

# GUMALA NEWSLETTER

## Issue: July 2023



### COMMUNITY PROJECTS ARE IN FULL SWING



**Wakathuni Basketball Court and Bellary Community Building**

There has been a lot of work happening since our last newsletter. The Wakathuni Basketball Court now has a shelter over the court, providing shade during the hotter months for the community. We've also installed bollards and benches on either side of the upgraded Basketball Court.

We have completed refurbishing the Post Office in Wakathuni so it can be used as a meeting place and safely store the mail of the community. These works were requested by one of the Elders, as having a building for meetings will make a big difference to the Wakathuni community. The interior and exterior walls have been painted, new doors have been installed and the bathroom has been renovated.

We have also done a refresh of the Bellary Springs Community Building that was first built back in 2014, the exterior and interior have been given a fresh coat of paint and new roof panels will be installed in the coming weeks. We've also cleared and refurbished the Men's Shed too.

In Youngaleena, we've refurbished the Administration Building into a house.

#### **Coming up next**

At Wirrillimarra, renovations have commenced on one of the houses, all AC units in all houses are being serviced and will receive a hygiene clean, and electrical and plumbing upgrades will be completed too.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

The 2023-24 Member Guidelines are here.



Find out the Flexible Program amount for the 23-24 year and how we've expanded our Utilities and Education Program scopes.

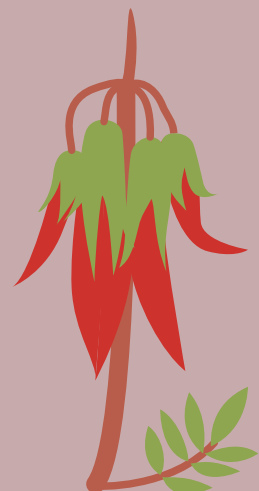


Hear how Molly and Nathan travelled to Tasmania to compete in the National BMX championships thanks to the Member Sponsorship Program.

Find out more about Gumala Investments Pty Limited (GIPL) Board Directors, Yale Bolto and Ian Gooding.



Hear how Member, Vincent channelled his passion for serving his people into a career at Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC).



When reading this publication and sharing it with family and friends, please be mindful that it may contain images and/or names of people who have since passed away.

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT



## **Thannarru,**

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the passing of one of our Niyaparli Elders and a significant Member of our Gumala Family. This Elder was widely known across the Pilbara as a source of culture, connection, and community.

He, along with many of our Elders who have gone before him, depart as an enormous loss to Gumala, Niyaparli people, and the region. Our thoughts are with the Niyaparli people and the friends and family.

## **THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR**

It's been a busy time here at Gumala. The 22-23 financial year came to a close, which saw our Member Services Team (MST) process an incredible 36,061 applications over the financial year. This is an impressive 43% increase in the number of applications compared to our last financial year. Despite the volume of applications for the year nearly doubling, the team also decreased wait time for applications by 25%, a fantastic effort by MST.

GAC was also a finalist at this year's Community Service Excellence Awards (CSEA) for the "Large Organisation providing collaborative, innovative, or creative programs or services" category. The work of the community service sector is immeasurable and essential. Gumala as a group was honoured to firstly be made a finalist in recognition of the Housing Support Program, and furthermore be recognised as the winner in the category. I would like to recognise the work of our Housing Team, alongside our partners in the community. It's through partnering with other community services,

we have been able to deliver better outcomes for our Housing Support Program participants.

GAC's Housing Support Program eventuated due to the housing crisis experienced by Yinhawangka, Banjima and Niyaparli people across the state where access to housing and affordable housing remains challenging and costly. The magnitude of this is experienced at a higher degree amongst our Members in the Pilbara due to the close proximity to construction and resources booms. We acknowledge there is still a long way to go and more support needed from across the board for our Members to experience relief.

In response to calls from the Gumala membership, alongside the GAC and GIPL Boards, the Housing Support Program was developed. Members experiencing overcrowding, homelessness, and ongoing health conditions requiring relocation for treatment are recognised as some of our most vulnerable Members and we seek to support these Members first, while continuing to find solutions for the wider membership needs. With limited stock of houses available, GAC and GIPL worked together to find innovative solutions for our Members. At present, Gumala assists 44 households and 170 people. Our waiting list remains over 200, ranging from priority to general waitlist. Moving forward, Gumala is open to partnerships and innovative solutions from Government, the resources sector, and other stakeholders to support our Members.

