



Annual Report 2024

Breaking the cycle of intergenerational violence to assure the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable children, by supporting mothers, and engaging fathers to promote safe and responsible parenting.





Table of Content

Message from the Chair

Message from the CEO

Why we exist

Our Impact

Programs and Services

Financial Performance

Advocacy and Policy Work

Challenges and Future Goals

Acknowledgements



Letter from the Chair

2024 has been a year of real and significant growth for Stronger Families Foundation. This growth has seen an increase in the number of programs and the geographical spread of Caring Dads' programs.

From that initial focus- offering Caring Dads to men in the region, SFF has grown to provide a holistic service through new partnerships with the WA Police service/ Department of Justice, Anglicare WA, Allambee Counselling, Kids First Australia and Curtin University.

The Steps towards Caring (working with men outside of Caring Dads), Strengthening Families (working with mothers and children) and the Clinical support packages offered to other service providers has built the reach and impact of the Stronger Families Foundation. This development would not have occurred without the vision of our CEO, Geoff Hart Davies and the support he has received from the staff, especially Noel Robertson, our Clinical Services Manager.

Other staff have taken on critical roles as program facilitators, contact, and triaging positions and clinical support roles. Most staff who work with SFF do so in addition to other work, which is a testament to their commitment and the value they see SFF as providing. We thank them all.

We continue to receive wonderful support and collaboration from the Caring Dads team in Canada, Dr Katreena Scott and

Sarah Webb. We are also very grateful for the support that we receive from Peel Community Legal Services for the lease of premises in Mandurah.

Thankyou also to our SFF Ambassadors: Alan Cransberg, John Perry and Paul Fitzpatrick who advocate and help raise our profile in the community. Thank you to our Board members : Jackie Hart Davies, David Cornwall, Mark O'Hare and Allan Salmon who have been so supportive to SFF. We look forward to welcoming Dorienna Parsons to the Board in 2025.

The vision that Geoff and Jackie had when they first proposed SFF and the Caring Dads in the Binjareb region has extended very quickly but I also believe that our focus on ensuring that we bring the community with us on the journey has been an important factor in our growth and success.

We are looking forward to strengthening our partnerships in 2025 and making a difference to the lives of families in and beyond our Binjareb region.

Dr Sue Fyfe
Chair





Letter from the CEO

The Lotus flower is not just an emblem for Stronger Families; it represents our very essence, and is representative of the work we do. As a symbol of purity, resilience, and rebirth, it reflects the journey of the families we support. Even when its roots are anchored in the murkiest of waters, the Lotus blossoms into something extraordinary. This transformation embodies the hope, strength, and healing we strive to foster in every individual and community we serve.

The past year has brought significant challenges, but also remarkable progress. The increasing demand for our services underscores the urgent need for our work, as families facing immense adversity seek pathways to safety and stability. Our programs have played a critical role in helping individuals break free from cycles of violence, rebuild their lives, and establish healthier relationships. These achievements, hard-won and deeply impactful, highlight the resilience of those we serve and the effectiveness of our approach.

Our work would not be possible without the unwavering support of our community. This year, we have deepened partnerships, expanded our reach, and continued to innovate in service delivery. Together, we are building not just safer families, but stronger and more connected communities. Each step we take reaffirms our belief in the power of renewal and resilience.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to expanding our programs and strengthening our impact. There is still much to do, but we approach the future with hope, determination, and gratitude. The journey of the Lotus reminds us that transformation is not just possible but inevitable when we nurture growth with care and purpose.

Thank you for walking this path with us. Together, we can continue to create a legacy of hope, healing, and strength that endures for generations to come.



Geoff Hart-Davies
Founder and CEO



Why we exist

Stronger Families exists to address the persistent and pervasive issue of family and domestic violence, which continues to affect tens of thousands of individuals in our communities every year.

