



ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

OUR IMPACT



Our youth, their future.

The Burdekin Association Inc (TBA)

ABN: 98 571 551 434

TBA is a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR)

Donations of \$2 and more are tax deductible.

TBA is a registered charity - 10994



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The homelessness situation

Children and young people experiencing isolation and homelessness due to family breakdown, mental health challenges or other issues can be very difficult to reach.

Many homeless kids feel safer on the streets or on a friend's couch than in their own home.

On census night, youth homelessness numbers are masked by couch-surfing.

A national homelessness survey in 2015 found that 63% of homeless young people had been in "state care". We need to do much better.

Young people in the Australian care system are required to leave home before they turn 18. After that they have to support themselves.

Many homeless young people won't finish high school.

Youth homelessness and untreated mental illness are inter-related.

We are on a mission to change all that.





MISSION

To enable young people aged 12 to 25 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to develop the skills and confidence to live independently within the wider community.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This past year was one of extraordinary challenge. This was in part due to external circumstances beyond our control and in part due to the expansion of our services into the Inner West.

In November 2019 we watched on as the NSW premier declared a seven-day state of emergency as bushfires hit NSW (and Queensland). This was closely followed by a world changing moment when the World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic. This resulted in lock downs and major disruptions to our lives which we continue to experience. Since Burdekin provides essential services to young people, the staff had to quickly adjust to the threat of this pandemic enabling services to continue in a COVID safe manner. The Burdekin staff team proved itself equal to this challenge carrying out its work with its usual professional rigour. However, the Board acknowledges the demands this placed on staff and thanks our CEO Justene Gordon and her dedicated team for, once again, going beyond the call of duty.

This year also presented the opportunity to expand our service delivery into Sydney's Inner West. This meant that from 1 July 2020 Burdekin assumed responsibility for delivering out of home care services in the Inner West. What better way to celebrate more than four decades of operations than to take our biggest leap in 30 years! The due diligence required to successfully take over these services was demanding on the senior staff and the Board of The Burdekin Association. It required many hours of extraordinary meetings to discuss, deliberate, review and evaluate the pros and cons.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody involved in turning this opportunity into reality: fellow Board members for generously providing their expertise and time; our CEO, Justene Gordon, who went the extra mile and liaised tirelessly between the many stakeholders to provide the information required for sound decision making at all hours of the day; the pro bono legal team for their sound advice and support through the process and the Department of Communities and Justice for their unwavering support and encouragement and the Stretch a Family team. Burdekin is very excited about the opportunity to deliver services to young people in the Inner West in the Burdekin way.

Our young people depend on the support Burdekin provides and housing is a key element in this. However, our work goes far beyond providing housing. Our young people rely on us to help them carve out their future and provide stability so they can heal and reach their full potential. Just like in a family, a roof over their head and meals on the table are only part of what it takes to raise a child into an independent adult.

CONTINUED...

When a large part of the job market disappeared overnight due to the economic consequences of COVID-19 our young people were impacted more than others since they already struggle and require additional support and motivation to become the best version of themselves. Without the prospect of a job it is difficult to motivate anybody to finish their education and get job ready. The Burdekin team is working hard to ensure there are opportunities for development available to them and this report provides an overview of what we achieved in this regard throughout the year.

Burdekin continued its commitment to outreach services as it continued with its work with community partners to coordinate activities at the Avalon Youth Hub. The Hub had to significantly adjust operations to the new COVID-19 environment but continues to be a resource for young people on the Northern Beaches. The mental well-being of young people has once again become the centre of concern on the Northern Beaches due to the social isolation resulting from COVID-19 rules. We are doing what we can to promote open channels of communications with young people and ensure they have a place to “go” if they should feel low. Burdekin highly values the community partners it collaborates with and works hard to strengthen these relationships. Many of those fantastic partnerships and events are documented in this report.

I would like to thank all the members of the Board who give generously of their time to provide good stewardship to the organisation, the CEO and her staff team who come with a vast range of knowledge, skills and experience to lead our programs and operations through growth in an ever-changing environment.

Lastly, but by no means least, I wish to thank the many other volunteers who support us in various ways. Burdekin cannot achieve all it does without your commitment, generosity and support. This allows us to offer young people that little bit extra that makes our service the stand-out service it is. We are grateful for everything you do for the organisation and for the young people in the community.

Gill Lawrence
President
The Burdekin Association

FROM OUR CEO

Come December 2019 the year ahead looked calm, optimistic and definitive. The new year was to be a time to consolidate our programs. A time to embed our policy and practice, to make sure we get the little and the big things right, to consolidate our new structure, to slow the pace with the children and young people in our care... a time to take a breather from the previous year's growth.

Thankfully this was not to be.... instead we spent the next 6 months working towards expanding our footprint and launching our second office in the Inner West. Oh - and something called COVID-19 just got in the way a little.

In January 2020 the opportunity arose to establish The Burdekin Association Out of Home Care program in the Inner West. We pride ourselves on providing a focus on the local community, truly understanding the needs of the community we serve, designing bespoke responses to individuals, groups and community needs. We are small, nimble, relational, passionate and committed to supporting children and young people in the Northern Beaches and Sydney region.

The question was asked and contemplated very thoughtfully: would expansion impact on the ability to adequately support the community and individuals we currently serve? Quality is our main focus, being able to provide individualised and personable responses are our speciality. One of our Board members brought it down to one point: what we do works so why would we not offer our successful and much needed programs to an area where there is a need.

Our young people should be in a family, at least in a permanent foster care home. The reality is that many of our current young people entered our service after spending months in motels. Moving every week with a new adult looking after them each 10-hour shift.

In addition, many of these young people had connections in the Inner West, however, without suitable local programs on offer they needed to leave what was safe and comfortable to them and move out of the area. They already have multiple challenges to deal with and moving out of the area they connect with further destabilises their lives. They arrive scared, uncertain and uncomfortable on the Northern Beaches - we ask so much of them. Change is hard, it is not comfortable and not something many of us go willingly into. Hence, when the opportunity to expand our services to the Inner West came up, we took it.

If we ask the children and young people who enter our service so much it is only fair that we challenge what we do and where we do it as well. Our plans of consolidation and slowing the pace are not acceptable when we have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and young people that can find no safe home in the area they grew up in.

On the 1st July 2020 we took on the Residential Care program of Stretch a Family (SAF). SAF had given notice to DCJ of their intention to cease delivery of this model in the Inner West.

CONTINUED...

The easy way would have been to transfer their clients to other services, cease the house leases and make all staff redundant, a relatively simple and clean way to move forward.

Instead they offered The Burdekin Association the opportunity to bring our programs into the Inner West with the infrastructure already in place to hit the ground running. SAF made a very difficult decision to end their service when they did and their generosity and hard work has ensured that the children and young people of the Inner West will have an array of new service support and systems and the young people and associated staff remain in their homes with people they know.

We will continue to deliver personalised, local and quality service within the Northern Sydney beaches region and with the amazing, like-minded, passionate new staff we have at our Inner West office, we will do the same there. Our Board has risen to the challenge, guiding our organisation into launching a second office, directing and overseeing the due diligence process, challenging us to extend ourselves and offering clear, supportive and active participation in what has been the biggest decision The Burdekin Association has made in the last 30 years. I thank the Board for their level-headed guidance and for giving me unwavering support to do what I love to do.

We are doing things 'The Burdekin Way'. It's who we are, it's about being honest and true to every child and young person in our care. Every child and young person deserves to feel loved and to have a safe home, access to education and their basic needs met. Beyond that they also should have lots of their wants met... a fancy pair of shoes, computer games, playing sport, tutors, driving lessons and everything else that many of us had. Our staff give their all, we do our best, we truly care and that makes our job hard, emotionally draining, it also gives us the greatest joy and pride as we watch our children and young people grow and develop. It makes them get up each day and work hard to move forward from the trauma most of them have endured.

I thank all our staff for everything you give, I thank all our children and young people for allowing us into your lives, for trusting us, for letting us walk beside you. We are so proud of your journey and look forward to supporting you as you walk the path ahead of you. We have a number of truly generous and supportive cohorts in our corner; individuals, groups, local council, Government workers/offices, state departments and community members that enable us to deliver exceptional programs. Quality often costs more and it is the support and generosity of these cohorts that allow us to punch above our weight, to employ additional case managers, therapeutic support, specialist consultants and purchase those fancy sneakers that bring light into our clients eyes... and so much more.

Justene Gordon
CEO
The Burdekin Association

Our work and impact

Our work throughout the year was guided by our strategic plan 2019-2022, which is divided into the following key areas:

- organisational development and governance
- program and service development and delivery
- capacity building in service delivery
- funding and donor development.

We are continually reviewing our strategy to ensure it is in line with our recent revenue growth of 55% and further expected growth in 2021. We will invite feedback via consultation and/or online.

