

grandparents  
VICTORIA



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



GPV/KCV acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin nation as the traditional owners of our great land and offers respect to Elders, past and present.

GPV/KCV acknowledges that the Aboriginal culture existed in Australia before European settlement and consisted of many community groups. Further, we acknowledge the Indigenous peoples of this land as the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

GPV/KCV acknowledges that laws and policies of the past have inflicted grief and suffering on our fellow Australians and regrets the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

GPV/KCV believes that a society that is inclusive of all is crucial to individual and community wellbeing and will behave with respect towards all irrespective of their race, religion, sexuality, gender, or socio-economic background.

GPV/KCV acknowledges 13<sup>th</sup> of February as National Apology Day, the anniversary of then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, delivering the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples in 2008. GPV/KCV will take steps that promote a happier and healthier future for Indigenous Australians, particularly the children and young people.

Key words which influence GPV/KCV approaches are:

Truthfulness  
Confidentiality  
Inclusiveness  
Integrity  
Constancy  
Gratitude  
Commitment  
Compassion

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ABN: 54 173 492 849

Incorporated No: A0041212Z

Kinship Carers Victoria  
acknowledges the support of the  
Victorian government





## About GPV/KCV

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In April 2001, Grandparents Victoria (GPV) was formed as an organization based on the belief that grandparents can play a valuable role in supporting and advocating for families and the wider community and promoting the value of the public sector. At this early stage, with only four members at the first meeting, it was not clear what action the group would take, or how its activities were to be funded, but enthusiasm was high.

For the first two years, GPV focused on consultation with grandparents to learn what challenges they and their families were facing. A series of forums were also held across Victoria to collect different many opinions. Since then, regular forums and surveys have been conducted to verify these early views.

In March 2002, the issues faced by grandparents raising their grandchildren were noted, with the GPV Board deciding that the role of grandparents within child protection would be a priority area of work.

Another landmark was reached in 2004 when GPV staff attended its first local grandparents support group. This was the first of many visits to support groups across the state. In 2010 the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) awarded GPV the contract to establish Kinship Carers Victoria (KCV) as the peak group representing the views of kinship carers.

GPV/KCV addresses a wide range of issues. Some issues, aside from support for kinship carers, appear on its work program year in and year out, with family poverty being the most urgent of all the issues addressed over the years.

GPV/KCV is committed to an ethical approach to its work, undertaking to:

- maintain a commitment to its beliefs and aims, prioritising the wellbeing of families
- maintain confidentiality, protecting the privacy of all who associate with GPV/KCV
- uphold individual rights and advocate for the rights of disadvantaged groups
- poster a culture of fairness

GPV/KCV believes that:

- all children must be protected and given every opportunity and support to fulfil their potential
- the needs of families are becoming more complex and the support grandparents can offer to families in general is significant
- grandparents and kinship carers have unique understandings and attitudes that should influence decisions about child wellbeing
- grandparents and kinship carers have a responsibility to engage in public discussions and to act to ensure the wellbeing of children

### Privacy Guarantee

GPV/KCV securely stores and manages personal information shared through all forms of communications with the organisation. No personal information is ever shared with any other agency, including DFFH or any other government agency. When survey reports are completed the personal data of participants is destroyed.

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

Helen and Mal Brown

Anne McLeish

Jack Lloyd

Trevor and Christine Wilson

Francis and Susan Morgan

Allan and Noelle Mawdsley

Bob Ives and Barbara Champion

## Governance and Management

### Board members

- Helen Brown, Grandparent – 2001 - Chairperson
- Angela Hogan, Grandparent – 2001
- Kerrie Doquile, Grandparent – 2001
- Helen Corcoran, Grandparent - 2010
- Jennifer Sullivan, Kinship carer – 2016
- Jenny Cheshire, Kinship carer – 2016
- Adine Neill, Kinship carer – 2017
- Carole Cheng, Grandparent – 2021 – Deputy Chairperson
- Sandy Harbison, Grandparent – 2021
- Bruce Murchie, Kinship carer – 2023
- Michelle Max, Kinship carer – 2024
- Eileen McAdam, Kinship carer - 2024

