



Mid-Year Report

31 Dec 2025

Breaking the cycle of intergenerational violence to assure the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable children, by supporting mothers, and engaging fathers to promote safe and responsible parenting.



Chair Report

A charity can do incredible work for a long time before the recognition arrives. But when it arrives, it's a powerful thing. It's an energy boost for the dedicated team driving the charity. And it bolsters credibility which helps access the funding critical for growth.

The last few months have seen Stronger Families recognised in two very substantial ways.

Firstly, Stronger Families was one of just four beneficiaries of the Western Australian Governor's Benefit Ball. The Ball was held in Government House over four magical evenings in August 2025, 100 years since the last charity ball was held in the same Ballroom. His Excellency Chris Dawson AC APM hosted the event and expressed deep appreciation for the work of Stronger Families. We thank His Excellency for his advocacy and support.

Then in November, Stronger Families was judged the winner in the Charity and Not For Profit category at the ALCOA Peel Business Awards. The judges praised the clinical rigour, visible innovation and measurable impact of Stronger Families. On behalf of the Board, I extend my congratulations to the incredible team that richly deserve this hard-earned recognition.

But these awards are not just about recognition. They are a spring-board to growth. The Board and the Executive of Stronger Families are determined to grow. Not for growth's sake, but rather to deliver on the mission that drives us: Breaking the cycle of intergenerational violence to assure the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable children, by supporting mothers, and engaging fathers to promote safe and responsible parenting.

Owen Mulder
Chair



Disclosure notice: This is a truncated report, intended as a brief mid-year stakeholder update. From the Financial Year 2026 we will publish our annual report in line with the financial year-end.



A Year of Strategic Momentum

This year marked a shift for the Stronger Families Foundation (SFF). We moved beyond the initial establishment phase to gain strategic momentum and solidify our position as a leading regional FDV intervention provider. Our selection as a beneficiary of the 2025 Governor's Benefit Ball provided significant philanthropic funds and elevated our profile. Being named the ALCOA Business Awards Non-Profit Organisation of the Year was a further powerful testament to our team's innovative service delivery.

Proving the Model: The Stronger Families Pathway

The Stronger Families Pathway strategically aligns multiple targeted interventions for boys and men with the key priorities of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children (2022-2032) and WA's Path to Safety (2020-2030). Notably, the Steps Towards Caring (STC) program has tripled its referral rate to Caring Dads. Furthermore, the Caring Dads program maintains an impressive completion rate of 68.75%, significantly surpassing the industry average.

Innovation and Expanding Horizons

This year included significant expansion into the Whadjuk - Perth metropolitan area with the Caring Dads program launched in the Perth CBD. Our vision for prevention includes:

- **The Ripple Project:** to reframe "strength" for adolescent boys as empathy and accountability, directly addressing rigid masculine norms.
- **Indigenous-Informed Adaptation:** Collaborative work with regional stakeholders has laid the groundwork for an Indigenous-informed adaptation of the Caring Dads model, ensuring our

interventions are respectful and effective for Aboriginal families.

Building a Sustainable Future

To enable safe scaling and long-term sustainability, a formal Leadership and Management Systems Review was completed, serving as the strategic blueprint for the next five years. We are transitioning to a formal management structure to decentralise decision-making.

A Legacy of Change

With our Pathway, we are moving beyond reacting to the crisis of domestic violence toward shifting the narrative of fatherhood and family safety. The support of our community, patrons, and staff is creating a palpable ripple effect of healing. We are not just building safer families; we are setting a new standard for accountability and hope.

Geoff Hart-Davies
Founder and CEO





Our Impact

The data presented for the 2025 calendar year reflects significant engagement across key referral and service categories, highlighting the broad reach and impact of the programs. A total reach of 936 individuals was achieved through combined referrals and those directly impacted by services.

“Growth is driven not only by an increase in direct referrals but also by a more rigorous approach to identifying and supporting the ‘silent’ beneficiaries of family violence interventions: the mothers and children.”

Referral Volume and Service Intake

The volume of referrals received indicates strong demand for Stronger Families Foundation’s (SFF) services, with Steps Toward Caring (Steps) being the largest single category at 519. This substantial figure underscores the critical role of the Steps program as a primary entry point for fathers seeking support.

Caring Dads Program referrals accounted for 158 of the total referrals, demonstrating consistent engagement with fathers seeking support and intervention. Crucially, from the pool of Steps referrals, 99 accepted SFF services and/or subsequent referrals. This acceptance rate (approximately 19% of Steps referrals) represents the subset of fathers who proceeded to specialised, intensive, or ongoing support pathways.

