

98th

Annual Report 2023 — 2024

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY



Ija Mulanggari, Goodtha Mulanggari
Thriving Mothers, Thriving Babies



Canberra Mothercraft Society Inc.

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Australia

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ABN 27 358 139 470

Canberra Mothercraft Society Inc is registered as a charitable entity on the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) Register.

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President's Message

In remaining true to its mission to improve the wellbeing of women and young children and their families, in 2023-24 Canberra Mothercraft Society directed generous financial assistance to organisations working in these areas where there is significant need.

In particular, CMS increased its support for the Rhodanthe Lipsett Indigenous Midwifery Charitable Fund by funding five midwifery scholarships. For the past three years, CMS has supported the fund with an annual \$5000 donation. This year, on learning that the fund had a large shortfall in the number of scholarships it was able to offer, we provided a second donation of \$20,000 for an additional four first nations midwifery students, enabling the fund to reach its target of 10 category A scholarships in 2024.

Our attention was also drawn to pockets of disadvantage in several Canberra suburbs in Kippax, West Belconnen, where, according to the Australian Early Development Census, the highest percentage of developmentally vulnerable children in the ACT reside. It was sobering to learn that, according to the 2021 census, the ACT has the second-worst scores of developmental vulnerability in the country after the Northern Territory. We were therefore pleased to be able to support a community-based early literacy intervention pilot program

targeting these suburbs.

The CMS funding has enabled 23 vulnerable, at-risk children up to the age of three to participate in the ACT's first Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a program aimed at enhancing the school readiness of children by increasing their exposure to reading in their homes. Enrolled children receive a high-quality, age-appropriate book in the mail every month, at no cost, for a minimum of two years. As 90 per cent of a child's brain development occurs in the first five years of life, this initiative is a vital pathway to building neural connections in young children through language-rich and responsive interactions with parents and carers.

This year, we were able to review the 2023 Mary Kirk Fellowship and plan for continued improvement for the next fellowship in 2025. We have secured the next fellowship recipient in Dr Phillip Baker, Australian Research Council Future Fellow and Horizon Fellow, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney. In his lecture and subsequent paper, Dr Baker will highlight the effects of highly processed food on infant and child development. The fellowship lecture is scheduled to take place in October 2025.

His recent work includes covering the global rise of ultra-processed foods, and the commercial determinants of

infant and young child nutrition and breastfeeding, complementary feeding and food security for women and children. He has regularly consulted to United Nations nutrition agencies on these topics and is currently leading a series in the *Lancet* on ultra-processed foods and human health.

On the financial side, it was gratifying to see that the Scholarship Fund and Community Development Fund investments have performed well in their first full year under the stewardship of Shaw & Partners. The good returns will enable CMS to further extend its support to worthy organisations in the coming year. CMS's operational funds have also fared well, thanks to continuing high interest rates for term deposits and accelerator accounts.

Our sincere gratitude goes to Kathryn Forster for her generous support and assistance in compiling the annual financial statement required by the ACNC. We also thank Lynne Johnson and the Knitters for their donations to CMS, which are much appreciated.

The board underwent some changes throughout the year. Following the resignation of Kathy Metallinos, a long-standing and valued board member, and Margaret Brodrick, who was with us for a short stint, we welcomed new board members Liz Pedley and Lex Holcombe. Both bring valuable skills to the board, Liz as a former QEII nurse and midwife, currently working as a

Maternal and Child Health nurse, and Lex as a retired solicitor with an earlier career in midwifery.

Finally, to the board — Frances Wild (vice-president), Lex Holcombe (treasurer), Tish Mercieca (secretary), Alyce Merritt (public officer), Vanessa Bakker, Liz Pedley and Fiona Smith du Toit— a big thank you for all their contributions, the time they devote to CMS and their dedication. Thanks also to our business manager, Colleen Josifovski, for the many and varied tasks so ably undertaken for CMS throughout the year.

I commend this annual report to you and look forward to another productive year ahead for CMS.

