

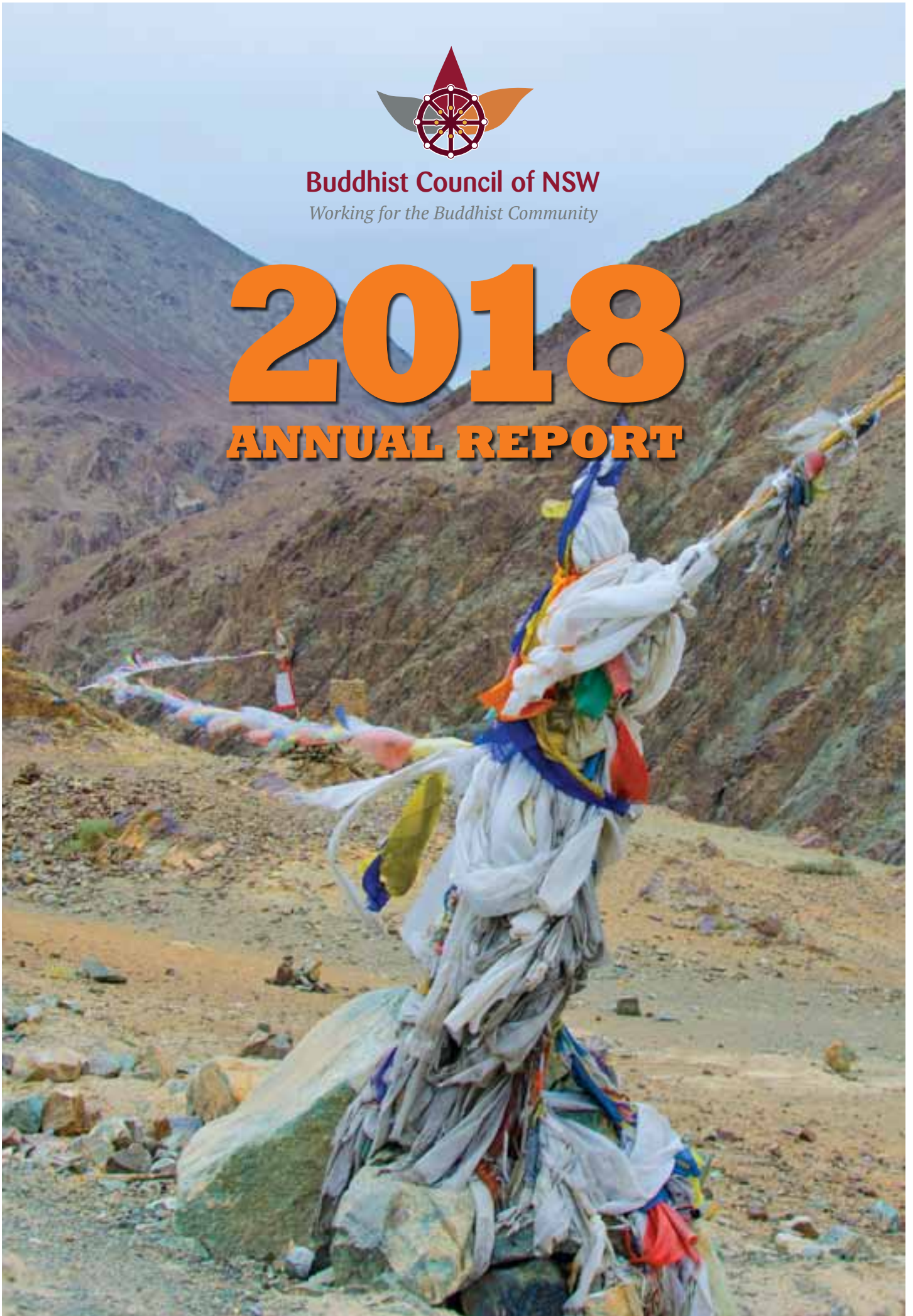


Buddhist Council of NSW

Working for the Buddhist Community

2018

ANNUAL REPORT



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Our vision is of a world where the Dharma – the teachings and practices of the Buddha – are part of everyday life and contribute to the wellbeing of all. We seek to achieve this through supporting a flourishing Buddhist community that:

- **has strong and sustainable Buddhist organisations**
- **has productive relationships between Buddhist organisations, with other faiths, with government and other social organisations**
- **contributes to the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities and society through putting the dharma into practice.**

We work with and for the Buddhist community and others who share our vision to achieve this.

