



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024- 2025

ROTARY INNER MELBOURNE  
EMERGENCY RELIEF NETWORK INC

ABN 32 118 131 805



**RIMERN**

Rotary Inner  
Melbourne  
Emergency  
Relief Network

**The Home of Residential Recycling**



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# Vision And Values

## Vision

To support people who have experienced housing insecurity in inner Melbourne by providing all the basics to fit out their new, secure home, and delivering it with choice, dignity and respect.

## Values

As a Rotary project RIMERN supports diversity, equity and inclusion, and all clients referred by member welfare agencies and programs are welcomed.

Our volunteers treat all clients & donors respectfully, all donated goods are provided free of charge in the best condition possible, ie. working, safe, fit for purpose and clean.

In line with our environmental standards, we support reuse, repurposing, recycling and rehoming of tons of usable furniture, appliances and homewares every year.



# Overview

Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network Inc. (RIMERN) ABN 32 118 131 805 is an Incorporated Association and registered charity, established in 2020 by a group of inner Melbourne Rotary Clubs to continue the work begun by Eastern Emergency Relief Network (EERN) in Mitcham and Western Emergency Relief Network (WERN) in Ravenhall in supporting people in need who fit out their secure homes in the eastern & western suburbs respectively.

RIMERN supports clients moving into or living in Inner Melbourne. All three ERNs operate independently but collaborate when practicable in ensuring that vulnerable people are supported with home essentials across metropolitan Melbourne.

RIMERN collects donated furniture, appliances and homewares, ensures that they are clean, safe and fit for purpose, then provides them free of charge to clients referred by member welfare agencies or programs, OR by member Rotary Clubs, as the clients are assisted into secure housing following a range of hardships or crises.

RIMERN both collects donated goods and supports clients moving into homes in the municipalities of Melbourne, Yarra, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Glen Eira, Darebin, Merri-bek, southern Banyule, northern Bayside & this year included client support to southern Whittlesea shire.

RIMERN focusses on treating clients with respect and dignity, providing them with a 'one stop shop' for all their basic homewares and engaging generous spirited people in both community and environmental service and valuing all volunteers for the essential contributions they make in helping people in inner Melbourne. RIMERN is part of the circular economy, the home of residential recycling and a showcase of Rotarians in action in the local community.

RIMERN sees 4 – 5 clients per day and despatches 8 – 10 full house lots of homewares a week. Most clients have nothing to outfit their home until they visit our warehouse but within a couple of days they have everything they need, to their taste, at no cost to them. It's life changing.

Everyone at RIMERN is a volunteer.

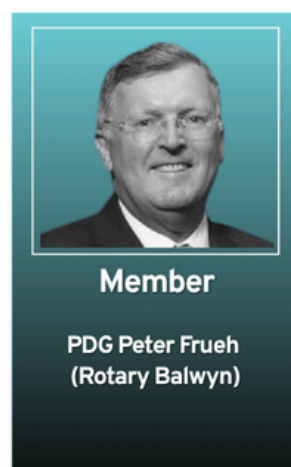
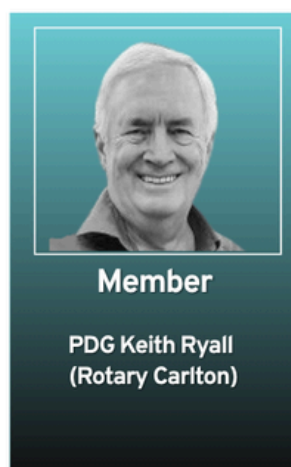
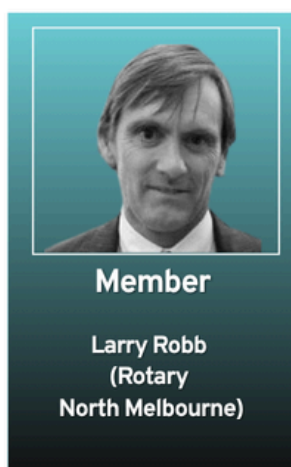
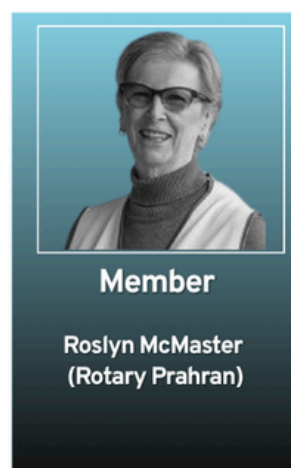
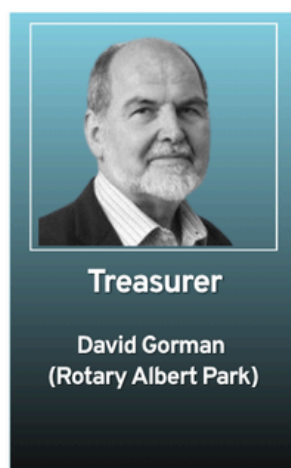
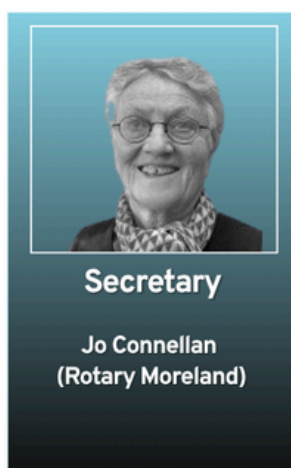
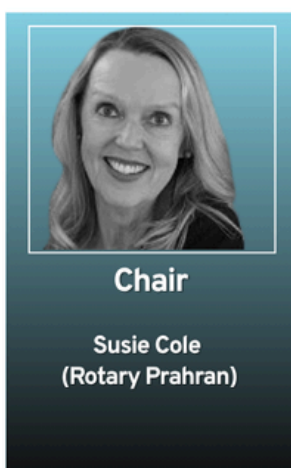
# RIMERN Management 2024-2025

