

Impact Report

2024-25



OVARIAN
CANCER
AUSTRALIA

ovariancancer.net.au

Acknowledgement of Country

Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and gather. We pay our respects to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the custodians of the land where our office is situated, as well as to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia. We honour the wisdom, resilience and rich cultures of Elders past and present.

At OCA, we are committed to fostering meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities. Our purpose is to support those affected by ovarian cancer while embodying our core values of listening, learning, and acting with integrity and courage.

We recognise the unique health challenges faced by First Nations people. We strive to work collaboratively, ensuring our support, education and care are tailored to embrace the strengths and needs of all communities.

Created by proud Kuku Yalanji and Palawa artist Tarsha Davis, this commissioned artwork captures the strength, support, and spirit at the heart of Ovarian Cancer Australia's vision: that no woman walks alone.



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To all our women, families, volunteers and community, thank you for sharing your inspirational stories and allowing them to be part of this report and our work.



About Ovarian Cancer Australia

Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA) is the leading national body taking action for Australians affected by ovarian cancer. Founded nearly 25 years ago by people directly impacted by the disease, OCA was built on a simple but powerful vision – to ensure that no one with ovarian cancer walks alone.

Today, OCA is recognised as the national leader in specialist support, advocacy, and awareness. Our dedicated team of nurses, psychologists, counsellors, advocates, and fundraisers provide free, evidence-based programs that deliver expert psychosocial, emotional, and practical care to women and families across Australia.

Beyond individual support, OCA amplifies the voices of the ovarian cancer community and drives national change, advocating for increased research funding, health system reform, and timely access to better treatments.

With survival rates still unacceptably low, our work has never been more critical. Until we reach a future free from ovarian cancer, OCA remains steadfast in delivering trusted information, education, and care, helping every person affected by ovarian cancer feel seen, supported, and never alone.



Vision

To save lives and ensure no woman with ovarian cancer walks alone.



Mission

We provide care and support for those affected by ovarian cancer and represent them by leading change.



Core Values

We listen.
We are inclusive.
We are courageous.
We act with integrity.

Impact in Numbers



Since launching our Teal Support Program, we've provided a dedicated ovarian cancer nurse to support over

1,600

women and counting, including

286

new women in 2024-25 – with a consistently high Net Promoter Score above 90%.



Almost 800

women, partners, family, and friends affected by ovarian cancer accessed vital support through our Teal Support Nurse Program, peer groups and one-on-one counselling.



3,894

support calls and

1,730

Resilience Kits distributed to support women's wellbeing.



\$2,116,944

raised through fundraising campaigns including Workout 4 Women, Giving Day, Dry July, Tax Appeal, community fundraising and donations.



Over \$735,000

raised through corporate partnerships with TerryWhite Chemmart, Hairhouse, Black Pepper and Wynstan, including a remarkable 7% growth with TerryWhite Chemmart compared to 2023-24.



121,280

page views across our vital informational resources.



\$113,100

Cancer Australia grant secured to deliver a free telehealth fatigue support program for rural and remote Australians.



7

global and national conference presentations raised awareness of OCA's services.



73

key leaders and parliamentarians at our 11th Annual Parliamentary Breakfast showcased strong support for ovarian cancer.

A Message from our Chair and CEO

The past twelve months have been marked by growth, progress, and important milestones. We are proud of everything we have achieved together and are grateful for the unwavering support of our community, partners, and staff who continue to drive our vision forward.

This report showcases the dedication and expertise of our incredible team, driving meaningful progress for the women and families we support. Their commitment underpins Ovarian Cancer Australia's role as the national organisation providing support and advocacy for women impacted by ovarian cancer, and a trusted voice working alongside our partners, supporters and the ovarian cancer community. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the Australian Government, which continues to fund the nurses of our Teal Support Program until 2027 as part of the Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program – a testament to the program's impact and the dedication of our team.

The year began amid a period of change as we navigated leadership transitions, and uncertainty as we faced a competitive fundraising environment and broader cost-of-living challenges. Thanks to the commitment and hard work of our team, and the generosity of our supporters, we were able to turn a forecasted deficit into a surplus, demonstrating resilience and careful stewardship of resources. A key factor in achieving this outcome was the incredible generosity of our community through fundraising campaigns, including the Emergency and Giving Day appeals. Their support ensured our Helpline and counselling services continued without interruption and carried us across the line to a positive financial result.

In May 2025, OCA received funding from a Cancer Australia grant to deliver an Australian-first telehealth program for cancer-related fatigue, targeting rural and remote Australians. The initiative marks an exciting step forward in reaching more women with specialised, evidence-based support, no matter where they live, and is a proud moment for the team leading the way in improving access to care.

Over the course of the year, OCA has been proud to collaborate with many organisations in the sector, including the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation (OCRF) and the Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) to drive greater investment in research, treatment, and support. We are grateful for these alliances, which strengthen the evidence base, accelerate progress, and bring hope for better outcomes for women and their families.

We also celebrated the incredible partnerships that help make our work possible. Twenty years with TerryWhite Chemmart, ten with Black Pepper, and a year with Hairhouse remind us that lasting change is built together. These partnerships go beyond fundraising – they reflect our shared purpose in walking alongside people affected by ovarian cancer and making a real difference in their lives.

Through our collaborations across advocacy and research, we also advanced clinical trials awareness in partnership with Curtin University and NSW Ministry of Health, launched an online Clinical Trials Resource Hub, and helped shape key national frameworks, including the Optimal Care Pathways Framework and National Framework for Genomics in Cancer Control, to improve outcomes and access to emerging treatments.

This combined success and resilience has given us the foundation to look ahead. Over the past year we have developed a bold new strategic plan, shaped through deep consultation and guided by the voices of women with lived experience and our broader community. This groundwork positions OCA to continue strengthening services, amplifying voices, and advocating nationally.

Our work supporting women with ovarian cancer has shown the difference that specialist care, dedicated advocacy, and a strong community can make. At the same time, we recognise that women affected by other gynaecological cancers often lack the same level of advocacy and support. Listening closely to our broader community has highlighted a clear need, and as part of our new strategic plan, we are beginning the journey to extend our services beyond ovarian cancer, to women facing all gynaecological cancers. Our commitment to the ovarian cancer community remains deep and unwavering, we know there is still much more to be done.

These developments reflect our commitment to deepening support for our existing community while extending care to new groups, alongside the ongoing evolution of our organisation, built on nearly 25 years of experience and impact. We are in the early stages of this transformative journey and committed to bringing this vision to life with the support of our donors and partners, and government.

As we enter this exciting next chapter, we acknowledge Meghan Speers, who retired from the Board in November 2024 after three years as Chair and six years of service. Her dedication and leadership have shaped OCA in ways that will be remembered for years to come, and we are incredibly grateful for the strong foundation she helped create. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all Board members for their dedication and guidance, which continue to support OCA's vision.