### Staff members

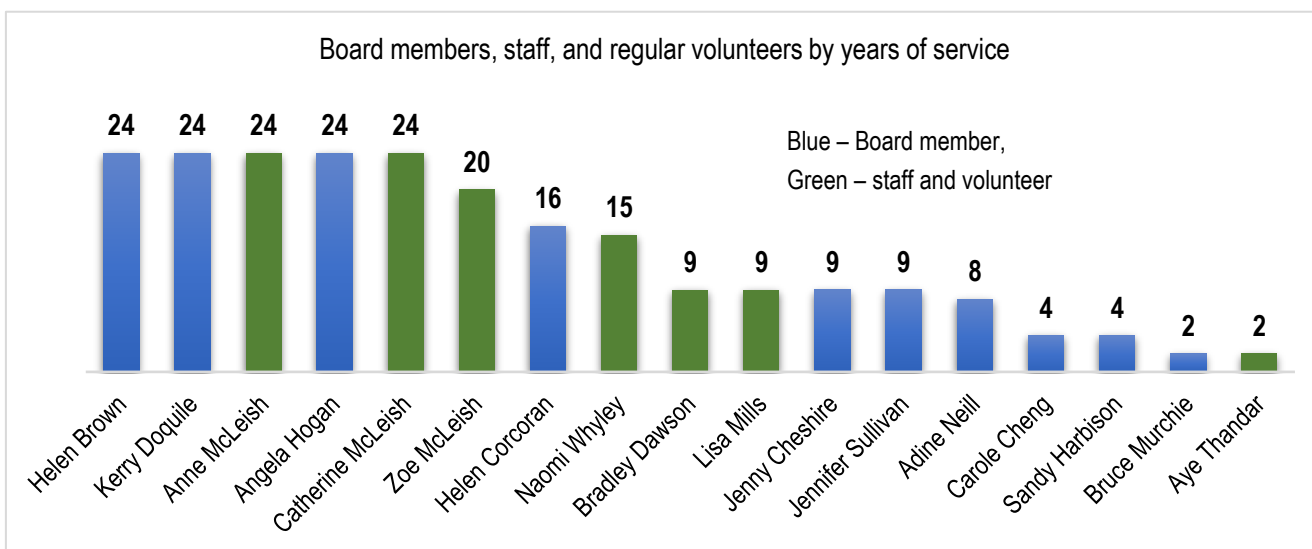
- Anne McLeish
- Naomi Whyley
- Aye Thandar Phyto Wai
- Bradley Dawson
- Lisa Mills
- Catherine McLeish

### Volunteers

- Zoe McLeish

The overall attendance rate by all Board Members across all four board meetings was 73%. The attendance rate of each board member was:

- Helen Brown (100%)
- Kerrie Doquile (100%)
- Jennifer Sullivan (100%)
- Carole Cheng (100%)
- Helen Corcoran (75%)
- Adine Neill (75%)
- Sandy Harbison (75%)
- Bruce Murchie (75%)
- Eileen McAdam (66%)
- Angela Hogan (50%)
- Jenny Cheshire (50%)
- Michelle Max (25%)



### Issues addressed by the Board

The Board made 36 decisions, 19 related to governance matters and 17 were substantive decision taken after general discussion and related to issues affecting families, including kinship care families, as outlined below (some issues were discussed at more than one meeting before a final decision was made):

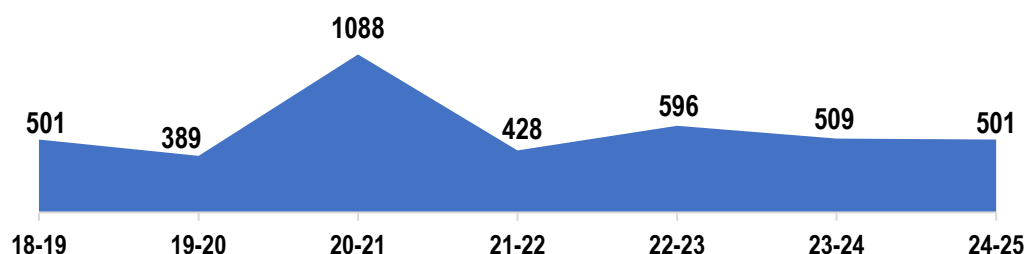
- Aboriginal Reconciliation
- Adoption
- Age of criminal responsibility
- Centrelink services to kinship Carers
- Childrens rights
- Childrens Youth and Families Act ★
- Corporal punishment
- Early childhood programs
- Education
- Family related data collection
- Female genital mutilation
- Grandparents denied access
- Kinship care ★
- Refugee children ★
- Reunification of children with parents/biological family ★

★ These issues are emerging issues likely to be subject of intense discussion and action in forthcoming years.