## **CREATING NEW INCOME STREAMS**

We have also been making headway on our strategic goal of identifying and creating alternate income streams for Gumala to operate sustainably beyond the life of the mine. With the uncertainty of future revenue from the Yandi Land Use Agreement (YLUA) and the continuous growth in our Membership, it is a key priority of GAC to diversify our income stream so we can operate sustainably for many years to come.

GAC's Communications, Finance, Governance, Heritage and Information Technology (IT) teams have been providing services to other Charitable Trusts/Corporations, to both create a new income stream and to share our corporate knowledge with other Charitable groups.



GAC has been the service provider of the Healthy Living Program for the Banjima Charitable Trust (under AET) since 2022. We are happy to announce that we have been chosen to be the service provider for this program for a 2nd financial year. We are pleased our Banjima members can access the 2 programs in a central location.

Since April, Gumala has been the executive service provider for Yinggarda Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) and has been providing support in the areas of Communications, Finance, IT, Governance, and Heritage. We are happy to support emerging RNTBCs after determination, and look forward to helping YAC build a sustainable and better future for their Members.

### AIATSIS SUMMIT

Our Board Members and Executive team also attended the AIATSIS Summit. For those who may have not heard of it before, this Summit centers around Indigenous knowledges and sees Indigenous leaders, Corporations, and Prescribed Body Corporates attend from across the nation. This year's Summit was held in Boorloo (Perth), and included a range of sessions and topics, including a session that covered Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation's and Rio Tinto's Agreement Modernisation Process (AMod). We also heard how Gobawarrah-Yinhawangka artists Julie Walker and Roy Tommy, along with Jingili/Yanyuwa filmmaker Michael Bonner, overlaid historical recordings and audio of Julie and Roy's late mother over new video to retell old stories in a modern way.

### VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

There were many conversations about the Voice to Parliament at the Summit. Speakers touched on how the Voice was born out of the Uluru Conference's Statement from the Heart, how the Voice will work, and what the Voice will mean for our people. We recognise the many perspectives on the Voice to Parliament, and that our Members may hold different viewpoints.

While we already have a voice, and are engaged with by Government on certain issues, the Voice will formalise this requirement in the Constitution – requiring Government to consult with the Voice on legislative changes and actions that affect Indigenous people. The need to consult and listen to the perspectives of Aboriginal people has been absent for many years, in reality, it's been missing since colonisation. Over the coming months, there

will be forums and information being shared about the Voice to Parliament, and we encourage Gumala Members to attend and be informed about the Voice.

### RECONCILIATION WEEK

The Gumala team also came together throughout Reconciliation week to talk about our shared histories, a better Australia for Aboriginal Australians, and actions we can all take to move more towards Reconciliation. Gumala means "all together" in Banjima language, so the coming together of all peoples, no matter their background is very important to us. Reconciliation is a journey – and no two journeys are the same. No matter how someone is tracking on their reconciliation journey, what matters is the desire to come together, show respect and create a more reconciled Australia.

I was also invited to speak at the Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development National Reconciliation Week event. I touched on Gumala's history and how 25 years ago, Banjima, Yinhawangka and Nyiyaparli people came together to form Gumala to create a better future for our people.

### KARIJINI EXPERIENCE

The Gumala Foundation was able to support this year's Karijini Experience. The Karijini Experience is operated by Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC) and gives all people, including Traditional Owners – the Banjima people, the opportunity to connect on Country, as well as share their culture with wider Australia.

### YANDI UNDERPAYMENTS

We are continuing discussions with Rio Tinto under the guidance of our lawyers from Slater and Gordon. Both parties are yet to finalise an agreement, however, we are hopeful for a positive resolution to be reached prior to this year's AGM.

### WORKING AT GAC

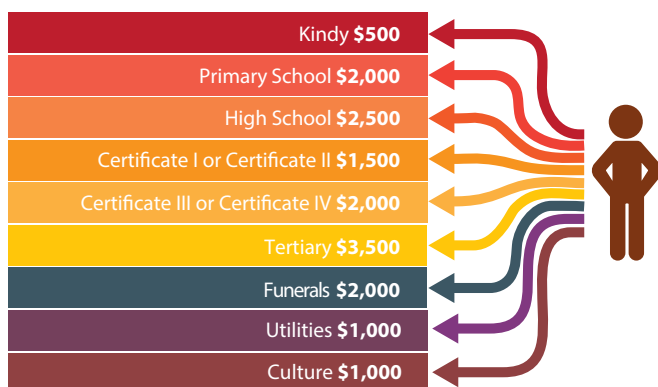
Lastly, we have some job vacancies within GAC and strongly encourage Members to apply (more details on [page 9](#)). We are looking to fill positions in both Tom Price and Perth. Some of these positions would be perfect for Members who are looking to work school hours so if you're looking for flexibility, we encourage you to apply.



