



common
ground
queensland



2022 - 2023
Annual Report

Fostering Partnerships

Common Ground Queensland

Vision

Ending homelessness a person at a time with the communities in which we operate.

Mission

To create supportive homes through effective public, private and community partnerships that respond to people’s needs and improve well-being and connectedness.

Supportive Housing Principles

The Common Ground model of supportive housing is a proven and cost effective solution to ending homelessness. Supportive housing provides safe, affordable and stable housing that is intentionally linked to individualised support services that focus on tenancy sustainment. Supportive housing can be delivered in single site high or low density developments or scattered site housing. Brisbane Common Ground is Queensland’s first supportive housing initiative. It has been developed and delivered in line with a set of validated principles.

Design

A thoughtfully designed and well-maintained positive home environment that includes community spaces and opportunities for the wider community to participate. An asset for the whole community.

Permanency and Affordability

Housing is permanent, affordable and self-contained with rent less than 30% of income.

Tenancy Mix

There is a mix of tenants with a proportion having experienced homelessness and some who have not. This mix ensures a vibrant and diverse building community.

Safety

A Concierge service is provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure welcoming yet controlled access to the building.

Services for Tenants

An on-site support provider offers a holistic, tenancy-focused service to those who require support to remain housed.

Social Inclusion

Each element of supportive housing aims to create the greatest possible degree of empowerment and independence for individuals as well as a thriving community for tenants and neighbours.

Table of Content

From the Co-Chairs	4
From the CEO	6
Year in Review	8
Community Connections	9
Empowering Communities	10
Empowering Lives	12
Fostering Strong Partnerships	14
Unbridled Hope	16
Common Ground Gold Coast	18
Empowering Change	19
Fundraising Event	20
An Anonymous Story of Hope	22
CGQ Team	23
CGQ Board	24
Spirit of Christmas	26
Thank you	27

Acknowledgement of Country

Common Ground Queensland accepts the invitation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and supports a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Australian Constitution.

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Owners and Custodians of the Yuggera, Turrbal and Yugambeh Countries on which we work. We recognise sovereignty was never ceded.





From the Co-Chairs

It is with great pleasure that we present Common Ground Queensland's Annual Report for 2022/2023. Throughout this year's Annual Report, we have focused on the importance of partnership and collaboration. The role we perform is only part of the solution to achieving our mission. Achieving our mission of ending homelessness through the provision of supportive housing requires commitment and dedication by our people and the support and collaboration of our partners. Our thanks as always to the CGQ team that works tirelessly to achieve our objectives. In particular, we congratulate Janice Walters and Raechelle Coaker on celebrating 10 years at CGQ. Our thanks also go to our many and diverse partners, in Government, the homelessness sector, not-for-profits, research and advocacy partners and our commercial sector supporters.

Reflecting on the past year we are proud of the progress we have made towards our strategic goal of purposeful diversification and growth and focused advocacy. Some of our achievements include:

- Continued advocacy to government and the local community for a Common Ground on the Gold Coast and a supportive housing building for families in South Brisbane
- Presentations on the Common Ground model to Moreton Bay, Cairns and Tweed Shire regional councils
- Participation at the Queensland Housing Summit hosted by the Queensland Premier and subsequent housing round tables

- Advocacy for supportive housing solutions for returning veterans
- Provision of funding of a trial drug and alcohol support program at Brisbane Common Ground provided by QulHN with the support of Micah Projects
- Hosted our first fundraising event at the Flight Centre, Southbank, where we raised \$150,000
- Published a ten year review of tenancy sustainment and exits from Brisbane Common Ground undertaken by the University of Queensland with our support partner Micah Projects.

Whilst we are proud of our achievements, it is evident that there is more to do. A theme throughout the year has been the growing awareness of the scale and nature of the affordable housing crisis in Queensland. This is reflected in the sharp rent increases across Brisbane of 33% since March 2020 according to data in "A blueprint to tackle Queensland's housing crisis" published by City Futures Research Centre UNSW. Additionally, Queensland's specialist homelessness services (SHS) caseload, a proxy for changes in the rate of homelessness, has recently grown by 22% in the four years to 2021-22 according to statistics quoted by QCOSS in the Town of Nowhere campaign. CGQ along with our industry partners continue to advocate for an increased supply of social and affordable housing in Queensland and in particular, for more permanent, supportive housing.

In business planning terms the year was significant as it marked the final year of our current 3-year Strategic Plan. The Board and Executive team, assisted by our long-time partners Deloitte, conducted a review of our progress over the past 3 years and have worked with us to develop a new Strategic Plan for the next 3 years. Our new Strategic Plan will focus on consolidating our work towards creating more supportive housing and expanding our contributions to research and focused advocacy into homelessness. Our new strategic plan will be published at the end of this year.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to commend our CEO, Sue Pope for her strong leadership and guidance in her first year at CGQ. Sue has been a driving force behind a number of CGQ achievements during the year.

Thanks once again to our fellow Directors, who fulfil their governance responsibilities with great dedication and an obvious passion for CGQ's mission. At this year's Annual General Meeting we will farewell long term Director Mark Lightfoot from the Board. During his tenure, Mark's professional expertise as a lawyer has been invaluable to the Board. Mark has made significant contributions to CGQ and served on a number of Committees, including recently chairing the Supporter Engagement and Advocacy Committee. We thank Mark for his incredible contribution.

Thank you to our partners, stakeholders, friends and residents for your support in helping us achieve these substantial milestones this year. We are looking forward to collaborating with our industry partners to create more positive impacts over the coming year.



