RAINBOW ROOS

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2025-26

Empowering Families.
Celebrating Abilities.
Creating Communities.





"Every child deserves the chance to belong,
grow and discover what they're capable of."

A LETTER FROM BRAD

When Rainbow Roos began, there was no business plan, no long-term strategy and certainly no expectation that we'd one day be producing an annual report.

There was simply one goal: to create a place where every child could experience the joy of sport, regardless of their ability, confidence or background.

Like many parents, my inspiration came from my son, Grayson. Watching him navigate the challenges of finding the right sporting environment made me realise just how many families were searching for something different. They didn't want pressure or perfection—they wanted acceptance, encouragement and a place where their child could simply belong.

That belief became Rainbow Roos.

What started as a single session has grown beyond my wildest dreams. Today, we support hundreds of children every week, work alongside families from across our community and continue to see first-hand the incredible difference that inclusive sport can make.

While I'm incredibly proud of how far we've come, what makes me proudest isn't the growth, the awards or the recognition. It's seeing children leave our sessions smiling, parents telling us their child has found confidence they never thought possible, and families feeling that they've finally found somewhere they belong.

None of this would have been possible without our incredible committee, coaches, volunteers, funding partners and, most importantly, the families who have trusted us with their children. Your support has helped build something truly special.

As you read this report, I hope you see more than numbers and achievements. I hope you see a community that believes every child deserves the opportunity to belong, to grow and to thrive.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We're only just getting started

Brad ♡



ABOUT RAINBOW ROOS



WHO WE ARE

Rainbow Roos is an award-winning charity based in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, dedicated to making sport more inclusive, accessible and enjoyable for every child.

Through fun, non-competitive soccer programs, we support children of all abilities to build confidence, develop friendships, improve physical wellbeing and discover a lifelong love of being active.

Every session is designed to celebrate individual progress, encourage participation and create an environment where every child feels valued.

AT A GLANCE

FOUNDED
2024

HEAD OFFICE
Lismore, NSW

WEEKLY SESSIONS
30+

WEEKLY CHILDREN
350+

ADDITIONAL NEEDS
60%

25/26 AWARDS
11

OUR PURPOSE

We believe every child deserves the opportunity to participate in sport, regardless of their ability, confidence, diagnosis, location or financial circumstances.

Our purpose is to remove barriers to participation, strengthen communities and create opportunities for children and families to connect through inclusive sport.

GUIDED BY OUR VALUES

INCLUSION
Everyone belongs

RESPECT
Value every individual

JOY
Fun first. Always

COMMUNITY
Stronger together

GROWTH
Encouraging every step

2025-26
A YEAR IN NUMBERS

Every number in this report represents far more than a statistic. Behind each session delivered, every child supported and every kilometre travelled is a family who found somewhere to belong.



Every smile, every high five and every child who discovers they belong, reminds us why Rainbow Roos exists.

350+
EMPOWERED CHILDREN
participating every week across our inclusive programs

30+
INCLUSIVE SESSIONS
delivered weekly across our network, with more to come

60%
ADDITIONAL NEEDS
supported in a safe and inclusive environment

58
HOLIDAY PROGRAMS
creating fun, connection and opportunities

11
AWARDS & RECOGNITION
received in 2025/26 for our commitment to inclusive sport

15+
DIFFERENT LOCATIONS
across the whole of the Northern Rivers and Gold Coast

3,000+
VOLUNTEER HOURS
generously contributed by our amazing community

$200K+
GRANTS RECEIVED
reducing financial barriers and opening doors for families

15,000
INDIVIDUAL ATTENDEES
engaging all ages and backgrounds in a fun and inclusive way

2025-26
A YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS

This year has been one of extraordinary growth, inclusion and connection across our community.
Here are some of the highlights that shaped our impact.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Recognised across locally, regionally and nationally for commitment to inclusion, community and leadership.