To our government and corporate partners, and to every donor, volunteer, and supporter, we are deeply grateful. Your generosity enables vital support services and strengthens our advocacy for a better future.

As we look ahead to OCA's 25th year, we do so with optimism and energy, ready to build on our achievements and continue our mission of care, advocacy, and impact.

With gratitude and determination,



Debbie Shiell
Chief Executive Officer



Dr Juliet Bourke
Chair

Our New Strategic Plan: Expanding Our Support to More Women

For 24 years, Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA) has stood firmly alongside women impacted by ovarian cancer. Together, we have made significant progress: more people now have access to specialist support, awareness of risks has increased, and advocacy has led to meaningful changes in treatment and care.

We are proud of these achievements, yet our work is far from done. Ovarian cancer remains the most lethal cancer unique to women, with too many facing late diagnoses, limited treatment options, and poor survival outcomes. Our focus and commitment to ovarian cancer remain as strong as ever.

At the same time, we recognise that women with other gynaecological cancers face similar inequities, including invisibility, underfunding, and lack of support. Guided by extensive consultation with women with lived experience, government and sector leaders, researchers, and health professionals, we have developed our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan. This plan is firmly aligned with the Australian Cancer Plan and reflects OCA's role as a key partner in delivering the Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program. It sets out a bold but necessary course: to expand advocacy and support to women with all gynaecological cancers, while continuing to walk alongside every woman with ovarian cancer. In the coming years, OCA will grow its services, foster new partnerships, and expand existing programs to respond to the evolving landscape of women's health. This expansion will be carefully considered and dependent on funding, ensuring that the quality of care for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer remains uncompromised.

Our new strategy is built around four key priorities, reflecting urgent needs, our strengths, and our commitment to equity, inclusion, and impact:

- Delivering specialised support:**
Every woman deserves expert, evidence-based, and culturally safe care. We will continue to provide clinical, psychological, practical, and emotional support tailored to each person's needs. We will address systemic inequities and ensure First Nations women, rural and regional women, culturally diverse women, and those from low socioeconomic backgrounds can access the support they need. We will expand specialist services, reach more people, and help every person navigate the health system with confidence.
- Elevating the voice of lived experience:**
Women's stories and insights are a key driver for shaping policies, services, and research priorities. By embedding lived experience at every level – from healthcare to government decision-making – we will continue to ensure women are heard, valued, and empowered, leading to better outcomes and more responsive systems.
- Driving collaboration:**
Meaningful change happens when we work together. We will unite researchers, clinicians, policymakers, advocates, and community stakeholders to accelerate early detection, improve treatment, and enhance support. By mobilising these partners to contribute to policy development and cancer care reform, we ensure diverse perspectives are represented and drive a cohesive national approach to ovarian and all gynaecological cancers. Through research investment, clinical trials, and innovation, we will address low-survival and rare gynaecological cancers, and maximise the impact of collaborative partnerships.

- Shining a light on these cancers:**
Awareness saves lives. Misunderstanding and invisibility contribute to late diagnoses, underfunding, and inequities in care. We will lead community education, public awareness, and advocacy initiatives to break stigma, improve prevention and early detection, and ensure every woman has access to information and care.

OCA will stand for, and walk with, everyone impacted by ovarian and all gynaecological cancers – we will ensure that no one walks alone. With the support of governments, researchers, clinicians, advocates, and the wider Australian community, we will continue to fight for earlier diagnosis, better treatments, and improved survival for women with ovarian cancer, while ensuring women facing all gynaecological

cancers finally have the advocacy, visibility, and care they deserve.

We will advocate for more equitable health systems that listen to and value women throughout their lives and continue to push for greater investment in research and awareness to build a future free from these cancers. We know that change takes time. Until then, OCA will continue to stand beside every woman and family facing these cancers – providing expert care, connection, and hope.

Through this collective effort, OCA is committed to building a future free from ovarian and all gynaecological cancers – a future where every woman and person affected by these cancers has the opportunity to live to their full potential.



Impact: Delivering Specialised Support

We provide personalised, evidence-based support to Australians affected by ovarian cancer – completely free of charge. Our services address the full spectrum of needs: emotional, psychological, and practical, for women and their loved ones, wherever they are in the country. From one-on-one counselling and peer support to practical guidance and tailored resources, our holistic approach ensures no one faces ovarian cancer alone. By combining specialist expertise with compassion, we empower our community, reduce isolation, and help women and families navigate their journey with confidence and resilience.

Nurse-Led Helpline

Our Nurse-Led Helpline continues to be a vital first point of contact for anyone affected by ovarian cancer. Staffed by specialist nurses, it provides timely guidance on ovarian cancer signs and symptoms, navigating healthcare pathways, hereditary risk and genomics, practical support, and strategies for managing treatment side effects.

In the past year, 510 individuals accessed the Helpline, reflecting the ongoing demand for trusted, nurse-led support and information.

“ Ovarian cancer is not a common disease and can feel very isolating. Having contact with someone outside of the hospital system to talk about it, and who knows what they’re talking about is very comforting.”

— Helpline caller



OCA Teal Support Nurse Georgie McKenzie

Teal Support Program

Our Teal Support Program (TSP) is a unique, nationwide telehealth initiative delivering person-centred care for individuals diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Delivered by specialist ovarian cancer nurses, the program provides tailored clinical, psychological, practical, and emotional support, working closely with each person’s medical team.

The TSP addresses the emotional and logistical challenges of an ovarian cancer diagnosis, ensuring continuity of care through treatment and beyond. Every participant is connected with a dedicated nurse who offers ongoing guidance, proactively checking in during times when additional support is often needed.

We are grateful for the Australian Government’s ongoing support, which has enabled the TSP to grow and reach more women across Australia. Since 2019, this support has allowed the program to expand its services, and with the establishment of the Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program in 2023, the TSP now has funding secured until 2027. This ensures continued access to vital, expert care for women, including those in rural and remote communities.

By supporting access to optimal care and enhancing quality of life, the TSP demonstrates best practice, person-centred care for all Australians impacted by ovarian cancer.

“ In their first session, some women feel a sense of hopelessness. But within a few conversations, they begin to find hope and strength during a really difficult time.”

— Nerida Morton, OCA Teal Support Nurse

Highlights from 2024-25 include:

- 286 new women welcomed into the program
- Over 50% of referrals from health professionals, including partners such as McGrath Foundation and Cancer Council Australia
- 32% of referrals from regional and remote areas, demonstrating our commitment to reaching women everywhere
- 3,894 support calls and 1,730 Resilience Kits distributed to support women’s wellbeing
- 374 women currently receiving ongoing support

Psychosocial Support Program: Psychology and Counselling Support

Primarily funded by the Dry July campaign, our Psychosocial Support Program (PSS) offers free, specialist telehealth psychology and counselling services for individuals diagnosed with ovarian cancer and their adult family members. Staffed by a dedicated team of seven experienced psychologists and senior counsellors with over 60 years of combined expertise in oncology and women’s health, the program delivers evidence-based therapy tailored to the unique challenges of ovarian cancer.

