



The Australian Jewish Fertility Network

2025
Impact Report



**On the cover: Luna Maevski, AJFN baby #87
Luna, with her parents Daniel and Rifka, Melbourne 2025**

“Your generosity and support carried us through one of the hardest chapters of our lives. Luna is a piece of everyone who believed in us.”

Mission. Vision. Values.

AJFN Vision

AJFN believes that no Jewish Australian should ever feel alone on their fertility journey.

AJFN Mission

For Jewish Australians and their families who are struggling to achieve their dream of having a baby, AJFN is a beacon of hope, offering financial, emotional and spiritual support, educational resources, and encouraging open and honest conversations about infertility within the community.

AJFN Values

COURAGE

LOVING KINDNESS

INSIGHT

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

COMMUNITY MINDEDNESS

A message from our Chair



As a proud Jewish Australian, a grateful mother to three miracles, and Chair of this extraordinary organisation, 2025 carried deep emotion for our community and for AJFN.

In the shadow of October 7 and the devastating terror in Bondi on 14 December, grief and vulnerability have felt close to home. **Yet even in this darkness, I have witnessed the quiet strength, unity and resilience of Jewish Australians choosing connection, compassion, light and hope.**

Within this context, AJFN's work feels more essential than ever. Every family we support, every journey we walk alongside, and every child welcomed into the world affirms continuity, courage and life itself. Having known personally both the fragility and miracle of building a family, I feel deep gratitude for the privilege of serving this mission and for the **123 families** we were able to support this year.

This has also been a year of thoughtful preparation for AJFN's future. Together with our dedicated Board, exceptional CEO and committed team, we have shaped a bold new strategy to guide AJFN through to 2028 — strengthening our foundations, expanding our impact, and ensuring this vital support remains accessible for generations to come. I look forward to sharing more of this next chapter soon.

To our supporters, partners, volunteers and the families who place their trust in AJFN: **thank you.** Your compassion brings light at life's most fragile moments and helps secure a strong and vibrant Jewish future in Australia. **As we step into AJFN's next chapter, I do so with deep gratitude, enduring pride and unwavering hope for the generations we are still to build, together.**

With gratitude, pride and hope,
Kerry Gonski
AJFN Board Chair & Director

A message from our CEO



Last year, Bondi became a place of profound heartbreak for our community. Fifteen innocent lives were taken in a brutal act of terror, leaving a heavy grief and reminding us of life's fragility and the significance of our **shared responsibility** for our Jewish community.

They say that when a child is born, a new light appears in the world.* By the close of 2025, amidst the weight of our collective grief, AJFN had helped bring **27 new lights** into the world - **27 dreams fulfilled, 27 universes created and 27 new contributors** to Jewish life in Australia.

And yet, even as we celebrate these precious beginnings, **150 families** are still waiting, carrying silent grief, navigating years of uncertainty and enduring fertility journeys that are often far longer and harder than anyone can imagine. This is why AJFN exists: to ensure that **no Jewish Australian ever walks a fertility journey alone**.

In 2025, we celebrated not only 27 new lights but also **completed our national expansion** so that access to support would never depend on postcode. We strengthened our on-the-ground presence, **trained more Peer Support Companions**, and expanded our reach across every sector of the Jewish community. At the same time, we worked tirelessly to **raise the funds** needed to meet growing demand.

What we have learned, unequivocally, is that while **financial support can offer moments of hope, ongoing emotional support sustains families over time**. Fertility journeys are rarely linear. They stretch across months and years, filled with hope, disappointment, resilience and grief. Walking alongside families through every stage **is not optional. It is essential**.

In the wake of so much loss, we are reminded that AJFN's work is ultimately about **continuity, choosing life, compassion and responsibility** even in the face of heartbreak.

Your partnership ensures that **the light continues to shine**, for those welcoming new life today and for those still waiting, praying and hoping for their miracle tomorrow.

With love
Justine Saidman
AJFN Chief Executive Officer

*Zohar 3:168a



AJFN baby #54 Sayah Weinberger with her parents Montanna and Ben, Sydney 2023

“We are deeply grateful to the AJFN for walking alongside us during our journey through secondary infertility. Their support meant more than funding - it brought relief, reassurance, and hope when we needed it most.”

