



# ANNUAL REPORT | 2023

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**T** THREAD  
TOGETHER

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**“FASHION CAN BE A  
UNIVERSAL PLAYER  
IN PROTECTING THE  
PLANET.”**

-Pharrell Williams

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# A WORD FROM OUR CEO ANTHONY

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**It brings me great pleasure to address you all in this annual report, reflecting on Thread Together's remarkable journey over the past year.**

As we navigate through an ever-evolving landscape, I am immensely proud to share our triumphs, challenges, and aspirations.

In the face of unprecedented global challenges, Thread Together remained resolute in its commitment to our core mission: to clothe those in need and make a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and communities. Despite the complexities presented by the ongoing pandemic, we have persevered, adapting and innovating to ensure our services reach those who require them most.

Our accomplishments this year stand as a testament to the unwavering dedication of our team, the generosity of our partners, and the invaluable support from our stakeholders. Together, we have achieved significant milestones, expanding our outreach programs, fostering sustainable practices, and furthering our impact on social change.

Through collaborative efforts and an unyielding spirit, Thread Together has continued to amplify its footprint,

providing essential clothing items to under-served populations, empowering individuals to regain confidence, dignity, and a sense of belonging.

As we chart our course for the future, we remain committed to driving positive change and scaling our efforts to reach even greater heights. We envision a world where access to clothing is not a luxury but a fundamental right, and we are steadfast in our pursuit to make this vision a reality.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you who has contributed to Thread Together's success—our partners, volunteers, and supporters. Your unwavering belief in our mission fuels our determination to push boundaries and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Together, let us continue to weave a tapestry of hope, compassion, and inclusivity—one thread at a time.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Chesler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Anthony Chesler**  
Chief Executive Officer

# THE FASHION CRISIS

## Two complex problems, One solution

**Every third new piece of clothing created is discarded, ending up in vast landfills. Meanwhile, many individuals are left without access to suitable, quality essential clothing.**

For those without access to appropriate clothes, the repercussions can be severe; low self-esteem and confidence, social isolation, hinder employment opportunities, stigmatisation or unfair judgments. **We are on a mission to change that.**

Thread Together believes circumstances and disadvantage should not prevent people from accessing clothing to allow them to realise their full potential. By addressing two complex problems with one solution, Thread Together is driving social change through environmental action. Instead of allowing brand-new clothes to meet their end in landfills, we rescue them and provide them those in need, restoring dignity and hope to those experiencing hardship, without judgement. A ripple effect that saves our planet while lifting the spirits of those who need it most.





**This year Thread Together marks a decade of clothing communities, and we honour a decade of unwavering dedication to fostering dignity and empowerment.**

Over the past ten years, our mission to provide new essential clothes to those in need has transformed countless lives, symbolising not just warmth and protection but also hope and belonging.

From humble beginnings to becoming a leading force in community empowerment, we have expanded our reach, partnering with thousands of charities, fashion brands and retailers, volunteers, donors to clothe marginalised and vulnerable people across the country.

Our journey has been defined by innovative approaches, mobile wardrobes, fitting spaces and wardrobes in shelters, redefining how clothing assistance is

delivered ensuring accessibility and dignity for recipients. Celebrating a decade of service is a testament to the collective efforts of our dedicated team, the unwavering support of our partners, and the generosity of countless individuals who believe in our cause. Together, we have clothed more than 750,000 people, restoring not just warmth and protection but also instilling hope and confidence in those facing adversity.

As we look ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to continue transforming lives, advocating for social equality, and expanding our impact. Thread Together remains resolute in its mission to clothe communities in need, empowering individuals to embrace a brighter future—one garment at a time.

**Here's to a decade of clothing communities and to the boundless possibilities that lie ahead in our journey of compassion and change.**

# 10 Years On: **AUSTRALIA'S HIGHEST ETHICAL RESPONSE TO FASHION EXCESS**







# YEAR IN REVIEW

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# PARTNERING TO AMPLIFY IMPACT



Thread Together's model is predicated on partnering and collaborating with various stakeholders to amplify our impact on vulnerable and marginalised communities and our planet. By partnering with non-profits and social welfare organisations, this year, we leveraged their deep, local understanding of the specific needs of their community.

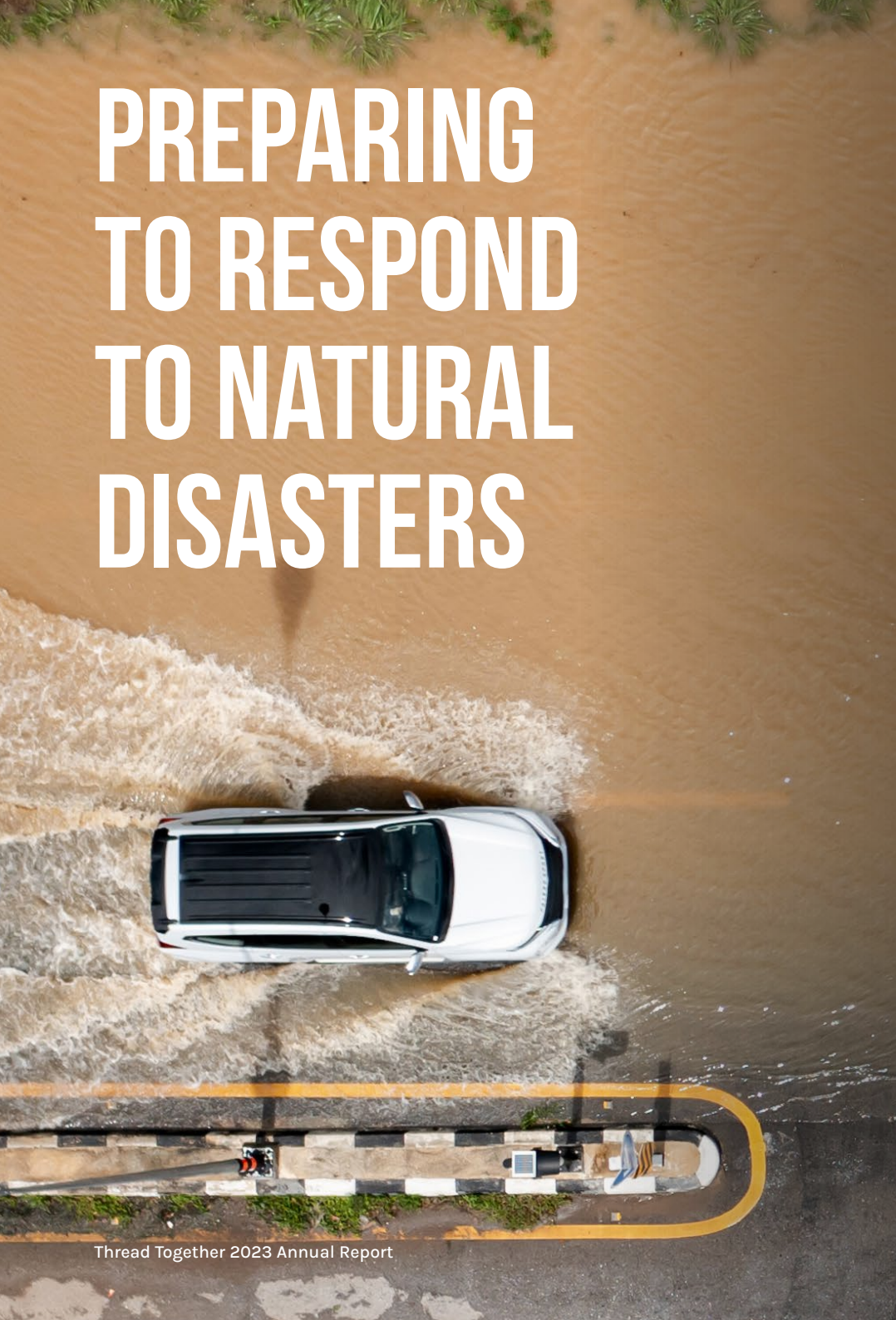
This allowed us to help more people in need whilst remaining focused on our core competencies. Our collaboration with fashion brands and retailers has been instrumental in not only accessing brand-new surplus clothing for people in need but also fostering a commitment to community and the environment and securing financial support.

These partnerships have gone beyond product donations involving joint initiatives and advocacy efforts thereby amplifying the impact of Thread Together's mission. We are powered by volunteers and our corporate partnership plays a pivotal role in supporting us by offering dedicated manpower, expertise and resources.

Their involvement not only amplifies our operational capacity but also fosters a sense of social responsibility within the corporate sector creating lasting positive impacts on communities and promoting a culture of philanthropy and corporate citizenship.

Our success underscores the transformative power of partnership and collaboration illustrating how collective action can drive meaningful change and create a more inclusive and equitable society. As our organisation continues to expand its network of partnerships its capacity to amplify impact and effect lasting change only grows stronger.

# PREPARING TO RESPOND TO NATURAL DISASTERS



Since 2019, Thread Together have been responding to natural disasters which have included droughts, bushfires and floods across the country.

Given the increased occurrences of natural disasters over the last few years, sadly we recognise the importance and necessity to be prepared for the next natural disaster(s).

