



IMPACT REPORT 2024



BACKPACK
BUDDIES



A Message from our CEO.



Kelly Hinder
CEO Bridge Builders Inc.

This past year has shown us just how tough life has become for many families in our community. Mandurah is one of the most disadvantaged areas in Western Australia, recording the lowest SEIFA index in Greater Perth. For families here, poverty is not an abstract idea, it is a lived reality. Rising rents, high food prices, and limited social supports mean that too many parents are forced to skip meals so their children can eat, and too many children are turning up to school without having eaten.

Nationally **1 in 8** adults and **1 in 6** children live below the poverty line, and the need for food relief has never been higher.

But while these facts are sobering, there is also hope. At Bridge Builders, we see every day how small, local charities can make a big impact. With a modest budget, a small staff team, and the dedication of our volunteers, we created programs that meet families where they are and respond to the real gaps in support.

In 2024, Backpack Buddies, supported by Telethon, delivered over 34,000 weekend meals to children across 12 local schools, ensuring no child had to face Monday morning hungry. We welcomed 4,000+ visits by local families to our Community Food Pantry and proudly opened our first transitional housing property. These are not small achievements; they are life-changing interventions for families who would otherwise go without.

Grassroots charities like Bridge Builders bring something unique that large organisations cannot replicate:

- **Local connection:** Families, schools, and service providers know and trust us. This trust allows us to reach people who might otherwise stay hidden.
- **Direct impact:** Every dollar donated goes straight back into the community, feeding children and supporting families in Mandurah and Peel.
- **Agility:** When we see a gap, we have flexibility to act, whether it's launching Backpack Buddies to end weekend hunger or Birthday in a Box to ensure no child misses out on being celebrated.
- **Community empowerment:** Our work doesn't just provide food, it restores dignity, strengthens families, and inspires others to get involved.

The truth is that grassroots organisations do more with less. We stretch limited budgets, keep shelves stocked, create new programs, and never send a family away empty-handed. But if we want lasting change, now is the moment for government and big business to give local a chance. When funding and corporate partnerships reach grassroots organisations, the benefits ripple right through the community. With the right backing, small charities can do what they do best, respond quickly, innovate, and reach the people who often slip through the cracks of larger systems.

If we truly want to break the cycle of poverty, it begins with investing in local solutions, because community-led change is smart, sustainable, and life-changing.

Who are Bridge Builders?

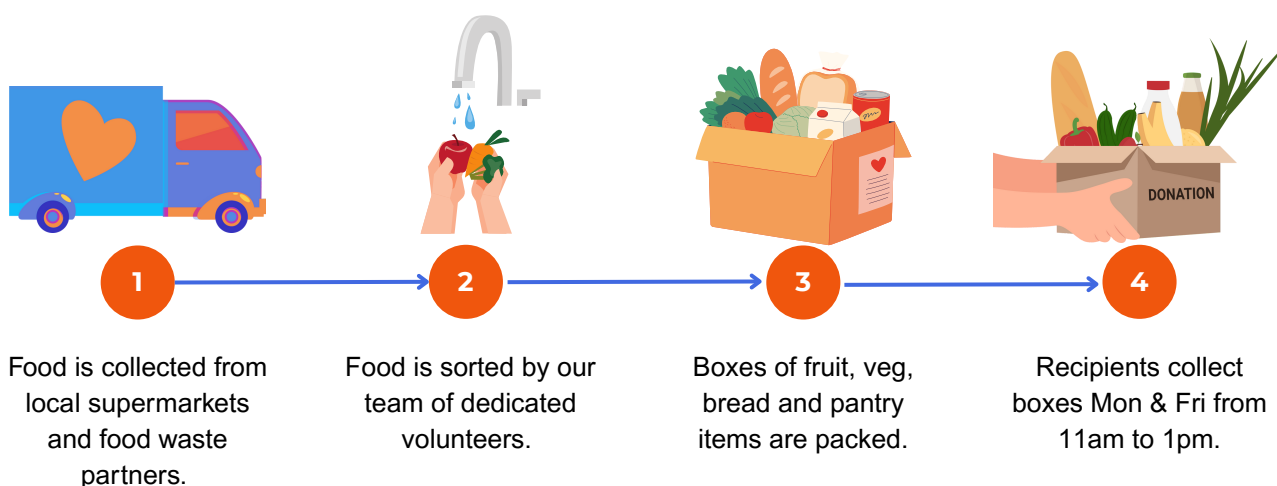
Bridge Builders is a grassroots charity based in Mandurah, serving the Bindjareb (Peel) community since 2006. We exist to support families and individuals facing poverty, hardship, and disadvantage, ensuring no one in our community is left behind.