Why is AJFN needed?

Jewish communal life centres on children and family. For those facing infertility, this can make an already painful journey feel even more isolating.

1 in **6**

families experience infertility

1 in **4**

pregnancies end in miscarriage

3

IVF cycles needed (on average) to achieve success

Due to the prevalence of certain inherited genetic conditions, members of the Jewish community are more likely to require genetic screening and, in some cases, assisted reproductive technologies (ART) on their pathway to parenthood.

One IVF cycle in Australia can cost up to \$12,000. Medicare covers roughly half of this, leaving families to pay the remainder, plus the costs of medications, donor services and repeat cycles.

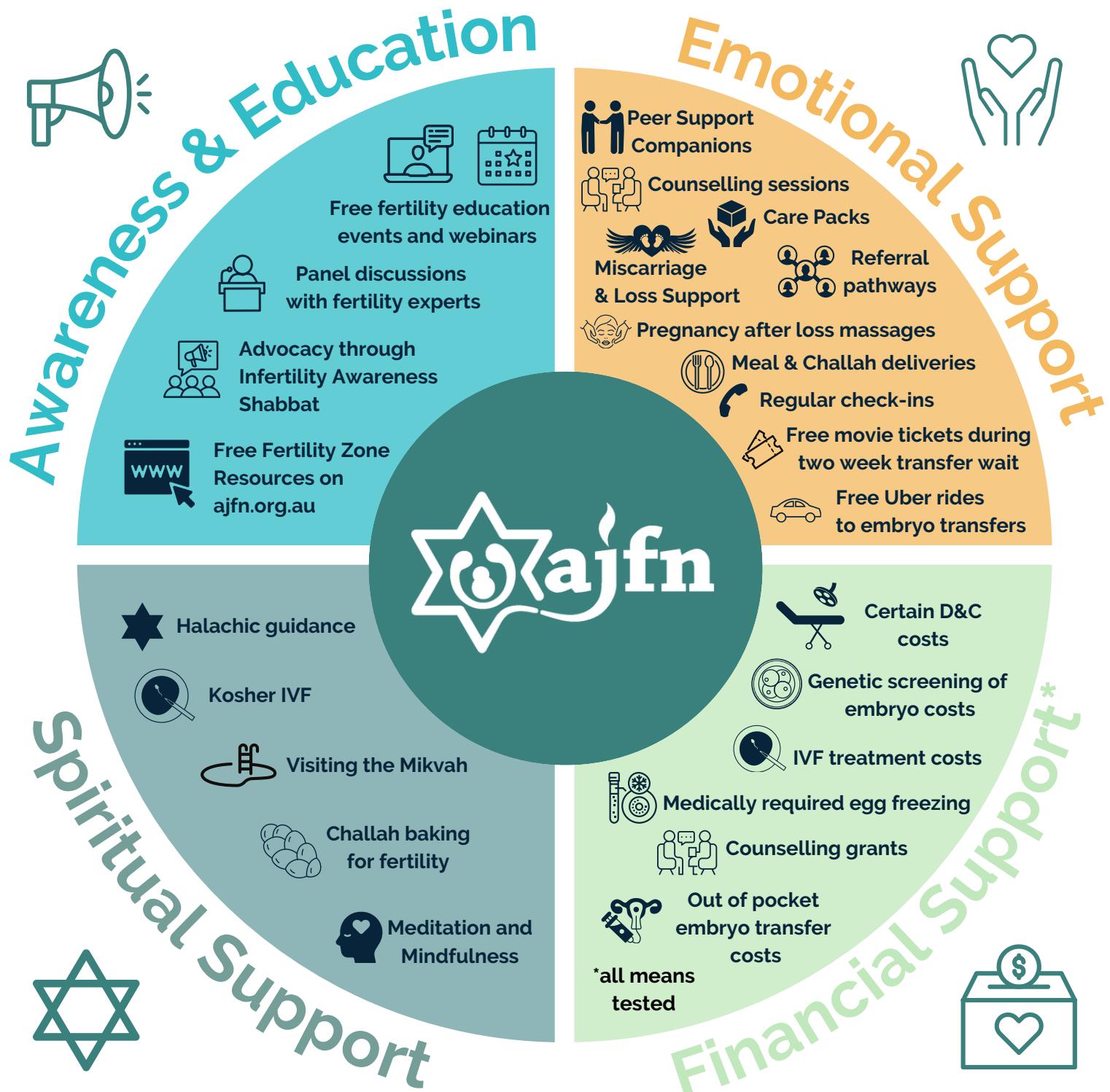
Infertility has a profound mental health impact, bringing repeated cycles of hope and heartbreak that can lead to anxiety, depression, grief, and isolation.