Support is offered one-on-one, addressing issues such as anxiety, depression, fear of progression, grief, intimacy and sexual health, insomnia, and fatigue. The program incorporates structured interventions, including Managing Cancer and Living Meaningfully (CALM) and Can-Sleep for sleep difficulties. The PSS also provides grief and bereavement support for family members, offering up to five sessions for those who have lost a partner, parent, or child to ovarian cancer.

Through personalised, expert care, the PSS helps individuals and families navigate the emotional and psychological impacts of ovarian cancer, enhancing wellbeing, resilience, and quality of life.

450 sessions delivered in 2024-25

“ The counselling service with OCA has been invaluable. I honestly wonder how I would have coped without it.”

“ This service is a lifesaver – without it, I would not have coped.”

— PSS participants



OCA Teal Support Nurse Di Kenneally and Community Member, Julie

Can-Sleep Program: Supporting Better Sleep

In 2024, the Can-Sleep program was tailored specifically for people with ovarian cancer, recognising the unique challenges they face in getting restorative sleep. In 2025, it became a standard part of care at OCA, offering a stepped approach: participants use strategies from the ovarian cancer self-help Can-Sleep booklet and, if needed, receive one-on-one support from a Clinical Psychologist trained in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I).

Since its early 2025 rollout, six women with ovarian cancer experiencing sleep difficulties have been supported. Early results are encouraging: 67 per cent reported a significant improvement in their sleep, moving from severe to moderate insomnia, helping them feel more rested, focused, and able to manage daily challenges. For others, health complications affected engagement, highlighting the ongoing need for accessible support.

Recognising that sleep difficulties are common for women with ovarian cancer, OCA is committed to expanding Can-Sleep in 2025 and beyond – helping more individuals achieve better rest, improved wellbeing, and greater resilience in their cancer journey.

Expanding Access and Innovation

OCA continues to break new ground in supportive care. In May 2025, we received a Cancer Australia grant to deliver a free, telehealth-based program for cancer-related fatigue, targeting rural and remote Australians. This program represents the first ovarian cancer-specific intervention of its kind in Australia, providing structured, clinician-guided support and opportunities to connect with peers facing similar challenges. We are excited to bring this innovative program to our community, providing a new pathway of support for women experiencing cancer-related fatigue.

Impact: Empowering Women Through Advocacy

Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA) plays a critical role in advocating for improved access to vital treatments, clinical trials, genomic innovations, and national awareness of ovarian cancer. Our work ensures that the voices of women and families are heard, valued, and acted upon.

In 2024-25, OCA joined forces with aligned organisations to strengthen national awareness, deepen key relationships, and influence critical conversations. CEO Debbie Shiell and Acting Chief of Support and Advocacy Bridget Bradhurst met with members of parliament to highlight gaps in research, treatment, and care, and to call for greater investment to improve outcomes for women and families. Through these advocacy efforts, OCA continues to be a leading voice in policy development and strengthening support for Australians impacted by ovarian cancer.

Advocacy Priorities



Reducing variation in care, leading to improved survival and quality of life.



Improving timely access to effective and affordable treatment.



Increasing large-scale research funding.



Patient and family-centred care and support.

Parliamentary Breakfast

A key highlight of OCA's advocacy this year was our 11th Parliamentary Breakfast, which brought together parliamentarians, sector partners, and community members to hear directly from women with lived experience. We were honoured to host Georgie Beck as keynote speaker, who shared her journey with ovarian cancer, powerfully highlighting the urgent need for action. Her honesty and openness brought to life the real experiences of women with ovarian cancer, shining a spotlight on the human impact of this disease and reinforcing why it must remain a national priority.

The event also featured a series of powerful speeches from female leaders, highlighting gaps and inequalities in ovarian cancer care and the urgent need for systemic change. Dr Juliet Bourke, OCA Chair, reflected on the human impact of ovarian cancer and the vital role of connection, support, and advocacy. OCA CEO Debbie Shiell emphasised how tailored support programs, research investment, and equitable access to care can address the real-life challenges women face. The Hon Ged Kearney MP and Senator the Hon Anne Ruston reinforced bipartisan commitment, underlining the importance of turning awareness into meaningful action.

“The voices shared at this breakfast are the catalyst for change...not calls for compassion, but urgent demands for action.”

— Debbie Shiell, OCA CEO



OCA CEO, Debbie Shiell and Bridget Bradhurst at Parliament House



The Hon Ged Kearney MP with OCA Parliamentary Breakfast Speaker, Georgie Beck

Georgie's Story

“Fear is being told you have the most lethal women's cancer in Australia. Fear is being told it has spread, and it is stage four. Fear is telling your 12, 14, and 16-year-old sons. Fear is having your first round of chemo, and you stop breathing because of an allergic reaction.”

Georgie bravely laid bare the daily realities of living with ovarian cancer – from major surgeries and treatment complications to the constant anxiety of scans – giving voice to struggles often hidden behind the statistics.

Amid these challenges, she found strength and reassurance through OCA's support services, especially her Teal Support Nurse.

"OCA were incredible. They showed me there was a team ready for me. First, they sent me their Resilience Kit – a wealth of knowledge and answers to questions I didn't even know I had to ask. They also set me up with Katherine, my Teal Support Nurse, who has become my brains trust. I can call or text her any time for advice, reassurance, or practical help."

Georgie also spoke about the importance of peer connection, found through OCA's Younger Women's Support Group.

"I was connected to the Younger Women's Support Group – a safe space where we vent, ask questions, and support each other. We call each other 'Teal Sisters' as a sign of community, but too often we say goodbye, and these online friends become our 'Teal Angels'."

Georgie's son Jack also found a way to turn fear into action. At just 16, he raised \$66,000 through school fundraising to support OCA. Inspired by his example, Georgie continues her own advocacy as an ambassador, determined to ensure ovarian cancer gets the attention it so urgently needs.



OCA Parliamentary Breakfast Keynote Speaker, Georgie Beck

Improving Medicines Access

OCA is the peak body representing the voices of the ovarian cancer community in medicines access policy and processes. A key priority of our advocacy strategy is increasing timely access to effective and affordable medicines. Last year, OCA submitted four formal recommendations to the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), emphasising the difference timely access to novel therapies can make for women with platinum-resistant ovarian cancer.

