



30 Years of reducing the impact and incidence of road trauma

Annual Report 2024 – 2025

About

Our Vision

To reduce the incidence and impact of road trauma.

Our Purpose

Amber Community is a not-for-profit organisation contributing to the safety and wellbeing of Victorian road users. We provide counselling and support to people affected by road trauma and address attitudes and behaviours of road users through education.

Our Values

Caring — We are committed to serving our clients with empathy and compassion.

Integrity — We display integrity, respect and dignity in all our dealings with clients, stakeholders and members of our workforce.

Quality — Our focus is on the people we serve, and we strive for excellence in service delivery, evaluation and continuous improvement.

Accountability — We are accountable for our actions in working to deliver our services and our mission.

Our History

Amber Community was founded in 1994 by a small group of people whose lives had been directly impacted by road trauma.

These people understood the need for a specialist service where support could be offered to those who, like them, were suffering because of the injury or loss of a loved one on the roads. They joined with professionals working in the area to provide counselling and support.

From this humble beginning, Amber Community has grown to offer statewide counselling and support to people affected by a road incident. Amber Community now comprises a team of staff and volunteers who provide support and education services to more than 5,000 people annually.

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Amber Community's 30 year anniversary event



Message from the Chair

“Our staff, volunteers and partners are the heart of Amber Community. Together, we continue striving for a safer community, less impacted by road trauma.”

As I write my final report as Chair of Amber Community, I am grateful our staff and volunteers, in collaboration with our partners and the broader community, continue to contribute to the safety and wellbeing of Victorian road users through their tireless counselling and education work each day.

Unfortunately, it is a concerning trend that the incidents on our roads continue to increase, with 296 lives lost this year compared to 287 last year, and many more seriously injured. Our services remain as relevant and necessary as ever.

Our 2024–2027 strategic themes are Embed, Expand and Evolve. This year Amber Community has embedded many of the positive changes implemented in recent years and expanded our reach into regional areas. We will continue to evolve our service offering in the years ahead.

Our education team has delivered the Road Trauma Awareness Seminars (RTAS) program at much higher volumes than in previous years, reflecting both the demand for the service and the quality of the educational sessions. These RTAS programs have a demonstrably positive impact on driver behaviour and safety awareness.

With road incidents continuing to rise, our counselling team has continued to provide free support to those in need. We have used some of our historical financial reserves to invest in additional resources to reduce waiting lists for counselling sessions, and we are beginning to see the real impact of these changes.

Amber Community again delivered our two main community events this year: the Time for Remembering ceremony honouring loved ones, and the Shine a Light on Road Safety Walk & Wheel supporting those impacted by road trauma.

Financially, we finished the year with an operating deficit of \$103,315. While we are clearly not in a

position to sustain significant annual deficits, the main reasons for the increased expenditure were one-off costs and investments in additional resources. We also had more than sufficient reserves available to cover these.

I want to express my gratitude for the genuine support and collaboration we receive from our many partners, including the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), Victoria Police, the Department of Transport and Planning, VicRoads, Community Correction Services, the Magistrates’ Courts, and our corporate and community partners. Without you, we would not have the reach and impact we achieve.

Many thanks to our staff, who deliver counselling, education, fundraising and support functions, for their extraordinary efforts to reduce the impact of road trauma in the community, and to my fellow board members for their pro bono support and strategic guidance. At the Annual General Meeting, we farewelled Mark Musgrave, who completed the maximum nine-year term as a director, and thanked him for his many contributions.

Finally, I would like to say a huge “thank you” to our dedicated volunteers. With every courageous story you share and every event you support passionately, you are the heart and soul of the organisation.

I’m also immensely grateful to our CEO, Bernadette Nugent, who, due to a change in personal circumstances, will be leaving Amber Community after 14 years, six of them as CEO. Her stellar leadership during this time, includes steering us through COVID-19, followed by a major rebrand, and a move to more suitable offices. We wish Bernadette all the very best.

After due process, led by an independent board committee, I was very honoured to be offered the role of CEO. I know I have big shoes to fill, but I look forward to commencing in October 2025 and leading Amber Community forward as we continue striving for a safer community, less impacted by road trauma.

Xander Alpherts
Chair

CEO Report

"Amber Community has not only been a workplace, but also a significant part of my life."

Reflection, growth, and impact through the incredible dedication of our staff, volunteers, Board, and broader community support has defined this past year.

30 years of service: Amber Community marked its 30th anniversary with a celebration, recognising the incredible contributions of our staff, volunteers, and supporters. This milestone reflects not only our longevity but also the strong partnerships and community support that enable us to provide vital care and advocate for safer roads.

Gratitude and appreciation: Our counselling team comprises dedicated, and compassionate individuals who provide essential support to individuals and families navigating the aftermath of road trauma. Their tireless work is a testament to the trauma-informed care that defines our organisation. With over 12 years' experience, I've witnessed firsthand the unwavering dedication of our counselling and education teams, whose efforts have expanded our reach and deepened our impact.

We are also proud of our statewide education team, whose impactful programs reach drivers and communities across Victoria. Their evidence-informed presentations, delivered with empathy and integrity, make a tangible difference in road safety awareness and prevention. They also work tirelessly to promote our programs and represent Amber Community across the state.

The work of our administrative and support staff is often unrecognised, but our organisation could not operate as effectively as it does or achieve its success without these hardworking individuals.

Community engagement: The counselling team has carefully designed a thoughtful and supportive intake process for people referred to counselling, helping us manage our waiting list. The education team has worked diligently to engage their regions and increase the number of participants in our Road

Trauma Awareness Seminar program across the state. At the heart of our work are the courageous volunteers and lived experience speakers whose voices bring depth, emotion, and authenticity to education sessions, public forums, or Amber Community events, reminding us of the real lives behind the statistics.

Innovation and adaptability: This year, we undertook an extensive organisational HR audit, resulting in the classification of all staff under the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services (SCHADS) Award. This critical step affirms our commitment to fairness, transparency, and recognition of the vital work our people do.

Collaborative partnerships: Amber Community has continued to collaborate with our key road safety partners, such as the TAC, Victoria Police, the Magistrate's Court, Community Correction Services, and the Department of Transport and Planning. Corporate partnerships have grown stronger, with six legal firms now on board, and we have welcomed Adica Insurance as a premium sponsor. These relationships enhance our ability to provide services and collaborate with like-minded organisations to achieve the best possible outcomes for our service users and the community.

Strategic plan: Over the last 12 months, we have explored and implemented systems to help us measure the impact of our work in both our counselling and education programs. Maintaining a focus on outcomes and impact helps us stay accountable and provides us with vital data that informs the development of services and programs moving forward.

Events: We also continued to lead and participate in events that amplify the importance of road safety. The Time for Remembering ceremony once again offered a moving space to acknowledge and honour those affected by road trauma. Our 12th Shine a Light on Road Safety event was another standout, bringing together the community, government, and partners to highlight the shared responsibility we all have in keeping our roads safe.



Bernadette Nugent speaking at the Shine a Light on Road Safety Walk & Wheel

Financial update: Medium-sized not-for-profit organisations in Victoria often face significant challenges in financial management, including balancing limited resources with growing community needs and navigating complex funding landscapes. Despite these difficulties, our organisation remains committed to securing long-term, sustainable funding through strategic planning and the development of diversified income streams. We are deeply grateful to the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and our partners for their ongoing financial support, which has been instrumental in helping us maintain and expand our services for those who need them most.

Looking ahead: As a result of a change in my circumstances and relocating to South Australia, I made the difficult decision to stand down from my role as CEO. Amber Community has not only been a workplace, but also a significant part of my life. I leave with immense respect and admiration for our

team and complete confidence in the strength and future of the organisation.

As CEO, I have had the honour and privilege of leading this extraordinary organisation through both challenging and rewarding times. The heart of Amber Community is its people — our staff, volunteers, and Board, and I thank each of you for your unwavering dedication and belief in our mission. Your contributions, whether behind the scenes or in our direct service delivery, ensure that those affected by road trauma are not alone and that we continue working towards a future with fewer lives lost or forever changed by serious injuries on our roads.

