



2023/2024

ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY

Chelsea Gildea
Program Coordinator

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

Geoff Forman
Chairperson

“The objectives of PeelConnect, our non-profit and volunteer-run homelessness and crisis centre, are multifaceted and centre around providing comprehensive support to individuals and families facing crisis situations in the Peel Region.”



Crisis Intervention

CRISIS



Community Engagement

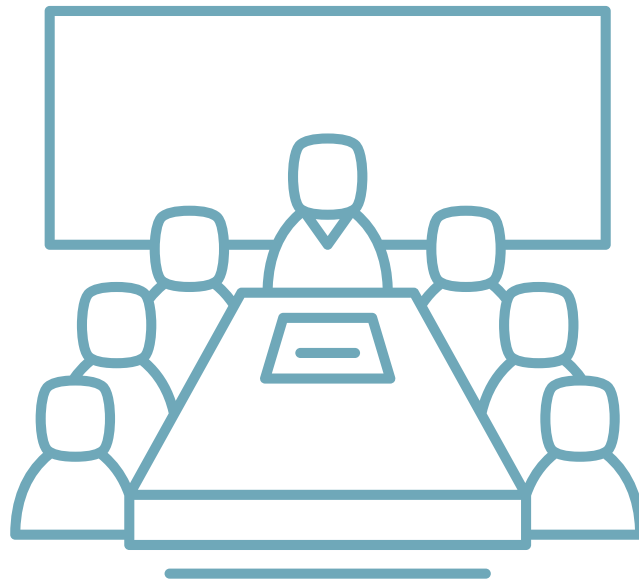
Hollistic Support



Empowerment



Alleiviating Homelessness



Geoff Forman - *Chair*

Jacques Boonzaair - *Deputy Chair*

Tahni Otranto - *Secretary*

Lyn Lord - *Treasurer*


Shaydan Larson - *Social Media*

Chelsea Gildea - Grant Writer

Denise Roberts - General Member

Tia Money - General Member

Bridget Gutsell - General Member



The 2023/2024 year has been nothing short of transformative for PeelConnect. This year has marked a period of remarkable growth, exciting new initiatives, and profound impacts within our community. Our journey over the past twelve months has been characterized by a series of significant milestones, each contributing to our mission of providing comprehensive support to those in need.

One of the most significant milestones of the past year was our move to a larger and more versatile office space. We transitioned from our previous setup of two rooms to a spacious new office comprising ten rooms, including an expanded student room. This expansion reflects our commitment to accommodating the growing needs of our clients and enhancing our service delivery.





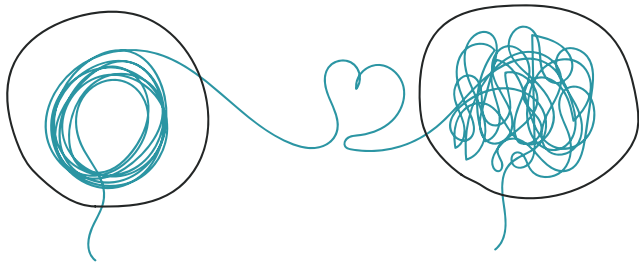
Former Students Alina (left) and Chahana (right).

We bid farewell to some of our valued staff members while warmly welcoming new faces to our team. This transition has been instrumental in fostering a renewed spirit of collaboration and innovation. Our office has evolved into a close-knit team of dedicated volunteers, mentors, counselors, reception staff, and students. Many of our team members excel in dual roles, which provides the flexibility necessary to best serve our community.

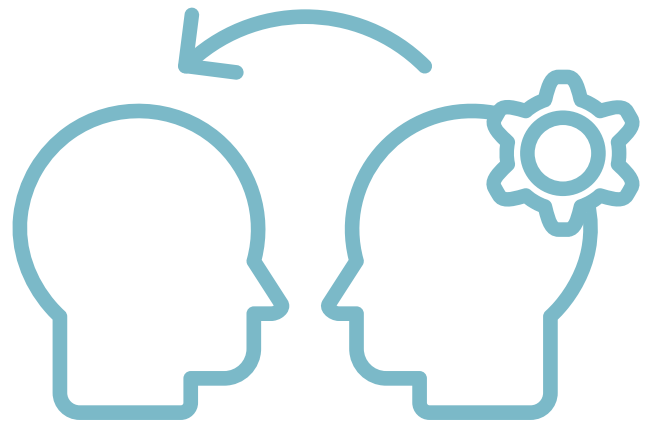


Shaydan Larson (left), Geoff Forman (middle), Bron Forman (right).

Our MACS program has been a cornerstone of our services, providing counselling, assistance with government applications, housing support, referrals, and proactive outreach to address client needs effectively.



200+ Counselling Sessions



400+ Mentoring Appointments



150+ Housing Focused Appointments



120+ Disability Support Claims Filed



Kerry (right) with client (left).

Our Night Carers team continues to make a significant impact, powered by a dedicated group of volunteers. Operating two nights a week, rain or shine, this team distributes blankets, clothing, toiletries, and hot meals—generously prepared by both our staff and the community. Each night, we serve between 10 and 40 individuals experiencing homelessness, providing them with essential items and much-needed support.



Community member Kim with donated hot meals.



