministry at Alice Springs Corps.



15

Average weekly attendees

Our hopes for the future:

"Our hope for the future of the group is to maintain contact with the members and provide the opportunity for fellowship, with a view to possibly forming an integrated group to include both women and men." - Kerrie Parker (Ladies Fellowship Leader)



THE WILLOWS SERVICES

Each month, Parramatta Corps is given the opportunity to lead the Christian service at The Willows Retirement Village. Our brass band supports this service musically, and this year a roster of 8 different people from our corps accepted the invitation to lead the service. This is a wonderful ministry opportunity that brings together the residents of the village, many of whom are unable to get to regular church services.

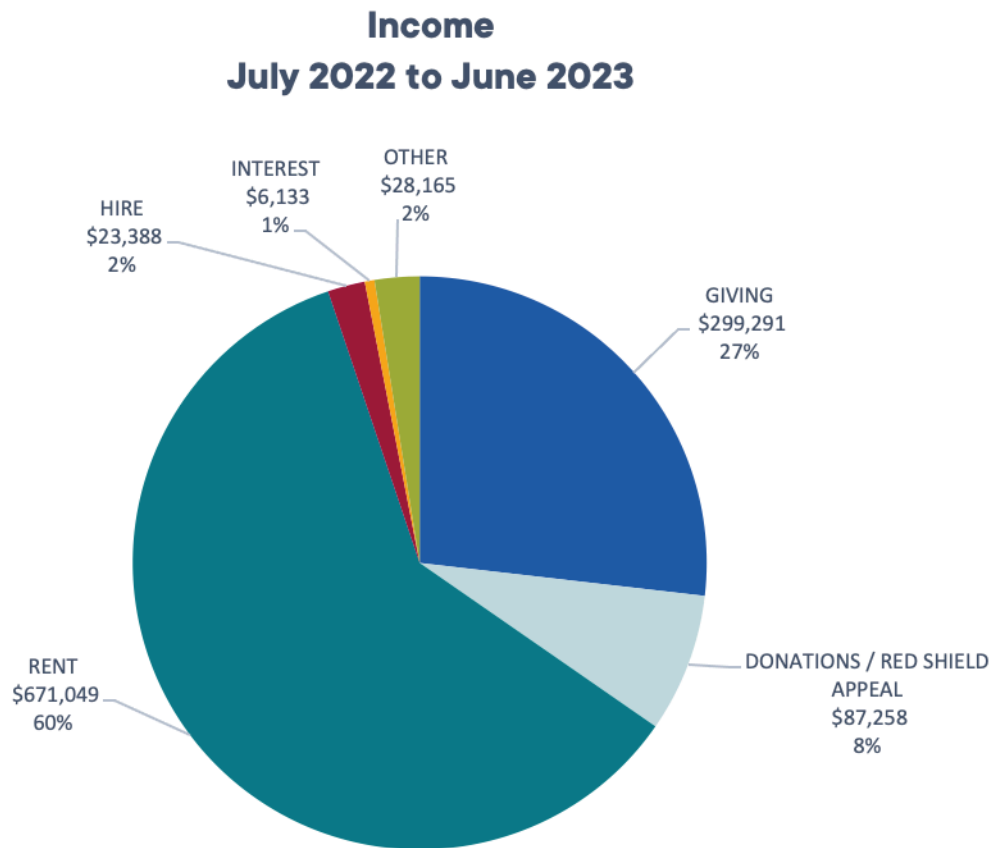
FINANCE REPORT

The summary financial information provided covers the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and includes both Corps and Community Service accounts. It shows the Corps is in a positive position with an operating surplus.

The vision for our suite of buildings was to lease tenancies to both external organisations and Salvation Army Departments, with this income to fund mission and ministry as well as maintain the facilities.

A loan was required to acquire this building and we started repayments during this financial year.

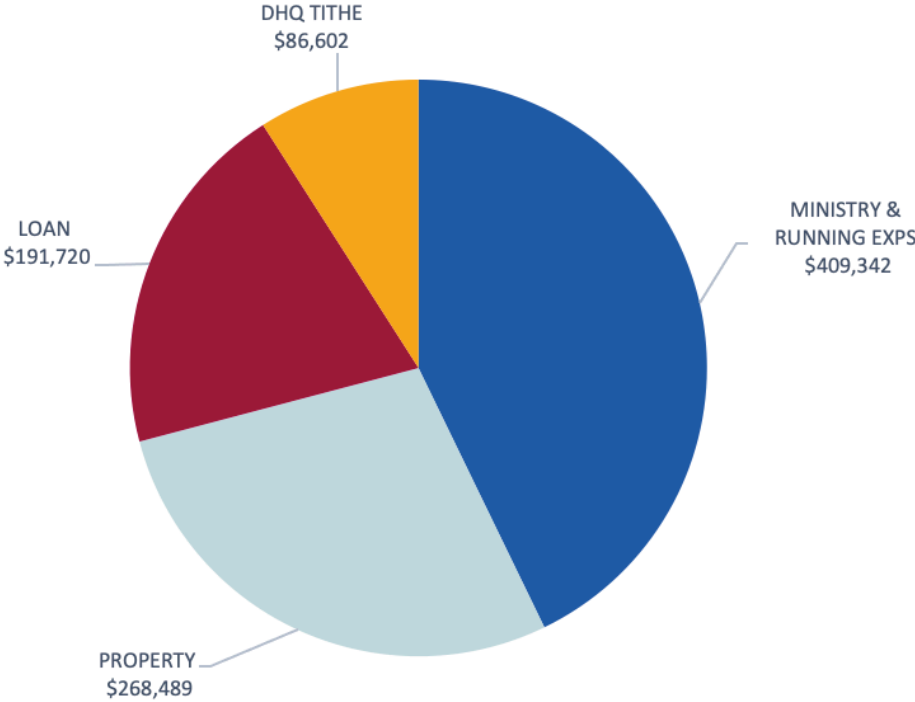
The Local Mission Plan will continue to focus conversations and decisions the Business Team makes regarding allocation of this surplus.



Total: \$1,115,283

FINANCE REPORT

EXPENSES July 2022 to June 2023



Total: \$956,153

Loan Amount

- Total borrowed: \$1,400,000
- FY23 Repayments: \$113,307
- Balance Remaining: \$1,286,693

Additional payments can be made throughout the year to pay off the loan quicker than the 15 year term.

Loan Information

- FY23 Interest Paid: \$78,413
- Term: 15 years
- Interest Rate: Variable
- Rate at 30/06/2023: 7.01%

Decisions regarding extra loan payments will be balanced with resourcing mission and ministry requirements and opportunities.

Tenants

Our building comprises five separate shop fronts on the Ground Floor, with Church facilities and areas leased to other Salvation Army functions on Level 1. Of the six tenancies, five are currently leased with the final one available for tenancy in early 2024.

BELIEVE IN
good

“ Remember to do good and help each other. Gifts like this please God. ”

Hebrews 13:16, NLV

