NDCAS
Narrabri & District Community Aid Service Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

Quality of Life for Everyone:
Empowered Individuals, Connected Families, Committed Community







Empowering the Community Every Day

At NDCAS, our vision of Quality of Life for Everyone: Empowered Individuals, Connected Families, Committed Community is brought to life through the support we provide every day. Empowering individuals begins with practical opportunities, advocacy and guidance that supports people to build confidence, strengthen resilience and make informed decisions about their future. We work alongside people at every stage of life, helping them overcome challenges, access resources and achieve positive outcomes for themselves and their families.

We are committed to supporting people facing significant challenges, including domestic and family violence and homelessness. By helping women and children recover from violence, improve their safety and rebuild their lives, we support dignity, independence and hope for the future. For those at risk of homelessness, we focus on informed decision-making, life skills development and sustaining safe, stable housing. A house is more than a roof over someone's head, it is the foundation for quality of life, wellbeing and opportunity.

Through early intervention, family support and community programs, we help people develop the skills and connections needed to thrive. Whether supporting new parents, strengthening family relationships, or encouraging children's learning and development, we create opportunities for people to connect with others experiencing similar life stages and build supportive networks within the community.

Healthy Spaces & New Places

After more than 18 months of planning and development, NDCAS is proud to welcome clients, community and staff to its new home at 43A Maitland Street, a space that brings our vision to life: Quality of Life for Everyone - Empowered Individuals, Connected Families, Committed Community.

The move reflects our ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality services and creating greater opportunities for individuals and families to access the support they need. It was important for NDCAS to have a building that will grow with us as an organisation over the next 50 years.

By revitalising this well-known local building, NDCAS is honouring its history while investing in the future of community wellbeing. Designed with collaboration, accessibility and inclusion in mind, the new space provides a welcoming environment that fosters connection, engagement and innovation.

The Toy Library building was further enhanced with a bright mural in 2025 which increases service visibility and creates a bright and colourful environment for community to enjoy weekly at Playgroup and Toy Library.







Celebrating Connection

The NDCAS Halloween Disco was one of the most highly attended events of the year. The celebration fostered inclusivity by welcoming participants from diverse backgrounds and abilities. As a free event, it removed financial barriers and enabled families to participate and connect with their community. The event provided children with opportunities to socialise, build confidence, and enjoy a fun and engaging experience. Participants praised the event's accessibility, highlighting its role in creating meaningful opportunities for families to connect, have fun, and create lasting memories.



Connection to Culture

NDCAS supported Wee Waa Local Aboriginal Land Council (WWLALC) to host its third consecutive NAIDOC event celebrating Gomeroi culture.

Pilliga celebrated NAIDOC week with the involvement of the well-known Walkabout Barber. NDCAS was proud to foster these opportunities for connection.

STORIES OF CONNECTION

Raising Awareness

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against domestic and family violence, NDCAS invited community members and local services to participate in a walk along the Namoi River. The walk symbolised standing together and walking alongside those impacted by domestic and family violence, demonstrating the community's commitment to providing support. The event strengthened connections between community members and local services, encouraged meaningful conversations, and increased public visibility of this important issue while promoting health, wellbeing, and community engagement.





Crafty Conversations

Crafty Conversations is a weekly initiative for women over 30, aimed at enhancing mental well-being through creative activities. This program provides a nurturing environment to foster self-esteem and social connection while offering step-by-step guidance to create a finished craft item by the end of each session.

Partnerships

NDCAS collaborates with service providers and agencies to support individuals and families. By working together we achieve stronger outcomes for people in the Narrabri LGA.

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support over the last 12 months; Summit Community Services, Shared Table-Community Kitchen , Narrabri and Wee Waa High Schools, Narrabri Shire Council, Salvation Army-Moneycare, Wee Waa, Pilliga and Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council, and Narrabri Police.

This is just a small list of the organisations we have worked with and we know there have been many more along the way, we extend our thanks to them all. Establishing and maintaining close working relationships are essential to achieve the best possible results for individuals, families, and the community.

Homelessness Week

NDCAS' annual Homelessness Week Coffee Cup awareness initiative took place in August 2025. We were thrilled to extend our takeaway coffee cup campaign to Wee Waa, enhancing the sharing of our local infomation and statisitics on homelessness.



WHAT WE DO

Busy Little Hands at Play Playgroup

Busy Little Hands at Play Playgroup holds weekly sessions for parents, carers and their children (aged 0 to 5 years) to develop social skills, connections, participate in learning activities and access information and advice.

Namoi Toy Library

The Namoi Toy Library works alongside playgroup to support educational engagement of children to young to receive a preschool education, support pathways to preschool and to promote the importance of early childhood education to families and communities.