NSW Volunteer of the Year
Best Disability Program for Young Voices
7NEWS Community Achievement Awards
Australia Day Community Group Winner
Lismore Business Excellence Award Winner
Westfund Community Project of the Year
AUSactive National Awards Finalist

PROGRAMS DELIVERED

Programs delivered in:

Lismore
Goonellabah
Ballina
Lennox Head
Casino
Kyogle
Nimbin
Bonalbo
Wardell
Woodenbong
Stratheden
Cabarita Beach
Palm Beach
Southport
Tenterfield
Alstonville
Wollongbar
Yamba

COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

Rainbow Roos delivered:

MiniRoos
BabyRoos
BigRoos
Private Coaching
NDIS 1:1 Sessions
NDIS Groups
Adult Socials
Brickz LEGO Club
School Incursions
Pre-School Programs
Vacation Care
After-School Care
Community Events
Birthday Parties

FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS

This year's growth was supported through partnerships with organisations including:

$60k Jewish Wolper Foundation 3yrs Grant
$15k QLD Airport Group 3ys Grant
$24k Westfund Community Grant
$15k Northern Rivers Community Fund
$8k Change-X & AusPost Mental Health Grant
$20k NSW Government Funding
$10k Mercy Foundation Funding
$30k Melbourne Regional Foundation Grant

MILESTONES

Throughout the year Rainbow Roos:

Achieved Full ACNC & DGR1 Approval
Expanded Into Often-Ignored Regional Communities
Built A Strong Team Of Dedicated Coaches
Developed Pathways Beyond Traditional Soccer
Formed Long-Term Networks & Partnerships
Established Foundations For Growth Beyond NSW
Demonstrated That Inclusive Sport Can Thrive

LOOKING AHEAD

The year saw continued growth through:

New Weekly Locations
Increased Participation & Fully Booked Sessions
Expansion of NDIS Services
More Schools Requesting Programs
Larger Holiday Programs
Growing Coaching Team
Stronger Governance & Organisational Structure
Planned Further Expansion Into Queensland

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Supporting children, families and communities every week.

Rainbow Roos exists to create opportunities for children and families to enjoy sport in an inclusive, welcoming and supportive environment.

Every program is designed to remove barriers to participation while helping children build confidence, friendships and a lifelong love of being active.



BABYROOS
2-4YRS

Introducing our youngest participants to movement, coordination and ball skills through fun, play-based activities alongside their parents or carers.

MINIROOS
5-10YRS

Our flagship program combining fun, skill development and confidence building in a non-competitive environment.

BIGROOS
11-16YRS

Inclusive sessions for older children, encouraging continued participation, personal development and enjoyment of the game.

NDIS PROGRAMS
ALL AGES

Individual and small-group sessions tailored to each participant's goals, supporting confidence, physical wellbeing, social connection and independence.

BRICKZ CLUB
6-14YRS

LEGO® based social development sessions helping children build communication, teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills.

ADULT SOCIAL
18+YRS

A welcoming weekly program encouraging adults to stay active, meet new people and enjoy football in a relaxed, social environment.

SCHOOL INCURSIONS
2-16YRS

Curriculum-aligned incursions bringing inclusive soccer directly into schools and early learning centres across the Northern Rivers.

PRIVATE COACHING
ALL AGES

Individual coaching designed around each participant's goals, whether building confidence, developing specific skills or receiving additional support.

COMMUNITY & EVENTS

Taking inclusive sport beyond the weekly timetable.

While our weekly programs form the heart of Rainbow Roos, our commitment to the community extends far beyond the regular timetable.

Throughout the year, we deliver a wide range of events, activities and outreach programs designed to bring families together, create new opportunities and ensure that inclusive sport is accessible wherever it is needed.

Whether we're delivering a school holiday program, supporting a community festival, celebrating a birthday or partnering with schools and businesses, every event is guided by the same values of inclusion, enjoyment and belonging.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Inclusive holiday experiences combining soccer, teamwork and fun for children during every school break.

OUTREACH HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Programs delivered in regional and remote communities, bringing inclusive sport to families who may not otherwise have access.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Free and low-cost activities delivered at festivals, markets and community celebrations to encourage participation and connection.

CORPORATE PROGRAMS

Team-building activities, family fun days and community engagement events delivered in partnership with businesses and organisations.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Active, inclusive birthday experiences tailored to the interests and abilities of every child.

REWARD & GALA DAYS

School celebration days recognising participation, teamwork and achievement through engaging sporting activities.

CREATING A LASTING IMPACT

At Rainbow Roos, success isn't measured by league tables or trophies.

It's measured in confidence gained, friendships formed, smiles shared and the moments when a child realises they belong.