At the heart of what we do is food. Through our Community Food Pantry and Backpack Buddies initiatives, we provide dignified, reliable access to nutritious food for thousands of people each year. Beyond food, our programs such as Birthday in a Box, and The Haven transitional housing give children and families the chance to celebrate, rebuild, and find hope again.

Each week, our dedicated staff and volunteers prepare and distribute hampers and backpacks, working alongside schools, community groups, and local service providers who know which families need help most. We don't just hand out food, we listen, connect, and walk alongside people in their toughest moments.

To ensure our programs remain effective and sustainable, we gather local data, track impact, and partner with schools, and community organisations. This helps us understand the changing needs in our community and adapt our support where it's needed most.

Our work is local, personal, and built on the belief that when communities come together, lives can be transformed.



Vision

"Building bridges to nourish lives and strengthen the Mandurah and Bindjareb community."

Mission

"To nourish and improve the social, emotional, spiritual and economic wellbeing of people in the Mandurah and Bindjareb (Peel) community who are suffering from misfortune, poverty", disability or helplessness."



Understanding Poverty in Our Community



Food insecurity is not simply about empty cupboards, it is the result of complex and compounding pressures that too many families in Mandurah and the Peel region face every day.

The rising cost of living, limited access to government supports, unemployment and underemployment all make it harder for families to afford the basics. For others, the challenges are even greater: being new to Australia without established work opportunities, experiencing social isolation, relationship breakdowns, family violence, disability, illness, or injury. Each of these factors adds weight to households already under pressure.

At Bridge Builders, we see firsthand that food insecurity overwhelmingly stems from financial hardship caused by one or more of these challenges. Parents tell us about skipping meals so their children can eat. Teachers tell us about children experiencing anxiety going into the weekends or school holidays. Seniors quietly share that they have gone without for days because they have to choose between medication and food.

This is the daily reality of poverty in our community. But it is not the whole story. Local, grassroots organisations like Bridge Builders are proving that we can ease the burden. By offering regular and reliable access to food, through hampers, backpacks, and more, we are not just meeting physical needs; we are restoring dignity, reducing stress, and giving families the breathing room they need to focus on rebuilding their lives.

This is why investing in local, community-led solutions matters. When grassroots organisations are given the chance, the impact is immediate, practical, and deeply human.