## MANAGEMENT & MEMBERS' COMMITTEES

All member Rotary Club members nominate two member representatives to the RIMERN Members' Committee and they elect the Management Committee of between five and eight members.

In 2024-2025 RIMERN comprised 22 member Rotary Clubs, an increase of 1 over the previous financial year. The new Club to join was Rotary Fitzroy.

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2024-2025



# RIMERN Management 2024-2025 continued

## MEMBERS COMMITTEE 2024-2025..... FROM TWENTY TWO ROTARY CLUBS

ALBERT PARK – David Gorman, Richard Chater.

BALWYN – Peter Frueh, Ken McQualter.

CAMBERWELL – David Troon, Phil Young.

CANTERBURY – Rob Simpson, Bob Lambert.

CARLTON – Keith Ryall, Aron Perenyi.

CENTRAL MELBOURNE – Rohan Williams, Roger Thornton.

CHADSTONE EAST MALVERN – Frank Warner, Michael Hayes.

COLLINGWOOD – Bruce Shaw, Rita DiPietro.

FLEMINGTON/KENSINGTON – Lesley McCarthy, Edith Chen.

GLENFERRIE – David Fallick, Michael Hills.

IVANHOE – Frances Wright, Aiden Wright.

KEW – Kim Wen.

MALVERN – Matthew Damman, Jonathan Hartley.

MELBOURNE – John Peberdy.

MORELAND – Jo Connellan, Rosemary Freeman.

NORTH BALWYN – Rob Head, Sue McDonald.

NORTH MELBOURNE – Larry Robb.

PASCOE VALE – Pat Solibakke, Grant Standfield.

PRAHRAN – Susie Cole, Ros McMaster.

PORT PHILLIP – Bronwyn Maddock, Brian Maddock.

PRESTON – Ruth McCall.

HON. AUDITOR: Neville John

WAREHOUSE MANAGER: Ros McMaster

DONATED GOODS TEAM CAPTAIN: Ros Pach

COLLECTIONS CREW CAPTAIN: David Gorman

WELFARE AGENCY LIAISON: Joanne Ma

GOODS SELECTION HOST CAPTAIN: Jo-anne Tamlyn

# Financial Highlights

RIMERN receives annual membership fees from 22 Rotary Clubs and from active welfare agencies/programs, from sale of surplus furniture, artwork, bric a brac and from recycling. None of these sources fully cover warehouse rent, outgoings and operating costs so we are grateful for another year of very generous financial support from the Gailey Lazarus Charitable Foundation and other funding as listed across:

- Continuation of the City of Merri-bek Organisation Establishment Grant of \$10,000pa for 3 years (3rd year)
- William Angliss Charitable Foundation
- StreetSmart (DineSmart)
- Nelson Alexander Foundation (to sponsor textile recycling/disposal costs)
- Fundraising per favor of RIMERN branded wine sales and 10c CDSVic refundable collections.
- Donations from Rotary Clubs of Melbourne, Collingwood & Ivanhoe above their annual membership fees
- Northcote Lions Club Op Shop (goods & vouchers).

