

BABI YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT

34 Bay Terrace, Wynnum. 4178

07 3393 4176



ALL
GENDERS
IDENTITIES
EXPRESSIONS
PRONOUNS
WELCOME
HERE



2024 - 2025

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Young people with a Ute donated to BABI by a generous community member.

BABI Youth and Family Service respectfully acknowledges the Quandamooka people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands where BABI operates. We pay respect to their Elders, past and present, lores, customs and creation spirits. BABI acknowledges and celebrates the important role Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples play within BABI and the community.



Under our agreement with the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, BABI has maintained the Human Services Quality Framework (HSQF) accreditation.

BABI has also maintained our registration under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH).



About Us

Since 1983, BABI has been responding to youth homelessness in Wynnum and across the Bayside regions. BABI delivers bold, impactful programs that meaningfully support young people with accommodation and other wraparound services.

BABI recognises that homelessness and tough life circumstances don't happen in isolation and multiple types of support are needed.

Young people and families don't have to do it on their own. BABI is part of the community standing beside them, offering support, strength, connection and care as they find their way forward and shape their own futures.

At BABI, we help young people find hope.



Youth Voice Committee members opening the Bay Wave Youth Festival



BABI
Youth & Family
Service

Established 1983

Awards and Recognitions:

- Winner of the 2004 Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships – YouthCO Employment Program.
- Winner of 2006 Child Protection Week Award – Parenting and Enjoying Teenagers Program.
- Winner of 2006 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Award (Queensland) – Partnership with Queensland Police Service UP Program.
- Winner of 2012 Police Commissioner's Gold Lantern Prize Award for Excellence – Stop Harassing Me Postcard Project – Cyberbullying.
- In 2017, 2018 & 2019 BABI was a Top 5 Provider of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative – Get Set For Work Program.
- Winner of 2020 Queensland Training Awards (Metropolitan Region) – Get Set For Work Program.
- Recipient of the Deirdre Coghlan Bursary Award 2024.
- Bayside Community Awards Nominee 2024 and 2025.
- BABI Board and Youth Voice Committee, were recipients of the Certificate of Volunteering in the Bayside 2025 Recognitions.



BABI Staff and Students at a Team Building Day



The BABI President speaking at the Bright Futures Fundraising Dinner

The BABI Board remains focused on long-term sustainability and growth. This year saw significant progress for the organisation with the development of a new strategic plan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which BABI Youth and Family Service works, the Quandamooka people. I pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

On behalf of the BABI board, I am pleased to present the BABI Annual Report for the 2025 year.

2025 marks another year of progress and purpose for BABI. Over the past year, BABI has continued to provide vital housing and support services to young people and young families across the Bayside, providing over 1,300 support contacts for housing assistance and wrap-around support. This included providing 114 individuals and families with accommodation support.

While these issues are not new, they continue to define the experiences of many of the young people we support — with family breakdown, domestic and family violence, and lack of family or community support remaining the most common reasons for seeking help.

Sadly, this ongoing demand reflects the deepening social and economic challenges faced by many young people. Our thoughts are with those who have experienced hardship and trauma this year, and with our dedicated staff who have been there to support them every step of the way.

BABI continued to deliver an integrated suite of programs for young people and families, including Get Set for Work, LINX Drop-In, Bay Wave Youth Festival, Seventy-8 Youth Space, Family Support Program, Parenting Group, Youth Counselling, and the Youth Support Program. The reach and impact of these services highlight BABI's commitment to holistic, person-centred support, addressing not just housing, but wellbeing, skills, and connection.

The BABI Board remains focused on long-term sustainability and growth. This year saw significant progress for the organisation with the development of a new strategic plan, with a strong focus on increasing BABI-owned housing stock to meet growing demand and provide greater stability for young people and families. The plan also lays out a clear direction for strengthening service delivery, community partnerships, and organisational resilience over the next five years.

Our fundraising strategy also took shape this year, with a focus on diversifying income streams and deepening community engagement. Highlights included the Bunnings BBQ and our Brighter Futures Dinner, which together raised more than \$21,000 — a testament to the generosity of our community and the dedication of our staff and volunteers.

Under the leadership of CEO Shaun Staunton, BABI has continued to strengthen its operations, build partnerships, and deliver positive outcomes for clients. Shaun's steady leadership and commitment to collaboration have been instrumental in advancing the strategic direction of the organisation.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our volunteer Board members — Edward Harwood, Hugh Bettinson, Chris Webster, Sharon Wilson, Peter Cumming, and members who stepped down through the year Bel Ellis and Rachel Killorn — for their expertise, energy, and commitment throughout the year. Thank you also to our Youth Representatives who have contributed to the Board throughout the year, whose insights continue to bring the voices of young people directly into our governance discussions.

BABI could not deliver its work without the extraordinary commitment of our staff and managers. On behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere appreciation for your professionalism, compassion, and dedication. Every day, you make a tangible difference in the lives of young people and families across our community.

Finally, thank you to our partners, donors, members, and supporters for standing with BABI. Your continued support ensures that BABI remains a trusted and vital service, creating brighter futures for young people in the Bayside.

Sarah Mawhinney, BABI Board President.





BABI Treasurer accepting an award with a YVC member and Kara Cook MP

“

There are many organisations, groups and individuals who have supported BABI Youth and Family Service this financial year.

”

TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2025 financial year ended with a net operating profit of \$69,026.

The Board of Management confirms that the Bayside Adolescent Boarding Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

I confirm that BABI's financial statements were audited by an external auditor, Integrated Audit Service Pty Ltd.

Summary Profit and Loss FY2025

Income \$2,143,287
Expenditure \$2,074,261
Net profit \$69,026

Summary Balance Sheet, 30 June 2025

Assets \$1,526,421
Liabilities \$375,461
Net Assets \$1,150,960

FY2025/26 Budget

The budget for the coming financial year has been prepared accounting for all current projects, and approved with a projected surplus of \$43,645.

