



CREATING A
CULTURE OF
CONNECTION

LONELINESS
AWARENESS
WEEK AUS



ANNUAL
REPORT

2024-2025

endingloneliness.com.au

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ABOUT **ENDING LONELINESS TOGETHER**

Ending Loneliness Together was founded in 2016 by a collaboration of established leaders and experts in the field of loneliness, with a vision to create an Australia where everyone feels a sense of connection and belonging.

Now a national peak body underpinned by lived experience, research, community, government and health expertise, Ending Loneliness Together generates research and translates evidence into practical resources and solutions to effectively address social isolation and loneliness in Australia.

www.endingloneliness.com.au

VISION, MISSION, GOALS

VISION: To live in a world where everyone feels a sense of connection and belonging .

MISSION: Halve the prevalence of persistent loneliness in Australia by 2030.

GOAL: To help Australians better understand and respond to loneliness.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ending Loneliness Together acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters, and communities.

We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

NICK TEBBEY

This year has been one of significant progress for Ending Loneliness Together. We have advanced our position as the national peak body, strengthened our partnerships, and developed a theory of change to guide our strategic priorities.

Our advocacy has helped elevate loneliness as a social and public health issue across Australia, and we have ensured that voices with lived experience remain central to our work.

Looking ahead, we will continue to embed systemic change, build financial sustainability, and work alongside our members to foster a culture of connection nationwide.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to thank our dedicated staff and volunteers for their efforts in driving Ending Loneliness Together mission and helping achieve its strategic goals.



CEO'S REPORT

ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR
MICHELLE H. LIM

The 2024-25 period has been a year of growth, impact, and collaboration. We successfully delivered our second Loneliness Awareness Week, amplifying lived experience voices and sparking national conversations.

Our national conference brought together diverse stakeholders from academics, practitioners to governments to better mobilise an effective holistic response. This include strengthening the evidence base, shaping policy, and affecting real change on the ground. Critically, our membership base and stakeholder group have expanded, creating a stronger foundation for collective action.

Guided by our new theory of change, we are focused on measurable impact - ensuring that every initiative contributes to building a healthier and more connected Australia. I am deeply grateful to our team, management committee, advisory, and scientific committee, members, partners, and supporters for their shared commitment to ending loneliness together.



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YEAR IN REVIEW AT A GLANCE

155
MEMBERS



81
ORGANISATIONS

74
INDIVIDUALS

100+

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
ATTENDEES



6 KEYNOTE
SPEAKERS

32 PRESENTERS

12
SPONSORS

\$100k

\$50k

Including project
funding (Gandel
Foundation) secured
for Loneliness
Awareness Week



4,900

searches of ELT Find Connection
National Directory with 1833
services and programs listed



30+

PODCASTS,
PRESENTATIONS
AND
WORKSHOPS



**SUBMISSION
PRESENTED**

to the NSW Government Enquiry
into Loneliness and Social Isolation

MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA

(Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X)

590M

Impressions including
Loneliness Awareness Week

6.3%

% Engagement rate (well
above average of 1-3%)

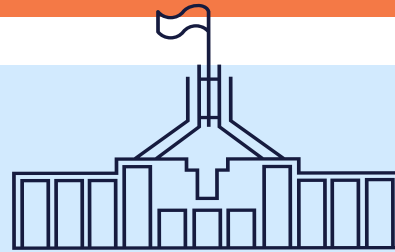
1,479

New
followers



30F4

recommendations adopted by ACT
Government Inquiry into Loneliness



MILLIONS

Reached through Loneliness Awareness Week 2024



WHO

Participation in World Health
Organization Commission to Social
Connection Geneva Workshops

WEBSITE VISITS

32,000

Loneliness Awareness Week

57,000

Ending Loneliness Awareness



Snapshot of Results

1000+

conversations started

(how many times ELT, loneliness, #EndingLonelinessTogether and #LonelinessAwarenessWeek was mentioned or tagged)

589M

Impressions

(impressions across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, online articles, TV, radio and podcasts)



2,500

people sought connection

(by visiting our National online directory after seeing the campaign)

#EndingLonelinessTogether
#LonelinessAwarenessWeekAU



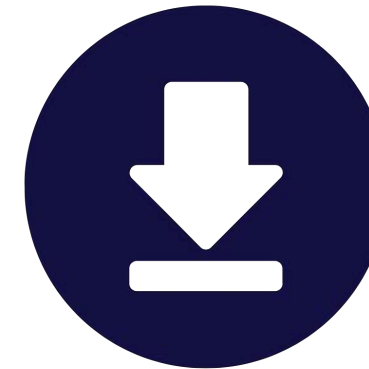
21,000+
people visited the
website

(to hear real stories, learn more about loneliness and engage with the week)

3,300

downloads

(of our supporter toolkit, report and tipsheets)



Leaders &
Influencers

shared their experience
of loneliness

(via LinkedIn and Instagram stories, many Australians joined in the conversation about loneliness and the role society plays in connection)



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YEAR IN REVIEW
LONELINESS
AWARENESS WEEK
2024

05

**OUR
ACTIVITIES**



AWARENESS

Loneliness Awareness Week 2024:
Themed ‘Why we feel lonely’, we sparked national conversation with lived experience stories, resources, and a microsite.