## Operating Highlights

### MEMBER WELFARE AGENCIES /REFERRERS

In 2023/24 RIMERN had 47 member welfare agencies or programs, in this financial year we welcomed an additional 16 agencies or programs but cancelled or consolidated memberships of 11 non-active agencies (total financially current 52).

In 2023/24 we had 454 Accredited Case Managers and by continuing our fortnightly online Case Manager Inductions in year 2024/25 we have now trained 667 Case Managers & Rotary Club reps who are now able to order goods for their clients & attend our warehouse for Goods Selection Appointments.

### WAREHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

This financial year we have upgraded the warehouse administration area with 2 new desks, a partition (windbreak) between the desks and despatch area and installed blinds to mitigate the sun glare on computer screens.

Carpet tiles were installed in the dispatch area.

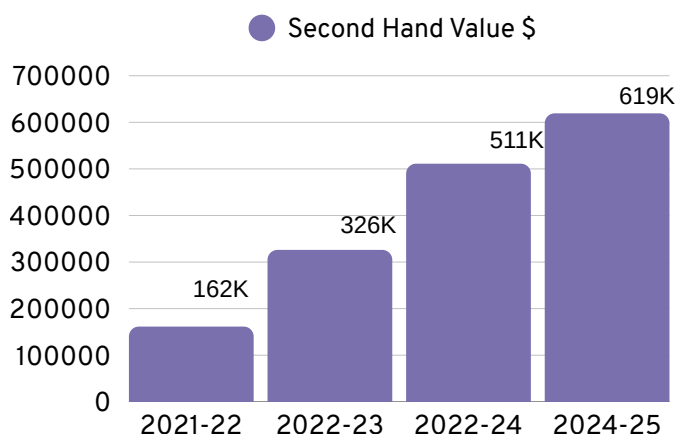
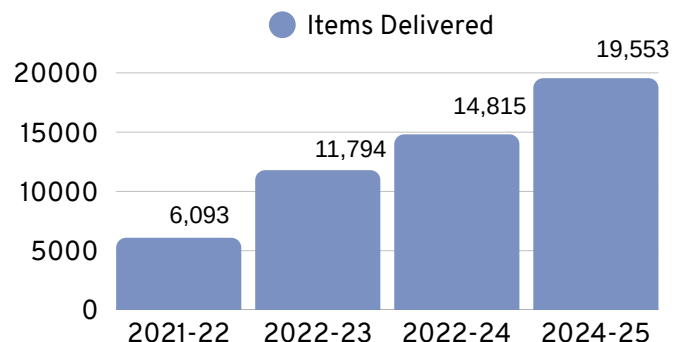
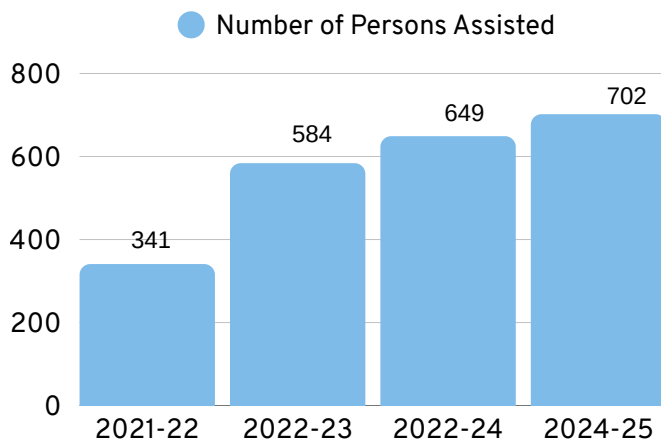
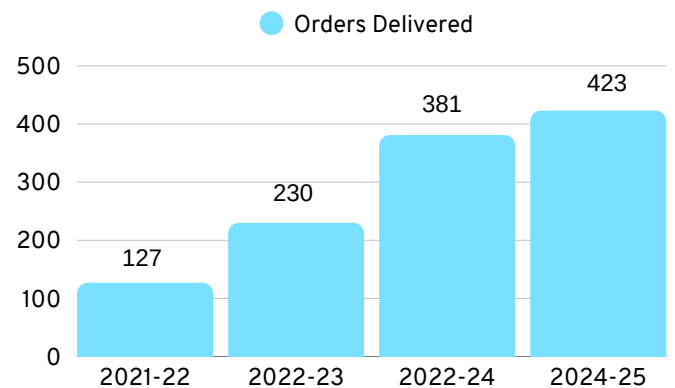
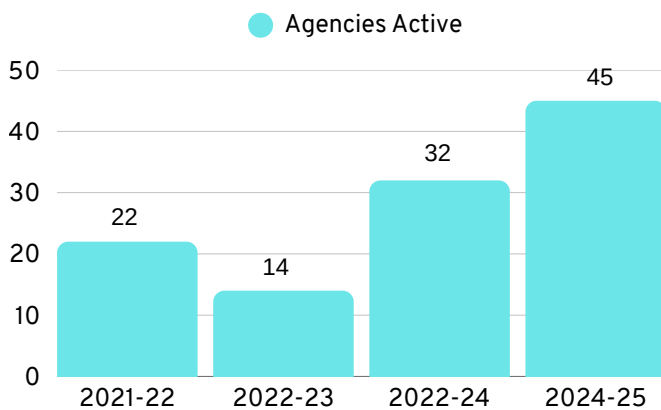
Donated pallet racking was erected in the cage (external storage) area to house outdoor furniture (northern section) and recyclables (southern section).

