

In Good Faith
FOUNDATION
INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE RECOVERY



ANNUAL REPORT
2021-22

Help Health Hope



*“The last eight years with the
MVC has given me a reason to
heal...”*

- Survivor



Contents

- 2 About IGFF
- 4 Directors' Report
- 5 Chief Executive Officer Report
- 6 Survivor Services Report
- 8 Governance and Grants
- 9 Government Engagement and Media
- 10 Financial Report and Statistics
- 11 Community Development

About In Good Faith Foundation

In Good Faith Foundation (IGFF) is a national charity and Redress Support Service that has provided leading case management and advocacy services to Survivors, families and communities impacted by institutional abuses for over twenty years.

Our services provide wrap around support to individuals, assisting them to voice their concerns and sustaining them as they navigate justice, redress and recovery pathways.

We also undertake systemic advocacy focused on the prevention of future abuses and promoting Survivor wellbeing and access to justice. This includes restorative projects, community education, information forums, community development and Survivor support initiatives, such as the Victorian Survivors' Collective (formerly Melbourne Victims' Collective).

Our Vision

To achieve justice, recovery, and ongoing support; promoting the well-being of Survivors, families and communities impacted by institutional abuse.

Our Mission

- To ensure acknowledgement of harms done
- To provide wrap-around care and support to existing Survivors, families and communities
- To strive for a world free of institutional abuse

Our Work

The work of IGFF is underpinned by our commitment to no further harm to individuals, families and communities by being a source of help that will resource them to access the support they need and establish hope in a recovery journey.



Foundation Services

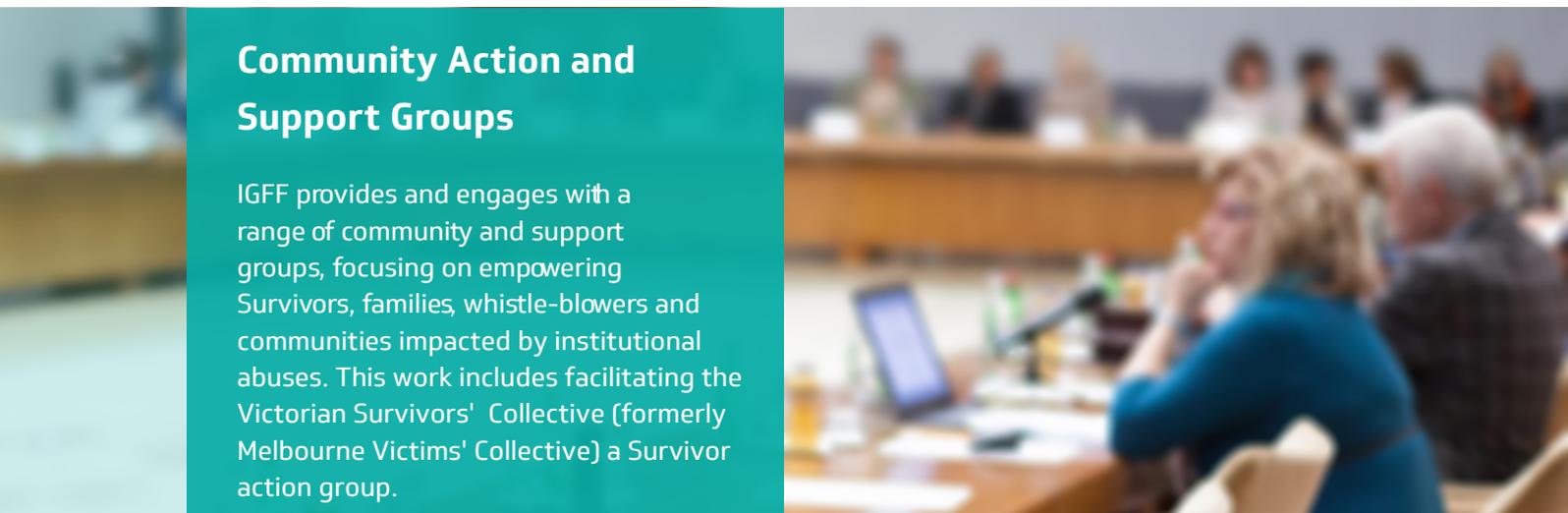
IGFF provides an extensive range of case management and advocacy support services to Survivors, families, whistle-blowers and communities impacted by institutional abuses. This encompasses sexual and other assaults during childhood and/or as vulnerable adults, whistle-blowers and reports of systemic abuses and institutional mishandling.