Every session is an opportunity to help children discover new skills, overcome challenges and build connections that extend well beyond the football pitch.

While soccer is what brings families together, community is what keeps them coming back.



CONFIDENCE

Helping children believe in themselves

We celebrate every achievement, big or small, helping participants build self-belief, develop resilience and discover what they are capable of in a supportive environment

BELONGING

Creating safe, welcoming environments

Everyone deserves to feel accepted, valued and included. We create welcoming environments where everybody can be themselves and feel part of the community

LIFESTYLES

Encouraging lifelong participation

By making soccer fun and accessible, we encourage children and families to enjoy being active, build healthy habits and develop a lifelong love of sport

INCLUSION

Removing barriers for every child

Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. We adapt our programs to meet individual needs, ensuring every participant has the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed.

OUR COMMUNITY

Stronger Together

Rainbow Roos exists to support more than just participants on the soccer pitch.

Every week we see the positive impact that inclusive sport has on children, families, schools and entire communities. When children feel confident, families feel supported, schools become more connected and communities grow stronger.

The impact of inclusive soccer extends far beyond our weekly sessions, creating opportunities that continue long after the final whistle.

CHILDREN

Confidence and resilience.
Learning new skills at their own pace.
Building long-lasting friendships.
Feeling safe, valued and included.
Improving physical wellbeing..
Discovering a lifelong love of sport.



FAMILIES

Part of a welcoming community.
Meeting and sharing experiences.
Seeing children's confidence grow.
Inclusive programs for every child.
Creating lasting family memories.
Feeling supported without judgement.



SCHOOLS

Inclusive incursions for all abilities.
Gala and Reward celebration days.
Holiday programs to extend learning.
Supports confidence and resilience.
Strengthening social skills.
Encouraging healthy lifestyles.



COMMUNITIES

Programs in regional communities.
Delivering free/subsidised sessions.
Creating leadership opportunities.
Strengthening community with sport.
Developing local connections.
Providing unique opportunities.



"This is the first activity my son has ever wanted to come back to."

RAINBOW ROOS

Empowering Families.
Celebrating Abilities.
Creating Communities.

Behind Every SMILE

REAL STORIES FROM REAL FAMILIES

Our impact isn't measured by the number of sessions we deliver or the awards we receive. It's measured by the everyday moments that change lives—the first smile, the new friendship, the growing confidence and the feeling of belonging.

Every child arrives with their own story, their own challenges and their own goals. Every family has a different reason for joining us. Together, those individual journeys become the Rainbow Roos story.

These are the moments that inspire everything we do.



A Place To Belong

"My son felt instantly at ease in class and this doesn't happen in many situations at all."

Finding Confidence

"After just one session my son begged me to book him in for the whole term. He is an anxious child that often struggles with new experiences but this was not the case with Rainbow Roos."

Growing Together

"Both my kids leave with a feeling of fulfilment and pride in their abilities."

Voices FROM OUR Community

Different voices. One community.

Every family's journey is unique, but one thing remains the same—the power of feeling welcomed, supported and included.

From parents and participants to teachers, therapists, community leaders and partner organisations, these are the voices that continue to inspire everything we do.



> The structure, organisation and presentation of the sessions is amazing... Both my kids leave with a feeling of fulfilment and pride in their abilities.
>
> — BabyRoos Parent

> The kids were laughing and running around the entire time... Rainbow Roos really knows how to bring fun and laughter to the community.
>
> — Event Organiser

> I've seen children who were hesitant or anxious thrive in this inclusive environment - it's more than just soccer, it's a space where they can grow.
>
> — Paediatric Occupational Therapist

> Rainbow Roos plays a vital role in providing active, inclusive opportunities for children of all abilities and backgrounds. The program has become an important contributor to the physical and emotional wellbeing of our young people.
>
> — Local Mayor

> The kids are fully engaged, the coaches are enthusiastic and it's wonderful to see every child succeed in a fun, inclusive way.
>
> — Preschool Teacher



OUR PROMISE

FEEL WELCOME
Every child and family is welcomed to sessions exactly as they are.

FEEL SAFE
A supportive environment where children feel comfortable to be themselves.

FEEL INCLUDED
Every child is valued, respected and encouraged to belong.

BE ENCOURAGED
Celebrating effort, building confidence and inspiring every child to have a go.

