



liberty
community connect

Liberty Magazine

Volume 88 - 2025

Vision

For people on the Gold Coast to live happily in their home and community for the fullness of their life



Mission

Deliver flexible and practical services leading to better outcomes for clients.

Create long-lasting community and personal connections to combat loneliness and isolation.

Values

Treat others with respect by valuing their choices and rights.

Show integrity, by being accountable, owning our mistakes, and learning.

People are our potential, not the problem.

Build a better community by being leaders of change.



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Liberty Community Connect

31 Martin Street, Nerang

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Email : info@libertycommunity.org.au

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ABOUT LIBERTY

WHAT WE DO

At Liberty Community Connect, we are a proud not-for-profit organisation dedicated to helping older people and those living with a disability to live confidently and happily in their own homes and community.

We believe everyone deserves to experience independence, dignity and belonging.

We are built on care, respect and genuine connection, creating a welcoming environment where every individual is supported to live the life of their choice.

As an approved aged care provider of over 30 years, Liberty offers a wide range of home and community services to help you or a loved one live confidently and comfortably, including:

- Support At Home Package management
- In-home and personal care
- Domestic assistance, shopping and social support
- Lawn and garden maintenance
- Vibrant social programs in our Centre and out in the Gold Coast community.

☎ If you would like to know more, please contact us on: (07) 5578 1668.



Liberty is more than a service provider, we are a caring community built on trust, compassion, and genuine connection

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Vitay Kaitinis

The year ahead will continue to present significant challenges for not-for-profit organisations operating in the aged care sector — particularly for small to medium-sized providers. The ability of these organisations to adapt and respond effectively will be critical in determining their future sustainability and success.

The introduction of the new Aged Care Act will have far-reaching implications for both service providers and participants. As the financial and operational impacts of the reforms become clearer over time, further adjustments to regulations and guidelines are expected. This ongoing evolution will require organisations to remain flexible, responsive and committed to continuous improvement to ensure their financial viability.

Workforce shortages are also anticipated to continue across the sector, with growing demand for services placing additional pressure on recruitment and retention. As a result, there will be an increasing focus on technology and innovation to enhance efficiency and support service delivery — areas where ongoing investment will be essential.

While the challenges ahead are considerable, Liberty Community Connect is well positioned to meet them. With a strong foundation, dedicated team, and clear focus on our core purpose, Liberty will continue to identify opportunities, strengthen governance, and ensure long-term sustainability.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank Ruth Clark, who recently stepped down from her role as Liberty's CEO. During her time with the organisation, Ruth demonstrated exceptional dedication to Liberty's values and mission, fostering a culture of integrity, collaboration, and care.

On behalf of the Committee of Management, I extend our sincere gratitude to Ruth for her outstanding contribution and wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Vitay

**If you would like to become a member of Liberty,
please contact Liberty on: (07) 5578 1668 and ask for Vitay.**

CEO'S REPORT



JANOMIE PENTREATH

Hello, I'm Janomie and I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new CEO of Liberty.

Since joining the organisation, I've been genuinely touched by the warm welcome I've received from clients, families, staff and volunteers. It's clear that Liberty is more than just a Service Provider, it is a community built on care, respect and connection.

As of 1 November 2025, new Support at Home rules have come into effect. For those receiving a Home Care Package, our team will be in touch to update your care plan and service agreement. We'll take the time to sit down with you, go through the changes together and make sure your supports continue to reflect your needs and preferences.

For those receiving services through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), there will be no immediate changes. CHSP will transition to the new model at a later stage, so your daily routines and services will continue as usual for now.

My focus for the coming year is simple but meaningful; to excel in the small things. In practice, that means being punctual, keeping promises, returning calls and following through. These small acts of consistency and reliability form the foundation of great care.

We will be working to maintain stable rosters, reduce repetitive paperwork and make it easier to book support or adjust visit times. We'll also keep our clients and carers better informed so everyone feels connected and confident in the support we provide.

Another key priority is to strengthen our sense of community. We will be inviting more local volunteers to join us and increasing opportunities for social connection, both at the centre and out in the community. Whether it's through group activities, outings, or shared interests, we want to create more moments of joy, friendship and choice for everyone we support.