Redress Scheme Support

In Good Faith Foundation is a Redress Support Service. We offer free and confidential support to anyone considering applying to the National Redress Scheme.

The National Redress Scheme provides acknowledgment and support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse.



Community Action and Support Groups

IGFF provides and engages with a range of community and support groups, focusing on empowering Survivors, families, whistle-blowers and communities impacted by institutional abuses. This work includes facilitating the Victorian Survivors' Collective (formerly Melbourne Victims' Collective) a Survivor action group.

Directors' Report

2021-2022 has seen IGFF's continued evolution in response to challenges and opportunities presented by Covid and beyond.

The National Redress Scheme, established following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, is due to run for ten years, with final applications due before mid-2027. As the Scheme approaches its halfway mark, IGFF has reflected on our history over the last 20 years, as well as the evolving demographic and needs of those seeking our support.

The Foundation has grown from a small organisation that once only assisted survivors of religious abuse to a national charity that now supports a much broader base, including those who have suffered or been affected by abuse in education, sporting clubs, cults, and other non-denominational institutions. IGFF's work also extends beyond providing redress information, support and advocacy. It provides holistic case management and advocacy around civil litigation and criminal justice pathways; education (including Trauma Informed Legal Education/TILE Project); Survivor support (including via the renamed Victorian Survivors' Collective (VSC)); and community action. The Foundation has also extended its geographic reach, assisting Survivors of abuse around the country, including the successful establishment of a pilot satellite service in regional New South Wales. IGFF is also working collaboratively with targeted institutions that demonstrate a genuine willingness to improve their internal Survivor processes (such as the Charter of Cooperation established with St. Kilda Football Club in 2022), to ensure future dealings with institutions cause Survivors no further harm.

Cognisant of the evolving scope of work undertaken, we are formulating a Strategic Plan, mapping the Foundation's future vision and embedding strategic priorities and direction. The aim is to ensure IGFF can thrive into the future in order to better support Survivors, ensuring it continues to be an exemplar of service development and delivery with its unique ethos for as long as our services are needed.

As a Board, we have continued to develop governance structures within IGFF. We have renewed and expanded our Board, with a focus on diversity and succession planning, have applied sound financial management processes, and set and renewed key policies.

This year will see IGFF and LOUD Fence Inc. launch an inaugural National Day of Recognition on the 15 of November for Survivors of sexual assault and institutional abuse, with the theme "Every Ribbon. Every Conversation. Every Voice." Every IGFF conversation with Survivors, families, whistleblowers and communities impacted by abuse reinforces the importance of advocating for systemic change and providing responsive and trauma-informed wraparound care.



Matthew Quoi
Vice Chair
Board of Directors



Penny Savidis
Chair
Board of Directors

Chief Executive Officer Report

Five years on from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse's final report learning from the voice of Survivors remains a fundamental pillar of IGFF's work. In trusting our services with their journey, everyone who is impacted by Institutional Abuse contributes to a broader societal conversation that helps us create a safer tomorrow.

Necessarily, our understanding of what a responsible institution is and who can be a Survivor of Institutional Abuse has also shifted. Now, thanks to the voices of many individuals, our conversation has expanded beyond the Churches to include sports clubs, schools, High Control Environments (cults), and yoga groups.

The pioneering work of many advocates over the decades has created an environment where silence is no longer an acceptable response. This environment has seen organisations come forwards seeking to better their own internal responses, realising instead that they are ill-equipped to respond appropriately.

Yet there is still much work to be done in normalising conversations about institutional abuse and the long-lasting impacts of this trauma – on Survivors, on family members, on whistle-blowers and all those who are impacted.

In recognising the ever-changing landscape of Institutional abuse, IGFF has implemented some changes to our work underpinned by a service delivery that has adapted to reflect our new environment but remained informed by the principles of no further harm and no wrong door.