Bernadette Nugent
CEO



Shine a Light on Road Safety Walk & Wheel

Our Impact

Our clients



"Having someone listen and understand, with positive, supportive responses."
- counselling client

1,684
Road Trauma Awareness Seminar participants

5,771
number of counselling interventions

"I don't think people understand how much their behaviour impacts others on the road."
- Road Trauma Awareness Seminar participant

1,550
counselling referrals

29
Road Trauma Awareness Seminar venues statewide

Our volunteers



104
volunteers are involved in speaking in our education programs

131
active volunteers

"I wanted to tell my story in the hope that I might be able to change the way that just one person might think."
- Lived experience volunteer speaker

Our events



"A wonderful event that is well organised and feels like one big hug."
- Shine a Light on Road Safety participant

150+
people attended & watched our Time for Remembering ceremony

4M+
People reached through our Shine a Light on Road Safety campaign

Volunteer Services

Adrian Benson	Fiona Adams	Kellie Bishop	Paul O'Dwyer
Alex Eleftheriou	Fiona Conway	Kerry Ann Norton	Peter Thomson
Anat Bigos	Gary Frost	Kristine Papworth	Peter Morgan
Andrea Korvin	George Greaves	Kristy French	Peter Aldersea
Andrew Knowles	Gerardine Eales	Leigh Booth	Rebecca Bishop
Andrew Raniere	Glenn Heazlewood	Leonie Cooke	Reg Stott
Anne Riches	Graham Milner	Les Beechey	Richard Watkins
Anthony Bartl	Ian Aranyosi	Lou Harms	Robert Carter
Belinda Dowel	Irene Harrington OAM	Maeve Su Mi Luu	Robert Henning
Belinda Clark	Jacinta Stivala	Mandy Ferry	Robin Bowerman
Ben Trotter	Jake Virtue	Manny Marchesin	Roger Astell
Bernie Stanley	James McLardy	Maria Harkins	Roni Forai
Beth Atkins Psimaris	James Thompson	Marie McNamara	Rosalie Dows
Bev Steart	Jan Dilworth	Marise Bassily	Rosie Johnston
Bronwyn Weir	Janine Gastevich	Mark Cartledge	Russell Harley
Byron Carson	Jason Naumann	Mark Musgrave	Samantha Bala
Carmel O'Brien	Jason Hague	Matthew Pope	Shane Jayasinghe
Catherine Hannah	Jeanette Suhr OAM	Matthew Armour	Sharon O'Dwyer
Cecilia Beaucasin	Jessica Zaghet	Melinda Dine	Sophie Owen
Chris Mair	Jessica Goulding	Merryn Henderson	Steve Williams
Christian Ashby	Jo Keep	Merryn Wallace	Stuart Le Grand
Corey Bray	Johan Meyer	Michael Hellwege	Susan Hansford
Dale McIvor	John Heuvel	Mohammad Yasin	Teegan McDonald
Damian Sumner	John Fitzpatrick	Monica Gorgievski	Thomas Smyth
Dannielle Dean	Jonathon Van Ek	Mumtaz Akhtar	Thomas Renehan
Darryl Crowley	Julie Jochs	Nadine Goldsmith	Tim Nolan
David Simmons	Kaitlyn Downs	Nadine Ahfat	Tony Hoeboer
Debra Mahy	Kajol Kate Eagle	Natalie Stanway	Valerie Seal
Eilidh Luu	Karan Vaghela	Natasha Cook	Victor Gartside
Ele Gnauck	Karen Robinson	Nathan Wolfe	Wendy Bowler
Erin Newell	Karina Osgood	Nilsson Smyth	William Cole
Fiona Umbers	Kathleen Clark	Paul Illman	Xander Alpherts
Fiona D'Silva	Katie Hughes	Paul Sabo	Yeksan Altun

Our volunteers share their stories, support others, and make a difference in the community.

Amber Community’s volunteer lived experience and emergency services speakers predominantly work within our Road Trauma Awareness Seminar (RTAS) program statewide.

The benefits of volunteering
Our volunteers play a vital role in everything we do at Amber Community. For many, sharing their story is not only a way to help others, but also an important part of their own healing journey.

Most volunteers describe the experience as therapeutic, helping them to make sense of their road trauma, increase acceptance of their story, and grow personally.

Making a difference
Amber Community’s lived experience volunteer speakers are at the heart of our RTAS program statewide. They also share their stories through media interviews, as Ambassadors for the Shine a Light on Road Safety campaign, and in community settings such as workplaces, sporting clubs, and schools.

“Thank you for providing such a much needed and extraordinary community. I have really felt a shift in my own emotional and mental states with regard to my road trauma.”

By bravely telling their stories, volunteers create powerful moments of connection that challenge attitudes and inspire change.

Why they volunteer
The most common motivation for volunteering at Amber Community is simple: to prevent others from experiencing road trauma.

“I wanted to tell my story in the hope that I might be able to change the way that just one person might think.”

Volunteers see the impact of their work firsthand in RTAS programs:

“As their attitudes change from ‘everyone does it, I just got caught’ to realising the impacts of road trauma and serious injury, I hope that they carry the message and influence their circle of family and friends.”

For many participants, it takes hearing a story directly from someone affected for the message to truly resonate:

“It's encouraging when, after an RTAS program, people come up and say things like, I've been in front of judges, and they have said that I could have killed or seriously injured someone. It was just words until I met you.”



- 104 lived experience & emergency services speakers
- 13 admin & event volunteers
- 9 volunteer board members
- 5 research committee members

Types of volunteers

Counselling & Support Services

'How wonderful when somebody has time to listen and care. My counsellor was my "soul doctor" ... I am independent again!'

This year, to ensure equitable access and manage our wait list, we introduced a model offering up to six counselling sessions with the option of one further session. We also received Board approval to employ casual counsellors, both reducing client wait times and leading to 12 months' secured funding from the TAC.

In all, we have received more than 1,550 referrals of individuals affected by road trauma. Each person was contacted directly and provided with information about how we could help. Those who chose to access counselling were first offered an intake call, followed by a combination of individual sessions and/or group therapy programs.

The counselling team is conducting more robust intake calls to facilitate quicker and more appropriate support. We have also integrated the CORE-10 assessment tool into our intake and counselling process: a 10-item measure designed to track psychological distress and monitor changes over the course of treatment.

Client feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the impact of our trauma-informed approach. We have been able to consistently integrate client assessments and evaluations, putting us on track to collect more meaningful, reportable data on client needs and service impacts.

Group support

At the start of 2025 we launched a more structured and purposeful online Art Therapy Group program. Four programs of five fortnightly sessions were due to be delivered this calendar year in line with Victorian school terms. Although this initiative marked the end of the organisation's long-standing in-person art therapy group, the change meant we were able to significantly increase the program's accessibility and reach.

Besides art therapy, we continued to deliver the Road Trauma Support Group program. These provide a safe space for individuals to share experiences, and learn about the common impacts of trauma and coping strategies.

'All interactions were thoughtful and interesting, and both the group and individual counselling sessions were really valuable for me.'

Seven such programs of four sessions each were delivered online, to the benefit of more than 40 clients. Two counsellors acted as facilitators. Feedback has been very positive, for example:

'This group was a godsend and I'm so grateful to the counsellors for facilitating it. Thank you for all the support you've provided to me and to the community.'

Looking ahead

With funding secured for our casual counselling program over the next 12 months, we will have a greater capacity to respond promptly to clients, reduce wait times, and ensure consistent service delivery when staff go on leave. We will keep improving our referral network, ensuring those in need are aware of, and able to access, the support they need.

We want to further enhance our data-collection processes so we can collate and analyse CORE-10 outcome measures more efficiently. This will allow us to better understand client progress and communicate meaningful insights to our stakeholders.

A key priority will be to sustain a strong and well-connected counselling team through ongoing professional development, supervision and peer support.