Left to right: Lucy, Shristi and Barsha(Orange Sky Team).

In 2024, we proudly established a partnership with Passion Church and Orange Sky, further enhancing our community services. This collaboration has introduced a range of new resources to Mandurah, including a referral office, food hampers, free haircuts, a BBQ, and access to showers and laundry facilities. This initiative has been instrumental in addressing the needs of our community members on a weekly basis.



Hair by Alison (left) and client (right)



Our fundraising efforts this year have been a tremendous success. From events at the Mandurah Forum and Halls Head Shopping Centre to a lively Bunnings sausage sizzle, we have collectively raised nearly \$4,000. These initiatives have been vital in supporting our programs and services.



Left to right: Shaydan, Pema and Lakhwinder



PeelConnect Student Class of May 24

Our student program remains a vital part of our operations, with 15 students from Acknowledge Education joining us each term.

These students, who are pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Community Services, benefit from a 5-6 week placement with us. This partnership is mutually beneficial, providing students with valuable hands-on experience while contributing to our service delivery.



PeelConnect Class of April

Throughout the year, we have been the grateful recipients of numerous donations from generous community members. These contributions, including toiletries, clothing, food, and other essential items, have been invaluable in supporting our clients and enhancing our programs.



Lynda, Liddy, Geoff + Maureen from Bible Foundation Church

As a charity with no external funding, we rely heavily on donations from the public. This year, the generosity of our community has been overwhelming.



Mandurah CWA

This year, your monetary donations have gone to many great causes. This includes:



ID for Rough Sleepers



Tents / Sleeping Bags



Medical Supplies and Scripts



Personal Hygiene



Volunteer Uniforms



Office Essentials



Geoff Forman and CEO AIM Institute

This year, we have been fortunate to receive several generous grants that have significantly supported our initiatives and allowed us to expand our services. The Honorable David Templeman awarded us a grant of \$1,000, which has been instrumental in enhancing our community outreach programs. Mandurah Mayday also provided us with \$1,000, enabling us to offer more comprehensive support to those in need. ATCO's generous grant of \$5,000 has been pivotal in funding our new projects and improving existing ones. Additionally, AIMWA contributed \$3,000, which has supported our capacity-building efforts and staff training programs. Lastly, SHELTERWA's substantial grant of \$5,000 has empowered us to further our mission of providing shelter and support to the homeless. These grants have been vital in ensuring the sustainability and growth of our services.



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

ATCO

lotterywest



Australian
Institute of
Management
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

STREETSMART

ACTION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS



shelterwa



Dear Members and Supporters,

As I reflect on my three years with PeelConnect, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. This journey has been marked by the formation of invaluable friendships that will last a lifetime. I have had the privilege of witnessing the growth of PeelConnect, and the dedication of our staff, It has been deeply rewarding to contribute to our community and see the tangible difference we are making in the Peel region.

Our achievements this year stand as a testament to the collective efforts of our team and the unwavering support of our community. From expanding our services to implementing new initiatives, each step has reinforced our commitment to making a positive impact.

Looking ahead to the 2024/2025 financial year, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for the future. We have plans to further enhance our services and continue addressing the evolving needs of our community. We are eager to share these new developments with you and continue our journey together, striving to make an even greater difference.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our mission. Together, we are making a meaningful impact, one step at a time.

*Warm regards,
Chelsea Gildea*

Dear Members and Supporters,



It is with great pride and gratitude that I reflect on the remarkable growth we have experienced over the past year. Our organization has seen significant expansion, both in terms of our team and the services we offer. This growth has enabled us to reach and support a larger number of individuals in our community, addressing a wide range of needs with greater depth and effectiveness.

The increase in staffing levels has enhanced our capacity to provide essential services and allowed us to introduce new programs aligned with our mission. Our team's dedication has been crucial in making a meaningful impact on those we serve.

We are encouraged by the growing number of people accessing our services, reflecting the trust placed in us by the community. This reinforces our commitment to continually improving and adapting to meet our clients' evolving needs.

As we look to the future, we are excited about the opportunities ahead. We are eager to explore new avenues for growth and collaboration. We remain dedicated to building on our successes and further strengthening our support systems.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. Together, we are making a difference and look forward to achieving even greater milestones in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Denise Roberts | Supervisor



Dear Members and Supporters,

This year has been transformative for PeelConnect, marked by our move to new premises, a step necessary for our growth. This required careful financial planning to manage increased costs, making it a challenging but rewarding experience.

In my role, I have navigated a steep learning curve, taking on tasks beyond traditional Chair responsibilities. I appreciate the support from those who help manage the workload. We've focused on succession planning to ensure adequate staffing, although we are still working towards this goal. My understanding of the homelessness sector has grown significantly, and we continue to strive to create a supportive environment for our volunteers. Networking with other organizations has been crucial, and I rely on our team to navigate these relationships effectively. We've also assembled a strong Board, bringing expertise and commitment to our mission, and I look forward to collaborating with them. Our membership base has grown, with those engaged in our work responding positively to the opportunity to become members, helping shape our future direction. This year also marked a significant advancement in our advocacy efforts for the homeless in Mandurah, as we began using our independent voice to call for basic human rights and local government support. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to PeelConnect.

Sincerely,
Geoff Forman, Chairperson.