Poverty & Food Insecurity | The Facts

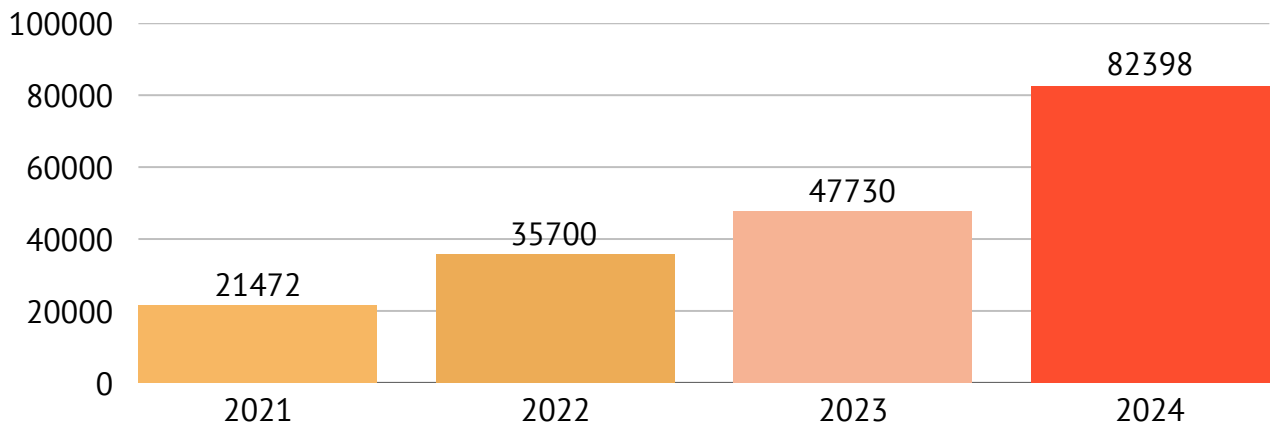
- 1 in 8 Australian adults and 1 in 6 Australian children live below the poverty line.
- Mandurah has the lowest SEIFA score in Greater Perth, making it one of the most disadvantaged areas in the region.
- 100+ families rely on our Community Food Pantry each week.
- 130+ children receive weekend backpacks of food through schools, adding up to 34,000+ meals in 2024.
- More than 4,000 family visits were recorded at our pantry last year.
- Seniors, single parents, and children are among the hardest hit by rising living costs.

Behind every number is a local family, a child, or a neighbour, and grassroots organisations like Bridge Builders are making sure they are not left behind.

Year in Review

Our 2024 Impact

Number of Meals Provided Each Year



75,000+

MEALS PROVIDED

A food hamper contains food to support a family of 4 for approx three (3) days.

62,000kg+

OF FOOD RESCUED

In 2024 Bridge Builders rescued over 62,000kg of food from landfill.

620+

FOOD PICK-UPS & DELIVERIES

Bridge Builders has undertake over 620 pick-ups & deliveries from Coles, Woolworths and Margaret Court this year.

1,800+

BACKPACKS DELIVERED

Bridge Builders delivered over 1,800 backpacks of food to children in its first year of Backpack Buddies.

60

VOLUNTEERS

Regularly volunteer to ensure those in need in our community are supported.

17,500

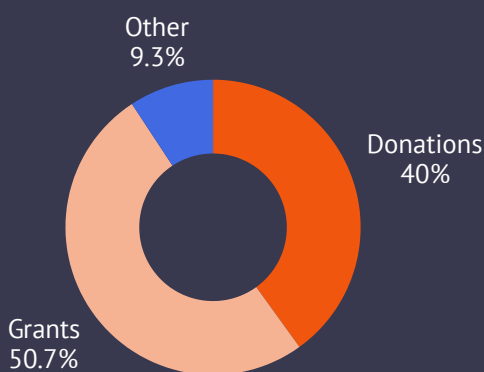
VOLUNTARY HOURS

The value of these hours according to Volunteering WA is \$840,175.00



Financial Performance

We are committed to transparency and accountability. Every dollar entrusted to us is carefully managed to maximise impact, with resources directed to where they're needed most. This section shows how funds were raised, invested, and returned as value to our community.



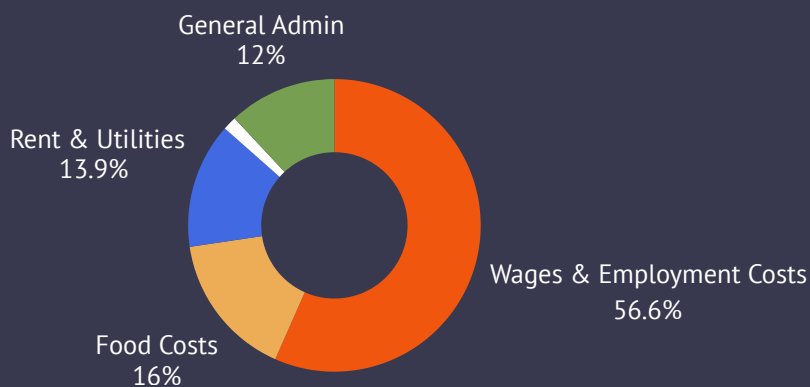
\$ 235,542.72

Total Income

In 2024, Bridge Builders received a total of \$235,543 in income

The main sources were:

