



# Rainbow Families ANNUAL REPORT

We are a voice for  
LGBTQ+ parents  
and their children.

2025



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# About Us



Rainbow Families Australia is the peak organisation supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) parents and their children. Our community of volunteers and partners deliver a range of programs including seminars, parenting education and playgroups and new parents groups, as well as social gatherings for community and cultural events.

We are a voice for LGBTQ+ parents and their children Australia-wide, providing advocacy, support and opportunities to celebrate our families. We are governed by a brilliant Board of Directors and supported by a small staff and volunteer committees comprised of professionals and experienced advocates.

As a charity, registered with the ACNC, Rainbow Families Australia works to reduce discrimination and disadvantage faced by children of LGBTQ+ parents so they can thrive whatever their family structure. We are also a support network for parents and carers, as well as future parents and carers.

As a not-for-profit organisation and support network for parents we rely on fundraising, community grants, and private donations to ensure our quality programs continue. We were first convened in early 2015 and incorporated in April 2016. In 2020 Rainbow Families became a registered charity under Commonwealth law and we continue to develop our welfare division to further assist those in need.



## Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work and meet across Australia. We would also like to pay our respects to all Elders past, present and to the children of today who are the Elders of our future. We respect the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.

## Our Mission

'Rainbow Families' is the leading voice for LGBTQ+ families in Australia. We are committed to our mission as a charity to support, connect, celebrate, empower, and advocate for LGBTQ+ parents and their families at every stage of their lives. We serve as an important voice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, diverse, and queer (LGBTQ+) parents and their children.

## Who we support

We seek to support, celebrate, empower, and advocate for Rainbow Families at every stage of their lives: antenatal classes for parents-to-be, personal safety programs for young people, and social events to bring LGBTQ+ parents together, among many other events and programs. We also engage with policymakers and corporations to advocate for equity and inclusion for LGBTQ+ families.

We believe that our support is much needed. Around only 0.2% of all registered charities are dedicated to serving LGBTQ+ people, and around 0.7% of grant programs specifically mention LGBTQ+ issues or areas.

In contrast, 11% of Australians, 2.7 million people—are of diverse sexual orientation, sex, or gender identity. In other words, a substantial number of Australians are experiencing discrimination—at school, in workplaces, and sometimes too in mother's/father's groups—without significant support from charities.

## We remove barriers

Rainbow Families will, through our programs and activities, create connectedness, resilience, and community in and between LGBTQ+ parents and families. We will reduce and remove the barriers that rainbow families face so that they are treated equitably and enabled to live their most colourful lives.

***“When we achieve these goals, our society will be more equitable and inclusive and all families will be treated with the respect they deserve.”***

***- Rainbow Families EO Ashley Scott.***



# Chairperson's Report

**Lara Sabbadin**



As I reflect on 2025, I feel proud of how far we have come. This has been our first full year operating as a national organisation, and it has been full of momentum, connection and impact.

Last year's Annual Report spoke about laying strong foundations, a strategic plan, a skills based Board, and a shared vision that every family should be included, respected and celebrated. This year, we began to see that vision take shape in real and powerful ways.

Across each of our four strategic goals, building a strong national network, strengthening engagement across Australia, expanding partnerships, and enhancing organisational resilience, we have taken meaningful steps forward.

## **Building a strong national network**

We strengthened our governance structures and welcomed new leadership across the country. Our first Queensland Coordinator has already made incredible connections in the community, linking Rainbow Families with parenting organisations like Children's Health Queensland, Triple P and Playmatters Queensland, and helping build a more connected and responsive support system.

## **Strengthening engagement across Australia**

We employed an ACT Coordinator to grow support for LGBTQ+ parents in Canberra and surrounds, and created a new support role for our Youth Group Coordinator, filled by a young person who previously participated in the program. These additions help us tailor services to local communities while staying unified as a national organisation.

## **Expanding partnerships**

We welcomed a Fundraising Coordinator to build stronger relationships with corporate and philanthropic supporters and to grow our revenue base. We also launched our Supporting and Celebrating Family Diversity in Early Learning Environments handbook, a practical, inclusive resource for educators.

This builds on last year's diversity training and lays the groundwork for a national rollout in 2026, pending funding.

## **Enhancing organisational resilience**

We launched a Rainbow Families merchandise shop, opened a regular giving program to grow long term community financial sustainability, and hosted a successful fundraiser where we exceeded our target.

Looking forward, we are excited to announce that Rainbow Families will make history when we launch the first national survey of LGBTQ+ parents and carers in Australia.

This project will capture the voices of our diverse families, from single parents to blended and multigenerational households, and provide information to shape future services and policies. While the 2021 Census recorded many same sex couples raising children, it still left large parts of our community unseen.

This survey will go further, asking questions about health needs, children's experiences in education, and family happiness and wellbeing, creating a rich picture of everyday life for LGBTQ+ families.



*As we continue to grow, we are just beginning to understand what is possible when we lead with purpose, stay connected to community and invest in long term impact. The diversity of skills and experience on our Board, along with the genuine commitment of each member, has strengthened our governance, guided our growth and helped us take confident steps toward a more sustainable future.”*

The Board extends our appreciation to Ashley and his growing team, and our gratitude to every staff member, volunteer, supporter and family who has contributed to this big year.

As our roots deepen and our branches grow, I know we are building something enduring, a future where every rainbow family is supported, celebrated and can thrive.

**Lara Sabbadin**  
**Chair, Rainbow Families Australia**



# Executive Officer Report

## Ashley Scott



This year felt like a turning point. After becoming a national organisation in 2024, this year was about putting that into practice, building capacity, hiring staff, and further strengthening our connection to families across the country. It has been an exciting time.

### **Growing the Team**

We welcomed wonderful new staff members like Petria Leggo-Field, our first Community Engagement Coordinator, who quickly built strong relationships and ran well attended community events in Queensland. In ACT, Tara Broham stepped into the Community Engagement Coordinator role, continuing to grow support for LGBTQ+ parents in the region. We were also thrilled to welcome Fundraising Coordinator Callie Zammit, and Lars Emery, a former youth group member who is now supporting our Youth Group Coordinator.

This growth marks an exciting step towards our long term vision of employing local community leaders in every state and territory. We are getting closer to that goal and are proud of the passionate, community driven team we are building.

