

2022/2023

ANNUAL REPORT



**RAVEN
COLLECTIVE**

Prepared by:
**Natalie
Illingworth**

ABOUT US

Raven Collective is a transformative social enterprise dedicated to empowering women who have experienced domestic abuse. Our mission is to provide a safe and supportive environment where women can rebuild their lives, gain valuable skills, and achieve long-term independence. Through our holistic approach, we offer practical employment opportunities, training programs, and access to therapeutic support, fostering personal growth and empowerment. At Raven Collective, we believe in the power of collaboration and community, working closely with local organizations and businesses to create sustainable change. By prioritizing the well-being and success of the women we serve, we strive to create a brighter future for individuals, families, and communities as a whole.



OUR VISION

At Raven Collective, our vision is to create a world where women who have experienced domestic abuse can thrive and reclaim their lives. We envision a society that is free from violence, where every woman has the opportunity to heal, grow, and achieve her full potential. Our holistic approach focuses on providing comprehensive support, empowering women through practical employment opportunities, skills training, and access to therapeutic services. We believe in a future where women are not defined by their past experiences but are celebrated for their resilience and strength. Through our collective efforts, we are committed to building a more inclusive, compassionate, and equitable world for all.

OUR MISSION

At Raven Collective, we are on a mission to empower and support women who have experienced domestic abuse. We provide a safe and nurturing environment where women can rebuild their lives and regain their self-confidence.

01.

Rebuilding Lives: We offer a range of programs and services designed to support women in their journey towards healing and independence.

02.

Empowering Self-Confidence: We believe in the power of self-confidence and its role in overcoming past trauma.

03.

Advocacy and Social Change: We are committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of survivors of domestic abuse.

OUR VALUE



Raven Collective's value to the community lies in our commitment to empowering survivors, raising awareness, collaborating for impact, supporting the local economy, and building resilient communities. We strive to create a better future for all, fostering a community where everyone can thrive and flourish.

OUR BOARD

Our board consists of experienced and dedicated individuals who bring diverse expertise and a shared passion for driving the mission and vision of Raven Collective forward.



Natalie Illingorth
Founder



Rhonda Svensson
Chari



Alison Palmer
COO



Lace Danial
Head of Finance



Taryn Heinrich
Head of IT



Tanya Burrows
Head of Product

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past year, Raven Collective has made significant strides in supporting vulnerable women and creating meaningful opportunities for them. Three inspiring women participated in our program, and we witnessed their personal growth and empowerment as they embraced new skills and gained confidence. Our Friday Night Drinks event was a resounding success, raising an incredible \$21,400 that will fuel our mission to uplift and empower more women in need.

Through our dedication to providing holistic support, we invited numerous guest speakers who generously shared their expertise in health, nutrition, financial literacy, meditation, and more. These insightful sessions have been instrumental in helping our women build resilience and a strong sense of self.



ANNUAL REPORT



On the business front, we take immense pride in creating and selling hundreds of beautifully crafted gift boxes to esteemed organizations like Nicholson Construction, Hudson Ridge Builders, Jellis Craig Real Estate, Mercedes Benz Ballarat, Committee for Ballarat, Dental Marketing Solutions, Heinz Law, and many others. It's heartening to see our community partners support our mission and the employment opportunities we provide to the women of Raven.

As we reflect on the past year's accomplishments, we are humbled by the positive impact we've made and the transformative journey our participants have undertaken. The dedication and support from our community, sponsors, and partners have been the driving force behind our success, and we are excited to continue this journey of empowerment and transformation in the years to come.

TRAINEE REPORT



Our first trainee, Petra's journey through the Raven program has been nothing short of remarkable. With unwavering support and dedication, she has successfully transitioned into part-time work, equipped with newfound confidence and self-belief.

Having reclaimed a part of herself that had been lost, she now stands tall, empowered to advocate for her own well-being. As our inaugural graduate, she takes immense pride in her achievements and the strides she has made. Her words serve as a powerful reminder of the positive change we instill in the lives of the women we support.