Buddhist Council of New South Wales Incorporated. Our constitution was first ratified at the inaugural Annual General Meeting in June 1985 and was formally incorporated in March 1991.

ABN 18 550 218 989

Welcome

On behalf of the Board, staff, volunteers and members welcome to the annual report of the Buddhist Council of New South Wales for 2018.

This was a year of change at the Council. In July Brian White resigned after ten years as Chair, and I took on the role after the Annual General Meeting. Otherwise the existing Board continued, and we welcomed two new members: Tina Ng and Zen Low, who have brought with them great energy, expertise and wide contacts in the Buddhist community. Ann MacArthur joined us as Operations Manager and Glenn Sloan continued to offer help and support behind the scenes. This gives us a very strong team.



In his ten years Brian had made an enormous contribution to the Council and through it to the Buddhist community. Our task is now to build on this and set a course that will benefit the Buddhist and wider communities over the next few years. This involves consulting with members and with other wise people in the community and will continue for some time. Themes that stand out in these discussions so far include the importance of working together rather than on our own, thinking about what we can offer the Australian society more broadly – as neighbours, community members, cultural groups – and what the Dharma can offer to those who are themselves not Buddhist.

We are sustaining our two major programs – chaplaincy and Special Religious Education – and looking to strengthen them. We are also looking out for other areas such as aged care where we may be able to make a contribution.

How can we do this? We have a limited budget and a tiny staff, but we are part of a Buddhist community – lay and sangha – that extends across NSW. We hope that individuals and organisations that share our vision will work with us – and us with them – for the benefit of the Buddhist and wider communities.

Gawaine Powell Davies

Chair

We are grateful to Brent Carswell of Crunch Brand for the design of this Annual Report.

How we work

Families, temples, sangha and other Buddhist organisations all provide the framework for Buddhist life in NSW. The job of the Buddhist Council is to work with these to support a flourishing Buddhist community. We do this by:

1. Supporting Buddhist Organisations

- Circulating information
- Advertising and taking part in community events
- Providing access to low cost insurance
- Offering training and support in managing an organisation and meeting statutory requirements
- Collaborative projects

2. Programs for vulnerable age groups and life stages

- Young people: special religious education
- Illness and death: hospital chaplaincy
- People in custody: prison chaplaincy

3. Making Buddhism available to all

- Providing information on Buddhist organisations and events on the website and social media
- Responding to general queries
- Providing resources on the Dharma
- Providing religious related training

4. Liaising with government and other groups

- Providing a point of contact for the government
- Attending the Multicultural NSW Religious Leaders Forum and other government meetings.
- Attending interfaith activities and working with other faiths on issues of common concern



1.

Supporting Buddhist Organisations

Our member service team is made up of volunteers, supported by other Buddhist Council staff. The support that we offered in 2018 included the following.

Circulating information

We provided monthly newsletters and email updates to members in 2018. These included topical issues, news from the Council and from other Buddhist organisations and information about forthcoming activities. We also circulated information from government and other sources when relevant to members.

We list Buddhist organisations on our website and provide a facility for them to list what they offer and any events they may be holding.

The Ambassadors program and taking part in community events

Wherever possible, we accept invitations to take part in members' events, with Board members, staff or volunteers attending on our behalf. In 2018 we set up an Ambassadors program through which selected volunteers kindly attend events to represent the Buddhist Council. We are grateful to Bennett Piam and Rev Heather Topp for volunteering in 2018.

Low Cost Insurance

Members are able to access public liability insurance under the Buddhist Council's umbrella policy, saving them up to 40% on premiums. In 2018, 44 member groups took advantage of this offer. Our team also negotiated discount rates for a voluntary workers insurance policy which was offered to members in December. Both forms of insurance are being offered again in 2019.

