

Yellow Dove Australia Annual Report



YELLOW DOVE AUSTRALIA

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO AUSTRALIA

January 2025 - December 2025

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

 Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au

 www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



Table of Contents

A Message from Ryan (Founder and Director)	3
The Yellow Dove Australia Board of Directors	4
Yellow Dove Australia’s Vision and Mission Statement	8
Organisational Overview.....	9
Highlights of the Year	10
1. Cultural Connection Project - Sensory/Tactile Art Program. Supported by Happiness Co. Foundation	10
2. Annual Gala – Yellow Dove Australia First Black-Tie Event	11
3. Community Swim Project. Supported by The Scanlon Foundation	12
4. yDA Care Packages. Supported by Universal Fund and yDA.....	13
5. Healthy Communities Project. Supported by the Queensland Mental Health Commission	15
6. Mental Health Project, NSW. Supported by the New South Wales Government	17
7. Drowning Prevention Project, Timor Leste. Movimentu Kalma Iha Bee Project. Supported by The Phillips Foundation.....	19
Fundraising and Donor Recognition	21
Community Donors.....	22
Volunteer Contributions and Thanks	23
Looking Ahead	24
Future Forecasts.....	25
Sustainability and Future Goals.....	26
Conclusion	27



A Message from Ryan (Founder and Director)

Dear Yellow Dove Members, Friends, and Supporters,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I share Yellow Dove Australia's progress as we mark two years and four months of operations as of, December 2025. What began as a vision to bridge gaps in services for disadvantaged communities has grown into a thriving, multi-state, and international organisation. Over the past year, our local footprint has expanded across Western Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland, and internationally, we have extended our programs to Timor Leste, bringing meaningful support and opportunities to communities that need it most.

Our growth has been holistic. While navigating the challenges of politics and complex systems, we have remained steadfast in our community-centred approach, ensuring that our programs are responsive, inclusive, and impactful. We have engaged with embassies, Canberra Government House, and local Ministers to explore how Yellow Dove Australia can continue to grow as a not-for-profit while strengthening community capacity nationwide.

This year, our membership has grown to 98, reflecting the trust and belief in our mission. In June 2025, we celebrated our first annual Black-Tie Gala, which was a tremendous success, raising just under \$10,000. These funds directly supported YDA Care Packages, assisting 300 people affected by floods and displacement across South Queensland, the Northern Rivers, and Western Australia.

Each achievement is a testament to the dedication of our members, volunteers, partners, and supporters. Together, we are not only delivering programs but building hope, resilience, and tangible outcomes for those who need it most.

As we look to the future, Yellow Dove Australia remains committed to expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and continuing to work hand-in-hand with communities to create pathways for opportunity, empowerment, and independence. The journey continues, and the possibilities are boundless.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Ryan Chapman

Founder & Director, Yellow Dove Australia

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

 Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au

 www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



The Yellow Dove Australia Board of Directors

The Yellow Dove Australia Board of Directors embodies the core pillars upon which our charity is built: Education, Health, Community, and Sustainability. These foundational principles guide every decision and initiative, ensuring that our work remains meaningful, impactful, and aligned with the needs of the communities we serve.

Each member of our Board brings a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication, representing diverse backgrounds in education, healthcare, community development, and environmental stewardship. Beyond their professional expertise, our Directors have deep-rooted connections within their communities. These connections span a multi-layered network of community members, leaders, and organisations, providing invaluable insights and fostering collaboration to ensure Yellow Dove's initiatives resonate at a grassroots level.

In 2025, we proudly extended our Board to include OAM Dr Shayne Baker, whose expertise and leadership further strengthen our governance and capacity to deliver transformative programs while furthering Yellow Dove Australia through an Academic Framework.

The Board's unique combination of expertise and community engagement positions Yellow Dove Australia as a trusted and impactful organisation. They work tirelessly to uphold our vision of creating inclusive opportunities, bridging gaps in services, and empowering disadvantaged groups. By building relationships across sectors and with individuals who share our mission, the Board ensures that Yellow Dove continues to grow sustainably and deliver initiatives that create lasting impact.

Together, our Directors exemplify the heart of Yellow Dove Australia: a commitment to uplifting communities, fostering resilience, and creating meaningful change through innovation, empathy, and collaboration.



Ryan Chapman – Founder, Director & Member Assistance – Education Pillar

Ryan Chapman has marked 2025 as a significant year both personally and professionally. He has completed his Master of Education, Counselling Degree, and Celebrant Course, strengthening his ability to extend the charity’s holistic and grounded approach in education, community healing, and capacity building.

Ryan is a passionate Aquatic Educator and Drowning Prevention Advocate with over a decade of experience working in remote Aboriginal and underserved communities, alongside 12 years in education. His academic and professional journey has given him a deep understanding of the challenges faced by marginalised populations, particularly in accessing equitable educational opportunities.