**Justin Dhu,**  
Executive Officer

# 2023-24 MEMBER GUIDELINES

## Fixed Programs



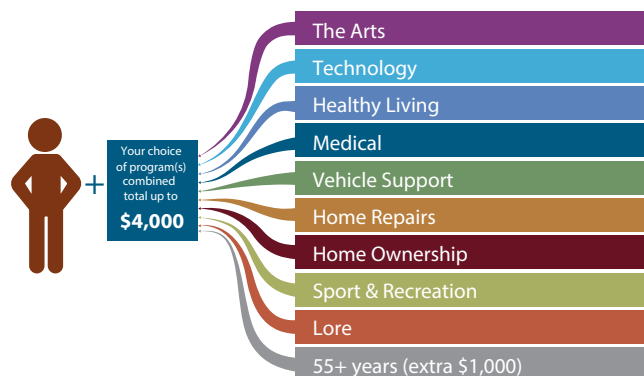
Gumala's Member Guidelines for the 2023-24 financial year have been released. You can access this financial year's guidelines and application forms on [our website under the Programs tab](#), through the [Gumala portal](#), or by contacting our office on 9219 4500. For Members who chose post as their preferred method, your Guidelines have been delivered.

The Member Guidelines for this financial year will continue to offer the same categories of Fixed, Flexible, and Other Programs as the 22-23 Program Guidelines. We have loved seeing these Programs utilised to create more sustainable communities for our families and look forward to seeing this continue.

### \$4,000 FOR FLEXIBLE PROGRAMS

We are thrilled to announce Members will receive \$4,000 for **Flexible Programs** for the 23-24 Financial year. This gives Members up to \$4,000 to spend on Flexible Programs, and Members over +55, a total of \$5,000 to spend on Flexible Programs.

## Flexible Programs



### EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF UTILITIES AND EDUCATION

We have added Vehicle & Home Insurance, Vehicle Registration, and Drivers Licenses to our Utilities Program.

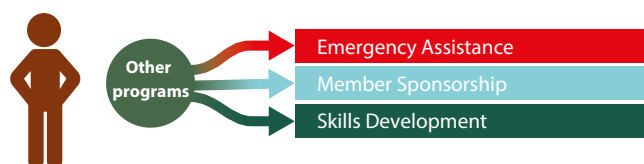
We have also added Bicycles & Scooters to the Capped Items available under the Education Program. This means you have a limit of \$600 to spend on the following Education Program Capped items; Bicycles' & Scooters, Sports Fees, Sports Clothing and Musical Instruments.

### OTHER PROGRAMS

We'd like to remind our Members about our **Other Programs** available. We have Emergency Assistance available for times of life-threatening or potentially life-threatening circumstances, Member Sponsorship for once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, and Skills Development for upskilling or seeking employment.

Our Skills Development Program offers Members the opportunity to complete tickets, courses, and training. The Program also provides complimentary support such as career guidance, interview, resume, and interview skills assistance, as well as linking job seekers up with employers.

## Other Programs



## THINKING ABOUT ENTERING A NEW JOB OR FURTHERING YOUR TRAINING?

We're really passionate about helping Members secure employment and further their training and education.

We want our Members to be strong in both worlds and have access to the education and support required to be able to have financial independence and succeed with their desired career path.

Our **Skills and Development Program** offers funding for recognised training, courses, tickets, and licences, in addition to helping Members secure employment.

If you're interested in gaining new employment, we always recommend you get in touch with us. Our Skills and Development Officer, Hayley can assist you in finding work, updating your resume and prepping for interviews. Hayley is available to contact Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at [gacjobs@gumala.com.au](mailto:gacjobs@gumala.com.au) or by calling our office.

Many organisations often contact Gumala to see if any Members are seeking work, and by being in touch with Gumala, we can recommend you for a variety of roles. Where possible, we also find employment for Members here at Gumala, just like Vincent below!