LEARN AT YOUR OWN PACE
Activities are adapted to support every child's individual journey.

CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS
Every success, no matter how small, is recognised and celebrated.

LEAVE WITH A SMILE
Every session ends with fun, confidence, a smile and plenty of high-fives.


"The game may last an hour, but the confidence it builds can last a lifetime."

RECOGNITION & *Awards*

Recognition isn't why we do what we do,
but it reminds us we're making a difference.

Every award tells a story



7NEWS COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Leadership Award
WINNER

AUSTRALIAN DISABILITY SERVICE CONFERENCE & AWARDS
Best Youth Program
WINNER

BUSINESS LISMORE
Health & Wellness Excellence
WINNER

2025 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards
The Centre for Volunteering
Northern Rivers
WINNER

lismore city council
Australia Day Community
WINNER

GOOD SPORTS
New Club of the Year
RUNNER-UP

AUSactive
4x Categories
FINALISTS

westfund
Community Project
WINNER

MIGRANTS LIFE
Tales of Global Belonging
Community Impact
WINNER

APAC Insider
2x Inclusive Youth Sports
WINNER

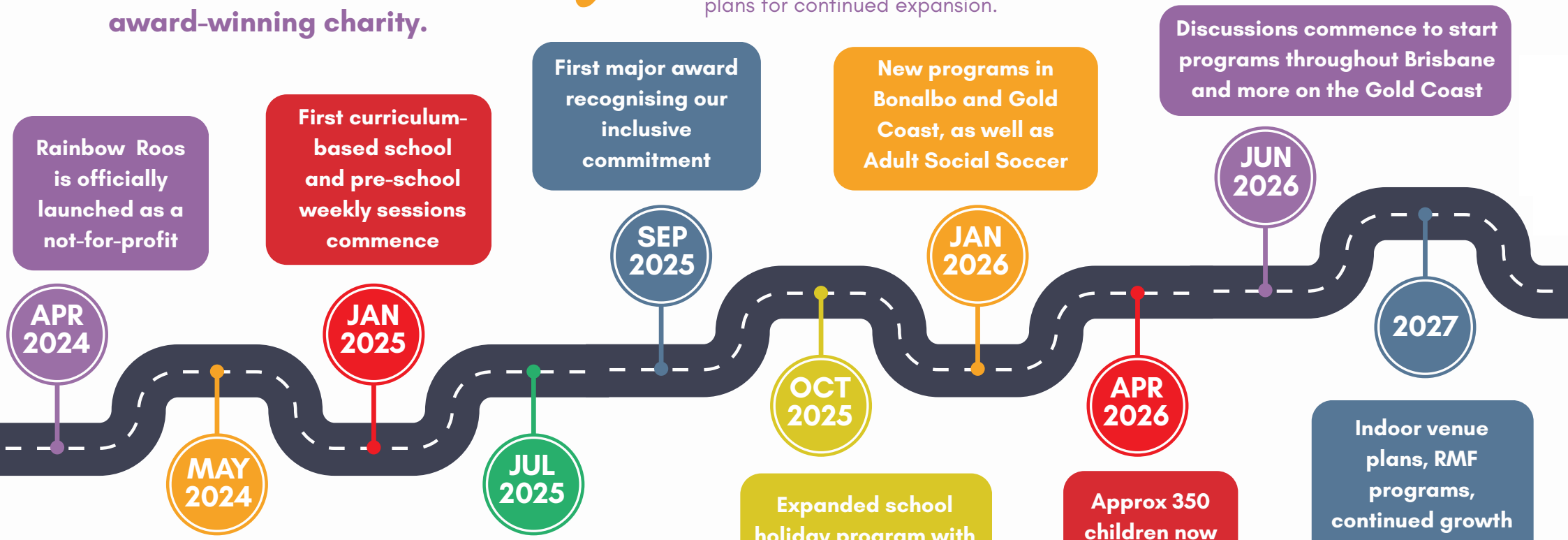
OUR Journey

From one small session to an award-winning charity.

Every organisation has a story, but ours has always been about people.

Rainbow Roos began in April 2024 with one simple goal – to create a place where every child could enjoy soccer in a welcoming, inclusive environment, regardless of ability or experience.

What started as a single weekly session has grown into an award-winning charity supporting hundreds of children and families across the Northern Rivers, with exciting plans for continued expansion.