This year, in preparation, we have shifted gears from being reactive to proactive and we have been focused on ensuring all the required elements are in place to respond prior to a natural disaster occurring and being able to adapt our response according to the type of natural disaster and immediate and ongoing needs of impacted communities, with us providing support most recently the floods in the Kimberly region in Western Australia.

Our planning has involved using data to identify specific types of events and when these events are likely to occur.

We have also used data to identify specific high-risk locations (i.e., vulnerable LGAs susceptible to bushfires on the East Coast of Australia). We have mapped the identified locations to established Thread Together partner locations and identified the gaps and commenced engaging and onboarding new agencies in vulnerable locations.

In preparation we have also determined the seasonal clothing requirements and we are regularly in discussion with brands and retailers to close these gaps ahead prior to an event. Our response will be right-sized depending on the nature and the magnitude of an event and may include a combination or all our service delivery options (mobile, emergency hubs and online).

# CLOSING THE GAP FOR THE IMMEDIACY OF NEED OF CLOTHES

Wardrobes have been invaluable in the women's journeys of dignity respect and confidence. Too often we receive requests from people who have escaped domestic violence abusive and coercive relationships with no clothing except what they are wearing.

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Whilst Women's refuges provide the immediate security and safety which saves lives, we discovered that they are not adequately meeting the need for essential clothes for women and children on arrival.

During the 16 days of activism of against gender-based violence, Thread Together launched our Wardrobe and Capsule service to close the gap for immediacy of need of essential clothes for women and children arriving at a refuge with only the clothes on their back.

We are on-track to deliver this service into 100 women's refuges around the country offering women and children with access to new underwear, sleepwear and lounge and the dignity they are deserving at their darkest times.

Note: At the end of December 2023 we have installed this service into 100 shelters.



# LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

**Access to clothing isn't a scarcity issue, it is a matter of visibility and logistics.**

Millions of units of clothes are donated each year and to improve visibility of inventory on hand Thread Together have leveraged best in class technology to record and track inventory. Earlier this year we implemented a technology enabler to manage inventory, one of the biggest impediments to helping more people in need. Ramp's RFID technology enables us to tag items immediately after they have been sorted into categories and sizes. By being able to do this with ease we are now able to rapidly determine the amount of inventory on hand and of equal importance to us understand where the items are located. By harnessing the power of technology, Thread Together has been able to increase our efficiency and effectiveness and we can now respond more promptly to clothing needs in the community, ensuring a scarce resources can be allocated to other critical tasks.





# ESTABLISHING PATHWAYS WHEN SUPPLY EXCEEDS DEMAND

**Thread Together is a supply-led organisation and from time to time there is not adequate supply to meet the demand for clothing in our network.**

Conversely there are times when the supply far exceeds the demand (e.g. Men's suits). This year we have been focused on identifying the pathways to keep clothing in use at its highest

value in line with the waste hierarchy. We have conducted several pilot projects and the key findings and experts in the field are helping to inform our role. One of the successful pilots that we completed this year was a natural fibre to farm-fill, regenerative recycling project. This project involved separating the over-supply of men's shirt from those that are 100% cotton (natural) from those that contain synthetic

fibres (e.g. elastane) and then decommissioning and trimming the shirts including removing all the contaminants in preparation for returning the shirt to the farm-fill. This project is being undertaken alongside Cotton Australia and soil scientists from the University of New England the benefits to soil health and yield are proving to be beneficial.



# OUR IMPACT



# THREAD TOGETHER

CLOTHING COMMUNITIES

# THEIR STORIES

## Dr Mahek

Mother & Survivor of Domestic Violence

*“I ended up in a situation in which I had nothing, you know, no money, no house, nothing. Coming to Thread Together from a traumatic background of domestic violence and choosing my own clothes for myself, gave me the dignity back. Now, I’m getting the confidence to learn that I am something and I can do whatever I want in my life. I’m just trying my best.”*



## Nataliya

Mother & Ukrainian war refugee

*“When you find yourself in this situation when you left everything behind, and you don’t have anything, you don’t own anything, the task was just to get to a safe place. And once you are given these clothes, they becomes your first property, your first personal property, that is only yours, not someone else’s. It is so sad that it takes you to become a refugee to get such attention.”*



## Ben

Formerly incarcerated, forklift driver

*“I had nothing. I had nothing at all, besides the clothes that I left the jail in. After I got my first clothes package from Thread Together, it just opened doors to be able to go for job interviews, to be able to dress nice, to go to receive my new teeth, like everything like that. People really do need support. They can’t do it on their own.”*





## Jeffery

Pensioner

*"It's very tough, it's hard, we must make a choice, do we pay our rent or do we eat. We must make tough decisions. We actually sit some nights with the lights out, we cannot afford to get a bill for \$200-300 for electricity. By being able to access new clothes from Thread Together, I have a renewed sense of dignity and worth. Thread Together has a deep sense of care for everyone and they don't show any judgment"*



## Judy

Bushfire survivor and teacher

*"I was victim of the terrible bushfire that hit NSW and our home burnt down with everything in it. We saw it happening on the television to other people and we just never ever imagined that we would be in a situation like that. Our first encounter with Thread Together, was inside the evacuation centre. Everything was brand-new and the people were just so beautiful and made us feel like everything was going to be alright."*

## Gemma

Florist & Survivor of Domestic Violence

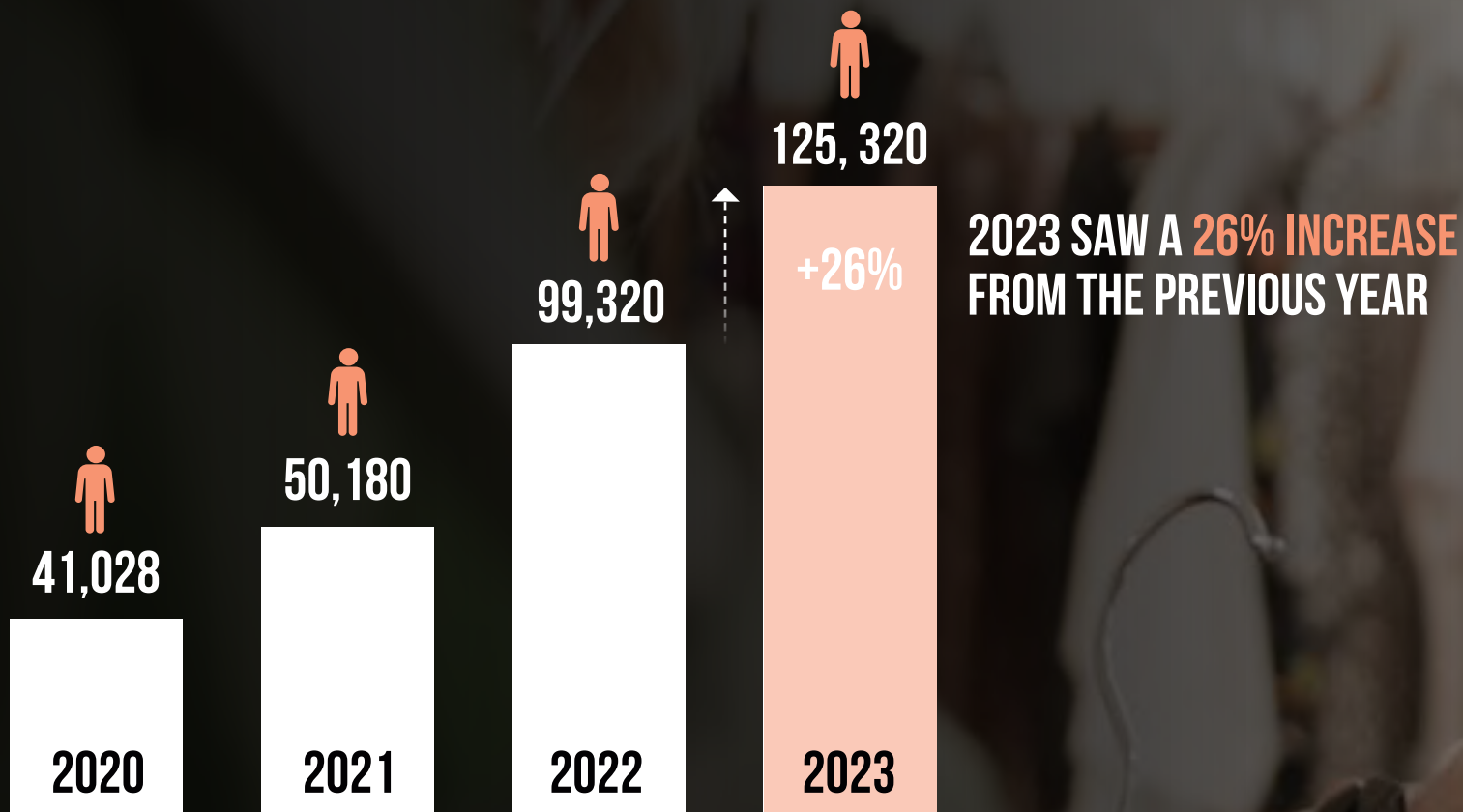
*"Before I was 18, I lived in too many places to remember as my mother struggled with drug addiction and my step-father took his anger out on both of us. I have never had the opportunity to browse and select anything new from a shop. Thread Together helped me to select the clothes that matched my style and suitable for my job interview. The clothes meant everything to me, especially when I was starting my life again."*