This violence harms not only immediate victims, but also leaves lasting impacts on families and the broader community. Our mission is to break the cycle of violence by providing support, education, and advocacy.

Recent statistics underscore the urgency of our work. Over the past five years, reports of family and domestic violence in Western Australia have risen steadily. In the Peel region, incidents of domestic violence have increased by 15% since 2018, with more than 2,300 cases reported in the last year alone. In Perth, the situation is equally concerning, with nearly 25,000 family violence-related offenses recorded in the past year, according to WA Police statistics. These figures highlight a distressing trend that demands immediate and sustained intervention.

Family and domestic violence is often hidden behind closed doors, but its ripple effects are visible everywhere—in schools, workplaces, and healthcare systems. Children exposed to violence are at heightened risk for emotional, behavioral, and developmental issues. Survivors often face challenges in accessing safe housing, financial stability, and legal protection, creating barriers to breaking free from abuse.

Stronger Families believe every individual has the right to live free from fear and harm. Our services are designed to address both immediate needs and long-term solutions, providing a pathway to safety and resilience for those impacted. Through a combination of direct support, preventative programs, and community partnerships, we strive to create a future where families are strong, supported, and safe from violence.

John's* Story:

"I used to think that being a father meant controlling the household. I never realised how much my behavior was hurting my children. Caring Dads helped me see things from their perspective. Now, instead of raising my voice, I listen. My son told me the other day he feels like he can talk to me now. That meant everything."

* Names of participants of our programs and their partners have been changed to protect their privacy.



Our Impact in 2024

Over the past year, Stronger Families has worked tirelessly to create meaningful change in the lives of individuals and families affected by domestic violence. Through our innovative programs and dedicated support services, we have achieved measurable outcomes that underscore our commitment to breaking the cycle of violence.

Key Achievements

- 1. Support Provided to over 460 Individuals:** Through our range of programs, including Steps Toward Caring, Caring Dads and Strengthening Families, we provided support to over 460 men, their partners and children seeking help and guidance.
- 2. Work with high risk Offenders:** Our partnership with the WA Police in the Steps Towards Caring Program working with high risk FDV perpetrators has resulted in over 80 fathers opting for targeted interventions, including the Caring Dads program
- 3. Empowered Families:** In partnership with Allambee Counselling, the Strengthening Families Program, itself the focus of a multidisciplinary evaluation being undertaken by Curtin University, is showing promising results from participants, including improved communication, stronger relationships, and increased resilience.
- 4. Caring Dads Clinical Support:** A centralised Clinical Support Package is a critical element for the successful expansion of Caring Dads in Australia. Stronger Families, together with Kids First Australia are contracted to train providers and support their ongoing practice and program fidelity through clinical consultation and advanced practice support. Stronger Families is currently providing similar support to Anglicare in Bunbury and Albany.

In numbers

460

provided support to
over 460 men

80

fathers opted
for targeted
interventions

20000

Individuals
reached through
campaigns



Community Impact

Our initiatives have not only supported individuals but also strengthened community resilience. Public awareness campaigns reached over 20,000 people, fostering a broader understanding of family violence and encouraging proactive action. Collaborative partnerships have amplified our reach, enabling us to serve diverse populations in the Binjareb and Whadjuk regions.

Stronger Families remains steadfast in our mission to transform lives and create lasting change. By addressing immediate needs and building pathways to long-term stability, we are making a tangible difference in the fight against family and domestic violence.

John's Story:

"When I first came to Caring Dads, I thought it was a waste of time. I didn't want to admit I was the problem. But as the weeks went by, I started seeing the damage my actions had caused. The program gave me the tools to rebuild my relationship with my family, step by step. Now, my wife and I communicate better, and I'm working hard every day to be the dad my kids deserve."



The Board

Chair - Dr Sue Fyfe

Dr Sue Fyfe is a consultant in social research and community development, tertiary education and evaluation who is currently supporting the work of Peel Says No to Violence. Sue has a strong background in academic research and leadership with over 30 years' experience in university, not for profit and government roles.

