



ANNUAL REPORT | 2023

T THREAD
TOGETHER

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

-Pharrell Williams



A WORD FROM OUR CEO ANTHONY

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

PARTNERING TO AMPLIFY IMPACT



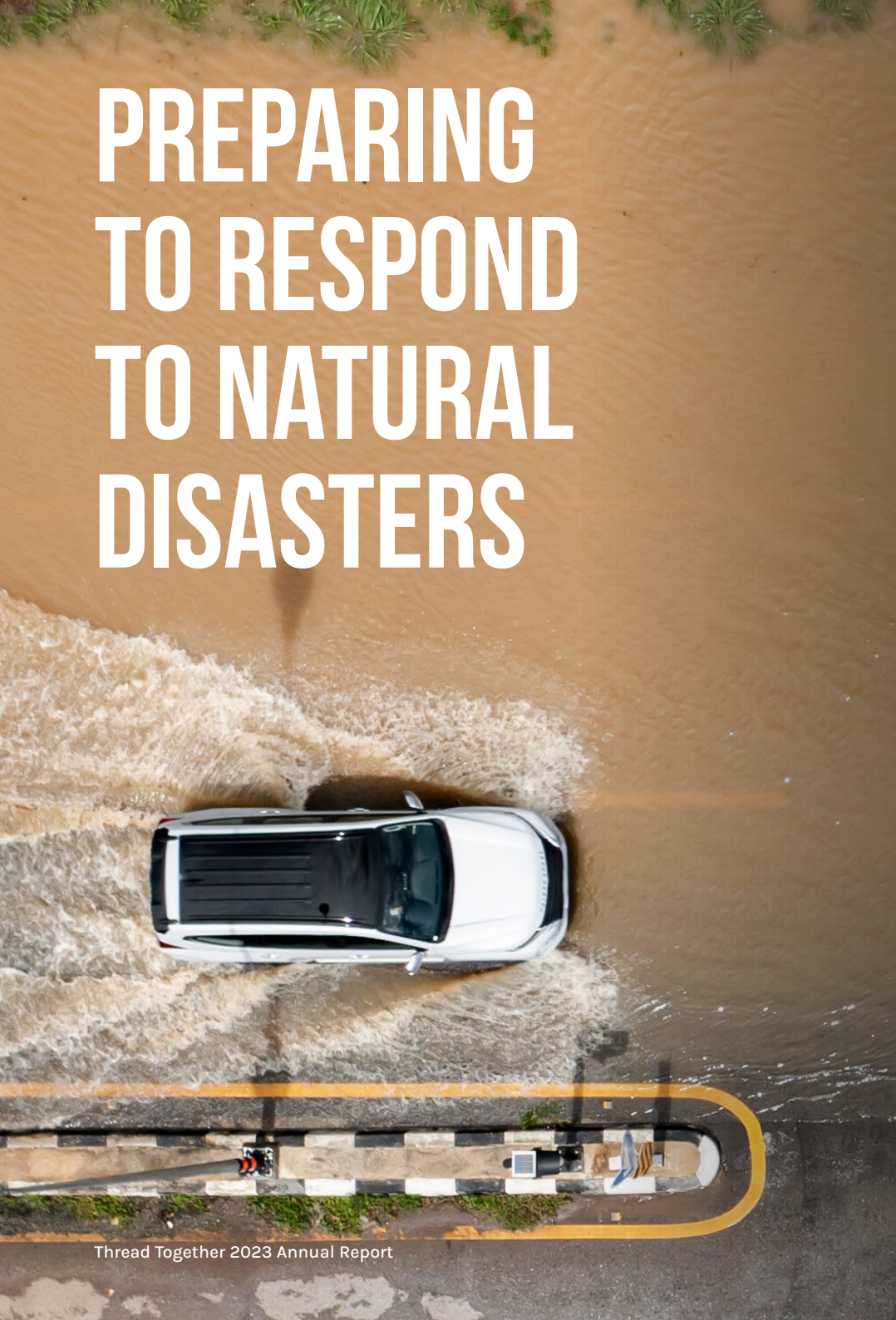
Thread Together's model is predicated on partnering and collaborating with various stakeholders to amplify our impact on vulnerable and marginalised communities and our planet. By partnering with non-profits and social welfare organisations, this year, we leveraged their deep, local understanding of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



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

"Its 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 with be in a situation like that. Our first encounter with Thread Together, was inside the evacuation centre. Everything was brand-new and the people where just so beautiful and made us feel like everything was going to be alright."