### **Advocacy and Policy Wins**

This year we have seen our advocacy efforts pay off, for Rainbow Families and our ally organisations. The Federal Government updated the definition of infertility to include LGBTIQ+ and single people, making IVF and IUI treatments eligible for Medicare rebates. This is a significant step forward in recognising the diversity of families and supporting access to fertility care. We are still advocating for the Medicare rebate to be extended to surrogacy journeys in Australia.

We also celebrated reform to birth certificate laws in NSW. These changes mean that trans and gender diverse parents, can now have documents that better reflect who they are and how their families are formed.

This advocacy work is ongoing. We continue to call for national surrogacy law reform, improved anti discrimination protections, and better systems for recognising donor conceived children and their parents. These reforms matter deeply to our community, and we will keep pushing for fairer, safer systems for all families. We are also grateful for the support of parliamentary leaders who work alongside Rainbow Families to elevate the voice of our community.

### **A Full Calendar of Events**

Throughout the year, our calendar has been full of events that brought families together in meaningful ways. We held our first Family Pride Day in Melbourne, marched in the Sydney Mardi Gras with our biggest ever troupe, and enjoyed our family favourite daytime Halloween Disco.

Our Resilience Camp focused on building skills and confidence through indoor and outdoor challenges, while events like the Making Rainbow Families Seminar, antenatal classes and Circle of Security programs offered practical support, education and inspiration.

We also ran a national peer support group for parents and hosted inclusive family outings like our Sea Life Sydney Aquarium Day, Luna Pride in Victoria, Perth Pridefest Parade in Western Australia, and many family picnics and catch ups across each state. From Perth to Port Macquarie to Penrith, and everywhere in between, families joined us at events across the country. It has been incredible to see such strong community spirit wherever we go.

## On the Horizon

As we look to 2026, our focus is on continuing to grow our presence in local communities, attracting further funding, expanding youth and parent engagement, and advocating for reforms that make life fairer and safer for LGBTQ+ parents and their children. With the support of our staff, volunteers, board and community, we are excited about what comes next.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this year, the families who show up, the staff and volunteers who give so much, the partners who help us do this work, and our community supporters and allies. We are collectively changing the game for our families.

## Ashley Scott Executive Officer



The Saturday Paper

NEWS COMMENT CULTURE LIFE FOOD PUZZLES SPORT NEWSLETTERS EDITIONS

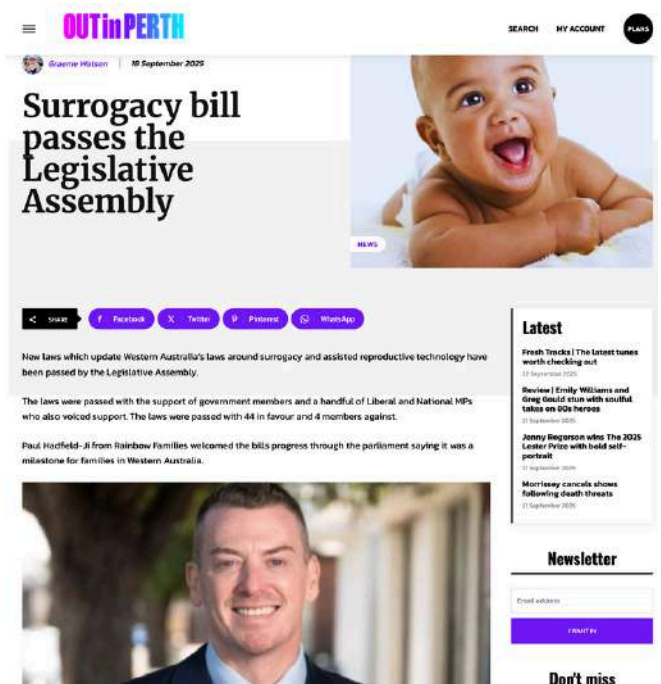
SEPTEMBER 12 - 18, 2025 | 19 047

**NEWS**  
Despite years of advocacy, the law has never been updated to protect single parents who have used assisted reproductive technology – exposing them to claims from sperm donors who never intended to parent. *By Hannah Bambara.*

### Single mothers unprotected by family law



PREVIOUS ARTICLE      TABLE OF CONTENTS      NEXT ARTICLE




OUTinPERTH

SEARCH MY ACCOUNT FLAG

Gayle Wilson 10 September 2025

## Surrogacy bill passes the Legislative Assembly




NEWS

Share Facebook X Twitter Print WhatsApp

Now laws which update Western Australia's laws around surrogacy and assisted reproductive technology have been passed by the Legislative Assembly.

The laws were passed with the support of government members and a handful of Liberal and National MPs who also voiced support. The laws were passed with 44 in favour and 4 members against.

Paul Hadfield-Jr from Rainbow Families welcomed the bills progress through the parliament saying it was a milestone for families in Western Australia.



**Latest**

Fresh Tracks | The latest tunes worth checking out  
12 September 2025

Review | Emily Williams and Greg Giddis stick with excellent takes on 90s heroes  
21 September 2025

Jonny Reggerson wins The 2025 Lester Prize with bold self-portrait  
27 September 2025

Morrisey cancels shows following death threats  
21 September 2025

**Newsletter**

Send address

SUBMIT

**Don't miss**

“Reform is long overdue,” says Heather Corkhill, equality director of Rainbow Families Australia and a human rights lawyer. “The Family Law Council recommended reform back in 2013. More than a decade later, the law still hasn’t been updated to reflect solo parent families, leaving them in a grey zone.”

The key piece in need of reform is Section 60H of the *Family Law Act*, which states that if a child is born to a woman using donor sperm, eggs or embryos, that child is regarded as the child of “the woman and the other intended parent”. The law therefore protects a birth mother plus her married or de facto partner – which has only included a same-sex partner since 2008. The wording does not cover single women who use donor conception.