While we've achieved more than we ever imagined, we believe our journey is only just beginning.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our priorities for the next 12 months and beyond

While we are incredibly proud of everything Rainbow Roos has achieved since launching in 2024, we believe our greatest impact is still to come.

As our community continues to grow, so too does our responsibility to create more opportunities, remove more barriers and ensure that every child and family has access to welcoming, inclusive and affordable soccer programs.

The following priorities will guide our journey over the coming months as we continue building a stronger future for our communities.

REAL MADRID FOUNDATION

Launching a values-based program in partnership with the Real Madrid Foundation.

NEW COMMUNITIES

Expanding into new communities across New South Wales and Queensland.

COMMUNITY INDOOR HUB

Working towards a dedicated indoor home for Rainbow Roos.

STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

Building new partnerships to strengthen our community impact.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Growing programs that respond to the changing needs of our community.

NDIS REGISTRATION

Progressing towards formal NDIS registration to support more families.

COACH DEVELOPMENT

Investing in our coaches through ongoing training and development.

MORE FAMILY SUPPORT

Increasing subsidies to reduce financial barriers to participation.

STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Transitioning to a Company Limited by Guarantee to support long-term growth.

A CONSISTENT VISION

Continuing to create inclusive opportunities where every child belongs.

"The best way to predict the future is to create it together."


"Behind every great community program is a
commitment to trust, integrity and accountability."

GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

Strong governance builds a stronger future



"We are accountable to our community, our families and, most importantly, the children whose lives we strive to enrich every day."

GOVERNANCE PHILOSOPHY

Rainbow Roos is guided by ethical leadership, clear governance and a commitment to acting in the best interests of our community.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

We maintain strong safeguarding practices to ensure every child feels safe, respected and supported in our programs.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Every dollar is managed responsibly to maximise community impact and ensure long-term sustainability.

STRONG FOUNDATIONS

During 2025-26, Rainbow Roos commenced the transition to a Company Limited by Guarantee, strengthening our future governance.

RISK MANAGEMENT

We proactively manage organisational risks to support a safe, resilient and sustainable charity.

TRANSPARENT & COMPLIANT

We are committed to transparency, accountability and meeting the highest standards of governance and compliance.

At Rainbow Roos, governance is about more than policies and compliance. It is about building a trusted organisation that acts with integrity, uses every dollar responsibly and remains focused on creating meaningful opportunities for children and families.

Our governance framework supports responsible decision-making, financial accountability and long-term sustainability, ensuring Rainbow Roos continues to grow while remaining true to its purpose.

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Rainbow Roos is led by a volunteer Board that provides strategic leadership, governance and oversight for the organisation.
Working together, the Board ensures Rainbow Roos remains true to its purpose while supporting sustainable growth, responsible decision-making and positive community impact.

BRAD AMBRIDGE - President
JESS AMBRIDGE - Vice President
6x Volunteer Board Members