Our MVC has been renamed the Victorian Survivors' Collective (VSC) after over a decade of informing change through collective voices. IGFF has launched a Trauma Informed Legal Education program to assist lawyers to manage clients presenting with trauma. Our trauma Survival Kit has launched, and our network of collaborations has continued to grow.

2022 has also seen us launch a National Day of Recognition for Survivors of sexual assault and institutional abuse. Working with LOUD Fence Inc. and with the support of a highly skilled National Advisory Committee, this Day is a space to hear, believe and recognise every voice that informs this conversation. A legacy to be proud of.



Clare Leaney
Chief Executive Officer

Survivor Services Report

What does this mean and what are we talking about? For In Good Faith Foundation's Survivor Services, the conversations of Caseworkers with clients, with care professionals, government representatives and community members, are a life-force that never ceases. There is so much to say, so much to talk about and ALL exchanges are vital, important and potentially life changing.

It is an honour for our Casework staff to be trusted with clients' whole-of-life stories, insights and perspectives about such difficult life experiences as confronting systemic failings, combatting social ignorance and isolation and managing debilitating physical and mental health symptoms. Whistle-blowers such as Educators, share their perspectives about community trust betrayed over decades and lack of preparedness by responsible institutions to listen.

The past year has also seen the Casework team continue to demonstrate their abilities to work remotely with clients in Victorian lockdowns and nationally with communities being impacted by Covid, climate change and other significant factors. Our staff never tire to find practical solutions to match client goals about the Help they express is worth pursuing.

This includes a suite of options from therapeutic referrals for individuals and families, support to maximise self-care practices and improve communication and relationships; obtain free legal advice about justice options that may include the National Redress Scheme; Civil Litigation; support for reporting to Police; Victims of Crime applications; and seeking restorative justice responses from the leadership of diversely responsible institutions including sporting and youth clubs.

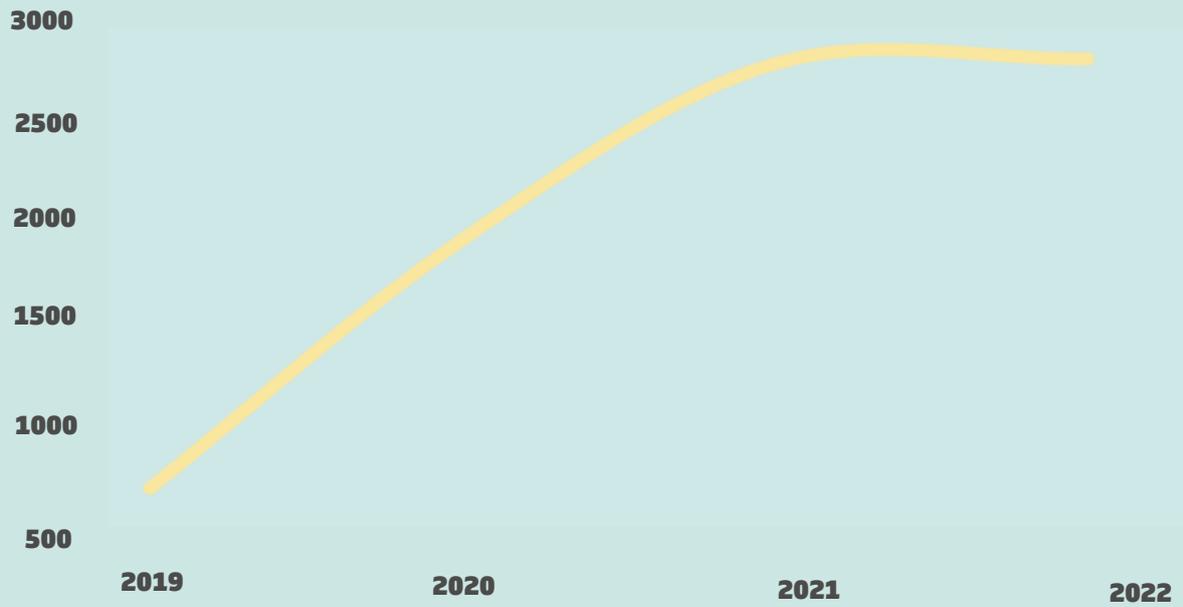
In-roads are becoming apparent, as well as key legislative changes and hard-won legal precedents. Every success marks milestones in significant conversations about a Survivors' Voice breaking down walls of shame and isolation. The needs of Secondary Survivors are also being recognised in communities and legislature too. We also hear them say: "I spoke my Truth and key people listened. Together we break cycles of harm and abuse. We open paths for recovery. I am no longer alone."