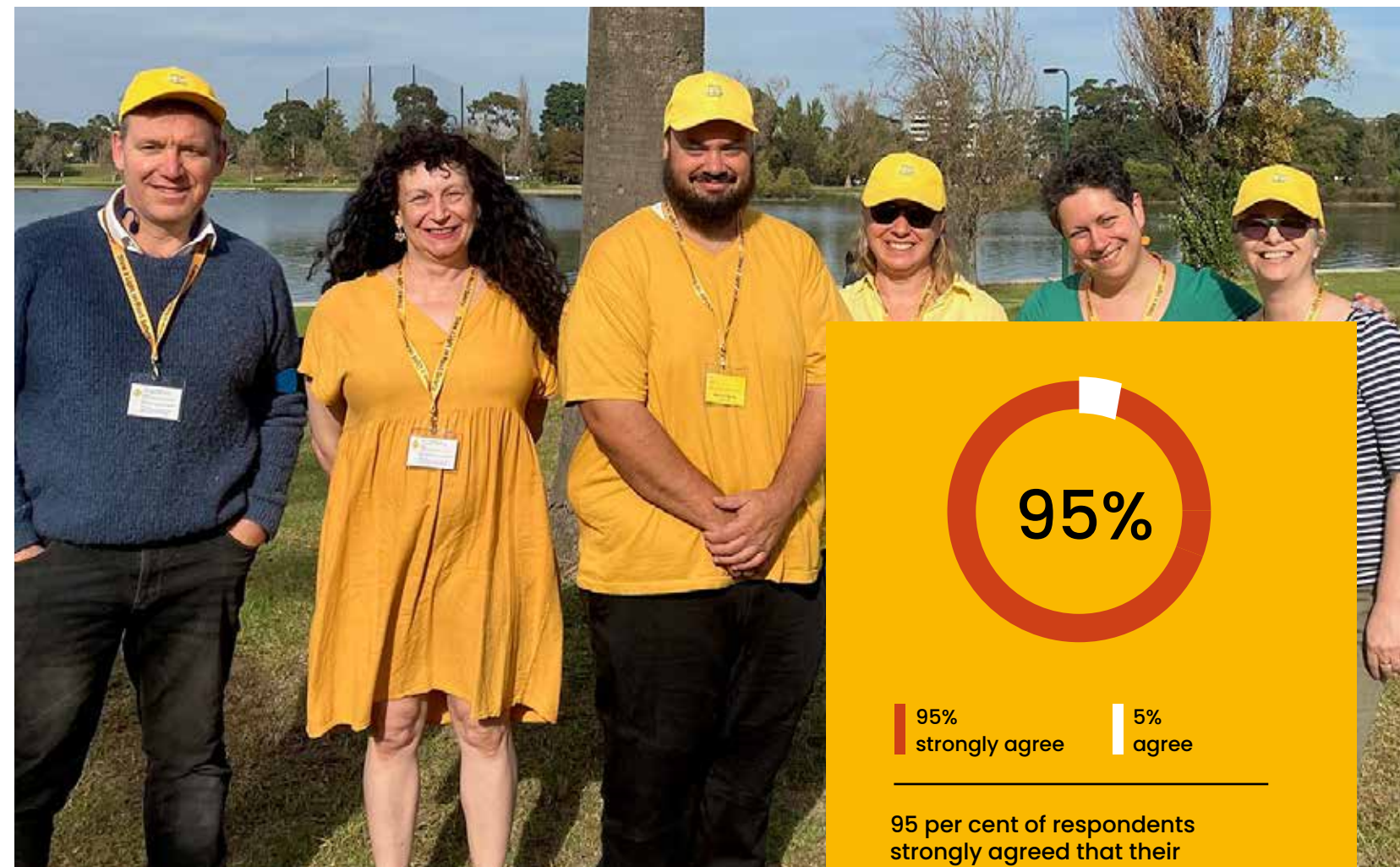
Finally, as we continue this important work, we hope to pause and recognise the impact we have already made, celebrating the dedication of our team and the resilience of the people we support.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the team for their dedication and expertise. We have had another year of growth and change, with everybody contributing to the achievements of Amber Community's Counselling and Support Services.

Final word from one of our clients:

'My counsellor helped me understand and express very overwhelming and, at times, suffocating emotions. Before starting my sessions, I felt there would be no end to my grief. I now better understand what my grief is [and] how I can manage living with it.'

Renee Brauer
Manager Counselling & Support Services



Creating a safe space after road trauma

Daniel, Counsellor



"People only feel safe when they feel truly heard and validated, not just in their words, but in their stories, emotions, and silences."

I have been working as a counsellor since 2007, beginning in the area of men and relationships. Over time, my experience expanded into crisis support, suicide prevention, working with current defence personnel and returned veterans, supporting families, domestic violence, and complex mental health. This gave me a broad and varied background before I took 18 months away from work to support unwell family members.

In 2024, ready to return to counselling, I came across an ad for a trauma and bereavement counsellor at Amber Community. At the time, I didn't know much about the organisation, but I was deeply familiar with the trauma and bereavement space, both professionally and personally. More than 12 months on, I feel at home as part of the Amber Community family, and it truly feels like I've found my calling.

My role gives me the privilege of sitting with people during one of the hardest times in their lives. Creating and holding a safe space after road trauma is not easy, but it can give people a moment to let go and just "fall apart" without needing to be a parent, colleague, manager, or friend. In those sessions, they don't have to appear as though they're doing okay, they can simply be.

Every session feels like a highlight, even on the hardest days. A mentor once told me, "Even when you feel most useless, you can always just listen, and often that will be enough." Achievements can be as simple and powerful as someone holding their car keys for the first time after an incident, a bereaved parent saying "today feels slightly less dark than last week," or reminding someone of a goal they thought they'd never reach, but have now achieved.

While I bring theory, training, and 18 years of experience, my greatest strength is creating a safe space where people feel valued, honoured, and supported. True safety comes from being heard and validated, not only through words, but also through stories, emotions, and body language. Knowledge is important, but it means little without genuine human and empathic connection.

The past year has been a humbling experience. I've been trusted to walk alongside so many individuals in their healing and growth. I don't set fixed goals; instead, I focus on being present and doing my best in each moment. My aim for the year ahead is to stay grateful for the trust people place in me and to continue supporting them with care.

The day everything changed

Peter, Counselling client



"Losing a sibling is something that can't be described with any real accuracy. I still feel like half of me is missing."

My sister Angela was very special to me. My only sibling. A loving wife, and mother to four amazing children. Only 45 years old. She was on the verge of completing a degree in Archaeology. I'd joked that the sudden career change was her mid-life crisis. Little did I realise, it was actually her end-life crisis. And my crisis was just about to begin.

She was driving home from university on a rainy afternoon. As she slowed down to turn right into her street, a young driver ran into the back of her car, spinning it into the oncoming traffic. I will relive this day in my head for the rest of my life.

I receive the call from my mother. Hysterical. There has been a car crash, and Angela has been hurt. I race over straight away to comfort my mum. "Don't worry." "She'll be okay." All of the things you think you need to say. But my heart won't stop pounding. My head spinning. I just want to know what's going on.

We watch in hope as the helicopter flies her off to hospital. My pessimistic side ponders the worst-case scenario: a lifetime in a wheelchair, perhaps, or intensive rehabilitation. It's not until later in the day, I receive another call from my mother. There's nothing they can do. She's not coming back from this. I collapse.

The world dissolves into a whirlpool of darkness. This can't be real. Surely this can't be real. Someone tell me this isn't real.

The next day, my parents and I drive to the hospital to say our goodbyes. We have to hold each other up. There she lies. Still alive. Technically. The machines are keeping her lungs breathing and her heart beating. But she's not there.

When I was told that I was eligible for counselling through Amber Community. I thought it was probably a good idea, and I was grateful that I had been given the opportunity. Having the chance to sit and talk to my counsellor, rant, weep, share how I was feeling... It was invaluable.

I remember being encouraged (almost ordered!) to take a "me" day: time to just be kind to myself. It's something I would never usually give myself permission to do. It wasn't until I took that day, which included a bushwalk, a visit to the hot springs and a great big ice cream, that I realised how much I needed it.

I've also been introduced to a number of different events and groups, including the Shine a Light on Road Safety Walk & Wheel, the Road to Hope writing course, and a sibling support group at The Compassionate Friends, a monthly group that I still attend.

Losing a sibling is something that can't be described with any real accuracy. There is an unwritten, understood rule of life that your sibling will be there with you until the end. I still feel like half of me is missing. Recently, my older sister became my younger sister, a fact I just can't wrap my head around.

Life is hard. Additional challenges since Angela's death have made it harder. Some days it's a struggle just to get out of bed. But I am incredibly grateful for the support Amber Community has shown me and my family in this time of pain. It's comforting to know that no matter how much the wounds of grief sting, I'm not alone.

Creativity as a path to healing

"The group gave me a safe space to be real and express feelings without judgement."

This year, our Art Therapy group evolved to reach more people, moving online and opening access to a wider community. The program offers participants the chance to express emotions through art-making, uncovering insights and strategies that support healing and personal growth.

Facilitated in small groups of eight, by Lauren Foster, the sessions explore themes such as emotional intelligence, mindfulness, identity, acceptance, and growth.

Participants described the group as a safe space to be real, where even painful emotions could be expressed without judgement. Many shared that once these feelings were represented through art, they were able to move through them, opening

space for new experiences and emotions. Others felt inspired to continue creating beyond the program, using art as an ongoing way to navigate life's challenges.

"I felt inspired to continue to create art on an ongoing basis, finding a place for my ever-changing emotional landscape." – Participant

We acknowledge the courage of all who have attended, and thank them for sharing their experiences so openly. Through creativity, participants are not only finding resilience but also a deeper sense of connection with themselves and others.



Collective healing through support groups

"Being with others who understood my experience made me feel less alone and more hopeful about recovery."

Our Counselling and Support Services team delivered seven Road Trauma Support Group programs, each supporting an average of five clients.

These groups were developed in response to increasing demand and the need to expand counselling options beyond individual therapy. They provide a safe, structured space for people affected by road trauma (non-bereaved) to come together, learn trauma-informed coping strategies, and share experiences with others who understand.

