



LES TWENTYMAN
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25

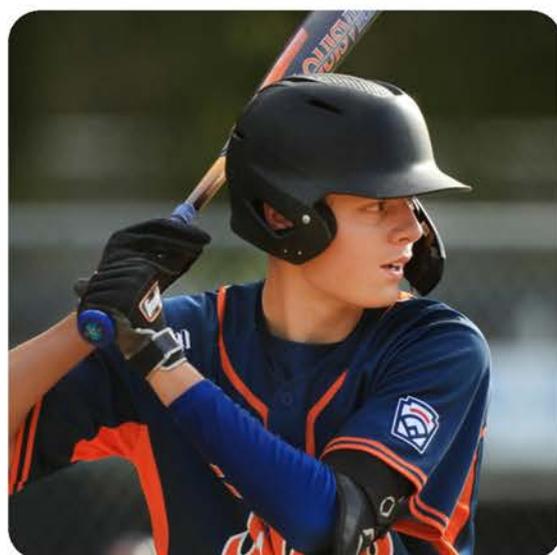


EMBRACING YOUNG PEOPLE'S FUTURES



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ABOUT US



At the Les Twentyman Foundation, we believe that positive intervention creates positive outcomes for at-risk youth. For more than 30 years, our programs have provided hope, opportunity, and support to young people facing some of life's toughest challenges.

Founded by legendary youth worker Les Twentyman OAM, our work is grounded in the belief that every child and young person, regardless of background, culture, or circumstance, deserves an equal opportunity to thrive.

After losing our beloved founder in March 2024, we are so proud of how we have been able to continue his legacy thanks to the dedication of our incredible staff, the generosity of our donors, and the unwavering support of our community. While his absence is deeply felt, his vision and values continue to guide us every day.

Together, we remain committed to carrying forward Les's legacy of youth support and social justice with the same passion, care, and determination that defined his life's work.



VISION

To see every young person reach their true potential



MISSION

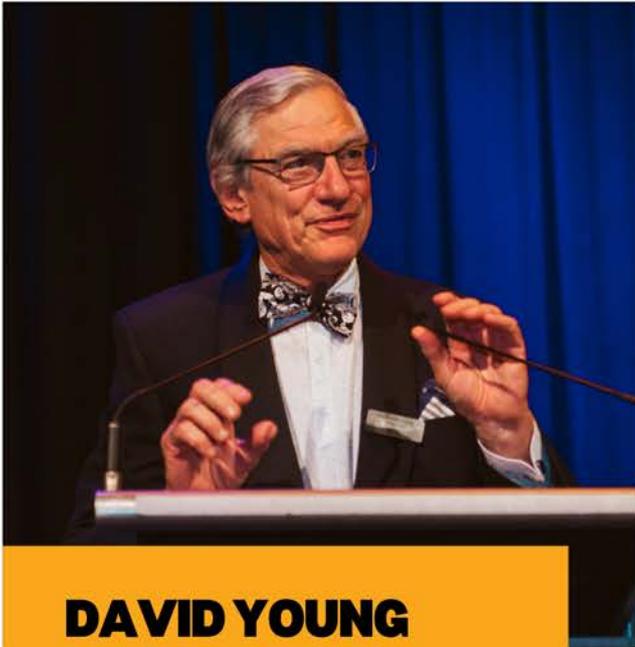
To provide positive intervention and unconditional support for at-risk youth



VALUES

Respect, Dignity, Compassion and Culture

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



DAVID YOUNG

Chairman

As we navigate our way through the second year without our founder, Les Twentyman OAM, it is deeply pleasing to report that the Foundation has never been stronger, more influential, and more in demand in fulfilling its mission to care for at-risk youth across Metropolitan Melbourne. Les's vision of keeping children out of courtrooms and in classrooms continues to guide our every decision, and his enduring legacy is reflected in the lives of the young people we support every day.

Despite our successes, the challenges facing our youth are significant and growing. The sad reality is that there has been a 16% increase in youth crime in Melbourne over recent years. Disturbingly, more than half of the state's gang-related violence is concentrated in Melbourne's North West region, an area where many young people experience economic hardship, family breakdown, and social exclusion.

Tragically, over the past decade, 11 children have lost their lives to knife-related violence in these communities. On 24th October 2025, media reports highlighted that police estimate there are some 350 young gang members in the area, many of whom are drawn to gang life seeking protection from abusive families, escape from bullying, or a sense of belonging and social connection.

This is the very cycle the Les Twentyman Foundation exists to break. Our youth workers intervene early and consistently, working directly in schools and throughout the community to provide guidance, mentorship, and practical support. Through these interactions, we aim not only to reduce immediate risk but also to instill hope, self-worth, and resilience in young people who are navigating extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

Our work is delivered through well-tested and structured programs, each designed to address specific risks and needs while complementing one another to provide holistic support.

These programs include:

1. **Back to School Program** – Ensuring students have access to essential resources such as textbooks, stationery, laptops, and calculators so they can start the school year on an equal footing with their peers.
2. **Positive Futures Program** – Providing mentoring, skills development, and pathways to employment and further education for young people at risk of disengaging from school or community life.
3. **Youth Support Service** – Offering one-on-one case management, counselling, and life skills support for vulnerable young people who may be at risk of offending or disengaging from community life. This service is critical in providing early intervention and reducing the likelihood of reoffending.
4. **Braybrook 96ers Basketball Club** – Engaging young people through sport, teamwork, and mentorship. Participation in structured sporting programs provides not only physical activity but also life lessons in discipline, leadership, and teamwork, creating pathways away from negative influences.

5. Outreach Program – Our youth workers actively connect with young people in their own environments, building relationships, offering guidance, and providing support in areas where young people may be at risk of harm or exclusion.

6. Schools Outreach Support Service (SOSS) – Working within schools to support students at risk of disengagement, absenteeism, or behavioural issues, this program provides targeted interventions to keep children in classrooms and engaged with learning.

7. Fautasi Pasifika Youth Outreach Program – A community-based early intervention initiative supporting Pasifika and Māori young people at risk of school disengagement or youth justice involvement.

These core programs are supported by social functions, family support initiatives, and crisis response services, ensuring that young people and their families have access to the support that addresses both immediate and long-term needs. Within this annual report, readers will find detailed information about each of these services, including their achievements, outcomes, and the tangible difference they have made in the lives of young people across Victoria.

Each year, more than 130 young offenders are referred to the Les Twentyman Foundation by the Melbourne Courts. Our results speak for themselves: while approximately 80% of children who enter the prison system reoffend, less than 10% of young people who engage with our services reoffend. By keeping these vulnerable young people out of detention, we not only save the community significant costs associated with incarceration but, more importantly, we prevent the profound negative impacts that reoffending can have on the lives of these young people, their families, and their communities.

None of these services could be delivered without the commitment and skills of our dedicated staff led by our exceptional CEO Mr Paul Burke and his 20 competent workers.

On behalf of the Board, we say a sincere thanks for steering us through these troubled times and into some significant and exciting expansions in 2026.

These expansions would not be occurring without the commitment of our donors to Les Twentyman's dream for the Foundation 'Keeping children in classrooms and out of courtrooms.' Our youth workers are highly successful in eliminating sharp weapons from being carried by youth under their care. Only if we remain supported financially can we expand services in the most troubled schools and regions.

Pleasingly we have never been in a better financial position and hence expansion of our services is imminent. I thank our supporters particularly Club20 Members and the wonderful organisers of our social fundraisers, the Victoria Golf Club ambrose team event – Mr Kevin Halpin, the pre-Cox Plate luncheon- Mr Brad Spicer and Business Executive Luncheon – Mr Aaron Baxter.

To all my Board colleagues, I thank you for your loyalty and commitment ensuring our financial health and compliance as a leading charity in Youth Support Services.

We are making a positive difference in the lives of many young people across Victoria, and I encourage readers of this report to consider how they can commit to helping support the delivery of these services.

Please visit our website 'Les Twentyman Foundation'. We look forward to delivering and expanding our programs in 2026.

“ Hey, I just wanted to say thank you so much for everything you've done for me. You're such an amazing person, and you've really helped me so much in so many ways. You gave me so much hope and motivation when I was at one of my lowest points. You truly are very special to me. I'll remember you forever.

Youth Support Service Participant

CEO'S MESSAGE



PAUL BURKE

Chief Executive Officer

2025 has been another year of growth, impact, and meaningful outcomes for the Les Twentyman Foundation. Across Victoria, young people continue to face extreme challenges that put their education, wellbeing, and future at risk, and the demand for our programs continues to rise. Our mission remains clear: to provide early intervention and support for disadvantaged youth, helping them stay in classrooms and out of courtrooms. At a time when our state needs it most, we remain committed in addressing the growing issue of youth crime, working proactively to prevent involvement in the justice system through mentorship, guidance, and early intervention programs.

The pressures facing young people are complex. Rising youth crime, increasing school disengagement, and family stress have all contributed to greater demand for support. Many families are struggling with financial pressures, social isolation, and limited access to services, making the work of the Foundation more essential than ever.

Through our programs, we provide mentoring, guidance, and practical support to help young people navigate these challenges and build a brighter future.

Our programs continue to reach hundreds of young people across Melbourne, delivering tangible results:

- **Youth Support Service (YSS):** Supported 80 young people, providing case management, mentoring, and targeted interventions to keep them engaged in education and out of the Youth Justice system.
- **Youth Outreach Program:** Connected with 25 young people in Melbourne's western suburbs, offering guidance and practical support to those most at risk.
- **Back-to-School Program:** Supported 917 students, providing essential resources such as textbooks, stationery, laptops, and calculators. Demand for this completely donor-funded program has skyrocketed, with 555 students supported in 2023, 778 in 2024, and 917 this year ensuring students from disadvantaged backgrounds can begin the school year on equal footing with their peers.
- **Positive Futures School Youth Program:** Our in-school Youth Worker engaged 131 young people, delivering early intervention, mentoring, and tailored guidance to prevent disengagement and help students achieve their personal goals.
- **Braybrook 96ers Basketball Club:** Welcomed 378 young people across 32 teams, using sport to build confidence, teamwork, fitness, and lasting friendships.
- **Fautasi Youth Pasifika Program:** Launched this year to support Pasifika and Māori young people in Brimbank and Melton who are at risk of disengaging from school or entering the Youth Justice system. This culturally responsive program strengthens connections to heritage while providing life skills and mentorship.

Together, these programs address immediate needs while creating long-term opportunities, breaking cycles of disadvantage, including intergenerational poverty, unemployment, and disengagement.

None of this work would be possible without the outstanding dedication of our staff, whose expertise, compassion, and commitment ensure that every young person receives the support they need. Their tireless efforts make a tremendous difference in the lives of young people every day.

I particularly want to pay tribute to the board of the foundation who generously volunteer their time to ensure that the organisation remains financially strong to allow us to develop and run the many successful programs we now deliver. I remain grateful for the support, guidance and advice that each and every board member provides me throughout the year.