NDCAS Families & Youth Service

The Families and Youth team (NFYS) delivers programs tailored too meet wellbeing and safety needs of children, young people and families. Specialist workers also support children and young people who have been impacted by family and domestic violence. This is achieved through case management which may include home visits, support, advocacy, referrals and skills development to help people achieve their outcomes and goals. NFYS also offer parenting programs that provide support specifically targeted at relationships and practical skill building for parents and carers.

Community Strengthening

Narrabri and District Community Aid Service delivers a variety of programs and events within the Narrabri LGA, to foster community spirit and participation. Each year NDCAS facilitates small and large events to increase social participation, empowerment and a sense of belonging to the community, individuals and families.





Safety Beyond Violence Service

The Safety Beyond Violence team (SBVS) supports women and their children who have been impacted by domestic, family, and sexual violence.
This team provides intensive and long-term support for women to leave an abusive relationship and remain safely in their home. The team also provides information sessions to workplaces across the Narrabri LGA.

Narrabri Homelessness Support Service

The Homelessness Support Team (NHSS) provides support to people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness, aiming to decrease homelessness and empower individuals to overcome related challenges. We provide crisis accommodation for women and children escaping domestic and family violence and offer referrals and support for cost of living challenges, mental health matters, substance use issues, and life skills development.

Thinking about helping out within our community?
Our local volunteer organisations like, Shared Table-Community Kitchen and Meals on Wheels, are always grateful to welcome new volunteers who want to give back and make a difference.



Festive Spirit

The NDCAS Community Christmas Drive brought the community together to help ensure local families experiencing hardship could experience the joy and wonder of Christmas, easing financial pressure and providing meaningful support during a challenging time.

The overwhelming generosity shown through donations highlighted the strength of community spirit, with people coming together to support local families during the festive season.

2024 VS 2025

Families supported

104 — 129

Children supported

221 — 269

Gifts donated by community

531 — 700

Across the Shire

To improve access to support services for residents in Baan Baa, Bellata, Gwabegar and Pilliga, NDCAS hosts regular outreach days in these communities. These events aim to connect families and the community by delivering essential services right to their doorstep. Outreach days are filled with creative activities and games designed to foster community engagement and are an oppourtunity for NDCAS support to be accessed regularly in towns across the Narrabi LGA.

Individuals supported towards Safety (SBVS)





Borrows from Toy Library

Youth supported via school programs





Supported to reduce homelessness

Intakes conducted





Community connection opportunties

Mobile Wardrobe

The NDCAS Mobile Wardrobe provides affordable and accessible clothing for community members across the Narrabri LGA. Supported through the generous donation of quality clothing from local residents, the mobile wardrobe reflects the generosity of the community working together to support one another.

The Wardrobe delivered outreach services to Pilliga, Gwabegar, Baan Baa and Bellata throughout the year. Through this initiative, more than 100 bags of clothing were provided at a cost of just $5 or less per bag.

A message from our Leaders

NDCAS exists to support the people of the Narrabri shire, and we have been walking alongside people facing difficult situations since 1974. We believe in our community and in the value of NDCAS being here to provide local support through hard times and good times.

Throughout the year NDCAS supported hundreds of people experiencing homelessness, domestic abuse, or family difficulty. The greatest resource we have to provide this support to the community is our people. Our skilled staff do this work with a common motivation to do something that makes the lives of other people better. Thank you to each member of the team, we greatly appreciate the work that you do. We also extend our thanks to the NDCAS board, thank you for the time and expertise you generously volunteer to guide and govern NDCAS.

Throughout the year we have been active across the shire working with community champions to facilitate family fun day activities, particularly in Baan Baa, Bellata, Gwabegar and Pilliga. A highlight of this has been the NDCAS Mobile Wardrobe, which was launched in May 2025 with a goal of providing access to quality new and used clothes to relieve cost of living pressures. We also extended the reach of the Community Christmas Drive, providing gifts for hundreds of people facing financial hardship to keep the Christmas spirit alive in homes across the shire.

In March 2026, after 18 months of behind-the-scenes work, NDCAS moved into the restored Faulkner's Cordial Factory building in Maitland St. We are excited to combine our 50 years of providing community support with the legacy of this historic building to continue providing local support to the community into the future. NDCAS dreams of one day owning our own building to call home, but for now we are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to lease this historic facility.

Finally, we would like to thank our funders, service provision partners, and local community. We look forward to the positive change we can be part of over the coming year.

Joshua Pattison | NDCAS Chief Executive Officer

Robyn Keeffe | NDCAS Chairperson

A look into the Future



Flip It-Mens Program



Narrabri NAIDOC



Deadly Art Competition

Narrabri & District Community Aid Service Inc activities are made possible through the support of the NSW Government Department of Communities and Justice, and the Department of Education. Our annual financial statement can be viewed on the ACNC website or by scanning the QR code.