# OUR NATIONAL REACH

## Number of People Supported FY20-FY23

Total number of individuals that have received clothes

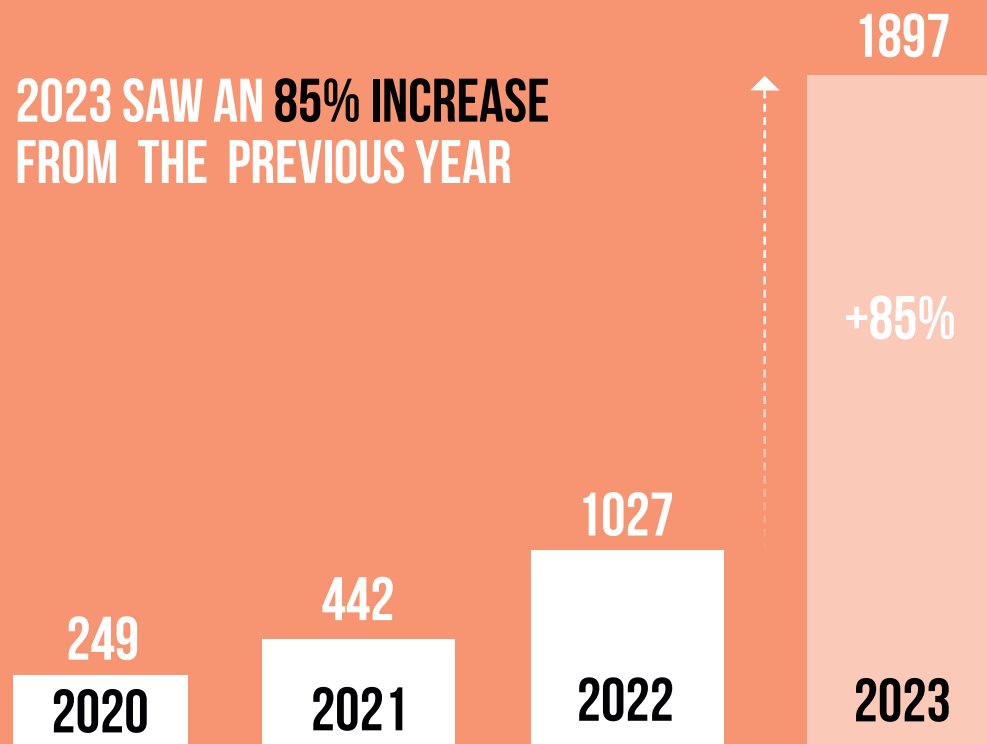




# OUR NATIONAL REACH

## Number of Agencies FY20-FY23

The number of registered charities and welfare agencies utilising our service

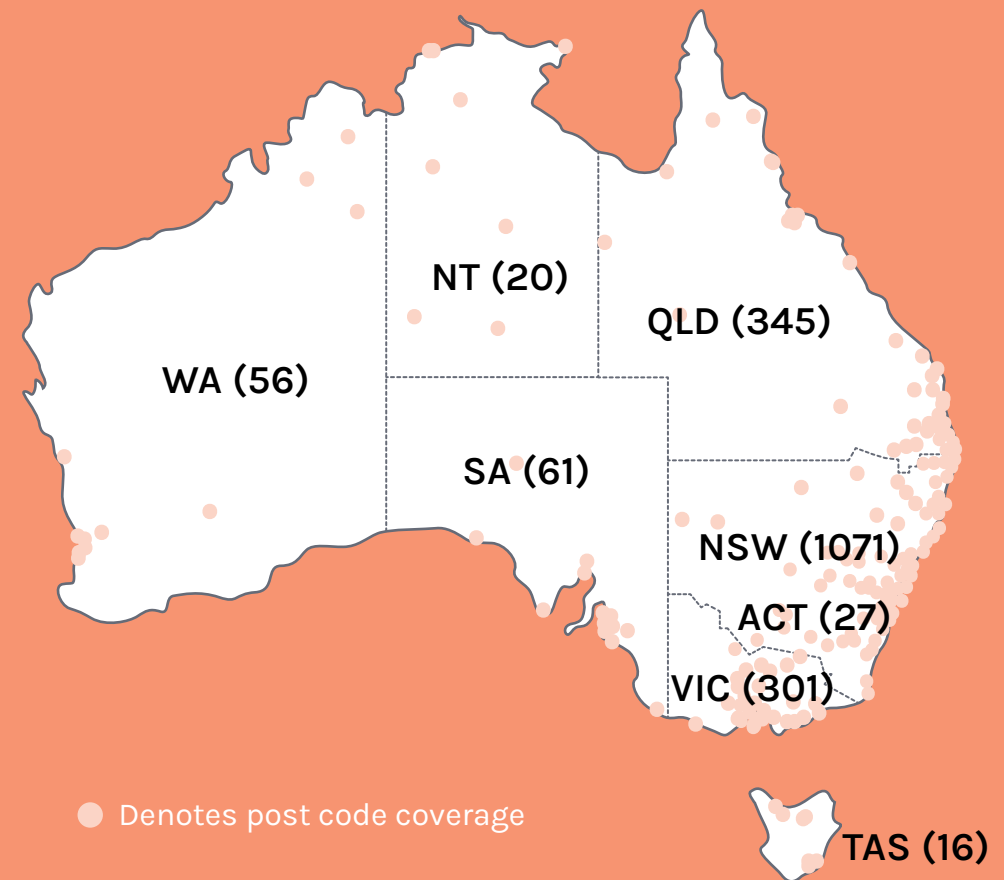


# 61%

Of our supported agencies have placed a request at least once in the last 90 days. With at least 35% ordering in the last 30 days.