Programs for vulnerable age groups and life stages

Chaplaincy

Our dedicated team of trained chaplains includes regular chaplains who commit their time to visit hospitals and prisons and on-call, emergency response chaplains. They offer compassion, care and spiritual support to those in need through listening, ethics and loving kindness.

During 2018 we provided 17 hospital chaplains and 7 corrective services chaplains. We are also in the process of applying for one additional corrective services chaplain.

Hospital chaplains provided an average of 136 hours of face-to face visits, similar to 2017. Prison chaplains provided an average of 213 hours, up from 190, and also ran groups in several corrections centres. We maintained regular visits to Berrima, Dillwynia, Emu Plains, Goulburn, John Morony (Windsor), Junee, Lithgow, Long Bay, Macquarie, Silverwater, and Wellington correctional centres, and added Mary Wade, a maximum security institution for women in Lidcombe, to our schedule.

In June, our 5-day Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) training course was attended by twelve individuals, two of whom took up hospital work. Allan Galt with assistance from Hazel Duell and Nicola Le Conteur again stepped in to deliver the training. We remain deeply indebted to their expertise and open teaching style.

We began planning a 400-hour unit in Clinical Pastoral Education with a Buddhist perspective. Existing programs have developed from the Christian tradition. Thay Thong Phap, the first Buddhist to qualify at the supervisor level has offered to teach this intensive unit under the auspices of the New South Wales College of Clinical Pastoral Education. The course will be available to current Buddhist Council chaplains in 2019.

We extend our gratitude to all of our chaplains for their kind hearts and incredible generosity. They are skilled and careful listeners who make an important contribution to the lives of those suffering hardship, and empower people in difficult circumstances to change their lives.

Corrections Centre Chaplains

Ettianne Anshin

Norbert Bohler

Anna Carmody

Elizabeth Mowlem

Christine Thompson

Pema Thubten

Daniel Troyak



Hospital Chaplains

Chaplain's name	Hospital	Chaplain's name	Hospital
Barbara BURKE	Royal North Shore	Anthony MILLS	Goulburn
Pra Nick DHAMMARATO	Liverpool	Trish NGUYEN	RPA
Hazel DUELL	Macquarie	Minh PHAN	Bankstown
Vivienne FETTELL	Milton	Heather TOPP	Canterbury
Jackie ISKANDAR	Prince of Wales	Shigenobu WATANABE	Royal North Shore
Yoke LENG	Westmead	Debbie WHITNEY	Prince of Wales
Sue LUU	Royal North Shore	Don YASALAL	Westmead
My Lien LY	Liverpool	Ven. Sudhira	Prince of Wales
Dane MILLANTA	RPA, St Vincent		



Hospital Chaplain Dane Millanta

Since ordination in the Thai forest tradition in 2002 Dane has devoted himself to chaplaincy completing three 400-hour units in clinical pastoral education and a master of arts in comparative religion. He is a regular at Royal Prince Alfred hospital and also responds to after hours calls at other hospitals. We asked him about his experience.



Being a chaplain is about so much more than offering chanting and prayers. Pastoral care means being able to respond to the needs of each individual patient and work with their values. We meet people who are hurt and emotional. There are also many variations of Buddhism to respond to: within cross-cultural marriages one partner may be Theravada and the other, Mahayana. Some people are serious Buddhist practitioners and some have come to it at the end of their life. Some are concerned about what they see as their bad karma and others have asked me to help them become a better Buddhist. I often get to know families very well. On their request I have performed services for both birth and death in hospital chapels. Other patients are from outside of Sydney and have no family to visit them making a connection with a chaplain all the more important. I have been profoundly moved when made aware of the impact I have had on people's lives through letters or conversations.

Anyone thinking of doing chaplaincy work needs to be open to self-reflection. Even after many years I still consult with a mentor to help me look at my interactions in the hospital and consider whether I may have done more or less. I consider it a privilege to be a chaplain and work in this sacred space.