Gemma

Florist & Survivor of Domestic Violence

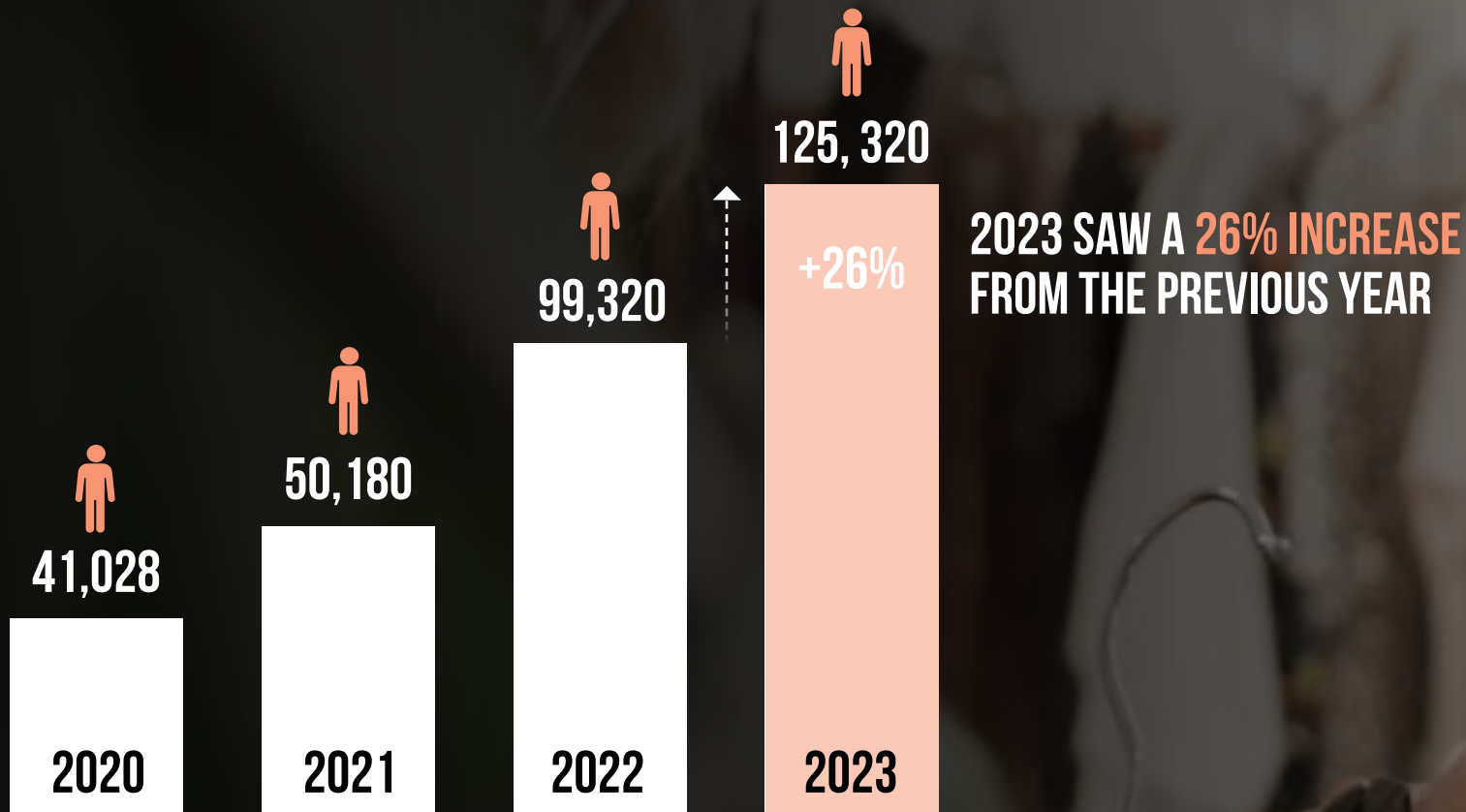
"Before I was 18, I lived in too many places to remember as my mother struggled with drug addiction and my step-father took his anger out on both of us. I have never had the opportunity to browse and select anything new from a shop. Thread Together helped me to select the clothes that matched my style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