Kate Jones
Co Chairperson,
Common Ground Queensland



Michael Ryall
Co Chairperson,
Common Ground Queensland



From the CEO

It has been an incredibly busy but exciting year for CGQ and particularly for me in my first year with the organisation. Having spent 25 years in health, I used to think that health was the most important thing in people's lives but coming into the housing sector, in the midst of a housing and cost of living crisis, I now understand that it can be incredibly difficult and for some impossible to address the challenges and complexities in your life without housing.

Our focus on partnerships in this annual report reflects the importance of collaboration as central to everything we do at CGQ. Strengthening our relationship with tenants has been one of my favourite parts of my role this year. All our tenants have been so generous with their time and sharing their stories and ideas on how we can make improvements at CGQ. Our relationship relies on developing respect and trust so that we can work together. I'm looking forward to continuing to work closely with tenants on ways that we can support their participation and engagement with CGQ to identify opportunities to make their housing experience better.

This year, the team at the School of Social Science at The University of Queensland (UQ), published an analysis of the data from 10 years of sustaining tenancies and exits at Brisbane Common Ground. This data has been crucial

to helping us understand and identify who does well here at Brisbane Common Ground, how effective our intensive tenancy sustainment work has been over these years and the opportunities in the future to improve outcomes for even more of our tenants. This work, which contributes to the evidence base for supportive housing and the Common Ground model is critical to our advocacy efforts. It's important therefore, for us to acknowledge Prof Cameron Parsell, who not only leads the team at UQ and this work but is a passionate exponent of supportive housing.

Much of our effort this year has been focussed on advocating for permanent, supportive housing and the Common Ground model in Queensland to support our vision of ending homelessness a person at a time. Our work with the Common Ground Gold Coast board on advocating for a Common Ground model at Southport has revealed significant support from the City of Gold Coast, Gold Coast business, the wider Gold Coast community and the Queensland Government to develop supportive housing solutions to address homelessness in this region. During the year, we have continued to work closely with our peak bodies, QShelter and QCOSS and our housing and homelessness sector colleagues to advocate for housing solutions for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This includes supportive

housing options to meet people's needs and to ensure people have the best housing response in place to enable them to sustain their tenancy.

On a personal note, I'd like to acknowledge the incredible CGQ team, including the management team Erin Smith, Michael Murphy and Derek Taylor for their support, commitment, and passion for the work at CGQ. The expertise, professionalism and dedication of each and every member of the CGQ team is impressive and inspiring. My respects to outgoing CEO Sonya Keep. Her leadership over the past 10 years has made CGQ what it is today, and I am so grateful for her work and her generosity of support during my first few months. Finally, thank you to the CGQ Board and particularly to Co-Chairs, Michael and Kate whose guidance and contribution is essential to the success of everything we do at CGQ.

One of the most common questions I get asked is: "why aren't there more Common Grounds?" All of us at CGQ are passionate about the Common Ground model of permanent, supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness, and while we don't really know the answer to that question, we will continue to advocate for more permanent supportive housing and Common Grounds in

Queensland and do whatever it takes to see the model established right across the state to meet the needs of people who are impacted by homelessness and the current housing crisis.



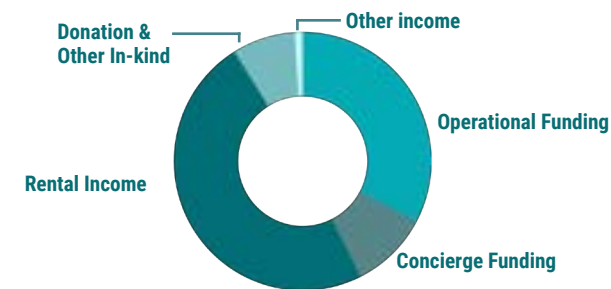
Sue Pope

CEO
Common Ground Queensland

Year in Review

BCG KPI's	Target	22/23
Bad Debts target	<1.5%	0.03%
Rent Foregone	<4%	0.40%
Vacancy rate	<=0.83%	0.10%
Eviction rate	<7%	5.44%
Rent Arrears @ 30 June	<4%	0.69%

Revenue



Our BCG Tenants as at 30 June 2023

Tenancy Mix



Average length of stay for current tenants



Tenant Exits 2022/2023



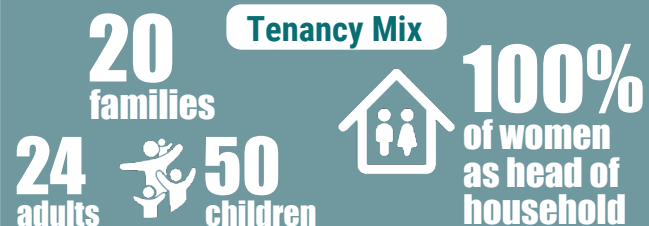
+12 months length of stay



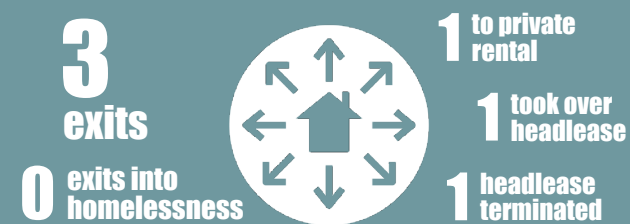
Our SH4F Tenants as at 30 June 2023

SH4F KPI's	Target	22/23
Head Leases vs Sub Leases	20:20	21:20
Brisbane North vs Brisbane South	10:10	11:10
Average Weekly Head Lease Rent	\$532	\$525
Eviction rate	0%	0%

Tenancy Mix



Tenant Exits 2022/2023



Length of stay



Community Connections

Health Centre

Following the flood in February, 2022, the Inclusive Health and Wellness Hub operated by Micah Projects on the ground floor of Brisbane Common Ground was unfortunately closed due to damage. We were delighted to see the renovations to the damaged centre were completed and the Inclusive Health and Wellness Hub reopened in March 2023. The Inclusive Health and Wellness Hub is a valuable community asset with health practitioners providing general health consultations and specialised services to the wider community as well as many of our Brisbane Common Ground tenants.