With heartfelt gratitude and excitement for the future, we are inspired by her success and look forward to witnessing the growth of our community. Each journey is unique, and we are committed to providing an uplifting and empowering environment for every woman who joins the Raven family. Together, we celebrate the impact we make, one life at a time.



TRAINEE REPORT



CLAUDIA AT HER GRADUATION

Program 2 participant, Claudia, has actively engaged in our Become Work Ready program, where she gained essential skills and knowledge to enhance her employability. She has completed training modules focused on resume building, job interview preparation, and professional communication. Claudia's commitment and enthusiasm have shone through her active participation in workshops and practical work experiences. As a result, she has not only gained valuable skills but also developed self-confidence and built meaningful relationships within our supportive community.

Both participants had the opportunity to connect with inspiring guest speakers from diverse industries. These sessions exposed them to valuable insights, real-life experiences, and networking opportunities. The guest speakers shared their expertise, providing our participants with a deeper understanding of different career paths and instilling a sense of possibility for their futures.

Claudia and Katie, have both benefited from our nurturing environment, where they received guidance, encouragement, and mentorship. Through one-on-one sessions and group activities, they have grown in self-esteem and confidence, recognizing their inherent strengths and potential.



TRAINEE REPORT



KATIE SPEAKING AT A RAVEN FUNCTION

Program 3 participant, Katie, has made significant strides during her time at Raven. In addition to building her self-esteem and confidence, Katie has decided to pursue further study to expand her knowledge and skill set. Her determination and personal growth have been truly inspiring. Recently, Katie had the honor of being invited as a guest panelist at a Raven fundraising event where she shared her experiences and discussed the profound impact the program has had on her life. When asked about what she gained the most from her time at Raven, she replied, "I learned to like myself again," showcasing the transformative power of our program.



TREASURERS REPORT

2022/2023 was an outstanding financial year for Raven Collective, with some of the seeds put down in 2022 starting to sprout and show some results in the financial sense. The team was able to raise in excess of \$80,000 in donations and \$80,000 in Gift sales and other fundraising initiatives enabling Raven to get three fantastic ladies through our program and record a \$68,117 surplus for the financial year.

This outstanding result gives Raven the platform to continue to expand its reach and program moving forward and take on exciting opportunities into 2024.

SUMMARY

Amidst our efforts to empower vulnerable women, we took a leap by creating our own line of uplifting affirmation cards, soon to be stocked in local stores. This project showcases our commitment to spreading positivity and self-belief within our community.

As we reflect on the year's accomplishments, we are immensely grateful for the continued backing from our community, enabling us to create lasting change for the women of Raven. Together, we forge ahead, driven by the belief that every step forward contributes to a brighter and more empowering future for all.





BALLARAT FOUNDATION

“So impressed with the work of Raven Collective and its presentation of a sustainable operational model, the board of the Ballarat Foundation awarded it our first Ballarat Innovation Grant.”
-Andrew Eales. CEO, Ballarat Foundation”

**HUDSON RIDGE
BUILDERS**

Thank you

Thank you for building your home with Hudson Ridge.
Your Welcome Home gift has been picked and packed by the women behind the Registered Charity, Raven Collective.

@ravencollectiveservices / www.ravencollective.org

RAVEN COLLECTIVE



RAVEN COLLECTIVE IS AN ORGANISATION THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURCHASE OUR CORPORATE GIFTS AND CLIENT CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FROM. THE QUALITY AND ELEGANCE OF THE GIFT BOXES IS THOUGHTFUL, MEANINGFUL, AND BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED. BEING ABLE TO PROMOTE THE SERVICES AND INITIATIVES OF THE RAVEN COLLECTIVE IS IMPORTANT TO NICHOLSON CONSTRUCTION, AND AS A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, WE ENCOURAGE OTHER BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT RAVEN COLLECTIVE – CREATING BETTER FUTURES FOR WOMEN AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
-STEPHEN ALLEN, DIRECTOR, NICHOLSON CONSTRUCTION



These women have suffered much grief and trauma in their lives and this program not only assists them in gaining current worked experiences and becoming work ready, but it also assists them in gaining self-worth and confidence back in their lives while they are supported in a world like situation. The women who are part of this program finally begin to feel valued and worthy, often after suffering many years of abuse where they have felt worthless and this is due to the support they receive at Raven.