If you see me at the centre or out and about, please don't hesitate to say hello, I'd love to meet you.

Thank you for the trust you place in Liberty and for welcoming me so warmly into your homes and your lives.

Janomie

LIBERTY'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Introducing
Liberty Community Connect's 2025-2026 Management Committee.



Alan Binnie
President



Vitay Kaitinis
Secretary



Tom Filiaci
Treasurer



Damian Scantlebury
Committee Member



Amanda Ginger
Committee Member



Julie Marsh
Committee Member

Our Management Committee holds the primary responsibility for the governance, strategic direction, and oversight of the organisation. This includes ensuring that Liberty Community Connect complies with all relevant legislation, maintains sound financial management practices, and upholds our mission, values, and objectives. Members of the Management Committee are elected by the organisation's membership at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) and serve a term of twelve months. This year we welcome Tom Filiaci as Treasurer and Julie Marsh as Committee Member. We look forward to working with them going into 2026.

During their tenure, Committee members work collaboratively with the Chief Executive Officer and staff to guide decision-making, monitor performance, and ensure the ongoing sustainability and effectiveness of our programs and services.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our Management Committee for their dedication, expertise, and ongoing commitment throughout the past year. Their strategic guidance, sound decision-making, and strong leadership have been vital in ensuring that Liberty Community Connect continues to deliver high-quality services and respond effectively to the evolving needs of our community. Each member has contributed their time, skills, and experience to strengthen our organisation's governance and support our vision for a connected, inclusive, and empowered community.



**Independent Auditor's Report
To the members of Liberty Community Connect Inc**

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Liberty Community Connect Inc (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the responsible entities declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Liberty Community Connect Inc, is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2025, and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matter

The financial statements of the entity for the year ended 30 June 2024 were audited by Cowlshaw & Co who expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements on 15 October 2024. As part of our audit of the current year financial statements, we have not audited or reviewed the prior period financial statements and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance on those financial statements.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

We draw attention to Note 2 of the Financial Statement, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

The responsible entities are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the registered entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Other Information (continued)

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 2 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the Members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible entities are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of the auditor's report.

Independence

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the ACNC Act, which has been given to the responsible entities of Liberty Community Connect Inc, would be in the same terms if given to the responsible entities as at the time of this auditor's report.

Signed by:



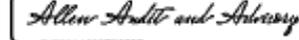
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Richard Allen CA

Date: 19/11/2025

58 Riverwalk Avenue
Robina QLD 4226

Signed by:



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Allen Audit & Advisory

TREASURERS REPORT



James Schmidli

For the 2024–2025 year, Liberty recorded total income of \$4,785,752, an increase from last year's income of \$4,585,499. The most significant sources of revenue were Commonwealth-funded grants, Home Care Package income, contributions from clients, and program subsidies. Interest income also remained steady, supported by competitive returns on term deposits.

Total expenses for the year were \$5,117,544, an increase from \$4,910,682 in the previous year.

The largest expenditure area continues to be employee benefits, reflecting both the staffing required to deliver high-quality services and the rising cost environment in which the sector operates.

Depreciation, insurance, administrative costs, and program-related expenses also contributed to the overall cost of service delivery.

As a result, the Liberty recorded a deficit of \$331,792, closely aligned with the previous year's deficit of \$325,183. While recurring deficits remain a concern, the Committee notes that the financial performance for the year was broadly consistent with expectations.

Despite the operating deficit, Liberty's balance sheet remains stable.

Total assets at year end were \$3,817,794, consisting primarily of cash reserves and term deposits, receivables, and property, plant, and equipment.

Total liabilities were \$555,071, comprising trade payables, employee benefit obligations, and contract liabilities.

Net assets stood at \$3,262,723, reflecting a decrease due to the current-year deficit.

Liberty maintains a strong liquidity position. Cash and cash equivalents increased to \$654,126, and a further \$2,554,836 is held in term deposits earning an average interest rate of 4.13%. These reserves continue to support our capacity to manage future financial obligations.