Total projected income is \$1,933,636 inclusive of unspent funds carried forward from 2024/25.

Total projected expenditure is \$1,889,991.

On behalf of BABI Board of Management and Staff, I would like to acknowledge BABI's primary funding bodies – Brisbane City Council, Department of Housing and Public Works, Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Department of Trade, Employment and Training, as well as the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support.

We also appreciate the many supporters and donors in 2024-2025 including The Lady Bowen Trust, Brisbane City Council and the Brisbane Lord Mayor, Greenlight Creative, Wynnum Manly Leagues Club, Community Bank Wynnum-Manly, Australia Post, GIVIT, and Rouge Lane Consulting.

There are many more organisations, groups and individuals who have supported BABI Youth and Family Service this financial year. I encourage you to read the full list of all of our supporters in the Thank You to BABI Funders and Supporters section of the Annual Report.

Thank you to BABI's Finance Manager Fadia Henen, for your dedication and expertise in consistently delivering accurate financial information and enabling BABI to do its critical work in the community in which we live.

Edward Harwood, BABI Board Treasurer.



BABI CEO attending a
Property Industry
Foundation event

“

25 per cent of young people and families in BABI accommodation identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, demonstrating the importance of our focus in the new Strategic Plan on ensuring our services are culturally knowledgeable and safe.

”

CEO'S REPORT

The 2024–2025 financial year has been another year of successes and challenges for BABI Youth and Family Service. Our hard-working staff, Board and volunteers continued to support and build on a long legacy of supporting young people in Wynnum and surrounding areas.

Just as the housing crisis continues, our Housing Team continued to support young people and young families as they first came into BABI, identifying supports for them either with us or supporting them to connect with other organisations where that is a more suitable option. The team also continued providing a high level of ongoing support to young people that moved from our Intake register into our accommodations.

The Youth Support program has continued to change lives, providing case management and support out in our local community. By working in the places that young people live their lives, this program makes stronger connections with young people. Our Counselling Team has also continued working with young people and parents and carers, using innovative approaches and activities to support clients and their wellbeing.

Sadly, this year our youth counselling program has ended due to the finalisation of the generous donation from Celebrate for a Cause which funded this program. However, we are actively seeking new funding for this service. We were very sorry for our Youth Counsellor Beth Owen to finish up with us when this program ended. Beth has helped change the lives of the young people that she worked with.

Supporting young people disengaged from education, the Get Set For Work youth employment and training program has continued to work with young people. This program builds their skills and knowledge, form connections with services, develop their leadership skills and belief in themselves, and prepare for entering the workforce.

Our youth engagement program has also supported young people through recreational and leadership activities, creating supportive spaces through Drop-In services, implementing skill development workshops, guiding the Youth Voice Committee advisory and leadership group, and implementing the Bay Wave Youth Festival. This year, our Youth Justice community grants funding ended for some additional aspects of our Drop-In services, so we bid a sad farewell to our Youth Coordinator Imelletha Lia-Norris.

Finally, our Operational Team, consisting of our Finance and Administration staff have continued to ensure our processes and finances are strong and secure into the future, and have continued to create a welcoming and safe first impression for the community members we work with. Sadly, this year our Administration Officer Tracey Strong ended her time with us, as did our Housing Intake worker Kara Mansley and Families Counsellor Louise Fitzgerald.

I want to thank BABI's Program Managers Julie Figliano, who assumed the Housing Manager role and Carly Motu who assumed the Youth and Families Manager role this year. Both Carly and Julie provide immense support to BABI.

Our work is also supported by volunteers who generously give their time to help us deliver our services and programs. In particular, I want to thank our live-in Volunteer Caretakers Micaela Diaz and Reece Mudge, who assist with our share-house accommodation, volunteer Andy Allen who provides us with website support, and the members of the Youth Voice Committee who support our events and give us essential input.

I'd also like to thank community member Gabi Quinn who supported our Strategic Planning, and a number of people and groups who support us to put on the annual Bay Wave Youth Festival in April each year.

I also want to acknowledge the work of our volunteer Board of Governance, who give significant time and effort to provide essential governance guidance and continue the proud legacy of BABI Youth and Family Service.

The support from many individuals, businesses and organisations that partner with BABI have been essential to continuing our services to meet the needs of young people and is very appreciated. BABI has many supporters and partners, and you can see this full list later in this report.

Reflecting on 2024-2025, we saw another year of successes, challenges, and moments of note for BABI Youth and Family Service. This included our staff and caretaker volunteers coming together to prepare for and respond to Cyclone Alfred, supporting young people and continuing to deliver services through uncertainty, power losses, and travel limitations.

Our Board has formed a new Fundraising Subcommittee to explore opportunities for income generation, and the Governance Subcommittee conducted a full review of all Policy and Procedure with myself, ensuring that BABI has streamlined, contemporary and fit-for-purpose Policies and Procedures. This year, I was also proud to lead BABI Youth and Family Service through the development of a new 2026-2031 Strategic Plan. We ensured that the voices of community and our partners informed the work of the staff and the Board to identify our priorities.



Toiletries supplies packed for BABI clients at a PIF Partners event

As part of the 2025 AGM, BABI will launch this new Strategic Plan, providing a roadmap for a successful future for the organisation and achieving our new Vision for young people to have opportunities, purpose and happiness and to be able to build the lives they choose with support and with the community by their side.

Throughout the year the BABI staff have continued working hard in challenging circumstances to support young people and young families during a housing crisis, natural disasters, and ongoing rising rates of poorer mental health and a range of other challenges that impact caregivers and family wellbeing.

Thank you to the staff, all our members, volunteers, and supporters, as well as the young people and their families who come to us for support and collaborate so closely with us.

Shaun Staunton, BABI Chief Executive Officer.