OCA also worked with the broader cancer sector to advocate for funded access to 'pan-tumour' medicines for advanced and metastatic cancers, including forms of ovarian cancer. These innovative treatments are designed to target specific genetic features of cancer cells, rather than the type or location of the cancer itself, meaning the same therapy can be effective across multiple cancer types. Listing is yet to be recommended, and OCA will continue to work with the sector on pan-tumour medicines. By advocating for funded access, OCA is helping to ensure these life-changing therapies are available to the people who need them most.

Advancing Clinical Trials Awareness

Together with Curtin University in Western Australia, OCA led a project to understand how Australians with ovarian cancer learn about and participate in clinical trials. The insights gained helped us develop practical resources to overcome barriers and make trials more accessible. Our Clinical Trials Resource Hub, now live on OCA's website, provides clear, easy-to-use information for women and families considering participation, helping them make informed choices and access potentially life-changing opportunities. Early results from the project were published in Supportive Care in Cancer, with further findings under review in 2025.

Shaping Policy and Frameworks

OCA continued to influence key policy and clinical frameworks to improve care for women affected by ovarian cancer. In October 2024, the National Optimal Care Pathways Framework was released to reduce variation in cancer care and capture best practice across the country. OCA contributed to its development, highlighting the need for pathways that are flexible and accessible, so they can keep pace with rapidly evolving treatments, including advances in genomics.

In January 2025, the National Framework for Genomics in Cancer Control was released, recognising the vital role of genomics in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and

treatment. OCA emphasised the importance of linking genomic testing with access to relevant ovarian cancer treatments, medicines, and clinical trials. We also advocated for clear, community-focused education to help women and families understand how genomic testing can guide risk management, diagnosis, and treatment decisions.

OCA was also invited to contribute to the Genomics Policy Roundtable Series, hosted by Rare Cancers Australia, which explored how genomic profiling and precision oncology can be integrated into Australia's broader cancer care system. These forums provided OCA with a platform to advocate for equitable access to emerging genomic technologies and ensure that women with ovarian cancer benefit from cutting-edge care.

International Advocacy

OCA continued to strengthen its collaborations on the global stage, ensuring that the voices of Australian women are heard internationally.

We maintained our active partnership with the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition (WOCC), calling for urgent action as ovarian cancer cases are projected to rise by 58 per cent by 2050.

Through this collaboration, OCA helped release new data on the socioeconomic burden of ovarian cancer in Australia, revealing an annual cost of \$271 million and showing how treatment can take the equivalent of five full workdays each year for travel and care. This first-of-its-kind study provides vital evidence to support our advocacy for increased investment in research, treatment, and support services.

OCA was also invited by the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) to attend the inaugural Patient Engagement Summit in Singapore. The summit brought together patient advocates, policymakers, healthcare professionals, and corporate partners from across the Asia-Pacific region to explore the challenges and opportunities

facing people with cancer. OCA's Advocacy and Support Nurse, Georgie McKenzie, represented Australian perspectives, sharing insights from OCA's work and strengthening international networks to advance ovarian cancer care.

Amplifying Community Voices

At the heart of OCA's work are the voices and experiences of our community. Throughout the year, we continued to refine and strengthen our engagement processes to ensure these partnerships meaningfully inform and drive change.

OCA was honoured to participate in the 'From Patient to Partner' workshop, hosted by Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA), alongside community member Dora Ambrosi-Wall. The workshop provided a valuable forum for discussion, connection, and shared learning, exploring how to build genuine partnerships between people with lived experience and the broader cancer sector. Participants explored practical examples of successful consumer engagement, showing how collaboration between clinicians and the community can improve patient outcomes, shape policy, and strengthen support for people affected by ovarian cancer.

“The conference helped me to learn and understand that I am not alone, and it gave me courage and hope for the future. I find myself facing this battle for the second time, and while I am sad, I also feel a sense of calm. I have been inspired by the incredible, resilient women who continue to fight, and am reminded that there is always hope until the very last moment. I am deeply grateful for our nurses, who provide hope, guidance, support, love and understanding, and for the amazing researchers whose work and discussions have been truly inspiring.”

— Dora Ambrosi-Wall

Impact: Campaigns and Community

Our campaigns are a powerful platform for Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA) to raise awareness, connect with women who are affected by ovarian cancer, and inspire our supporters to take action. At the heart of these initiatives are the personal stories of those living with the disease. These voices shape our campaign strategies and guide how we share their experiences with the world.

Tax Appeal

OCA's End of Financial Year Emergency Appeal was a tremendous success, raising over \$250,000 to ensure the continuity of our Helpline and counselling services. We are deeply grateful to every donor who made this possible.

Thanks to their generosity, women like Kyleen can access the support they urgently need. Kyleen is a devoted mum and volunteer firefighter who was unexpectedly diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer in 2024.

For nine months, Kyleen tried to navigate the medical system alone, struggling to get clear information about her diagnosis, appointments, and treatment. Feeling overwhelmed, she reached out to the OCA Helpline – and finally found the support she had been searching for.

Through the Helpline, Kyleen was connected with expert nurses, counselling, and reliable information. For the first time, she felt seen, supported, and understood.

"I didn't know where to turn until I called the Helpline. That one call to Ovarian Cancer Australia changed everything. I learned I had the right to a second opinion, and that I wasn't alone."

Kyleen credits OCA with giving her confidence and access to treatment options she didn't know existed. "I wouldn't have known about clinical trials if it wasn't for the Helpline. And I wouldn't have known that I could ask to be considered for a trial."

Today, Kyleen continues to receive care through OCA, including counselling and regular calls with her Teal Support Nurse. She shares a heartfelt message to all our supporters:

"I can't thank you enough for your kindness and support. It means the world to me and my family – and I'm sure to all those who come after me."



Kyleen, diagnosed in 2024

Workout 4 Women

The 2024 Workout 4 Women campaign once again showcased the incredible strength of our community. Together, 970 participants covered thousands of kilometres, supported by 3,421 donors, raising an outstanding \$283,313 for OCA's vital work.

102,000 website views

1 million+ social impressions

\$283,313 raised

At the heart of the campaign was Kate, our ambassador. Diagnosed with low-grade ovarian cancer at just 33, Kate's persistence in seeking answers led to a full hysterectomy.

“That's been the hardest part...We were just starting to think about having kids, and then this happened.”

As a hairdresser of 20 years, losing her hair through treatment was also deeply challenging. Yet through it all, Kate has become a powerful advocate for trusting your instincts and speaking up.

Her story inspired thousands to get moving throughout November, uniting the community in support of Australians affected by ovarian cancer.



Georgie McKenzie representing OCA at ESMO



Kate receiving treatment

Media Spotlight:

In the lead-up to Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month (OCAM), Kate’s story was featured in The Australian Women’s Weekly Australia, raising awareness of ovarian cancer, the challenges of early detection, and the profound impact on fertility. This coverage amplified the reach of her advocacy and helped bring the community together ahead of OCAM.