The year 2019/2020 has seen huge growth across the areas of Out of Home Care (OOHC) and Community Engagement. OOHC grew by 160% in client numbers and additional staffing.

New Management, Team Leaders and new Case Managers have been recruited and provided with multiple in-house training sessions to build competency for dealing with complex clients.

We continued to:

- provide our Family Intervention Program to support families at risk of breakdown to prevent a young person becoming homeless;
- support the Avalon Youth Hub to provide additional support services outside our core program areas like brokerage, outreach and prevention.





We currently provide 41 homes for children and young people in Out of Home Care.



50% of these young people are at school and 43% are either at TAFE, employed or looking for work.



7% have a bespoke education plan.

Continued...

In addition to all of the above work we undertook a business transfer of Residential Care Services of an Inner West organisation doubling revenue and staffing numbers in the process.

In addition, the consequences of a world-wide pandemic had to be managed in March 2020 and we successfully and speedily developed and implemented a COVID-19 policy to keep clients, staff and volunteers safe.

We also improved our budgeting and financial reporting with the assistance of external advice, strengthened the finance and HR functions and continued our efforts to raise funds from a variety of sources. We did this through consolidating relationships with existing partners and seeking out new like-minded donors.

We were able to increase our income from fundraising sources by 57% compared to the previous financial year and are grateful for every single \$ that has been contributed to increase our social impact.

Young people tell us:

- They want to feel safe, cared for, respected and valued.
- They want to have fun, grow up and create opportunities for their future.
- They want to have a home.

Jack, 17 works in hospitality. He hopes to enrol in a Bachelor of Social Work as a mature age student. He has been homeless since he was 15 years of age. He really values his current housing stability.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Individual people who contacted us for support through our youth service programs

01 July 2019 - 30 June 2020

27.8%

were aged between
15 - 18 years

44.6%

were aged between
19 - 24 years

44.6%
MALE

54.9%
FEMALE

.5%
OTHER

SUPPORT PROVIDED

Through our youth service programs

206

Young people supported throughout the year

Primary reasons for seeking assistance:

21.7% family breakdown
17% mental health

Other reasons for seeking assistance:

28.7%

of young people identify mental health or drug & alcohol as a reason for requiring support

46.9%

of young people identify family/relationship breakdown as a reason for requiring support



Fundraising & events



Seaforth Arts Festival

This was the 17th Seaforth Arts Festival with its focus on encouraging those in the community with creative gifts in visual arts, music and dance. Commissions from the sale of visual arts works are donated to The Burdekin Association. This year the Gala Dinner was held at The Dumpling Inn at Balgowlah, where the guests enjoyed wonderful dumplings and entertainment. We would like to thank Phillip Young and the entire Seaforth Arts Festival committee, we are so grateful for their hard work, generosity and continued support of local artists and The Burdekin Association.

Beach 2 Beach fun run

This fun run is something for the entire family and all skill levels. on 25th August the 13km run starts at the Dee Why Surf Lifesaving Club; the 6km from Warriewood; and the 3km from Mona Vale - everybody finishes at the Newport Surf Lifesaving Club.

Cliff Lyons and Steve Menzies from The Manly Warringah Sea Eagles ran for The Avalon Youth Hub under the name of Manly Sea Eagle Soarers.

Phill Edwards, Waratahs Club Community Manager organised a team made up of 13 - 65 year olds including Phill's sons Mickey and Jack Edwards and a large group of teenagers and some seniors. The entire team (over 70 members) ran in the Club's blue Manly Cricket training shirts.

All funds raised were donated to The Burdekin Association.

Continued...



Melbourne Cup Day 2019

Last year on the first Tuesday in November, as in previous years, some of our staff gathered at the Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific for the annual Peninsula Pals Melbourne Cup luncheon. This event has been supporting local charities for years.

The charities supported this year included Be Centre, SMS Lighthouse, Sunnyfield and The Burdekin Association.

The theme of the luncheon was Cup on the Coast. Special thanks must go to the event Patron Kerry Baird.

Guests were treated to a delicious three course lunch ending in a "Cup Day" inspired dessert created by popular MasterChef contestant Jimmy Wong. Thank you to Peninsula Pals, and their many sponsors and donors for another fabulous day.

End of Financial Year Tax Giving Campaign

With your support, we managed to raise over \$32,500 for our EoFY tax giving campaign. This figure includes the challenge grant of \$10,000 from Our Patron Professor Brian Burdekin AO which we more than doubled!