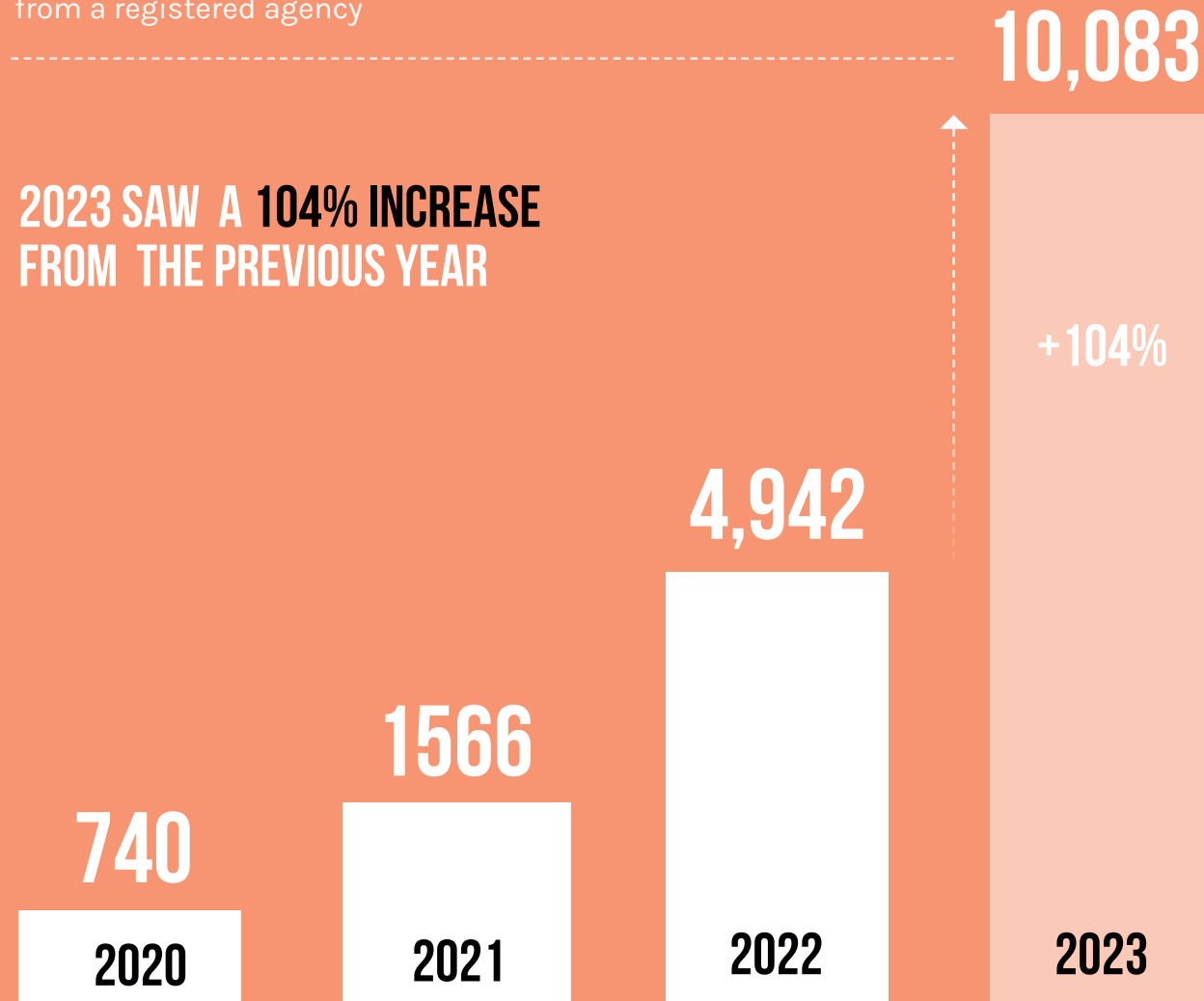
## Agencies by Location

The location of registered charities and welfare agencies



## Number of requests fulfilled FY20-FY23

The number of requests submitted by a case-worker from a registered agency



# OUR FASHION DONORS

## Number of Fashion Donors

Total number of brands donating clothes to Thread Together

# 1,801

Just some of our Fashion Donors

**MARCS**

DAVID JONES

DISSH

Calvin Klein

STYLERUNNER

BESTSELLER

**M.J. BALE**

 Target

**ZANEROBE**

Bendon  
L I N G E R I E

VENROY

**TAROCASH**

**BONDS**

**havaianas**

**PENATION**

**R. M. WILLIAMS**  
EST. 1932. AUSTRALIA

ASSEMBLY LABEL

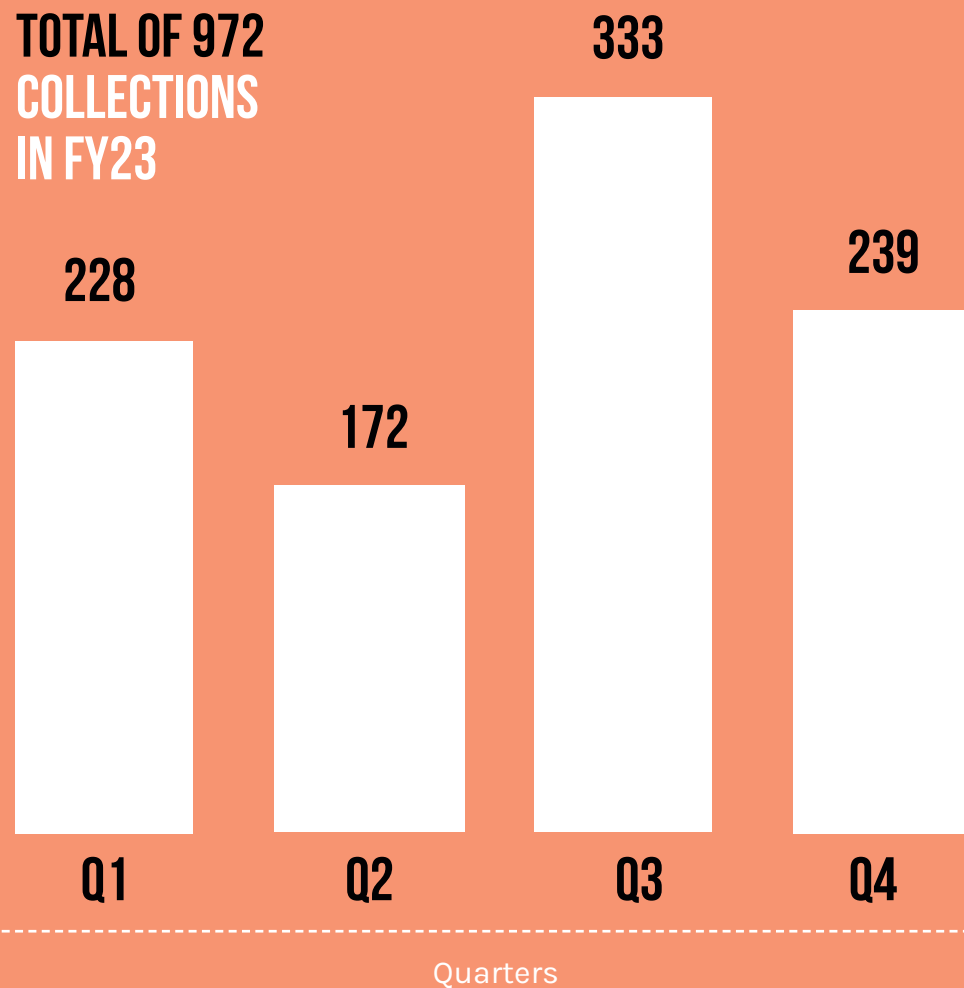
yd.

*Johnny*  
BIGG

## Number of Donation Collections FY23

Total number of collections requested by brands

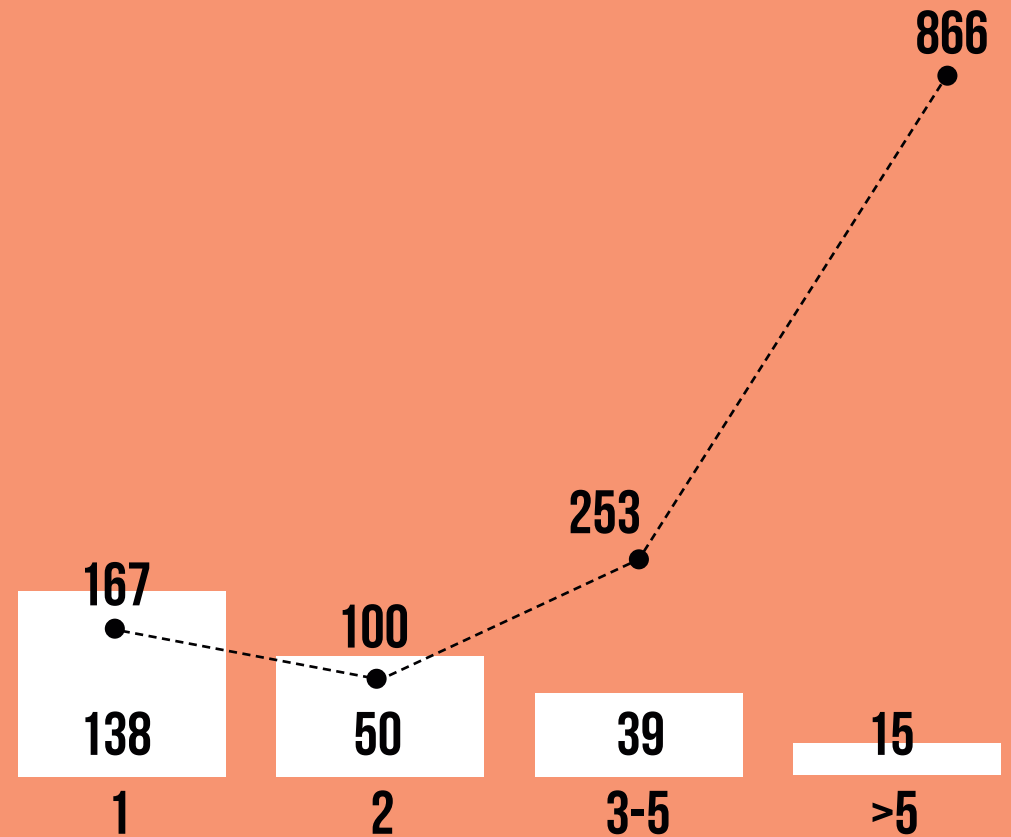
**TOTAL OF 972  
COLLECTIONS  
IN FY23**



## Donation Frequency FY23

The number of brands and units by collection frequency

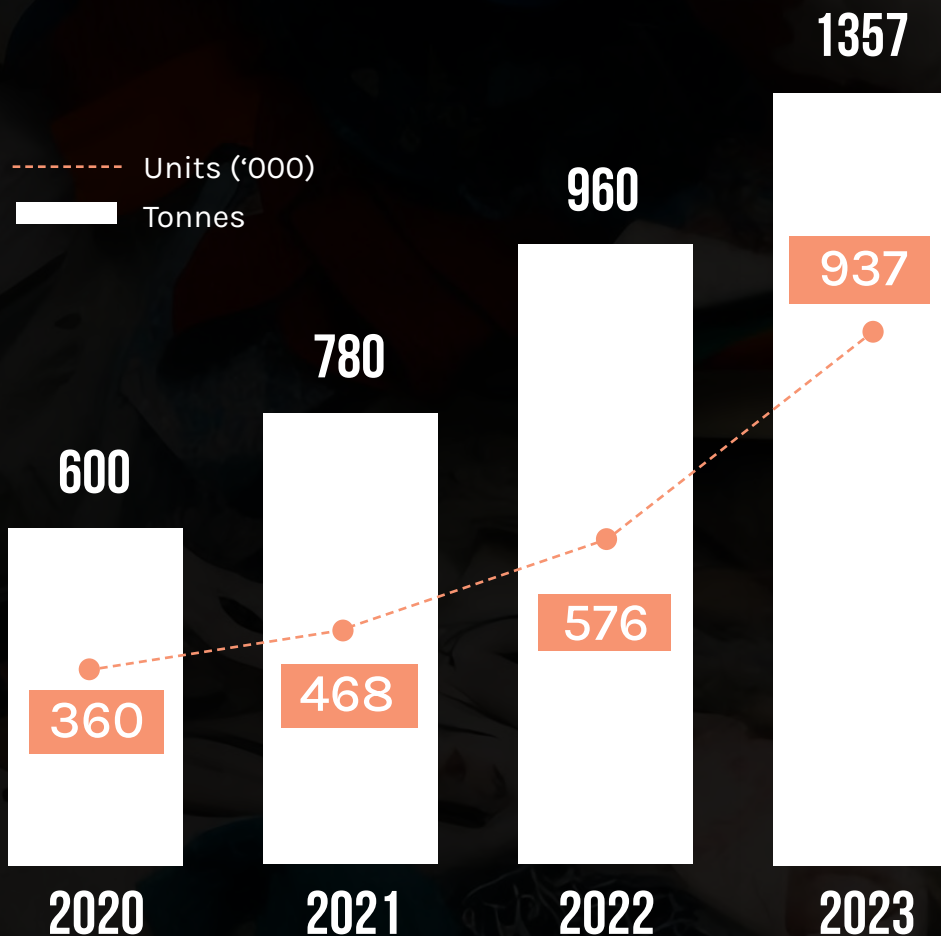
----- Number of Units ('000)  
■ Number of Brands



# OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

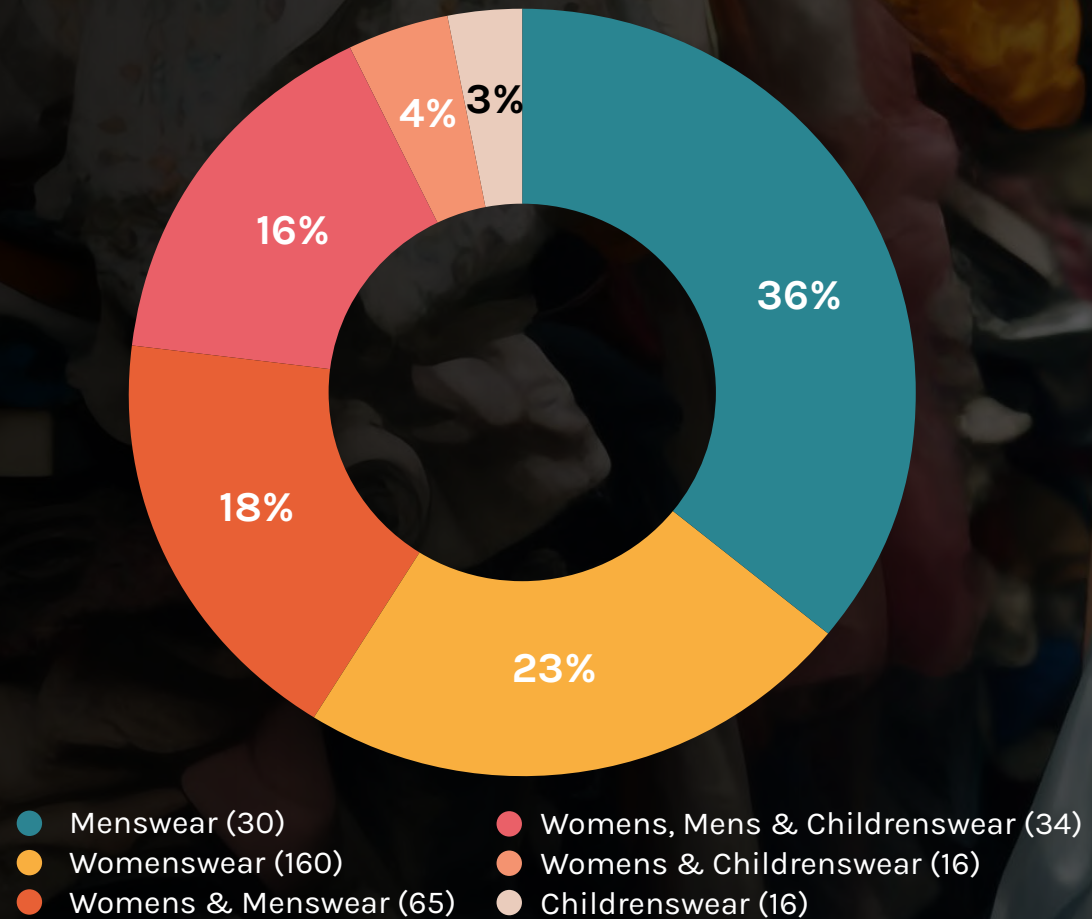
## Number of Units & Tonnes of Clothes Diverted from Landfill FY20-FY23

Total units donated and the equivalent weight in tonnes



## Clothing Categories Quantities by Donor FY23

Percentage distribution of product donated by category



Note: Number in brackets denotes the number of donors







# MEMORABLE MOMENTS

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# CLOSING THE GAP, EMPOWERING WOMEN

For women escaping domestic or family violence, they often leave with only the clothes on their backs. We commenced the roll-out of our wardrobe and capsule service to close the gap for immediacy of need of clothes. We have introduced this new service to 100 shelters across NSW, QLD, VIC, TAS, WA and ACT. Each wardrobe is merchandised and replenished with brand-new underwear, sleepwear and loungewear offering a sense of comfort and dignity when needed most.

A group of young people in formal attire walking on a grassy field at sunset. The scene is captured in a warm, golden light, suggesting the end of the day. In the foreground, a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a black strapless dress and black heels, is smiling broadly. To her right, a young man in a dark suit and white shirt is giving a thumbs-up. Behind them, other young people in formal wear are walking and talking. The background shows a grassy area with trees and a fence under a bright sky.

# A NIGHT THEY DESERVE

Richmond River High is in Lismore, NSW, in the part of town that was completely submerged in floodwaters in February. The class of 2022 have weathered crisis after crisis with many families doing it so tough, a number of students were likely to miss celebrating finishing school. The month before the formal, a styling session was held by Thread Together for 60 students with dresses from Bec+Bridge and suits from Tarocash, while RM Williams and Wittner provided boots and heels. This meant each student could find an outfit to suit their personal taste and celebrate finishing school in style.



## War on waste

Thread Together was featured as the highest ethical response to excess fashion on the War of Waste. Planet advocate Craig Reucassel took a deep dive into Australia's textile waste crisis to sort the facts from the PR spin, tracking down everyday solutions to help all of us do our part in the war on waste. Craig visited our centre to understand the magnitude of the problem and the simplicity and elegance of Thread Together's solution.

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## Supporting new arrivals seeking refuge

In the wake of the war in Ukraine, so many women and children fled to Australia with little, if any, possessions. On arrival Thread Together provided new clothes which were crucial for restoring dignity and fostering a sense of normalcy amidst displacement. Each wardrobe represented solidarity and compassion, affirming their worth and humanity. Through the provision of new clothes, Thread Together stands as a beacon of hope, extending tangible support to those fleeing conflict and seeking refuge.

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# CELEBRATING WOMEN ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In honour of International Women's Day, we teamed up with Women & Girls Emergency Centre (WAGEC) and hosted a very special event at our Clothing hub in Sydney for 12 women experiencing hardship. Joined by stylists from DISSH and Incu, these extraordinary women received a wonderful styling session, and we celebrated their resilience and courage.



## Pursuing scalable pathways to divert natural fibre products where supply exceeds demand

Working with Cotton Australia and the University of New England in the 2nd phase of returning cotton waste to cotton fields in Gunnedah and Goondiwindi with the prospect of a scalable solution for managing natural fibres in Australia by returning these items to the ground to regenerate the soil on cotton fields.

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## Tommy Hilfiger adaptive

At Thread Together, we're strong advocates for accessible fashion, ensuring everyone feels empowered in their style choices. Through our partnership with Tommy Hilfiger, we're striving to create a more inclusive and empowering fashion landscape. The thoughtfully designed Tommy Hilfiger Adaptive range caters to unique needs, incorporating features like wider openings, velcro closures, and magnetic fastenings for maximum comfort and independence. Witnessing the pure joy on the faces of our clients as they experienced clothing tailored specifically for them was truly humbling.

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# REPURPOSED & RUNWAY READY

A unique collaboration between Thread Together, #WeWearAustralian Designers and Afterpay, reCouture reimagines the life of excess men's suits, repurposing these into couture runway pieces. reCouture pieces closed out the final runway show at Afterpay Australian Fashion Week. Participating designers included BEC+BRIDGE, Ginger & Smart, Esse Studios and Nobody Denim to name a few.

Ginger & Smart

This look is a celebration of Ginger & Smart's heritage and future vision, embodying the essence of our brand's evolution. It combines the artistry of pleating and the elegance of deconstructed tailoring, which have been featured in many of our past collections in runway shows.

Esse Studios

reCouture pieces closed out the final runway show at Afterpay Australian Fashion Week. Participating designers included BEC+BRIDGE, Ginger & Smart, Esse Studios and Nobody Denim to name a few.

Mariam Seddiq

With sustainability being such a core part of our day-to-day process, this challenge came naturally to me and was so much fun.

For this look, I took inspiration from the timeless craftsmanship of men's tailoring, breathing new life into original pieces by creating a structured, feminine silhouette. It is both a testament to artistry and sustainability.

*M. Seddiq*





## Celebrating milestones

Hosted The Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, and the former Queensland Governor (and former Governor General of Australia) the Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO at the 2nd anniversary of the clothing hub in Southeast Queensland.