Gia Metherell
President



2023-24 Board Members

Gia Metherell (President)	Master of Letters Bachelor of Arts
Frances Wild (Vice-President)	Bachelor of Arts (Art History and Curatorship) General Nursing Certificate
Lex Holcombe (Treasurer)	Graduate Diploma Legal Practice Bachelor of Law (Honours) Midwifery Certificate General Nursing Certificate
Alyce Merritt (Public Officer)	Bachelor of Human Nutrition Graduate Certificate in Policy Analysis
Tish Mercieca (Secretary)	Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) / Bachelor of Social Work Diploma of Community Services Certificate V Train Small Groups Certificate IV Workplace Assessor
Vanessa Bakker (Treasurer)	Bachelor of Applied Science (Nursing) Graduate Diploma in Midwifery Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health Graduate Certificate in Health Care Management Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
Margaret Brodrick (Resigned October 2023)	Bachelor of Social Work Certificate in General Nursing
Kathy Metallinos (Resigned November 2023)	Cert IV in Project Management; Cert IV in Procurement and Contract Management; Adv Cert in Public Administration
Liz Pedley	Masters of Child and Family Health Graduate Diploma Midwifery Bachelor of Nursing Bachelor of Arts
Fiona Smith du Toit	Bachelor of Architecture (First Class Hon)

2022-23 Committees

Finance and Governance Committee

Gia Metherell [Chair]
Lex Holcombe
Fiona Smith du Toit
Alyce Merritt
Colleen Josifovski [Admin]

Communications and Public Relations Committee

Fiona Smith du Toit [Chair]
Gia Metherell
Colleen Josifovski [Admin]

Community Development Committee

Frances Wild [Chair]
Alyce Merritt
Tish Mercieca
Liz Pedley
Colleen Josifovski [Admin]

Scholarships Committee

Vanessa Bakker [Chair]
Frances Wild
Tish Mercieca
Liz Pedley
Colleen Josifovski [Admin]

2021-2026 Strategic Plan

OUR VISION

Healthy families through:
Thriving Mothers, Thriving Babies.
Ija Mulanggari, Goodtha Mulanggari (Ngunnawal language).

OUR MISSION

To support and influence the delivery of comprehensive policies and services for the well-being of women and families in the pre-natal and early years.

OUR VALUES

We value:

- the use of reliable evidence as the foundation for policy development and service delivery;
- primary health care focused on achieving physical, emotional and psychological well-being and strengthening family resilience;
- close links to the community;
- respect for individuals and cultural differences; and
- strong leadership as a good community organisation.

OUR STAKEHOLDERS

We will achieve our objectives through working with our stakeholders:

- ACT community
- Child and family health providers, researchers and professionals
- Mothers
- Families with young children
- Members

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. To support the wellbeing of women and families with young children through:

- encouraging the development of coordinated primary health care policies;
- promoting evidence-based models of care, community development and primary health care programs;
- promoting woman-centred care in maternity services;
- supporting continuing education in the fields of midwifery and child and family health;
- supporting research in primary health care for women and families;
- identifying emerging health needs of families through advisory committees; and
- working in collaboration with communities and partners in the field.

2. To demonstrate best practice as a community organisation in all of our activities, through:

- focus on organisational purpose, direction and achievement of strategic ends;
- striving for contemporary best practice governance; and
- providing sound leadership through a skilled board.

3. To strengthen community awareness and support for CMS and our role in the community.

4. To ensure financial sustainability in the short and long term to enable achievement of our strategic objectives.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Partnerships
- Sponsorships
- Fellowships
- Scholarships

Financial Statements

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

The members of the Board of the Canberra Mothercraft Society Incorporated present their report for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Directors:

The names of persons who were members of the Board at any time of the year and at the date of this report are as follows:

Ms V Bakker	Ms M Brodrick	Mr L Holcombe
Ms T Mercieca	Ms A Merritt	Ms K Metallinos
Ms G Metherell	Ms E Pedley	Ms F Smith du Toit
Ms F Wild		

Principal Activity:

The Society is committed to supporting and influencing the delivery of comprehensive policies and services for the well-being of women and families in the pre-natal and early years.

Significant Changes:

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board.