Staff attending a professional development training

BABI SERVICES IN 2024/25

BABI provides holistic and integrated support to young people and their families, working with young people impacted by homelessness, family breakdown, domestic and family violence, trauma, youth unemployment, poor mental health, parenting challenges, grief and loss, social isolation, marginalisation, poverty, and substance use.

Our range of service recognise that homelessness, health and wellbeing challenges, and tough life circumstances don't happen in isolation and multiple types of support are needed.

Specialist Youth Homelessness Service

Supported Accommodation, youth & young parents case management, advocacy and tenancy Support:

- Share Houses with Live-in Caretakers.
- Semi-independent Units.
- Family houses and family IHR support.
- Same House Different Landlord properties.

LINX Youth Space Program

Youth engagement, participation, and youth leadership through drop-in, School holiday programs and the community Youth Voice Committee.

Family Support Workshops

Young Parents and Parenting and Enjoying Teenagers Program.

Food and other supplies

Emergency food pantry and other supplies support for clients.

Get Set For Work Program

Intensive support for young people who have disengaged from school or are at-risk of disengaging. Over 8 weeks, young people complete a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways and receive additional support and participate in various skill building activities.

Youth Support Program

Providing information, advice and referral to other services that the young person needs with brief intervention and one-on-one support with a focus on additional or specialised help to identify goals and strategies for better outcomes.

Family Support Program Counselling

Counselling, referral and support services to carers, family members and those who are parenting.

Community Youth Space - Seventy 8

Early intervention and prevention programs centered around a Youth Drop-in Centre model. This program ended in May 2025 due to the ending of the funding.



Youth Counselling

Funded through a donation from Celebrate for a Cause, Youth Counselling offers therapeutic interventions and support services to young people. Sadly, this program ended in July 2025, with the ending of the program funding.

BABI BOARD

BABI is governed by a volunteer Board who donate their time to guide the organisation and provide strong governance. The Board works hard to continue BABI's long legacy of supporting young people and young families.

Sarah Mawhinney – President

Sarah is a public policy and communications specialist with a career spanning over 20 years within government, community and union organisations. Sarah has proven abilities to successfully work collaboratively with multiple levels of government, utilising well developed interpersonal and negotiation skills to achieve positive results. Sarah is committed to working with local community organisations to improve outcomes for those who need support.

Chris Webster – Vice President

Chris worked as a Technical Officer with Telstra until 1998 (30 years), a Retail Sales Assistant for 5 years (1998–2003) and Admin/Bookkeeping part time (2003–2021). He retired from paid employment in July 2021. He has volunteered with the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme since 2010, and the Redland Community Centre since 2017. He is Company Secretary of RWM Community Financial Services Limited (the company that holds the franchise to operate the Bendigo Community Bank branches in Victoria Point and Wynnum Manly), and Chairperson of the United Community Services Inc. Board. He is a Life Member of the Capalaba State College Amateur Swimming Club and a Life Member of Tennis Officials Australia.

Edward Harwood – Treasurer

Edward joined the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL) in 2006 and is currently employed as PBPL Community Relations Manager. His responsibilities include oversight of Community sponsorship programs, Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, Volunteer Leave Program and management of community amenities inclusive of visitors centre, cafe, conference rooms and port tours.



Board Members Sarah and Hugh with BABI volunteer Ari

Previously, Edward worked in a variety of management positions in hospitality in Melbourne, Adelaide, the UK and Sweden. Edward has been a board member of BABI since 2014 and is well known across many not for profit entities in the local area. Edward has an interest in community issues and assisting community organisations to achieve their social aims.

Sharon Wilson – Board Member

Sharon joined the BABI Board in 2022 after a 30 year career in the provision of housing and housing-related services in local, state and commonwealth government agencies. Sharon held senior leadership roles responsible for housing acquisition and construction, maintenance, portfolio management and the delivery of property and tenancy management services to social housing and Defence clients. Sharon brings to BABI many years' experience in leadership roles with responsibility for strategic management and governance. She also holds a Master's Degree in Business majoring in Public Management. Sharon has a strong belief that access to safe, secure and affordable housing and a place to call home are fundamental to health, education, employment and life opportunities. The services that BABI provides play an important role in addressing this need in the Wynnum community.

Youth Representative Board Member

This year BABI had a youth representative Board Member before they needed to step down for personal reasons.

BABI BOARD

Rachel Killorn - Board Member

Rachel Killorn is a proud Aboriginal woman and dedicated professional with extensive experience across retail, education, events, sponsorship, engagement and business partnerships. She has a strong track record of delivering results and fostering connections that make a meaningful difference to all involved.

While Wynnum is no longer Rachel's primary place of residence, she continues to maintain strong ties to the area. In addition to volunteer roles, Rachel's professional experience in the Bayside includes 12 years of employment at Moreton Bay College where she developed a deep understanding of the local community. In her current role as Member Engagement Manager at the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), Rachel works closely with healthcare professionals and stakeholders supporting rural, remote and First Nations communities; allowing her the opportunity to draw on her passion for nurturing relationships that promote growth and opportunity. This role has also further strengthened her expertise in engagement, strategic partnerships and social accountability. Rachel stepped down from the Board in 2025.



**BABI clients with
donated refurbished
bikes**



**BABI Board Secretary Sharon
and the CEO Shaun meeting
with Joan Pease MP and Kara
Cook MP**

Hugh Bettinson - Board Member

Currently in his penultimate year of a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Business (Management), Hugh is a community-minded leader and governance professional dedicated to strengthening local services. He is a board member of several local community organisations and the Head of Media Relations for Joan Pease MP, Shadow Minister for Small Business, Customer Service & Open Data. Recognised by the Courier Mail as one of the Bayside's Top Young People under 25, Hugh combines legal, business, and communications experience with a passion for social justice and community impact.