Home Sweet 2019

This was the 2nd of Link Housing's community sleepover at Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club raising a mighty \$181,000 for the Women's Community, the Link Housing tenant scholarship program and The Burdekin Association.

Our own sleepover team consisted of Justene, Warren, Gill, Jill and Paul who raised \$8,235 collectively.

The Captain of the Warratah's, Jay Lenton, joined us as the Burdekin Ambassador and also MC'd the event. Jay did a tremendous job and we were so proud to be associated with him and the event.





Annual Charity Golf Day

This year, due to COVID-19, our sixth Annual Charity Golf Tournament was postponed to September 2020 at Cromer Golf Club.

When it finally happened, we were all so happy that it was a sell-out event! We welcomed back many of our old friends, made some new friends and enjoyed plenty of friendly rivalry. We were joined by some of the ex-Manly Sea Eagles players and members of the Manly Warringah District Cricket Club.

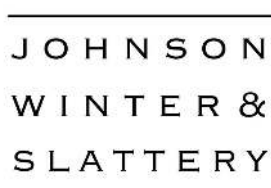
After a hot breakfast, our players began their 18 holes followed by a bit of relaxation in the Clubhouse with cold drinks and lunch. Our silent auction was a hit with more fabulous prizes than ever before, including a coaching session with South African Cricket star Morne Morkel, NSW Cricket player Jay Lenton, and a very rare bottle of Bass Philip Reserve Pinot Noir.

We are so lucky to have such a wonderful community behind us and we cannot thank them enough. The day was once again organised by Megan our EA and was an incredible success.

Thank you to Cromer Golf Club for all your assistance and we will hopefully see you all back again in 2021.



Thanks to the hole sponsors of our 2020 Golf Day



Community Partners



Manly Warringah Waratahs

This year we entered into a fresh new community partnership - one we are absolutely thrilled to have.

Our CEO Justene met with Phill Edwards from Manly Warringah Waratahs when he offered to help Burdekin. The rest is history.

The Waratahs became official community partners and to kick off the new relationship, the Waratahs supported Burdekin in the Beach to Beach fun run from Dee Why to Newport.

Men and Women players, as well as coaching staff and officials joined in to raise funds. Amazing generosity from everyone involved went towards an exceptional day filled with lots of excitement.

The next event the Waratahs supported was the Home Sweet 2019 sleepover. First Grade Captain Jay Lenton joined us as the official Ambassador and MC for the night and did a truly amazing job. He spoke about the importance of community in helping to prevent homelessness. The event raised \$181,914!

Most recently The Waratahs have supported our Annual Charity Golf day in sponsorship, prize donations and through teams on the day.

These community partnerships are invaluable to a small but mighty, youth focused organisation such as Burdekin.



Manly Warringah Sea Eagles

We have enjoyed our partnership with the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles for many years now which is such a big win as the Sea Eagles have a huge following on the Northern Beaches and are a major contributor to the local community and to us.

The Sea Eagles have supported many of our events and have done some amazing work for us. For example, they have invited our young people to their fan days, attended fundraising events including the Beach 2 Beach fun run and our Annual Charity Golf Day.

Over at the Hub, pre COVID-19, the players came and met with our young people, Dylan, Tevita and Corey popped in to say hi at the Avalon Community Jam skateboard event in December 2019. Players have attended the Wednesday afternoon sessions at the hub for a game of touch with the kids and also attended the Hub's Christmas party.

Justene currently co-presents a podcast with Sea Eagles General Manager, Community - Kellie Pethybridge. It is a community podcast, talking about all things... community!

And most recently, the Sea Eagles sponsored our Annual Charity Golf day and donated prizes. We are so lucky to have these guys supporting our work.



Our supporters

The Burdekin Association has been around for more than four decades and always enjoyed enormous community support. We don't take this support for granted and actively engage with the local community at every opportunity. As a matter of fact, we are an essential part of the local community and actively exercise an open door policy.

We mentioned many of our supporters already and are grateful for each and every one of you. We also collaborate with other non-profit organisations in the area and couldn't do the work we do without a collaborative approach. We are grateful for the peer to peer exchanges of expertise, for putting our heads together for the benefit of our clients, supporting young people in a crisis regardless of red tape and organisational boundaries. You know who you are and we love working with you.

We would like to thank:

Our Patron, Prof Brian Burdekin AO who is always there for us when we need him and gives freely of his time (and money).