## MEMBER WINS

### IN EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

#### 7 MEMBERS

ATTENDED THE RIO TINTO  
EMPLOYMENT SESSION AT  
GUMALA'S PERTH OFFICE



#### 2 MEMBERS

SUCCESSFULLY GAINED  
EMPLOYMENT AT FMG AFTER  
SEEING THE JOB ADVERTISED ON  
THE GUMALA CORPORATION  
JOBSBOARD PAGE

#### 3 MEMBERS

COMPLETED TRAINING COURSES &  
CERTIFICATES



#### 1 MEMBER

GAINED HER IDEAL EMPLOYMENT  
WITH DEVELOPMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE  
IMMEDIATELY

## WELCOME VINCENT

Meet Gumala's new Housing Administrator Assistant, Vincent!

Gumala Member, Vincent was seeking new employment after relocating to Perth from up North. Vincent reached out to our Skills and Development Officer, Hayley to see if she knew of any job opportunities in Perth. There sure was – Hayley let Vincent know there was a position available here at Gumala...and the rest is history!

Vincent loves serving his people, hear from Vincent below:

"After working for 14 years with the Justice Department, I wanted to make a positive contribution to Aboriginal people. In my role as Housing Admin Assistant, I work towards getting our Members into a house and providing support and stability. I am looking forward to my career at GAC and working to improve the lives of Members. I am happy to say my employment was a result of working with Hayley, whose role as the Skills and Development Officer is to encourage more Members to join GAC to continue to create a caring and successful organisation".



# MEMBER SPONSORSHIP WINS

## LET'S GIVE IT UP FOR MOLLY & NATHAN

Late last year, Molly and Nathan's parents applied for the Member Sponsorship Program for their two children to attend and compete in the National BMX Championships held in Launceston, Tasmania. Molly and Nathan were invited to attend the event after finishing in the top 3 at the Northern Territory championships.

Molly and Nathan attended the National Championships and enjoyed a fun-filled week of practice and racing. Both Molly and Nathan made new friends and felt proud to represent their state at a National level!

It was the family's first time in Tasmania, so in between competitions, the family was able to explore Launceston and surrounds.

Here are some words from Molly and Nathan's parents, Nathan and Dannielle Lawrence:

*"Molly and Nathan represented the Northern Territory with great pride and sportsmanship and we would like to thank Gumala Aboriginal Corporation for the support to get there."*

*"Although they did not get the results they had trained so hard for, the experience was invaluable and Molly and Nathan are forever grateful for the opportunity."*

We love supporting Members like Molly and Nathan in attending once-in-a-lifetime opportunities and can't wait to hear more about Molly and Nathan's competitive BMX journey!



# THE VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

Later this year, a referendum will be held. This referendum is about whether to change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia in the Constitution and establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body. It would advise the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

You can find out more about the Voice to Parliament by scanning the QR code below. It's been a while since the last referendum, so we're going to be answering some common questions below.

## WHAT'S A REFERENDUM?

A referendum is a national vote on a question about a proposed change to the Constitution, the set of rules that the Australian Government uses to govern Australia. Changes can only be made to the Constitution through a referendum.

## HOW DO I VOTE?

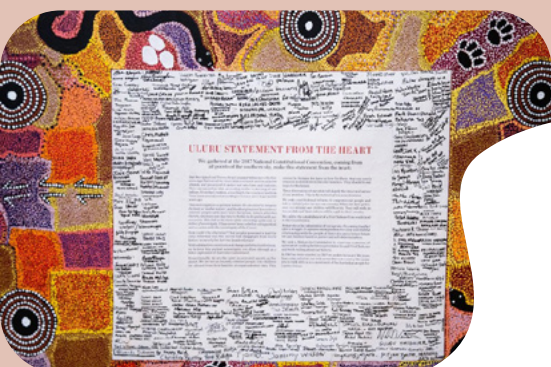
You need to be enrolled to vote. If you're enrolled for elections, you're enrolled for referendums too. If you have not enrolled to vote, you can enrol on the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) website, or by printing off a voting PDF and mailing it to the AEC, or by attending a local AEC Office.

## IS IT COMPULSORY TO VOTE?

Yes. It is compulsory by law for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 and older to enrol and vote in referendums and federal elections.

## WHAT IS THE REFERENDUM ABOUT?

It's about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by setting up an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. The only way to change the constitution is through voting in a referendum. The Voice would be separate to the Government, but give important advice to Government.



To find out more about the Voice to Parliament head to [voice.gov.au](https://voice.gov.au) or scan the QR code to the left.