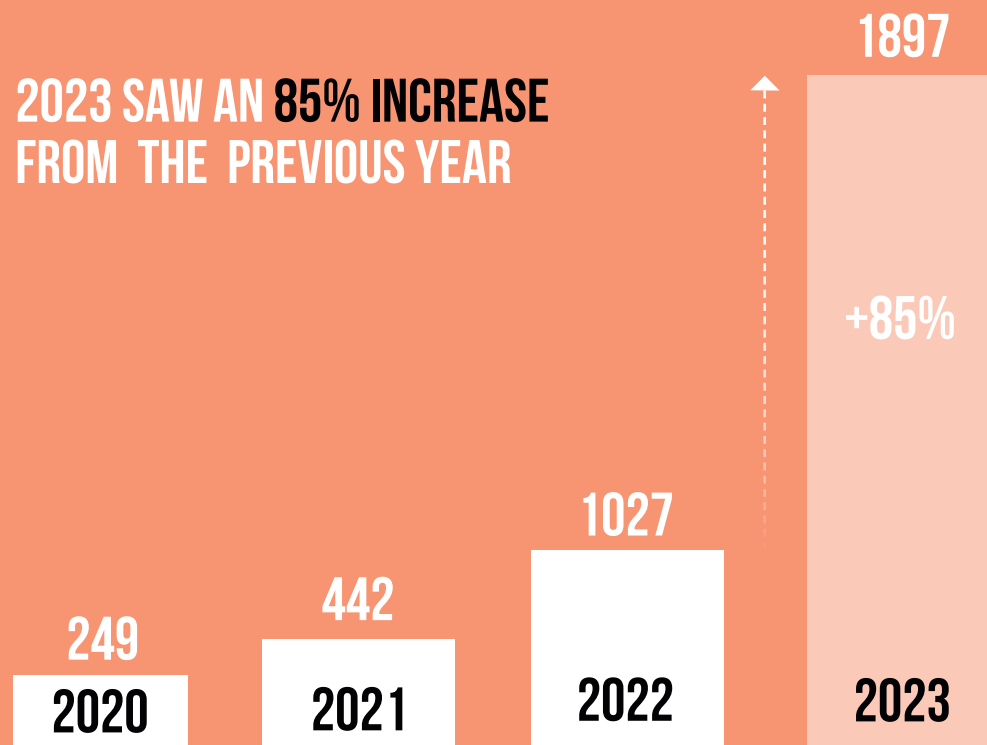




OUR NATIONAL REACH

Number of Agencies FY20-FY23

The number of registered charities and welfare agencies utilising our service

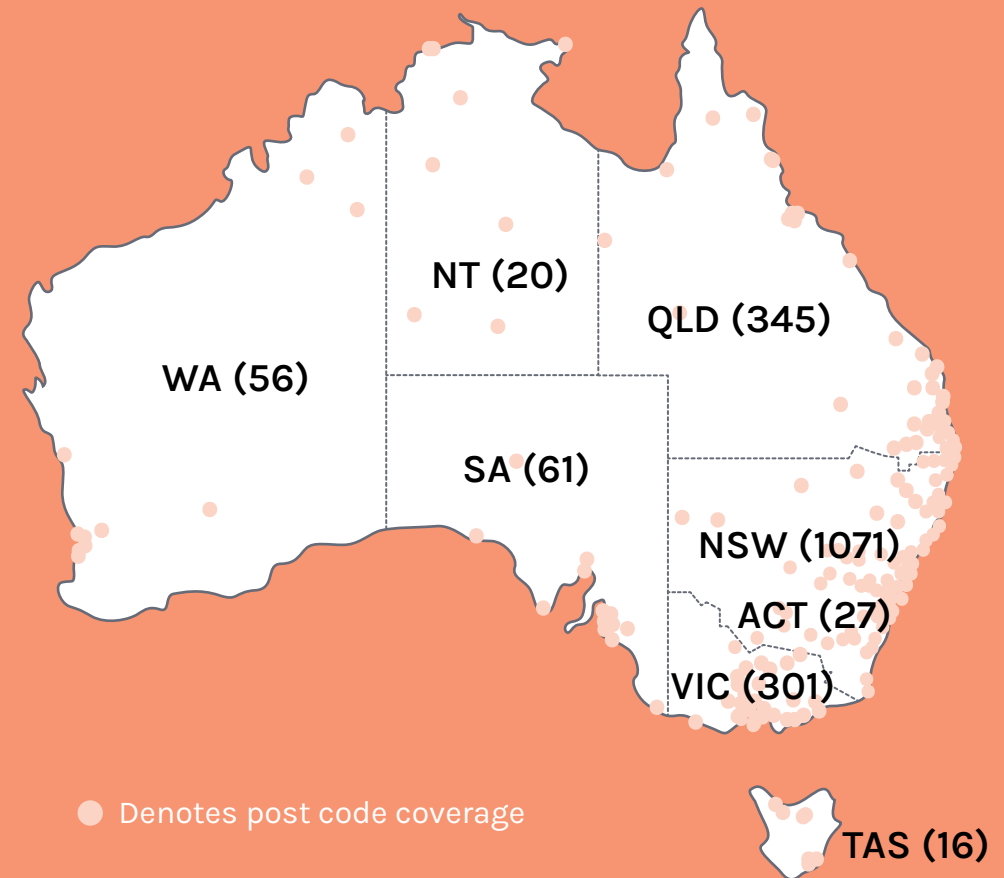


61%

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.