Driven by a vision of healthier, brighter, and more inclusive futures, Ryan is committed to creating inclusive opportunities, fostering resilience, and empowering communities. He believes in the transformative power of education to unite people, strengthen communities, and enable lasting, meaningful change.



Alina Chaparro – Director, Secretary – Sustainable Pillar

Alina Chaparro marks 2025 as a significant year in her career, having completed her Master of Sustainable Energy at the University of Queensland with a High Distinction for her research on the impacts of renewable energy development on Indigenous communities in Australia and Canada. This work has strengthened her capability to lead evidence-based sustainability initiatives grounded in energy justice, equity, and culturally informed decision-making. With more than a decade of experience spanning process safety, risk management, ESG strategy, and decarbonisation planning, she brings strong technical and analytical capability to complex sustainability challenges.

As Leader of the Sustainability Pillar, Alina has the ability to apply a systems-based, data-led approach to support considerations that are relevant to communities in terms of climate-related considerations requirements and where applicable aligning to frameworks such as the GHG Protocol, TCFD/AASB S2, IFC Performance Standards, and other sustainability frameworks. Her work is relevant to YdA as supports the focus on embedding sustainability across corporate, operational, social and environmental contexts, strengthening risk identification, and enabling responsible, long-term decision-making. She is committed to advancing climate resilience, ethical practice, and meaningful engagement with diverse communities.



Scott Fisher – Director – Health Pillar

Scott Fisher brings his expertise in Clinical Exercise Physiology to Yellow Dove Australia as the leader of our Health Pillar. With a passion for improving community health, Scott applies his extensive knowledge in exercise-based treatments for conditions such as lower back pain, diabetes, cardiac rehabilitation, and cancer management to Yellow Dove’s mission of fostering healthier and more resilient communities.



Since founding Empowered Healthcare in 2017, Scott has dedicated himself to creating meaningful change at the grassroots level, a vision he continues to champion through Yellow Dove. His experience includes lecturing on Exercise and Diabetes at the University of Technology Sydney, running recovery workshops for elite sporting teams, and contributing to fundraising initiatives for the Cancer Council of NSW.

A former national-level swimmer and surf lifesaver, Scott also brings a strong focus on sports performance, recovery, and rehabilitation. Whether in the clinic, the classroom, or on the beach, his commitment to empowering others aligns perfectly with Yellow Dove’s holistic approach to health and community wellbeing.

Kurt Herzog – Director – Community Pillar

As the leader of Yellow Dove Australia’s Community Pillar, Kurt Herzog brings an unparalleled dedication to fostering healthier, more connected communities. Drawing from a 17-year career in the aquatics industry and a wealth of experience in community development, Kurt’s work exemplifies his passion for empowering people and creating lasting social impact.



Since transitioning from his career as a professional swimmer—where he represented Australia at World Championships and international meets—Kurt has devoted himself to initiatives that drive meaningful change. One of Kurt’s recent projects was the Remote Pools Project in the Northern Territory, where he revitalised neglected swimming pools in remote Aboriginal communities, reducing drowning rates, improving health outcomes, and generating employment opportunities.

Kurt’s extensive background includes leadership roles with local councils, where he developed swim programs and community engagement frameworks, and as a brand manager for a global performance swimwear company. His expertise in team building, risk assessment, and strategic planning is invaluable to Yellow Dove’s mission of uplifting marginalised groups through education, health, and sustainability.



Shayne Baker OAM – Director – Research Pillar

Dr Shayne Baker is a passionate educator, researcher, and lifesaving advocate whose career spans more than 40 years across Australia and internationally. As Director of Research at Yellow Dove Australia, Shayne leads the organisation's evidence-based approach to drowning prevention, community wellbeing and resilience.



With a background in vocational education and emergency services, Shayne has held senior roles in TAFE, universities, and national lifesaving bodies. He's a published researcher in areas ranging from climate change and rescue physiology to mental health in aquatic professionals, and his work has helped shape international standards in water safety.

Shayne's contributions have earned him global recognition, including the prestigious Ireland Medal for drowning prevention and the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to education and lifesaving. He continues to represent Australia on the world stage through his role with the International Life Saving Federation and his involvement in collaborative research with fellow researchers worldwide.

At Yellow Dove Australia, Shayne brings deep expertise, global networks, and a lifelong commitment to saving lives through research, education, and innovation.

YELLOW DOVE AUSTRALIA
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO AUSTRALIA

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

 Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au  www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



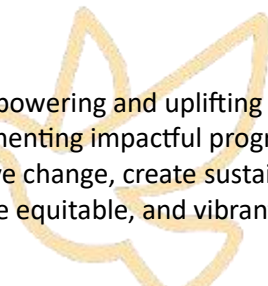
Yellow Dove Australia's Vision and Mission Statement

Vision

Our vision at Yellow Dove Australia is to cultivate a world where communities are connected, empowered, and transformed through impactful education, health, and well-being initiatives, ensuring a more equitable and vibrant future for all.