Kate’s story featured in The Australian Women’s Weekly

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and OCA’s Giving Day

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month (OCAM), held each February, is a key opportunity to shine a light on ovarian cancer and its profound impact on individuals and families. This year, our campaign reached over 1.29 million Australians through social and digital channels, creating widespread awareness and engagement with our mission.

At the heart of the campaign was our annual Giving Day, which shared personal stories from those affected. These powerful narratives resonated deeply with our community and highlighted the importance of our work.

With the incredible support of our community, we achieved our fundraising target, raising over \$520,000. We extend a special thank you to our matching donors, including our principal partner TerryWhite Chemmart, whose generosity doubled the impact of every gift.

Rhea Doyle, a mother from regional Victoria, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer at just 39 and served as our key ambassador for Giving Day. Reflecting on the shock of her diagnosis, Rhea says:

“ I didn’t want to think that that was going to be my reality. However, my Teal Support Nurse has walked beside me every step of the way. Without the nurses in the Teal Support Program, I would’ve felt really lost. They’ve helped me stay resilient throughout this process.”

For Rhea, the Teal Support Program has been a lifeline, helping her navigate her illness and find strength in the face of uncertainty. We are extremely grateful to Rhea for lending her voice to raise awareness and support for ovarian cancer during our largest annual campaign.



Rhea and her family

World Ovarian Cancer Day

OCA’s World Ovarian Cancer Day (WOCD) campaign made a powerful impact in 2025, reaching 96,000 people, raising over \$26,000, engaging four key partners, and including three community events. Through a multi-platform campaign, OCA shared stories of lived experiences, raised vital awareness about ovarian cancer, and inspired support through fundraising, education, and collaboration. Pro bono PR support from Porter Novelli helped secure national media coverage, spreading the message about the urgent need for increased research investment, improved access to treatment, and the campaign’s uniting theme: No Woman Left Behind.

Partnerships are central to amplifying this message. Over the last 12 months, OCA worked closely with the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition to share vital data and insights. TerryWhite Chemmart hosted in-store activations and morning teas, raising over \$5,000 and doubling the previous year’s fundraising. Hairhouse engaged its 486,000-strong customer base through a dedicated email, generating \$2,218 through ongoing initiatives. The NRL supported awareness efforts with social media placements, ‘Women in League Round’ visibility, and commentator ribbons, reaching more than 13,000 people.

Community fundraising events further strengthened the campaign, demonstrating the power of collective action. The Australian Hotels Association rallied the hospitality industry to raise \$3,810, while JBWere hosted a morning tea for approximately 35 guests, contributing an additional \$500.

WOCD 2025 was a national call to action, combining awareness and fundraising to ensure better support, improved treatment, and hope for women affected by ovarian cancer.

Community Fundraising Spotlight

Our community fundraisers are the beating heart of OCA. Their passion and commitment continue to inspire us, and their efforts play a vital role in ensuring we can deliver the programs and support that people living with ovarian cancer rely on.

We are humbled by the many individuals, families, schools, workplaces, and community groups who choose to stand with us – finding innovative, heartfelt, and often courageous ways to raise funds and awareness. Year after year, they not only champion our cause but also honour and uplift those affected by ovarian cancer. Their generosity is a powerful reminder of the strength and compassion that drives our community forward.

Spotlight: Nicky Buckley’s National Advocacy

Long-standing OCA ambassador Nicky Buckley has continued to inspire and raise awareness for ovarian cancer through her remarkable journey on national television as part of I’m A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!

Having lost her mum, Joan, 20 years ago, Nicky honours her memory through her ongoing advocacy. Through her recent TV appearances, she highlighted the importance of early detection and recognising the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, sparking important conversations and giving others touched by the disease the opportunity to share their experiences.

Reflecting on OCA’s work, Nicky shared:

“ Ovarian Cancer Australia provides support in numerous ways to those living with ovarian cancer to ensure no woman diagnosed with the disease walks alone. They also advocate for funding for support services and research into one day finding a cure.”

We are immensely grateful to Nicky for sharing her personal connection to the disease and for her advocacy throughout her journey in the jungle – supporting women and families affected by ovarian cancer.



Nicky Buckley on I’m A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!

Spotlight: Walkers for the Circle of Love

This year, we were moved by the incredible journey of Henry and Tris, better known as the Walkers for the Circle of Love. Together, they completed the epic 3,000 km hike of New Zealand’s Te Araroa, raising over \$11,000 – far surpassing their original \$3,000 fundraising goal.

Their journey was a heartfelt tribute to Henry’s late mother, Katelyn, who sadly passed away from ovarian cancer last year. Carrying Katelyn’s ‘Circle of Love’ – a nickname given to her for her immense joy and positivity – Henry and Tris shared updates throughout the 90-day adventure, engaging their community and raising awareness along the way.

“ I hope to continue Katelyn’s legacy of love and bravery by being a Walker (pun intended) of the Te Araroa,” Henry shares. “We aim to overcome the many mountains and challenges of this 3,000 km endeavour to pay respect to Katelyn and the countless other women who have battled, and continue to battle against this terrible disease.”

Their journey may be complete, but their mission continues – inspiring others, raising awareness, and creating tangible impact for the ovarian cancer community.

Spotlight: Heather’s Endurance

Heather, diagnosed over 17 years ago, has turned her recovery into purpose. An ultramarathoner and long-time OCA supporter, she has tackled events like the North Pole Marathon and the World Marathon Challenge to raise awareness and funds.

This July, at 60, Heather completed a 24-hour race at the Australian Institute of Sport, setting a new Australian record for women aged 60–64 by running 151 km.

Heather’s fundraising efforts raised nearly \$3,300 in the last financial year. Her ongoing support continues to make a lasting impact.

“ As a survivor, I’ve seen and experienced firsthand the incredible impact OCA provides.”

Her determination continues to inspire the community and support Australians affected by ovarian cancer.



Heather Hawkins

Spotlight: Lunch with the Queens

This year’s Lunch with the Queens raised more than \$75,000 in support of OCA. Since its inception in 2016, this much-loved event has united our community in celebration and solidarity, combining entertainment with a powerful sense of purpose.

The event continues to showcase the strength of our community and the commitment of all those working to make a difference for women and families impacted by ovarian cancer.

OCA extends heartfelt thanks to Nici and the Mail Exchange Hotel for their ongoing support, and to every attendee and donor whose contribution ensures we can continue delivering vital support services and raise national awareness.

Spotlight: Kincoppal-Rose Bay School

In 2025, Kincoppal-Rose Bay School showcased the power of young people driving meaningful change through their annual Girls Cut Curls event. Over 50 students cut their hair in solidarity with those affected by ovarian cancer, donating their locks to Sustainable Salons.