Deputy Chair - Mark O'Hare

Mark O'Hare is the Operations Manager at Stopping Family Violence (SFV), the Peak Body for perpetrator response work in WA. He has a wealth of experience in working in Mens Behaviour Change Programs, Violent Offender Treatment Programs, Sex Offender Treatment Programs and working with Men with AOD issues.

Co-Founder, Boardmember & CEO - Geoff Hart-Davies

Geoff is an experienced mariner and businessman with extensive naval, public and private sector experience gained both nationally and internationally. He has held roles in operational, strategic and senior line management across a wide range of disciplines.

Co-Founder & Board member - Jackie Hart-Davies

Together with husband Geoff, Jackie co founded Stronger Families out of a sincere desire to address the root causes of FDV after experiencing the profound effect of FDV on family members and close friends. Jackie is an experienced small and medium sized business owner and operator.

Treasurer - David Cornwall

David Cornwall is a Director at BDR Business Accountants in Mandurah where he specialises in Business Advisory and Taxation. He has over 30 years' experience in his profession and is passionate about helping businesses grow to their full potential.

Boardmember - Allan Salmon

Born and raised on a sheep and cattle property in Margaret River, Allan spent the majority of his working life as an HR professional with extensive experience in the private, public and not for profit sectors. Returning to university in mid life, Allan studied law and has since worked extensively in the Community Legal system in both Bunbury and the Peel region, in addition to establishing and managing his own legal firm.



Programs and Services

Stronger Families is committed to fostering positive and lasting change within families by addressing the root causes of relationship and behavioral challenges. Our Stronger Families Pathway combines three core programs—Steps Toward Caring, Caring Dads, and Strengthening Families—to create a holistic and seamless pathway for individuals and families to achieve healthier dynamics and long-term stability.

Steps Toward Caring

Steps Toward Caring is a transformative program that helps fathers take responsibility for their actions and commit to positive change. As a foundational step leading into the Caring Dads program, it empowers men to reflect on their behaviors, embrace accountability, and build healthier, more respectful relationships with their families. During the year, the program successfully intervened in 173 cases, significantly reducing the risk to vulnerable individuals.

173 cases in 2024

Caring Dads

Caring Dads, the cornerstone of our services, is aimed at fathers who have engaged in abusive or neglectful behaviors. This evidence-based intervention helps participants recognise the impact of their actions, develop healthier parenting practices, and rebuild relationships with their children. In 2024, over 55 fathers participated in the program, with 97% reporting significant improvements in their interactions with their children, including practicing positive parenting strategies; and 97% reporting their experience of Caring Dads was positive and beneficial.

55 participants

97% improvement

Strengthening Families

Strengthening Families is an innovation and extension to the existing Caring Dads program that is designed to end children's maltreatment. A collaboration between Stronger Families and Allambee Counselling, a specialist FDV and Sexual Assault counselling service, the intervention is a FDV specific trauma therapy and counselling program for mothers and children which is matched to the goals of the Caring Dads' program.

Extension program



Community Education and Awareness

Education is a key pillar of our mission. Through workshops, public seminars, and awareness campaigns, we empower our community with the knowledge and tools to address and prevent domestic violence. Our campaigns reached over 20,000 people this year, fostering a culture of accountability and support.

Collaborative Partnerships

Collaboration lies at the heart of Stronger Families' success. By working closely with local organisations, government agencies and businesses, we have grown a network of support that amplifies our impact and ensures holistic service delivery to a diverse population across the Binjareb, Whadjuk and wider state and national regions.

