


StoryFACTORY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024





Story Factory acknowledges the Lands on which our centres are based, the Lands of the Gadigal and Burramattagal peoples. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of these areas and recognise their custodial responsibilities and deep connection to Country, people and culture. We also acknowledge that many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have made Sydney and Greater Western Sydney their home, and we recognise their contributions to the life of this city and this region. We pay our respects to all Elders and First Nations peoples across Australia.

CONTENTS

Executive Director's Report	2
Board Chair's Report	3
Story Factory at a Glance	4
Our Impact	5
Our Reach	7
Youth Wellbeing	8
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Engagement & Programming	10
School Programs	12
Open Programs	14
Year of the Novella & Year of Poetry	16
Special Projects & Publications	18
Digital Programs	20
Volunteers	22
Partnerships	24
Financials	26
Looking Ahead	28



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A shocking pink book sits on a shelf in the Story Factory office. Around it, there's a collection of three anthologies detailing local stories by students from Western Sydney. Even further along the shelves are the newest novellas and collections of poetry written by high-school aged young people in our year-long programs. Very few people publish a book in their lifetime, yet here are all these gorgeous books written by people who haven't even finished school yet.

This year has been one of incredible change and growth, and it would be an understatement to say that we are immensely proud of the work the young people who attend our programs have completed. Our team has worked tirelessly to create new programs and strengthen old ones, providing the best possible opportunities for young people to use their imaginations, create new worlds and share their stories with others.

Whether young people write a vignette of 100 words, or pen an entire book, their voices are important, and contribute powerful perspectives to the life of our country.

Throughout the year, we extended our reach through Story Factory Digital, our online arm that was born out of COVID lockdowns, reaching students from under-resourced communities across the country. We have broadened the world view of young people from Western Sydney, who encountered a range of firsts when they joined our workshops: first time on a new train line, first time visiting a workplace, first time having their portraits drawn by a professional artist and, of course, first time being professionally published. We strengthened our relationships and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, embedding Indigenous perspectives in our programs and across our communications.

Throughout all our work, what always shines through is the writing produced by young people. The diverse experiences, the stories of family, of belonging and identity, and the poignant messages they deliver show how they understand and relate to the world around them. Whether young people write a vignette of 100 words, or pen an entire book, their voices are important, and contribute powerful perspectives to the life of our country.

Our deepest thanks, as always, to our supporters for continuing to believe in our mission, and helping us to support the next generation of Australian voices. We couldn't do it without you.

Dr Catherine Keenan AM
Executive Director and Co-Founder

BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

It has been a challenging and rewarding year at Story Factory, one that I am grateful to have been a part of as we continue to achieve our mission of enriching the lives of young people from under-resourced communities, both in Western Sydney, and across the country.

In 2024, we restructured our organisation and welcomed a number of new staff to the Story Factory team, each of whom brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in their respective fields. We also welcomed a number of new volunteers, who, along with our long-standing volunteers, brought an incredible amount of passion and dedication to the work we do with young people. With our current structure and people, I firmly believe we are in a strong position to continue consolidating and extending our strategic initiatives and results.

This year, we received confirmation of the continued impact Story Factory programs are having on youth wellbeing, leading to increased feelings of agency, identity and belonging in the young people who participate. I had the privilege of attending a number of exciting events hosted by Story Factory throughout the year, and each time was struck by the acuity, eloquence, and passion of the young people we work with. You can see how the work Story Factory does impacts all facets of their lives; how the sharing of stories and belief in the value of their voices changes their self- and world-views.



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Looking ahead, we will continue to deepen our impact, focusing on strong, curriculum-aligned programming, as well as opening our Community Hub in Mount Druitt; providing a new space young people can access in their local area to tell and share their stories.

My thanks to everyone who helps bring the Story Factory vision to life — staff, volunteers, donors, supporters and everyone in between — know that it is making a significant difference in the lives of young people, and would not be possible without your continued support. I look forward to continuing to work with you all on exciting new initiatives in 2025.

Gemma Salteri
Chair, Story Factory Board of Directors

STORY FACTORY AT A GLANCE



VISION

We want to see an Australia where all young people have a voice, and the skills and confidence to tell their stories.

MISSION

Our mission is to enrich the lives of young people in under-resourced communities through creative writing and storytelling.

VALUES

- Young people come first
- Writing is agency
- Creativity unleashes potential
- Diversity makes us better
- We have high expectations of ourselves and the young people we work with
- We have heart. Passion matters.

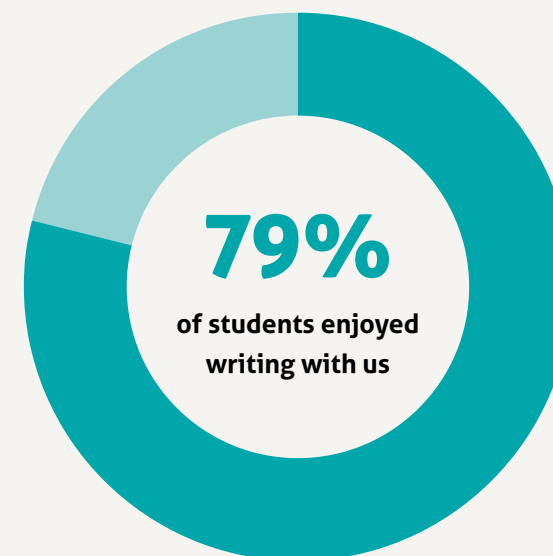
OUR IMPACT

Developed with respected consultancy Clear Horizon, our robust evaluation processes prove we're making a difference.