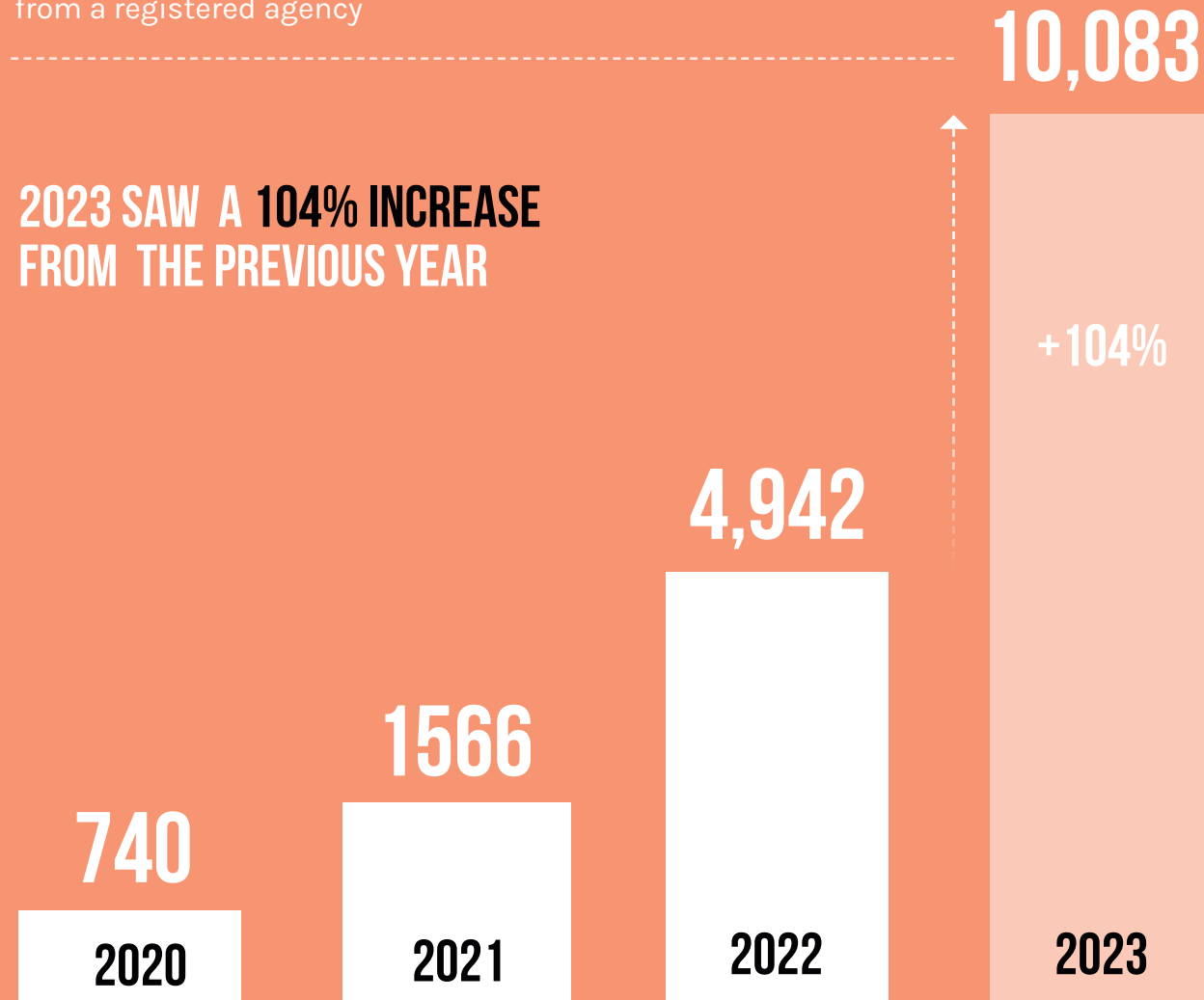
Agencies by Location

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

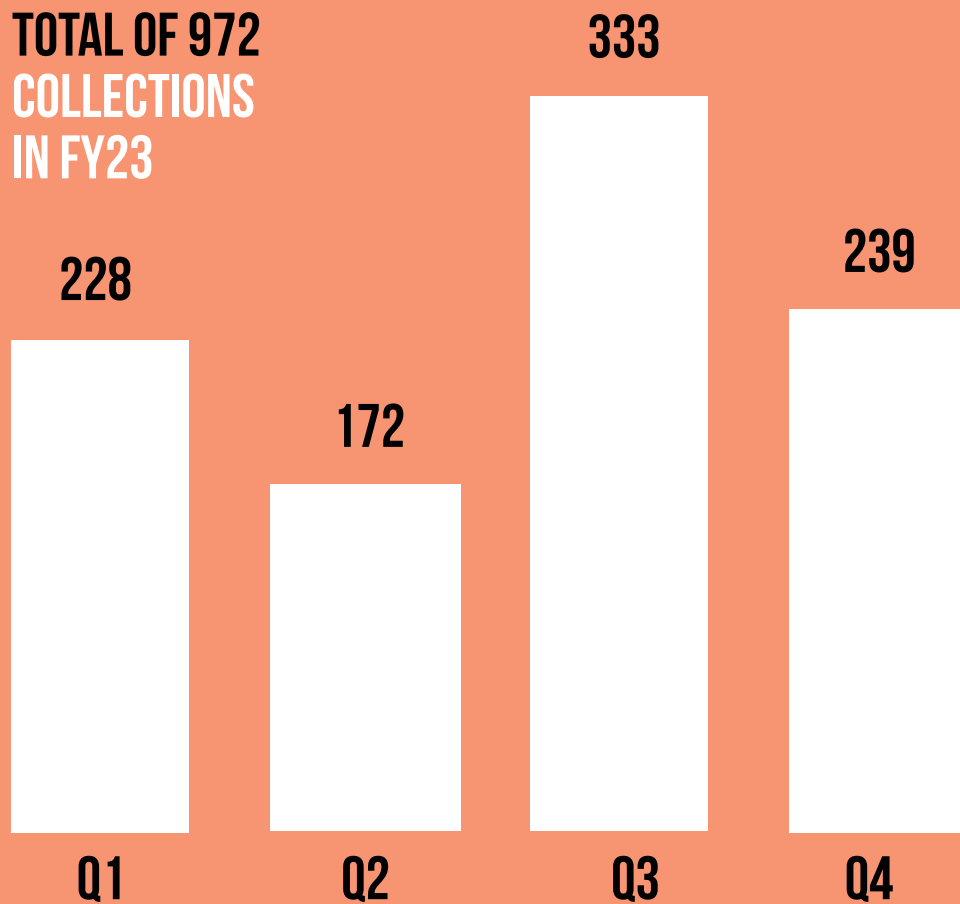
yd.