Our work is also made possible by the generosity of our donors and supporters, including our Club20 members and individual philanthropists. More than 50% of the Foundation's funding comes from these incredible contributors, enabling us to expand our programs, reach more young people, and respond to rising demand.

To all of you, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your support truly transforms lives, providing hundreds of young people with opportunities they would not otherwise have.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are committed to continued growth and innovation. The Les Twentyman Foundation remains strong, focused, and ready to continue delivering programs that make a real difference. Together, we ensure disadvantaged young people have the guidance, support, and opportunities they need to succeed both now and in the future.



Paul Burke
Chief Executive Officer



“ I’ve been part of the Braybrook 96ers for a long time, and it feels like family, I can truly be myself here. The club brings kids together, keeps them off the streets, and gives them a safe space to play basketball and make good choices. When I first started working with some of the kids, they were involved in the streets, violence, and drinking. Now, seeing them here, being part of a positive community, it’s amazing to watch the change and growth.

Braybrook 96ers Player and Coach



IMPACT SUMMARY



80

YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE

80 young people supported through our Youth Support Service.



25

YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

25 young people supported through outreach in Melbourne's western suburbs.



917

BACK TO SCHOOL

917 students were supported by the program, marking a 17.9% increase from the previous year.



131

POSITIVE FUTURES

During the reporting period, the Positive Futures In-school Youth Workers successfully reached out to and worked with 131 young people within schools.



378

BASKETBALL

378 young people enrolled in our basketball program across 32 teams.



5,000+

CHRISTMAS

This year we distributed a record number of Christmas gifts to children in need.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



CHRIS LACEY

General Manager,
Programs

The Les Twentyman Foundation experienced both challenge and resilience in 2024/25. Losing Les in March 2024 left a deep mark. Les was not only our founder but also a mentor, advocate and friend to countless young people across Victoria. His passing was felt deeply by staff, volunteers, partners and the community.

This year, our programs continued to embody Les's vision that every young person deserves the chance to reach their full potential. From classrooms to basketball courts, homes to the Children's Court, our youth workers have walked alongside young people and families every step of the way. The right support at the right moment can change a life.

Demand has never been greater. Rising costs, housing insecurity and school disengagement are placing pressure on families, while cuts to Youth Support Service (YSS) have threatened early intervention. Yet, thanks to dedicated staff, generous donors and strong partnerships, we have delivered programs that provide stability, opportunity and pathways forward.

Our programs reached thousands of young people. Whether helping a child start school with dignity, reconnecting a teenager with learning or diverting a young person from the justice system, we lived Les's principle: "Keep them in classrooms and out of courtrooms."

Youth Support Service (YSS) & Outreach

YSS provided case management for 10–17-year-olds after police or court contact. Despite a 30% funding cut, donor support kept it running, supporting 80 young people—over 90% with no further police contact. Outreach worked intensively with 25 young people, focusing on family engagement, education, and training/work pathways.

Positive Futures & SOSS

These programs kept 131 students engaged in learning—41 individually and 69 in groups. Satisfaction reached 88.3%, with gains in attendance, behaviour, wellbeing and family-school connection. Students included CALD, Pasifika, Middle Eastern and refugee cohorts.

Back-to-School

In its biggest year, the program supported 917 students (up 17.9%), invested \$304,943 in supplies, provided 188 laptops and 36 calculators, and partnered with 215 schools across 43 LGAs. Nearly 25% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and 17% seeking asylum.

Braybrook 96ers

The 96ers fielded 32 teams with 263 players and trained 100+ younger children. Seventy per cent were from culturally diverse backgrounds, 67 were girls, and 20 teams reached finals. Registration support worth \$13,400 helped families participate.

Fautasi Pasifika Youth Outreach

Launched in 2024/25, Fautasi engaged 19 Pasifika and Māori young people in Brimbank and Melton. It reconnected them with education/training, supported families in Youth Justice, strengthened cultural identity and diverted youth from offending.

These results speak to the strength of our programs, staff and community. Thank you to our team, volunteers, donors and partners for helping us keep walking alongside young people and building brighter futures.



POSITIVE FUTURES

Cheltenham, Edenbrook, Pakenham, and Noble Park Secondary Colleges

Now in its seventh year, the Positive Futures Program continues to make a meaningful impact across secondary schools in Melbourne's southeastern suburbs, including Cheltenham, Edenbrook, Pakenham, and Noble Park. Delivered by the Les Twentyman Foundation and funded by the Australian Federal Government Department of Social Services, the program supports students at risk of disengaging from education through flexible, youth-centred approaches.

In 2024/25, the program provided individual support to 131 students and reached many more through group workshops, informal engagement, and schoolwide activities. The strength of the program lies in its ability to adapt to the individual needs of students, families, and schools, recognising that no two journeys are the same.

“Just wanted to update you on how life's going. I passed my exams, I'm starting NDIS work in the coming weeks which I'm really looking forward to. I'm surrounding myself with great friends and have even reconnected with old ones. Thank you for all the support this last year, it really did help me a lot and I'm very grateful just wanted to let you know how things are tracking and I hope all is well.”

Positive Futures Participant

A key feature of Positive Futures is its capacity to engage students and families through proactive outreach. Youth workers regularly meet students where they feel most comfortable, whether at school, at home, or in the community. This flexible approach builds trust and creates safe spaces for open and honest conversations. It also allows youth workers to form meaningful relationships with family members, helping to strengthen the support network around each young person.

Crucially, Positive Futures facilitates access to therapeutic interventions that address the complex issues many young people face. Youth workers work closely with students and families to identify needs and connect them with mental health services, counselling, family violence support, and culturally appropriate therapeutic care. These supports complement the program's educational focus, contributing to improved wellbeing and long-term stability.