Mission

Yellow Dove Australia is dedicated to empowering and uplifting marginalised communities through fostering strong relationships and implementing impactful programs in education, health, and overall well-being. Our mission is to drive positive change, create sustainable solutions, and promote lasting transformation to ensure a brighter, more equitable, and vibrant future for all.



Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

 Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au

 www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



Organisational Overview

Yellow Dove Australia is a dynamic community-based charity dedicated to creating lasting positive impacts through its foundational pillars of **Education, Health, Community, and Sustainability**. Guided by a deep commitment to empowering marginalised and underserved populations, Yellow Dove Australia aims to build inclusive and resilient communities where individuals thrive together.

Education is at the heart of our mission, with programs designed to uplift and empower through knowledge and skill-building. By promoting lifelong learning and facilitating access to resources, we bridge gaps in opportunity and access. Our Health initiatives focus on improving physical and mental well-being through innovative, community-driven programs, addressing immediate needs while fostering long-term wellness.

The Community pillar is rooted in collaboration, encouraging active participation and shared ownership. We engage local community members in co-designing projects, managing initiatives, and implementing programs. From consultation to execution, this collaborative approach ensures initiatives are meaningful, impactful, and culturally relevant. Yellow Dove Australia is committed to providing community-centred care and framework approaches, ensuring that our work meets the unique needs of every community.

Sustainability underpins all our efforts, fostering enduring outcomes that respect and preserve the resources, environment, and cultural fabric of the communities we serve. In alignment with this, Yellow Dove Australia is also committed to bringing humanitarian aid to communities, ensuring support reaches those most in need during times of crisis and displacement.

By integrating these pillars and approaches into every aspect of our work, Yellow Dove Australia empowers individuals to take charge of their futures. Through partnerships, capacity-building, community-centred frameworks, and grassroots action, we create opportunities for communities to grow stronger, healthier, and more united, paving the way for a brighter, equitable, and resilient tomorrow.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO AUSTRALIA

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

 Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au

 www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



Highlights of the Year

1. Cultural Connection Project - Sensory/Tactile Art Program. Supported by Happiness Co. Foundation

Overview

The Cultural Connection Project, delivered by Yellow Dove Australia in partnership with NAHS Social and Emotional Wellbeing, engaged Martu Elders, families, and students across Wiluna and Karalundi Aboriginal Boarding School through sensory/tactile art programs designed to foster mental well-being, cultural dialogue, and community empowerment. Between January and March 2025, four sessions were conducted by Founder and Director Ryan Chapman, reaching Martu Elders, family members, and high school students at Karalundi Aboriginal Boarding School.



Key Activities

Sessions combined therapeutic art-making with meaningful conversations on topics including community development, identity formation, and cultural connection. At Karalundi, 35 students explored Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory while reflecting on independence and grounding away from family and Country. Wiluna sessions with Elders identified practical community needs including essential household appliances, recreational facilities like a splash park, and ongoing cultural programming.

Outcomes

The project created safe, inclusive spaces for emotional healing and self-expression while identifying tangible community priorities. Participants demonstrated resilience and cultural strength through their artistic creations, with conversations naturally evolving to address systemic barriers and future possibilities.



Acknowledgments

Made possible by Happiness Co Foundation \$5,000 Happy Grants, with invaluable support from NAHS SEWB staff and Karalundi Aboriginal Boarding School.



2. Annual Gala – Yellow Dove Australia First Black-Tie Event

Overview

The 2025 Yellow Dove Australia Annual Charities Gala was held on Saturday, 7 June at The River Room, Customs House, Brisbane City. This black-tie celebration brought together 96 guests, tripling the inaugural 2024 attendance to support Yellow Dove Australia's mission of empowering vulnerable communities. The evening was facilitated by the Yellow Dove Directors and MC Isabelle Berry, commencing at 6:30pm. Special guests included representatives from Naroman Esperanza and The Sisters of Nazareth, who travelled from Darwin to deliver a keynote speech and strengthen community connections.



Key Activities

The Gala featured live music by Ollie Murphy and a spirited live auction hosted by Jon Smith of South East Auctions. Guests enjoyed an extensive raffle with prizes including Broncos and Dolphins match tickets, a team-signed Brisbane Lions football, whale swim experiences, glamping stays, pottery classes, flight credits, signed books by Rupert McCall OAM, and an exclusive \$1,000 Winter Wonder Cash Giveaway.