Each program runs over four weeks, with 90-minute sessions co-facilitated by two experienced

counsellors. With participation capped at eight people, the groups foster connection, resilience, and collective healing.

"Being part of the group provided me with invaluable takeaways, especially the practical coping techniques like sleep strategies and breathing exercises, along with the comforting realisation that I am not alone in my journey." – Participant



Education Services

‘I just spoke with a participant, and it reminded me why I love what we do. They said the volunteer’s story resonated deeply and was an eye-opener. He was genuinely impressed with how the seminar was run and thanked me personally for helping him understand the ripple effect.’ – Lisa, facilitator, RTAS.

Amber Community’s Education Services work across the continuum of road safety, from prevention to post-crash education, offering programs for people of all ages and backgrounds, including:

- People involved in the justice system.
- Young people in schools or early intervention programs.
- Workplaces and industries wanting to promote a culture of road safety.
- Community members impacted by, or at risk of, road trauma.

Our programs include the Road Trauma Awareness Seminar program (RTAS), Driving – Better Choices, Drive to Learn, Workplace Road Safety as Culture, and wellbeing workshops. These are delivered both in-person and online.

Our purpose is not to punish or shame, but to encourage attendees to reflect on their driving behaviours. Group facilitators, supported by regional coordinators, deliver sessions alongside lived experience speakers and emergency service personnel, who together share powerful stories about the ripple effects of road trauma.

We use the principles of restorative practice to separate the person from the behaviour, and support participants in exploring the attitudes that have influenced their driving. Common language is recast: we say ‘crashes’ and ‘incidents’, not ‘accidents’; ‘lives lost’, not the ‘road toll’; plus ‘offender’ and other labels are avoided.

Expanding our reach

This year we were able to partner with schools, youth organisations, and workplaces, including:

- **Clontarf Foundation** – road safety and licensing support. Delivered five RTAS sessions, engaging young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, as part of a program to help participants accumulate the 120 hours required for their probationary licences. 82% of eligible participants obtained their learner permits.

- **RYDA school program** – crash investigation workshops. Sessions were delivered at seven secondary schools. A lived-experience speaker shared their story, which students then unpacked to explore how the events could have been prevented.
- **Workplace road safety** – culture and industry engagement. Worked with four large workplaces in delivering our ‘Road safety as culture’ sessions.

Another project was delivered at Nhill Trailer Park, involving multiple providers as led by Horsham Rural City. The focus was on supporting the safety and wellbeing of truck drivers, and road users travelling through the area. As one participant reflected:

‘It’s not just the truck that’s our workplace – it’s the road we drive on too.’

Road Trauma Awareness Seminar Program

RTAS is a potentially transformative program inviting participants to reflect deeply on their driving behaviours. Through experiential learning, they consider statements about common causes of road incidents and explore how their attitudes align with current data on offending and road trauma. They are introduced to the Safe System approach, and the goal of road safety being a shared responsibility. Participants hear from lived-experience and emergency services speakers, whose stories arouse empathy and a shift in perspective. Sessions conclude with each participant writing a personal contract about making safer choices in future.

Education team

Our services are only possible because of the remarkable people who deliver them, including regional coordinators, support staff, and especially our volunteer speakers.

A highlight of this year was our biennial team camp, bringing together members from across the state. It included a review of the Amber Community strategic

plan, a Sentencing Advisory Council session (‘You be the judge’), work on the ‘stages of change’ model, self-care workshops, and practical guidance on public speaking.

We also welcomed new voices and expanded our reach. This year we delivered four speaker training programs, welcoming 15 lived experience and emergency service speakers. A training program for new group facilitators was also held.

Planning ahead

Our goals are to further strengthen regional engagement, enhance our peer-support work, and integrate the voices of lived experience volunteers into all services. The new volunteer management system will improve access and communication, especially in the regions.

We want to expand special interest groups, such as those on motorcycle safety; also, our workplace road safety sessions, supporting industries where the road is a workplace.

Chris Harrison
Manager, Education Services



RTAS participants

1,684 participants

29 venues

83% male

35% aged 18–24

44% careless/dangerous driving

44% licensing-related

89% no further offences six-months later

‘I will explain to my friends and family what I’ve learned ... and let them know my future commitment to road safety, for myself, to keep myself accountable for my behaviour on the road.’

– Ewan, RTAS participant.

Education Services

104 lived experience & emergency services speakers

31 group facilitators

7 regional coordinators

1 RTAS administrator

1 Education Services manager

Behind every number is a story

Adrian, Emergency services volunteer speaker



“You really do sense a seismic change in participants’ attitudes within a session.”

News headlines move so quickly from one big story to another. The frequent reporting of road trauma and other disasters, natural or otherwise, can have the effect of normalising or desensitising our response to the figures. When I was asked to speak at a Road Trauma Awareness Seminar program many years ago, I wanted to use the opportunity to help participants understand the devastating, lifelong impacts that serious injuries can have.

I grew up in a small farming community in south-west Victoria, and before graduating high school, my community had already been impacted by a number of serious injuries and fatalities from road incidents. My motivation to study physiotherapy at university came from my obsession with sport as a teenager, but only later did I realise how broad the scope of physiotherapy really is.

If I can help Amber Community achieve its goal of showing the human stories behind the numbers, and the ripple effects that I have both felt personally and witnessed through my profession, then I’m proud to continue volunteering at seminars.

Many volunteers and facilitators talk about the shift in participants’ attitudes during seminars, as they see the impact. All the penalties imposed on the drivers who attend seminars have an end date. But for some people, the pain, suffering, and changes to the course of their lives are permanent. For young people just starting to experience freedom and independence, the thought of having to rely again on family for basic care and support is deeply confronting, and one I’ve seen far too often.

When I started volunteering over 10 years ago, I had a young family. I hoped my contributions would help make the roads safer for everyone, especially with my daughters eventually becoming drivers themselves. Now, with them on their L and P plates, I plan to continue volunteering with Amber Community, because there are so many generations, so many families, and so many ripples that connect our communities.

I’d also encourage anyone considering volunteering with Amber Community to attend a seminar and see firsthand the impact of sharing stories and connecting directly with participants. It’s powerful to witness how these conversations can inspire real commitments to change behaviour.

One choice can change everything

Nilsson, Lived experience volunteer speaker



“If my story can stop even one person from making a dangerous decision, then I’ve made some good out of all the pain.”

It could be your mum, dad, sister, brother, nan or pop. It could be a new mother who has tried endlessly to get pregnant. It could be a friend. Or, like in my case, a complete stranger.

My name is Nilsson. In 2011, I made a decision that changed everything. I was involved in a high-speed police pursuit, driving unlicensed and under the influence of alcohol. I crashed. One of my passengers died. I was charged with culpable driving causing death and sentenced to nine years in prison.

But the real sentence, the one that never ends, is knowing I was responsible for taking a life.

I grew up in the country, surrounded by older boys doing skids, going fast, going four-wheel driving. Drinking and driving was normal. No one got seriously hurt, and I thought I was invincible. Friends and family told me that if I kept making poor choices, I’d end up in serious trouble. I didn’t listen. I didn’t think it would happen to me.

I never truly understood the responsibility that comes with holding a licence. You’re trusting that the person coming towards you isn’t distracted, drunk, tired, or reckless. On that day, I was all of those things. I thought I could handle it. I was wrong.

One quick, reckless decision changed so many lives and not just mine.

Since being released, I’ve been volunteering with Amber Community to share my story in the hope that others won’t make the same mistakes I did. I want people to see past the headlines and statistics, and understand the real, human cost of road trauma. If my story can stop even one person from making a dangerous decision behind the wheel, then I’ve made some good out of all the pain.

Volunteering with Amber Community has given me a sense of purpose. It’s helped me connect with others, and it’s given me a way to try to make amends. I know I can’t undo what happened, but I can do something now.

Road trauma doesn’t just happen to strangers. It can happen to anyone. One choice can change everything.

A voice for road safety

Janeen, Regional Coordinator



"My favourite part of the RTAS program is watching the penny drop for participants when they hear our volunteers' stories. It's a powerful reminder of the ripple effect of our choices on the road."

As a mother and grandmother, protecting my family has always been my top priority. In my role as Regional Coordinator and Facilitator for the Grampians Region, I see it as a privilege to promote road safety and work towards eliminating road trauma.

With a background in community engagement across suicide prevention, homelessness, mental health, and the corporate sector, I have delivered sessions on a wide range of topics and presented at large-scale events. Within the RTAS program, my favourite moments are when I see the penny drop for participants—often sparked by hearing the powerful stories of our lived experience speakers or watching the video that asks, "How many deaths on our roads is okay?" Delivering the ripple effect part of the seminar really reinforces the lasting consequences of decisions made behind the wheel.