"To everyone who supports AJFN, thank you from the bottom of my heart. You have given us the precious gift of life — a gift beyond words. Through not only your financial support but emotional support too through your amazing volunteers, you carried me through one of the most difficult journeys of my life. That gift has changed our world in the most profound and beautiful ways, filling it with meaning, love and joy. I will be forever grateful."

~ **Karen Mikami, mum of AJFN baby #20, Cora 2021**

Circle of Support



AJFN offers 360-degree holistic support, powered by the community, that walks alongside individuals and couples through every stage of their fertility journey, meeting them where they are. From financial assistance to emotional, practical and spiritual care, we support every spectrum of need with compassion and dignity.

2025 Impact



123

Families supported



600+

Touchpoints of Support (calls, emails, visits)



\$130,179

In financial grants distributed



85

Care packs delivered



24

New Peer Support relationships formed



27

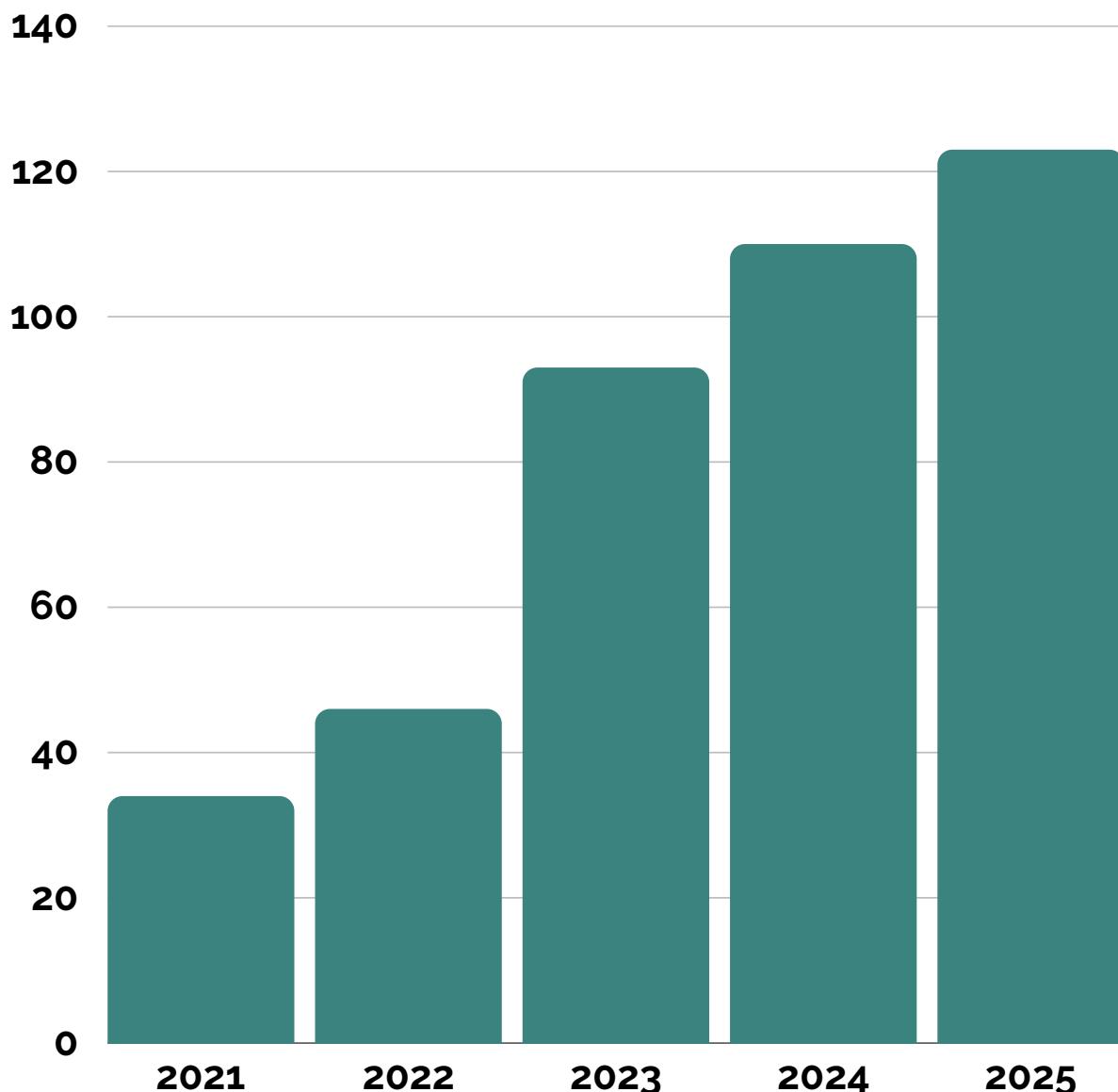
AJFN miracle babies born

105

Jewish babies welcomed with AJFN's support since our founding in 2006

2025 Impact

Rise In Number of Families Supported



12%

increase from 2024 - consistent with the rise of families needing fertility treatments in Australia*

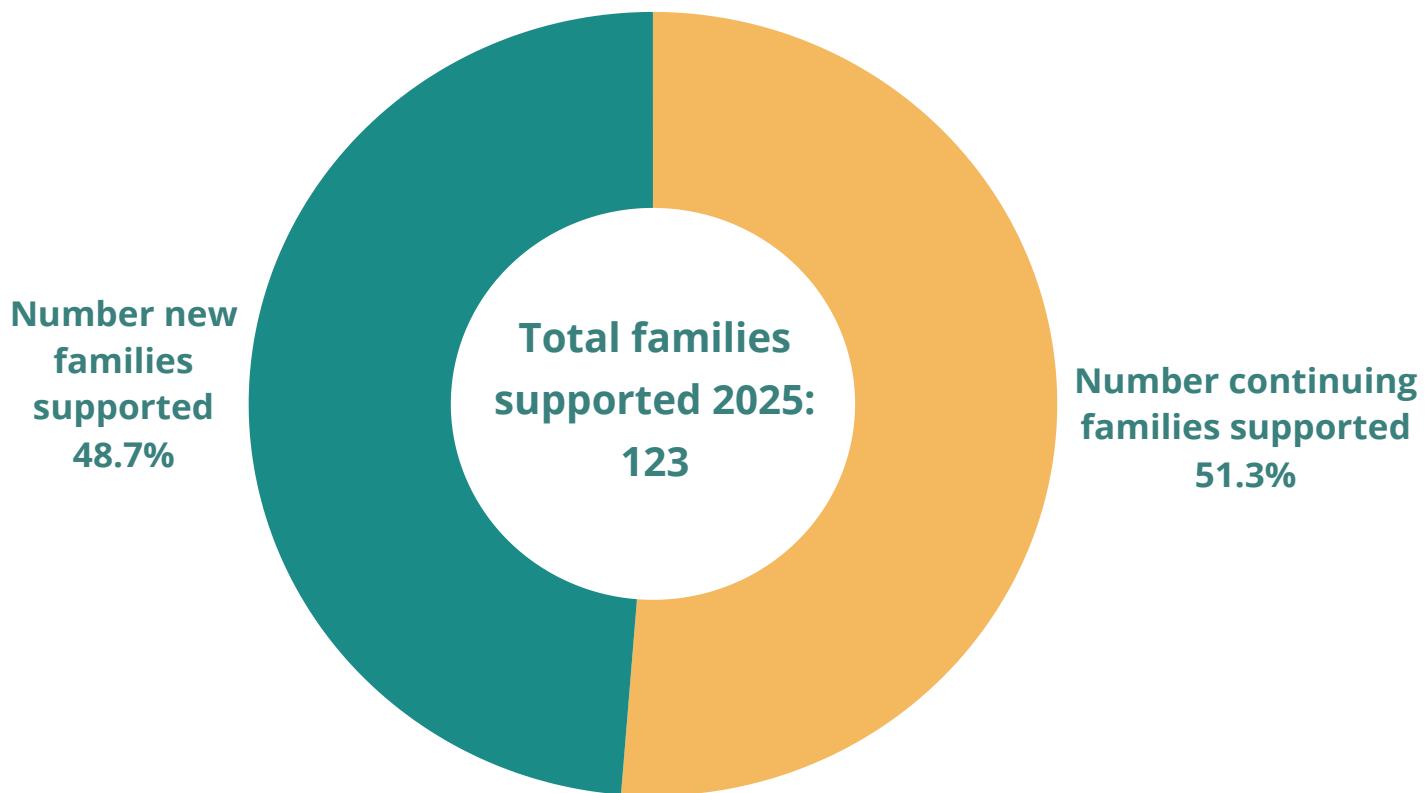
*2023 Australian and New Zealand Assisted Reproduction Database (ANZARD) report.