Bel Ellis - Board Member

Bel is a local business owner, running Little Gnome Bookshop in Wynnum since 2015. Bel also runs JLR Sound Hire, since 2007, which has provided sound and stage hire services, band bookings, music and tour management and venue management to thousands of musicians. Bel created Bring A Plate Bayside, in 2024, a community based group of volunteers coming together to provide home cooked meals and friendship to rough sleepers in the Bayside area. Bel has also been a coach at Bayside United Football Club since 2024 and previously in 2015 & 2016. Since 2019 Bel has participated in Variety QLD's Variety Bash, raising money and awareness for disadvantaged kids all over QLD. The car, The Little Gnome Mobile, has raised close to \$250,000 in six years! Bel was a proud Board Member of BABI and the wider Bayside community and is an out and loud member of the Queer Community. Bel resigned from the Board in September 2025, and the Board is grateful for her time and support, particularly in relation to the work of the Fundraising Subcommittee.

YOUTH VOICE COMMITTEE

The Youth Voice Committee (YVC) is a group of dedicated youth volunteers who share their thoughts and experiences to keep the issues of local young people heard and visible in the community.

Committee members also have the opportunity to develop their leaderships skills and event planning and public speaking skills, all while increasing their confidence, self-esteem, and social skills.

1

The YVC members were asked what does the YVC mean to you? They said:

- Friendship.
- Connection.
- YVC fun.
- Shazam (meaning to introduce an extraordinary deed or transformation).

Youth Voice Committee members discussing what matters to them

2

YVC members were also asked why is the YVC important? They said:

- To do activities for people in need or on the streets.
- It's fun.
- To hear youth opinions and youth facts.



3

Members listed their favourite YVC activities. They said:

- School Holiday Activities - "they make me feel like a a kid again".
- LINX Drop-In in the afternoons with shnacks and other food.
- Bruizer (one of the BABI pups).
- No judgement.
- BABI Days (school holiday activities held in the BABI Youth Centre).
- Jackbox (an online competition game).

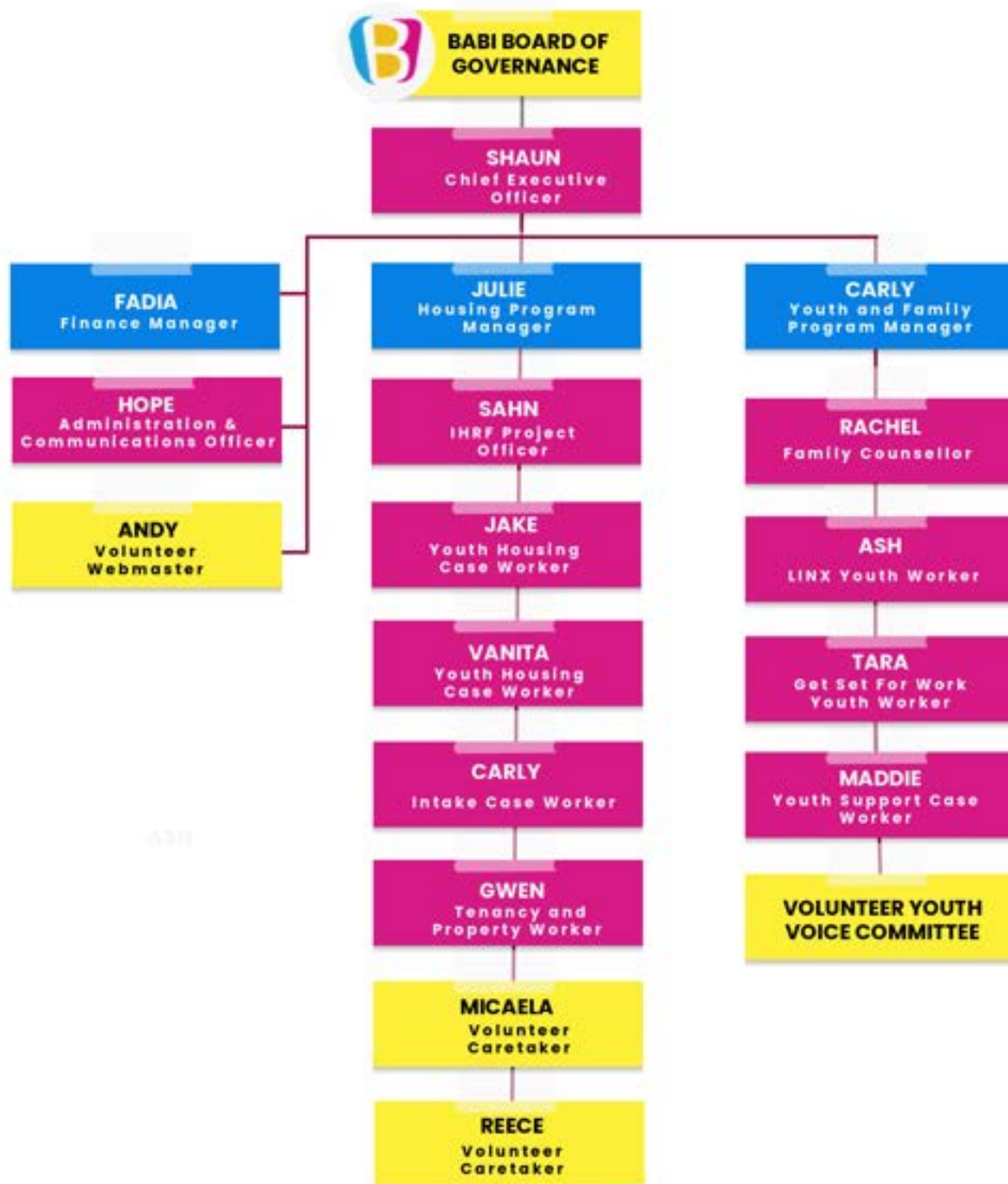
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Some of the significant YVC activities this year included:

- Planning the 2024 Bay Wave Youth Festival.
- Volunteering at Wynnum Fringe Community Day Street Party.
- Volunteering at the 2024 Ampol Wynnum Halloween Parade.
- Involvement in the 2024 BABI AGM, both speaking and by being Living Library Books.
- Giving input on the new BABI Strategic Plan and participating in a planning day.
- Awareness walks like the Bay Pride March and the Brisbane March.
- Youth Leadership camp on K'gari.