Johnny
BIGG

Number of Donation Collections FY23

Total number of collections requested by brands

**TOTAL OF 972
COLLECTIONS
IN FY23**

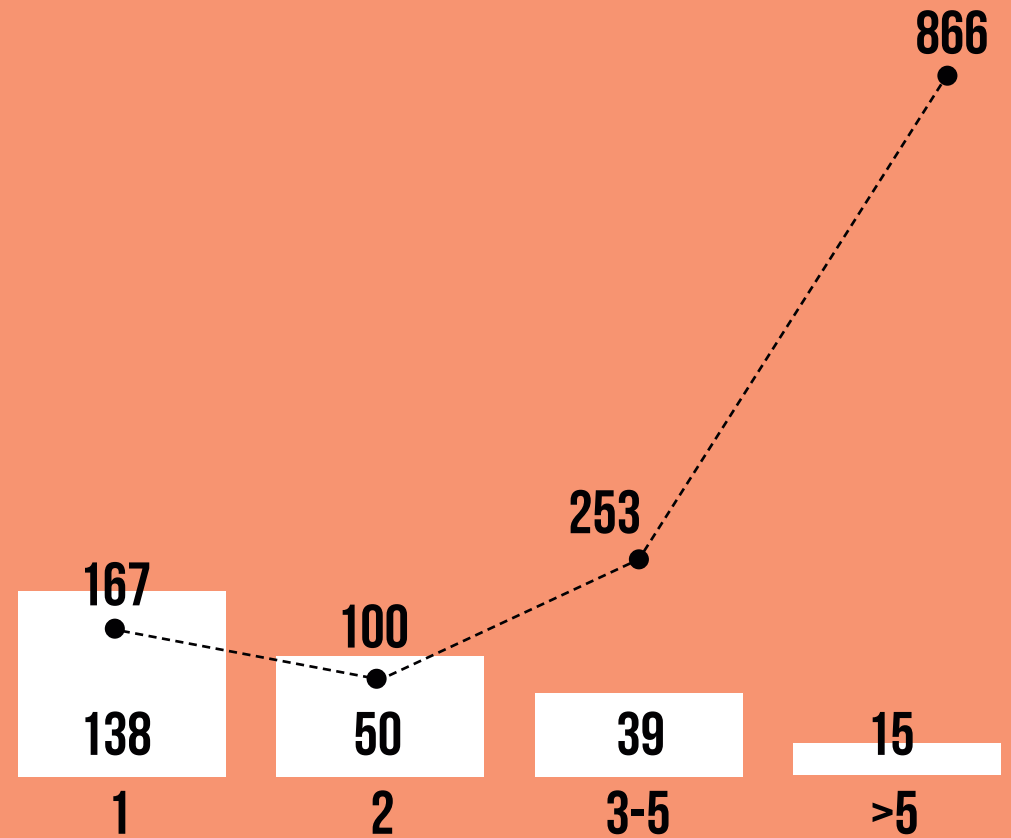


Quarters

Donation Frequency FY23

The number of brands and units by collection frequency

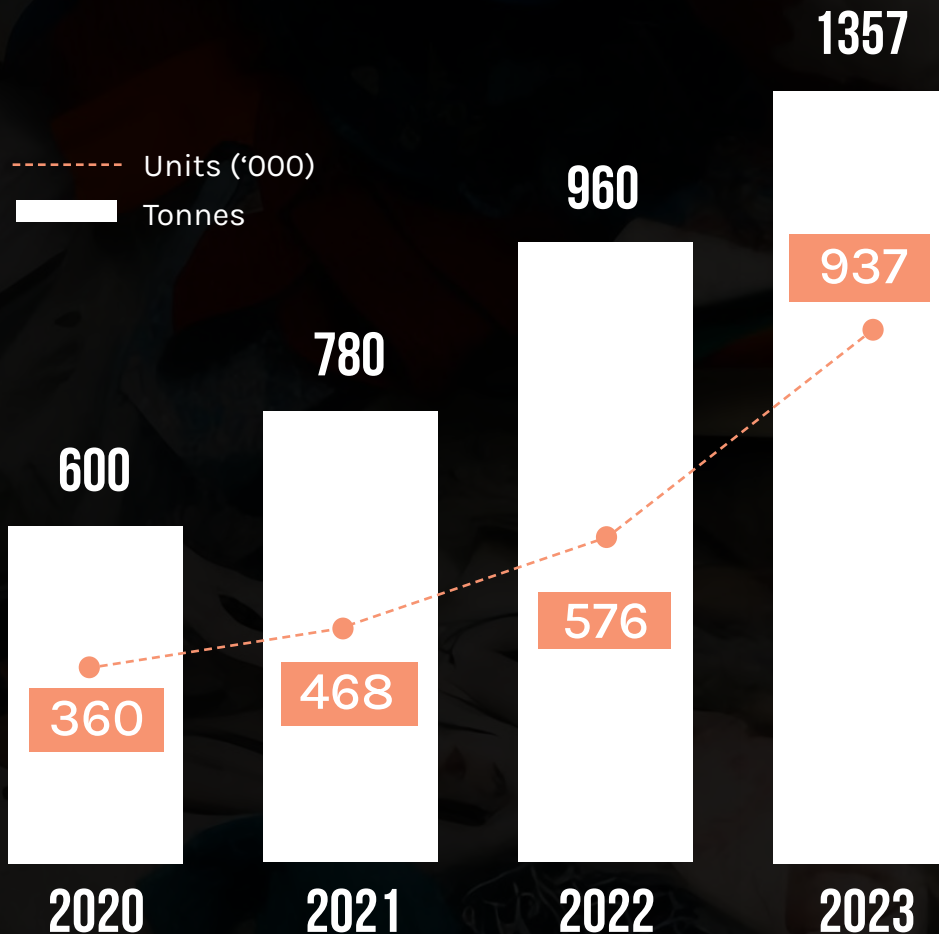
----- Number of Units ('000)
█ Number of Brands



OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

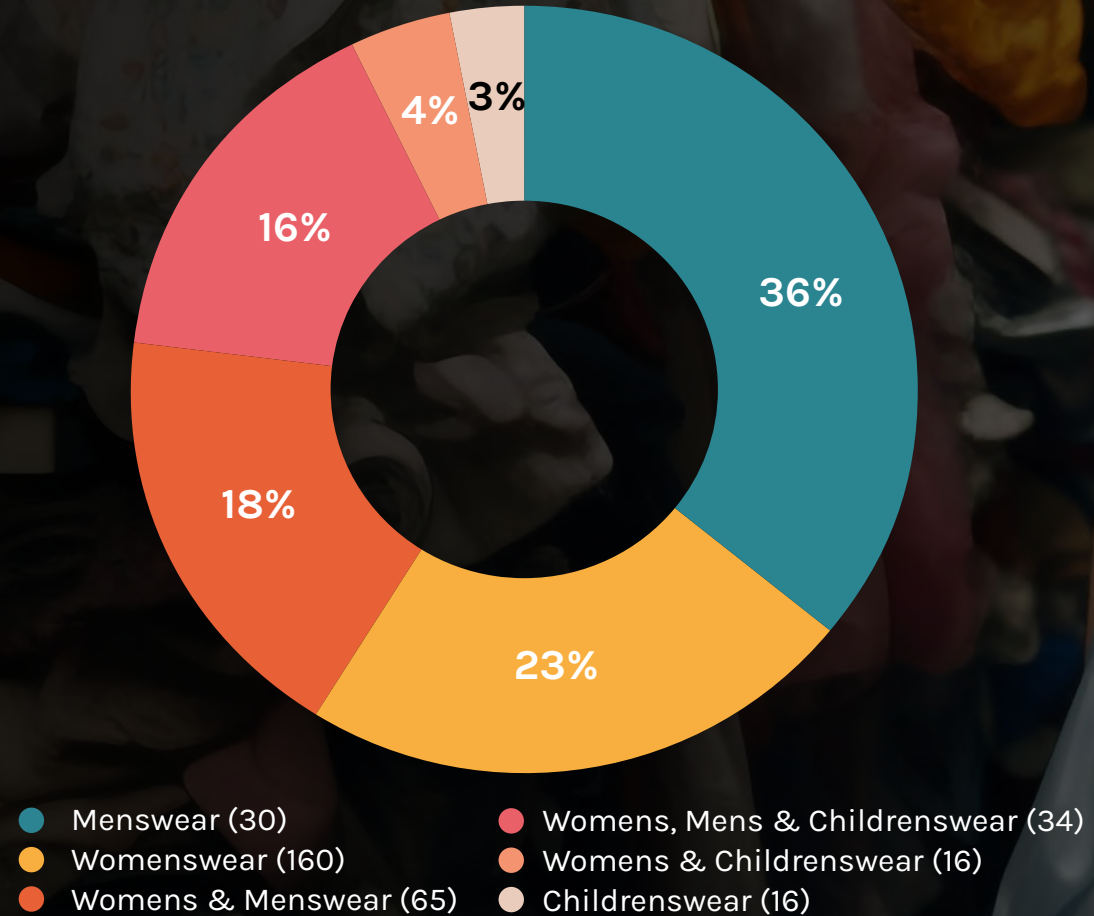
Number of Units & Tonnes of Clothes Diverted from Landfill FY20-FY23

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



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.



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.



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.



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.

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.