Belonging on a Budget:
Partnered with Neighbours Every Day to share low-cost ways to connect during the holidays.

Creating Connections in Shared Spaces:
Partnered with Frasers Property to develop a practical guide and deliver a free webinar.



RESEARCH

Why we feel lonely report: exploring why Australians feel and stay lonely:
Exploring why Australians feel and stay lonely.

World Health Organization Commission to Social Connection:
Member of Technical Advisory Group and participant at workshop in Geneva.

Annual Research Symposium (Nov 2024):
Expanded program with researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and lived experience voices bringing together 100 people.

Collaborations:
Wallis Research supporting the Loneliness Awareness Campaign development and qualitative interviews.

Connecting for Better Health project (Monash University): Funded by the National Health Medical Research Council advancing evidence in Australia.

ADVOCACY

NSW Inquiry into Loneliness:
Provided a written and verbal submission.

Young People & Loneliness Policy Report (with Orygen):
Exploring youth loneliness and calling for prevention, funding, and a dedicated minister to address loneliness.

ACT Government’s recommendations for addressing loneliness:
Reflecting three of our recommendations made at their Inquiry: for a coordinated whole-of-government strategy, better front-line training, and a national campaign to raise awareness of loneliness and promote social connection.

Pre-budget submission:
Calling on developing a national strategy to address loneliness and social isolation.

ENGAGEMENT

Workshops, webinars & consultancy:
Building a stronger community of practice.

Media & podcasts:
From national broadcast interviews to grassroots podcasts.

Parliamentary Friends of Ending Loneliness:
Bipartisan event with 4 Members of Parliament and lived experience leaders.





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COLLABORATIONS

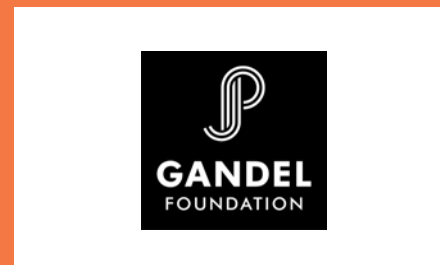
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OUR
PARTNERS
AND
SUPPORTERS

Partners



Major Donors



Sponsors



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ELT MEMBERS - THE HEART OF OUR MOVEMENT

155

Our **155 members** form the backbone of Ending Loneliness Together. From individuals with lived experience, to leading organisations across health, community, and research, our members are united by a shared commitment to address loneliness and social isolation.

We deeply appreciate their ongoing support. Together, we are **building a national community of changemakers** who understand that connection is essential for wellbeing. The more we grow, so too does our collective impact.

"The "Why we feel lonely" campaign looks fantastic. Kiki's story moved me to tears, and I hope the sharing of these stories help others to recognise they are not alone in their experience and connection can help"

ELT Member

"{About Loneliness Awareness Week}
Stories were amazing, broad range, powerful, authentic, diverse stories were amazing, broad range, powerful, authentic, diverse"

LEAP member

"The presenter made the topic super engaging. What feels like a basic topic, has so much more intricacies to it and widespread negative effects. Great learning"

Workshop participant

"Loved the variety of the panels, the speakers chosen were phenomenal and I think you have the perfect balance of speeches and breaks to keep people engaged"

Research Symposium Attendee



GOVERNANCE AND COMMITTEES

Management Committee

Name	Organisation	Role	Appointed	Resigned
Karn Nelson	Whiddon Group	Chair	2023	
Heath Ducker	Co-opt	Vice-Chair	2021	
Kevin Cheung	Co-opt	Secretary	2022	
Fay Mound	Uniting Care Australia	Treasurer	2022	
Sharon Grocott	Way Ahead NSW	Member	2021	
Prof Ben Smith	The University of Sydney	Member	2023	
Mark Pearce	Volunteering Australia	Member	2024	
Sarah Matthews	Little Big Foundation	Member	2025	
Jennie Sager	Next Door	Member	2024	Jul 2024
Sue Regan	Volunteering Australia	Member	2021	Dec 2024