I understand personally how vital it is to drive safely. My licence is essential for employment and supporting my family, and I've become more accountable on the road since joining Amber Community. I often remind my son, who spends countless hours on country roads as a harness racing driver and trainer, to stay alert and cautious. While he sometimes teases me for nagging, he recently thanked me after avoiding a potentially serious collision with a tractor. His increased awareness behind the wheel showed me that these messages truly make a difference.

Although I have not been personally impacted by road trauma, my work in mental health has shown me the devastating effects on families and communities. It's a reminder that this work matters deeply, and that sometimes it's hard to separate the personal from the professional.

Looking ahead, I am committed to increasing participation in RTAS across the Grampians, re-establishing Horsham sessions, and building stronger relationships with local stakeholders. I am also deeply grateful to our volunteers, whose courage and dedication in sharing their stories are at the heart of creating change and saving lives through Amber Community.

Creating insight and change

Lana, Facilitator



"The most powerful moment is hearing the volunteer's story; this is what really makes an impact."

Following 13 years of employment in the child, youth, and families sector, I have worked in youth residential care, been involved in the Orange Door's first launch site in Victoria, delivered statewide therapeutic family-focused interventions, taken on leadership opportunities, completed a secondment with Victoria Police in Intelligence, and now work as Quality Manager for a non-profit organisation. A core value throughout my career has been working with people, engaging with community, and maintaining safe environments.

As a former SES operational member, I often distributed leaflets to people who had witnessed or been involved in significant road incidents. In 2021, after being in an incident myself, I reflected that I hadn't received the flyer outlining where to access support. Curiosity led me to discover Amber Community, and after exploring the website, I applied for the Group Facilitator position.

From my first phone call with Chris Harrison, Manager of Education Services, I knew I wanted to be part of the culture at Amber Community. Her passion and description of the Road Trauma Awareness Seminar (RTAS) program convinced me this was something unique. Three years on, I have facilitated around thirty seminars, participated in three Better Choice prison programs, and represented Amber Community at many community events.

As a facilitator, I aim to build insight, increase understanding, and encourage safer driving behaviour in each session. By the end, participants usually share a common understanding of road trauma, regardless of their starting point. I always invite them to reflect and share one key takeaway. The most powerful moment, though, is hearing the volunteer's story. This deeply personal contribution connects the topic to lived experience in a way no statistic could. Participants often express gratitude, shake hands with the volunteer, and even ask how they can get involved themselves. To our volunteers, thank you for your bravery — you truly make an impact.

Amber Community provides services and supports that are both unique and vital, tailored to road trauma and road safety. I am proud to be part of this organisation, working alongside colleagues who share the same commitment, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds.

Across the regions

Loddon Mallee

Small but mighty team, with loyal and passionate volunteers who never question showing up.

Significant efforts in networking to re-establish RTAS in Ballarat and Horsham.

Strengthening vital partnerships with Victoria Police, legal firms, Community Corrections, and the Ballarat Magistrates' Court.

Grampians

Expanded RTAS programs across regions, schools, and community groups.

Our courageous volunteer lived experience speakers continued participating in education programs, media, and public engagement.

Strong partnerships boosted reach and impact of our road safety work.

Barwon South West

The team received donations from local police members in the Warrnambool region.

Volunteers supported road safety campaigns and youth education programs (Ryder).

Ongoing collaboration with Community Corrections and Victoria Police on RTAS.

North West Metro

Delivering successful 'closed' RTAS sessions with Department of Justice in Broadmeadows, Sunshine, and Reservoir.

Saw an increase in participant numbers in the region.

Hume Council grant supported "Pull Up a Chair" event, sparking public conversations about road experiences.

South East Metro

Volunteers came together quarterly to connect, support each other, and share experiences.

New lived experience speakers were trained to share their stories with confidence.

Branded T-shirts helped volunteers stand out and promote road safety in the community.

Hume

Partnered with Greater Shepparton for the inaugural Walk for Road Safety.

Amber Community logo featured on Shepparton United training guernseys to raise awareness.

Celebrated team milestones, and marked Amber Community's 30th anniversary with a group attending the event in Mitcham.

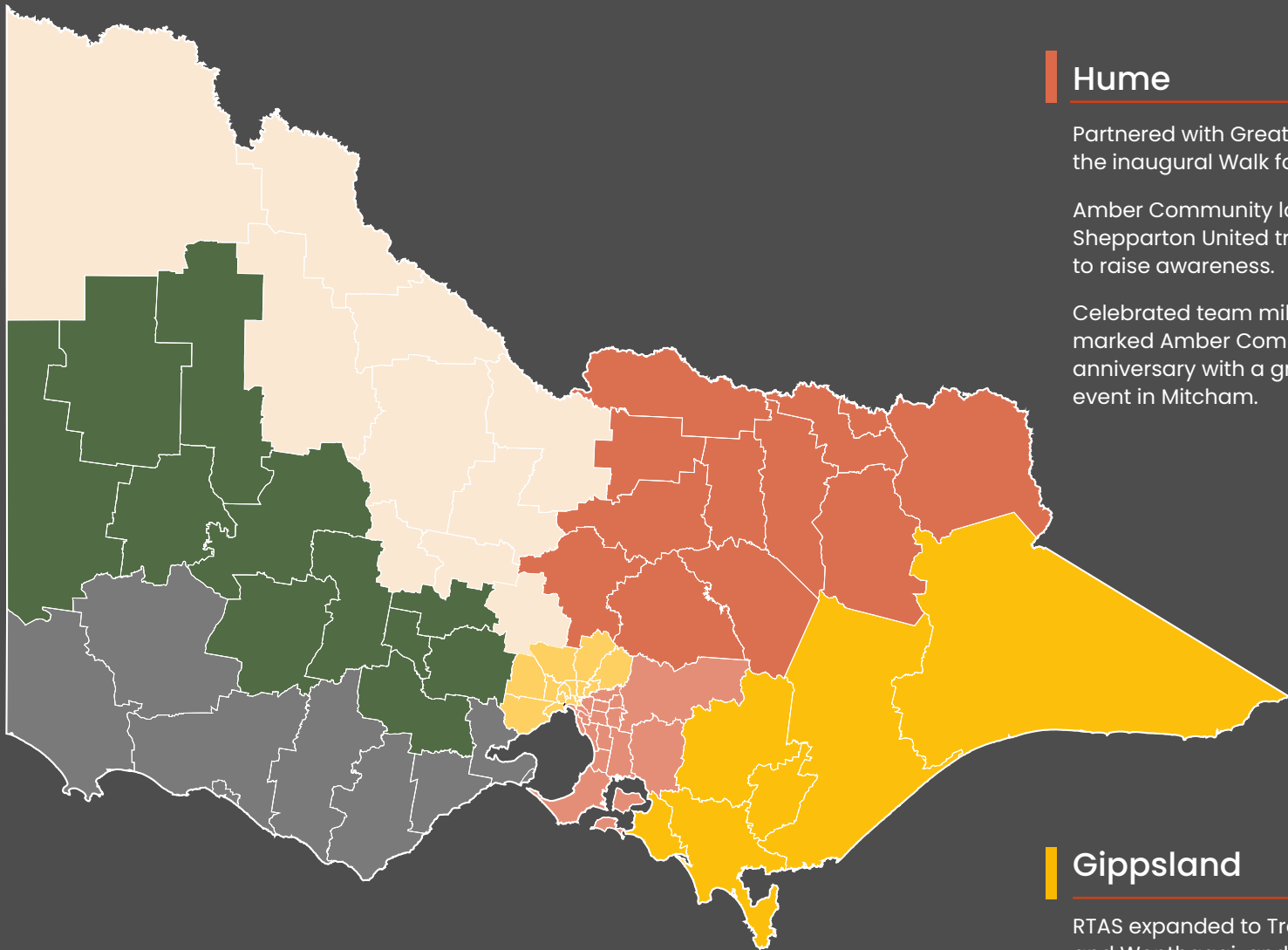
Gippsland

RTAS expanded to Traralgon, Bairnsdale, and Wonthaggi; and speaking at schools.

Speaking on Radio 3TR brought in four new volunteers.

Bairnsdale presentations included Indigenous students via Clontarf Foundation.

Continued collaboration with RoadSafe Gippsland, Safe Freight Network, and Victoria Police forums.



Our work begins with their stories

The heart of Amber Community's education lies in the remarkable people who bring it to life.



Finding strength through words

"The Road to Hope group gave me strategies I can carry forward — it's been genuinely empowering."

The Road to Hope writing group was created to support our lived experience volunteer speakers and has since expanded to welcome individuals connected with Amber Community. Thanks to the generous support of the Berwick Opportunity Shop, we were able to continue offering this transformative program in 2024.

Facilitated by Judy Bird and Gillian Scaduto, the group meets online weekly for eight weeks, providing a safe and supportive space for 7–10 participants. Through writing, participants learn strategies for self-care, processing trauma, and building resilience.