2025 Impact

Families Supported in 2025

● Number continuing families supported

● Number new families supported



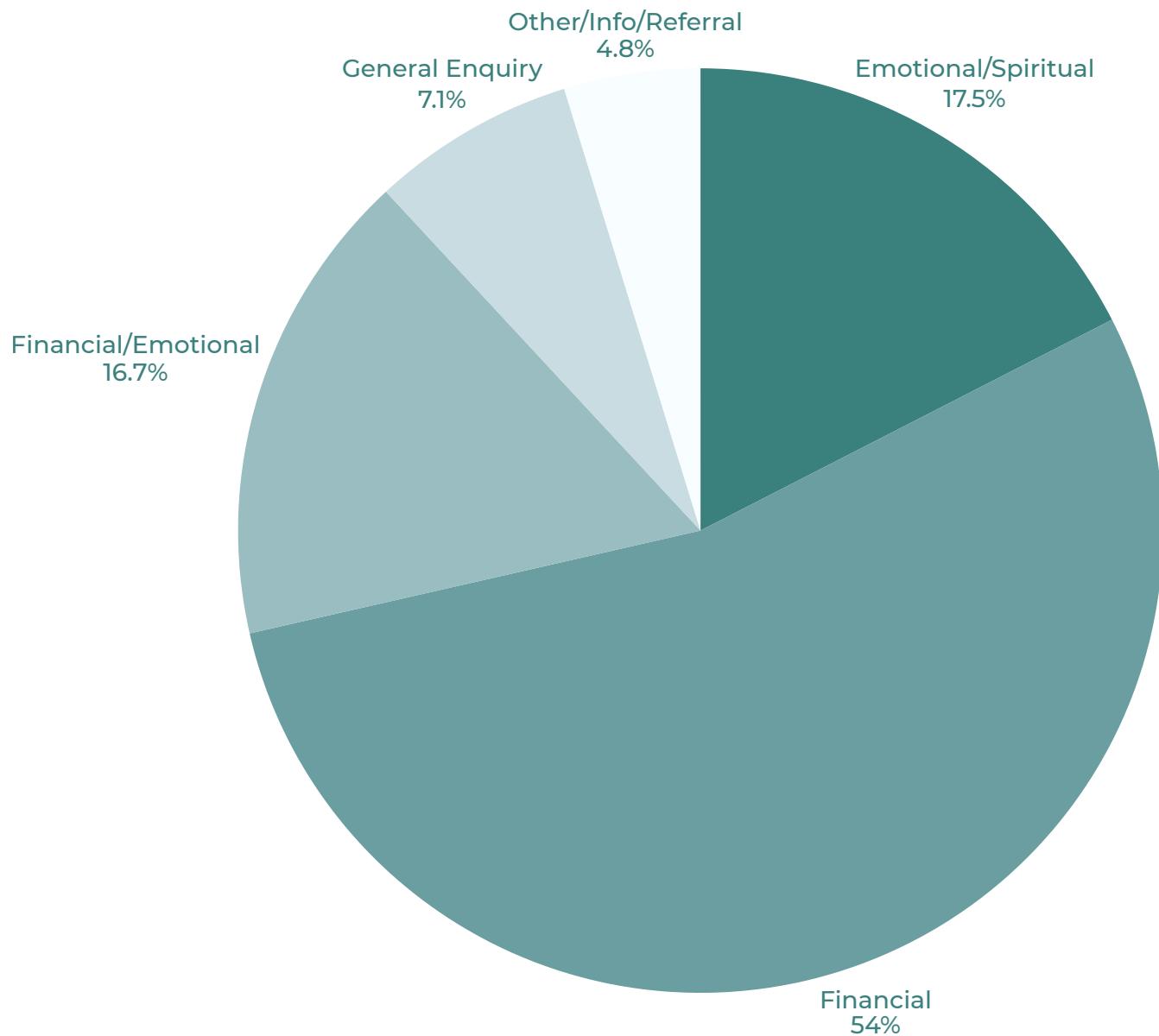
More than half of the families we supported in 2025 were continuing from 2024, demonstrating that fertility journeys are often long and complex and require sustained support over time.