Outcomes

YELLOW DOVE AUSTRALIA

The event raised \$9,540 AUD to support the YDA Care Package Program and community-led initiatives throughout New South Wales and Queensland. The Gala successfully tripled participation from the previous year, demonstrating growing community engagement and support for Yellow Dove Australia's work.

Acknowledgments

Sincere thanks to proud sponsors Supporting Solutions QLD and Triforce Accounting, whose contributions were instrumental in bringing the Gala to life.



SUPPORTING SOLUTIONS QLD



TRIFORCE
ACCOUNTING



Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au  www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



3. Community Swim Project. Supported by The Scanlon Foundation

Overview

The Community Swim Project, funded by the Scanlon Foundation and delivered by Yellow Dove Australia, transformed 29 migrants and refugees from St James College from water-anxious newcomers into confident swimmers, certified lifesavers, and qualified instructors over 20 weeks (9 May – 19 September 2025). The comprehensive program addressed critical aquatic barriers facing recent migrants and refugees, 82% of whom had combined swimming inexperience and 70% self-identified as non-swimmers. Expert instructors including Mariah Jones, Leah Jones, Carla Papac, Kasia Barnett, Rosie Lennox, and Dr Shayne Baker OAM delivered culturally responsive training at Brisbane's Spring Hill Baths and Miami Surf Club.

Key Activities

Participants progressed through advanced swimming proficiency, emergency response training, surf safety expertise, and professional qualification pathways. Training included First Aid & CPR certification through Allens Training and Teacher of Water Safety qualifications delivered by Aquatic Education, with authentic beach experiences at Miami Surf Club.



Outcomes

The program achieved 100% retention with extraordinary results: 26 participants (90%) earned First Aid & CPR certification, 15 (52%) gained teaching qualifications, and 100% would recommend the program. Participants reported 86% "very positive" wellbeing impact and 91% rated cultural inclusivity as "highly inclusive," creating 26 new emergency responders and 15 qualified instructors who now serve as cultural bridges within their communities.

Acknowledgments



Deep gratitude to the Scanlon Foundation for enabling this transformational program, alongside essential partners Team Elite Uniforms, City Venue Management, Miami Surf Club, Aquatic Education, Allens Training, and Sue Cameron with St James College Community.



4. yDA Care Packages. Supported by Universal Fund and yDA

Overview

The Yellow Dove Care Packages initiative represents a community co-designed humanitarian response delivering essential dental and personal hygiene products to vulnerable populations across two regions. This dual-location project distributed 120 care packages to the SEWB Unit of Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service serving the remote Wiluna Community on Martu Country, and 152 packages to Open Minds supporting individuals with mental health and psychosocial disabilities across Tweed Heads and the Northern Rivers region. While the other 28 Care Packages were donated to the local Salvos in Spring Hill.



Project Delivery

Yellow Dove Australia partnered with St James College's Pirlirra Education Program students undertaking Certificate II in Community Services to execute the project. The initiative provided meaningful volunteer opportunities, with students completing required 20-hour volunteering components while gaining hands-on community service experience. The project was funded through \$3,000 from the 2025 Universal Fund Grant (Australian Communities Foundation) and proceeds from the 2025 Yellow Dove Australia Gala Night, which raised \$9,540.

Key Activities

YELLOW DOVE AUSTRALIA

Quality products were sourced from affordable, reputable suppliers including The Reject Shop (Colgate toothbrushes), Big W, Kmart, and Campbells Cash and Carry. Collaborative packing days brought together Yellow Dove Australia staff and Pirlirra students, fostering teamwork and shared community purpose while assembling care packages containing essential hygiene items designed to promote dignity, empowerment, health, and wellbeing. Packages were delivered directly to partner organisations for distribution to their respective client communities.

Outcomes

The project successfully delivered 272 care packages across two vulnerable populations, addressing immediate hygiene needs while promoting dignity and wellbeing. Pirlirra students gained practical community service experience contributing toward their professional qualifications, while Yellow Dove Australia strengthened partnerships with key service providers supporting marginalised communities. The initiative demonstrated effective resource mobilisation through strategic fundraising and grant partnerships.



Acknowledgments

Heartfelt appreciation to St James College for supporting student involvement, the Pirlirpa Program students for their time and enthusiasm, Australian Communities Foundation and the Universal Charitable Fund for grant funding, Open Minds and Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service SEWB Unit for partnership collaboration, and all 2025 Gala Night donors whose generosity made this passionate community action possible.



YELLOW DOVE AUSTRALIA
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO AUSTRALIA

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community



Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



5. Healthy Communities Project. Supported by the Queensland Mental Health Commission

Overview

Healthy Communities was designed to strengthen individual and collective wellbeing through creativity, connection, and meaningful conversation. The program provided a welcoming, inclusive space where participants were invited to slow down, engage in hands-on creative activities, and connect with others in a supportive community environment.