Collaborative Outcomes

Through our partnerships, we have:

1. Expanded Service Reach: Partner collaborations have enabled us to assist more than 460 individuals and families in the past year.
2. Enhanced Resource Allocation: Joint efforts have streamlined resource sharing, allowing us to focus on delivering high-quality, timely services.
3. Increased Community Engagement: Collaborative campaigns and events have reached over 20,000 individuals, raising awareness and fostering a culture of accountability

Stronger Families values these partnerships as a cornerstone of our mission. Together, we are building safer, stronger communities where every individual has the opportunity to thrive free from violence and harm.

Key Partnerships:



Strengthening Families



Clinical Support of the Caring Dads Program



Caring Dads



Steps Towards Caring



Clinical Support of the Caring Dads Program



WA Mens Behavioural Change Network



Regional FDV Advocacy and engagement



Financial Performance

Stronger Families remains committed to financial transparency and accountability, ensuring every dollar spent furthers our mission to support individuals and families affected by domestic violence.

Income and Funding Sources

In the past financial year, Stronger Families managed with a budget of \$460,000. Our funding sources included:

- **Government Grants:** Accounting for 89% of our income, these grants supported program delivery and capacity-building initiatives.
- **Community Donations:** Contributions from individual donors and local businesses provided nearly 6% of our funding, helping sustain critical services.
- **Clinical Support services:** Clinical support services contributed 3% of our income, enabling us to expand our reach and resources.

\$460k budget in 2024

91% Gov Grants

6% Donations

3% Clinical Services

Expenditure Allocation

Our focus on delivering impactful services is reflected in our expenditure:

- **Programs and Services:** 87% of our budget directly supported service delivery, including staffing, resources, and program materials.
- **Administrative Costs:** The remaining 16% covered essential operational expenses, ensuring the efficient running of our organisation.

\$401k Operating exp.

87% Service Delivery

13% Admin Costs

Stronger Families continues to prioritise the responsible use of resources, ensuring maximum impact for the families and communities we serve. Detailed financial statements and audit reports are available in the appendices.



Balance Sheet

Stronger Families Foundation Ltd

As at 31 December 2024

Account	31 Dec 2024
Assets	
Bank	
S.Families Debit Card	725.15
Stronger Families Donation Fun	31,171.27
Stronger Families Foundation	21,856.30
Stronger Families Term Deposit	297,141.99
Total Bank	350,894.71
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	10,693.91
Total Current Assets	10,693.91
Fixed Assets	
Plant & Equipment eg Computers; Printer etc.	15,604.98
Website Initial Development	2,031.27
Total Fixed Assets	17,636.25
Total Assets	379,224.87
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
GST	305.90
PAYG Withholdings Payable	8,722.00
Rounding	0.08
Superannuation Payable	12,446.71
Total Current Liabilities	21,474.69
Total Liabilities	21,474.69
Net Assets	357,750.18
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	53,845.49
Retained Earnings	303,904.69
Total Equity	357,750.18



Profit and Loss
Stronger Families Foundation Ltd
For the 12 months ended 31 December 2024

Account	Jan-Dec 2024	Total
Trading Income		
Consulting Services	8,550.00	8,550.00
Donations	26,850.00	26,850.00
Grants	424,000.00	424,000.00
Other Revenue	1,288.91	1,288.91
Total Trading Income	460,688.91	460,688.91
Cost of Sales		
Expenses related to running Caring Dads Courses	5,477.95	5,477.95
Total Cost of Sales	5,477.95	5,477.95
Gross Profit	455,210.96	455,210.96
Other Income		
Interest Income	7,165.18	7,165.18
Total Other Income	7,165.18	7,165.18
Operating Expenses		
Bank Fees	38.45	38.45
Conference Fees	3,785.05	3,785.05
Consulting & Accounting	13,560.01	13,560.01
Entertainment	778.99	778.99
Insurance	1,471.31	1,471.31
IT & Software Maint. eg; web Hosting; clinical software etc	7,435.42	7,435.42
Meeting Expense	46.82	46.82
Motor Vehicle Expense	74.73	74.73
Office Expenses	534.19	534.19
Phone, Internet & all ITC	2,087.26	2,087.26
Printing; Stationery & Postage	1,066.84	1,066.84
Promotional & Marketing Materials	1,500.99	1,500.99
Registrations (ie ASIC)	98.00	98.00
Rent	4,999.99	4,999.99
Staff Amenities	127.27	127.27
Subscriptions	257.15	257.15
Superannuation	35,546.32	35,546.32
Suspense Account	625.45	625.45
Training and Development - Staff	418.81	418.81
Travel - National	4,112.76	4,112.76
Uniform - clothing with logo	204.49	204.49
Wages and Salaries	313,919.62	313,919.62
Workers Comp Insurance	8,227.69	8,227.69
Total Operating Expenses	400,917.61	400,917.61
Net Profit	61,458.53	61,458.53