# Volunteers

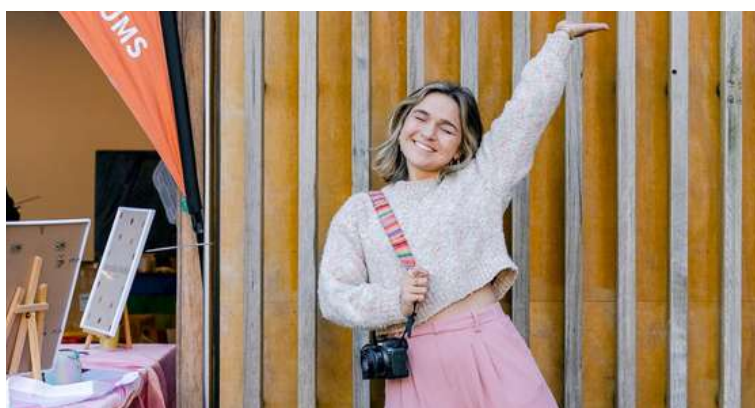


## Thank You to Our Volunteers

We want to thank all our wonderful volunteers for their ongoing support of Rainbow Families Australia, especially in a year that has seen us work in new regions, making warm, new connections with hundreds of groups across the country.

We say it every year, but we couldn't do it without you! Every single person who supports us in all sorts of ways makes Rainbow Families a stronger organisation for our families - and allows us to do and be more than we could. We had approximately 60 people supporting our events and advocacy across Australia in NSW, VIC, QLD, SA, TAS, WA, VIC and ACT.

Love your work!



# Training & Programs

## Rainbow Families Child and Family Health Training

Led by Rachel Reid, these sessions supported midwives, nurses, and allied health staff from over 45 services across Australia.

Participants left feeling better equipped to support LGBTQ+ families with understanding and care. We know this training is creating long term change in the health sector which will mean better care, understanding and respect for our families into the future.

## NSW Health Funding Impact

These programs were made possible with NSW Health funding. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many calling for wider rollout.

- **NSW funded 39 sessions delivered out of 45 sessions planned**
- **13 out of 15 local health districts participated during the year.**
- **Midwifery, Child and Family Health, and Allied Health professionals attended.**



*“RAINBOW FAMILIES | Here at SESLHD, we are committed to providing inclusive care to LGBTIQ+ people and their families. We are pleased to say staff from our Maternity and Child and Family Health Nursing services have just completed Family Diversity and Inclusion Training run by Rainbow Families.*

*By all accounts, it was a powerful and insightful session.*

*Now more than ever, our staff are ready to provide safe, inclusive care to LGBTIQ+ families.”*

# Advocacy and Impact for Rainbow Families

This year, our advocacy continued to centre the voices, needs, and lived experiences of LGBTQ+ families, ensuring they are visible in law and policy development. We advocated through law reform processes and to political representatives to ensure that rainbow families are heard, and our needs are well understood.

## **Medicare access**

In February, our key campaign to secure equal access to Medicare was partially resolved, with the federal government announcing just ahead of the election that rebates will now be available to prospective parents accessing fertility care for non-medical reasons. This was a major step forward for many rainbow families, but gaps remain: families using surrogacy are still excluded from equal access, and we continue to push for these reforms to be extended.

## **Amplifying community voices in law reform**

A key aspect of our work has been amplifying the voices of parents and children in law reform processes. We made submissions to state, federal, and international inquiries on surrogacy, donor conception, assisted reproductive technology, protection from hate speech and discrimination, and access to gender affirming care for minors. To support this, we ran tailored community surveys to collect lived experiences and ensure our policy positions were grounded in real family stories as well as evidence-based research.

## **Access to ART in Queensland and the ACT**

We advocated in Queensland and the ACT against transitional provisions and new restrictions that, while intended to improve regulation and practice in assisted reproduction, had harmful unintended consequences. Families were being told they could not continue treatment, even with their own embryos, or forced to travel interstate to access care. Our advocacy has kept a spotlight on these issues and pushed governments to deliver solutions that work in practice, not just on paper.

## **Federal advocacy highlights**

Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Bill 2025: We made a submission to this landmark inquiry, which has now passed into law. For the first time, LGBTIQ+ people are nationally protected from speech that advocates or threatens violence. Thanks to our advocacy alongside others, the law also covers “associates” – meaning hate targeted at rainbow families, including our children, is now recognised as a criminal offence.

Australian Law Reform Commission review of surrogacy laws: We responded comprehensively to the initial Issues Paper, and will continue to engage closely with this critical national review. Drawing on parent voices and targeted community consultation, our submission proposed practical reforms to make laws more consistent across Australia. We advocate for compensated surrogacy ensure that surrogates are not left out of pocket and to improve access within Australia, and for reform of the transfer of parentage process.

### State and territory advocacy

Queensland hormone treatment review (Stage 1 and 2): We advocated for the restoration of services after the ban on care, and for safe, timely, and supported access to gender affirming care for trans and gender diverse young people going forward.

NSW Anti-Discrimination Act review: Our submission highlighted the urgent need to modernise one of the oldest and weakest discrimination laws in the country. We focused in particular on protections for rainbow families in workplaces and schools, including urgent reforms to religious exemptions that allow discrimination against LGBTQ+ staff and students. We also argue for improve definitions of direct and indirect discrimination and more effective civil vilification laws.

NSW hate speech review (Hon. John Sackar): We contributed to this review to strengthen hate crime laws in NSW, which is expected to deliver meaningful reforms for vulnerable communities, including rainbow families.

### International advocacy

UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls: We made a submission highlighting that altruistic surrogacy in Australia is a safe, empowering, and supportive pathway to family building that should be respected rather than stigmatised. Unfortunately, the resulting report adopted a biased approach and called for a ban on all forms of surrogacy. We continue to closely monitor international debates given rising anti-surrogacy sentiment and their potential impact on Australian families.

### Heather Corkhill

Equality Director  
Rainbow Families.



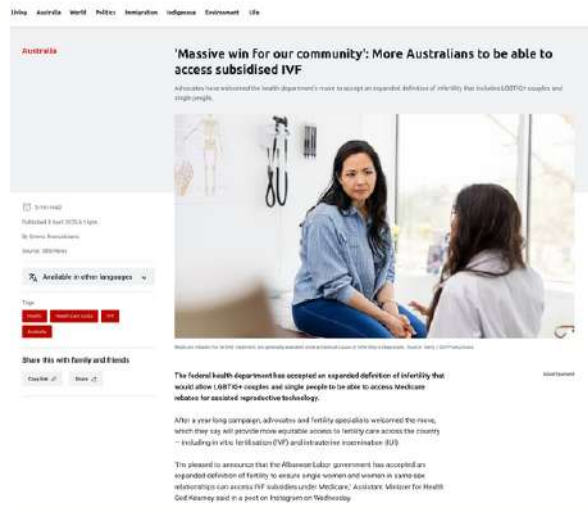
**Minns government dangerously disregards anti-LGBTIQ+ hatred**

BY ALASTAIR LAWRIE - FEB 11, 2025 1:07 PM AEDT

**OPINION.** The NSW Government's new hate crime laws, announced last Thursday, are a step in the face to communities across NSW. In particular, my own LGBTQIA+ community.