Blending clay art, gentle mindfulness practices, and guided wellbeing time, Healthy Communities created opportunities for people to build relationships, share stories, and reflect together. The program is grounded in the belief that wellbeing is nurtured through connection, with ourselves, with others, and with the communities we belong to.



Key Activities



Healthy Communities was delivered across four facilitated sessions in four different locations throughout Southeast Queensland. Each session incorporated guided clay art activities, informal mindfulness practices, and guided wellbeing time for conversation and reflection. Sessions were intentionally designed to be inclusive and low-pressure, allowing participants to engage at their own pace and comfort level. Across the four sessions, a total of 60 participants took part in the program. Focusing on creating safe, welcoming environments that encouraged organic connection, open dialogue, and mutual support. Light refreshments were shared to further foster a sense of community and ease, reinforcing the social and relational focus of the program.

Outcomes

The Healthy Communities program demonstrated strong positive outcomes for participant wellbeing and social connection. Post-program data indicated that 50% of participants reported a clear improvement in their mental health and felt well supported through their involvement in the sessions. The remaining 50% reported feeling somewhat improved and supported, highlighting the program's overall positive impact on wellbeing and connection.

Beyond measurable outcomes, participants reported increased feelings of belonging, reduced isolation, and greater confidence in engaging with others. The program successfully created spaces



where individuals felt safe to share, listen, and reflect, reinforcing the role of community-based, creative engagement in supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Acknowledgments

Yellow Dove Australia sincerely acknowledges Sunday&Clay as project supporters and the Queensland Mental Health Commission as the project funders. Their support made it possible to deliver Healthy Communities across Southeast Queensland and to provide accessible, community-focused wellbeing



Queensland
Mental Health
Commission



YELLOW DOVE AUSTRALIA
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO AUSTRALIA

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

✉ Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au

🌐 www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



6. Mental Health Project, NSW. Supported by the New South Wales Government

Overview

REPOWER3 is a free mental health and wellbeing program for men, with a particular focus on supporting veterans and first responders transitioning back into civilian life. The program was created to address alarming mental health statistics in Australia, for example, a significant proportion of men have experienced suicidal thoughts yet few seek help, and ex-serving Defence Force members and first responders face elevated risks of depression, anxiety, PTSD and suicide compared to the general population.



REPOWER3 uses a strengths-based, holistic approach grounded in three pillars, Recover, Rebuild and Reconnect. Providing structured physical activity, practical education, and peer support to foster resilience and sustainable wellbeing

Key Activities

The core activities of the REPOWER3 program include:

- **Weekly Group Sessions:** Participants engage in regularly scheduled sessions that combine physical movement (e.g., group walk, stretching) with guided discussion and wellbeing practices.
- **Physical Training and Movement:** Exercise is integrated as a tool to support mental resilience, release tension, and strengthen overall wellbeing, recognising that movement can improve psychological as well as physical health outcomes.
- **Expert-Led Education:** Facilitators and guest speakers deliver structured education on topics critical to long-term wellbeing, such as stress management, sleep optimisation, relationship skills, career transition, and coping strategies tailored to the unique experiences of veterans and first responders.
- **Peer Support and Community Building:** Activities are designed to help participants build meaningful connections with other men who have shared or similar lived experiences, a key protective factor against loneliness, depression and isolation.
- **Ongoing Support Pathways:** Beyond the structured sessions, the program encourages continued engagement in community networks and provides access to additional resources and referral information (e.g., mental health crisis services, veteran-specific supports).

These activities are delivered in a safe, supportive environment and are fully funded, meaning there is **no cost to participants**.

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

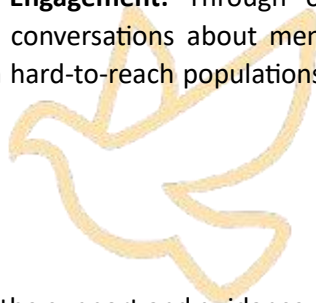
 Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au  www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



Outcomes

The intended and observed outcomes include:

- **Improved Mental Wellbeing:** Participants report increased resilience, reduced psychological distress, and greater self-awareness as they adopt healthier mental health practices, through both physical activity and educational components.
- **Stronger Social Connections:** The peer support element addresses isolation by fostering connection, shared understanding, and mutual support among men who may otherwise be reluctant to engage in traditional clinical services.
- **Practical Skills:** By equipping participants with real-world tools for managing stress, improving sleep, building relationships, and navigating life transitions, the program supports sustainable improvement in daily functioning.
- **Increased Awareness and Engagement:** Through outreach and community presence, REPOWER3 helps normalise conversations about men's mental health, encouraging more men, particularly those from hard-to-reach populations like veterans and first responders to seek help early.



Acknowledgments

Yellow Dove Australia acknowledges the support and guidance provided by NSW Health via the Small Grants Program for Men's Suicide Prevention Projects.



