2026

Winter Accommodation
Resource Movement Inc.

WARM

OUR FIRST WINTER

annual report



Everyone deserves a safe place to sleep
and a WARM welcome

OUR STORY

IT STARTED WITH A CONVERSATION

Our first winter began with a simple idea: that no one in our community should have to face a winter night without somewhere safe and warm to go.

In May 2025, a conversation about how our community could better support people sleeping rough through winter began to take shape. Community organisations, homelessness services, faith communities and local councils came together to explore whether a winter shelter could work in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

A community forum at St Peter's Bundoora drew on the experience of established winter shelter programs and helped shape the model that would become WARM: volunteer-led, community-based and open to everyone.

That community effort led to the incorporation of Winter Accommodation Resource Movement Inc. in October 2025, followed by months of planning, building partnerships, recruiting volunteers and preparing venues.

By winter 2026, that planning and hard work had become something real: **four venues across Darebin and Banyule opening their doors each week to welcome WARM's first guests.**



May 2025 meeting at St. Peters Anglican Church, Bundoora

May 2025

The first conversations

2025

Community forum at St. Peters Bundoora

October 2025

WARM Inc. incorporated

June 2026

Our first winter begins

Winter 2027

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR:

What started as a conversation became a community.

This year has been one of connection, growth and a shared commitment to hospitality across the WARM network.



As founding Chairperson, I am humbled by what those committed to the WARM vision have achieved together. What began as a conversation in 2025 became, this winter, a volunteer-run shelter operating across four sites in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

Our first season brought together 99 volunteers, four host venues, valued partner organisations and, most importantly, our guests. Together, we provided safe overnight accommodation, warm meals and a welcoming community for people experiencing homelessness across Darebin and Banyule.

Our first winter has also given us much to learn. The experience of establishing WARM, welcoming our first guests and operating across multiple venues has helped us understand what works, where we can improve, and what we need to strengthen as we prepare for 2027.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity and commitment of our volunteers, host churches, partner organisations, donors and supporters. Each played a part in turning an idea into something real.

As the 2026 season closes, WARM remains committed to providing warmth, dignity and connection for people experiencing homelessness through winter. On behalf of the Board, thank you to everyone who helped make our first season possible.

We have built something together that I hope will continue to grow and strengthen in 2027 and beyond.

Fr Stephen Monsiegneur
Chair, WARM Inc.

WHAT WE DO

A BED IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

WARM provides safe overnight accommodation during winter, but our aim is to offer more than a bed. Each night brings together shelter, food, connection to support and human connection.

01

A safe place to sleep

Warm, secure overnight accommodation across our network of local host venues.

02

A warm meal

Dinner, breakfast and a place to sit, eat and spend time together.

03

A welcoming community

A safe and respectful environment where guests and volunteers can spend time together.

04

Connection to support

Working with referral partners and local services to help guests stay connected with support beyond their overnight stay.

How WARM works

Guests come to WARM through referrals from homelessness, housing and community services. Across our host venues, volunteers prepare the space, welcome guests, share dinner and breakfast, and provide a safe place to stay overnight. WARM works alongside referral partners and local services so guests can remain connected with specialist support beyond their stay.

WORKING ALONGSIDE THE HOMELESSNESS SYSTEM

Winter places additional pressure on homelessness services, as cold and wet conditions increase the risks faced by people sleeping rough. WARM provides a community-based response alongside the specialist homelessness system, creating additional safe places for people to stay during the winter months.

The community setting matters too. By welcoming guests into local venues and sharing meals, conversation and time together, WARM creates opportunities to build trust and connection with people who may have experienced long periods of homelessness and disengagement from services. Working with our referral partners, we hope those relationships can help guests reconnect with the support they need.

Our Mission

To offer safe, warm and welcoming overnight shelter during winter for people experiencing homelessness, grounded in compassion, community partnership and respect for every guest.

2026 IN NUMBERS

From June to August 2026, WARM provided safe overnight accommodation for people experiencing homelessness across Darebin and Banyule, supported by volunteers, referral partners and organisations from across Melbourne's north.