**B**y introducing a new criminal offence of "intentionally inciting racial hatred" – but only racial hatred – the Government is effectively saying that other forms of hatred are less serious, and do not deserve the same legal response.

Almost half-way into its term, it seems Premier Minns and his government have not been paying enough attention to the growing wave of hatred directed at people because of their



**'Massive win for our community': More Australians to be able to access subsidised IVF**

Advocates have welcomed the health department's move to accept an expanded definition of infertility that includes LGBTQIA+ couples and single people.



The federal health department has accepted an expanded definition of infertility that would allow LGBTIQ+ couples and single people to be able to access Medicare rebates for assisted reproductive technology.

After a year-long campaign, advocates and fertility specialists welcomed the move, which they say will provide more equitable access to fertility care across the country – including in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI).

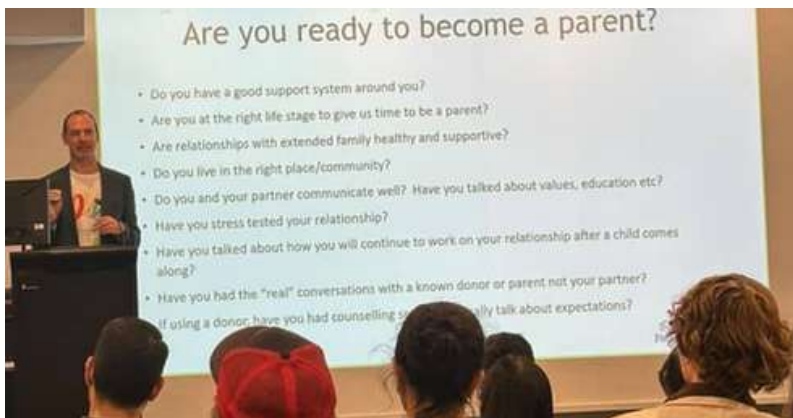
The pleased to announce that the Albanese Labor government has accepted an expanded definition of infertility to ensure single women and women in same-sex relationships can access IVF subsidies under Medicare. Assistant Minister for Health, God Alamey said in a post on Instagram on Wednesday.

# Making Rainbow Families Seminar

We were thrilled to host our annual Making Rainbow Families Seminar again earlier this year. Our seminar continues to be a go-to for the community when they are considering parenting options, and this year was no exception.



The event provided invaluable insights into LGBTQ+ parenting options and was attended by over **80 guests in person and online**.



## Highlights:

- Expert speakers covered legal, medical, fostering, adoption, surrogacy and home insemination pathways
- Youth panel shared heartfelt stories of growing up in LGBTQ+ families
- The event was live streamed to reach families Australia wide

## Speakers included:

- Jacqueline McDiarmid, Sydney Couples and Family Therapy
- Amy Weeks, Barnardos
- Dr James Brown and Dr I Ferne Tan, Genea Australia
- Jaz Lane Jones, Te Koha Midwifery
- Sam Everingham, Growing Families
- Anna McKie, Surrogacy Australia
- Sarah Bevan, Family Law

# Youth Group

In 2025 we saw strong growth in our Youth Group. It continues to be a thriving program of social events, workshops and team based challenges. It has been incredible to watch this space grow, with strong leadership and enthusiastic participation from young people.

Our Little Rainbows peer group continues to provide a safe, welcoming place for younger kids in LGBTQ+ families to connect. Together, these two groups form the heart of our youth engagement, and we are now looking at ways to expand this model into other states.



## Youth participants said;

“This year at the Rainbow Families Youth Group, we did many activities like painting, escape rooms, filmmaking, and bracelet making. Some of our favourites were the marshmallow catapult challenge, the Qtopia museum visit, and making homemade pizzas because they were creative and hands on. “

"We liked that every session was different, and there was always something new to try. It has been great getting to hang out with new people and build friendships across the different age groups. The Youth Group feels like a safe, fun place where we can be ourselves and laugh a lot."

- Billie, Maggie, Archie, Lui and Joel



# Rainbow Families Antenatal Class 2025

In 2025, our LGBTQ+ specific Antenatal and Postnatal Classes reached their biggest year yet:

- **60 total participants**
- **Record 20 people in one in person session**
- **Ninth year running**

These quarterly classes provide a welcoming space for soon to be LGBTQ+ parents and carers to learn and connect. Topics include:

- Birth process
- Postnatal care
- Adjusting to parenting

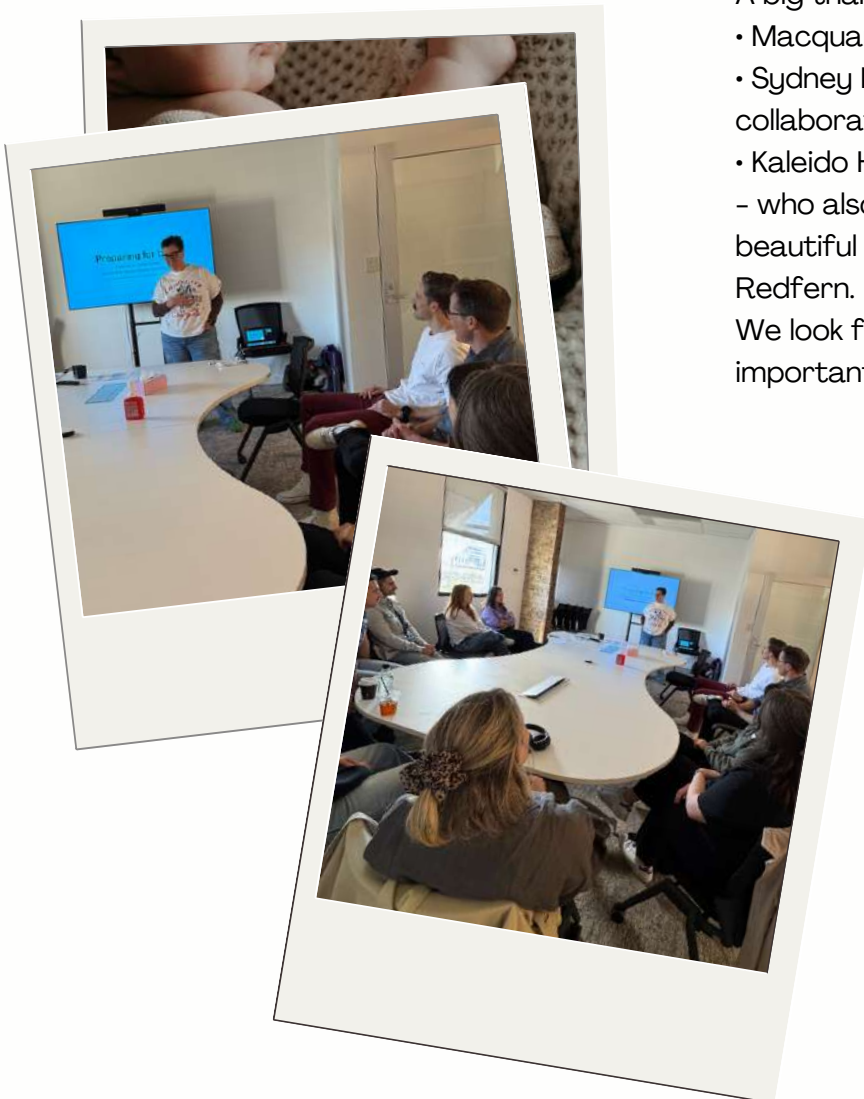
Participant feedback: "Thank you for doing this. It is really great to do birthing classes with people with similar families."

Key partnerships made this class possible.

A big thanks to:

- Macquarie Bank, venue support
- Sydney Local Health District, training collaboration
- Kaleido Health, a new partnership in 2025 - who also hosted the event for us in their beautiful new LGBTQ+ only health centre in Redfern.

We look forward to continuing these important partnerships.



**"Congratulations on running this class - it really is a game changer, a supportive space, much needed in the community, thank you Rainbow Families."**

# Rainbow Families Education Webinars in 2025

## Self-Advocacy for Rainbow Families with Marly Greenwood

Marly Greenwood led an engaging session on self-advocacy, teaching families how to effectively advocate for themselves and their children in everyday situations such as schools, sports clubs, healthcare, and community settings.

The webinar provided practical strategies and guidance, equipping our community with the skills and confidence to express their needs and advocate for inclusive practices, ensuring their families are supported in all aspects of life.

## Barnardos x Rainbow Families Fostering Webinar

This year Rainbow Families partnered with Barnardos to host a special lunchtime webinar exploring fostering and adoption pathways for LGBTQ+ parents and carers.

Participants heard directly from two gay couples who have opened their homes and hearts through fostering, one parenting a single child and the other raising a sibling group of three.

The Barnardos team also shared practical information about the process and what to consider when thinking about fostering or adoption.

The session offered an open and supportive space for families to ask questions, learn from lived experience, and be inspired by the real stories of love and care within our community.



**WEBINAR** 

**There are many fostering options for LGBTQ+ families - sign up for our Barnardos webinar to find out more.**

 **Date:** Friday 21 November  
**Time:** 12:00 PM  
**Location:** Online (Webinar)



**“All I knew of foster care was Pippa from Home & Away, who took on children forever,” said Simone. As a single mother, she wasn’t looking to expand her family, but her skills and knowledge of child development meant she was a great candidate for short-term foster care.” - Louise**



**“The self-advocacy webinar was great, Marly explained how to communicate effectively with different groups in a way that was direct and clear. As a parent, I found the school advocacy particularly helpful.” - Sam P.**



# Our Staff

**Ashley Scott**  
Rainbow Families  
Executive Officer



**Geoffrey Parry-Ewing**  
Youth Council  
Coordinator



**Lisa Minner**  
Marketing & Comms  
Coordinator



**Petria Leggo - Field  
Community  
Engagement  
Coordinator, QLD**



**Rachel Reid - Child  
And Family Health -  
Family Diversity And  
Inclusion Training  
Coordinator**



**Rainbow Families  
Playgroup  
Coordinator  
Victoria Brown**



**Cally Zammit**  
Partnerships and  
Fundraising



**Tara Bromham –  
Community  
Engagement  
Coordinator - ACT**



**Lars Emery – New  
Youth Group  
Assistant**



Over the past 12 months, as Rainbow Families has grown into a national organisation, so too has our team.

This growth reflects both the needs of our community and our commitment to providing meaningful programs and advocacy across Australia.

This growth also shows our community that Rainbow Families Australia is moving forward each year - one new staff member at a time.

It's an exciting period of growth for our organisation with each team member bringing a diverse skillset to help us meet the milestones of our strategic plan.

Go team! :)

# Our Board Members



EO Ashley Scott



Chair Lara Sabbadin



Kai Noonan



Matt Tomlins



Trevor Kanapi



Bern Foley



Heather Corkhill



Jake Green



Shannon Molloy



Paul Hadfield-Jia



Jess Cronin



Rainbow Families is governed by a passionate and diverse board bringing together expertise in leadership, advocacy, law, media, equality, and lived experience.

Our board members include Chair Lara Sabbadin, Treasurer Jake Green, Secretary Paul Hadfield-Jia, Bern Foley, Trevor Kanapi, Matt Tomlins, Heather Corkhill, Kai Noonan, Shannon Molloy, and Jess Cronin.

Each Director brings unique strengths that help guide Rainbow Families toward our mission of supporting, empowering, and celebrating LGBTQ+ parents and their families nationwide.

**Thanks and goodbye!**



**Bern Foley** is moving on from the board - but still supporting us with key events.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Bern for an incredible 10 years of service on the Rainbow Families board. Bern, your devotion and can-do attitude have helped move Rainbow Families forward in so many amazing ways.

We also say goodbye to board member **Trevor Kanapi**, a founder of Rainbow Families QLD. You have done so much Trevor and will be dearly missed. Thank you for all your foundational work over the years - it has been a game-changer.