Rotary Preston generously donated a new walkie stacker to enable storage on the upper racks of the downstairs warehouse area.

# Client Orders

Order output and number of people supported continues to grow with agency membership and client appointments despite the same hours of opening as the previous year.

In financial year 2021/ 127 orders, 2022/23 230, (2023/24) 381 this year 423 orders (see table below) Average order (second hand) value: \$1,464.



To supplement the donated goods and ensure that almost 100% of every order is supplied, in 2024/25 we have purchased \$38,000 worth of new small electrical appliances, cleaning, laundry and bedding essentials. Most clients receive more than they ordered as Goods Selection Hosts offer extras if the order looks modest and not all needs have been included.



# Impact

Statistics show year on year growth but client feedback is what makes RIMERN volunteers continue to work tirelessly day after day.

In 2024/25 we continued to support a significant number of women and children who had escaped family violence and were starting again with nothing. Most of our clients have experienced severe housing insecurity, whether couch surfing for years, squatting in warehouses or sleeping rough, leaving jail with nothing. After a RIMERN 'shopping for no money' trip, or clients leave us having everything they need to start again in a fully equipped home. For privacy reasons we don't know the details of most clients' journeys but when their workers share a small glimpse or our volunteers get a warm hug and big smile, we know that they leave our warehouse feeling happy, relieved and respected with a greater understanding of what Rotary is all about both locally and internationally.

Those clients who send us pictures of their fully furnished and equipped homes are both proud and happy to showcase their new homes and by publishing them (anonymously) on our social media accounts our RIMERN supporters share their happiness and are inspired to help more.



## Goods Selection Appointments

Client/Case Worker appointments continue at the rate of 4 or 5 per day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Stock supplied to clients is still limited by stock donated/collected. While RIMERN supplies over 95% of every order we are continually hampered by lack of

availability of wanted white goods, inner spring style bed bases, a range of small electrical appliances and assorted small furniture. Demand will always exceed supply but in this financial year, grants & donations for goods purchases has meant we have improved order fulfilment rates over the previous year.



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## Warehouse

Thanks to Rotarian Ros McMaster's warehouse management we have grown our volunteer team, improved warehouse efficiency and goods output.

As the volume of commercially sourced furniture grew (courtesy of Quest Apartments, Sackville Grange & other donors) beyond the capacity of our East Brunswick warehouse, RIMERN rented 3 overflow storage units at National Storage Brunswick to store extra stock.

The valued partnership with City of Merri-bek for waste management, mattress disposal and networking support continued in 2024/25

In financial year 2024/25 a number of Rotary Clubs hosted their regular meeting at the RIMERN warehouse, showcasing what we do to members who have not volunteered. We invite other Clubs and community groups to use our facilities to hold a meeting and do a tour of our East Brunswick warehouse.

We began opening the warehouse on one Monday a month in 2024/25 to prepare stock collected on the weekend for client selection, in addition to our usual opening hours of Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 10 -3pm and Saturdays from 10.30 – 1.30pm. Large donated goods are collected on Wednesdays and Saturdays, while small items are collected ad hoc by volunteers in their cars.