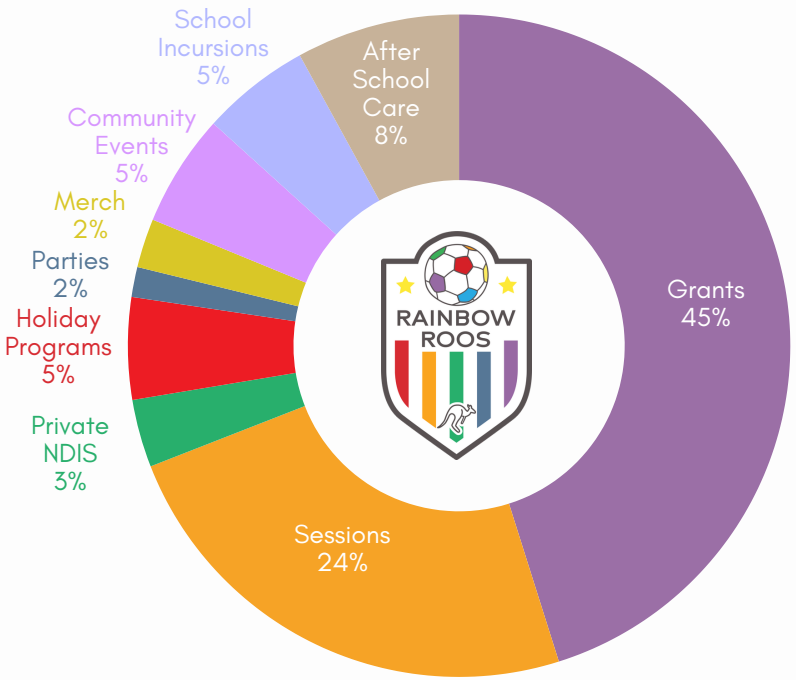
FINANCIAL REVIEW

Rainbow Roos remains committed to ensuring every dollar entrusted to us is used responsibly and effectively to create meaningful opportunities for children, families and communities.

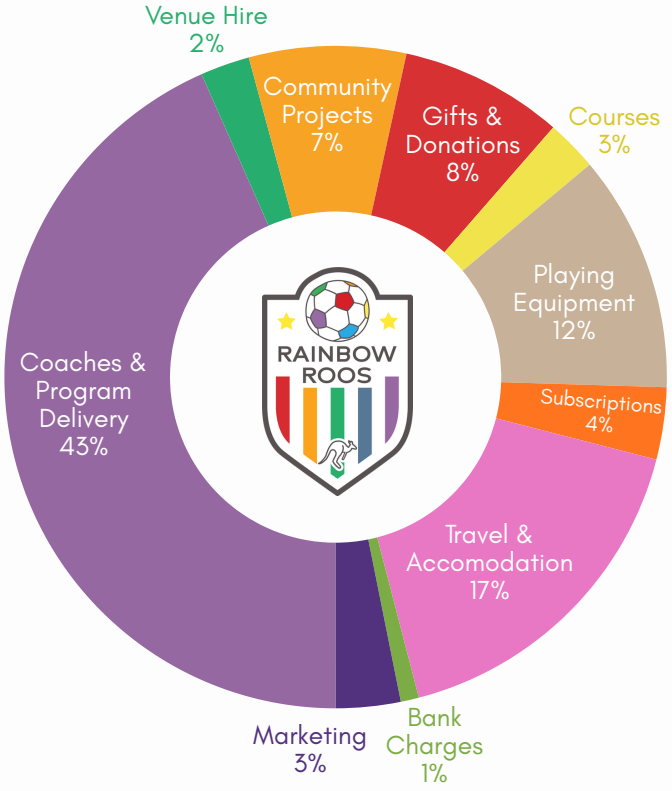
Through the generosity of grant providers, supporters and participating families, we continue to invest in inclusive programs while building a strong and sustainable organisation for the future.

Every dollar. Every child. Every opportunity.

Where our funding came from



How every dollar was invested



HIGHLIGHTS

7,800+ subsidised sessions ensuring no financial barriers to participation

1,800+ hrs of in-kind leadership and support contributed ($70,000+)

Strengthening our systems, people and facilities to build a sustainable future

Figures are for the 2025/26 financial year.
Totals may vary slightly due to rounding

THANK YOU

None of what you've read throughout this report would have been possible without the incredible support of our community.

To every child who joined a session, every family who placed their trust in us, every volunteer who generously gave their time, every coach who inspired young people, and every school, council, grant provider, sponsor and community partner who believed in our vision – thank you.

Rainbow Roos has never been about one person or one organisation. Every milestone we've celebrated has been made possible by people who share our belief that every child deserves the opportunity to belong, grow and thrive through soccer.



FUNDING PARTNERS

Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation

NSW Government

Northern Rivers Community Foundation – we help you help others

Queensland Airports Limited

mercy foundation®

changeX

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

lismore city council

Richmond Valley Council

City of Gold Coast.

Cherry Sports Group

Community Gateway

OOSH

Kookaburra Early Learning Centre

Elders

North Coast National – Love Lismore Show

ALPHA GEAR

livingschool

MEMBERSHIPS

Hidden Disabilities

AUSactive

aspect – Autism Spectrum Australia

Football Australia

Registered Charity – acnc.gov.au/charityregister

Sporting Schools

RAINBOW ROOS

Empowering Families.
Celebrating Abilities.
Creating Communities.



Empowering families, celebrating abilities and creating a community that values diversity and inclusion.

"Behind every great community program is a commitment to trust, integrity and accountability."

www.rainbowroos.com.au