Net cash from operating activities improved to a positive \$50,400, compared with a cash outflow of \$57,781 in the previous year. This reflects careful management of receipts, grants, and payments throughout the year. Liberty also generated net cash inflows of \$107,953 from investing activities, largely due to term deposit movements.

Overall, cash increased by \$158,353, demonstrating strong short-term financial resilience.

The Committee are dedicated to ensuring Liberty's financial position remains strong going into 2026.

James

The Committee would like to thank James for his service as Treasurer for the 2024–2025 Financial Year

THE HEART OF LIBERTY OUR VOLUNTEERS

Liberty
Volunteers
generously
donated
3,300+ hours
in
2024/2025

At Liberty, our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. Their dedication, generosity, and kindness make it possible for us to continue supporting older people and those living with a disability to live independently and joyfully.

Volunteering not only strengthens our community, but also enriches the lives of those who give their time.

It can boost confidence, wellbeing, and social connection, while offering opportunities to learn new skills, share talents, and experience a deep sense of purpose and belonging.

Our volunteer roles are wonderfully varied from helping in the kitchen or garden, assisting with social programs, driving and transport support, vehicle cleaning, and venue audits, to helping people look and feel their best.

If you, or someone you know, would like to make a difference, we'd love to hear from you. Whether you're looking to share a unique talent or simply want to help others feel valued, there's a place for you at Liberty.

📞 Contact Liana on: (07) 5578 1668 to learn more about volunteering opportunities.

To all our incredible volunteers thank you. Every day, you make a meaningful difference. We appreciate you and everything you bring to our Liberty family.



Irene and the team



Liberty Volunteers

"I thoroughly enjoy working with the clients."
(Leanne Cooksey - Liberty Volunteer)

LEA'S NEW CHAPTER

Long-time Liberty client Lea (right) has recently taken an important step in her care journey, transitioning from the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) to a Level 3 Support at Home Package. This change means Lea can now receive more tailored support, something that's helping her stay independent and comfortable in her own home.

Lea has been part of the Liberty community for over 10 years and is well known to many of the staff and clients.

Born in Albury as a twin, Lea moved to Melbourne as a young woman to follow her passion for singing. Her opera career led her and her sister Zoe to the Gold Coast, where they performed with local theatre groups and joined the original Golden Girls, a well-loved musical group in the area.

It was also during this time that Lea met her husband, Brian, a talented and respected musician. Lea and Zoe remained close throughout their lives, even sharing a home for over 30 years. Their shared love of music and performing helped shape the joyful life they built together.

Now at 87 Lea recognised that she needed a little more help day-to-day. Through her Level 3 Package with Liberty, she now receives Personal Care, Domestic Assistance, and Social Support, all designed to meet her individual needs.

Lea still lives at home with her two much loved cats, Mr. Tiggy and Lily. In the evenings, she enjoys winding down by listening to classical music, a soothing reminder of her lifelong connection to the arts. She also enjoys frequent visits from family and friends, which keep her feeling connected and supported.

Liberty is honoured to support Lea through this next chapter, and we're grateful she continues to be a valued part of the Liberty family.

If you would like to know more about Support at Home packages, please contact, Rowena or Sally at our office: 07 5578 1668.



Lea - Relaxing at home

"I've met so many amazing, kind and helpful staff over the years. They've really supported me."



Lea and Support Worker Louise



CELEBRATING A CENTURY

IRENE TURNS 100!

On 6th November, Liberty had the privilege of celebrating a truly remarkable milestone, Irene's 100th birthday!

The day was filled with laughter, music, and heartfelt moments as staff, volunteers, and fellow clients came together to honour Irene's incredible journey. Councillor Peter Young joined the festivities to share his warm wishes, while Irene proudly brought along her special letter from the King, a treasured keepsake marking her milestone in royal style.

She was showered with presents, cards, and heartfelt messages from everyone at Liberty, creating a celebration filled with joy. Irene's bright smile and sparkling personality lit up the room, reminding everyone of the importance of community, connection, and celebrating life's milestones.

Her centenary is not just a milestone, it's a testament to a life full of love, joy, and community spirit and we were honoured to celebrate it with her.

From all of us at Liberty, we wish Irene a very happy 100th birthday and look forward to sharing many more celebrations and special moments with her in the years ahead.