Many describe the experience as empowering and life-changing. In their words:

"I felt welcome and valued. The program ensures growth and education that helps you trust yourself."

"Writing has helped me combat anxiety and grief, giving me ways to contain overwhelming feelings."

This year, participant Catherine shared:

"I left the final session feeling genuinely empowered by writing therapy strategies I can continue to use... I feel like I've only scratched the surface of what I could achieve."

Participants are acknowledged for their courage in embracing this process. The Road to Hope writing group continues to provide a powerful pathway for healing, growth, and self-discovery through words.



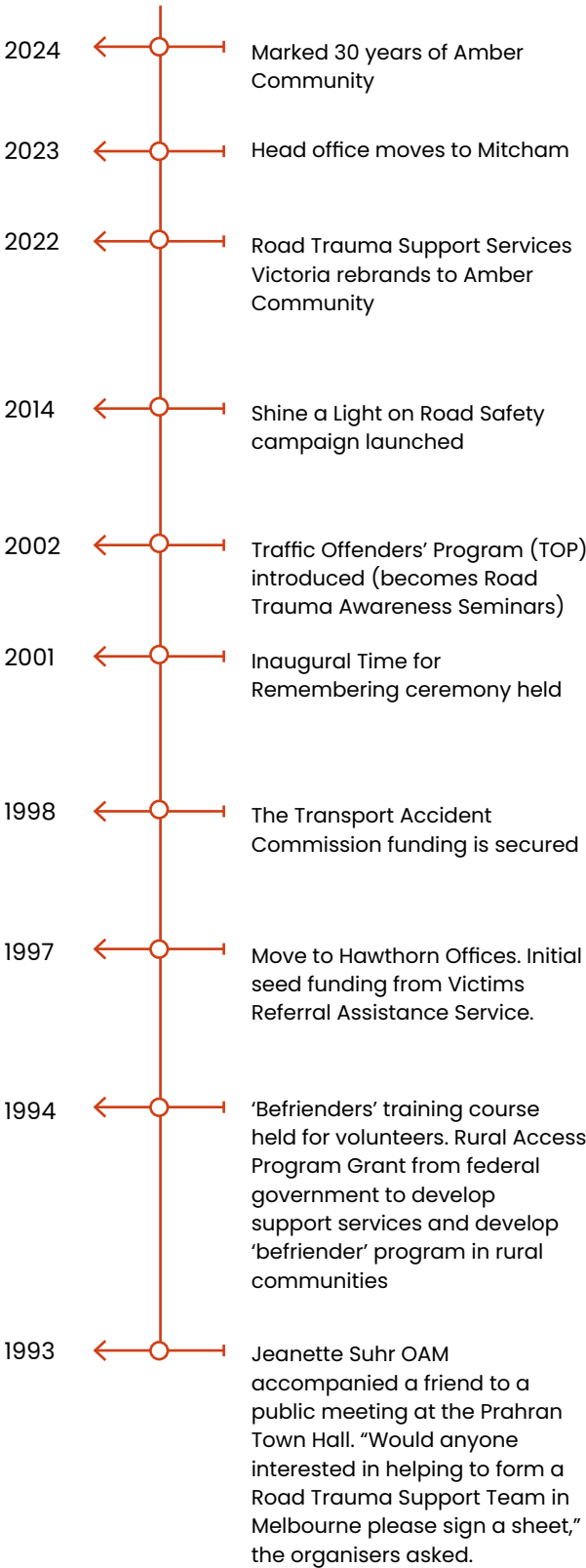
Marking 30 years of support

"Being part of Amber Community meant I no longer had to hide my emotions, I was understood."



Jeanette Suhr, OAM at the 30 Anniversary celebration

Our timeline



Amber Community proudly marks 30 years of supporting people impacted by road trauma and promoting safer roads through education and advocacy. Our milestone event celebrated our growth, resilience, and the collective commitment that has shaped our work.

Over the past three decades, we've seen the expansion of our education programs, the strengthening of key partnerships, and the unwavering dedication of our staff and volunteers. Our counselling team continues to walk alongside those navigating unimaginable loss and trauma, while our education team and lived experience speakers work to prevent future harm by raising awareness about road safety across Victoria.

We are deeply grateful to those who work on the front line, emergency service personnel, support workers, and professionals, who play a vital role in the immediate and long-term aftermath of road trauma.

Our volunteers' personal stories remain central to our impact, driving real change. At our anniversary event, we honoured volunteers like Manny, Kerry Anne, and Mark, whose stories were featured on display banners, and acknowledged the significant contributions of all our volunteers.

Glenda Barker, a life member, has shared her experience with Amber Community below.

My broken heart needed help to heal.

During those first years after losing my mother, stepfather and sister in a triple road fatality, I realised how desperately I needed the comfort and understanding of a support group.

It had all been so hard trying to help everyone through their grief and sadness. I was thrown into being the mother and head of the family before I was prepared. Dealing with the police, courts, lawyers and so on, I was thrust into the unknown!

I adopted a mask of recovery, and all the while I was crying behind it.

Joining Amber Community was the lifesaver I was seeking!

My 15 years of active involvement gave me strength, and later as a volunteer speaker, I found I was getting as well as giving.

Surrounded by understanding, love and affection and being able to talk about Mum, Bob and Judy with no need to hide my emotions was hugely instrumental in accepting their loss.

So, my broken heart is almost mended, thank you.



Shine a Light on Road Safety

Now in its twelfth year, the Shine a Light on Road Safety campaign continues to grow in impact, reach, and community support.

This year, we set ourselves an ambitious fundraising goal of \$107,000, our highest yet. With the backing of a very generous community and our new Premium Sponsor, Adica Insurance, we are proud to share that we exceeded our goal, raising a total of \$107,108.

In the final days of June, as we moved closer to our target, Adica Insurance offered to match donations. When we still had a shortfall, they went one step further, contributing an additional \$6,686. Their support didn't stop there. On the day of the event, nine Adica volunteers joined us at Albert Park Lake, generously giving their time and energy to help deliver a smooth and meaningful event.

The Walk & Wheel at Albert Park Lake took place on Sunday, 4 May. While numbers were slightly lower than previous years, with approximately 500 attendees, the energy was no less powerful.

We were deeply moved by our ambassador, Alex Prestney, who shared his story with the crowd. Alex lost his brother Josh, a Victoria Police officer, in the Eastern Freeway tragedy in 2021. Alex's advocacy and fundraising efforts have been an incredible support to Amber Community, and we were honoured to have him lead the campaign this year. His story was also shared across statewide evening news coverage, reaching thousands of Victorians.

We extend our thanks to Glenn Weir, Assistant Commissioner of Victoria Police, and Tracey Slatter, CEO of TAC, for joining us once again and for their ongoing commitment to road safety. As in previous years, landmarks across Victoria were illuminated in yellow, symbolising remembrance and hope, while Jellis Craig Port Phillip donated prominent advertising space across Albert Park and St Kilda to amplify campaign visibility.

This year also marked an important step in extending the reach and inclusivity of the Shine a Light on Road Safety campaign. For the first time, the Shine a Light on Road Safety messaging featured prominently in a community-led regional event, as part of Greater Shepparton City Council's Walk for Road Safety during National Road Safety Week. We were proud to be involved; contributing to the working group, attending on the day, and helping shape the delivery of a meaningful event at Victoria Park Lake.

Also new this year was our digital Tribute Wall. A space where individuals could share tributes to loved ones affected by road trauma. Supporters, regardless of their location, could contribute to the campaign in a heartfelt, visible way, an important milestone in accessibility and connection.

Our branding also made a leap forward this year, thanks to a grant

from Bendigo Bank Community Bank Blackburn South, which funded new branded tablecloths and table runners.

And of course, our popular raffle returned, thanks to the generosity of local businesses who donated incredible prizes and experiences.

To everyone who supported this year's campaign, our sponsors, volunteers, community, and donors, thank you. You helped us raise critical funds for our services, and you helped us expand our reach and bring more people into the conversation about road safety.

Premium Road Safety Partner Adica Insurance

Road Safety Partners

EastLink
Arnold Dallas McPherson Injury Lawyers
Henry Carus & Associates
Nevin Lenne Gross Lawyers
Polaris Lawyers
Shine Lawyers
Slater & Gordon Lawyers

Community Partners

Foundstone Advisory
Jellis Craig Port Phillip

Thanks to our raffle prize donors

Australian Sports Camps
Dan Murphy's
Global Ballooning
Gumbuya World
Love Me Always
Luna Park
LUME Melbourne
Priceline Pharmacy (Elsternwick)
Provincial Home Living



Alex Prestney, speaking to the media at Shine a Light on Road Safety



- Twelve years of Shine a Light on Road Safety
- \$107,108 raised for counselling, education and advocacy
- Approx. 500 attendees at the Albert Park Walk & Wheel event
- Campaign reached more than 2M+ people on social media
- Ambassador Alex Prestney shared his story, reaching over 3M+ via news coverage
- Council led regional event in Greater Shepparton
- Introduction of our digital Tribute Wall for tributes and remembrance

Campaign highlights

Time for Remembering

Held in the beautiful Queen's Hall, the ceremony was also live-streamed to ensure that those unable to attend in person could still be a part of this special occasion.