Special Religious Education

As the major Approved Provider for Buddhist Special Religious Education (SRE) in NSW we support 80 volunteer teachers of Buddhist SRE in 67 primary and secondary government schools across NSW. SRE teaches Buddhism through values and life skills to support children in their daily lives and to help them develop greater peace, compassion, and joy.

Our focus during the year was complying with changes in from the New South Wales Department of Education policies and procedures. This included

- ‘Fast Track’ training for long serving teachers. We extended this to regional centres in Byron Bay and Ulladulla, attended by a total 19 teachers.

- Two weekend training sessions in May and October with veteran teacher John Barclay and SRE coordinator Melissa Chittasy for new teachers, attended by 19 new volunteers.

- New ‘Scope and sequence’ which allows parents and schools to understand the progress of their children through the year at each stage of development.

- A new SRE page on the website reflecting Department of Education requirements

- New SRE Resource Portal for teachers with support materials for classroom activities including stories, videos and lesson plans. The resources are organised into the four syllabus strands: being a Buddhist, Buddhism in Society, Values and Attitudes and Life Skills.

We appreciate all of our SRE teachers for their devotion to sharing the Dharma with students. Their work has moved many students and has led to increased interest at schools, with many schools now requesting additional teachers. We welcome anyone who wants to share their Buddhist practice to consider attending our training program.

SRE Teacher Profile

Tammy Tran

My background is Buddhism and I have been involved in many Buddhist retreats so I love to share the Dharma.

Since starting in 2016, I have built up to three schools: Marrickville West Primary School, Marrickville Public School and Ferncourt Public School which are all nearby and convenient in my local area. At each school I have two sessions of 10 students. The students are quite well behaved. My routine for each lesson is to begin with a video or a story, then questions and finally do a simple activity.

The fact that the number of students is growing each year makes me feel like I am doing the right thing. Besides that, I am still learning myself, by listening to many Venerables. I also in the short-term monastic retreats offered at Phuoc Hue Temple in Wetherill Park. You can see me as a ‘Nun-to-be’ in the photo.

All I wish is that I will continue on the path of righteousness and proper religious practice.



Governance

Board of Directors

Board's members	Position
Brian White	Chair until July
Gawaine Powell Davies	Chair from July
Ariya Chittasy	Deputy Chair
Ben Webster	Secretary
Tina Ng	Public Officer
Zen Low	Treasurer
Lianne Ngo	



Our team

Team members	Position
Glenn Sloan	General Manager
Clara Chan June October	Office Manager
Ann MacArthur from October	Operations Manager
Phoi Duong	Finance Manager
Brenda Ferguson	Finance Manager
Louise Neary	Web Event Coordinator
Sofan Chan from June	Member Services Coordinator
Melissa Chittasy until December	SRE Coordinator
Sue Luu until June	SRE Assistant
Josie Lister from March	Training and Communications Coordinator
Trish Nguyen	Chaplaincy Assistant
Ettianne Anshin until December	Chaplaincy Coordinator
Bonnie Yiu from June	Office Assistant
Cheryl Huynh	Administration Assistant

Making Buddhism available to all

We believe that the principles of the Dharma – the Buddhist teaching - can be beneficial to everyone, whether they call themselves a Buddhist or not.

Social media and website

We increased the frequency of our e-newsletter sent to the interested public as well as to members. We have had much positive feedback from the 1800 subscribers. Our website listed an average 160 events each month, with highlights listed in the e-newsletter. We used our Facebook account much more actively, increasing posts from one or two a month in the first half of the year to an average 34 in the second. These posts promote member and Buddhist Council events as well as messages from other organisations of interest to the Buddhist community.

Training programs

Josie Lister came on board during 2018 as Training and Communications Coordinator. In addition to regular training for new chaplains and SRE teachers, we offered public courses on Death and Dying and Palliative Care. Bom Hyon Sunim was our tutor for Death and Dying which met over four Saturdays in May at Metta Centre in Bankstown and covered the issues relating to caring for those at the end-of-life. The workshop was tailored to caregivers and healthcare professionals and attended by 17 people.