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

Name	Organisation
A/Prof Michelle Lim	The University of Sydney
Prof Ben Smith	The University of Sydney
Prof Cathrine Mihalopolous	Monash University
Dr Lidia Engel	Monash University
Prof Lisa Brophy	La Trobe University
Prof Catherine Haslam	University of Queensland
A/Prof Sarah Wright	University of Canterbury
Prof Pam Qualter	University of Manchester
Prof Manuela Barreto	University of Exeter
Prof Julianne Holt-Lunstad	Brigham Young University

Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP)

Name	Role	Appointed	Resigned
Dr Leah Wiseman	Co-chair	7/1/2023	
Janene McAnally	Member	7/1/2023	
Evan Ma	Member	7/1/2023	
Gauri Kapoor	Member	7/1/2023	
Chris Cooper	Member	7/1/2023	
Nicholas Bloom	Co-Chair	8/2/2024	
Dr Ru Ying Cai	Member	30/1/2025	
Grace Martin	Member	1/2/2025	
Grace White	Member	8/2/2024	1/7/2025
Phil McAuliffe	Chair	5/1/2022	1/11/2024
Rochelle Standen	Member	8/2/2024	1/1/2025

Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP) - Older Adults

Name	Role	Appointed
Sandi Givens	Member	March 2025
Robyn Doyle	Member	March 2025
Jennifer Jackson	Member	March 2025
Janet Milford	Member	March 2025
Margaret Trommestad	Member	March 2025
Nicholas Glover	Member	April 2025

STAFF, VOLUNTEERS
AND CONTRACTORS



Staff

Name	Role
Associate Professor Michelle Lim	CEO
Dr Robbie Eres	Training Lead
Marge Jackson	Engagement Lead
Josh Lambert	Strategic Partnerships Lead
Richard Wylie	Strategic Partnerships Lead
Ha Linh Quach	Researcher

Volunteers

Name
Jamie Blyton
Lynley Hurst
Rachel Krust
David Menzies
Sally Sharman

Special Thanks

Loneliness Awareness Week 2024
• Video contributions – Greg Page, Sophia, Denise, Peter, Ana, Will, Kiki, Joe, Tara, Michelle, Chai, Clint Stanaway, Chase, Clint Newton • Professor Ben Smith University of Sydney • Professor John Pollaers OAM

Contractors and suppliers

Name
Glue Communication, Danielle Cuthbert
The-Line, Fraser Stewart
Snappy and AGI Bookkeeping, Maggie Marezec
Think Impact Group, Kevin Robbie
Macadamia, Joel Baldwin
Bradley Cummings Photography
The Comms Suite, Alice Dodge
Infoxchange
Outrun Videography Agency

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TREASURER'S REPORT

KEVIN CHEUNG



For the year ended 30 June 2025.

As Treasurer of Ending Loneliness Together, I am pleased to report that the organisation has concluded the financial year ended 30 June 2025 in a sound and sustainable financial position, achieving an operating surplus of **\$78,537**. This result follows a surplus of **\$91,088** in the previous financial year (2024), continuing our strong record of responsible financial management and effective use of resources to advance our mission.

Total income for the year was **\$835,913**, compared to **\$914,526** in 2024. The main sources of revenue were **partnerships and sponsorships, grants and donations**, and **membership income**.

At year end, total assets were **\$1,112,862**, and **net assets stood at \$787,082**, up from \$708,545 in 2024. The organisation remains in a strong liquidity position, with **cash and cash equivalents of \$1,062,722**, providing stability and flexibility to meet ongoing commitments and future opportunities.

The financial accounts have been independently audited by **Alternative Audit**, who have issued an unqualified audit opinion. The auditors confirmed that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Ending Loneliness Together for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The full audited accounts and the Auditor's Report are available on request by contacting info@endingloneliness.com.au.

I wish to acknowledge the diligence of our finance team, our auditors at Alternative Audit, and the ongoing support of the Board and Executive team for their commitment to maintaining strong governance, transparency, and accountability.

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'K' followed by a smaller 'C'.

Kevin Cheung
Treasurer

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LOOKING FORWARD

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2026





JOIN US

Together we can create a
culture of connection.

www.endingloneliness.com.au



There are many ways you can join us in the movement to address loneliness in Australia, including by becoming a member of Ending Loneliness Together or supporting us as a donor or an organisational partner.

To make an immediate impact, consider donating online. By making a charity donation, you are supporting Ending Loneliness Together to lead a national, coordinated response to tackling loneliness effectively.

If you're looking for connection:

Search our National Directory to find groups, organisations and services that will help you, or someone you know, connect with others and build meaningful relationships.

endingloneliness.com.au/search

CONTACT

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endingloneliness.com.au

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