## Supporting communities until they have fully recovered

Thread Together returned to flood affected communities to provide essential clothes to so many people still recovering from the two catastrophic floods that wiped out communities in the NSW northern rivers, one of the nation's worst recorded flood disasters.

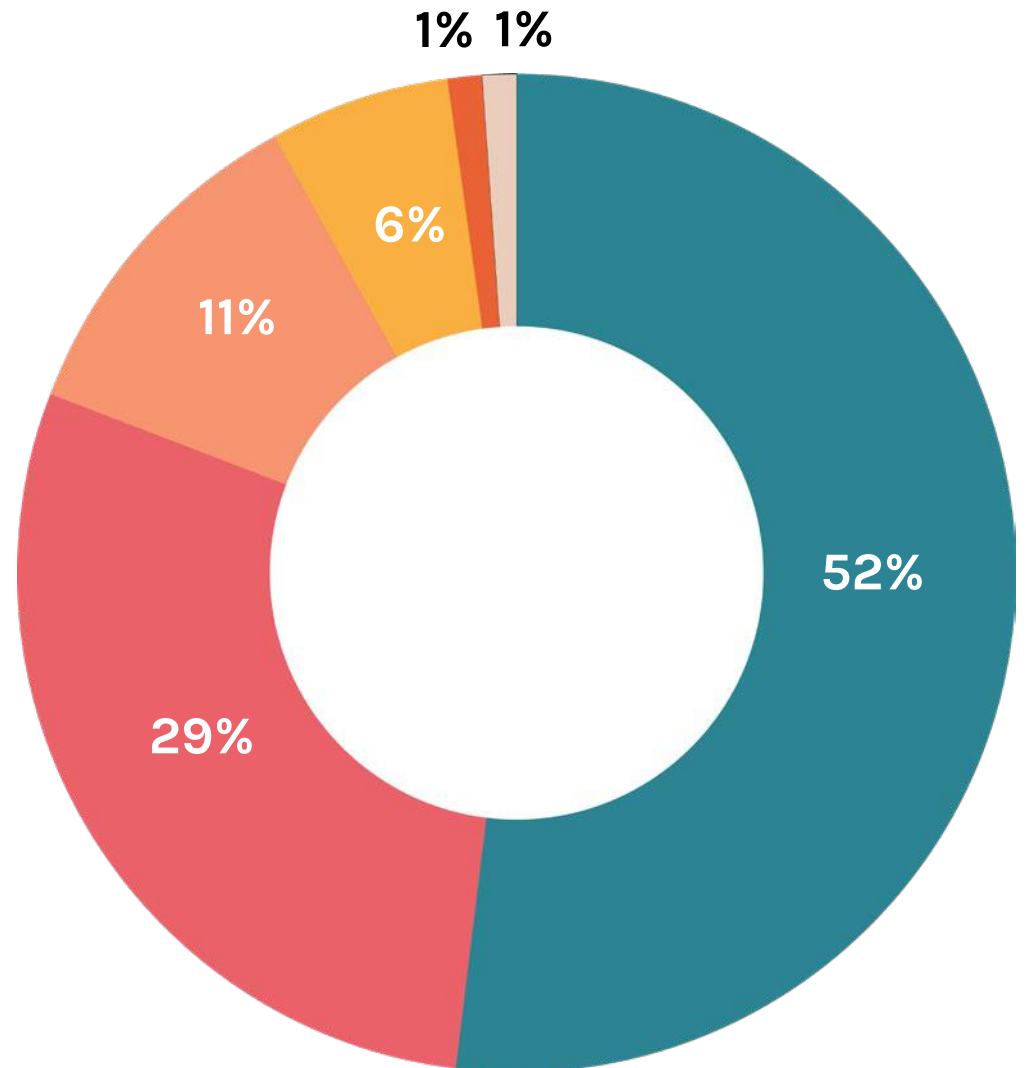
# FINANCIALS

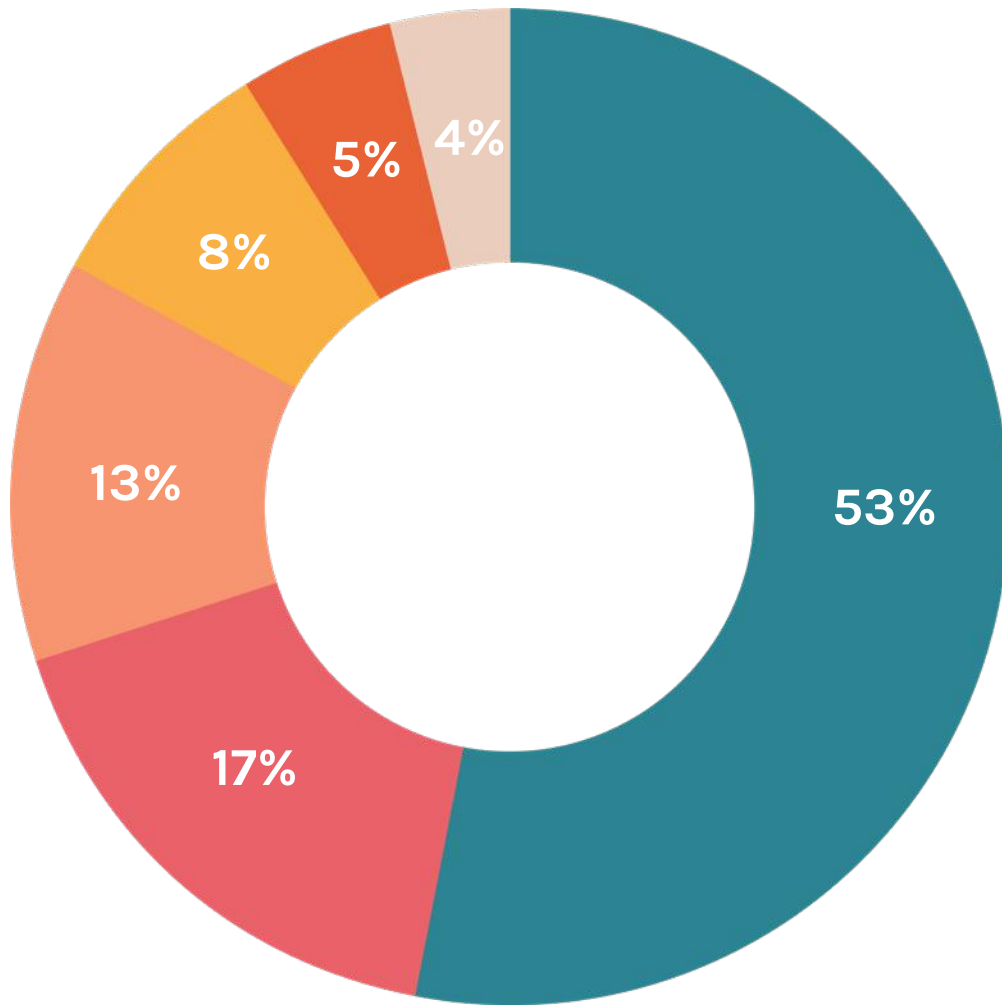
TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED

# \$3,015,466

Thread Together is currently dependent on the generosity of philanthropic sources of funds and does not receive any Local, State or Federal Government funding. Whilst we continue to raise funds from these sources, we are increasingly focused on de-risking our dependency on traditional philanthropy and establishing an annual recurring earned revenue model.

- Sponsorship
- Program Revenue
- Partnerships
- Grant Income
- Donations
- Interest Income





#### ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

**\$2,111,299**

All our expenses support our mission of diverting brand-new unsold clothes destined for landfill and clothing individuals, families and communities experiencing hardship through dynamic, community-led initiatives. We're more focused than ever, investing in work that directly protects vulnerable communities.

- Salaries & Wages
- Advertising & Marketing
- Rent & Outgoings
- Consultancy Fees
- General & Administration
- Distribution