BABI is incredibly proud to have a group of passionate and committed volunteer young people to support and advise our work. Thank you to the YVC members for all that you do.

STAFF CHART



BABI Staff and Students at a Team Building Day

THANK YOU TO BABI FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

BABI can only respond to the critical housing and wellbeing needs of young people and families with the support of the many individuals, businesses and organisations that support our work.

Funders

Thank you to our federal, state and local government partners who have funded our programs in 2024-2025; the Brisbane City Council, Department of Housing and Public Works, Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Department of Trade, Employment and Training, as well as the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support.

Grants and Donations

We were grateful to have a number of grants and financial and other donations in 2024-2025 including from The Lady Bowen Trust, Brisbane City Council and the Brisbane Lord Mayor, Greenlight Creative, Wynnum Manly Leagues Club, Community Bank Wynnum-Manly, Australia Post, GIVIT, Sweet Heart Mosaic, Woolworths Wynnum Plaza and Woolworths Wynnum Central, Goodlife Wynnum, community member Donna who donated a vehicle, Gabi Quinn, Merlo Coffee, Celebrate for a Cause, Ross Vasta MP, Boomerang Bags, Super Butcher Wynnum Plaza, Munja Pizza, Little Gnome Bookshop, the Nappy Collective, Wynnum Manly & Districts Men's Shed, Reverend Andrew Cooper, Bartons Motor Group, Share the Dignity, Queensland Woodturners Society, Affinage Professional, Local Print Co., St. Peters Anglican Church, New Leaf Natural Therapies, Heart of Gelato, Wellington Point State High School, and a number of local Wynnum Real Estates who contributed to our Youth Homelessness Matters Day activities in April 2025.

Throughout the year, but especially in the lead up to Christmas time, BABI also receives a number of donations of household and gift items from community members. Thank you to everyone who donated funds and items this year.

A special thanks goes to the Property Industry Foundation (PIF), and their partners including Frasers Property Australia and Lead Lease, who continued to collaborate with BABI to support the young people that BABI works with, enhanced our accommodation properties, and helped BABI raise awareness of the needs of young people.

Thank you as well to donors who supported the previous 2024 AGM; Councillor Alex Givney, Joan Pease MP, Brisbane Bullets, Annual Pest Management, Dental on Cambridge, Golden Circle Outlet, Sails at Bayside, Waterloo Bay Hotel Fig Restaurant, and members of the BABI Art Therapy Group.

Finally, thank you to BABI supporter Rin, who volunteered time as a Volunteer Art Curator for BABI art and creative activities in 2025.



THANK YOU TO BABI BRIGHT FUTURES SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



Speaker Angela Smith at
the Bright Futures Dinner

This year, the BABI Board also began planning our inaugural Bright Futures Fundraising Dinner. BABI wants to acknowledge and thank the official Sponsors and supporters of this event, which was held on 8th November 2025.

For more than 40 years, BABI has proudly stood alongside young people and families in the Bayside community, offering housing for young people experiencing homelessness, counselling and support services that change lives. The Bright Futures dinner was a celebration of that work and opportunity to raise the funds and awareness to continue it. On the night, the local community truly came together, raising over \$20,000 to support young people in the Bayside region.

Together, we're building hope for the Bayside's young people.

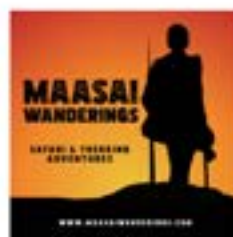
Platinum Sponsor

McGrath

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsors



Proudly supporting the local
community - Club of Wynnum
and Manly

Bronze Sponsor

Joan Pease MP

Member for Lytton

Promotional support

greenlight

Thank you to Gabi Quinn with Rouge Lane Consulting for volunteering her time to plan the event, and Angela Smith of Smith & Co. Recruitment and Fitstop Wynnum for speaking at the event. Thank you as well to all in-kind community supporters.

LINX Youth Space

- Drop-in is held two days per week after school hours, delivered 249 times.
- School Holiday program in July, September, December, January and June 2024-2025, with 131 activities delivered.
- The Youth Voice Committee met fortnightly, meeting 65 times in total.



Youth Voice Committee members at Bay Wave

Funded by the Brisbane City Council, the LINX Youth Space program provides a range of services to young people in the Wynnum/Manly and surrounding areas who are aged 12-25. This program offers opportunities, support and services to young people at risk, or those experiencing limited opportunities and avenues for participation in the life of our local community. The LINX Youth Space aims to promote safety, growth and wellbeing of local young people through engagement activities, as well as youth and community development activities. This year has seen young people create new friendships through the LINX school holiday program; create resumes, apply for jobs or get creative in the drop in space; and push themselves out of their comfort zones by being part of our Youth Voice Committee. The Youth Voice Committee keeps the issues of local young people heard and visible in the community, and allows young people to develop leaderships skills and event planning and public speaking skills, all while increasing their confidence, self-esteem, and social skills.

Members of the Youth Voice Committee also supported the youth worker in planning and running the annual Youth Week event - Bay Wave. With a long history in the community, Bay Wave was an absolute hit again this year, with approximately 500 people attending on the day. The festival had young bands, singers and dancers displaying their talents on stage throughout the day. LINX was a significant support for young people, with several young people express interest in singing on stage at Bay Wave, with one duo practicing their song for months before.