In addition to one-on-one support, the program offers group workshops that build confidence, resilience, and peer connection, as well as opportunities for students to engage in recreational and cultural activities that promote personal growth and positive identity development.

Throughout 2024/25, Positive Futures continued to demonstrate strong outcomes in student engagement, attendance, behaviour, and wellbeing. By combining education support with outreach and therapeutic engagement, the program offers a holistic response to the challenges young people face. It helps them reconnect with learning, strengthen family relationships, and build pathways to a more positive future.

KEY STATISTICS

Students Supported

131

students supported by the positive futures program



Improved Circumstances

71%

saw better personal or educational outcomes



Goals Achieved

78%

successfully achieved their set goals



Program Satisfaction

89%

were happy with the support they received



CALD Backgrounds

46

students from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds



Living with Disability

18

students supported were living with a disability



BACK TO SCHOOL



Since 1989, the Les Twentyman Foundation's Back-to-School Program has supported thousands of students to start the school year equipped, confident, and ready to learn. By providing essential educational tools—textbooks, stationery, calculators, and laptops—we help level the playing field for young people facing economic and social disadvantages.

The program aims to reduce financial stress on families, promote school engagement, and improve long-term educational outcomes. It supports students from low-income households, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, newly arrived migrant and refugee families, and those experiencing hardship due to family violence, homelessness, or other complex life challenges.

At its heart, the program continues Les Twentyman's powerful legacy: "Keep kids in classrooms and out of courtrooms." We know that when young people have what they need to succeed in school, they're more likely to stay connected to learning, avoid risky pathways, and build positive futures.

“Without the amazing efforts of the Les Twentyman Foundation, so many families in our community would go without. They'd face the heartbreaking challenge of sending their children to school without the resources they need—no books, no laptops, no stationery. These are things we often take for granted, but for some, they represent a huge burden. The joy, the relief, and the gratitude I see on the faces of these families when I deliver school supplies are priceless. The true heroes are the Foundation's staff, volunteers and donors, whose compassion ensures no child is left behind.

Jess Brogan - St Albans S.C

In 2024/25, the Back to School program experienced a significant surge in demand, with over 900 new referrals — our biggest year ever, on top of another record year in 2023/24. With 555 students supported in 2023, 778 in 2024, and 917 this year, the program continues to ensure that students from disadvantaged backgrounds can begin the school year on equal footing with their peers.

Many of these families were not eligible for government support, including the School Saving Bonus, and struggled to afford rising costs for updated textbooks, school uniforms, and digital devices—all intensified by the soaring cost of living crisis.

The total value of support delivered this year, including direct assistance and cost savings—reached \$301,478, an 18.6% increase from the previous year. This growth reflects both the increasing need and the strength of our community partnerships, resource efficiency, and commitment to maximising impact.

This program receives no government funding, so this success would not have been possible without the support of our donors, sponsors, schools, and community partners. Your generosity has allowed us to not only provide critical supplies but also to create opportunities for young people to thrive—academically, emotionally, and socially.

Through your support, we are keeping students connected to their education, building resilience, and creating brighter futures—one backpack, one textbook, one classroom at a time.

Together, we're not just helping kids go back to school, we're giving them a reason to stay.

Scan the QR code to view our Back to School Report 24-25.



KEY STATISTICS

Students Supported

917

An increase of 17.9% from the previous year, highlighting growing demand



Schools Supported

215

Including primary, secondary, and specialist education providers



Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students

214

Representing 23.3% of total students supported



Students Seeking Asylum

152

Including those on bridging visas and unaccompanied refugee minors



Laptops Distributed

188

students from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds



Graphic Calculators Distributed

36

students supported were living with a disability





SCHOOL OUTREACH SUPPORT SERVICE (SOSS)

Since its launch in 2023, the Student Outreach Support Service (SOSS) at Taylors Lakes Secondary College has provided crucial, targeted support to students experiencing social, emotional, and behavioural challenges that threaten their engagement and success in education.

In 2024/25, SOSS supported 41 students, through embedding a dedicated Les Twentyman Foundation in-school youth worker to deliver personalised advocacy and practical support. By building trusting relationships with students, families, and educators, the program ensures young people can overcome barriers, re-engage in learning, and access essential resources.

SOSS adopts a holistic, collaborative model, working closely with families, educators, and community services to establish robust support networks around each young person. By addressing complex and often interrelated issues such as mental health concerns, peer conflict, substance misuse, and exposure to violence, the program promotes positive social behaviours, emotional wellbeing, and resilience.

Outcomes to date demonstrate significant improvements in student engagement, emotional regulation, and connections with family and community. Notably, 78.1% of students supported came from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, reflecting the program's role in reaching some of the most vulnerable cohorts within the school community.

Beyond student outcomes, SOSS strengthens the capacity of school staff by providing expert guidance and insights to better identify and respond to the needs of at-risk students, fostering a more inclusive, supportive, and safe school culture.

The success of SOSS highlights both the impact of early intervention and the critical need for continued investment. By combining advocacy, relationship-building, and wrap-around support, SOSS is creating safer learning environments and empowering students, families, and educators to build brighter futures at Taylors Lakes Secondary College. More than a program, it is a proven partnership driving positive, lasting change.

FAUTASI

The Fautasi Pasifika Youth Outreach Program — Fautasi meaning “Build Together” — is a community-based early intervention initiative supporting young people from Pacific Island and Māori backgrounds in Melbourne’s northwest. These communities face unique challenges, with many young people at risk of school disengagement, community isolation, or entering the Youth Justice system. Fautasi was designed to respond early, provide the right support at the right time, and ensure families are not left behind.