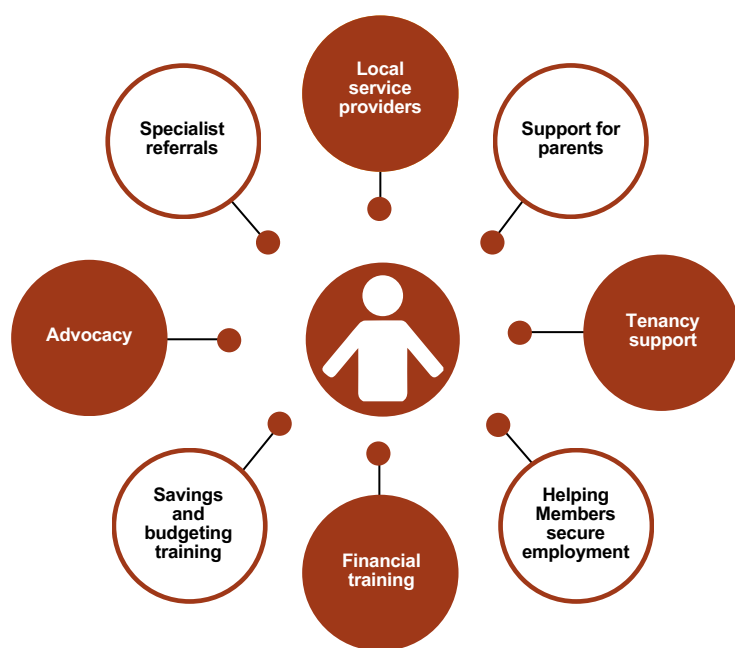
# HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Having access to safe and affordable housing is an issue affecting many of our Members. To help support Members who require assistance to address an urgent housing need, we created our Housing Support Program.

## THE PROGRAM

Gumala's Housing Support Program aims to assist our most vulnerable Members who are struggling to secure safe and affordable housing. The Program provides wrap-around support to Members that is designed to meet individual needs and includes anything that will assist the Member in securing stable accommodation.

**Some examples of wrap-around support include:**



## PRIORITY HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Members who are affected by a housing crisis and meet the Priority Assistance Eligibility Criteria, can have their Housing Application added to the Priority Housing Waitlist.

**For Priority Housing Assistance to be appropriate for you, you will need to:**

- Be a Gumala Member
- Meet Income Eligibility Limits
- Not own a home
- Meet 1 or more of the following priority assistance eligibility criteria.
  - o Be an Elder with an urgent housing need
  - o Be referred by a Specialist Service
  - o Be homeless or current housing is unsuitable or uninhabitable
  - o Have ongoing health condition requiring relocation for treatment (conditions apply)
  - o Live in a home that is affected by significant overcrowding

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for our Housing Support Program, please complete a Housing Application form with as much information as possible. This can be completed at [gumala.com.au/housing-support-program/](https://gumala.com.au/housing-support-program/), by phone or by visiting a GAC office.

Once you complete your form, you will receive an email from the Housing team confirming your application has been received.

## OWN A BUSINESS? JOIN THE BUSINESS REGISTER

If you have a business that you would like to add to our business register please email [Communications@gumala.com.au](mailto:Communications@gumala.com.au) with the following details: your name, your business name, your business phone number and the type of business you operate

**At this stage, we will be using this business register list for internal purposes only.**



## **JOBS AVAILABLE AT GUMALA**

We currently have a range of exciting positions available at both GAC locations at the moment!

If you're seeking a job with more flexibility, or looking to work for a more rewarding cause, then we highly recommend you apply.

You can check out the available positions on our Careers Portal by scanning the QR code to the right or by visiting [gumala.careers.subscribe-hr.com](https://gumala.careers.subscribe-hr.com)

Additionally, if you'd like to enquire about other employment opportunities available at GAC, you can reach out to our Skills and Development Officer, Hayley at [gacjobs@gumala.com.au](mailto:gacjobs@gumala.com.au)



## **OUR MEMBER PORTAL**

Gumala Members can access their personal information and lodge applications 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via our Member portal. The portal can be accessed via [portal.gumala.com.au](https://portal.gumala.com.au) or via the Gumala website.

All Members need to access the portal is a mobile phone, tablet, laptop or computer with an internet connection.

You can visit our website and click on the Member Portal How-to videos, or scan the QR code below to read about or watch videos on how to interact with the portal. This can potentially save you lots of time in the long run!