"I feel very spoilt indeed"



Irene and Cr Peter Young

"Coming to Liberty is just wonderful".



Irene's 100th birthday

DISCOVER CONNECTIONS AND PURPOSE WITH LIBERTY

At Liberty, we believe life is all about connection, growth, and doing what makes you smile. That's why our Community Connections programs are designed around you, your interests, your goals, and the things that bring you happiness.

Your Goals, Your Way

Whether you're looking to explore a new hobby, make new friends, or stay active in your community, our programs are built around what matters most to you. We take the time to get to know your abilities, passions, and dreams, so every experience feels meaningful and fulfilling.

Flexibility for Life's Little Changes

Life is full of surprises, that's what keeps it exciting. Our flexible programs can evolve right along with you. As your interests or needs change, we'll adjust our support to make sure you're always getting the most out of every moment.

At Liberty, we're here to help you live life your way to be connected, confident, and inspired every day.



Enjoying the Sunshine

If you would like to know any more information about our programs, please contact Liana or Tori on: 07 5578 1668.



At the centre



Out and About

INTRODUCING SUPPORT AT HOME

At Liberty, we know that home is where you feel most comfortable. Support At Home (Formally Home Care Packages) is designed to help older Australians stay safe, independent, and happy in their own homes for as long as possible.

A big part of this support is something called care management. This is how we help coordinate and keep track of your care and services, making sure everything runs smoothly and continues to meet your needs.

What's Changing from November 2025

The government is introducing a new system called Support at Home (Replacing what we know to be Home Care Packages). Support At Home aims to make care more consistent and easier to understand.

Here's what's new:

- Providers will need to record and document all care management interactions.
- Funding will be split into three parts: services, assistive technology, and home modifications – with set limits for each.

It is designed to ensure that every dollar of your package is used transparently and in ways that directly support your wellbeing.

Our Promise to you:

At Liberty, our caring team are here to make sure you feel supported every step of the way.



What Care Management Really Means

Care management is about you, your goals, your independence and your peace of mind. It includes:

1. Care Planning: creating and reviewing your personalised care plan.
2. Service Coordination – making sure everyone involved in your care is on the same page.
3. Monitoring & Reviewing – checking in regularly to make sure your care continues to suit your needs.
4. Support & Education – helping you and your family understand your options and make informed choices.

Examples of Care Management in Action

Our care management team can help you by:

- Reviewing your care plan or budget with you
- Arranging case conferences to discuss your needs
- Providing advice on health and safety
- Helping you explore new options or make confident decisions about your care

If you would like to find out more, please talk to our friendly staff on: (07) 5578 1668.



LIBERTY'S NOTICE BOARD

Farewell Ruth



This year, we said a heartfelt farewell to former CEO, Ruth Clark, who has been an integral part of Liberty for over a decade. Ruth's leadership, dedication, and genuine care have shaped Liberty into the supportive and vibrant community it is today. Ruth has guided Liberty through growth, change, and countless achievements, all while keeping our mission and values at the heart of everything we do. Her passion for empowering others and her unwavering commitment to our clients and staff have left a lasting mark.

While we'll certainly miss her presence, we are incredibly grateful for all she has done and wish Ruth every success and happiness in the next chapter of her journey. From all of us at Liberty—thank you, Ruth, for everything!

Upcoming Public Holidays

- 25th December 2025 - Christmas Day
- 26 December 2025 - Boxing Day
- 1 January 2026 - New Years Day
- 26 January 2026 - Australia Day

Staying Safe in the Summer Heat

During summer heat, it's important to remember the following:

1. drink plenty of water
2. Stay cool by wearing light clothing, and stay in air-conditioned spaces when possible
3. Checking in with others regularly

Ways You Can Share Your Feedback

Your thoughts on our services and suggestions for improvement are extremely important to us, as they help ensure we are providing the highest quality support to you and others in our community. We want you to feel completely comfortable sharing anything with us big or small. Knowing that your confidentiality will always be respected and that offering feedback will never affect the services you receive. Compliments, complaints, concerns, and suggestions give us valuable insight into your experiences and preferences, allowing us to tailor our services to better meet your needs. You can share your feedback in several ways, including speaking with us in person, calling our office, submitting a written comment, sending an email or asking a trusted person to provide feedback on your behalf.