313
GUEST NIGHTS

28
GUESTS ACCEPTED

99
VOLUNTEERS
completed at least one shift

880
VOLUNTEER SHIFTS

42
REFERRALS

12
REFERRING ORGANISATIONS

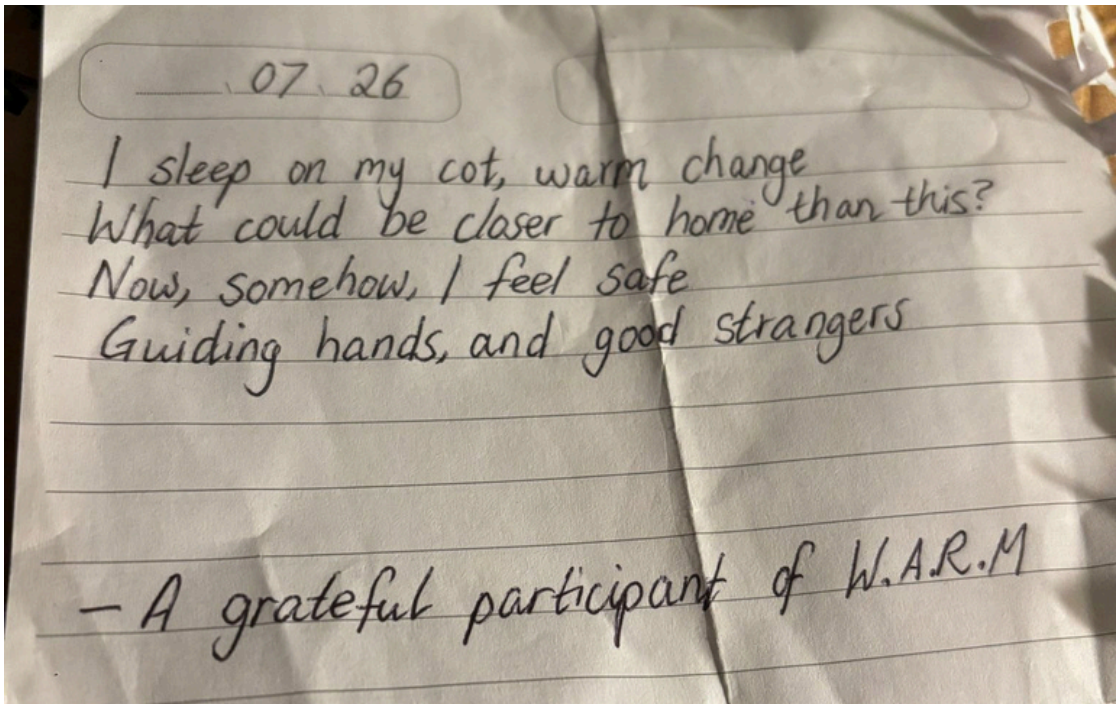
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HOST VENUES
HEIDELBERG - BUNDOORA
THORNBURY - PRESTON



OUR GUESTS

MORE THAN A PLACE TO SLEEP

At the centre of WARM are the people who stayed with us. Across our first winter, guests shared meals, conversations and time with volunteers as a community developed across our venues.



Shared by a WARM guest, winter 2026

OUR VOLUNTEERS



“Getting to know the guests and volunteers”

“The sense of community among both the volunteers and the homeless visitors”

“The smiles on the guests’ faces”

Volunteers consistently valued the relationships they formed with guests and each other, the sense of community created through WARM, and the opportunity to make a practical contribution.

Volunteer feedback survey, 2026

OUR PARTNERS

IT TOOK A COMMUNITY

WARM's first winter was built through partnerships across our community. From funding and host venues to referrals, meals, equipment and practical support, organisations across Melbourne's north helped turn WARM from an idea into a working winter shelter.



OUR HOST VENUES

- Heidelberg Scots Uniting Church
- Northern Community Church of Christ
- St. Peters Anglican Church Bundoora
- Thornbury Church of Christ

COMMUNITY & SERVICE PARTNERS

Merri Outreach Support Service
Launch Housing
Inner North Community Foundation
Alex Makes Meals
Hands On Health Australia
The Chip Packet Project Melbourne
Salvation Army
Hands Hearts Hope
RMIT University
Pinchapoo
Bunnings
Bread Hub Vic
Haven Home Safe
Rotary Club of Preston
Meals With Impact
Your Community Health
ADRA Australia
DS-3 Global

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support provided to WARM by Banyule City Council, Darebin Cty Council and the Australian Government.