Brisbane Common Ground Christmas Dinner

Once again, Common Ground Queensland held a delightful evening of frivolities for our tenants to celebrate Christmas 2022. Held on the evening of Tuesday the 6th of December, a delicious dinner was had of turkey, camembert and cranberry strudel with potato salad or, for the vegetarians, a meal of pumpkin, camembert and spinach strudel with potato salad. Dessert was a delicious summer panna cotta with a rich berry sauce and a packet of Lindt chocolate for everyone to take home with them. Many thanks to our corporate sponsor, BC Systems, who attended as volunteers for the event, passing around plates and handing out good cheer. We would like to thank the Lord Mayor Charitable Trust for the generous grant received to help fund this event.

Supportive Housing for Families Hampers

This Christmas of 2022, we were delighted when BC Systems offered their helping hand and Christmas cheer by providing Christmas hampers to our Supportive Housing for Families (SH4F) tenants. These hampers were sourced and put together by the BC Systems team themselves, and consisted of personal care items, household essentials, along with gift cards and a handwritten Christmas card from the team. A group of volunteers then headed out to deliver their packages. Like a visit from Santa on Christmas Eve, they were met with much delight by the SH4F tenants and their children. We would like to thank the entire BC Systems team for their dedication and support this Christmas time.



Morning Tea with CGQ CEO

On Wednesday the 18th of January 2023, CGQ hosted a morning tea with CGQ's new CEO, Sue Pope. This event was an opportunity for tenants to come along for a cup of tea or coffee, have some cake and introduce themselves. Sue was delighted to be able to meet with the tenants and get to know them. This morning tea meet-up organised by Sue reflects her passion for tenant engagement and participation at CGQ. By demonstrating a commitment to open communication, transparency, and tenant-focused initiatives, Sue hopes to encourage a more inclusive and harmonious tenant community. As the organisation moves forward, the positive impact of this approach is sure to resonate, elevating the overall living experience for all tenants involved.



Tenant Forums

Common Ground Queensland and Micah Projects have partnered to host regular tenant forums in the Gambaro Room at Brisbane Common Ground (BCG), in order to better facilitate the BCG tenant community growth and foster positive change within the building. These forums have been greatly successful with a number of changes being implemented in their wake, including the installation of a gate to the backyard.



Empowering Communities

In the realm of social welfare and community development, partnerships play a pivotal role in fostering positive change and improving the lives of vulnerable populations. One such partnership is the collaboration between Micah Projects and Common Ground Queensland (CGQ), that has been making change happen in southeast Queensland for over a decade. Through their combined efforts and shared vision, Micah Projects and CGQ have been instrumental in empowering communities, providing support and creating sustainable solutions to address homelessness and the housing crisis.

Micah Projects: Empowering Lives, Transforming Communities

Micah Projects is a respected, Brisbane-based not-for-profit organisation that has been at the forefront of advocating for social justice and addressing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, and other forms of adversity. They are committed to providing services and opportunities in the community to create justice and respond to injustice. Formally constituted as an incorporated association in 1995, Micah Projects has built a reputation for its compassionate approach, innovation, and unwavering commitment to creating a more inclusive society.

The organisation's diverse range of programs and services include housing support, mental health assistance, family support, and community engagement initiatives. By adopting a holistic and person-centred approach, Micah Projects aims to empower individuals with the tools they need to rebuild their lives. The Queensland Government supports Micah Projects in their mission to build community and stop social isolation via funding agreements for the provision of services. CGQ are incredibly proud of our partnership with Micah Projects and the outcomes that we achieve through our supportive housing programs.

Common Ground Queensland: Building Strong Foundations

Common Ground Queensland (CGQ) is a not-for-profit organisation that shares a common goal with Micah Projects – to address homelessness and provide stable housing solutions for individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity. CGQ is a specialised property and tenancy management provider that provides supportive and affordable housing to its tenants. Utilising a 'Housing First' approach, CGQ prioritises providing safe and stable housing to those in need.

The Housing First model has proven effective in breaking the cycle of chronic homelessness by providing individuals with a secure base from which they can access other support services. CGQ aims to foster a sense of community and belonging for its residents, enabling them to thrive and achieve personal growth. CGQ aims to increase the supply of supportive housing to meet the growing needs of individuals and families who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

The Power of Collaboration

The partnership between Micah Projects and CGQ showcases the power of collaboration. By combining expertise, and ensuring a shared vision between the two organisations, we have been able to amplify our impact and reach a broader group of individuals in need.

Working together we have developed innovative housing solutions that cater to the unique needs of different vulnerable populations. Through this alliance, we have created a more robust network of support services that are able to offer unique and comprehensive approaches to tackling homelessness.

Initiatives and Success Stories

Brisbane Common Ground

This project was the first initiative in Queensland and brought Micah Projects and CGQ together for the first time to provide supportive housing for individuals who are experiencing chronic homelessness or who are on low to very-low incomes. Brisbane Common Ground (BCG) opened in July of 2012 and was Queensland's first purpose built, supportive housing initiative.

Supportive Housing for Families

This project focuses on providing safe long-term housing for families who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and child protection involvement. CGQ, alongside the Micah Projects Keeping Families Together (KFT) team, provide housing and support to 20 families, with children under the age of 5 years. CGQ headleases properties from the private rental market to provide the affordable housing for these tenants.