The ceremony was opened by Merryn Wallace, Deputy Chair of Amber Community and facilitated by Bernadette Nugent, CEO, Amber Community.

Belinda Dowel bravely shared the story of her son, Brandon, who died in April 2020, as a result of road incident.

"Yes, I miss him. We all do. But I talk about him every day as if he's still right here with me."

Families lit candles of remembrance as the names of people injured and lost loved ones were acknowledged. It was poignant to see everyone lighting their candles and holding up photos and other mementoes.

We thank everyone who contributed to this special event, sharing the names and photos of their loved ones, and to all our guest contributors, including Jeanette Suhr OAM, Honorary Life Member; Glenda Barker, Honorary Life Member; Lisa Gelbart, Counsellor; Sam Cockfield, Executive General Manager Road Safety, TAC; Assistant Commissioner Glenn Weir, Victoria Police; Daniel Fabris, Counsellor; Stuart Le Grand, Director; Renee Brauer, Manager Counselling and Support Services; Rev Dr Andy Calder, Honorary Life Member and the Hon. Melissa Horne, Minister for Roads and Road Safety.

Special thank you to Belinda Dowel for sharing her personal story.

We warmly thank the choir, singers from La La Ville choir, and harpist Michael Johnson for their beautiful music. We are very grateful to the TAC and the Parliament of Victoria for their ongoing support.



Board members

Our volunteer Board of Directors is supported by small groups of volunteers who roll up their sleeves to guide different parts of our work. These subcommittees give us the space to focus deeply on the areas that matter most:

Finance & risk – making sure we stay financially strong and use our resources wisely.

Research & evaluation working group – keeping us evidence-based. The focus is on best practice

development, program implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Together, these groups bring extra care, expertise and energy to Amber Community's mission, ensuring we can continue to support people and make our roads safer. We are deeply grateful to every committee member for generously sharing their time, wisdom and commitment.



Xander Alpherts
Chair



Merryn Wallace
Deputy Chair



Johan Meyer
Treasurer



Nadine Goldsmith
Secretary/Public Office



Robin Bowerman
Board Member



John Fitzpatrick APM
Board Member



Sue Hansford
Board Member



Stuart LeGrand
Board Member



Treasurer's Report

Tragically, the number of lives lost on Victorian roads rose to 296, an increase of 3.1% from the previous year. In the same period, Amber Community has focussed on strategic investments and continued community impact. The increase in road trauma underscores the importance of our work and the need for continued support.

For the year ending 30 June 2025, total trading income reached \$1,728,425, representing a modest increase of \$56,221 (3.2%) on the previous year. This growth reflects our 2024–2027 strategic themes and enabled Amber Community to extend its reach—particularly into regional areas—and to invest in initiatives that directly improve access to our services.

Income growth was supported across all major areas.

Grants income totalled \$830,655, consistent with budget and slightly up from 2024, which includes continued support from the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) an enduring and pivotal partnership.

Education services generated \$598,535, up 8.2% from last year. The increased volume of RTAS reflects both the educational quality and the growing demand.

Memberships and fundraising brought in \$267,489, slightly below last year and under budget by approximately 16%. Despite this, the annual Shine a Light on Road Safety campaign raised over \$107,108 exceeding last year's total and showcasing the community's ongoing support.

In 2025, Amber Community made several strategic financial decisions including investing approximately \$45,000 from our reserves to increase counselling capacity and reduce intake wait times to below our goal of four weeks. While this target has not yet been fully achieved, the investment is already showing a positive impact. With the continued support of the TAC, we will carry this initiative forward into the new financial year.

A review of our interpretation of the Social Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award identified discrepancies, resulting in backpay obligations of approximately \$70,000. This correction ensures compliance and fairness for our valued staff.

Operating expenses for the year totalled approximately \$1,831,740, an increase of 10.5% from 2024. This includes one-off costs associated with the counselling expansion and SCHADS backpay. When these are excluded, operating expenses were consistent with the prior year, reflecting disciplined cost management amid inflationary pressures. The largest expense categories remained salaries and superannuation, IT and communications, and occupancy costs.

Overall, Amber Community recorded a net deficit of approximately \$103,315, underpinned by the strategic use of reserves to support service expansion and meet the growing needs of our community.

I thank our strategic partners for their ongoing support. Without your financial contributions, it would not be possible to provide counselling and support for those impacted by road trauma. Finally, I would also like to thank our accountant Theresa Cocking, auditor LDAssurance, CEO Bernadette Nugent, our staff, volunteers, the Finance and Risk Committee, and fellow board members for your tireless contributions. I look forward to your continued support in the year ahead as we strive to make a lasting difference.

Johan Meyer
Treasurer

Auditor's Report

Report of the independent auditor on the summary financial statements to the members of Amber Community Incorporated

Opinion

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprises of the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the summary statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows are derived from the audited financial report of Amber Community Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2025.

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial report of Amber Community Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2025 are consistent, in all material aspects, with the audited financial report. For a better understanding of the scope of the audit, this auditor's report should be read in conjunction with our audit report on the financial report.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards for the financial report. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified auditor's opinion on that financial report in our report dated 6 October 2025.

That report also includes:

- An emphasis of matter – basis of accounting section that draws attention to note 1 in the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting
- An emphasis of matter – economic dependency section that draw attention to note 18 in the financial report, which describes the reliance of the entity on the from the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) grant, and the uncertainty related to the extension of this Agreement

Board members' responsibility for the financial report

The members of the board are responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial report in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial report of Amber Community Incorporated based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Stephen O'Kane

Partner
LDAssurance
Chartered Accountants

Dated: 6 October 2025
330 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Financial Report

INCOME	2025	2024
Grants	830,655	820,206
Fees and charges	598,535	553,291
Fundraising	176,672	177,340
Donations	90,817	90,308
Interest	31,746	31,059
Total	1,728,425	1,672,204
EXPENSES	2025	2024
30 year anniversary celebration	(2,861)	-
Advertising, branding and business development	(934)	(678)
Amortisation -right-of-use assets	(59,136)	(61,726)
Audit fees	(6,499)	(7,992)
Bank charges	(7,881)	(7,163)
Cleaning expenses	(4,197)	(4,449)
Client support projects	(6,605)	(20,643)
Depreciation	(4,074)	(4,612)
Education venue hire	(47,747)	(39,188)
Entertainment and gifts	(1,280)	(3,057)
Fundraising expenses and commissions	(24,135)	(23,281)
HR recruitment, meeting and other expenses	(25,896)	(24,694)
Insurance	(16,149)	(13,322)
Interest expense	(7,132)	(9,430)
Minor equipment, service and maintenance	(18,822)	(54,441)
Office and business consultancy expenses	(10,941)	(7,305)
Office rent, rates and body corporate fees	(12,232)	(9,744)
Postage and stationery	(5,843)	(22,137)
Salaries and wages	(1,313,308)	(1,128,153)
Superannuation	(149,928)	(122,996)
Support groups and memberships	(6,481)	(5,643)
Telephone and communication	(11,706)	(10,993)
Time for Remembering	(16,858)	(21,191)
Training and development	(5,146)	(4,884)
Travel, accommodation, parking and motor vehicle expenses	(10,595)	(13,361)
Utilities and permits	(3,247)	(4,095)
Volunteer expenses	(3,633)	(6,609)
Website	(5,982)	(2,250)
WorkCover	(42,492)	(29,887)
Total	(1,831,740)	(1,663,924)
Profit/(loss) for the year	(103,315)	8,280
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(103,315)	8,280

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents	648,889	763,295
Trade and other receivables	38,396	40,616
Other assets	20,885	21,050
Total current assets	708,170	824,961
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2025	2024
Property, plant and equipment	10,205	12,275
Right-of-use assets	127,004	186,140
Total non-current assets	137,209	198,415
Total assets	845,379	1,023,376
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES	2025	2024
Trade and other payables	95,893	109,700
Lease liabilities	62,085	58,183
Employee benefits	231,046	212,875
Other financial liabilities	105,646	132,969
Total current liabilities	494,670	513,727
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	2025	2024
Lease liabilities	78,205	140,290
Employee benefit	20,096	13,636
Total non-current liabilities	98,301	153,926
Total liabilities	592,971	667,653
Net assets	252,408	355,723
EQUITY	2025	2024
Retained earnings	252,408	355,723
Total equity	252,408	355,723

Support that makes an impact

This year, Amber Community was privileged to receive generous support from two valued partners.