In 2024/25, the program supported 19 young people aged 12–24, many navigating complex circumstances. Its objectives are to:

- Deliver targeted, short-term interventions for Pasifika youth at risk.
- Strengthen cultural identity and belonging through connection with culture, language, and community leaders.
- Intervene early to keep young people in education and divert them from further police or court contact.
- Equip youth with skills, confidence, and networks to complete school and move into training or work.
- Contribute to safer communities by addressing the root causes of youth offending.

What sets Fautasi apart is its holistic and culturally grounded approach. Youth workers go beyond case management — building trust and genuine partnerships with young people and families. This means visiting homes, attending school meetings, liaising with courts, and linking young people to culturally appropriate services such as counselling, mentoring, and peer support. By embedding culture and community, young people are reminded of their strengths, heritage, and potential.

The impact this year has been profound. Fautasi has re-engaged young people in school, supported employment opportunities, and diverted youth from justice involvement. Families report stronger support and connection, while schools and community organisations recognise its role in improving outcomes and strengthening partnerships. Importantly, Fautasi is shifting the narrative around Pasifika youth in Melbourne’s west, showing that with the right guidance and opportunities, young people can thrive.

The Les Twentyman Foundation is proud of Fautasi’s achievements in 2024/25. By combining cultural connection, family engagement, and practical support, the program continues to “build together” — creating safer communities and brighter futures for Pasifika young people.





BRAYBROOK 96ERS BASKETBALL CLUB



The Braybrook 96ers Basketball Club continues to be a lifeline for young people in Melbourne's west, providing not only opportunities to play sport but also a safe, supportive environment where confidence, resilience, and connection can flourish. Sport has always been central to the Foundation's philosophy — a way to engage young people, build community, and create pathways that lead to brighter futures. The 96ers embodies this vision every day.

In 2024/25, the program once again recorded strong participation, with 263 young athletes registered to compete across the summer and winter seasons. Beyond competition, the club welcomed over 100 younger children aged 5–10 who took part in weekly training and engagement sessions, laying the foundation for healthy habits, teamwork, and personal growth from an early age.

However, the ongoing rise in living costs has created real challenges for families. The price of registration, uniforms, and equipment can often be a barrier to participation in organised sport. Thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters, the Les Twentyman Foundation ensured that 46.4% of players received financial assistance in 2024/25. This support meant that no child was left on the sidelines due to financial hardship — a principle that lies at the heart of the 96ers.

“ The club provides a wonderful environment that fosters positive behaviours inside and outside the club for these young individuals that then puts them on a positive life course.

Professor Rochelle Eime, PhD Professor of Sport Science, Federation University

True to Les Twentyman OAM's vision, the 96ers is far more than a basketball club. It is a vibrant and inclusive community where young people from diverse cultural backgrounds — 70% of players were either born overseas or have a parent born overseas — come together to learn, play, and grow. On the court, they develop technical skills and fitness. Off the court, they gain leadership, resilience, and teamwork — qualities that will serve them for life. The program is also a vital platform for building cultural pride and fostering cross-cultural friendships in one of Victoria's most diverse regions.

This year, we also launched a new video campaign featuring voices from within the club. Players and coaches shared what the 96ers means to them, highlighting not only the joy of playing basketball but also the sense of belonging, identity, and family that the club provides. View full video by scanning the QR code below.

The club's success in competition reflected the strength of this community:

32 teams competed (17 in Summer, 15 in Winter)

20 teams reached the finals

67 girls registered, reflecting steady growth in female participation

122 registration vouchers provided, valued at \$13,400



The 96ers is more than statistics — it is a space where young people can thrive, families can connect, and communities can come together. With continued donor support, the Braybrook 96ers will remain a beacon of hope and opportunity, ensuring that every young person, regardless of background or financial circumstance, has the chance to step onto the court, be part of a team, and shape a positive future.

KEY STATISTICS

Total Registered Players

263

young Basketballers



Non-competing Participants

115

young people (ages 5-10)



Number of Teams

32

17 Summer, 15 Winter



LTF Registration Assistance

122

vouchers provided equal to \$13,400 in assistance



Cultural Diversity

70%

of registered players were either born overseas or have a parent born overseas



Finals Success

20

teams made it to finals



YOUTH OUTREACH

The Youth Outreach Program has been at the heart of the Les Twentyman Foundation's mission since the 1980s, when Les first began working with homeless and at-risk young people in Footscray, Sunshine, and Braybrook. Four decades on, outreach remains the cornerstone of our work — a direct, face-to-face approach that meets young people where they are, builds trust, and helps them take the first steps toward stability and hope.

In 2024/25, our youth workers walked alongside 25 young people experiencing complex and often overlapping challenges, from school disengagement and unemployment to family breakdown, mental health issues, and exposure to violence.

The Outreach model is intentionally flexible and highly personalised. Our youth workers invest time in understanding the unique circumstances of each young person, then surround them with a strong and diverse network of support.

This includes families, schools, sporting clubs, cultural leaders, employers, and specialist services. By doing so, we create an environment in which young people feel supported, valued, and capable of making positive choices about their future.

Education and employment remain central goals. Wherever possible, we prioritise re-engagement with school or alternative learning pathways, while also preparing young people for training and work. Through our extensive partnerships with local schools, businesses, and training providers, Outreach ensures that young people have practical opportunities to build skills, gain confidence, and see a future beyond immediate challenges.