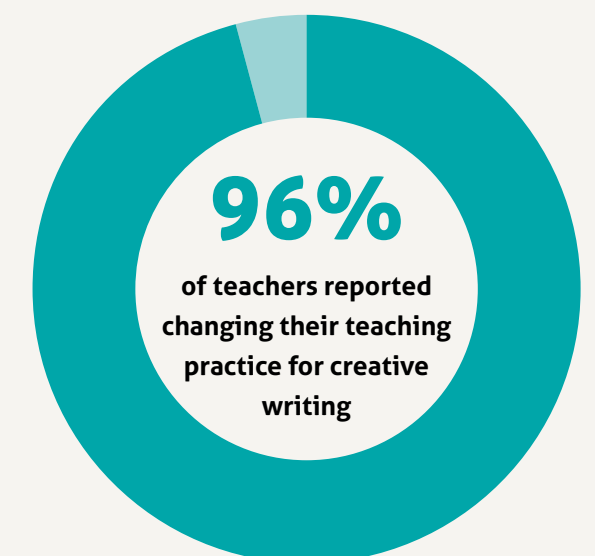
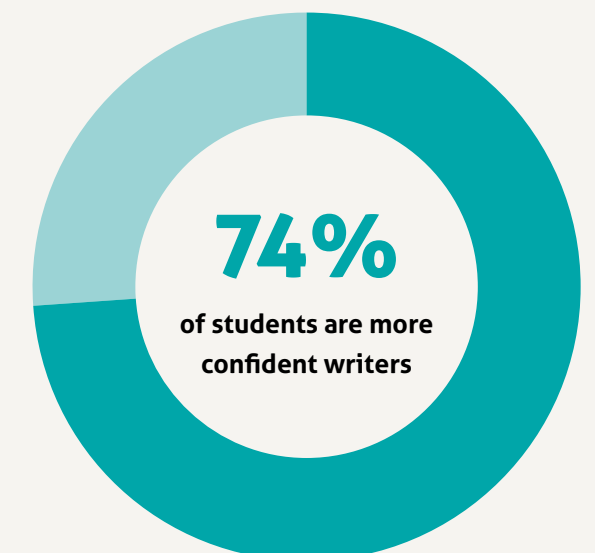
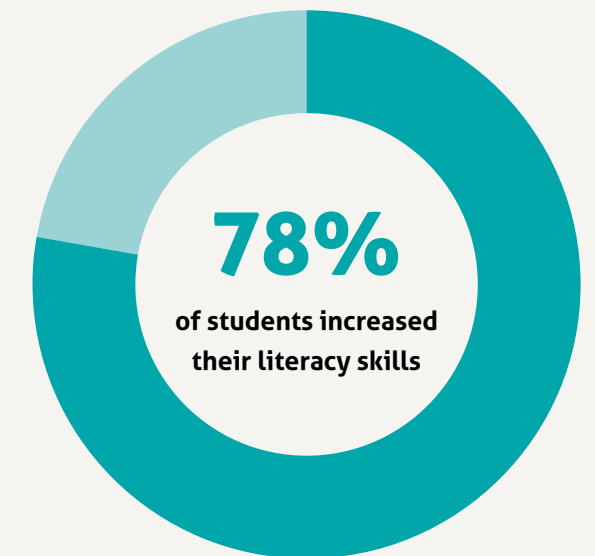
Our organisation focuses on delivering award-winning creative writing programs that empower diverse young people from under-resourced communities to find and share their voices, imagine new worlds and write their own futures. Our programs support young people to develop vital literacy skills and grow their confidence, ensuring they have the opportunity to thrive at school and beyond.

We believe firmly in championing the voices of diverse young people, and work alongside our students to nurture their creativity and publish their original work, fostering the next generation of Australian thinkers, authors and change-makers.

Throughout 2024:



According to their teachers:



YEAR OF THE NOVELLA STUDENT PROFILE: LIZZY CILLA

Lizzy Cilla is a 17-year-old who, in 2024, participated in Story Factory’s Year of the Novella program. Reading and writing have been a lifelong love for Lizzy. When she was just seven years old, she dreamed of writing her own book — something she has now achieved. Her debut work *Our love was meant to be till the end of time* was published by Story Factory in 2024.



“

If I were to tell you about my writing journey, we’d have to go back — all the way back to Year 1. As a young student I would go into Show and Tell with little handmade books, with pictures that I would draw, with maybe one line of dialogue or descriptions of what characters were doing. And I would get up in front of everyone — like I’m doing now — and tell a story. I loved telling stories. I never realised that storytelling was a way you could earn a living. But I look around the room now, and that’s all I see. Beautiful storytellers, people putting their work out there, even if it’s just for this year or for a lifetime.