The Road Ahead

As the partnership between Micah Projects and CGQ continues to develop, the future looks promising. The combined efforts of our two organisations have set a precedent for collaborative approaches to social issues, encouraging other stakeholders to work together for the greater good. Our ongoing commitment to research, community engagement, and innovative solutions ensure that we remain at the forefront of solutions to address homelessness. Together, we are creating a legacy of empowerment, hope and resilience.

**Making change
happen for over a
decade**



Empowering Lives: Community Supportive Housing

Creating a Path to Independence and Empowerment

Since April 2021, Common Ground Queensland (CGQ) has been at the forefront of transforming lives through its pioneering Community Supportive Housing (CSH) Program. This groundbreaking initiative aims to provide transitional housing for people with an asylum seeker background, many of whom were previously held in detention at Kangaroo Point, Brisbane. By offering secure housing alongside comprehensive support services, CGQ has been instrumental in helping these individuals chart a path towards financial independence and self-sufficiency.

A Sheltered Haven for Asylum Seekers

The Community Supportive Housing (CSH) Program was born out of a pressing need to assist individuals with an asylum seeker background who were ineligible for conventional social housing and faced limited options to access private housing due to their constrained income. Recognising this gap, CGQ, in partnership with Communify Queensland and Multicultural Australia, took the initiative to headlease 15 rental properties, creating a safe haven for those seeking refuge and a fresh start.

The primary goal of the program was not only to provide shelter but also to offer a comprehensive support system, encompassing employment, health, mental health, and legal services. By engaging with these vital services, the tenants were given the tools and resources they needed to achieve financial independence and ultimately transition to mainstream housing options.

Transformative Outcomes

The impact of the Community Supportive Housing Program has been nothing short of transformative. To date, 48 adults and 10 children have been housed and supported, and the outcomes have been astounding:



26 individuals have gained employment

By providing a stable and secure living environment, CGQ has **empowered the tenants to seek and secure gainful employment**, paving the way for self-sufficiency and a brighter future.



4 individuals have achieved financial independence

Four program participants have made significant strides towards independence, **successfully managing all their bills and rent while continuing to receive housing** from CGQ.



Assistance for 3rd country settlement

One individual was **supported with employment and health needs before transitioning to third-country settlement in New Zealand**, enabling them to embark on a new chapter in their life journey.



23 have transitioned into their own accommodation

The program has seen **23 individuals confidently transition into mainstream housing** options, including private rentals, social housing, and share housing. This step marks a significant milestone in their journey towards self-reliance and integration into the broader community.



Comprehensive support for mental health and health services

CGQ and Communify ensured that **all tenants unable to enter the workforce are actively engaged in mental health and health services**, fostering holistic well-being and emotional stability.

The Power of Secure Accommodation

One of the most profound learnings from this program has been the role of secure accommodation as a crucial foundation for positive outcomes. Having a stable and safe place to call home has significantly increased the program participants' ability to gain employment and access essential services.

Even for individuals who faced challenges in securing employment, the safe and supportive housing provided by CGQ has facilitated their access to health, mental health, and legal services. These support systems have been instrumental in improving their overall well-being and enabling them to progress in their journey towards independence.

CGQ would like to thank our partners in this program, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, the Nudgee Trust, the Australian Communities Foundation, and the Shephard Family Foundation for their contributions to the program. We would also like to acknowledge Communify Queensland and Multicultural Australia for all their hard work providing support as part of this program.

“I am excited to start my new life”

Quote from a tenant in our Community Supportive Housing program. 2021 - 2022 Annual Report.

Fostering Strong Partnerships

Building a Stronger Community Together

At CGQ, we firmly believe that true strength lies in unity and collaboration. As an organisation dedicated to creating positive change and improving the lives of individuals and families in our community, we understand the value of partnerships. By working together with like-minded organisations and businesses, we can achieve so much more than we could on our own. We wanted to highlight the significance of our partners and the amazing work that we have accomplished together.



Fostering these partnerships has not only strengthened our ability to address various social challenges but has also enriched our organisation with diverse perspectives and ideas. Together, we create a more connected and supportive community that thrives on collaboration and mutual support.

As we move forward, CGQ remains committed to fostering existing partnerships and seeking new ones that align with our vision and mission. Through collective efforts, we are confident in our ability to create a positive and lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners and collaborators for their unwavering support and shared dedication to building a stronger, more resilient community.

Join us at Common Ground Queensland as we continue our journey to a brighter future through the power of partnerships and community solidarity.

**Together,
we thrive.**

Our Partners, Networks and Alliances

Department of Housing

Working alongside the Department of Housing has allowed us to enhance our reach and effectiveness in delivering our services. Their support of us and our programs has been invaluable.

Micah Projects

Our collaboration with Micah Projects has been integral to our efforts in tackling homelessness and poverty in the community. Through our combined resources and shared expertise, we've been able to extend a helping hand to those in need and make a lasting impact on their lives.

3rd Space

3rd Space has been an outstanding partner, actively participating in our community videos and advocacy, lending their assistance and contributing to our collective vision of a stronger and more connected community.

Community

Our partnership with Community has strengthened our ability to engage and support local communities including refugee and asylum seeking individuals and families while allowing us to further expand our reach to help more people into affordable and supportive housing.

Q Shelter

Q Shelter is a peak body working to influence solutions to housing need and homelessness. Their advocacy work continues to be impactful, and our alliance with them allows us to further spread our message of the importance of supportive housing in the housing ecosystem.