RAVEN COLLECTIVE

Raven has played a huge role in building my confidence and I'm excited for what's next in my life. I also feel I have gotten back a part of me that has been lost for some time and I now have the confidence to stand up for ME. I can't quite put into words how grateful I am. I am so proud to be your first graduate! What you have set up Nat, is amazing and I look forward to seeing it grow and to meeting the next women that join - Raven Trainee





RAVEN COLLECTIVE



GIFT OF HOPE

Naomi Irvin speaks with Natalie Illingworth, the founder of a local organisation offering support to women who have experienced domestic violence

At least one in four women are victims of domestic or family violence – and even if women end their abusive relationship and leave the family home, the statistics tell us that they are likely to return – on average up to seven more times. Natalie Illingworth, founder and Director of Ballarat's Raven Collective Services and Training, has a solid grasp on the impact that domestic and family violence has on society. "I worked in social welfare from about 2000, mainly in the homelessness and housing sectors," explains Natalie. "Women escaping family violence is the number one cause of homelessness in Australia."



BALLARAT +
living



WRISC Family Violence Support Inc has enjoyed a formalised Memorandum of Understanding with Raven Collective (RC) since RC's inception more than 2 years ago. It has been a privilege to work with Natalie and her team RC works at supporting women who have experienced Family Violence to gain meaningful employment, study for a certificate and gradually regain self-empowerment and purpose in their lives. - Libby Jewson. Ceo, WRISC



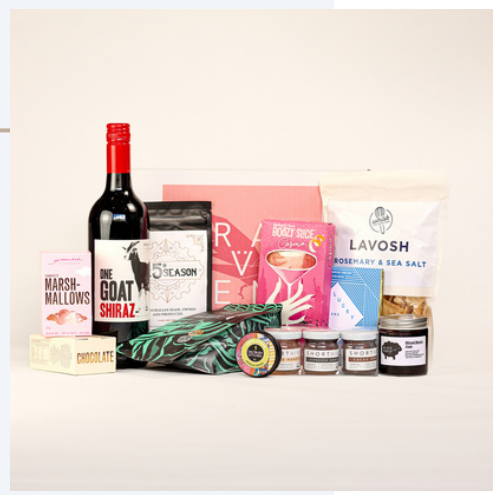
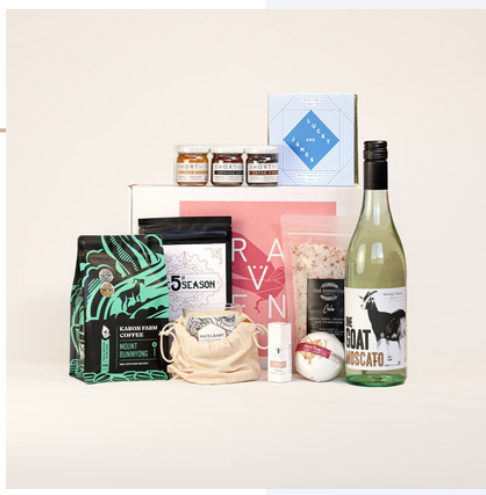
The program offered by Raven Collective strongly aligns with the values upheld by Inspire HQ. It not only provides crucial support to women facing domestic violence but also empowers them with confidence and independence, paving the way for meaningful employment opportunities or further education. The support provided by Raven Collective holds immense value to the community.

-Ange Connor. Director, Inspire HQ.



“I learned to like myself again.”

Katie Hamilton - Program 3 participant.



RAVEN COLLECTIVE

WORK WITH US



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