**SCAN ME!**

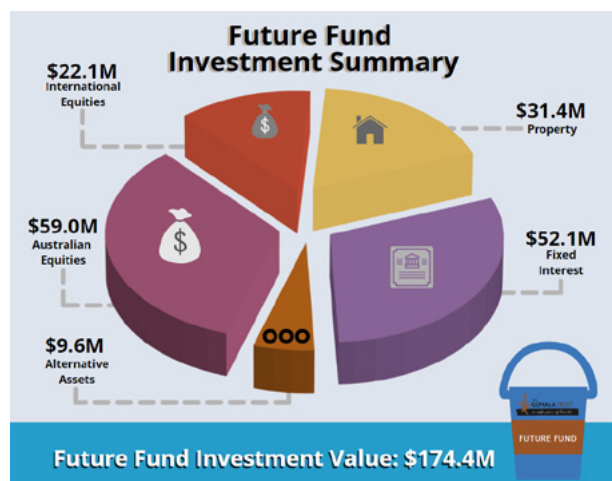


# TRUST PERFORMANCE UPDATE



The General Gumala Foundation Trust would like to advise the Beneficiaries that as at 31 March 2023, the assets held under investment totalled \$317.14M, with \$174.42M of those investments held within the Future Fund. The net value of the Future Fund, after factoring in liabilities, totalled \$173.89M.

The Investment returns for the 2023 March Quarter delivered a steady performance, building on the results of the September and December quarters from the previous year.



Dividend and distribution revenue continued to perform above budget predictions, and further increases in interest rates have resulted in higher than budgeted returns from bonds and terms deposits. Capital growth values were positive for the quarter and the year-to-date overall despite the ongoing market volatility.

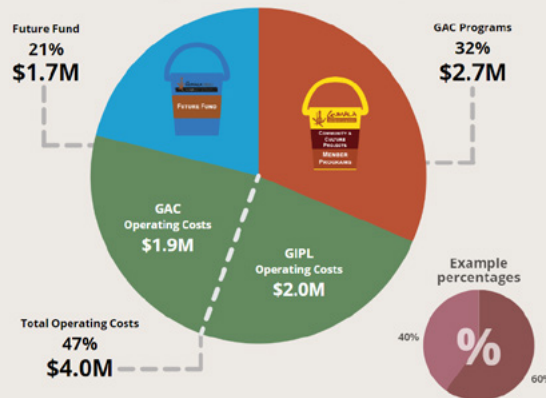
The overall spread of investments within the Foundation are typically within the set policy ranges except for the property investments. However, the funds committed towards further housing purchases for the next 2 financial years will increase this percentage, bringing it back within the set range.

## The Gumala Foundation Future Fund Allocation Summary

Asset Class	Allocation	Within Range?
Australian Equities	20 - 45%	34%
International Equities	0 - 20%	13%
Cash	0 - 5%	0%
Property	20 - 45%	18%
Fixed Interest	10 - 50%	30%
Alternative Assets	0 - 5%	5%

Additionally, the Foundation has commenced a process of reviewing the investment policy, to ensure its suitability to enable the achievements set in future Gumala Strategic plans.

## The Gumala Foundation Funding Allocation Dec QTR

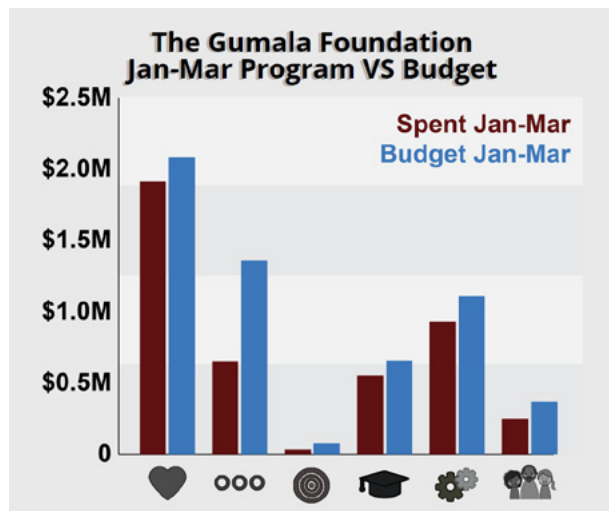


The total revenue for the 3 months to 31 March 2023 was \$8.48M, with \$4.02M spent on GAC and GIPL operating costs. This allowed for \$4.46M, or 53%, to be retained for the benefit of Members and Beneficiaries through GAC Member Program Funding and investment into the Future Fund.