QCOSS (Queensland Council of Social Services)

As a member of the QCOSS Town of Nowhere campaign, we are able to further spread their message and strengthen the voices of Queenslanders who have unmet housing needs. As a collaboration of housing providers and support services, we amplify our advocacy efforts and drive positive change on a broader scale.

Deloitte

Partnering with Deloitte has enriched our capacity for developing our strategy and building our capability to enable us to extend our support to even more individuals and families in need.

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

HWL Ebsworth lawyers provide CGQ with pro bono legal advice which is invaluable in helping us continue to provide our vital service. Our partnership with HWL Ebsworth lawyers has exemplified the spirit of community, as we collectively work towards creating a more compassionate society.

BCSystems

The partnership with BCSystems has been nothing short of inspiring. Their involvement in our community video, support during the tenant Christmas Dinner in 2022, and their contribution of Christmas hampers for the families in our Supportive Housing for Families program have made a real difference in the lives of many.

Novotel South Brisbane

Our collaboration with Novotel South Brisbane has been multi-faceted, with mutual support ranging from tours of each other's facilities, to providing auction items at our fundraising event in 2022. Together, we continue to find innovative ways to support our community.

QPAC

QPAC has been a remarkable partner since 2017, supporting us by providing access to fundraising opportunities such as the 'Spirit of Christmas' event that they host every year. Their generosity in sharing our social media advocacy efforts and providing us with the occasional show tickets for our tenants has helped us raise awareness and funds for our cause while building community involvement.

UpBeat Arts

Partnering with UpBeat Arts has brought the joy of music and arts to our community, fostering creativity and positive expression among individuals (including BCG tenants who have an open invitation to attend rehearsals). In support of the amazing work that UpBeat Arts provide to their participants, CGQ provide access to our functions spaces at a discounted rate.

Clemente

Our collaboration with Clemente has expanded education opportunities for marginalised individuals, empowering them with knowledge and skills for a better future. BCG tenants are able to participate in Clemente classes, where we support them by providing Clemente discounted access to the functions space.



Photos by @jbowpics

Unbridled Hope

Living at Brisbane Common Ground has been a life-changing experience for Danny, who has endured the harsh realities of homelessness and unstable living conditions for many years. Before finding his permanent home here at Brisbane Common Ground, Danny faced a life on the streets and a lack of stability in overcrowded boarding houses. However, his life took a remarkable turn when he moved into Brisbane Common Ground, a fourteen-story building on Hope Street in South Brisbane.

CGQ offers safe and affordable housing to people like Danny who have experienced chronic homelessness or are on low to very low incomes. The community spaces in the building, such as the Art Room, the Community Garden, Computer Room, Library and Tenant Lounge, which has stunning views over West End, the Brisbane River and Brisbane city, provides a sense of belonging and support. It's not just another block of units; it's a place with remarkable stories of transformation.

Danny, who used to be a jockey and enjoyed success on racetracks around Australia, faced challenges in his life that led to alcoholism, depression, and anxiety, particularly after his father's death in 2016. This eventually left him on the streets, moving from one boarding house to another.

Fortunately, Danny's life took a positive turn when he connected with Micah Projects and, through them, to Brisbane Common Ground. Micah Projects and CGQ offer a comprehensive support system which includes affordable, permanent housing and support services allowing residents like Danny to rebuild their lives without judgment.

Moving into his own unit at Brisbane Common Ground was a revelation for Danny. He couldn't believe the comfort and amenities provided, including his own TV, fridge, washing machine, and linen – all of which come with the fully furnished units at Brisbane Common Ground. He described it as "living in a millionaire's paradise for next to nothing."

Safety and security are essential for Danny, and Brisbane Common Ground met those needs perfectly. The presence of a 24-7 concierge service provides peace of mind, knowing that he and his belongings were safe. The supportive housing at Brisbane Common Ground made all the difference in Danny's life, allowing him to rebuild his life and explore new opportunities.

Now, Danny actively participates in art classes and the rooftop gardening program offered at Brisbane Common Ground (BCG). Living in South Brisbane has made life accessible and easy for him, as he can get around on his bike and there is easy to access public transport. Though he may not take up horse riding again, he hopes to find work at the Ekka in August this year.

Reflecting on his journey, Danny expressed gratitude for the stability and security he now has at BCG. He never imagined being in this position a year ago but has grown to love it and believes there should be more initiatives like Brisbane Common Ground to support those in need.

Reflecting on his journey, Danny expressed gratitude for the stability and security he now has at BCG.





Meet Aleksandra, the Volunteer Champion for CGGC



Common Ground Gold Coast

The Common Ground Gold Coast (CGGC) project is continuously striding forward, thanks to the dedication and innovation of its partners and board of directors. The CGGC board of directors continue to convene on a regular basis to discuss the progress of the project and continuing to advocate for a CGGC in the Southport location. At the forefront of this effort is Barry Lee from Dark Horse architects, whose visionary concept designs have laid the foundation for an inspiring and transformative plan. The project's progress has been further bolstered by the invaluable contribution of Turner Townsend, who generously provided pro bono support in the development of comprehensive costings and a business case. Their commitment has not only accelerated the project's viability but also demonstrated the power of collaboration in addressing pressing societal challenges.