7. Drowning Prevention Project, Timor Leste. Movimentu Kalma Iha Bee Project. Supported by The Phillips Foundation

Overview

Yellow Dove Australia, proudly supported by The Phillips Foundation, is launching *Movimentu Kalma Iha Bee* - a 5-week community development initiative on Atauro Island, Timor Leste. This project is designed to improve water safety, strengthen community wellbeing, and build long-term local capacity through swimming and drowning-prevention education.

Working in partnership with local Timorese communities, ATKOMA, and the generous support of Linda and Barry on Atauro, the initiative focuses on teaching essential life-saving skills to children and young people. Local trainers will work alongside international volunteers to deliver safe swimming techniques, water awareness, first responder training and drowning-prevention strategies.

Project Delivery

The program will officially launch on 27 April 2026. Training and program delivery will run from 28th April through to 30 May 2026, forming a structured community-led learning model.

Yellow Dove Australia will employ 11 local staff for the full 5-week period, ensuring meaningful employment and long-term skill development. Local trainers must be able to swim, demonstrate basic English proficiency, and commit to the program duration. This model supports sustainable growth by embedding skills within the community and ensuring that water-safety education continues well beyond the life of the project.

Key Activities

- Delivery of community-led swimming lessons for children and youth.
- Water safety awareness sessions tailored to Atauro's coastal environment.
- Drowning-prevention education and emergency response basics.
- Training and mentoring of 11 locally employed staff.
- Daily collaboration between local trainers, Yellow Dove volunteers, and community members.
- Cultural and community engagement to strengthen collaboration and trust.



Outcomes

By the end of the project, Yellow Dove Australia aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Enhanced community safety through improved swimming competence and water-safety knowledge.
- Local capacity building by training and employing Timorese staff.
- Sustainable community impact that continues beyond the project period.
- Increased youth confidence in and around water environments.
- Strengthened partnerships between Yellow Dove Australia, ATKOMA, and Atauro Island communities.

The initiative supports both immediate safety benefits and long-term community empowerment, aligning with Yellow Dove Australia's commitment to sustainable development and local leadership.

Acknowledgments

Yellow Dove Australia extends its deepest gratitude to:

- The Phillips Foundation – for their generous support, guidance, and belief in community-driven impact.
- Linda and Barry – for their hospitality, collaboration, and accommodation support on Atauro Island.
- Osaias Soares and the ATKOMA Team - for their partnership, cultural guidance, and on-the-ground coordination.
- The Atauro Island Authority and the Timor-Leste Government

Their combined support makes *Movimentu Kalma Iha Bee* possible, allowing Yellow Dove Australia to expand community safety initiatives and work alongside the people of Atauro in meaningful and lasting ways.



Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community



Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



Fundraising and Donor Recognition

At Yellow Dove Australia, our fundraising efforts continue to be driven by a shared vision of creating empowered, resilient, and connected communities. Over the past year, 2025 has been a landmark period for growth, both in our programs and in the network of supporters who make our work possible. The generosity of our donors, partners, and volunteers has enabled us to deliver impactful initiatives across education, health, community development, and humanitarian aid, reaching more people locally and internationally.

Fundraising remains a vital part of sustaining and expanding our work. It allows us to respond to emerging community needs, increase the scope of our programs, and invest in innovative, community-centred approaches. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributes time, resources, and expertise, your support is creating tangible change in the lives of those we serve.

Our 2025 fundraising initiatives have been diverse and impactful. Highlights include our first annual Black-Tie Gala in June, which raised just under \$10,000, directly supporting YDA Care Packages that assisted 300 people affected by floods and displacement across South Queensland, the Northern Rivers, and Western Australia. We also hosted community-driven events, including Bunnings BBQs in three locations, and engaged with corporate partners and philanthropic supporters to expand our reach.

These efforts do more than raise funds—they also strengthen awareness of Yellow Dove Australia's mission, bringing communities together to support sustainable development, well-being, and equitable opportunities for all. As we look ahead, we remain committed to building inclusive, empowered communities and ensuring our programs continue to make a lasting difference.

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

 Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au

 www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



Community Donors



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES

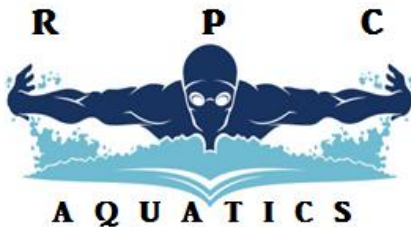


MAKING AUSTRALIA
A SAFER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

Trusted for over 20 years



NAROMAN
ESPERANSA



*St James
College*



NSW
GOVERNMENT



the
**Phillips
Foundation**
Education changes lives



**EMPOWERED
HEALTHCARE**



**scanlon
foundation**

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community



Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



Volunteer Contributions and Thanks

At Yellow Dove Australia, our volunteers remain integral to our success and evolution. Throughout 2025, their dedication, skills, and passion enabled us to deliver transformative programs across diverse communities. From supporting major events in Brisbane to providing hands-on assistance in remote locations, our volunteers contributed time, energy, and expertise that propelled our mission forward and empowered us to achieve collective goals.

Our volunteers played pivotal roles across multiple initiatives this year, including the Community Swim Project, Cultural Connection sessions, yDA Care Package distributions, and our Annual Gala. Notably, students from St James College's Pirlirrpa Education Program partnered with us to pack and distribute 300 dental and personal hygiene care packages to vulnerable communities in Wiluna and the Northern Rivers region. Their involvement provided meaningful volunteer hours toward their Certificate II in Community Services while demonstrating the power of intergenerational collaboration and shared community purpose.

The Baxter-Reid Family, Baxter-Winch Family, Karole Chapman, Sunshine Coast Grammar Lifesaving Team, and Supporting Solutions Queensland continued their invaluable contributions by organising community Bunnings BBQs across Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast, raising essential funds and fostering community connection. Additionally, our expert instructor collective, including Mariah Jones, Leah Jones, Carla Papac, Kasia Barnett, Rosie Lennox, and OAM Dr Shayne Baker, volunteered their aquatic expertise to transform 29 migrants and refugees into confident swimmers and certified lifesavers through the Community Swim Project.

We remain committed to recognising volunteer contributions through personal acknowledgment, certificates of appreciation, and invitations to special events fostering connection among supporters. We prioritise ensuring volunteers gain valuable skills and experiences that support their personal and professional growth. Looking ahead, we aim to expand our volunteer network while offering complimentary First Aid and CPR courses to active Yellow Dove Australia members as heartfelt recognition of their service. The contributions of our volunteers define Yellow Dove Australia's success. They are the heart of every project we undertake, creating lasting impact in the communities we serve. We extend profound gratitude to all who volunteered their time, expertise, and energy in 2025. Without them, our ability to empower communities and create positive change would be impossible. We anticipate continuing this journey together, building a brighter, more connected future.

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

 Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au  www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au



Looking Ahead

As Yellow Dove Australia reflects on 2025, we celebrate the meaningful progress achieved through our mission to empower and uplift communities via education, health, and well-being initiatives. This year's completed projects have created positive, sustainable change across diverse populations, from remote Martu Country to Metropolitan, and from established migrant communities to boarding school students navigating cultural identity.

First 500 Project - Train the Trainer in Timor Leste

Our "First 500 Project" aims to address the critical need for trained first responders in remote and isolated areas of Timor Leste. This initiative will train and employ local staff to deliver First Aid and CPR training to their own communities, ensuring that vital skills are passed on and accessible to those who need it most. By empowering local trainers, we are building sustainable community health infrastructure and fostering a culture of care. **Project Costs: \$40,000 (12 months)**

Active Communities Project

The "Active Communities Project" will engage local Timorese people in afternoon sports programs designed to improve both physical health and mental well-being. This initiative will also offer free health checks to close the disparities in healthcare access. By encouraging active participation, we aim to promote lifelong health habits, community unity, and education on the importance of maintaining healthy minds and bodies. **Project Costs: \$30,000 (12 months)**

Lifesavers and Leaders

This project focuses on developing regional youth as the next generation of leaders through a obtaining their CPR, and First Aid certifications. The Lifesavers and Leaders program empowers young people with critical life skills, fosters leadership potential, and instills confidence in their ability to make a difference in their communities. **Project Costs: \$25,000 (Until used)**

Annual Fundraising Gala, June 2026

Building on this momentum, we are excited to announce our 2026 Annual Fundraising Gala. This premier event will unite our supporters, partners, and community members to celebrate the progress we've achieved and raise vital funds to continue our work. The Gala will feature inspiring guest speakers, entertainment, and opportunities for individuals and organisations to contribute to Yellow Dove Australia's initiatives. Funds raised will directly support the sustainability and expansion of our programs, ensuring we continue making lasting impact in the communities we serve.

As we move into 2026, we remain committed to creating positive, long-lasting change. Our upcoming projects reflect our continued dedication to empowering communities and fostering sustainable development. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our partners, volunteers, and donors, and we look forward to the impact we can achieve together in the year ahead.



Future Forecasts

As we build upon the remarkable achievements of 2025, where we transformed 29 migrants into certified lifesavers, engaged Martu Elders in cultural healing, and doubled our Gala attendance, Yellow Dove Australia is committed to expanding our reach and impact in 2026. We are introducing new initiatives and scaling proven programs to better serve communities that need us most. With unwavering focus on sustainability, community empowerment, and long-term transformation, we are energized by the opportunities ahead.

