

In the past year, the board prepared a five year projected operational budget with the assistance of Housing Choices Australia. These projections highlighted the negative cash flow during this period due mainly to major refurbishment projections. As a result in July 2016 the board sought confirmation from Urban Seed they would guarantee payment of the subsidised rental charge calculated with modest annual increase through to the end of 2018.

Negotiations then took place with Melbourne City Mission to progressively increase the percentage of market rent over a five-year progression. This was accepted and a spread sheet indicating the anticipated dollar amounts annually was supplied to MCM.

It was reported that in the 11 years of operation, a total of 79 young people have lived at Lion Garden for periods of 6 months to 3 years. Lion Garden provides one of only two beds in the State available to a Youth Justice tenant.

It should be our aim to increase the number of Trustees specifically young members to carry on for those of us reaching or well above retirement age. This would engender some fresh thinking and energy.

I think we can look back over the previous decade with some pride and satisfaction and an assurance we can meet the challenges ahead.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your support and encouragement with a special mention to the Secretary who has given great assistance and taken on many tasks beyond the role of secretary on a number of occasions.

Ian Hughes,  
Chairman, GHI