While one of this brave duo wasn't able to perform on the day, the other young person got up on stage on their own and sang a beautiful song, performing with confidence and flair.

One challenge BABI has faced, which speaks to the need for the LINX program in the community, is increases in numbers to the drop in and school holiday programs. However BABI only has one youth worker on the LINX program, and to ensure a safe, welcoming and comfortable space for young people while participant numbers are increasing, activities always require at least two staff members.

This means that other BABI staff have generously volunteered their time to support the program and participants. If funded for future years, BABI will explore opportunities with volunteers to account for increasing numbers of participants. This will give BABI the opportunity to provide some more one-on-one time if required in the drop-in space.



Youth Voice Committee member Cassie performs at Bay Wave

Youth Space Seventy-8

- Seventy-8 ran from October 2024 to April 2025, with young people visiting the program 154 times. Across sessions, 18 to 35% of participants were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people.
- The program delivered cooking classes, art therapy and mindfulness art activities, yoga activities, music activities, support developing resumes and job applications, and mental health and housing support (in partnership with other BABI programs). Outcomes include young people securing their Learners Permit and starting TAFE courses.



A participant of a Seventy-8 art project

Utilising funding under the Youth Justice community-based crime action grants, BABI's other Youth Space program (Seventy 8) worked alongside young people aged 12-25 in the Wynnum and Bayside area. The aim of this project was to reduce recidivism and support young people to build a solid base around them so that they can grow and achieve their life goals. It provided a safe and welcoming environment where young people can hang out, connect with new people, have some food, and feel part of a community. The young people that attend Seventy 8 came from diverse cultures and backgrounds – no one was ever excluded – and it was obvious that they have been extremely comfortable in the youth space, with many participants attending every day.

At Seventy 8, BABI worked to teach young people basic life skills that will help them succeed and move forward in life. Some of the main focus areas were resume writing, completing forms, cooking, maintaining cleanliness and hygiene, building healthy habits, and fostering general respect, healthy communication, and conflict resolution.



We also provided opportunities to improve mental health and well-being, while being in a safe environment to share and try something new. Some of these specific activities included basketball, personal training sessions, boxing, musical instruments, arts and crafts, and food preparation and cooking workshops. BABI saw some great outcomes over the year, including young people stepping into leadership roles, volunteering to arrive at drop-in early to assist with set-up and plan and run activities. This reflected not only a deepening sense of ownership over the space but an increase in confidence, self-worth, and community connections.

One of the big outcomes BABI is truly proud of is that the young people felt comfortable approaching staff for support around their mental health, housing needs and everyday challenges.

Staff noticed that some of the young people were managing difficult situations in their lives but were not willing to share information and talk about what support they needed. Our youth workers created a warm, secure environment and took the time to build trust. As a result, the young people quickly felt safe enough to open up—and they were then connected with our housing and/or counselling programs for more specialised support.

Unfortunately, the Seventy 8 Community Youth Space was only funded for 6 months, running from October 2024 – April 2025. We will continue to look for more long-term funding to re-create this important space in the future.

Family Support Program

- This program provided 806 hours of counselling support during this period.
- Thirty four clients had their case plans finished in this year as a majority of their needs were met.
- In addition to counselling support, BABI provided 47 referrals for existing clients to additional support services.



BABI Staff with Christmas Gift Cards donated for clients, including parents.

The Family Support Program is funded by the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs and provides services to parents or carers of children and young people (unborn to 18 years) who find themselves in vulnerable situations and need support. A range of evidenced based approaches and theoretical frameworks are used on to facilitate counselling at BABI including strengths-based approach, Family Systems Therapy, Narrative Therapy, Attachment Theory, trauma informed practice, developmental theory across life stages, Motivational Interviewing, Acceptance and commitment Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing and Internal Family Systems.

This BABI counselling program supports parents and carers to reflect on and recover from their own complex trauma and increase emotional attunement to their children and teenagers' emotional needs.

Counselling practice at BABI is guided by the goal of healing transgenerational complex trauma and changing the trajectory for families for generations to come. With this focus on longer term healing from complex trauma, this program has a client waitlist of approximately 2 months for counselling. Due to this important focus, a key program challenge is managing the tension between the need to be flexible for clients to attend appointments and group sessions and other needs – such as counsellor self-care.

Social Work Students often provide significant support to the counsellor during Parenting and Enjoying Teenagers (PET) Program group preparation and delivery.

Another key focus this year has been work by the program counsellor reviewing and enhancing the PET program.

This year, the Family Support Program would particularly like to thank the BABI Youth Counsellor Beth Owen, as there have been many occasions where referrals have been made to Beth resulting in much more coordinated support for the family.

This results in an ideal situation where the parent/s are engaging in counselling and the PET group while their young people are also being supported by the Youth Counsellor.

Additionally, there have been a number of times that other BABI programs have been able to provide support to other family members, meaning the family has been supported in a true 'wrap-around' model. The complementary 6-week Parenting and Enjoying Teenagers (PET) Program was again offered each school term and the program covers Adolescent development & parenting, repairing relationships, communication and assertiveness, rules consequences and PASTA Framework, values, and hot topics like sex, drugs, alcohol, driving, social media, emotional/nervous system regulation, and self-care.



The Family Support Program was one of the programs reviewed under the HSQF accreditation in 2025

Youth Counselling

- 35 young people accessed counselling in 2024/25.
- 14 young people participated in Art Therapy groups and nine participated in Yoga Therapy groups.
- Program evaluation showed that young people learnt to identify emotions and physical reactions, build self-regulation and tolerance skills, and reported that their mental health and stress management had improved.

**Youth Counsellor Beth
supporting PJs for a Cause**



BABI's Youth Counselling program has been solely funded by community donations and was delivered three days per week. The program was delivered by an experienced counselor who works from a trauma informed, strengths-based framework, working with young people aged 12-25 years old that require extra support with their mental health and wellbeing. Unfortunately, this program ended in July 2025 due to a lack of funding. There is still a high need in the community for this service – local mental health youth services are currently at maximum capacity with long wait lists.