## Support and Advice Service

KCV provides a Support and Advice Service to kinship carers. Some issues raised through this service are referred to the GPV/KCV Board, other issues are discussed with DFFH and agencies.

The chart below demonstrates the number of contacts made with the service across 7 years. The increase in 20-21 was caused by COVID. In this year, we had many calls from carers and we employed extra staff to keep in contact with them, offering reassurance and advice about government assistance.

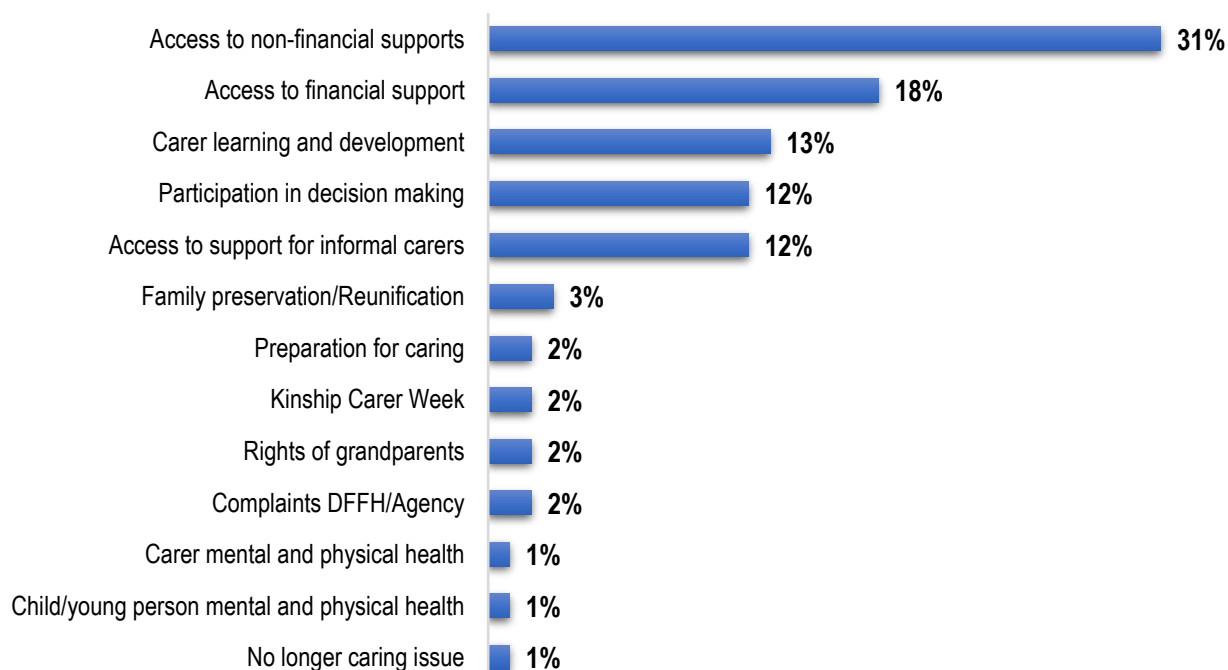


### Issues raised by carers

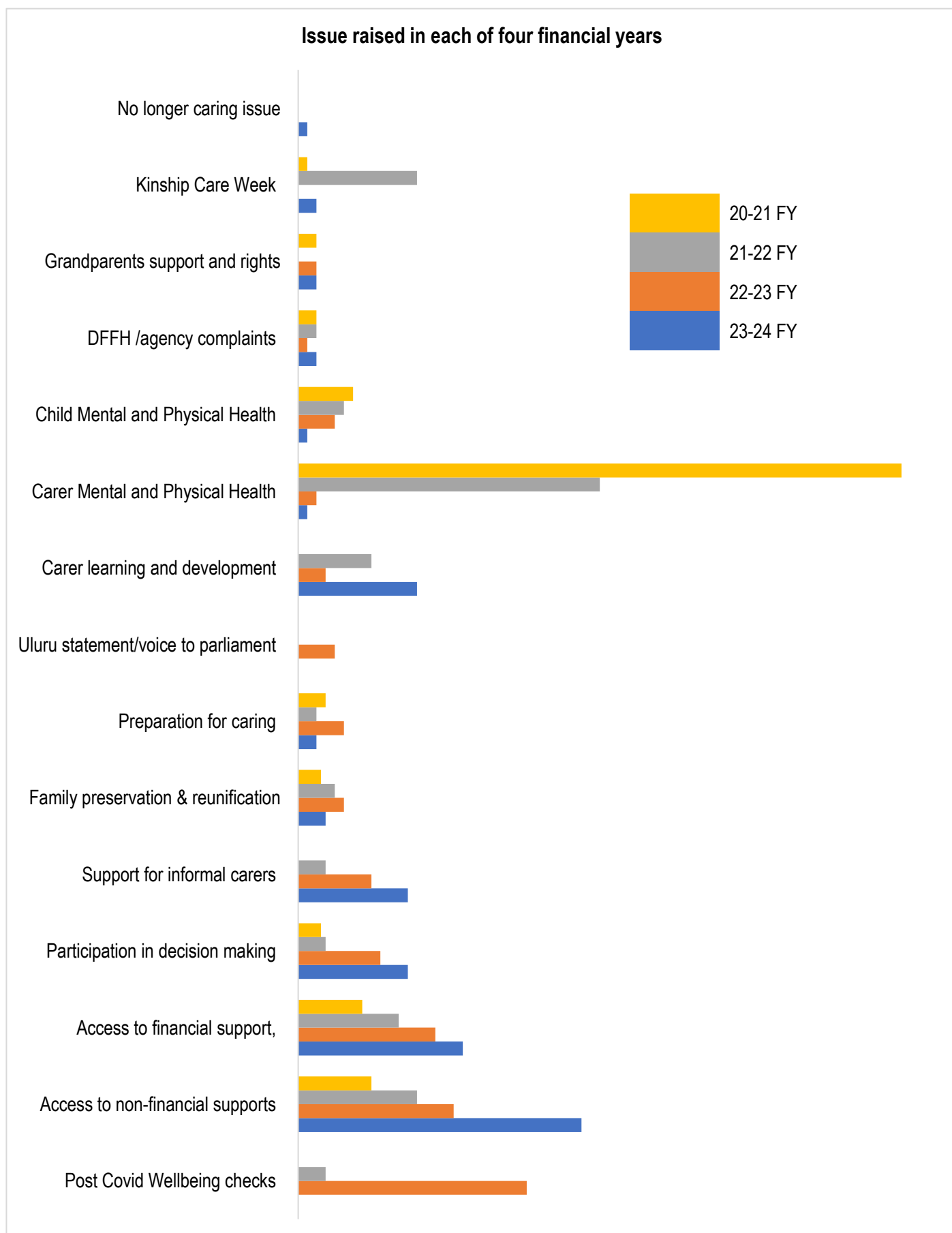
Many issues raised throughout the Support and Advice Service recur every year. However, the balances between issues may alter from one year to the next. The chart below indicates the shift in priority amongst issues raised.

4 Growing issues	7 Consistent issues	4 Declining issues
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to support for education, housing, loneliness, respite</li> <li>2. Access to financial support</li> <li>3. Support for informal