Grant Applications in Progress:

We have submitted strategic grant applications targeting three critical areas:

- **Multicultural Communities Drowning Prevention** – Expanding our proven Community Swim Project model to reach additional migrant and refugee populations across Queensland
- **Timor Leste Community Capacity Building** – Supplementary funding to enhance local leadership and sustainable program delivery
- **Regional First: First Responder Training for Youth** – Bringing essential emergency response training to young people in regional Queensland communities, addressing critical service gaps in remote areas

These projects represent key growth areas for Yellow Dove Australia in 2026, demonstrating our commitment to evidence-based, community-led programming that creates lasting, measurable impact across diverse populations and geographic regions.



Sustainability and Future Goals

As Yellow Dove Australia reflects on 2025's remarkable achievements, transforming 29 migrants into certified lifesavers and instructors, engaging 66 participants across Cultural Connection sessions, distributing 300 care packages to vulnerable communities, and tripling our Gala attendance, we enter 2026 with strategic focus on sustainability and educational empowerment as cornerstones of lasting community transformation.

Throughout 2025, we witnessed how accessible, quality education creates profound change. The Community Swim Project didn't merely teach swimming; it delivered professional qualifications that opened employment pathways. Our Cultural Connection sessions provided therapeutic spaces where Elders identified practical community needs. These successes affirm our commitment to expanding educational opportunities as part of our holistic approach to community development, strengthening our work across health, community, and well-being pillars.

Building on proven 2025 partnerships with the Scanlon Foundation, Happiness Co Foundation, St James College, and numerous community organisations, we are developing self-sustaining models for 2026 and beyond. Our educational programs empower individuals with critical skills—from the confirmed Timor Leste drowning prevention initiative funded by The Phillips Foundation (\$30,000) to pending grant applications for multicultural drowning prevention, community capacity building, and Regional First: First Responder Training for Youth in regional Queensland.

We are diversifying funding sources through strategic grant writing, community fundraising including our 2026 Annual Gala, and corporate sponsorships. This ensures our educational programs remain accessible and scalable, reaching communities where impact is most needed.

Looking ahead to 2026, we aim to expand influence locally and internationally, building on demonstrated success in Brisbane, Sydney, Wiluna, Karalundi, and Timor Leste. Our community-centred approach, proven through 2025's perfect retention rates and participant satisfaction scores will continue uplifting marginalised groups, reducing disparities, and fostering lifelong learning and personal growth.

The forecast for Yellow Dove Australia is growth, innovation, and resilience. As we enter this new chapter, we are energised by opportunities to expand our educational reach and continue making measurable impact alongside our partners, donors, volunteers, and community members.



Conclusion

Letter from the Founder

This year reinforced a powerful truth at the heart of our work: when we help one person, we help many. Education creates a ripple effect that extends far beyond the individual. Each participant in our Community Swim Project became a bridge to their family and cultural community, conservative estimates suggest each of our 29 graduates directly influences 5-10 additional community members through shared knowledge, mentorship, and lived example. This multiplier effect is the essence of sustainable community development.

Our approach honours the stronghold of kinship that exists within the communities we serve. We don't simply deliver services; we equip community members with skills, knowledge, and confidence to become leaders, educators, and advocates within their own networks. A single Elder sharing therapeutic art practices with family members. A newly certified swim teacher, teaching water safety to younger siblings. A Care Package recipient passing along dignity and hope to a neighbour. This is how transformation spreads, organically, authentically, and sustainably.

Our partnerships, whether with the Scanlon Foundation, Happiness Co Foundation, St James College, local organisations, businesses, or government agencies—have been instrumental in building this self-sustaining model. The success of projects such as the Community Swim Project, Cultural Connection sessions, and our Care Package initiatives serves as testament to the power of collaboration and community-centred solutions that respect and strengthen existing kinship structures.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are energised by confirmed opportunities including our Timor Leste drowning prevention program funded by The Phillips Foundation, and pending grant applications for multicultural drowning prevention, community capacity building, and Regional First: First Responder Training for Youth. The future of Yellow Dove Australia is one of resilience and continued impact, where we remain steadfast in our commitment to reduce disparities, foster growth, and create a more equitable society, one person, one family, one community at a time.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, volunteers, and supporters for your unwavering commitment to our cause. We hope to see you all at our 2026 Annual Fundraising Gala as we celebrate this year's achievements and chart our course forward.

Together, we are shaping a more inclusive, vibrant world. One community at a time, one connection at a time.

Ryan Chapman



Founder & Director, Yellow Dove Australia

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

 Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au

 www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au





YELLOW DOVE AUSTRALIA

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO AUSTRALIA

Australian Based Charity - Servicing Community, Based in Community

 Admin@yellowdoveaustralia.com.au

 www.yellowdoveaustralia.com.au