61%

of our funding goes directly into delivering support

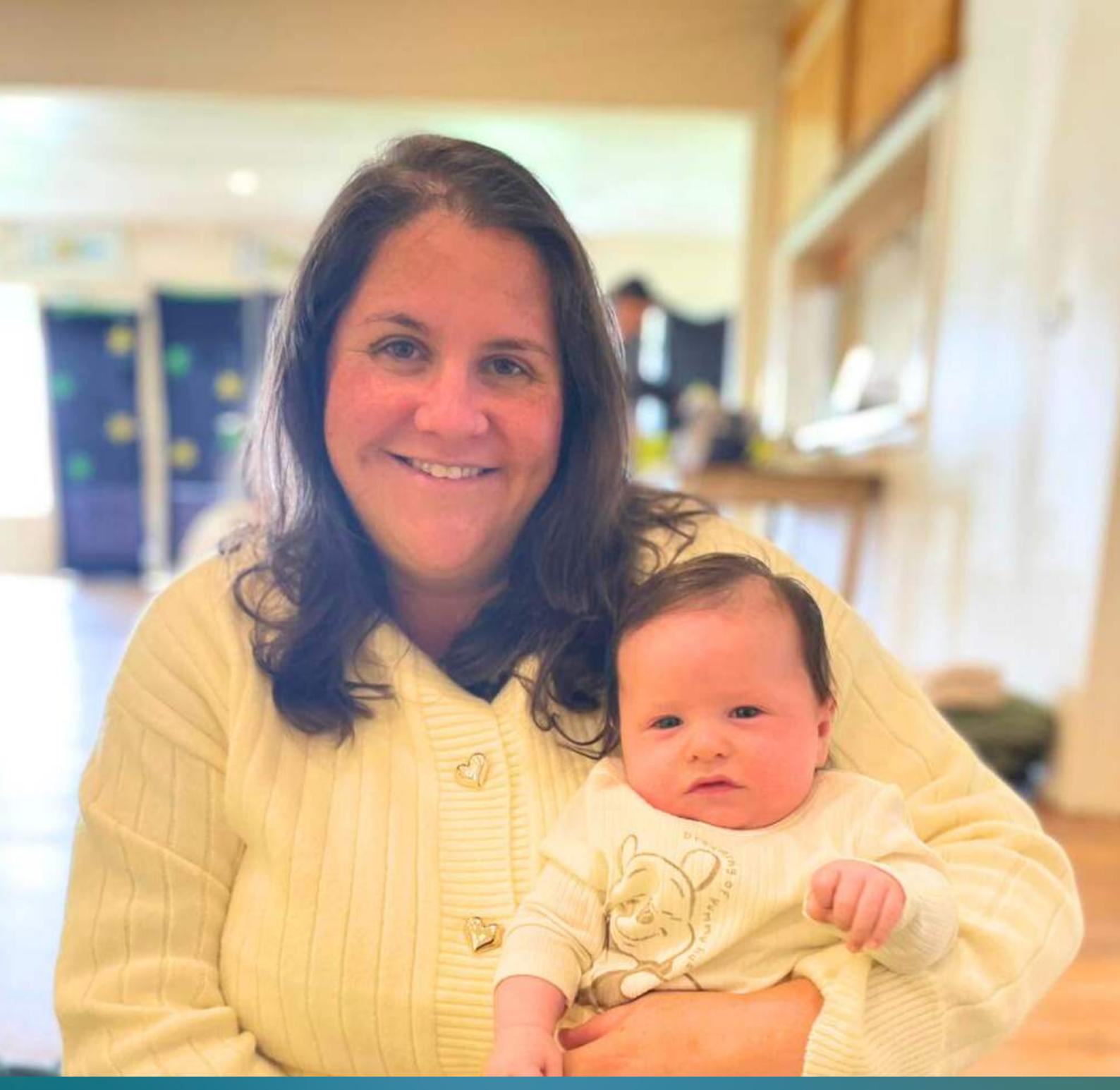
2025 Impact

Types of Enquiries



70.7%

of enquiries seek financial support, highlighting the financial burden of fertility treatment.