This program saw good engagement from clients, many that had been attending for more than six months. Clients have reported that they get something positive from their sessions; they feel supported and believe it has been worthwhile engaging in the service. Each counselling session is different and is catered to the individual, but could include talk therapy, sensory play or art therapy. As well as one on one counselling, last year our Youth Counselor developed a trauma-informed yoga program that ran over 6 weeks. It was a huge success, so it was delivered again this year. This program encouraged young people to connect with their body and develop healthy ways of managing stress, anxiety, and relaxing the mind.

This year our Youth Counsellor also developed an art therapy program that ran for 6 weeks. Art therapy can provide a non-verbal way for individuals to express themselves and process emotions, especially when words are difficult to find.

It was also a huge success and was delivered twice, with good participation and results for young people.

Several clients receive support from other BABI programs including Housing, Get Set for Work and Youth Support, and the youth counselling program is grateful for the opportunity to support young people alongside their parents who access the Family Support Program.

This suggests that youth counselling is a valuable inclusion to BABI's wrap around support, providing different levels of support to young people in need and contributing to support to the entire family.

It is obvious that the more engaged young people are with BABI, the better their outcomes.

BABI is still looking at further funding options to bring the program back.

**BABI often receives
donations to our client
food pantry**



Youth Support Program

Program Support Worker
Maddie with Admin Officer
Tracey at the 2024 AGM

- 38 young people received ongoing case work support from this program in 2024/25.
- 20 young people reported improved ability to access supports, nine reported improved family relationships, nine reported improved quality of life, and nine reported improved life skills.



The Youth Support Program is funded by the Queensland State Government through the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety. This program works in the community to assist young people to stay connected with family and community, stay engaged in education/training or employment, and promote physical and mental health whilst ensuring young people have safe and secure housing.

This program has many stories of significant impact in the community. One young person was referred to BABI for support by their Child Safety Officer. She was 15 years old at the time of referral, had disengaged from school, was experiencing mental health challenges and was at risk of homelessness due to complexities at home.

She engaged in Youth Support for two years and during this time was supported with referrals to access health care, support for mental health, as well as connecting to other internal BABI services such as School Holiday Program, Drop In, Youth Voice Committee, BABI Share House Accommodation and Youth Counselling.

This young person went on to graduate from the Get Set for Work Program, receiving a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways. Over the last year, she has worked incredibly hard towards her employment and education goals, accessing support to create a resume, obtaining a Centrelink income, tax file number, drivers licence and much needed identification such as a Birth Certificate.

This young person now lives independently, sustaining her tenancy in share-house accommodation. She is now pursuing her dream career as a Youth Justice Case Worker, commencing a Certificate IV in Justice Studies at TAFE. She said, "I just want to help young people and be a supportive person for them."

While BABI celebrates these success stories, the rising cost of living pressures and the housing crisis continue to impact hardest on young people in the community who are already at risk.

Young people are becoming increasingly anxious about their future and are often having to choose between staying in unsafe living arrangements or being homeless. The Youth Support Program plays a key role in working with the strength and resilience of young people, and witnesses firsthand what they achieve when barriers to supports are reduced - they have safety, and they have support to have their basic needs met. Into the next year, the Youth Support Program will continue to deliver outreach support to increase young people's access to much needed services at BABI and in the wider community.



Maddie and the Youth and Family
Services Program Manager Carly
at Bay Wave

Get Set For Work Program

- 34 young people participated in the Get Set For Work program in 2024/25.
- 19 young people went on to achieve employment, and six entered further study.
- Through connections with other programs, five program participants were also supported to access housing support.



Program participants celebrating their graduation

Funded by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, the Get Set for Work program falls under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. The program works with young people aged 15–19 years to assist them in gaining a nationally recognised qualification, gain job-ready skills and acquire the foundation skills that will enable them to move into further training or employment.

The participants complete a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational pathways, while receiving support from a youth worker to overcome barriers to education or employment. They are supported to put in place all of the things that sets them up for success; connect to Centrelink, access required ID documents, create a tax file number, open a bank account, create a resume, apply for further training or jobs and general day to day support. They also participate in activities to develop life skills, and outdoor education and adventure-based learning, such as a sailing day each term with key supporters of BABI, SAILS at Bayside. BABI also celebrates the achievements of the participants each term with a graduation ceremony once the course is completed. This year the program celebrated participant achievements such as part-time and full-time work, further study, returning to school and improvements in young people's confidence and wellbeing. One young person began the Get Set for Work program at just 15 years old while also caring for a parent. Despite facing many personal challenges, they successfully completed a Certificate II, along with first aid training.

After finishing the program, they enrolled in a traineeship and are now close to completing a Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

Throughout this journey, they've gained confidence, self-esteem, and a clear sense of their own potential. Combined with their resilience and determination, they are now thriving in their new role.

Next year the program aims to provide more connections with services and businesses in the local community that will provide the young participants with a variety of learning opportunities and new possibilities. This will enhance and expand the current program curriculum and provide young people with more opportunities to connect with the local community once the program is completed.



Program supporters SAILS at Bayside present graduates with awards

Specialist Youth Housing Service

- 7169 bed nights were provided to young people or young families in the year.
- 65 Families (including 115 children) were supported with immediate short-term emergency accommodation, with a total of 833 hours of case management support.
- 1042 hours of intake case management support was provided to young people to help them find housing support with BABI or with another service.



