



MEDIA RELEASE: Thursday 8th January 2026

Record-breaking Christmas Appeal highlights growing pressure on Mallee families

Mallee Family Care's 2025 Christmas Appeal has supported more children than ever before, thanks to the generosity of local businesses, community groups and individuals.

862 children across the region received gifts through the annual appeal, which represents a 58 per cent increase, highlighting both the generosity of the community and the growing need for support.

Mallee Family Care CEO, Teresa Jayet paid tribute to the dozens of people and businesses that supported the 2025 Appeal, ensuring hundreds of children and young people experienced the joy of receiving a gift on Christmas Day.

“While we are incredibly proud of what our community achieved together, the fact that so many children and families needed support through the appeal is a clear reminder that many in our community face significant challenges due to their personal circumstances,” Ms Jayet said.

The Christmas Appeal supports children and families experiencing vulnerability, including financial hardship, family violence, homelessness and other significant challenges. For many families, the cost of Christmas presents is simply out of reach.

“A gift might seem small, but it carries a powerful message to a child – that they are cared for and not forgotten,” Ms Jayet said.

Mallee Family Care also acknowledged the efforts of staff and volunteers who worked behind the scenes to coordinate donations and ensure gifts were delivered safely and in time for Christmas.

“This record result shows what’s possible when a community comes together to support its most vulnerable members.”

Mallee Family Care empowers children, families, and individuals to not just cope, but to thrive – offering 70+ programs across north-west Victoria, south-west and far-west New South Wales.

In the last year, the agency supported more than 7,900 clients through programs spanning family support, early intervention, mental health, disability, legal assistance, housing, and financial counselling.

“Our client numbers grew by around 12 per cent last year,” Ms Jayet said.



Media enquiries

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“Mallee Family Care is committed to supporting and advocating for the most vulnerable people in our community. We believe strong communities are those where no one is left behind, supporting people experiencing complex and compounding disadvantage.”

Mallee Family Care extends its sincere thanks to all who contributed to making the 2025 Christmas Appeal such a meaningful success, including the many anonymous donors and following businesses:

Balranald Primary School
Boss Empire Food Truck
Findex
First National Real Estate Collie & Tierney
Lime Therapy
Lower Murray Water
MADEC
Meatian Uniting Church
Mildura Seventh-day Adventist Church
Mildura Senior College VET students
Monash University School of Rural Health – Mildura
PM Exercise Physiology & Rehabilitation
Ray White Swan Hill
Suds and Bubs Cleaning
SuniTAFE
Swan Hill Rotary Club
TAFE Kids Inc
Underbool Ladies Guild
Uniting AgeWell
United Firefighters Union Members at Mildura Fire Station
Whitfield Group

ENDS



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