L Holcombe
Treasurer

G Metherell
President

CANBERRA, 23 October 2024

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED
ABN: 27 358 139 470

**COMBINED INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	2024 \$	2023 \$
INCOME		
Bank Interest	36,277	1,915
Distributions and dividends	106,111	6,319
Miscellaneous	293	776
Realised and unrealised gains on investments	57,690	96,271
	<u>200,371</u>	<u>105,281</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Administration	51,970	40,475
Donations	30,000	0
Project costs	1,100	25,154
	<u>83,070</u>	<u>65,629</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>117,301</u>	<u>39,652</u>

**COMBINED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024**

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current Assets		
Cash	929,205	932,327
Investments	1,127,890	1,034,449
Receivables	26,982	0
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,084,077</u>	<u>1,966,776</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>2,084,077</u>	<u>1,966,776</u>
Equity		
Opening balance	1,966,776	1,927,124
Net surplus for the year	117,301	39,652
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>2,084,077</u>	<u>1,966,776</u>

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED
ABN: 27 358 139 470

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Society was formed in 1927 and is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1991, ACT. It is registered with the Australian Business Register - Australian Business Number 27 358 139 470. The Society is not registered for Goods & Services Tax purposes. The Society is registered as an income tax exempt charity and as a deductible gift recipient and is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The Board has determined that the Society is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the notes to the financial statements and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

- AASB 101, *Presentation of Financial Statements*
- AASB 108, *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*
- AASB 1048, *Interpretation of Standards*
- AASB 1054, *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(a) Income Tax

The Society is registered as an income tax exempt charity with the Australian Tax Office. Consequently, no provision for taxation has been made in the financial statements.

(b) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of twelve months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts.

(c) Investments

Investments are measured at fair value. Fair value is the market value of the investments as at the balance date.

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED
ABN: 27 358 139 470

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INC.

**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	2024 \$	2023 \$
INCOME		
Bank interest	36,277	1,227
Donations	0	466
Subscriptions	170	210
	<u>36,447</u>	<u>1,903</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Administration	40,494	40,475
Project costs	(3,125)	11,220
	<u>37,369</u>	<u>51,695</u>
OPERATING (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>(922)</u>	<u>(49,792)</u>
	=====	=====

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024**

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current Assets		
Cash	928,880	932,111
Receivables – CDF	90	0
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>928,970</u>	<u>932,111</u>
Current Liabilities		
Loan - CDF	0	2,219
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>0</u>	<u>2,219</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>928,970</u>	<u>929,892</u>
	=====	=====
Equity		
Opening balance	929,892	979,684
Net (deficit) for the year	(922)	(49,792)
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>928,970</u>	<u>929,892</u>
	=====	=====

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED
ABN: 27 358 139 470

**CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY
SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME**

**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	2024 \$	2023 \$
INCOME		
Bank interest	0	641
Distributions	45,813	3,418
Dividends	41,207	1,500
Realised and unrealised gains on investments	40,646	86,107
	<u>127,666</u>	<u>91,666</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Donations	25,000	0
Investment management fees	8,021	0
Project costs	4,225	13,934
	<u>37,246</u>	<u>13,934</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>90,420</u>	<u>77,732</u>
	=====	=====

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024**

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current Assets		
Cash	115	115
Investments	796,550	734,098
Receivables	22,073	0
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>818,738</u>	<u>734,213</u>
Current Liabilities		
Loan - CDF	0	5,895
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>0</u>	<u>5,895</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>818,738</u>	<u>728,318</u>
	=====	=====
Equity		
Opening balance	728,318	650,586
Net surplus for the year	90,420	77,732
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>818,738</u>	<u>728,318</u>
	=====	=====

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
INCOME		
Bank interest	0	46
Distributions	19,091	1,402
Donations	124	100
Realised and unrealised gains on investments	17,044	10,164
	36,259	11,712
EXPENDITURE		
Donations	5,000	0
Investment management fees	3,455	0
	8,455	0
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	27,804	11,712

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current Assets		
Cash	210	101
Investments	331,340	300,351
Receivables	4,819	8,113
TOTAL ASSETS	336,369	308,565
NET ASSETS	336,369	308,565
Equity		
Opening balance	308,565	296,853
Net surplus for the year	27,804	11,712
TOTAL EQUITY	336,369	308,565

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

STATEMENT BY THE BOARD

The Board has determined that the Society is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements. In the opinion of the Board:

- The financial statements and notes, as set out in the financial report are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
 - complying with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
 - complying with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013*.
 - give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the Society.
- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Canberra Mothercraft Society Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:


L Holcombe
Treasurer


G Metherell
President

CANBERRA, 23 October 2024

Towards Healthy Families

Ija Mulanggari, Goodtha Mulanggari
Thriving Mothers, Thriving Babies