carers</li> <li>4. No longer caring issues</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participation in decision making</li> <li>2. Family preservation</li> <li>3. General grandparents support and rights</li> <li>4. Complaints about DFFH/agency support</li> <li>5. Child mental and physical health</li> <li>6. Post Covid Wellbeing checks</li> <li>7. Uluru statement/voice to parliament</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Carer learning and development</li> <li>2. Kinship Care Week</li> <li>3. Preparation for caring</li> <li>4. Carer mental and physical health</li> </ol>

The issues raised throughout the service in 24-25 by percentage of total contact is as outlined below.



The reason behind the contacts remains constant across the four years from 2020 to 2024 years.

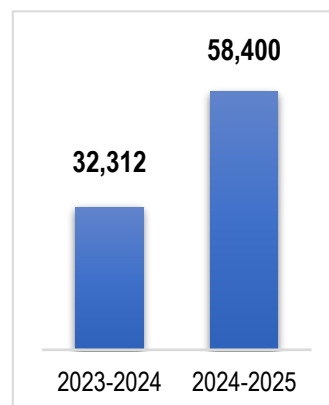


## Publications

### Websites updates and visits

The substantial growth in the access to resources posted on the KCV website reflects the effort expended by KCV in developing resources for carers. There was a growth of 26088 visits to the website in 24-25 FY.