The unwavering commitment of the project's directors has been instrumental in driving this initiative forward. Their tireless efforts and advocacy reflect their dedication to finding a solution to chronic homelessness

on the Gold Coast. Guided by the collective wisdom and dedication of our board of directors, including Barry Lee, Dianne Kozik, Jackson Hill, Matt Jutsum, Michael Ryall, Peter Pearce, Sheila Ponting, Tony Cosser and our Chairperson Rob Molhoek MP, the Common Ground Gold Coast project continues to gather momentum. Each member brings their unique expertise and commitment to the table, shaping a vision that holds the promise of a brighter future. As we forge ahead, their collaborative efforts underscore our shared aspiration for positive change and the profound impact it could bring to our community. Among these passionate individuals is Luke Lindsay from Uniting Care Community, whose steadfast support and knowledge have played a pivotal role in directing the project to the right path. Company Secretary Ryan O'Leary is another CGGC volunteer whose passion and skills have been instrumental for the ongoing success of the project. With the combined efforts of passionate individuals, innovative architects, generous supporters, and dedicated board members, we are filled with hope for the future of this project and the transformative impact it holds the potential to achieve.



Rob Molhoek MP



Barry Lee



Dianne Kozik



Jackson Hill



Matt Jutsum



Michael Ryall



Peter Pearce



Sheila Ponting



Tony Cosser

Empowering Change

In the heart of every thriving community, there lies an invaluable force of selflessness and compassion—the volunteers. These remarkable individuals, like shining stars, illuminate the path of progress and make a lasting impact on the lives of others. Among them stands Aleksandra, a dedicated volunteer at Common Ground Gold Coast, whose unwavering enthusiasm and passion have greatly contributed to the organisation's mission and fostered a spirit of compassion and support within the community.

Originally from Russia, Aleksandra found herself in Australia during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the unexpected circumstances, Aleksandra decided to stay in the country with her partner and embark on a new chapter in her life. However, this meant starting afresh and reintegrating her qualifications and skills into the Australian context.

Having earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, along with a diploma in nursing and graduate diploma in government administration, Aleksandra recognized the need to adapt her knowledge to the Australian landscape. Furthermore, as a non-native English speaker, she sought opportunities to improve her language skills while contributing to society.

Enter volunteering—the ideal pathway for Aleksandra to achieve her goals. Among the various options, Common Ground Gold Coast quickly caught her attention. The organisation's mission to provide affordable and supportive housing solutions deeply resonated with Aleksandra, who saw this as an opportunity to contribute

to a cause close to her heart.

Eager to help with the administrative needs of the organisation, Aleksandra embarked on her journey with Common Ground Gold Coast. From the very beginning, she was captivated by the organisation's approach to tackling homelessness.

After doing a tour of the Brisbane Common Ground building, the supportive accommodation model utilised by Common Ground Queensland left a lasting impression on Aleksandra, fuelling her commitment to the cause. Aleksandra has been supporting Common Ground Gold Coast by assisting the Chairperson, Rob Molhoek MP, organising meetings, helping with looking for grant opportunities and accessing government support, along with aiding in the organisation of fundraising opportunities.

Aleksandra's dedication and passion for Common Ground Gold Coast have not gone unnoticed. Her persistent efforts in bringing the organisation's vision to life and her belief in the transformative power of supportive housing have earned her the respect and appreciation of the entire team.

As we celebrate the commitment of volunteers like Aleksandra, we are reminded that it is the collective effort of passionate individuals that drives positive change in society. With their invaluable contributions, Common Ground Gold Coast is empowered to continue its mission of providing hope, support, and stability to those in need, creating a brighter and more inclusive future for all.



Fundraising Event

On the beautiful evening of October 8, 2022, Common Ground Queensland hosted a memorable Rooftop Cocktail Fundraising Event that brought together our incredible supporters, partners, and friends. The event was a celebration of our shared commitment to creating positive change in the community and a heartfelt expression of gratitude to those who have stood by our side on this journey over the past 10 years.

The Rooftop Cocktail Fundraising Event was a resounding success, not only in terms of raising funds but also in fostering a sense of unity and purpose. Held at the delightful Flight Centre Rooftop at South Bank, the event provided a stunning backdrop of the city's skyline, setting the stage for an unforgettable night. Our fantastic MC Neil Breene's enthusiasm set the tone for the rest of the evening, engaging the crowd and keeping everyone captivated. Paul Curtain's auctioneering skills were truly exceptional, effortlessly commanding the room and infusing each bid with an electrifying energy that contributed to the event's remarkable success.

We extend our deepest appreciation to all the individuals and organisations who contributed to the success of this event, including our sponsors and donors who generously supported our cause.

We would also like to give special thanks to CGQ Director Joell Ogilvie, as well as Danielle Harris and Kristin Esler for organising this fundraising event. We really appreciate all of the hard work that you put into making this event a reality.

Sponsors



Donors



We would like to also acknowledge all of our fantastic supporters who provided donations for the auction and raffle:

Ace Hotel Sydney
Allianz Stadium
Banc
Bianca
Bike 99
Bonita Collective
Chef Jacopo Corbetta
Cloudland
Craggy Range Wines
Cru Bar
Emporium Hotel
Etihad & Flight Centre
Flight Centre
Frizelle Automotive

Gambaro Sea Food
Restaurant
Hedley Thomas
Hellenika
Hotel x
Kailo
La Roche Posay
Larapinta Polo
Mark & Tracy Stockwell
MoFo's
My Holiday
Nicci Hinckfuss
Nota Restaurant
Port Office Hotel

Samantha Ogilvie
Same Same
Sixes and Sevens
SK Steak & Oyster
Spicer's Retreat
Steven Bradbury OAM
Stradbroke Island Beach
Hotel
Suncorp Stadium
The Calile Hotel
The NRL
The Standard Market
Virgin Australia
Wallace Bishop

At CGQ, we firmly believe that positive societal change can only be achieved through collaboration and shared efforts. The Rooftop Cocktail Fundraising Event stands as a testament to the power of community solidarity and the incredible impact we can make together.