My experience in Year of the Novella was — to put it simply — like a roller coaster. With triumphant turns like discovering an idea, a story I was, and still am, interested in developing. But it also had sharp twists and turns that made me have to go back to the drawing board.

Story Factory, and my Year of the Novella teachers Jerry, Nita, and Purnima supported me through everything. Reading all my work, giving feedback and never letting anything stand in my way to getting my novella published.

— Lizzy Cilla
Year of the Novella Alumna



“

Story Factory has always been like my safety net. Every time I had a rough week, I always looked forward to Story Factory. It was something that was like a sanctuary. They recognised me, that was enough. It was just a good space because everyone was passionate. I’ve never been in a room full of passionate writers who were good at what they were doing as well. When I was low, the encouragement was enough, that sincerity was enough.

— Young person
Open Programs

OUR REACH

Throughout 2024, we consolidated and expanded our reach, passing a major milestone of working with more than **65,000** young people since opening in 2012.

We deepened our relationships with schools that we have worked with over many years, as well as reaching new schools and students across the country in our digital programs.

THROUGHOUT 2024 WE REACHED:

- Almost **50** schools or community organisations across all eight states and territories
- 8,700+** total enrolments
- 54%** students with English as an additional language or dialect

YOUTH WELLBEING

While our focus has always been on enhancing literacy skills and helping young people to find and use their voices, over the last few years we have found a stronger than ever connection between creative writing and youth wellbeing. To support what we were seeing anecdotally, we commissioned independent consultants String Theory to evaluate the impact of our Year of Poetry and Year of the Novella programs on the wellbeing of participating young people. The evaluation published in 2024 demonstrated that the Year of the Novella and Year of Poetry programs impacted students' wellbeing in three key ways, over the short-term, medium-term and long-term, ultimately leading to increased feelings of agency, identity and belonging.

“

Story Factory is a magical space. A dreamlab where creativity is nurtured by empowering students with skills, resources, opportunities, and a sense of community.

— Amuor
Year of Poetry Alumna



AGENCY

By expanding upon their vocabulary and writing skills, young people involved in Story Factory programs said they experienced satisfaction, fulfilment and increased confidence. They were more likely to take positive risks, and step out of their comfort zones. All of this led to an increased sense of confidence, and an improved sense of agency. This agency allows young people to interact with systems, structures, and social groups effectively and positively.



BELONGING

The connections young people built with others, alongside the opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives and give and receive feedback, led to greater empathy and an ability to clearly express their ideas and feelings. The skills learnt in Story Factory programs built on young people's capacity to voice their views, be heard and feel represented. Overall, this led to a strong sense of belonging; both with peers, but also to a wider creative community.

3 BELONGING (LONG TERM)

2 • Cognitive empathy • Voice (MEDIUM TERM)

1 • Communication & collaboration skills • Improved connections (SHORT TERM)

IDENTITY

Through Story Factory's creative writing programs young people explored identity and negotiated their relationships with themselves, using writing as a tool to unpack negative stereotypes about their communities. The opportunity to explore in this manner led to a rejection of these stereotypes, instead promoting autonomy and positive self-concept, which ultimately led to a transformation in their identity. Story Factory programs allowed young people to experience positive changes by accepting who they are, understanding those around them, and feeling connected to a community of like-minded peers.



ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ENGAGEMENT & PROGRAMMING

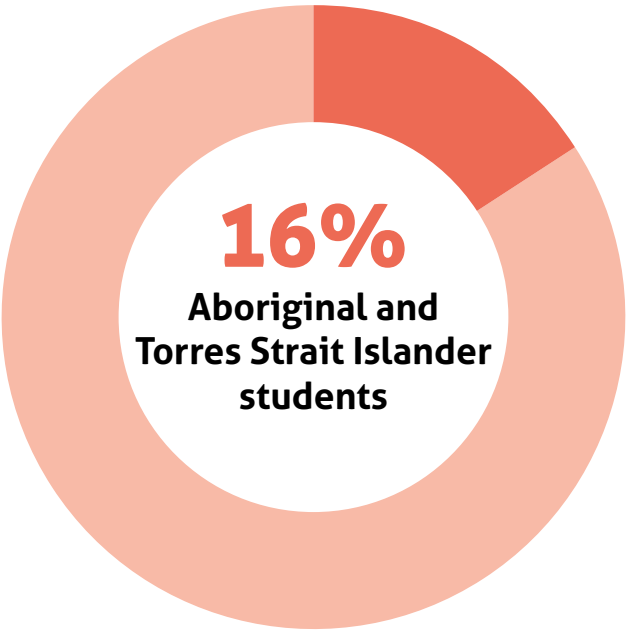
In 2024, Story Factory continued to implement our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan, and remained committed to providing the best possible experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in our programs and community.

Long-standing staff member Russell Smith stepped into our leadership team as the Indigenous Storyteller, working to ensure that we are able to connect deeply and meaningfully with Indigenous cultures, knowledge and communities in our strategy and programming.