In September, we again collaborated with Bom Hyon Sunim to introduce Dr Erica Cameron-Taylor, a palliative care specialist and Director of the Newcastle Palliative Care Facility. She presented a half-day course on Palliative Care at The Buddhist Library in Camperdown. Sixteen participants learned strategies for helping those living with serious or terminal illness. Both courses also provided professional development opportunities for Buddhist Council chaplains.

Access to information on the Dharma

The Council has a range of free books which can be collected from our office. We also have a library of books for borrowing. There is a larger range of resources on our website www.buddhistcouncil.org

Liaising with Government and other groups

Although the Buddhist Council of NSW is a peak body for Buddhism in the state, we do not speak for other organisations or for Buddhism: we can only provide a point of contact for those outside the Buddhist community, a channel to Buddhism and where necessary a Buddhist voice, including when contacted by the media.

We are also a member of the national peak body, the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils (FABC). This is made up of all the state and territory Buddhist Councils. FABC works closely with the Australian Sangha Association to provide a voice for all Buddhist traditions in Australia to the Federal Government on new legislation, regulations (for example religious worker visas) and other issues of importance to our community.

At state level The Buddhist Council of NSW is a member of the Religious Faith Leaders Forum organised by Multicultural NSW. We also represent Buddhism on the Civil Chaplains Advisory Committee and the Department of Education Consultative Committee on Special Religious Education, and attend any other consultations relevant to the Buddhist community.

We also represent the Buddhist community at interfaith events.



Finance

In the financial year 2018, Buddhist Council NSW had an operating deficit of \$30,274.

Revenue

Total revenue for 2018 was \$176,621 which was an increase of \$3,022 from last year (2017: \$173,599).

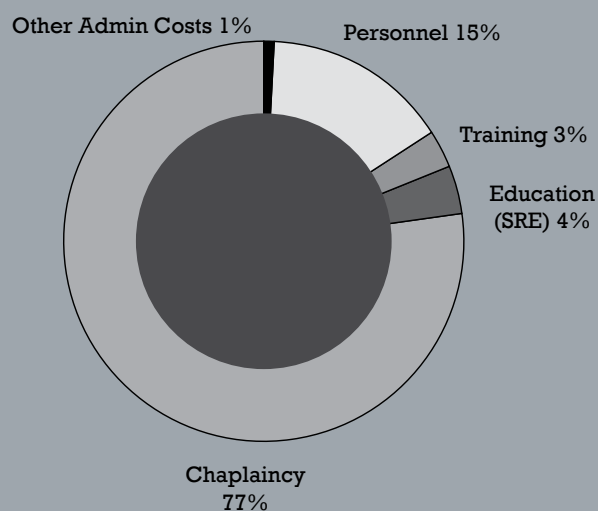
Expenses

Total expenses for 2018 was \$206,896, which is \$34,671 higher than last year (20% increase). This was due an increase in turnover of admin and contracted staff hired to assist with administrative functions.

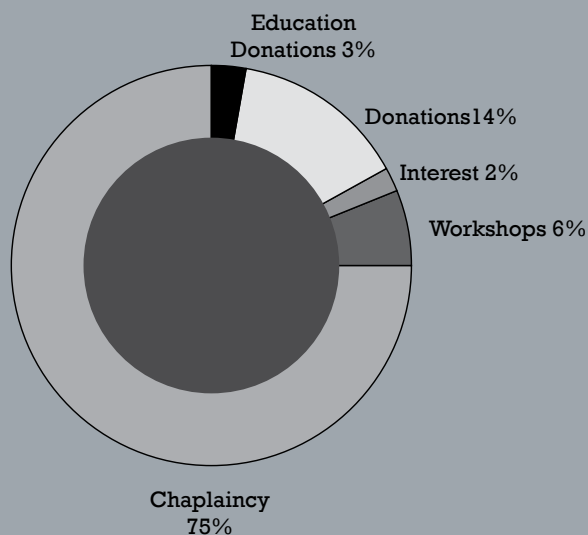
Financial Position

The Council's financial position has decreased to \$113,827 which was attributed mainly to the deficit in 2018.