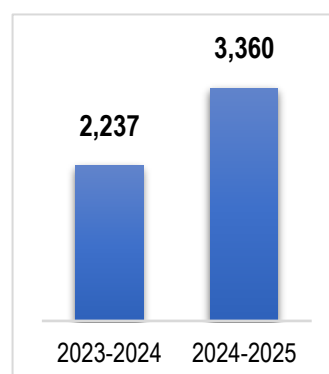
The contacts made via the Support and Advice Service are regularly analysed to reveal topical and emerging issue about which carers might need additional information. Resources are developed according to the outcome of the analysis.



### Written resources

The number of written resources distributed has risen and they are more finely tuned to the needs of carers. New written resources developed in this financial year include the 10 most often resources downloaded from the KCV website:

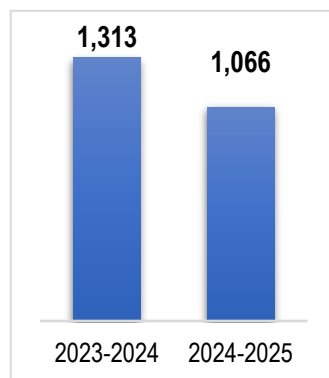
- Financial supports for kinship carers
- Support for informal carers
- Services Aust. support for grandparents/non-parents caring for children
- Victorian carers card
- Education
- Cyber safety for children and young people
- Types of out-of-home care
- Online interactive guide – podcasts and videos
- Online interactive guide – financial support
- Camps and respite



### Podcast listens

The number of carers listening to podcasts decreased slightly because some podcasts which KCV considered outdated were withdrawn and because one fewer podcast were produced in this financial year. Podcasts produced in 24-25 included:

- Farewell Liana
- New rules governing the CIMS
- Physical punishment is harmful
- Understanding autism & neurodiversity
- Loneliness

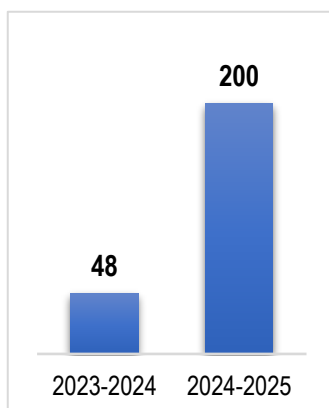


### Video views

Production of videos is a relatively recent innovation. This is an area of work that KCV would like to expand. However, budget restrictions do not allow this. In this financial year, GPV/KCV published the positive discipline video.



The most popular video in this financial year was the one related to positive discipline. It was aligned to our campaign to abolish corporal punishment and to have it outlawed in Australia.



## Development of Resources is now the major part of support and advice service

The development of resources in response to carers areas of need and interest has increased substantially in the last few years.

As well as reflecting the needs of carers, these resources has been developed with the two original kinship care manuals in mind.

The information in the manuals is covered across the new KCV resources with information such as telephone numbers regularly updated.

### Access to website resources

The substantial growth in the access to resources posted on the KCV website reflects the extra effort expended by KCV in developing resources for carers.

The incoming calls are regularly analyzed to reveal topical and emerging issue about which carers might need additional