We again collaborated with Reconciliation NSW to create a pre-recorded video with accompanying resources to support young people across NSW to write stories for the Schools Reconciliation Challenge. In this collaboration, Russell and Wiradjuri woman and Storyteller Harriet Thomson provided ideas to encourage students to create something personal around their understanding of what reconciliation and the Schools Reconciliation theme, "Learning from Legacy, Healing our Country," meant to them.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENT ENROLMENTS

Throughout 2024, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students made up 16% of our total enrolments across our in-person programs — close to 1,000 First Nations young people.



THANK YOU — Estrella, Year 5

I
am
thankful.

Thankful for taking care of the
cockatoos that sit on wires and screech too much,
the fuzzy numbats that warm everyone's hearts,
and the malleefowls that oddly lay their eggs
far
under
ground.

I
am
thankful.

I have met all sorts of people.
The funny.
The weak.
The ignorant.
The kind.

And so on.
All because you, the Wise Ones, have taken care of the land we survive,
and thrive on
today. They are the oldest continuing living culture in the world.

I
am
thankful.

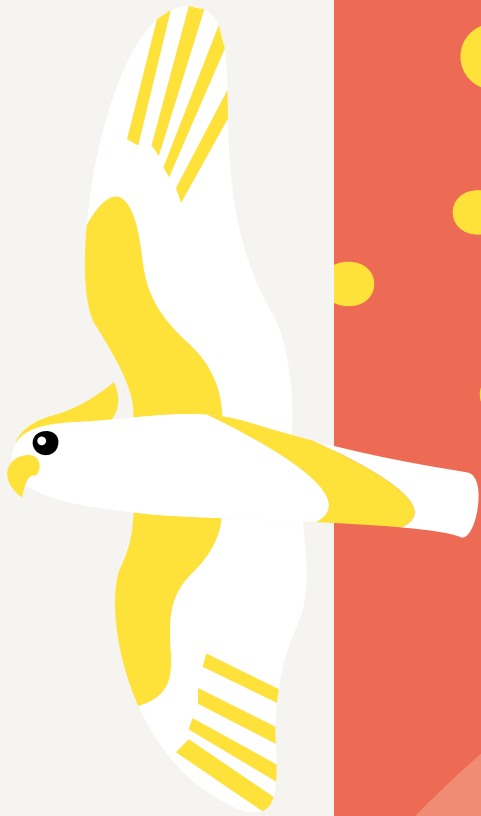
The stories First Nations peoples have preserved,
tell stories of how

L
a
n
d
was formed.

How
W a t e r
connects to all. I, specifically, am on the lands of the Wangal clan of the Eora Nation.

I cannot say how thankful I am.

Didjurigura.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Most of our programs (about 85%) are run face-to-face in primary and high schools across Sydney and Western Sydney, during school time. The majority of these programs run once a week for a term, and lead to the publication of student work in a beautifully bound anthology.

Our staff are experts at helping young people discover a love of writing and encouraging greater engagement in their schooling.

IN 2024 WE HAD:

4,468 total enrolments
across our school programs

211 school programs

57% of students with
English as an additional
language or dialect



“

*Story Factory
taught me to extend
my imagination
and thinking...
it improved my
confidence to write.*

— **Young Person**
Chifley College Dunheved

INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRACY DAY COMPETITION

One of our favourite programs of the year was an International Democracy Day Workshop run at the Parliament of NSW in collaboration with the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law, UNSW and the NSW Department of Education. More than 500 students in Years 7 to 10 across the state were given resources and an instructional video featuring our very own Indigenous Storyteller Russ, to inspire them to exercise their democratic right to ask for changes in their community by writing letters. They all wrote about a real-life issue that mattered to them, and addressed their letter to the Secretary of the Department of Education, Murat Dizdar, or their local mayor. A group of nearly 70 finalists from 19 schools came together for a Story Factory workshop to refine their letters at Parliament of NSW, where they also met politicians including Education Minister Prue Car, and took a tour of the building.

*...it was evident that the young people had a
new understanding of how they could use their
voice to affect change.*

The letters by the finalists were on everything from fixing the teacher shortage to having better anti-racism education, cleaning up beaches and alleviating the cost of living. The letters were thoughtful and passionate, and it was evident that the young people had a new understanding of how they could use their voice to affect change. We were incredibly impressed, and couldn't think of a better way to inspire young people to find and use their voices.



OPEN PROGRAMS



IN 2024 WE HAD:

644 total enrolments across
our open programs

43 open programs

29% of students with English as
an additional language or dialect

Our open programs, delivered from our Parramatta centre, are designed to meet the needs of young people who are eager to take their writing to the next level. Guided by experienced teaching artists in workshops delivered outside of school hours, young writers receive targeted writing and editing support as they work towards completing an extended piece of creative writing. By fostering an inclusive community of young writers, these programs create a safe space for creative exploration where young people can connect with peers who share their passion for writing.

In 2024 we piloted online holiday workshops for the first time, in addition to our usual in-person holiday workshops. These were hugely popular and are now a staple of every holiday period, allowing students to continue their learning journeys and hone their writing skills all through the year, regardless of location.

“

Over the years, the kind, supportive and attentive staff at Story Factory helped me build the confidence to embrace my creativity and recognise my own potential. They didn't just see my ability — they nurtured it, providing me with the space, encouragement, and opportunities to grow as a writer.