Despite the funding pressures of the past year, Outreach continues to demonstrate its critical role in Victoria's youth support system. It is a program that embodies Les's legacy — deeply personal, responsive, and committed to ensuring that every young person has the chance to find their footing, rebuild their confidence, and pursue a positive future.



“Ella and her mother had endured years of physical and emotional abuse from her father. With the support of our youth workers, Ella found safety, strength, and hope for the future. “Thank you so much for supporting me, you’ve helped me so so so much. I really hope we’ll cross paths again in the future 🍷”

Young Person



YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE (YSS)

The Youth Support Service (YSS) is one of the Les Twentyman Foundation's most critical early intervention programs, delivered in partnership with the Victorian State Government. Operating across Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, and Moonee Valley, YSS supports young people aged 10–17 at their first interaction with police or the courts — a crucial turning point where the right intervention can prevent repeated justice involvement and instead open pathways to stability, education, and opportunity.

In 2024/25, YSS supported 80 young people, each with unique challenges. Our youth workers provided intensive one-on-one case management, addressing barriers such as school disengagement, family conflict, mental health, substance use, or lack of safe housing. By working holistically, the program not only helps the young person but also strengthens the care around them.

This year, YSS faced major challenges: a 30% cut in state funding and changes in referral pathways.

Thanks to our donors, however, every eligible young person still received support. Without this generosity, many would have missed the chance to turn their lives around.

The results were powerful: over 90% of participants had no further contact with law enforcement during their engagement. This highlights the impact of timely intervention and the trusted relationships youth workers build as mentors and advocates.

YSS supports a diverse cohort, reflecting Melbourne's inner west:

- 60% Australian-born
- 20% Horn of Africa
- 17.5% New Zealand, Pacific Islands, or Asia
- 2.5% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

This diversity calls for culturally safe, responsive practice. Our youth workers partner with cultural leaders, communities, and families to ensure support is relevant and respectful.

The Les Twentyman Foundation remains committed to advocating for sustained investment in YSS. With stable funding, this program will continue to change lives, reduce youth offending, and build safer, stronger communities.

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

CHARITY GOLF DAY

4th September, 2024

The sun came out to play for our Annual Charity Golf Day held at Victoria Golf Club. Our supporters, new and old, came together to raise much-needed funds for at-risk youth.

We were fortunate enough to be joined by four-time premiership player, six-time All-Australian and a three-time captain of the All-Australian Team, Joel Selwood who was interviewed by the foundations close friend, Mike Sheahan. Mike Brady saw us out with his AFL Anthem "Up There Cazaly". Special thanks to Dodd Structural and all our amazing sponsors and supporters for allowing us to hold such a great event in support of young people in need.



SPRING RACING LUNCH

25th October, 2024

We were off and racing with the annual Spring Racing Lunch held at the Bells Hotel, South Melbourne.

With Matthew Campbell hosting a sellout event of 150 guests, they enjoyed a 2-course meal whilst listening to multiple Group 1 winning trainer Chris Waller and jockey, Craig Williams.

Hilarious stories were told by Simon Marshall but most importantly, the foundations message continued - the support for disadvantaged youth is vital.



LTF GALA CELEBRATION

28th March, 2025

This year we hosted a memorable Gala at the Plaza Ballroom in Melbourne, with over 350 guests celebrating the life and legacy of our late founder, Les Twentyman OAM. Marking the first anniversary of Les's passing, the evening was both a heartfelt tribute and a reminder of his lifelong commitment to supporting vulnerable young people.

The night, MCed by Libbi Goor, brought together corporate partners, dignitaries, community leaders, and long-time supporters. Guests enjoyed entertainment by Mike Snell and shared stories of Les's impact.

More than entertainment, the Gala was a vital fundraiser, raising essential funds to continue delivering youth programs across Melbourne. The 2025 Gala was a fitting tribute to Les—celebrating community, generosity, and the spirit of giving.



COMMUNITY

HOLIDAY FUN AT WHITTEN OVAL

10th July, 2024

We are deeply grateful to the Western Bulldogs for hosting some of our young people during an unforgettable school holiday experience. Participants had the opportunity to explore the new facilities at Whitten Oval, engage in an inspiring leadership workshop, and practice their goal-kicking on the field.

We extend our sincere thanks to the staff at the Western Bulldogs for their generosity and unwavering support. We know our founder, Les Twentyman, would have been proud to see this meaningful engagement inspiring the next generation.



DEPUTY PREMIER VISIT

13th October, 2024

We were delighted to welcome Deputy Premier Ben Carroll MP to Taylors Lakes Secondary College to meet the students whose lives are being positively impacted by our School Outreach Support Service (SOSS). Our founder, Les Twentyman, would have been proud as the Deputy Premier described the program as 'transformative' for the students.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Deputy Premier and the Department of Education, Victoria, to expand the SOSS program to schools across Melbourne's western suburbs, creating a brighter future for young people.



PESE MAI AT ROD LAVER ARENA

November 6, 2024

A statewide initiative, Pese Mai is a vibrant, performance-based program celebrating Pasifika culture through the creative talents of young people. In 2024, Taylors Lakes Secondary College students took part, supported by our School Outreach Support Service program.

In partnership with the Victorian State Schools Spectacular, Pasifika students co-created and choreographed a cultural performance as an Independent Performing Group. They performed Don't Dream It's Over by Crowded House in Tongan, Samoan, and Māori before 10,000 people at John Cain Arena—televised nationwide.