### Podcast listens

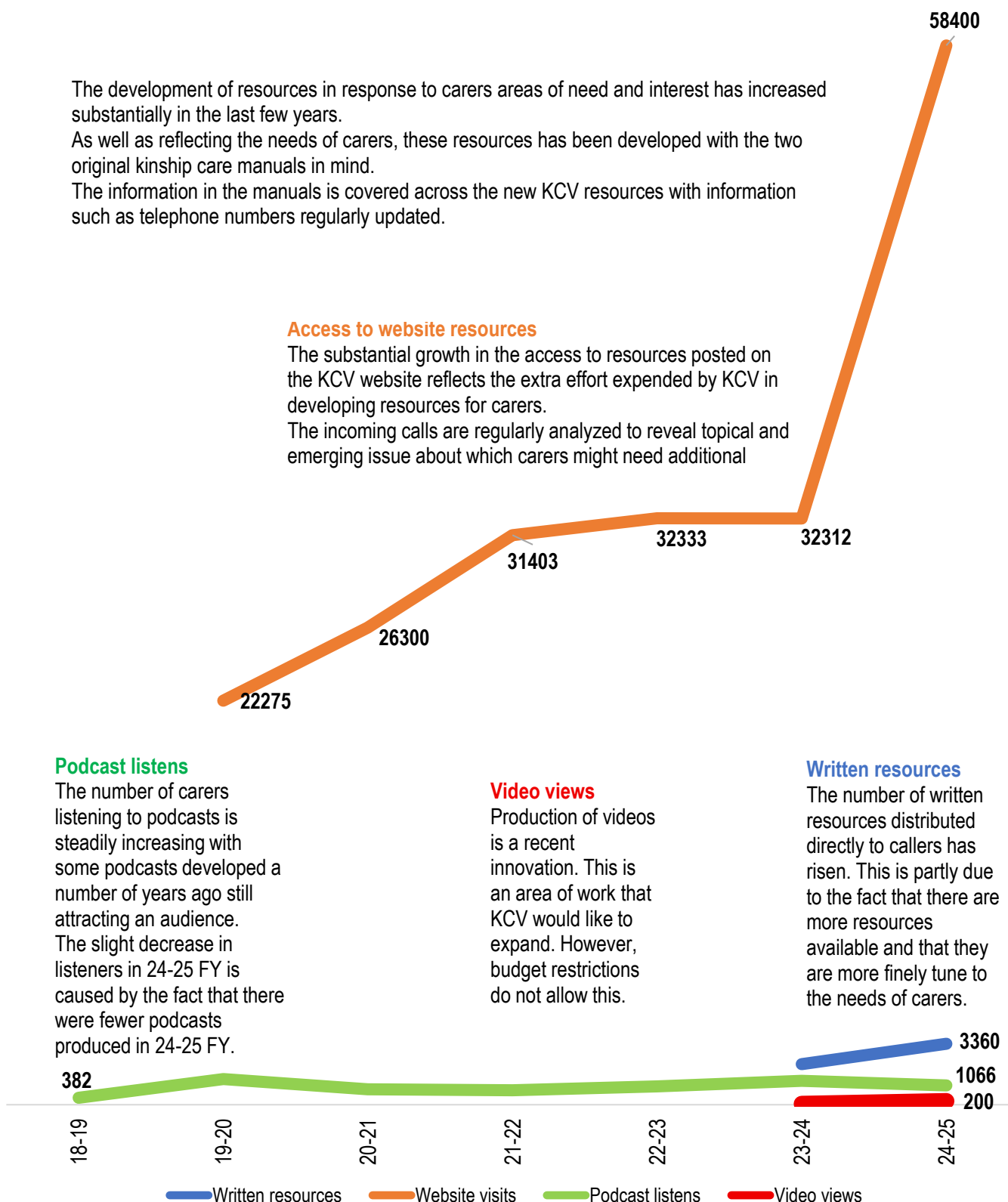
The number of carers listening to podcasts is steadily increasing with some podcasts developed a number of years ago still attracting an audience. The slight decrease in listeners in 24-25 FY is caused by the fact that there were fewer podcasts produced in 24-25 FY.

### Video views

Production of videos is a recent innovation. This is an area of work that KCV would like to expand. However, budget restrictions do not allow this.

### Written resources

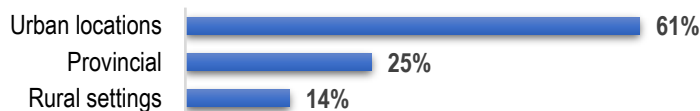
The number of written resources distributed directly to callers has risen. This is partly due to the fact that there are more resources available and that they are more finely tune to the needs of carers.



## Learning and Development

### Types and Locations of Seminars Conducted in 24-25 FY

Nutrition seminars were held in Dandenong, Melton, Wonthaggi, Kensington, Geelong, Warragul, and Epping with 76 carers attending. Understanding the OOHC system seminars were held in Frankston, Geelong, and Reservoir with 39 carers attending. The carers attending the seminars withdrawn from three broad geographical locations.



### Growth in carers' knowledge and confidence

Both the carers' knowledge and confidence grew substantially at each seminar and across all of them.

#### Growth in confidence of carers



#### Overall growth in knowledge across the series



### KCV follow up of carers after the seminars

After March 2025, participants attending KCV seminars were asked to nominate one or two actions they plan to take, or a shift attitude held by them, that have arisen from their participation in the seminar. Over time, the carers were contacted and asked how these commitments to change were maintained and what their lingering thoughts might be.