The Year 12 cohort set a fundraising goal of \$35,000 – and surpassed it, raising over \$44,000 to support OCA. Year 11 students also contributed through a bake sale, highlighting the generosity and teamwork that defined the day.

The event celebrated compassion, action, and community, while raising awareness and inspiring young women to make a difference. OCA is deeply grateful for the school community’s leadership and commitment.

Spotlight: RoCan

We are deeply grateful to RoCan for their continued support last financial year, donating \$40,000 from their annual bike ride, Ride for a Cause.

RoCan’s connection to ovarian cancer began in 1999, when Yvonne Moon OAM tragically lost her best friend to the disease. Determined to make a difference, Yvonne brought together members of the Rotary Club of Williamstown, and in 2003, the RoCan Trust was officially established. Since then, RoCan has been a steadfast advocate, raising awareness of ovarian cancer and generating vital funds to support Australians affected by it.

This year’s Ride for a Cause will once again support OCA’s services, including our Helpline, specialist ovarian cancer nurses, and psychological and counselling support. Thanks to RoCan and their community of riders, volunteers, and supporters, every Australian impacted by ovarian cancer can access these specialised services free of charge.

RoCan’s ongoing commitment demonstrates the incredible impact community action can have. With RoCan’s support, women and families impacted by ovarian cancer never have to walk alone.



Members of the RoCan community of riders at Ride for a Cause

Impact: Major Partnerships

The Power of Partnerships

Ovarian Cancer Australia’s major partners play a critical role in advancing the organisation’s mission. More than funders, they are values-aligned organisations that raise awareness, amplify OCA’s voice, and help connect with audiences across the country.

In 2024–25, these partnerships collectively generated over \$735,000, while delivering substantial national awareness for ovarian cancer. From grassroots store initiatives to large-scale media campaigns, their engagement demonstrates the strength and diversity of OCA’s corporate collaborations. These results not only reflect financial impact but also the growing community of advocates and supporters rallying behind the organisation’s mission.

TerryWhite Chemmart

This year marked 20 years of collaboration with our principal partner, TerryWhite Chemmart. This enduring relationship raised an impressive \$462,000 through supplier campaigns, head office events, and pharmacist-led initiatives. Notably, store fundraising increased by 79 per cent during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month (OCAM) and World Ovarian Cancer Day (WOCD), resulting in overall growth of 7 per cent compared to 2023–24. Standout efforts included Caboolture North’s creation of 200 care packs for women with ovarian cancer, and Kin from Barham and Kerang’s heartfelt ponytail donation – powerful demonstrations of TerryWhite Chemmart’s deep commitment to care.



TerryWhite Chemmart staff with OCA Partnerships Manager Lisa Hay

Hairhouse

Hairhouse continued its strong support, raising more than \$122,000 throughout the year. Its round-up program alone contributed over \$70,000, showcasing the impact of small donations when driven by engaged staff. A highlight was Hairhouse’s annual conference, where OCA advocate Dianne shared her personal journey with ovarian cancer, inspiring attendees, raising additional funds, and increasing awareness across the network.



OCA Acting Chief, Support and Advocacy Bridget Bradhurst speaking at Hairhouse’s annual conference

Wynstan

Wynstan maintained its year-round commitment, contributing more than \$65,000 through its per-order donation campaign and workplace giving. Beyond financial support, Wynstan provided \$190,000 worth of radio advertising during OCAM, dramatically extending OCA’s reach and visibility to new audiences.



Wynstan presenting a cheque to OCA, supporting our vital work

Black Pepper

Black Pepper marked 10 years of partnership with OCA, raising more than \$55,000 this year. Their milestone campaign attracted national media coverage, including features on 7News and Today Extra. The campaign spotlighted ten remarkable women – advocates, nurses, and women diagnosed with ovarian cancer – whose stories brought authenticity and emotional resonance to the cause. We extend special thanks to Victoria and her mum Barbara, as well as Mary, Christine, and Jo, for sharing their journeys with courage and grace.



Our People

At Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA), our people are at the heart of everything we do. Our small-but-mighty national team of 33*, currently based across Victoria, NSW, Queensland and WA, bring a remarkable mix of skill, experience, and passion for supporting those impacted by ovarian cancer. Together, they're united by one goal – to make a lasting difference and improve outcomes for all affected by the disease.

Our team includes nurses, psychologists, counsellors, advocates, fundraisers, marketers and specialists across finance, IT, HR and administration. Talent is a given, but what truly sets our people apart is their care, compassion, and unwavering drive to help others.

Longevity is a hallmark of our workplace. Twenty of our 33 team members have been with OCA for three years or more, including eight celebrating five years and one reaching a decade of service. These milestones are proudly recognised with special service pins.

As we prepare for a new phase of growth and strategy, retaining the knowledge and expertise of our team is vital. Learning and development remain a strong focus. Each staff member has an annual development plan, and training opportunities are reviewed to ensure fairness and alignment with our goals.

In 2024-25, diversity and inclusion were key learning priorities. All staff and the board completed cultural safety training in July 2024, and our clinicians undertook professional development, including Mental Health First Aid. Looking ahead, every team member will have the chance to take part in personal coaching and project management training.

Seven team members stepped into acting roles during the year, growing their leadership experience while contributing to OCA's success.

We know balance matters. Our hybrid model offers flexibility, with Melbourne-based staff coming together twice a month for "all-in" days, and all team members connecting at two national planning days each year.

In April 2025, OCA launched its updated Human Resources Policy & Procedures Manual, ensuring consistency and compliance across all people-related practices. Regular staff surveys and action-planning meetings keep our workplace culture responsive to what matters most to our team.

We are deeply grateful to every member of our incredible team for the passion, care, and commitment they bring to OCA each day.

**Total staff as of June 2025.*



Di Kenneally, Rosetta Hart, Fiona Mitchell and Bridget Bradhurst



Bridget Bradhurst and Meghan Speers

Governance

Clinical & Scientific Expert Advisory Panel

Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA) is proud to work alongside world-leading clinical and scientific experts in the field of ovarian cancer. The panel provides an opportunity for OCA to receive valuable advice from leading experts. We are grateful to all the researchers and clinicians who have supported us during the period of developing our new Strategic Plan, and we look forward to introducing you to our new Panel Members who will partner with us in the delivery of it.

Sponsorships

Pharmaceutical companies are significant stakeholders in the cancer community. OCA recognises the importance of maintaining an open dialogue and relationship with pharmaceutical companies that are producing products which may lead to benefits for people living with ovarian cancer.

We also recognise that transparency in these relationships is critical to maintaining our position and reputation as independent of influence from pharmaceutical companies over any of our organisational programs and activities. In recognition of this need for transparency, the following table outlines the summary of the donations and funding received over the past 12 months.