Banyule City Council

City of DAREBIN

Australian Government

OUR SUPPORTERS

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

OUR FIRST YEAR

WARM Inc. ended the financial year to 30 June 2026 with net assets of $5,084.71, following income of $7,301.18 and expenses of $2,216.47.

$7,301.18	$2,216.47	$5,084.71
TOTAL INCOME	TOTAL EXPENSES	YEAR SURPLUS

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
WARM Main A/C	$	4,708.02	
WARM Card A/C	$	376.69	
TOTAL ASSETS	**$**	**5,084.71**	
LIABILITIES			0
TOTAL LIABILITIES			0
NET ASSETS	**$**	**5,084.71**	
Opening Equity		-	
Current Year Surplus	$	5,084.71	
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	**$**	**5,084.71**	

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

For the financial year ended 30 June 2026

INCOME		
Individual Donations	$ 2,469.08	
Corporate Donations	$ 500.00	
Grants	$ 4,250.00	
Interest	$ 1.10	
Transfers	$ 81.00	
TOTAL INCOME	$ 7,301.18	
EXPENSES		
Equipment		$ 12.90
Fuel		$ 41.76
Administration		$ 479.52
Guest Espenses		$ 412.98
Food		$ 521.31
Transfer		$ 748.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		$ 2,216.47
SURPLUS	$ 5,084.71	

Financial Reports prepared by Christine Lombardo
Treasurer, WARM Inc.



MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR COMMUNITY

Months of planning, preparation and community effort went into every night WARM opened its doors.

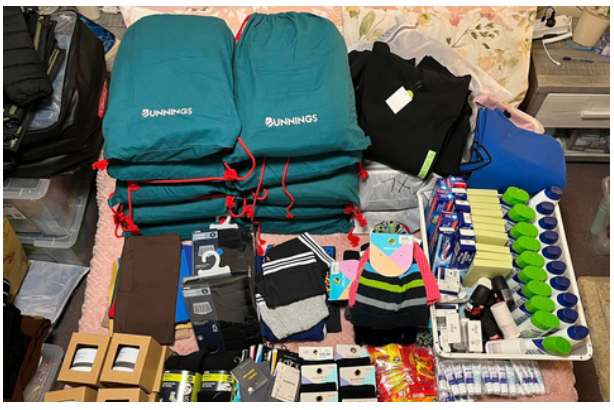












LOOKING AHEAD

BUILDING ON OUR FIRST WINTER

Our first winter gave us plenty to learn from. As we prepare for 2027, we will use the experience and feedback from our first season to strengthen the way we work, support our volunteers and build the partnerships that make WARM possible.

01 SUPPORTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Strengthening training, communication and support, with clearer roles, processes and points of contact throughout the season.

02 STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Building stronger relationships with referral agencies, community organisations and local services, and improving the pathways connecting guests with support.

03 IMPROVING OUR OPERATIONS

Using what we learned across our four venues to improve consistency, facilities, transport and the practical operation of the shelter.

04 BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Strengthening WARM's organisational capacity, skills and resources so our winter shelter can continue to grow sustainably.

THANK YOU

WARM's first winter was made possible by the people who gave their time, skills, resources and care. To our guests, volunteers, host venues, referral and service partners, community organisations, donors and supporters: thank you for helping turn an idea into a working winter shelter.

INAUGURAL EXECUTIVE

Chair: Fr Stephen Monsiegneur
Secretary: Adele McBride
Treasurer: Christine Lombardo
Assistant Chair: Lena Tupua
Assistant Secretary: Louise Kenney-Shen
Acting Treasurer: Ben Lee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brendan Murphy
Zippy Murphy
Noni Fullelove
Gerry 'G-Man' Terati Lyons
Kevin Noonan

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Kamal Sharma - App development
Caitlin Monsiegneur - Website development
Tracy Grima
Daniel Craig
Terry Warburton - Trailer duty
Jim Shen - Design

OUR FIRST WINTER WAS THE BEGINNING. IN 2027, WE BUILD ON IT.



Everyone deserves a safe place to sleep
and a WARM welcome

warminc.org
warmexec@gmail.com
facebook.com/WARMInc.project