Rachel Last

Executive Manager Survivor Services

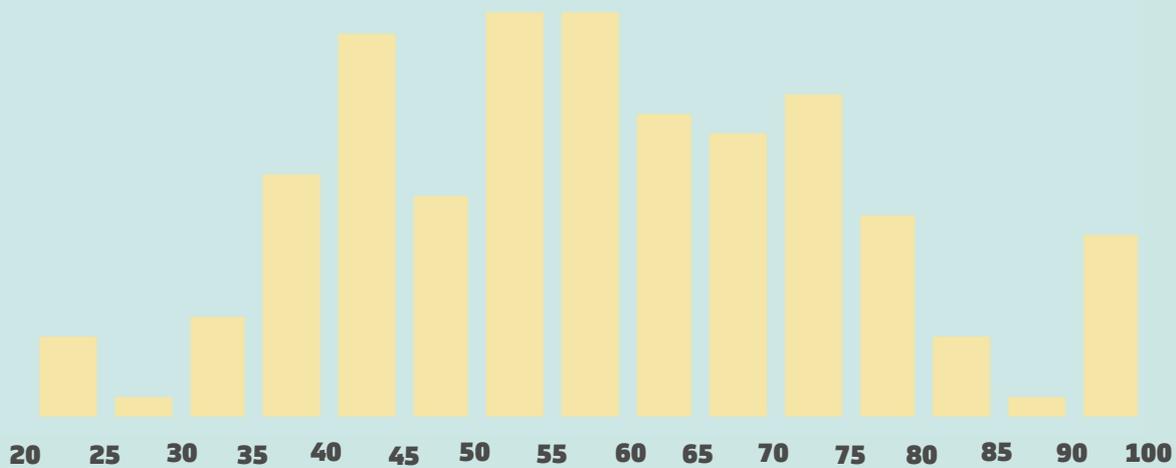
Key Statistics

Growth in Service Provision



Number of Casework sessions (<1000 – 2900+) provided to national clients from June 30 2019 to June 30 2022.

Client Age Groups



At June 30 2022, the proportion of client ages mapped over 5 year increments.



Governance and Grants

IGFF continued to work closely with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services throughout the year, ensuring that the experiences and interests of Survivors remain front of mind in the setting of policy, and seeking to lock in long term grant funding for 2022-23 and beyond. In parallel with IGFF's continuing work to diversify its funding sources, the grant funding that DSS has provided to IGFF has underpinned the continuing support we provide for Survivors.

IGFF also worked closely with the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, establishing an agreement where IGFF provides Casework support for Victorian Survivors that are not able to pursue redress through the National Redress Scheme, or have chosen other redress pathways. This agreement brings with it ongoing grant funding to ensure that these Survivors have access to IGFF's support into the future.

2021-22 also saw IGFF implement a modern, highly-functional and flexible Customer Relationship Management system.

This system provides strong protections for sensitive personal information relating to our Survivor clients, improves our ability to see trends or changes in the patterns of support we provide for Survivors, and reduces considerably the time, effort and cost that we need to devote to reporting on the work IGFF does.

IGFF also completed the review of our Constitution, which was adopted unanimously at the 2021 Annual General Meeting. In addition to updating the core governance arrangements to reflect contemporary best practice for not-for-profits, the new Constitution reflects that IGFF focus is now much broader than in the past: we support Survivors of historic sexual abuse from a wide diversity of institutional backgrounds across society.

Phil Lindenmayer

Head of Governance and Company Secretary

Government Engagement and Media

In the 12 months encompassing our 2021/22 Annual Report, there has been significant changes in the political landscape.

May saw a change of Federal Government and with it a change of the Minister responsible for the Department of Social Services. IGFF thanks outgoing Minister Ruston's office for their assistance and support during the 46th Parliament of Australia.

IGFF has connected and briefed the office of the new Minister, the Hon. Amanda Rishworth MP, regarding our professional observations and Survivor feedback. We look forward to working closely with the Minister to improve Survivor outcomes and shape systemic advocacy in the parliamentary term ahead.

2021/22 also saw the changes to the Victorian Government Ministries. With the Hon. Luke Donnellan MP exiting the Child Protection Ministry. We thank the office of former Minister Donnellan for all their assistance and support.

Changes of government can provide fantastic opportunities to help re-calibrate the legislative narrative and re-prosecute specific pieces of needed reform. IGFF will be advocating strongly for changes to the National Redress Scheme that were not adopted by the previous government following the Two-Year Review of the Scheme.

These include:

- Allowing Survivors to have more than one unsuccessful attempt at an application for redress.
- Changing the harm-matrix currently utilised by the Scheme to determine Redress payments.
- Removing current prohibitions to Survivors with criminal convictions from accessing the Scheme.
- Establishing a more consistent approach from the Scheme's Independent Decision Makers.

IGFF maintains its current funding arrangements with the Federal Department of Social Services and the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing until at least 30 June 2024.

IGFF continues to work closely with journalists and media outlets to broadcast and amplify the experiences and voices of Survivors.

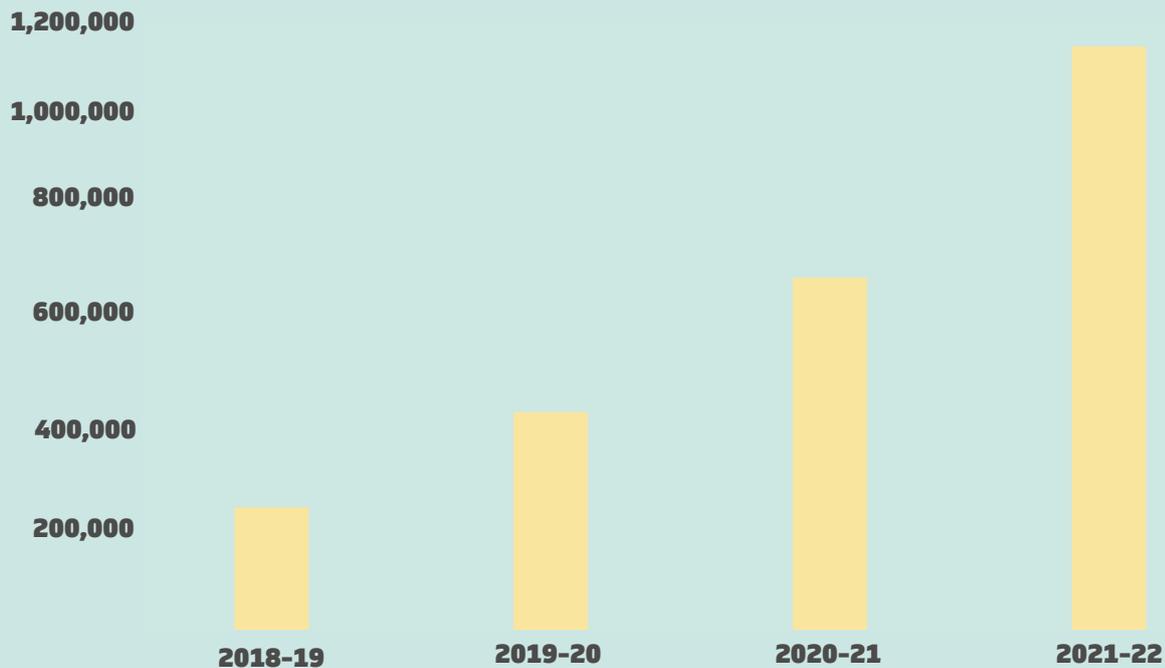
During 2021/22 IGFF has been featured in publications including The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald, 2SM Radio, The ABC's Print and Radio platforms.

Joe Stroud

Chief Operating Officer
Head of Government Relations

Financial Report and Statistics

IGFF Revenue Growth

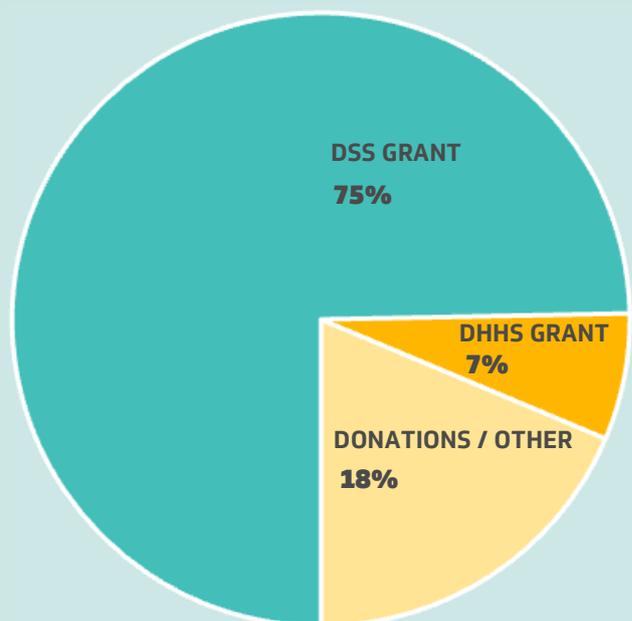


The financial year saw a big leap of growth in activities and revenue despite COVID-19 related challenges. The revenue grew by a massive 65% which enabled IGFF to significantly increase the capabilities. Employee wages and benefit expense constitute 86% of the total IGFF expense thereby ploughing back the bulk of the revenue into providing the services.

The admin expenses were kept to the minimum despite higher cost due to inflation. The Board, senior leadership team and staff at IGFF remain unwaveringly committed to working hard, creatively and innovatively to continue to raise revenue/funds into the future to maintain and grow IGFF's work.

Srini Vasan
Chief Financial Officer

IGFF Revenue Breakdown



Community Development

The Melbourne Victims' Collective (MVC) has been in operation under the auspices of IGFF for nearly 15 years and provides an opportunity for Survivors of institutional abuse to come together to share their experiences and to hear from expert guest speakers working in the Survivor space.

In 2021/22, IGFF began receiving funding for the MVC from the Victorian Government. As a part of this funding arrangement, IGFF committed to making the MVC more accessible to Survivors and to incorporate a greater focus on the experiences of Survivors in regional Victoria.

To inform this process IGFF began communicating with stakeholders to garner views and thoughts from individuals that attend meetings and from guest speakers that have previously presented to the MVC.

It was deemed most appropriate that to demonstrate our commitment to regional Victorian Survivors, and to align the language with more contemporaneous descriptors, the name 'Melbourne Victims' Collective' should be updated to 'Victorian Survivors' Collective'.

IGFF then oversaw the creation of an online survey and feedback form which was provided to all MVC members seeking their input. The survey included questions addressing meeting format, identifying potential types of guest speakers, and provided further opportunity for additional feedback to inform the process.

All the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, and we extend our deepest thanks to all those that took part and completed the survey.