## Partnerships

RIMERN is grateful for the support of community partners such as Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes whose members both volunteer, sell surplus goods and scour local sources of donated goods for us & U3A who also have supplied volunteers.

In 2024/25 the Northcote Lions Club Op Shop became “Your Local Op Shop” and continued their generous support per new small appliances & \$1,500 worth of vouchers. We continue to send our surplus goods to them when needed.

We are grateful for the ongoing partnership with Ross Butterworth and the WERN team whose experience and guidance is a great help and for EERN team's collaboration and support where practicable.

RIMERN acknowledges the volume donations of goods from: Koala, SleepSmart, Quest Apartments, Sackville Grange and various hotels. Corporate volunteering activity has grown in 2024/25 due in part to the support of DV Collective and companies such as IFM Investors, Aussie Broadband, Six Degrees Executive & Telstra.

# Public Relations /Communications

Thanks to editor Cath Stahel (Rotary Balwyn) we continued to circulate bi-monthly RIMERN Newsletters to a mailing list of over 1300 recipients.

The RIMERN facebook community continued to grow, with over 4,200 followers at 30th June 2025.

Member Rotary Clubs regularly promoted RIMERN in their Club Bulletins, the Collections Crew distributed RIMERN cards to donors, we were included on the City of Merri-bek website as a place to recycle usable homewares & have been featured in the Inner City News thanks to Rotary Carlton.

## Looking Ahead

Demand for RIMERN material aid continues to grow with our growth limited only by:

- Need for more key role volunteers
- Lack of drivers & jockeys for donation collections
- Insufficient regular stock of wanted items like white goods and bed bases
- Sporadic ordering from workers struggling to find affordable rental properties for their clients while government housing tower tenants are being relocated pending tower demolition and site redevelopment. This is causing a lack of housing for unhoused clients who need RIMERN support.
- Lack of affordable rentals and social housing

The RIMERN Management Committee continues to address the controllable challenges and is optimistic that our present rate of service and growth will continue as word of our work spreads, more referring agencies join as members and we increase our warehouse opening hours to accommodate more clients' Goods Selection Appointments

On behalf of the RIMERN Committee I warmly thank all our volunteers, donors and supporters, your continued involvement means that more people in need can be helped and the Rotary brand is enhanced with every positive experience with donors, clients, case workers and commercial partners.

  
**SUSIE COLE**

CHAIR  
14.10.2025

# Balance Sheet

## ROTARY INNER MELBOURNE EMERGENCY RELIEF NETWORK inc As at 30 June 2025

	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
RIMERN Debit Cards	789	411
Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergen	240,330	175,944
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>241,118</b>	<b>176,355</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	5,190	(1,255)
less Provision for Doubtful Debts	(3,075)	-
Sundry Debtors	274	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>(1,255)</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Computer & Office Equipment	1,460	682
Computer & Office Equipment Dep'n	(1,181)	(682)
Motor Vehicle Cost	45,455	45,455
Motor Vehicle Depn	(24,915)	(15,855)
Warehouse Equip't Cost	13,742	10,139
Warehouse Equip't Depn	(7,697)	(3,740)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>26,864</b>	<b>35,998</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>270,371</b>	<b>211,098</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	27	26
GST	(3,221)	(4,249)
Sundry Creditors	294	294
Superannuation Payable	515	515
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(2,385)</b>	<b>(3,414)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(2,385)</b>	<b>(3,414)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>272,756</b>	<b>214,512</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	58,244	57,024
Retained Earnings	214,512	157,488
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>272,756</b>	<b>214,512</b>