AJFN baby #89 Louie with his mummy Zoe, Melbourne 2024

“Thank you AJFN for helping me to continue to pursue my dream. My little rainbow is now nearly nine months old and every day is filled with laughter, joy and love.”

Fundraising

2025's Miracle Making Appeal



2

Major "Holding Onto
Hope" Events



400+

Attendees



24 hour

Miracle Making Day



789

Donors



836

Donations



510

Calls made

\$651,175

Total Raised (including matched funding)

9%

Cost of fundraising ratio



Dr Alan Finkel, AJFN Donor

"I was impressed that there was a clear problem to be solved, analysis had been done, and a multiplicity of solutions brought to bear to assist Jewish families struggling with IVF, whether the challenges be financial, medical, emotional, or all of the above."

AJFN Village

Our Board and Professional Team

Board



Kerry Gonski
AJFN Board Chair
and Director



Nir Golan
AJFN Director and
Treasurer



Rebecca Zwier
AJFN Director and
Secretary



Kate Mohr
AJFN Director



Kate Samowitz
AJFN Director



Zoë Milgrom
AJFN Director



Omer Samuni
Board Observer

Professional Team

Justine Saidman - CEO

Jessi Cohen - Head of Support

Romy Rosen - Marketing and Communications Manager

Sarit Braver - Development and Engagement Manager, Melbourne

Nicola Tkachenko - Support and Engagement Manager, Sydney

AJFN Village

Philanthropic Family

Major Donors

Diamond

AJFN Angels
Ashlyn and Larry Diamond
Leor and Mendy Amzalak

Platinum

Besen Family Foundation
Ilana and Martin Moshal
Aliza and Rafi Lamm
Eva and Paul Lederer
Terry and Rob Lederer
Judy and Steven Lowy

Gold

Anonymous AJFN Angels
Harry Cohney Charitable Foundation
Kerry and Michael Gonski
Lisa Farber and Justin Liberman and family
Gandur Family Foundation

Gold

Sandra and Barry Smargon
Sue and Phil Wolanski
The Gonski Foundation
Graf Family Foundation
Spotlight Foundation
The Grosman Family Foundation
The Yarranabbe Foundation
Tom and Lorelle Krulis Charitable Fund

Silver

Alan and Elizabeth Finkel Foundation
Bendigo Bank
Cassy Liberman
Community Bank / Caulfield Park
Debbie and Geoff Levy
Goldschlager Family Charitable Foundation
Kathy and Greg Shand
Lauren and Elliott Placks

Melbourne Founding Partners

Phil and Sue Lewis
The ERDI Foundation

Corporate Partners

IVFAustralia
Melbourne IVF
Genea
City Fertility, Sydney

Major Event Sponsors

1st Street
Aede
All Kinds
Arnold Bloch Liebler
Bass Trading
Bondi Family Dentist
Casey's Toys
Catchy
City Fertility

Detector Inspector
Dr Alexander Owen
Eugene
Evolution Capital
Goldman Travel
Corporation
Horizon
IMC Migration
IVF Australia

Kelly + Partners
Life Fertility Clinic
Sydney
Melbourne IVF
Monash IVF
Nala
Pacific Bondi Beach
Pitch Agency
Sherpaworks

Sussan Group
The Bottom Line
Versus Mirrors
Virtual Graffiti Australia

Infertility Awareness Shabbat Sponsors

Dr Raelia Lew/Women's Health Melbourne & Melbourne IVF

Major Event Prize Sponsors

Arms of Eve
Avenue the Label
Better Together
Bondi Fruitologist
Chuchka
Eastern Therapies

Felicia's Catering
Grandma Moses
Ian Sharp Jewellery
Kit Collection
Liane Hurvitz Photography
Made on Earth