— **Victoria Weng**
Open Programs Student

MORNING'S BURNT-ORANGE AWAKENING — Connor, Year 7

Term 4 2024 Control Alt Edit Open Program

The morning arrives

As the day awakens, the world stirs to life, with insects, birds, and people alike gently easing into the rhythm of the morning

Stone-grey blinds open signalling the start of a new day

Steam rising from a coffee-filled mug on a quiet kitchen counter — the first sign of life in an otherwise yet-to-rise house

The burnt-orange rays of the sun shine gloriously through the cotton-candy clouds while dew-glistened leaves reflect the morning sky

The blue-winged, alert-eyed kookaburras laugh raucously, while sitting in the sun-dappled branches of the old gum trees

Pulse-like hums of cicadas
their sun-burnished wings catching the light like polished glass

Sporadic honks break the engine hum of cars
driven by coffee-clutching commuters
steering through the morning haze
Black-and-white magpies stand
like branch-perched sentinels surveying their territory
with their liquid, flute-like warbles echoing through the dawn

The screeching, rapid-fire calls of the noisy miners
punctuate the dawn
as the quick-beaked scavengers hop
from branch to branch.



YEAR OF THE NOVELLA & YEAR OF POETRY

The most intensive of our after-school programs, for our really committed writers, are our Year of the Novella and Year of Poetry programs. Young people commit to attending for a year and write their very own novella or poetry collection, which is professionally edited and published.

This year, a number of passionate students attended workshops once a week during school term, where they brainstormed, wrote, and reworked, before submitting their manuscripts for professional editing, provided by freelance editors for our poetry students and pro-bono by Penguin Random House for our novella students. In addition to writing support and guidance, the young writers were also provided with the opportunity to meet and learn from established authors including Benjamin Law, Debra Oswald, Will Kostakis, and Tiffany Tsao, who gave their time and expertise to support the students on their writing journeys.

Along with their family and friends, these young people celebrated their achievements at a fantastic launch event in December at the University of Sydney.

NOVELLA KITCHEN

This year we also ran our inaugural Novella Kitchen program; a two-day, bite-sized, book-writing bootcamp that gave students a taste of Story Factory's Year of the Novella program — and the challenge of writing an entire novella in a single weekend. With nine brand new participants, each young person who attended wrote a short novella, which we were delighted to launch alongside our professionally published novellas and poetry collections in December.



YEAR OF POETRY STUDENT PROFILE: SARAH DIZON

Sarah Dizon is a 17-year-old student from Sarah Redfern High School who has been attending Story Factory's Year of Poetry program for the last three years. In that time, she's published three collections of poetry; *i baked you a cake*, *you are the star*, and — her latest work published at the end of 2024 — *orange peelings*.

Sarah's work explores themes related to love, family, the human experience, growing up and getting to understand the world around her. She credits Story Factory's Year of Poetry program with allowing her the space and scope to delve into these concepts in a supportive and open environment, and encouraging her development as a poet and author.

“

Had I not joined Story Factory, I wouldn't be where I am today: a published author who bravely gets to share her written art with the world. Thank you, Story Factory, for your generosity over these three years; I was able to nurture my creativity without judgement. For my friends in my class and those in the Year of the Novella, keep writing, keep saying your silly metaphors and similes, always keep your creativity close. Turn your anger, ache and love into art. Write a poem, write a story — because art is what keeps the world moving, and young voices like ours deserve to be heard, always.



SPECIAL PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

Our Special Projects are exciting collaborative projects run across multiple schools that lead to a public outcome, often including a professionally published book or installations and exhibitions. Our Special Projects aim to extend and engage students, and this year we collaborated with The Social Outfit, established authors Mawunyo Gbogbo, Luke Patterson and Lamisse Hamouda, and emerging authors Noura Hijazi, Brendan King and Miski Omar to bring these projects to life.

FREE TO FASHION

In a collaboration between Story Factory and ethical fashion label The Social Outfit, young women from Birrong Girls and Bossley Park high schools participated in creative writing and art-making workshops, ultimately writing their own book, *Free to Fashion*. The workshops focused on memoir writing, with students reflecting on particular garments and why they were important to them, capturing their connections to culture and family history.

Their thoughtful stories and images of their artworks were collected in the book, stitching together a patchwork of what it means to be 'free to fashion'. *Free to Fashion* was launched at Carriageworks as part of The Social Outfit's 10th birthday celebrations. Featuring photographs and designs from the young women, the book also includes personal reflections, poems and vignettes, and is a treasure trove of storytelling, musings and memories.

WONDER — Sally, Year 10

Excerpt from Free to Fashion

I walked into my parents' room and saw my mother going through the closet, putting clothes away, taking clothes out, organising the pants, dresses, suits, shirts and more into their own places. All the fabrics, colours, patterns flowing, radiating, and my mind started to wonder if I had any old clothes.

So I asked her: 'Do I have any clothes from when I was little?'

'Well, not many, I guess,' she replied.

'Why didn't you keep them?' I asked.

She went silent for a moment. 'I couldn't. We had to leave.'