Expenses



Revenue



The Buddhist Council has been growing steadily in recent years as we can see from summary of the five-year results shown below.

Five Year Financial Summary (Audited)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Income	172,450	186,084	166,414	173,599	176,621
Expenses	153,760	168,134	169,811	172,224	206,896
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	18,690	17,950	(3,397)	1,375	(30,274)
Increase/(Decrease) in Members' Funds	18,690	17,950	(3,397)	1,375	(30,274)
Total Members' Funds	128,173	146,123	142,726	144,101	113,827

Donations

The Buddhist Council relies on donations from the community for our financial sustainability. Any donations or bequests are much appreciated. The Education Fund has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status from the Australian Tax Office.

We are grateful for donations from the following individuals and organisations in 2018.

BAW Theresa	HUYNH Thi A	NGUYEN Tuyet	SUDHIRA Venerable
CARMODY Anna	LEU Vernon	NICHOLLS Bill	TJU Lie Kiun
CHEN Jianda	LIM A	O'ROURKE Rachel	TOPP Heather
CHOY Gemma	LIM Lay K	PAGE Jonathan	TRUONG Randa Warda IMO T
DANG Liong Loan	LOW Haw Chi	RAYNER Matthew	YASALAL Don
DEAN Pistilli	LU Ben	RODRIGO Nilanka	WHITE Brian
DHAMMARATO Phra Nick	MORRIS Ann	SAID Hassib Bou	WHITNEY Debbie
FUNN Pang	MOWLEM Elizabeth	SHAO Yingjie	WOODCO Elizabeth
GUNAWAN I Gede Raka Putra	NAIDU Sam	SHI Bei Rong	WU Xiangyu
HORE Neil	NGUYEN Trish		

Membership

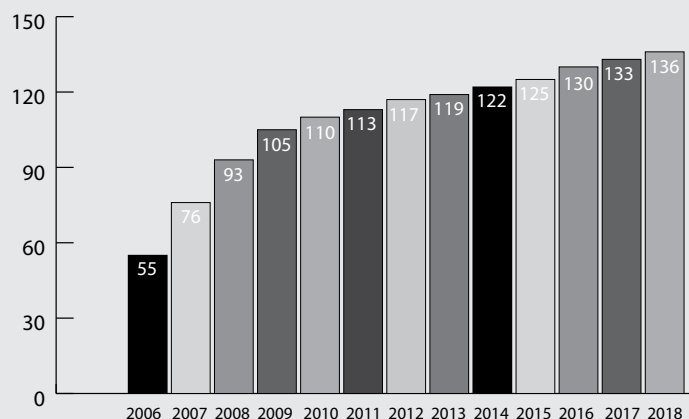
Membership of the Buddhist Council is open to all organisations that commit to a statement of universal Buddhism. In 2018 we had 136 members, with the following new members joining during the year:

Tallowwood Sangha

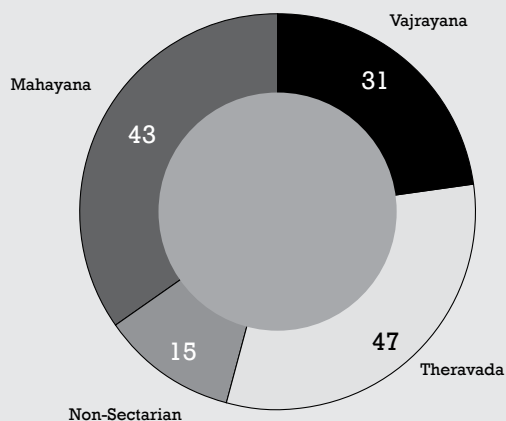
Nan Tien Institute

Amawatura Buddhist Centre

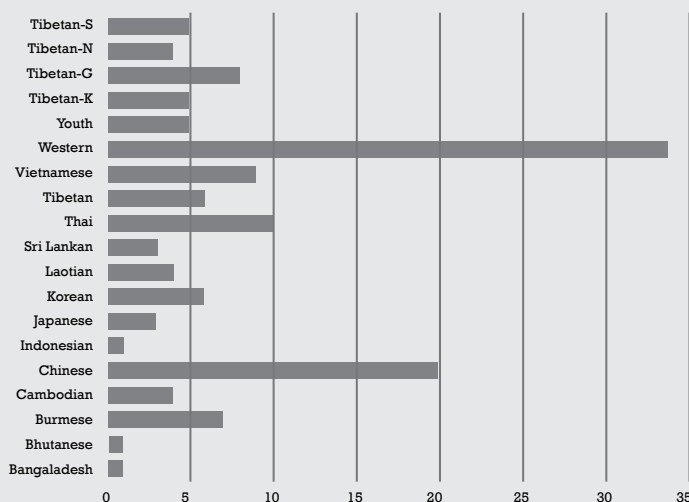
Membership Numbers



Membership Categories



Membership - Cultural Categories



New member profile



Amawatura Buddhist Centre (Carlingford 2118) was set up in 2016 to respond to the needs of the Sri Lankan community in the Carlingford and Parramatta areas. A number of elderly and disabled people had expressed sadness that they were unable to venture out of their suburbs to visit one of the major temples. The three highly learned monks who reside at Amawatura interact with the community through offering teaching or guiding meditations, hosting Dharma sermons, or engaging in chanting and blessings. They also visit the homes of their sangha members for almsgiving (dana), an important cultural practice that is very gratefully received.

Amawatura became a member of the Buddhist Council of NSW in 2018. It was at this time that we provided a Letter of Support to assist their Sri Lankan monastics with long-term visa applications. Amawatura also took up the Buddhist Council's discounted insurance policies for Public Liability and Voluntary Workers. Dr Gamani Goonetilleka from the centre was kind enough to write to us expressing appreciation "for the most generous support by word and deed given by the Buddhist Council of NSW".

We look forward to working with you, Amawatura, and wish you all the best for the future!