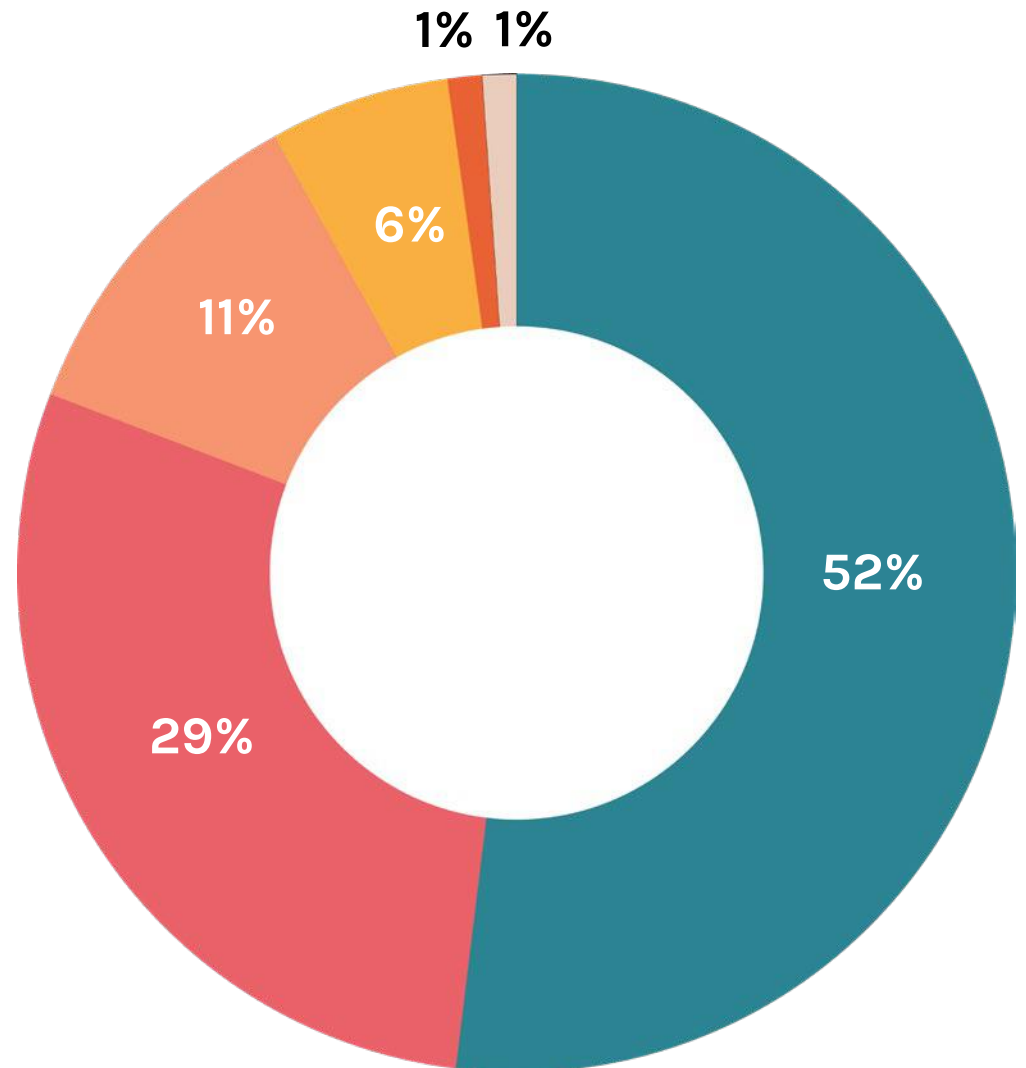
FINANCIALS

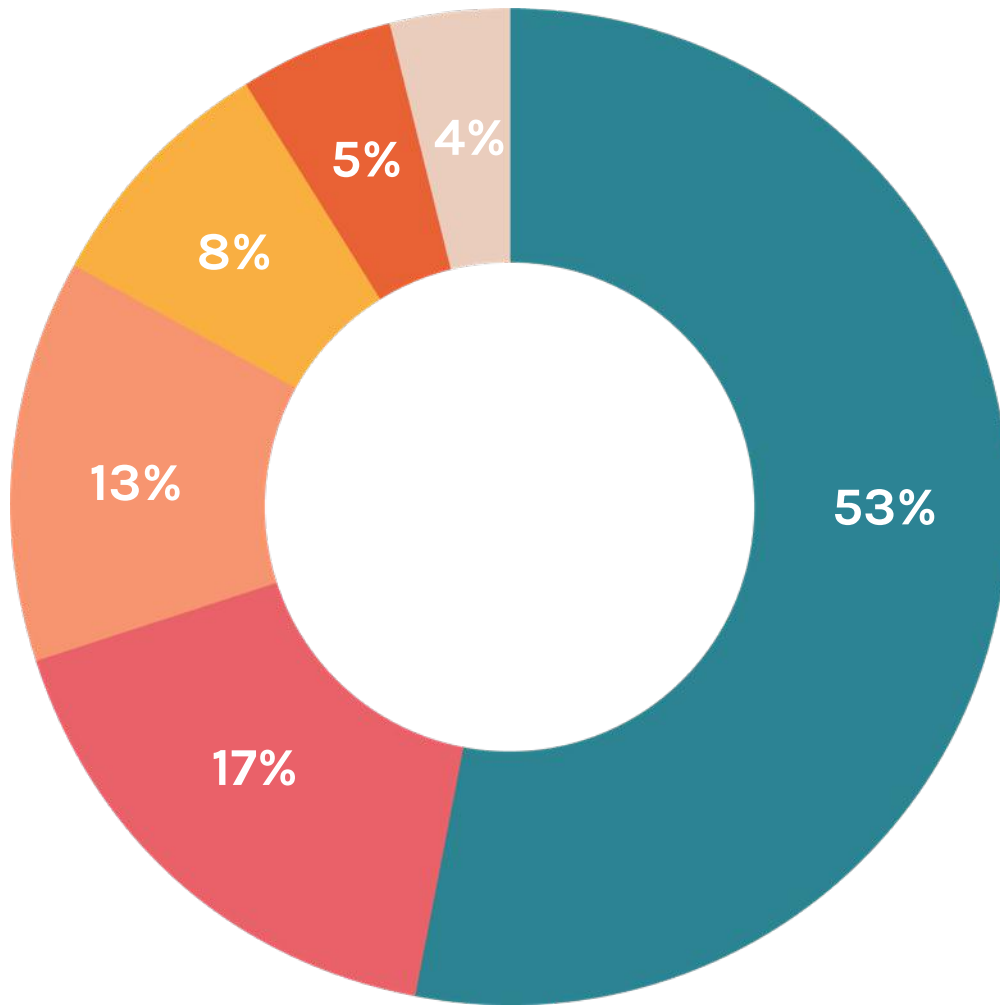
TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED

\$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

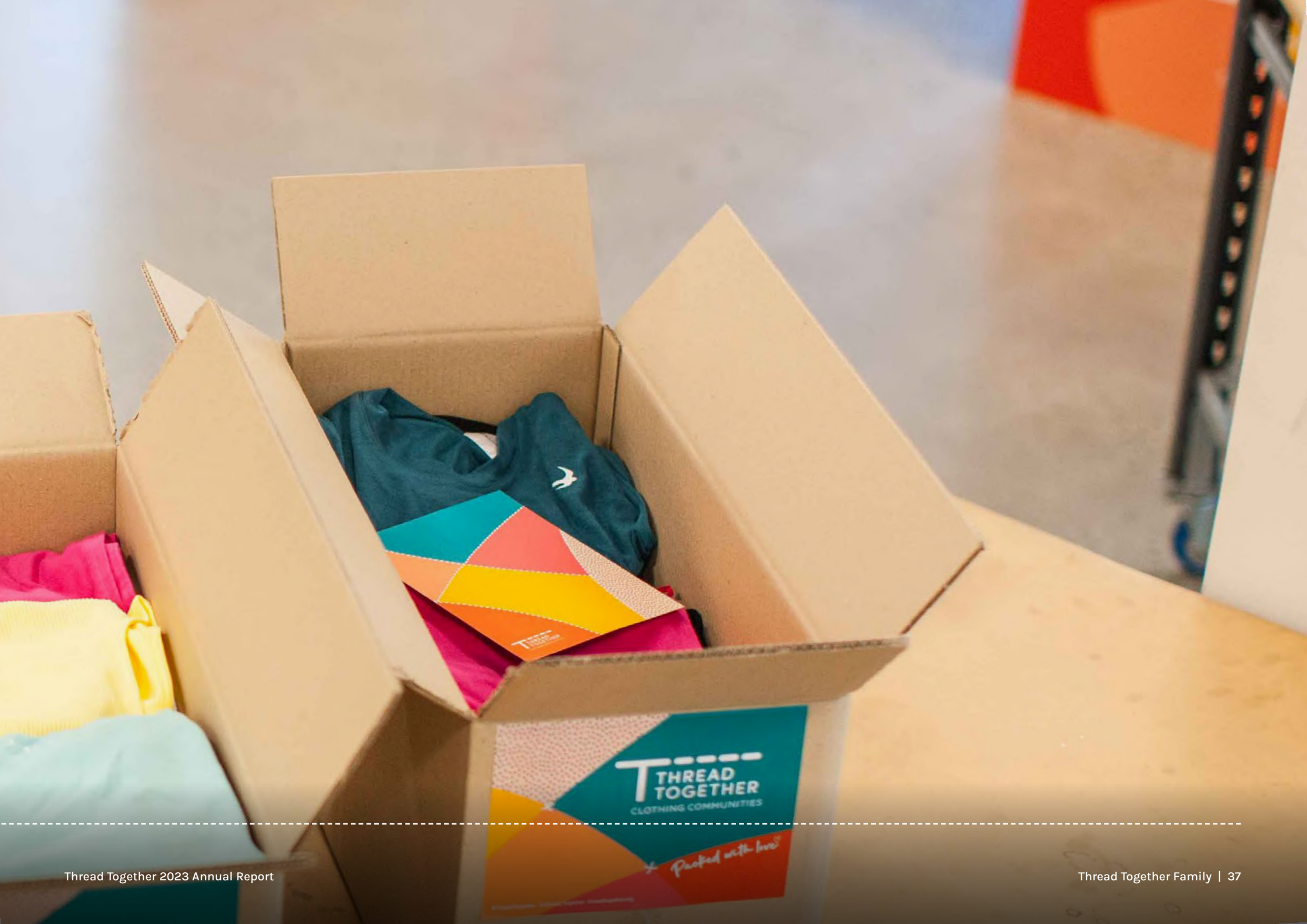
NET ASSETS

\$2,156,037



T THREAD
TOGETHER
CLOTHING COMMUNITIES

THREAD TOGETHER FAMILY



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

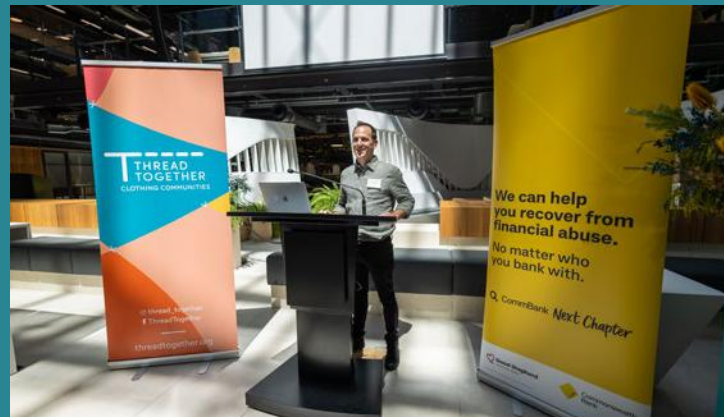
Foundational Partners

Afterpay

Commonwealth Bank

Goodman Foundation

Team Global Express



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

In Kind Supporters

BDO Australia
JasonL
Opal Packaging
Ramp RFID
Visy Board
Storepro
TOGA

Our Supporters

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
Yarranabbe Foundation

OUR VOLUNTEERS

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

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

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

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Underworks

UNIQLO

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Viktoria & Woods

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yd

Zanerobe

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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

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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 are the second-hand textiles are the second largest contributor of waste. And, unlike food waste, green waste and more, they are 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 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 physical victim of rape and physical cruelty. 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, and 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

women's her beaten body," she says between sobs. "That's when it hit me." She says through tears. "You can't live like this anymore. Either he's going to kill you, or this is going to be the rest of your life."

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 and to go towards Thread Together. And all of this is helping them connect with other charitable organisations – 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 jumping into action. "We work with homeless shelters, women's shelters, youth shelters. We are completely non-judgemental. Gender transitioning people leaving jail access the [and] 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 four home was in any danger because of the beach at about 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

experiencing 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. I thought they were just all bad."

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 they knew my circumstances and just wanted to help me," she says. "I will be forever grateful that they did."

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

stitch time

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALANA LANDSBERG

Homeowner Andie Hallas donated her store, she realised she had a solution which could not only help women solve an environmental crisis.

By Glynnis Troil-Nash

Photography Nick C.

EXCESS THREADS & SILVER LININGS

What happens to all the clothes that fashion brands can't sell? Once they're end up in landfill, now they clothe thousands of people a week

Thread Together 2023 Annual Report

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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



threadtogether.org