82 carers were followed up and asked whether or not they had implemented the follow up action. The number of carers contacted for follow up are in the graph below and majority has taken some follow up action.

#### KCV follow up of carers after the seminars



### Kinship Care Week Activities

#### KCW 2024



The KCW 24-25 activities included:

- 7 activities organised and attended by KCV staff/ Board
- 6 communiques
- 2 award dinners
- 1 widespread mailout of 5 resource books
- 1 video of Minister posted on website and emailed to homes
- 1 launch of 5 resource books on website

## Representation and Advocacy

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### Campaigns

In every year since 2002, GPV/KCV has conducted campaigns, despite the anticipation of slow, or even no, progress. However, the nexus between the campaign issues and the life chances of children is so tight, GPV/KCV is compelled to battle on.

Over the years many new campaigns have been taken up. Some campaigns are ongoing. Take, for example, calling for early support for vulnerable families, the reunification of children with parents, and banning adoption as an option within child protection measures are all continuing.

The GPV/KCV campaign program relies on donations with the membership fees of Life Members of GPV/KCV were critical in setting up the program in the early 2000s.

The campaigns activated in 24-25 FY were:



#### **Abolishing Adoption in Child Protection**

To ensure that adoption is not allowed as an option with child protection procedures and is better regulated to protect all parties' rights.



#### **Abolishing Corporal Punishment**

To ensure that the Australian Government makes corporal punishment of children and young people illegal across Australia.



#### **Abolishing Female Genital Mutilation**

To ensure the abolition of female genital mutilation across Australia.



#### **Improving Education for children and young people**

To ensure improvements in provision of education services to all children and young people.



#### **Resisting the Vic. Children, Youth and Families Act**

To ensure that the Act is changed to remove clauses unfavourable to children brought into force in 2016.



#### **Supporting Kinship Carers**

To amplify the voices of kinship care families and improve the visibility of kinship carers.



## Income and Expenditure Statement

**Grandparents Victoria Inc**  
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Grant Operating</b>	
Grants	397,324
Grants – Other	-
<b>Total Grant Operating</b>	<b>397,324</b>
<b>Donations</b>	
Donations Received	455
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>455</b>
Membership Fees	244
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>398,023</b>
<b>Gross Surplus</b>	<b>398,023</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
Other Revenue	115,587
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>115,587</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Accounting Fees	1,104
Bank Fees	406
Board and Governance Expenses	4,470
Cleaning	-
Client Support Services	6,749
Computer Expenses	678
Conference & Seminar Costs	108,208
Consultancy Fees	298,129
Hire of Plant & Equipment	3,324
Interest Paid	593
Meeting Expenses	10,829
Membership Fees Paid	127
Office Expenses	615
Postage, Freight & Courier	816
Printing & Stationary	10,730
Repairs & Maintenance	-
Sundry Expenses	1,446
Training & Development	779
Travelling Expenses	21,313
Utilities	1,462
Subscriptions	4,237
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>476,015</b>



## Assets and Liabilities Statement

Grandparents Victoria Inc  
As at 30 June 2025

NOTES

30 June 2025

### Assets

#### Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents		528,121
GST Receivable		4,263
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>532,384</b>

#### Non-Current Assets

Plant and Equipment and Vehicles	3	1,346
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>1,346</b>

<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>533,730</b>
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### Liabilities

#### Other Current Liabilities

Rounding		-
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>

<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>
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<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>533,730</b>
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### Member's Funds

Capital Reserve		533,730
<b>Total Member's Funds</b>		<b>533,730</b>



## Auditor's Report

**Grandparents Victoria Inc**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2025**

### Independent Auditors Report to the members of the Association

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Grandparents Victoria Inc. (the association), which comprises the committee's report, the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2025, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, cash flow statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

### Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Grandparents Victoria Inc. is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001/ACNC Act* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects (or gives a true and fair view – refer to the applicable state/territory Act), the financial position of Grandparents Victoria Inc. as at 30 June 2025 and (of) its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001/ACNC Act*.

### Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Grandparents Victoria Inc. to meet the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001/ACNC Act*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Auditor's signature: Paul Vassiliadis

Auditor's address: Level 1, 30 Amis Crescent, Keilor East VIC. 3033

Dated: 18 / 10 / 2025