As part of our Caring Dads program, where possible we work holistically with the whole family. In 2025 worked with 82 mothers in the Caring Dads program, indicating the engagement with mothers in the context of the Caring Dads Program, for co-parenting support, safety planning, or related services.

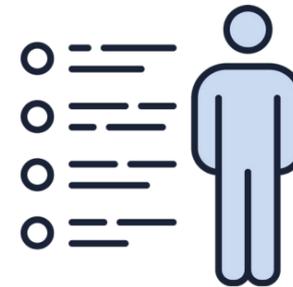
Impact and Reach

The cumulative “Total reach” figure of 936 serves as the primary metric for overall organisational impact during the year. This total is a composite of all initial referrals (Caring Dads, Steps, and Mothers) plus the children directly affected by the Caring Dads program.

Significantly, the “Children impacted by Caring Dads” metric stands at 177. This number exceeds the 64 Caring Dads participants, suggesting that the average Caring Dad

Data covers Jan-25 to Dec-25

Referrals



677
Referrals were received in 2025.

Participants in our programs are referred by law-enforcement, courts, mediators, employers and some participants self-refer.

158

Our flagship program, **Caring Dads**, received 158 Referrals in 2025. **Steps towards Caring**, our entry-pathway to Caring Dads, received 519 referral requests.

519

Participants

Each referral is formally assessed.

Following this fathers enter one of our programs.



+24%

Increase in Steps Towards Caring participation. Participation increased from 80 in 2024 to 99 in 2025. Caring Dads had a total of 64 fathers participate.



We work holistically with the whole family as part of the Caring Dads program. In 2025 **82 Mothers** connected to the 64 Caring Dads participants actively worked with us to provide co-parenting support, safety planning, or related services.

68.8%
Completion rate for Caring Dads. Industry benchmark is ~33%.

Impact

936



The 2025 data identifies **177 children directly impacted** by the Caring Dads program, revealing that **each participating father positively affects the safety and well-being of nearly three children on average.** This is further supported by the 82 mothers, and of course the 677 referrals we received through law enforcement and internal referrals of participants moving from ‘Steps’ to Caring Dads.



participant has involvement with on average 2-3 children, amplifying the importance of this specific intervention in child protection and well-being. The impact on these 177 children represents a profound contribution to family safety and future outcomes.

In summary, the 2025 statistics demonstrate a high volume of initial contact via Steps, a focused effort with fathers through the Caring Dads program, and a substantial pipeline of individuals (99) moving into deeper SFF services. The ultimate measure of success, the total reach, confirms our vital role in supporting nearly a thousand individuals, with a direct and measurable positive impact on 177 children. This data provides a strong foundation for future program planning and resource allocation.

Growth Summary: 2024 vs 2025

The comparison between the 2024 Annual Report and the 2025 Calendar Year data indicates a significant expansion in the reach and impact of Stronger Families Foundation (SFF). We have more than doubled our total reach, demonstrating a robust scaling of its core programmes, particularly Steps Toward Caring and Caring Dads.

Detailed Comparison

Substantial Increase in Organisational Reach

The most notable achievement is the growth in total reach, rising from over 460 individuals in 2024 to 936 in 2025. This 103% increase highlights our growing capacity to manage higher referral volumes and effectively track the broader network of individuals—partners and children—impacted by our services.

Sustained Engagement with High-Risk Offenders

The partnership with WA Police continues to deliver consistent results. In 2024, the Steps Toward Caring programme resulted in over 80 fathers opting for targeted interventions. In 2025, this figure rose to 99, representing

a nearly 24% increase in the conversion of high-risk referrals into active engagement with support services. This steady growth confirms the efficacy of the Steps programme as a primary entry point for complex cases.

Enhanced Visibility of Child and Partner Impact

While the 2024 report grouped men, partners, and children into a single figure, 2025 introduces granular data that underscores the multiplier effect of SFF's work.

- **Children:** The 2025 data identifies 177 children directly impacted by the Caring Dads programme, revealing that each participating father positively affects the safety and well-being of nearly three children on average.
- **Partners:** As part of our commitment to transparency and family safety, we have further formalised tracking of various participation groups, including the number of mothers who connect with us as part of the Caring Dads program.

Conclusion

In 2025, Stronger Families Foundation successfully scaled its operations from supporting hundreds to nearly a thousand individuals.