Advocacy and Policy Work

Beyond direct services, Stronger Families plays a pivotal role in shaping policy and raising awareness about family and domestic violence.

Our advocacy efforts are designed to influence systemic change, ensuring lasting solutions to the challenges faced by survivors and their families.

Policy Engagement

This year, Stronger Families actively contributed to state and national conversations on family violence policy. Key activities included:

- **Consultations with Policymakers:** We participated in discussions with government representatives to advocate for increased funding and enhanced services for FDV perpetrators and victim survivors.
- **Policy Submissions:** We submitted detailed recommendations to inform legislative changes aimed at addressing family violence.

Awareness Campaigns

Our public awareness initiatives reached tens of thousands of individuals through social media and community events. These campaigns emphasised the importance of recognising and addressing the signs of domestic violence, while promoting available resources for those in need.



Challenges and Future Goals

While we celebrate our achievements, we recognise the challenges that lie ahead. Addressing family and domestic violence requires continuous innovation and unwavering commitment.

Challenges

- **Rising Demand:** Increasing reports of domestic violence have placed additional pressure on our programs and services, highlighting the need for expanded capacity.
- **Complex Needs:** Clients seeking support often face multiple, interconnected challenges, requiring comprehensive and tailored interventions.
- **Funding Constraints:** Sustaining and expanding our services depends on securing adequate funding in a competitive environment.

Future Goals

To meet these challenges, Stronger Families has set ambitious goals for the coming year:



Expand Program Reach: We aim to increase the capacity of key programs such as Steps Towards Caring, Caring Dads and Strengthening Families, reaching more individuals and families in need.

Strengthen Community Partnerships: By deepening collaboration with local organisations and stakeholders, we will enhance service delivery and create a more integrated support network.

Sustainable Business Model: We will increase the range and diversity of our fee for service programs.

Innovate Service Delivery: Leveraging technology and new methodologies, we will explore innovative approaches to support and empower survivors.

Stronger Families remains steadfast in our mission to create a future free from violence, where every family has the opportunity to thrive.



Acknowledgements

Stronger Families' work would not be possible without the dedication and generosity of our supporters. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to:

- **Donors and Sponsors:** Your contributions have enabled us to sustain and expand our programs, reaching more individuals and families each year.
- **Staff:** Your commitment and compassion have made a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.
- **Board Members:** Your expertise, passion, and tireless efforts are the backbone of our organisation.
- **Community Partners:** Your collaboration and shared vision have amplified our impact, helping us to build safer, stronger communities.

Together, we are making a difference. Thank you for standing with us in the fight against family and domestic violence.

In their words

Sarah's Story:

"When my partner joined Caring Dads, I wasn't sure it would make a difference. But over time, I saw changes I never thought were possible. He's calmer, more patient, and actually listens to me and the kids. For the first time in years, our home feels like a safe place."

Mia's Story:

"I was skeptical about the program, but it turned out to be life-changing. My partner used to lash out at the smallest things. Now, he takes a step back and thinks before reacting. The Caring Dads program gave me hope that people can change. I finally feel like I have a partner I can rely on."





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