To our sponsors, supporters and donors, and all who attended the event, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your support fuels our determination to continue making a positive difference in the lives of individuals and families in need.

Together, we stand as a force for good, and together we will build a stronger, more resilient community.

An Anonymous Story of Hope

This is a reimagining of the story of a Supportive Housing for Families tenant. A pseudonym has been used.

In the depths of adversity, Maria's experience of homelessness serves as a poignant reminder of the indomitable human spirit and the universal nature of resilience. For many long years, she found herself trapped in the clutches of addiction, navigating the unforgiving cycle of substance use and incarceration. Feeling like a mere shadow of her former self, Maria's low self-worth meant that she believed herself to be nothing more than an addict and that she was failing at being a mother.

As the turbulence of life tossed her from one transient space to another, the fear of losing her beloved child loomed large, intensifying her struggle with depression. Externally, she feigned strength, all while concealing the desperation that consumed her. But deep down, Maria knew that all she needed was a single lifeline, an opportunity to reclaim her life and provide a safe haven for her child.

Amidst the darkness, a glimmer of hope emerged

Amidst the darkness, a glimmer of hope emerged when she was introduced to Common Ground Queensland through Micah Projects Keeping Families Together team—a beacon of hope for those seeking a fresh start.

The news of securing a home through Common Ground Queensland was nothing short of a miracle, leaving Maria feeling elated, grateful, and overwhelmed with emotions. It was as if she had won the lottery, but in truth, it was a much more precious reward—a chance to rebuild her life from the ground up.

The transformation was profound. With a newfound sense of purpose and a stable living environment, Maria embraced the opportunity to rewrite her story, turning her back on the shadow of addiction that had haunted her for far too long. The weight of failure lifted as she began to believe in herself once again.

What made this journey of transformation possible was the remarkable partnership between Common Ground Queensland and Micah Projects—a collaboration that extends a lifeline to those in need. The Micah Projects Keeping Families together team are able to support the women and their children to build back their lives, while Common Ground Queensland ensures the families stay housed and stable.

Maria's journey of redemption serves as a testament to the universality of human struggles and triumphs. Regardless of individual circumstances, the experience of homelessness touches countless lives across the world. It highlights the need for empathy, compassion, and support for those fighting battles that may be invisible to the outside world.

Every person deserves a chance at redemption, a chance to rise from the ashes and rebuild their life. Maria's experience serves as a powerful reminder that with the right support and opportunities, the human spirit can triumph over adversity and create a future filled with hope, love, and purpose.



CGQ Team



Sue Pope, CEO



Derek Taylor, Sr. Tenancy Manager



Erin Smith, Admin Manager



Michael Murphy, Operations Manager



Amir, Concierge



Deliah, Maintenance



Fury, Concierge



Janice, Tenancy Team



Justin, Tenancy Team



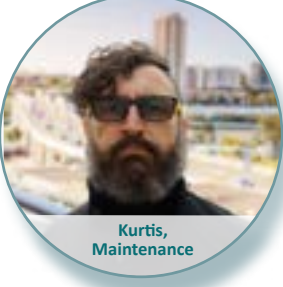
Kathleen, Operations



Kelvin, Maintenance



Ketan, Concierge



Kurtis, Maintenance



Mario, Concierge



Maya, Project Officer



Mikayla, Maintenance



Neil, Concierge



Plony, Tenancy Team



Raechelle, Tenancy Team



Scott, Maintenance



Stevie, Project Officer

Not pictured: Morne, Concierge. Majid, Maintenance. Mohammed, Maintenance

Board of Directors



Kate Jones - Co Chairperson

Kate has more than 20 years experience in senior government and leadership positions. Kate served as a Minister in the Queensland Government for more than eight years in a range of portfolios including State Development, Education, Tourism and Major Events and Innovation and Climate Change.

Throughout her career Kate has also served on a number of government and non-government boards at both a state and national level. Kate has strong skills in strategy development and partnerships, crisis management, media relations and communications.



Michael Ryall- Co Chairperson

Michael is the Chief Financial Officer of the property development company Spyre Group. He is a Chartered Accountant with over 20 years' experience in property, hospitality and professional services in Australia and the Middle East. Over this time, he has developed an expertise in financial management and reporting, governance, corporate finance, strategic planning and business management.

Michael is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds qualifications in Strata Management and Hotel Management, he has a Master of Professional Accounting and post graduate qualifications in Applied Finance.



Christine Grose – Director

Christine has over three decades of direct service delivery and management experience in the community sector - in particular in the areas of homelessness and youth at risk.

Christine has served on numerous community and homelessness service Management Committees throughout her career. Her focus for her voluntary and paid work is on implementing structural change and supporting community capacity-building, in the service of social justice.

She currently works as a Community Engagement Lead with a collective Impact Movement in South-East Queensland.



Joanna Spanjaard – Director

Joanna has over 20 years' experience in risk management developing, implementing and providing assurance over all aspects of risk management including risk frameworks, risk appetite, risk maturity diagnostics, risk governance, culture and operating models. She is currently the Director of Governance and Risk at The University of Queensland.

Joanna has deep experience in many industry sectors including not for profits, health, public safety, energy, mining and water and regularly facilitates emerging, strategic and operational risk workshops with Boards and senior executives.



Joell Ogilvie – Director

Joell is the Executive General Manager for the Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) and has over 30 years' experience working for Flight Centre.

Joell is responsible for a diverse group of businesses within the FCTG. Joell has extensive experience in all aspects of running these businesses with a strong focus on delivering growth and development programs for her team.



Justin Hogg – Director

Justin Hogg has worked as an accountant in a number of industries including overseeing teams responsible for billion-dollar business ventures through to working with charities to further their goals.