This growth is driven not only by an increase in direct referrals but also by a more rigorous approach to identifying and supporting the 'silent' beneficiaries of family violence interventions: the mothers and children.

Stronger Families: A Strategic Response to Family Violence

The Stronger Families Pathway offers a comprehensive suite of interventions tailored to boys and men at every stage of their journey, providing a structured map for personal change that spans from adolescence through to fatherhood.

Developed as a direct response to the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 and the Western Australian Path to Safety 2020–2030, the Pathway operationalises the four critical pillars of the National Plan: **Prevention, Early Intervention, Response, and Recovery.**

By centering perpetrator accountability alongside victim-survivor safety, the model ensures that the burden of change rests with the person using violence. This strategic alignment ensures our programs meet the highest standards of system reform, aiming not just to manage risk, but to break the intergenerational cycles of trauma that affect Western Australian families.





Central to the effectiveness of the Pathway is its evidence-based focus on deconstructing the “Man Box”—the set of rigid, traditional masculine norms identified by Jesuit Social Services as a primary driver of violence. Our work targets these harmful archetypes across the lifespan to address the root causes of aggression.

The Ripple Project engages young men to challenge the “Adolescent Man Box” before these behaviours solidify, while programs like Caring Dads and Steps Towards Caring support adult men in dismantling the pillars of control and emotional restriction.

By replacing these rigid expectations with healthy, empathetic masculinities, the Stronger Families Pathway fosters stronger and safer families and more resilient communities through a structured journey of healing and behavioural change.

Policy Submissions

We submitted detailed recommendations to inform legislative changes aimed at addressing family violence.

Awareness Campaigns

Our digital marketing as public awareness initiatives such as participation in the Western Australian Government’s ‘16 days in WA’ campaign, reached tens of thousands of individuals. These campaigns emphasised the importance of recognising and addressing the signs of domestic violence, while promoting available resources for those in need.

Pathway Alignment with National and State Frameworks

| National Plan Pillar | WA Path to Safety Alignment | Stronger Families Program Component | Strategic Focus |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Prevention | Primary Prevention & Culture Change | The Ripple Project | Disrupting the Adolescent Man Box and harmful social norms in young men. |
| Early Intervention | Early Intervention & Support | Steps Towards Caring | 1-on-1 readiness and identifying early red flags for adult men. |
| Response | Perpetrator Accountability | Caring Dads | Intensive group work for fathers to address the Adult Man Box and end the use of violence. |
| Recovery | Safety for Victims & Children | Strengthening Families | Dedicated support for mothers and children’s healing and long-term safety. |

The Ripple Project: Project Summary

The Ripple Project is a primary prevention initiative designed to move adolescent boys (13–17) in the Peel/Binjareb region from a passive understanding of respect to the active practice of it.

Moving beyond theoretical education, the project utilises a “**behavioural rehearsal**” model. Through facilitated **Skills Labs**, participants practice navigating real-world social scenarios, de-escalating conflict, and enacting consent, ensuring that respectful behaviour becomes a “muscle memory” that translates into their daily lives.

The program is built on a foundation of trauma-informed co-design, incorporating youth design sprints and **girl-led safety panels**. These panels ensure the curriculum is directly accountable to the lived experiences of women and girls, setting the “success criteria” for what genuine respect and safety look like in a local context. This feedback loop ensures the Skills Labs remain grounded in the social realities and safety needs of the Western Australian community.

Impact is amplified through two key social layers:

- **The Ripple Crew:** A cohort of trained student mentors who co-facilitate the Skills Labs and lead the “Ripple Challenge.” By positioning young men as the champions of positive masculinity, the project ensures the shift in social norms is peer-led and culturally relevant.
- **Parent Connect:** A framework of digital micro-modules and conversation guides that equip families to reinforce these lessons at home. By providing parents with the same language and tools used in the school-based labs, the project creates a unified, community-wide “ripple effect” of support and accountability.



Governor's Benefit Ball 2025
Stronger Families was humbled to be a beneficiary of the Governor's Benefit Ball in 2025. Over the course of four evenings, guests donated and contributed to worthy Western Australian causes including Stronger Families Foundation.



Phone:

0466 123 963

Email:

info@strongerfamilies.com.au

website:

www.strongerfamilies.com.au



Stronger Families Foundation Ltd (ACN 650 619 248) trading as Stronger Families is a Not for profit public company limited by guarantee, registered as an Australian Charity with Deductible Gift Recipient status.