



## The Mirabel Foundation Inc.

### Baseline Social Return on Investment analysis of Mirabel's Victorian activities

#### Key Findings

- Mirabel brings normality into the lives of children who have been orphaned or abandoned due to parental drug use, to give them the best possible start in life.
- Between July 2008 and June 2015, Mirabel worked with on average 635 children and 391 families per annum in Victoria. It costs the organisation ~\$2,700 per child or ~\$4,300 per kinship family to deliver its services annually.
- An investment of \$14.8 million over the eight year period created \$98.5 million of present value to children, kinship carers, volunteers and the Government.
- When the social value is compared to the investment in the program, the Social Return on Investment (SROI) ratio equates to 6.6:1. This means that for every \$1 invested in Mirabel's Victorian activities, approximately \$6.60 of social and economic value was created.
- Mirabel's work has had a tangible direct impact on the lives of children and their kinship carers who had to confront the challenges of abandonment, financial insecurity and social isolation. It helps to keep kinship families together and contributes towards breaking the destructive cycle of addiction.
- Most of the value is created for the children (50% or \$55 million) who are given a chance to have a real childhood, and as a result, their lives are transformed. The average value created for each child is estimated at ~\$11,000 per annum.
- The benefits are estimated to be worth ~\$43 million (39% of total value) to the Government, which is ten times more than the investment made by the Government into Mirabel.

## About the Mirabel Foundation

Mirabel assists children who have been orphaned or abandoned due to parental illicit drug use and are now in the care of extended family (kinship care). Children orphaned or abandoned due to parental illicit drug use are one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. Exposure to parental drug use, physical abuse, neglect and other emotional traumas mean that these children are likely to have problems with brain development and difficulties associated with learning, emotional control, behaviour and social adjustment.

Kinship carers, often grandparents, are left to experience the consequences of parental drug use and trying to break the cycle of future drug use. They often find themselves struggling to support the needs of these children as they face financial and health problems, as well as emotional challenges and social isolation.

Mirabel is currently supporting approximately 1,500 disadvantaged children throughout Victoria and NSW. Mirabel's activities are all inspired by a vision that every child deserves a childhood and its mission to break the negative cycle of addiction and disadvantage.

### Stakeholder outcomes

Mirabel has been a valuable resource and support to every family that reached out to them for help because they tailor their services depending on the needs of each individual kinship family. Children subsequently experience a range of outcomes, including increased engagement in school, improved mental health and wellbeing and an increased ability to form healthy relationships.

The broader impact of Mirabel's activities is significant and profound. Mirabel supports kinship carers to provide ongoing care to their children and to break the cycle of addiction. There are also significant benefits to the Government because resources can be reallocated as a result of savings from alternative out-of-home care placements, transitioning young people from out-of-home care and a reduction in illicit drug use.

### Calculating value

The outcomes experienced by stakeholders often do not have a market value so each outcome was valued using a financial proxy. A range of valuation techniques were applied to estimate the value of the identified outcomes.

Examples of valuing outcomes:

Outcomes	Financial proxy	Rationale
<b>KINSHIP CARERS</b> Increased confidence and ability to cope	Cost of counselling plus the value of respite time	<u>Revealed preferences:</u> Mirabel provides both emotional support as well as opportunities for respite to the kinship carers
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> Reduction in costs to society associated with illicit drug use	Annual costs of drug abuse to Government	<u>Resource reallocation:</u> Avoidable costs associated with illicit drug use including human costs, economic costs and justice costs

“...If Mirabel did not exist, I would not have an opportunity to talk to anyone who understands ...”

*Child (16 year old)*



“...My granddaughter often says that she doesn't think she would have gone through year 12 if she didn't have the support of Mirabel. She had a close bond with the leaders who would give her counselling and helped her cope when things were really difficult. She feels as though she could still call the Mirabel leaders now if she needed them...”

*Kinship carer (exited after 17 years with Mirabel)*

## Overall benefit

The SROI analysis reveals that Mirabel's Victorian activities delivered an SROI ratio of 6.6:1. This means that for every \$1 invested into the program, \$6.6 of social and economic value was created.

**SROI Ratio is 6.6:1**

The total value created by Mirabel is the unique value created for stakeholders between July 2008 and June 2015.

## Insights

Mirabel has developed a distinctive model of support which effectively addresses the unique needs of the children who have been orphaned or abandoned due to parental drug use and are now living in kinship care with extended family.

The analysis has demonstrated that Mirabel has been a significant contributor to creating healthier and happier kinship families, helping children growing up in kinship care to realise their potential and contributing towards breaking of the destructive cycle of drug addiction in Victoria.

The critical elements which contributed to Mirabel's success in Victoria include:

- Mirabel is guided by a single vision and purpose
- Long-term support delivered with heart and a high degree of skill
- Carefully targeted and managed funding that delivers significant value
- Utilising community support for the delivery of the Mirabel model
- Diverse and loyal supporter base.

“...Because of Mirabel I feel that I've been accepted for who I am...”

*Child (13 years old)*



“...The kids may not still be with me if I had not been involved with Mirabel ...”

*Kinship carer (10 years with Mirabel)*

## About this project

The Mirabel Foundation commissioned Social Ventures Australia (SVA) Consulting to understand, measure and value the changes generated through its Victorian activities. The SROI methodology was used to complete this analysis.

SROI is a framework for understanding, measuring and accounting for social, economic and environmental value. It places a monetary value on the impact (the benefit) of an activity, and compares this with the cost incurred in creating that benefit. SROI is stakeholder informed, which increases the depth of analysis required compared to traditional cost-benefit analysis, as it requires direct engagement with those who experience change, .

This is a baseline SROI analysis that assesses the value of the program over an eight year period, which was informed by the views of stakeholders and available data. Throughout the analysis professional judgements have been made to represent the change experienced by stakeholders and the value of these changes where data has not been collected over time. Recommendations have been made to improve the rigour of future analyses.

SROI ratios should not be compared between programs or organisations without having a clear understanding of each organisation's mission, strategy, program logic, geographic location and stage of development.

### For more information about Mirabel, or the full report, contact:

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SVA Consulting are experts in SROI.

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