The Community Bank Blackburn South provided a grant of \$2,681.25 for branded tablecloths and runners, helping us stand out at events such as Shine a Light on Road Safety, community forums, and regional safety days. This simple investment has improved visibility, strengthened brand recognition, and supported easier access to our services.

The Berwick Opportunity Shop donated \$5,000 for branded polo shirts for volunteers. These shirts create a unified, professional presence, ensuring our volunteers are easily identifiable and proud representatives of Amber Community.

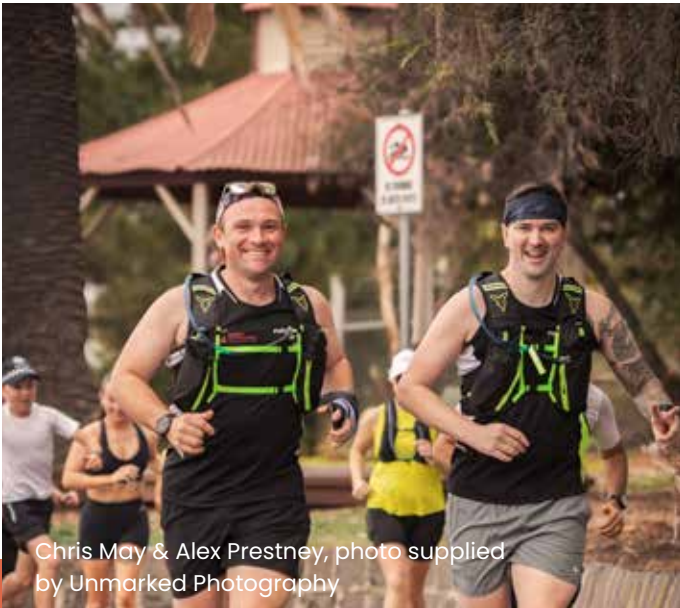
Community grants and donations like these are vital to our work. They help us extend the reach of our road safety advocacy, education programs, and free counselling services. We are deeply grateful for this support and belief in our mission.



“Community grants and donations are vital, they help us extend our reach and better support those impacted by road trauma.”



At the finish line, photo supplied by Unmarked Photography



Chris May & Alex Prestney, photo supplied by Unmarked Photography

Lachlan McLaren Foundation

Honouring a young life through meaningful change.

On what should have been a joyful celebration of his 16th birthday, Lachlan McLaren’s life was tragically and senselessly taken. While walking his girlfriend home, Lachie was struck and killed by a drug-affected driver. His final act was one of incredible bravery, pushing his girlfriend out of the path of the oncoming car and saving her life.

To honour Lachie’s memory and continue the kindness, courage, and spirit he carried

in life, his parents Michelle and Carey McLaren established the Lachlan McLaren Foundation. The Foundation aims to raise awareness around road safety, support young people, and prevent similar tragedies from happening to other families.

In August 2024, the Foundation held its inaugural community walk at Lachie’s former school, Mentone Grammar, bringing together friends, family, students, and local community members to reflect, walk in solidarity, and raise vital funds. We were deeply honoured to be one of the beneficiaries of this incredible day.

Thanks to the generosity of the McLaren family and their supporters, Amber Community received \$8,000 to help us continue our work supporting those impacted by road trauma through free counselling, education programs, and advocacy.

We are inspired by the strength and vision of Michelle and Carey, who have turned unimaginable grief into meaningful action. Through Lachie’s legacy, their Foundation continues to share kindness in his name.

From all of us at Amber Community, thank you to the Lachlan McLaren Foundation for your generous support.

Run the Bay for Road Safety

A remarkable commitment by two dedicated advocates.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Alex Prestney and Chris May for their incredible fundraising effort, Run the Bay for Road Safety, which raised an outstanding \$8,507.55 for Amber Community.

This remarkable challenge saw Alex and Chris take on a gruelling run along the Victorian coastline to raise funds and awareness for road trauma support and prevention. Both faced unexpected physical setbacks – Alex battled illness mid-run, and Chris, a former defence

force member and current Fire Rescue Victoria firefighter, pushed through a knee injury, completing part of the journey on a bike. Their determination to finish, supported by friends, family, the TAC, and the wider community, was nothing short of inspiring.

Alex, a Victoria Police officer and long-time supporter of Amber Community, has fundraised for us in the past in memory of his brother, Constable Josh Prestney, who tragically lost his life in the Eastern Freeway incident. His continued support is deeply meaningful to us.

Chris is a passionate advocate for mental health and road safety. In

addition to his work with Fire Rescue Victoria, he volunteers with Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) and regularly participates in community fundraising efforts. His commitment to causes that protect and support others is extraordinary.

We are so grateful to Alex and Chris for not only raising vital funds but for being shining examples of compassion, resilience, and community spirit. Their efforts make a real difference to the lives of those affected by road trauma.

Thank you, Alex and Chris.

Supporters

We are very grateful to the Transport Accident Commission who have supported our services since 1999.

We thank our generous supporters who raise funds and awareness to help us reduce the impact and incidence of road trauma. We are especially grateful to those who have supported our work in memory of a loved one – your kindness and generosity has touched the lives of many others.



- ABC Radio Shepparton

Anne Wicking Consulting

Australasian College of Road Safety

Australian Sports Camps

Benalla Ensign

Benalla Rural City Council

Bendigo Bank Community Bank

Blackburn South

Cool Heads Young Driver Program

Dan Murphys

David Bunn & Rowena Ritchie

David Rose from Melbourne University – Research and Evaluation

Eastern Solicitors Law Association

Frank Amato Photography

Frankston Arts Centre

Global Ballooning

Greater Shepparton City Council

Groove Train Restaurant Eastland
- Gumbuya World

INSYNC, Sophie Owen

Jellis Craig – Port Phillip

Jennie Oxley – MUARC

Kerry Ann Norton

Lou Harms

Love Me Always

Luna Park

Metec

Murcotts Driving Excellence

National Road Safety Partnerships Program

NGWALA Willumbong Aboriginal Corporation

One FM Shepparton

Priceline Pharmacy – Elsternwick

Provincial Home Living

Road Safe Goulburn Valley & Road Safe North East

Sentencing Advisory Council

- SES Benalla Unit

Shepparton News

Shepparton United Netball Football Club

Southern Cross Austereo – Shepparton

Stan Winford, Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT University

Stuart Newstead, MUARC

Tamer Sahin, North West Metro Region, Department of Justice and Community Safety

THE LUME Melbourne

Volunteering Geelong

Volunteers Victoria

WIN News Albury/Wodonga

WIN News Shepparton

Our major corporate partners

- Adica Insurance

Arnold Dallas McPherson Injury Lawyers

EastLink

Foundstone Advisory

Henry Carus + Associates

INSYNC

Nevin Lenne Gross Lawyers

Polaris Lawyers

Shine Lawyers

Slater & Gordon Lawyers

Our road safety partners and supporters

- Ambulance Victoria

Community Correctional Services

Country Fire Authority

Department of Justice

Department of Transport and Planning

Magistrates’ Court of Victoria

Transport Accident Commission

The Victorian Government

VicRoads

Victoria Police

Victoria State Emergency Services

Supporters - Our major donors and community fundraisers

- Adica Insurance is proud to support Amber Community

Andrew Rowe

Bellarine North Rotary – Doctor John Birrell Award, working to reduce road safety

Berwick Opportunity Shop

Candice Dennis

Caroline’s Angels walking in honour of Caroline Buttigieg

Cleggski

Jarney Newey – supporting people impacted by road trauma

Joshua Waters

JYE105 walking for our loved one – Jye Eiffert

Kerrydan Flory

Lions Club of Benalla

Louis Scott

Michael Hombsch and family, in loving memory of Jennifer Hombsch

Robinson family. In memory of Ben James Robinson

Rod Dowel

- Rotary Club of Bayside Geelong – Doctor John Birrell Award, working to reduce road safety

Rotary Club of Warrnambool East

Run for Holly’s 19th Birthday

Run the Bay for Road Safety

Slater & Gordon Lawyers are proud to support Amber Community

Sue Binzer and family, in loving memory of Josh Binzer

Team Brans walking in honour of Brandon Kyle Dowel

Team Duong walking for our dearest Duong, we love and miss you dearly

Team Jacojay – Friends and family of Jay Robbins Brown

Team Tessa & Asher

The Lachlan McLaren Foundation, in loving memory of Lachlan

Walk for Carolyn

Walking for Colleen

Team ELIAS – Walking for our son Elias



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