More than a performance, Pese Mai empowers students to celebrate their heritage, express their identity, and build confidence. Participants gain access to networking with industry professionals and form lasting connections with peers. Pese Mai fosters cultural pride, unity, and visibility for Pasifika youth, promoting a strong sense of belonging and community.



CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK - UFU VICTORIA BBQ

17th December, 2024

We sincerely thank our long-time supporters at the United Firefighters Union Victoria (UFU Vic) for hosting their Annual Christmas BBQ at Skinner Reserve, Braybrook. The event welcomed children and families for a day of festive fun, food, games, and a special visit from Santa on a fire truck.

Many of the young people in attendance come from backgrounds where being able to attend a celebration at this time of year is not always a given.

Thanks to UFU Vic's generosity, many children from disadvantaged backgrounds experienced a Christmas full of joy, connection, and lasting memories.



CHRISTMAS CAVE - LTF HQ

19th December, 2024

The festive spirit was in full swing at the Les Twentyman Foundation's Christmas Cave, as staff and volunteers arrived bright and early to set up for the big event. From opening the gates to families, to keeping the festive spirit alive until late into the evening, it was a full day of hard work and heartfelt moments, and community connection.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, over 5,000 gifts were distributed to families in need throughout our festive events combined ensuring children had something special to open on Christmas morning.

A huge thank you to our friends at the Lions Club Footscray, who generously cooked a delicious BBQ for families waiting in line, turning the wait into a warm and joyful experience.

The Christmas Cave is more than just gifts, it's about community kindness, connection, and making sure every child feels the joy of Christmas.



CHRISTMAS DAY AT CRAVIN CREPES

25th December 2024

Christmas Day 2024 marked what would have been Les's 40th year hosting Christmas lunch for young people and families with nowhere else to go. More than just a meal, Les created a place of belonging, happiness, and inclusion.

This was our first Christmas without Les, and while his absence was felt deeply, we were determined to continue this tradition. The room was filled with laughter, big smiles, and the joy of young people. This year, 9 families and 36 children joined us, welcomed with open arms and surrounded by a caring community. A surprise visit from Santa delivered thoughtful gifts, creating magical memories for years to come.

Having Les's wife Cherie and granddaughter Lotus with us made the day even more special. We're certain Les was smiling down, proud that his legacy continues to shine.

Our sincerest thanks to Sam, his wife Serpil, and the dedicated team at Cravin Crepes for their ongoing support, generously helping us continue this cherished tradition.

GOVERNANCE

The Board is responsible for setting the strategic vision and policies, approving and monitoring the annual budget and audit processes, ensuring adequate resources for service delivery, overseeing risk management, engaging effectively with donors and stakeholders, and meeting all regulatory and statutory requirements, with its work supported by the Finance and Risk Sub-Committee and the Fundraising and Events Sub-Committee.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DR DAVID YOUNG MBBS, FRACS - CHAIR

David Young is one of Australia's most prominent and respected Orthopaedic surgeons. With an A-List of Australian and international professional athletes as patients, David is regarded as a leader in his field. David lectures and consults internationally. His vision led to a trauma hospital being built in Sri Lanka following the 2004 Tsunamis, and he is firmly dedicated to the health, well-being, and education of youth in Australia.



CHRIS BYRNE - CO CHAIR

Chris is a businessman having owned several leading Motor Dealerships over the last 25 years in the western suburbs. A former Wyndham Business Person Of The Year, Chairman of Ford Advertising Fund and Vice Chairman of Werribee Racing Club, Chris has a long association with Les Twentyman and the Foundation. Father of four teenage boys, Chris is passionate that all youth have the same opportunities regardless of their background.



KEVIN BROWN - TREASURER

Kevin has over thirty years of experience working as a CPA in corporate environments within the aged care, financial services and not-for-profit industries. He currently works in the community housing sector. Kevin has a strong governance and risk management focus, having been the CFO for an APRA regulated organisation, which had the mission to enhance the opportunity for children to gain a complete education.



KASCIA ZEDRAS - SECRETARY

Kascia has over 18 years of experience as a Practice Manager and has demonstrated exceptional organizational skills and a keen ability to ensure the smooth operation of medical practices. Her dedication to efficiency has made her an invaluable asset in the healthcare industry. Kascia's blend of administrative expertise and community spirit highlights her as a dynamic and compassionate leader in both her professional and personal life.



JOHN JENKINS

John Jenkins comes with decades of experience in all forms of small-to-medium business. As the director of consulting firm Global Matrix Solutions, John delivers streamlined business solutions to hundreds of businesses throughout Victoria. John is a member of the Finance Committee and plays a crucial role in the future of the Les Twentyman Foundation.



AARON BAXTER

With over 25 years in financial services, Aaron brings a wealth of experience to the Les Twentyman Foundation. Aaron's strong legacy in executive leadership, commercial strategy and business growth assists us in our strategic, operational and earnings goals now and in the future.



JUSTIN BRERETON

Justin Brereton is a leading Melbourne Barrister and company director with extensive experience in the not-for-profit sector. For almost two decades, he has appeared in various Court proceedings and Royal Commissions involving issues of corporate and public-sector governance. He also regularly conducts high-level inquiries into matters of public sector integrity. Justin considers access to opportunities, particularly educational opportunities, as being critical to helping young people achieve their full potential.



JENNIFER WINTER

Jen has worked for the Department of Education and Training since 1994 and is currently the Area Executive Director for Central Highlands after being a Principal for 20 years in Warrnambool and St Kilda areas. Jen believes all students, regardless of their background and socioeconomic status, should achieve their potential irrespective of the school they attend.