And last but not least, we say goodbye to board member **Shannon Molloy** who has been supporting us with his marketing expertise. Over the last year, Shannon has injected progressive ideas and expertise to help us move Rainbow Families forward. Thank you :)

We are so grateful for your collective support and wish you all the best moving forward! Thank you doesn't seem enough, but it's said with deep appreciation.

# Funding and Supporters

Rainbow Families is deeply grateful for the generosity and ongoing support of our donors, corporate partners, foundations, and community organisations. Their contributions enable us to expand community programs, create educational resources, and promote equality for LGBTQ+ families



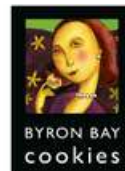
## Corporate and Foundation Supporters

These generous partners help us keep the wheels turning supporting everything from community events and training programs to advocacy and resources for rainbow families. Their partnership make a real difference in helping us continue our mission across Australia.



### Funding and Supporters:

- Visa
- Helm Finance
- Snow Foundation
- Genea
- Byron Bay Cookie Company
- Barnardos Australia
- Growing Families
- Surrogacy Australia
- Deloitte
- Macquarie Bank
- QBE
- East Village
- Snow Foundation



# Our Community Partners, Thanks for all you do!

## To Our Community Partners:

Thank you for all you do. We are so lucky that we get to work with so many other outstanding organisations throughout the year.

We are stronger together!

- ACON
- Twenty10
- Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
- Switchboard
- Rainbow Dads Victoria
- Queensland Council for LGBTI Health
- NSW Health
- Playgroup NSW
- Playmatters
- Kaleido Health
- Sea Life Sydney Aquarium
- Strong Safe Fabulous
- Qtopia
- Prosper (Project Australia)



Sydney  
Local Health District



Health  
South Eastern Sydney  
Local Health District



# Our Programs and Impact



## Playgroups:

We are excited to see Rainbow Families playgroups growing across the country. It's great to know that we are helping our community by creating safe and welcoming spaces where families can come together without facing discrimination or needing to explain their family structure.

Our playgroups offer a place for connection, support, and friendship. We look forward to adding more playgroups next year.

### **New South Wales (NSW) 4:**

Blue Mountains Playgroup,  
Curran Hills Playgroup, I  
Inner West Playgroup,  
Western Sydney Playgroup.

### **Victoria (VIC 8):**

Merri-bek Rainbow Playgroup,  
Yarra Rainbow Family Playgroup,  
Brimbank Rainbow Playgroup,  
Rainbow Playgroup (Kensington), Mickleham Rainbow Playgroup,  
Rainbow Playgroup Malvern,  
Fitzroy North Dads Playgroup,  
Northcote Rainbow Families Catch Up.

### **Western Australia (WA 1):** Playgroups with Pride

### **South Australia (SA 5):**

Forbes Children's Centre,  
Renown Park Children's Centre,  
The Willows Children's Centre,  
Ingle Farm Children's Centre,  
John Hartley Children's Centre.

### **Queensland (QLD 4):**

Paddington - Brisbane, Nerang, Ipswich, Redlands Bay Playgroups.

### **Australian Capital Territory (ACT 1):** Seahorse Playgroup.

# Our Diverse Playgroups



"As a two-dad family, Seahorse Playgroup offers us a sense of safety, inclusion and mutual support. It gives our family a regular opportunity to catch up with people who are raising children in a diverse family and share the joys and unique challenges of rainbow family life."  
Fernando (he/him)



"Seahorse is such an important community initiative. Being able to connect with other queer parents who just get it really matters."

Yen (they/them)





# We did a lot this year!

We engaged with so many families, new and intended parents this year. Via our playgroups, camping trips, catch-ups, storytimes, seminars and webinars and all our Rainbow Families events. We can't wait to do it all again in 2026.

24 Playgroups - 1000 sessions

2 Online Education Webinars

4 Antenatal classes + 60 attendees

40 New Parents Groups + 80 families supported

Youth Group - 24 session, 50 kids

Advocacy wins - 2 major wins!

IVF Medicare update and NSW Birth Certificate reforms

Courtney Act at Halloween Disco

14 media mentions in print/radio

80 Intended Parents at Making Rainbow Families

500 Happy Campers



in the wild!

240 Marchers at



Mardi Gras!

75 Weekend Catch Ups

700+ People at Family Pride, Melb + Sydney

2 new digital resources

2 new states with paid staff

2 parenting classes, 30 people



# Highlights and celebrations

## Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade

Rainbow Families marched with one of the biggest family contingents yet, proudly showing that families with LGBTQ+ parents are a strong and visible part of the community. For many children, it's a chance to see families like theirs celebrated on a national stage and to feel a sense of belonging that can be rare elsewhere.



## Family Pride Day

A flagship gathering in Sydney and Melbourne, Family Pride Day brings hundreds of families together for a day of connection, play and celebration. It's one of the few events where every family feels completely welcome, supported and seen.



# Highlights and celebrations

## Halloween Disco

Our fun-filled, family-friendly afternoon of costumes, music and entertainment featured DJ Kate Monroe spinning tunes that had everyone dancing and a highlight was a guest storytime from Courtney Act. For many families, our disco is a safe space to relax and connect with others who understand their journeys.



## Resilience Camp

This weekend camp helps LGBTQ+ families build confidence, resilience and lifelong friendships. Through workshops and outdoor adventures, parents and kids strengthen their sense of identity and community connection in a nurturing environment.

## Circle of Security Parenting Program

This program supports parents to build strong, secure relationships with their children. It provides tools for emotional understanding and connection, helping families feel confident and supported in their parenting journeys.

## Rainbow Families QLD Camp

From 19-22 September, Rainbow Families Queensland hosted its bi-annual camp at Lake Gkula in Woodford, in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. This year saw one of our largest turnouts, with glampers and campers enjoying a weekend of sunshine and community. The lake's gorgeous waters and jump-off rock were highlights, even with the occasional curious catfish.

## Sea Life Sydney Aquarium Family Day

A special day bringing families together in an inclusive environment, surrounded by the wonder of marine life. Events like this make it easier for families to share new experiences together in places that welcome everyone.

## Community Picnics and Catch-Ups

Catch ups and gatherings held throughout the year across multiple states help families connect locally. Whether it's a picnic in the park or a coffee catch-up, these moments build lasting friendships and strengthen community networks.