POSTCODE STORIES

Our Postcode Stories project supported 60 young people at three Western Sydney schools — Prairiewood High School, Cambridge Park High School and Bonnyrigg High School — over a period of six months to author original creative pieces inspired by their local community. Each school was paired with two writers — Mawunyo Gbogbo and Miski Omar, Luke Patterson and Brendan King, and Lamisse Hamouda and Noura Hijazi — who visited workshops to mentor young people and provide insight into their creative process.

In November, we were proud to professionally publish three original collections, each focused on writing from one postcode. These collections were launched at special events at each school, celebrating the stories of Western Sydney, and the unique and valuable perspectives that young people from this area have to offer.

“

The best thing was having the opportunity to meet other authors and help each other improve our writing. It was an amazing program that I'd love to do again!

— Student

Postcode Stories



SACRED AND OLD — Natahlee, Year 10

Excerpt from Postcode Stories: Cambridge Park

In Cambridge Park, where city meets the sky,
an Aboriginal woman feels her spirit sigh.
Among the bustling streets and modern pace,
she seeks her culture, her ancestral grace.

She walks the paths where her ancestors tread.
Through bushland whispers, where the spirits are fed.
In the Blue Mountains, sacred and old,
she hears their stories, in carvings bold.

She sings the songs her grandmother knew,
in ancient rhythms, with each note,
her heart begins to mend,
finding her roots, where past and present blend.

Back in the suburb, with a heart so light,
she shares her knowledge in the day and night.
Crafts and dances, stories passed along.
In her culture's embrace, she finds where she belongs.



DIGITAL PROGRAMS

“

I genuinely cannot thank Story Factory Digital enough! The kids were RAVING about the program and continued to discuss with the teaching team how much they learned.

— Teacher

Emmaus Catholic College

This year represented the second year of the national roll-out of our digital creative writing programs, which have made it possible for us to extend our reach to thousands of young people right across the country who we otherwise would not be able to see in person.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

- Ran programs with youth in detention;
- Launched new Story Factory digital website including a range of resources to support teachers and students to continue writing;
- Exposed students to diverse writers and texts;
- Connected with teachers and presented at Australian Literacy Educators' Association / Australian Association for the Teaching of English Conference;
- Repeated our partnership with Reconciliation NSW for the Schools Reconciliation Challenge.



POP-UP POETRY WITH THE MUSEUMS OF HISTORY

In August 2024, our team delivered a live digital pop-up poetry workshop to over 1,900 eager young writers for Book Week 2024, in partnership with Museums of History NSW. During this virtual event, students were introduced to Love Tokens — British coins that were altered by convicts with a personal message or artwork. Drawing on these objects and personal convict stories, young people explored the power of words, learnt how to create a poem of their own, and placed it somewhere for people to find, read and and feel transformed by. The success of this event was a true highlight of our digital journey to date, and we are looking forward to using learnings from this collaboration to deliver similarly successful workshops in the future.

FUTURE PLANS

- Deepen our partnership with Distance And Rural Technology Learning (DART), a service provided by the NSW Department of Education, with a live event once a term;
- Expanding our reach to new schools and strengthening our relationships with existing schools;
- Externally evaluating our impact, including consulting with teachers to refine our offerings;
- Creating more pre-recorded high quality content, using programs that have had a proven impact as a base to create new, exciting, one-off workshops;
- Integrating more First Nations content, in consultation with our Indigenous Storyteller;
- Continuing to work with diverse writers.

“

Our team has worked incredibly hard to bring this new website to life and provide the ability for all schools across Australia to get involved. The Story Factory Digital website includes features such as a free Teacher Resource Hub, where teachers can access video resources and educator-designed worksheets to both improve their pedagogy and engage their students in literacy-based activities.

— Vanessa Andres

Story Factory National Program Manager

IN 2024 WE HAD:

3,616 total enrolments across our digital programs

57 digital programs

2 collaborative live events, which reached over **2,000** students

17% of students with English as an additional language or dialect





VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make up a significant part of Story Factory's fabric, providing support, passion and enthusiasm in all facets of our work. From assisting our Storytellers in schools to giving their time online or in the office, championing the work of young people, and even bringing us the occasional baked treat, we wouldn't be able to have the impact we do without this robust and dependable group of people.

IN 2024:

168 new volunteers attended in-person or online training

Our volunteer corp grew to over **400** people

4,686 volunteer hours were worked — valued at over **\$200,000**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: THE AUNTY UMA AWARD

Story Factory's Aunty Uma Award is named after one of our longest-standing and most dedicated volunteers. Each year, it is awarded to a volunteer who has gone above and beyond; encouraging, celebrating and recognising the incredible contributions and positive impact that they make to the young people we work with, and our organisation more broadly.

In 2024, we had such a remarkable cohort of volunteers that it seemed an impossible task to give the Aunty Uma Award to only one volunteer. Instead, it was jointly awarded to Lawrie McCane, Silvia Martinez Garcia, Ruben Galego Montero and Kimberly Camiring, four remarkably passionate and dedicated volunteers, who made a significant impact in our programs throughout the year. These four volunteers not only contributed a significant amount of hours, but always attended Story Factory workshops and events with palpable enthusiasm and positivity. We could not be more proud to recognise their contribution with this award.