Housing Team members at Homeless Connect, with Councillor of the Wynnum Manly Ward Alex Givney

BABI's Specialist Youth Homelessness Service, funded by the Department of Housing, offers supported accommodation to young people aged 16 to 21 and young families aged 16 to 25. Alongside accommodation, BABI also provides case management and other support to the young people we work with. For many young people, accessing support from our youth centre marks the beginning of their journey toward finding safe and affordable housing. At BABI, we're committed to making that first experience welcoming, supportive, and free from judgment, always placing the needs of the individual at the forefront of our approach. The Housing Team begins by conducting initial assessments to understand client needs, offering both wellbeing and practical support, advocating for clients and helping them access housing and other required services. They are also supplied with information and referrals into the Specialist Homelessness Service system to provide as many housing options as possible. Staff maintain contact with clients until a suitable referral is completed, and where needed, we continue to offer interim support.

During the year, BABI received approximately 195 requests for housing assistance for young people and young families.

Poor quality housing, relationship and family breakdown and family and domestic violence are the main reasons for clients presenting to BABI for support.

Overall, BABI closed the cases of 182 clients accessing support, with a variety of positive outcomes.

Within our various Department of Housing accommodation properties, BABI supported 49 young people and young families, including 9 children. Alongside these properties, our IHRF (Immediate Housing Response for Families) program provides immediate short-term emergency accommodation for families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and support to transition to safe and secure housing. This year, IHRF supported 65 families, including 115 children. The majority, 52 households, were led by single parents. Notably, almost a third of these families were navigating the complex challenges of domestic and family violence, underscoring the importance of BABI's support for young families.

One of the ongoing challenges faced by the Housing program continues to be the scarcity of long-term housing options for young people transitioning into independent living. When their tenancy with BABI reaches its end, many struggle to secure stable accommodation.

There are also several promising opportunities for BABI, though many represent longer-term solutions that require strategic planning and investment. One such pathway is increasing the volume of housing stock directly held by BABI. This is an active focus of the BABI Board and the Housing Team. The team also remains focused on strengthening and expanding our networks and collaborating closely with other service providers and the Department of Housing. This ensures that we continue exploring avenues to increase housing opportunities and solutions.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT BABI

BABI is a not-for-profit organisation that has worked in the Wynnum community for over forty years, and relies on community support to be able to respond to the critical housing and wellbeing needs of young people and families in the Bayside.

BABI Youth and Family Service is a registered charity with ACNC and has a "deductible gift recipients" (DGR) status which enables gifts and donations to be claimed as a tax deduction. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

You can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable young people and families

Become a Member of BABI Youth and Family Service

Contact admin@babi.org.au or call 07 3393 4176 to receive a membership sign-up form.

Make a Donation in the following ways:

Send a Cheque/Money Order:

Please make your cheque or money order payable to BABI Youth and Family Service and post to:
BABI Youth and Family Service
PO Box 69
WYNNUM CENTRAL QLD 4178

**PIF partners, LendLease
working on refreshing one
of BABI's family homes**



Via the Website:
www.babi.org.au/donate/

**Please visit the
Donations page on
the website to make
a donation amount
of your choice.**



In Person:

**You are welcome
to make your
donation in person at
the BABI office:
34 Bay Terrace,
Wynnum Qld 4178.**



STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2031

Throughout 2025 BABI consulted with young people, the adults in their lives, our funders, our staff, and our partners and other supporters to develop the BABI Youth and Family Service Strategic Plan 2026 - 2031.

The Board is pleased to launch the new Strategic Plan at the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

BABI's new Vision and Purpose

BABI's purpose is to deliver bold, collaborative and impactful programs. We provide accommodation for young people and young families impacted by homelessness in Wynnnum and nearby regions, alongside other wraparound services. We understand that homelessness, health and wellbeing challenges, and tough life circumstances don't happen in isolation and multiple types of support are needed.

With BABI as part of the community standing beside them, young people and families have support, strength, connection and care, and don't have to do it on their own.

Our Vision is for young people to have opportunities, purpose and happiness and to be able to build the lives they choose with support and community by their side. At BABI, we imagine a future where every young person and family we support is empowered and full of hope, confident in who they are, strong in their social and emotional wellbeing, and able to dream big - and achieve those dreams.

BABI's new Values

Warrior Spirit - BABI is brave in raising awareness about the needs of young people and creating opportunities for them to directly share their needs with the community and decision makers, and by working hard to provide support and services to all young people.

Dedication to young people - BABI commits to always doing our best to achieve our vision of a positive future for young people. We show this by doing what we say we will, being our true selves to build genuine connections, respecting young people as the experts in their own lives, ensuring our planning is informed by young people, and valuing the resources and opportunities we have to be able to support young people.

Collaboration - BABI recognises that the best outcomes for young people come from making sure that they have a voice at the table, working in partnerships with other services and community members, and working together within BABI to provide the best possible support.

Understanding the community and their needs - BABI recognises how important it is for us to understand the needs of young people in our community. We work hard to understand what solutions can have a real impact in creating a positive future for young people, and are creative in our approaches and ways of working to bring those solutions to life.

BABI's Strategic Goals

Housing Goal

BABI will strive to increase the amount of housing it manages for the use of young people and young families.

Wrap Around Services Goal

BABI will strive to increase funds for mental health and drop-in services, as well as secure funds for domestic and family violence (DFV) support.

Fundraising Goal

BABI will strive to secure additional funding through targeted fundraising activities and services.

Visibility, Trust and Capacity Goal

BABI will pursue promotions opportunities and specific goals like developing a Reconciliation Action Plan, maintaining accreditation, and raising visibility of the work of the Youth Voice Committee.

See the BABI Youth and Family Service Strategic Plan 2026 - 2031 for more detail.

Thank you to Gabi Quinn with Rouge Lane Consulting who generously donated her time to support BABI Youth and Family Service to consult on and develop the Strategic Plan.

A PREVIEW OF 2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS





**BABI client Ari celebrating at
the 2024 Client Christmas
Party**

**Bayside Adolescent Boarding
Incorporated
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BABI
**Youth & Family
Service**
Established 1983