# Highlights and celebrations



## Other Community Events

Rainbow Families also takes part in PrideFests, Rainbow Story Times and regional LGBTQ+ events across Australia. These partnerships help bring visibility, connection and inclusion to areas where community support can sometimes feel far away or disconnected.







## Strong Safe Fabulous Partnership

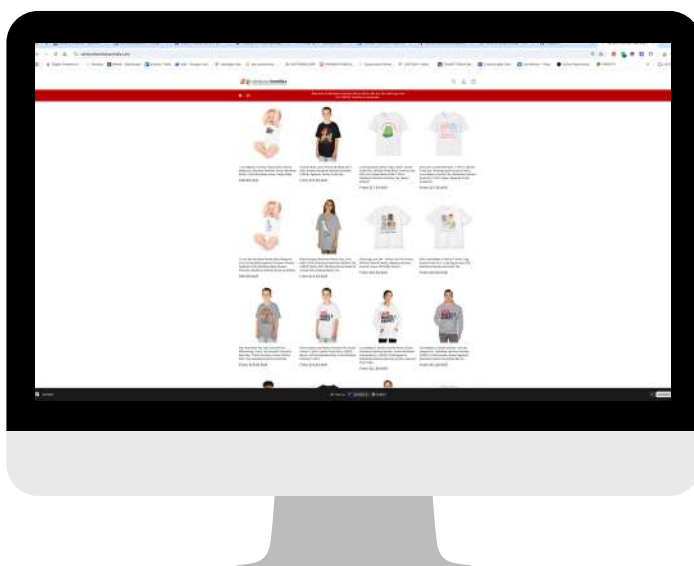
Rainbow Families has been proud to partner with Strong Safe Fabulous on their Sort Your Safety program this year, which equips LGBTQ+ teens aged 16 to 18 with the skills they need to navigate environments where sexual violence could occur. With support from Strong Safe Fabulous, we helped establish groups of young people to participate in the training, providing them with a safe, inclusive space to build confidence and resilience.

This partnership is ongoing and continues to strengthen both Rainbow Families and Strong Safe Fabulous in our shared goal of empowering LGBTQ+ communities.



## Marketing and Communications Merchandise Store

In May 2025 we launched the Rainbow Families Shop, creating a new way for families and supporters to show their pride while also helping to sustain our work. The early success of the store shows the potential of the store to grow as an income stream, while also giving our community fun and meaningful ways to celebrate their families.



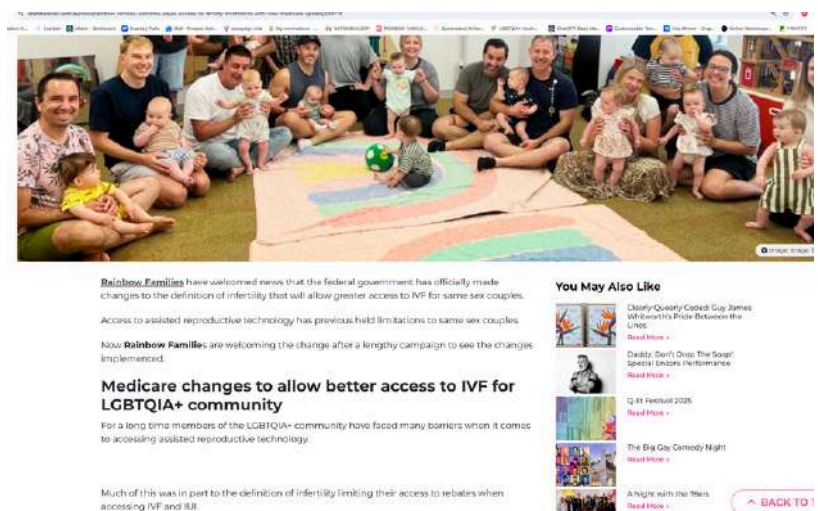
## Fundraising

As part of our End of Financial Year fundraising push in May 2025, Rainbow Families raised more than ever before. These funds directly support our programs and services for LGBTQ+ parents, carers, and children across Australia, helping us continue to grow and strengthen our community.

## Media Coverage Highlights



- "Massive win for our community: More Australians to be able to access subsidised IVF" — SBS News, 3 April 2025, Emma Brancatisano
- The long struggle for gender recognition reforms in NSW — City Hub, Issue 1434, Gadigal Country, Sydney, 14 July 2025, Josh Adams
- Rainbow Families supports childcare centre over IDAHOBIT attacks — QNews, 14 May 2025, Peter Hackney
- Parents and LGBTQ+ Orgs Rally To Support SA Children's Centre After IDAHOBIT Backlash — Star Observer, 16 May 2025, Chloe Sargeant
- New NSW Birth Certificate Reforms Come Into Effect From Today — City News, 1 July 2025, Lydia Jupp
- Carly and Rikki both forked out thousands on fertility treatment. But now other solo mums will not face the same barriers — Channel 9 News, 11 April 2025, April Glover
- Alana felt good about donating her eggs until she realised her sexuality was an issue — SBS News, 11 August 2025, Elfy Scott
- Surrogate laws mired in the past — The Saturday Paper, 12 to 18 July 2025, Hannah Bambra
- Single mothers unprotected by family law — The Saturday Paper, 13 to 19 September 2025, Hannah Bambra
- Rainbow Families Welcome Equal Access to Fertility Treatments With New Medicare Update — Star Observer, 3 April 2025, Michael James
- Rainbow Families welcomes Medicare rebates for LGBTQIA+ parents — QNews, 3 April 2025, Peter Hackney



- New surrogacy laws and assisted reproductive technology laws introduced — Rainbow Futures WA, 26 August 2025
- Premier Roger Cook announces updates to WA surrogacy laws — OUT in Perth, 12 August 2025, Graeme Watson
- WA Government to introduce overdue surrogacy and IVF reform — QNews, 13 August 2025, Dean Arcuri
- Making it easier for same sex couples to start a family — ABC Radio National, Life Matters Podcast, 23 April 2025
- Making Mother's Day include all types of mothers — OUTinPerth, 8 May 2025
- Building a rainbow family with Genea — QNews, 10 April 2025
- Wednesday Breakfast: Shannon Molloy, Rainbow Families, Real Talk and Getting Baby Ready — JOY Media Podcast, 13 June 2025



Nicole and Jess with their son Samuel, who was born in 2022, and their daughter Lucy, who is five months old. Source: Supplied

Earlier this year, Rainbow Families, a not-for-profit organisation for LGBTQIA+ families, conducted a survey that found around half of LGBTQIA+ parents had not received any Medicare rebates when trying to conceive at Australian clinics.