- Grants (\$119,410)
- Donations (\$82,000+) I

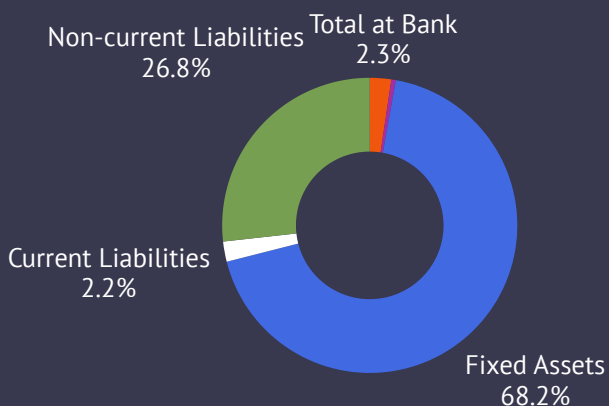


\$ 231,033.07

Total Expenses

Bridge Builders spent a total of \$231,033 in 2024

Every dollar was stretched to ensure maximum community impact:



\$284,988.24

Total Equity

Equity represents the value of Bridge Builders after all debts and liabilities are taken into account. It shows the strength and stability of our organisation, and our ability to keep serving the community into the future.

In Their Words.

These quotes have been submitted voluntarily from participants of our programs.

So appreciate what Bridge Builders in doing for our community. I struggle with food due to all our bills and trying to keep a roof over my children's head.

Thank you

Your service is invaluable, you are life savers and myself and my family appreciate you guys.

I'm so grateful I can manage to put food on the table and workers are so polite, they make things easier to deal with.

Our students are thoroughly excited to receive them. One student in particular mentioned it "was like getting a showbag every Friday."

Chaplin at School

The kids are excited to receive their backpack every Friday. They like to go through it and see what new food they have.

There is often food I wouldn't buy at the shops.

Thank you for supporting us through tough times.

Fantastic program! It's been a great program that has gotten the boys to eat and try new foods. With the cost of living it has been such a big help.

Thank you
Parent of Recipient

Want to Get Involved:

At Bridge Builders, we believe that lasting change comes when the whole community stands together in love and compassion. Guided by Christian values, we serve with kindness, uphold dignity, and bring hope to those who are struggling. If you've been inspired by the impact shared in this report, here are three meaningful ways you can join us in being a light in doing good in our community.

Volunteer

Your time is one of the most precious gifts you can give. From packing backpacks for children to lending a hand in the Food Pantry or supporting at community events, volunteers are the hands and feet of our mission. Every act of service brings encouragement and shows families that they are not forgotten.

Donate

Every gift, big or small, helps meet a very real need. From \$12 to feed a child for the weekend to larger contributions that keep our programs running, your giving is an expression of hope and faith in action. 100% stays local — ensuring your kindness touches the lives of people right here in Mandurah, Peel, and Rockingham.

Sponsor

Businesses and organisations play a vital role in sustaining our work. Through sponsorship, you can invest in the wellbeing of children and families, helping us extend care and compassion where it's needed most. We'll proudly recognise your partnership and share how your generosity strengthens our community.



Contact Us



0458 297 185



admin@bridgebuilders.org.au



www.bridgebuilders.org.au



370 Pinjarra Road |
GREENFIELDS WA 6210

Thank You

We'd like to thank all our donors for their generous support.