“

Being a volunteer for nearly two years at Story Factory workshops in Western Sydney public schools has been one of the most rewarding experiences for me. I really enjoy and feel privileged to witness how the students develop their creativity and a love for learning through writing.

— **Silvia Martinez**

Aunty Uma Award Recipient 2024

“

Story Factory is a space where students discover confidence, expression, and the magic of their own stories. As a volunteer, I have learnt that imagination has no limits when given the right support and encouragement.

— **Ruben Galego**

Aunty Uma Award Recipient 2024



PARTNERSHIPS

Story Factory partners with businesses, philanthropic and corporate foundations, government bodies and individuals to deliver our work and impact. Thank you to every one of our generous partners, our steadfast community of Inkwells monthly donors, and all those who have donated in 2024. We couldn't do this work without you.

Strategic Partner



Principal Partners

Edward Federman
The Shaw Foundation



Significant Partners



Story Factory is supported by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.



Key Partners

Barbara Alice Trust
Bill & Patricia Ritchie Foundation
Fred P Archer Charitable Trust
Rosie Williams & John Grill AO
Sandra Salteri



Story Factory was assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts funding and advisory body.

Proudly funded by NSW Government under the Youth Opportunities program.



Major Partners

Gardos Family
Ruth Ritchie Family Fund



Story Factory is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.



Supporting Partners

Annie Corlett AM & Bruce Corlett AM
Baly Douglass Foundation
Bernadette Brennan & Justin Gleeson SC
Gemma Salteri
Rosebrook Foundation
Shand Foundation
The Wales Family Foundation
Three Sisters Foundation



Story Factory has been supported through a City of Parramatta Council Community Grant.



Story Factory was a recipient of a 2024 City of Sydney Community Services grant.



Story Factory was a recipient of a CommBank Staff Foundation Community Grant.



Proudly funded by the NSW Government



Partners

Albert Fisher Family
Allen & Unwin
Anne & John Leece AM & Family
Bloomsbury Publishing
Bronwyn Gould & Ian Portek
Brown Family Foundation
Caroline Beecham & John Lydon
Darrell John
Deborah Fullwood
Eureka Benevolent Foundation

Fairfield City Council
Greg Dean
Hachette Australia
Jason Scally
John M Green
Kim E Anderson
Mary Haines
Nautilus Foundation
Neil Burns
Olding Family Foundation

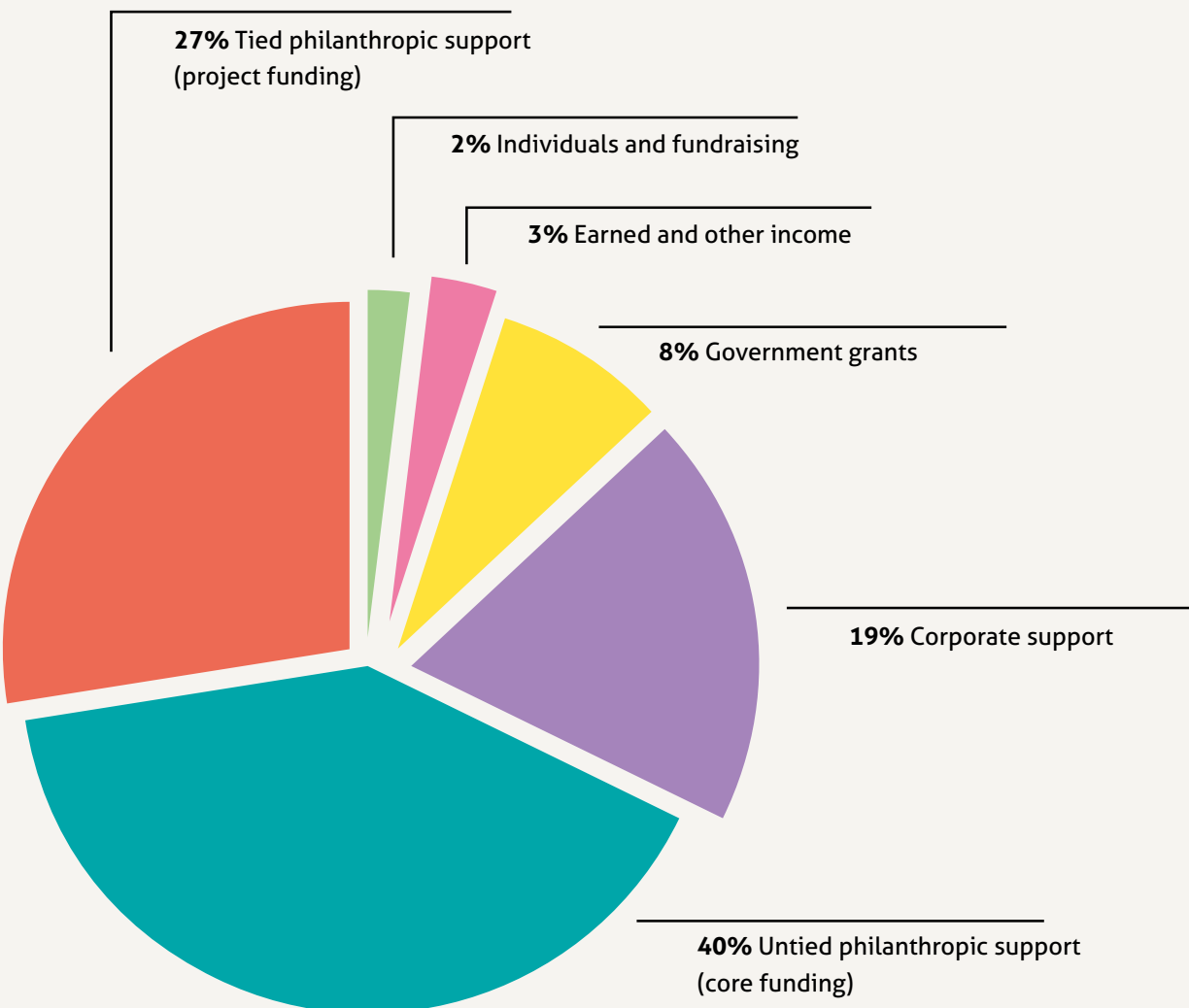
Park Street Group
Ravenmill Foundation
Robertson Foundation
Rosamund Palmer
Sean Mooney
The Barton Foundation
Tony Stratchan
Vine Foundation
Wendy Fitzgerald
William Duncan