Mrs Sandy Waley who has been a long serving board member and decided to leave this year for her commitment to the organisations over the years.

The Member for Pittwater, The Hon Rob Stokes, MP, NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. The Member for Wakehurst, the Hon. Brad Hazzard, MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research and the Member for Manly, James Griffin NSW Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Veterans.

Lucy and John Brodgen for their considered and personable support.

The Northern Beaches Council and especially, Michael Regan, Northern Beaches Council Mayor and Ms Kylie Ferguson, Northern Beaches Councillor.

The Department of Communities and Justice and especially Robby, Mark, Evan and Judy. We are looking forward to continue our fruitful working relationship and engaging with the Inner West. The NSW Department of Health and our wonderful philanthropic supporters.

The pro bono legal advice we enjoyed from Aiden Douglas, Special Counsel at Johnson Winter and Slattery who stood by us during the transfer of the Inner West services and has subsequently become a great friend of the organisation and Duncan Webber and his team from Norton Rose Fulbright - who have patiently and consistently supported us throughout the year.

Last but not least Multiplex Construction and the Property Industry Foundation for their significant time and financial investment into completing works on one of our properties. Thanks must also be extended to: Euroline Joinery, Austral Interiors, Goldline Electrical, Peter Kelly Flooring, Moits, Planet Plumbing, AYZ Landscapes, TeamMembers Tiling, Harvey Norman Commercial and Metrotex Painting and Decorating. And special thanks to our own Matt Nugent, Jade Nicholson (Multiplex) and Maureen Collins (PIF) for bringing the project to fruition.

The year in photos



OUR TEAM

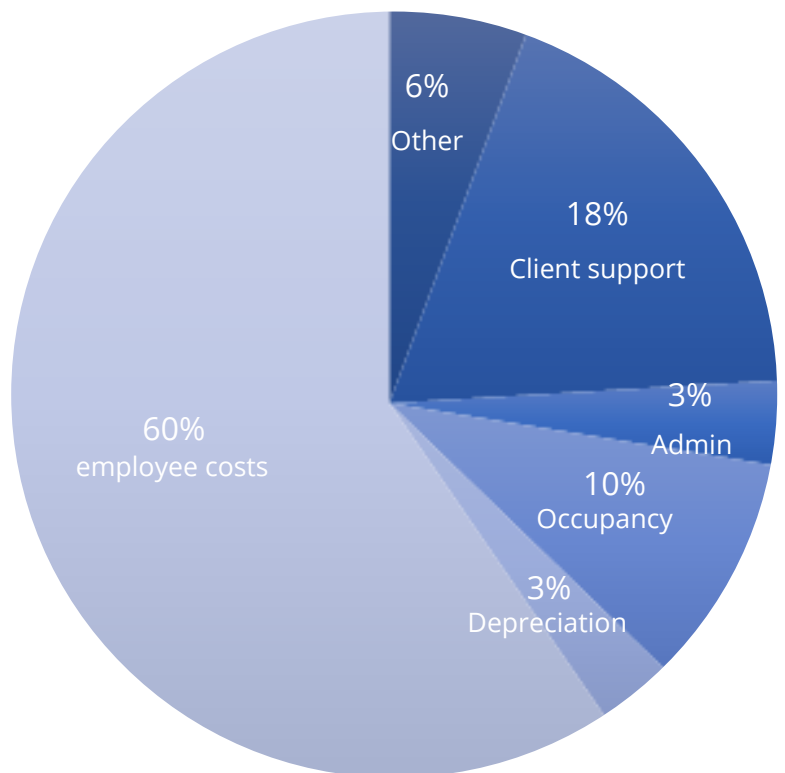
In the 2019/20 financial year our team was comprised of 52 intelligent, generous, hard-working people who are committed to making a difference in our part of the world together. This wide-ranging group of experts and generalists draws upon their wide experience from a variety of industries and backgrounds in an effort to end homelessness. We are thrilled to have grown to a team of 93 full-time, part-time and casual staff members by the time this report went to print, 46 of whom are based in our new Inner West office. We are looking forward to increasing our collective social impact throughout the year.



