



Annual Report 2024-2025



President's Message

Dear Members and Supporters

The FY2024-2025 has been one of many changes for Bosom Buddies. The year saw a change in the Management Committee at the Annual General Meeting and then more changes throughout the reporting period. We also saw a change in Executive Officers and the management of our office. In spite of the changes, we have managed to keep the juggling balls in the air and ensured support to new and longstanding members continued.

The new Management Committee met in April 2025 to have a planning day to assist with the strategic direction of Bosom Buddies ensuring the continued focus on our core services, including support groups and the ongoing needs of our core business of peer support services. The outcome of the day has given us a great plan on a page to continue in the right direction and more work will be done on this in the coming years.

This reporting period has been a busy one for Bosom Buddies with the lead up to our 30th Anniversary and preparations for a big celebration that was held in September 2025. More about this great event will be shared in the next reporting period. This annual report will show our continued work with the grants we received and provide an update on work we achieved to ensure these grants were met.

I would like to take this time to acknowledge the contributions of all our volunteers - whether it be on the Management Committee, our dedicated support crews and working bee volunteers; without your continued contributions, Bosom Buddies would not thrive.

Sadly, breast cancer does not relent and our work is more important than ever supporting those diagnosed within Canberra and the surrounding regions. We look forward to continuing the great work to provide strong peer and support services in the future.

Yours sincerely

Heather Jackson
Interim President

Connecting People to Support

Bosom Buddies is an independent charity and is the only organisation in the ACT dedicated solely to providing personalised on the ground support services to help individuals in the ACT and surrounding NSW region affected by breast cancer.

Our history: A buddy group was formed in 1995 by *Shirley Fitzgerald* to support a friend who had been newly diagnosed and was about to start her breast cancer treatment. It was soon realised that there were other women in a similar situation who perhaps didn't have a group of supportive friends - and Bosom Buddies was established.

Today, Bosom Buddies remains a volunteer-driven organisation, primarily comprising individuals who have personally faced a breast cancer diagnosis. Together, we are united in our commitment to uphold the mission of supporting all those affected by breast cancer and their loved ones.

We provide a **community, support,** and **resources** to help people dealing with breast cancer, and their loved ones on this journey.

Our Programs



Our Priorities

Bosom Buddies depends on donations and does not receive funding from the major national breast cancer organisations or local or federal governments. This financial year has again seen limited opportunities to promote the charity, resulting in financial challenges to raise funds to cover operating costs.

However, despite the challenges, several accomplishments have been achieved including:

Securing solid grant funding for specific activities to support breast cancer patients:

- John James Foundation grant - \$20,000
- ACT Government LGBTIQ+ grant - \$15,000 (\$12,500 not yet recognised in the profit and loss – in grants in advance)
- Donations of over \$41,000 from Insurance Ball
- Funding from Canberra Labour Club to assist with our 30th Anniversary Fundraising - \$20,000 (not yet recognised in the profit and loss – in grants in advance)
- Canberra Southern Cross Club Community Quarterly rewards – approximately \$5,000 each quarter
- Westfield Local Hero Finalist - \$5,000
- DSS Volunteer Grant - \$4,000

Volunteer participation:

- increased volunteer attendance at our working bees
- continued attendance at events to promote Bosom Buddies
- managing the Support Group catch ups
- Buddy Bag preparation and packing
- Peer to peer support for newly diagnosed



Connecting people
to support.

YOUR LOCAL BREAST
CANCER SUPPORT CHARITY

Supporting those diagnosed
with **breast cancer** when
they need it most

Buddy up With Someone Who Gets It

We're here to face breast cancer together, providing the support and understanding you deserve.

Promote our Services

As a volunteer-based charity, our primary challenge is to establish a **sense of belonging** and a **strong community base** that is invested in ensuring Bosom Buddies continues to thrive in the future.

This year we continued to do this through attendance at events and advertising such as:

- Media Awareness for Mother's Day

- ACTION Bus advertising



- Launch of Rainbow Threads



- Holy Family Mother's Day event

- Craft Alive Expo



Our Programs

This year we were able to continue to support the community through our programs .

One-on-One Peer Support

Our Peer Support Volunteers provide emotional support to those diagnosed with breast cancer. Despite being of different ages and stages in their lives our support team all have one thing in common. They *get it*. They know how challenging navigating a breast cancer diagnosis can be because they have all had a breast cancer diagnosis of their own.

Support Groups

Our breast cancer support groups are run and organised by volunteers with lived experience of breast cancer. Connecting with other people who have had a similar experience is a great way to share feelings and be part of a community who *gets it*.

There are eight established groups promoted across the ACT (Woden, Dickson and Nicholls) and the surrounding NSW region (Yass, Goulburn, Braidwood and Queanbeyan), and one support group called “Mischief” that is by invitation due to its sensitivity towards the participants.

Buddy Bags

Our wonderful volunteers have packed over 700 Buddy Bags this reporting period. These bags are then distributed and handed to every breast cancer patient that enters the hospital for surgery. The Buddy Bags are filled with aids and information and feedback from recipients of the bag has been positive and encourages us to continue this activity.



Auditor's Report

Bosom Buddies ACT Incorporated (BB) Review Report for the year ended 30 June 2025

I have reviewed the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The reviewer can be any person who is not an officer of the organisation or have prepared or assisted with the preparation of the accounts. They do not need to hold accounting or auditing qualifications.

I can confirm that, on the basis of the review:

- nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe the accounting records are misleading, and
- that the accounting records give a true and fair account of:
 - the income and expenditure of the organisation during the financial year under review; and
 - the assets and liabilities of the organisation at the end of the financial year; and
 - any mortgages, charges or other securities of any description affecting any property of the organisation at 30 June 2025.

Signed: Russell Hearne

Date: 25 November 2025

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Bosom Buddies ACT Inc.

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Pearce Community Centre

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PEARCE ACT 2607

Office hours :

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

9.30am to 2.30pm

Designated Gift Recipient

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible