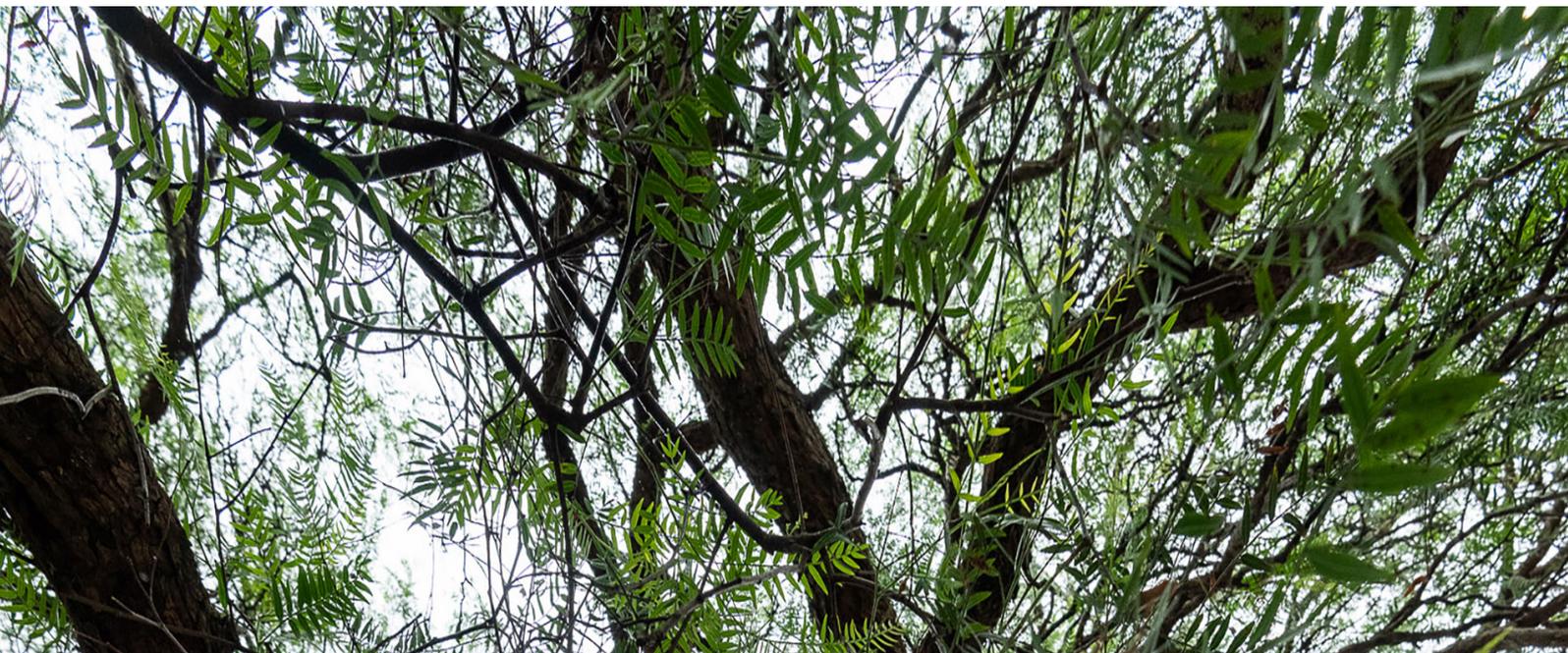
IGFF will continue to work to make the newly named, Victorian Survivors' Collective an exemplar in the Survivor community and we look forward to many more years of success for the collective and its members.





Image above: IGFF Board of Directors Chair Penny Savidis (left) and IGFF CEO Clare Leaney (right) at IGFF's 2022 March Fundraising Event.

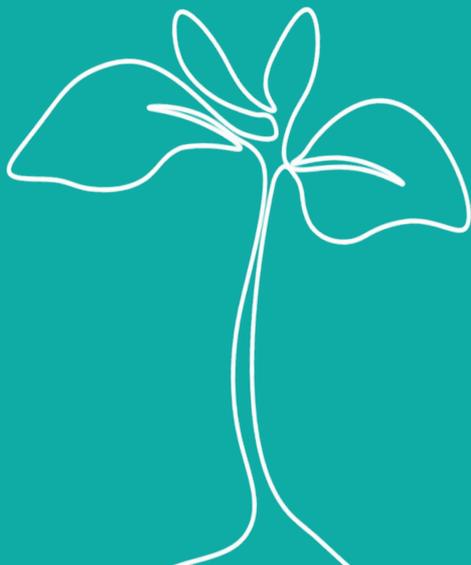
Image below: the De La Salle College Peppercorn Tree.



“I have travelled a challenging road on this journey and without your help I would not be surviving as well as I am now.”

- Survivor

Help Health Hope





In Good Faith
FOUNDATION
INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE RECOVERY



In Good Faith Foundation

ACN 165246926

223/838 Collins Street, Docklands VIC 3008

Phone: 1300 12 IGFF (4433)

www.igff.org.au

If you would like to know more about IGFF, or request to join the mailing list, please get in touch on 1300 12 4433 or email us at igff@igff.org.au

To make a tax deductible donation that aids IGFF Survivor Services, please visit igff.org.au/donate-now