#### NET ASSETS

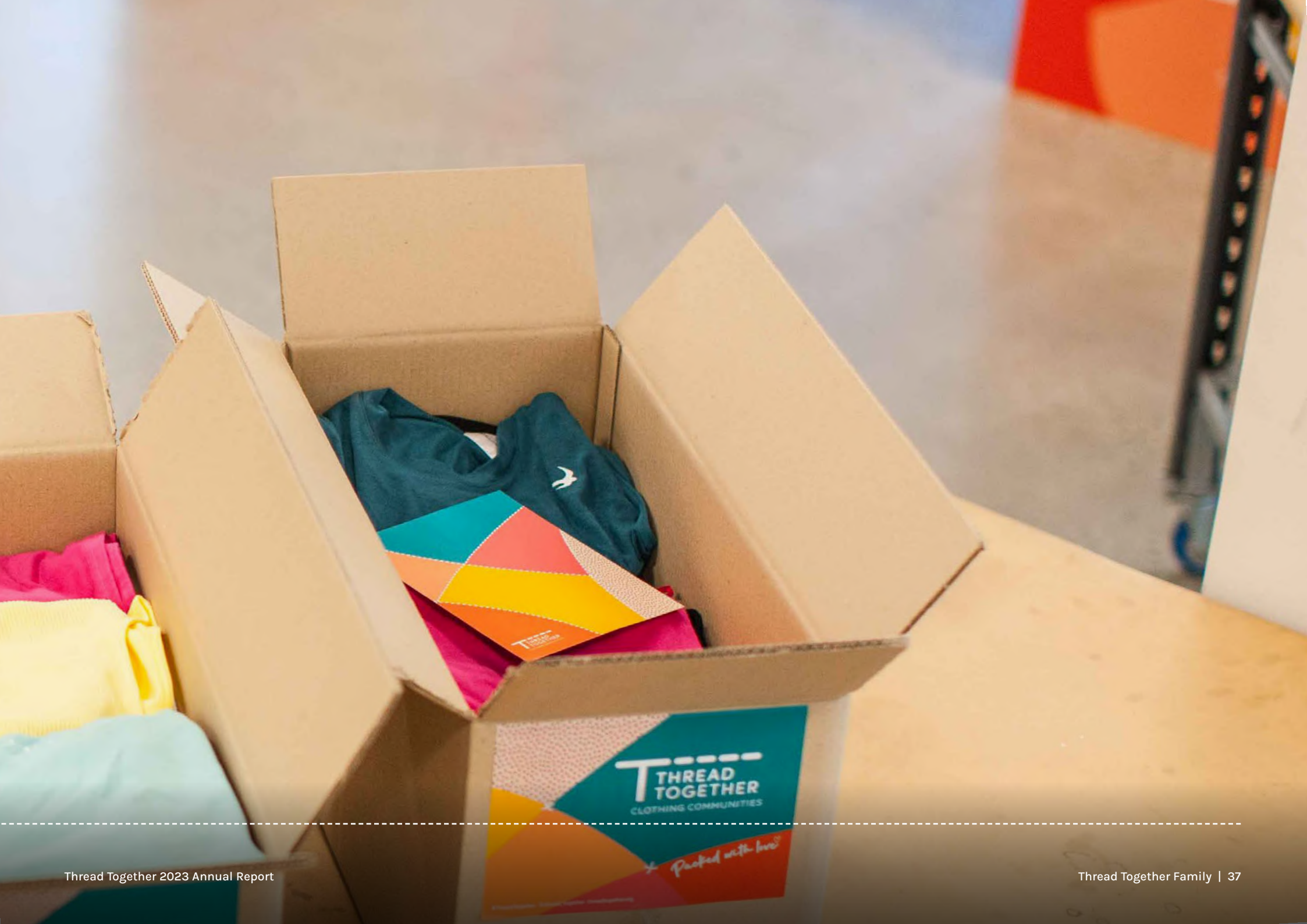
**\$2,156,037**



**T** THREAD  
TOGETHER  
CLOTHING COMMUNITIES

# THREAD TOGETHER FAMILY

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Andie Halas** | Founder



**Gary Perlstein** | Chairperson



**Anthony Halas** | Director



**David Briskin** | Director



**Ashleigh Morris** | Director



**Adam Worling** | Director\*

\*Note: Adam Worling ceased to be a Director on 31 October 2023



# THE TEAM

Anthony Chesler  
Abby MacAllin  
Alyce Krowitz  
Ross Mitchell

Jenna Nakou  
Marla Bozic  
Alec Dean  
Ahmad Mache

Katie Kelly  
Danni Williams  
Kat Brown  
Max Jones

Jacob Graniero  
Nicole Krieger



# IN GRATITUDE





# YOUR SUPPORT MAKES WHAT WE DO POSSIBLE

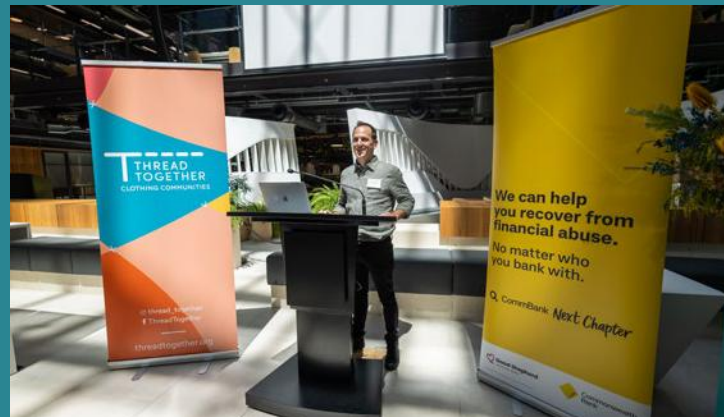
## Foundational Partners

Afterpay

Commonwealth Bank

Goodman Foundation

Team Global Express



# THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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## In Kind Supporters

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BDO Australia  
JasonL  
Opal Packaging  
Ramp RFID  
Visy Board  
Storepro  
TOGA

## Our Supporters

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Amazon Australia  
Bendon  
Bob & Candi Burger Foundation  
DECJUBA Foundation  
DISSH  
Ethinvest Foundation  
Eva & Tom Breuer Foundation  
Grill'd  
IKEA Australia  
Lotti & Victor Smorgan Foundation  
MaiTri Foundation  
Maxima Training Group  
MJ Bale  
Nielsen Foundation  
Payce Foundation  
Paypal Australia  
Platinum Cables  
Princess Polly  
PVH Brands Foundation  
Retail Apparel Group  
River Capital  
Salesforce Foundation  
Spotlight Foundation  
StreetSmart Australia  
Sydney Sock Project  
The Edward Alexander Foundation  
The Gambetta Community Grant  
THE ICONIC  
The Saunders Family Foundation  
TikTok  
Topper Family Foundation  
Yarranbee Foundation

# OUR VOLUNTEERS

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Powered by volunteers, Thread Together harnesses the collective spirit of goodwill to weave positive change, ensuring every effort translates into impactful outcomes for communities in need.

Their dedication and selflessness form the cornerstone of our ability to create meaningful, sustainable change through clothing assistance programs.

## Community Volunteers

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Amelia A	Georgia W	Louise B	Sandy D
Angela G	Greg L	Maureen O	Sharon K
Anthony A	Heather R	Mia J	Sophia M
Caitlin H	Helen G	Nadia S	Stella L
Charlotte G	Ivan R	Natalie K	Stephanie L
Cherlene M	Jacob M	Natasha R	Susan T
Christine B	Jenny L	Nicole K	Susanne S
Claire J	Jill M	Nidhi S	Syd N
Debra D K	Jo-Anne H-M	Nikki M	Tessa P
Diana F	Joshua C	Paula L	Tracey J
Emma N	Karen B	Penny D	Trini F
Erika H	Kim N	Ray O	Vicky E
Geina T	Kim R	Sadie M	Zachary M

Note:

This is a selection of regular community and corporate volunteers

## Corporate Volunteers

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Accenture	Boody	Emanuel School	Lawcover	Paynter Dixon	T Rowe Price
ADYEN	Camilla	Endeavour Group	Lendlease	Pella Funds	Telstra
Afterpay	Canva	Entain	Macquarie Bank	Phuel	The Athlete's Foot
Air Tree	Catalyser	Investnet	Me + U	Rail First Australia	THE ICONIC
Amazon	Charter Hall	Five V Capital	Meridien School	Riot Games	UBS
Ampol	Commune Digital	Gartner	Meshki	Salesforce	Yield Broker
ANZ	Cranbrook	GPT	Microsoft	Samsara Eco	Yodlee
Arms Of Eve	Crawco	Guy Carpenter	Mind Arc	SCEGS	Youth Off The Streets
Assembly	Dashing	IMC Trading	Mirus Group	SCT Consulting	Zscaler
Atlassian	David Jones	Impact.com	Mirvac	Shaw Contract	
Audible	Deloitte	INCU	Modibodi	SHEIN	
Australian Turf Club	E Suite	Insignia Financial	Morrow Sodali	Shona Joy	
Bec + Bridge	Ebay	Jivaro	News Ltd	Slyp	
Bond-Eye	Elephant Room	Kids Giving Back	Optus	Strand	

# THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

## Host Charity Partners

Anglicare North Adelaide  
Anglicare Moruya  
Anglicare Southern Queensland  
Anglicare Western Australia  
Children & Family Services  
Hobart City Church  
Northern CareWorks  
St Vincent de Paul, Canberra  
St Vincent de Paul, Eden  
The City of Yarra  
Wangaratta Baptist Church

## Charity Partners

Afghan Community Support Association  
Alfred Health - Caulfield Hospital  
Arches Accommodation  
ASRC - Asylum Seeker Resource Centre  
Association of Ukrainians in Victoria  
Australian Red Cross Society  
Baby Give Back  
BackTrack  
Bakhtar Community Organisation  
Base Services  
Brave Foundation  
Bunjilwarr  
Campbelltown Hospital - Mental Health  
Care4Coast

City Community Corrections  
Cohealth Community Service  
Community Care Kitchen  
Community Housing Limited  
CREST  
Dignity Ltd  
Elmore Flood Relief  
Emmanuel City Mission  
Empowering Wome  
Empowering Communities  
Filipinos IConnect SA  
Happy Boxes Project  
Heart & Soul Group  
Hutt St Centre  
Jesuit Refugee Service  
Jewish Care  
Justice Health and Forensic  
Mental Health Network  
Kallara Care  
Lives Lived Well  
Living Hope Missions  
Lomandra Community Project  
Lou's Place  
Marninwarnitukura Woman's  
Resource Centre  
Monash Health  
Neami National

Normanton Hope  
NPY Women's Council  
NSW Health  
Opal Health Care  
Parklea Correctional Centre  
Perth Homeless Support Group  
Reech Cambodia  
Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre  
Sacred Heart Mission  
Seeds of Affinity  
Settlement Services International  
St Kilda Mums Inc  
Styling Station Australia  
The Bikers Hand  
The Exodus Foundation  
The Salvation Army  
Tierney House  
Ukrainian Council of NSW  
Umoona Aboriginal Community  
Unitingcare Wesley Port Adelaide  
Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation  
West Welcome Wagon Inc  
Yibirmarra Foundation

### **Note:**

This is a selection of our charity partners

## Fashion Donors

-----  
Assembly Label

Barney Cools

bassike

BEC + BRIDGE

Bendon Lingerie

Best & Less

Billabong

Bird & Knoll

BOHO AUSTRALIA

Bond-Eye

Boody

Calvin Klein

CAMILLA

Camilla and Marc

Charlie Holiday

City Chic Collective

Clever Ain't Wise

Connor

Cotton On

Crop Shop Boutique

Cue Clothing Co.