## Profit and Loss

### ROTARY INNER MELBOURNE EMERGENCY RELIEF NETWORK inc

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Account		2025	2024
<b>Trading Income</b>	<b>NOTES</b>		
Advertising Income		3,120	3,536
Contributors - Agencies		8,850	10,900
Contributors - Rotary Clubs		26,000	25,000
Delivery Fees		100	742
Donations - General purposes		148,068	140,386
Donations - Online		1,150	1,044
Fundraising - Bottle recycling refunds		3,168	1,196
Fundraising - Wine Sales		825	1,000
Goods Delivered at Notional Value	<b>2</b>	617,345	516,360
Grants - Gov't & Councils		10,000	15,685
Sales - 2nd Hand Goods Retail		15,881	7,942
Sales - Metal Recycling		964	208
Truck Hire		0	4,546
Truck Hire - Tolls Recovery		0	471
<b>Total Trading Income</b>		<b>835,471</b>	<b>729,018</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>			
Goods Donated - at Notional Value	<b>2</b>	617,345	516,360
Goods Purchased		38,294	40,477
Recycling Services		1,000	0
Tip Fees		507	314
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>		<b>657,146</b>	<b>557,151</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>		<b>178,325</b>	<b>171,867</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Accounting & Audit		778	3,813
Advertising & Promotion		207	1,173
Bank Fees		212	203
Cleaning		168	299
Contract Collections		0	1,573
Depreciation		13,516	11,722
Doubtful Debts		3,075	0
Freight & Courier		24	530
General Expenses		369	1,102
Light, Power, Heating		2,601	1,963
Motor Vehicle - Fuel		3,955	2,848
Motor Vehicle - Registration & Insurance		835	877
Motor Vehicle - Repairs & Maint		781	1,636
Motor Vehicle - Signage		0	3,145
Motor Vehicle - Tolls		2,850	2,305
Office Expenses		621	31
Printing & Stationery		1,107	2,144
Rates & Outgoings		11,791	10,557
Rent - Storage Units		9,684	0
Rent - Warehouse		60,950	58,794
Repairs and Maintenance		4,967	3,362
Safety Equipment		141	398
Subscriptions		417	0
Superannuation		0	515
Telephone & Internet		762	1,175
Training Courses		270	0
Wages and Salaries		0	4,680
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>120,081</b>	<b>114,842</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>		<b>58,244</b>	<b>57,024</b>

# Statement of Cash Flows

**ROTARY INNER MELBOURNE EMERGENCY RELIEF NETWORK INC**  
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	NOTES	2025
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Receipts from customers	2	206,154
Payments to suppliers and employees	2	(150,110)
Cash receipts from other operating activities		13,375
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		<b>69,419</b>
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		0
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(4,382)
Other cash items from investing activities		(274)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		<b>(4,656)</b>
<b>Net Cash Flows</b>		<b>64,763</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		176,355
Net change in cash for period		64,763
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period		<b>241,118</b>

## **ROTARY INNER MELBOURNE EMERGENCY RELIEF NETWORK inc**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 30 June 2025**

#### **NOTE 1: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Basis of preparation: The financial statements are prepared on the accruals basis and are based on historical cost. The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the requirements of the financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) . In the opinion of the management committee, Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network Inc is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

The organisation is a Tier 1 entity for financial reporting purposes.

#### **NOTE 2: CASHFLOW STATEMENT RECONCILIATION**

The entity's principal purpose is the collection and re-distribution of used furniture to eligible persons in need. For management purposes an attributed value is applied to the goods collected and distributed and these are recorded in the Profit & Loss Statement as 'Goods Delivered at Notional Value' in Income and 'Goods Donated at Notional Value' in Cost of Sales. The amounts are identical and therefore have no impact on the Net Profit result.

As these are Non-Cash entries in the Profit & Loss Statement they are excluded from the Receipts from customers and Payments to Suppliers and employees in the Statement of Cashflows.

#### **NOTE 3: DONATIONS AND GRANTS INCOME**

During the year, Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network Inc received a substantial donation of \$125,000 from a philanthropic fund. This grant is not specifically tied to any particular activity but is intended to support the entity's Rent obligations and other operating expenditures over the next financial year. As the grant was received in the final quarter of the year, Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network Inc has recorded the receipt of these funds as income in the current financial year but expenditure of the funds will occur during the following financial year.

There is no assurance that this level of financial support will be forthcoming or continuing in future financial years

## **Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network Inc**

### **Independent Review Report to the members of Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network Inc.**

#### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

I have conducted an independent review of the financial report of Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network Inc, being a special purpose financial report which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025, the Profit and Loss and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended.

#### **Committee Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The Committee Members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Committee Members' responsibility also includes such internal controls as they determine are necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### **Use of report**

This report has been prepared for the RIMERN Committee Members in accordance with their instructions. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any persons or users other than the Committee for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

#### **Reviewers' Responsibility and Scope**

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on my review. My procedures primarily consisted of an examination of a random sample of financial data to establish evidence supporting the amounts included in the financial report. This included making enquiries with the Treasurer where appropriate.

#### **Conclusion and Audit Opinion**

Based on the information and review scope outlined above, it is my opinion that the financial report of Rotary Inner Melbourne Relief Network Inc, in all material respects presents a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of the operational results for the year then ended.



Neville John - FCA

23 September 2025