Contributions from Sponsorships

Company	Program funded	Amount (ex GST)
AstraZeneca Pty Ltd	OCA Face-to-Face Support Groups	\$52,800
AbbVie Pty Ltd	OCA 2025 National Ovarian Cancer Symposium	\$45,000
AstraZeneca Pty Ltd	OCA 2025 National Ovarian Cancer Symposium	\$30,000
GlaxoSmithKline Australia Pty Ltd	OCA 2025 National Ovarian Cancer Symposium	\$45,000
Total		\$172,800

Board Members

- Dr Juliet Bourke — Chair
- Meghan Speers (Resigned 29 November 2024)
- Richard Gosper
- Andrew Jolly
- Melissa McClusky
- Kate MacRae
- Michael Gabriel
- Professor Karen Strickland

Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Directors

- Melissa McClusky — Chair
- Dr Juliet Bourke
- Andrew Jolly
- Michael Gabriel

Non-Director Members

- Chris Tiedemann

Culture & Remuneration Committee

Directors

- Richard Gosper — Chair
- Dr Juliet Bourke
- Kate MacRae
- Karen Strickland

Financial Summary

This year, Ovarian Cancer Australia once again demonstrated strength and resilience in the face of challenge. While overall income was lower than the previous year, the organisation achieved a positive financial result thanks to careful stewardship and the incredible generosity of our community. Despite a competitive fundraising environment and broader cost-of-living pressures, our supporters rallied when it mattered most – particularly through the Tax Appeal. These results reflect not only sound financial management but the deep commitment of our staff, partners, and supporters to improving the lives of those affected by ovarian cancer.