Justin is passionate about the not-for-profit space and helping those who help others. Justin serves in Director and Company Secretary positions for several not-for-profits currently as well as running his own business that supports not-for-profits. Justin Hogg is a Member of CPA Australia and a Fellow Member of the Governance Institute of Australia.



Mark Lightfoot – Director

Mark is a Partner in the Banking and Financial Services Group of HWL Ebsworth. Mark regularly undertakes significant pre-lending reviews and security due diligence on behalf of his financier clients. In addition to acting for financial institutions, Mark also regularly acts for several corporate clients with respect to their project finance requirements.

Mark's experience includes documenting and advising on the structuring of a range of debt finance transactions including property development and investment finance, construction and project financing and equipment finance.



Mark Neave – Director

Mark has over 40 years' experience working within the Health and Welfare sectors as a frontline worker ranging from direct clinical work as a social worker in mental health, child safety and acute care and in Executive positions within Government and Non-Government organisations.

He holds a unique understanding of the myriad of services and associated complexities that are often faced within community and acute responses.



Peter Pearce – Director

Peter has over 40 years' experience in not-for-profit governance with organisations working in employment, homelessness, housing, child and family support, acute health care and child care. He has worked in senior roles in aero-medical retrieval, aged care, health, energy, politics, public service, business development and general management.



Michele Gallagher - Company Secretary

Michele has over 25 years of experience in Finance and Accounting roles, including over 10 years as a Company Secretary for companies limited by guarantee. Michele holds a range of Company Secretary appointments in organisations that support First Nations People, rural and remote communities and vulnerable populations.

Michele has a Master of Business Administration (Finance), Master of Commerce (UQ), completed the Company Directors Course at the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow at Governance Institute of Australia, and a Fellow at CPA Australia.



The Spirit of Christmas

The Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) once again embraced the holiday season with their enchanting 'Spirit of Christmas' show in 2022. This year's event brought not only joy to countless hearts but also an opportunity for the community to come together and make a significant difference. QPAC's unwavering support and generosity shone brightly as they graciously allowed Common Ground Queensland to fundraise for donations at the show, resulting in an astounding \$7,910 raised through donations from the show goers, thanks to the dedication of our 27 volunteers.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to QPAC for their unwavering support in making this collaboration possible. Their generosity and commitment to giving back to the community have set an example for other organisations to follow. By opening their doors to Common Ground Queensland and their mission, QPAC has exemplified the true meaning of the holiday season: spreading joy and kindness to all.

Additionally, we extend our deepest appreciation to the 27 volunteers who dedicated their time and efforts to ensure the success of the fundraising campaign. Their selflessness and dedication to making a difference in the lives of others are truly commendable.

**Thank you
QPAC**

Thank You

Common Ground Queensland and Common Ground Gold Coast would like to thank and recognise the following individuals and organisations who have invested in our initiatives and outcomes throughout the year.

In Kind Support

Deloitte
HWL Ebsworth

Grants

Australian Communities Foundation
and Shepherd Family Trust

Donors to CGQ

Alysha Addicott
Ann Marie Bolster
Anna Butterfield
Anne Cross
Beth Bass
Beth Keehn
Catherine Malouf Bunn
Chris Keyte
Chris Rogan
Claire Bass
Deanna Nott
Deanne Strachan
Ellen Daniels
Ellen Sargent
Enid Vickery
Fiona Taylor
Gail Walker
Gus Hicks
Hans Peter Soyer
Harriet Bass
Jack Gobbe
James Douglas
Janette McLeod
Janette Moore
Jessica Mitchell
Johanna Aston
Kaitlin Bambling
Kieron Roost
Kit Nelson Molloy
Kyle Ward
Leesa MacDonald
Margaret Mulholland
Mark Lightfoot
Maya Glassman

Meera Honan
Meryl Hooper
Michael Malouf
Michael Rackemann
Mike Addicott
Milaan Latten
Monique Brown
Neil Mannix
Noelene Talbot
Novotel Brisbane
Position Property
QUT Student Guild
Russell O'Reilly
Sally Vickery
Sam Ryan
Sarah McGowan
Scott McCarthy
Sofie Spelta
Sonya Russ
Sophia Wenzlick
Stockwell Foundation
Sue Wagner
Susan Upham
Susan Wagner
Tammy Hembrow
Tim Brennan
Tom Duhig
Tym Guitars

Donors to CGGC

Charntel Cleveland
Justin Geange
Michael Ryall
RE Southon
Sheila Ponting
Vaughn Carnaffan

Volunteer List

Aleksandra Arkhipova
Andy Currey
Angus Ryall
Ava Cirino
Brendon Donohue
Carter Mauro

Cathy Stephens
Christine Grose
Emily Hassall
Greg Dorge
Harriette Ryall
Harry Ryan
Julie Trilford
Krystalynn Coombes
Malcom Upton
Marilla Currey
Michael Ryall
Michele Galagher
Nina Daintay
Sofia Cirino
Sonya Dorge
Sophie Ricato
Stacey Currey
Sylvia Currey
Tiana Trilford
William Treacy
Xanthe Lofful-Lush

Partners and affiliates

3rd Space
Asylum Seeker and Refugee
Assistance Program
Australasian Housing Institute
BCSytems
Business South Bank
Clemente
Communify
Community Housing Providers
Queensland (CHPs for QLD)
Department of Housing and Public
Works
Griffith University
Micah Projects
Multicultural Australia
Q Shelter
QCOSS
QPAC
Queensland Police Service
UpBeat Arts



Funded by



Supported by

Deloitte. ^{HW}EBSWORTH **bcsystems**
LAWYERS