Millie's Deli
MPower Pilates
Munch Dietetics
Nava Bondi
Parlour Box
Salon Bay

Sam Shapiro Hair
Shelanous Restaurant
Telebaby - Online Paed
TF Fitness
The Facial Specialist
Versus Mirrors

AJFN Village

Philanthropic Family

Care Pack Donors

Boody
JS Health
I am Mindful
Nourish
Sussan
Tonic
Thread Together

Community Partners

Beverley Aronstan
CCare
Eshel Fine Kosher Catering
Jesse's Bakery
Kraus Foods
Millee's Deli
Our Big Kitchen
Pita Mix
Ritz and Classic Cinemas
The Bagel Co

Pro bono Supporters

Arnold Bloch Liebler
Creative Clarity
Jeremy Ungar
Kelly + Partners
SherpaWorks
The Bottom Line
Terry Diamond

AJFN Village

Volunteers

Peer Support Companions

Alexis Cohen
Belinda El Boher
Daniel Stuk
Gabrielle Rein
Ilan Agranat
Jared Keen
Jenna Nathan
Joanne Star
Judith Bauerberg
Kelly Ludski
Lara Garfinkel
Lauren Siegel
Leah Swersky

Leigh Goldberg
Lisa Kirstein
Martine Chait
Michelle Lewis
Natalie Zilber
Navah Rosenblatt
Rebecca Havas
Robbie Clifford
Rosalie Simson
Rozanne Ichikowitz
Samantha Stuk

Event Committees

Britt Lowy
Danielle Goodman
Issy Nahon
Jessica Abelsohn
Joanne Star
Kate Mohr
Kate Samowitz
Lauren Placks
Lauren Siegel
Romy Borensztajn
Tanya Keyser
Zoë Milgrom

Melbourne ThinkTank

Kate Mohr
Leora Givoni
Monica Kempler
Rebecca Zwier

Marketing Support

Gabi Rein
Leigh Goldberg
Kate Samowitz
Kerry Gonski
Lee Kawalsky
Michelle Jacobs

Medical Advisory

Dr Lesley Andrews

Miracle Making Day

Andrina Graham
Annie Pratten
Ashleigh Cohn
Cathy Ninio
Debbie Sleigh

Emma Sharp
Hayley Traub
Jenny Goldberg
Jessica Krigstein
Jo Silver

Education Support

Kim Leigh

Karen Firestone
Lara Volpe
Michelle Placks
Monica Ginsberg
Naomi Dusheiko

Nat Brownstein
Nicky Buchman
Romy Tobiansky



Leigh Goldberg, AJFN Peer Support Companion, Sydney

“I am trusted with people's most vulnerable moments, offering a safe space through the highs and lows of the fertility journey. Through it all, I remind them of their courage, strength and worth, and feel privileged to walk beside them, helping the journey feel a little less lonely.”

How you can get involved

GIVE

- Donate once off or monthly
- Send AJFN eCards for special occasions or support
- Leave a bequest
- Donate to AJFN in lieu of gifts for milestone occasions.
- Become a Miracle Matcher
- Host an event in your home

CARE

- Volunteer
 - At events
 - Deliver care packs, challahs and meals
 - Become a Peer Support Companion

PARTNER

- Become a Corporate Partner
- In-kind and pro-bono support
- Sponsor an event or prize
- Workplace engagement
- Donate items to our care packs

SHARE

- Share Your Professional Skills
 - Medical and allied health expertise
 - Counselling and mental health support
 - Legal, ethical, finance, marketing, IT
- Advocate & Raise Awareness
- Share AJFN social media content

For more information on any of these opportunities please email
info@ajfn.org.au

Contact Us



If you are experiencing a challenging fertility journey,
please know that you are never alone. We are here for you.
Please reach out in complete confidence.

Text: 0481 075 554

Email: support@ajfn.org.au

Call: 02 7906 8366 (Sydney) or 03 8840 6560 (Melbourne)

www.ajfn.org.au



AJFN is fully compliant with all requirements of The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), the national regulator of charities. We are a registered charity with DGR1 status—all donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. ABN 90630127061

To access AJFN's financials and key documents, please visit the ACNC website at www.acnc.gov.au.