In Kind



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024 (SUMMARY)

	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
ASSETS		
Total current assets	2,357,012	2,360,734
Total non-current assets	787,032	765,055
Total assets	3,144,044	3,125,789
LIABILITIES		
Total current liabilities	1,406,845	1,430,153
Total non-current liabilities	446,053	436,517
Total liabilities	1,852,898	1,866,670
Net assets	1,291,146	1,259,119
EQUITY		
Accumulated funds	1,291,146	1,259,119
Total equity	1,291,146	1,259,119



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
REVENUE		
Untied donations	1,736,931	1,269,970
Other grants and tied donations	1,176,591	1,264,650
Government grants	262,994	340,578
Sale of goods	7,955	25,842
Workshop income	98,601	143,075
Venue hire	-	-
Membership income	80	-
Interest income	26,901	21,798
Other income	-	-
Total revenue	3,310,053	3,065,913
EXPENSES		
Costs of goods sold	(1,407)	(6,505)
Administration and other operating costs	(386,440)	(292,477)
Depreciation	(259,185)	(243,107)
Employee benefits	(2,477,364)	(2,443,724)
Finance costs	(43,849)	(29,877)
Fundraising expenses	(33,240)	(22,009)
Lease payments for short-term/low value leases	-	(23,360)
Program costs	(76,541)	(109,108)
Total expenses	(3,278,026)	(3,170,167)
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year	32,027	(104,254)
Income tax expense	-	-
Net (deficit)/surplus after income tax	32,027	(104,254)
Other comprehensive (loss)/income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE LOSS	32,027	(104,254)

LOOKING AHEAD

2025 will be the third year of our Five Year Strategy from 2023 - 2027, and we have a number of exciting things planned. Along with deepening our relationships and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and communities, we aim to continue extending our reach through both our digital and in-person programs.

Among our plans for 2025 are the following:

- **Opening our new Community Hub in Mount Druitt, a dedicated space in the local community that will enable us to work deeply with Mount Druitt young people over a minimum of three years to create lasting, meaningful change;**
- **Establishing our inaugural Ambassador Program, extending our reach and impact with the help of well-known Australian personalities;**
- **Growing enrolments for our Digital Programs to 6,000 students per year;**
- **Welcoming a total of more than 12,000 students across all our programs;**
- **Establishing an Elder-in-Residence program and increasing cultural content across our programs.**



We would like to say a sincere thank you to all our supporters, donors, volunteers and, above all, students, who have made this year one to remember. We appreciate your continued trust, passion and support of the work we do enriching the lives of young people through creative writing.

SUMMER SALES — Sireen, Year 10

Excerpt from Free to Fashion

Spices permeate the air as locals flock to surround the auctions at the Tripoli markets. I'm squeezed between multiple bodies, struggling to inhale the humid summer breeze. A warm hand envelops mine. It feels like comfort. It feels like safety. Jewels of every colour, shape and length hang from a stand. They sparkle, and the crowd sighs in awe as the shopkeeper spins them round and round like a carousel. I'm not looking at them. Her eyes, my grandma's eyes, sparkle. They shimmer as she looks down at me, as she smiles at me. 'Hundred,' she screams. 'We'll take it for a hundred.'

Surprised, the shopkeeper yelps with glee, slamming his hammer and sealing the deal.

On the way back to her apartment, my grandma stops to adorn me with her new purchase. A string of pearls that dangle like the branches of an olive tree. My grandfather's olive tree.

My heart splinters with joy, tears running down my face.

Now, in Australia, where we grow eucalyptus trees, not olives, I remember her. I remember her spark, her smile, her laugh. I remember home.



LAUNCH OF FREE TO FASHION, CARRIAGEWORKS 2024



ARTWORK BY STUDENTS AS PART OF STORY FACTORY'S FREE TO FASHION PROJECT



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Photographs by Natasha Capstick and Edwina Pickles.



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