Around one in three received a rebate once they had been deemed medically infertile following at least three rounds of failed treatments.

"We're hearing a variety of stories from our community depending on which clinic they've gone with [and] which doctor they've been treated by," Scott says.

"Some of our families are having to go through three failed rounds of IUI or IVF before they're given access to the Medicare rebate, while there seem to be other doctors who are happy to look at ways around the regulations for LGBTQIA+ people accessing the rebate and find loopholes."

Scott says the current definition is "discriminatory" against LGBTQIA+ people wanting to start a family.

**"We should have access to the Medicare rebate just like every other Australian."**

Ashley Scott



13 Jun 2025

### Wednesday Breakfast: Shannon Molloy – Rainbow Families, Real Talk & Getting Baby-Ready

Kids & Family, News & Politics

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Writer, proud dad, and Rainbow Families Australia rep Shannon Molloy joins JOY Breakfast to discuss his journey to parenthood, the beauty (and bureaucracy) of queer family-making, and the game-changing seminar helping LGBTQIA+ Australians start their own families.

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# Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Jake Green, Board Member and Treasurer

## Overview

In FY2025, Rainbow Families Australia recorded a Net Profit of  $-\$104,457$ , with Total Equity at 30 June 2025 of  $\$420,603$ .

This outcome reflects a Net Loss for the financial year, primarily due to:

- A decrease in trading income compared to FY2024, noting that the previous year included a significant grant from the NSW Ministry of Health.
- Increased wages and salaries following the recruitment of new key staff, including a Fundraising Coordinator.

## Commentary

These developments represent a deliberate investment in the future of Rainbow Families. The organisation continued to grow its reach and strengthen its foundations by expanding staff capacity and increasing the delivery of social and educational community events.

Through this investment, Rainbow Families is positioning itself for sustainable national growth, ensuring that LGBTQ+ parents, carers, and their children continue to have access to inclusive programs, resources, and advocacy.

## Looking Ahead

Rainbow Families will continue to pursue new funding opportunities, partnerships, and grant programs to build financial stability and deliver services that make a real difference for families across Australia.



# Financials Report



## Profit and Loss

### Rainbow Families Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
<b>Income</b>		
Donations ( Public)	88,462	115,745
Donations (Corporate)	42,013	86,158
Grants - (Local) Operating - Non recurrent	67,806	178,380
Grants - Other	75,000	32,500
Interest Income	2,733	4,286
Operating Income: Membership Fees	774	656
Operating Income: Sale of Goods/Merchandise/Tickets etc	57,997	41,442
Operating Income: Sponsorships	108,911	68,326
Other Revenue	1,455	15
RFFVPP Income	165	50,579
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>445,316</b>	<b>578,087</b>
<b>Less Cost of Sales</b>		
Direct Costs for Events	83,085	45,516
Direct Costs for Resources	24,060	-
Donations - COGS	-	15,000
Operating COGS: Tickets/Merchandise etc	340	1,033
Operating COGS: Computer Expenses	108	-
<b>Total Less Cost of Sales</b>	<b>107,592</b>	<b>61,549</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>337,724</b>	<b>516,538</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>		
Accounting & Bookkeeping	6,570	7,450
Advertising & Promotion	10,192	8,600
Amenities	387	366
Annual Leave Accrual Expense	(2,144)	2,208
Audit Fees	2,500	-
Bank Fees	30	285
Board/Governance Expenses	2,021	2,077
Computer Expenses	4,842	5,213
Consultants & Subcontractors	76,370	138,605
Fees & Permits	439	411
Insurance-Public Liability	3,663	3,189
Membership Fees Paid	745	784
Merchant Fees	288	152
Mobile Calls	446	414
Postage & Freight	1,493	1,301
Printing & Stationery	2,676	1,046

# Financials Report



Profit and Loss

**In.Corp**  
An **iscentium** Company

	2025	2024
Publications and Information Resources	274	301
Repairs and Maintenance	3,235	1,986
Superannuation	30,317	19,389
Travel - National	5,878	2,539
Wages and Salaries	270,349	176,260
Workers Comp Insurance	11,219	2,249
Employees - Car Allowance	9,995	-
Realised Currency Gain	-	16
Insurance - Volunteers	143	143
Stripe Fees	255	19
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>442,181</b>	<b>375,000</b>
<b>Profit/(Loss) before Taxation</b>	<b>(104,457)</b>	<b>141,538</b>
<b>Net Profit After Tax</b>	<b>(104,457)</b>	<b>141,538</b>
<b>Net Profit After Distributions/Dividends Paid</b>	<b>(104,457)</b>	<b>141,538</b>



# Financials Report



## Balance Sheet

Rainbow Families Incorporated  
As at 30 June 2025

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Bank Accounts</b>			
CBA Business Transaction Account		26,694	26,704
Westpac Cheque Account		94,991	68,222
Westpac Cash Reserve Account		196,522	207,710
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>		<b>318,207</b>	<b>302,636</b>
<b>Term Deposits</b>			
Term Deposit		100,000	-
<b>Total Term Deposits</b>		<b>100,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Accounts Receivable		26,224	258,018
Deposit - IWC		1,000	-
Prepayments		788	788
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>28,012</b>	<b>258,806</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>446,219</b>	<b>561,442</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable		22,644	28,347
Accrued Expenses		750	750
GST		(2,542)	(62)
Provision for Annual Leave		5,201	7,346
Rounding		(4)	(4)
Salary Sacrifice Payable to Remunerator (AS)		-	-
Superannuation Payable		(432)	-
Suspense		-	6
Wages Payable - Payroll		526	-
Prepaid Income		(526)	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>25,616</b>	<b>36,383</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>25,616</b>	<b>36,383</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>420,603</b>	<b>525,059</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Current Year Earnings		(104,457)	141,538
Retained Earnings		525,059	383,521
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>420,603</b>	<b>525,059</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

**LOVE  
MAKES A  
FAMILY.**

rainbow families



 rainbow families