- Phone us on (07) 5578 1668
- Send us an email (Janomie@libertycommunity.org.au)
- Fill in the feedback form below and return to us at the centre or post it to PO Box 446, Nerang QLD 4211



Name: _____ Phone : _____

Suggestions / Complaints / Feedback: _____

SUDOKU

1				8				9
	5		6		1		2	
			5		3			
	9	6	1		4	8	3	
3				6				5
	1	5	9		8	4	6	
			7		5			
	8		3		9		7	
5				1				3

An older lady was standing at a rail of a cruise ship holding her hat so it wouldn't get blown away by the wind.

A gentleman approached her and said "pardon me, madam, I do not intend to be forward, but did you know that your dress is blowing up in this wind?"

"Yes," said the lady. "But I need my hands to hold my hat".

"But madam," he said, "you must know that your derriere is exposed!"

The woman looked down, then back at the man and said, "Sir, anything down there is 85 years old, but I just bought this hat!"



ART THERAPY

COLORING IS A HEALTHY WAY TO RELIEVE STRESS. IT CALMS THE BRAIN AND HELPS YOUR BODY RELAX. THIS CAN IMPROVE SLEEP AND FATIGUE WHILE DECREASING BODY ACHES, HEART RATE, RESPIRATION, AND FEELINGS OF DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY.*



RACHAEL'S PEANUT COOKIES

Ingredients

- 130gr smooth peanut butter
- 110g caster sugar
- 110gr brown sugar
- 150gr self-raising flour
- 140gr peanuts
- 60gr butter
- 1 egg



Method

- Preheat oven to 180°C. Line three oven trays with baking paper.
- Beat butter, peanut butter and sugars in a small bowl with an electric mixer until pale and fluffy. Beat in egg until just combined. Stir in peanuts, then sifted flour.
- Roll 1½ tablespoons of mixture into balls; place 3cm (1¼ inches) apart on trays. Flatten mixture slightly.
- Bake biscuits 15 minutes or until lightly browned.

Fresh Baked Bread

- Chef prepared
- Baked fresh daily
- Order in advance ready to take home on your next visit



\$4

Take Home Meals

- Chef prepared
- Ever changing variety
- Take home daily
- Convenient
- See staff for availability

Drop into 31 Martin Street, Nerang to see what is on offer each week

\$5



Important Contacts

ADA Australia (Aged and Disability Advocates) - 1800 818 338

Aged Care Quality Safety Commission - 1800 951 822

Beyond Blue (depression, anxiety and related disorders) - 1300 224 636

Carer Gateway - 1800 242 636

Deaf Services Queensland - 3892 8500

Deaf & Other Communication issues:

Speak & listen ~ 1300 555 767

SMS relay ~ 0423 677 767

Department of Community, Disability Services & Seniors - 1800 080 464

Disability Information Service - 1800 177 120

Energex (power supply/outages) - 13 62 62

Gold Coast City Council Seniors and Disability Directory - 1300 465 326

Lifeline (counselling and support) - 13 11 14

Life threatening emergencies (critical or serious situations only) - 000 or from mobile 112

Meals on Wheels, Nerang - 5596 1026

My Aged Care - 1800 200 422

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) - 1800 800 110

Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) - 1800 700 600

Seniors One Stop Information Line (no question too big or small) - 1300 135 500

State Emergency Service - SES (flood & storm assistance, fallen trees, roof damage) - 13 25 00

Transcord Community Transport Services - 5539 3733

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) - 13 14 50 and ask to be connected to 13QGOV

Vision Australia - 1300 84 74 66

Volunteering Gold Coast Transport - 5526 5288

Donations

If you would like to donate to Liberty Community Connect, please use the following bank

details: BSB: 633 000 ACC: 224108621

Thank you very much for your support

Our Thanks Go To

Liberty Community Connect often receives support, donations, grants and funding. We would like to thank those who have contributed to making Liberty that little bit more special. Without you, we would not be where we are today.