David Jones

David Lawrence

Dissh Boutiques

Dotti

Ena Pelly

Everyday Australia

Faithfull The Brand

Hammill and Co

Happy Socks

Helen Kaminski

Holiday Trading and Co.

Incu

JACQUI E

JAG

Jay Jays

Johnny Bigg

Just Group

Just Jeans

KIVARI THE LABEL

Kulani Kinis

Lack Of Colour

Lioness Fashion

Love To Dream

LSKD

Lululemon

M.J.Bale

Marc's

Merry People

MESHKI

Modibodi

Mosaic Brands

Myer

Nude Lucy

Nudie Jeans

One Mile The Label

Oroton

Outland Denim

P.E Nation

Peter Alexander

Piping Hot

Platypus Shoes

Politix

Portmans

Princess Polly

Quicksilver

R.M.Williams

RIP CURL

Rockwear

Roxy

SABA

sass & bide

Seed

Shoes Unlimited

Shona Joy

Showpo

Simone Perele

SIR. The Label

Sportscraft

Style Runner

Target

Tarocash

The Athlete's Foot

THE ICONIC

Tommy Hilfiger

Under Armour

Underworks

UNIQLO

Venroy

Viktoria & Woods

Wittner

yd

Zanerobe

Zulu & Zephyr

### **Note:**

This is a selection of our fashion donors

For Judy Smith, it was the touch of a soft woolen jumper, enveloping her in a soothing hug as she shivered in shock from the traumatic loss of her home in the bushfires. For Gemma Mannion, emerging from the darkness of domestic violence, slipping on a brand-new dress was the silver of light she needed to feel she had a second chance at life. For Lizzi Ward, it was the relief felt at receiving a pair of shoes for her rapidly growing son's feet, knowing he could now happily run and play with his peers at day care. And for Justine Lawson, it was the pampering she was receiving which – for a blessed moment – paused the crushing anxiety she lives with on a daily basis.

These four women could not be more different – their ages, circumstances and upbringings all as unique as the circumstances which brought them to the doors of Thread Together. However, the gratitude and renewed confidence the charity has brought them is unifying.

"They really do change women's lives and if it wasn't for them, I honestly don't believe I would be here today," says Gemma, 28. "They gave me my confidence back. To know that I am loved and appreciated."

"It hugely lifted me up," Judy, 56, nods in agreement, while Justine, 55, concurs. "You come away feeling so special. It was lovely."

"It's important not just for mums like me, but the whole community," adds Lizzi, 26. "They look after people in all kinds of different situations."

"The people we work with are as varied as the services we have on offer," says Andie Hallas, CEO of Thread Together, the not-for-profit charity she founded 10 years ago. "There is no stereotype of what someone in need is like."

**A thoughtful design**  
A production error started the Thread Together journey. Andie had ordered a batch of high-quality towels that were perfectly serviceable but had a small

design defect. Rather than throw them away, she wandered down the road to her local charity shop hoping they could find a home.

"I noticed a mother and daughter rummaging through some old clothes – old bras, T-shirts – it was not dignified," she recalls. "I thought, we can do better than that. So I called a few friends in the industry."

Together, they gathered unsold end-of-season stock which, until that point, had been bound for the trash. They took it to the store and laid the clothing out on rails – with labels all still attached, sectioned into sizes and types and free for those in need.

"It was then that I realised how important it was for people to have choice," she says of her 'aha' moment. "To find the right size for themselves, for it to be practical, to find exactly what they want to wear and for it to be brand new. People shouldn't have to be reminded of their set of circumstances by wearing someone else's clothing."

And an equally urgent driving force for Andie were the second-hand textiles, which are the largest contributor of waste. And, unlike the last cab off the rank when it comes to finding a management solution, there's a loose statistic in fashion that one-third of stock is sold at full price, one-third ends up in landfill. In a world where we are more than ever aware of our fragile environment, that is a terrifying number. And the reason is a terrifying number. And the reason is a terrifying number. And the reason is a terrifying number.

For Gemma, who today wears the dress she received when she was in a very same situation, this certainly rings true. Her childhood had been incredibly traumatic. The eldest child

of a drug-addicted mother and between her beaten brother and a woman she had also raised her two younger siblings from the age of seven. "High school was the hardest bit for me because I was trying to finish my OCE (Queensland Certificate of Education)," she says now. "I was taking my brother to school, looking after my mum, looking after the house. I grew up way too fast, I sacrificed a lot for my family."

Shortly thereafter, she began dating a man who quickly became obsessive. The pair lived together, albeit in separate rooms. And when she broke things off, that obsession became violent.

Her ex would break into her room demanding sex, hitting her if she wouldn't acquiesce. One night he refused to leave, falling asleep in her bed. She was so terrified that she ended up going downstairs, where

she experienced homelessness – with just the clothes on her back. And they in the Thread Together hub – one of many which exist around the country in addition to their mobile vans. "I went crazy, I got a whole bag of clothes," she laughs. "It blew me away because you were like, 'Go and pick whatever you want.' It took me back because I didn't believe in the generosity of people. Those clothes came in especially handy as Gemma was about to start a new job at a florist, work she says has given her purpose, stability and a sense of family. "I didn't have any work clothes and I wanted to help me," she says. "I will be forever grateful that they did."

She arrived at a Dignity guest home – a service which gives haven to people like-minded. Thread Together has over 100 partners. Brands from Bonds to Calvin Klein, R.M. Williams with the charity, and many more work with the charity which provides the means to clear their excess stock free of charge, solving what has previously been an expensive and wasteful process. Toll Group has partnered free for their courier services and drop-offs. Goodson Group donated the warehouse space that is the revolving door for stock before it finds a grateful new home. Afterpay has joined as a principal partner, helping raise microdonations – asking consumers to add \$1 to their purchase with other charitable organisations – all of this is helping them connect – currently 500 and counting – to ensure their services go far and wide.

"As long as they are a registered charity, we are happy to help," says Andie of the only requirement Thread Together asks for before joining into action. "We work with homeless shelters, women's shelters, youth at risk. We are completely non-judgemental. Gender transitioning people leaving jail access the service to help them integrate back into the community. Refugees, people who have lost everything in fire or floods. We want these people to go on and be able to do good things with their lives."

For Judy, this proved a life raft when the deadly 2019-2020 bushfires were raging through Australia. It was Christmas and she and her son Benji had gone to stay with friends at Mogo on the NSW far South Coast when they found themselves battling the flames. "But I never dreamed [our home was] in any danger because we lived less than 300 metres from the beach at the Moruya," she says now. When the pair were eventually evacuated and attempted to make their way home, she found out she could not have been more wrong. "The road that leads to our house was cordoned off and there were loads of



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Judy Smith (above) and Gemma Mannion (left) have benefited from Andie Hallas' (opposite page) life-changing initiative.

too little, so let's be the conduit and make sure it doesn't go into landfill."

**Setting up shop**  
"One of the first women we ended up helping was a victim of domestic violence," Andie recalls of their early days in operation. "We received an emergency call to help her and her five children because they'd run out with nothing. So we got them some pyjamas to wear that night, a fresh pair of underwear and trackuits for the next day. I still speak to her regularly – she ended up putting herself and university, re-educating herself and now has a very senior position in a community centre. Support coming at a time people need it can help them make huge leaps."

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**"They wanted to help me... I will be forever grateful."**  
– Gemma Mannion



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALANA LANDSBERG



By Glynnis Troil-Nash  
Photography Nick C.

# IN THE PRESS

With all our exciting work and projects in 2023, Thread Together was featured in a variety of major media sources, including The Age, Sydney Morning Herald, The Guardian, Marie Claire, Vogue, Financial Review and many more.



A young woman with long dark hair, wearing sunglasses on her head, a patterned long-sleeved crop top, and a white skirt, is smiling broadly in a clothing store. She is holding a smartphone in her right hand. The background shows clothing racks and store lighting.

**“CLOTHES HAVE THE  
POWER TO TRANSFORM,  
INSPIRE AND EMPOWER”**

-Anonymous

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[threadtogether.org](https://threadtogether.org)