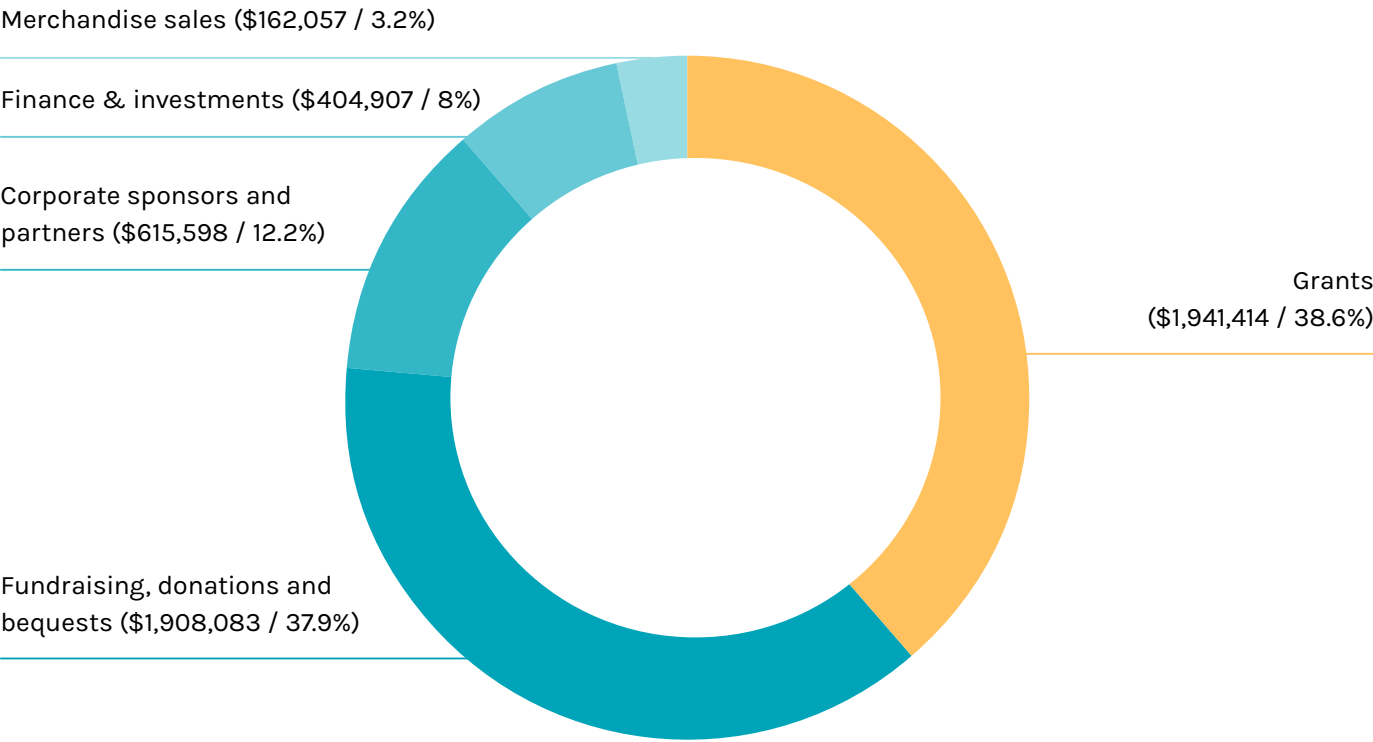
Income Growth 2024-25



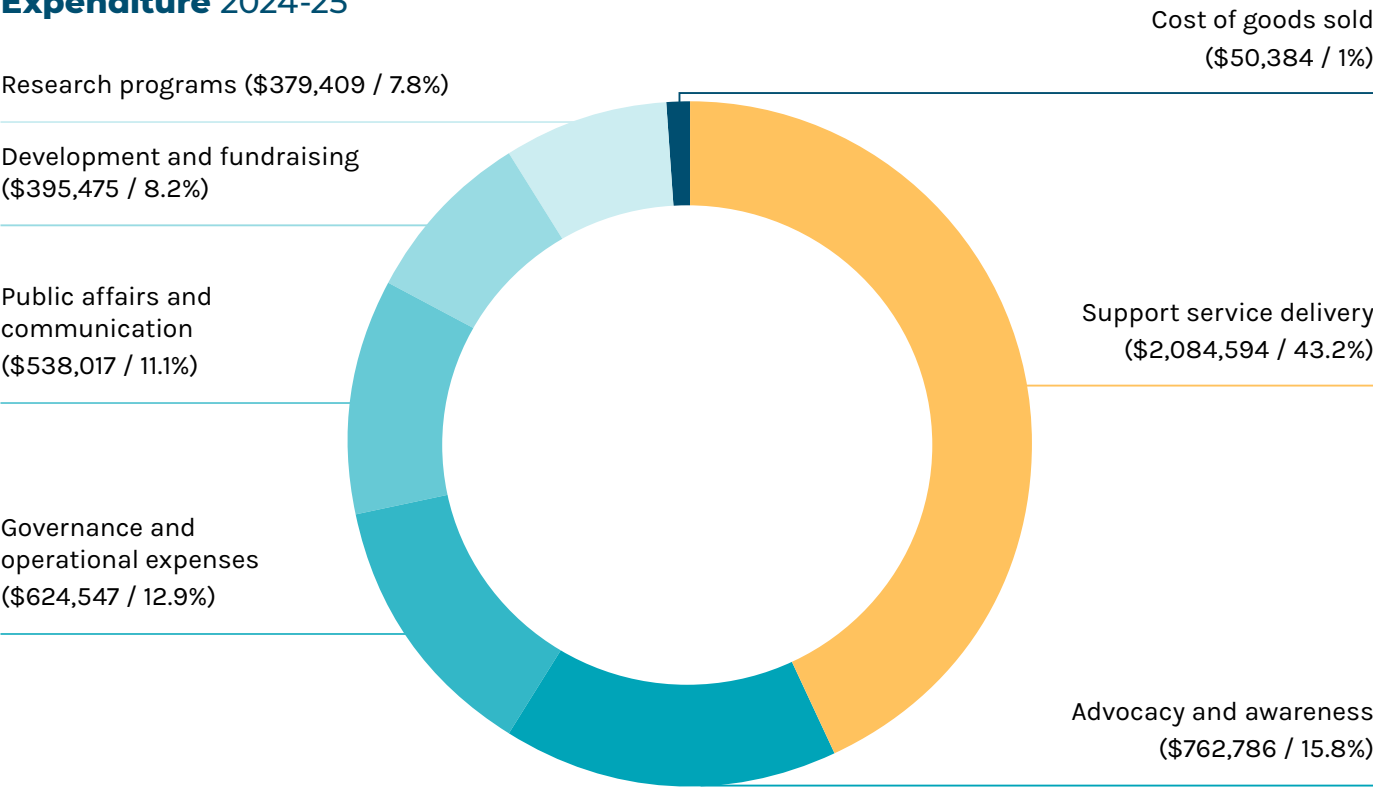
Statement of Profit & Loss 2024-25

Revenue	4,627,164
Other income	217,077
Fair value loss on investments at fair value through profit and loss	187,830
Cost of goods sold	(50,384)
Support service delivery	(2,084,594)
Advocacy and awareness	(762,786)
Research programs	(379,409)
Public affairs and communication	(538,017)
Development and fundraising	(395,475)
Governance and operational expenses	(624,547)
Total comprehensive profit/loss for the year	196,859

Income Sources 2024-25



Expenditure 2024-25



Appreciation

Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA) exists because of the generosity, passion, and dedication of our supporters.

Every donor, fundraiser, ambassador, partner, volunteer, and advocate plays a vital role in helping us provide expert support, amplify community voices, and drive meaningful change in ovarian cancer care. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our pro bono partners, whose generosity and expertise strengthen our collective voice.

Your support transforms lives – giving women and families the care, guidance, and hope they need, and helping us push for better treatment and a brighter future for all those affected by ovarian cancer.

From everyone at OCA, thank you. Your commitment makes a real difference every day, and together, we will continue to stand with the ovarian cancer community.

Parliamentary Ambassadors

- Meryl Swanson MP
- Senator Sarah Hanson-Young
- Senator Anne Ruston

Special Thanks

- Dr Bob House
- Dr Meg Welsh
- Dr Ashley Jennings-Fleischfresser
- QVWC Management and community
- Department of Health
- Cancer Australia

Principal Partner

- TerryWhite Chemmart

Major Partners

- Hairhouse
- Black Pepper
- Wynstan

Media Marketing & Pro Bono Partners

- Katie Rigg-Smith
- OMD
- GRACosway
- Hardy Audio
- MinterEllison

Major Donors (\$5000+) & Bequests

- John Beck
- Paula Benson AM
- John Fowler
- Gregory Heffernan
- Robert Howman-Giles
- David and Audrey Linton
- David Martin
- Tatum Pringle
- Bequest in memory of Kathy Johnstone

Trusts & Foundations

- Alfred and Jean Dickson Foundation
- Dry July Foundation
- Frost Family Endowment at the APS Foundation
- James Family Foundation
- Red Rocketship Foundation
- The Sun Foundation

Community Fundraisers

- RoCan
- Kincoppal-Rose Bay for Ovarian Cancer 2025
- Lunch with the Queens - Nici Nicholson
- Colleen Swiderski
- Walkers for the Circle of Love - Henry and Tris
- Teal Scream! – Karen Dickinson
- Quest for a Cure – Sydney to Byron Bay on Foot
- Women in Business – Amanda Cavanagh
- Char’s Shave for Cancer
- Jan Burnett Ladies Lunch – AHA Hotel Care Foundation
- Collie Eagles Football Club Ladies Day
- Running for a Cause – Bree Crane
- Tracey’s Ovarian Cancer Fundraiser
- Yulara Firies Calendar
- Help Me Run (Stumble) for Angela Clarke & Ovarian Cancer! – Tayler Bourke
- Desi & Nick’s Wedding
- June4Joyce – Elizabeth Wignall
- Couch to 100 Miles – The Murphy’s
- The Chambers Gal-entine’s Event
- Teal Day – Lynda Parkinson
- Swim for Heather Sat 7th and Sun 8th December
- Bax by Bax – Family Fundraiser
- Nepean Women’s Golf Club – Glenys McInnes
- Heather Hawkins
- Goulburn Swans AFC 2024 – Andrew Clark
- Love You More – Santana Cotella
- Ann Lacey
- Let’s Honour Jan Warnock
- Eileen Williams
- Jack – Shave for a Cause
- Vicky’s Bicky’s
- Leigh Cappellari
- Settlers Run Golf & Country Club 2025
- Ladies Night In Fundraiser – Danielle Morgan
- Fitstop Nerang Ovarian Cancer Awareness Fundraiser
- Natasha’s Teal Tea 2025 – Natasha Stott Despoja
- Kin is shaving his head!
- Twin Waters Pharmacy
- Donate For Donz – Rhiannon Blacklock
- Lea and Vicky – Lea Valenti
- Box Hill Hospital ICU Morning Tea
- I’m Walking the Great Ocean Walk Dressed as a Roman - Michael George
- Katie Worthington
- Women Of MaxCap and OCA Morning Tea
- Salta Properties – Carolina Grapiglia

Campaign Supporters

- Wrinkles Schminkles
- Fox and Leo
- Adrift
- Medik8 ANZ
- Style Bundle
- SUBOO
- Saya
- Halo Fiction
- Hero Scrubs
- Lost Designer
- Sister & Soul
- Arctic Fox
- Charity Greeting Cards
- National Rugby League

Thank you to all our major donors who wish to remain anonymous!



**OVARIAN
CANCER
AUSTRALIA**

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Phone: 1300 660 334

Website: ovariancancer.net.au

For more information about making
a donation, please contact Miranda
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miranda.davis@ovariancancer.net.au