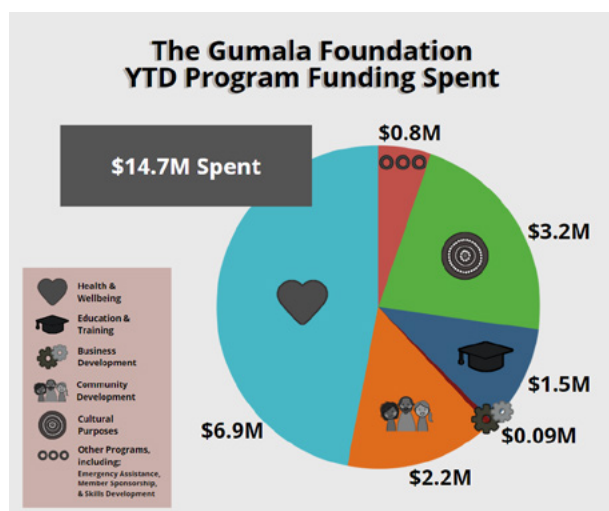
This brings the total revenue for the financial year to \$28.13M, with \$18.93M allocated to Member Program Funding and investment into the Future Fund.



The total operating cost is the combination of GAC and GIPL operations, with \$1.96M from GAC's operational costs, and \$2.05M from GIPL. Operational expenses were higher during the March Quarter as they included capital improvements made to the Gumala offices at 165 Adelaide Terrace, to modernize and better facilitate the delivery of services to Members.



The Foundation spent \$4.32M on Program Funding during the January to March period, which increases the total spent for the 2022-2023 financial year to \$14.72M as of March 31, 2023.



## GIPL NEWS

Over the past financial year, GIPL welcomed two new Directors to our Board.



**Yale Bolto, Independent Director.**  
**Committees:** Audit & Risk (Chair) and Investments.

Yale brings extensive prior experience as a Director, including his time with Miriwung Gajerong Community Foundation Trust. Yale has been a practicing accountant for over 20 years, and is a registered Certified Practicing Accountant and a Chartered Secretary.

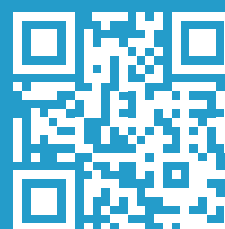
Outside of his work, Yale is interested in aquaculture, and is passionate about all things aquatic, including diving, fishing and surfing.



**Jeff Gooding, Independent Director.**  
**Committees:** Investments (Chair) and Audit & Risk.

With over 40 years living in remote Northern WA, Jeff brings a wealth of regional and cultural understanding to his role, as well as 16 years' experience as an Independent Director working alongside Indigenous leadership, and negotiating Native Title.

He is a long-term member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is a current Justice of the Peace, with prior roles including his time as a Local Government Councillor and Chief Executive of the Kimberly Development Commission.



### GET IN TOUCH

Email: [gipl@gumalatrust.com](mailto:gipl@gumalatrust.com)  
 Web: [www.gumalatrust.com](http://www.gumalatrust.com)  
 Facebook: [@GumalaTrust](https://www.facebook.com/GumalaTrust)  
 LinkedIn: [@gumala-trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gumala-trust)

## GET IN TOUCH

**TOM PRICE HEAD OFFICE:** 1 Stadium Road, Tom Price WA 6751  
**Post:** PO Box 28, Tom Price WA 6751

**PERTH OFFICE:** Level 2, 165 Adelaide Tce, East Perth WA 6004  
**Post:** PO Box 3167, East Perth WA 6892

**Phone:** +61 (0)8 9219 4500 | **Fax:** +61 (0)8 9188 1846 | **Email:** [info@gumala.com.au](mailto:info@gumala.com.au)

**Website:** [www.gumala.com.au](http://www.gumala.com.au) | **LinkedIn:** [@gumala-aboriginal-corporation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gumala-aboriginal-corporation)

**Facebook:** [@GumalaAboriginalCorporation](https://www.facebook.com/GumalaAboriginalCorporation) | **Facebook (JobsLink):** [@GumalaAboriginalCorporationJobsLink](https://www.facebook.com/GumalaAboriginalCorporationJobsLink)

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WEBSITE!