JOHN HYETT

John is a former councillor and Mayor of Sunshine, a Melton Shire Council commissioner, AFL Victoria Director and a Member of the Advisory Committee for City West Water. He has a long history in building and property development and is a qualified Registered Commercial Residential Builder. John brings an extensive knowledge of the Western Suburbs to the Les Twentyman Foundation.



LEXI JOHNSTONE

Farewelled from the Foundation April 2025
Lexi is a graphic designer with 20 years of experience in marketing and communications. She has previously worked as the graphic designer for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and currently manages a family foundation together with her sisters-in-law. She and her husband and family have had a long history with Les Twentyman and the Foundation.

MANAGEMENT TEAM



PAUL BURKE - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Paul comes to the Les Twentyman Foundation with an enormous wealth of experience in working on delivering programs for youth and strong expertise in governance. He has more than 20 years of experience working in high-pressure policy rich environments delivering key services and economic and social outcomes both in Australia and overseas.



CHRIS LACEY - GENERAL MANAGER, PROGRAMS

Chris is a respected senior manager and leader with over 20 years of experience specialising in community development, inclusive sport & recreation, youth work, social connection and program development. Chris has previously worked at organisations such as VicHealth, Sport & Recreation Victoria, ReLink Australia, White Lion and Urban Seed where he was responsible for designing and rolling out innovative sport & recreation, youth, arts, community development and social enterprise initiatives aimed at engaging people and communities experiencing disadvantage.

FINANCIALS

INCOME	2025	2024
Donations Received	\$1,713,921.26	\$1,096,951.69
Grants	\$960,888.74	\$1,069,506.12
Interest Received	\$103,990.89	\$103,262.29
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,778,800.89	\$2,269,720.10

EXPENSES	2025	2024
Accountancy Fees	\$7,500.00	\$8,500.00
Advertising & Marketing	\$14,391.16	\$5,513.42
Amortisation	\$8,239.87	\$1,320.53
Audit Fee	\$7,677.16	\$7,367.89
Bank Charges	\$4,731.75	\$2,716.75
Computer Expenses	\$0.00	\$2,298.51
Consultancy Fees	\$84,080.00	\$107,365.00
Cost of Running Programs	\$162,356.52	\$174,624.20
Depreciation	\$13,787.30	\$18,114.97
Function Costs	\$190,311.11	\$85,632.61
Fundraising Expenses	\$0.00	\$4,315.73
Insurance & WorkCover	\$51,173.35	\$49,172.17
Interest Paid	\$1,551.95	\$269.81
Legal Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,536.00
License Fee	\$36,540.59	\$35,330.60
Meetings	\$104.79	\$639.26
Motor Vehicle	\$108,123.57	\$106,051.29
Outsourced Accounting Support	\$54,000.00	\$54,000.00
Outsourced IT Support	\$23,119.36	\$24,149.00
Printing & Stationery	\$6,239.77	\$11,064.34
Rent & Outgoings	\$4,619.16	\$5,213.01
Staff Training - Registrations & Training	\$3,353.82	\$18,386.61
Subscriptions & Memberships	\$15,089.36	\$16,719.29
Sundry Expenses	\$16,932.79	\$36,234.29
Superannuation	\$169,248.13	\$167,128.35
Telephone	\$14,563.57	\$15,148.44
Travelling Expenses	\$2,074.01	\$5,648.23
Wages	\$1,377,196.64	\$1,365,457.20
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,377,005.73	\$2,329,917.50
PROFIT/ LOSS	\$401,795.16	-\$60,197.40

OUR SUPPORTERS

The businesses and organisations that make up CLUB20 are the heart of the Les Twentyman Foundation. Your support ensures that hundreds of young people receive the essential services they need to thrive, services they may not otherwise have access to. To all who have been with us through 2024/25 and to those who joined us this year, we are deeply grateful. Your generosity is transforming lives, and we look forward to sharing the inspiring success stories from our programs, made possible because of you. A heartfelt thank you to the many volunteers and every individual who has supported us over the past 12 months. Your dedication makes all the difference. We could not do it without you.

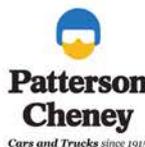
OUR CLUB 20S



Le Mans Toyota



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SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Adairs
- Adidas
- Alan & Joy Johnstone
- Angle Auto & Finance
- Brighton Toyota
- Byrne Family
- Cambridge University Press
- CBRE
- Charter Keck Cramer
- Coca-Cola
- Conrad Taylor
- Designworks
- Dodd Structural
- Drummond Street
- Ecosa
- Edrolo
- Emily Dickson
- Empire Apparel
- Good Vibes Society
- Guthrie Family Charitable Trust
- Highpoint Shopping Centre
- Itiki Sports
- Jacaranda
- Kevin Halpin
- Kuehne + Nagel
- Lilydale Valley Views Retirement Village
- Living KoKo
- Melbourne Storm
- MRC Foundation Trust
- Pinchapoo
- PPU Vicpol
- Pubco Group
- Randall Foundation
- Ray Cooper
- Royal Flying Doctors
- Sleep Safe
- Soroptimist International Melba
- Stephanie Andrews
- Supreme Hotel Group Ltd
- The Albion Hotel
- The Christmas Box
- The Computer Company Gisborne
- The Cricketers Hotel, Port Melbourne
- The Johnson Family Foundation
- The Zone
- Tobin Brothers Foundation
- Union Deli
- United Firefighters Union Vic
- Victoria Racing Club
- Western Bulldogs FC
- Westgate Tunnel Project
- Wheelton Philanthropy
- Yarraville Village Traders

IMAGERY





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If you would like to help us make an impact you can donate now with the QR code provided.