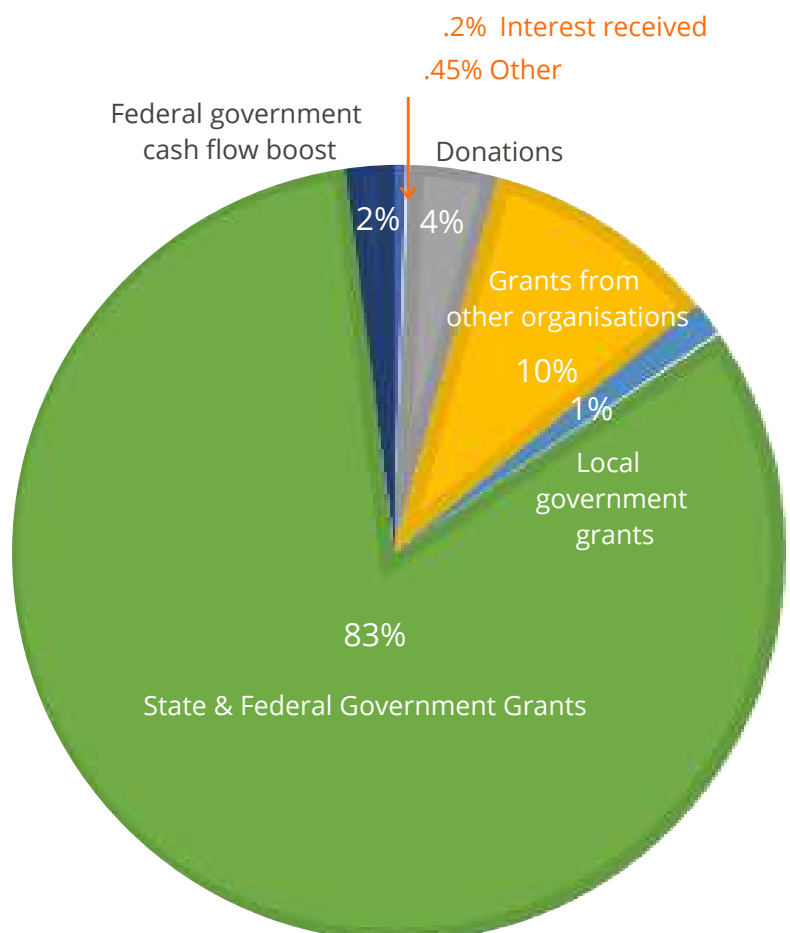
Our financials

In this financial year The Burdekin Association made a profit of \$82,801 due to the cash flow boost provided by the Federal Government of \$100,000 to overcome challenges caused by COVID-19. We received revenue totalling \$5.2million throughout the year from various government sources, including the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, Department of Health and the Northern Beaches Council. In addition, our service delivery was enhanced by donations, fundraising and philanthropic support. Detailed financial reports are available from the ACNC website.

Expenses



Income





DONATE

We greatly appreciate all donations – in kind, in cash and in time.

By adding to our fundraising efforts you will be making a huge difference in the lives of children and young people in need.



Credit card & monthly

Credit card: The secure PayPal portal accepts all major credit cards on our behalf. We are currently setting up our own merchant facility so we can receive your donations through our own website in the future but for now, please click the large orange donate button and you will be able to use most major credit cards to make an on-line donation.

Monthly deduction: Review the information about regular giving via credit card deduction and chose the option that suits you best.



Cheque & bank deposit

Cheque: Make out your cheque to:
The Burdekin Association and mail to:
The Burdekin Association,
PO Box 1323, Dee Why NSW 2099

Direct deposit: Deposit directly into our bank account:
Bank: Westpac.
A/c name: The Burdekin Association
BSB: 032 094 Account No.: 14 6188.

If you choose this option and require a receipt from us for tax-deductibility purposes, please retain the details of your deposit for cross-referencing. Thank you.



In kind & business

In-Kind Donations:
Donations can also come in the form of:

- food parcels
- educational materials
- recreation activities
- set up packs when the young people are living independently
- clothing
- assistance in gaining a driver's licence

Business support: There are many ways businesses can support us. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us.

YOUR DONATION – BIG OR SMALL...

will help make a genuine difference to these young people, enabling them to build the future they deserve

TBA is a registered charity - 10994 | All donations over \$2 are tax deductible





Contact us:

The Burdekin Association Inc.

Phone: (02) 8976 1777

PO Box 1323 Dee Why NSW 2099

Head Office:

The Burdekin Association

Suite 6 & 7, 2 Victor Road,

Brookvale, NSW 2100

Inner West Burdekin Association Office

Building 45,

The Addison Road Community Centre

142 Addison Road, Marrickville NSW 2204

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Our youth, their future.