Member organisations

Australian Assoc of Buddhist Counsellors & Psychotherapists	Diamondway Buddhism Sydney	Quan Am Thien Tinh Buddhist Charitable Association Inc (The)
Adeikhtan Buddhist Missionary Company (Aust)	Ding Hui Monastery	Recollective Awareness (Aust)
Aloka Community Inc.	Drogmi Buddhist Institute	Rigpa Fellowship Inc.
Amawatura Buddhist Centre	Druk Gom Centre Australia	Sakya Tharpa Ling
Amitabha Buddhist Association of NSW Inc.	Dzogchen Community of Namgyalgar	Santi Forest Monastery Inc.
Amitabha Foundation (Australia)	Golden Wheel Buddhist Association	Sasana Daja Burmese Temple
AMRTA Monastery	Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia	Shantideva Buddhist Foundation Limited
An Khong Association Inc	Huayen Buddhist Community of Australia Inc	Siangthum Phrapotiyan Incorporated
Association of Engaged Buddhists	Indonesian Buddhist Society of NSW	Siddhartha's Intent Australia
Australia Buddhist Foundation	International Cham Shan Temple	Silky Oak Zen
Australian Buddhist Mission	Kadri Bodhi Monastery Inc.	Sri Lankan Buddhist Vihara Association
Australian Chinese Buddhist Society	Kalyanamitra & Bodhicitta Foundation	Sunnataram Forest Monastery
Australian Chinese Pure Land Buddhist Association (Sydney) Inc. (ACPLBA)	Kampuchea Krom Cultural Centre Inc.	Supporters of Homeless Buddhist Monks NSW
Australian Contemplative Observatory (The)	Karma Dro Phan Ling Institute	Sydney Burmese Buddhist Vihara Inc.
Australian Institute of Buddhist Learning and Practice	Karma Samten Choeling Inc.	Sydney Insight Meditators
Australian Institute of Tibetan Healing Practices	Karma Yiwong Samten Ling Buddhist Centre Inc.	Sydney Meditation Centre
Bangladesh Australia Buddhist Society	Kempsey Buddhist Meditation Group	Sydney Zen Centre
Barom Kagyu Chodrak Drupju Chuling	Khachodling Limited	Tallowwood Sangha Inc.
Bhante Sujato in Sydney Group	Khmer Krom & Aust Buddhist Assoc	Tashi Choling Buddhist Institute
Blue Mountains Insight Meditation Centre	Korean Buddhism Jongbopsa Society (The)	Tenzin Palmo Initiatives
Bluegum Sangha	Koyasan Shingon Mission Of Australia	Thai Buddhist Student Association
Bodhi Books & Gifts	Kuan Yin Buddhist Temple	Tharpa Choeling Australia
Bodhi Events	Kunsang Yeshe Retreat Centre Inc	Theravada Buddhist Association of Australia Inc.
Bodhikusuma Buddhist & Meditation Centre	Kwan Um Sa	Tibetan Buddhist Society (Sydney)
Bori Korean Buddhist Society of NSW	Kwan Yin Kur Temple	Tinh Xa Minh Dang Quang
Buddha's Light International Assoc of Aust Inc	Kyegu Buddhist Institute	Triratna Buddhist Community (Sydney) Inc
Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu-Chi Foundation Aust	Lao Buddhist Society of NSW	Unibodhi-University of Sydney Buddhist Society
Buddhist Peace Fellowship (Sydney)	Liberation Prison Project Australia Ltd	Unified Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation of A-NZ
Bup Bo Temple	Lin Yim Buddhist Institute	University Buddhist Education Foundation
Cambodian Buddhist Society Inc of NSW	Ling Yen Mountain Temple (Australia)	UTS Buddhist Meditation Society
Chagdud Gonpa Australia	Macquarie University Buddhist Association	Vajrayana Institute Inc.
Chan Tam True Mind	Maha Bodhi Monastery	Vien Giac Temple
Contemplative End-of-Life Care Southern Highlands Inc.	Mahamakutwat Buddharangsee Stanmore Inc.	Vinh Nghiem Pagoda Buddhist and Charitable Soc. (The)
Dalai Lama in Australia	Mahamevnawa Bhavana Monastery & Meditation Centre of Sydney	Wat Buddha Dhamma Foundation Ltd
Dhammaduta Buddhist Association of Australia	Mahasandhi Buddhist Centre	Wat Buddhavalarn
Dhammaduta Buddhist Asssocation (Coffs Harbour)	Man Su Vihara	Wat Buddharangsee
Dhammaduta Foundation Incorporated	Manjushri Buddhist Centre Inc	Wat Buddhavongsa-Yaram
Dhammakaya International Society of Aust	Metta Centre Incorporated	Wat Dhamma Sameakky
Dharma Drum Mountain Sydney	Mitra - Youth Buddhist Network	Wat Lao Buddhassetta
Dharma Cloud Monastery	Mudita House Limited	Wat Pa Buddharangsee
Diamond Cutter Buddhist Study Centre	Mukyoho	Well-Aware-Ness Psychology
	Nan Tien Institute	Wisdom Song
	Nan Tien Temple	Won Buddhism of Australia
	No Problems Publishing Inc.	Won Buddhism of Gosford Assoc Inc,
	Open Way Zen Centre	Yeshikhorlo Tibetan Buddhism Assn Aust
	PAL Buddhist School	Zen Open Circle Inc
	Panditarama Sydney Meditation Centre Inc. (PSMC Inc)	
	Phuoc Hau Temple	
	Pointing Out Australia	
	Prajna Monastery Australia Inc.	
	Prasarn Bun Prasarn Jai Group	



Buddhist Council of NSW

Working for the Buddhist Community

CONTACT DETAILS

Buddhist Council of New South Wales Incorporated

POST:

PO Box 593, Crows Nest NSW 1585 Sydney Australia

APPOINTMENTS:

Unit 25, 56 – 62 Chandos Street St Leonards NSW 2065

t: (02) 9966 8893

e: office@buddhistcouncil.org

facebook: [@BuddhistConnection](https://www.facebook.com/BuddhistConnection)

www.buddhistcouncil.org